



Majority of Adults Changed Their Restaurant Usage as a Result of the Delta Variant

Summary of Survey Results – August 2021

To assess the ongoing economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the National Restaurant Association Research Group conducted an online survey of 1,000 U.S. adults age 18 and older conducted by Engine, Aug. 13-15, 2021. This report contains the findings of the survey.

Six in 10 adults changed their restaurant usage as a result of the delta variant

- The increase in coronavirus cases due to the delta variant impacted restaurant usage for a majority of U.S. consumers, according to a nationwide survey conducted August 13-15 for the National Restaurant Association by Engine.
 - Nine percent of adults cancelled existing plans to go out to a restaurant in recent weeks, while 19% say they completely stopped going out to restaurants.
 - Thirty-seven percent of adults say they ordered takeout or delivery instead of going out to a restaurant, while 19% say they chose to sit outside instead of inside when going out to a restaurant.
- Forty-one percent of adults say they didn't take any of the four actions in recent weeks. Baby boomers and Republicans were the most likely to say that they didn't take any of those actions as a result of the increase in coronavirus cases.

One in three adults would be less likely to go out to a restaurant if masks are required to dine inside

- Thirty-two percent of adults say they would be less likely to go out to a restaurant if there was a requirement that all customers had to wear a mask to dine inside at restaurants in their area. Twenty-five percent of adults say this requirement would make them more likely to go out to a restaurant, while 43% say it would have no impact on their decision to go out to a restaurant.
- Gen Z adults and Democrats were the most likely to say a mask requirement would make them more likely to go out to a restaurant.
- Republicans, Gen Xers and rural residents were the most likely to say a mask requirement would make them less likely to go out to a restaurant.

One in three adults would be less likely to go out to a restaurant if proof of vaccine is required to dine inside

- Thirty-two percent of adults say they would be less likely to go out to a restaurant if there was a requirement that all customers had to show proof of COVID-19 vaccine to dine inside at restaurants in their area. Thirty-three percent of adults say this requirement would make them more likely to go out to a restaurant, while 35% say it would have no impact on their decision to go out to a restaurant.
- Democrats, Gen Z adults and individuals in higher income households were the most likely to say a proof-of-vaccine requirement would make them more likely to go out to a restaurant.
- Republicans, Independents, Gen Xers and rural residents were the most likely to say a proof-of-vaccine requirement would make them less likely to go out to a restaurant.