BRINGING YOU DATA ANALYSIS
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Hospitality**Market**Monitor

Review of GB pub, bar and restaurant supply

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99,296

Total licensed premises in Britain at September 2025

Hospitality resilient in third quarter but costs threaten revival

Introduction by Karl Chessell, CGA by NIQ director - hospitality operators and food, EMEA

High costs and low consumer confidence have created a very difficult trading environment for hospitality in 2025, and our latest numbers show the toll they have taken on venues. Economic indicators suggest conditions are not going to get any easier in the months ahead.

Against that backdrop, news of a modest rise in site numbers in the third quarter is a welcome sign of the sector's resilience. Well-run and guest-focused businesses continue to thrive and expand, and recent closures have brought opportunities for ambitious brands to acquire sites for new openings.

Hospitality is working exceptionally hard to mitigate inflation and the sharp rises in labour costs in last year's Budget. As the next Budget approaches, leaders will be hoping for respite on their disproportionately high costs and targeted, sustained support. Positive government intervention can help to nurture these green shoots of recovery, but failure to act risks thousands more closures and job losses.

Market overview

Relentless trading challenges have led to hundreds of closures of licensed premises in the last 12 months—but the third quarter of 2025 has brought grounds for very cautious optimism.

-0.6% Net change in outlets between September 2024 and September 2025

+0.6% Net change in outlets between June 2025 and September 2025

Those are the two top takeaways from this edition of the Hospitality Market Monitor as the run-in to the crucial Christmas trading period begins. It shows that Britain had 99,296 licensed venues at September 2025—**0.6%** fewer than 12 months earlier. This represents 572 net closures, or 11 every week. It also means that Britain now has **15,812** or **13.9%** fewer premises than it did in March 2020—the pre-COVID benchmark and the starting point of hospitality's unprecedented difficulties.

As this table shows, losses have been particularly high for nightclubs, restaurants and food pubs, but there has been growth in segments including bars and high street pubs. This reflects the greater resilience of drink-led venues in recent months (see page 2).

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While overall trends in site numbers have been negative, the third quarter of 2025 brought some more encouraging patterns. In the three months to September, Britain's number of licensed premises rose by 0.6%—equivalent to 6 net new openings every day. It is the Hospitality Market Monitor's first quarter-on-quarter increase for 12 months, and only the third since mid-2022.

Eating-out and independent operators have borne the brunt of closures in 2025 so far. The food-led sector has contracted by **1.7%** in just one year, in sharp contrast to reasonable growth in the drink-led side of the market (see page 2). As this table shows, bars and pubs have outperformed in the last 12 months.

Outlets by segment, September 2025 v June 2025 and September 2024

	Sites at Sep 2024	Sites at June 2025	Sites at Sep 2025	% change, Sep 2025 v June 2025	% change, Sep 2025 v Sep 2024
Bar	4,614	4,636	4,674	+0.8%	+1.3%
Bar restaurant	3,324	3,286	3,405	+3.6%	+2.4%
Casual dining restaurant	5,194	5,088	5,189	+2.0%	-0.1%
Community pub	17,999	18,070	18,028	-0.2%	+0.2%
Food pub	11,435	11,231	11,204	-0.2%	-2.0%
High street pub	6,138	6,140	6,170	+0.5%	+0.5%
Hotel	7,338	7,380	7,421	+0.6%	+1.1%
Large venue	4,318	4,380	4,375	-0.1%	+1.3%
Nightclub	834	823	799	-2.9%	-4.2%
Restaurant	15,229	14,506	14,824	+2.2%	-2.7%
Sports / social club	19,619	19,523	19,514	0.0%	-0.5%
Other*	3,826	3,683	3,693	+0.3%	-3.5%
Total	**99,868**	**98,746**	**99,296**	**+0.6%**	**-0.6%**

In focus: Pubs and bars

Britain's pub numbers have been on a downward trajectory for many years, and failures ramped up during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. However, there are signs that closures may be bottoming out. And in a reversal of long-term patterns it is drink-led rather than food-led pubs that are proving most resilient in 2025.

+0.5% Net change in high street pubs between September 2024 and September 2025

The latest Hospitality Market Monitor data shows the number of community pubs increased by **0.2%** between September 2024 and September 2025, while high street pubs rose **0.5%**. Food pubs have dropped by **0.2%** vs the previous quarter—an indication that businesses anticipate slightly more demand for drinks than meals.

Bar segments have been even more buoyant. Bars and bar restaurants rose by **1.3%** and **2.4%** respectively, with independent operators outpacing managed groups for openings in both cases. This reflects the confidence of individual entrepreneurs, the demand for distinctive indie bars and the relatively low barriers to entry in this channel. It has created a lot of churn in the sector, with 512 bars closing in the last 12 months but 572 opening.

+1.3% Net change in bars between September 2024 and September 2025

Pubs' robust performance is echoed in the CGA RSM Hospitality Business Tracker. Managed pubs have achieved higher like-for-like sales growth than restaurants in every month of 2025 so far, with particularly sharp increases in the hotter months of the Spring and Summer. This may be a result of spending-conscious consumers trimming their eating-out occasions and opting instead for the affordable treats of drinks in pubs.

In focus: Food

Selected food-led segments, September 2025 v September 2024

	Sept 2024 Total Market	Sept 2025 Total Market	Sept 25 vs. Sept 24 Total known chg.
Bar Restaurant	3,324	3,405	2.40%
Cafe/Delicatessen	1,251	1,206	-3.60%
Casual Dining Restaurant	5,194	5,189	-0.10%
Food Pub	11,435	11,204	-2.00%
Restaurant	15,229	14,824	-2.70%

In focus: Independents

Well-financed hospitality groups were more resilient than smaller businesses during the COVID-19 crisis and the high inflation that followed it. But recent months have seen independent operators opening sites slightly faster than bigger counterparts.

In the year to September, independently-run licensed premises increased by **0.1%**, while managed ones slipped **0.2%**. Indies had a particularly good third quarter, with sites rising **0.9%** in the three months to September, while groups were slower at **0.4%**.

This is an encouraging sign for the future. Start-ups and independent pubs, bars and restaurants are the lifeblood of hospitality, and some will be the multi-site groups of the future. Consumers continue to enjoy distinctive indie sites, and entrepreneurs and investors continue to launch them. However, many of these small and emerging businesses are vulnerable to cost pressures, and government support is needed to protect their vital role in communities and employment.

Managed, independent and tenanted venues, September 2025 v June 2025 and September 2024

	Sites at Sep 2024	Sites at June 2025	Sites at Sep 2025	% change, Sep 2025 v June 2025	% change, Sep 2025 v Sep 2024
Managed	20,955	20,837	20,915	+0.4%	-0.2%
Independent	62,481	61,975	62,520	+0.9%	+0.1%
Leased	16,432	15,934	15,861	-0.5%	-3.5%

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Market Survey: Total sites across three key segments: food-led, drink-led and accommodation-led

		Sites at Sep 2024	Sites at June 2025	Sites at Sep 2025	Sep 2025 v June 2025	% change in sites, Sep 2025 v June 2025	% change in sites, Sep 2025 v Sep 2024
All Venues	Total	99,868	98,746	99,296	+550	+0.6%	-0.6%
	Managed	20,955	20,837	20,915	+78	+0.4%	-0.2%
	Independent	62,481	61,975	62,520	+545	+0.9%	+0.1%
	Leased	16,432	15,934	15,861	-73	-0.5%	-3.5%
Food-led Venues	Total	36,433	35,305	35,828	+523	+1.5%	-1.7%
	Managed	10,524	10,107	10,147	+40	+0.4%	-3.6%
	Independent	21,407	20,839	21,340	+501	+2.4%	-0.3%
	Leased	4,502	4,359	4,341	-18	-0.4%	-3.6%
Drink-led Venues	Total	54,366	54,420	54,413	-7	0.0%	+0.1%
	Managed	7,227	7,500	7,513	+13	+0.2%	+4.0%
	Independent	35,497	35,622	35,655	+33	+0.1%	+0.4%
	Leased	11,642	11,298	11,245	-53	-0.5%	-3.4%
Accommodation-led Venues	Total	9,069	9,021	9,055	+34	+0.4%	-0.2%
	Managed	3,204	3,230	3,255	+25	+0.8%	+1.6%
	Independent	5,577	5,514	5,525	+11	+0.2%	-0.9%
	Leased	288	277	275	-2	-0.7%	-4.5%

Sources and definitions

Data in this report is sourced from CGA by NIQ's Outlet Index, the leading database of licensed premises in Britain.

'Independent' means that the venue is owned and operated independently—the individual owner has full decision-making responsibility for the venue's operation and profitability.

'Managed' pubs are managed sites of operators with more than one location, typically a collection of venues or portfolio of brands. They typically employ a manager to carry out the day-to-day running of the venue, according to the company's specifications and objectives.

'Leased' outlets are run by individual tenants who pay a tenancy fee or rent to a corporate landlord, typically a pub company.

'Licensed' outlets are permitted to serve wine, beer and other alcoholic beverages.

***'Other'** segments include café / delicatessens, guest / boarding houses and holiday / caravan parks.

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