

Uncertainty for Workers Losing Jobs at Atlantic City Casinos

Written by Administrator
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Photo



Nick Merlino, 73, a poker dealer at the Showboat Hotel and Casino, at a briefing Saturday about job searches and unemployment insurance benefits. Credit

Devin Yalkin for The New York Times

ATLANTIC CITY — As the summer season winds down, the air in this beachfront resort carries the sense of foreboding that precedes a tsunami. Casino shutdowns and mass layoffs are about to hit the boardwalk, leaving thousands of people out of work and unsure where to go or what to do next.

Sarah Rivera is one of them. After more than a quarter-century spent dealing cards and taking bets on rolling dice and spinning wheels, Ms. Rivera will lose her job when the Showboat Hotel and Casino closes for good on Sunday, the first of three casino closings scheduled to happen by mid-September.

After attending a briefing on Saturday about how to start a job search and apply for unemployment insurance benefits, Ms. Rivera was bewildered. Nearly two months had passed since Showboat's owner, Caesars Entertainment, announced the shutdown, but many longtime employees had only recently given up hope that their jobs would somehow be saved.

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"It's horrible," said Ms. Rivera, who is in her mid-40s. "This is not an easy thing to go through. It's really overwhelming at times. You kind of find yourself lost, and confused."

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