

# 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, 8 in Wyoming.

### SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS\*

	2019	2020	2021	Decrease from 2019
United States	108,303	4,952	39,647	63% ↓
Wyoming	2,399	17	545	77% ↓

\*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



**90%**

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



**87%**

Reported staff burnout



**82%**

Reported lower quality of  
customer service or longer  
customer wait times

In Wyoming, 8 businesses reported a total loss of \$32,325,000, averaging

**\$4,040,625**

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

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"Lack of Summer Work Travel participants was the difference in being able to operate all of our departments. We were unable to offer breakfast at one of our busiest locations."

*- Resort in Moose, WY*

"This program provides great diversity to our seasonal employee population adding energy and excitement to the entire team."

*- Concessions Business in Moran, WY*

"Cannot operate effectively without more staff. Lost revenue with lower levels of service and reduced operating hours."

*- Restaurant in Jackson, WY*

"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*

"We were not able to provide all services that we normally can due to lack of employees. If we were able to be fully staffed and had all amenities available we would have had more guests. Negative reviews for not having the amenities has hurt our business dramatically."

*- Hotel in Cody, WY*

"The greatest impact can be seen in the lasting relationships that our staff has come to cherish. This program opens doors for J-1 students to experience cultural exchange but it also opens doors for American workers to establish relationships all around the world."

*- Amusement Park in Keystone, SD*