

BridgeUSA Program Survey

Absence of Crucial International Exchange Visitors Devastates Seasonal Businesses Across the United States

From September 13 to October 15, 2021, the Alliance for International Exchange surveyed 665 seasonal businesses and summer camps nationwide, of which 72% are small businesses. Below are responses from these businesses, 29 in New Hampshire.

SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS*

	2019	2020	2021	Decrease from 2019
United States	108,303	4,952	39,647	63% ↓
New Hampshire	2,696	65	1,002	63% ↓

*Data source the U.S. Department of State, J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program.

- ECONOMIC IMPACT -

60%
Of Businesses
Lost Revenue

20%
Of Seasonal
Positions Unfilled

3 in 5
Shortened their
season/hours or closed
business locations



Did not meet peak
staffing needs without J-1
Visa Exchange Visitors



Reported staff burnout



Reported lower quality of
customer service or longer
customer wait times

In New Hampshire, 16 businesses reported a total loss of \$2,871,000, averaging

\$179,438

per business

- PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IMPACT -

Lack of J-1 Visa Exchange Visitors hamstrings U.S. public diplomacy goals by taking away a key positive U.S. experience from tomorrow's international leaders, and preventing them from engaging with their American host communities.

Host employers across America agree or strongly agree that Summer Work Travel and Camp Counselor participants:



Enable U.S. based staff to gain a better understanding of other cultures



Contribute to a positive culture in the workplace



Make the community more sensitive to other cultures

"We've been unable to offer full services to the guests causing a reduction in satisfaction thus a reduction in revenue due to negative reviews."

- Hotel in Portsmouth, NH

"Summer Work Travel Program participants bring energy to our community and our guests love getting to know them each summer. They broaden the horizons for so many people."

- Hotel in Hampton, NH

"Owner and wife working 90 hour weeks for 4 months with no days off. Staff is working 55 hours per week. Forced to cut hours of operation. Forced to reduce the variety of products. Everyone is burned out."

- Candy Store in Rehoboth Beach, DE

"Our staff gets to work side by side and form relationships with people from other countries whom they would not otherwise have a chance to meet."

- Restaurant in Portsmouth, NH

"Participants enrich our resort year after year with a combination of enthusiasm and culture. They introduce our chefs to international cuisine, which in turn is shared with our guests and staff."

- Ski Resort in Park City, UT

"Future lost revenue due to the lower level of customer service. I have families who will not return this year due to their kid's experience at camp and how it was impacted because I had fewer staff members than normal."

- Summer Camp in Jaffrey, NH

