



Help Protect 209,100 Alabama Jobs By Investing in Alabama’s Restaurant and Bar Community

Future of Alabama’s 8,260 restaurants and bars locations depend on refilling the Restaurant Revitalization Fund

Leisure and Hospitality Industry Has Accounted for 24.8% of All Jobs Lost in Alabama

Independent Restaurants and Bars Eligible for At Least \$168 Billion in Relief; Only \$28.6 Billion Appropriated to Date

Independent restaurants and bars accumulated 18 months of losses and need relief to pay down their debts. They will not be “back to normal” anytime soon.

- **The COVID-19 pandemic has cost restaurants and bars over \$280 billion in sales.**¹
- **Over a third of the country has implemented mask requirements** leading operators to fear that revenue-hampering dining restrictions are not far behind.²
- **One point of sale system estimates that restaurants and bars are eligible for at least \$168 billion in RRF grants.**
- **Costs necessary for running a restaurant are rising.** These businesses continue to deal with pandemic-induced headwinds — over the past year, the prices of beef (40.3%), grains (87.0%), and shortening and cooking oil (39.5%) have surged.³
- **According to a recent survey, 60% of adults changed their dining habits due to the Delta variant.**⁴ Consumer hesitancy will continue to hamper restaurants' and bars' revenue generating abilities.
- After accumulating 18 months of debt, restaurants and bars cannot simply fix their balance sheets with a few weeks of near-capacity business operations afforded by loosened restrictions and summer outdoor dining. **Approximately 90,000 restaurants and bars have closed during the pandemic.**⁵

Investing in restaurants and bars protects Alabama’s \$9 Billion industry⁶

- The RRF would galvanize Alabama’s tourism industry, encouraging travelers to eat in Alabama’s establishments and spend money on lodging, other tourist attractions and retail.
- Refilling the RRF would support Alabama’s vast restaurant supply chain, protecting the state’s bakers, fisherman butchers and 36,150 small farms.⁷

¹ [US Census](#).

² [Open Table](#).

³ [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Producer Price Index](#), August 2021.

⁴ [National Restaurant Association](#), Summary of Survey Results.

⁵ [National Restaurant Association](#).

⁶ [National Restaurant Association](#), Alabama at a Glance.

⁷ [Independent Restaurants are a Nexus of Small Business in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity that is at risk of Being lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 11.



- Since the beginning of March 2020, the **leisure and hospitality industry has accounted for 24.8% of all jobs lost in Alabama**; keeping many of Alabama's 209,100 leisure and hospitality workers employed would save the state millions in unemployment benefits and insurance taxes.⁸

Refilling the RRF is a long term plan to return to full employment and growth. 82% of operators fear they will close permanently without additional relief.

- **Restaurant and bar employment is still down 966,300 below its pre-pandemic levels, stopping a decade of rapid job growth.**⁹ Employment for restaurants and bars increased over 33% in the last decade, the third fastest growth of any industry.¹⁰ Restaurants and bars account for one in five jobs lost during the pandemic.¹¹
- **Until the pandemic, restaurants added middle class jobs at a rate over three times faster than the rest of the economy.**¹²
- 60% of all chefs are minorities. Restaurants also employ more minority employee-managers than any other industry.¹³ **Failing to provide support for this beleaguered industry will cause an employment crisis disproportionately affecting women, people of color, immigrants, young people, the formerly incarcerated and single mothers.**
- Restaurants are uniquely hurting – providing relief to America's restaurants and bars will allow these businesses to pay down debt and keep their doors open, protecting the 11 million workers they employ nationwide and the more than 5 million others who work in the industry's vast supply chain.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund provides restaurants and bars with the grant relief they need to keep their doors open.

- The RRF is modeled after the \$120 billion RESTAURANTS Act, which independent restaurant and bar operators from the IRC specifically designed so their industry could access the relief they need.
- The RRF provides debt-free support in the amount of annual revenue lost from 2019 and 2020, with special provisions for businesses that opened in 2020 and 2019. Grants can only be used on eligible expenses: payroll, rent, mortgage, maintenance, outdoor seating constructions, supplies, protective equipment, food, beverage, operational expenses, and principal business payments for business debt.
- The RRF has a track record of success: within the first three weeks of opening the application portal, over 372,000 restaurants, bars, and other eligible businesses have applied, requesting over \$76 billion in funds.¹⁴

⁸ [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Alabama at a glance.

⁹ [Bureau of Labor Statistics, B - Tables, Food Service and Drinking Places](#)

¹⁰ [Bureau of Labor Statistics, B - Tables, Food Service and Drinking Places; Independent Restaurants are a Nexus of Small Business in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity that is at risk of Being lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 18.

¹¹ [Bureau of Labor Statistics, B - Tables](#).

¹² [National Restaurant Association](#).

¹³ [Independent Restaurants are a Nexus of Small Business in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity that is at risk of Being lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 9; *ibid.*

¹⁴ [House Small Business Committee](#), An Examination of the SBA's COVID-19 Programs, Isabella Casillas Guzman.



- Businesses unable to access other federal relief programs, like PPP, applied in droves: over half of applicants came from women (over 122,000 applications), Veterans (over 14,000 applications), and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses (over 71,000 applications).¹⁵
- This relief fund allows struggling small businesses a chance to survive the pandemic and caters to vulnerable businesses: grants cannot exceed \$10,000,000 per restaurant group (which cannot have more than 20 entities) and \$5,000,000 per business.

¹⁵ [Small Business Administration](#), please note this data came from May 18, when 303,000 applications had been submitted. While the administrator disclosed an updated application amount during a May 26 House Small Business Committee Testimony, the SBA has not released a more specific breakdown.