ALIDE Asociación Latinoamericana de Instituciones Financieras para el Desarrollo

GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PROGRAMS FOR THE CRISIS COVID 19

REPORT N°3

This report is a summary of the information published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the TMF Group, a global provider of high-value business services to clients operating and investing globally

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

His policy tracker summarizes the key economic responses governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as of end-March 2020.

	Fiscal	Monetary and Macro-Financial	Exchange Rate And Balance of Payments
Aruba	On March 12, the government announced that it is preparing a fiscal stimulus package to absorb the potential negative economic effects of the Coronavirus. The amended 2020 budget, sent to parliament for approval, contains two supporting programs: a relief package for employees who lose their jobs due to the virus outbreak; and a package to support small and medium-sized enterprises. Moreover, on March 20, the authorities announced that the planned fiscal consolidation reforms for 2020 have been postponed.	On March 17, the central bank of Aruba (CBA) lowered: the reserve requirement on commercial bank deposits from 12% to 11%; the minimum capital adequacy ratio from 16% to 14%; and the prudential liquidity ratio from 18% to 15%. Furthermore, the maximum allowed loan-to-deposit ratio was increased from 80% to 85%. See https://www.cbaruba.org/cba/readBlob.do?id=6307	On March 17, the CBA announced that it would not grant any new foreign exchange licenses related to outgoing capital transactions, and that it stands ready to take further measures to preserve the peg.
Argentina	Adopted measures (costing about 1% of GDP based on preliminary estimates) have focused on providing: (i) increased health spending, including for improvements in virus diagnostics, purchases of hospital equipment; and construction of clinics and hospitals; (ii) support for workers and vulnerable groups, including through increased transfers to poor families, increased social security benefits (especially to low-income	Measures have been aimed at encouraging bank lending through (i) lower reserve requirements on bank lending to households and SMEs; (ii) regulations that limit banks' holdings of central bank paper to provide space for SME lending; and (iii) temporary easing of bank provisioning needs and of bank loan classification rules (i.e. extra 60 days to be classified as non-performing).	A broad set of CFMs have been in place since August 2019, aimed at restricting financial account transactions (limits on purchase of dollars, limits on transfers abroad and limits on debt service in foreign

	beneficiaries), higher unemployment insurance benefits, and payments to minimum-wage workers; (iii) support for hard-hit sectors, including an exemption from social security contributions, and subsidized loans for construction activities; (iv) demand support, including spending on public works; (v) anti-price gouging policies, including price controls for food and medical supplies; (vi) ringfencing of essential supplies, including certain export restrictions on medical supplies and equipment, and support for R&D in pharmaceutical firms; and (v) forbearance, including continued provision of utility services for households in arrears; a stay on bank account closures due to bounced checks and credit extension to companies with payroll tax arrears. In addition, credit guarantees will be provided to banks' lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for the production of foods and basic supplies. Part of these measures might be financed through reallocation from lower priority spending.		currency), and some current account transactions (surrender requirements on export proceeds, restrictions on imports of services and interest payments on foreign currency debt). Although CFMs have helped limit outflows and reduce exchange rate volatility, since March 9th reserves have declined by a cumulative of US$1.0bn or 2.4% of gross reserves), as the central bank has intervened in the foreign exchange market to avoid disorderly conditions and provided the government with foreign currency.
The Bahamas	The government's fiscal response is under preparation. So far, support measures totaling is B$24 million (0.2% of GDP) have been announced, including (i) B$4 million (0.03% of GDP) for the health sector and (iii) B$20 million (0.16% of GDP) in support for business loans to SMEs.	The Central Bank of the Bahamas has arranged with domestic banks and credit unions to provide a 3-month deferral against repayments on credit facilities for businesses and households that were negatively impacted by the pandemic. Forbearance will be provided for borrowers who maintained their accounts in good standing before the onset of the pandemic.	
Barbados	The Government of Barbados (GoB) has identified upfront emergency health and capital expenditures needed to manage and mitigate the spread of infection (0.6% of GDP). This includes resources to refurbish the hospital and clinics, build isolation centers, and provision critical medications and supplies. In addition, the GoB intends to boost priority capital spending and introduce social programs for displaced workers to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the economy. This includes infrastructure investment to renovate schools, government buildings, and a key industrial complex (0.6 percent GDP) and the introduction of a Household Survival Program (0.2 percent of GDP). The latter involves a minimum income for households made unemployed by COVID-19 and	Following negotiations with the GoB, commercial banks have agreed to provide forebearance in the form a 6-month debt-payment moratorium for individuals and business directly impacted by COVID-19.	

	supplemental unemployment benefits though the National Insurance Scheme.		
Belize	Belize has announced fiscal stimulus amounting to BZ$25 million (about 1% of GDP) in 2020, funded by the central bank and partly through reallocating resources within the budget. The government has also introduced a bill to parliament that seeks to increase the maturity of treasury notes by an additional ten years.	The Central Bank of Belize has instituted macro-prudential measures to maintain the flow of credit in the economy: (i) reducing the statutory cash reserve requirements; (ii) extending the time period to classify targeted non-performing loans in sectors such as restaurants, transportation and distribution companies, and other affected areas, from 3 months to 6 months; (iii) encouraging domestic banks and credit unions to provide grace periods for servicing interest and/or principal components of commercial loans and ancillary loans, as needed and where commercially viable; (iv) reducing risk-weights for banks on loans in the tourism sector from 100 percent to 50 percent; and (v) reviewing financial institutions' business continuity and cybersecurity plans to ensure that an adequate level of financial services will be available to the public.	
Bolivia	The authorities have proposed direct relief payments of about $US 73 per child to be paid to households with children in public schools, a measure calculated to provide most of its benefits to poorer households. In addition, the government plans to deliver food to 1.5 million of families (US$58 per family), pay the electric energy bills of for three months for the consumers with lower consumption, and pay 50 percent of the potable water for all households. The authorities also postponed the payment of some taxes (corporate income tax, VAT and transaction tax) with the possibility to pay them in tranches. Efforts are also underway to strengthen Bolivia's health care system which is likely to struggle to accommodate the demands arising from the pandemic.	The Central Bank of Bolivia (BCB) injected 3.5 billion Bolivianos (more than $500 million) by purchasing bonds from the pension funds, which, in turn, are expected to deposit the money at banks, increasing the banking system liquidity by about 50%. The authorities have also announced a 2-month moratorium on loan repayment (principal) in the financial system for natural persons and small companies. Most commercial banks announced that they are suspending borrowers' loan repayments for 2-4 months, with the delayed installments to be paid at the end of the loan closure date.	
Brazil	To mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the authorities announced a package of fiscal measures adding up to 3½ percent of GDP—mostly reallocations within the 2020 budget. With congress declaring a state of "public calamity" on March 20, the government's obligation to comply with the primary balance target in 2020 has been lifted. The government has also invoked the escape clause of the constitutional expenditure ceiling to accommodate exceptional health	The central bank lowered the policy rate (SELIC) by 50bps a historical low of 3.75%. Measures to increase liquidity in the financial system (reduction of reserve requirements and capital conservation buffers, and a temporary relaxation of provisioning rules, among others) have been implemented. The reserve requirement has been reduced from 25 to 17, on top of a reduction of 6 bps in early March. The central bank also opened a facility	The exchange rate has depreciated by close to 15% since mid-February and by 21 percent since end-2019. The central bank has intervened various times in the foreign exchange market over the last three weeks (both with spot

	spending needs. The fiscal measures include temporary income support to vulnerable households (bringing forward the 13th pension payment to retirees, expanding the Bolsa Familia program with the inclusion of over 1 million more beneficiaries, cash transfers to informal and unemployed workers, and advance payments of salary bonuses to low income workers), temporary tax breaks and credit lines for firms with the aim of protecting employment, lower taxes and import levies on essential medical supplies, and new transfers from the federal to state governments to support higher health spending and as cushion against the expected fall in revenues. A plan assist states and municipalities with a temporary stay of debt payments, debt renegotiation, and support for credit operations through government guarantees was also announced. Public banks are expanding credit lines for businesses and households, with a focus on supporting working capital (credit lines add up to over 2.5% of GDP). The National Treasury responded to pressures in the interest rate futures market by announcing a program for the simultaneous auctions (buying and selling) of government securities.	to provide loans to financial institutions backed by private corporate bonds as collateral. In addition, the Fed has arranged to provide up to US$60 billion to the central bank through a swap facility that will remain in place for the next six months. The five largest banks in the country agreed to consider requests by individuals and SMEs for a 60-day extension of their maturing debt liabilities.	and derivative contracts sales), by a total of nearly 22 US$ billion (6 percent of gross reserves). The central bank is resuming repo operations of Brazilian sovereign bonds denominated in US dollars, which could potentially release US$10 billion into the money market.
Chile	The authorities presented a package of fiscal measures of up to US$11.75 billion (about 4.7% of GDP) focused on supporting employment and firms' liquidity. The set of measures includes: (i) higher healthcare spending; (ii) enhanced subsidies and unemployment benefits; (iii) a set of tax deferrals; (iv) liquidity provision to SMEs, including through the state-owned Banco del Estado; and (v) accelerated disbursements for public procurement contracts.	The key measures undertaken by the Central Bank of Chile include: (i) policy rate cut by 75 basis points to 1 percent; (ii) introduction of a new funding facility for banks conditional on them increasing credit; (iii) inclusion of corporate securities as collateral for the Central Bank's liquidity operations; (iv) initiation of a program for purchase of bank bonds (up to US$4 billion); and (v) expansion of the program for providing liquidity in pesos and US$ through repo operations and swaps. The Financial Market Commission unveiled a package of measures to facilitate the flow of credit to businesses and households, which includes: (i) special treatment in the establishment of provisions for deferred loans; (ii) use of mortgage guarantees to safeguard SME loans; (iii) adjustments in the treatment of assets received as payment and margins in derivative transactions; and (iv) start of a review of the timetable for the implementation of Basel III standards.	The exchange rate has been allowed to adjust flexibly. The Central Bank of Chile has extended until January 9, 2021 the window for possible resumption of FX sales that was opened in November 2019 (during the social unrest).

Colombia	A state of emergency decree created a National Emergency Mitigation Fund, which will be partially funded from regional and stabilization funds. Additional budgetary support for health has been announced. The authorities estimate that the fiscal impact of COVID-19 could be between 0.3%-0.5% of GDP. Authorities have also announced faster direct contracting for services associated with the emergency response, a new credit line providing liquidity support to all tourism-related companies, delayed tax collection for the tourism and air transportation sectors, a reduction of tariffs for strategic health imports, and expanded transfers for vulnerable groups.	The Central Bank has not changed the policy rate but has implemented several measures to boost liquidity in both the financial market and foreign exchange rate markets. These include: (i) an extension of access of their liquidity overnight and term facilities to managed funds, stock brokerage companies, trusts, and investment companies, (ii) an expansion of their liquidity operations (REPOS) allotment from COP 20 to 23.5 trillion, (iii) COP 10 trillion program to purchase securities issued by credit institutions, and (iv) COP 2 trillion in TES purchases.	To provide liquidity in FX markets, the central bank auctioned US$400 million of FX swaps (in US dollars) through which reserves are sold and bought back in 60 days. In addition, a new mechanism of exchange-rate hedging was introduced through a USD 1 bn auction of Non-Deliverable Forwards with a 30-day maturity.
Costa Rica	The government announced a package of revenue measures to protect workers and companies against the economic effects of COVID-19, including an interest-free three-month moratorium on the payment of value-added taxes, business income taxes, and customs duties, and making social security contributions proportional to the time worked, as well as a deferral of payment of social security contributions. In addition, salary increases for public employees (except for the police) are suspended this year to direct more resources to the attention of COVID-19.	The Central Bank cut its policy rate by a full percentage point to a record low of 1.25% to soften the economic damage caused by the pandemic and to improve credit conditions for households and businesses. The rate decision builds on a series of recent rate cuts (nine since March 2019) designed to stimulate the economy, as well as on the package of measures taken on March 14 to protect workers and companies, including by reducing the cost of credit, relaxing the regulation on restructuring of loans and on buybacks, and a moratorium on the payment of principal and/or interest for three extendable months—particularly for most affected sectors. See Link.	The BCCR continues to maintain exchange rate flexibility and intervenes in the FX market to limit disorderly market conditions.
Eastern Caribbean Currency Union	ECCU members have announced fiscal measures. The Grenadian authorities announced various fiscal and financial measures on March 20, effective for April-June in the first instance, to mitigate the impact of COVID on the economy. These include: (i) payroll support to the affected sectors (such as tourism) and individuals, (ii) expansion of government employment programs; (iii) credit support to small businesses; (iv) increased health care spending, and (v) reduced or deferred payment of some taxes. On March 22, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis informed of a 27% increase in budgeted health expenditure specifically to deal with COVID-19. This is partly being used to acquire protective equipment masks, gloves, and ventilators.	On March 19, the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) approved grant funding to the ECCB Member Governments, totaling EC$4 million (EC$500,000 each), to help in their fight against the COVID-19. On March 20, the ECCB and ECCU Bankers Association announced a support program for customers and residents during this time of difficulty and uncertainty. The program includes: (i) a loan repayment moratorium for an initial period up to 6-months, with a possible extension upon review; and (ii) waiver of late fees and charges to eligible customers during this period.	
Ecuador	On March 10th, President Moreno announced a series of tightening fiscal measures to counter the sharp fall in oil prices.	On March 24th, the Monetary and Financial Policy and Regulation Board issued some temporary modifications	

	The package included revenue-enhancing measures as well as expenditure cuts of about 2% of GDP with respect to the 2020 original budget, and some 2½ percent of GDP in new financing and refinancing of some current obligations. On March 19th, further measures were announced to support the population and businesses, such as deferral of payroll contributions, exceptional cash transfer amounting to US$120 to US$400 thousand poor families, distribution of food baskets, and a financing of US$50 million in credit lines for small- and medium-size businesses.	to the Monetary, Financial, Securities Code and Insurance Resolutions to support the private sector, including extraordinary deferrals of credit obligations, including from public banks, and a requirement of additional generic provisioning on banks' gross lending portfolio during 2020.	
El Salvador	Key spending and tax measures include: (i) a US$150 salary raise for all employees of the Ministry of Health and other public institutions affected by COVID-19; (ii) a one-time US$ 300 subsidy to approximately 60 percent of all households; (iii) a 3-month deferral of utility payments; (iv) a 3-month extension for income tax payments for individuals and firms operating in the tourism sector with a taxable income lower than US$ 25,000; and (v) a 3-month exemption from the special tourism tax for companies operating in the tourism industry.	Key measures include: (i) lowering banks' reserve requirements by 25% for newly issued loans; (ii) amending provisioning for NPLs through freezing credit ratings; (iii) imposing a temporary moratorium on credit risk ratings; and (iv) temporarily relaxing lending conditions through a grace period for loan repayments.	
Guatemala	For COVID-19 mitigation, the government is drawing on emergency budgetary reserves (about US$60 million) and seeking Congress approval of the World Bank Disaster Risk Management DPL (US$200 million, 0.3% of GDP). A facility for coronavirus patients (financed through a US$1 million grant from the Central American Bank of Economic Integration) will add 3,000 beds to the existing capacity (350 beds). A National Emergency and Economic Recovery Plan and a supplementary budget for a fiscal impulse of 1.2% of GDP are being discussed in Congress. Key measures announced to support the economy include streamlined tax credit refunds to exporters (freeing up to 0.2% of GDP), a one- quarter deferral of selective tax payments and social security contributions, a guarantee fund for SMEs, and expanded social housing.	On March 19th, Banco de Guatemala lowered its policy rate by 50 basis points to 2.25% and announced that it stands ready to secure liquidity provision facilities, including by acting as lender of last resort. To support the financial sector, the Monetary Board has temporarily eased (180-day period) credit risk management regulations to enable loan restructuring, loan payments moratorium, and the use of generic provisions.	
Guyana		The Bank of Guyana has urged commercial banks to consider reducing interest rates on loans and allow deferral of repayments to cushion the expected financial effects from COVID-19 on both individuals and businesses.	

Haiti	The authorities launched a public health preparedness plan for containment and treatment; they plan to boost some social programs and are also considering supporting wage payments temporarily in some sectors.	The central bank moved immediately to ease conditions in the financial system, including reducing the refinance and reference rates, reducing reserve requirements on domestic currency deposits, easing loan repayment obligations for three months, and suspending fees on interbank transactions.	
Honduras	The executive has announced L3,800 mn (about 0.6 percent of GDP) in public expenses to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. This includes the purchases of medical supplies and enabling of temporary medical facilities, hiring of additional healthcare personnel, and financing of a public program to deliver food supplies covering basic needs of poor families (800,000 families, about one third of the population). The executive plans to redirect 2% of all non-essential public expenditures in the 2020 budget to accommodate these expenses. The government also announced a 1-month freeze in prices of goods in the basic consumption basket, as well as 1-month free access to emergency telecommunications services related to the COVID-19 crisis. Separately, Congress approved a special economic stimulus law envisaging $420 mn (about 1.6% of GDP) in additional spending to build new infrastructure (hospitals and medical centers) in the national health system over the medium term.	The central bank cut the policy rate by 75 bps to 4.5 percent—following cuts of 50 bps in December and January. The BCH also announced the suspension of issuance of one-day BCH bills, resulting in liquidity increase of L10,600 mn (1.6% of GDP)—this adds to the projected increase in liquidity of about L7,500 mn (1.2% of GDP) in 2020 resulting from the previously announced elimination of obligatory investments in the central bank. The government issued a decree mandating all supervised financial institutions to provide temporary debt service relief to companies and individuals whose incomes have been affected by the crisis. Debt service of affected sectors will be suspended until end-June, without penalties or impact on credit classification. The government also announced a 3-month moratorium on service of bank loans financed by the second tier development bank Banhprovi (covering about 5% of total bank credit to the private sector), as well as additional financing for Banhprovi's housing program for the middle class (L200 mn, about $8 mn). It has also expedited approval of loans under a subsidized credit program for the agricultural sector.	
Jamaica	The Minister of Finance announced tax cuts of around 0.6 percent of GDP, along with targeted measures for up to 0.5 percent of GDP to counteract the effects of COVID19. This is largely expected to be financed by ongoing asset divestment. Additional measures have been announced to support the most affected sectors by the virus and contain labor shedding, including SCT and custom duty waivers on medical supplies and sanitizers and a COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) program, which envisages (i) temporary cash transfers to businesses in targeted sectors based on the number of workers employed; (ii) temporary cash transfer to	The overnight policy rate remains unchanged at 0.5%, but Bank of Jamaica has taken additional actions to ensure uninterrupted system wide liquidity, such as the recent removal of limits on the amounts that deposit taking institutions can borrow overnight without being charged a penalty rate and a broadening of the range of acceptable repo collateral. The authorities are also encouraging the banking sector to reschedule loans and mortgages, in addition to the mortgage rate cuts already announced by the National Housing Trust.	

	individuals where loss of employment can be verified since March 10; (iii) grants targeted at the most vulnerable segments of society. The Minister also noted that the Fiscal Responsibility law contains an escape clause that would allow for some temporary flexibility in meeting the fiscal targets, should the economic situation deteriorate further.		
Mexico	The government announced that it would: 1) ensure that the Ministry of Health has sufficient resources and does not face red-tape, and sufficient supply of medical equipment and materials; 2) advance pension payments to the elderly; 3) accelerate the tender processes for public spending to ensure full budget execution; and 4) set-up a Health Emergency Fund to request additional resources from Congress, that could reach up to 180 billion pesos (0.7% of 2019 GDP).	Monetary policy rate was lowered by 50bp to 6.5%. The non-deliverable forward hedging program (NDF, in domestic currency) was extended by $10 billion to $30 billion; two NDF auctions were conducted offering $2 billion each (allocated $2 billion total, 0.2% of 2019 GDP); conducted two government bond exchanges, shortening maturities (total offered was MXN 85 billion, 0.4 percent of 2019 GDP). Announced additional measures to provide MXN and USD liquidity to the banking system and improve the functioning of the domestic financial markets: 1) reduce reserve requirements with Banxico (by 50 billion pesos, or about 15% of the current stock); 2) halved the cost of repos; 3) provide USD liquidity (via auctions) to banks by drawing on the $60 billion swap line with the Fed; and 4) in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, seek to strengthen market making in the government bond market.	The exchange rate has been allowed to adjust flexibly, while supporting US$ liquidity.
Nicaragua		In March, the Central Bank of Nicaragua (CBN) reduced its repo reference rate, and the 1-day and 7-day repo window rate by 75 bps. The rate for foreign currency deposit window was also cut by 60 bps. On March 24, the CBN updated its Business Continuity Plan COVID-19 (activated on March 11) to guarantee the continuity of financial, treasury, accounting and administrative operations.	
Panama	An estimated 3¼ percent of GDP (some US$2.1 billion) of fiscal measures have been approved and are being implemented. These include (i) higher spending on building a new hospital, purchases of medical supplies and equipment, educational materials, payments to informal workers and small business owners through the "Panama Solidarity Plan"; and (ii) tax relief through extended payment deadlines, some tax benefits, and suspension of payments for public services (for 4 months,	The Superintendency of Banks of Panama (SBP) allowed banks to use the accumulated dynamic provisioning (about US$1.3 billion or 2% of GDP) to absorb the impact of credit losses. The SBP also allowed banks to undertake voluntary loan restructuring with troubled borrowers: banks adjust existing loan conditions, grant grace periods, reduce interest rates, and eliminate some fees.	

	without interest) for clients with a salary less than US$2,000 per month, retirees, or those displaced from the labor market. In addition, budget spending is reallocated to address the crisis needs. Financing sources include bond placements and loans from international organizations.		
Paraguay	The government has lowered VAT on medical supplies to 5 percent and eliminated import tariffs on them. On March 23rd, 2020, the government submitted to congress a package of emergency spending measures of around $945 million (2.5% of GDP). The package includes additional health-related spending of $500 million, $400 million measures to support the vulnerable population, and $45 million emergence funding for small enterprises. The government has asked Congress to authorize additional borrowing of up to US$1.6 billion (4% of GDP) from IFIs and through bond issuances.	Since early March, the central bank has lowered the policy rate by 75 basis points, to 3.25 percent. The government has also allowed banks to restructure loans to private sector companies that are in repayment difficulties, and postponed collection of taxes and user fees for 2 months.	The central bank is continuing with its policy of letting the exchange rate absorb shocks, and have its value determined by market forces. FX interventions are only carried out to prevent disorderly market conditions.
Peru	The government has approved 783 million soles (0.1 percent of GDP) to attend the health emergency. In addition, the government has approved approximately 1.2 billion soles (0.14% of GDP) in direct transfers to support poor households during the two-week national isolation period. The government has announced that similar direct transfers would be made available to a group of independent workers and has also announced a postponement of households' payments of electricity and water. The government has approved a three-month extension for the income tax declaration for SMEs and is granting flexibility to enterprises and households in the repayment of tax liabilities. These tax measures are estimated to provide a temporary relief in the order of 0.5% of GDP. The government has also approved the creation of a 300 million soles (or 0.04% of GDP) fund to help qualified SMEs to secure working capital and/or refinance debts.	The central bank has cut the policy rate by 100 basis points, bringing it to 1.25%, and is monitoring inflation developments and its determinants in order to increase the monetary stimulus if necessary. In addition, the central bank has provided liquidity to the financial system through repo operations and has pledged to undertake all the necessary measures to support the payments system and the flow of credit. The superintendence of banks has issued a notification allowing financial institutions to modify the terms of their loans to households and enterprises affected by the Covid-19 outbreak without changing the classification of the loans. These operations have to satisfy well defined conditions, including a maximum modification period of six months.	The central bank has been intervening since late February to mitigate disorderly conditions in the foreign exchange market. By March 23rd, the central bank had sold approximately USD 2 billion (or 0.9% of GDP) in foreign exchange swaps. International reserves remain significant, at around 29% of GDP.
Trinidad and Tobago	The fiscal package (TT$5 billion or about 3.25% of GDP) announced on March 23 include (i) salaries for up to 3 months for temporarily unemployed workers; (ii) VAT and income tax refunds to individuals and SMEs; (iii) liquidity support to individuals and small businesses via credit union loans at reduced interest rates and long repayment periods; and (iv) grants to hoteliers to upgrade of their facilities. (see link)	On March 17, the central bank reduced the policy rate by 150 bps to 3.5%, and the reserve requirement on commercial bank deposits by 300 bps to 14%. Commercial banks are expected to reduce the prime lending rates (currently at 9.25%) by the same amount. Additionally, commercial banks have agreed to provide a 1-month moratorium on mortgage loan and instalment loan payments, without any penalty; and to waive penalty	The government will increase the allocation of foreign exchange in the system, using Exim Bank and other institutions to ensure uninterrupted supply of basic items such as food and pharmaceuticals.

		interest on overdraft facilities. Other government housing institutions will provide similar relief to their customers with 2 to 6 months payment deferrals. Money lenders have been asked to arrange deferred payments and interest rate reductions for their members. Interest rates on credit cards will be reduced by 10 to 17 percentage points of the existing rates, on a bank by bank basis. (see here)	
Uruguay	Additional resources to address the public health emergency have been mobilized, including by resorting to contingent credit lines from other international financial institutions. Furthermore, some tax and pension obligations will be postponed or reduced, rules for claiming the unemployment insurance are being made more flexible, older workers will be subsidized so they do not have to leave home, and assistance to the most vulnerable groups will be expanded. No estimate of the total fiscal cost of these measures is currently available.	Loan payments for households and businesses that may be affected by the public health measures are to be deferred for up to 180 days. The fund that guarantees loans for SMEs will be expanded from US$50 million to US$500 million (utilizing financing from international organizations). That will allow to guarantee the SME loans totaling US$2.5 billion. In addition, the rate of commission charged by the fund will be reduced substantially. BROU (the country's largest commercial bank, which is government-owned) will extend soft loans to enterprises. The financing available currently is US$50 million, which may be augmented—also with financing from international organizations—to US$120 million. In addition, direct credit program for micro and small enterprises will extend working capital loans of up to 18 months to the affected businesses at subsidized rates. Loan repayments for these enterprises are being suspended for at least 30 days.	The exchange rate has been allowed to adjust, with the central bank intervening to limit undue volatility in the market.

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND EUROPE

	Fiscal	**Monetary and Macro-Financial**	**Exchange Rate And Balance of Payments**
Australia	Two economic stimulus packages have been approved in March 2020. The headline figure of the combined stimulus package amounts to a cumulative of A$189 billion (9.7% of GDP) in net over FY2024, which includes support for households (A$25 billion or 1.3% of GDP) and businesses (A$38.8 billion or 2.0% of GDP), as well as balance-sheet support to ensure the flow of credit in the economy (up to	The policy rate was cut by 25 basis points twice on March 3 and 19, to 0.25%. RBA has announced yield targeting on 3-year government bonds at around 0.25% through purchases of government bonds in the secondary market. To support liquidity, RBA will conduct one-month and three-month repo operations daily until further notice. Repo operations of longer-term maturities (six-months or longer) will be held at least weekly, as long as market conditions warrant. RBA	The exchange rate has been allowed to adjust flexibly to absorb economic shocks.

	A$125 billion or 6.4% of GDP). The latter includes loan guarantees between the Commonwealth government and participating banks to cover the immediate cash flow needs of SMEs (up to A$20 billion or 1% of GDP). A package of RBA measures (A$90 billion or 4.6% of GDP) is also included in the headline figure. Excluding the RBA measures, the total net fiscal package amounts to A$101.6 billion (5.2% of GDP) over FY2024. In addition, parliament approved an advance authorization of A$40 billion for unforeseen events. In addition, the Commonwealth government has committed to spend an extra A$2.4 billion (0.1% of GDP) to strengthen the health system and protect the vulnerable people from the outbreak of COVID-19. The Commonwealth government has also agreed with the States and the Territories to share the public health costs incurred by the States and Territories in treating the COVID-19. Temporary measures to ensure the continuity of aged care, amounting to an additional A$444.6 million, have been introduced.	has established a swap line with U.S. Fed for the provision of US dollar liquidity in amounts up to US$60 billion. To allow banks to lend more to SMEs during the period of disruption caused by COVID-19, RBA has established a term funding facility of at least A$90 billion for SMEs lending, and the government is allocating up to A$15 billion to invest in residential mortgage backed securities and asset backed securities. The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority has also provided temporary relief from its capital requirement, allowing banks to utilize some of their current large buffers to facilitate ongoing lending to the economy as long as minimum capital requirements are met. In addition, the Australian Banking Association has announced that Australian banks will defer loan repayments for small businesses affected by COVID-19 for six months.	
Austria	The total fiscal package amounts to 38 billion euros (about 9% of GDP). A crisis management fund was initially endowed with 4 billion euros on March 15 to address liquidity pressures from additional claims on the health care system, fund short-time work, and compensate self-employed, family- and micro-business for the loss of earnings related to the sickness. A 2 billion euro guarantee scheme for exporting companies was established under the existing limits for export credits. An additional 34 billion euros (8.5% of GDP), of which up to 15 billion were targeted to companies in the export sector, 7 billion for more generalized credit guarantees and 10 billion for deferral of personal and corporate income tax payments for 2020. The General Civil Code was enacted on the same day declaring COVID-19 a force majeure enabling companies to force workers to take up to two weeks of leave accumulated in previous years. On March 22, €22 million were earmarked for research and short-term work was extended to 3 months (until	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the	

	May) with the possibility to extend it by another three months (to August). Under this provision working hours may be reduced to up to 10%, at 80% to 90% of regular pay. Employers will only pay hours worked, while the rest will be paid from the budget.	countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. The Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) has declared readiness to supply sufficient cash to banks, ATM operators, and the economy in response to increased withdrawals. Working hours were extended to meet the increased demand. On March 18, the Financial Market Authority prohibited short sales for one month following the massive drop in prices on the Vienna Stock Exchange due to betting on covered share price losses.	
Belgium	The government announced a fiscal package of €8-10 bn (about 2% of GDP) and €50 bn (about 10% of GDP) of guarantees for new bank loans to companies and self-employed. Key fiscal support measures include: (i) boosting health expenditure; (ii) increasing support for those in temporary unemployment and self-employed; and (iii) liquidity support through postponements of social security and tax payments for companies and self-employed. Regional governments have also announced additional subsidies to affected firms and sectors and further bank-loan guarantees.	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for	

		non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. Other measures taken by the Belgian authorities include: (i) reducing the counter-cyclical bank capital buffer to 0% (an increase to 0.5% was to become effective by June); (ii) a ban on short-selling stocks until April 16; and (iii) postponement of debt repayment due to banks by affected households and companies to September 30, 2020.	
Canada	Key tax and spending measures (6% of GDP, $138 billion CAD) include: i) $1.125 billion (0.05% of GDP) to the health system to support increased testing, vaccine development, medical supplies, mitigation efforts, and greater support for Indigenous communities; ii) around $52 billion (2.3% of GDP) in direct aid to households, including payments to workers without sick leave and access to employment insurance, an increase in existing GST tax credits and child care benefits, and a new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund; and iii) around $85 billion (3.7% of GDP) in direct support to businesses, including tax deferrals and wage subsidies. The federal government is expected to announce additional measures with the release of its budget for 2020/21, due on March 30. More information can be found here.	Key measures adopted by the Bank of Canada include: i) reducing the overnight policy rate by 100 bps in March (to 0.75%); ii) an extension of the bond buyback program across all maturities; iii) launching the Bankers' Acceptance Purchase Facility; iv) expanding the list of eligible collateral for Term Repo operations to the full range of eligible collateral for the Standing Liquidity Facility (SLF), except the Non-Mortgage Loan Portfolio (NMLP); v) supporting the Canada Mortgage Bond (CMB) market by purchasing CMBs in the secondary market; vii) announcing a temporary increase the amount of NMLP a participant can pledge for the SLF and for those participants that do not use NMLP; vii) announcing an increase in the target for settlement balances to $1,000 million from $250 million; viii) together with central banks from Japan, Euro Area, U.K., U.S., and Switzerland, announcing further enhancing the provision of liquidity via the standing US dollar liquidity swap line arrangements; ix) announcing the launch of the Standing Term Liquidity Facility, under which loans could be provided to eligible financial institutions in need of temporary liquidity support; and x) announcing the Provincial Money Market Purchase (PMMP) program is an asset purchase facility that will acquire provincially-issued money market securities. More details here. Other measures in the financial sector include: i) OSFI, the bank regulator, lowered the Domestic Stability Buffer for D-SIBs to 1 percent of risk weighted assets (previously 2.25%); ii) under the Insured Mortgage Purchase Program, the government will purchase up to $50 billion of insured mortgage pools through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC); iii) the federal government announced a $10 billion (around 0.4 percent of GDP) credit facility at 2 Crown Corporations to lend to firms under stress;	

		and iv) Farm Credit Canada will receive support from the federal government that will allow for an additional $5 billion in lending capacity to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors.	
China, People's Republic of	An estimated RMB 1.3 trillion (or 1.2% of GDP) of fiscal measures have been approved and are being implemented. Key measures include: (i) Increased spending on epidemic prevention and control. (ii) Production of medical equipment. (iii) Accelerated disbursement of unemployment insurance. (iv) Tax relief and waived social security contributions. The overall fiscal expansion is expected to be significantly higher, reflecting the effect of already announced additional measures—including higher infrastructure investment and improvements of the national public health emergency management system—and automatic stabilizers.	The PBC provided monetary policy support and acted to safeguard financial stability. Key measures include: (i) liquidity injection into the banking system, including RMB 3 trillion in the first half of February, (ii) expansion of re-lending and re-discounting facilities by RMB 800 billion to support manufacturers of medical supplies and daily necessities (RMB 300 billion) as well as micro-, small- and medium-sized firms (RMB 300 billion) and the agricultural sector (RMB 100 billion) at low interest rates, (iii) reduction of the 7-day and 14-day reverse repo rates as well as the 1-year medium-term lending facility rate by 10 bps, (iv) targeted RRR cuts by 50-100 bps for banks that meet inclusive financing criteria which benefit smaller firms and an additional 100 bps for eligible joint-stock banks to support private SMEs, and (v) policy banks' credit extension to micro- and small enterprises (RMB 350 billion). The government provided measured forbearance to provide financial relief to affected households, corporates, and regions facing repayment difficulties. Key measures include (i) delay of loan payments and other credit support measures for eligible SMEs and households, (ii) tolerance for higher NPLs for loans by epidemic-hit sectors and SMEs, (iii) flexibility in the implementation of the asset management reform, and (iv) easing of housing policies by local governments.	The exchange rate has been allowed to adjust flexibly. A ceiling on cross-border financing under the macroprudential assessment framework was raised by 25% for banks, non-banks and enterprises.
Denmark	The authorities responded to the ongoing crisis by providing discretionary fiscal support to the tune of 2.5% of GDP (about DKK 60 billion). The increased spending will mainly finance additional health care needs and extraordinary budgetary measures to support workers and businesses. Another 2.5% of GDP in countercyclical support is expected to come through Denmark's strong automatic stabilizers—including from weaker tax receipts and higher social benefits. Temporary liquidity measures, including postponement of tax payments and government guarantees, will further support activity in the first half of year.	The Danmarks Nationalbank (DN) increased the policy rate by 15bps to -0.6 percent. The standing swap line with ECB was activated and its size was doubled to EUR 24 billion. It will remain in place as long as needed. In addition, the DN reached an agreement with the Federal Reserve to establish a US$30 billion swap line that will stand for at least 6 months. The DN announced the launch of an 'extraordinary lending facility' which will make full-allotment, 1-week, collateralized loans available to banks at -0.5 percent interest rate on March 20. The DN on March 19, 2020 expanded this facility to include 3-month variable rate loans which will be available March 27, 2020. The DN also increased the interest rate on the previously announced 1-week loans to -0.35%. The Danish authorities decided on March 12, 2020 to preemptively release the countercyclical capital buffer and cancel the planned increases meant to take effect	Denmark's krone is pegged to the Euro. The fixed exchange rate policy has served Denmark well. The DN has stated its objective of preserving the peg.

		later. The Financial Stability Authority also announced a case by case relaxation of regulation on the LCR requirement.	
European Union/Euro Area	Key measures (about €37 billion and 0.3% of EU27 GDP) include (i) establishing a Corona Response Investment Initiative in the EU budget to support public investment for hospitals, SMEs, labor markets, and stressed regions; (ii) extending the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund to include a public health crisis within its scope, with a view of mobilizing it if needed for the hardest-hit EU member states (up to €800 million is available in 2020); (iii) redirecting €1 billion from the EU Budget as a guarantee to the European Investment Fund to incentivize banks to provide liquidity to hit SMEs and midcaps; and (iv) announcing that credit holidays to existing debtors that are negatively affected will be provided. The European Commission also activated the general escape clause in the EU fiscal rules, which suspends the fiscal adjustment requirements for countries not at their medium-term objective and allow countries to run deficits in excess of 3% of GDP.	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules.	
Finland	Key discretionary tax and spending measures (about 0.7 percent of GDP) include additional spending for (i): healthcare and testing, protection and medical equipment, public safety and border controls, and research on the coronavirus epidemic, in particular to develop methods for rapid diagnostics and vaccines and a knowledge base for timely decision-making on coronavirus measures, (especially on the exit strategy) (€200 million); (ii) lower pension contributions through the remainder of 2020	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP)	

	(€900 million); (iii) grants to SMEs through Business Finland and the Employment Centers (€200 million); and (iv) other possible emergencies (€200 million). In addition to discretionary measures, automatic stabilizers are expected to increase the fiscal deficit significantly, including through an expansion of the coverage of existing unemployment benefits. Deferral of tax and pension payments for 3 months are expected to provide additional short-run relief of €3-4.5 billion. Finland is also contributing €5 million to international non-profit companies working on the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.	until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. Key measures within Finland include: (i) Bank of Finland to support liquidity through investing in short-term Finnish corporate commercial paper (€1 billion); (ii) 1 ppt reduction in the structural buffer requirements of all credit institutions by removing the systemic risk buffer and adjusting institution-specific requirements (increases Finnish banks' international lending capacity by an estimated €52 billion – that, plus other countries' measures, increase lending capacity to Finnish households and firms by an estimated €30 billion); (iii) Finland's Export Credit Agency is expanding its lending and guarantee capacity to SMEs by €10 billion (and the government will increase its coverage of the agency's credit and guarantee losses from 50% to 80%); (iv) the State Pension Fund will also invest in commercial paper (€1 billion); and (v) easier re-borrowing of pension contributions allowed.	
France	An amending budget law introduced a fiscal package of €45 billion (about 2% of GDP including liquidity support measures) and €300 billion (about 13 percent of GDP) of state guarantees for bank loans to companies. Key immediate fiscal support measures include (i) streamlining and boosting health insurance for the sick or their caregivers; (ii) increasing spending on health supplies; (iii)	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an	

	liquidity support through postponements of social security and tax payments for companies; (iv) support for wages of workers under the reduced-hour scheme; (v) direct financial support for affected SMEs and independent workers; and (vi) postponement of rent and utility payments for affected SMEs. See also: https://www.economie.gouv.fr/coronavirus-soutien-entreprises.	additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. Other measures include: (i) reducing the counter-cyclical bank capital buffer to 0% (an increase from 0.25% to 0.5% was to become effective by April); (ii) a ban on short-selling stocks until April 16; and (iii) credit mediation to support renegotiation of SMEs' bank loans.	
Germany	Key spending and tax measures totaling €156 billion (4.5% of GDP) include: (i) spending on healthcare equipment, hospital capacity and R&D (vaccine), (ii) expanded access to short-term work ("Kurzarbeit") subsidy to preserve jobs and workers' incomes, expanded childcare benefits for low-income parents and easier access to basic income support for the self-employed, (iii) €50 billion in grants to small business owners and self-employed persons severely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak in addition to interest-free tax deferrals until year-end. At the same time, through the newly created economic stabilization fund (WSF) and the public development bank KfW, the government is expanding the volume and access to public	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs).	

	loan guarantees for firms of different sizes, with an allocation of at least €822 billion (24% of GDP).		
Greece	The government has announced a package of measures totaling 5% of (2019) GDP (€10 billion) financed from national and EU resources. Key measures include: (i) health spending increases for new hiring of 2,000 doctors and nurses, procurement of medical supplies, and cash bonuses to health sector workers; (ii) transfers to vulnerable individuals, including a € 800 cash stipend through April 30 for employees working in hard hit firms, extension of unemployment benefits by two months, and paid leave for parents who have children not going to school; (iii) liquidity support to hard hit businesses through subsidized loans, loan guarantees, interest payment subsidies, and deferred payments of tax and social security contribution.	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. In addition to measures at the euro area level: (i) release of the countercyclical capital buffer for banks from 0.25% to 0%; (ii) additional €100 billion to refinance expanded short-term liquidity provision to companies through the public development bank KfW, in partnership with commercial banks; and (iii) following the structure of the former Financial Stabilization Fund, €100 billion is allocated within the WSF to directly acquire equity of larger affected companies and strengthen their capital position.	

Indonesia	The government has announced two fiscal stimulus packages amounting to 33.2 trillion rupiah (about 0.2% of GDP). This first package comprises support to the tourism sector (tax cuts and discounts on airplane tickets and jet-fuel) and to low-income households (social assistance and subsidy for home buyers). The package also aims to accelerate the roll-out of the Pre-Work Card, which provides periodic cash stipends for job seekers. The second package includes income tax exemptions to workers in the industrial sectors (with an income ceiling) and supports businesses through delayed payments for income tax and acceleration in VAT refund from April to September. The government has also announced steps to prioritize the handling of the COVID-19, including budgetary reallocation toward the health sector and acceleration of purchases of goods and services for COVID-19 prevention and treatment.	Bank Indonesia reduced the policy rate by 25 bps to 4.75 percent on February 20, 2020, and by another 25 bps to 4.5 percent on March 19. The Bank also announced other measures to ease liquidity conditions, including: (i) lowering reserve requirement ratios for banks; (ii) increasing the maximum duration for repo and reverse repo operations (up to 12 months); (iii) introducing daily repo auctions; (iv) increasing the frequency of FX swap auctions for 1, 3, 6 and 12 month tenors from three times per week to daily auctions; and (v) increasing the size of the main weekly refinancing operations as needed. To ease stock market volatility, the regulator OJK has introduced a new share buyback policy (allowing listed companies to repurchase their shares without a prior shareholders' meeting) and introduced limits on stock price declines. OJK has also relaxed loan classification and loan restructuring procedures for banks to encourage loan restructuring and extended the deadline—by 2 months—for publicly listed companies to release their annual financial reports and hold annual shareholders meetings.	Bank Indonesia has intervened in the spot and domestic non-deliverable foreign exchange markets, and in the domestic government bond market to maintain orderly market conditions. The Bank has also reaffirmed that global investors can use global and domestic custodian banks to conduct investment transactions in Indonesia.
Ireland	The Irish authorities have announced a comprehensive fiscal package of €7.2 billion (about 2% of GDP) including: (i) income support measures, namely (a) the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy scheme refunding employers up to 70% of an employee's wages – up to a level of €410 to allow employers to pay their employees during the current pandemic; (b) the COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit ("sick pay") of €350 per week for medically-certified self-quarantined individuals (for a maximum of two weeks) to minimise any disincentive that workers and the self-employed might have against self-isolation; (c) the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment – a payment available to all employees and the self-employed who have lost employment due to a downturn in economic activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic at a flat rate of €350 per week; ii) liquidity support for affected businesses with an initial package of €200 million; iii) health sector support package of €1bn to scale up the sector's actions and capacity to deal with the virus. Additionally, there is a further package, subject to final approval, of €1bn in 2020 for the health sector to further scale up its response actions and maintain service levels at	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the	

	community level particularly for vulnerable people. In addition, further measures underway include expanding capacity in public hospitals, developing primary and community-based responses and procurement of additional essential equipment.	classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. Additional measures announced by Central Bank of Ireland (CBI) include: (i) the release of the countercyclical capital buffer, which will be reduced from 1% to 0% no later than April 2; ii) agreement on the payment moratoria proposed by the largest banks for mortgages and individual loans (which will result in any arrears being exempt from the classification and loan loss provisioning as NPLs). SMEs will have the possibility to defer loan payments up to 3 months. The CBI expects banks to use the positive effects of these measures solely in support of the economy and not for dividend distributions.	
Israel	The authorities announced a package of NIS 15 billion (about 1.1% of GDP), which includes NIS 2 billion for health and other direct COVID19-related expenses and NIS 8 billion for public loan guarantees to SMEs. They also announced a series of expenditure and revenue measures including: (i) relaxation of requirements to obtain unemployment benefits and grants for laid-off workers; (ii) subsidies for the self-employed and SMEs; and (iii) deferred payments for income taxes, VAT, property taxes, social security contributions, and electricity and water bills.	Key monetary policy measures include: (i) the announcement of government bond purchases up to NIS 50 billion; and (ii) repo operations to provide shekel liquidity to the banks. The Bank of Israel has taken measures to ease financial conditions for households and companies by: (i) increasing the loan-to-value cap on residence-backed loans (from 50% to 70%); (ii) raising the cap (from 20 to 22 percent) on the banks' loan portfolio allocated to construction companies; and (iii) allowing commercial banks to increase customers' overdraft credit facilities and suspend restrictions on accounts of customers with checks returned due to insufficient funds. See also: https://www.boi.org.il/en/Pages/CoronaUpdates.aspx	The Bank of Israel is providing additional USD liquidity through foreign exchange swaps of up to US$15 billion.
Italy	The government adopted a €25 billion (1.4% of GDP) emergency package. It includes (i) funds to strengthen the Italian health care system and civil protection (€3.2 billion); (ii) measures to preserve jobs and support income of laid-off workers and self-employed (€10.3 billion); (iii) other measures to support businesses, including tax deferrals and postponement of utility bill payments in most affected municipalities (€6.4 billion); as well as (iv) measures to support credit supply (€5.1 billion) aimed to unlock about €350 billion (20% of GDP) of liquidity for businesses and households (see below). The authorities indicated that additional steps could be taken if needed.	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of	

		collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. Key measures adopted in the government's emergency package include: a moratorium on loan repayments for some households and SMEs, including on mortgages and overdrafts; state guarantees on loans to SMEs; incentives for financial and non-financial companies in the form of Deferred Tax Activities; state guarantee of €0.5 billion to the state development bank—Cassa Depositi e Prestiti—to support lending and liquidity to banks to enable them to finance medium- and large-sized companies. The Bank of Italy have announced a series of measures to help banks and non-bank intermediaries under its supervision, in line with the initiatives undertaken by the ECB and the EBA. These include the possibility to temporary operate below selected capital and liquidity requirements; extension of some reporting obligations; and rescheduling of on-site inspections.	
Japan	The Government of Japan adopted two emergency response packages (on February 13 and March 10), for a total amount of ¥446 billion (0.1% of GDP). The packages included: (i) measures to contain the spread of the virus and enhance preparedness of the healthcare system (around ¥62 billion, or 0.01% of GDP); (ii) aid to households (about ¥223 billion, or 0.04% of GDP) such as enhanced paid-leave and compensation to working	On March 13, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) expanded the overnight and term repos facility to enhance liquidity provision. On March 16, the BoJ called a monetary policy meeting and announced a comprehensive set of measures to maintain the smooth functioning of financial markets (notably of U.S. dollar funding markets), and incentivize the provision of credit. These include targeted liquidity provision through Japanese government bond purchases, special funds-supplying operation to provide loans to financial institution to	The exchange rate has been allowed to adjust flexibly.

	parents affected by the school closure; as well as (iii) measures to mitigate the economic impact (about ¥142 billion, or 0.03% of GDP) including subsidies to firms who maintain employment during scale down of operations. The deadline for tax return filing and payment of personal income tax, gift tax, and consumption tax (for the self-employed) was extended from mid-March to mid-April. Tax payments for people and businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak are deferred. In addition, the ¥26 trillion (about 4.8% of GDP) December 2019 stimulus package is being used to offset the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the economy as well as counter the economic slowdown. On March 19, the Government also launched "Intensive Hearing on the COVID-19's Impact on the Economy," attended by Prime Minister Abe and other key policymakers. To support the international response, the government has pledged ¥15 billion (about US$140 million) as contributions to WHO and other international organizations. Japan has made a contribution of SDR14 million (US$19 million) to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust.	facilitate financing of corporates, an increase in the annual pace of BoJ's purchases of Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and Japan-Real Estate Investment Trusts (J-REITs), and a temporary increase of targeted purchases of commercial paper and corporate bonds. The BoJ in coordination with the Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the European Central Bank, the Federal Reserve and the Swiss National Bank enhanced the provision of U.S. dollar liquidity on March 15, by lowering the pricing on the standing U.S. dollar liquidity swap arrangements by 25 basis points. As of March 24, 2020, the BoJ had provided U.S. dollar funding through the swap line of ¥10.4 trillion (US$94.5 billion) for 84 days and ¥5.2 trillion (US$47.3 billion) for 7 days. The government boosted special financing and guarantees primarily for micro, small and medium-sized business operators affected by COVID-19 to ¥1.6 trillion (US$15.6 billion, or about 0.3% of GDP) through the Japan Finance Corporation and other institutions.	
Korea	Direct measures amount to 0.8% of GDP (approximately KRW 16 trillion, including a supplementary budget for KRW 11.7 trillion). Health care measures: prevention, testing, and treatment costs, and loans and support for medical institutions. Measures for households: transfers to quarantined households, employment retention support, consumption coupons for low-income households, and emergency family care support. Measures for firms: loans and guarantees for business operation, and support of wages and rent for small merchants. Measures for local communities: local gift certificates and local government grants for costs of responding. Revenue measures: consumption tax cut for auto purchases; tax cuts for landlords who reduce rent for commercial tenants; VAT reduction for the self-employed; and tax payment deferral covering a broad range of taxes for small businesses and the self-employed in medical,	The Bank of Korea (BOK) has taken several measures to ensure continued accommodative monetary conditions and facilitate financial system liquidity. These include i) lowering the Base Rate by 50 basis points, from 1.25% to 0.75%, effective March 17, 2020; ii) making unlimited amounts available through open market operations (OMOs); iii) expanding the list of eligible OMO participants to include select non-bank financial institutions; iv) expanding eligible OMO collateral to include bank bonds and certain bonds from public enterprises and agencies; and v) purchasing Korean Treasury Bonds (KRW 1.5 trillion). To augment available funding for SMEs, the BOK increased the ceiling of the Bank Intermediated Lending Support Facility by a total of KRW 5 trillion (about 0.26% of GDP) and lowered the interest rate to 0.25% (from 0.5%-0.75%) On March 24, President Moon announced a financial stabilization plan of KRW 100 trillion (5.3% of GDP). The main elements are: i) expanded lending of both state-owned and commercial banks to SMEs, small merchants, mid-sized firms, and large companies (the latter on a case-by-case basis) including emergency lending, partial	The BOK opened a bilateral swap line with the U.S. Federal Reserve for US$60 billion. Other measures taken to facilitate funding in foreign exchange include: i) raising the cap on foreign exchange forward positions to 50% of capital for domestic banks (previously 40%) and 250% for foreign-owned banks (was 200 percent); ii) temporarily suspending the 0.1% tax on short-term non-

	tourism, performance, hospitality, and other affected sectors.	and full guarantees, and collateralization of loan obligations; ii) a bond market stabilization fund to purchase corporate bonds, commercial paper, and financial bonds; iii) financing by public financial institutions for corporate bond issuance through collateralized bond obligations and direct bond purchases; iv) short-term money market financing through stock finance loans, BOK repopurchases, and refinancing support by public financial institutions; and v) an equity market stabilization fund financed by financial holding companies, leading financial companies, and other relevant institutions.	deposit foreign exchange liabilities of financial institutions; and iii) temporarily reducing the minimum foreign exchange liquidity coverage ratio for banks to 70% (was 80%).
Malaysia	A fiscal stimulus package of RM 6 billion (0.4% of GDP) was approved on February 27, 2020. The measures include: (i) increased spending on medical equipment and personnel; (ii) temporary tax relief; (iii) a temporary reduction of the Employer Provident Fund (EPF) minimum statutory contribution rate from employees from 11% to 7%; (iv) targeted cash transfers; and (v) infrastructure investment and maintenance spending. Additional measures—electricity discounts and temporary pay leave—amounting to RM 0.62 billion (less than 0.1% of GDP) were announced on March 16, 2020. Some of the investment spending already planned for 2020 is being frontloaded. A second stimulus package will be released on March 27, 2020. This package will reportedly include additional health spending and transfers to local governments to fight COVID-19. Furthermore, employees will be allowed special withdrawals from their EPF account for a 12-month period.	Several measures have been taken: (i) on March 3, 2020, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) lowered the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) by 25 basis points to 2.50%, citing market disruptions, greater risk aversion and financial market volatility, and tighter financial conditions due to COVID-19; (ii) BNM lowered the Statutory Reserve Requirement (SRR) Ratio by 100 basis points to 2% effective 20 March 2020 and allowed each Principal Dealer to recognize MGS and MGII of up to RM1 billion as part of the SRR compliance until March 2021. BNM expects these combined measures to release approximately RM30 billion worth of liquidity into the banking system. BNM also allocated RM3.3 billion (0.2% of GDP) to three financing facilities (available from March 6, 2020) in support of SMEs. Participating financial institutions will obtain a public guarantee; (iii) on March 23, 2020, the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) and Bursa Malaysia suspended short-selling until April 30 to mitigate risks arising from heightened volatility and global uncertainties. The SC also waived annual licensing fees for capital market licensed entities. (iv) on March 25, 2020, BNM announced measures temporarily easing regulatory and supervisory compliance on banks to enable them to support loan deferment and restructuring (see link)	
The Netherlands	A package of fiscal measures was announced to contain the economic impact of the outbreak. The package includes spending measures of about 10-20 billion euros (1%-2% of GDP) in the next three months, and covering (i) compensation of up to 90% of labor costs for companies expecting a reduction in revenues of 20% or more; (ii) compensation for affected sectors (hospitality, travel, and	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an	

	others); (iii) support for entrepreneurs and the self-employed; (iv) scaling up of the short-time working scheme (unemployment benefit compensation available to companies needing to reduce their staff by at least 20%). In addition, companies can defer tax payments without penalties, and calculate provisional taxes on the basis of expected reduced activity levels. Also, public guarantee schemes, especially for SME loans, are expanded to help the most vulnerable companies to manage their liquidity problems. The total cost of these programs will depend on demand.	additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. In addition, the Dutch central bank has reduced systemic buffer requirements for the three largest banks to support bank lending. The central bank is also taking measures to provide temporary regulatory relief to less significant banking institutions. Furthermore, the planned introduction of a floor for mortgage loan risk weighting is postponed. In turn, the largest Dutch banks have agreed to grant SMEs a six-month postponement of their loan repayments.	
New Zealand	The government has announced a fiscal package amounting to a total of NZ$16.3 billion (5.4% of GDP), of which more than half will be disbursed by end-June. Key measures include: healthcare-related spending to reinforce capacity (NZ$0.5 billion or 0.2% of GDP); a permanent increase in social spending to protect vulnerable people (total NZ$2.4 billion or 0.8% of GDP over the next four years); a lump sum 12-week wage subsidy to support employers severely affected by the impact of COVID-19 (NZ$9.3 billion or 3.1% of GDP); a permanent change in business taxes to help cashflow	The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) cut the official cash rate (OCR) by 75 basis points to 0.25% on March 17 and announced that this level will remain for at least 12 months. The RBNZ also announced a Large Scale Asset Program (LSAP) to purchase government bonds in the secondary market up to NZ$30 billion across a range of maturities over the next 12 months. The RBNZ has been providing liquidity in the FX swap market and re-established a temporary U.S. dollar swap line (US$30 billion) with the U.S. Federal Reserve. A new Term Auction Facility, which allows banks access to collateralized loans of up to 12 months, has also been established. The RBNZ has reduced banks' core funding ratio requirement to 50%	The exchange rate has been allowed to adjust flexibly and has depreciated by about 16% year-to-date.

	(NZ$2.8 billion or 0.9% of GDP over next four years); and, support for the aviation sector (NZ$0.6 billion or 0.2% of GDP). The government has also approved a NZ$0.9 billion debt funding agreement (convertible to equity) with Air New Zealand to ensure continued freight operations, domestic flights and limited international flights. The government is expediting urgent work on new income support measures for all workers above and beyond the wage subsidy scheme.	from 75% to help banks make credit available. The start date for a regulatory change requiring higher capital for banks has been postponed for 12 months, to July 2021 (to support up to about NZ$47 billion of more lending), with other regulatory initiatives in the pipeline also put on hold for at least six months. The NZ government, the RBNZ and retail banks have also announced a number of financial measures to support SMEs and homeowners. These include a six-month loan moratorium to mortgage holders and SMEs affected by COVID-19 and a NZ$6.25 billion business finance guarantee scheme for SME loans, in which the government covers 80 percent of the credit risk. The government has also announced a six month freeze on residential rent increases and increased protections for tenants for termination of tenancies.	
Norway	Key tax and spending measures (about NOK 66.6 billion or 2.2% of 2019 mainland GDP excluding the government bond fund and any losses from government guarantees) include (i) larger wage subsidies for temporary lay-offs and more generous unemployment benefits; (ii) strengthening of the healthcare sector and transfers to municipalities; (iii) deferral of tax payments; (iv) change in CIT regulations so that lossmaking companies can re-allocate their losses towards previous years' taxed profits; (v) the establishment of a government guarantee scheme for bank loans; (vi) lowering of reduced VAT rate from 12% to 8%; (vii) suspension of aviation charges; (viii) the reinstatement of a government fund that buys bonds issued by Norwegian companies to increase liquidity and access to capital in the Norwegian bond market; and (ix) subsidies for domestic air routes. To support the international response, Norway is taking the initiative to create a new multi-donor fund at the United Nations to assist developing countries with weak health systems in addressing the coronavirus crisis.	Key monetary measures include: (i) reduction of the policy rate by 1.25% to 0.25%; (ii) provision of additional liquidity to banks in form of loans of differing maturities; (iii) the establishment of a swap facility of US$30 billion between Norges Bank and the US Federal Reserve (mutual currency arrangement); and (iv) the possibility for banks to borrow in USD dollars against collateral. Key macro-financial policies include: (i) easing of countercyclical capital buffer by 1.5 percentage points; and (ii) the possibility that banks can temporarily breach the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR).	Norges Bank announced that it was continuously considering whether there is a need to intervene in the market by purchasing Norwegian krone.
Portugal	Key fiscal measures contained in the March 18 fiscal package include: i) €3.0 billion (1.4% GDP) of state-guaranteed credit lines for medium, small and micro enterprises in affected sectors, operated through the banking system; ii) €5.2 billion (2.5% GDP) of (within-year) tax deferrals for companies and employees; iii) €1.0 billion	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting	

	(0.5% GDP) of relief from social security contributions. Additional financial support is also provided for: those temporarily furloughed by their employers; the self-employed affected by the virus; people forced to stay home to care for children, and; those sick or in quarantine. Finally, there have been additional resources transferred to the health system, and regulation on staff overtime, hiring procedures and procurement rules have been eased.	between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. Banco de Portugal, in line with guidance from the European Banking Authority, has announced the postponement of the 2020 stress test exercise for less significant banking institutions. On March 25, the Banco de Portugal relaxed some aspects of the macroprudential recommendations currently in effect, benefitting consumer credits with maturities of 2 years or less used by households to cope with temporary liquidity problems.	
Russian Federation	Key measures include: (i) increased compensation for medical staff as well as for health and safety inspectors; (ii) individuals under quarantine to receive sick leave benefits and federal budget to guarantee unemployment benefits paid by regional governments; (iii) zero import duties introduced for socially important goods; (iv) subsidized and guaranteed loans for SMEs, retailers, and distributors; (v) 3-month grace periods for SME payments of social contributions and rent to the government; (vi) government guarantees for restructured loans; (vii) tax	Policy rates remain unchanged so far. On March 19, the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) started selling FX reserves from the National Welfare Fund, reflecting the fall in oil prices below the reference price under the fiscal rule and the ongoing purchase of Sberbank by the government. It also increased the limit on its FX swap operations. It introduced temporary regulatory easing for banks intended to help the transport and tourism sectors, and more favorable treatment for FX loans issued to pharmaceutical and medical supplies companies. Banks have been allowed not to worsen the credit classification of SMEs, thus avoiding additional loan loss reserves, and to value	No measures beyond FX sales mentioned above reflecting the fiscal rule and Sberbank purchase.

	deadlines extended for tourism and aviation industries, as well as for SMEs and other affected industries; (vii) tourism companies not to pay contributions to the tourist sector reserve funds; and (vii) suspension of onsite checks by tax authorities. The authorities have released partial cost estimates for the measures, so far amounting to RUB 0.3 trillion (0.3 percent of GDP).	securities at their price from March 1. FX operations can also be valued at the exchange rate of March 1, except for those on open forex positions. The CBR has introduced a new RUB 500bn facility for SME lending and reduced the interest rate on the existing RUB 175bn facility. Measures for households include reduced risk weights on mortgages and allowing restructuring of bank loans for those with confirmed coronavirus infections, so long as banks' regulatory requirements are not impacted.	
Singapore	On February 18, the 2020 Budget announced a package of measures amounting to S$6.4 billion to deal with the economic slowdown and the uncertainties of the COVID-19 outbreak. Funds to contain the outbreak, provided mainly to the Ministry of Health, amount to S$800 million. The Care and Support Package provides support to households (S$1.6 billion), including through a cash payout and an additional goods and services tax (GST) voucher. The Stabilization and Support Package provides support to businesses (S$4 billion), including wage subsidies as well as additional support for industries directly affected and self-employed persons. On March 26, a supplementary budget was announced with additional measures worth over S$48 billion. The package includes, among other items, an expansion of wage subsidies, a tripling of cash payouts to households, enhancement of financing schemes and setting aside loan capital of S$20 billion, and additional support to the most affected sectors. Monetary and macro-financial	On February 14, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) welcomed the announcements from banks and insurers in Singapore to support their customers facing financial difficulties brought about by the impact of COVID outbreak, while adhering to prudent risk assessments. The support announced by banks include moratoriums on repayments for affected corporate and individual customers, extension of payment terms for trade finance facilities, and additional financing for working capital. On March 19, 2020, the MAS announced the establishment of a US$60 billion swap facility with the US Federal Reserve. The MAS intends to draw on this swap facility to provide USD liquidity to financial institutions in Singapore. On March 23, the MAS announced that the six-monthly monetary policy statement will be issued on March 30. This is slightly earlier than the usual timing of mid-April. On March 26, the MAS announced that the first auction under the US$60 billion MAS USD Facility with the Federal Reserve will be conducted on March 27, 2020, where US$10 billion in 7-day funds will be offered. MAS will conduct another two auctions on March 30, where US$12 billion in 7-day funds and US$8 billion in 84-day funds will be offered. After this, regular weekly auctions will be conducted every Monday.	
Spain	Key measures (about 0.7 percent of GDP, €8.9 billion; depending on the usage and duration of the measures the amount could be higher) include budget support from the contingency fund to the Ministry of Health (€1 billion); advance transfer to the regions for the regional health services (€2.8 billion); additional funding for research related to the development of drugs and vaccines for COVID-19 (€110 million); entitlement of unemployment	The ECB decided to provide monetary policy support through (i) additional asset purchases of €120 billion until end-2020 under the existing program (APP), and (ii) providing temporarily additional auctions of the full-allotment, fixed rate temporary liquidity facility at the deposit facility rate and more favorable terms on existing targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO-III) starting between June 2020 and June 2021. Further measures included an additional €750 billion asset purchase program of private and public	

	benefit for workers temporarily laid off under the Temporary Employment Adjustment Schemes (ERTE) due to COVID-19, with no requirement for prior minimum contribution or reduction of accumulated entitlement; increased sick pay for COVID-19 infected workers or those quarantined, from 60 to 75 percent of the regulatory base, paid by the Social Security budget; an allowance for self-employed workers affected by economic activity suspension; additional budgetary funds of €300 million and further budget flexibility for the provision of assistance to dependents; transfer of €25 million to autonomous communities funding meals for children affected by the school closure; and extension of the social benefit for energy provision. Further measures include exemptions of social contributions by impacted companies that maintain employment under the ERTE; tax payment deferrals for small and medium enterprises and self-employed for six months (€14 billion); 50% exemption from employer's social security contributions, from February to June 2020, for workers with permanent discontinuous contracts in the tourism sector and related activities; budget flexibility to enable transfers between budget lines; centralization of medical supplies; and an emergency management process for the procurement of all goods and services needed by the public sector to implement any measure to address COVID-19.	sector securities (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, PEPP) until end-2020, an expanded range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program (CSPP), and relaxation of collateral standards for Eurosystem refinancing operations (MROs, LTROs, TLTROs). The ECB Banking Supervision allowed significant institutions to operate temporarily below the Pillar 2 Guidance, the capital conservation buffer, and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR). In addition, new rules on the composition of capital to meet Pillar 2 Requirement (P2R) were front-loaded to release additional capital. The ECB considers that the appropriate release of the countercyclical buffer by the national macroprudential authorities will enhance its capital relief measures. The ECB Banking Supervision further decided to exercise – on a temporary basis – flexibility in the classification requirements and expectations on loss provisioning for non-performing loans (NPLs) that are covered by public guarantees and COVID-19 related public moratoria; and recommended that banks avoid pro-cyclical assumptions for the determination of loss provisions. Furthermore, the ECB recommends that banks opt for the IFRS9 transitional rules. In addition, the government of Spain has extended up to €100 billion government loan guarantees for firms and self-employed; up to €2 billion public guarantees for exporters through the Spanish Export Insurance Credit Company; and guarantees for loan maturity extensions to farmers using the special 2017 drought credit lines. These public guarantees could leverage up to €83 billion of liquidity support to companies through the private sector. Other measures include additional funding for the Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO) credit lines (€10 billion); introduction of a special credit line for the tourism sector through the ICO (€400 million); one-month moratorium on mortgage payments for the most vulnerable; deferred repayment of loans granted to businesses by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism; ban of short-selling Spanish shares in the stock market at least until April 17; and authorization for special government screening of FDI in strategic sectors.	
Sweden	The announced fiscal package amounts to SEK 174 billion or 3.5% of 2019 GDP to SEK 462 billion or 9.2% of 2019 GDP depending on uptake (the debt and deficit impact may deviate from these amounts). Measures include (i)	Key monetary measures include: (i) reduction of the lending rate for overnight loans by 55 basis points to 0.2 percent (while leaving the repo rate unchanged at 0 percent); (ii) lending of up to SEK 500 billion to companies via banks; (iii) introduction of a new lending	

	additional expenditures on wage subsidies for short-term leave, increase in transfers to relevant agencies to deal with the coronavirus outbreak and its repercussions, temporary payment of sick leave by the government, capital injections to SMEs, extra funding to the cultural sector and sports associations (SEK 16.9 billion); (ii) the possibility to defer a maximum of three month worth of payments of companies' social contribution fees, VAT and payroll taxes for a period of up to 12 months (SEK 27 billion if uptake similar to GFC, and SEK 315 billion if used by all firms to its maximum); and (iii) credit guarantees for Swedish airlines (SEK 5 billion) and expansion of the Swedish Export Credit Agency's credit guarantee framework (SEK 50 billion) and the Swedish Export Credit Corporation (SEK 75 billion). To support the international response, the government has decided to contribute SEK 40 million to the WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies.	facility whereby banks can borrow unlimited amounts (given adequate collateral) with 3-month maturity; (iv) increase of purchases of securities of up to SEK 300 billion this year (where securities may include government and municipal bonds, covered bonds and securities issued by non-financial corporations); (v) the establishment of a swap facility of USD 60 billion between the Riksbank and the US Federal Reserve (mutual currency arrangement); and (vi) the possibility for banks to borrow in US dollars against collateral of up to USD 60 billion. Key macro-financial policies include (i) easing of countercyclical capital buffer by 2.5 percentage points; (ii) the possibility for banks to temporarily breach the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) for individual currencies and for total currencies; and (iii) the recognition that loss of income due to COVID-19 is a cause for exemption from the amortization requirement (banks and borrowers may agree to reduce or suspend amortization payments temporarily given loss of income linked to COVID-19). Furthermore, the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority has urged banks and credit institutes under its supervision to refrain from paying out dividends to its shareholders under the current circumstances.	
Switzerland	The Federal Council (FC) has announced two aid packages with a total amount of CHF42 billion (around 6% of 2019 GDP). The first aid package of CHF10 billion, announced on March 13, includes up to CHF8 billion for partial unemployment compensation, CHF1 billion for financial aid to particularly affected firms, CHF580 million for loan guarantees for SMEs, and the rest for loss compensation for cancelled events. On March 20, the FC announced a second aid package of CHF 32 billion. The new package, which has yet to be approved by parliament, includes the following key measures: (i) a guarantee program up to CHF20 billion to support bridging loans to SMEs, with 100 percent guarantee for loans up to CHF500,000 and 85 percent guarantee for the amount exceeding that; (ii) temporary, interest-free deferral of social-security contribution payments for affected companies; (iii) extended payment periods for taxes and payables to federal suppliers without having to incur interest on arrears; (iv) extension of short-time work allowance and	To address liquidity bottlenecks, the FC on March 18 ordered a debt enforcement standstill from March 19 to April 4. The Swiss National Bank activated the U.S. dollar liquidity swap line with the Federal Reserve, lowered the interest rate, offered a new 84-day maturity, and increased the frequency of the 7-day maturity operations from weekly to daily. As of March 24, US$ liquidity injected via auctions totaled USD3.6 billion. In addition, the SNB announced on March 19 that starting April 1, the threshold factor for exempting sight deposits from negative interest rates would be raised from 25 to 30. On March 25, the SNB introduced a new COVID-19 refinancing facility. The facility operates in conjunction with the federal government's guarantees for corporate loans. It allows banks to obtain liquidity from the SNB, which is secured by the federally guaranteed loans. The SNB also requested deactivation of the countercyclical capital buffer. On the supervisory front, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority introduced a temporary exclusion of central bank reserves from the calculation of banks' leverage ratio, releasing capital buffers to support liquidity provision.	The SNB has increased its interventions in the FX market to limit appreciation of the Swiss franc. The total size of interventions, proxied by the change in sight deposits held at the SNB, was around CHF20 billion (or 2.9% of the 2019 GDP), since early February.

	simplification of the application process; and (v) compensation for loss of earnings for self-employed people and for some employees affected by official measures to combat the coronavirus (e.g.		
Thailand	In response to COVID-19, Cabinet has approved fiscal stimulus measures amounting to at least 3 percent of GDP or THB 518 billion consisting of: i) health-related spending, including preventive and remedial measures; ii) cash handouts and soft loans for 3 million workers outside the social security system; and iii) support for businesses through soft loans from FIs and Social Security Office, lower withholding tax and higher tax expense deduction for SMEs, lower water and electricity bills, and lower employees' and employers' social security contributions. The Ministry of Finance said that it plans to announce more measures between April and July.	The policy rate was reduced by 50 bps from 1.25 to 0.75 percent during the first quarter of 2020. In addition, a number of measures have been approved by Cabinet to help debtors affected byCOVID-19: (i) additional loans for circulation capital as well as reductions in interest and/or fees to make sure that debtors can keep their businesses operational; (ii) low interest loans (at 2 percent interest for a period of 2 years, not over 20 million Baht per customer); (iii) relaxation of repayment conditions and debt restructuring by suspending the principal and reducing the interest rate for the debts to SFIs; and (iv) relaxation of the maximum limit of personal loans for emergency cases. To lower the volatility of the government bond yield and ensure the normal functioning of the government bond market, the Bank of Thailand (BOT) purchased government bonds in excess of 100 billion baht during 13-20 March 2020, and will do more if necessary. The BOT reduced and cancelled BOT bond issuance. The Ministry of Finance, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the BOT (i) set up a special facility to provide liquidity for mutual funds through commercial banks (BOT's preliminary estimate of eligible bond mutual funds is approximately THB 1 trillion); and (ii) set up a THB 70-100 billion Corporate Bond Stabilization Fund to invest in high-quality, newly issued bonds by corporates to assist in debt rollover.	The BOT has provided some liquidity in the FX market thereby avoiding disorderly market conditions while also allowing the exchange rate to adjust as a shock absorber.
United Kingdom	Tax and spending measures include: (i) additional funding for the NHS and other public services (£5 billion); (ii) measures to support businesses (£27 billion), including property tax holidays, direct grants for small firms in the most-affected sectors, and compensation for sick pay leave; and (iii) strengthening the social safety net to support vulnerable people (by nearly £7 billion) by increasing payments under the Universal Credit scheme as well as expanding other benefits. The government is also launching with the British Business Bank the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support SMEs; deferring VAT payments for the next quarter until the end of the financial year; and will pay 80% of the salary of	Key measures include: (i) reducing Bank Rate by 65 basis points to 0.1%; (ii) expanding the central bank's holding of UK government bonds and non-financial corporate bonds by £200 billion; (iii) introducing a new Term Funding Scheme to reinforce the transmission of the rate cut, with additional incentives for lending to the real economy, and especially SMEs; (iv) launching the joint HM Treasury—Bank of England Covid Corporate Financing Facility which, together with the Coronavirus Business Loans Interruption Scheme, makes £330bn of loans and guarantees available to businesses (15% of GDP); (v) (v) activating a Contingent Term Repo Facility to complement the Bank's existing sterling liquidity facilities; (vi) together with central banks from Canada, Japan, Euro Area, U.S., and Switzerland, further enhancing the provision of liquidity via the	

	furloughed employees (to a maximum of £2,500 per employee per month) for an initial period of 3 months. To support the international response, the government has made available £150 million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust. See also: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses	standing US dollar liquidity swap line arrangements; and (vii) reducing the UK countercyclical buffer rate to 0% from a pre-existing path toward 2% by December 2020, with guidance that it will remain there for at least 12 months. The Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) set out supervisory expectation that banks should not increase dividends or other distributions, such as bonuses, in response to policy actions. See also: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/coronavirus.	
United States of America	US$8.3 billion Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act and US$104 billion Families First Coronavirus Response Act which together provide 0.5 percent GDP for health care, sick leave, small business loans, and international assistance. Agreement has been reached on a US$2 trillion (around 10% GDP) that is expected to pass Congress in the coming days. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act provides for transfers to households, extended unemployment insurance, food assistance, incentives for firms to maintain employees on payroll, loans and grants for businesses, funding for hospitals and health care infrastructure, transfers to state and local governments, and deferral of payroll tax obligations. Federal student loan obligations have been suspended for 60 days and tax filing deadlines have been delayed.	Federal funds rate lowered by 150bp to 0-0.25bp. Purchase of Treasury and agency securities in the amount as needed. Expanded overnight and term repos. Lowered cost of discount window lending. Reduced existing cost of swap lines with major central banks and extended the maturity of FX operations; broadened U.S. dollar swap lines to more central banks. Federal Reserve also introduced facilities to support the flow of credit, in some cases backed by resources from the Exchange Stabilization Fund. The facilities are: (i) Commercial Paper Funding Facility to facilitate the issuance of commercial paper by companies and municipal issuers; (ii) Primary Dealer Credit Facility to provide financing to primary dealers collateralized by a wide range of investment grade securities; (iii) Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility to provide loans to depository institutions to purchase assets from prime money market funds (covering highly rated asset backed commercial paper and municipal debt); (iv) Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility to purchase new bonds and loans from companies; (v) Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility to provide liquidity for already-issued corporate bonds; (vi) Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) to support the issuance of asset-backed securities backed by student, auto, credit card, and small business loans. Regulatory agencies indicated their support for banking organizations that use their capital and liquidity buffers to lend and undertake other actions to provide support to households and businesses. Fannie Mae / Freddie Mac have indicated 60-day suspension of foreclosures / evictions and a plan to reduce/suspend mortgage payments for up to 12 months for those affected by Covid-19.	

https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19

- **TMF Group**

Government support schemes for COVID-19

A list of the latest schemes is provided below (*updated as of 26th March 2020 – 16:03 GMT*). If you wish to learn more about the schemes or how to make application please contact your TMF Group representative or click here.

Asia	
Country	**Name of Scheme**
Australia	Backing business incentive. A 15-month investment incentive will be introduced by the government to support business investment and economic growth in the short-term. Cash flow boost for employers. The government is providing up to $100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits (including charities) with employees. The minimum payment is $20,000. Instant asset write-off enhanced. The instant asset write-off (IAWO) threshold is increased to $150,000 from $30,000 and access is expanded to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than $500 million (up from $50 million).
China	Digital technologies for SMEs. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) will support SMEs in applying digital tools such as video conferencing, cloud services and training programs to resume operations. The Ministry is also encouraging online office software developers to upgrade services and lower their fees. Enhance employment stability. China's State Council released a guideline to expedite the recovery of employment and keep it stable to counter the impact from the COVID-19 outbreak. It included prioritizing employment, helping migrant workers return to work, expanding job opportunities for college graduates, ensuring social security. Also, included fast-tracking targeted tax and fee reduction for safeguarding jobs, while prioritizing investment in industries that can create more jobs. It also called for a better environment for wider coverage of guaranteed loans for startups and policy support for venture investments. Enhanced legal service for private businesses. Chinese authorities are encouraging lawyers to provide additional services to small and medium-sized private enterprises to help them get back to 'business as usual.' Online services such as legal training and consultation will also be available. Shared spaces for SMEs. The Beijing Business Incubation Association has offered shared working spaces free of charge or reduced prices for small and micro businesses. Support resumption of work and production. The People's Bank of China issued CN¥111.4 billion of preferential interest rate loans to support businesses resuming work and production.
Hong Kong	Anti-epidemic fund. The Government has set aside $710 million under the Anti-Epidemic Fund to implement targeted measures to support the construction industry in combating the effects of COVID-19, reducing the risk of viral infection and spread among site workers, and preventing outbreaks of the disease on construction sites that would lead to mass suspension of work among construction workers$30 billion fund was established to provide relief to businesses, safeguard jobs and stimulate the economy. About $17 billion is allocated for enterprises and organizations to use at their discretion, such as pay employees' wages. Low-interest loans. A concessionary low-interest loan has been introduced by the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme for small and medium enterprises in all sectors. The amount of the loan is equal to the total amount of wages and rent for six months for the business, or a maximum of $2 million.

	Reduce business operating costs. Measures to reduce business operating costs have been implemented in Hong Kong. They include waiving the profits tax, rates for non-domestic properties and business registration fees; subsidising electricity charges, waiving water and sewage charges; and reducing rental and charges for government premises and land.
India	GST and indirect tax measures. The government of India has changed the dates for filing GST annual returns and indirect taxes to the last week in June with no interest, late fees or penalties. Relief measures for corporate affairs. There are many relief measures and extensions of deadlines for companies set by the government. Any document, return or statement that is required to be filed in the MCA-21 Registry, irrespective of its due date, will have no fees for a late filing up until 30 September 2020. The mandatory requirement of holding board meetings for companies will be extended by a period of 60 days for the next two quarters. Applicability of Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2020 will be made applicable from the financial year 2020-2021 instead of from 2019-2020. This will significantly ease the burden on companies & their auditors for the year 2019-20. Independent Directors are required to hold at least one meeting without the attendance of Non-independent directors and members of management. For the year 2019-20, if the IDs of a company have not been able to hold even one meeting, it will not be viewed as a violation. Requirement to create a Deposit reserve of 20% of deposits maturing during the financial year 2020-21 before 30th April 2020 will have the deadline extended to 30th June 2020.
Indonesia	Tax deferral. The deadline for individual annual tax returns has been extended from 31 March to 30 April 2020. Face-to-face services in tax offices are temporarily closed from 16 March to 5 April 2020.
Japan	Employment adjustment subsidies. The Japanese government has increased the employment adjustment subsidy rate for small and medium-sized businesses from 2/3 to 4/5 and for large enterprises from 1/2 to 2/3 to protect employment. Financial support for micro and SMEs. The Japanese government is issuing ¥1.6 trillion to help micro and small to medium-sized enterprises through a reduced rate loan program with interest-free unsecured financing support. Private financial institutions will provide new loans and change terms for existing debt. Special funds for corporate financing. The Bank of Japan introduced Special Funds Supplying Operations to ensure smooth corporate financing through loans up to the value of corporate debt.
Malaysia	Economic Stimulus Package. In conjunction with the implementation of Economic Stimulus Package 2020, the MOF had announced the establishment of a Unit for the Implementation and Coordination of National Agencies on the Economic Stimulus Package (LAKSANA) on 16 March 2020 to monitor the implementation of PRE2020. The MOF announced that up to 23 March 2020, implementation of PRE2020 is progressing smoothly. These include the proposed deferment of monthly income tax instalments for the tourism industry, the reduction in the EPF employee contribution and the discount on electricity. Up to 23 March 2020, a total of RM1.7 billion has been disbursed to relevant Ministries and agencies, out of the total PRE2020 direct Government allocation of RM3.2 billion. Few measures have been already implemented including Restructuring and Rescheduling (R&R) of loans by financial institutions, providence of soft loan fund worth RM3.3 billion by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) to assist SMEs, amongst others. Promote private sector investments. The Malaysian government has taken initiatives to promote private sector investments through a co-investment fund of RM500 million. Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) will provide a Special Relief Facility worth RM2 billion, providing working capital for small and medium enterprises at an interest rate of 3.75%.
New Zealand	Financial assistance. Wage subsidies will be available for all employers who have experienced at least a 30% decline in projected or actual revenue; made best efforts to retain employees and pay them a minimum of 80% of their normal income for the subsidised period; and have taken active steps to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Wage Subsidy will be paid at a flat rate of:

	$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week • $350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week. Leave entitlements. For 8 weeks starting 17 March 2020, leave payments will be available to support those who are require to self-isolate due to recent travels, cannot work because they or their dependents are ill with COVID-19. The Leave Payment will be a flat rate of: $585.80, for employees who work over 20 hours a week; OR, • $350.00 for employees who work fewer than 20 hours a week. Payroll reporting. There are two new leave types available in the payroll software – COVID-19 and COVID-19 Unpaid.
Singapore	Corporate Income Tax rebate and deferment. Businesses will get a rebate on corporate income tax and some enhanced tax treatments in moves aimed at improving their cash flow. Companies will be granted a rebate of 25% of tax payable, capped at $15,000, for the year of assessment 2020 - a move that will cost the Government about $400 million. All companies with CIT payments due in the months of April, May, and June 2020 will be granted an automatic three-month deferment of these payments. The CIT payments deferred from April, May, and June 2020 will instead be collected in July, August, and September 2020 respectively. Employers affected by Leave of Absence and Stay-Home Notices. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) is providing support to help businesses and the self-employed affected by leave of absence and stay-home notice requirements. Employers should receive $100 daily per affected worker for time off where telecommuting is not possible. Measures to help companies and employees. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) is providing support to help businesses and the self-employed affected by leave of absence and stay-home notice requirements. Employers should receive $100 daily per affected worker for time off where telecommuting is not possible. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will introduce further measures to help businesses cope during this period. Few of them are: • A three-month extension of the levy payment timeline to small-and-medium size enterprises (SMEs)1 with immediate effect, for more flexibility in their cash-flow management • Man-Year Entitlement (MYE) refund for construction firms affected by disruptions arising from COVID-19, with effect from 1 April 2020. • With immediate effect, MOM will provide SMEs with an additional three months to make the levy payment. In total, SMEs will have up to 5 months to pay for the foreign worker levy from the month it is incurred before revocation action kicks in. Stabilisation and support package. A $4 billion stabilisation and support package aims to help workers remain employed through wage support and reskilling opportunities; and help businesses with cash flow and operating costs. Swap facility. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) announced the establishment of a $60 billion swap facility with the US Federal Reserve. It intends to draw on this swap facility, which will be in place for at least six months, to provide USD liquidity to financial institutions in Singapore. Tax rebate. An expansionary budget will provide a universal 25% corporate tax rebate (capped at $15,000) for all companies. Tax losses and unabsorbed capital allowances can be carried for three years instead of one.
South Korea	Expansion of Special Financial Support. The Special Financial Support for Small Merchants and SMEs will be expanded to help with business operations. Supplementary budget for small merchants and SMEs. South Korea is helping small merchants and small and medium-sized businesses with ₩2.4 trillion of emergency support through loans and wage support. VAT Break. The government is providing a VAT break for businesses with revenues of ₩60 million or less per year.
Thailand	EXIM's interest rates cuts. The Export-Import Bank of Thailand will cut the Minimum Overdraft Rate (MOR), the Minimum Loan Rate (MLR), and the Minimum Retail Rate (MRR) interest to 5.75% per year effective 19 March 2020, to help entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises.

	EXIM Thailand has measures in place to suspend debt repayment and reduce exporting burdens by increasing export value interest rates for the first two years by 2% per year and allowing exporters to use long- or short-term loans to increase business liquidity.
Europe, the Middle East and Africa	
Austria	Additional measures beyond corona crisis management fund. The Austrian government has already established an emergency aid fund totalling €4 billion. It also presented a further package – a safety net for the Austrian national economy and for jobs in Austria,for €38 billion. In addition to the emergency aid fund, a a further €15 billion is expected to be added by way of an aid and compensation fund, and €10 billion for tax payment deferrals, further, measures amounting to €9 billion are planned for guarantees and liabilities, for companies to maintain liquidity. Corona crisis management fund. The Austrian government has created a €4 billion management fund for emergency aid that includes €400 million for short-time work. Small and mid-size companies can delay health insurance payments, request postponement of their open tax balances without penalties or interest, and apply for tax breaks, such as reduction of advance payments. Digital services assistance. The Austrian government created Digital Team Austria, a group of companies that will offer digital services to small and medium-sized enterprises. The services include VCs, online meetings, digital collaboration, cyber security, and internet access free of charge for at least three months. Hardship fund for SMEs. SMEs and many Austrian family businesses can apply for a hardship fund and can defer social security contributions. Payment of fees and duties suspended. Businesses do not have to pay additional fees and duties (for all documents and official procedures) to apply for emergency support from the Austrian government.
Czech Republic	Tax filing. The Czech government will eliminate penalties for late tax filing deadlines of VAT and CIT. CIT filing has been postponed from 1 April to 1 July.
Finland	Economic measures. The government has agreed upon a package of economic measures totaling €15 billion. The first supplementary budget of €400 million will be allocated to companies. The purpose of these measures is to ensure the liquidity of companies during the crisis and to prevent bankruptcies for all sectors.
France	Solidarity fund aid. France will release €45 billion to help small businesses. This is in addition to the tens of billions already promised to impacted store and restaurant workers. State guaranteed cash loans. The Government is implementing an exceptional guarantee scheme to support bank financing for businesses, up to 300 billion euros. This funding will allow them to have the cash needed to continue their activity and preserve employment. It can cover all new cash loans granted from March 16 to December 31, 2020. Tax deferral. All companies can defer tax payments due in March 2020 without justification, formality or penalty.
Germany	Economic Stabilization Fund. The Federal Government launched a large-scale economic stabilization fund: that consists of €400 billion euros state guarantees for liabilities, €100 billion euros for direct state investments, and €100 billion euros for funding from KfW. With a volume of up to €600 billion, thus cushioning the economic impact of the pandemic on companies whose existence is of considerable importance for Germany or the job market. It also applies to important smaller companies and companies in the field of critical infrastructure. Also, intended to eliminate liquidity bottlenecks, support refinancing on the capital market and, strengthen the capital base of companies. Emergency aid for self-employed and small businesses. To ensure liquidity for small businesses and the self-employed, the government will provide a one-time payment for three months - depending on the size of the company, up to €9,000 (up to five employees / full-time equivalents) or up to €15,000 (up to ten employees / full-time equivalents). Help for Lower Saxony companies. The Lower Saxony Ministry of Economics will use a supplementary budget of emergency aid of €1.4 billion euros to increase the credit line from €2 to €3 billion euros with liquidity loans and grants available online from the Lower Saxony Development Bank (NBank).

	KfW special programme. The KfW Special Programme 2020 has been launched, which supports companies that have temporarily run into financing difficulties. Small, medium-sized and large enterprises can submit applications through their main bank for aid. Short-term work allowance legislation. Legislation is being fast-tracked to facilitate access to short-term work allowances for companies where a minimum of 10% of the workforce is affected. State aid for businesses. A bailout fund of around €500 billion ($535.7 billion dollars) is being considered, with key points yet to be ironed out. Keep checking back for updates. Tax deferral. The German tax office published measures for businesses affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. In the announcement, the Ministry of Finance states that if companies are unable to make tax payments due this year because of the economic consequences of the corona pandemic, these payments are to be deferred on request and generally free of interest. Companies can apply to their tax office until December 31, 2020. There are no strict requirements for granting the deferral. Businesses must demonstrate that they are directly affected. However, they do not have to provide detailed evidence of the value of the damage incurred. This supports the taxpayers' liquidity by postponing the timing of the tax payment. This measure affects income and corporate tax as well as Value Added Tax. Unrestricted loans. The German government is offering loans of unlimited size to small and large companies.
Ireland	Microfinance schemes. Microenterprises can access COVID-19 loans of up to €50,000 from MicroFinance Ireland. The terms include six months interest free and repayment free moratorium, with the loan to then be repaid over the remaining 30 months of the 36-month loan period. Loans are available at an interest rate of between 6.8% and 7.8%. SBCI COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme. Micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and Small Mid-Cap enterprises that meet the eligibility criteria can apply for loans from €25,000 up to €1.5 million (first €500,000 unsecured) with a maximum interest rate of 4% for a duration of 3 years. SME Credit Guarantee Scheme. The SME Credit Guarantee Scheme is meant to encourage additional lending to SMEs by offering a partial Government guarantee (currently 80%) to banks against losses on qualifying loans to eligible SMEs. The key features are: Facilities of €10,000 up to €1m, terms of up to 7 years and Term Loans, Demand Loans and Performance Bonds. The scheme is operated on behalf of the Department by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) and is available from the participating lenders (AIB, Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank).
Italy	Pandemic emergency purchase program. The European Central Bank announced a new €750 billion temporary asset purchase program, Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program (PEPP), covering private and public sector securities. The bank also expanded the range of eligible assets under the corporate sector purchase program to include non-financial commercial paper. Support for workers. The Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance allocated €4 billion to unemployment funds, which has been extended to all employees in all sectors. Companies with fewer than five employees can file and receive benefits for a maximum duration of nine weeks. The Wage Integration Fund, which normally covers companies with five to 50 employees, with change the limit. Self-employed, seasonal, and other types of workers will receive €600 Workers with a gross annual income of up to €40,000 who perform their work in the workplace in March, not teleworking, are granted € 100, in proportion to the number of days worked. Other measures include: • support to employment and workers for the protection of work and income; • credit support for families and micro, small and medium enterprises, through the banking system and the use of the central guarantee fund; • suspension of payment obligations for taxes and contributions as well as other tax obligations and tax incentives for the sanitation of workplaces and bonuses for employees who remain in service;

	• extension of redundancy fund to all employees, of all production sectors. Employers, including companies with fewer than 5 employees, who suspend or reduce their activity following an epidemiological emergency. Tax deferral. Tax deadlines have been extended and/or suspended for companies in some areas of Italy. Tax credits will be granted to companies suffering a 25% decrease in revenue.
Luxembourg	Chambre of commerce providing banks guarantee. Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce will provide a bank guarantee up to 50% for financing requested by eligible companies (with a max of €250k). Extension of the deadline for annual AML KYC online survey. The deadline to answer the annual AML KYC online survey 2019 has been extended. Extension for filing financial statements. Companies will have an additional administrative period of 4 months to make annual financial data filings for 2019 at the RCS. No penalty for late filing of VAT returns. No administrative penalties will be applied for late filing of VAT returns. Permission for supervised entities to adopt and implment effective BCP measures. The CSSF endorsed the implementation of BCP measures by supervised entities including requesting its employees to stay at home and refrain from attending work. Special and exceptional leave for family reasons. A specific leave benefit form has been created for parents who have to look after their child(ren) under 13 years old. Strengthening of support for companies. The aid package for large companies and liberal professions has increased from €200k to €500k with an and extension of scope for eligible companies. Tax payment deferal and cancellation of tax advances. Taxpayers can benefit from cancellation of the 1st and 2nd quarterly installments for 2020 Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Municipal Business Tax (MBT); payment deferral of four months from the first payment deadline for CIT; MBT and Net Wealth Tax (NWT); and the extension of legal deadline for 2019 tax file from 31st March 2020 to 30th June 2020. VAT authorities reimbursing VAT balance below 10k. VAT authorities will reimburse all positive balances not exceeding €10.000 to cover cash flow requirements of approximately 20,000 companies in Luxembourg.
Netherlands	Emergency Fund Bridging Employment (Noodfonds Overbrugging Werkgelegenheid NOW)) scheme. NOW is intended to compensate employers who are faced with loss of turnover. It allows employers to pay their employees on permanent and flexible contract. NOW will replace the existing 'reduction in working hours' scheme (Werktijdverkorting). SME credit guarantee scheme (BMKB) extension. SMEs can use the BMKB scheme for bridge loans plus around ~€ 300 million in additional government financing. Tax payment deferral. Tax authorities will defer payments of individual income tax, value added tax (VAT), turnover tax, income tax, tax on wages and corporation tax for entrepreneurs. Widened Entrepreneur Financing Guarantee (Garantie Ondernemersfinanciering) scheme. The government proposes to increase the GO's guarantee ceiling from 400 million to 1.5 billion euros. With the GO, the government gives a 50% guarantee on bank loans and bank guarantees. The maximum per company is temporarily at 150 million euros. The Cabinet "commits to provide all warranty space that is required."
Norway	Delayed taxes and VAT. The Norwegian Government has implemented several measures to mitigate the liquidity impact for companies. Companies can postpone the VAT payments and income tax pre- payments. The VAT rate for travel, will be reduced from 12% to 8% from and including 1st January 2020 until further notice. Measures for temporary lay-offs. Measures have been put into place b the government to reduce the number of days that employers are obliged to pay salary to workers at temporary lay-offs, from 15 to 2 days. They have also removed the three waiting days between the period when employers have to provide salary to workers in temporary layoffs and the period when the workers are entitled to daily unemployment benefits.

Poland	Government assistance package. The Polish government introduced a PLN 212 billion assistance package for entrepreneurs and the economy. It includes measures to protect employees against job loss; financing for entrepreneurs through loan guarantees; leasing financing for transport companies; and micro loans up to PLN 5,000.
Russia	Economic measures for businesses. The Russian government has created a financial reserve of ₽300 billion and a loan guarantee fund for restructuring affected companies. The distressed sectors of the economy such as tourism and aviation will be given tax deferrals. Support for small and medium-sized businesses has begun with a three-month deferral on insurance contributions and a temporary deferral of rents for lessees of state-owned or municipal properties. A moratorium is being introduced on inspections of SME businesses, including tax and customs. Soft lending programs have been expanded along with the possibility of restructuring existing loan agreements at affordable rates.
Spain	Ensuring credit and financing. The government has adopted budgetary measures to support families, freelancers and companies, including Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) to ensure that banks can continue to provide credit and financing to families and businesses. Credit institutions can use capital and liquidity buffers and flexibility for loans related to COVID-19. Loan guarantees. Guarantees worth between €2,000 million to €100,000 million have been created for exporting companies. The Council of Ministers approved the conditions for the implementation, with a fund of €20 billion, of the first tranche of the loan guarantees to companies, SMEs and independent contractors that forms part of the raft of extraordinary measures.
Sweden	Crisis package for Swedish businesses and jobs. The Swedish government has a crisis package totaling more than SEK 300 billion. Short-term layoffs have been introduced to allow the central government to cover large portion of employee's wages, so the employee receives 90% of their salary. The government will also assume the entire cost of all sick pay during April and May.
Switzerland	Work compensations. An aid package of CHF10 billion ($10.6 billion) has been announced to help companies. Unemployment insurance funds can claim up to CHF8 billion for short-time work allowances. Short-time work compensation has been extended to include temporary employees. Up to CHF580 million in guaranteed bank loans is available to SMEs. An additional CHF10 million will go to compensate organisations for extraordinary administrative costs. Up to CHF4.5 million can be requested for losses on trade fairs through the official export sponsor S-GE.
UK	Business rates. The UK government announced to introduce a business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. Businesses that received the retail discount in the 2019 to 2020 tax year are expected to be rebilled by their local authority as soon as possible. Further, the Retail and Hospitality Grant Scheme provides businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a cash grant of up to £25,000 per property. For businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of under £15,000, they will receive a grant of £10,000, and for sectors with a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000, they will receive a grant of £25,000. Business rates for nurseries. The UK government introduced business rates holiday for nurseries in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. Commercial Insurance. Most commercial insurance policies are unlikely to cover pandemics or unspecified notifiable diseases, such as COVID-19. Insurance policies differ significantly, so businesses are encouraged to check the terms and conditions of their specific policy and contact their providers. However, those businesses which have an insurance policy that covers government ordered closure and pandemics or government ordered closure and unspecified notifiable disease should be able to make a claim. Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. A new temporary Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, delivered by the British Business Bank, is likely to be launched by early next week i.e (by 31st March 2020) to support primarily small and medium-sized businesses to access bank lending and overdrafts. The UK government is likely to provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs. The government will not charge businesses or banks for this guarantee, and the scheme will support loans of up to £5 million in value. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. All UK employers would be able to access support to continue paying part of their employees' salary for those employees that would otherwise have been laid off during the COVID-19 crisis.

	Covid Corporate Financing Facility. The joint HM Treasury and Bank of England lending facility announced a number of measures named the Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF), to support businesses. The facility is designed to support liquidity among larger firms, helping them to bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through the purchase of short-term debt in the form of commercial paper. Deferring VAT and income tax payments. Valued Added Tax (VAT) payments will be deferred for 3 months until 30 June 2020. For self-employed, Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system will be deferred to January 2021. Emergency rates package for Northern Ireland. The Department of Finance has announced a £100 million emergency rates package for businesses which are expected to pay zero rates for the next three months. Delay in rate bills Rate bills for 2020-21 were due to be issued in April 2020. To avoid placing financial pressure on ratepayers affected by COVID-19, rate bills will not be issued until June 2020. Rates holiday for businesses There will be a three month rates holiday for all business ratepayers, excluding public sector and utilities. • The Hardship Rate Relief scheme is available for non-domestic ratepayers who have been affected by exceptional circumstances. Grant schemes for Northern Ireland businesses. Small business grants of £10,000 to be issued immediately with a cost of £267 million providing support to 27,000 businesses in Northern Ireland. This is for all businesses with a NAV up to £15,000. Also, for hospitality, tourism and retail there is a Sectors Grant Scheme. This is an immediate grant of £25,000 to be provided to companies in these sectors in Northern Ireland with a rateable value up to £51,000. HMRC's Time To Pay service. Businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, are eligible to receive tax support through HMRC's Time To Pay service. Insurance claims. The UK government announced that businesses that were forced to close by the government will be able to make insurance claims as long as all other terms and conditions are met. Reduced bank rates. The Bank of England reduced bank rates by 15 basis points to 0.1%. The Bank of England will also enlarge the Term Funding Scheme with additional incentives for SMEs (TFSME). Scottish Government support for businesses. The Scottish Government is likely to support businesses through a package of measures worth £2.2 billion from 1 April 2020: a full year's 100% non-domestic rates relief for retail, hospitality and tourism; £10,000 grants for small businesses in receipt of the Small Business Bonus Scheme or Rural Relief; £25,000 grants for hospitality, leisure and retail properties with a rateable value between £18,000 and £51,000; 1.6% relief for all properties, effectively freezing the poundage rate next year. Small Business Rate Relief (SBBR). The government will provide additional Small Business Grant Scheme funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBBR), rural rate relief (RRR) and tapered relief. This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs. Statutory Sick Pay (SSP). Small and medium-sized businesses and employers can reclaim Statutory Sick Pay paid for absentees. Welsh capital repayment holiday. The Development Bank of Wales is offering all its business customers a three-month capital repayment holiday. Welsh government business rate relief. The Welsh Government has announced a package of support worth more than £1.4bn for small businesses to help them during the coronavirus outbreak. Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or less will receive 100% business rates relief for the financial year 2020/21. Welsh government grants. Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable value of £12,001 and £51,000 will get a grant of £25,000. Businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 or less are eligible for Small Business Rates Relief and will get a grant of £10,000.

The Americas	
Argentina	New economic measures. From March 18 to 31, procedural terms in tax, social security and customs matters will not be computed. This measure does not imply the extension in maturities and payments of tax obligations, which continue to operate as usual. National Tax Authority (AFIP) can only be accessed with a web appointment. Many procedures are available on the AFIP website. There is a temporary exemption for employer contributions for the most affected sectors, public entertainment, food services and passenger transport companies. The Productive Recovery Program is expanded to include a subsidy for the payment of salaries. There are credits and a digital program for SMEs to promote telework.
Brazil	Brazilian Federation of Banks economy stimulation measures. The Brazilian Federation of Banks (Febraban) announced that its five largest associated banks will comply with requests for a 60-day extension of debt maturities of individual and corporate clients; these involving micro and small companies and for current contracts but is limited to the values already stated. Brazil interest rate reduction. The Monetary Policy Committee reduced the Brazil basic interest rate (Selic) by 0.5 %, lowering the rate to 3.75%. Emergency financial support for Brazilian civil aviation. The payment of fixed and variable contributions for airport concession contracts signed by the federal government was extended until December 18, 2020. The deadline for reimbursement of airfare will be 12 months. Emergency measures for funds and financing. The National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) has announced measures to help companies totaling R $ 55 billion. They include: transfer of resources from the PIS-PASEP Fund to the Guarantee Fund for Length of Service (FGTS), in the amount of R $ 20 billion; temporary suspension of payments of installments of direct financing to companies in the amount of R $ 19 billion; temporary suspension of payments of installments of indirect financing to companies in the amount of R $ 11 billion and expansion of credit to micro, small and medium-sized companies (MSMEs), through partner banks, in the amount of R $ 5 billion. Launch of Todos por Todos platform. The federal government has launched the Todos por Todos platform, so that companies, entities and associations, in addition to public bodies, can offer services and products free of charge. Measures adopted by the economic team. The Brazilian federal government has postponed the collection of Simples Nacional tax for three months, which will benefit 4.9 million companies. The Income Generation Program, with resources from the Workers' Support Fund, will give R$5 billion to the public banks to grant loans to micro and small companies. Measures for micro and small companies. The Brazilian federal government has postponed the collection of Simples Nacional tax for three months, which will benefit 4.9 million companies. The Income Generation Program, with resources from the Workers' Support Fund, will give R$5 billion to the public banks to grant loans to micro and small companies. Measures to protect jobs and distribute income. Emergency aid of R $ 200 and the temporary simplification of labour rules is planned to protect jobs and low-income earners in Brazil. Three months' emergency assistance will be provided to eligible informal workers, individual and unemployed microentrepreneurs over the age of 18. Severance Pay Fund payment suspended. The Brazil Ministry of Economy has earmarked R$60 billion to safeguard jobs and wages. Payment by businesses into the Severance Pay Fund is suspended for three months.
Canada	Bankers' Acceptance Purchase Facility. A new Banker's Acceptance Purchase Facility will support a funding market for small and medium-sized businesses. Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP). The government has established a Business Credit Availability Program to provide more than $10 billion for businesses in the private sector through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada. Employment insurance. Service Canada is waiving the one-week waiting period to claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits and waiving the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits. They have introduced the Emergency Care Benefit providing up to $900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks. This flat-payment Benefit would be administered

	through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and provide income support to: Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits, and workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not quality for EI sickness benefits. Expansion of Bond buyback program. The Bank of Canada will act as a fiscal agent to broaden the scope of the Government of Canada bond buyback program adding market liquidity and supporting price discovery. Flexibility for businesses filing taxes. The deadline to pay off any outstanding balances interest-free will be extended to August 31, 2020. This applies to individual, trusts and corporations. This relief would apply to tax balances due as well as instalments. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will not contact any small or medium (SME) businesses to initiate any post assessment GST/HST or Income Tax audits for the next four weeks. For the vast majority of businesses, the CRA will temporarily suspend audit interaction with taxpayers and representatives. Income support for workers. For Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the Government is: • Waiving the one-week waiting period to claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits. • Introducing the Emergency Care Benefit providing up to $900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 week For Canadians who lose their jobs or face reduced hours, owing to COVID-19, the government is: • Introducing an Emergency Support Benefit delivered through the CRA to provide up to $5.0 billion in support to workers who are not eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment • Implementing the EI Work Sharing Program, which provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers, by extending the eligibility of such agreements to 76 weeks, easing eligibility requirements, and streamlining the application process Lowering the Domestic Stability Buffer requirement. The Domestic Stability Buffer requirement for domestic systemically important banks has been lowered by 1.25% of risk weighted asset. This will increase the lending capacity of Canada's large banks and support the supply of credit to the economy. Temporary wage subsidy. The government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months. The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of $1,375 per employee and $25,000 per employer. Businesses will be able to benefit immediately from this support by reducing their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration. Employers benefiting from this measure will include corporations eligible for the small business deduction, as well as non-profit organizations and charities.
Chile	Economic emergency plan. To protect labour income, employment and SMEs the government has created a plan that includes: Suspension of the monthly provisional payments (PPM) of corporate income tax for the next 3 months. Postponement of the payment of VAT for the next 3 months for all companies with annual sales under 350 thousand UF and allowing payment in 12 monthly installments at 0% interest rate. Postponement until July 2020 of the payment of income tax for SMEs with what they declare as income next April. Postponement of the payment of April's real estate taxes for companies with sales under 350 thousand UF and for persons with properties with a tax assessment under 133 million CLP. Temporary reduction of the stamp and seal tax to 0% for all credit operations during the next 6 months.
Peru	Flexibility in tax filing. For companies with less than 2300 UIT in revenue in 2019, there is flexibility with filing of monthly tax returns for February 2020 and the filing of Sales and Income Register and of Electronic Purchase. The filing dates of other types of accounting are postponed.
Uruguay	Benefit for employees. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security issued an unemployment subsidy regime for workers in the trade, food retail, hospitality and cultural and recreational service industries who have had to reduce the number of usual work hours by 50% or more.

US	$1 trillion economic stimulus. The US Senate Republicans unveiled a $1 trillion economic stimulus plan to provide funds directly to businesses and the American public in four categories small business rescue; rebates and tax breaks; health care issues; and targeted financial assistance. Commercial Paper Funding Facility. The US Federal Reserve Board announced the establishment of Commercial Paper Funding Facility to provide liquidity to the financial system, help American businesses manage their finances and provide a liquidity backstop to US issuers of commercial paper. Coronavirus relief package. Bipartisan Families First Coronavirus Response Act will provide free testing; paid emergency leave for workers including a temporary coronavirus-related sick leave benefit paid by employers with fewer than 500 workers; and unemployment insurance for those impacted by coronavirus including $1 billion in emergency grants to help states expand unemployment insurance benefits. Delay in federal tax date. The US Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced that the tax filings and payments for all taxpayers and businesses will have additional time to file and make payments without interest or penalties. The taxes due on April 15, 2020, will now be due on July 15, 2020. Disaster Assistance Loans for small business. The US Small Business Administration is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus. SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to $2 million. Emergency economic relief plan. The US government released a $300 billion small business emergency economic relief plan to I help small businesses cover payroll and expenses. It will provide cash-flow assistance through 100% federally guaranteed loans to employers who maintain their payroll during this emergency. The allowable uses for 7(a) loans will expand to permit payroll support, including paid sick leave, supply chain disruptions, employee salaries, mortgage payments, and other debt obligations to provide immediate access to capital for small businesses. Establishment of facilities to support American workers, households, and businesses. Three new facilities will provide liquidity to the financial system and support the flow of credit to American workers, households and businesses including the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF), Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility, and Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility. They will likely provide up to $300 billion in new financing. EXIM support for small business. The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) approved 142 authorizations totaling $164 million in support of American small businesses that export "Made in the USA" products around the world. These authorizations support a preliminary estimate of some 800 US jobs in one month. Expansion of Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility (MMLF) and Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF). The expansion of the MMLF includes a wider range of securities, including municipal variable rate demand notes and bank certificates of deposit. In addition, the CPFF was expanded to include high-quality, tax-exempt commercial paper and its pricing was reduced. Paid leave for workers and tax credits. The US Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service , and the US Department of Labor)announced under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, that small and midsize employers can take advantage of two new refundable payroll tax credits, designed to immediately and fully reimburse them, dollar-for-dollar, for the cost of providing Coronavirus-related leave to their employees .American businesses with fewer than 500 employees will be able to provide employees with paid leave, either for the employee's own health needs or to care for family member. Primary dealer credit facility. The US Federal Reserve Board announced the establishment of primary dealer credit facilities to address illiquidity, mitigate disruptions in funding markets, support smooth market functioning and help facilitate the availability of credit to American workers and businesses. Relief measures for US exporters and financial institutions. The Export-Import Bank of the United States announced relief measures for small businesses and financial institutions through waivers, deadline extensions, streamlined processing, and flexibility.

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