

# J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program Reduction ECONOMIC IMPACT

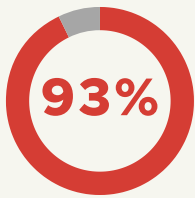
This fact sheet refers to findings from a survey conducted by the Alliance for International Exchange from August 4 to August 18, 2020. Included are responses from 659 seasonal businesses and camps nationwide, 57 in MD-1.

## SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS\*

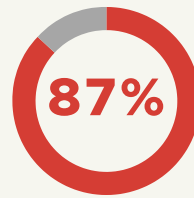
	2019	2020	
United States	108,303	4,885	95% ↓
Ocean City	4,286	65	99% ↓

\*Provided by the U.S. Department of State. Region specific 2020 figures refer to On Program SWT Exchange Visitors as of August 3rd, 2020 SEVIS report.

## NATIONWIDE 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

In MD-1, 37 businesses reported an average loss of

**\$933,109**

in Summer 2020

# What business owners in MD-1 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.

**“Loss of \$1.5 million.”**

“Due to the short staff, our service was very poor and we received lots of negative feedback from our guests. We also dropped in our staff morale from the long hours, and hard days filled with complaints from guests. We hope not to repeat this June's and July's experience again for either staff or guests.”

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

**“The staffing shortage precludes us from embracing the characteristically hard-working traits of the inbound international workers.”**

**“We have not been able to deliver the level of service and not command the premium rates we would be able to with full service. Guest complaints have increased and we are short staffed in a time when we need extra staff to address the issues of Covid.”**

**“It's been a disaster for us. Many of our restaurants are remaining closed due to the inability to hire. This is a disaster to the overall customer expectations so we're charging less than last year.”**

**“Business owners had to cut back hours, wait times were longer and led to lost sales. We need our J-1 students back. They are thankful for the opportunity to come to the US.”**

**“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. The financial hit I would take could quite possibly put me out of business after surviving Covid.”**