



Welfare Caseloads Increase in Most States in Fourth Quarter

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The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has collected new data on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) caseloads through December 2002 for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.¹ These are the most current and complete data available.² Between September and December 2002, most states (38) reported caseload increases. The national caseload rose by 1.2 percent. For most states, the December caseload figure was within 3 percent of the September figure. However, four states (Idaho, Montana, Arizona, and Mississippi) saw caseloads rise by more than 5 percent over the quarter, while one state (Alaska) saw its caseload decline by more than 5 percent.

Although in each of the last two quarters most states have seen caseload increases, the story remains mixed over the past year. Between December 2001 and December 2002, 24 states had caseload increases and 26 had decreases (with one state reporting no change), and the national total declined by 2.4 percent. Since the start of the recession in March 2001, 29 states have reported caseload increases, and 22 have reported decreases. However, the national caseload has fallen 3.1 percent since the start of the recession.

Most states continue to report fluctuating caseloads on a month-to-month basis. However, seven states (Arizona, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Tennessee, and Utah) reported a steady caseload increase for the past six months (June-December). No state has experienced a steady decline over the same six months.

¹ CLASP has been gathering caseload data with the cooperation of state TANF agencies (for simplicity's sake, we refer to the District of Columbia as a state in the rest of our analysis). These data do not include caseload information for Puerto Rico, Guam, or the Virgin Islands.

² CLASP has posted these figures in an effort to supplement data available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DHHS's most recent official TANF caseload data (through September 2002) are now posted at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/stats/2002tanffamilies.htm>. The National Conference of State Legislatures also has posted unofficial caseload data at <http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/welfare/caseload02.htm>. Please note that the initial caseload data reported to CLASP are sometimes subsequently modified, and some states report data slightly differently from how they are reported at DHHS's website, so these numbers may change by the time they are formally posted by DHHS.

In reviewing the new caseload data, CLASP also finds:

- **In the last quarter, most states reported increases.** From September to December 2002, 38 states reported caseload increases, while 13 reported decreases. Over the same period last year (September-December 2001), 39 states experienced caseload increases.
- **Over the year, from December 2001 to December 2002, TANF caseloads increased in 24 states.** Over this period, for states with increases, the average increase was 6.6 percent. In comparison, during the prior year, from December 2000 to December 2001, 30 states reported increases, averaging 10.2 percent.
- **One state experienced caseload growth of at least 15 percent in the past year.** The only state with caseload growth of 15 percent or more from December 2001 to December 2002 was Idaho (18.6 percent).
- **Two states experienced caseload declines of at least 15 percent in the past year.** Between December 2001 and December 2002, states with caseload declines of 15 percent or more were Illinois (23.5 percent) and New York (17.0 percent).
- **Twenty-nine states have experienced an overall caseload increase since the recession began.** Between the “official” start of the recession in March 2001 and December 2002, 29 states experienced a caseload increase. On average, states experiencing an increase in this period have seen a caseload increase of 14.8 percent. The states experiencing the largest increases over this period are Nevada (58.8 percent), Indiana (31.5 percent), Mississippi (33.3 percent), Arizona (29.8 percent), South Carolina (28.6 percent), Idaho (25.2 percent), Montana (25.0 percent), and Colorado (20.6 percent). For the 22 states experiencing caseload declines during the recession, the average decrease has been 10.7 percent, with the largest declines in Illinois (35.2 percent), New York (34.0 percent), Wyoming (26.1 percent), New Mexico (21.5 percent), and Hawaii (21.5 percent).

Selected state-by-state caseload data are attached. To view more complete month-by-month caseload figures, please visit the CLASP website at www.clasp.org.

State and National TANF Caseload Data, Selected Months, March 2001-December 2002³

	March 2001	Dec 2001	Sept 2002	Dec 2002	Change 3/01 - 12/02	Change 12/01 - 12/02	Change 9/02 - 12/02
TOTAL U.S. CASES	2,102,128	2,087,959	2,013,864	2,037,209	(-3.1%)	(-2.4%)	1.2%
Alabama	18,396	18,737	17,992	18,459	0.3%	(-1.5%)	2.6%
Alaska	6,181	5,902	5,583	5,246	(-15.1%)	(-11.1%)	(-6.0%)
Arizona	36,870	43,015	45,203	47,840	29.8%	11.2%	5.8%
Arkansas	12,022	12,224	11,729	11,689	(-2.8%)	(-4.4%)	(-0.3%)
California	471,668	465,713	454,169	448,798	(-4.8%)	(-3.6%)	(-1.2%)
Colorado	10,696	11,677	12,444	12,900	20.6%	10.5%	3.7%
Connecticut	25,101	24,276	22,415	22,363	(-10.9%)	(-7.9%)	(-0.2%)
Delaware	5,887	5,847	5,982	6,024	2.3%	3.0%	0.7%
District of Columbia	16,241	16,412	16,788	16,940	4.3%	3.2%	0.9%
Florida	58,723	63,328	60,632	62,551	6.5%	(-1.2%)	3.2%
Georgia	49,814	53,859	54,867	56,553	13.5%	5.0%	3.1%
Hawaii	13,252	12,112	10,603	10,402	(-21.5%)	(-14.1%)	(-1.9%)
Idaho	1,311	1,385	1,433	1,642	25.2%	18.6%	14.6%
Illinois	63,626	53,911	42,499	41,229	(-35.2%)	(-23.5%)	(-3.0%)
Indiana	40,421	47,720	51,933	53,154	31.5%	11.4%	2.4%
Iowa	19,916	20,468	19,822	19,832	(-0.4%)	(-3.1%)	0.1%
Kansas	12,659	13,525	14,507	14,469	14.3%	7.0%	(-0.3%)
Kentucky	34,633	32,665	31,975	32,016	(-7.6%)	(-2.0%)	0.1%
Louisiana	25,776	26,004	24,232	24,584	(-4.6%)	(-5.5%)	1.5%
Maine	9,710	9,505	9,345	9,505	(-2.1%)	0.0%	1.7%
Maryland	28,040	28,523	25,903	26,784	(-4.5%)	(-6.1%)	3.4%
Massachusetts	42,250	45,979	47,339	48,239	14.2%	4.9%	1.9%
Michigan	70,192	75,792	68,761	71,897	2.4%	(-5.1%)	4.6%
Minnesota	38,316	35,131	36,927	35,969	(-6.1%)	2.4%	(-2.6%)
Mississippi	15,213	17,778	19,262	20,280	33.3%	14.1%	5.3%
Missouri	48,670	49,551	47,542	46,949	(-3.5%)	(-5.3%)	(-1.2%)
Montana	4,990	5,657	5,816	6,238	25.0%	10.3%	7.3%
Nebraska	10,482	11,017	11,673	11,995	14.4%	8.9%	2.8%
Nevada	7,240	11,728	11,589	11,497	58.8%	(-2.0%)	(-0.8%)
New Hampshire	5,580	5,934	6,149	6,210	11.3%	4.7%	1.0%
New Jersey	45,581	42,859	41,268	41,853	(-8.2%)	(-2.3%)	1.4%
New Mexico	20,986	19,352	16,450	16,468	(-21.5%)	(-14.9%)	0.1%
New York	227,409	180,981	151,450	150,159	(-34.0%)	(-17.0%)	(-0.9%)
North Carolina	43,309	45,081	41,838	42,330	(-2.3%)	(-6.1%)	1.2%
North Dakota	2,909	3,121	3,205	3,288	13.0%	5.4%	2.6%
Ohio	87,283	86,424	84,535	87,335	0.1%	1.1%	3.3%
Oklahoma	13,919	14,631	14,917	15,101	8.5%	3.2%	1.2%
Oregon	16,031	17,724	17,558	18,409	14.8%	3.9%	4.8%
Pennsylvania	87,903	88,020	84,980	85,816	(-2.4%)	(-2.5%)	1.0%
Rhode Island	15,245	14,774	13,723	13,684	(-10.2%)	(-7.4%)	(-0.3%)
South Carolina	16,513	19,850	20,241	21,234	28.6%	7.0%	4.9%
South Dakota	2,702	2,897	2,781	2,891	7.0%	(-0.2%)	4.0%
Tennessee	59,520	61,984	65,616	67,409	13.3%	8.8%	2.7%
Texas	129,602	131,439	131,683	135,997	4.9%	3.5%	3.3%
Utah	8,163	8,463	8,524	8,769	7.4%	3.6%	2.9%
Vermont	5,586	5,111	5,022	4,973	(-11.0%)	(-2.7%)	(-1.0%)
Virginia	29,410	30,386	29,786	30,545	3.9%	0.5%	2.5%
Washington	55,019	55,939	51,956	54,460	(-1.0%)	(-2.6%)	4.8%
West Virginia	13,380	14,478	13,398	13,809	3.2%	(-4.6%)	3.1%
Wisconsin	17,207	18,589	19,395	20,000	16.2%	7.6%	3.1%
Wyoming	575	481	424	425	(-26.1%)	(-11.6%)	0.2%

³ Please see full spreadsheet for information about how data may differ from numbers reported to ACF.

State and National TANF Caseload Data, Change During Fourth Quarter 2002

	Sept 2002	Dec 2002	Change
TOTAL U.S. CASES	2,013,864	2,037,209	1.2%
Idaho	1,433	1,642	14.6%
Montana	5,816	6,238	7.3%
Arizona	45,203	47,840	5.8%
Mississippi	19,262	20,280	5.3%
South Carolina	20,241	21,234	4.9%
Oregon	17,558	18,409	4.8%
Washington	51,956	54,460	4.8%
Michigan	68,761	71,897	4.6%
South Dakota	2,781	2,891	4.0%
Colorado	12,444	12,900	3.7%
Maryland	25,903	26,784	3.4%
Ohio	84,535	87,335	3.3%
Texas	131,683	135,997	3.3%
Florida	60,632	62,551	3.2%
Wisconsin	19,395	20,000	3.1%
Georgia	54,867	56,553	3.1%
West Virginia	13,398	13,809	3.1%
Utah	8,524	8,769	2.9%
Nebraska	11,673	11,995	2.8%
Tennessee	65,616	67,409	2.7%
Alabama	17,992	18,459	2.6%
North Dakota	3,205	3,288	2.6%
Virginia	29,786	30,545	2.5%
Indiana	51,933	53,154	2.4%
Massachusetts	47,339	48,239	1.9%
Maine	9,345	9,505	1.7%
Louisiana	24,232	24,584	1.5%
New Jersey	41,268	41,853	1.4%
Oklahoma	14,917	15,101	1.2%
North Carolina	41,838	42,330	1.2%
New Hampshire	6,149	6,210	1.0%
Pennsylvania	84,980	85,816	1.0%
District of Columbia	16,788	16,940	0.9%
Delaware	5,982	6,024	0.7%
Wyoming	424	425	0.2%
Kentucky	31,975	32,016	0.1%
New Mexico	16,450	16,468	0.1%
Iowa	19,822	19,832	0.1%
Connecticut	22,415	22,363	(-0.2%)
Kansas	14,507	14,469	(-0.3%)
Rhode Island	13,723	13,684	(-0.3%)
Arkansas	11,729	11,689	(-0.3%)
Nevada	11,589	11,497	(-0.8%)
New York	151,450	150,159	(-0.9%)
Vermont	5,022	4,973	(-1.0%)
California	454,169	448,798	(-1.2%)
Missouri	47,542	46,949	(-1.2%)
Hawaii	10,603	10,402	(-1.9%)
Minnesota	36,927	35,969	(-2.6%)
Illinois	42,499	41,229	(-3.0%)
Alaska	5,583	5,246	(-6.0%)

State and National TANF Caseload Data, Annual Change, Dec. 2001 – Dec. 2002

	Dec 2001	Dec 2002	Change
TOTAL U.S. CASES	2,087,959	2,037,209	(-2.4%)
Idaho	1,385	1,642	18.6%
Mississippi	17,778	20,280	14.1%
Indiana	47,720	53,154	11.4%
Arizona	43,015	47,840	11.2%
Colorado	11,677	12,900	10.5%
Montana	5,657	6,238	10.3%
Nebraska	11,017	11,995	8.9%
Tennessee	61,984	67,409	8.8%
Wisconsin	18,589	20,000	7.6%
Kansas	13,525	14,469	7.0%
South Carolina	19,850	21,234	7.0%
North Dakota	3,121	3,288	5.4%
Georgia	53,859	56,553	5.0%
Massachusetts	45,979	48,239	4.9%
New Hampshire	5,934	6,210	4.7%
Oregon	17,724	18,409	3.9%
Utah	8,463	8,769	3.6%
Texas	131,439	135,997	3.5%
District of Columbia	16,412	16,940	3.2%
Oklahoma	14,631	15,101	3.2%
Delaware	5,847	6,024	3.0%
Minnesota	35,131	35,969	2.4%
Ohio	86,424	87,335	1.1%
Virginia	30,386	30,545	0.5%
Maine	9,505	9,505	0.0%
South Dakota	2,897	2,891	(-0.2%)
Florida	63,328	62,551	(-1.2%)
Alabama	18,737	18,459	(-1.5%)
Nevada	11,728	11,497	(-2.0%)
Kentucky	32,665	32,016	(-2.0%)
New Jersey	42,859	41,853	(-2.3%)
Pennsylvania	88,020	85,816	(-2.5%)
Washington	55,939	54,460	(-2.6%)
Vermont	5,111	4,973	(-2.7%)
Iowa	20,468	19,832	(-3.1%)
California	465,713	448,798	(-3.6%)
Arkansas	12,224	11,689	(-4.4%)
West Virginia	14,478	13,809	(-4.6%)
Michigan	75,792	71,897	(-5.1%)
Missouri	49,551	46,949	(-5.3%)
Louisiana	26,004	24,584	(-5.5%)
Maryland	28,523	26,784	(-6.1%)
North Carolina	45,081	42,330	(-6.1%)
Rhode Island	14,774	13,684	(-7.4%)
Connecticut	24,276	22,363	(-7.9%)
Alaska	5,902	5,246	(-11.1%)
Wyoming	481	425	(-11.6%)
Hawaii	12,112	10,402	(-14.1%)
New Mexico	19,352	16,468	(-14.9%)
New York	180,981	150,159	(-17.0%)
Illinois	53,911	41,229	(-23.5%)

**State and National TANF Caseload Data, Change Since Recession,
March 2001 – Dec. 2002**

	March 2001	Dec 2002	Change
TOTAL U.S. CASES	2,102,128	2,037,209	(-3.1%)
Nevada	7,240	11,497	58.8%
Mississippi	15,213	20,280	33.3%
Indiana	40,421	53,154	31.5%
Arizona	36,870	47,840	29.8%
South Carolina	16,513	21,234	28.6%
Idaho	1,311	1,642	25.2%
Montana	4,990	6,238	25.0%
Colorado	10,696	12,900	20.6%
Wisconsin	17,207	20,000	16.2%
Oregon	16,031	18,409	14.8%
Nebraska	10,482	11,995	14.4%
Kansas	12,659	14,469	14.3%
Massachusetts	42,250	48,239	14.2%
Georgia	49,814	56,553	13.5%
Tennessee	59,520	67,409	13.3%
North Dakota	2,909	3,288	13.0%
New Hampshire	5,580	6,210	11.3%
Oklahoma	13,919	15,101	8.5%
Utah	8,163	8,769	7.4%
South Dakota	2,702	2,891	7.0%
Florida	58,723	62,551	6.5%
Texas	129,602	135,997	4.9%
District of Columbia	16,241	16,940	4.3%
Virginia	29,410	30,545	3.9%
West Virginia	13,380	13,809	3.2%
Michigan	70,192	71,897	2.4%
Delaware	5,887	6,024	2.3%
Alabama	18,396	18,459	0.3%
Ohio	87,283	87,335	0.1%
Iowa	19,916	19,832	(-0.4%)
Washington	55,019	54,460	(-1.0%)
Maine	9,710	9,505	(-2.1%)
North Carolina	43,309	42,330	(-2.3%)
Pennsylvania	87,903	85,816	(-2.4%)
Minnesota	38,316	35,969	(-2.6%)
Arkansas	12,022	11,689	(-2.8%)
Missouri	48,670	46,949	(-3.5%)
Maryland	28,040	26,784	(-4.5%)
Louisiana	25,776	24,584	(-4.6%)
California	471,668	448,798	(-4.8%)
Kentucky	34,633	32,016	(-7.6%)
New Jersey	45,581	41,853	(-8.2%)
Rhode Island	15,245	13,684	(-10.2%)
Connecticut	25,101	22,363	(-10.9%)
Vermont	5,586	4,973	(-11.0%)
Alaska	6,181	5,246	(-15.1%)
Hawaii	13,252	10,402	(-21.5%)
New Mexico	20,986	16,468	(-21.5%)
Wyoming	575	425	(-26.1%)
New York	227,409	150,159	(-34.0%)
Illinois	63,626	41,229	(-35.2%)