

# LOUISIANA: COVID-19 IMPACT ON STATE'S HOTEL INDUSTRY



## JOBS LOST IN LOUISIANA HOTEL INDUSTRY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- 26,458 direct hotel-related jobs lost
- 54,182 total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

## LOUISIANA HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

### William Langkopp – New Orleans, LA

*“The 1200 room Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown New Orleans has closed its door (reportedly for two weeks only) as a result of Covid 19. I have a local operator who has five small properties in downtown who is closing four of them. Layoffs, furloughs and reduced hours are occurring all over the place.”*

### Isabella Finnel – New Orleans, LA

*“As a hotelier at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel I have been personally been furloughed after spending my entire career in the hotel industry. New Orleans is known for their hospitality and at this point, 95% of the people I know have been laid off or furloughed. With majority of the staff of already living near poverty line, so important we stabilize as soon as possible.”*

### Angelique Gianfala – Benton, LA

*“Numerous line level employees lose their jobs, their livelihood and income for their families. I have been in the Hospitality Industry for 35 plus years and have never experienced the fear we are all feeling for our jobs.”*

### Ed Ghanami – Shreveport, LA

*“I have experienced firsthand... A devastating effect on the hotels our management company operates. Since the Corona virus outbreak, and since the declaration of State of Emergency, we saw bookings at our properties decrease by more than 50% and continue to deteriorate. Even with drastic cost cutting measures implemented at each hotel, it will be impossible for our hotels to cover cost of operations and cover debt service. As a result of drastic drop in hotel revenues, our management company cannot generate its much needed revenue to survive.”*

## HEADLINES ACROSS LOUISIANA ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

**91 news stories in Louisiana regarding impact to hotel industry on broadcast, print and online news outlets:**

### Houma Today – [A Cruel Paradox: Beating Virus Means Causing US Recession](#)

*“Travel industry executives visited the White House on Tuesday with a dire warning on the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic: half of all hotels in the United States could close by year’s end and put 4 million Americans out of work without a massive bailout from Washington.”*

### Monroe News Star – [‘Facing A Catastrophe’: Hotel Industry, Suppliers Seek \\$250 Billion Bailout Package Due To Coronavirus](#)

*“The industry is hoping for \$150 billion to allow hotel owners to continue to make their loan payments and to support employees who are being laid off. Another \$100 billion would go to suppliers, from recreation providers to retailers. The contraction in travel due to the coronavirus “already has had a more severe impact on the hotel industry than 9/11 and the 2008 recession combined,” said Chip Rogers, CEO of the American Hotel & Lodging Association in a call with reporters.”*

### FOX 8 – [New Orleans Tourism, Hospitality Industries Suffer Under New Coronavirus Rules](#)

*“Hospitality workers say they do not know how they are going to make ends meet as the city’s convention industry grinds to a virtual halt.”*

### Lafayette Daily Advertiser – [COVID-19 Job Cuts: Layoffs Accelerate As Coronavirus Disrupts American Economy](#)

*“The American Hotel & Lodging Association and the U.S. Travel Association estimated that 1 million hotel jobs, or about 45% of the industry’s employment, “have either been eliminated or will be eliminated in the next few weeks.”*