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The 11 worst fast food restaurants in America

Consumer Reports' most recent ranking of our nation's fast food restaurants



THE WEEK STAFF

JANUARY 10, 2015



(James Leynse/Corbis)

THEFISCATIMES

than just cheap meals when they eat out at fast food restaurants. The quality and freshness of the food, as well as the quality of the service, have become top priorities when choosing a spot to grab a quick bite, as shown by Consumer Reports' most recent ranking of our nation's fast food restaurants. Consumer Reports surveyed more than 32,000 readers who ate more than 96,000 meals at 65 chains. The magazine found that the less ubiquitous fast food restaurants

Whether they like pizza, hamburgers, chicken, or sandwiches, Americans want more

Those who were surveyed had to look at five criteria to rank each chain: food quality and freshness, value, politeness, speed of service, and cleanliness of the dining area. Based on these criteria, they then had to come up with a grade out of 100.

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and the regional ones were the most popular with diners.

The top loser: Sbarro, which specializes in New York-style pizza. The chain has been doing so badly it closed more than 150 locations in North America in February and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy a month later. Other well-known names that made the list of the worst fast food restaurants include McDonald's, Burger King, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell.

Consumer Reports' Grade: 73/100 The only Asian fast food chain on this list, Panda Express allegedly offers gourmet Chinese cuisine, but the quality and freshness of its food is only so-so and its dishes are

11. Panda Express

well.

10. Taco Bell Consumer Reports' Grade: 73/100 The best-known Mexican fast food chain in the country, Taco Bell also ranked as the worst Mexican fast food chain in America, receiving particularly bad grades for its

too pricey, according to the survey. Meanwhile, the quality of its service fared relatively

mediocre food quality and freshness. It recently entered the breakfast market, going head to head with McDonald's.

Pizza restaurant Little Caesars, which was started in Michigan more than 50 years ago, ranked especially low on the quality and freshness of its food, despite advertising its

9. Little Caesars

fresh-quality ingredients. 8. Domino's

Consumer Reports' Grade: 73/100

Consumer Reports' Grade: 73/100

Another global pizza chain ended on the worst fast food restaurant list. Domino's fared poorly on all criteria including the quality of the food, the value of its food, the speed of its service, and the cleanliness of its dining areas — but its wait staff received a

relatively high mark for politeness.

7. Pizza Hut

Consumer Reports' Grade: 73/100 One of the most famous pizza chains in the world, Pizza Hut was started by two

brothers more than 55 years ago in Kansas. Now part of Yum! Brands, it has about 6,000 restaurants in the U.S. 6. CiCi's Pizza Consumer Reports' Grade: 72/100

CiCi's Pizza, which launched in the 1980s in Plano, Texas, now has about 500

restaurants in 34 states. Although the chain received bad grades for the quality of its food and the cleanliness of its restaurants, it did okay with the speed of its service and politeness of its waiting staff.

5. Burger King Consumer Reports' Grade: 71/100 Another burger giant chain fared poorly in the rankings, with mediocre food quality

Every minute, McDonald's sells Americans nearly 1,500 burgers, which it touts as being

100 percent USDA-inspected beef, free of preservatives, fillers, extenders, and so-called

pink slime. But none of that prevented Consumer Reports' readers from rating its food

and freshness and bad value for its food. Burger King, which debuted a Gay Pride

Whopper this week, has about 13,000 franchised restaurants.

Church's Chicken, also established in the 1950s, sells fried chicken, fries, biscuits, and jalapenos. The chain, known as Texas Chicken outside the U.S., has more than 1,600

3. Church's Chicken

4. McDonald's

locations worldwide. **2. KFC**

Consumer Reports' Grade: 69/100

1950s, has restaurants throughout the country.

Consumer Reports' Grade: 71/100

Consumer Reports' Grade: 71/100

quality and freshness as one of the worst.

1. Sbarro Consumer Reports' Grade: 65/100 Sbarro, which specializes in New York-style pizza, placed especially low in this year's

KFC's food quality and freshness, its value, and the cleanliness of its dining area all got

bad reviews. The chain, which has famously sold its fried chicken in buckets since the

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list because of its poor food quality and lack of freshness. The company filed for bankruptcy earlier this year — the second time it's done so in about three years. More from The Fiscal Times...

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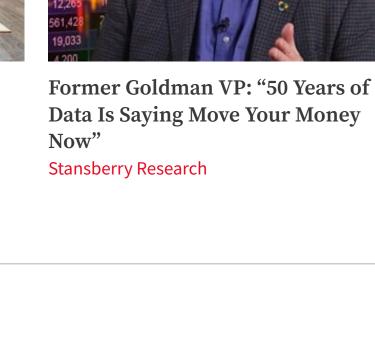


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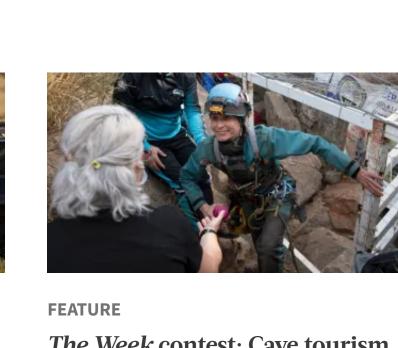


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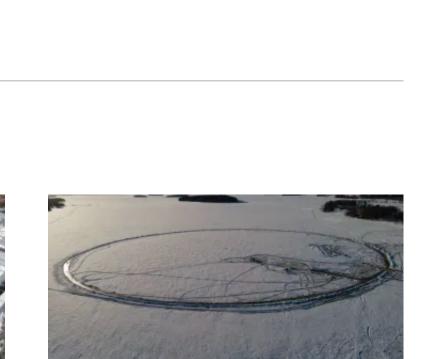
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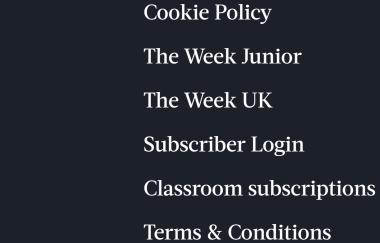
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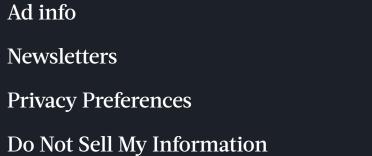
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