The Self-Support Index and the Unemployment Rate

The Self-Support Index (S-SI) measures the percent of MFIP adults that are working or off of the cash portion of the MFIP program three years after a baseline quarter. As such, the S-SI is necessarily affected by the unemployment rate. When jobs become scarce, MFIP recipients will be less successful in finding employment. The data show exactly that.

The S-SI was first published in 2002, in the middle of a 5 year period of increasing unemployment rates in Minnesota. As expected, the S-SI declined during that period.

As the unemployment rate declined between 2004 and 2007, the S-SI rose rapidly.

In 2007 when the latest, deep recession began, the S-SI dropped precipitously.

The unemployment rate began declining from its peak in April 2009. As the economy recovered, the Self-Support Index began rising steadily.


For more information contact the DHS Transition to Economic Stability Division’ Research Unit at 651-431-4028, or visit www.mn.gov/dhs.