A MONTH BY MONTH LOOK AT THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19

The key to feeding Canada’s economic recovery lies in those hardest hit by the pandemic

2020

MARCH 11
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 1,221,300


MID MARCH
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 930,100

More than 800,000 foodservice workers lose their jobs or have their hours of work reduced to zero and on-premise orders accounted for a mere 4% of sales compared to more than 50% in 2019 as dining rooms are forced to close.

APRIL
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 612,600

The unemployment rate rockets up to 13.7 per cent, the highest rate recorded since comparable data became available in 1976.

May

Restrictions begin to lift in several provinces and patios and dining rooms across Canada start to re-open but a Restaurants Canada reveals that most foodservice businesses might not have enough cash flow to successfully reopen their doors to diners.

JUNE

While restrictions begin to lift, the foodservice sector is still nearly 300,000 jobs short of where it was in February. Throughout the crisis, no other industry has faced this level of shortfall.

AUGUST

An estimated 10 per cent of foodservice establishments have already permanently closed due to the impacts of COVID-19. Restaurants Canada calls for a renewed commitment to help industry avoid further closures and job losses as colder weather approaches.

SEPTEMBER

MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 1,039,700

Restaurants Canada survey shows more than half (52%) of operators that were either open for takeout or delivery only, or already offering dine-in services under new restrictions, were operating at a loss. Nine in 10 restaurants reported lower sales in June 2020 compared to June 2019.

OCTOBER

MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 1,059,700

Restaurants Canada survey shows 87% of Canadians say restaurants are doing a good job keeping their customers safe, 92% agree that restaurants are an important part of their community and 95% said that restaurants provide a vital source of employment.

NOVEMBER

MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 902,300

As the weather gets colder, restaurants close patios and the industry sits at 253,000 jobs below pre-COVID levels.

DECEMBER

MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 837,300

As of January 2021 the industry was still 384,000 jobs below pre-COVID levels in February 2020.

2021

JANUARY
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: $57,300

According to the Statistics Canada February 2021 Labour Force Survey there are still about 319,000 fewer jobs in the Canadian foodservice sector than February 2020.

FEBRUARY
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AT: 902,300

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CURRENT SITUATION

ONLY 48% of the lost jobs in the foodservice and accommodation industry in Canada have been recovered as of February 2021, compared to 88% for all other industries.

If we want to build back a stronger, more resilient Canada, that continues to reflect our country’s incredible diversity, our industry is the best place to start, because literally and figuratively, restaurants are key to feeding the recovery.

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