



A [report](#) released by my office highlights the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the New York City restaurant and bar industry, as well as the overwhelming unemployment toll it is taking on tens of thousands of industry workers, many of whom are immigrants.

In 2019, New York City's restaurant industry had 23,650 establishments, provided 317,800 jobs, paid \$10.7 billion in total wages citywide and delivered nearly \$27 billion in taxable sales. The report found that in April 2020, restaurant employment in New York City dropped to 91,000 jobs as restrictions were imposed on businesses, and taxable sales for the city's restaurant industry fell by 71 percent during March, April and May compared to a year earlier.

New York City's bars and restaurants are the lifeblood of our neighborhoods. The industry is tough and many eateries operate on tight margins. Now they face an unprecedented upheaval that may cause many establishments to close forever. Restaurants reflect our diversity, employing tens of thousands of immigrants and providing a range of options fitting for a world-class metropolis. It's important that the State and City continue to be creative and bolster the industry. The City's decision to extend outdoor dining year-round to help keep restaurants afloat is a step in the right direction along with opening for indoor dining. For its part, the federal government should provide new stimulus targeting the sector to sustain operations and help local economies mitigate transmission risk.

The [report](#) highlights variation across the City's boroughs and neighborhoods in the return of restaurant and bar business operations to pre-pandemic levels. The restaurant industry accounted for about one in 12 private sector jobs and establishments citywide in 2019. The vast majority of the city's restaurants and bars are small businesses, and most (80 percent) have fewer than 20 employees.

To read the [report](#), go to: [www.osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/osdc/pdf/nyc-restaurant-industry-final.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/osdc/pdf/nyc-restaurant-industry-final.pdf)

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