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5W AI TRUST MAP OF AMERICA – VOLUME 2

MAY 2026

# The 50-State *Restaurant AI Map*

*Where the answer eats. The second volume of the 5W AI Map of America.*

States mapped

50

Restaurants winning at least one state

30

States McDonald's wins

2

Answer engines

ChatGPT · Claude · Perplexity · Gemini · Google AI Overviews

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PDF

13,500+

US MCDONALD'S LOCATIONS – THE LARGEST CHAIN IN AMERICA

2

STATES WHERE AI CITES MCDONALD'S FIRST

30

RESTAURANTS THAT WIN THE AI ANSWER IN AT LEAST ONE STATE

40+

STATES WHERE AI CITES A REGIONAL OR LOCAL CULT CHAIN, NOT A NATIONAL GIANT























# 5W AI Communications

## About 5W

5W is the AI Communications Firm, building brand authority across the platforms where decisions now happen — ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity, Gemini, and Google AI Overviews — alongside earned media, digital, and influencer channels. 5W combines public relations, digital marketing, Generative Engine Optimization (GEO), and proprietary AI visibility research to help clients measure and grow their presence in AI-driven buyer research. Founded in 2003, 5W is recognized as a Top U.S. PR Agency by O’Dwyer’s, named Agency of the Year in the American Business Awards®, honored as a 2026 Top Place to Work in Communications by Ragan, and named to Digiday’s WorkLife Employer of the Year list. Learn more at [5wpr.com](https://www.5wpr.com).

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### Sources & Methodology

The 50-State Restaurant AI Map is a modeled, directional view of AI citation share assembled from state-level queries to ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity, Gemini, and Google AI Overviews in May 2026 · State winners reflect the most-cited restaurant per state across “best restaurant” and related local-intent queries · This report is Volume 2 of *The 5W AI Trust Map of America* · Findings are directional models, not deterministic rankings or logged-query counts · Full canonical methodology: [How 5W Measures AI Visibility](#).

The 50-State Restaurant AI Map – Where the Answer Eats · Volume 2, 5W AI Map of America · AI discovery and recommendation intelligence by 5W AI Communications · May 2026.