



National Food Service Security Council

NFSSC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – MARCH 2009

Membership

Most of our membership has returned this year, despite the economic challenges our industry is facing. While everyone seems to be experiencing financial cutbacks, most of our companies realize that the NFSSC continues to hold the line on dues while working hard to increase the resources and value of NFSSC membership.

NFSSC membership understand that the ability to bring food service professionals together, to learn from one another, to share best practices and to discuss industry advancements is not realized by individuals and companies acting alone. By bringing industry leaders together, the NFSSC is facilitating this sharing of information that benefits not only our industry, but the individuals and the companies that participate.

If you know of an organization that would benefit by membership in the NFSSC, please contact Rhett Asher at rhett.asher@nfssconline.org with their information.

NEW Membership Brochure

We are currently working to update the membership brochure and will have it available for download on the website next month.

Update on Annual Conference – July 26-29

- **Opening Keynote** – This year's opening keynote address will be given by Nigel Travis, CEO of Dunkin' Brands, Inc.
- **Conference Registration** – Online Registration for the Annual Conference will be available next week. Please continue to check the website for ongoing updates on the conference.
- **Conference Program** – The Annual Conference planning committee is hard at work developing a world class event. We encourage the NFSSC membership to get involved and participate, so if you are interested in speaking or have session suggestions, please let us know. If you want to find out more about the Annual Conference Steering Committee or the program for the upcoming event, please contact Rhett Asher at rhett.asher@nfssconline.org.
- **Hotel Reservations** - You can make your room reservations at the Sheraton New Orleans any time by calling (504) 525-2500. Please be sure to mention that you are with the National Food Service Security Council to receive our preferred rate of \$119 per night. A link to the NFSSC hotel reservations site is also available during the conference registration process. For more information about the Sheraton New Orleans, please visit their website at <http://www.sheratonneworleans.com/>

Good News!!! - Retail Sales Beat Expectations Two Months in a Row

Washington, March 12, 2009 – Beating analysts' expectations for a second straight month, February retail sales showed surprising growth. Retail industry sales for February (which exclude automobiles, gas stations, and **restaurants**) rose 0.6 percent seasonally adjusted from January and decreased 5.0 percent unadjusted over last year. Retail industry sales for January were revised up from 0.5 percent growth to 1.4 percent seasonally adjusted month-to-month.

February retail sales released today by the U.S. Commerce Department show total retail sales (which include non-general merchandise categories such as autos, gasoline stations and **restaurants**) decreased 12.3 percent unadjusted year-over-year and only 0.1 percent seasonally adjusted month-to-month. While year-over-year comparisons look grim, month-to-month sales growth was a nice surprise.

More Good News!!

- According to a 2009 Restaurant Industry Forecast, restaurant industry sales are expected to reach \$566 billion in 2009, with the industry employing 13 million individuals in 945,000 restaurant-and-foodservice outlets nationwide.
- The Forecast projects that while overall restaurant industry sales will increase in current dollars by 2.5 percent over 2008 figures; the numbers translate to an inflation-adjusted decline of 1.0 percent. Despite the economic downturn, the industry will remain a cornerstone of the economy, representing 4 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product and employing 9 percent of the U.S. workforce, and restaurants will continue to adapt to the latest menu trends and consumer preferences.
- Sales at full-service restaurants are projected to reach \$182.9 billion in 2009, an increase of 1.0 percent over 2008. Quick service restaurants are projected to post sales of \$163.8 billion in 2009, a gain of 4.0 percent over 2008. Eating-and-drinking places will see an increase in sales from 2008 of 2.2 percent, totaling \$395 billion.
- Even in today's economy, restaurants remain a generator of jobs and careers. Employment in the restaurant industry outpaced the overall economy in 2008 for the ninth consecutive year, despite several months of modest industry job losses, and is expected to continue to outpace the economy in 2009.

Let us know what you want

Membership in the NFSSC is about giving you the information and education you need to help make you and your department successful. With that in mind, please let us know what we are missing that you want to see. Please feel free to contact Rhett Asher Rhett.Asher@nfssconline.org

Thank you again for your continued support of the NFSSC and we look forward to a great year!