



**Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA)**

**Strategic Watch: COVID-19 Overview by country and region (situation at November 19, 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 47**

Country/Region	General Facts/Measures	Facts & Measures for Construction
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Whole region</b>	<p>Europe faces a new wave of lockdowns in response to surging cases of <u>Covid-19</u>, forcing millions to once again stay at home in an effort to stem the spread of the virus (e.g. lockdown in Ireland, Austria, Germany, France, Czech Republic, Belgium and curfews in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece)...</p> <p>Other regions, including North America, India and Brazil, are currently less restrictive (cf. Construction Europe) (3 November).</p>	<p>Despite the new lockdowns in Europe, <u>construction is set to continue as an essential service</u>. Sanitary protocols have been updated.</p>
<b>UK</b>	<p>In the UK, a new directive goes into effect on 5 November, stipulating that everyone in England must stay home, except for a limited set of reasons including education, work (if you cannot work from home), exercise and outdoor recreation, medical appointments and emergencies, shopping for food or essentials, and providing care for vulnerable people and/or volunteering. There are different approaches in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. (3 November).</p>	<p>According to reports, construction remains essential. In an address to the nation last week, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the sector should continue operating during the new period of restrictions, set to run from 5 November until 2 December (3 November).</p>
<b>ASIA</b>		
<b>China</b>		<p>With its virus outbreaks under control, <u>China's engineering and construction sector has rebounded and is once again busy and growing</u>. The country's major government-linked engineering and construction companies, such as China State Engineering Corp. and China Railway, posted significant year-on-year revenue increases in 2020's second quarter, reports Fitch, the credit ratings agency. Profitability is also back to pre-pandemic levels according to Fitch Ratings (cf.ENR) (2 November).</p>

NORTH AMERICA		
<b>United States</b>	<p>The <u>US has recorded more than 11 million cases and is approaching 250,000 deaths from coronavirus, the highest figures in the world</u> (17 November). Daily cases have been at record levels since early November as the number of infections continue to rise across the country. <u>New restrictive measures are put in place in the different states, among them:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Washington State:</b> new restrictions went into effect November 16, which limit bars and restaurants to outdoors with capacity limits and to-go service. Indoor social gatherings with people from outside the home are also prohibited;</li> <li>• <b>Oregon:</b> On November 18, the state will go into a "Two-Week Freeze." Social gatherings will be limited to no more than six people total from a maximum of two households and restaurants will be limited to delivery and takeout only, among other measures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recovery measures</b> The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) has extended through April 30, 2021, relief measures for U.S. exporters and financial institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The relief measures – which include waivers, deadline extensions, streamlined processing, and flexibility – were originally announced on March 12, 2020 and were extended.</p>	<p><a href="#">Download the State by State Coronavirus status updates (cf. ENR)</a></p> <p>According to the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), <u>75% of contractors had project canceled or postponed due to coronavirus</u> (cf. ENR) (28 October).</p> <p><u>With pandemic effects still raging, many firms are reporting market uncertainty both short and long term.</u> Some firms fear that many effects may not be felt until 2021. Most of the clients are taking some additional time to evaluate the long-term impacts of the market. It is expected that a market decline will occur in 2021, as many of those customers are pushing work into 2022. Also, uncertainty around the results of November’s presidential election is a major complication in assessing recovery as the two candidates have very different approaches for their policies when it comes to energy and infrastructure in the U.S (cf. ENR) (15 October).</p> <p>In this context, transportation leaders from states are looking ahead to a new administration. An adviser to President-elect Joe Biden is encouraging them to expand their internal lists of priority projects, identifying some that can get started quickly for a rapid economic boost and others that will have long-range “transformative” impacts on their states. <u>Former Deputy U.S. Dept. of Transportation told the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) that the Biden administration is likely to seek an increase in funding for current infrastructure programs</u> (cf. ENR) (12 November).</p>
PACIFIC		
<b>Australia</b>		<p>The <u>government of New South Wales (NSW) in Australia is to commit a record AU\$14bn (€8.63bn) for transport infrastructure.</u> The money is intended to increase public transport services, reduce congestion, create jobs and help reduce the impact of Covid-19 on the state’s economy (17 November).</p>