National Restaurant Association
Restaurant Performance Index

September 2025

Restaurant Performance Index Declined 0.4% in September

The National Restaurant Association's Restaurant Performance Index (RPI) registered a moderate decline in September, reflecting the continuation of challenging business conditions for the restaurant industry. The RPI – a monthly composite index that tracks the health of the U.S. restaurant industry – stood at 99.4 in September, down 0.4% from August and the lowest reading since March.

September's decline in the RPI was largely due to dampened current situation indicators. Although restaurant operators posted a modest net increase in same-store sales in September, they reported negative customer traffic for the 8th consecutive month. Restaurant operators' outlook for business conditions remains mixed, with just 34% expecting higher sales in six months.

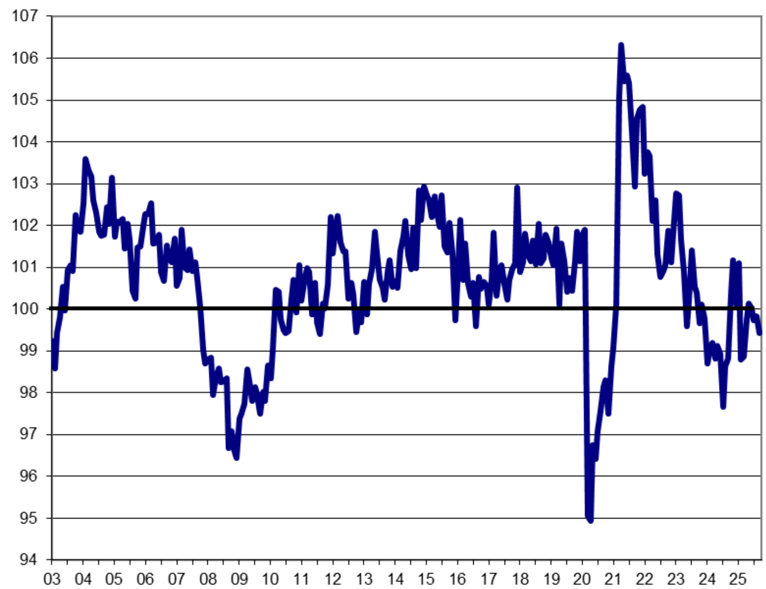
The RPI is constructed so that the health of the restaurant industry is measured in relation to a neutral level of 100. Index values above 100 indicate that key industry indicators are in a period of expansion, while index values below 100 represent a period of contraction. The Restaurant Performance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

Current Situation Index Fell 0.7% to a Level of 99.2 in September; Expectations Index Edged Down 0.1% to a Level of 99.7

The Current Situation Index, which measures current trends in four industry indicators (same-store sales, traffic, labor and capital expenditures), stood at 99.2 in September – down 0.7% from a level of 99.8 in August. September represented the third straight month in contraction territory and the lowest reading since March.

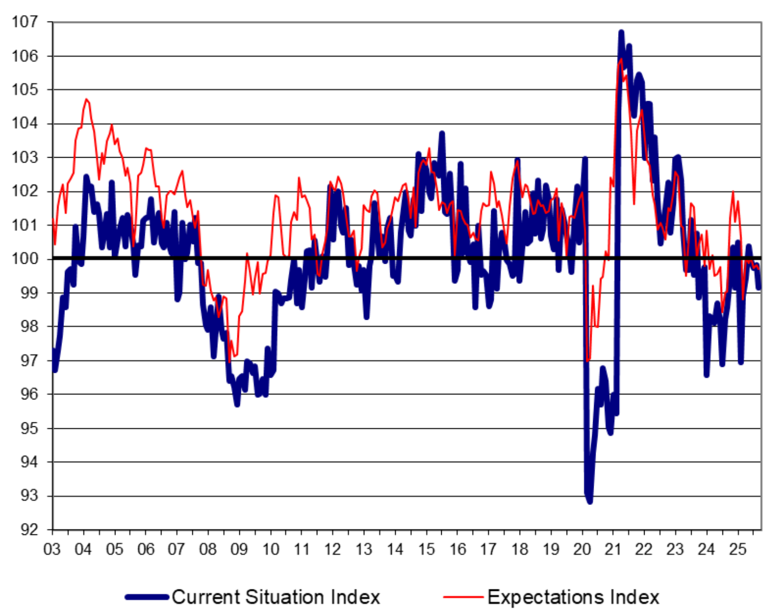
The Expectations Index, which measures restaurant operators' six-month outlook for four industry indicators (same-store sales, employees, capital expenditures and business conditions), stood at 99.7, which represented the third consecutive month below 100. Restaurant operators are cautiously optimistic about sales in the months ahead, but remain generally pessimistic about the direction of 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 September

Restaurant operators reported mixed same-store sales results in September, continuing the trend of the last several months. Forty-five percent of restaurant operators said their same-store sales rose between September 2024 and September 2025, while 44% reported a sales decline. That was roughly on par with the readings in August.

While same-store sales readings held up in September, restaurant operators reported a deterioration in customer traffic levels. Thirty-four percent of operators said their customer traffic rose between September 2024 and September 2025, down from 38% in August. Fifty-two percent of restaurant operators reported lower traffic in September, up from 42% in August. September represented the eighth consecutive month in which operators reported a net decline in customer traffic.

Fifty-two percent of operators said they made a capital expenditure for equipment, expansion or remodeling during the last three months. That represented the fourth consecutive month above the 50% level.

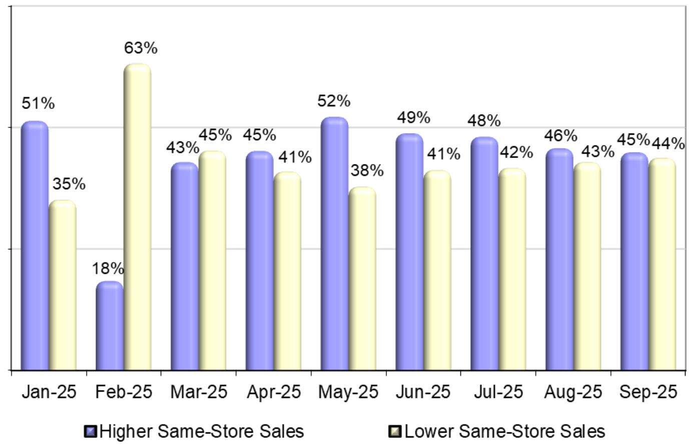
Restaurant Operators Have an Uncertain Outlook for Sales and the Economy

Restaurant operators are only cautiously optimistic about sales growth in the coming months. Thirty-four 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 down from 40% of operators who reported similarly last month. Twenty percent of restaurant operators think their sales will be lower in six months, while the remaining 46% of operators expect their sales to remain flat.

Restaurant operators are much more pessimistic about the direction of the overall economy. Only 11% of restaurant operators said they expect economic conditions to improve in six months. That was down from the 17% who reported similarly last month and represented the lowest reading in 17 months. Thirty-six percent of restaurant operators think economic conditions will worsen during the next six months, while 53% think conditions will remain about the same as they are now.

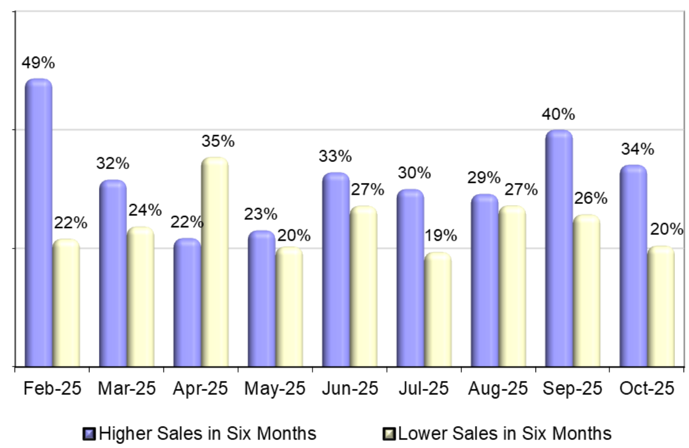
Despite the uncertain outlook, a majority of restaurant operators are planning for capital spending in the coming months. Fifty-one percent of operators said they plan to make a capital expenditure for equipment, expansion or remodeling during the next six months. That was the sixth consecutive month in which a majority of operators reported plans for capital spending.

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



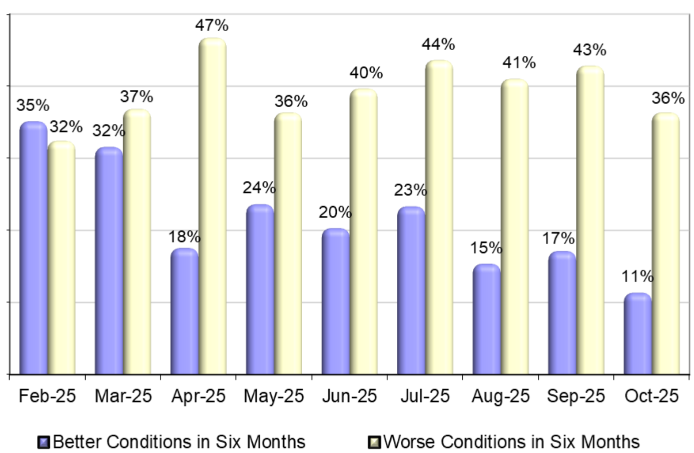
Source: National Restaurant Association, Restaurant Industry Tracking Survey

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

	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	Aug-25 to Sep-25
Restaurant Performance Index	100.1	100.0	99.7	99.8	99.4	-0.4%
Current Situation Index	100.4	100.0	99.7	99.8	99.2	-0.7%
Current Situation Indicators:						
Same-Store Sales	101.4	100.8	100.6	100.3	100.1	-0.2%
Customer Traffic	99.8	98.9	99.4	99.6	98.2	-1.3%
Labor	100.5	99.8	98.2	98.7	97.9	-0.8%
Capital Expenditures	99.8	100.5	100.6	100.8	100.4	-0.4%
Expectations Index	99.9	100.1	99.7	99.8	99.7	-0.1%
Expectations Indicators:						
Same-Store Sales	100.6	101.1	100.2	101.4	101.4	0.0%
Staffing	100.4	100.4	100.3	99.8	99.8	0.0%
Capital Expenditures	100.5	100.8	101.1	100.7	100.2	-0.6%
Business Conditions	98.1	98.0	97.4	97.4	97.5	0.1%

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