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In 2019, I grossed \$43,620 from a combo of self employment with touring acts as well as regular W2 employ.. I was production manager at Portland House of Music and Events, and was an audio engineer at Port City Music Hall, the State Theatre, and Thompsons Point. I am proud to have mixed, setup, and lit up the gamut from Grammy winning legends, national and regional acts from the Civic Center to the North Atlantic Blues Festival to the bar corner, local legends from Madawaska to Kittery, and many young students along the way who are the future of music.

In early Feb of 2020, I purchased a touring audio console package for roughly \$8k, and got one show in with it that made my first payment on the loan.

On March 12th, my career ended.

I of course submitted for Covid related unemployment, but my 1099 employ on top of my W2 employ confused the system irreparably, though awarded the max benefit, the money did not actually appear..I ended up being frozen in UI limbo until mid June. I was lucky to land a job in a mailing warehouse through a friend by mid April. I was lucky to have savings and credit cards to fall back on.

Still, in 2020 I grossed \$27,100 from engineering until March, the UI that did finally show up, and the warehouse gig... the simple math on the difference between 2019 and 2020 is a loss in income of roughly \$16,500 this one person is not pumping back into the economy around me. The simple math on my regular employers is that one in 4 of them will not return at all, and the other three will be dark for months to come.. I personally am lucky that my landlords are my neighbors also..they made clear they were willing to work with me were I not able to make rent. Port City Music Hall was not so lucky, and will not return. Every time I worked at Port City Music Hall, for my dinner break I would go down to Shays in Monument Square.

Let's just say I've mostly been making soup at home this year. The economic impact math of that one business being gone to people I know and love can't fit into 3 minutes. The devastating intangible mental health math is impossible to describe: not being able to work at what I know and love, feeling helpless but guilty knowing that I am lucky among hundreds of friends in the same limbo. I don't have children to provide for. I can lean out, go into debt, and survive as Mainers do. I can't imagine the depression, the stress on those with children, a mortgage, those with many thousands invested in their businesses instead of \$8k, those who didn't have credit cards or savings, those with employees they feel responsible for. I am one audio engineer. Thank you for hearing us.