

The Restaurant Decision-making Process - US - July 2015

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.



“Restaurants have many operational and menu elements to balance to service the greatest number of consumers. Operators can look at the demographics that spend the most and evaluate what they are looking for. If those who most value short wait times are big-spending demographics, it’s time to address the issue.”
-Julia Gallo-Torres, Sr. Food and Drink/
Foodservice Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- How can restaurants balance health with indulgence on the menu?
- What can be done to minimize the wait-time obstacle, especially for casual and fine dining?
- How can restaurants effectively respond to the growing Hispanic population?

Amidst healthy growth, the restaurant industry increasingly encroaches on grocery stores for consumers’ food-spending dollars. This report serves to explore where and how individuals decide to spend those foodservice dollars, including dining-in versus takeout and delivery. This report explores consumer evaluations of such factors as price, location, ambiance, menus, promotions, service, and amenities and explores how these factors affect consumers’ dining-out decisions.

This report builds on the analysis presented in Mintel’s Dining Out: The Restaurant Decision-Making Process – US, July 2014 report. It also builds on such other Mintel reports as Dining Out: A 2015 Look Ahead – US, January 2015; Marketing to Millennials – US, February 2015; Healthy Dining Trends – US, July 2014 and other reports in the limited and full-service segments.

BUY THIS
REPORT NOW

VISIT:
store.mintel.com

CALL:
EMEA
+44 (0) 20 7606 4533

Brazil
0800 095 9094

Americas
+1 (312) 943 5250

APAC
+61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL:
reports@mintel.com

DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market

The Restaurant Decision-making Process - US - July 2015

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Table of Contents

Scope and Themes

- What you need to know
- Definition
- Data sources
- Sales data
- Mintel Menu Insights
- Consumer survey data
- Abbreviations and terms
- Abbreviations
- Terms

Executive Summary

The market

Figure 1: Total US sales and forecast of restaurants and other eating places, by segment, at current prices, 2009-19

Market drivers

Competitive context

The consumer

Figure 2: Foodservice expenditures in the past 30 days, by gender, December 2014

Figure 3: Burger and chicken (eg McDonald's, KFC, Chick-fil-A, El Pollo Loco, or independents) Use of drive-thru for burger and chicken, by gender, April 2015

Figure 4: What matters with menus, by household income, April 2015

Figure 5: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by race and Hispanic origin, April 2015

Figure 6: What matters with menus, by presence of children in household, April 2015

Figure 7: Barriers to restaurant usage, by region, April 2015

What we think

Issues and Insights

How can restaurants balance health with indulgence on the menu?

The issues

The implications

What can be done to minimize the wait-time obstacle, especially for casual and fine dining?

The issues

The implications

How can restaurants effectively respond to the growing Hispanic population?

The issues

The implications

Trend Application

Trend: Let's Make a Deal

Trend: The Power of One

**BUY THIS
REPORT NOW**

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com

The Restaurant Decision-making Process - US - July 2015

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Trend: Slow it All Down

Market Size and Forecast

Key points

FSRs still lead limited service in market share

Figure 8: Total market share of restaurants and other eating places, by segment, at current prices, 2014

Figure 9: Total US sales of restaurants and other eating places, by segment, at current prices, 2012 and 2014

Sales and forecast of US full service restaurant sales

Expanding sales reflect a stronger economy

Figure 10: Total US sales and forecast of full service restaurants, at current prices, 2009-19

Inflation-adjusted sales also show growth

Figure 11: Total US sales and forecast of full service restaurants, at inflation-adjusted prices, 2009-19

Sales and forecast of US limited service restaurant sales

Sales expand at a rate of 5% and beyond

Figure 12: Total US sales and forecast of limited service eating places, at current prices, 2009-19

Inflation-adjusted sales also show growth

Figure 13: Total US retail and forecast of limited service eating places, at inflation-adjusted prices, 2009-19

Sales and forecast of other US limited service restaurant sales

Menu build-outs yield expanded sales

Figure 14: Total US sales and forecast of *other limited service, at current prices, 2009-19

Inflation-adjusted sales also show growth

Figure 15: Total US retail and forecast of *other limited service, at inflation-adjusted prices, 2009-19

Fan chart forecast

Figure 16: Total US sales and fan chart forecast of full service and limited service restaurants at current prices, 2009-19

Fan chart forecast methodology

Market Drivers

Key points

Jobs continue to rebound

Figure 17: Unemployment rate and underemployment, January 2007-April 2015

Disposable income continues to rise slightly

Figure 18: Real disposable personal income, January 2007-March 2015

Wages have yet to rebound

Figure 19: Median household income, in inflation-adjusted dollars, 2003-13

Consumer confidence remains shaky, but has improved year-over-year

Figure 20: Consumer confidence index, January 2009-April 2015

Population groups support targeting Millennials and Gen X

Figure 21: US population, by generation share, 2015*

Figure 22: Median household income, by age of householder, 2013*

Restaurant Performance Index shows solid expansion

Figure 23: National Restaurant Association's Restaurant Performance Index, 2004-15

**BUY THIS
REPORT NOW**

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com

The Restaurant Decision-making Process - US - July 2015

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Minimum wage wars

Competitive Context

Key points

Grocery and convenience stores up their game for dining-out dollars

Figure 24: Barriers to restaurant usage, by select demographics of those who chose "There are better dinner specials at the grocery store," April 2015

Meal services bring the ingredients and recipe to the door

Figure 25: Where and how consumers order limited service restaurant food, by delivery, April 2015

Figure 26: Where and how consumers order full service restaurant food, by delivery, April 2015

Marketing Strategies

Key points

Easy interactive ordering/paying fills need for speed

Entertainment tie-ins help restaurants gain exposure

Contests create vibe

Menu Analysis

Key points

Exclusive menu items appeal to consumers

Figure 27: Top 10 menu item claims at limited service restaurants, by incidence, Q1 2012-15

Limited service "signature" and "original" menu examples

Top full service menu claims

Figure 28: Top 10 menu item claims at full service restaurants, by incidence, Q1 2012-15

Full service "signature," "house," and "homemade" menu examples

Healthy menu section and items appeal to customers

Nutritional claims at limited service restaurants

Figure 29: Top 10 nutritional claims at limited service restaurants, by incidence, Q1 2012-15

Limited service "gluten-free" and "natural" menu examples

Nutritional claims at FSRs

Figure 30: Top 10 nutritional claims at full service restaurants, by incidence, Q1 2012-15

Full service "gluten-free," and "natural" examples

Consumer Data – Overview

Key points

Figure 31: Restaurant expenditures, November 2013-December 2014

Figure 32: Where and how consumers eat restaurant food (limited service), April 2015

Figure 33: Where and how consumers eat restaurant food (full service), April 2015

Quick seating, fair prices, good service, and a healthy food section appeal to guests

Figure 34: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, April 2015

Figure 35: What matters with menus, April 2015

Figure 36: Choosing a restaurant based on occasion, April 2015

Recommendations bring in the most customers; high price and poor service keep them out

BUY THIS
REPORT NOW

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com

The Restaurant Decision-making Process - US - July 2015

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 37: Drivers for new restaurant trial, April 2015

Figure 38: Barriers to restaurant usage, April 2015

Consumer Data – By Gender and Age

Key points

Figure 39: Restaurant expenditures, by gender and age, November 2013-December 2014

Figure 40: Limited service restaurant use, by gender and age, April 2015

Figure 41: Full service restaurant use, by gender and age, April 2015

Figure 42: Burger and chicken (eg McDonald's, KFC, Chick-fil-A, El Pollo Loco, or independents), by demographics, April 2015

Women most care about quick seating and a healthy menu section; older men care about quietness for special-occasion dining

Figure 43: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by demographics, April 2015

Figure 44: What matters with menus, by gender and age, April 2015

Figure 45: Choosing a restaurant based on special occasion, by gender and age, April 2015

Recommendations, good price, and positive experience go a long way in driving traffic to the restaurant, especially for women

Figure 46: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by gender and age, April 2015

Figure 47: Barriers to restaurant usage, by demographics, April 2015

Consumer Data – By Generation

Key points

Figure 48: Limited service restaurant use, by generations, April 2015

Figure 49: Full service restaurant use, by generations, April 2015

Location and menu healthy food sections matter less to Millennials

Figure 50: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by generations, April 2015

Figure 51: What matters with menus, by generations, April 2015

Figure 52: Choosing a restaurant based on special occasion, by generations, April 2015

Baby Boomers are more promotion and price driven than Millennials

Figure 53: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by generations, April 2015

Figure 54: Barriers to restaurant usage, by generations, April 2015

Consumer Data – By Income

Key points

Figure 55: Limited service restaurant use, by annual household income, April 2015

Figure 56: Full service restaurant use, by annual household income, April 2015

Figure 57: Burger and chicken (eg McDonald's, KFC, Chick-fil-A, El Pollo Loco, or independents), by household income, April 2015

To draw all incomes, restaurants must have price solutions for low-income earners and quality offerings for high-income earners

Figure 58: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by household income, April 2015

Figure 59: What matters with menus, by household income, April 2015

Figure 60: Choosing a restaurant based on special occasion, by household income, April 2015

Adventurous menus draw upper income earners; value draws low income earners

Figure 61: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by household income, April 2015

Figure 62: Barriers to restaurant usage, by household income, April 2015

**BUY THIS
REPORT NOW**

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com

The Restaurant Decision-making Process - US - July 2015

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Consumer Data – By Race and Hispanics

Key points

- Figure 63: Median annual household income, by race and Hispanic origin of householder, 2013
- Figure 64: Restaurant expenditures, by race and hispanic origin, November 2013-December 2014
- Figure 65: Limited service restaurant use, by race and hispanic origin, April 2015
- Figure 66: Full service restaurant use, by race and hispanic origin, April 2015

Daily specials matter to Hispanics, not so much to Whites; Asians want to see pictures of the food on the menu

- Figure 67: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by race and Hispanic origin, April 2015
- Figure 68: What matters with menus, by race and Hispanic origin, April 2015
- Figure 69: Choosing a restaurant based on special occasion, by race and Hispanic origin, April 2015
- Figure 70: Choosing a restaurant based on every day, by race and Hispanic origin, April 2015

Asians are value conscious; Blacks look for interesting food and drink specials

- Figure 71: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by race and Hispanic origin, April 2015
- Figure 72: Barriers to restaurant usage, by race and Hispanic origin, April 2015

Consumer Data – By Parents

Key points

- Figure 73: Restaurant expenditures, by presence of children, November 2013-December 2014
- Figure 74: Limited service restaurant use, by parents, April 2015
- Figure 75: Full service restaurant use, by parents, April 2015
- Figure 76: Burger and chicken (eg McDonald's, KFC, Chick-fil-A, El Pollo Loco, or independents), by parental status, April 2015

Parents with children don't expect to be seated quickly, but they do want a bar area to compensate for the wait

- Figure 77: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by parental status, April 2015
- Figure 78: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by presence of children in household, April 2015
- Figure 79: What matters with menus, by parental status, April 2015
- Figure 80: What matters with menus, by presence of children in household, April 2015
- Figure 81: Choosing a restaurant based on special occasion, by presence of children in household, April 2015

Fathers try restaurants with a good online presence and that conduct special events

- Figure 82: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by parental status, April 2015
- Figure 83: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by presence of children in household, April 2015
- Figure 84: Barriers to restaurant usage, by parental status, April 2015
- Figure 85: Barriers to restaurant usage, by presence of children in household, April 2015

Consumer Data – By Region and Area

Key points

- Figure 86: Restaurant expenditures, by region, November 2013-December 2014
- Figure 87: Limited service restaurant use, by region, April 2015
- Figure 88: Full service restaurant use, by region, April 2015
- Figure 89: Burger & chicken (eg McDonald's, KFC, Chick-fil-A, El Pollo Loco, or independents), by region, April 2015
- Figure 90: Limited service restaurant use, by area, April 2015

**BUY THIS
REPORT NOW**

VISIT: store.mintel.com
 CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094
 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100
 EMAIL: reports@mintel.com

The Restaurant Decision-making Process - US - July 2015

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 91: Full service restaurant use, by area, April 2015

Figure 92: Burger & chicken (eg McDonald's, KFC, Chick-fil-A, El Pollo Loco, or independents), by area, April 2015

Bar areas are important to Westerners and urban dwellers; Midwesterners and suburban dwellers most prize a quiet, leisurely dinner

Figure 93: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by region, April 2015

Figure 94: Important characteristics when choosing a restaurant, by area, April 2015

Figure 95: What matters with menus, by region, April 2015

Figure 96: What matters with menus, by area, April 2015

Figure 97: Choosing a restaurant based on special occasion, by region, April 2015

Figure 98: Choosing a restaurant based on special occasion, by area, April 2015

Midwesterners respond best to price promotions; Northeasterners and those in urban areas are least concerned with price and service

Figure 99: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by region, April 2015

Figure 100: Drivers for new restaurant trial – Any rank, by area, April 2015

Figure 101: Barriers to restaurant usage, by region, April 2015

Figure 102: Barriers to restaurant usage, by area, April 2015

Key Driver Analysis

Methodology

Dining-out correlations to those who choose restaurants they learned about via social media or TV shows

Special occasion

Everyday

Figure 103: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant for special occasions, April 2015

Figure 104: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant for everyday dining, April 2015

Dining-out correlations to those who choose restaurants they have never tried before

Special occasion

Everyday

Figure 105: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant for special occasions, April 2015

Figure 106: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant for everyday dining, April 2015

Appendix – Key Driver Analysis

Figure 107: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant for special occasions based on social or television media – key driver output, April 2015

Figure 108: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant for everyday dining based on social or television media – key driver output, April 2015

Figure 109: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant never tried before for special occasions – key driver output, April 2015

Figure 110: Key drivers of choosing a restaurant never tried before for everyday dining – key driver output, April 2015

Appendix – Trade Associations

BUY THIS
REPORT NOW

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com