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London Tube Strike Threatens Hospitality Bookings

Analysis says the stoppage could cut pub, bar and restaurant reservations by more than two-thirds.

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The tube strike in London this week could cut hospitality bookings by more than two-thirds, according to an analysis that underscores how quickly transport disruption can hit pubs, bars and restaurants in the capital.

Access Hospitality said the estimate was based on data from the September 2025 strikes on the Underground. During that period, walk-in traffic fell by nearly 70%, while pub revenue dropped by 46% on one day in April's separate strike action, the company said. The latest stoppage began on June 2 and was set to run through June 4.

The figures point to a sharp blow for the on-trade at a time when many operators are already dealing with higher labor costs, rising overheads and weaker consumer spending. Trade groups have previously estimated that strike-related disruption can cost London's hospitality and tourism sector as much as £150 million, or about $204 million.

Tastecard, which also reviewed earlier strike periods in 2023 and 2024, found that hospitality businesses in Zone 1 saw average sales fall by 32% during those disruptions. Pubs and bars were hit hardest, with sales down by 38%.

The latest action follows strikes in April, when London hospitality revenue fell by 18% week on week. Pubs lost 54% of their weekly takings during that period, and revenue fell by 46% on one strike day alone.

Michael Kill, chief executive of the Night Time Industries Association, said the stoppage was "another major setback" for the on-trade. He said businesses across central London depend heavily on office workers, commuters, visitors and tourists, and that any disruption to transport has an immediate effect on foot traffic and trade.

He added that many independent venues could not absorb another day of sharply reduced sales in the current economic climate. According to Kill, operators are already under pressure from higher operating costs, increased employment expenses and continued strain on consumer demand.

The warning comes as London's hospitality sector tries to recover from a series of disruptions that have repeatedly reduced evening trade and weakened bookings across central areas of the city.