



Innovation Capital

Investment Bankers

Restaurant & Retail Newsweekly
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This publication is a compilation of weekly restaurant and retail-related news provided by Innovation Capital, a leading boutique investment bank dedicated to representing mid-market clients in the gaming, leisure, restaurant and retail industries.

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Newsweekly Archive

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Restaurant & Retail Industry Public Company & High Yield Data:

[Public Company Trading Comparables](#)
[High Yield Bond Trading Levels](#)

Restaurant & Retail Executives and Investors Group



Looking to connect with other Restaurant & Retail executives to share ideas and best practices? Seeking ways to increase your brand visibility or grow your business? This is the place to bridge those contacts! An exclusive group for executives in the Restaurant & Retail industries and institutional investor groups to network and discuss trends & ideas.

To join, click [here](#) or the image above.

Featured Article:

The Hummus & Pita Co. dips into West Coast with 100-unit franchise partnership

January 2, 2019

UNITED STATES- (Julie Littman, Restaurant Dive) - Markel seems to know what he's doing when it comes to turning a profit for expanding franchises. He is one of Jersey Mike's top franchisees, owning one of the top five revenue-producing U.S. locations, according to QSR Magazine. He said in a statement that he plans to target lower price conversions and focus on franchises with the highest potential return on investment. With upstart costs ranging from \$400,000 to \$700,000 and revenue at The Hummus and Pita Co.'s established New York locations ranging from \$1.2 million to \$2 million, according to the company's website, it may not be long before Markel's units turn a profit.

[Click here to read the article in Restaurant Dive](#)

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Private Trust Co. NA Invests \$346,000 in Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI) Stock

January 6, 2019

UNITED STATES - (Mary Kom, Fairfield Current) - Private Trust Co. NA purchased a new position in Darden Restaurants, Inc. (NYSE:DRI) during the 4th quarter, according to its most recent

disclosure with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The fund purchased 3,470 shares of the restaurant operator's stock, valued at approximately \$346,000. A number of other hedge funds and other institutional investors have also recently added to or reduced their stakes in the business. Neuberger Berman Group LLC lifted its stake in shares of Darden Restaurants by 0.8% during the third quarter.

[Click here to read the full article in Fairfield Current](#)

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Stop & Shop will buy King Kullen, a Long Island supermarket icon

January 6, 2019

MASSACHUSETTS- (Daysi Calavia-Robertson and Tory N. Parrish, Newsday) - Supermarket chain King Kullen, a business icon on Long Island for decades, will be acquired by Stop & Shop. Quincy, Massachusetts-based Stop & Shop said Friday the deal will give it all of King Kullen's stores: 32 supermarkets and five Wild by Nature natural food stores, all on Long Island. It will also get the use of King Kullen's Bethpage headquarters. A price for the deal wasn't disclosed.

[Click here to read the full article in Newsday](#)

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DoorDash, GM Motors Partner To Deliver Food In Self-Driving Cars

January 5, 2019

PHILADELPHIA - (CNN) - Some year soon, the late-night food delivery from your local restaurant might arrive at your front door without the delivery guy. General Motors' subsidiary Cruise Automation, which makes technology for self-driving cars, has teamed up with food delivery company DoorDash to test out driverless deliveries. During the tests, there will be a "safety driver" in the automated Chevrolet Bolt EV, but that person will be there only to take over in the event of an emergency. The car will mostly drive on its own. The test program will take place within San Francisco, where Cruise is based.

[Click here to read the full article in CBS Philly](#)

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US mall vacancy rate backs off 7-year high, but more closures from Sears, others on the way

January 3, 2019

UNITED STATES- (Lauren Thomas, CNBC) - For months, there's been a steady stream of store closure announcements from Sears, Bon-Ton, J.C. Penney and other retailers. And while mall and shopping center owners appear to be holding their own at the moment, that could soon change, with another wave of closures expected in 2019. The vacancy rate at regional and super regional malls was 9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018, based on a survey released Thursday by real estate research firm Reis of 77 metropolitan areas across the country. That's down from 9.1 percent - a

seven-year high - in the third quarter, but up from 8.3 percent at the end of 2017. That's also above a 10-year average vacancy rate for these malls of 8.4 percent during the fourth quarter.

[Click here to read the full article in CNBC](#)

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Fast-food roundup: Carl's Jr. adds veggie patties... McDonald's donut fries... Chick-fil-A's top items

January 3, 2019

UNITED STATES- (I-Chun Chen, Chicago Business Journal) - Diners like the convenience and affordability of fast-food and fast-casual restaurants, a trend that shows no sign of slowing. Many of these chains have a presence across the country as they continue to expand. Here is a quick look at stories about the leading brands in the industry as recently reported by The Business Journals and other media.

[Click here to read the full article in Chicago Business Journal](#)

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Fast-Casual Chains Regained Investor Faith Last Year

January 2, 2019

UNITED STATES.- (Jonathan Maze, Nation's Restaurant News) - The chicken wing chain Wingstop recovered from a rare sales decline in 2017 only to face skyrocketing wing costs by the end of the year. The company put all of that in the past in 2018 to generate strong sales and profit growth, which pleased investors so much they made the Dallas-based company the top-performing restaurant stock of the year. Wingstop rose nearly 65% during the year, beating every other restaurant chain we track. It also sped what had been a fairly steady performance for the company since its 2015 initial public offering. Wingstop has since tripled since first pricing its shares at \$19.

[Click here to read the full article in Nation's Restaurant News](#)

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Beyond Meat® Partners with Carl's Jr.® To Launch the Beyond Famous Star® at More Than 1,000 Locations Starting January 2, 2019

January 2, 2019

LOS ANGELES- (Business Wire) - Beyond Meat is partnering with Carl's Jr. to launch The Beyond Famous Star, which marries the 100% plant-based Beyond Burger patty with the restaurant's fan-favorite Famous Star burger. The new Beyond Famous Star is a first-of-its-kind flexitarian take on the iconic Carl's Jr. Famous Star, with a 100% plant-based patty from Beyond Meat. The quarter-pound patty is cooked top-to-bottom on an open flame in Carl's Jr.'s unique char broiler, packing its delicious flavor right into the burger.

[Click here to read the full article in Business Wire](#)

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Chipotle posts best year since 2013 thanks to new CEO Brian Niccol

January 1, 2019

UNITED STATES- (Sarah Whitten, CNBC) - Less than a year after taking the helm as CEO of Chipotle Mexican Grill, Brian Niccol is still scoring big with investors, fueling the burrito chain's best year since 2013. Shares of Chipotle soared nearly 50 percent in 2018 - the stock's best performance since its 80 percent surge in 2013. But it's struggled to regain customer trust after a series of foodborne illness outbreaks nearly three years ago. Ahead of those events, the stock peaked at \$758.61 a share on Aug. 5, 2015. While Chipotle's stock is currently almost half of that price at about \$431 a share, Niccol's presence has reinvigorated confidence in the restaurant's ability to turn itself around.

[Click here to read the full article in CNBC](#)

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Starbucks (SBUX) Outpaces Stock Market Gains: What You Should Know

December 31, 2018

UNITED STATES- (Zacks Equity Research) - In the latest trading session, Starbucks (SBUX - Free Report) closed at \$64.40, marking a +1.59% move from the previous day. The stock outpaced the S&P 500's daily gain of 0.85%. At the same time, the Dow added 1.15%, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq gained 0.77%. Prior to today's trading, shares of the coffee chain had lost 5.22% over the past month. This has been narrower than the Retail-Wholesale sector's loss of 9.73% and the S&P 500's loss of 9.35% in that time. Wall Street will be looking for positivity from SBUX as it approaches its next earnings report date.

[Click here to read the full article in Zack's](#)

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