

# Welcome

2025 Annual Meeting



#### Proposal 1. – Election of Directors

Chris Armbruster
John Inwright
Dirk Pruis
Gary Rose
Michael Ruggeri
Robert Schermer, Jr.



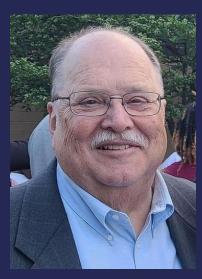
#### In Grateful Memory



**James Peter Bishop** 

May 30, 1940 - February 23, 2024

Jim was active on the Board of Directors of Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants and Meritage.



**Duane Kluting** 

September 20, 1949 - March 3, 2025

Duane was active Chairman of the School Board at G.R. West Catholic High School- prior professional CPA roles included accounting at Seidman & Seidman (BDO), Herman Miller, X-Rite and Board member of Meritage.









#### SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

Certain information in this Meritage presentation, particularly information regarding future economic performance and finances, targets and plans, expectations and objectives of management, constitutes forward-looking statements. Factors set forth in our Safe Harbor Statement, in addition to other possible factors not listed, could affect the Company's actual results and cause such results to differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements. Please review the Company's Safe Harbor Statement at <a href="http://www.meritagehospitality.com">http://www.meritagehospitality.com</a>

#### CEO's Report

- Restaurant Industry Check-in
- The Wendy's Story
- Morning Belle: Sales Trend & Growth
- 2025 Financial Outlook
- Questions & Answers

# STATE OF THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY 2025

#### Key findings:

- Consumers prioritize restaurants: The foodservice industry is forecast to reach \$1.5T in sales in 2025, and a strong majority of consumers say they would use restaurants more if they had the money.
- **Employment opportunities for all:** The industry workforce is projected to grow by 200K jobs, for total industry employment of 15.9M by the end of 2025.
- Experience over price: Many restaurant customers—including 64% of full-service customers and 47% of limited-service customers—say their dining experience is more important than the price of the meal.
- Value remains top of mind: To drive customer traffic, 47% of operators plan to add new discounts, deals or value promotions.
- Boosting on-premises traffic is a priority: The majority of restaurant operators across all segments—including 90% of fine dining operators and 87% of casual dining operators—say building on-premises business is more important for their success than greater off-premises business.
- Consumers love restaurants: 9 in 10 adults say they enjoy going to restaurants. Restaurants allow them to enjoy a favorite meal that has flavor and taste sensations they can't easily replicate at home..

# Restaurant Industry Sales in 2025 \$1.5 Trillion

#### **Consumers Remain Anxious About the Economy**

U.S. Consumer Confidence Index



Source: The Conference Board

#### Restaurant Operators Said Sales and the Economy Were the Top Challenges Facing Their Business in April

Top challenges facing restaurant operators

April 2023		April 2024		April 2025	
Recruiting Employees	53%	Recruiting Employees	34%	The Economy	22%
The Economy	13	Sales Volume	21	Sales Volume	22
Labor Costs	11	The Economy	18	Labor Costs	20
Food Costs/Availability	8	Labor Costs	11	Recruiting Employees	16
Sales Volume	5	Food Costs/Availability	6	Food Costs/Availability	11

Source: National Restaurant Association

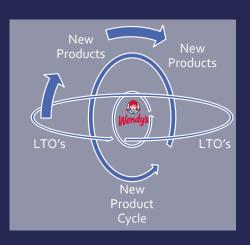
# Navigating the Cycles

- 1) The U.S. has been coming out of a 15-year period of near-zero interest rates; Consumer Confidence at a 10 Year Low.
- 2) Wendy's is undergoing major Brand Transformation;

all-new Senior Leadership Team, Reinvesting back in **Field Resources** and **Food R&D**.

3) Digital & Artificial Intelligence has promised to reshape the restaurant industry (and the economy).





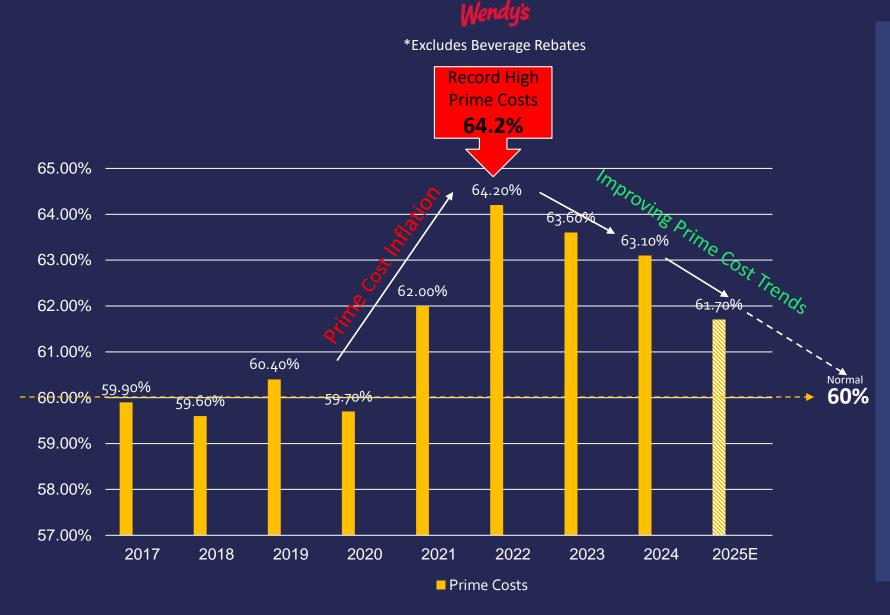


#### Prime Cost

(Food, Paper & Labor)

High Prime Costs = Lower Earnings from Operations - driven by systemwide discounting / inflation and softer QSR sales environment.

Each 1% of Prime Cost improvement equals approximately \$6.7M+ of EBITDA lift for the Company



Actual

## The Wendy's Story

**A Brand Transformation** 







#### **OUR LONG-TERM STRATEGY**

DOUBLE DOWN ON FRESH, FAMOUS FOOD



DELIVER AN EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE



ACCELERATE
GLOBAL UNIT GROWTH

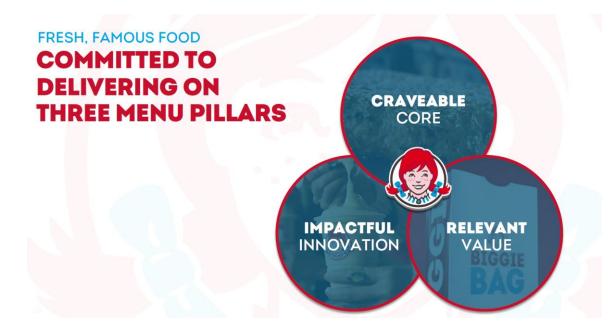


CREATING VALUE FOR FRANCHISEES AND SHAREHOLDERS



#### Beginning a New Product Cycle

### 2025 New Product Cycle Second-Half Story





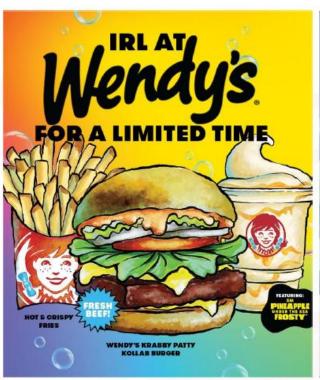


#### 2024: Sponge Bob

#### **Unlocked high latent consumer demand – Sales +20%**











NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE, FAMOUS FOOD

FRESH BRAND
COLLABORATIONS





#### **Restaurant Field Resources**





Wendy's of Michigan, Shift-Manager Leadership Training

#### WENDY'S POTENTIAL

# REINVENTED FIELD STRUCTURE TO SUPPORT MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

- Doubling number of restaurant visits
- Investing in added field operations manager roles to increase number of model restaurants
- Investing in new business leader roles accountable for franchisee performance
- Targeted coaching on business performance, strategic growth and investment planning



#### Leading Drive-Thru Innovation Wendy's Fresh Ai

Fresh AI is a generative AI assistant that uses voice recognition to take orders at drivethru.

It is designed to make ordering faster, more accurate, and consistent for customers.

Wendy's plans to expand Fresh AI to over 500 locations by the end of 2025.









MORNING
BELLE®

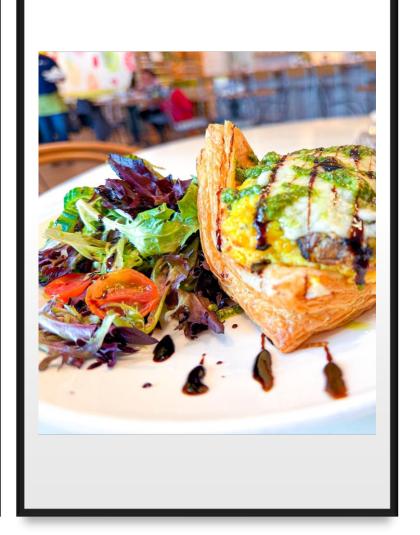
3 Existing Locations

Opening 3-5 New Locations in 2025











#### Return on Investment







Opening May 20, 2025 - Standale, MI



New Unit Full-Year Financial Targets

Sales \$1.7M

15.9%

Store-Level EBITDA Margin

Net Cost to Build-Out \$600K

Cash-on-Cash Return +52%

First Watch

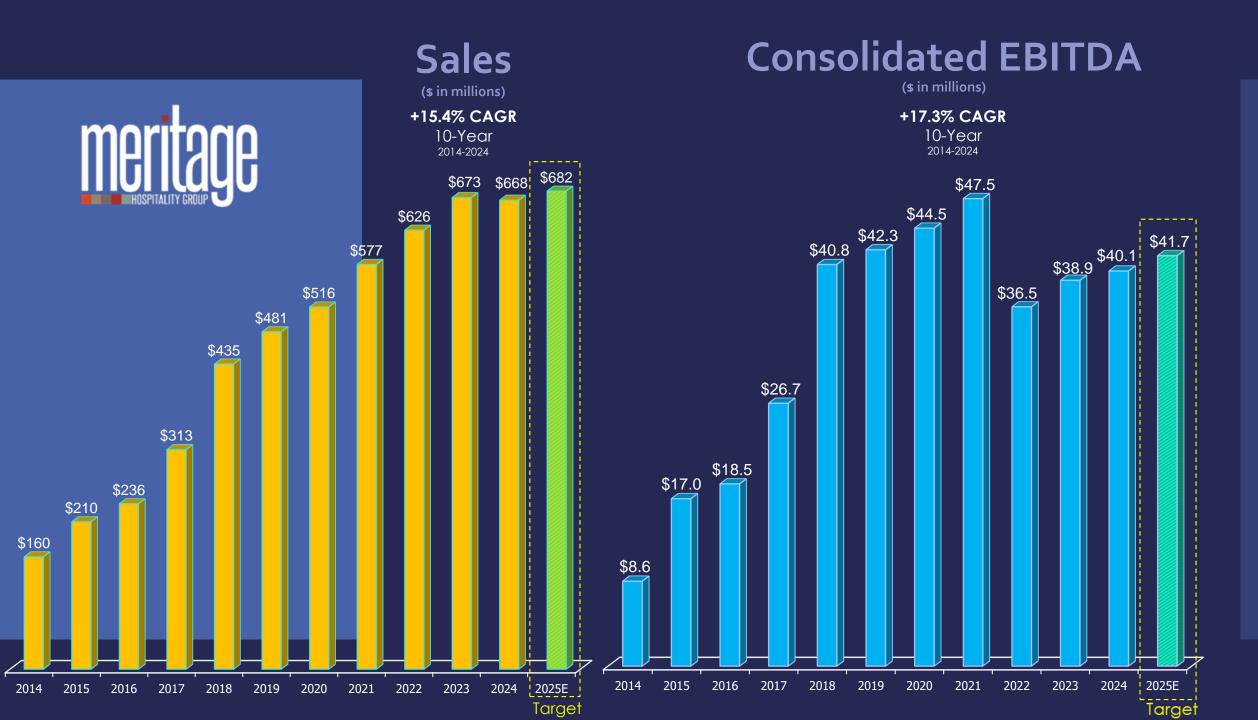


\$2.3M

19.8%



## Company Outlook





#### **Key Points**



- Wendy's Sales, Margins & U.S. Consumer Confidence will recover. While still a "show-me" story, the Wendy's set-up is attractive, with upside catalysts to both sales and margins as new products unlock latent demand in 2H 2025, supported by a strong media spend to build consumer awareness.
- Nations Premier Franchise Owner-Operator. Best-in-Class Management Team has achieved successful of long-term profitable growth and restaurant expansion targets, generating strong long-term compounding Sales & EBITDA growth with value creation and superior financial results relative to industry peers.
  - Wendy's Brand Transformation under way, strong 2H product innovation cycle, marketing promotions and collaborations.
  - Morning Belle Company owned brand, Single shift breakfast-brunch, lunch concept, strong 2025 same store sales growth, looking to further proof-of-concept and scalability
  - Strategic Partnerships Growth capital, distributions & liquidity opportunities are a high priority with consumer and QSR recovery







Thank-you for your time and interest!