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**05 October 2020**

**Casual dining restaurant channel set for -7.5% outlet decline in 2020, due to coronavirus pressures**

According to the latest monthly analysis piece on Lumina Intelligence’s Operator Data Index, the casual dining segment of the UK eating out market is set to experience a -7.5% decline in outlet numbers in 2020.

While this segment has been experiencing outlet decline for the last three years, this decline is a big jump from the -3.5% and -2% experienced in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Continued financial pressure exacerbated by the national lockdown in the wake of the Coronavirus, which forced operators to temporarily close their dine-in operations for over 12 weeks, has resulted in a number of operators closing outlets.

Furthermore, the industry has had to navigate post lockdown trading, which has included increased costs, due to the measures needed to adhere to social distancing guidelines, as well as reduced capacity and footfall.

Seven of the Top 10 casual dining brands are set to experience outlet decline in 2020, with fast food and branded restaurants especially hit by reduced trading as a result of the Coronavirus lockdown. Burger King, Pizza Express and Pret A Manger have each confirmed store closures, citing reduced trading as a key factor.

Katherine Prowse, Insight Manager at Lumina Intelligence says, “Undeniably, the UK eating out market has been severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and its subsequent lockdown. Both regional and nationwide operators have suffered temporary closures, reductions in footfall and rising costs. Unfortunately, this has resulted in the closure of outlets and the loss of jobs, as operators look to navigate these challenging and uncertain times. The casual dining segment of the eating out market is certainly one of the worst hit channels, as big operators make significant scale backs.”

Find out more about the Lumina Intelligence Operator Data Index [here](https://www.lumina-intelligence.com/product/operator-data-index-grocery-data-index/).

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**Report methodology**

The Lumina Intelligence Operator Data Index is a tool that tracks the performance of hospitality operators, providing market rankings based on turnover and outlet numbers, segmented by sub-channels.

Our Operator Data Index includes:

* Comprehensive data on 700+ leading UK hospitality operators
* Access market rankings, sales and outlet counts, monthly analysis presentations, as well as detailed profiles of the Top 100 operators, all in one place

**About Lumina Intelligence**

Lumina Intelligence inspires the global food and drink sector with deep, actionable insights powered by the world’s best analytics technology. Our products and services are used by the major brands and organisations in these fast moving and growing markets to support business planning, strategic marketing and new product development.

With offices in London, Chicago, Montpellier, and Singapore, and local on the ground analysts across our businesses, you can trust our market knowledge. We are committed to providing all our customers with up to date accurate information to support critical decision making.

Combining the expertise and experience of HIM, MCA Insight and Lumina Intelligence, we are the experts in market and consumer insight across the food & drink and nutrition markets.

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