

2018 Top 200: Top 10 Fastest-Growing Chains

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<http://www.nrn.com/top-200-restaurants/2018-top-200-top-10-fastest-growing-chains/gallery?slide=20>

Two fast-casual pizza chains battle for dominance

This is part of the Nation's Restaurant News annual [Top 200](#) report, a proprietary ranking of the foodservice industry's largest restaurant chains and parent companies.

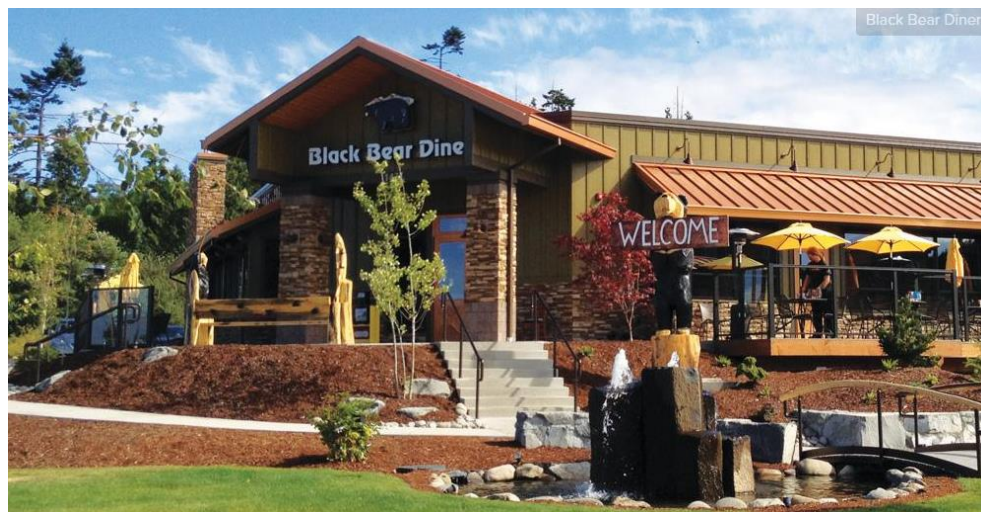
MOD Pizza took the top spot in Top 200 U.S. systemwide sales growth rankings with 80-percent year-over-year growth. That brought its sales total to \$270 million, just \$9 million behind its closest rival, Blaze Fast Fire'd Pizza. Blaze was ranked second in terms of sales gains with 50.8 percent year-over-year growth.

Limited service chains spanning a wide range of menu items — burgers, chicken, tacos and smoothies — made up the majority of the list. In fact, just three full-service chains made the top 10: Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, First Watch and Black Bear Diner.

All 10 of the fastest-growing Top 200 chains had sales growth of more than 20 percent. Every chain on the list posted double-digit year-over-year U.S. unit growth as well.

9. Black Bear Diner | Family Dining

The unit-growth leader in the Latest Year was Black Bear Diner, which reported a 23.3-percent increase, bringing it to 106 locations. The Redding, Calif.-based chain has been branching out beyond its home base in the Western U.S. to the Midwest and the Houston market with a hub-and-spoke approach.



Black Bear Diner also has had 27 quarters of same-store sales growth, according to CEO Bruce Dean. The chain has continued to grow despite headwinds against the segment.

