**Data Diary**

DCA Inspections Spreadsheet:

<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Business/Inspections/jzhd-m6uv>

DCA Inspections Data Dictionary:

<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/api/views/jzhd-m6uv/files/8831a57e-fa51-40cb-850f-4f6293e73979?download=true&filename=DCA%20Inspections%20Data%20Dictionary.pdf>

Analysis:

Data pulled from OpenData on November 4.

Created a pivot table of all years and inspection results. (Appendix 1)

Removed data from years 2014-17.

For purposes of simplification, I combined some types of inspection results into the category Fail/Other Disciplinary Action. This includes rare penalties, such as License Confiscated or Condemned.

I also omitted some inconclusive outcomes, such as Could not be located.

The resulting, simplified table is in Appendix 2.

Notes on inspection codes. **The following results can be considered non-disciplinary outcomes:**

Pass, No Warning Issued, No Violation Issued.

**These tags indicate an inspection that ended in disciplinary action:**

Warning, Violation, Fail, License Confiscated, Condemned, Confiscated

**These tags indicate that a business could not be inspected., because a business was closed, could not be located, or otherwise inaccessible to inspectors.**

Business Padlocked, Closed, Out of Business, Residential, Unable to Locate, Unable to Seize Vehicle, Unidentified Vendor/Business, No Evidence of Activity.

By omitting these neutral outcomes, and removing pre-pandemic years, the table can be simplified as seen in Appendix 2:

Questions: Why are there so many ECB summonses in 2022?

Why are there so many warnings in 2022?

**Text: Inspectors Step Up Enforcement on NYC Businesses**

Enforcement actions have increased after the city’s reopening, with inspectors giving more warnings and penalties.

As New Yorkers go back to work, so do government inspectors. The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, which regulates everything from price tags to horse-drawn buggies, has released the latest inspection results for NYC’s 51,000 businesses. Those results indicate that 44% of inspections end with a warning, violation, or other disciplinary action, up from 34% last year.

There are two likely reasons for the increase in enforcement, according to Michael Brady, CEO of the Third Avenue Business Improvement District. The most innocent explanation, Brady says, is that city inspectors are simply making up for lost time after pausing many inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Eventually the city has to restart it’s purpose, and that’s to keep people safe,” Brady said. “You’re restarting the engine. That includes putting more inspectors out, coming in with a firm hand. There is an expected uptick in fines and inspection visits.”

But there is another explanation as well. “The city and the state and the Federal government are looking down the road and they’re finding a huge budget gap,” Brady said. “The government will find ways to fill that budget gap. I think fines and things like that are a piece of it.”

**Interview quotes from Michael Brady.**

“It’s fine to be inspected. What is not fine is when untrained inspectors are sent in to businesses because they’ve been pulled from a different agency. Then you have business owners draining their personal savings accounts, draining their college fund accounts, draining their checking accounts to keep their businesses open, to have someone who was sent through a three-hour training telling them what they’re doing wrong.”

“We have to maintain the critical safety of New Yorkers,

There’s also the fundamental question, which is that the city and the state and the Federal government are looking down the road and they’re finding a huge budget gap. The government will find ways to fill that budget gap. I think fines and things like that are a piece of it.”

Appendix I: Pivot Table of All Inspections by Year and Outcome

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Count of Inspection Result** | **Column Labels** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Row Labels** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **Grand Total** |
| Business Padlocked | 5 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 28 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 89 |
| Closed | 779 | 870 | 915 | 1136 | 1321 | 1306 | 2216 | 4312 | 3685 | 16540 |
| Completed | 12 | 14 | 7 | 2 | 13 | 1 |  | 2 | 2 | 53 |
| Condemned | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 |  |  |  | 22 |
| Confiscated | 3 | 4 | 4 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 32 | 45 |
| ECB Summons Issued |  | 19 |  |  |  |  | 1 | 747 | 1523 | 2290 |
| ECB Summons Withdrawn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 9 |  | 9 |
| ECB Warning Issued | 56 | 198 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 254 |
| Fail | 1084 | 1062 | 1099 | 1055 | 858 | 656 | 266 | 217 | 200 | 6497 |
| License Confiscated | 25 | 14 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 47 |
| Licensed | 212 | 141 | 16 | 63 | 42 | 35 |  |  |  | 509 |
| No Evidence of Activity | 1775 | 2196 | 1986 | 2406 | 2958 | 3880 | 1885 | 2864 | 5004 | 24954 |
| No Violation Issued | 35211 | 35804 | 38314 | 33380 | 24090 | 23154 | 12246 | 15503 | 11724 | 229426 |
| No Warning Issued |  |  |  | 807 | 1294 | 921 | 1019 | 2362 | 2497 | 8900 |
| NOH Withdrawn | 413 | 108 | 83 | 107 | 87 | 118 | 142 | 94 | 42 | 1194 |
| Out of Business | 4742 | 6779 | 8161 | 7460 | 9011 | 9487 | 3807 | 4634 | 4813 | 58894 |
| Pass | 15339 | 14593 | 18086 | 16265 | 13826 | 8901 | 4252 | 5748 | 6045 | 103055 |
| Posting Order Served | 454 | 311 | 56 | 11 | 16 | 22 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 885 |
| Re-inspection | 111 | 115 | 212 | 120 | 76 | 53 | 459 | 238 | 286 | 1670 |
| Residential |  |  |  |  | 1 | 27 | 76 | 136 | 82 | 322 |
| Samples Obtained | 20 | 44 | 60 | 16 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 142 |
| Unable to Complete Inspection | 54 | 39 | 16 | 14 | 24 | 15 | 1 |  | 1 | 164 |
| Unable to Locate | 222 | 197 | 341 | 344 | 386 | 349 | 323 | 256 | 162 | 2580 |
| Unable to Seize Vehicle |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Unidentified Vendor/Business |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 449 | 1001 | 1450 |
| Violation Issued | 12597 | 12957 | 14997 | 16772 | 14359 | 16094 | 7191 | 7699 | 8979 | 111645 |
| Warning | 1254 | 945 | 811 | 1712 | 3515 | 4023 | 5574 | 5224 | 9504 | 32562 |
| **Grand Total** | **74374** | **76414** | **85180** | **81690** | **71897** | **69073** | **39464** | **50507** | **55600** | **604199** |

Appendix II: All Inspections by Year and Outcome (2018-22)

Note: Neutral outcomes, such as Business Closed or Unable to Locate, are omitted from this table.

Some disciplinary actions, such as License Confiscated, are grouped together with Fail/Other Disciplinary Action.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Pass/ No Disciplinary Action | 42168 | 36856 | 19402 | 26477 | 25270 |
| Warning | 3515 | 4023 | 5574 | 5224 | 9504 |
| Violation | 14359 | 16094 | 7191 | 7699 | 8979 |
| Fail/Other Disciplinary Action | 865 | 658 | 267 | 974 | 1755 |