

Work-Life Balance Fact Sheet: NUTRITION

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, Americans eat out frequently and spent more money on food away from home than they spent on food at home for the first time in 2014.
- A study in Tempe, Arizona found that the availability of fast food along workers' route to work linked to extra pounds. Commuters who passed a greater number of fast-food restaurants were found to have higher BMIs.
- Obesity is associated with lower productivity at work, more sick days, and higher health care costs.
- According to the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, obese individuals are at increased risk for chronic diseases and health conditions including diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol, osteoarthritis, and sleep apnea.
- A recent study highlighted at Nutrition 2018 in Boston MA found that 22 percent of U.S. employees obtained food from the workplace during the week.





- The 2016 National Center for Health CDC Statistics Health Interview Survey estimated that 37.1 percent of employed adults were classified as overweight based on their body mass index, and 28.5 percent were classified as obese.
- A concern with designation of 'healthy foods' is false marketing. Many "low-fat" and "low-sugar" foods are often unhealthy and cause insulin spikes, based on flour and artificial ingredients.
- Food such as fruit leathers, canned fruit, low-fat crackers and granola/fruit bars are often high in sugars/carbs, as well as low in fiber and protein, which creates an insulin spike and leads to obesity and heart disease.
- Providing healthy options in the workplace can help to promote healthy eating.