



Restaurant case study

Otto's Group



The restaurant

Otto's Group is a two-concept group of German-inspired restaurants located in Toronto, Ontario.



Their challenge

Otto's Group needed a way to keep their schedule updated efficiently and keep staff informed of changes.



The solution

Using 7shifts meant Otto's Group was able to spend less time scheduling and better engage their staff.

The results

Immediately Otto's Group was able to decrease their monthly labor costs by 5% through more efficient scheduling practices. In addition they were able to dramatically reduce their time spent on weekly scheduling by using the auto-scheduling and templates found on 7shifts. The schedule that used to take hours to create now takes them 20 minutes to do.

"He managed to bring his labor down to 25-30%. A 5% decrease in labor costs."

Otto's Group of owners and operators are Nancy Chen, Matt Eckensweller, Thomas Masmеjean and Konrad Droske. These German-loving friends...

...were known for throwing festivals and parties throughout Toronto prior to beginning their restaurant careers. They traveled to Berlin a couple times and fell in love with the city, culture and food.

This travel prompted the decision to open Otto's Bierhalle, which serves German-influenced food and beer. The draught selection includes 24 taps, half of which are German and European beers.

Prior to 7shifts Otto's used Excel, which was flexible, but proved difficult every time something was copied and pasted – formulas would break and it would need to

be resent to staff. Konrad admits a lot of small scheduling issues would slip by with Excel and add up. This contributed to the 30-35% labor percentage they had prior to using 7shifts, depending on the day.

Their old scheduling process wasn't working anymore and they realized they needed to make a change. They first tried a scheduling solution offered through their POS, but it didn't provide the capabilities they were looking for. Their General Manager, having been in the industry for years, took it upon himself to search online and found 7shifts.



Once 7shifts was set up in Otto's, Konrad immediately started seeing the benefits.

By using the weekly budget tool feature, **he managed to bring his labor down to 25-30%, a 5% decrease in labor costs.**

One of Konrad's favourite things about 7shifts is the ability to replicate current schedules and easily make changes to them.

they've worked and they're on top of clocking in/out. This allows Konrad to keep track of employees, making it obvious on the schedule when they're late. "I use the attendance report to track it and the evidence is right there," Communication has also improved within the Otto's Group.



"7shifts has taken a lot of time off Konrad's plate, & with that time he has been able to delegate scheduling to his manager."

Using the 7shifts integrated time clocking app, 7punches, he was able to generate a variance report to compare scheduled vs. actual hours worked by staff.

7shifts has taken a lot of time off Konrad's plate, and with that time he has been able to delegate scheduling to his manager – which now takes just 20 minutes to complete.



Otto's employees enjoy 7shifts because of its transparency and this means increase trust between them and management. Employees always know how many hours

Owners and management used to be contacted by email, text and phone calls from staff when they needed to swap a shift or provide their availability. Now, it's all contained in 7shifts and Konrad can message groups of employees, such as Line Cooks or Managers.

What's down the road for Otto's? Business has been better than expected and the owners have been working non-stop – it's time to take a break.

"As time goes on, we can open up a few more Otto's locations. We're keeping our options open at the moment – but maybe it's time to take a long vacation."