

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, 12 in California.

SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS*

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Decrease from 2019 |
|---------------|---------|-------|--------|--------------------|
| United States | 108,303 | 4,952 | 39,647 | 63% ↓ |
| California | 5,680 | 149 | 2,138 | 62% ↓ |

*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 California, 11 businesses reported a total loss of \$13,980,000, averaging

\$1,270,909

per business

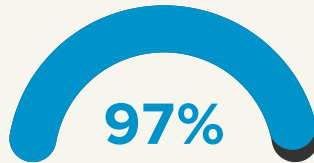
- PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IMPACT -

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.

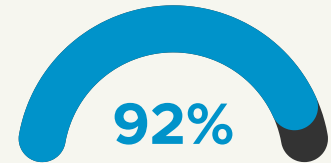
Host employers across America agree or strongly agree that Summer Work Travel and Camp Counselor participants:



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

“Increased hours for current employees caused excessive overtime and staff burnout.”

- Hotel in Tahoe Vista, CA

“Reduced operating hours and services have meant reduced revenue. Existing staff is burned out. Company is struggling to survive.”

- Business in Tahoe City, CA

“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

“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

“Exchange participants provide fantastic cultural exposure to the local community and also support the local economy by renting accommodations, purchasing goods and gifts for their families.”

- Restaurant in Dennis, MA

“We create life-long relationships with participants and their families, which drives business and visitation to the U.S., as well as gives a face to America when they are making decisions back in their own countries in the future.”

- Ski Resort in Homewood, CA