

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



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

- **23,048** direct hotel-related jobs lost
- **78,739** total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

## VIRGINIA HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

### **John Cario – Mechanicsville, VA**

*“As a hotelier in Richmond Virginia I have experienced first hand the major cancellations of group and transient business and impacts on our business. These drops in business, thus revenues cause us to temporarily furlough our associates. Many of us have taken unwanted vacation to assist the cash flow of the operation.”*

### **Thomas Beyer – Williamsburg, VA**

*“There are people who are not sure where their next paycheck is coming from. We are not sure how long this will last, but the effects are significant. We have owners who are concerned about making their mortgage payments.”*

### **Abhi Mehra – Arlington, VA**

*“As a general manager in hotel we are being hurt dramatically as losing the revenue and losing the hours for our hard working employees.”*

### **Leena Patel – Staunton, VA**

*“As a hotelier in Virginia I have experienced firsthand reduced occupancy, reduced revenue, and reduction of workforce across both of our properties in Staunton, VA and Emporia, VA”*

### **Susan Patterson – Aldie, VA**

*“Working for a company that owns 54 hotels across the country, I have seen first hand the impact the difficult decision to suspend operations and furlough hotel employees has taken on everyone. Employees may never recover from this devastating blow to the hotel and travel industry, unless it recovers quickly.”*

## HEADLINES ACROSS VIRGINIA ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

**92 news stories in Virginia regarding impact to hotel industry on broadcast, print and online news outlets including:**

### **Richmond & Twickenham Times – [Hotel Staff Sacked And Told To Leave Accommodation After Government Virus Advice](#)**

*Staff at a hotel in the Highlands have been sacked on the spot and told to leave accommodation immediately, with the company pinning the decision on government coronavirus advice. A letter was sent to workers at the Coylumbridge Hotel in Aviemore, which is run by Britannia Hotels who appear to have made the decision based on measures as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak. When contacted by the PA news agency, a member of staff at the hotel said some people had been affected but that it was not 30 as had been reported elsewhere.*

### **Roanoke Times – [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.”*

### **News Leader – [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."*

*Taken together, the actions illustrate how the coronavirus outbreak threatens to derail the nation's employment market, which was in excellent shape with a national unemployment rate of 3.5% in February, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.*