



State of the Industry in Ohio

The Ohio Restaurant Association has conducted **Business Impact** polls to determine the on-going health of restaurants across the state since March 2020. We will continue to monitor the on-going health of the industry so that we may share our findings with the industry-at-large, news media, elected officials, and the National Restaurant Association.

This was a special poll conducted from July 18 – August 2, 2023 to understand the current state of the restaurant industry in Ohio. Special questions were added to identify where respondents stand on key legislative issues being considered at the state level.

The majority of respondents report an increase in overall sales in Q2 2023 vs. Q2 2022, although sales are not as strong as they were in the first quarter of this year.

- 8% of respondents reported that sales were up more than 10%
- 43% of respondents reported that sales were up between 1 – 10%
- 12% of respondents reported that their sales stayed flat from last year at this time.
- 22% of respondents reported that their sales were down 1 – 10%.
- 15% of respondents reported that their sales were down more than 10%.

Hiring shortages continue to affect restauranteurs' ability to be fully operational.

- 37% report needing about 5% more employees to be fully staffed.
- 30% report needing about 10% more employees to be fully staffed.
- 11% report needing about 15% more employees to be fully staffed.
- 7% report needing about 20% more employees to be fully staffed.
- 13% report being fully staffed.

Most operators will raise menu prices again this quarter.

- 44% are planning increases of 1 – 5%
- 21% are planning increases of 6 – 10%
- 4% are planning increases of more than 10%
- 29% will NOT raise prices this quarter.

Food costs continue to increase dramatically. Most respondents have seen food costs rise 6-15% since January.

- 24% report increased food cost of 1 – 5%
- 35% of respondents report a 6-15% increase in food cost.
- 11% report more than a 15% increase in food cost since October 2022.
- 11% report their food cost has remained the same.

The cost of labor continues to increase since January 2023

- 25% report a 1 – 5% increase in the cost of labor.
- 29% have seen a 6-10% increase in the cost of labor.
- 20% of respondents report an 11 – 15% increase in the cost of labor.
- 16% of respondents report that labor costs have increased of more than 15%.
- 7% report that the cost of labor has not increased since October 2022.

Survey respondents are overwhelmingly against efforts to amend Ohio's Constitution to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hr in Ohio.

- 81% of respondents do not support a constitutional amendment.
- 19% of respondents are in support of amending the constitution.

Survey respondents are overwhelmingly against efforts to amend Ohio's Constitution to eliminate the tipped wage.

- 93% of respondents do not support a constitutional amendment.
- 7% of respondents are in support of amending the constitution.

Most Respondents report a starting wage of \$12 - \$15 per hour.

- 34% of respondents pay \$10.10 - \$12.50/hour.
- 43% of respondents pay \$12.50 - \$15/hour.
- 21% of respondents pay more than \$15/hour.

Most respondents utilize the tipped wage credit.

- 65% of respondents utilize a wage credit.
- 23% of respondents do not utilize a wage credit.
- 11% of respondents do not employ tipped workers as part of their business model.

Labor Costs, Staffing Issues, Product & Supply Costs remain the largest issues facing restaurants and hospitality businesses right now.

- Finding and keeping staff.
- Cost of Goods is increasing.
- Loan re-payment (EIDL), and changing technology was also mentioned.