

JOBS LOST IN ARKANSAS HOTEL INDUSTRY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- **8,807** direct hotel-related jobs lost
- **21,640** total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

ARKANSAS HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

Jayesh Lallu – Cabot, AR

“A lot Of Cancellations of travel, Cancelled Tournaments, Spring Break parents visiting their grand kids and vice-versa, Fear of Covid 19, Cancelled Graduation, uncertainty in what is going to happen.”

Kal Gandhi – Springdale, AR

“As a hotelier in Arkansas I have experienced firsthand...Drop in occupancy. We almost having occupancy into 10% everyday, challenge to keep all staff on payroll, Paying Mortgage, Sales tax payroll taxes and other operating expenses.”

Bhavesh Patel – Conway, AR

“I have experienced firsthand cash flow problem to pay to employee's payroll, pay bills, mortgage, hotel supplies and etc. To help pay the some hotel cost I been working 16 hours per day and not taking any paycheck. About this time we should have 65% occupancy and now it went down to 20%. This has been slow ever since January. We need some serious help.”

Jay Patel – Conway, AR

“I have experienced firsthand that people are scared to travel and with all the events getting canceled and colleges closed my property has sustained \$25000+ worth of revenue loss in just 1 week and dont know how things are going to be in coming future but if it continues like this, I am not going to be able to pay my bills and I may even have to start laying off employees to save the payroll.”

Kim Patel – Monticello, AR

“We can not afford our staff but we also can not afford to lose them. Many have been with us during construction of the property and stayed on for operations. They are family and we cannot cut them out because we are faced with this devastating pandemic. But at what cost? We are facing the greatest challenge of our lives. There is no taking a break from this. So much of our culture is based within and around our hospitality industry. It is in our blood to serve. However, with no guests, we are lost.”

HEADLINES ACROSS ARKANSAS ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

28 news stories in Arkansas regarding impact to hotel industry on broadcast, print and online news outlets including:

Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette – [U.S. Unemployment Up In Outbreak](#)

The travel industry is at risk of being particularly devastated, with airlines grounding planes and hotels increasingly empty. The U.S. Travel Association predicts that 4.6 million jobs in the industry could be lost, which by itself would push the unemployment rate to 6.3%, from its current level of 3.5%.

Arkansas Business: [Amid Tourism Crisis and LRCVB Cancellations, Casinos Shut Down](#)

McNulty was sounding the alarm, pleading for help for both restaurants and hotels, her other big constituency: “This economic impact speaks to the urgency and severe crisis of our hotel industry. Help is needed!” said McNulty, who is also CEO of the trade group. Gretchen Hall, executive director of the Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau, reported that 21 events planned in Little Rock had been canceled and 29 gatherings postponed for rescheduling. All had originally been planned from March 12 to the first week of May, she said.