

https://lancasteronline.com/business/local_business/report-wage-growth-for-restaurant-workers-in-lancaster-county-has-cooled-down/article_cc2cd75e-023d-11ef-832f-4b2abe47e882.html

Report: Wage growth for restaurant workers in Lancaster County has cooled down



LISA SCHEID | Business Trends Reporter

Apr 28, 2024



Arianna Radtke cuts peppers, onions and tomatoes at Gracie's on West Main, where they have implemented Project 32 on Thursday, March 21, 2024. Mostly everything on their menu now ends in .32 cents. Project 32 will allow the owners to help their employees over 18 years of age to start a 401K, have paid time off and have some form of health benefits with this added price to the menu items.

SUZETTE WENGER | Staff Photographer



Welcome back! Thank you, for being a subscriber and supporting local journalism.

Lancaster County restaurant workers saw an unprecedented level of wage growth over the last two years, but now the growth has calmed down quite a bit, according to Ara Kharazian, Square Research lead and principal developer of Square Payroll Index.

"In Lancaster, we're now seeing wage growth around 2 to 3% annually for restaurant workers," Kharazian said in an email. "That's a far cry from the 15 to 20% wage growth we observed in 2022. The latest numbers are much more in line with the national trends we observed pre-pandemic."

- Lancaster County restaurant worker average hourly pay: \$12; \$15.42 after tips and overtime.
- Pennsylvania Average: \$12;\$16 after tips and overtime
- U.S. Average: \$14.04; \$18.12 after tips and overtime

With 16,025 restaurant workers at its peak in July, Lancaster County ranked fifth in the state in the number of restaurant workers.

The average weekly pay of \$416 for a restaurant worker ranks 16th in the state.

With 811 restaurant establishments in the third quarter of 2023, Lancaster County ranks seventh among counties for the number of establishments in the state.

Sources: [Square Research](#) and [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#)

More information





Here's what happened when a few Lancaster County restaurants tried adding service charges

[

