



Restaurants  
Canada

The voice of foodservice | La voix des services alimentaires

# NOURISHING OUR NATION

Canadians love restaurants. In fact, we make more than 22 million visits to restaurants every day! Whether for a morning coffee or a special evening out, Canadians of all backgrounds enjoy the food, beverages and hospitality unique to our industry.

Tourists and visitors love us too. Culinary experiences are one of the top reasons tourists choose to visit certain towns and cities.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg. When you factor in the 1.5 million direct and indirect jobs we create, the neighbourhood improvements we make, and the spin-off effects for the rest of the economy, the foodservice sector truly does nourish our nation!

## 7 INGREDIENTS FOR A STRONG AND VIBRANT CANADA

**1.2 million direct jobs** — Foodservice is the fourth-largest employer in Canada, providing a wide range of opportunities: from servers and chefs to HR managers and digital marketers.

**293,000 indirect jobs** — From farmers, food processors and distributors to equipment manufacturers and interior designers, supply chain partners are key to our success.

**\$89 billion a year in sales** — More than 95% goes back to the community in the form of payroll, food and beverage purchases, rental and leasing, and other business expenditures. The average pre-tax profit margin in our industry is just 4.3% of revenues.

**4% of Canada's GDP** — Foodservice operators run businesses in every rural and urban Canadian community, and that adds up!

**\$460 million a year in charitable contributions** — Restaurants are big on giving back: for example, many sponsor sports teams, support national charities and host fundraising events.

**\$31 billion a year in food & beverage purchases** — Restaurateurs work closely with Canadian farmers to bring top-quality food to the table.

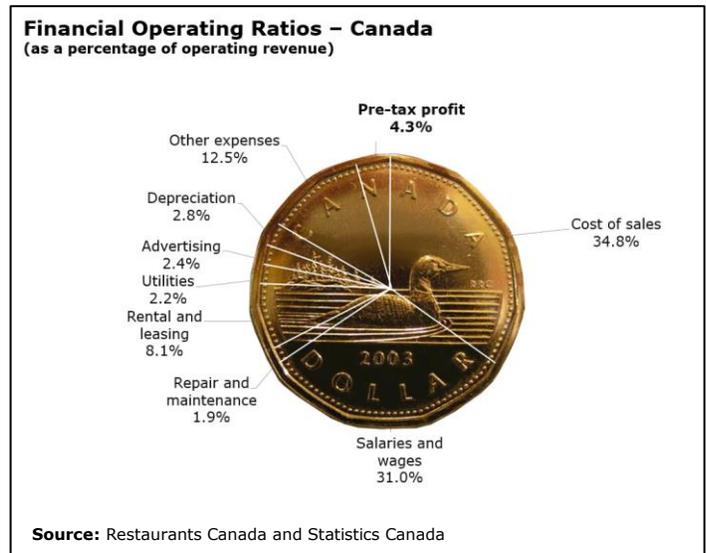
**#1 source for first-time jobs** — Foodservice hires and trains more young people than any other industry! Many choose to stay in our sector, while others move on to other careers with valuable new skills in customer service, problem solving, time management and more.

***From restaurants and bars to cafeterias and caterers, there's no other industry that positively impacts so many lives, so often, in so many ways.***

***Let's work together to keep a good thing going!***

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A thriving restaurant sector is critical to the well-being of communities across Canada, contributing to jobs, investment, innovation, tourism, charitable causes and spaces for people to come together. But running a foodservice business is a highly competitive, labour intensive effort — the pre-tax profit margin for the average Canadian restaurant is less than 5 per cent. Given the challenging operational realities of Canada’s foodservice and hospitality businesses, government policies can go a long way to help or hinder their ability to serve their communities.



## What You Can Do

Working together with Restaurants Canada, the next federal government has an opportunity to improve conditions for foodservice businesses. As election day approaches, we encourage you to:

1. **Get informed:** Learn about the key issues impacting restaurants and our policy recommendations at: [info.restaurantscanada.org/federal-election](http://info.restaurantscanada.org/federal-election)
2. **Contact your candidates:** For information on your riding, polling place and local candidates, visit the Elections Canada website: [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

To learn more about the main parties and their platforms, visit the websites below:

Liberal Party of Canada: [2019.liberal.ca](http://2019.liberal.ca)

Conservative Party of Canada: [www.conservative.ca](http://www.conservative.ca)

New Democratic Party of Canada: [www.ndp.ca](http://www.ndp.ca)

Bloc Québécois: [www.blocquebecois.org](http://www.blocquebecois.org)

Green Party of Canada: [www.greenparty.ca](http://www.greenparty.ca)

People’s Party of Canada: [www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca](http://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca)

3. **Engage your network:** Join the online conversation about what restaurants need to continue [#NourishingOurNation](https://twitter.com/NourishingOurNation) and share your own story about the realities of running a restaurant.

**Together we can make our voice heard!**