



Amazon Workers on Food Stamps Nearly Tripled, While Company Spends \$200 Billion on AI

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July 23, 2026 • 4 min read



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Quick Read

- Amazon (AMZN) workers enrolled in SNAP and Medicaid nearly tripled since 2020 while the company plans to spend \$200 billion on AI in 2026.
- Gig platforms including Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash collectively surpassed Walmart as the largest single category of SNAP recipients nationally.
- Andy Jassy called the \$200 billion capex spend demand-driven, with AWS posting 28% year-over-year revenue growth in Q1 2026.
- Act now: the analyst who called NVIDIA in 2010 just named his top 10 AI stocks — and Amazon didn't make the cut. [Grab the names FREE today.](#)

A new Government Accountability Office report commissioned by Sen. Bernie Sanders finds the number of **Amazon** ([NASDAQ:AMZN](#)) workers relying on federal food and health assistance has nearly tripled since 2020, even as the company disclosed plans to spend \$200 billion on artificial intelligence infrastructure in 2026.



David Ryder / Getty Images

The GAO reviewed enrollment data from 11 states representing roughly one-fifth of the U.S. population, covering February 2020 through September 2025. In those states, 12,346 Amazon workers were enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and 11,338 in Medicaid, figures the report says are nearly triple the counts in the prior GAO study.

Amazon ranked second among traditional employers of public-assistance recipients in the sample, behind Walmart, which had 16,055 workers on Medicaid, a 55% increase from the earlier report, and 15,515 on SNAP. Gig platforms including Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Grubhub and Instacart collectively surpassed Walmart to become the single largest category of SNAP recipients, a reflection of how contract labor has reshaped the low-wage workforce.

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A National Picture

Nationally, the GAO estimates 13.8 million working Americans are on Medicaid, up from 12 million in 2020, and 10.6 million on SNAP, up from 9 million. Wage data helps explain the persistence. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports average hourly earnings for the total private sector reached \$37.64 in June 2026, but real average hourly earnings have barely moved, sitting at \$11.32 in June 2026 compared with \$11.18 in June 2024. The BEA's latest quarterly figures show transfer receipts have grown to \$5,099.7 billion in the first quarter of 2026, with Medicaid outlays climbing to \$1,060.2 billion.

The Corporate Side of the Ledger

Over roughly the same window covered by the GAO study, Amazon's annual profit grew from \$41.50 billion to \$77.07 billion. Revenue reached \$710.00 billion in fiscal 2025.

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