

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: PARTICIPATION AND LUNCHES SERVED

Data as of January 10, 2025

| Fiscal Year | Free Average Participation (millions) | Reduced Price Average Participation (millions) | Full Price Average Participation (millions) | Total Average Participation (millions) | Total Lunches Served (millions) | Percent Free/RP of Total |
|--------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1969 | 2.9 | 1] | 16.5 | 19.4 | 3,368.2 | 15.1 |
| 1970 | 4.6 | 1] | 17.8 | 22.4 | 3,565.1 | 20.7 |
| 1971 | 5.8 | 0.5 | 17.8 | 24.1 | 3,848.3 | 26.1 |
| 1972 | 7.3 | 0.5 | 16.6 | 24.4 | 3,972.1 | 32.4 |
| 1973 | 8.1 | 0.5 | 16.1 | 24.7 | 4,008.8 | 35.0 |
| 1974 | 8.6 | 0.5 | 15.5 | 24.6 | 3,981.6 | 37.1 |
| 1975 | 9.4 | 0.6 | 14.9 | 24.9 | 4,063.0 | 40.3 |
| 1976 | 10.2 | 0.8 | 14.6 | 25.6 | 4,147.9 | 43.1 |
| 1977 | 10.5 | 1.3 | 14.5 | 26.2 | 4,250.0 | 44.8 |
| 1978 | 10.3 | 1.5 | 14.9 | 26.7 | 4,294.1 | 44.4 |
| 1979 | 10.0 | 1.7 | 15.3 | 27.0 | 4,357.4 | 43.6 |
| 1980 | 10.0 | 1.9 | 14.7 | 26.6 | 4,387.0 | 45.1 |
| 1981 | 10.6 | 1.9 | 13.3 | 25.8 | 4,210.6 | 48.6 |
| 1982 | 9.8 | 1.6 | 11.5 | 22.9 | 3,755.0 | 50.2 |
| 1983 | 10.3 | 1.5 | 11.2 | 23.0 | 3,803.3 | 51.7 |
| 1984 | 10.3 | 1.5 | 11.5 | 23.4 | 3,826.2 | 51.0 |
| 1985 | 9.9 | 1.6 | 12.1 | 23.6 | 3,890.1 | 49.1 |
| 1986 | 10.0 | 1.6 | 12.2 | 23.7 | 3,942.5 | 49.1 |
| 1987 | 10.0 | 1.6 | 12.4 | 23.9 | 3,939.9 | 48.6 |
| 1988 | 9.8 | 1.6 | 12.8 | 24.2 | 4,032.9 | 47.4 |
| 1989 | 9.7 | 1.6 | 12.9 | 24.2 | 4,004.9 | 47.2 |
| 1990 | 9.9 | 1.7 | 12.6 | 24.1 | 4,009.0 | 48.3 |
| 1991 | 10.3 | 1.8 | 12.2 | 24.2 | 4,050.7 | 50.4 |
| 1992 | 11.2 | 1.7 | 11.7 | 24.6 | 4,101.4 | 53.1 |
| 1993 | 11.8 | 1.7 | 11.4 | 24.9 | 4,137.7 | 54.8 |
| 1994 | 12.2 | 1.8 | 11.3 | 25.3 | 4,201.6 | 55.9 |
| 1995 | 12.5 | 1.9 | 11.4 | 25.7 | 4,253.3 | 56.4 |
| 1996 | 12.7 | 2.0 | 11.3 | 25.9 | 4,313.2 | 56.9 |
| 1997 | 13.0 | 2.1 | 11.3 | 26.3 | 4,409.0 | 57.6 |
| 1998 | 13.1 | 2.2 | 11.4 | 26.6 | 4,425.0 | 57.8 |
| 1999 | 13.0 | 2.4 | 11.6 | 27.0 | 4,513.6 | 57.6 |
| 2000 | 13.0 | 2.5 | 11.9 | 27.3 | 4,575.0 | 57.1 |
| 2001 | 12.9 | 2.6 | 12.0 | 27.5 | 4,585.2 | 56.8 |
| 2002 | 13.3 | 2.6 | 12.0 | 28.0 | 4,716.6 | 57.6 |
| 2003 | 13.7 | 2.7 | 11.9 | 28.4 | 4,762.9 | 58.5 |
| 2004 | 14.2 | 2.8 | 12.0 | 29.0 | 4,842.4 | 59.1 |
| 2005 | 14.6 | 2.9 | 12.2 | 29.6 | 4,976.4 | 59.4 |
| 2006 | 14.8 | 2.9 | 12.4 | 30.1 | 5,027.9 | 59.3 |
| 2007 | 15.0 | 3.1 | 12.6 | 30.6 | 5,071.3 | 59.3 |
| 2008 | 15.4 | 3.1 | 12.5 | 31.0 | 5,208.5 | 60.1 |
| 2009 | 16.3 | 3.2 | 11.9 | 31.3 | 5,186.0 | 62.6 |
| 2010 | 17.6 | 3.0 | 11.1 | 31.8 | 5,278.4 | 65.3 |
| 2011 | 18.4 | 2.7 | 10.8 | 31.8 | 5,274.5 | 66.6 |
| 2012 | 18.7 | 2.7 | 10.2 | 31.7 | 5,214.9 | 68.2 |
| 2013 | 18.9 | 2.6 | 9.2 | 30.7 | 5,097.6 | 70.5 |
| 2014 | 19.2 | 2.5 | 8.8 | 30.5 | 5,020.4 | 71.6 |
| 2015 | 19.8 | 2.2 | 8.5 | 30.5 | 5,005.4 | 72.6 |
| 2016 | 20.1 | 2.0 | 8.2 | 30.4 | 5,053.0 | 73.3 |
| 2017 | 20.0 | 2.0 | 8.0 | 30.0 | 4,891.5 | 73.6 |
| 2018 | 20.2 | 1.8 | 7.7 | 29.7 | 4,865.7 | 74.4 |
| 2019 | 20.1 | 1.7 | 7.7 | 29.6 | 4,866.8 | 74.1 |
| 2020 | 15.9 | 1.1 | 5.4 | 22.4 | 3,209.7 | 76.9 |
| 2021 | 10.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 11.0 | 2,154.0 | 98.9 |
| 2022 | 30.0 | 0.1 | 1 | 31.0 | 5,091.1 | 95.5 |
| 2023 | 19.0 | 1.1 | 8.5 | 28.6 | 4,660.9 | 70.8 |
| 2024 | 20.4 | 0.9 | 8.3 | 29.6 | 4,840.7 | 72.4 |

FY 2024 data are preliminary; all data are subject to revision.

Participation data are 9 month averages (summer months are excluded).

1] Included with free meals.

** In SY 2020-2021, many schools served meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) due to the COVID-19 waivers. The COVID-19 waiver which allowed schools to serve meals through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and report separately started in SY 2021-2022. FY 2021 - 2022 data includes meals served through the SSO.