



Congressional Budget Office

Supplemental Data for *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2021 to 2031*

Baseline Projections

Child Nutrition Programs

Several programs and activities of the federal government provide nutrition assistance to school-age children. Under the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Special Milk Program, the government provides commodities and cash payments to reimburse participating schools and institutions for at least part of the cost of each meal served. Reimbursement rates vary by program, meal type, and participant's household income. Schools in the school breakfast and lunch programs—the two largest such programs—receive relatively small subsidies for meals served to students from households with income above 185 percent of the federal poverty level and larger subsidies for meals served to students from households with income below that level.

Federal child nutrition programs are funded mostly out of mandatory spending, with a small discretionary component. Annual appropriations for child nutrition programs generally cover the cost of providing benefits to all eligible applicants. However, CBO's baseline is constructed under the assumption that in the event of a shortfall, the Department of Agriculture would request an additional appropriation.



Baseline Projections
Child Nutrition Programs

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2022-2026	2022-2031
BUDGET INFORMATION													
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year													
Budget Authority	21,925	26,079	26,987	28,107	29,264	30,490	31,786	33,150	34,588	36,091	37,150	140,927	313,692
Estimated Outlays	22,112	25,237	26,833	27,915	29,063	30,279	31,562	32,916	34,343	35,834	36,968	139,327	310,950
Components of the Child Nutrition Programs													
National School Lunch Program													
Budget Authority	10,830	14,124	14,561	15,077	15,645	16,244	16,874	17,537	18,231	18,954	19,510	75,651	166,757
Estimated Outlays	10,927	13,664	14,477	14,973	15,537	16,131	16,754	17,412	18,101	18,818	19,414	74,782	165,281
School Breakfast Program													
Budget Authority	3,921	5,105	5,307	5,541	5,794	6,063	6,347	6,647	6,965	7,298	7,507	27,810	62,574
Estimated Outlays	3,956	4,939	5,276	5,503	5,754	6,021	6,302	6,600	6,915	7,246	7,470	27,493	62,026
Child and Adult Care Food Program													
Budget Authority	4,013	4,199	4,384	4,589	4,809	5,044	5,295	5,561	5,843	6,142	6,314	23,025	52,180
Estimated Outlays	4,049	4,062	4,359	4,557	4,776	5,009	5,257	5,521	5,801	6,098	6,283	22,763	51,723
Commodity procurement													
Budget Authority	1,175	1,602	1,684	1,761	1,845	1,934	2,027	2,124	2,227	2,333	2,414	8,826	19,951
Estimated Outlays	1,186	1,550	1,674	1,749	1,832	1,921	2,013	2,109	2,211	2,316	2,402	8,726	19,777
Summer Food Service Program													
Budget Authority	600	510	522	535	550	565	581	597	614	632	650	2,682	5,756
Estimated Outlays	605	493	519	531	546	561	577	593	610	627	647	2,650	5,704
State administrative expenses													
Budget Authority	316	297	282	352	364	379	394	411	428	447	466	1,674	3,820
Estimated Outlays	319	287	280	350	361	376	391	408	425	444	464	1,654	3,786
Other spending ^a													
Budget Authority	1,070	242	247	252	257	261	268	273	280	285	289	1,259	2,654
Estimated Outlays	1,070	242	247	252	257	261	268	273	280	285	289	1,259	2,654

Memorandum:

Most reimbursement rates are tied to the consumer price index for food away from home, which is projected to increase as follows:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Percent	102.8	102.3	102.6	102.7	102.8	102.8	102.9	102.9	102.9	102.9

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

a. Other spending includes the Special Milk Program, the Food Service Management Institute, Team Nutrition, coordinated review, computer support and processing, child nutrition grants for the Northern Marianas and American Samoa, and other activities. It also includes discretionary projects funded in annual appropriation acts.