

TO: National Restaurant Association
FR: Morning Consult
DT: September 7, 2023
RE: Tipping Behaviors in Washington, DC



According to a recent survey, frequent DC diners have changed their dining habits in response to Initiative 82 – the legislation passed last year that changed how tipped workers are paid. Frequent DC diners indicate they have cut down on eating out and opted to eat at home or in restaurants outside the city because of restaurants’ increased menu prices and automatic service charges implemented to offset increased labor costs brought about by the initiative.

Response to Initiative 82

Frequent DC diners have changed their dining habits to eat out *less* and eat at home or outside the city *more* in response to increased menu prices and automatic service charges that emerged from the implementation of Initiative 82.

- 2 in 5 frequent DC diners (43%) have been eating out less and more than half (52%) have been eating at home more as a result of restaurants in the city increasing menu prices and implementing automatic service charges.
- One-third (32%) have been seeking dining options outside the city in Maryland and Virginia to avoid restaurants with increased menu prices and automatic service charges.

How much (if at all) have restaurants in DC increasing their menu prices and implementing automatic service charges affected how much you have dined out/dined at home/dined outside the city?



Future of Tipping in DC

If more restaurants were to increase menu prices or implement automatic service charges in the future, frequent DC diners say they would be *less likely* to dine there.

- Nearly half of frequent DC diners (47%) say a restaurant in DC increasing their menu prices or implementing an automatic service charge would make them less likely to dine there.

A large majority of frequent DC diners (84%) believe it is important for restaurants to have the ability to make decisions about how to pay their employees on an individual basis.

How important, if at all, do you believe it is for restaurants to be able to make decisions about how to pay their employees on an individual basis?

● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Don't know/No opinion ● Not too important ● Not important at all

