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. 42 in Wisconsin.

SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS*

	2019	2020		
United States	108,303	4,885	95%	1
Wisconsin	6,439	550	91%	1

^{*}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 Wisconsin, 23 businesses reported an average loss of

\$929,352

in Summer 2020



What business owners in Wisconsin 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.

"We are fortunate to be a family LLC and I have had family come and work for free to get us through the season. This is not sustainable for the long term as they all have their own jobs in the cities they live in." "We are forced to close early without having international staff because American employees have to leave to attend school or college MUCH earlier than international staff. We typically are open through Labor Day but must close early because all of the American staff are leaving to get to college on time."

"40% less of gross sales because of limited hours and limited seating due to not enough employees."

"We have had to limit our occupancy and services in order just to stay open this season. This will not improve until we have J-1 students again as there is no American labor force to draw from!"

"Lost \$1,000,000." "We have reduced our hours open by 50%. We are in a seasonal area, which means if we don't set aside money for the rest of the year during our short summer season, we don't have enough funds to carry us through the rest of the year, which will impact our year 'round American workers."

"Our staff has been working 50 to 70 hours per week to meet the demands of a summer, seasonal business. Huge cost to us in overtime and quality of work. We hire J-1 students to host, bus, wash dishes and do simple kitchen prep. We now have servers and chefs doing those jobs."

"Having to cut back on hours we can be open results in more stress for owners, lost revenue, lost efficiencies and disappointed customers." "We live in a small destination tourism community. Our local workforce simply does not have the capacity to fulfill seasonal positions, and our economy cannot sustain its performance without adequate staffing levels. Without the J-1 Visa exchange program our community has been devastated and never had a chance to "recover" this summer season."

