National Restaurant Association
Restaurant Performance Index

July 2026

Restaurant Performance Index Rose 0.1% in July

The National Restaurant Association's Restaurant Performance Index (RPI) registered a modest increase in July, but continued to signal mixed business conditions. The RPI – a monthly index that tracks the health of the U.S. restaurant industry – stood at 100.3 in July, up 0.1% from June and the third consecutive month that the index stood above 100 in expansion territory.

Restaurant operators continued to report mixed same-store sales and customer traffic results in July, but their outlook improved. More than four in 10 operators expect their sales to increase in the coming months, the strongest reading in five months.

The RPI is constructed so that the health of the restaurant industry is measured in relation to a neutral level of 100. Index values above 100 indicate that key industry indicators are in a period of expansion, while index values below 100 represent a period of contraction. The Restaurant Performance Index consists of two components – the Current Situation Index and the Expectations Index.

Current Situation Index Remained Steady a Level of 100.1 in July; Expectations Index Rose 0.1% to a Level of 100.5

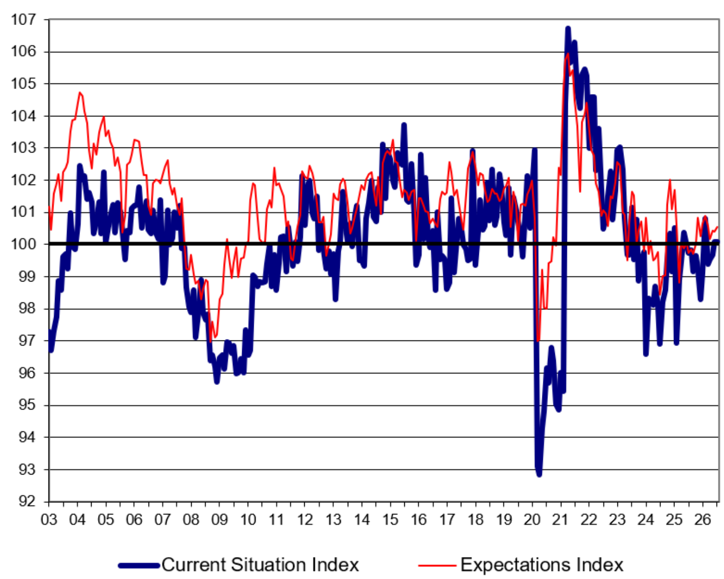
The Current Situation Index, which measures current trends in four industry indicators (same-store sales, traffic, labor and capital expenditures), stood at 100.1 in July – unchanged from June. July represented the second consecutive month that the current situation component stood above 100 in expansion territory, though the underlying indicators continued to reflect a challenging operating environment.

The Expectations Index, which measures restaurant operators' six-month outlook for four industry indicators (same-store sales, employees, capital expenditures and business conditions), stood at 100.5, up 0.1% from the previous month. Restaurant operators continue to have divergent expectations for sales growth and the economy.

Restaurant Performance Index

Source: NRA; Values Greater than 100 = Expansion; Values Less than 100 = Contraction

Current Situation & Expectations Indices



Source: NRA; Values Greater than 100 = Expansion; Values Less than 100 = Contraction

Restaurant Operators Reported Mixed Sales and Traffic Results in July

Restaurant operators reported a net increase in same-store sales for the sixth consecutive month in July. Forty-seven percent of restaurant operators said their same-store sales rose between July 2025 and July 2026. That was essentially unchanged from the previous four months. Thirty-four percent of restaurant operators said their sales declined in July, up slightly from 31% in June.

Continuing the trend of recent months, restaurant operators reported dampened customer traffic levels. Forty percent of operators said their customer traffic rose between July 2025 and July 2026, up from 35% in June. Forty-nine percent of operators reported lower traffic in July, up from 43% in June. July represented the 17th time in the last 18 months that operators reported a net decline in customer traffic.

Fifty-two percent of restaurant operators said they made a capital expenditure for equipment, expansion or remodeling during the last three months. That was up from 50% last month and represented the highest reading since February.

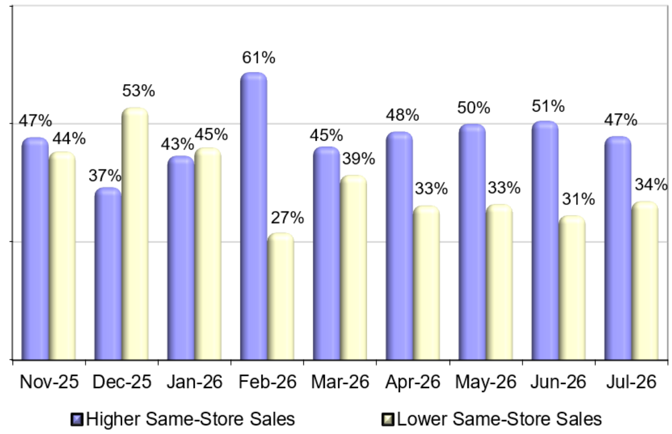
Restaurant Operators Are More Optimistic about Sales Growth

After a recent deterioration, restaurant operators' sales outlook improved this month. Forty-two percent of operators expect their sales volume in six months to be higher than it was during the same period in the previous year. That was the highest reading since the March survey period. Twenty-one percent of operators expect their sales to be lower in six months, while the remaining 37% of operators think their sales will remain about the same.

In contrast, restaurant operators remain uncertain about the direction of the overall economy. Only 14% of operators said they expect economic conditions to improve in six months, down from 17% last month. Thirty-two percent of operators think economic conditions will worsen during the next six months, while 54% think conditions will remain about the same as they are now. That represented the 18th consecutive month in which restaurant operators had a net negative outlook for the economy.

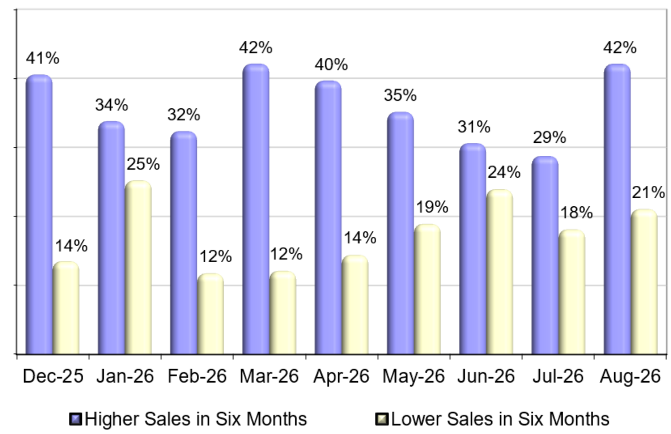
Despite the mixed outlook, most restaurant operators are planning for capital expenditures. Fifty-six percent of restaurant operators said they plan to make a capital expenditure for equipment, expansion or remodeling during the next six months. That represented the 16th consecutive month in which a majority of operators reported plans for capital spending.

Restaurant Operators' Reporting of Same-Store Sales versus Same Month in Previous Year



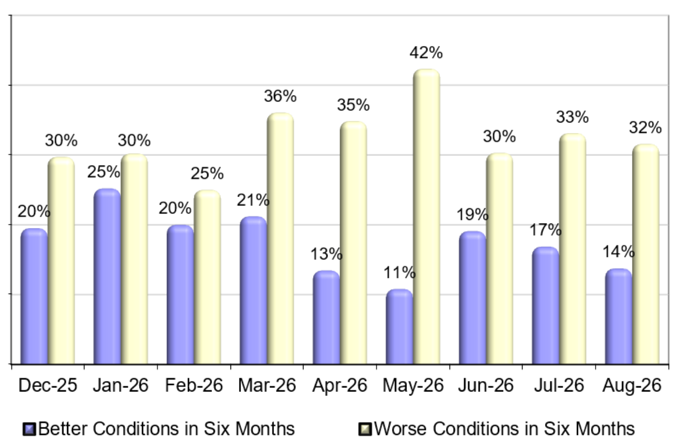
Source: National Restaurant Association, Restaurant Industry Tracking Survey

Restaurant Operators' Outlook for Sales Volume in Six Months versus Same Period in Previous Year



Source: National Restaurant Association, Restaurant Industry Tracking Survey

Restaurant Operators' Outlook for General Economic Conditions in Six Months



Source: National Restaurant Association, Restaurant Industry Tracking Survey

National Restaurant Association Restaurant Performance Index and Its Components

	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	June-26 to July-26
Restaurant Performance Index	100.0	99.8	100.1	100.2	100.3	0.1%
Current Situation Index	99.4	99.5	99.7	100.1	100.1	0.0%
Current Situation Indicators:						
Same-Store Sales	100.6	101.6	101.7	102.0	101.4	-0.6%
Customer Traffic	98.5	97.8	98.4	99.1	99.1	0.0%
Labor	98.3	98.9	98.9	99.1	99.4	0.3%
Capital Expenditures	100.2	99.8	99.8	100.1	100.5	0.4%
Expectations Index	100.6	100.2	100.4	100.4	100.5	0.1%
Expectations Indicators:						
Same-Store Sales	102.5	101.6	100.7	101.1	102.1	1.0%
Staffing	100.8	101.4	101.3	101.2	100.5	-0.7%
Capital Expenditures	101.1	100.9	100.8	101.0	101.3	0.3%
Business Conditions	97.9	96.8	98.9	98.4	98.2	-0.2%

Note: For each of the Indices and Indicators, a value above 100 signals a period of expansion while a value below 100 signals a period of contraction.

Definitions

The National Restaurant Association's *Restaurant Performance Index* is a statistical barometer that measures the overall health of the U.S. Restaurant Industry. This monthly composite index is based on the responses to the National Restaurant Association's monthly Restaurant Industry Tracking Survey, which is fielded among restaurant operators nationwide on a variety of indicators including sales, traffic, labor and capital expenditures. The *Restaurant Performance Index* is composed of two equally-weighted components: the Current Situation Index and the Expectations Index. For each of the Indices and Indicators, a value above 100 signals a period of expansion while a value below 100 signals a period of contraction. The distance from 100 signifies the magnitude of the expansion or contraction.

The Current Situation Index is a composite index based on four 'recent-period' restaurant industry indicators:

- *Same-Store Sales:* Compares same-store sales volume in the reference month versus the same month in the previous year
- *Customer Traffic*: Compares customer traffic in the reference month versus the same month in the previous year
- *Labor*: Compares the number of employees and the average employee hours in the reference month versus the same month in the previous year
- *Capital Expenditures*: Measures capital expenditure activity during the three most recent months

The Expectations Index is a composite index based on four 'forward-looking' restaurant industry indicators:

- *Same-Store Sales:* Restaurant operators' outlook for same-store sales in six months, compared to the same period in the previous year
- *Staffing*: Restaurant operators' expectations for their number of employees in six months, compared to the same period in the previous year
- *Capital Expenditures*: Restaurant operators' capital expenditure plans during the next six months
- *Business Conditions*: Restaurant operators' outlook for general business conditions during the next six months