

# J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program Reduction ECONOMIC IMPACT

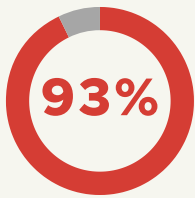
This fact sheet refers to findings from a survey conducted by the Alliance for International Exchange from August 4 to August 18, 2020. Included are responses from 659 seasonal businesses and camps nationwide, 10 in Vermont.

## SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS\*

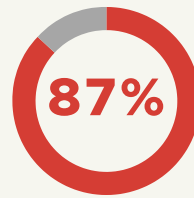
|               | 2019    | 2020  |         |
|---------------|---------|-------|---------|
| United States | 108,303 | 4,885 | 95% ↓   |
| Vermont       | 1,792   | 4     | 99.7% ↓ |

\*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

Across the country, 278 businesses reported an average loss of

# \$471,359

in Summer 2020

# What business owners in Vermont 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.

**“Lack of cultural diversity.”**

**“We may not be able to operate as we rely on international Summer Work Travel students.”**

**“Closed.”**

**“We would have difficulty filling positions with American staff, as seasonal employees in this area are difficult to find.”**

**“Loss of Summer Work Travel students was a contributing factor to our not being able to open at all this summer.”**

**“We are in an extremely rural area with a major shortage of workers. Through exhaustive search, we were only able to find 1 American employee to fill the 6 positions that were left open when the Summer Work Travel students couldn't arrive (and that person is a retired family friend who is only helping us as a favor and can only work part time).”**

**“Due to the staffing shortage we have had to limit our season. Normally we would be open from June 15-October 15. This year we will open from July 31 - September 7 and September 25 - October 12, which are our busiest periods. Our staff will work extreme amounts of overtime during these periods (7 days a week, 10-12 hour days). This pace is not sustainable for our employees, many of whom are older, so we will be closing during our less busy periods in order to give everyone a chance to charge their batteries. This will cause a significant drop in revenue as even though June and July and early September are less busy, they are still normally profitable seasons.”**