



# FIRST WATER

A BREAKOUT GROWTH STORY
40 YEARS IN THE MAKING



#### CAUTIONARY NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES



#### Forward-Looking Statements

In addition to historical information, this presentation may contain a number of "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from the statements made herein. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements discuss our current expectations and projections relating to our financial position, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business. You can identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to any historical or current facts. These statements may include words such as "aim," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "future," "intend," "outlook," "potential," "project," "projection," "plan," "seek," "may," "could," "would," "would," "can," "can have," "likely," the negatives thereof and other similar expressions. You should evaluate all forward-looking statements made in this presentation in the context of the risks and uncertainties disclosed our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), accessible on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and the Investors Relations section of the Company's website at https://investors.firstwatch.com/financial-information/sec-filings. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include the following: uncertainty regarding ongoing hostility between Russia and Ukraine, renewed conflict in the Middle East and the related impact on macroeconomic conditions, including inflation, as a result of such conflict or other related events; our vulnerability to changes in economic conditions and consumer preferences; our inability to successfully open new restaurants or establish new markets; our inability to effectively manage our growth; adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic or other infectious diseases; potential negative impacts on sales at our and our franchisees' restaurants as a result of our opening new restaurants; a decline in visitors to any of the retail centers, lifestyle centers, or entertainment centers where our restaurants are located; lower than expected same-restaurant sales growth; unsuccessful marketing programs and limited time new offerings; changes in the cost of food; unprofitability or closure of new restaurants or lower than previously experienced performance in existing restaurants; our inability to compete effectively for customers; unsuccessful financial performance of our franchisees; our limited control over our franchisees' operations; our inability to maintain good relationships with our franchisees; conflicts of interest with our franchisees; the geographic concentration of our system-wide restaurant base in the southeast portion of the United States; damage to our reputation and negative publicity; our inability or failure to recognize, respond to and effectively manage the accelerated impact of social media; our limited number of suppliers and distributors for several of our frequently used ingredients and shortages or disruptions in the supply or delivery of such ingredients; information technology system failures or breaches of our network security; our failure to comply with federal and state laws and regulations relating to privacy, data protection, advertising and consumer protection, or the expansion of current or the enactment of new laws or regulations relating to privacy, data protection, advertising and consumer protection; our potential liability with our gift cards under the property laws of some states; our failure to enforce and maintain our trademarks and protect our other intellectual property; litigation with respect to intellectual property assets; our dependence on our executive officers and certain other key employees; our inability to identify, hire, train and retain qualified individuals for our workforce; our failure to obtain or to properly verify the employment eligibility of our employees; our failure to maintain our corporate culture as we grow; unionization activities among our employees; employment and labor law proceedings; labor shortages or increased labor costs or health care costs; risks associated with leasing property subject to long-term and non-cancelable leases; risks related to our sale of alcoholic beverages; costly and complex compliance with federal, state and local laws; changes in accounting principles applicable to us; our vulnerability to natural disasters, unusual weather conditions, pandemic outbreaks, political events, war and terrorism; our inability to secure additional capital to support business growth; our level of indebtedness; failure to comply with covenants under our credit facility; and the interests of our majority stockholder may differ from those of public stockholders.

#### Non-GAAP Financial Measures (Unaudited)

To supplement the consolidated financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), we use the following non-GAAP measures, which present operating results on an adjusted basis: (i) Adjusted EBITDA, (ii) Adjusted EBITDA margin, (iii) Restaurant level operating profit and (iv) Restaurant level operating profit margin. Our presentation of these non-GAAP measures includes isolating the effects of some items that are either nonrecurring in nature or vary from period to period without any correlation to our ongoing core operating performance. These supplemental measures of performance are not required by or presented in accordance with GAAP. Management believes these non-GAAP measures provide investors with additional visibility into our operations, facilitate analysis and comparisons of our ongoing business operations because they exclude items that may not be indicative of our ongoing operating performance, help to identify operational trends and allow for greater transparency with respect to key metrics used by management in our financial and operational decision making. Our non-GAAP measures may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies and have important limitations as analytical tools. These non-GAAP measures should not be considered in isolation or as substitutes for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP as they may not provide a complete understanding of our performance. These non-GAAP measures should be reviewed in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP.

This presentation does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities.

## IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO A FIRST WATCH, CONSIDER THIS YOUR WAKE-UP CALL



- The disruptive leader defining the fast growing Daytime Dining category, boasting 40 years in operations
- \$2.0M AUV\* achieved in one 7½ hour daytime shift (7:00 AM 2:30 PM)
- More than 500 system-wide restaurants across 29 states and growing
- Modest per person average under ~\$16.50, making us an affordable luxury for most
- Broad consumer appeal to diverse demographics and socio-economic groups
- Elevated, "instagrammable" on-trend menu that features fresh, in-season produce
- Proven portability with NRO AUVs consistently outperforming comp cohort















### **BREAKFAST IS**

## SERVED





- Consistent daypart growth since 2019
- Daypart still in its early stages with upside potential vs established lunch and dinner
- Tremendous opportunity since most breakfast occasions occur at home
- High consumer interest in breakfast all day
- Attractive and portable new unit economics

# THE ALL DAY CAFE IS CHANGING THE GAME AND BRINGING EXCITEMENT TO A GROWING DAYPART

- Operating exclusively during daytime
- Inspired, chef-driven menu
- Legacy players have not evolved with consumer preferences and tastes
- Younger generations are more discerning and health focused, demanding more from brands
- Highly fragmented competitive set



### HEALTH & FRESHNESS



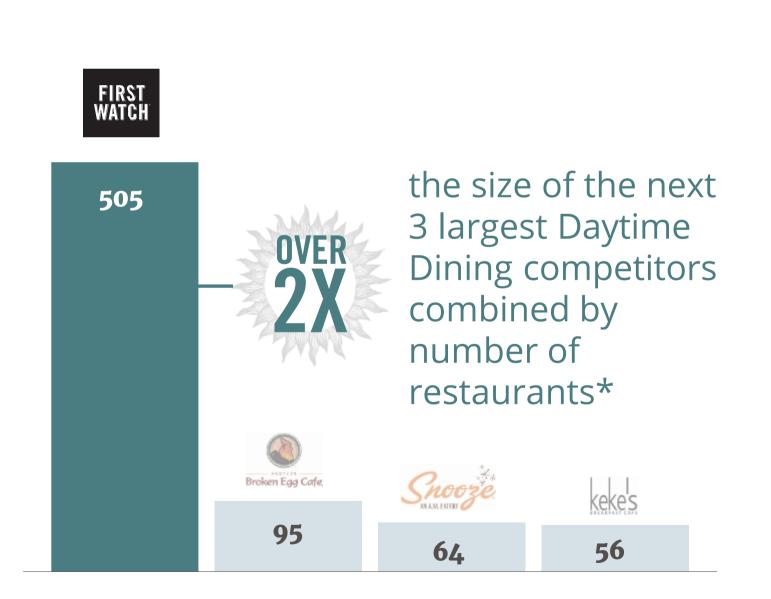
### **EXPLORATION** & CREATIVITY



ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTS

### FIRST WATCH IS THE LEADER

A PROVEN, WINNING DAYTIME DINING FORMULA FUELED BY FRESHNESS & INNOVATION





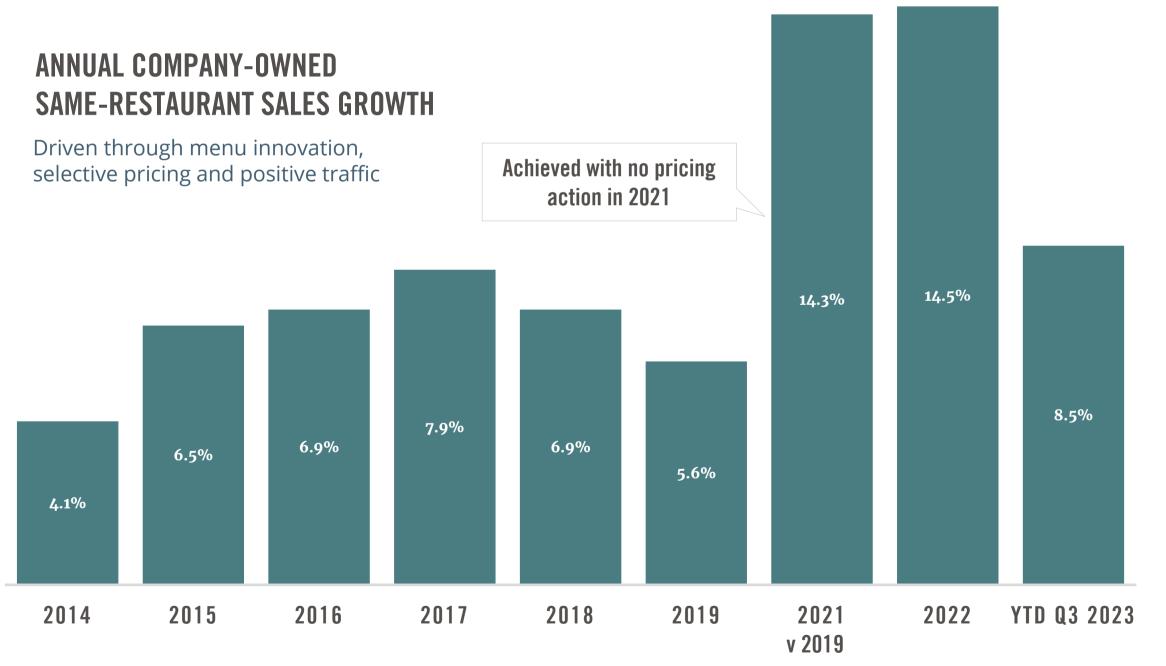
- "Follow the Sun" approach
- Fresh produce deliveries 3 - 4x per week



- Seasonal items & expanding menu platforms
- Familiar classics, elevated
- Craveable & photo-worthy



# PROVEN ABILITY TO CONSISTENTLY DRIVE SAME-RESTAURANT SALES





- On-trend evolving menu ensures relevancy and newness
- Great customer experiences drive frequency
- Apply targeted marketing to increase awareness
- Prior to 2020, modest average pricing of 2-3% annually to offset cost increases, with no price taken in 2021

PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN
PORTABILITY, RAPID GROWTH
WITH CLEAR VISIBILITY TO 2,200
UNITS

• Demonstrated success of rapid unit growth

• 15.7% system-wide unit CAGR from 2014-2022

• More than 500 locations across the U.S.

• 2,200 unit potential

• 97 franchise units with 46 subject to purchase option



**FLORIDA** 

119 LOCATIONS \$2.2M AUV TEXAS

61 LOCATIONS \$2.1M AUV OHIO

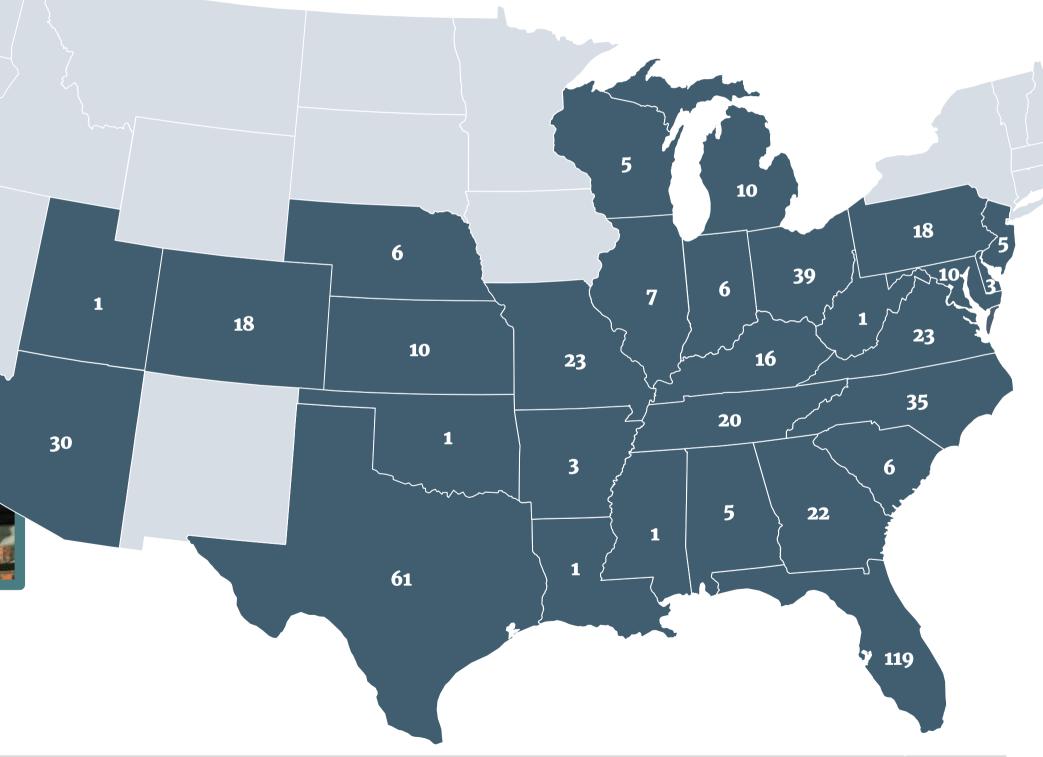
39 LOCATIONS \$2.2M AUV **ARIZONA** 

30 LOCATIONS \$2.2M AUV **MISSOURI** 

23 LOCATIONS \$2.3M AUV

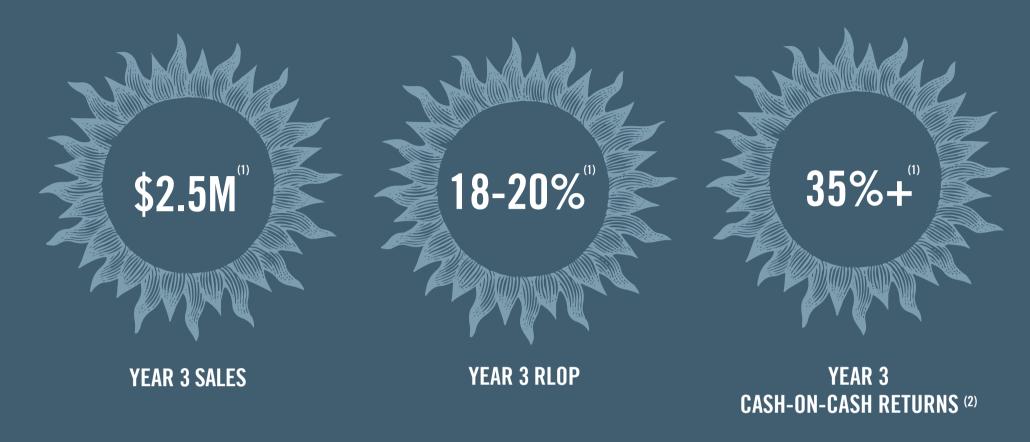
### SYSTEM-WIDE RESTAURANT COUNT BY STATE AS OF Q3'23

Proven portability with restaurants in our top decile spanning 10 states and 19 DMAs



### ATTRACTIVE NEW UNIT ECONOMICS THAT WORK EVERYWHERE

Our flexible box size of ~3,000–6,600 square feet with a net build-out cost of ~\$0.9M-\$1.4M allows us to fit in any real estate and we can succeed in many markets









WE ARE EXCEEDING THE LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE TARGETS WE IDENTIFIED AT THE IPO

UNIT GROWTH

LOW DOUBLE DIGITS

SAME-RESTAURANT SALES GROWTH

**APPROX. 3.5%** 

SYSTEM-WIDE SALES GROWTH (1)

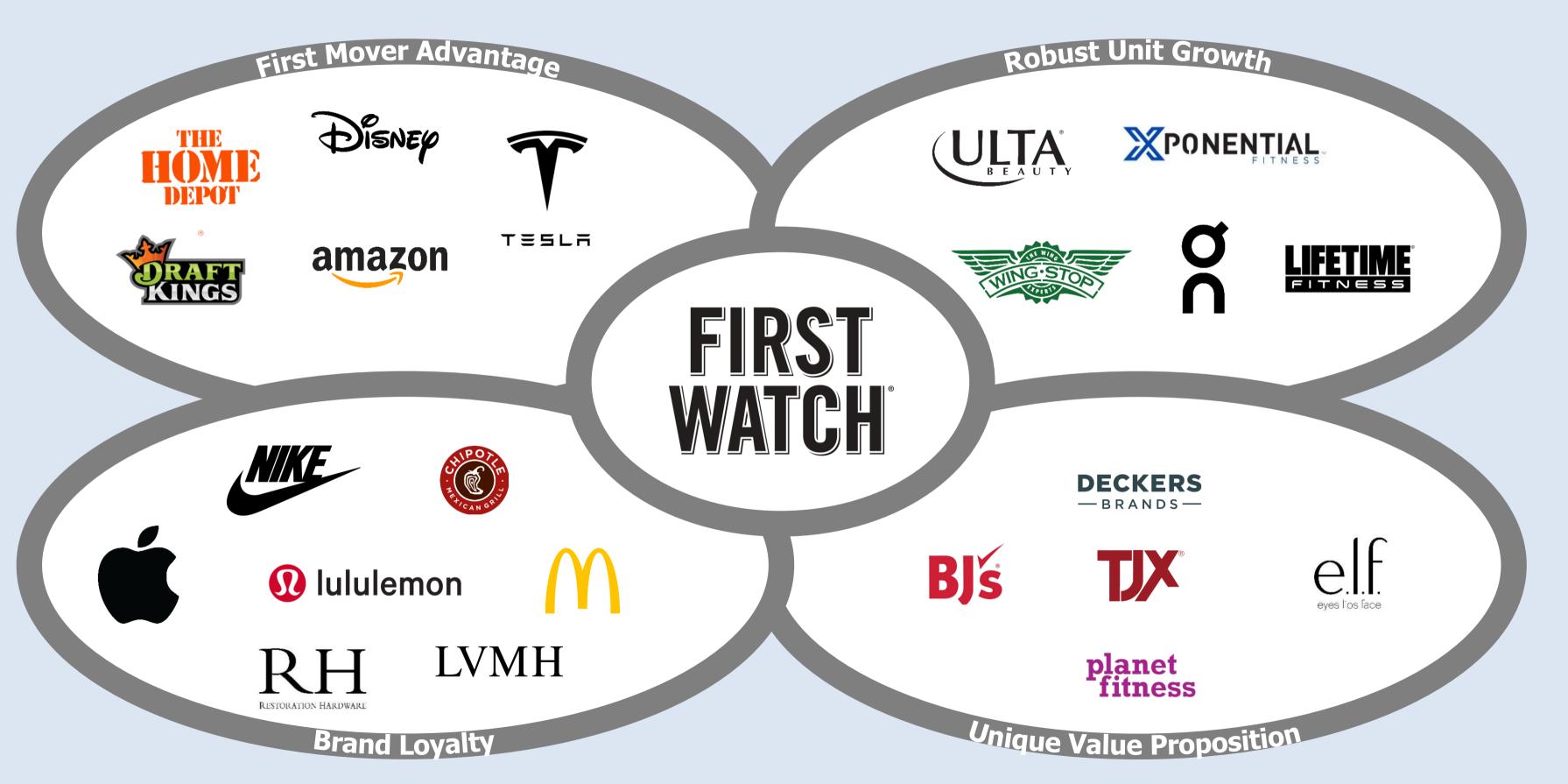
MID-TEENS

ADJ. EBITDA GROWTH

MID-TEENS

### First Watch Core Brand Pillars

First Watch shares similar fundamental strengths that distinguish top consumer brands\*



\*Solely for convenience, the trademarks, trade names, service marks and copyrights referred to herein are listed without the ©, ® and TM symbols, but such references are not intended to indicate, in any way, that we, or the applicable owner, will not assert, to the fullest extent under applicable law, our or their, as applicable, rights to these trademarks, trade names, service marks are copyrights appearing in this presentation are the property of their respective owners.

# THE SECRET INGREDIENTS TO OUR SUCCESS



### OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE. WE PUT =



### WE PUT EMPLOYEES FIRST

- Single shift from 7 AM to 2:30 PM
- No night shifts, ever
- Investment in employees' personal and professional growth

# WHO IN TURN PUT GUESTS FIRST

- Employees are empowered to make guests happy
- Culture of service
- Superior restaurant execution



# COMFORTING & FAMILIAR MENU MEETS INTRIGUE & INNOVATION

- Familar forms with seasonal flavors
- Early trend identification
- Five seasonal menu changes per year











- Track record of establishing partnerships with the best makers, bakers and growers
- Menu rotates every 10 weeks to reflect the season and ensure ongoing relevancy
- Focus is on quality and freshness







# SHAREABLES CREATE ADD-ON OPPORTUNITIES

- Capitalizes on the social nature of breakfast
   / brunch meals
- Generates incremental sales and opportunity to test pricing with menu mix as high as 9.2% of customers
- 6.1% of customers purchased shareables in Q3 2023 vs. 1.9% in 2017
- Shareables instead of appetizers or desserts (maintains table turns)

# CRAFTED COCKTAILS

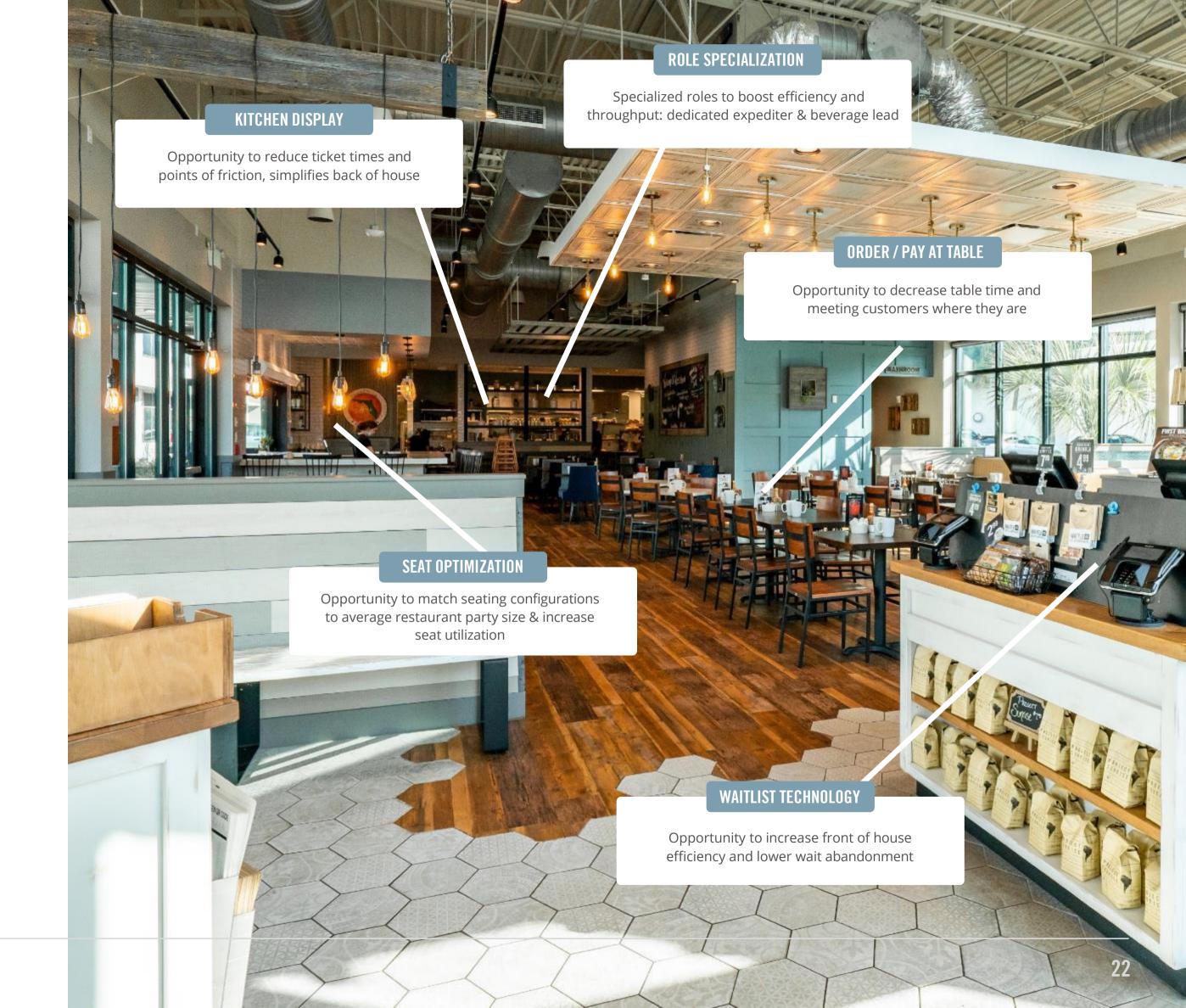
### (REALLY GOOD MORNINGS)

- ~88% of system rolled out
- Highly incremental and margin accretive to all other beverages including fresh juice
- Accounts for 6% of dine-in customers at serving restaurants
- Presents continued innovation opportunity
- No physical bar needed for alcohol roll-out



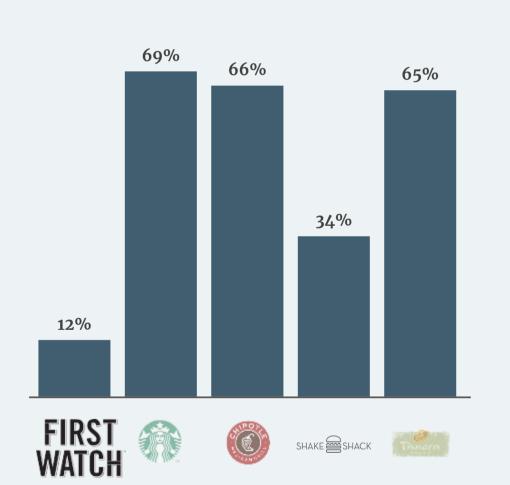
# WE HAVE A LOT OF DEMAND AND WE ARE FOCUSED ON SERVING IT

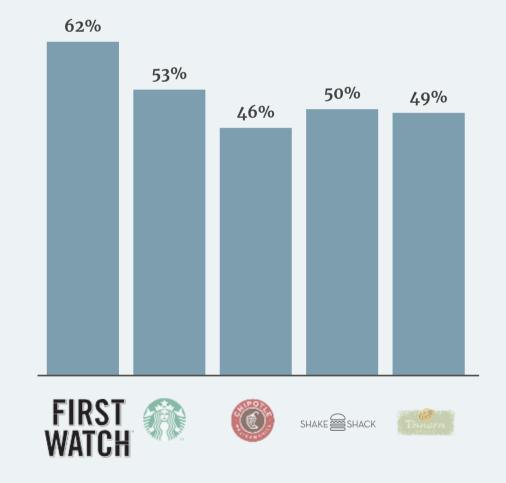
- Waits can range up to 90 minutes during peak periods, signifying unmet demand
- We have identified significant technology and operational initiatives within our four walls to help us actualize this opportunity

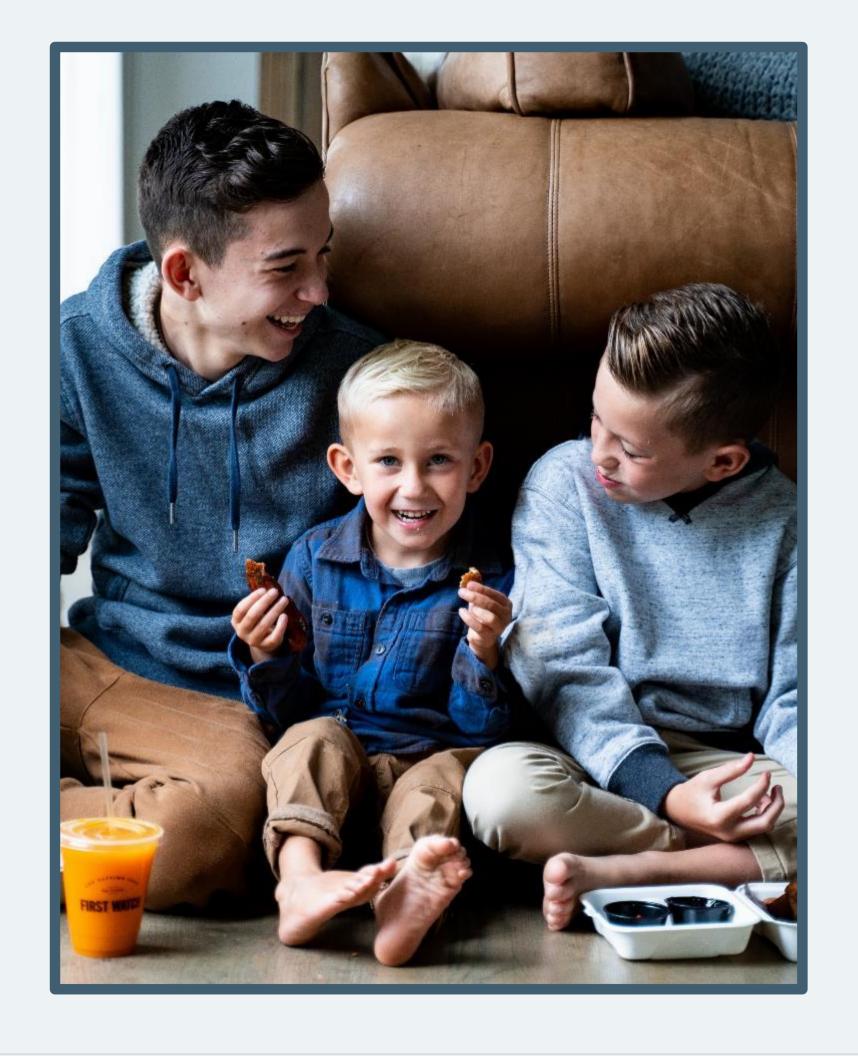


# THE GROWTH OPPORTUNITY IS CLEAR

AIDED AWARENESS VS. GUEST SATISFACTION







### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



2023 Most Loved Brands, #1 Restaurant, #4 Overall

### Newsweek

2022 & 2023 Top 100 Most Loved Workplace



2022 Culture at Work Award



2019 & 2020 Best People Practices Finalist

### Forbes

2023 Customer Experience All-Star



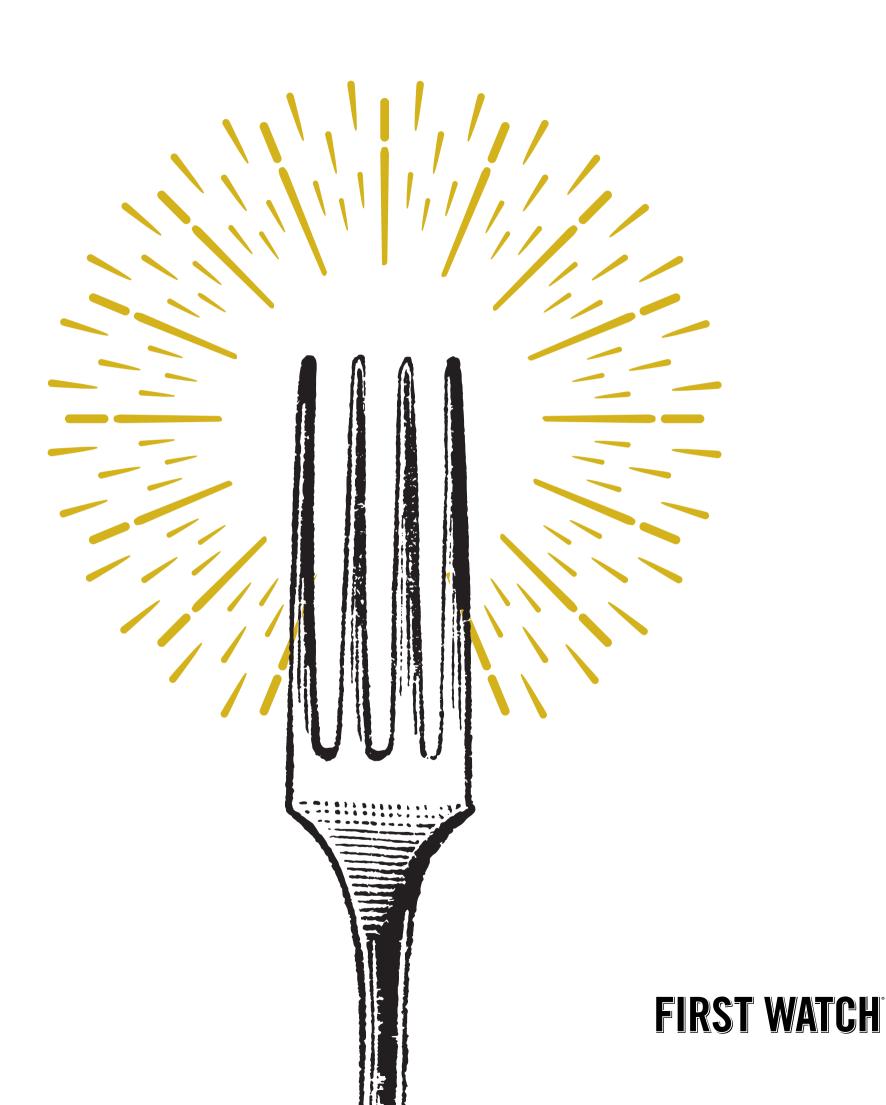
2020 America's Favorite Restaurant Brand



2018 Best Places to work



# APPENDIX



### HISTORICAL DATA



#### Same-Restaurant Sales & Traffic Growth

	2023						2022			2021						
	Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY		
Same-Restaurant Sales Growth	12.9%	7.8%	4.8%	8.5%	27.2%	13.4%	12.0%	7.7%	14.5%	14.1%	403.5%	46.2%	36.7%	63.0%		
Same-Restaurant Traffic Growth (Decline)	5.1%	(1.2%)	(1.9%)	0.7%	21.9%	8.1%	3.7%	(0.6%)	7.7%	2.2%	360.9%	40.1%	31.9%	52.6%		
Comparable Restaurant Base	328	327	327	327	305	304	303	301	301	270	270	270	269	269		

### Pre-opening Expenses\*

(in thousands)																				
	2023					2022						2021								
	Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD Q3		Q1	Q2		Q3	Q4	FY		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	FY
Other restaurant operating expenses	\$ 654	\$ 643	\$ 1,122	\$ 2,419	\$	648	\$ 563	\$	813	\$ 1,301	\$ 3,325	\$	724	\$	649	\$	280	\$	402	\$ 2,055
Occupancy expenses	\$ 382	\$ 609	\$ 913	\$ 1,904	\$	337	\$ 531	\$	677	\$ 544	\$ 2,089	\$	440	\$	250	\$	230	\$	335	\$ 1,255
Total Pre-opening expenses	\$ 1,036	\$ 1,252	\$ 2,035	\$ 4,323	\$	985	\$ 1,094	\$	1,490	\$ 1,845	\$ 5,414	\$	1,164	\$	899	\$	510	\$	737	\$ 3,310

<sup>\*</sup> Pre-opening expenses are presented in one line item on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income

### NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES



#### **Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin**

Management uses Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin (i) as factors in evaluating management's performance when determining incentive compensation, (ii) to evaluate the Company's operating results and the effectiveness of our business strategies, (iii) internally as benchmarks to compare the Company's performance to that of its competitors and (iv) to provide investors with additional transparency of the Company's operations. The use of Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin as performance measures permit a comparative assessment of the Company's operating performance relative to the Company's performance based on the Company's GAAP results, while isolating the effects of some items that are either nonrecurring in nature or vary from period to period without any correlation to the Company's ongoing core operating performance.

The adjacent table reconciles Net income (loss) and Net income (loss) margin, the most directly comparable GAAP measures, to Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin, respectively, for the periods indicated.

	THIRTEEN WEE	KS ENDED	WEEKS ENDED	FISCAL YEAR					
(dollars in thousands)	September 24, 2023	September 25, 2022	September 24, 2023	September 25, 2022	2022	2021	2020		
Net income (loss)	\$5,418	\$46	\$22,737	\$7,393	\$6,907	(\$2,107)	(\$49,681)		
Depreciation and amortization	10,434	8,679	28,992	25,302	34,230	32,379	30,725		
Interest expense	1,848	1,362	5,792	3,494	5,232	20,099	22,815		
Income taxes	1,243	1,329	7,833	4,942	5,684	2,477	(19,873)		
EBITDA	18,943	11,416	65,354	41,131	52,053	52,848	(16,014)		
Stock-based compensation (1)	1,764	2,719	5,386	7,821	10,374	8,596	750		
Transaction expenses (income), net (2)	546	1,419	2,543	1,976	2,513	(1,156)	(258)		
Strategic transition costs (3)	168	780	681	1,951	2,318	2,402	4,247		
Delaware Voluntary Disclosure Agreement (4)	44	-	456	-	149	-	-		
Insurance (proceeds) costs, in connection with natural disasters,net (5)	(326)	-	(621)		115	-	-		
Impairments and loss on disposal of assets <sup>(6)</sup>	185	338	618	572	920	381	315		
Recruiting and relocation costs (7)	305	351	415	570	681	351	228		
Severance costs (8)	<del>-</del>	-	26	155	155	265	239		
Loss on extinguishment of debt	-	-	-	-	-	2,403	-		
COVID-19 - related charges	<u> </u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		-	211	4,749		
Adjusted EBITDA	\$21,629	\$17,023	\$74,858	\$54,176	\$69,278	\$66,301	(\$5,744)		
Total revenues	\$219,212	\$186,852	\$646,918	\$544,417	\$730,162	\$601,193	\$342,388		
Net income (loss) margin	2.5%	- %	3.5%	1.4%	0.9%	(0.4%)	(14.5%)		
Adjusted EBITDA Margin	9.9%	9.1%	11.6%	10.0%	9.5%	11.0%	(1.7%)		
Additional information									
Deferred rent expense (income) (9)	\$661	\$680	\$1,575	\$1,911	\$2,418	(\$2,011)	\$10,087		

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents non-cash, stock-based compensation expense which is recorded within General and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income.

<sup>(2)</sup> Represents costs incurred in connection with the secondary offerings by Advent International Corporation and the acquisition of certain franchise-owned restaurants.

<sup>(3)</sup> Represents costs related to process improvements and strategic initiatives. These costs are recorded within General and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income.

<sup>(4)</sup> Represents professional service costs incurred in connection with the Delaware Voluntary Disclosure Agreement Program related to unclaimed or abandoned property. These costs are recorded in General and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (5) (5) Represents insurance recoveries, net of costs incurred, in connection with Hurricane Ian, which were recorded in Other income, net on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income

<sup>(6)</sup> Represents costs related to the disposal of assets due to retirements, replacements or certain restaurant closures. There were no impairments recognized during the periods presented.

<sup>(7)</sup> Represents costs incurred for hiring qualified individuals. These costs are recorded within General and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income

<sup>(8)</sup> Severance costs are recorded in General and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income.

<sup>(9)</sup> Represents the non-cash portion of straight-line rent expense recorded within both Occupancy expenses and General and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income.

### NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES



### Restaurant level operating profit and Restaurant level operating profit margin

Restaurant level operating profit and Restaurant level operating profit margin are not indicative of our overall results, and because they exclude corporate-level expenses, do not accrue directly to the benefit of our stockholders. We will continue to incur such expenses in the future. Restaurant level operating profit and Restaurant level operating profit margin are important measures we use to evaluate the performance and profitability of each operating restaurant, individually and in the aggregate and to make decisions regarding future spending and other operational decisions. We believe that Restaurant level operating profit and Restaurant level operating profit margin provide useful information about our operating results, identify operational trends and allow for transparency with respect to key metrics used by us in our financial and operational decision-making.

The adjacent table reconciles Income (Loss) from operations and Income (Loss) from operations margin, the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures, to Restaurant level operating profit and Restaurant level operating profit margin, respectively, for the periods indicated.

	THIRTEEN WE	EKS ENDED	THIRTY-NINE V	VEEKS ENDED	FISCAL YEAR				
(dollars in thousands)	September 24, 2023	September 25, 2022	September 24, 2023	September 25, 2022	2022	2021	2020		
Income (Loss) from operations	\$7,738	\$2,621	\$34,412	\$15,434	\$16,913	\$22,243	(\$47,222)		
Less: Franchise revenues	(3,717)	(2,874)	(10,868)	(8,088)	(10,981)	(8,850)	(4,955)		
Add:									
General and administrative expenses	25,179	21,689	73,168	63,194	84,959	70,388	46,322		
Depreciation and amortization	10,434	8,679	28,992	25,302	34,230	32,379	30,725		
Transaction expenses (income), net (1)	546	1,419	2,543	1,976	2,513	(1,156)	(258)		
Impairments and loss on disposal of assets <sup>(2)</sup>	185	338	618	572	920	381	315		
Costs in connection with natural disasters	-	-	-	-	382	-	-		
COVID-19 related charges (3)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		-	<u>-</u>	19	3,309		
Restaurant level operating profit	\$40,365	\$31,872	\$128,865	\$98,390	\$128,936	\$115,404	\$28,236		
Restaurant sales	\$215,495	\$183,978	\$636,050	\$536,329	\$719,181	\$592,343	\$337,433		
Income (Loss) from operations margin	3.6%	1.4%	5.4%	2.9%	2.4%	3.8%	(14.0%)		
Restaurant level operating profit margin	18.7%	17.3%	20.3%	18.3%	17.9%	19.5%	8.4%		
Additional information									
Deferred rent expense (income) (4)	\$611	\$631	\$1,425	\$1,762	\$2,219	(\$2,075)	\$10,029		

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents costs incurred in connection with the secondary offerings by Advent International Corporation and the acquisition of certain franchise-owned restaurants.

<sup>(2)</sup> Represents costs related to the disposal of assets due to retirements, replacements or certain restaurant closures. There were no impairments recognized during the periods presented.

<sup>(3)</sup> Represents the non-cash portion of straight-line rent expense recorded within Occupancy expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income.

### **DEFINITIONS**



The following definitions apply to these terms as used in this presentation:

**Adjusted EBITDA:** a non-GAAP financial measure, is defined as net income (loss) before depreciation and amortization, interest expense, income taxes and items that the Company does not consider in the evaluation of its ongoing core operating performance.

Adjusted EBITDA margin: a non-GAAP financial measure, is defined as Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of total revenues.

**Average Unit Volume:** the total restaurant sales (excluding gift card breakage) recognized in the comparable restaurant base, which is defined as the number of company-owned First Watch branded restaurants open for 18 months or longer as of the beginning of the fiscal year ("Comparable Restaurant Base"), divided by the number of restaurants in the Comparable Restaurant Base during the period. This measurement allows management to assess changes in consumer spending patterns at our restaurants and the overall performance of our restaurant base.

**Restaurant level operating profit:** a non-GAAP financial measure, is defined as restaurant sales, less restaurant operating expenses, which include food and beverage costs, labor and other related expenses, other restaurant operating expenses, pre-opening expenses and occupancy expenses. Restaurant level operating profit excludes corporate-level expenses and items that are not considered in the Company's evaluation of its ongoing core operating performance.

**Restaurant level operating profit margin:** a non-GAAP financial measure, is defined as Restaurant level operating profit as a percentage of restaurant sales.

**Same-restaurant sales growth:** the percentage change in year-over-year restaurant sales (excluding gift card breakage) for the Comparable Restaurant Base.

**Same-restaurant traffic growth:** the percentage change in traffic counts as compared to the same period in the prior year using the Comparable Restaurant Base.

**System-wide restaurants:** the total number of restaurants, including all company-owned and franchise-owned restaurants.

**System-wide sales:** consists of restaurant sales from our company-owned restaurants and franchise-owned restaurants. We do not recognize the restaurant sales from our franchise-owned restaurants as revenue.

# FIRST WATCH

### BREAKFAST · BRUNCH · LUNCH

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