

	Average monthly participation 1980-1981 school year (Sept.-May)	Average monthly participation 1981-1982 school year (Sept.-May)	Participation decline	Percentage decline
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(all figures in millions)

1. SCHOOL LUNCH

Total participation	26.198	23.152	3.046	11.6%
Free	10.617	9.873	.744	14.5%
Reduced-Price	1.956	1.631	.325	16.6%
Paid	13.625	11.646	1.979	7.0%

Free and reduced-price
 decline as percentage of
 total decline

35.1%

2. SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Total participation	3.837	3.362	.475	12.4%
Free	3.056	2.821	.235	7.7%
Reduced-Price	.256	.168	.088	34.4%
Paid	.525	.373	.152	29.0%

Free and reduced-price
 decline as percentage of
 total decline

68.0%

March 1981

March 1982

Decline in Schools

3. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
 IN PROGRAM

	93,982	91,260	2,722
Lunch			
Breakfast	35,082	34,434	648

INTERESTING FACTS

- The decline in free and reduced-price luncheon participation represented 35% of the decline in total lunch participation.
- The decline in free and reduced-price breakfast participation represented 68% of the decline in total breakfast participation.
- The decline in free breakfasts alone accounted for half of the decline in breakfast participation.
- Although most of the publicity on the budget cuts has centered on the lunch program, the decline in participation was actually greater in the breakfast program (12.4%) than in the lunch program (11.6%).
- The near-poor families in the "reduced-price" category have been especially hard hit. Reduced-price lunch prices rose from 10 cents in September 1980 to 40 cents by September 1981. Reduced-price breakfast prices climbed in a year from 5 cents to nearly 30 cents. As a consequence, reduced-price lunch participation fell 16.6% and reduced-price breakfast participation fell 34.4%.