



Horwath HTL

Hotel, Tourism and Leisure

INDUSTRY REPORT: COVID-19 IMPACT

*Country Specific
Assistance benefiting
the Tourism and
Hospitality Sector*

29th MAY 2020 - Version 4

Introduction

The global economy is under enormous strain as it deals with the fallout from the COVID 19 virus. All industries and all sectors are affected, but none more so than hospitality.

By its very nature the hospitality business is entirely dependent on the movement of people and a fall-off in demand of this magnitude has never been experienced before. Hotels, restaurants, airlines, resorts, bars and all other businesses related to travel and tourism have come to a grinding halt.

About 20 years ago, many mature societies observed a shift in behaviour. This shift was families and individuals spending more on travel and experiences than they spent on household goods.

What is positive about this crisis is that for the first time travel and tourism has been named specifically as an industry that is vital in any functioning economy and in fact many economies derive a considerable amount, if not the majority of their GDP from travel and tourism related activities.

Many governments recognise this and have put extraordinary measures in place to try and protect these businesses. There is a recognition that, certainly in the short term, these businesses need to be mothballed and supported as opposed to being closed down. This makes very good business sense as the expense and time spent ramping these businesses back up to efficient levels is a lot more expensive. This of course is predicated on the exceptional circumstances lasting around three months as opposed to 6 months or longer.

It will come as no surprise of course to see that some governments are more supportive than others. This is for a variety of reasons, not least of which some countries are unable to afford the levels of support required.

We decided to start collating these industry support measurements on a country by country basis so that we can create a best practice benchmark that shows the different approaches. Hopefully once this crisis passes we will be able to look at the various measures adopted and figure out which was the most effective and why. It would be wonderful if this was the last such crisis in our lifetimes, but it seems more likely that it won't be. As long as we learn as much as we can about how to keep entire economies and industries afloat, what works and what doesn't work, we will be in much better shape to deal with the next one.

Our goal is to update this report on a weekly basis as we obtain more information, please circulate and look out for further editions.

We have made a comparative compilation of benefits extended by several nations for the hotel sector, and for tourism. The compilation will be updated for information from other countries as sector specific information becomes available.

James Chappell
Global Business Director, Horwth HTL

AMERICAS: Argentina

	Policies & Benefits
Wages & Staff Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% salary paid by government for most sectors (which includes Tourism related activities) up to a maximum amount defined per sector • Unemployment Insurance Fund has been reinforced. • Emergency Family Income (IFE) fund for unregistered workers and low income self-employed people (USD150 per family) • Monthly extra payment to health personnel (USD80) • Dismissals due to any cause, including force majeure, and suspensions are prohibited for a period of 60 calendar days
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 95% reduction Employer contributions payment to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System. (SIPA)
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online product purchases incentives through 12 fixed installments plans • Loans to small and medium-sized companies for the salary payments • Loans to guarantee production in key sectors
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eviction of commercial and residential tenants made illegal for 6 months • Price freezing for rental contracts • Maximum prices for essential goods, food and medicines • Utility outage due to nonpayment have been temporarily suspended • Assistance to Argentines abroad

AMERICAS: Chile

	Policies & Benefits
Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension of labour contracts without terminating them. Employer must still pay social security for the Employee and Employee receive payments from unemployment insurance funds to replace the lost wages • Flexibility to reduce the daily, weekly and monthly schedule
Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to three months grace period for VAT and Corporate Taxes payments** • Stamp Tax reduced to 0 for 6 months • Extension of deadlines for sworn statements • Anticipation of Tax refunds • Acceptance of expenses due to the emergency • Flexibility on Tax debts**
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Guaranteed loans through commercial banks for all companies with sales lesser than UF 1,000,000 (ap. USD \$ 34,000,000)** • Loans have a preferential interest rate (considering inflation it tends to 0) and grace period for up to 6 months
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several measures to secure liquidity of the capital market, especially banks

* Benefits are of general application (all industries, not specifically tourism)

** Benefits depends on the size of company and are limited to medium and small companies

AMERICAS: Brazil (Updated)

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility of wages and working hours for 3 months - reductions in 25%, 50% or 70%; • In return, the worker will receive a portion of the unemployment insurance price paid by the Federal Government. The amount is proportional to that paid by the company; for example: If the employer reduces the salary, the government pays 50% than the worker would receive unemployment insurance. • The measure applies to micro / small companies in addition to large companies and for any type of salary; • In some cases, negotiation can be done between the employer and the employer preached, without the help of unions; • Whoever receives a minimum wage, will have full compensation replacement; • Employment contracts can also be suspended for two months; • Companies with annual gross revenue below R \$ 48 million can sustain 100% of their contracts. employees will receive 100% of the unemployment insurance. • Companies with revenues above RS 4.8 million will have to pay 30% of the salary, and the government will bear 70% of the benefit.
Credit Line for Salary Payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The credit line allows small and medium-sized companies to pay their payment for two months during the coronavirus pandemic. The operation will be made by BNDES, with the participation of private banks and the Central Bank (BC). The expectation is to reach 12.2 million employees from 1.4 million companies in the country. • The money will be lent by banks to companies with annual sales between RS 360 thousand and RS 10 million. The measure meets an important demand from the tourism sector, one of the most affected by the situation. About 80% of the segment tourism is formed by micro and small companies. • Whoever receives the loan will not be able to fire employees for two months and the money will be deposited directly into the worker's account, limited to two minimum wages. • The total amount of the credit line will be R \$ 40 billion. 85% (RS 34 billion) subsidized by the National Treasury. • For companies, a six-month grace period will be offered, and payments can be done in up to 36 months, with an interest rate of 3.75% per year. • The BNDES also expanded the working capital offer for companies with annual growth of up to R \$ 300 million until September 30, 2020, with a financing limit up to R \$ 70 million per year. At least R\$ 5 billion will be available for support to small and micro companies. • In addition, the bank also announced the possibility of granting the suspension of loan repayment terms of up to six months contracted with BNDES, in direct and indirect modalities to the companies affected by the crisis - a measure known in the market as standstill. In direct operations, the suspension request must be sent to the BNDES. In indirect operations. The interruption should be negotiated with the financial agent, granting the financing. The total term of the credit will be maintained and default interest will be incurred during the suspension period.

AMERICAS: Brazil cont.

Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government decided to extend the deadline for payment of federal taxes under the Simples Nacional for 6 months. The measure also applies to Individual Microentrepreneurs (MEIs). The state and municipal taxes (ICMS and ISS) of Simples were extended for 90 days. • The deadline for submitting the Declaration of Socioeconomic and Tax Information (Defis) for the Simples Nacional companies and the Simplified Annual Declaration for the Individual Microentrepreneur (DASN-Simei) for the calendar year 2019 has also been postponed. • The mandatory contributions to the S System will be reduced by 50% for 3 months. The estimate is that companies will stop paying R \$ 2.2 billion in the period. • The MP that relaxed labor laws also authorizes companies and employers of domestic workers to postpone, in three months, the deposit of the Employees' Severance Pay Fund (FGTS). The obligation to pay for the periods of March, April and May, with maturity in April, May and June, is suspended, and the payment can be made only from July, in 6 fixed installments. • The 90-day extension of the validity of the Negative Debt Certificates (CND) and of the Positive Certificates with Negative Effects (CNEND) was also announced, both related to federal Tax Credits and the Union's Active Debt. These two certificates are necessary for legal entities to carry out a series of activities, such as, for example, participating in tenders or obtaining financing. • The government also reduced the collection of the Tax on Financial Operations (IOF) on credit operations to zero. The IOF for credit operations is 3% per year. • It was also announced the postponement of contributions to Pis-Pasep, the payment of Cofins - contributions that are levied on companies revenues - and also the employers contribution to Social Security. According to the IRS, these contributions would be due in April and May, and will be postponed for payment in August and October.
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Tourism will facilitate access to credit lines for micro, small, medium and large entrepreneurs. The change occurred after signing of an ordinance, on March 19, which promoted a series of changes that facilitate access to credit. such as reducing interest rates and postponing payments. At Actions aim to help the sector to go through the financial difficulties resulting from the ncoronavirus pandemic. • The Ministry also accelerated the release of R \$ 381 million by the Ministry. Through Fungetur with the 17 financial institutions accredited for financing. • Entrepreneurs will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction in interest rates from 7% to 5% per year; - Expansion of the grace period from 6 months to 1 year; - Possibility of investing 100% of the funds in working capital. • In addition to Fungetur, companies in the tourism segment will also be included in credit lines available from Banco do Brasil, BNDES and Caixa Econômica Federal. Tourism Minister Marcelo Álvaro Antônio has been meeting with representatives of these banks to design actions that streamline the access of credit lines for businessmen in the sector. The goal is to give one more alternative businessmen in the sector to guarantee cash flow and maintain thousands of jobs in the country.
Other	<p>Around USD 680 million to be destined to financial aid to the 3 main Brazilian airlines: Latam, GOL and Azul. The National Development Bank (BNDES) will provide the 60% in the form of a soft loan, and 10% will be offered by private banks. The remaining 30% each airline has to obtain though the capital market.</p>

AMERICAS: USA

Federal Assistance Programs benefiting the Tourism & Hospitality Sector	
Wages and Staff Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial direct stimulus payment of up to \$1,200 per qualifying individual, \$2,400 per qualifying couple and \$500 for each dependent (up to age 17). • Via the CARES Act of March 27, 2020, laid off employees received standard weekly unemployment wage/salary benefits (based on a percentage of historical salary) plus a \$600 per week additional benefit until the end of July 2020 (which provides total unemployment benefits for some that are in excess of their pre-Covid 19 wages). • CARES Act provides the option of extending unemployment compensation to independent contractors and other workers who are ordinarily ineligible for unemployment benefits. • CARES ACT waives certain restrictions/penalties on employee retirement fund early withdrawals. • CARES Act provides mortgage, foreclosure, and eviction relief for certain residential and multi-family borrowers with Federally-backed mortgages, subject to various restrictions. Multi-family borrowers, who can document hardship from COVID-19, may request forbearance for one, 30-day period. Upon request, that period can be extended for two, additional 30-day periods. Residential borrowers may request forbearance (a suspension of payments) for one, 180-day period and the Act also establishes a 120-day moratorium on residential evictions, whose mortgages are Federally-backed. Other residential and commercial forbearance acts have been initiated on a state by state basis and vary considerably. • Free COVID-19 testing.
Taxes, Loans and Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): To encourage small businesses to avoid layoffs/furloughs and to rehire employees already laid off, most businesses with 500 or fewer employees including nonprofits, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals and independent contractors, and certain businesses with more than 500 employees that meet SBA size standard determined for each industry, are eligible for forgivable loans up to \$10 million to be used for payroll and certain other operating expenses. For businesses that retain employees and maintain payroll for an eight-week period following the receipt of the loan proceeds, up to the full amount of these loans is eligible for forgiveness. At least 75% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll costs. Businesses are eligible to submit applications under this program through June 30, 2020. For the portions of loans that are not forgivable, these loans have a fixed interest rate of 0.50% per annum and a terms of 2 years. • The Coronavirus Economic Stabilization Act under the CARES Act provides the largest potential impact to provide liquidity to covered businesses, including in the hospitality sector. The primary restriction is that eligible borrowers must agree to cap all employee compensation (including salary, stock, and bonuses) for a period ending one year after the loan is repaid and they must retain at last 90% of existing workforce, at full compensation and benefits until September 30, 2020. • SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL Program): An eligible small business located in a region designated by the SBA as a Disaster Area (currently is every region) can apply for up to \$2 million in SBA Disaster Loans. These loans can have terms up to 30 years and provide for low interest rates at 3.75% per annum for small business and 2.75% per annum for nonprofits. • 50% Employee Retention Credit for Employers Closed Due to COVID-19: The CARES Act provides eligible employers with a refundable payroll tax credit equal to 50% of certain "qualified wages" (and is capped at \$5,000 per employee) paid to its employees beginning March 13, 2020 through December 31, 2020 if the employer is engaged in an active trade or business in 2020 and the wages are paid 1) while operation of that trade or business is fully or partially suspended due to a governmental order related to COVID-19; or 2) during the period beginning in the first quarter in which gross receipts for that trade or business are less than 50% of gross receipts for the same calendar quarter of 2019 and ending at the end of the first subsequent quarter in which gross receipts are more than 80% for the same calendar quarter of 2019. • Payroll Tax Payment Extensions: The CARES Act postpones the deadline for payment of the employer portion of the 6.2% employer share of the Social Security tax (but not the 1.45% employer share of the Medicare tax) from the March 27, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The deferred amounts would be payable over the following two years, with 50% payable by December 31, 2021 and the remaining 50% by December 31, 2022. • SBA Debt Relief Program: For businesses with existing SBA loans that take out new SBA loans under these programs within six months of March 27, 2020, the SBA will cover all loan payments (principal, interest, and associated fees) for six months, including principal, interest, and fees, beginning on the next payment due date.

AMERICAS: USA cont.

Pending legislation – HEROES Act (benefiting the Tourism & Hospitality Sector)	
<p>Wages and Staff Welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This \$3 trillion COVID-19 legislation, called the HEROES Act, has passed the House of Representative and has headed to the Senate, where if passed (unlikely) President Donald Trump also has said he will veto it the next vote is not expected until after Memorial Day (May 25). <p>Some highlights of the HEROES Act, as they exist in the House of Representative version, and as they pertain to the Hospitality Industry include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides additional direct payments of up to \$1,200 per individual; • provides for an extension of unemployment insurance benefits (including \$600 per week bonus) until January 2021; • modifies and expands the Paycheck Protection Program (including an extended period covered to use loan and an expansion of approved loan uses); • establishes a fund to award grants for employers to provide pandemic premium pay for essential workers; • expands several tax credits and deductions; • extends and expands the moratorium on certain evictions and foreclosures; and • requires employers to develop and implement infectious disease exposure control plans.

AMERICAS: Dominican Republic

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning on May 20, the Employee Solidarity Assistance Fund (FASE), which consists of state aid over RD \$ 8,500 per month for each employee suspended from work, will be extended for another month. In addition and in order to support more workers, some provisions for both firms and employees have been made more flexible. This program impacts more than 2.3 million households, representing an injection of up to RD \$ 20 billion into the economy. In addition to the FASE and Stay at Home programs, the Government announced the launch of a new initiative to protect independent workers, called "Pa' Ti " and aimed at independent workers unable to work due to the social distancing measures. A monthly transitional transfer of 5,000 pesos will be provided to their bank accounts, this only applies if a person is not already a beneficiary of any other program, especially of the "Stay at Home" initiative.
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-month extension, until May 29, for the declaration and payment of companies' income tax. In addition, the payment can be divided into four equal and consecutive installments, without penalty. Reduction of the value of the installments of all current payment agreements by 50%, thereby doubling their term. Provision of late payments regularization options to taxpayers, without penalties. Exemption of Social Security and related Payment during the month of April. Postponement of ITBIS declaration and payment for 10 days, payment can be made in four equivalent installments, without penalties. The Ministry of Finance and General Directorate of Internal Taxes allows small and micro-enterprises ITBIS payment on a quarterly basis instead of monthly.
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of resources released from legal reserve funds to RD \$ 30,133.4 million, for facilitating loans granted to households and productive sectors Reduction of the Monetary Policy Rate by 100 basis points to promote a drop in interest rates Collaboration of Central Bank, Superintendence of Banks and Association of Commercial Banks of the Dominican Republic, micro and small enterprises will have access to financing funds at lower interest rates. With the technical support of multilateral organizations, this endorses a portfolio of up to RD \$ 125,100 million pesos, made up of active loans and new loans aimed at small and micro-enterprises. The Govt will give guarantees for up to 50% of the chosen portfolio, whilst the bank assumes the remaining 50%. More than 210,000 micro & small companies which as of February 29, 2020 received A and B rated commercial loans.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Stay at Home' program subsidizes 1.5 million households, which are identified as poor/vulnerable and mostly working in the informal sector. The program will transfer RD \$ 5,000 pesos per month to 811,003 families that currently benefit from 'Comer es Primero', plus an additional up to RD \$ 7,000 to households with a member over 60 years of age or with a health condition. This intervention involves resources of RD \$ 16,981.7 Mn. From Wed May 20, 2020, the reopening of companies, with reduced staff, will be allowed, as well as the return to operation of public transport, with a limit of 30% of total capacity. Over the course of the next two weeks, in micro-enterprises, with up to 10 persons employed, up to 5 employees or not more than 50% of total staff will be allowed to work simultaneously. In small enterprises, with between 10 and 50 employees, a minimum of 10 people and not more than 50% of total employees may work. Medium & large companies can operate with a maximum of 25% of their personnel. The public sector will re-open with 50% of the personnel; the incumbents are authorized to increase this percentage if needed.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postponement of application rates to Advance Price Agreements to the tourism sector so that it can have the resources to meet its commitments.

Asia Pacific: Australia

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	Government will pay AUD 1,500 fortnightly per employee from 30-Mar-20
Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUD 1 billion to support sectors including tourism which are disproportionately affected by economic impact of COVID-19 Support will include waiver of fees at specified tourist places of interest

Asia Pacific: China

National	Policies & Benefits
Travel Agencies	80% of the travel agency deposit is temporarily returned to licensed tour agencies, and the total amount is around 8 billion RMB by Feb 25th.
Transportation, Catering, Accommodation & Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum carryover period for the loss incurred in 2020 is extended from 5 years to 8 years. Income from general service industries and public transportation is exempted from value added tax.
Cities	Policies & Benefits <i>(Detailed policies and amount varies amongst cities)</i>
Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide bail-out funds for qualified tourism enterprises especially for SMEs. Offer tax & fee reduction, e.g. reduction of VAT and reduced/delayed social security payments.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidize tourism SMEs that offer employment opportunities/did not lay off workers. Offer subsidies for enterprises that provide training programs.
Rent & Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide rent reduction directly or provide subsidies for landlords that offer rent reduction. Implement utilities subsidies or extend payment deadline.
Loans & Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage financial institutions to provide low-interest loans, loan extensions and loan renewal support with interest subsidies from the government.
Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide coupons in different fields: traveling, catering, accommodation and entertainment. Launch 2.5-days-off per week in several cities.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Class-A tourism attractions to be free of charge to the public. Encourage travel agencies to attract domestic tourists. Offer subsidies for tourism promotional campaigns. Encourage online tourism development.
Hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidize hotels on special room rate offer.s
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend convention center rental payment deadline. Offer subsidies for events including waiving venue rental fee.

Asia Pacific: Hong Kong

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government will pay 50% monthly salary for every local employee (salary up to HK\$9,000) for six months First Payout from June 2020
Rental Concessions	Govt. Rental concession for Apr-Sep '20 to increase from 50% to 75%
Metro Train Fares	Train fares to be lower by 20% for six months from 1 July 20
Airlines	Airlines and aviation operators to get aid of HK\$ 2 billion

Asia Pacific: Taiwan

	Policies & Benefits
Tourism & Travel Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel agencies, hotels, amusement parks, B&Bs, and tour guides, are eligible for paid training programs at the minimum hourly wage of NT\$158 for 120 hours, which would provide for up to NT\$18,960 for each worker furloughed during the pandemic. Travel agencies, hotels and amusement parks could apply for loans up to NT\$50 million each, while B&Bs will be eligible for loans up to NT\$16 million each. Self-employed workers/freelancers, tour guides eligible for a subsidy of NT\$30,000. Ministry of Transportation & Communications earmarked NT\$1.5b to aid hotels and B&Bs. Hotels would receive NT\$200,000 and NT\$10 million as part of the plan, depending on their size, while B&Bs and those that have received the Taiwan Host certification from the Tourism Bureau would receive between NT\$50,000 and NT\$100,000 respectively. The nation's five largest travel agencies, which typically arrange 500 tours annually, would receive a subsidy of up to NT\$25 million. Mid-sized travel agencies and hotels would be eligible for loans ranging from NT\$150 million to NT\$500 million, which are to be provided through additional funding of NT\$150 billion package for mid-sized companies that the central bank announced last week.

Asia Pacific: Indonesia

	Policies & Benefits
Total Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDR 500 billion (USD32m budget for social protection programs for tourism players)
Wages & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 189,000 workers in hospitality industry proposed to receive the Pre-Employment Card to improve the competency, productivity and competitiveness of the workforce, as well as to reduce the living cost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees income tax (Pajak Penghasilan - PPh) Article 21 to be borne by the government Accelerated value added tax (VAT) refunds 30% reduction for the income tax (PPh) Article 25 instalments
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing accommodation and transportation for medical personnel Empower SMEs through fabric masks and ready-to-eat dishes program

Asia Pacific: Thailand (New)

	Policies & Benefits
Overview	<p>Phase 1: (dated March 4, 2020) – total THB 100 billion; providing financial assistance to SMEs as well as tax relief and cash handouts.</p> <p>Phase 2: (dated March 24, 2020) – total THB 117 billion; focused on enhancing the incentives provided in Phase 1 and extending the filing of tax returns for businesses and employees.</p> <p>Phase 3: (dated April 7, 2020) – total THB 1.9 trillion; providing soft loans to SMEs, cash handout to workers and the liquidity in the financial sector.</p>
Financial Aid	<p>Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THB 20 billion for providing of disinfection equipment and face masks; supporting unemployed and treatment of infected people; reducing financial pressure on employers so that they can keep staff. <p>Phase 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THB 600 billion for 6 months, to help farmers, and support public health services • THB 400 billion (under a rehabilitation plan) to strengthen economy/boost infrastructure development
Wages	<p>Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security will pay 50% of wages for the unemployed for up to 6 months. <p>Phase 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THB 5,000 a month for 3 months paid to 3 million workers not covered by Social Security Fund.
Taxes	<p>Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing withholding tax from 3% to 1.5% for e-payments made from 1 April 2020 to 30 Sept 2020 and to 2% for a period from 1 Oct 2020 to 31 Dec 2021. • SMEs participating in low-interest credit & registering for a single financial account program, 1.5-time tax deduction can be made for interest expenses that occur between 1 April - 31 Dec 2020. • SMEs can deduct 3 times the salary paid from April - July 2020 for employees who are insured under the Social Security Fund and receive wages of not more than 15,000 Baht per person per month. • Expedition of VAT refunds to domestic entrepreneurs in the goods exporter program within 15 days after filing the e-form (compared to a typical 30-day refund process). • Revenue Department will provide additional deduction equal to but not exceeding THB 200,000 for purchase of investment unit of Super Saving Fund (SSF), which places investment at least 65% in securities registered in Stock Exchange of Thailand, purchased from 1 April -30 June 2020, and the purchaser shall hold the investment unit for at least 10 years. <p>Phase 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemption of custom duty for products related to the treatment and prevention of Covid-19 before September 2020. • Exemption of VAT for materials donated to hospitals, government agencies or charities used for Covid-19 related purposes between March 2020 and February 2021. • Extension on tax filings due to Covid-19 disruptions. • Deductions for health insurance premiums increased to THB 25,000 from THB 15,000. • Tax exemptions for medical workers involved in the treatment and prevention of Covid-19. • Tax relief measures to support debt restructuring by creditors who are non-financial institutions (e.g. credit card issuers, personal loan business operators, finance companies, hire purchase and leasing business).

Asia Pacific: Thailand cont. (New)

	Policies & Benefits
Loans	<p>Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low interest loans by financial institutions, originated from Government Savings Bank, with 2% interest rate pa for a period of 2 years and the loan amount not over THB 20 million per customer. • Suspending principal repayment and reducing interest rate for the debtors of the Government Saving Bank and Government Housing Bank, who are affected by Covid-19. • The Government Savings Bank allocated THB 30 billion soft loans for individuals. • Low-interest credit measures for non-financial business operators (non-banks) issued by the Government Savings Bank in order to help small debtors with credit loans, leasing, hire purchase, car and motor vehicle leasing and purchasing, as well as car title loans. • The Bank of Thailand eased the rules for granting commercial bank loans. • The Social Security Office (SSO)'s THB 30 billion soft loans with 3% annual interest rate for SSO-registered entrepreneurs. <p>Phase 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bank of Thailand cut the policy rate from 1% to 0.75%, effective 23 March 2020, to reduce the interest burden on borrowers affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. • Loans up to THB 3 million for SMEs at 3% interest rate for 2 years. Target SMES are travel agency, spa, transport, tour guide, hotel and restaurant businesses. Total value of THB 10 billion. • Allocation of THB 10 billion from the total budget of THB 150 billion set aside for soft loans, originated from the Government Savings Bank, for the travel and tourism sector. • THB 10,000 emergency loan per person at 0.1% monthly interest (no collateral required) according to Ministry of Finance. Total value of THB 40 billion. • THB 50,000 emergency loan per person at 0.35% monthly interest (collateral required) according to Ministry of Finance. Total value of THB 20 billion. • State-owned pawnshops to charge a lower rate of interest i.e. 0.125% per month for 2 years. <p>Phase 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bank of Thailand cut interbank lending rate from 0.46% to 0.23% per annum for the period of 2 years in order to pass on such cost savings to businesses and households by allowing financial institutions to further reduce loan rates. • THB 400 billion corporate bond liquidity stabilization fund to backstop the corporate bond market and provide bridge financing to high quality firms with bonds maturing during 2020-2021. • Low interest SME loans by financial institutions, originated from Bank of Thailand (at 2% interest for a period of 2 years and 0% for the first 6 months, absorbed by the government) in the total amount of THB 500 billion. Each SME must have an existing credit line below THB 500 million. • A 6-month debt moratorium on principal and interest for SMEs, for loans not exceeding THB 100 million. • Enact legislation to transfer a portion of 2020 fiscal budget worth of THB 80-100 billion from ministries to finance measures to handle the COVID-19 outbreak.
Others	<p>Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refund deposit for electricity usage and reduce/delay water and electricity bills by approximately 3%. • Govt. agencies and state enterprises will reduce, defer or postpone the payment of rental, government fee, service fee or other payments for the business operators. • Reducing contributions to SSF by employers/employees from 5% to 4% and from 9% to 7% . <p>Phase 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year extension of deposit protection for deposit not exceeding THB 5 million from August 2020 to August 2021 to maintain economic stability.

Source: Bangkok Post, Press Releases from Ministry of Finance, Bank of Thailand, Grant Thornton, Asean Briefing, Tilleke & Gibbins

Asia Pacific: Malaysia

	Policies & Benefits
Total Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt will pay 50% monthly salary for every local employee (up to HK\$9,000) for six months First Payout from June 2020
Wages	Reduction of Employee Provident Fund to 4% from 7%-11%, estimated cash in hand of \$2.2 billion
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferral of monthly tax debts for 6 months from Apr-20 for all travel agencies, hotels, airlines and businesses in the tourism industry Hotels Exempt from Service Tax from Mar-20 to Aug-20 Tax free tourism expenses up to \$226, for individuals from Mar-20 to Aug-20
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Discount Vouchers : Govt. collaboration with Airlines and Hotels to offer \$22 per person as discount vouchers \$6 million to promote Malaysian Tourism Skills Training: \$45 million for impacted sectors such as Hospitality and Tourism

Asia Pacific: New Zealand (Updated)

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government pays 78% of the weekly minimum wage per week for people working more than 20 hours per week and 46% of weekly minimum wage for people who work less than 20 hours per week. The previous 12 week subsidy has been extended for another 8 weeks from 10 June 2020 for businesses that have experienced a minimum of 50% decline in actual or predicted revenue over the 30 day period immediately prior to applying for the extension versus the nearest comparable period last year.
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses expecting to make a loss in the 2020 or 2021 tax years can apply for a refund of some or all the tax already paid for the year they were in profit. Businesses can now claim tax depreciation deductions for commercial buildings, previously tax depreciation on all building was at 0%. Tax office will waive interest and penalty payments for businesses unable to pay their taxes on time due to the impact of COVID-19. Auckland Council has postponed the targeted rate for payable by hotels.
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-off government loan to small businesses of \$10,000 plus \$1800 per full time equivalent employee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest free if paid back within one year 3% interest for a maximum term of five years Business debt hibernation initiative, created to help companies, to manage their debts. It provided government protection against creditors enforcing their debts, eg applying for a business to be liquidated. Six month principal and interest payment holiday for mortgage holders and SME customers whose incomes have been affected by the economic disruption from COVID-19. Businesses with annual revenue between \$250,000 and \$80 million can apply to their banks for loans up to \$500,000, for up to three years. Government is guaranteeing 80% of the risk, while the banks are covering the remaining 20%.
Tenancies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landlords can't increase rent for an initial period of six months from 26 March - 25 September 2020. Landlords will not be able to end tenancies, except for some exceptional circumstances for an initial period of three months from 26 March to 25 June 2020.

Asia Pacific: Singapore (Updated)

		Policies & Benefits		
		<p>The “Circuit-Breaker” in Singapore has now been extended to 1 June. As a result, the Singapore government has extended the Jobs Support Scheme (JSS) wage subsidy of 75% for all sectors (up to \$4,600 gross salary) for May 2020, to be paid as an additional payout by the end of May. The 75% will be calculated on actual salary payments made in November 2019. (The JSS of 75% for April was based on October 2019 salary payments). Here’s how the payments are being calculated and made:</p>		
Payout Details	Payout Date	TIER 1 Aviation & Tourism	TIER 2 Food Services	TIER 3 Others
		Computation of Payout: Capped at first \$4,600 of gross monthly wages. Based on:		
Payout 1	April 2020	+75% Oct ‘19 wages +75% Nov ‘19 wages +75% Dec ‘19 wages	+50% Oct ‘19 wages +50% Nov ‘19 wages +50% Dec ‘19 wages	+25% Oct ‘19 wages +25% Nov ‘19 wages +25% of Dec ‘19 wages
Top-up as advance for Apr 2020 wages			+ 25% of Oct ‘19 wages	+ 50% of Oct ‘19 wages
Advance for May ‘20 wages	May 2020	+75% Nov ‘19 wages	+75% Nov ‘19 wages	+75% Nov ‘19 wages
Payout 2	July 2020	+75% Feb ‘20 wages +75% Mar ‘20 wages +75% Apr ‘20 wages	+50% Feb ‘20 wages +50% Mar ‘20 wages +75% Apr ‘20 wages	+25% Feb ‘20 wages +25% Mar ‘20 wages +75% Apr ‘20 wages
Adjustment for Apr 2020 advance			-25% of Oct ‘19 wages ¹	-50% of Oct ‘19 wages ¹
Payout 3	Oct 2020	+75% May ‘20 wages +75% Jun ‘20 wages +75% Jul ‘20 wages +75% Aug ‘20 wages	+75% May ‘20 wages +50% Jun ‘20 wages +50% Jul ‘20 wages +50% Aug ‘20 wages	+75% May ‘20 wages +25% Jun ‘20 wages +25% Jul ‘20 wages +25% Aug ‘20 wages
Adjustment for May 2020 advance		-75% of Nov ‘19 wages ²	-75% of Nov ‘19 wages ²	-75% of Nov ‘19 wages ²
		<p>1: Any negative quantum for a single employee will be offset from the overall JSS payout for the employer. If Payout 2 is insufficient to make this adjustment, any remaining adjustment will be made in subsequent payouts. 2: Any negative quantum for a single employee will be offset from the overall JSS payout for the employer.</p>		
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% property tax rebate for commercial properties including hotels, serviced apartments, tourist attractions and eateries for 2020 			
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in Government’s risk share of loans from 80% to 90% from Apr ‘20 to Mar ‘21. The Singapore Parliament passed a bill earlier this month to assist those unable to fulfil contractual obligations such as loan/mortgage and commercial lease payments, and protects deposits for functions cancelled due to the circuit breaker measures (ie Wedding banquets). The bill prohibits landlords from terminating a lease, or lenders from foreclosing on mortgaged property due to non-payment because of the COVID-19 outbreak, and allows for deferment of lease and loan payments for up to six months. The Bill will be valid for six months, with Law Minister K Shanmugam given power to extend it up to a year. 			

Europe: Croatia

	Policies & Benefits
Wages & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting employees with fixed salary of \$580 per month (March to May, and further if needed) Government also pays Income Tax on this
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of tourist tax repealed, for duration of crises Income tax repealed – for duration of crises – for companies with > 50% revenue decline For other companies – with <50% revenue decline, income tax payments postponed
Under Consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeal of various parafiscal fees e.g. concessions for tourist land, beaches, waterfronts Reduction of electricity costs

Europe: Cyprus

	Policies & Benefits
Tourism & Hotels	<p>The Tourism 'restart' period is set for 1st June. Promotional measures will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government guarantees for prepayments effected by tour operators and tourist (direct bookings) and will issue coupons valid until the end of 2021. Various subsidies have been given to Hoteliers (90% of staff cost) whilst a subsidy for energy and overhead costs is still under consideration. The target is only 30% of the comparative arrivals of last year and mostly countries with lower incidents of the pandemic.

Europe: France (Updated)

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation equal to 70% gross salary to employees for wages up to €6,927 gross monthly. Businesses will be fully reimbursed by the State up to Sept 2020 in the hospitality sector. Employees with minimum wage are 100% compensated.
Tax	Up to three months grace period for social charges
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% - 90% Govt's guarantee for loans granted to small & medium businesses - up to 25% of 2019 revenues BPI France Atout Loan up to €5 Mn without owner's guarantee and one-year holiday period
National Relaunch Plan for Tourism	<p>Banque des Territoires, will allocate €1.7 Bn in treasury funding, equity and debt to support the French tourism industry in preparation to the Rugby World Cup 2023 and the 2024 Paris Olympics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €800 M equity with a focus on sustainability and technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €100 Mn in equity stakes up to €2 Mn in regional projects - €150 Mn allocated to social tourism - €300 Mn to modernize Spa & Ski resorts and marinas with equity stakes ranging from €2 - 15 Mn - €150 M€ to support mid-size operators A €700 Mn envelope for long term debt: €500 Mn for long term debt & €200 Mn guaranteed loans Strategic support to local communities - €21 Mn credit granted to France Tourisme Ingénierie Banque des Territoires to launch a tourism platform during Q1 2021 consisting of data collection & mining, tourism economics and a focus on innovation €170 Mn postponed from 3 to 6 months for debt service of loans contracted with Banque des Territoires €93 Mn of emergency support to small businesses

Europe: Greece

	Policies & Benefits
Fiscal Policy	<p>The Greek government has launched a fiscal package of economic support measures which will total EUR 3.8 billion, EUR 2.0 billion of which have already been announced by the government and another EUR 1.8 billion from a special fund of the European Union.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAT on hygiene products will be reduced from 24% to 6.0% until the end of the year. • Enterprises shutting down operations will pay 60% of their rent for March and April. • The same measure will be valid for workers' primary residences, while a four-month suspension of tax payments and tax settlement tranches has been announced.
Monetary Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing of enterprises in the form of return advance payment to deal with a reduction in turnover and payroll and non-payroll costs, estimated at around EUR 1.0 billion. • An additional EUR 1.8 billion will be exploited immediately from the special European fund for actions to support liquidity, employment and workers' incomes. • The Greek state will immediately pay all state arrears to the private sector. • Banks will present measures covering enterprises/individuals along with financing instruments to support liquidity. The government has taken measures to protect the stock exchange.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers whose labour contracts are temporarily suspended will receive EUR 800 in April - the state will cover their social insurance and health contributions. • All tax payment obligations are suspended for four months. This measure will cover around 500,000 workers at a cost of around EUR 450 million. • Self-employed, personal enterprises, etc, all tax payments are suspended for four months.

Europe: Italy (Updated)

	Policies & Benefits
Wages & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €10.4 billion Employment Support includes suspended Layoffs for five months - Extension (5 + 4 weeks) of Covid-19 social safety nets and unemployment insurance - Extension (up to 30 days) of parental leave (with 50% pay); Additional 12 days of paid leave - Extension and increase of seasonal workers' allowance
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €10 billion-worth of taxes exemption over the next two months to stimulate general consumption • €2.4 billion in taxes reduction including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspension of VAT; Deducibility of donations for COVID-19 - 60% tax credit for hotels rents; 30% tax credit for business branch rental - 60% tax credit (max of € 80,000) to adapt workplaces to new directives - 60% tax credit (max of € 60,000) for sanitization and DPI purchasing - 50% tax credit on advertising investments - 20% tax credit on capital invested for company equity increase - Exemption from property tax (IMU) in case the hotel is managed by the asset owner - Exemption from Regional tax on productive activities (IRAP) not exceeding €250m gross revenue - Suspension of tax payments expiring in March, April, May
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government's Risk Share for loans up to €800,000 – 70-80%
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 20% non-refundable contribution in case of a 33.3% (or more) decrease of revenues in April 2020 with respect to April 2019. • Holiday tax credit up to € 500 for families with an income below € 40,000 per year
Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism promotion fund of € 20 million to promote Italian tourism • Tourism fund of 150 million euros (2020-2021) for properties acquisitions, renovations or enhancement intended for tourist and hospitality activities. • Establishment by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) of the "Patrimonio Rilancio" (Relaunch Program), for the support of the Italian productive economic system.

Europe: Hungary

	Policies & Benefits
Total Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5-3.0% of GDP capped at 22% (of which a significant component is the credit guarantee)
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies in the most affected industries (tourism, F&B, sport, etc.) are exempt of payroll related expenses until 30.06.2020 Tourism tax exemption until 31.12.2020 Social security paid by the companies/pension contribution paid by employees/healthcare contribution paid by employees/tourism development contribution is suspended till 30 June '20
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All currently running loans and credits, whether for private individuals or companies, are given a grace period / payback and admin cost freeze until 31.12.2020. Loans and credits, whose agreement would terminate during this period, are to be automatically prolonged Approximately EUR1.7 billion special loan for hotel and tourism developments (to improve infrastructure by the time standard operation resumes)
Wages & Employment Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state will pay 70% of net wages for hours that employees cannot work if companies can show a 15%-75% reduction in man-hours (capped at approx. EUR210/person) For Hungarians who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic, the state is offering a zero-interest student loan to cover living costs while paying 95% of the cost of retraining programs Loan package made available to retain staff (for maximum 9-month period) for 0.1% interest to be paid back in 2 years
Other	Non-residential rental agreements cannot be terminated until 30.06.2020 to protect tenants

Europe: Ireland (Updated)

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme for employers, 70% - 85% subsidy, subject to caps €410 per week (To be continued, date unknown) COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment for employees and self-employed - €350 per week, up to 12 weeks (To be extended but date unknown) Short Term Work Support for employees Illness benefit for Covid-19 absences (Enhanced Illness Benefit) €350 per week
VAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspension of interest on late payments of VAT liabilities for Jan/Feb and March/April 2020. Govt. has agreed with local authorities that they should agree to defer rates payments due from the most immediately impacted businesses including hospitality for three months, until end-May.
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 month moratorium on repayments from all 5 major banks. SBCI Covid 19 Working Capital Loan Scheme originally €250m increased to €450m - loans €25k to €1.5m SME Credit Guarantee Scheme - Loans of €10k up to €1m Local Enterprise Office - Business continuity voucher €2,500 for third party consulting costs to help with financial, planning, IT, development & HR Microfinance Ireland Loans - Various grants available for SMEs Financial grants specific for businesses including hospitality within Gaeltacht locations. The Restart Grant. €250m fund for SME businesses with annual turnover of less than €5m and who employ between 1 to 50 people - Grants worth between €2,000 and €10,000

Europe: Netherlands (Updated)

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting measures are extended until at least 1 October Temporary emergency bridging measure for sustained employment, which compensates max. 90% salary costs for businesses that expect a min. 20% decrease in revenues in three consecutive months. Certain conditions must be met with regards to keeping employment.
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting measures are extended until at least 1 October Deferral of tax payments for most taxes, including payroll taxes, corporate income tax, VAT, insurance premium tax, betting tax, excise duty, consumer tax and environmental taxes (e.g. energy tax, waste tax). Beneficial measures to compensate losses with profits from 2019. Reduced recovery interest to approx. 0%. Deferral or suspending city taxes is discussed
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of the business loan guarantee scheme (GO facility): 80-90% guarantee for loans of min. €1.5 million and max. € 150 million.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation of missed income due to closures of outlets is discussed Compensation in sectors hit by government measures, including hospitality, to cover fixed costs between June and September, with a maximum of € 50,000 Compensation for SME in sectors hit by government measures, including hospitality, for decline in revenue between March and June: € 4,000 net Government support for airline Air France-KLM (incl. Transavia) of € 2-4 billion via loans and guarantees, conditions are t.b.d. Various other measures, see Rijksoverheid.nl (Dutch) or Government.nl (English) for complete information

Europe: Spain

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €440 to temporary workers who lose their jobs. Furlough scheme provides for 70% of workers' wages. In return, companies must keep their jobs for 6 months from the lifting of the state of emergency. Plans underway to implement a minimum payment of €500 - €600 per month for those segments at greatest economic risk.
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferral of Tax Debts for companies up to €30,000 for 6 months. Professionals and businesses with an annual turnover of up to €600,000 may delay their obligation to file and pay VAT, and company and personal income tax from April 20 to May 20.
Social Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moratorium of 6 months for Social Security contributions payment – applicable to SMEs and self-employed workers; no interest on delayed payment.
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government guarantee covers, in the case of the self-employed and SMEs, 80% of new loans and loan renewals. For other companies, 70% of new financing and 60% of renewals are guaranteed. Total commitment by the state to guarantees set at €100 billion. 1st tranche – total €20 billion to medium to large companies across sectors.

Europe: Portugal

	Policies & Benefits
Tourism & Travel Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit line for microenterprises in the Tourism sector (up to 10 jobs) and annual turnover or total annual balance does not exceed 2 million euros - total allocation of 60 million euros. • Credit line for catering and similar - total allocation of 600 million euros. • Credit line for travel agencies, tourist entertainment, event organizations and the like - total allocation of 200 million euros (already closed) • Credit line for tourism companies (including tourist developments and tourist accommodation - micro, small, small mid cap and mid cap) - total allocation of 900 million euros
Wages & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer is entitled to social security support of 70% of 2/3 of the gross normal wage of each worker, up to a limit of € 1,333.5 per worker. • If there is a reduction in the normal period of work or suspension of contract, workers are entitled to receive compensation of a minimum amount equal to two thirds of their gross salary. This compensation may not be less than € 635.00 or more than € 1,905.00. • Companies without dependent workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Duration: 1 month, extendable monthly up to max of 6 months; limit between €438.81 and €635.00. • Companies with dependent workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extraordinary support for maintenance of employment contracts in a situation of business crisis • Extraordinary financial incentive to support the normalization of the company's activity • Temporary exemption from Social Security contributions, regarding the remuneration of the covered workers and members of the statutory bodies, during the lay off period. • Extraordinary measures to support the economy and maintain employment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) immediate payment of expenses already incurred and paid to suppliers will be promoted; ii) automatic deferral of benefits for incentive repayments will be instituted for a period of 12 months. This will make it possible to inject or save financing resources, in the order of 400 million euros.
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax payment flexibility in 2nd quarter and management of tax litigation and ongoing proceedings. • Deferral of payment of contributions to employers in the private and social sectors.
Credit Default	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at individuals, sole proprietors, IPSS, SMEs & companies in the non-financial sector. • Moratorium aims to protect Portuguese families with home loans, and companies experiencing business failures, allowing them to postpone payment of liabilities to financial institutions. • Moratorium will run until September 30, 2020.
Loans & Financing	<p>Treasury Support Credit Lines aimed at SMEs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total allocation of 400 million; Maximum per company: 1.5 million euros. • Will support start-up liquidity up to a max of 10 employees - potential coverage of 8 M € • Extension of Start-up Voucher for 3 months to end - potential coverage of € 300,000. • Assist start-ups less than 5 years old to fulfil commitments assumed with incubators and guarantee sustainability. Simplified voucher for immediate payment of € 1,500 in incubation services (including rent, telecommunications, others). Not refundable. Coverage potential of 4 M €. • 'Mezzanine' funding for Start-ups - inject liquidity into companies involving average tickets between € 50,000 and € 100,000 of investment. This measure has a coverage potential of 10 M €. • Launch of 'Portugal Ventures' - to facilitate reinforcement of start-up liquidity (bridge financing) with tickets from € 50,000. This measure has a coverage potential of 3 M €. • 200M Fund - allows technological start-up and scaleups to be equipped with greater investment capacity, through co-investment with private investors, in digital, life sciences and biotech areas, with a public minimum of € 500,000 and a maximum of 5 M €. • Co-investment fund for social innovation - allows companies to have a strong social impact with greater investment capacity, through matching between private operators and FIS with a public minimum of € 50,000 and a maximum of 2.5 M €. Potential coverage of 42M €.

Europe: **United Kingdom**

	Policies & Benefits
Wages & Staff Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% salary paid by government for hospitality workers on unpaid leave, only for companies who have not fired any staff • Sickness benefit of £94.25/ week for self-employed sick workers • Universal Credit standard allowance increased by £1000 • Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will continue until end of October • Furloughed workers will continue to receive 80% of their current salary, up to £2,500 • New flexibility will be introduced from August to get employees back to work/boost economy • Government will be asking businesses to contribute, but no details
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending VAT liabilities deferred till June end • Future VAT liabilities waved off till end of the year • Tax credit allowance to be increased
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Govt to provide £350 billion in loan guarantees across sectors • Coronavirus Business Interruption loan scheme is interest free for 12 months • 3 month mortgage holiday without credit repercussion
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eviction of commercial and residential tenants made illegal for 3 months • Grants of £10k - £25k for small hospitality businesses

Africa: Ivory Coast

	Policies & Benefits
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending VAT liabilities, taxes and social charges deferred till July (exemption for small companies in the hospitality and tourism sector) • No rent increase for at least three months
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future tax controls suspended till July • Possibility for tourism and hotel companies to defer payments on capital income for 3 months
Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a support fund for the private sector for an amount of 415 million USD.
Authorizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifting of the curfew and the measure on the closure of hotels and restaurants (in line with the barrier measures) from 15 May 2020 • Continuation of the closure of bars, nightclubs, cinemas and places of entertainment until 31 May 2020; • Authorization of gatherings within the limit of 200 persons and in compliance with the barrier measures from 15 May 2020; • Maintaining the isolation of Greater Abidjan until 31 May 2020.

Africa: Sénégal (New)

	Policies & Benefits
Total Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All aid is centralized in “Programme de résilience économique et sociale” for an amount of 1000 billion FCFA (~1 525 million €) • 15 billion FCFA (~22.9 million €) allocated to hotel and tourist credit.
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the deferral from 18 to 24 months • Increase of the credit ceiling from 300 million (~457 000€) to 1 billion FCFA (~1 524 000€) • Suspension of repayment of loans already granted for 8 months
Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Bank for Economic Development (BNDE) support the financing of 169 establishments throughout the country with 3,8 billion FCFA (~5.8 million €) • 12 billion FCFA (18.3 million €) allocated to the payment of hotels requisitioned for the confinement of “contact” persons monitored by the medical profession
Fiscal Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial rebates of tax debt recorded as at December 31st, 2019, owed by companies and individuals, for a total amount of 200 billion FCFA (305 million €) • General time limit for payment of suspended VAT recovered by customs and tax authorities from 12 to 24 months • Deferred payment of taxes until July 15th 2020 for companies belonging to the most impacted economic sectors • Tax rebates and tax suspensions for companies that keep their workers in activity or pay more than 70% of the wages of employees laid off for operational reason.

Africa: South Africa

	Economic Relief Measures - Tourism Sector Interventions
Tourism Relief Fund	<p>The Tourism Relief Fund provides one-off capped grant assistance to SMME's in the tourism value chain. Capped at R50 000 per entity, grants can be utilised to subsidise fixed costs, operational costs, supplies and other pressure cost items. Only entities owned by South Africans were eligible and applications were assessed in accordance with the country's Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment framework. As such many foreign owned tourism entities were not eligible to apply. Categories eligible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation: Hotels, Lodges, B&B's, Guest Houses and Backpackers • Hospitality & related services: Restaurants (not attached to hotels), Conference venues (not attached to hotels), Professional catering and Attractions • Travel services: tour operators, travel agents, tourist guiding, car rental & coach operators. <p>The fund has R200 million and funding is capped at R50 000 per entity.</p>
	Economic Relief Measures - National Treasury
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loan guarantee scheme is an initiative to provide loans, guaranteed by government, to businesses with an annual turnover of less than R300 million. Funds borrowed through this scheme can be used for operational expenses such as salaries, rent/lease agreements, contracts with suppliers, etc. Government and commercial banks are sharing the risks of these loans. Initially, the National Treasury has provided a guarantee of R100 billion to this scheme, with the option to increase the guarantee to R200 billion if necessary, and if the scheme is deemed successful. • Debt Relief Finance Scheme - a soft-loan facility aimed at assisting existing SMME's to keep them afloat during the Covid-19 pandemic for a period of 6 months from April 2020. • Restructuring of SEFA-funded loans - geared towards SEFA-funded SMME's. Payment holiday will be given to qualifying SMME's for a maximum of 6 months. • Business Growth/Resilience Facility - SMME's who manufacture/supply hygiene, medical products, and food items. Offers working capital, stock, bridging finance, order finance and equipment finance. The funding amount will be based on the funding needs of the actual business. • Spaza Support Scheme - Aims to strengthen Spaza shops as locals' convenient access to basic goods, as well as facilitate bulk buying opportunities, and realise the potential for Spaza shops to serve as a market for locally manufactured goods. • Agricultural Disaster Support Fund: for smallholder and communal farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smallholder/communal farmers with a minimum turnover of R20 000, but not exceeding R1 million pa. - South African citizens who have already been farming for at least 12 months. - Farmers producing: Poultry, Vegetables, Fruits, Other livestock, Winter field crops

Africa: South Afric cont.

Economic Relief Measures - National Treasury	
Taxes	<p>Tax compliant businesses can apply to the South African Revenue Service for the tax relief measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a tax subsidy to employers of up to R500 per month for the next four months for those private sector employees earning below R6,500 under the Employment Tax Incentive. This will help over 4 million workers. Following an address by the President on 21 April 2020, this amount was increased to R750 per month at a total cost of around R15 billion. • The South African Revenue Service will accelerate the payment of employment tax incentive reimbursements from twice a year to monthly, in order to get cash into the hands of tax compliant employers as soon as possible • Tax compliant businesses with a turnover of R50 million or less will be allowed to delay 20% of their employees' tax liabilities over the next four months, as well as a portion of their provisional corporate income tax payments without penalties or interest over the next six months. This intervention is expected to assist 75 000 small and medium term enterprises. However, following an address by the President on 21 April, the proportion of employees' tax that could be deferred was increased to 35% and the gross income threshold for both deferrals was increased from R50 million to R100 million, providing total cash flow relief of around R31 billion with an expected revenue loss of R5 billion. • Smaller VAT vendors that are in a net refund position will be temporarily permitted to file monthly instead of once every two months, thereby unlocking the input tax refund faster and immediately helping with cash flow. SARS is working towards having its systems in place to allow this in May 2020 for Category A vendors that would otherwise only file in June 2020. • The filing requirement and the first carbon tax payment are due by 31 July 2020. To provide additional time to complete the first return, as well as cash flow relief in the short term, and to allow for the utilisation of carbon offsets as administered by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the filing and payment date will be delayed to 31 October 2020, providing cash flow relief of close to R2 billion. • Due to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, payments due in May 2020 and June 2020 will be deferred by 90 days for excise compliant businesses to more closely align tax payments through the duty-at-source system (excise duties are imposed at the point of production) with retail sales. This is expected to provide short term assistance of around R6 billion. • The 2020 Budget announced measures to broaden the corporate income tax base by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) restricting net interest expense deductions to 30 per cent of earnings; and (ii) limiting the use of assessed losses carried forward to 80 per cent of taxable income. Both measures were to be effective for years of assessment commencing on or after 1 January 2021. These measures will be postponed to at least 1 January 2022.
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 May 2020, there will be a four-month holiday for skills development levy contributions (1% of total salaries) to assist all businesses with cash flow. This provides relief of around R6 billion. • Any UIF contributing business who is unable to pay salaries as a result of the lock down period and/or any employee who is a contributor (works more than 24 hours a month) and there is an employer and employee relationship. Companies are encouraged to apply on behalf of their employees. • A Temporary Employer Relief Scheme (TERS) was implemented by the South African Government following the Presidential address on 23 March. The TERS is administered by the UIF and is available to any contributing business who is unable to pay salaries as a result of the lock down and/or any employee who is a contributor. The benefit is available to Employees who are laid off and do not receive a salary or receiving a reduced salary ie: an Employer could top-up an Employee's salary. Alternatively, Employers can apply on behalf of their Employees where the Employer has closed the whole or part of its business for a period of three months or less as a result of COVID-19.



Horwath HTL

Hotel, Tourism and Leisure

AFRICA

Ivory Coast
Rwanda
South Africa

ASIA PACIFIC

Australia
China
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Malaysia
New Zealand
Singapore
Thailand

EUROPE

Andorra
Austria
Croatia
Cyprus
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
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Norway
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Turkey
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Argentina
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MIDDLE EAST

UAE & Oman

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