

To assess the economic impact of the coronavirus to date, the National Restaurant Association conducted a survey of more than 2,500 restaurant operators nationwide, April 1-14, 2021.

One year into the pandemic, the restaurant industry in Virginia continues to see **lower sales, higher costs, and staffing challenges.**

Of Virginia restaurants surveyed:

- 83% have current job openings
- 91% expect recruiting/retaining employees to be a bigger challenge post-pandemic
- 60% say it will take 7+ months to return to normal staffing levels

84%

of restaurants say current staffing levels are lower than normal



42% are more than 20% below normal staffing

81%

of Virginia restaurants say their \$ sales volume is lower than normal

29%

lower sales than normal were reported in March

89%

of operators say their profit margin is lower now than before COVID

Food, labor & occupancy costs are all up as a percent of sales:

- 66% say total food costs are higher
- 61% say total labor costs are higher
- 47% say total occupancy costs are higher