



G20 Countries COVID-19 Responses

November 2020

Disclaimer:

- The information included is correct at the time of writing (31/10/2020).
- Monetary value in USD is according to conversion rates on 26/10/2020.






COVID-19 G20 Country Analysis

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Argentina 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation rate	61% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 73% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 51% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	13.1% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	33.4% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	Undisclosed
	6) Labor Force PT workers	40% - 2019 (ILO)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	25.82% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	Undisclosed
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	1,166,924 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	31,002 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	973,939 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	On March 19 th , Argentina imposed a countrywide lockdown as part of efforts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in the country. They extended that lockdown until April 27 th , President Alberto Fernandez said in a televised address, adding that the measure would be applied only in major cities.

		<p>Transfers between cities was only to be allowed for exceptional reasons, in addition to circulation that continues to guarantee essential production, supply, health services and all essential services, according to the statement. Public transportation was also to be maintained for those who are exempt from complying with the regulations.</p> <p>Security forces patrolled streets to ensure no one leaves home unnecessarily.</p> <p>Authorities in recent months have begun allowing limited activity in cities and provinces with fewer infections. But Argentines nationwide are still required to wear masks in public, gatherings of more than 10 people are banned everywhere, and much of the country remains effectively locked down. The country extended official lockdown measures until August 30th, particularly in and around Buenos Aires. On October 12th, 2020, Argentina’s government issued a new extension of the mandatory lockdown for the Buenos Aires metropolitan region that was announced to last until October 25th, impacting many aspects of daily personal life and business life in the metro region. Whether to relax the quarantine in each province remains an internal decision of the governor in conjunction with the national government. Argentina is considered to have had one of the strictest lockdown measures worldwide.</p> <p>In late October, Luis Alberto Cámara, an epidemiologist who has advised the government on its coronavirus response, said he is unsure how society may be reopened safely. Every time a rule is relaxed, people who have been stricken with cabin fever rush back to their old ways, driving cases higher, prolonging the crisis — and creating a need for more restrictions.</p>
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C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection


Argentina revealed in mid-March, a 700 billion pesos (an estimated USD \$10 billion) stimulus package to try to sustain economic activity, avert shortages of food and medical supplies, help companies and protect workers and vulnerable groups affected by the deteriorating COVID-19 pandemic. The central bank opened up a 320 billion pesos (an estimated USD \$4.031 billion) credit line for companies to borrow at a preferential rate of 26% per year — less than the 38% benchmark rate — for 180 days to keep their businesses afloat, according to the ministry.

Banco Nación, the largest state-owned bank, offered 25 billion Pesos (USD \$320 million) in credits for producers of food, personal hygiene, cleaning products and medical supplies to keep up output. Another 8 billion Pesos (USD \$102 million) was made available for companies to buy computers and other technology so their employees can work from home.

The government announced the allotment of 350 billion pesos (USD \$4.409 billion) in direct payments to help unemployed workers, pensioners, family allowance beneficiaries and those on welfare. The measures also included suspending social security payments for companies in the most affected sectors, including airlines, hotels, movie theaters and restaurants as well as manufacturers unable to import raw materials. Argentina has offered the self-employed 10,000 pesos (USD \$157) for April 2020. A Comprehensive System of Unemployment Benefits produced between 02/01/20 and 04/30/20 was extended until 05/31/20. Emergency Family Income was paid out to those who are unemployed, in the informal economy, are monotax (based on the payment of a fixed monthly fee that meets two tax obligations: the value added tax (VAT) and the income tax), or are domestic workers.

The Emergency Assistance Program for Work and Production enacted a 95% reduction in employer contributions to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System (SIPA), alongside compensatory Salary Assignment for workers in companies with up to 100 workers. The REPRO Health Emergency Assistance provides sum paid by the State for workers in companies with more than 100 workers.

The government enacted a prohibition of dismissals without just cause and for the reasons of lack of or decrease of work and force majeure and suspensions for said causes until 05/31/20.

Australia 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation rate	65% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 71% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 60% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	5.3% - 2020 (ILO)
	4) Employment Rate	60.3% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	74.5% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	25.5% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	16.32% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	2.6 million
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	3,700 - 2015	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	27,590 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	907 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	25,324 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	<p>On March 29th, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison outlined a further set of restrictions to combat the coronavirus outbreak. Here is an updated list of the federal government's shutdown measures.</p> <p>Remain indoors:</p>

		<p>In general, no more than two people could be in public together, unless they are part of the same household. Weddings and funerals had separate limits. All over-70s are “strongly advised” to stay at home, as well as those over 60 who have a chronic illness, and Indigenous people over 50.</p> <p>Banned or closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered and licensed clubs, licensed premises in hotels and pubs, casinos and night clubs. • Cinemas and entertainment venues. • Auctions and open house inspections. • Personal services such as beauty therapy, tanning, massage and tattoo parlors (but not physiotherapy). • Outdoor and indoor markets • Amusement parks and arcades, and indoor and outdoor play centers. • Galleries, museums, libraries and swimming pools. • Gyms, boot camps and indoor sport venues. • Public playgrounds, outside gyms and skateparks. <p>Restricted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdressers and barbers can continue but must strictly manage social distancing with at least four-square meters per person. Originally a 30-minute time limit per customer was also imposed, but this rule was lifted on March 26th. • Restaurants and cafes can offer delivery and takeaway only. Food courts in shopping centers may also only offer takeaway.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weddings restricted to five people – the couple, the celebrant and two witnesses. • Funerals are generally limited to no more than 10 people, but on March 26th states and territories were given the power to make exemptions in special circumstances. • Visits to houses are subject to the same rules as public gatherings. <p>Remaining open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopping centers and other shops not specifically told to close, including bottle shops. • Medical centers. • Pharmacies. • Schools. <p>The federal government’s advice was that it is safe to send children to school up to the end of the term, but some pupil-free days will be needed to plan distance learning.</p> <p>Schools would reopen after the term break with a mix of distance learning and in-school learning for all “essential workers”, defined by the prime minister as anyone with a job. There are differences in how each state and territory is managing schools.</p> <p>New South Wales (NSW): Schools remain open, but it is up to parents to decide whether to send children to school, and parents have been advised to keep children home unless they need to work.</p> <p>Queensland: Schools remain open, but it is up to parents to decide whether to send children to school.</p> <p>Victoria: Schools closed for school holidays. Returned on April 13th.</p>
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	<p>Australian Capital Territory (ACT): Schools were pupil-free until the school holidays, but open to students who absolutely need to attend, such as those whose parents must attend work and cannot care for their children at home, as well as vulnerable children and those with additional needs. No child will be turned away.</p> <p>Tasmania: Schools remain open, but up to parents to decide whether to send children.</p> <p>Northern Territory (NT): Schools remain open, but optional for parents to send children.</p> <p>South Australia (SA): Schools remain open, but premier Steven Marshall recognizes parents will take children out of school, allowing for increased social distancing.</p> <p>Western Australia (WA): Schools remain open, but laws relaxed so it's not compulsory.</p> <p>All states and territories were working towards re-opening in term 2, depending on how the situation changed.</p> <p>Beaches: There were no outright bans, although people were advised not to go, and some Sydney beaches have been fenced off. It is up to councils to enforce the outdoor restrictions on social distancing.</p> <p>International travel: Overseas travel is banned, with some exceptions such as aid workers and compassionate travel.</p> <p>Arrivals from overseas are subject to compulsory 14-day quarantine in hotels or elsewhere, at public expense, following health checks on arrival at airports.</p>
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		<p>Interstate travel: NSW, the ACT and Victoria are the only states and territories to not implement restrictions on interstate travel. In the other states and territories, anyone visiting will be required to quarantine themselves for 14 days upon arrival, unless they are in sectors deemed essential. Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland have all closed their borders to a greater or lesser extent. Tasmania has said it will turn around visitors from interstate who do not have an essential purpose to their trip.</p> <p>Remote communities: The restrictions in the Northern Territory do not apply to the remote communities because of the strong restrictions already in place in those communities.</p> <p>A nightly curfew was stated to remain in effect until October 26th. On October 28th, the city of Melbourne exited a 112-day lockdown, after recording no new cases since June. Victoria state was the epicenter of Australia's second wave, accounting for more than 90% of its 905 deaths.</p> <p>As of October 28th, in Melbourne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People could freely leave their homes • All retail stores, restaurants, cafes and bars re-opened, with group limits of 10 patrons indoors • Household visits are allowed • Outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people can take place • Weddings can have up to 10 people, and funerals up to 20 <p>As of November 8th, in Melbourne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 25km (15.5-mile) travel limit will be removed, allowing Melburnians to travel elsewhere in Victoria
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gyms and fitness studios to re-open • Larger patron limits for restaurants and bars <p>Australia's lockdown measures were considered to be one of the most stringent, but also successful in causing a massive drop in case numbers.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>On March 22nd, 2020, the Australian Government announced an additional AUD \$66 billion (USD \$46.4 billion) stimulus package to support the Australian economy. This is in addition to the AUD \$17.6 billion (USD \$12.4 billion) package announced on March 12th. The Government is allowing sole traders who have seen their hours of work or income fall by 20% or more as a result of COVID-19 to access their superannuation, capped at AUD \$10,000 (USD \$7,028) this financial year and a further AUD \$10,000 (USD \$7,028) next financial year (tax free). Not-for-profits and small businesses with a turnover less than AUD \$50 million (USD \$35.2 million) will receive a tax-free cash payment of AUD \$20,000 (USD \$14,062) up to AUD \$100,000 (USD \$70,336) to help them retain staff and continue functioning, among other measures.</p> <p>On March 30th, the Government announced the AUD \$130 billion (USD \$91.5 billion) Job Keeper Payment to help keep Australians in jobs despite the significant economic impact from COVID-19. The JobKeeper Payment helps businesses significantly impacted by COVID-19 cover the costs of their employees' wages, so more Australians can retain their jobs and continue to earn an income. The Government has temporarily expanded eligibility for income support payments, including JobSeeker. In addition, a new Coronavirus supplement of AUD \$550 (USD \$386) per fortnight was made available until September 24th, 2020. The Government set aside AUD \$1 billion (USD \$702 million) to support regions and communities most significantly affected by COVID-19. These funds will be available to assist during the outbreak and recover.</p> <p>From March to September 2020, the Government temporarily expanded eligibility to income support payments and established a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of AUD \$550 (USD \$386) per fortnight. This was to be paid to both existing and new recipients of Jobseeker Payment, Youth Allowance Jobseeker, Parenting Payment, Farm Household Allowance and Special Benefit.</p> <p>The Government also provided two separate AUD \$750 (USD \$527) payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. The first payment was made from March 31st, 2020 and the second payment was made from July 13th, 2020. The second payment was not to be made to those eligible for the Coronavirus supplement. The Australian government also announced increases in their Job Trainer Programme in growth areas, to reskill and match job seekers with jobs in demand. The Government is supporting</p>	


small businesses to retain their apprentices and trainees. The program provided employers with a 50% subsidy for the wages paid to each eligible apprentice from January 1st, 2020 to September 30th, 2020.

The Government is also providing AUD \$1.6 billion (USD \$1.1 billion) to support childcare services to remain open in the wake of COVID-19 and to provide families who need it with access to care. To receive these payments childcare services must prioritize care to essential workers, vulnerable, disadvantaged and previously enrolled children, and must not charge families any fees for sessions of care provided.

The Government announced the provision of an AUD \$74 million (USD \$52.2 million) health and wellbeing package to support the mental health and wellbeing of Australians facing the challenges of COVID-19. This package provides careful, targeted and practical measures to support the mental health and wellbeing of Australians during the crisis, giving people direct access to online support and counselling services when and where they need it most.

The Government has announced an AUD \$250 million (USD \$176.1 million) stimulus package to support the cultural and creative sectors, whose work contributes AUD \$112 billion (USD \$78.9 billion) to the economy. The package would deliver:

- AUD \$90 million (USD \$63.4 million) in concessional loans to help businesses fund new productions and events, delivered through commercial banks.
- AUD \$75 million (USD \$52.8 million) in competitive grant funding to help production and event businesses to put on new festivals, concerts, tours and events as social distancing restrictions ease.
- AUD \$50 million (USD \$35.2 million) for a Temporary Interruption Fund to support local film and television producers to start filming again, administered by Screen Australia.
- AUD \$35 million (USD \$24.6 million) to support Commonwealth-funded arts and culture organizations facing threats to their viability due to COVID-19.

Brazil 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	64% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 74% 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 54% 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	13.8% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	47.1% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	84% - 2018 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	16% - 2018 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	32.65% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	6.3 million - 2014
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	5,535,605 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	159,902 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	4,972,898 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	A broad spectrum of medical professionals, scientists and regional leaders have appealed to Brazilians to remain indoors. In the beginning of the pandemic, governors and mayors brought the cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro to a near-standstill,

		<p>closing down non-essential businesses and most transport links.</p> <p>Starting May 11th, Brazil's southeast state of Sao Paulo, the epicenter of the country's COVID-19 outbreak, gradually began easing lockdown measures. According to Sao Paulo Deputy Governor Rodrigo Garcia, the state's 645 cities managed to preserve 74% of their economic activity during lockdown, while observing social distancing rules.</p> <p>Social distancing measures were relaxed by region, depending on local conditions. In the southern state of Santa Catarina, which borders Argentina, lockdown measures began to be lifted late April, but maintained limits on mass gatherings, while continuing to keep bars and restaurants closed.</p> <p>What has been noteworthy about the COVID-19 response in Brazil has also been the community-based responses in favelas. In Paraisopolis, for instance, Sao Paulo's largest slum, so-called street presidents helped their neighbors get food, health care and other necessities, and residents converted a public school into a space for people to stay who had tested positive for the virus.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>Brazil announced on March 16th, emergency measures to inject nearly 150 billion reais (USD \$30 billion) into the economy to soften the blow from the coronavirus pandemic. The measures don't include new money, but rather measures to bring forward social assistance payments, deferring company taxes, and making it easier for people to access workers' severance funds. The government also announced a 3.1 billion reais (USD \$551.8 million) boost to the 'Bolsa Familia' assistance for some of Brazil's poorest families that will bring more than 1 million new people into the program. The establishment of an "emergency monthly grant" to the most vulnerable, low-income, informal, self-employed and unemployed citizens, was also announced. It is worth noting that single parents (especially women) are allowed double the grant amount. Government estimates between 70 to 100 million Brazilian citizens may benefit from the emergency monthly grant. Citizens began to receive these monthly emergency aid payments in April and are due to end in</p>	


December 2020. Unless they receive other benefits, informal workers (intermittent contracts and freelancers) can receive a monthly payment for 3 months. This also includes funding of electricity bills of low-income citizens for 3 months.

The Brazilian Central Bank (BCB) has reduced the SELIC interest rate by 0.5% to a new historic low. The BCB has also made 1.2 billion reais (USD \$213.6 million) available to increase the liquidity of the financial system (equivalent to 16.7% of GDP).

Under the auspices of the BCB, a line of credit has been created for SMEs to pay the wages of workers that receive up to 2 minimum wages. Dismissals are not permitted while SMEs receive benefits. The payment of the credit will start 6 months after receiving the benefit and conclude within 36 months.

Caixa Econômica Federal and the Brazilian Micro and Small Companies Support Service (Sebrae) announced a 7.5 billion reais (USD \$1.3 billion) credit line for micro and small companies and individual micro-entrepreneurs (MEIs). The objective is to support small businesses in the face of the crisis caused by COVID-19.

The Federal Government has released 5 billion reais (USD \$889 million) in financing for the tourism sector. Companies such as tourism agencies, hotels, tourist carriers, guides, convention centers, entertainment and leisure enterprises, water and theme parks, car rental companies, event organizers, as well as restaurants, cafes, and bars, for example, may have access to credit. It is expected that 80% of the volume of resources will be allocated to micro, small and medium enterprises.

Canada 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	65% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 69% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 61% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	9% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	59.1% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	81% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	19% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	15.22% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	1.1 million - 2012
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	2,939 - 2017	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	234,511 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	10,136 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	195,876 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	Canada had stay-at-home orders in seven provinces, restrictions for international travel and shut its borders to anyone who isn't a citizen, a permanent resident, or a US citizen. While the country was not on full lockdown, Nova Scotia had been in a state of emergency. Starting in March 29 th , anyone


	<p>showing symptoms of the novel coronavirus was banned from boarding domestic flights and intercity passenger trains, the prime minister announced. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also said that the federal government has now formalized its updated rules for domestic travel across Canada.</p> <p>It was decided that Canada's borders would not reopen for Americans until at least September 21st. If you're a foreign national (not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada), you won't be able to enter Canada if you have COVID-19 symptoms. There are currently border restrictions for discretionary (optional) travel to Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at the Canada-U.S. border. • from any country other than the U.S. <p>Discretionary travel includes, but is not limited to, tourism, recreation and entertainment.</p> <p>If a traveler's entry is permitted, they'll be subject to mandatory quarantine for 14 days.</p> <p>As COVID cases increase in some provinces over others, it is hypothesized that the Canadian government may employ more targeted lockdowns that are data driven, such as through contact tracing. This would include the shutdown of specific places and placing particular restrictions on activities that are overwhelming contact tracers.</p> <p>For instance, the majority of cases in the British Columbia province since June, particularly in younger populations, have come from community transmission in places</p>
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	<p>like private parties, workplaces and restaurants. In July, British Columbia cracked down on vacation rentals and AirBnBs, limiting the number of people who can stay in one accommodation and putting restrictions on outside guests. This came following a spike in cases during the Canada Day long weekend in Kelowna, many originating from rental property parties.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>The day COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the WHO, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a CAD \$1 billion (USD \$756 million) response fund to assist health care providers and workers forced to self-isolate. The aid package includes funding for medical supplies, public education and testing, waives the one-week waiting period to apply for employment insurance, amongst other things. In mid-March, the Bank of Canada slashed its overnight rate for the second time in nine days. Simultaneously, the government announced an offer of CAD \$10 billion (USD \$7.6 billion) in credit support to businesses. National measures to tackle COVID-19 have also included social protection for the unemployed, seniors and women.</p> <p>The Plan includes measures to help affected businesses, such as: providing for a 75% wage subsidy, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, for qualifying businesses to help keep and return workers to the payroll, and defer income tax and Good and Service Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax payments; increasing the credit available to small, medium, and large businesses, including creating a new Business Credit Availability Program; creating a new Canada Emergency Business Account which will provide interest-free loans of up to CAD \$40,000 (USD \$30,245) to small businesses and not-for-profits; establishing a new Business Credit Availability Program to provide CAD \$65 billion (USD \$49 billion) in direct lending and other types of financial support.</p> <p>The Plan contains a number of sectoral supports in specific industries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture, agri-food, aquacultures, fisheries. • cultural, heritage and sports. • air transportation. • tourism. • energy. • non-profit and charitable. <p>For the unemployed, the plan includes improved access to employment insurance and a new Emergency Support Benefit, to provide a taxable benefit of CAD \$2,000 (USD \$1,512) a month for up to four months to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. They have reduced the number of hours to qualify for benefits, introducing new</p>




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	temporary benefits to self-employed or aid workers, or those who would typically not qualify.
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China 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	67% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 75% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 60% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	5.6% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	Undisclosed
	5) Labor Force FT workers	Undisclosed
	6) Labor Force PT workers	Undisclosed
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	46.5% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	38.82 million - 2019
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	4,459 - 2007	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	85,973 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	4,634 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	80,984 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	China implemented the largest quarantine in human history to try to contain the coronavirus, locking down at least 16 cities at the end of January. At its peak, China's quarantine spanned at least 20 provinces and regions. Wuhan, where the virus first appeared, was locked down on January 23 rd . For almost six weeks, the

	<p>streets were virtually deserted as Wuhan residents self-quarantined in their homes. Soon after imposing restrictions on Wuhan, China locked down 15 other cities, including Huanggang, a city of 7.5 million people, and Suizhou, which is home to almost 11 million people. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), China's containment measures prevented many more cases of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. On March 18th, China reported no new local cases for the first time since the outbreak began. According to CNN International, China lifted the lockdown on Wuhan on April 8th.</p> <p>It was announced that the pandemic is largely under control across China, and in most cities new cases have come from abroad. Restaurants and cafes have reopened with social distancing and sanitation rules.</p> <p>The government has mandated universities to put students under strict lockdowns, with security guards attending the gates at all times.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>China's Central Bank has increased available loans to banks by 500 billion yuan (USD \$71 billion) and lowered bank reserve requirements, freeing up 550 billion yuan (USD \$74.8 billion) in cash to be loaned out. It cut interest rates for banks and large corporations. The national government has also asked banks to extend the terms of business loans and landlords to reduce rents on commercial properties.</p> <p>Government policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilization of employment for 2020 and a number of specific targets were set including the creation of nine million new jobs in urban areas. • Two trillion yuan (USD \$299 billion) to be transferred in full to local governments to be used to ensure employment, meet basic living needs, and protect market entities. • One trillion yuan (USD \$149 billion) of government bonds for COVID-19 control will also be issued. • Measures to support MSMEs and the self-employed, including postponing the payment of corporate income taxes to next year. • Will continue implementing policies introduced last year on lowering VAT rates and the share of employees' basic old-age

	<p>insurance paid by enterprises and will make further tax and fee cuts of about 500 billion yuan (USD \$71 billion).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies introduced earlier in the year due to expire in June were extended until the end of the year, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exempting MSMEs from contributions to basic old-age insurance, unemployment insurance, and work injury compensation insurance schemes; ○ Reducing or cancelling VAT for small-scale taxpayers; ○ Exempting VAT on services such as public transportation, restaurants and hotels, tourism and entertainment, and culture and sports; ○ Reducing or cancelling civil aviation development fund contributions and port development fees. • Streamlining the approval process for businesses and fostering new growth drivers to keep employment stable. <p>Social protection measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of online platforms for social security services. • Eligibility to injury benefits for staff having contracted COVID-19 at work. • Reduction of employers' contribution to social insurance schemes. • Increased inter-provincial allocation reserve to better support low-income regions. • Reimbursement of online consultations for chronic and common diseases. • Unemployment social assistance for up to 6 months for the unemployed not eligible for unemployment social insurance benefits. Increased social assistance to families in difficulties. • Assistance and employment services for demobilized military personnel. • Policy to see rural migrant workers have equal access to employment services in the cities where they work. • Low-income earners will be allowed to postpone the payment of their social insurance premiums, all employment-related government charges will be cancelled, and sites will be designated for mobile vendors. • This year and next, more than 35 million vocational skills training opportunities will be provided, and enrollment in vocational colleges will grow by 2 million. • The government issued a series of notices and guidance to request local government to take strong measures to protect the physical and psychological health of medical workers, prevent their infection, provide favorable remuneration, guarantee their work- family balance, and prevent workplace violence.
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EU 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	57% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 63% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 51% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	6.4% - 2020 (ILO)
	4) Employment Rate	Undisclosed
	5) Labor Force FT workers	Undisclosed
	6) Labor Force PT workers	35% - 2019 (ILO)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	15.15% - 2020
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	23.4 million - 2015
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	Undisclosed
	COVID-19 deaths	Undisclosed
	COVID-19 Recovered	Undisclosed
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	Each EU country has the autonomy and authority to introduced measures as they deem appropriate to their individual country. This section should be considered alongside the sections for each individual EU country.

		<p>Banned non-essential travel into the region for at least 30 days, at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>During earlier times of the pandemic, borders between EU countries were shut haphazardly, causing disruption to goods delivery. In order to avoid chaos, guidelines were released as to how to gradually end lockdowns. It also denoted that general lockdowns should be replaced by targeted ones. Data will be shared cross-border.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>		<p>The European Commission announced that it was suspending debt and deficit requirements for members of the bloc, giving less economically-stable countries, like Italy, more room to fight the coronavirus. The European Central Bank announced the "Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program," a bond-buying scheme worth €750 billion (USD \$889.7 billion) to provide EU members with increased liquidity.</p> <p>The European Commission in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) agreed to unlock €8 billion (USD \$9.5 billion) of financing by providing €1 billion (USD \$1.2 billion) from the EU budget as a guarantee to the European Investment Fund (EIF). This supports the liquidity needs of about 100,000 European SMEs and small mid-caps worth €8 billion (USD \$9.5 billion). The EU supports national health care systems and procuring of essential equipment through a new Emergency Support Instrument (about €2.7billion; USD \$3.2 billion) and the rescEU-medical equipment capacity (€300 million; USD \$355.9 billion).</p> <p>The EU has put forward a global response to support partner countries' efforts to tackle the COVID-19. The response puts forward a Team Europe approach and focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the immediate health crisis and resulting humanitarian needs (€502 million; USD \$595.5 million) • Strengthening partner countries' health, water and sanitation systems and their research and preparedness capacities to deal with the pandemic (€2.8 billion; USD \$3.3 billion) • Mitigating the socioeconomic impact (€12.28 billion; USD \$14.6 billion) <p>The EU launched a pledging effort for universal access to treatment, diagnosis and vaccines – the Coronavirus Global Response – on May 4th. Out of the €15.9 billion raised since May 4th, €11.9 billion was pledged by EU Member States, the Commission and the European Investment Bank. Out of these €11.9 billion, €6.5 billion was raised between May 4th and May 28th. On October 15th, the EU published a communication on</p>

preparedness for COVID-19 vaccination strategies and vaccine deployment. For a safe and effective vaccine to successfully reach those who need it, Member States must start preparing for the deployment, step-up their communication efforts and prioritize the groups to first receive the vaccines once available.

On July 21st 2020, the European Council adopted conclusions on the recovery plan and multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027. Negotiations with the European Parliament are ongoing.


On July 1st, the European Commission adopted a Youth Employment Support package, which includes a new proposal for a Council Recommendation: Bridge to Jobs - reinforcing the Youth Guarantee. Among other elements, it widens the scope of the Youth Guarantee (created in 2013), covering youth aged 15-29 and has the ambition to reach out to more vulnerable young people across the EU. The principle remains that if you sign up to the Youth Guarantee, you will receive an offer of employment, education, apprenticeship or training within four months.

The European Social Fund (ESF) can rapidly intervene via the existing investment priority on access to services, short-term work schemes and specific schemes for the self-employed. A number of operations can be activated quickly, including the ones benefitting SMEs and the self-employed. The European Commission proposed a new financial instrument for temporary “Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE)”, in the form of a Council Regulation. The objective of SURE is to enable the EU to provide financial assistance to EU member states facing severe economic disturbances caused by COVID-19. Member states which experience a “sudden and severe increase in actual and possibly also planned public expenditure caused by the COVID-19 outbreak” can make a request for financial assistance.

The SURE instrument enables the European Union to provide member states with loans up to an overall total of €100 billion (USD \$118.6 billion) (as opposed to issuing grants as e.g. the European Solidarity Fund does). This lending scheme will be underpinned by a system of voluntary national guarantees from EU Member States. The SURE instrument becomes available after all Member States have signed the guarantee agreement. The instrument is then operational until December 31st, 2022. On August 24th and 25th 2020, the European Commission presented proposals to the European Council to grant financial support of €87.3 billion (USD \$103.6 billion) to 16 EU Member States under SURE.

On September 17th 2020, the European Commission presented next steps of €672.5 billion (USD \$797.8 billion) for the Recovery and Resilience Facility in the 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy. The new growth agenda helps to build a green, digital and sustainable recovery. The four dimensions of environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness and macroeconomic stability are the guiding principles of this strategy

	<p>underpinning EU Member States' recovery and resilience plans and their national reforms and investments.</p> <p>On October 27th, the EU Commission disbursed the first installments of SURE financial support to Italy, Spain and Poland. The support was earmarked to assist Member States in addressing increases in public expenditure to keep jobs, and particularly for short-time workers and the self-employed.</p>
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France 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	55% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 60% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 51% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	7.1% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	64.4% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	86.6% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	13.4% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	11.6% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	2.96 million - 2018
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	16,862 - 2017	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	1,367,625 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	36,788 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	117,658 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	On March 16 th , France implemented a full lockdown, banning nonessential businesses. French President Emmanuel Macron said that the 15-day lockdown would prohibit any public gatherings and walks outdoors. He told French residents to take public transit only if absolutely necessary and to buy

	<p>only essential groceries. Macron added that people who violate the lockdown will be punished. On March 27th, France extended its lockdown past the original 15 days and announced that the country would remain under lockdown until April 15th in light of growing infection and death rates.</p> <p>In July, it was announced that any new outbreak would not be responded to with another national lockdown, with business closures and stay-at-home order to be targeted at specific areas.</p> <p>In September, COVID cases began to increase again with the numbers of hospitalizations experiencing an upward trend. President Macron met with his government on Friday September 11th to discuss how to curb a surge in coronavirus infections without endangering a tentative economic recovery.</p> <p>Despite this, a new lockdown began on October 30th. People have been ordered to stay at home except for essential work or medical reasons. President Emmanuel Macron said the country risked being "overwhelmed by a second wave that no doubt will be harder than the first".</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>In mid-March, France's finance minister unveiled a €45 billion (USD \$53.2 billion) aid package for businesses and workers and indicated that more economic support was to come, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €6.5 billion (USD \$7.7 billion) of additional spending mainly devoted to the extension of short-time working and the setting up of a support fund for small businesses and the self-employed (for the latter, allowance of €1,500 (USD \$1,773) to compensate for the loss of activities and income). • €35 billion (USD \$41.3 billion) of deferred payment of taxes and social contributions for businesses; the government also plans to defer the payment of rents, electricity and water bills for businesses.


- An exceptional system of partial unemployment (partial activity) provides for the payment by the company of an indemnity equal to 70% of gross salary (around 84% of the net) to its employees, those paid at the minimum wage will be compensated at 100%.
- As of April 15th, 2020, requests for partial activity concerned 8.7 million employees and 732,000 businesses. The cost should exceed €20 billion (USD \$23.6 billion).

On September 3rd a 100-billion-euro (USD \$118.2 billion) stimulus package was announced over the next two years.

- €35 billion (USD \$41.3 billion) would be allocated to business competitiveness and industrial reallocation.
- €20 billion (USD \$23.6 billion) in reduction of production tax.
- €3 billion (USD \$3.5 billion) to strengthen company equity weakened by the crisis.
- €6.5 billion (USD \$7.7 billion) for the Youth Employment Plan (notably includes aid of €4,000 (USD \$4,725) for the hiring of a young person under 26 years for a minimum three-month contract, bonuses for hiring young people on work-study contracts, integration contracts).
- €5.2 billion (USD \$6.1 billion) in aid to local communities.
- €6 billion (USD \$7.1 billion) in investment for hospitals.

Exceptional aid for the recruitment of apprentices for all companies has been put in place: €5,000 (USD \$5,905) for an apprentice under 18 and €8,000 (USD \$9,448) for a major apprentice. 60,000 employment initiative contracts (assisted) will be released in the commercial sector (including 10,000 in 2020). In the associative or public sector, the subsidized contracts known as “Skills employment routes” will be increased by 60,000, in addition to the 20,000 initially programmed. 35,000 integration contracts through economic activity will also be targeted at young people in 2021. For young people failing in higher education, 100,000 new training courses will be offered "in the professions of the future" (ecological transition, health, digital, priority sectors of the recovery plan).

The long-term partial activity scheme at 84% of net salary will be maintained until the summer of 2021. This system allows for a reduction in working time up to a maximum of 40% of non-working hours, subject to a company or branch agreement, over a period of 6 to 24 months.


Germany 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	61% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 66% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 55% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	4.4% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	75.8% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	78% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	22% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	9.78% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	2.45 million - 2017
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	11,762 - 2016	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	531,790 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	10,583 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	345,700 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	<p>German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced on March 22nd, a nine-point plan to be implemented nationwide in a bid to stop the spread of coronavirus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public gatherings of more than two people would be banned,

	<p>with exceptions for families and those living together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General contact with others should be reduced to a minimum. • A 1.5-meter (4.9 feet) distance should be kept at all times when in public. • Gastronomy businesses must close. Businesses offering food delivery and collection will be allowed to remain open. • Service providers such as hairdressers, cosmetic, massage and tattoo studios where a two-meter distance between people is not possible must also close. Businesses and centers offering medical treatments may remain open. • Police and other law enforcement agencies will enforce any infractions of the new rules — Merkel did not state what the punishment would be for anyone not abiding by the new measures. • Hygiene regulations must be implemented for staff in the workplace, or for visitors. • Commuting to work, helping others and exercising alone outside will still be permissible, as long as the activities are carried out in accordance with the guidelines. • The measures would remain in place, initially for two weeks. <p>The German government had announced the enforcement of new tightening of restrictions, including limiting meetings to people from only two households, or groups of up to five people. Parties or weddings were still allowed in October, but the number of guests had been cut to a quarter of that permitted under previous rules - 25 people indoors, or 50 people outdoors.</p> <p>Masks must be worn in certain busy public areas, while alcohol consumption will also be banned in</p>
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	<p>those places and a curfew was imposed for restaurants between 11.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.</p> <p>German Chancellor Angela Merkel has announced tough new measures from Monday, November 2nd, in an attempt to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>New restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants and bars will close, except for take-away • Large events will be canceled again • Unnecessary travel is strongly discouraged • Overnight stays in hotels for tourist purposes is banned • All those who can work from home should do so and employers should ease a transition into working from home • Meetings in public will be restricted to just two households of up to 10 people total. • Entertainment facilities such as theaters and cinemas will be closed • Public recreation centers such as swimming pools, gyms and saunas will be closed • No crowds at sports events <p>What is allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and kindergartens will remain open • Church services and protests will be allowed to continue due to constitutional concerns • Nursing home residents will be allowed to receive visitors • Shops will remain open, with one customer allowed per 10 square meters (108 square feet)
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borders remain open
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>A coronavirus stimulus package worth over €750 billion (USD \$885.7 billion) was approved in Germany, marking the first instance of the German government taking on new debt since 2013. The fund, which German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet agreed upon on, includes €600 billion (USD \$708.5 billion) for business loans and to buy direct stakes in companies and €156 billion (USD \$184.2 billion) in debt to finance higher social spending. Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said the economy would need support even after the virus was contained. The federal government has given a service guarantee for social services and welfare until the end of 2020.</p> <p>They launched a program to support own account workers for three months, which provided financial aid and prevents them from having to close their businesses. Self-employed workers and small enterprises can receive one-time emergency aid from the federal government depending on the size of the business. Condition is that the economic difficulties are directly linked to the COVID 19 crisis and damage took place after March 11th, 2020.</p> <p>Workers that are eligible for short time work benefit additional earnings may generate while working in key sectors like the health or agricultural sector will not be deducted from the short time work benefit. The same applies to pensioners receiving old-age pensions where the limit for supplementary earnings has been raised.</p> <p>The budget proposal for 2021 includes 96 billion euros (USD \$113.5 billion) in new debts to stimulate economy and cope with the crisis.</p> <p>The federal government is extending credit lines and state guarantees for enterprises via the federal state investment bank KfW. Credits for enterprises of all sizes will be facilitated via a higher indemnity: The federal government will grant indemnity for up to 100% of the credit sum. In addition, support packages for start-ups and artists are currently setup by the federal government and some federal states.</p> <p>A number of tax reliefs will be granted: moratoriums on tax debts, adjusted prepayments, sequestrations suspended. The VAT tax rate has been cut from 19% to 16%, with the lower band going from 7% to 5% from July 1st until the end of the year.</p> <p>Rental protection: late or outstanding payments of lessees between April 1st, 2020 and June 30th, 2020 may not result in a termination of the rental agreement for 24 months. However, debts must be paid until June 30th, 2022 or cancellations may take place.</p> <p>Short time work benefit was increased from currently 60% (67% with children) of the former net income to 70% (77%) from the 4th month of</p>	

	<p>short time work and 80% (87%) from the 7th month until end of 2021 under certain conditions.</p> <p>Payment of unemployment benefit shall be extended for three additional months if it would expire between May 1st, 2020 and December 31st, 2020.</p>
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India 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	49% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 76% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 20% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	6.7% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	46.8% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	Undisclosed
	6) Labor Force PT workers	Undisclosed
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	76.01% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	42.50 million - 2017
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	8,182,881 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	122,149 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	7,489,203 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	In March 24 th , India's prime minister ordered lockdown of the country's 1.3 billion people for 21 days, with an extension until May 3 rd . India's stay-at-home order put nearly one-fifth of the world's population under lockdown. Essential service providers, including hospitals, police and


	<p>media had been exempted from the stay-in-place orders, and many grocery stores and pharmacies remained open.</p> <p>It was announced that the easing of restrictions would follow a phased approach starting from June 8th. This was termed “Unlock 1.0”. Unlock 2.0, was announced for the period from July 1st to 31st, with more easing of restrictions, including relaxations in the night curfew, provision for more domestic flights and trains, and clearance for more than five people in a shop. Unlock 3.0 was announced for August. The Ministry of Home Affairs removed restrictions on the movement of individuals at night while allowing yoga institutes and gymnasiums to open from August 5th. However, the strict enforcement of lockdown in containment zones were extended until August 31st.</p> <p>Similarly, Unlock 4.0 was announced for September, with students being able to visit schools for guidance from teachers. However, they will have to wear masks and will not be allowed to share notebooks, pens or water bottles. This will be on a voluntary basis for 9th to 12th grade students, with meetings with teachers needing to occur in a staggered manner.</p> <p>Simultaneously, during the month of July, as the country witnessed a record spike in the number of cases reaching 29,429 and a total infections rate nearing 1 million, the state sent 375 million of the population back into lockdown.</p> <p>Unlock 5.0 for the month of October has outlined the easing</p>
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	<p>of more restrictions. For schools, it is a preference to maintain online learning if possible, but States and Union Territories will be able to make those decisions from October 15th, in a graded manner. Lockdown remained in force strictly in the Containment Zones until October 31st, 2020. Also, swimming pools being used for training of sportspersons would be allowed to open. Cinema halls, that had remained closed all this while, have been allowed to reopen starting from October 15th, 2020, with 50% of their seating capacity.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>Modi's announcement of a 21-day lockdown at the start of the pandemic particularly affected the poorest, those in the informal sector, daily wage earners, and small business owners. India has announced a USD \$22.5 billion stimulus package to include food security measures for poor households and direct cash transfers, as announced by Finance Minister. The food security measures are to affect 800 million people.</p> <p>Cash transfer measures are set to benefit farmers, rural workers, poor pensioners, construction workers, low-income widowers and more. Additionally, India will provide a medical insurance cover of 5 million rupees (USD \$67,572) per person for front-line workers in the coronavirus outbreak. This includes nurses, doctors, paramedics, and sanitation workers in government hospitals. The Labour Ministry has asked central ministries and states concerned to ensure that employers do not fire their employees, particularly contractual or casual workers, or reduce their wages.</p> <p>The government has provisioned the transfer of USD \$26.25 to farmers, which is anticipated to benefit 8.69 million farmers.</p> <p>The Labour Ministry has also allowed over 60 million subscribers of the retirement fund body Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) to withdraw an amount not exceeding their three months basic pay and dearness allowance from their EPF account during the lockdown.</p> <p>The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has announced a financial package of over 353 crore rupees (USD \$47.7 million) to give cash handouts to an estimated 3.53 million daily wage earners. The Delhi government will pay salaries for all contractual staff, daily wage staff and guest teachers employed at places which have been closed.</p> <p>The current relief package also includes an insurance scheme for health workers, cash transfers to 204 million women, 30 million poor elders, 87</p>

million farmers and 136 million families. The unemployed also received health and cash transfers, with a deferred date of contributions for February and March with no tax.

There was also sector-specific support:

- USD \$1.96 billion earmarked for testing facilities, personal protection, isolation beds, ICU beds, ventilators and training medical and paramedical staff.
- District Mineral Fund diverted for supplementing and augmenting medical testing, screening and other activities
- 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19' was approved. It provides an insurance cover of USD \$65,000 for ninety days to a total of around 2.2 million public healthcare providers, including community health workers. It includes accidental loss of life on account of contracting COVID-19.
- Scheme approved on Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks for financing Common Infrastructure Facilities in 3 Bulk Drug Parks. Also approved was the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).


Indonesia 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	67% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 82% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 53% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	4.99% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	64.7% - 2018
	5) Labor Force FT workers	Undisclosed
	6) Labor Force PT workers	33% - 2020 (ILO)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	51.07% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	41 million - 2002
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	2,000 - 2002	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	410,088 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	13,869 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	337,801 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	Indonesia, in the early stages of the pandemic, expanded a partial lockdown to more areas near Jakarta, the epicenter of the country's coronavirus cases. President Joko Widodo's administration also ordered airlines to limit the number of passengers to 50% of aircraft

	<p>capacity to make travel difficult and more expensive. The government drafted regulations to stipulate the procedures and requirements for imposing regional quarantines, as confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to surge in the country.</p> <p>Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Minister Mahfud MD told journalists during a teleconference interview on Friday March 27th that the central government had been speeding up the regulation's drafting so that it could be issued immediately.</p> <p>The regulation stipulated matters such as at what time certain regions can impose restrictions of movement, or what is usually known as a lockdown, as well as the requirements, the boundaries and the procedures.</p> <p>While other countries in the world have stipulated regional lockdowns in March and April, the Indonesian president avoided such measures, and instead banned government employees, military and police personnel and those employed by state-owned companies from traveling during Ramadan, while appealing to the general public to avoid trips in view of the pandemic.</p> <p>As opposed to complete lockdowns, the country implemented a strategy of partial lockdowns, with large-scale restrictions (PSBB). This began in Jakarta and then expanded into other regions, with West Java, Gorontalo, and West Sumatra applying PSBB at the provincial level. As of May 28th,</p>
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	<p>four out of 27 regencies decided not to continue with the implementation of PSBB: Gowa and Makassar in South Sulawesi; Tegal, Central Java; and Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. The partial lockdown required offices, schools, places of worship and public spaces to close. Local administrations imposing the PSBB can limit transportation capacity within a region but are not given authority to close inter-regional transportation services.</p> <p>Indonesia re-imposed a citywide lockdown on Jakarta starting from September 14th, to contain surging cases of coronavirus infections crowding hospitals in the capital. Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan announced on September 8th that large-scale social restrictions will be re-instated which will require all offices and workplaces to suspend operations.</p> <p>Indonesia's president Joko Widodo had announced that 15 hotels would be used to quarantine COVID-19 patients with mild or no symptoms. Jakarta administrators have also converted part of an athletes' village built for international sporting events for asymptomatic patients who need to be quarantined. It is noted that most cases are from offices and transport, with those most expected to be affected by the new round of restrictions to be small and medium sized businesses.</p> <p>In early October, President Jokowi commented that lockdowns are unnecessary and</p>
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	<p>unduly hurt the economy. He reiterated that public health was the government's top priority, but that shouldn't mean sacrificing the economy.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>Indonesia announced a stimulus package of 120 trillion rupiah (USD \$8.1 billion) on March 13th. This includes exempting some workers in manufacturing from income tax (those who make 200 million rupiah (USD \$13,635) or less a year) and giving manufacturing companies a discount on corporate tax payments. A 10.3 trillion-rupiah (USD \$702.4 million) stimulus package was also announced to support consumer spending and tourism. Other means also included relaxing import rules on foods and export rules on fishery and forestry.</p> <p>The government announced a national response package to the pandemic with additional state budget allocation of 405.1 trillion rupiah (USD \$20.3 billion) to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health sector funding to include the purchasing of medical equipment and supplies such as test kits and ventilators and protection of and incentives for medical workers and nurses (75 trillion rupiah or USD \$3.8 billion). • Expanding social protection (110 trillion rupiah or USD \$5.5 billion). This includes the expansion of conditional cash transfer programme and staple food programme. Cash allowance for the programs is increased. • Budget allocation for Pre-employment card (Kartu Pra Kerja) is doubled to 20 trillion rupiah (USD \$1.4 billion). The cardholders are entitled to receive training and allowances. The scheme intends to help 5.6 million laid-off workers and informal workers among others. • Electricity bills discounted for 3 months. • Tax incentives and micro loans (70.1 trillion rupiah or USD \$5 billion). • Workers in the manufacturing sector with annual income below 200 million rupiah (USD \$13,632) will be exempt from income taxes for six months. • Financing for small-sized and medium enterprise as part of national economic recovery. • Social assistance will be provided to those who are laid off due to the outbreak. The Implementing Agency for Social Security for Workers will provide a cash compensation in the amount 1 million rupiah (USD \$68.3) per month up to three months. <p>The government requests employers to discuss in advance with the trade unions/workers representative at the company level and take alternative measures before laying off workers, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing wages and perks of the top-level positions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing work shifts• Limiting /removing overtime work• Reducing work hours• Reducing workdays• Temporary layoff or rotational work• (It can either) extend or not extend the contracts of the workers whose contracts have expired• Providing pensions for those who are eligible. <p>The government intensifies employment opportunity development and expansion program through entrepreneurship for affected workers, prospective migrant workers, repatriated Indonesian migrant workers, and MSME workers.</p> <p>The government strengthens partnerships with strategic partners at the bilateral, regional and global levels to safeguard investments and stabilize the trade and investment climate as well as maintaining the open labor market. The government extends work permits for workers in Indonesia for certain amount of time during the pandemic.</p>
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Italy 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	49% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 59% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 41% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	9.7% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	58.1% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	82% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	18% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	22.9% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	200,000 – 2011
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	19,518 – 2016	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	679,428 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	38,618 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	289,426 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	In Italy, a nationwide lockdown went into effect on March 10 th that restricted virtually all aspects of life for its 60 million citizens, including retail, leisure, worship, imprisonment, and travel. Large sporting events, schools and universities, museums, cultural centers,

	<p>swimming pools, and spas have been shut down throughout the country. While public transportation and airports were still operating, only essential travel was allowed, and those who want to travel for valid work or family-related reasons need police permission. All stores except for grocery stores and pharmacies were closed. Mortgage payments were also suspended, family members of prisoners were no longer allowed to visit, and healthcare workers were told to cancel vacations.</p> <p>Italy put in place new restrictions for the first time on August 17th since exiting lockdown. This included the closure of nightclubs and mandating people to wear facemasks, even outdoors, in areas with nightlife. This came as the average age of those infected with COVID-19 came down to 35, compared with the earlier average of mid-60s, correlating with the increased spread of the virus through socializing and young people. Nonetheless, Italy was able to control the increasing rate of infection and significantly decrease the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19. Schools were able to reopen on September 14th.</p> <p>In the last week of October, President Conte said that Italy had entered something he called “Scenario 3” and urged Italians to follow new measures or else the “virus will spread beyond control.” On Saturday October 31st, the government prepared for “Scenario 4,” with lockdowns in the most infected regions.</p>
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C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection


Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced on March 9th that he was ready to spend as much as 25 billion euros (USD \$28.3 billion) on stimulus measures to shield the economy from the coronavirus outbreak. Potential measures for discussion in cabinet included help for workers facing temporary layoffs, boosting a guarantee fund for loans to SMEs, compensation for firms whose turnover has plunged more than 25%. A suspension of tax and VAT payments, social security and welfare contribution and mandatory insurance for March-April 2020 was announced, as well as the withholding of tax for professionals without employees, with revenues or fees not exceeding €400,000 (USD \$472,655).

Employment retention and income support:

- Employment retention with income support (80% of gross salary and full social security contribution) during periods of temporary or permanent disruption of production resulting from economic, industrial or financial hardship. It extended to all sectors — except for domestic work - and enterprises, regardless their size of the latter.
- Wage compensation (€600(USD \$709)/month) to enterprises not eligible for employment retention scheme in cases of reduction of activity or reduction of hours of work. It equals 80% of hourly wage.
- €600 (USD \$709)/month for income loss of seasonal workers, self-employed and external collaborators.
- €300 (USD \$354) cash transfer by municipalities for the poor without income or pension.

Support to liquidity of enterprises:


- Central Guarantee Fund to support the negotiation of loans, including by SMEs.
- National Investment Bank's guarantee for banks granting credit to companies.
- Moratorium on loan repayment by MSMEs, including mortgages, leasing and short-term loans.
- Extension of access to credit by micro enterprises through Guarantee consortium.
- Volatility adjustment mechanism for insurance companies. Savings compensation fund.
- Compensation to shareholders and bondholders for the losses due to bank crisis with advance payment (40% of due compensation).

Japan 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	62% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 71% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 53% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	3% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	60.3% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	74.8% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	25.2% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	10.14% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	3.5 million - 2018
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	100,392 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	1,755 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	92,475 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a state of emergency in Tokyo and six other hard-hit Japanese prefectures to fortify the fight against the coronavirus outbreak. Japan raised its defenses against imported cases by banning the entry of foreigners traveling from the United States, China,

	<p>South Korea and most of Europe. According to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, if a state of emergency is declared under the revised influenza law, people's activities will be restricted based on an action plan it has devised. Land and buildings will be able to be used without consent from their owners to build provisional medical institutions and necessary medical supplies and food products, among other items, can be expropriated.</p> <p>However, residents will be able to be asked and instructed, but not legally forced, to refrain from using certain movie theaters, department stores, barber shops and other commercial facilities where people gather. Hospitals, grocery shops, banks and public transportation will not face restrictions, because these businesses and services are considered necessary for maintaining society.</p> <p>All the measures, however, are not legally binding and have no punishments. A representative of the metropolitan government said, "If people don't act according to our requests, we will issue another instruction. Even if that doesn't work, that's it." In other words, Gov. Koike's request for self-imposed restraint in outdoor activities will just be upgraded to a legally based request.</p> <p>It is interesting to note that no restrictions were placed on residents' movements, and businesses from restaurants to hairdressers stayed open. Japan has also tested only 0.2% of its population; one of the lowest rates among developed countries. They have also managed to flatten their curve, leaving many wondering how they managed to do so.</p>
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		<p>Explanations include an existing mask-wearing culture, a famously low obesity rate, and grassroots contact tracing amongst nurses who are experienced in infection tracing.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>The Government of Japan had adopted two emergency response packages to address the COVID-19 outbreak (on February 13th and March 10th), for a total amount of ¥446 billion (approx. USD \$4.2 billion, 0.1% of GDP). Japan’s prime minister, pledged to compile an economic package of “unprecedented scale” within 10 days of March 28th that included cash handouts, tax relief and measures aimed at protecting small and medium-sized businesses. The package included cash pay-outs to households and non-direct spending such as credit lines and guarantees. The government also adopted additional Emergency Economic Measures for Response to COVID-19 of 108 trillion yen (approx. USD \$1 trillion, equivalent to 20% of Japan’s GDP) to protect the lives and lifestyles of the public and move towards economic recovery.</p> <p>Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash payment of ¥300,000 (USD \$2,855) each to households in need. • Establishing a rent support grant for SMEs of ¥2,024.2 billion (USD \$19.3 billion), to include cash payments of ¥2 million (USD \$19,040) each to micro-, small-, and medium-sized business and ¥1 million (USD \$9,520) each to individual business owners. • The government made an exception in the living and welfare fund loan program for households facing income decline due to the impacts of COVID-19. • ¥2,989.2 billion (USD \$28.5 billion) was dedicated to supporting medical treatment providers. • ¥136.5 billion (USD \$1.3 billion) was dedicated to additional payments to low-income single parent households. • Established a new subsidy system that covers employees, no matter permanent or non-permanent (up to ¥8,330 (USD \$79.3) a day). • Deferment of the payments of national taxes and social security premiums without collateral and penalties (amounting to ¥26 trillion (USD \$247.6 billion)). • Support self-employed people performing subcontract work (¥4,100 (USD \$39)) a day for those who meet certain eligibility criteria). • Support in the form of discounts and vouchers: tourism, transport, food services, and event businesses. • Cash payments were also sent out to all residents for the purpose of fostering national solidarity against COVID-19. This amounted to approximately ¥12.9 trillion (USD \$122.9 billion). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency microcredit loans to troubled households involved a 200K loan (no interest) to those who need temporary money, and an additional loan (no interest) of 450K-600K from April to July to those who need to rebuild their lives. Loans are forgivable in certain cases.• They have also introduced a retention subsidy to employers to keep their employees instead of shedding, to include non-regular employees, alongside a subsidy to self-employed parents, freelancers and non-regular employees.
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Mexico 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	61% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 78% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 44% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	5.2% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	94.8% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	82.4% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	17.6% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	31.7% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	5.6 million - 2014
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	918,811 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	91,289 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	673,457 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	Schools officially closed from March 20 th , although some states had already suspended attendance earlier. In late March, the government also announced the prohibition of gatherings of over 50 people and the shutdown of the “non-essential” private

	<p>sector. Although the measures were not to be forced, on March 28th, Mexico's deputy health minister strongly urged the country's 130 million citizens not to leave home in a bid to stop the spread of coronavirus. Most of the Mexican economy stopped on March 23rd but some industries that were declared key to the functioning of the nation were exempt from the restrictions.</p> <p>Mexico began easing restrictions in June, although cases were still high. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador noted that "we have to move towards the new normal because it's necessary for our national economy, our people's wellbeing; we need to, little by little, return production, economic, social and cultural activity to normal."</p> <p>Mexico revealed a "traffic light" plan for restarting the economy from June 1st. In red zones only "essential" activities such as construction and mining can restart, whereas in green zones activities in public spaces may return and even schools can reopen, albeit while respecting social distancing and personal hygiene guidelines.</p> <p>After months without museums, cinemas and bars, Mexico City residents began exploring them again mid-August. It was noted that this re-opening would be crucial for mental health. Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum says she is monitoring hospitalization levels to see when to open more activities.</p> <p>The temples and pyramids of Teotihuacan reopened to visitors early September, more than five</p>
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	<p>months after closing in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Only 3,000 people a day are allowed to visit the main archeological zone. Those allowed into most sites must line up for limited tickets, get their temperatures checked, wear face masks, get a dose of hand sanitizing gel and stay around 1.5 meters from each other.</p> <p>In late October, Mexico's northern border state of Chihuahua returned to the highest level of alert and lockdown after coronavirus cases jumped there and hospitals began to fill up. The Chihuahua state government declared the return to the "red" level of alert Friday, which closes down most non-essential services and encourages people to stay at home. Nationwide, 19 of Mexico's 32 states are at high alert, 11 at medium alert and one state being considered at moderate risk level.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>Mexico's president unveiled a plan that pledged to create two million new jobs in the nine months following March and boost small business and housing loans. Mexico's state-owned oil company will receive 65 billion Mexican pesos (USD \$2.6 billion) in tax cuts under a proposed spending plan. A vow was also made to tighten public sector austerity to avoid debt.</p> <p>It was also announced that a budget stabilization fund and cash from public trusts were to be used to fund plans to shield the poor from a slump economists expect to be severe.</p> <p>Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of microcredits for well-being (microcredits without interest) and extension of the grace period from one to three months. • Three million loans of 25,000 pesos (USD \$1,193) are to be extended to formal and informal companies. For formal companies (registered in the IMSS), the requirement is to have been "supportive" and have not laid off workers, or lowered wages in the year. Credits are also granted to family and informal micro-businesses (Family micro-business modality). • In some states, access to online registration began to be applied for a loan, payable in 24 months. These credits are mainly

	<p>intended for microentrepreneurs and informal entrepreneurs. The universal pensions for older adults and people with disabilities were advanced, at the end of March, they received the payment equivalent to 4 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Institute of Social Security and Services for State Workers will hold raffles to grant loans to workers. The delivery of approximately 672,000 loans is expected, for a total amount of 35 billion pesos (USD \$1.7 billion). • The National Fund for the Consumption of Workers (FONACOT) grants 300 thousand credits of 10,000 pesos (USD \$476) to formal employees. • The Mexico City Unemployment Insurance program was expanded to more beneficiaries to support people living in Mexico City who lost their formal employment as a result of COVID-19, which consists of 1,500 pesos (USD \$71.7) to those that involuntarily lost their jobs and come from the formal sector. • An “Emergency Support for Non-Salaried Workers Residents of Mexico City, in the face of the SARS-COV2 (COVID-19) emergency” was also established, through which a single amount of USD \$1,500 will be delivered between April and June. • The state of Yucatan, in the Mexican southeast, established a temporary unemployment insurance program, which ran until May 31st, 2020. • The Mexican Social Security developed a temporary mechanism for the payment of social security employer-employer contributions for domestic workers. <p>The Mexican Institute of Social Security created a multimedia repository for the training of its health personnel on issues related to COVID-19, which compiles various documents that address prevention issues, the different phases of the epidemic, hospital management, as well as online courses and a section on sectoral or institutional notices, amongst others.</p>
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Republic of Korea 🇰🇷		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	63% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 73% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 53% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	4.6% - 2020 (ILO)
	4) Employment Rate	60.4% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	86% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	14% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	25.1% - 2018
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	3.5 million - 2014
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	26,511 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	464 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	24,311 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	The Republic of Korea did not implement a full lockdown but has taken other measures to mitigate the outbreak of COVID-19. They have set the most expansive and well-organized testing program in the world, combined with extensive efforts to isolate infected people and trace and

	<p>quarantine their contacts. South Korea never imposed a curfew nor stopped its people from going to work. Despite this, South Korea managed to stabilize the infection rate – or “flatten the curve.” The mass manufacturing of tests allowed the government to successfully test significant parts of the population for coronavirus, rolling out over 600 testing centers and making testing easy and available. This mass of data allowed authorities to monitor the spread of the virus and treat those with it. The government sent texts out to residents informing them when a case was discovered nearby and allowed access to its tracking data. Many chose to self-quarantine, and using the tracking data, they could also see which public spaces were high-risk areas for infection and should therefore be avoided.</p> <p>The country remained in what it has called phase two social distancing through to September 27th, and restrictions became stricter on September 28th for Chuseok, a three-day holiday traditionally spent with family.</p> <p>In August, the country began the enforcement of stricter restrictions and lockdown measures to curb the spread of the virus. This included banning large gatherings, shutting nightclubs and churches, and removing fans from professional sports. Karaoke bars, buffet restaurants and computer gaming cafes in the greater capital region have also closed. The same measures were announced to apply nationwide, although Health Minister Park Neung-hoo said local governments will be permitted to</p>
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	<p>exercise some level of flexibility, such as advising business shutdowns rather than enforcing them, if infections are low.</p> <p>But as cases of infection continued to rise the country continued to remain in a state of “quasi-lockdown”. Eating out was banned after 9.00 p.m. and gyms and indoor activity centers closed in the capital region. Restaurants were not allowed to have eat-in customers from 9.00 p.m. until 5.00 a.m. Franchise coffee chains were allowed to only offer delivery and take away services regardless of hours. Also, 671 vocational training institutions that provide services to nurture technical and functional talents at industrial sites have also been advised to provide only online training. Most schools shifted back to remote learning. If the viral spread didn’t slow, health authorities said they may raise social distancing measures to the highest “Level 3,” which could include banning gatherings of more than 10 people and advising private companies to have employees work from home.</p> <p>From mid-October, South Korea relaxed its social distancing guidelines, allowing high-risk businesses like nightclubs and karaoke bars to open as long as they employ preventive measures, such as requiring masks and keeping lists of visitors.</p> <p>Spectators are now also re-allowed in professional sports, although teams are initially allowed to only sell 30% of their seats in stadiums.</p>
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C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection

South Korea announced a series of stimulus measures worth more than \$80 billion. The Bank of Korea provided banks with USD \$12 billion on Tuesday March 31st in its first round of dollar injections to stabilize the foreign exchange market, following a \$60 billion currency swap with the US on March 19th. The agreement consists of a bilateral currency swap facility for at least six months, as was announced in March.

Support is being provided for rental fees for micro-business owners (providing a 50% tax relief cut when building owners reduce rental fees for micro-business owner tenants, and rental fees cut for buildings owned by the government and public organizations).

Support for the local economy – fiscal support through an emergency budget execution in local areas for the first of this year, issuing additional local gift certificates and offering a larger discount on them and providing special support worth 1.7 trillion won (USD \$1.5 billion). Tax investigations are suspended in local areas, alongside help being provided to pay local taxes in instalments and postponing due dates for tax payments. Local governments and municipalities that prop up local SMEs are backed through loans and guarantees.

Support for SMEs – Support programs were provided to normalize the operations of affected stores that were visited by confirmed patients. Support for rental fees for micro-business owners by providing a 50% tax relief cut when building owners reduce rental fees for micro-business owner tenants, and rental fees cut for buildings owned by the government and public organizations. An emergency relief fund was established for affected SMEs. The deadline of filing and paying internal and local tax returns was extended, alongside postponing tax investigations, and applying a grace period for collecting taxes. Lending support via loans and guarantees were expanded. Expediting customs procedures for raw and sub-materials, and helping to identify alternative procurement services, was also set as a priority.


Other measures include:

- Providing emergency livelihood aid to workers on unpaid leave and on leave of absence.
- Reducing application requirements for employment subsidy of the dependent self-employed and freelancers.
- Providing zero-interest loans to construction workers to help their livelihoods.
- Paying employment promotion subsidy in advance for the aged who participated in public services.
- Temporarily simplifying procedures for employers to apply for a subsidy (up to 2 million won (USD \$1,767) a year per employee) for introducing flexible work arrangements like work from home, remote work or selective work hours.
- Starting “Special Support Program for Regional Employment Response to COVID-19”, with the aim of supporting customized employment security measures for the needs of regional communities.

- Designating “special employment support sectors” for increased levels of employment security support for those hit hardest by the outbreak, such as the travel industry and tourist accommodation services.
- Promoting family care leave (up to ten days a year, up to 500,000 won (USD \$441) for a couple) for workers in urgent need of childcare.
- The “Emergency Employment Stability Subsidy” was announced on April 22nd, 2020, to support small business owners, non-standard contract employees and freelancers and SME workers on unpaid leave by granting 500,000 won (USD \$441) a month for three months. Through this new measure, the government can now provide support for income loss to the workers who have been excluded from previous job security support measures. This is particularly meaningful in that some dependent self-employees and freelancers are excluded from other support programs.

There was also sector-specific support:

- Airline and shipping industries received lower rates for ports and airport facilities, reduced rental rates, emergency lending targeting LCCs, passenger ships, and stevedoring companies, injecting liquidity when companies confirm a reduction in freight or cargo volume and introducing a public guarantee program on operational leases for airliners.
- The tourism, restaurant and services industries, received reduced asset taxes on accommodative facilities, extended due dates of patent rights payments from duty free shops and permitting instalment payments, eased requirements for subsidies for employment stability, among other means.

Russia 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	61% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 70% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 54% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	6.4% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	58.3% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	96% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	4% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	6.7% - 2018
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	6 million - 2019
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	8894 - 2015	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	1,618,116 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	27,990 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	1,215,414 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	As of the end of March, Muscovites were forbidden from leaving their homes. Exceptions were made for key workers; medical emergencies; buying groceries and medicine; walking pets within 100m of home; and disposing of rubbish. Restaurants, bars, and parks in Moscow were

	<p>also closed. This decision came three days after the Kremlin insisted there was "de facto no epidemic" in Russia. People were still allowed to leave and enter Moscow, but all other movement within the city required special permits. Russia also closed its borders and cancelled any international flights, except for those bringing Russians home.</p> <p>In June, authorities in Moscow eased lockdown restrictions, even as case numbers continued to rise. Parks and shopping centers in Russia's capital reopened and people were allowed out for walks and limited exercise for the first time in nine weeks. Businesses reopened in the city, including car dealerships, book shops, laundrettes and shopping malls. Parks too began allowing visitors, with new exercise rules announced. People would be allowed out for walks three times a week between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., using a rotation determined by their home address. Residents could also go outside for exercise, but only between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and only if they wear a face mask. However, authorities said a ban on public gatherings would remain in place until at least June 14th. Facemasks became mandatory though plenty of people take that quite loosely, stringing them round their chins.</p> <p>Officials announced in late September that they are not planning a second coronavirus lockdown, despite an uptick in daily cases. The Kremlin has regularly stressed that it saw no reason to return to shutdowns. Initially, because it saw that it was normal for there to be an increase in cases as people returned to</p>
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	<p>being in contact with each other, either as a result of returning from holiday, or returning to university or work. It is also cited that it is also the beginning of the flu season.</p> <p>Early in the month of October, Russian authorities were reporting over 10,000 new cases every day but maintained that there are no plans to impose a second lockdown. Russia has lifted most of the virus-related restrictions imposed in the spring. In Moscow, officials have recommended the elderly to self-isolate at home and have extended school holidays by a week. Moscow's mayor also ordered employers to have at least 30% of their staff work from home.</p> <p>The developer of Russia's first registered coronavirus vaccine predicted that COVID-19 would stop spreading by November 2021, when he said up to 80% of the population will be vaccinated against the infection.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>Prime Minister Mikhail Misusing announced a USD \$4 billion bailout package on March 16th to aid at risk businesses due to the drop-off in economic activity. He indicated measures that would include tax breaks for tourism companies and airlines, and that Russia would expand its preferential loans program for businesses.</p> <p>The government's plans to dramatically ramp up stimulus measures to prop up the economy included the roll out of about 1 trillion rubles (USD \$13.5 billion) of new spending.</p> <p>The monthly unemployment benefit has been increased from 8,000 rubles (USD \$105) to the minimum wage amount of 12,130 rubles (USD \$159). All families that are eligible for maternity capital are given an additional 5,000 rubles (USD \$65.7) a month for each child up to three years of age. Payments were made in April, May and June of the maximum amount of unemployment benefits of 12,130 rubles (USD \$159) to unemployed citizens dismissed after March 1st, 2020, regardless of the duration of their service and the level of earnings at the previous place of work. This was accompanied by an Increase of the amount of unemployment benefits in April, May and June to one of the parents</p>

	<p>dismissed after March 1st, 2020, at the rate of 3,000 rubles (USD \$39.4) for each minor child.</p> <p>All social protection benefits were renewed automatically over the six months following March. The government had advanced payments to war veterans and home-front workers timed to the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War (75,000 (USD \$985) and 50,000 rubles (USD \$656.9), respectively).</p> <p>For employment retention of workers, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection has developed a package of labor market support measures with an aim to create temporary employment opportunities for workers who are under risk of dismissal or part-time workers. The government has provided advanced professional training, apprenticeship and internship opportunities to those who are at the risk of dismissal.</p> <p>The Russian Federation has worked on expanding access to paid leave. The government developed temporary rules for remote issuance of sick leave notes and sick pay for quarantined workers for their convenience. To provide sufficient payment for sick leave for young people who might not have worked for long, calculation of sick leave payments will be made based on the amount of at least one minimum wage payment a month rather than period of work and salary (until the end of 2020).</p> <p>To support businesses, particularly MSMEs, the following measures have been implemented. Social insurance contributions by SMEs have been cut from 30% to 15%. Contributions to social insurance funds have been deferred for microbusinesses. Loan rescheduling for self-employed people has begun. Bank loans to SMEs and microbusinesses were deferred from March to after September. Soft lending programs (loans with below-market interest rates) have been expanded for SMEs. The tax burden to SMEs has been reduced. Fiscal control of SMEs has temporarily stopped.</p> <p>The government has announced the provision of new special loans for systemically important enterprises with interest rates on such loans subsidized by the state. A 6-month moratorium on bankruptcy claims by creditors against companies and on the recovery of debts and penalties, particularly for businesses operating in the most affected sectors, has been announced.</p> <p>The government is allocating more than 23 billion rubles (USD \$302 million) to support aviation companies, including compensation for tour operators for their financial losses, particularly concerning non-refundable air tickets. In addition, provision of access to easy loans is provided for shops to maintain reserves of essential products (groceries, children's products, medicine, medical goods, etc.)</p> <p>The government is also providing support to the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs to organize the actions of volunteers/doctors on medical support (242 million rubles (USD \$3 million)).</p>
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Saudi Arabia		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	59.4% - 2020 (GASTAT LFS)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 78.9% - 2020 (GASTAT LFS)
		Female: 30.6% - 2020 (GASTAT LFS)
	3) Unemployment Rate	9% - 2020 (GASTAT LFS)
	4) Employment Rate	91% - 2020 (GASTAT LFS)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	Undisclosed
	6) Labor Force PT workers	8% - 2015 (ILO)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	4.9% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	950,000 - 2017
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	347,282 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	5,402 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	333,842 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	The Kingdom took drastic measures early on to contain the disease, including halting international flights, suspending the Umrah year-round pilgrimage, closing mosques, schools, malls and restaurants, and imposing a nighttime curfew.

	<p>The Saudi authorities enforced a total lockdown on the capital Riyadh, along with Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest cities, as part of tighter restrictions against the virus. On Sunday (March 29th) Jeddah became the fourth city under total lockdown. The Kingdom also renewed a halt to international and domestic flights, as well as local transport until further notice.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia imposed a 24-hour lockdown on residents in all of its major cities and ordered non-essential businesses to shut until further notice in an effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. The curfew applied country-wide. All commercial enterprises other than pharmacies, medical centers, groceries and a handful of other essential services closed, following ministry orders.</p> <p>During the holy month of Ramadan, total lockdown restrictions were eased during the day, and a curfew of 5.00 p.m. in Jeddah and 8.00 p.m. in Riyadh was re-established. A 24-hour lockdown was re-instated during Eid to avoid gatherings and a spike in cases.</p> <p>A UNESCO report praised Saudi Arabia because it had “ensured the continuation of the remote educational process and maintained the safety for more than six million students in public schools and universities.” Online classes were set up within 10 hours of the decision to close schools in late March and lessons were broadcast via satellite on 20 TV channels. They were also available on</p>
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	<p>YouTube where views reached more than 61 million. In higher education, 27 public universities hosted two million virtual classes and more than six million panel discussions.</p> <p>A three-phase return to normality, was announced. The first phase covers three days from May 28th to May 30th, when curfew times eased in the Kingdom's regions, except Makkah, between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. Travel between cities and regions in private vehicles was allowed outside curfew hours. Work activities that were previously exempted, including wholesale and retail shops and malls, were allowed to resume and operate outside curfew hours.</p> <p>In the second phase, from May 31st to June 20th, the curfew time was further relaxed in the Kingdom's regions, except Makkah, between 6.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. Friday and group prayers in the Kingdom's mosques, except in Makkah, was permitted again with precautionary measures in place.</p> <p>Saudi Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Ahmed Al-Rajhi said that public sector employees will gradually resume work.</p> <p>Suspension of domestic flights were lifted, while adhering to the precautionary measures and procedures specified by the General Authority of Civil Aviation in coordination with the Health Ministry and other relevant authorities.</p>
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		<p>Work activities exempted in previous decisions continued to operate. Restaurants and cafes reopened and ordering inside the premises became allowed, while taking into consideration precautionary measures and social distancing. Social distancing in public places continues to be implemented at all times, while the ban on social gatherings of more than 50 people, such as weddings and funerals, remains in force.</p> <p>Currently, the majority of the workforce is back to working from the office, whilst flexibility to work from home still remains. Gyms, salons, barbershops, and cinemas are open, but must comply with social distancing requirements. Limited international aviation has also returned, subject to receiving a permit to travel.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>Saudi Arabia announced emergency stimulus measures that took its support for the economy to more than USD \$32 billion. 70 billion riyals (USD \$18.7 billion) have been set aside to help businesses, with measures such as exemptions and postponements of some government fees and taxes. Saudi business owners will be allowed to postpone value-added tax (VAT), excise tax, and income tax payments for a period of three months. On May 11th, 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced that the cost of living allowance would be suspended as of June 1st, and the value added tax (VAT) would be increased from 5% to 15% effective July 1st.</p> <p>The Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) revealed a 50 billion riyal (USD \$13.3 billion) economic stimulus package to support the private sector, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), specifically by reducing the burden of cash flow fluctuations, supporting working capital, enabling the sector to grow and contributing to supporting economic growth, and maintaining employment. As part of the 70 billion riyal (USD \$18.7 billion) stimulus package, directives have also been issued to form a number of ministerial committees that aim to study the impact and repercussions of the emerging coronavirus crisis and its challenges on sectors or regions, and study the prospect and means of tackling them through subsidies or stimulus packages or other forms. These committees are: Energy Committee; Trade, Tourism, Entertainment and</p>	

Sports Committee; Industry and Mineral Resources Committee.; and Logistic Services Committee.

By April 2020, the volume of support for the health sector reached 47 billion riyals (USD \$12.5 billion), aimed at raising the health sector's readiness, securing medicines, operating additional beds, and providing necessary medical supplies such as ventilators and laboratory tests devices and supplies, in addition to securing the necessary medical and technical personnel from inside and outside Saudi Arabia. A decision was also made to support self-employed individuals who are not employed by any company and registered with the Transport General Authority in the activities of passenger transport and were stopped due to the precautionary measures of the Coronavirus, by paying a minimum amount of salaries to them.

By the mid of April 2020, additional initiatives were introduced, including allocation of 50 billion riyals (USD \$13.3 billion) to expedite payment of private sector dues, and a 30% discount on the value of electricity bills for consumers in the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors for a period of two months (April - May), with the possibility of extension if needed.


The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD) with the General Authority of Awqaf launched a "community fund", with a capital of 500 million riyals (USD \$133 million), to support the segments of society most in need and those most affected by the pandemic, including the poor, people with disabilities, prisoners' families and elder people, amongst others. New special provisions were issued to allow for delaying rent requests (by 3 months). This applies for 6 months, from March 20th to September 20th. King Salman ordered the government, through Sanad program, to bear 60% of Saudi employees' salaries for a period of three months, at a maximum of 9,000 riyals (USD \$2,400) monthly, with a total value of SR9 billion. The aid is expected to support 1.2 million of those working in coronavirus affected companies.

On April 6th 2020, MHRSD in collaboration with HRDF launched a new initiative to support freelancers and those working in the gig-economy, and provide them with a monthly payment up to 3,000 riyals (USD \$800) for 2 months.

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) has launched a 5-billion riyal (USD \$1.3 billion) initiative centered around 4 basic pillars: supporting employment with 2 billion riyals (USD \$533.3 million); supporting training with 800 million riyals (USD \$213.3 million); supporting 100,000 new job-seekers with 1.5 billion riyals (USD \$400 million); and subsidizing wages of Saudis employed in the private sector since July 1st, 2019, through a 1 billion riyal (USD \$266.7 million) 'Employment Support' initiative.

The Ministry of Health announced that all workers who, as of March 13th, 2020, entered the Kingdom shall stay at home and keep self-quarantined.

	<p>Workers can register and apply for sick leave through the “Sehhaty” mobile application. They also announced a compulsory 2-week sick leave for pregnant women. This leave has also been granted to people with respiratory and chronic diseases, tumors and immunodeficiency, working in both the private and public sectors. On March 30th 2020, King Salman ordered free treatment for all coronavirus patients in the country, irrespective of nationality or legal status. It was announced in late October that the government is going to grant 500,000 riyals (USD \$133,333) to families of health workers who died from COVID-19.</p>
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South Africa 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	56% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 63% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 50% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	28.5% - 2020 (ILO)
	4) Employment Rate	42.1% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	90.7% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	9.3% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	15.5% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	250,000 - 2018
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	5735 - 2016	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	725,452 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	19,276 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	654,182 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	On March 26 th , South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the government would impose a nationwide 21-day lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak. South Africans were still be able to leave their homes to buy food, seek medical care and collect social grants. Only essential businesses remained open, and soldiers and police

	<p>were monitoring the streets. There was also a firm ban placed on the sale of alcohol and cigarettes.</p> <p>Lockdown measures began to ease in June, as the economy was severely affected. At the start of the month, the mining sector and manufacturing businesses were allowed to return to standard production, while people were allowed to go outside for work, worship, exercise or shopping. The ban on alcohol sales was also lifted. Additionally, it was announced that casinos, cinemas, personal care services and some accommodation would soon be allowed to resume operations.</p> <p>South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced mid-September that lockdown level 1 was set to be in force as of midnight on Sunday the 20th of September after the progress his country has managed to make in its battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. He also revealed that the government will increase testing capacities to include more categories in a bid to curb the further spread of the virus, in addition to plans to improve contact tracing abilities.</p> <p>Gatherings will be allowed as long as not more than 50% of the normal capacity of a venue is being occupied, with up to 250 people at an indoor gathering and 500 people for outdoor gatherings. The maximum capacity at funerals has been increased to 100 people. Night vigils are still prohibited. Venues such as gyms and recreational facilities have had limits increased to 50% of total capacity. Existing restrictions on sporting events remain in place.</p> <p>South Africa shut its borders at the start of the lockdown, but on October 1st, President Ramaphosa said that international travel can resume. Those</p>
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		<p>arriving in South Africa must present a negative coronavirus test taken within three days of travel.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>On March 23rd, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced measures to protect businesses. The president announced the establishment of a Solidarity Fund to support the most vulnerable South Africans. The President announced a massive social relief and economic support package of 500 billion rand (USD \$30.8 billion) amounting to 10% of GDP. Part of the support package has been allocated to fund additional expenditure on PPEs for health workers, community screening, testing and other medical necessities. In early April 2020, the South African Public Health Sector kickstarted a massive rollout of screening, testing, tracing and a medical management programme. Additional funding of 20 billion rand (USD \$1.2 billion) from the 500 billion rand has been allocated to municipalities for the provision of emergency water supply, increased sanitization of public transport and facilities, food and shelter for the homeless.</p> <p>Government has provided a tax subsidy of up to 500 rand (USD \$30.8) a month, starting in March and ending in July, for private sector employees earning below 6,500 rand (USD \$400) under the Employment Tax Incentive. This has helped more than 4 million workers. Tax-compliant businesses with turnover of less than 50 rand (USD \$3.1 million) million will be allowed to delay 20% of their pay-as-you-earn liabilities between March and July and a portion of their provisional corporate income tax payments without penalties or interest between March and September. This intervention was able to assist more than 75,000 small and medium enterprises.</p> <p>Within the 500 billion rand (USD \$30.8 billion) economic response package an additional 100 billion rand (USD \$6.2 billion) will be set aside for protection of jobs and to create jobs in light of the corona virus. 40 billion rand (USD \$2.5 billion) has already been set aside for income support payments for workers whose employers are not able to pay their wages. It also includes a special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant of 350 rand (USD \$21.6) a month between March and September for the millions of South Africans in the informal economy without employment and who do not receive any form of social grant or UIF payment. The economic support package also supports SMMEs, Spaza shop owners and other informal businesses in the form of loans, grants and debt restructuring. An additional amount of 2 billion rand (USD \$123.3 million) has been set aside to assist SMEs and spaza shop owners and other small businesses.</p> <p>Any employee who falls ill through exposure at their workplace, will be paid through the Compensation Fund. In the event that it becomes necessary, government will utilize the reserves within the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) system to extend support to those workers in SMEs and other vulnerable firms who are faced with loss of income and whose companies are unable to provide support.</p>	

The government has also introduced the Business Growth Resilience Facility for essential services to benefit SMMEs that are geared to take advantage of supply opportunities resulting from the corona pandemic or shortage of food in the local market. The National Disaster has allocated approximately USD \$1,733,272,470 and this will pay UIF benefits for three months for workers whose income is negatively affected by the impact of COVID-19. The Fund is administered through the Employer-Employee Relief Scheme. This benefit is applicable only to employers registered with the UIF.


The government has put in place a 200 billion-rand (USD \$12.3 billion) loan guarantee scheme in partnership with major banks, the National Treasury and the South African Reserve Bank. The loan guarantee scheme aims to support enterprises with operational costs, such as salaries, rent and the payment of suppliers. In the initial phase, companies with a turnover of less than 300 million rand (USD \$18.5 million) a year will be eligible. The loan guarantee scheme is expected to support over 700,000 firms and more than three million employees.

Productivity South Africa, a public entity linked to the National Department of Labour has put together measures to ensure continued enterprise competitiveness and sustainability enhancement programs particularly for SMMEs in the productive sectors.

A new directive by Social Development minister Lindiwe Zulu extends some grant payments until the end of 2021. These include:

- Temporary disability grants which lapsed in July 2020 or are due to lapse during the months of August to October, will not lapse until the end of December 2020 and must continue to be paid until December 31st, 2020;
- Care dependency grants, which were extended to October 2020, will not lapse in October 2020 but will continue to be paid until December 31st, 2020.

The directive also makes specific provision for failed applications to the UIF's Temporary Employee / Employer Relief Scheme (TERS) grant.

Turkey 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	53% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 72% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 34% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	13.4% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	42.6% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	90.5% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	9.5% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	30.9% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	3.5 million - 2020
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	Undisclosed	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	375,367 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	10,252 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	323,971 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	The measures Turkey has taken so far against the virus are closing businesses and venues, halting flights from dozens of countries and enforcing a curfew on elderly and vulnerable people. The curfew was enforced for people under the age of 20 and over the age of 65.

	<p>As of June 1st, 2020, Turkey entered the “new normal” phase and lifted restrictions on intercity travel, and allowed restaurants, parks, and cafés to re-open. The flexible working arrangements and telework in the public sector was terminated and kindergartens re-opened.</p> <p>In mid-September, the government ruled out another nationwide lockdown to curb the country’s infection rate. Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said in a televised briefing that another nationwide curfew was “out of the question” and his ministry’s Science Committee has not recommended such a direction.</p> <p>As of Saturday, September 12th, specific public gatherings were banned to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. A ban on concerts and festivals in public spaces along with large weddings had been reintroduced as people were reportedly not adequately heeding social distancing measures, with confirmed virus cases having increased as a result. Additionally, individuals nationwide are required to wear face masks in all public areas.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>The Government announced on March 18th 2020 a new economic relief package with 260 billion Turkish liras (USD \$38.4 billion) called the Economic Stability Shield. The Credit Guarantee Fund limits increased from USD \$3.8 billion to USD \$7.7 billion to support businesses and SMEs with a need of liquidity. The income tax payments of 1.9 million taxpayers and credit cards payments were postponed. Social security premiums and VAT deductions/payments totaling USD \$7.9 billion were suspended including retail, malls, iron-steel, automotive, logistic, textile, shopping malls, entertainment and hospitality, food and beverage, event organization sectors.</p> <p>The Central Bank of Turkey has taken a set of measures, including a policy rate cut to inject liquidity into markets and improve the cash flow of</p>

firms. The measures were announced on March 17th, March 31st and April 17th. The measures taken have four main goals:

- Provide banks with flexibility in Turkish lira and foreign exchange liquidity management and thus enhance predictability.
- Secure an uninterrupted flow of credit to the hardest-hit corporate sector.
- Support the cash flow of exporting firms through rediscount credits.
- Strengthen the monetary transmission mechanism.

During the April-September 2020 period the Bank pursued taking measures on interest rates and liquidity management, in line with the afore-mentioned goals.

Fiscal support:

- There will be no application of accommodation tax until the end of January 2021, revenue share fees in hotel rentals are postponed for six months and suspended seasonal workers will also be eligible for short time allowance, to help tourism industry workers.
- The credit payments of farmers are postponed for two months without any interest.
- VAT rate on domestic flights is reduced to 1% from 18% for three months. 38 million liras (USD \$4.7 million) of debt to Turkish government and 30 million lira (USD \$3.7 million) debt to Eurocontrol of the airline transport sector is postponed.
- Turkish Exim Bank introduced Turkish Lira Rediscount Credit Programme to deliver low interest credits to SMEs and bigger companies to support exports. SMEs Development Organization loans were postponed for three months.
- The Credit Guarantee Fund limit is increased from 25 billion lira (USD \$3 billion) to 125 billion liras (USD \$14.8 billion) to provide loans for SMEs.

Sectoral support:

- For the tourism sector, there will be no application of accommodation tax until the end of January 2021. The easement of revenue share fees for April, May and June 2020 in hotel rentals were postponed for 6 months. Suspended seasonal workers are also eligible for short time allowances.
- For the airline industry, VAT rate on domestic flights is reduced to 1% from 18% until November.
- For the health industry, financial support of 6 million lira (USD \$735,289) is provided to the firms that produce domestic disinfection, protective suits, glasses and masks. Additional payments to health professionals were made for three months based on overtime worked throughout the pandemic.

- For the agriculture sector, 40 thousand beetroot producers were paid in advance on April 3rd, 2020 of nearly 250 million liras (USD \$30.6 million). The credit payments of farmers equaling to 6 billion liras (USD \$735.3 million) were postponed for six months without any interest. The rent payments of agricultural lands for 51 thousand farmers was postponed for six months. 14-million-meter square public land will be opened for the use of farmers in selected cities to grow certain types of products, where the employment of women and young farmers will be given priority. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is supporting animal producing companies with up to 100 thousand liras (USD \$12,254), and vegetative production companies with 50 thousand liras (USD \$6,128). 228 projects will be supported in the area of rural development amounting to a total of 755 million liras (USD \$92.5 million).
- One-time cash transfer of 2,500 liras (USD \$306) to be paid to workers in TV and cinema industry by Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts and Trade Union of TV and Cinema Workers.

Two million households receiving social benefits will be paid extra, with public banks introducing long-term credit mechanisms for low income households.

- The bonuses for eid-al-fitr for the retired persons were paid in advance.
- Five million households, receiving social benefits will be paid an extra of 1,000 liras (USD \$122.5).
- Three million households hit financially by the crisis will also be paid 1,000 liras (USD \$122.5).
- The lowest pension amount is increased to 1,500 liras (USD \$183.8).


Additional social protection policies and support:

- Government eased the application criteria for the short-term work allowance (SWA) (equivalent to 60% of a minimum wage) to protect the employment and employers. The application process has also been eased. As of April 20th, 2020, more than 268,000 enterprises covering 3.44 million workers applied for the short-term allowance.
- Procedures and duration of medical/doctor certificates from public hospitals are eased to facilitate provision of paid sick leave for workers and administrative leave procedures including paid leave for public employees have been streamlined.

A recent law passed in Parliament authorized the President to take a decision on the extension of the short-term work allowance and extend the layoff-ban to minimize the effect of the pandemic on the labour

market. Accordingly, the President extended the short-term employment allowance until October 31st, 2020.

- Financial support (1,170 liras (USD \$143.4) monthly payments) has been provided to employees forced to take unpaid leave amid novel coronavirus and could not benefit from short-time work starting from March 15th 2020. 1.9 million employees have benefitted from the support, total amount of which exceeds 3.6 billion liras (USD \$441.6 million) as of August 27th, 2020.
- The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services has introduced a new “normalization support programme” on August 1st, 2020. Employees who have applied for short-time work allowance or cash wage support until July 1st, 2020, and who benefit from short-time work allowance or cash wage support, shall be eligible for normalization supports. In this context, 1,103 liras (USD \$135.3) will be deducted from the social security premiums that the employers pay.
- Ministry of Industry and Technology announced the “Triple Protection Package” to support SMEs. The package consists of grants to SMEs that produce protective health equipment, postponement of the payments of SMEs Development Organization, and extension of deadlines for project implementation. SMEs Development Organization loans were postponed for three months.
- Due to major changes in schooling arrangements and in order to support the business, VAT was reduced from 8% to 1% for private school fees. The discount decision will be valid between September 1st, 2020 and June 30th, 2021. The decision will also apply to private universities.

United Kingdom 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	63% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 68% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 58% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	4.5% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	75.6% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	76.9% - 2019 (OECD)
	6) Labor Force PT workers	23.1% - 2019 (OECD)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	15% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	5.9 million - 2019
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	8,000 - 2019	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	1,011,660 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	46,555 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	N/A
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	As of March 23 rd , Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that citizens will only be allowed to leave their homes for essential work, exercise, and purchasing food or medicine. Citizens will only be allowed one form of exercise a day. Gatherings of more than two people — excluding people who

	<p>live together — will be banned, as will most ceremonies other than funerals. The British people would be allowed to leave home for only the following "very limited purposes":</p> <p>Shopping for basic necessities as infrequently as possible. One form of exercise a day — for example a run, walk, or cycle — alone or with members of your household. Any medical need to provide care for or to help a vulnerable person. Travelling to and from work, but only where this is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home. To ensure that the lockdown is obeyed, Johnson also announced he would close all shops selling "nonessential goods," as well as playgrounds, libraries, and places of worship.</p> <p>He also announced: A ban on gatherings of more than two people in public, excluding those people who live together. A ban on "weddings, baptisms, and other ceremonies but excluding funerals." The new rules will be enforced by the police with fines imposed on those who refuse to comply, the prime minister said.</p> <p>In early October, the prime minister announced a new three-tier system of restrictions in England to try to stop the spread of coronavirus. Every area would be classified as being on medium, high or very high alert - tiers one, two and three.</p> <p>Areas with the lowest rates of infection will be placed in Tier One. They will face the basic national rules currently in force including:</p>
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	<p>Pubs, bars and restaurants have to close at 10:00 p.m. The rule of six (number of people who can meet up) applies both indoors and outdoors. Areas in Tier Two face an extra level of restrictions: No mixing between different households indoors. The rule of six only continues outdoors.</p> <p>The highest level of restrictions are in Tier Three. Areas where transmission is rising most rapidly will be placed in this category. The government said it would work with local councils on the additional measures for each area. The prime minister said the Liverpool City Region (Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, Wirral, St Helens and Halton) would have the following restrictions from Wednesday October 14th: Pubs and bars to be closed, except where serving substantial meals. Households cannot mix indoors or outdoors. Gyms, leisure centers, betting shops and casinos will also close. Shops, schools and universities would remain open.</p> <p>In Scotland, until Sunday October 25th, pubs and restaurants were only open inside between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily, and they were not allowed to serve alcohol. They were only allowed to serve food and non-alcoholic drinks, although they can serve alcohol outdoors until 10:00 p.m. Hotel restaurants can serve food after 6:00 p.m. but only for residents and without alcohol. Shops have reintroduced measures to ensure 2m (6ft) social distancing, such as one-way systems. Face coverings are compulsory in indoor communal settings, such as staff canteens and corridors in</p>
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	<p>workplaces. Specific areas in Scotland began enforcing stricter measures.</p> <p>Pubs, cafes and restaurants in Wales had to stop serving alcohol at 10:00 p.m. Pubs were required to provide table service only. People in Northern Ireland can no longer meet anyone who they don't live with inside their home. There are only limited exceptions. Pubs, hotel bars and restaurants could stay open until 11:00 p.m.</p> <p>The Government currently has no plans to close schools or places of worship in any areas.</p> <p>England will enter a second national lockdown on Thursday November 5th, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced. The decision came hours after the UK passed the grim milestone of one million coronavirus cases.</p> <p>The strict lockdown will see the closure of pubs, restaurants and non-essential businesses, including hair salons and gyms. Schools, universities and playgrounds will stay open. People will only be able to leave their homes for specific reasons: education, work (if they are unable to work from home), to shop for food, for health reasons, or for exercise and recreation outdoors, either with that person's household or with one person from another household. The government is discouraging all non-essential travel, though people will still be able to travel abroad for work, providing they follow England's quarantine rules upon their return. The measures will only apply to England, as healthcare is handled by the</p>
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	<p>devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The new shutdown will remain in place until December 2nd, at which point Johnson hopes the virus will be sufficiently under control to enable England to tackle the virus, once again, on a region-by-region basis.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced the first economic package to deal with the outbreak when delivering the budget on March 11th, unveiling 12 billion pounds (USD \$15.6 billion) of measures to mitigate the effects of the outbreak on the economy. This was followed up with a 350-billion-pound (USD \$455.5 billion) stimulus package comprising government-backed loans as well as 20 billion pounds (USD \$26 billion) of grants and tax cuts for struggling companies.</p> <p>Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak's fourth emergency package of measures were announced on March 26th to include 9 billion pounds (USD \$11.7 billion) of support for the self-employed, bringing the total aid he's announced since March 11th to 65.5 billion pounds (USD \$85.2 billion). About 3.8 million workers from hairdressers to cleaners are eligible for the grants to the self-employed.</p> <p>The Self-Employed Income Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays 80% of average profits over the past three years. • Up to 2,500 pounds (USD \$3,253) per month. • For those with average profits of 50,000 (USD \$65,058) or less. <p>Sunak suggested that once the coronavirus crisis is over, he may re-examine rules that allow the self-employed to pay less tax than their salaried counterparts.</p> <p>If a worker and employer both agree, employers might be able to keep the worker on the payroll if they're unable to operate or have no work for the employee to do because of coronavirus. This is known as being 'on furlough'. The worker could get paid 80% of their wages, up to a monthly cap of £2,500 (USD \$3,253). On May 12th this scheme was extended until October 2020.</p> <p>Job retention program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small business grant funding of £10,000 (USD \$13,003) for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief. • Grant funding of £25,000 (USD \$32,507) for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 (USD \$19,504) and £51,000 (USD \$66,320). • The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million (USD \$6.5 million) for SMEs through the British Business Bank.

Social Protection:

- Statutory sick pay (SSP) for individuals existed previously but the government is legislating for it to be paid from day 1, rather than day 4, of absence from work.
- Easing of rules governing use of sick notes (i.e. can be obtained online).
- Rules governing access to social protection (Universal Credit) are also eased for the self-employed. Claimants of benefits who are staying at home as a result of coronavirus will have their mandatory work search and work availability requirements removed to account for a period of sickness.
- The next quarter of VAT payments for firms have been deferred until the end of June (£30 billion (USD \$38.7 billion)) injection into the economy).
- A Statutory Sick Pay relief package for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs).
- A 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England.
- A new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans.
- The HM Revenue and Customs Time To Pay Scheme provides support on tax affairs for all businesses and self-employed people in financial distress.
- The new 'support finder' tool will help businesses and self-employed people across the UK to quickly and easily determine what financial support is available to them during the coronavirus pandemic.
- New £1.25 billion (USD \$1.6 billion) coronavirus package to protect firms driving innovation in UK. Package includes a £500 million (USD \$650 million) investment fund for high-growth companies impacted by the crisis. In addition, SMEs focusing on research and development will also benefit from £750 million (USD \$975 million) of grants and loans.
- On May 11th, the government issued a range of guidance to help re-open businesses and ensure the return to work is safe. This guidance was prepared in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including business and trade unions.
- On May 19th, an update to the above guidance was issued, which includes a policy to undertake a risk assessment before re-opening in consultation with trade unions or workers.

United States of America 		
A) Key Labor Market Statistics	1) Labor Force participation population	62% - 2020 (ILO)
	2) Labor Force male/female breakdown	Male: 68% - 2020 (ILO)
		Female: 56% - 2020 (ILO)
	3) Unemployment Rate	7.9% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	4) Employment Rate	56.6% - 2020 (Trading Economics)
	5) Labor Force FT workers	66.6 % - 2018
	6) Labor Force PT workers	3% - 2019 (ILO)
	7) Labor Force Self Employment Workers	6.2% - 2020 (ILO)
	8) SMEs (1-500) in Country	30 million - 2020
9) Large (500+ employees) Corporations in Country	16,055 - 2010	
B) COVID-19 Effects	COVID-19 cases	9,402,590 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 deaths	236,072 (As of 31/10/2020)
	COVID-19 Recovered	6,062,438 (As of 31/10/2020)
	Lockdown / Curfew Description	US states have put lockdown procedures in place and assured the populace that essential services will be maintained. California issued the first order for citizens to avoid non-essential outdoor activities in mid-March, but major cities and potential hotspots have issued a stay at home order. Chicago, the third-most

COVID-19 G20 Country Analysis

	<p>populated US city, issued an effective lockdown as of Saturday March 21st at 5.00 p.m. CT until further notice, while also closing all public facilities. Several states had ordered businesses, schools, and workplaces to close and enforced social distancing by limiting public gatherings, with California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin adopting the most comprehensive policies by mandatory statewide quarantine.</p> <p>Other, less-affected states such as Mississippi and Oklahoma have closed schools but have yet to impose any other restrictions. The vast majority of US states have reduced the size of permitted public gatherings to 10 people.</p> <p>In June, some U.S. governors and mayors said they were turning to compulsory face coverings to stop the virus running out of control as economies reopened.</p> <p>A month after many governors reopened their economies, a growing number are adopting U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that masks are essential to prevent community spread.</p> <p>As it stood in early September, all 50 states have begun reopening in some way, while some are pausing plans to reopen fully amidst rising case numbers.</p> <p>President Donald Trump said in September that the United States would not impose a lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus following additional new measures imposed on businesses in the U.K. The federal government has largely left the decision to impose restrictions</p>
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	<p>on businesses and gatherings to states, though the president has called on states to lift restrictions on residents and reopen the nation's economy.</p> <p>As of early November, there is high variation in restrictions and lockdowns across the country. Some states, such as Florida and Georgia, have reopened, with others, such as Texas and Arizona, being in the process of reopening. States such as California and New York are reversing, meaning they have moved to close certain sectors statewide or in certain counties after seeing a surge in cases. Gov. Cuomo of New York has announced though that selected movie theaters outside New York City would reopen with limited capacity beginning from October 23rd. California's counties, for instance, are divided into different risk tiers, to include widespread, substantial, moderate, and minimal, determining what stays open.</p>
<p>C) Stimulus Packages and Social Protection</p>	<p>The US Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law March 27th 2020 and includes USD \$2.2 trillion in supplemental appropriations to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, after being passed by the House of Representatives. Just before signing the act into law, Trump invoked the Defence Production Act (DPA), which gives the president the power to force private industries to create items required for national defence. By April 24th, the US had allocated nearly USD \$5 trillion in federal relief packages and other measures to combat COVID-19 and support the US economy. The bipartisan US Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, was the largest to date at USD \$2.2 trillion. The Main Street Lending Program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility, infused up to an additional USD \$2.3 trillion. A bipartisan relief package, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, injected another USD \$484 billion into the American economy.</p> <p>The CARES Act includes a range of measures aimed at stimulating the economy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing small businesses and non-profits comprised of 500 or fewer employees with almost USD \$350 billion in partially forgivable loans as part of a new "Paycheck Protection Program". The application deadline for this program had been extended until August 8th.

- Expanding the US emergency disaster loan program by funding USD \$10 billion in advances on loan applications to help small businesses cover expenses including sick leave, payroll, and rent.
- Providing for tax credits of USD \$5,000 for wages paid to each employee for businesses adversely affected by the coronavirus.
- Establishing a Coronavirus Relief Fund, providing a total of USD \$150 billion in federal fiscal support for state and local governments.
- Couples earning up to USD \$150,000 receive USD \$2,400, while individuals earning up to USD \$75,000 receive USD \$1,200; as applicable, families are receiving an additional payment of USD \$500 for each dependent child. Payments phase out for those earning higher incomes.
- The federal government will provide USD \$600 a week to individuals who are eligible for unemployment insurance. The federal assistance will complement existing state unemployment benefits, which typically cover a percentage of an unemployed individual's previous salary.
- The Act extends unemployment insurance to workers who usually aren't eligible for such benefits at the state level, so long as their unemployment is connected to the coronavirus outbreak. Those who will now be eligible include part-time employees, freelancers, independent contractors, gig workers, and the self-employed.
- As of June 3rd, 159 million Americans have received direct cash payments, totaling more than USD \$267 billion.
- The legislation also temporarily expands eligibility, beginning at April 1st, for paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The law provides for reimbursing US private-sector employers that have fewer than 500 employees with tax credits for the cost of providing employees with paid leave taken for specified reasons related to COVID-19.
- There is a new online tool that is also used for determining eligibility for paid sick leave due to COVID-19.
- Further guidance directs states to provide up to 13 weeks of additional unemployment insurance aid, through Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).

The USD \$600 billion Main Street Lending Program funds programs that assist the approximately 40,000 mid-sized business in the US by making four-year loans available to companies employing up to 15,000 workers or to those with less than USD \$5 billion per year in revenue. The new law enables direct payments to individuals and companies whose livelihoods and businesses have been affected by the pandemic, seeking to deliver USD \$1,200 to every American earning less than USD \$75,000 per year and USD \$500 per child. It also gives money directly to state governments and bolsters the unemployment benefits programme.

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enactment Act allocated USD \$60 billion for small businesses, an additional USD

\$321 billion to the original PPP, USD \$75 billion for hospitals and the remaining USD \$25 billion for COVID-19 testing, of which USD \$11 billion went directly to states.

On June 5th, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act, (PPFPA) became law. This act modifies and expands the original PPP, by extending the loan forgiveness period and modifying the loan qualifications for more flexibility. As of June 8th, there is new guidance from the Small Business Administration (SBA), accompanied by new forms, created to help enact the updated policies for US businesses and expedite the recovery of the US economy. The act also lowers the eligibility threshold for those with felony criminal histories, in line with bipartisan efforts to reform the criminal justice system. Additionally, the SBA reopened the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance program portal to all eligible applicants experiencing economic impacts due to the pandemic.

The Federal Reserve Bank has taken several measures to support the economy:

- Lowered interest rates to zero and purchased at least USD \$700 billion in government and mortgage-related securities.
- Established credit streams totaling USD \$300 billion.
- Modified and expanded eligibility for lending processes to make loans more accessible.
- Continued to assess economic conditions retaining the target range for the federal funds rate at 0% to 1/4 %.
- Updated the Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility (SMCCF), which enacts aspects of the CARES Act by providing market liquidity and providing credit for large employers as of June 16th, has begun buying a broad and diversified corporate portfolio for up to USD \$250 billion.

The Municipal Liquidity Facility program will purchase up to USD \$500 billion of short-term notes for municipalities meeting certain criteria; notes must mature no later than 36 months from the date of issuance. The Fed has expanded the number and types of entities that have direct access to the program.

Eleven airlines agreed to participate in a USD \$25-billion grant program and keep their employees on payroll until September 30th. The first Payroll Support Program payments, totaling USD \$2.9 billion, went to passenger air carriers; payments will continue on a rolling basis. As of July 7th, 10 airlines have accepted the option of applying for loans under the CARES Act.