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The California Industries Hit Hardest by COVID-19 Economic Shutdown

These Industries Employ Millions of Californians

The COVID-19 public health crisis has upended the lives of Californians. Millions of people have experienced serious disruptions to their jobs following social distancing public health recommendations and state and local shelter-in-place orders aimed at slowing the spread of the virus. While necessary to prevent overwhelming the state’s health care system, the business reductions and closures forced by these orders will have a severe economic impact on Californians and the state’s economy.

This *Fact Sheet* shows that the industries most immediately impacted by the COVID-19-related economic shutdown employ several million people in California.¹ Without a sufficient federal response to help workers and their families, the shutdown will have a ripple effect throughout the economy as people who lose work will lose income and be forced to cut back on their spending, thus reducing demand for business more broadly.

California Jobs in Industries Most Immediately Impacted by COVID-19-Related Business Reductions and Closures

Industry	Number of California Jobs, 2019
Leisure and Hospitality	
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	321,433
Hotels and Other Lodging	238,133
Special Food Services	77,933
Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverages)	33,817
Full-Service Restaurants	654,400
Limited-Service Eating Places*	699,842
Retail Trade	
Retail Excluding Grocery, Pharmacy, and General Merchandise Stores	1,056,350
Transportation and Warehousing	
Air Transportation	58,783
Truck Transportation	133,242
Warehousing and Storage	148,108
Other Services	
Personal Care Services**	85,233
Private Educational Services	
Child Day Care Services	77,683
Total Nonfarm	17,466,650

* Includes fast-food, fast casual, takeout sandwich, and pizza shops.

** Includes barber shops, beauty salons, nail salons, and other personal care services.

Note: Number of jobs reflects 2019 annual average of non-seasonally-adjusted monthly employment data

Source: Budget Center analysis of Employment Development Department data

¹ Although many people employed in these industries have likely lost work in recent weeks, there are notable exceptions. For example, within transportation and warehousing, there has been *increased* demand for jobs supported by online shopping.