

J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program Reduction ECONOMIC IMPACT

This fact sheet refers to findings from a survey conducted by the Alliance for International Exchange from August 4 to August 18, 2020. Included are responses from 659 seasonal businesses and camps nationwide.

SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS*

	2019	2020	
United States	108,303	4,885	95% ↓

Provided by the U.S. Department of State. 2020 figure refers to SWT Exchange Visitors as of the August 3rd, 2020 SEVIS report.

IMPACT ON SEASONAL BUSINESSES



Cannot meet peak staffing needs without J-1 Exchange Visitors



Reported lower quality of customer service or longer customer wait times

2 in 3 Lost revenue

1 in 7

Laid off, furloughed or reduced wages of full time Americans

Half Shortened their season or hours

1 in 5

Could not open this summer

Across the country, 278 businesses reported an average loss of

\$471,359
in Summer 2020

What business owners across America are saying:

Quotes were provided by seasonal businesses who completed the economic impact survey conducted by the Alliance for International Exchange from August 4 to August 18, 2020.

“Without exchange students next summer, I'll go out of business.”

- Restaurant in Cherokee, NC

“We reduced our hours by 15% due to staffing shortages which American workers could not meet. This will increase as American students return to school at a time when J1 students could have continued to provide support.”

- Grocery Store in Lake City, CO

“We had to delay opening one of our hotels for three weeks due to no staff. Major overtime to the few employees we have. Lower morale, which worsens customer service.”

- Hotel in Mackinac Island, MI

“I have pursued every avenue to hire more Americans, including a large number of part time employees. The lack of J-1s has put an extreme negative financial impact on my business. Not to mention the stress and negative impact on my health and employees' health working this under staffed. I can't imagine trying to run my restaurant without J-1's during a regular summer season. The financial hit I would take could quite possibly put me out of business after surviving Covid.”

- Restaurant in Ocean City, MD

“Cancelled season.”

- Summer Camp in Cheboygan, MI

“Millions in lost revenue due to severe staffing shortages with consistent demand. Local workforce overwhelmed and exhausted.”

- Hotel in Ocean City, MD

“We lost about 40% of our income due to not enough workers.”

- Retail Store in Gatlinburg, TN

“The few employees we do have worked non stop all summer, some without days off.”

- Hotel in Red Lodge, MT

“Guests want discounts and money back because we can't maintain standards.”

- Hotel in Lake George, NY

“Due to staffing shortage I was only able to be open 50% of my normal business hours.”

- Restaurant in Virginia Beach, VA

We have reduced our hours open by 50%. We limit the amount of customers we let in the door because we don't have the staff to keep up. This means fewer dollars in income. We are in a seasonal area, which means if we don't set aside money for the rest of the year during our short summer season we don't have enough funds to carry us through the rest of the year, which will impact our year 'round American workers.”

- Restaurant in Wisconsin Dells, WI