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From the San Francisco Business Times:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/news/2024/04/04/downtown-fidi-restaurant-openings-closures.html>

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## **New downtown S.F. restaurant openings are outpacing closures, report finds**



Image: San Francisco Business Times

Heartwood from the team behind popular bars The Treasury and The Mint and located at 531 Commercial St. in San Francisco, is one of nearly two dozen restaurants that opened across parts of the Financial District and Jackson Square between 2022 and 2023.

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Apr 4, 2024

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Despite widespread closures throughout the pandemic, including some high-profile losses of Financial District classics, downtown San Francisco's restaurant scene is unequivocally growing rather than shrinking, according to a new report from the neighborhood's community benefit district.

In 2022 and 2023 more than twice as many new food and beverage businesses opened downtown as permanently closed, according to the survey from the nonprofit Downtown SF Partnership covering its 43-block territory across the Financial District and Jackson Square neighborhoods.

The introduction of at least 22 new businesses against 10 closures may surprise the casual headline reader, but the report says the trend supports downtown's growing viability for socializing and dining as the city emerges from the pandemic.

The district compiled the report from two years of observing ground-floor businesses within its boundaries, and cross-checked the openings and closings with data from analytics firm Placer.ai.

Of the 29 new ground-floor businesses recorded opening during that period, 22 are food and beverage establishments. Among the new food and beverage businesses, eight are fast casual restaurants; six are sit-down/full-service restaurants; five are cafes; two are takeout-only spots; and one is a dessert spot.

Robbie Silver, executive director of the Downtown SF Partnership, said in an interview this week he's confident in the momentum he's seeing in the district and expects restaurants as well as hospitality, arts and culture activations to continue to grow.

Partnership initiatives such as the [Landing at Leidesdorff](#) aim to reposition downtown from a pass-through space or transit hub to its own destination that's not just a collection of offices.

The report also breaks down the area's 138 restaurants by genre. With sit-down or full-service restaurants accounting for nearly 30% of the mix, and bars another 10%, there's support for downtown's viability as a nightlife destination, the report suggests.

The report did not include temporary pop-up businesses such as those in the city's [Vacant to Vibrant program](#), which subsidizes temporary tenancies to jump-start long-term lease relationships downtown, because they fell just outside the boundary lines of the CBD. But nearby food and beverage success stories in that program include traditional leases at the Embarcadero Center for Rosalind Bakery and Whack Donuts, with potentially [more in the pipeline](#).

The report also did not extend into 2024, which has seen openings as well as closures. On Wednesday, [Eater SF reported](#) that Michael Mina's Greek restaurant Estiatorio Ornos will close after less than three years at 252 California St., with its final day of service on April 11.

Some openings also didn't make the report's cut-off, but potentially strengthen its argument for an upbeat vision for the area, including the recent reopening of Harrington's Bar & Grill last month and future openings of [Crustacean](#) on Pine St. and [Osha Thai](#) at 250 Montgomery St.

The new food and beverage businesses opened in 2022 and 2023 inside the CBD are:

- Bini's Kitchen
- Bowl'd Acai Cafe
- Cenote Mexican Kitchen & Watering Hole
- Cento Coffee Systeme D Cafe
- Chicken G's
- Flywheel Coffee
- Heartwood
- Hed verythai
- Holbrook House
- Holy Nata
- Il Porcellino Grasso
- Incantations by Voodoo Love
- Nick the Greek

- Orafo
  - Penelope's Coffee & Tea
  - Postscript
  - Ramen Hiroshi
  - Seoul Soup Company
  - Super Kitchen 80
  - Superfine Kitchen
  - Terrene
  - The Third Floor at The Jay Hotel
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