



## **Industry News - AM**

### **U.S. lost 5,000-plus restaurants in last year: NPD**

**By Lisa M. Keefe on 1/25/2011**

The total number of restaurants in the United States declined by 5,551 in the 12 months ending autumn 2010, a drop of 1 percent, according to market research company The NPD Group.

NPD conducts its ReCount census of commercial restaurant locations in the U.S. each spring and fall. According to the most recent survey, independent restaurant units reported open as of Sept. 20, 2010 dropped by 2 percent compared to a year earlier, and chain counts were flat, the firm said in a news release.

The number of quick service restaurants declined by 1 percent, or 2,122 units. Full-service restaurant units, which includes the casual dining, mid-scale and fine dining segments, also experienced a unit loss of 1 percent, or 3,429 units.

"These past two years have been particularly tough for independents, which don't have the resources to compete with the chains," says Greg Starzynski, director, product development-foodservice at NPD. "Over the past few years we've lost several thousand independent restaurants."