

Statistical release

National Indicator 52

Take up of school lunches in England

2008-2009

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Introduction

This statistical release reports on National Indicator 52 (NI 52) – the take up of school lunches. It covers the 2008-2009 financial year (April 2008 to March 2009) in maintained primary, special and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies in England. It is based on data provided by Local Authorities as part of the 2009 School Food Trust (SFT) and Local Authority Caterers Association (LACA) annual Local Authority (LA) survey. It provides at national, regional and local level information on the take up of school lunches and the coverage of the data in England in two categories: primary schools together with special schools; and secondary schools, together with academies and city technology colleges.

NI 52: take up of school lunches, 2008-2009

NI 52 provides information on the take up of school lunches in two categories of catering providers:

1. *LA catered or contracted provision.* Catering services provided directly by the LA itself (direct service organizations – DSO), or services contracted by the LA from other catering providers
2. *Non-LA catering provision.* Catering services contracted directly by schools from catering providers other than the LA, and provision organized by schools themselves (“in-school”).

All 150* LAs responded to the 2009 survey and provided some information. 145 LAs provided “usable” data for primary schools and 139 LAs provided “usable” data for secondary schools.

“Usable” data means data collected using NI 52 methodology covering the entire financial year. In the five LAs for which there was no primary school data, three provided partial data, one provided no data, and one provided data where there were concerns over quality.[†] In the eleven LAs for which there was no secondary school data, two have no secondary schools,[‡] two provided partial data, three provided no data, and four provided data where there were concerns over quality.

NI 52: Take up of school lunches, 2008-2009:

- **Primary and special schools: 39.3%**
- **Secondary schools, academies and city technology colleges: 35.1%**

Note: These values SHOULD NOT be compared with previously published national or regional take up data. For comparison with 2007-2008, please see next page.

Percent take up and coverage (percentage of schools for whom data are reported) for all catering service provision in England, by sector by region, are shown in Table 1. Results for schools with LA catered or contracted services, by sector by region, are shown in Table 2. Results for schools with non-LA catering provision, by sector by region, are shown in Table 3.

* From April 2009, there are 152 LAs.

[†] Either the data were not based on NI 52 or queries could not be resolved satisfactorily.

[‡] City of London and Isles of Scilly

Comparison with previous data

Take up figures for 2008-2009 should not be compared directly with published national take up figures for previous years for four reasons:

1. There are fundamental differences between the NI 52 methodology and the previous 'usual' method for calculating take up, especially in the secondary sector
2. The number of LAs for which data were reported in 2008-2009 was 145 (97% out of 150 LAs) for primary and 139 (93%) for secondary, compared with 97 (65%) and 78 (52%), respectively, in 2007-2008
3. The NI 52 data includes both LA catered and contracted provision and non-LA provision. Previous reporting related mainly to LA catered or contracted provision
4. The way in which take up is calculated for schools with Free School Meal-only provision.

A subset of 82 LAs provided data in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 for primary school services, and a different subset of 81 LAs provided data for secondary school services using NI 52 methodology (Table 5). For these subsets, the change in take up in primary schools was +0.1% and the change in take up in secondary schools was +0.5%.

This is the best current indicator of the true change in take up between 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

List of Tables

Table 1. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England, by region, 2008-2009	6
Table 2. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England with LA catered or contracted provision, by region, 2008-2009	6
Table 3. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England with non-LA catering provision, by region, 2008-2009	7
Table 4. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England, by local authority, 2008-2009	8
Table 5. NI 52: take up of school lunches and % coverage for LA catered and contracted schools in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009	10

Notes to editors

Definitions

1. NI 52 (take up of school lunches) is one of 198 indicators in the National Indicator Set. See Annex 1 for the technical definition. Further guidance is provided at the time of data collection.
2. Take up refers to the percentage of full-time pupils attending schools who have a lunch that is provided either by the school or local authority during the previous financial year.

Data Collection, Coverage and Quality

1. NI 52 data are collected via the School Food Trust (SFT) and Local Authority Caterers Association (LACA) joint annual survey of Local Authorities (LAs).
2. 2009 is the first year of NI 52 data collection.
The figures reported here should not be compared with national or regional take up figures reported in previous years. Results for comparison between 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 are shown in Table 5.
3. The figures for take up reported in previous years have primarily related to schools with LA catered or contracted lunch services. The percentage take up reported has been based on that reported by the LAs, rather than calculated from raw data. We are aware that LAs have used several different methods to calculate take up, and this differing basis for calculation means that figures at LA level have not been strictly comparable in the past.
4. In accordance with NI 52 methodology, LAs are now required to provide information on the take up of school meals not only for their own catering or contracted services but for all schools across the LA. The two main virtues of introducing NI 52 relate to:
 - **Coverage** (% of schools in LA for whom data are reported):
LAs collect data for all schools in their LA, not just those for whom they provide or contract catering services
 - **Comparability**:
All LAs use a standardized methodology for calculating take up
5. The School Food Trust published a Technical Paper in December 2008.¹ This describes the fundamental differences in reporting between NI 52 and the “usual” methods used previously by LAs. It reported that the potential impact on reported take up resulting from the introduction of a standardised methodology was in the region of -0.6% for primary schools and -1.6% for secondary schools. This was based on analysis of data from the 2008 SFT/LACA annual survey, comparing a subset of LAs who reported take up data using their ‘usual’ method of calculation and using the NI 52 method. It did not, however, include the downward impact on estimates of take up resulting from the inclusion of LAs with schools with FSM-only provision. This impact is reflected in the take up figures reported for 2008-2009.

General

1. The School Food Trust has reported figures for take up in primary and secondary schools each year since 2006. The first annual survey of school meal take up in England was carried out by the Trust in May 2006 (and published in July 2006).² The second annual survey of school meal take up in England was carried out in April 2007 (and published in September 2007).³ The third annual survey of school meal take up was carried out jointly with LACA in April 2008 (and published in October 2008).⁴
2. Further information gathered from Local Authorities on school food provision will be reported in the Fourth annual survey report to be published in September 2009.
3. Media enquiries about information contained in this release should be made to the School Food Trust's Press Office at School Food Trust, Geraldine Hall Suite, Sheffield, S1 4PQ, telephone 0207 2735205, or e-mail media.enquiries@sft.gsi.gov.uk
4. Enquiries (non-media) about information contained in this document should be addressed to the School Food Trust, Geraldine Hall Suite, Sheffield, S1 4PQ or e-mail sft.survey@sft.gsi.gov.uk

Table 1. All catering provision, England, by region

Table 1. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England, by region, 2008-2009

Region	Primary						Secondary					
	Number of LAs		% take up	Number of schools		Total % coverage	Number of LAs		Number of schools		% coverage	
	In region	Reporting		Total in LAs reporting	Total reported on		In region	Reporting	Total in LAs reporting	Total reported on		
North East	12	12	50.8	963	950	98.7	12	12	41.4	201	171	85.1
North West	22	21	45.5	2143	1952	91.1	22	21	42.8	387	255	65.9
Yorkshire/Humber	15	15	44.9	1924	1858	96.6	15	15	36.4	314	236	75.2
East Midlands	9	8	36.4	1430	1413	98.8	9	8	35.7	257	232	90.3
West Midlands	14	14	42.9	1948	1703	87.4	14	14	33.9	392	288	73.5
East of England	10	10	37.7	2164	1900	87.8	10	10	33.8	335	217	64.8
Inner London	13	12	56.7	644	572	88.8	13	8	43.5	82	52	63.4
Outer London	20	20	40.2	1264	1131	89.5	20	17	40.2	250	171	68.4
South East	19	18	27.9	2737	2688	98.2	19	19	30.4	496	422	85.1
South West	16	15	29.0	1952	1776	91.0	16	15	26.2	323	201	62.2
England	150	145	39.3	17169	15943	92.9	150	139	35.1	3037	2245	73.9

Base (unweighted): 145 LAs reporting for primary, 139 LAs reporting for secondary
 Analysis: weighted by number of pupils attending schools reported on

Table 2. LA catered or contracted provision, England, by region

Table 2. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England with LA catered or contracted provision, by region, 2008-2009

Region	Primary						Secondary					
	Number of LAs*		% take up	Number of schools		Total % coverage	Number of LAs*		Number of schools		% coverage	
	In region	Reporting		Total in LAs reporting	Total reported on		In region	Reporting	Total in LAs reporting	Total reported on		
North East	12	12	50.6	909	905	99.6	11	11	39.9	122	119	97.5
North West	20	20	45.7	1797	1795	99.9	18	18	40.8	207	200	96.6
Yorkshire/Humber	15	15	45.2	1785	1750	98.0	14	14	36.0	192	177	92.2
East Midlands	7	7	37.1	1115	1111	99.6	6	6	30.2	110	110	100.0
West Midlands	13	13	43.2	1653	1609	97.3	12	12	33.4	218	218	100.0
East of England	8	8	38.0	1473	1472	99.9	7	7	31.0	114	107	93.9
Inner London	10	10	56.2	519	505	97.3	7	7	42.5	47	44	93.6
Outer London	17	17	40.5	865	838	96.9	10	10	36.9	63	63	100.0
South East	17	17	28.3	2210	2210	100.0	14	13	26.2	162	154	95.1
South West	14	14	29.5	1429	1423	99.6	9	9	24.8	80	76	95.0
England	133	133	39.9	13755	13618	99.0	108	107	34.2	1315	1268	96.4

Base (unweighted): 133 LAs reporting for primary, 107 LAs reporting for secondary
 Analysis: weighted by number of pupils attending schools reported on

* Number of LAs: In region – number of LAs in which there is some LA catered or contracted provision; Reporting – number of LAs in which take up was reported

Table 3. Non-LA catering provision, England, by region

Table 3. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England with non-LA catering provision, by region, 2008-2009

Region	Number of LAs*		% take up	Primary Number of schools			Number of LAs*		% take up	Secondary Number of schools		
	In region	Reporting		Total in LAs reporting	Total reported on	% coverage	In region	Reporting		Total in LAs reporting	Total reported on	% coverage
North East	10	8	53.8	52	45	86.5	12	7	44.8	57	52	91.2
North West	13	7	42.7	200	157	78.5	18	12	49.5	128	55	43.0
Yorkshire/Humber	10	8	40.3	116	108	93.1	14	10	37.4	74	59	79.7
East Midlands	8	7	33.2	312	302	96.8	8	7	40.3	140	122	87.1
West Midlands	11	9	37.6	284	94	33.1	13	10	35.2	145	70	48.3
East of England	10	9	36.9	689	428	62.1	10	8	36.1	203	110	54.2
Inner London	11	8	60.9	105	67	63.8	8	4	49.1	20	8	40.0
Outer London	17	14	39.3	378	293	77.5	17	13	42.0	153	108	70.6
South East	18	17	26.0	524	478	91.2	19	19	32.4	333	268	80.5
South West	12	11	27.3	519	353	68.0	15	14	26.9	242	125	51.7
England	120	98	35.4	3179	2325	73.1	134	104	36.2	1495	977	65.4

Base (unweighted): 98 LAs reporting for primary, 104 LAs reporting for secondary

Analysis: weighted by number of pupils attending schools reported on

* Number of LAs: In region – number of LAs in which there is some non-LA catering provision; Reporting – number of LAs in which take up was reported. The number of schools in LAs reporting is correct, but is a subset of the number of schools in LAs reporting in Table 1. The total number of schools in LAs reporting in Tables 2 and 3 do not therefore sum to the total number of schools in LAs reporting in Table 1.

Table 4. All catering provision, England, by local authority

Table 4. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England, by local authority, 2008-2009								
Local authority	Primary				Secondary			
	% take up	Number of schools		% coverage	% take up	Number of schools		% coverage
		Total in LA	Total reported on			Total in LA	Total reported on	
Barking and Dagenham	52.6	50	50	100.0	48.1	9	8	88.9
Barnet	46.1	91	86	94.5	36.0	19	11	57.9
Barnsley	47.3	82	82	100.0	41.4	14	12	85.7
Bath and North East Somerset	34.4	66	66	100.0	31.2	13	13	100.0
Bedfordshire	27.7	193	187	96.9	33.8	17	2	11.8
Bexley	26.9	63	63	100.0	34.0	15	12	80.0
Birmingham	51.4	339	322	95.0	36.2	76	53	69.7
Blackburn with Darwen	42.9	59	59	100.0	43.3	10	9	90.0
Blackpool	40.6	32	32	100.0	54.6	8	8	100.0
Bolton	50.8	106	103	97.2	39.3	16	16	100.0
Bournemouth	12.5	29	25	86.2	33.8	10	2	20.0
Bracknell Forest	28.5	31	31	100.0	30.9	6	6	100.0
Bradford	53.2	159	159	100.0	35.1	29	8	27.6
Brent	54.7	65	37	56.9	44.7	14	12	85.7
Brighton and Hove	33.7	61	61	100.0	20.9	9	7	77.8
Bristol, City of	40.9	121	116	95.9	36.0	20	11	55.0
Bromley	37.0	80	67	83.8	43.4	17	9	52.9
Buckinghamshire	11.6	193	192	99.5	32.6	34	32	94.1
Bury	47.6	66	63	95.5	49.1	14	13	92.9
Calderdale	50.3	88	83	94.3	44.4	15	11	73.3
Cambridgeshire	35.2	207	192	92.8	30.9	30	19	63.3
Camden	53.8	45	44	97.8	25.7	9	4	44.4
Cheshire	46.9	271	259	95.6	38.2	43	36	83.7
City of London	99.7	1	1	100.0	No secondary schools			
Cornwall	26.8	241	239	99.2	15.8	31	29	93.5
Coventry	38.1	93	93	100.0	28.7	19	19	100.0
Croydon	33.5	96	86	89.6	21.7	18	6	33.3
Cumbria	52.6	280	159	56.8	Concerns over quality			
Darlington	41.5	31	28	90.3	57.3	7	5	71.4
Derby	38.6	84	79	94.0	48.5	12	9	75.0
Derbyshire	42.9	360	360	100.0	38.0	47	47	100.0
Devon	33.9	323	297	92.0	34.0	37	13	35.1
Doncaster	58.2	116	112	96.6	47.6	19	10	52.6
Dorset	9.1	138	114	82.6	11.4	34	8	23.5
Dudley	38.1	85	85	100.0	30.2	22	21	95.5
Durham	49.3	237	237	100.0	45.8	40	40	100.0
Ealing	40.7	70	70	100.0	50.7	13	11	84.6
East Riding of Yorkshire	33.7	131	124	94.7	25.1	18	13	72.2
East Sussex	32.0	166	166	100.0	28.6	27	26	96.3
Enfield	46.2	75	64	85.3	33.0	17	7	41.2
Essex	40.3	492	300	61.0	39.5	76	44	57.9
Gateshead	47.7	77	76	98.7	36.8	11	11	100.0
Gloucestershire	28.0	257	239	93.0	29.8	42	24	57.1
Greenwich	50.5	69	69	100.0	48.2	12	12	100.0
Hackney	Partial data				Partial data			
Halton	43.9	56	56	100.0	46.9	8	7	87.5
Hammersmith & Fulham	67.9	39	39	100.0	58.6	8	7	87.5
Hampshire	31.3	431	428	99.3	23.9	70	57	81.4
Haringey	55.0	68	61	89.7	44.7	11	6	54.5
Harrow	29.6	54	4	7.4	No data provided			
Hartlepool	64.7	32	32	100.0	45.4	6	5	83.3
Havering	41.1	66	64	97.0	38.2	18	15	83.3
Herefordshire	27.7	86	20	23.3	31.0	14	4	28.6
Hertfordshire	43.0	426	407	95.5	38.8	80	60	75.0
Hillingdon	29.8	71	71	100.0	48.9	18	15	83.3
Hounslow	42.7	63	63	100.0	No data provided			
Isle of Wight	36.5	48	48	100.0	20.4	20	20	100.0
Isles of Scilly	5.5	1	1	100.0	No secondary schools			
Islington	44.7	48	42	87.5	Partial data			
Kensington and Chelsea	62.1	27	27	100.0	44.8	4	4	100.0
Kent	31.4	472	461	97.7	30.6	103	88	85.4

Local authority	<i>Primary</i>				<i>Secondary</i>			
	% take up	Number of schools		% coverage	% take up	Number of schools		% coverage
		Total in LA	Total reported on			Total in LA	Total reported on	
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	48.5	73	73	100.0	22.4	14	12	85.7
Kingston upon Thames	18.8	36	30	83.3	24.4	10	1	10.0
Kirklees	49.7	161	160	99.4	48.1	27	26	96.3
Knowsley	44.9	62	62	100.0	37.0	9	9	100.0
Lambeth	64.4	79	55	69.6	43.4	13	1	7.7
Lancashire	No data provided				30.9	37	37	100.0
Leeds	43.5	225	195	86.7	30.0	39	26	66.7
Leicester	38.4	88	84	95.5	32.9	17	16	94.1
Leicestershire	28.7	232	229	98.7	29.3	54	46	85.2
Lewisham	52.9	77	72	93.5	35.2	11	10	90.9
Lincolnshire	31.4	264	264	100.0	45.2	61	61	100.0
Liverpool	38.6	140	119	85.0	64.2	31	8	25.8
Luton	49.3	55	53	96.4	38.6	10	7	70.0
Manchester	54.4	145	145	100.0	53.9	23	8	34.8
Medway	28.3	91	88	96.7	28.8	19	16	84.2
Merton	33.3	46	46	100.0	37.4	8	6	75.0
Middlesbrough	62.5	46	46	100.0	32.7	9	6	66.7
Milton Keynes	18.8	96	95	99.0	34.2	12	11	91.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	48.6	75	72	96.0	42.4	13	9	69.2
Newham	49.6	68	68	100.0	36.3	15	15	100.0
Norfolk	35.3	378	376	99.5	30.4	52	42	80.8
North East Lincolnshire	38.7	54	54	100.0	45.6	11	9	81.8
North Lincolnshire	46.1	68	68	100.0	34.8	13	13	100.0
North Somerset	28.7	67	67	100.0	22.9	10	7	70.0
North Tyneside	45.9	65	65	100.0	36.7	11	11	100.0
North Yorkshire	42.6	336	317	94.3	41.2	45	29	64.4
Northamptonshire	Partial data				Partial data			
Northumberland	42.6	141	140	99.3	40.7	54	54	100.0
Nottingham	37.7	87	84	96.6	31.6	18	11	61.1
Nottinghamshire	38.2	296	294	99.3	26.6	45	39	86.7
Oldham	50.1	93	93	100.0	27.0	15	1	6.7
Oxfordshire	27.2	245	225	91.8	26.5	32	19	59.4
Peterborough	34.5	61	55	90.2	32.5	10	1	10.0
Plymouth	32.6	73	71	97.3	33.3	16	16	100.0
Poole	Partial data				32.0	8	6	75.0
Portsmouth	31.3	58	58	100.0	38.0	10	10	100.0
Reading	Concerns over quality				41.4	6	5	83.3
Redbridge	30.9	56	56	100.0	38.9	17	17	100.0
Redcar and Cleveland	55.8	48	48	100.0	59.4	11	5	45.5
Richmond upon Thames	32.2	45	44	97.8	No data provided			
Rochdale	46.8	73	60	82.2	35.8	14	5	35.7
Rotherham	41.2	105	105	100.0	34.1	16	16	100.0
Rutland	32.5	19	19	100.0	36.4	3	3	100.0
Salford	53.3	85	80	94.1	50.1	14	7	50.0
Sandwell	35.1	97	96	99.0	22.2	18	14	77.8
Sefton	40.7	81	77	95.1	42.2	21	7	33.3
Sheffield	33.6	141	141	100.0	25.5	26	23	88.5
Shropshire	46.0	143	143	100.0	31.6	22	22	100.0
Slough	28.1	30	30	100.0	33.4	11	8	72.7
Solihull	42.3	71	71	100.0	45.8	14	14	100.0
Somerset	19.9	231	207	89.6	23.2	39	36	92.3
South Gloucestershire	40.8	97	97	100.0	30.0	15	14	93.3
South Tyneside	66.7	56	56	100.0	43.4	9	9	100.0
Southampton	34.5	66	66	100.0	31.7	12	11	91.7
Southend-on-Sea	34.6	42	26	61.9	35.9	12	5	41.7
Southwark	58.7	78	57	73.1	Concerns over quality			
St. Helens	42.6	57	57	100.0	46.9	10	10	100.0
Staffordshire	41.3	321	321	100.0	34.6	68	65	95.6
Stockport	42.9	97	97	100.0	58.3	14	11	78.6
Stockton-on-Tees	49.3	65	64	98.5	33.7	13	2	15.4
Stoke-on-Trent	58.4	79	79	100.0	40.8	17	17	100.0
Suffolk	35.5	265	265	100.0	22.7	38	33	86.8
Sunderland	49.8	90	86	95.6	33.9	17	14	82.4
Surrey	36.7	332	328	98.8	45.1	53	45	84.9
Sutton	38.8	44	44	100.0	37.1	14	14	100.0

Table 4. NI 52: percent take up of school lunches and percent coverage, primary and secondary schools in England, by local authority, 2008-2009

Local authority	<i>Primary</i>				<i>Secondary</i>			
	% take up	Number of schools		% coverage	% take up	Number of schools		% coverage
		Total in LA	Total reported on			Total in LA	Total reported on	
Swindon	25.2	66	66	100.0	31.8	11	11	100.0
Tameside	44.9	75	75	100.0	47.1	16	14	87.5
Telford and Wrekin	42.6	58	55	94.8	37.0	13	7	53.8
Thurrock	36.2	45	39	86.7	25.2	10	4	40.0
Torbay	28.7	34	33	97.1	35.9	8	4	50.0
Tower Hamlets	64.7	74	74	100.0	48.7	15	9	60.0
Trafford	39.0	75	75	100.0	38.8	18	12	66.7
Wakefield	50.3	129	129	100.0	48.4	18	18	100.0
Walsall	35.2	93	88	94.6	38.9	19	7	36.8
Waltham Forest	46.5	57	57	100.0	43.4	17	6	35.3
Wandsworth	44.8	65	54	83.1	35.3	10	5	50.0
Warrington	43.1	73	72	98.6	36.2	12	2	16.7
Warwickshire	35.2	204	194	95.1	31.0	36	16	44.4
West Berkshire	25.0	69	63	91.3	23.3	10	7	70.0
West Sussex	10.8	251	251	100.0	26.3	40	34	85.0
Westminster	66.0	42	38	90.5	Concerns over quality			
Wigan	36.2	111	111	100.0	44.1	20	19	95.0
Wiltshire	32.5	208	138	66.3	22.2	29	7	24.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	34.2	46	46	100.0	29.5	13	11	84.6
Wirral	40.8	106	98	92.5	38.5	34	16	47.1
Wokingham	25.1	51	51	100.0	23.7	9	9	100.0
Wolverhampton	39.2	87	83	95.4	30.1	9	9	100.0
Worcestershire	37.4	192	53	27.6	33.4	45	20	44.4
York	32.9	56	56	100.0	29.7	10	10	100.0

Table 5. Take up comparison, 2007-2008 – 2008-2009

Table 5. NI 52: take up of school lunches and percentage coverage for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009

	2007-2008		2008-2009		% change 2007-2008 – 2008-2009
	% take up	% coverage	% take up	% coverage	
Primary	43.8	93.5	43.9	97.2	+0.1
Secondary	35.5	67.7	36.0	77.9	+0.5

Base (unweighted): 82 LAs for primary, 81 LAs for secondary
 Analysis: weighted by number of pupils attending schools reported on

Annex 1

NI 52: Take up of school lunches			
Is the data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	N
Rationale	<p>To assess the increase in healthy eating among children and young people by measuring school lunch take up, particularly those children entitled to a Free School Meal. Nationally, 43% of primary and 38% of secondary pupils have a school lunch. 16% of primary and 13% of secondary pupils have known entitlement to FSM and 13% of primary pupils (81% of those registered) of primary and 9.5% of secondary pupils (73% of those registered) of secondary pupils take up that entitlement. All school lunches are now required to meet tough nutritional standards that ensure that all the food provided by schools and local authorities in a school lunch is healthy and of good quality. Packed lunches provided by parents are not regulated and there are no mechanisms for establishing whether packed lunches meet the nutritional standards required for school lunches.</p>		
Definition	<p>School lunch take up refers to the number or percentage of full-time pupils on roll at maintained primary, secondary or special schools, academies and city technology colleges who have a lunch at school that is provided either by the school or the local authority during the previous financial year.</p> <p>In primary schools (includes special schools), the percentage take up is calculated using the formula:</p> $\left[\frac{\text{Reported number of meals served (paid plus free)}}{\text{Number of full time pupils on roll}} \right] \times 100$ <p>where the 'Reported number of meals served (paid plus free)' is based on the numbers reported by catering staff in the school.</p> <p>In secondary schools, the percentage take up is calculated using the formula:</p> $\left[\frac{\left[\frac{\text{Total income from lunchtime sales}}{\text{FSM equivalent price}} \right] + \text{total FSM provided}}{\text{Number of full-time pupils on roll}} \right] \times 100$ <p>where the 'Total income for lunchtime sales' is based on the till receipts for all sales of food provided for lunch during the period to which school lunch standards (including nutrient-based standards from 2009) have been applied, and 'FSM equivalent price' is the monetary value in the dining room of a free school meal.</p>		

	<p>Free school meals are available to all children in non-working families, i.e. those where the adults do not work, or work for less than 16 hours per week. These families are reliant on 'welfare support payments' and are not able to claim the additional 'Working Tax Credit' that is available to low income working families (adults working 16+ hours per week).</p>		
	<p>The average for the year will be calculated as follows:</p> <p>Primary – divide the number of meals served over the period by the number of trading days in the period</p> <p>Secondary – divide the result of the numerator calculation by the number of trading days in the period.</p>		
Formula	<p>Average percentage point figures are calculated from returns made by all local authorities in an annual survey carried out by the School Food Trust. The data relate to one financial year, from April to March.</p> <p>Take the percentage take up in each of the schools in the authority which are subject to the nutritional standards for school food (all maintained schools, academies and city technology colleges) provided to one decimal place, and calculate the weighted average to one decimal place.</p> <p>Figures for primary and secondary school take up of lunches are reported on separately.</p>		
Worked example	<p>Primary school (see p3) SFT website link: www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/UploadDocs/Library/Documents/primary_and_special_school_and_pru_data_template.pdf</p> <p>Secondary school (see p4) SFT website link: www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/UploadDocs/Library/Documents/sft_laca_annual_survey09secondary_school_ctc_and_academy_data_template.doc</p>	Good performance	Higher numbers
Collection interval	Annual (Financial year)	Data Source	An annual survey of local authorities carried out by the School Food Trust. To include information on catering provision from local authority, private and in-house (school) catering providers
Return Format	Percentage	Decimal Places	One
Reporting organisation	The School Food Trust		

Spatial level	School and single tier and county council
Further Guidance	Further information is available on the Trust's website at www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/calculatingtakeup and detailed guidance is sent out with the Annual Survey School Food Trust Annual Survey reports, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08: http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/content.asp?ContentId=381#annualsurvey

References

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² Nelson M and Nicholas J (2006) First annual survey of take up of school meals in England. London. School Food Trust.

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³ Nicholas J, Wood L and Nelson M (2007) Second annual survey of take up of school meals in England. London. School Food Trust.

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/documents/annualsurvey2

⁴ Nicholas J, Wood L, Morgan C, Lever E, Russell S and Nelson M (2008). Third annual survey of take up of school meals in England. London. School Food Trust.

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/documents/annualsurvey3