

COVID-19 Restaurant Impact Survey – September 2020

Oregon

Restaurant Business Conditions

- Consumer spending in restaurants remained well below normal levels in August. Eighty-nine percent of Oregon restaurant operators say their total dollar sales volume in August was lower than it was in August 2019. Overall, sales were down 39 percent on average.
- Even though sales were significantly lower for most restaurants, it doesn't mean their costs also fell proportionally. Sixty-two percent of Oregon operators say their restaurant's total operational costs (as a percent of sales) are higher than they were prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Only 16 percent of operators say their costs are lower, as a percent of sales.
- With on-premises dining capacity limited, off-premises is increasingly important for restaurants. Sixty-four percent of operators say off-premises sales currently represents a higher proportion of their total business than it did prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Twenty-nine percent of Oregon operators say business conditions in August were worse than they were in July, while only 9 percent say business conditions improved in August.
- Eighty percent of Oregon operators say they don't expect their restaurant's sales to return to pre-coronavirus levels within the next six months.
- Forty percent of Oregon operators say it is unlikely their restaurant will still be in business six months from now, if business conditions continue at current levels.
- Forty-three percent of operators say it is unlikely their restaurant will still be in business six months from now, if there are no additional relief packages from the federal government.

Restaurant Jobs

- Although many restaurants added back employees as restrictions were partially lifted in recent months, overall staffing levels remain well below normal. On average, Oregon restaurant operators say their current staffing levels are only 66 percent of what they would typically be in the absence of COVID-19.
- In the weeks following the initial rehiring surge that occurred in May and June, restaurant staffing trends were mixed. Forty-one percent of restaurant operators say they added employees in July and August, while 24 percent say they laid off or furloughed employees in July and August.
- Fifteen percent of Oregon restaurant operators say they plan to add more employees during the next 30 days, while 34 percent say they anticipate laying off or furloughing more employees during the next 30 days.

- Overall, 55 percent of Oregon restaurant operators do not expect their staffing levels to return to pre-coronavirus levels within the next six months.

Source: National Restaurant Association, national survey of 3,500 restaurant operators conducted August 26 – September 1, 2020