



# COVID-19's Impact on U.S. Casino Industry Workers and Local Communities

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is deeply impacting the U.S. casino industry. Employees from every sector of the casino gaming industry – from commercial and tribal casinos and sportsbooks to gaming equipment manufacturing to hospitality and restaurants and the small businesses that support us – have felt the repercussions of government-mandated property closures across the United States.

U.S. casino gaming companies are doing their part to assist American workers during these unprecedented times. Despite mandatory shutdowns and a near economic standstill, leaders across our industry are taking action in this time of crisis to help local communities. Around the country, gaming properties have donated thousands of meals and tons of food to help those affected by disrupted jobs, schools, and services.

While the federal government implements necessary measures to protect the health and safety of American communities, it is equally urgent to undertake sustained actions to mitigate the dire impact these closures will have on hundreds of thousands of U.S. casino employees and the businesses that employ them. We need to ensure casino and resort staff and businesses weather the current storm and come through it as the reliable economic driver, job creator, and community partner they are in cities and states across our nation.

## Unprecedented Casino Closures

In a matter of days:

- All 989 commercial and tribal casino properties in the U.S. have closed their doors.
- Due to the coronavirus outbreak, 56 million people – or 22 percent of Americans – have canceled or postponed plans to go to a casino.

## Unprecedented Impact on American Workers

Casino closures affect:

- Approximately 652,000 casino gaming and resort employees. More than a million others in industries that rely on gaming are also impacted.
- Casino closures risk more than \$74 billion in total wages annually for workers and their families.

## Big Blow to Local Communities

Casino closures will reverberate across local communities:

- Casino gaming supports \$41 billion in annual tax revenue and tribal revenue sharing nationwide – essential support for local hospitals, first responders, and vital public services.
- Half the jobs our industry supports are at non-gaming businesses such as restaurants and local shops – all will be dramatically affected by a local casino's closure.
- Casino gaming is vital to local small businesses, delivering \$52 billion annually in small business revenue including construction, manufacturing, retail, and wholesale firms.

# COVID-19's Impact on the U.S. Casino Industry Workers and Local Communities

## Huge Hit to the National Economy

Casino gaming is an economic engine for dozens of local economies. If America's casinos stay closed until the middle of May, it will cost the U.S. economy \$43.5 billion in economic activity.

## Broad Damage Beyond Direct Casino Workers and Businesses

The impact to gaming businesses goes beyond the casino floor – it creates deep uncertainty impacting nearly two million Americans whose jobs are supported by gaming and disproportionately affects the operations of the entire hospitality industry.

Widespread business closures in recent weeks have caused:

- Hotel occupancy is down nearly 60 percent from this time last year.
- Over a third (36%) of U.S. travelers have deferred trips.
- A sharp decline in consumer financial transactions between 64-86 percent, depending on the industry.
- Most shoppers (89%) worry the coronavirus will get worse in the U.S over the next month, and as a result 27 percent say they will make fewer trips to retail stores.
- Restaurants saw a 99 percent reduction in seated diners versus a year ago.

American casino gaming employees and businesses are adversely affected by all of these.

## Who is the American Casino Industry?

We are economic engines in communities across the country. We are entertainment hubs where Americans come to work, see a show, enjoy a great meal, or try their luck on the casino floor. We are hosts and conveners for conferences, tradeshow and conventions. We are small business advocates, supporting more than 350,000 small business employees who supply and work with our industry. We are investors in critical infrastructure, inserting billions of dollars in tax revenue and tribal revenue share into communities across 43 states.

We will continue to serve these important roles throughout this public health crisis and in our communities' recovery in the weeks and months ahead.

*Last Updated: April 13, 2020 – 11:00 AM*