

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



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

- 29,473 direct hotel-related jobs lost
- 85,755 total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

## WASHINGTON HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

### Vijay Patel – Kennewick, WA

*“As a hotelier in Washington I have experienced firsthand loss of revenue north of \$500,000 in a matter of weeks across our portfolio.”*

### Chris Burdett – Woodway, WA

*“I have experienced firsthand a reduction in occupancy from 67% this time last year to 3% in Seattle. We are now contemplating CLOSING our Hampton Inn after laying off 70% of our workers.”*

### Douglas Dreher – Edmonds, WA

*“I, as the President & CEO of The Hotel Group, am witnessing the impact firsthand of the shocking and sudden downturn in occupancy that our hotels have experienced in the Pacific Northwest.”*

### Julie McAferty – Seattle, WA

*“I worry about my 3 part time, hourly employees. I don't have any new reservations on the books after today. They will have a hard time making ends meet if they don't have work for them to do. I hope that they can qualify for unemployment benefits even though they are part time, when I have to lay them off for awhile.”*

### Cathrine Tolbert – Millwood, WA

*“As a hotelier in Washington I have experienced firsthand the devastation this crisis is spreading. I work in our corporate office and am now laid off due to the failing revenues of our hotels. I have two young girls that I need to support on my income alone. Being unemployed now will jeopardize how I can provide basic necessities for my children.”*

## HEADLINES ACROSS WASHINGTON ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

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

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

*“Chip Rogers, president and CEO of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, noted that hotels last year were, on average, roughly 67% full. Now? “We're probably under 20% nationwide and headed south,” he said. “If, by the end of the year, we get up to 35% and nothing else happens, that will be about 4 million jobs lost.””*

### Seattle Times – [U.S. Economy Expected To Lose 4.6 Million Travel-Related Jobs This Year From Coronavirus Fallout](#)

*“The United States is expected to lose 4.6 million travel-related jobs this year as the coronavirus outbreak levies an \$809 billion blow to the economy, according to startling projections released Tuesday by the U.S. Travel Association. Further, 4 million total jobs have been eliminated already or are on the verge of being lost in the next few weeks, the American Hotel & Lodging Association said. In some of the hardest-hit markets – such as Seattle, San Francisco, Austin and Boston – properties are shutting down and occupancy rates are at unprecedented lows.”*

### Seattle Times – [U.S. Market Falls Sharply As Rampant Volatility Takes Hold](#)

*“Industries that have been hit hardest by the outbreak, such as airlines, casinos and hotels, are lobbying for government assistance. The United States is expected to lose 4.6 million travel-related jobs this year as the coronavirus outbreak levies an \$809 billion blow to the economy, according to startling projections released Tuesday by the U.S. Travel Association. Four million jobs have been eliminated already or are on the verge of being lost in the next few weeks, the American Hotel & Lodging Association said.”*

### The Olympian – [‘Devastated’ Travel Industry Pleads For Hundreds Of Billions In Coronavirus Relief](#)

*“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.”*