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, 48 in New Jersey.

SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS*

	2019	2020	
United States	108,303	4,885	95% ↓
New Jersey	5,272	221	96% ↓

^{*}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 New Jersey, 15 businesses reported an average loss of

\$1,256,667

in Summer 2020



What business owners in New Jersey 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.

"Existing staff required to double up their workload."

"We were short staffed in our ride park, so we opened later and closed earlier, by 3 hours a day." "Hired about 800 employees, needed 1,500. 1 of 2 water parks closed. 1 of 4 restaurants closed."

"We are not able to rent as many rooms because we can not get them clean. We are turning away customers because of this."

"We have had to shut down the business at times because of being short staffed. It has been extremely difficult on the employees we have working." "Not able to open all business locations."

"We are about to enter the college season, where all of our American students return to their campuses and a large part of our staffing requirements are then filled by Summer Work Travel students (who generally return to school a bit later than U.S. students). This is impacting what is literally our busiest 3 weeks of the year."

"Staffing shortage has reduced my revenue by 48%."

"Staffing shortage means we have to close earlier for the season, resulting in unemployment for our American employees."

