

## Meals Per Labor Hour Worksheet Answer Sheet

The essential services provided by school food service programs are measured in number of reimbursable student lunches and/or meals equivalent to the reimbursable lunch. They are the prime unit of productivity of school food service programs and are essential elements in formulating budgets and determining productivity.

**Meals Per Paid Labor Hour:** To monitor the effectiveness of the operation many school food service administrators use the productivity index of meals per labor hour to determine appropriate staffing. This is an important piece of information that indicates to administrators whether they are using their resources efficiently and productively. It can help in determining how many employees are needed in a single production unit or throughout the district. Many factors affect meals per labor hour. They should be considered when comparing meals per labor hour of kitchen or production units.

These factors include:

- Type of service provided
- Production system
- Amount of convenience foods used
- Skill level of employees
- Complexity of the menu

Paid labor hours are calculated on time actually paid for by the school food service program. For example, if break times for employees are paid for by the program, then the break time should be included; if breaks are unpaid, the break time would not be included when calculating paid labor hours. The formula for determining meals per labor hour is to divide the number of meals or meal equivalents by the number of paid labor hours.

$$\text{Meals per Labor Hour} = \frac{\text{Number of Meals or Meal Equivalents}}{\text{Number of Paid Labor Hours}}$$

**Calculate:** *An elementary school food service program served 338 meals or meal equivalents and had 24 hours of paid labor for the day. Using the formula above, the school food service administrator determined the school had a productivity rate of 14 meals per labor hour.*

**Answer:**

$$24 = \frac{338}{14.08} \text{ or } 14 \text{ meals per labor hour}$$