



Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Mar 02, 2026
Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...987 words

In today's March 2, 2026 Update:

- **Tomorrow:** [Restaurant Acts Immigration Resources Webinar](#)
- **Share Your Experiences:** [Hospitality Conditions Survey Now Open](#)
- **Hospitality Day at the Capitol:** [Join Other Hospitality Leaders on April 8 in St. Paul](#)
- **Foodservice in 2026:** [National Restaurant Association Releases State of Restaurant Industry Executive Summary](#)
- **Operators:** [Share Your Paid Leave Experience](#)
- **Witness the Future of Hospitality:** [Join Us for the 2026 Minnesota ProStart Invitational](#)
- **ServSafe Offerings:** [Find A Class Near You](#)
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Is your organization interested in sponsorship? [Email us](#) to learn more.



Join Restaurant Acts Tomorrow for Immigration Resources Webinar

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

Tomorrow from 1-2:00 PM: Join the National Restaurant Association and the Restaurant Law Center [tomorrow at 1:00 PM CST](#) for a practical webinar led by Fisher Phillips attorneys Alden J. Parker, Co-Chair of the Hospitality Industry Group, and Jocelyn Campanaro, immigration and workplace compliance attorney.

- **What to expect:** This session will examine compliance considerations, approaches to communicating with employees about immigration related topics, and factors to consider when responding to enforcement activity.

[Register Here!](#)

Who should attend: Restaurant owners, operators, and HR professionals. This webinar offers timely insights and operational considerations relevant to today's enforcement environment.

More relief resources available: As Minnesota businesses continue recovery post Operation Metro Surge, multiple relief efforts have launched, and more relief initiatives are on the horizon.

Resources currently available:

- **The Salt Cure Restaurant Recovery Fund:** This fund aims to aid Minnesota restaurants, bars, and catering businesses.
- **The Economic Response Fund:** This fund provides short-term stabilization grants to help businesses address urgent business-related needs.
- **Small Business Economic Response Grants:** Small businesses may now apply for Economic Response grants through the Minneapolis Foundation. Small businesses with 40 or fewer employees may be eligible for grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Go deeper: We've been compiling a list of resources for those most impacted by Minnesota's federal occupation on our [Immigration Resources](#) webpage.

[Browse Our Resources](#)

We Need Your Data: Hospitality Conditions Survey



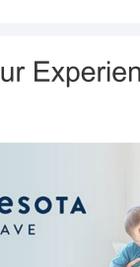
Your input is needed! Hospitality Minnesota has once again joined forces with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis for our [Hospitality Conditions Survey](#).

- **Why it matters:** Your responses help the Minneapolis Fed and Hospitality Minnesota educate business leaders, policymakers, and the public about current conditions

What your participation revealed last time: [Key takeaways from September's Hospitality Conditions Survey](#) painted a clear picture of an industry navigating declining revenue, harmful tariffs, and compounding obstacles — evidence we put to work in every policy conversation.

[Take the Survey!](#)

Advocate for Hospitality April 8: 2026 Day at the Capitol



HOSPITALITY MINNESOTA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

APRIL 8, 2026 | MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

Calling all advocates: Join hospitality leaders from across the state for [Hospitality Day at the Capitol on April 8, 2026 at the Minnesota State Capitol](#), a day dedicated to advocating for the hotels, restaurants, resorts, and tourism businesses that power Minnesota's economy.

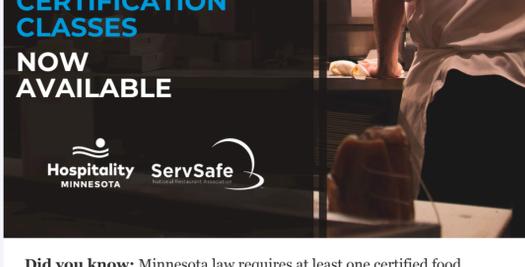
What to Expect:

- **Briefing Session:** Learn about current legislative priorities and how to effectively share your story with lawmakers.
- **Meetings with Legislators:** Engage in meaningful conversations with elected officials who shape policies affecting your business and community.
- **Networking Lunch:** Connect with industry professionals and legislative leaders while discussing shared industry goals.

The bottom line: We discuss with or without us. These are your chances to make sure it's *with* us.

[Register Here!](#)

Key Takeaways from the State of Restaurant Industry Executive Summary



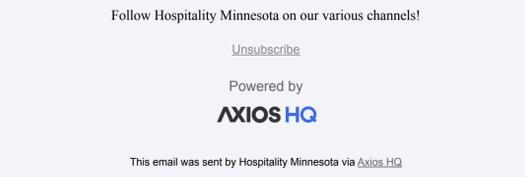
The big picture: The restaurant industry enters 2026 as a \$1.55 trillion powerhouse. Despite a "testing" economic climate, dining out remains a non-negotiable lifestyle essential for most Americans.

Key takeaways include:

- 1. Growth & The Bottom Line**
 - **Moderate gains:** Sales are projected to grow 1.3% this year when adjusted for inflation.
 - **Profitability gap:** Efficiency is the top priority, as 42% of operators reported they were not profitable in 2025.
- 2. Talent & Economic Impact**
 - **Massive scale:** The industry remains the nation's second-largest private employer, supporting 15.8 million jobs.
 - **Career engine:** Two-thirds of all adults have worked in a restaurant, making it a primary source for foundational professional skills.
- 3. What's Hot on the Menu**
 - **Beverage boom:** Drinks are the ultimate traffic driver, with **83% of operators** focusing on creative beverage programs.
 - **Flavor trends:** Watch for smashed burgers, Caribbean curry bowls, and protein-forward meals to dominate menus this year.

[Access the Summary](#)

Operators: Your Experiences Shape Policy



Hospitality Minnesota is collecting member feedback on the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program to shape our advocacy strategy for the 2026 legislative session.

The big picture: Legislators need to hear more than just "it's difficult"—they need specific data on:

- Expected administrative burdens.
- The financial impact of the 0.88% and 0.66% premiums.
- Staffing challenges related to the 20-week maximum leave.

[Share Your Experience](#)

Join Us at the 20th Annual Minnesota ProStart Invitational!

You're invited: Watch Minnesota's future leaders of hospitality at the 20th Annual Minnesota ProStart Invitational [Thursday, March 12, 2026, to the St. Paul RiverCentre](#).

About the event: The Invitational proudly showcases the culinary and entrepreneurial skills of high school students enrolled in a ProStart program. The Minnesota ProStart Invitational includes two competition divisions:

- **Culinary:** Teams of future foodservice professionals put their culinary knowledge and skills to the test.
- **Management:** Teams demonstrate their knowledge of the hospitality industry by developing a business proposal for a new restaurant concept.

What's at stake for the teams: The winners of each division will represent Minnesota at the [National ProStart Invitational in Baltimore, MD, on April 24-26, 2026](#).

[Register for Free Now!](#)

ServSafe Classes Near You

Did you know: Minnesota law requires at least one certified food manager on staff at nearly every food establishment.

[Check this calendar](#) for all upcoming ServSafe classes!

- [Austin - March 3](#)
- [Fridley - March 3](#)
- [Woodbury - March 3](#)
- [Bloomington - March 10](#)
- [Duluth - March 11](#)
- [Worthington - March 11](#)

[Find A Class Near You!](#)

In the News

- [Restaurant for Sale - Covered Bridge Restaurant Near Rochester](#) | Todd Fitz
- [Shops, restaurants slowly rolling out survival plans after ICE](#) | Star Tribune
- [D'Amico & Sons to close last two restaurants in MN](#) | Kare11

See you back here next week!

To learn more about us, visit our website: [hospitalityminnesota.com](#)

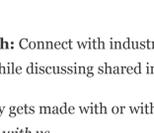
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