



Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA)

Strategic Watch: COVID-19 Overview by country and region (situation at September 2nd, 2020)

Based on FIEC's COVID-19 Construction Observatory, FIIC's, CIAN's, MEDEFI's and IFAWPCA's data

For more information go to the CICA Website: <http://www.cica.net/cica-covid-19-overview/> and Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/home/Observatory%20COVID-19>

LATEST UPDATE WEEK 36

Country/Region	Facts/Measures for construction
WORLD	
World	<p>Academic research carried out by Loughborough University at five construction sites with the participation of Balfour Beatty, GKR Scaffolding, Kier, Mace, Morgan Sindall and Skanska UK found that that far from being diminished, <u>productivity may actually have improved in post-Covid-19 working arrangements on construction sites</u>. Although total output on construction sites has been reduced by the constraints imposed by social distancing requirements, output per person appears – in some cases at least – to have gone up. Reasons for this include better task planning, reduced waiting time between tasks, increased space and therefore less ‘overlap’ of trades, more use of technological solutions, more responsibility for individuals and less time spent in meetings. Factors seen as contributing to this improvement included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better and more detailed task planning • More space, fewer people, and less overlap of trades in the workplace improves gang/task productivity • Better planning by workers e.g. preparation of workplaces, tools and materials • Less double handling of materials • Fewer people ‘hanging around’ waiting to start work/tasks • More streamlined worker flow due to workers staggering their start times, reducing the need to queue for site access or changing rooms • People chatting less (due to distancing, one-way walkways etc), less talking on phones • On one site there was a perception that those who had returned to site were the more motivated workers, the ‘team-players’ • Some workers may also have been enthusiastic and energised at returning to work after furlough (27 August).
EUROPE	
UK	<p>The <u>UK Transport Secretary launched a new Acceleration Unit to speed up transportation infrastructure projects as Britain emerges from the impact of COVID-19</u>. The new unit will boost the delivery times of major transportation projects as new funding is announced (£360 million (€404m) investment). It is expected to upgrade vital rail and road that will create jobs, increase connectivity, and boost the economy. It will include a new team of specialists to join the Department for Transport (DfT) in to tackle delays to infrastructure projects and drive forward progress. The Acceleration Unit will also engage experts with significant experience in delivering infrastructure projects. The unit is set to be in place next month and will be directly accountable to the Transport Secretary (21 August).</p>



NORTH AMERICA	
	General Facts/Measures
USA	<p> Download the State by State Coronavirus status updates (cf. ENR)</p> <p>President Donald Trump would be open to sign a <u>coronavirus relief bill with a US\$300 billion increase from the Senate Republican’s HEALS Act</u>, but shy of House Speaker Pelosi’s demand for a US\$2.2 trillion bill. Previous discussions have not yielded any results. Both sides have agreed that more aid is necessary, but that seems to be the only area of consensus on how to help a country still reeling from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two major sticking points in the negotiations for the next pandemic relief legislation are 1) the amount of funding to include for pandemic unemployment insurance benefits, and 2) the amount of funding to allocate to both state and local governments (27 August).</p>

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