

# J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program Reduction ECONOMIC IMPACT

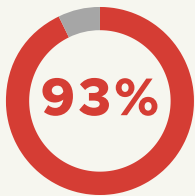
This fact sheet refers to findings from a survey conducted by the Alliance for International Exchange from August 4 to August 18, 2020. Included are responses from 659 seasonal businesses and camps nationwide, 13 in Virginia.

## SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS\*

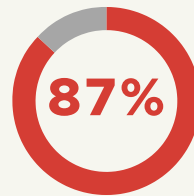
	2019	2020	
United States	108,303	4,885	95% ↓
Virginia	4,621	75	98% ↓

\*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 Virginia, 4 businesses reported an average loss of

**\$562,500**

in Summer 2020

# What business owners in Virginia 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.

**“Brutal!!!”**

**“Not enough staff.”**

**“Over 1 Million dollars in lost revenue due to staffing shortages.”**

**“Inability to deliver vital programming for underserved youth.”**

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

**“Simply put, camp cannot run without international staff. There are not enough Americans who want to work at a summer camp, and the campers enjoy the international aspect.”**

**“Our group represents approximately 150 restaurants in Virginia Beach. The lack of staffing this summer is at an all time high and has negatively impacted our businesses. Not having Summer Work Travel students here as in the past has left a gap in staffing that has not been able to be filled. Restaurants have had to deal with the staff shortage in many ways, including, reduced hours, limited services and in turn less hours for American employees.”**