Restaurant
& Catering

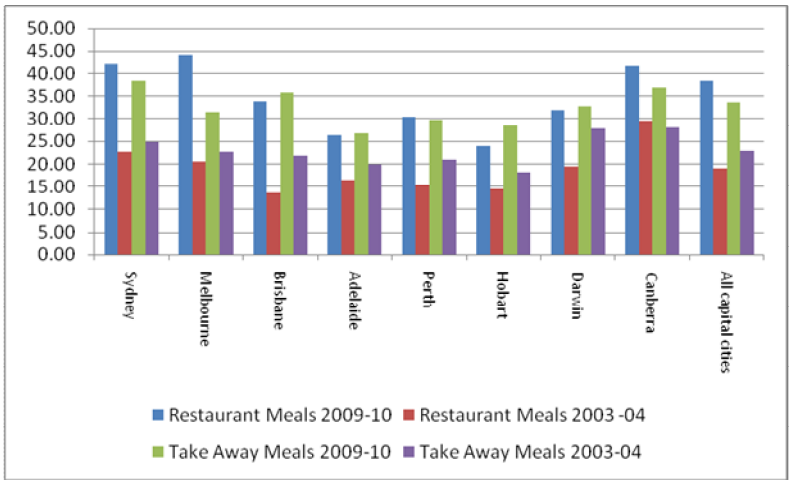
MEDIA RELEASE
7 September 2011
IMMEDIATE

Restaurant Meal Spend doubles!

ABS Household Expenditure data released today shows, as expected, that Australia's love affair with eating out is going strong. 3.1% of all expenditure is now on eating out compared to 2.1% in the last survey period (2003-04). In dollar terms the spend per week has risen from $19.98 to $38.30.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics today launched the 5 yearly expenditure survey showing the average Australian household spends $204.20 on food and non-alcoholic beverages. The 2009-10 result for food is 33% up on 2003-04 recording the highest ever increase.

In contrast, fast food is now a lower proportion of spend than meals out at 2.7% of overall spend. In the last survey fast food was 2.6% significantly higher than the restaurant meals figure of 2.1%.



John Hart, CEO of Restaurant & Catering Australia, said that 'this shows that Australian really do love to eat out and value the service that restaurants, cafes and caterers are offering'.

Of the capital cities around Australia, Melbourne records the highest spend per household, on restaurants, of $44.22 per household per week. This compared to just $24 in Hobart and to a 2003-04 result in Melbourne of $20.44.

'The increase in spend has unfortunately not been matched by increases in profits', Hart said, 'huge growth in wage costs has made most restaurants marginally viable. This will impact on the capacity of the industry to continue to deliver what consumers want?'

For further information on this media release please contact

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