



Top 10 Reasons **RESTAURANTS WORK**

#1 Flexibility.

Restaurant jobs provide flexibility and the opportunity to earn extra money on your own terms—whether a student working to pay for school or a parent juggling a hectic home schedule.

#2 Real World Training.

Restaurants hire people with little or no experience and teach vital professional skills such as teamwork, multi-tasking, customer service and time management. These skills stay with people throughout their careers either within the industry or in other professions. While not everyone can afford college or can pay for vocational training, **restaurant workers are paid while receiving on-the-job training and learn trades to begin careers as chefs or in management.**

#3 First Break.

Half of Americans work at restaurants at some point in their careers. **In fact, 1 in 3 Americans' first job was working in a restaurant,** which means it's likely you or someone you know has worked in a restaurant.

#4 Hard Work Pays Off.

Seventy-eight percent of crew persons and 82 percent of dishwashers/bus persons believe restaurants provide an opportunity for people who want to succeed based on their own hard work. **Restaurant jobs allow workers to dictate how much or how little they work** and have control over their earnings and schedules.

#5 Good Pay.

Restaurant workers are paid a fair wage based on their skill level and responsibilities. Servers make an average of \$16.13 per hour—more than double the current federal minimum wage. Bartenders receive median hourly earnings of \$19.35 per hour.

#6 Ladders of Opportunity.

The typical employee who starts out at an entry-level wage receives a pay raise after six months. **Moreover, 90 percent of restaurant managers started as hourly-paid employees.** The industry provides workers with the opportunity to start in the dish room and work their way up to management or salaried positions.

#7 Job Security.

The restaurant industry helped lead our nation's economic recovery during the recent recession—outpacing the overall economy in each of the last 14 years.

#8 America Works Here.

No industry is more diverse than the restaurant industry, where people of all backgrounds are given the chance to succeed. U.S. Census Bureau data shows that growth in restaurant ownership among minorities and women has outpaced growth in the overall restaurant industry.

#9 No Glass Ceiling

The restaurant industry has more women in management and ownership positions than virtually any other industry. A majority of restaurants are owned or co-owned by women and 70 percent of servers - among the highest paid occupations in the industry - are women.

#10 Centers of the Community.

Restaurants are found in every community and, in many cases, are the glue that holds them together. They are gathering places where people celebrate and catch up with neighbors. Restaurant owners and their workers who live and raise families nearby volunteer thousands of hours each year and their communities **playing important roles in America's cities and towns of all sizes.**

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Restaurant Association