**RESTAURANT ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT**

All indicators are for December 2019

A monthly summary of key indicators from National Restaurant Association research; More details at Restaurant.org/Research

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### RESTAURANT PERFORMANCE INDEX

Values greater than 100 = Expansion; Values less than 100 = Contraction

Source: National Restaurant Association; see reverse for more on RPI

**RESTAURANT SALES AND JOBS**

**Total eating and drinking place sales**

(in billions of current dollars)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; figures are seasonally-adjusted

**KEY TAKEAWAYS:** Restaurant sales registered a modest gain in December, reversing a two-month slide in October and November. Eating and drinking place sales totaled $65.1 billion in December on a seasonally-adjusted basis. December’s sales volume was 0.2 percent above November, but still remained below the record high of $65.5 billion posted in September. Despite the recent sluggishness, sales stood 4.9 percent above year-ago levels.

**Eating and drinking place employment**

(change from the previous month)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; figures are seasonally-adjusted

**KEY TAKEAWAYS:** Restaurant industry job growth slowed in December from the solid gains posted in recent months. Eating and drinking places added a net 15,900 jobs in December on a seasonally-adjusted basis. Though still a decent increase, December’s employment gain was down from the robust growth registered in recent months. During the four-month period between August and November, eating and drinking places added an average of nearly 36,000 jobs each month.
The National Restaurant Association’s Restaurant Performance Index (RPI) is a monthly composite index that tracks the health of and the outlook for the U.S. restaurant industry. Launched in 2002, the RPI is released on the last business day of each month. The RPI consists of two components — the Current Situation Index, which measures current trends in four industry indicators (same-store sales, traffic, labor and capital expenditures), and the Expectations Index, which measures restaurant operators’ six-month outlook for four industry indicators (same-store sales, employees, capital expenditures and business conditions).

Founded in 1919, the National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant industry, which comprises more than 1 million restaurant and foodservice outlets and a workforce of 15.3 million employees. We represent the industry in Washington, D.C., and advocate on its behalf. We operate the industry’s largest trade show (NRA Show May 18-21, 2020, in Chicago); leading food safety training and certification program (ServSafe); unique career-building high school program (the NRAEF’s ProStart); as well as the Kids LiveWell program promoting healthful kids’ menu options.