

# 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, 6 in Rhode Island.

## SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS\*

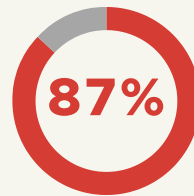
	2019	2020	
United States	108,303	4,885	95% ↓
Rhode Island	946	27	97% ↓

\*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 Rhode Island, 3 businesses reported an average loss of

**\$116,667**

in Summer 2020

## **What business owners in Rhode Island 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.

**“Not able to open 60% of our rooms and services.”**

**“\$100,000 in lost revenue.”**

**“Only can operate at 50% capacity due to staff shortages.”**

**“We may not be able to operate our business all of September and possibly part of August because our U.S. staff need to go back to school and our Summer Work Travel students are not here.”**

**“We have reduced capacity due to no support staff and closed 1 day per week due to staff shortages. We are paying increased overtime to our overworked existing staff to fill the gaps.”**