



New York’s Restaurants Faring Far Worse than National Average

Industry Association estimates 1 in 6 restaurants nationwide have already closed — 8,333 restaurants in New York, 4,500 in New York City alone

ALBANY, NY — According to the most recent survey released by the New York State Restaurant Association, New York restaurants are facing some of the worst circumstances in the nation. Fifty-four percent of New York restaurants said they would likely not survive the next six months without federal relief, compared to the thirty-seven percent of restaurants nationwide. The findings of the survey conducted by the National Restaurant Association show the perilous situation in the Empire State.

“Since March, our members have been sounding the alarm that without sufficient governmental relief, New York restaurants will not make it through the pandemic. Our once vibrant restaurant industry is suffering. Our members are in worse economic shape than most restaurants across the country, and today’s numbers make that picture crystal clear. It is time that our elected officials start fighting to save the industry before it is too late. Financial aid from the federal government is one of our last hopes,” said Melissa Fleischut, president and CEO of NYSRA.

NYSRA members are asking for immediate intervention and a relief package at the federal level to help save these businesses and keep people employed. The Association has sent a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo asking for his leadership and advocacy in securing a federal relief package for the industry. **That letter can be found [here](#).**

The National Restaurant Associations believes that one out of every six restaurants have already closed. Based on estimates, that means 8,333 restaurants in New York state, 4,500 of which from New York City, have shut their doors.

“The industry has been in survival mode throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting to capacity limits, embracing outdoor dining and transitioning to more robust take-out and delivery options. They have worked within the safety guidelines to stay alive and keep their workers employed. New York State restaurants are at a breaking point. We need help now,” added Fleischut.

The survey found that the New York State restaurant industry is experiencing heightened challenges compared to restaurants nationwide. Here is a full summary of the survey’s findings:

	Nationwide	New York
Restaurant operators reporting total dollar sales volume lower in October than it was in October 2019	79%	85%
Restaurant operators who are expecting sales to continue to decrease during the next 3 months	75%	88%
Restaurant operators who say their restaurant’s total labor costs (as a percent of sales) are higher than they were prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.	59%	63%
Restaurant operators who say their restaurant’s profit margin is lower than it was prior to the COVID-19 outbreak	86%	91%



Restaurant operators who 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.	37%	54%
Restaurant operators who say they are considering temporarily closing their restaurant until the COVID-19 pandemic passes.	36%	58%
Restaurant operators who say their current staffing level is lower than what it would normally be in the absence of COVID-19.	81%	89%
Restaurants who are currently more than 20% below normal staffing levels.	45%	59%
Restaurant operators who anticipate further layoffs during the next 3 months.	49%	78%

The National Restaurant Association surveyed 6,000 restaurant operators — 238 in New York — between November 17 – 30, 2020 to gain insight into the current state of the industry.

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