

In 2012, secretive robotics startup [Momentum Machines](#) debuted a machine that could crank out 400 made-to-order hamburgers in an hour. It's fully autonomous, meaning the robot can slice toppings, grill a patty, and assemble and bag the burger without any help from humans.

The prototype could replace two to three full-time line cooks, saving a fast-food restaurant up to \$90,000 a year in training, salaries, and overhead costs, [tech blog Xconomy reported](#) after catching a live demo.

"Our device isn't meant to make employees more efficient," Momentum Machines cofounder Alexandros Vardakostas told Xconomy in 2012. "It's meant to completely obviate them."