

Fast-Food Employment in New York City and State

Fast Food Is Among the Fastest-Growing Industries

The fast-food industry is one of America's fastest-growing industries. Between the years 2000 and 2014, fast-food jobs increased 23.3 percent, vastly exceeding private sector job growth overall, which was 5.1 percent during that same period.¹ But the growth of New York's fast-food sector far outpaced the national growth rate.

- Fast-food employment in New York State has ballooned in recent years, growing 57 percent between the years 2000 and 2014. Private sector jobs overall grew 7 percent during the same period.
- In New York City, fast-food employment grew even faster—at the rate of 87 percent, to almost double its level 15 years ago.²

Fast-Food Wages Have Fallen, Even as Industry Profits Have Risen

Total sales revenues in the industry across the United States have also grown, with an increase of 11 percent between 2007 and 2012, after adjusting for inflation.³ As the industry has expanded and profited, however, the benefits of that growth have not been shared with the front-line workers whose labor made it possible. In fact, fast-food wages have declined in recent years, when accounting for inflation.

- The largest publicly-traded fast-food restaurant chains operating in New York State together reaped \$9.3 billion in annual profits last year, an increase in real profits of 14.5 percent between 2010 and 2014.⁴
- During that period, real wages for New York State's fast-food workers declined by 3.6 percent.⁵
- Nationally, the decline was even sharper, with real wages falling 5.5 percent.

Fast-Food Chains Pay Less than Non-Chain Restaurants

Workers at fast-food chains also earn less each year than their counterparts at non-chain restaurants. In New York State, 62 percent of workers in the fast-food industry are employed at chain establishments⁶ and earn 8 percent less on an annual basis than the industry average.⁷

Largest Fast-Food Restaurant Chains in New York State				
NYS Rank	Brand	NYS Stores	Company Name	Net Profits (in millions) FY2014
1	Dunkin' Donuts	1,391	Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc.	\$176.4
2	Subway	1,339	Doctor's Associates Inc.	N/A
3	McDonald's	673	McDonald's Corp.	\$4,757.8
4	Starbucks Coffee	573	Starbucks Corporation	\$2,068.1
5	Tim Hortons	413	Restaurant Brands International Inc.	\$158.0
6	Baskin-Robbins	330	Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc.	\$176.4
7	Burger King	321	Restaurant Brands International Inc.	\$158.0
8	Wendy's	207	The Wendy's Company	\$121.4
9	Carvel	185	FOCUS Brands Inc.	N/A
10	Taco Bell*	176	Yum! Brands, Inc.	\$1,051.0
11	KFC*	163	Yum! Brands, Inc.	\$1,051.0
12	Domino's Pizza	156	Domino's Pizza, Inc.	\$162.6
13	Pizza Hut*	154	Yum! Brands, Inc.	\$1,051.0
14	Little Caesars Pizza	115	Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc.	N/A
15	Chipotle Mexican Grill	106	Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc.	\$445.4
16	Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen	106	Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Inc.	\$38.0
17	Panera Bread	105	Panera Bread Company	\$179.3
18	Auntie Anne's	81	FOCUS Brands Inc.	N/A

Source: Standard & Poor Capital IQ

* Profit figures listed for these brands are for the corporate parent and thus are identical for YUM! Brands' three chains, and for Restaurant Brands International's two chains.

Endnotes

¹ U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, annual average employment for limited service eating places 2000 and 2014.

² Ibid.

³ NELP calculations from Economic Census 2007 and 2012.

⁴ NELP calculations from Standard & Poor Capital IQ. All values adjusted to 2014 dollars.

⁵ NELP calculations from BLS Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2010 and May 2014. Figures are for workers classified in the occupation "combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food". All values adjusted to 2014 dollars.

⁶ Economic Census 2007.

⁷ Economic Census 2007.