MFIP Caseload Size and the Number of Unemployed Minnesotans

Since the statewide implementation of MFIP in 1998, the number of eligible adults has decreased by 31 percent from almost 40,000 to just under 28,000 at the end of 2012.

While the overall decrease in the MFIP caseload has been dramatic, it has risen for extended periods twice during its history. Both periods of caseload growth were associated with large increases in the number of unemployed Minnesotans.

In August 1998, 62,000 Minnesotans were unemployed. By January of 2004, that number had increased by 169% to 167,000. Initially, even as the number of unemployed grew, the MFIP caseload continued to decline. Eventually, as the economy continued to worsen, the number of MFIP cases began to grow. Nevertheless, between 1998 and 2004, the MFIP caseload saw a net decrease of 6 percent.

When the number of unemployed began to decline in 2004, the MFIP caseload also declined through 2006 when the economy again began to weaken.

From December 2007, the first month of the recession, through March 2009, the unemployment peak, the number of unemployed Minnesotans increased by 85 percent. The MFIP Caseload began to grow at the beginning of the recession, rising by 18 percent by October 2010.

Overall, the MFIP caseload is declining. On its downward path, it nevertheless responds to downturns in the economy by providing assistance to more Minnesotans when the number of unemployed Minnesotans grows.

Unemployment data are from MN DEED. [http://www.positivelyminnesota.com](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com). For more information contact the DHS Transition to Economic Stability Division’s Research Unit at 651-431-4028 or visit [www.mn.gov/dhs](http://www.mn.gov/dhs).