

Worldwide COVID-19 Infections Surpass Seven Million and Global Death Toll Tops 400,000



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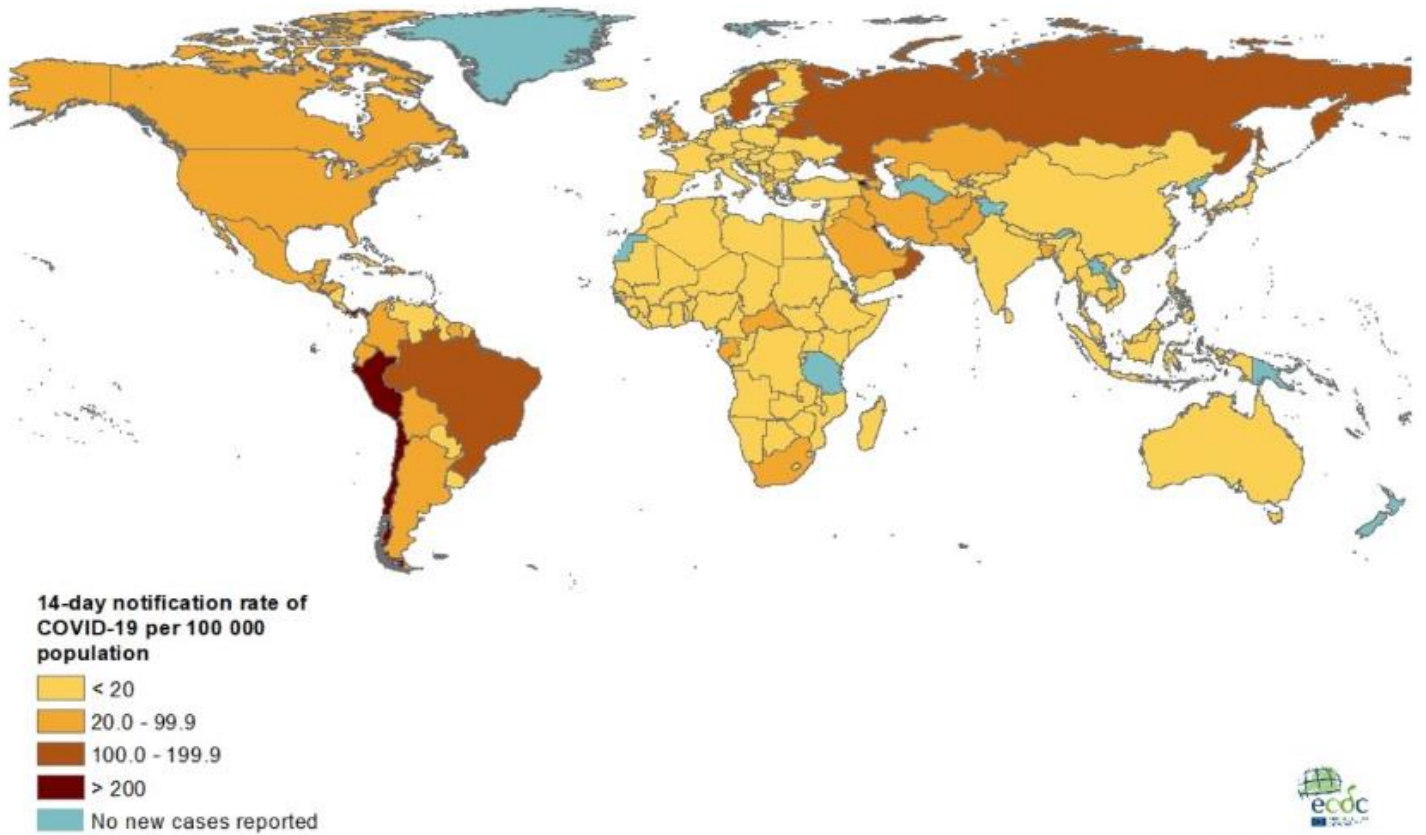
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OVERVIEW

On Monday, WHO epidemiologist Dr. Maria van Kerkhove cautioned that the COVID-19 pandemic is “far from over.” According to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, the total number of worldwide infections surpassed seven million over the weekend, and the global death toll exceeded 400,000. In addition to these two milestones, over 136,000 new infections were confirmed across the world on Sunday, more than have ever before been recorded in a 24-hour period. Latin America and South Asia, in particular, continue to grapple with expanding outbreaks. Over the last two weeks, the countries that have recorded the highest numbers of new cases have been Brazil, the United States, Russia, India, Peru, Chile, Pakistan, Mexico, Iran, and Bangladesh.

A new report released by the World Bank projects that the global economy will shrink by 5.2 percent this year, marking the worst recession since World War II. Although a recovery of 4.2 percent is projected for 2021, an estimated 50 million people across the globe are at risk of being pushed into extreme poverty. The United Nations cautions that the world could also face a looming food crisis, owing to both pandemic-related job losses and disruptions to food supply networks caused by lockdown measures. Most airliners around the world remain grounded, and the international container shipping industry has reported a slowdown as well. Although many countries presently remain in the midst of phased reopening processes, the ensuing rebound in COVID-9 infections could potentially prompt some governments to slow, pause, or even reverse such initiatives. The public is advised to stay abreast of the shifting contours of the pandemic and changes in associated anti-infection policies.

Fourteen-Day Cumulative Number of Reported COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 People



Date of production: 09/06/2020

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union.

Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Worldwide as of Tuesday Morning, June 9

Country/Region	June 9	June 2
United States	1,961,185	1,811,277
Brazil	691,758	526,447
Russia	476,658	423,741
United Kingdom	287,399	276,332
India	266,598	198,706
Spain	241,717	239,638
Italy	235,278	233,197
Peru	199,696	170,039
Germany	184,543	182,028
Iran	173,832	154,445
Turkey	171,121	164,769
France	154,188	152,091
Chile	138,846	105,159
Mexico	120,102	93,435
Pakistan	108,317	76,398
Saudi Arabia	105,283	87,142
Canada	96,233	91,694
Mainland China	83,043	83,022
Qatar	70,158	58,433
Bangladesh	68,504	49,534
Belgium	59,348	58,517
South Africa	50,879	34,357
Belarus	49,453	43,403
Netherlands	47,739	46,545
Sweden	45,133	37,814
Ecuador	43,378	39,994
Colombia	40,719	30,493
United Arab Emirates	39,376	35,192
Singapore	38,296	35,292
Egypt	35,444	26,384
Portugal	34,885	32,700
Kuwait	32,510	27,762
Indonesia	32,033	26,940
Switzerland	30,889	30,788
Ukraine	27,462	24,340
Poland	27,160	24,165

Country/Region	June 9	June 2
Ireland	25,207	25,062
Argentina	23,607	17,402
Philippines	22,474	18,638
Afghanistan	20,917	15,750
Romania	20,604	19,398
Dominican Republic	20,126	17,572
Israel	18,089	17,219
Oman	17,486	12,223
Japan	17,210	16,930
Austria	16,889	16,663
Panama	16,854	13,837
Bahrain	15,417	11,804
Bolivia	13,949	10,531
Iraq	13,481	6,868
Armenia	13,325	9,492
Kazakhstan	13,074	11,571
Nigeria	12,801	10,578
Denmark	11,962	11,699
Serbia	11,896	11,430
South Korea	11,852	11,541
Algeria	10,265	9,513
Ghana	9,910	8,070
Moldova	9,807	8,360
Czech Republic	9,697	9,302
Norway	8,547	8,411
Malaysia	8,329	7,857
Cameroon	8,312	6,397
Morocco	8,302	7,833
Azerbaijan	7,876	5,662
Guatemala	7,502	5,336
Australia	7,265	7,204
Finland	7,001	6,885
Honduras	6,450	5,362
Sudan	6,242	5,173
Puerto Rico	5,046	3,873
Tajikistan	4,609	3,930

Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and various media outlets

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Worldwide as of Tuesday Morning, June 9

Country/Region	June 9	June 2
Uzbekistan	4,448	3,718
Senegal	4,427	3,739
Djibouti	4,278	3,569
Guinea	4,216	3,844
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4,105	3,194
Luxembourg	4,040	4,019
Hungary	4,014	3,921
Cote d'Ivoire	3,881	2,951
Nepal	3,762	1,798
Haiti	3,538	2,226
Gabon	3,247	2,655
North Macedonia	3,155	2,315
Thailand	3,119	3,082
El Salvador	3,104	2,582
Greece	3,049	2,917
Kenya	2,862	2,021
Bulgaria	2,810	2,513
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,703	2,523
Venezuela	2,473	1,662
Somalia	2,368	2,023
Croatia	2,247	2,246
Cuba	2,200	2,083
Ethiopia	2,156	1,257
Kyrgyzstan	2,055	1,845
Estonia	1,940	1,870
Maldives	1,916	1,829
Sri Lanka	1,857	1,643
Central African Republic	1,850	1,069
Iceland	1,807	1,806
Lithuania	1,720	1,678
South Sudan	1,604	994
Mali	1,547	1,315
Slovakia	1,530	1,522
Slovenia	1,485	1,483
Guinea Bissau	1,389	1,339
Lebanon	1,350	1,233

Country/Region	June 9	June 2
Costa Rica	1,342	1,084
Nicaragua	1,309	759
Equatorial Guinea	1,306	1,306
Albania	1,263	1,143
Kosovo	1,263	1,064
Zambia	1,200	1,089
New Zealand	1,154	1,154
Paraguay	1,145	995
Hong Kong	1,107	1,087
Madagascar	1,094	826
Latvia	1,088	1,071
Tunisia	1,087	1,084
Sierra Leone	1,001	861
Niger	973	958
Cyprus	970	949
Mauritania	947	530
Burkina Faso	890	881
Andorra	852	765
Uruguay	845	825
Chad	839	790
Jordan	831	746
Georgia	812	796
Diamond Princess Cruise Ship	696	696
San Marino	687	687
Congo	683	611
Palestine	652	628
Uganda	646	457
Malta	630	619
Jamaica	599	588
Cape Verde	567	458
Sao Tome and Principe	514	484
United Republic of Tanzania	509	509
Togo	497	443
Yemen	496	354
Rwanda	451	377
Taiwan	443	443

Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and various media outlets

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Worldwide as of Tuesday Morning, June 9

Country/Region	June 9	June 2
Malawi	443	336
Mozambique	433	254
Liberia	370	296
Eswatini	340	293
Mauritius	337	335
Isle of Man	336	336
Vietnam	332	328
Montenegro	324	324
Jersey	312	308
Benin	305	243
Zimbabwe	287	203
Libya	270	168
Guernsey	252	252
Myanmar	244	228
Mongolia	194	185
Faroe Islands	187	187
Guam	180	175
Gibraltar	176	170
Cayman Islands	171	150
Guyana	154	153
Syria	144	123
Brunei Darussalam	141	141
Bermuda	141	141
Comoros	141	106
Suriname	130	44
Cambodia	126	125
Trinidad and Tobago	117	117
Bahamas	103	102
Aruba	101	101
Monaco	99	99
Barbados	92	92
Angola	92	86
Liechtenstein	83	83
Burundi	83	63

Country/Region	June 9	June 2
Sint Maarten	77	77
United States Virgin Islands	71	70
French Polynesia	60	60
Bhutan	59	47
Macau	45	45
Botswana	42	38
Eritrea	41	39
Namibia	31	25
Gambia	28	25
Northern Mariana Islands	28	22
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	27	26
Antigua and Barbuda	26	25
Timor Leste	24	24
Grenada	23	23
Western Sahara	23	23
Curaçao	21	20
New Caledonia	20	20
Laos	19	19
Belize	19	18
Saint Lucia	19	18
Fiji	18	18
Dominica	18	18
Saint Kitts and Nevis	15	15
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	13	13
Greenland	13	13
Turks and Caicos islands	12	12
Holy See	12	12
Montserrat	11	11
Seychelles	11	11
Papua New Guinea	8	8
British Virgin Islands	8	8
Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba	7	7
Lesotho	4	2
Anguilla	3	3

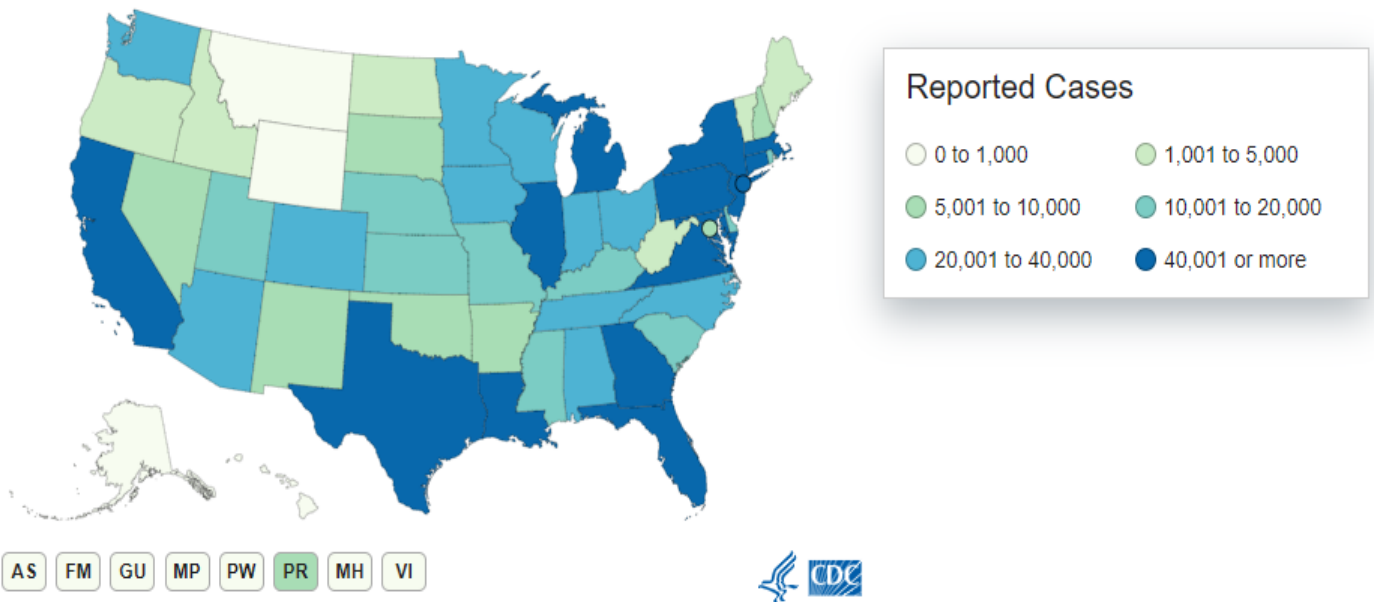
Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and various media outlets

SPREAD OF COVID-19: NORTH AMERICA

United States

The COVID-19 outbreak in the U.S. appears to have reached a new stage in which some states are reporting significant decreases in daily numbers, while others are reporting significant increases in daily numbers. This has led to the national outlook remaining largely stable compared to the last several weeks. The seven-day national case average remains just over 20,000 cases per day, similar to the last few weeks. Meanwhile, the seven-day daily death average has fallen below 1,000. On Sunday, 453 deaths were reported, the lowest number since late March. At least 22 states have reported increases in their seven-day daily average of cases. On the other hand, seven states (Alaska, Arizona, Kentucky, Michigan, Oregon, Utah, and Vermont) have seen over 100 percent increases in daily cases over the last 14 days. Nevertheless, states have continued to loosen restrictions and just four states (California, Michigan, New Jersey, and Vermont) have some form of a stay-at-home order in effect. As of Tuesday, at least 1,971,300 COVID-19 cases and 111,620 deaths have been reported across the United States.

States Reporting COVID-19 Cases as of Tuesday, June 9



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Canada

In Canada, a downward trend in daily COVID-19 cases continues to be reported even as daily death numbers have remained largely stagnant over the last three weeks. The country is now averaging approximately 670 new cases a day, down almost 300 from the prior week. Meanwhile, daily deaths have continued to average between 650 to 700 per week over the last month. Ontario and Quebec continue to report the majority of both cases and deaths. However, Ontario has seen its weekly death numbers decline while Quebec has seen its weekly death numbers increase. As the outbreak has been largely controlled outside those two provinces, restrictions continue to be lifted across Canada and even in Ontario and Quebec. As of Tuesday, at least 96,244 cases and 7,835 deaths have been reported in Canada.

Recent Developments

- On Monday, Canada eased its border restrictions and announced that immediate family members of Canadian citizens or permanent residents will be allowed to enter the country. Anyone entering the country is still required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. The full statement can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/06/changes-to-travel-restrictions-for-immediate-family-members-of-canadian-citizens-and-permanent-residents.html>.
- Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced that commercial evictions within the province will be banned through at least September 1.
- Due to decreased demand, Delta Airlines has announced the indefinite suspension of service to the following U.S. cities beginning July 8: Aspen, CO; Bangor, ME; Erie, PA; Flint, MI; Fort Smith, AR; Lincoln, NE; New Bern/Morehead/Beaufort, NC; Peoria, IL; Santa Barbara, CA; Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, PA; and Williston, ND. In addition, Delta also announced the indefinite suspension of service to Ottawa, ON, beginning June 21.
- The Canadian Blood Services is warning that Canada's blood supply has decreased significantly due to the resumption of elective procedures and limitations on donations due to social distancing restrictions.
- Media sources have reported that food prices in the U.S. rose approximately 5.8 percent between the beginning of March and the end of May compared to the same time period in 2019. This is due to a number of factors including the closure of food processing facilities, increased costs of labor and transportation, and resources used to buy new equipment or reconfigure facilities to assist with COVID-19 precautions.

SPREAD OF COVID-19: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

As of this writing, four of the world's top ten countries with the highest numbers of new daily COVID-19 infections are located in Latin America (Brazil, Peru, Chile, and Mexico). Along with the Caribbean, the region's total caseload stands at 1,363,277 as of Tuesday morning. This amounts to an increase of 29 percent over the last seven days. Brazil accounts for just over half of all infections in the region with its caseload of 707,412. Peru has the second-highest infection count (199,696), followed by Chile (138,846), Mexico (120,102), Ecuador (43,378), and Colombia (40,847). The region-wide death toll has climbed to at least 67,252. Community transmission has taken hold in most countries. However, several small Caribbean islands appear to have succeeded in containing the spread of the virus, with territories such as Anguilla, Montserrat, and Saint Barthélemy going for over one month without any new cases.

Many of the new infections to be recorded throughout Latin America in recent weeks have occurred among residents from low-income neighborhoods. The shantytowns that encircle major cities such as Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, and Lima generally suffer from overcrowding, a lack of running water, and overall poor sanitation. Moreover, many of the families that live in such areas have claimed that they cannot abide by stay-at-home orders, as doing so would leave them unable to provide for their families. Such conditions have proven to be ideal for the spread of COVID-19.

Most countries in Latin America are currently in the midst of phased reopening plans, despite facing steep upward trends in new cases. Some policymakers have conveyed the sentiment that there are no viable alternatives, given the mounting economic hardships faced by large portions of the population. Many public health officials have cautioned that the reopening process is proceeding too quickly, and will likely result in a resurgence in new cases. The WHO has cautioned that neither Central America nor South America have yet reached their peak in terms of COVID-19 infections. Some governments might opt to pause or even reverse reopening processes in the coming weeks, should outbreaks in their jurisdictions continue to worsen.

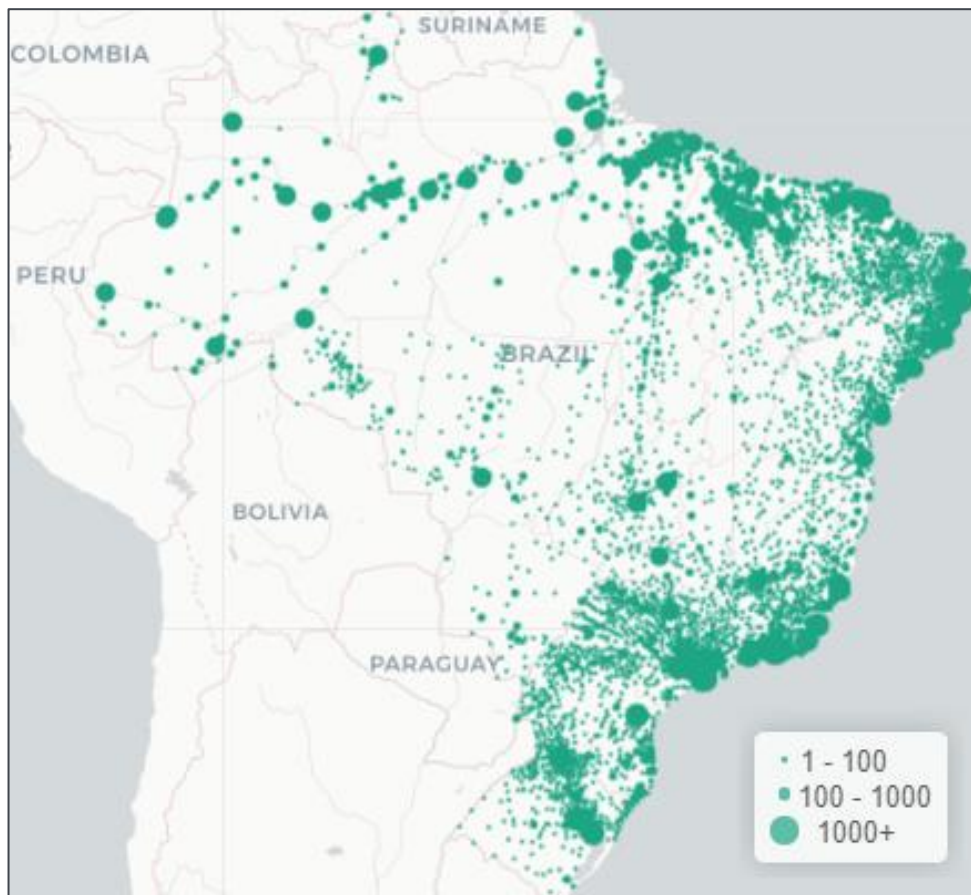
Updates in Worst-Affected Countries

Brazil

- Brazil's total COVID-19 caseload is second only to the United States. Its death toll ranks third highest in the world, after the U.S. and United Kingdom.
- Opponents of President Jair Bolsonaro have accused his administration of authoritarian leanings, alleging that efforts have been taken to conceal figures detailing the scope of the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.
 - Over the weekend, figures regarding Brazil's total caseload and cumulative death toll were taken down from the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 webpage](#) without warning or explanation. New daily infections and the death toll from the previous 24 hours continued to be posted.

- Federal prosecutors have opened an investigation into the reason for the shift. After being called upon to provide an explanation, the ministry issued a statement claiming that a new system was being developed.
 - Still, a number of public health experts, including Epidemiologist Carlos Fortaleza of São Paulo State University, cautioned that changing the system would result in significant undercounting of cases.
 - Under mounting pressure, the Ministry of Health website was restored to its previous format on Tuesday evening, along with the cumulative data that had been removed.
- Some supporters of Bolsonaro have claimed that some municipalities are overcounting COVID-19 fatalities in an attempt to solicit high budgets and additional federal aid. However, most medical professionals have continued to argue that the country is most likely undertesting.
- The country remains extremely polarized. Supporters of President Bolsonaro continue to hold frequent demonstrations, calling for lockdown measures to be lifted. Conversely, opponents of the president continue to hold protests calling for tighter anti-infection measures and improved transparency.

Brazil: COVID-19 Infections by Municipality



Source: [Brazilian Ministry of Health](#)

- The capital city of Brasília has recorded a sharp uptick in new COVID-19 cases over the last two weeks, and now ranks sixth in the country in terms of highest caseload (following São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Fortaleza, Manaus, and Recife).
- Newly released figures from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) show that industrial output in the country hit a record low with an 18.8 percent drop in April, after declining by nine percent in March.
- Last Friday, a judge ordered the closure of Vale’s Cauê, Conceição, and Periquito mines, after 188 workers tested positive for COVID-19. Altogether, the three mines accounted for roughly ten percent of all of the company’s iron ore output.

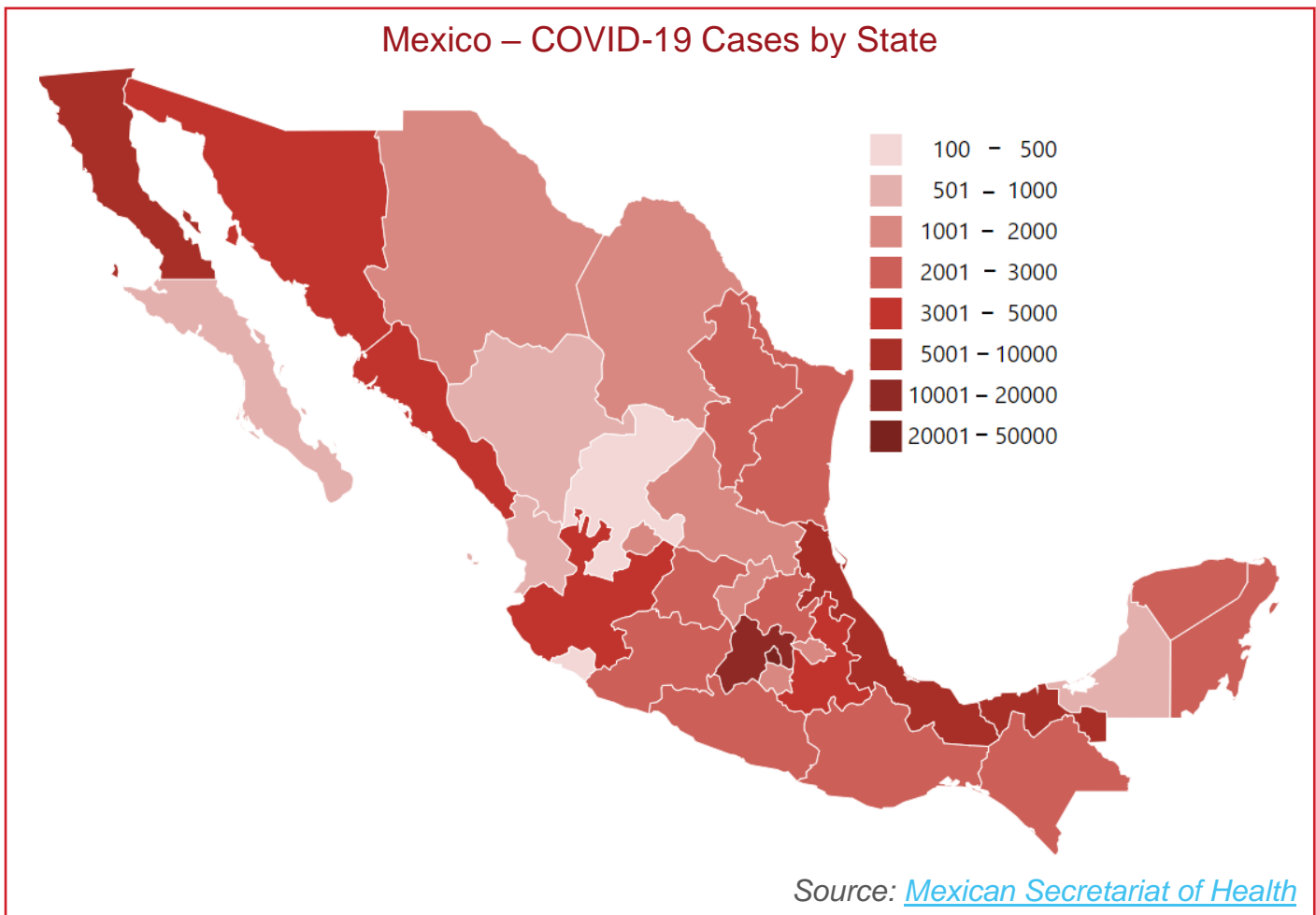
Peru

- The government continues to grapple with shortages of equipment and medical personnel in many cities and municipalities outside of Lima.
 - A delegation of Cuban doctors arrived in the country last week. Members have been sent to Arequipa and other hard-hit areas to buttress local healthcare capabilities.
 - Shortages of oxygen cylinders continue to give rise to long lines and high prices, as loved ones are required to procure tanks for relatives that are making use of ventilators. Lima has declared medical oxygen to be a national interest and has undertaken efforts to boost its supply.
- On June 8th, the World Bank put out new projections estimating that the Peruvian economy will contract by 12 percent in 2020, a sharper decline than has been forecasted for any other major Latin American economy.

Mexico

- In terms of new daily infections, significant decreases have been recorded in the northern border cities of Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez in recent weeks. A more moderate decline has been observed throughout Greater Mexico City.
- New cases remain on the rise in several major cities, including Monterrey and Guadalajara.
- On Tuesday, the WHO reported that Mexico was nearing its peak level of nationwide infections, although no specific timetable or forecast was provided.
- The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports that the tightened restrictions at the U.S.–Mexico border have made it more difficult for drug traffickers to smuggle shipments. Narcotics and unlaundered cash are reportedly being stockpiled on opposite sides of the border.

- Consequently, the street prices of drugs such as methamphetamine and fentanyl have reportedly doubled in Los Angeles and other parts of the United States. The DEA has cautioned that some areas could potentially see an uptick in burglaries and other types of property crime as addicts seek to cope with the heightened prices.
- Cartel violence in Mexico has continued to increase throughout the course of the pandemic, as scarce resources drive competition. A total of 117 homicides were reported across the country on June 7th, making it the country’s most violent day on record so far in 2020.
- Mexico has begun to manufacture ventilators domestically to lessen reliance on imports from abroad.



Chile

- On Sunday, the Chilean Ministry of Health revised the country’s nationwide death toll upward, adding a backlog of 553 previous deaths that were recently determined to have been caused by COVID-19.
 - Chile’s case fatality ratio (CFR) currently stands at two percent, far below the regional average of roughly five percent.

- However, in recent weeks a number of scientists, think tanks, and public commentators have criticized the methodology that has been used in attributing deaths to COVID-19. In response, the Ministry of Health announced that it plans to adopt a more encompassing approach moving forward and incorporate suspected COVID-19 fatalities in the official death toll, even if proper test results are not available.
- Recently released figures indicate that Chile’s largest copper mines increased output throughout the course of April.
 - Many unions have begun preparing for new contract negotiations, and some seek bonus payments for working amid the hazard of the pandemic.
 - However, copper prices have plummeted amid the worldwide economic downturn.
 - Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has bolstered many mining companies’ desire to supplant workers with automated and remotely controlled machinery.
 - The stage could potentially be set for new labor disputes and strikes in the coming months.

Ecuador

- The average number of daily nationwide COVID-19 hospitalizations for June so far has surpassed 700. This marks a notable increase over the 600 average daily hospitalizations recorded in May.
- As is the case throughout much of Latin America, the country’s densely populated, low-income communities continue to bear the brunt of new infections.
 - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that roughly 50 percent of Ecuador’s children do not have access to running water at home, impeding handwashing.
- The latest projections from the World Bank hold that Ecuador’s economy will contract by 7.1 percent this year, but rebound by 4.1 percent in 2021.

Colombia

- In some municipalities, food distribution centers have only been permitted to operate with 50 percent of their normal staffing levels due to social distancing requirements.
 - Local media sources report that the resultant supply chain disruptions have left farmers unable to sell all of their produce and caused localized food shortages in some areas.
- Colombia’s port cities have been hit particularly hard.
 - Intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy reportedly stands at 80 percent in Cartagena and 90 percent in Barranquilla.

- Smaller port cities such as Turbo and Tumaco do not have any ICUs, and many hospitals have reportedly been overwhelmed.

Other Updates around the Region:

- **Argentina** recorded its highest number of new daily infections on Sunday, adding 983 new cases. The shantytowns (locally known as *villas*) surrounding the city of Buenos Aires have emerged as a major hotspot, largely due to overcrowding and poor sanitation.
- **Honduran** authorities announced that the nationwide curfew is being extended at least through June 14th.
- In **El Salvador**, President Nayib Bukele vetoed (for the second time) an emergency law that sought to initiate a gradual economic reopening process. The president maintains that such a move would be premature, and has warned that his administration will sanction companies that attempt to resume operations without authorization.
- It is widely believed that **Nicaraguan** President Daniel Ortega continues to falsify COVID-19 data. Local news outlets report that residents who have lost relatives to the disease have been compelled to attend “express burials” that are conducted late at night or before sunrise, in an ostensible attempt to hide the scope of the death toll.
- As of Monday, **Cuban** public health officials claim that the country has gone nine consecutive days without a COVID-19-related death. Only nine new infections have purportedly been recorded throughout this timeframe.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, President Danilo Medina called on Congress to extend the state of emergency measure for an additional 17 days beyond its current expiration date (June 14th). The proposal was approved by the Senate on Tuesday, but has yet to be taken up by the Chamber of Deputies.

SPREAD OF COVID-19: EUROPE

The overall trend of declining daily new cases in Europe is continuing with phased reopening measures across the region. The outbreaks of some countries continue to be of concern, including in Armenia, North Macedonia, and Russia, where eased restrictions have or could yet result in reversals of progress from earlier measures. Nonetheless, many countries are hoping to return to some level of new normalcy in the summer months, with most European Union countries voicing plans to lift internal borders from June 15, if not already having done so. A ban on non-essential travel into the EU by non-EU and non-Schengen citizens has been extended to July 1, and it remains to be seen whether further extensions will occur. A recent study from the Imperial College of London estimated that lockdowns in Europe saved about 3.1 million lives. The coming

weeks will be closely watched for any notable changes or patterns in the evolution of outbreaks with the reopening steps inside the bloc and intra-region travel. Health officials will also be monitoring for potential upticks in transmission or possible hotspots developing following recent large demonstrations in many countries around the region. The European Commission has announced major funding increases for public health in the bloc's budget, including the provision of aid to member states to respond to health emergencies in the future.

- German government data showed a 24 percent month-on-month drop in April for exports from the country, representing a drop of about US \$85.5 billion. During the same period, a record drop of 18 percent of industrial production occurred, with the automotive sector hardest hit.
- Amidst fears of major sustained economic losses in Toulouse and other cities and towns reliant on the aviation industry, the French government announced a US \$16.9 billion aid package for the sector, with companies such as Airbus and Air France receiving support on terms that include investment in more environmentally friendly aircraft.
- The European Steel Association (EUROFER) has criticized a routine review of EU tariffs on steel imports for allegedly failing to consider the purported 50 percent drop in steel demand since March, the corresponding disruption to steel production within the EU, and the challenge posed to EU manufacturers from an alleged risk of the market being flooded with cheaper imported steel.
- Although the easing of restrictions was underway, about 24 percent of German companies needed liquidity support in May, according to the Ifo Institute for Economic Research.
- As a result of the pandemic and associated shipping decreases, nearly 100 positions were cut by Copenhagen Malmo Port, which operates the Danish ports of Copenhagen and Malmo, during the crisis. Malmo is the largest vehicle handling port in Scandinavia.
- The drop in global oil demand has spurred an announcement of 10,000 job cuts worldwide by BP, with reports suggesting nearly 2,000 possible job losses for their UK operations.
- Statistics Norway recently reported a faster-than-anticipated recovery in the country, with declines in unemployment figures overall driven by a decreasing number of furloughed workers.
- The British government reported this week that about 8.9 million workers in the UK are furloughed, representing more than a quarter of the country's total workforce, while concerns remain for a jump in unemployment when the furlough scheme is reduced or halted.
- While Germany has eased its guidance regarding travel within Europe, its warnings against travel outside of Europe are reportedly planned to remain in effect to the end of August.
- Romania's president has called for the extension of a state of alert to mid-July, citing new infection rates not showing a significant decline yet. However, movement restrictions have been eased and many businesses have reopened under certain conditions.

- North Macedonia reintroduced a curfew over the weekend in response to a quick increase in new cases last week, drawing criticism that initial restrictions were lifted early for political rather than public health considerations.
- In the UK, retail sales and consumer spending reportedly accelerated in May from a 19.1 percent contraction in April, though last month was still 5.9 percent lower than May 2019.
- The Bank of France said on June 9 that the country's economy is unlikely to reach pre-crisis levels before mid-2022, and warned of unemployment exceeding 11.5 percent in the middle of next year, underscoring longer-term economic challenges and the risk of associated protests.
- A dozen coal mines in Poland have suspended production due to COVID-19 outbreaks among workers, rendering Silesia the hotspot of the country's outbreak due to the density of mines.
- Ireland announced that its five-phase roadmap is being reduced to four as progress combating the outbreak continues, with the final phase now planned to start on July 20.

Updates Around the Region

France

As France continues with its reopening, health officials have reported seven consecutive days of fewer than 100 deaths. The Ile-de-France region, including Paris, remains in "orange" status for the reopening phase while the remainder of mainland France has been in the "green" phase. While movement restrictions were eased, restaurants and cafes in the orange zone can only operate outdoor areas and attestations are still required for public transport use during rush hour. There continues to be controversy over steps in Paris to reduce roadway for vehicles, in favor of bike lanes, larger pedestrian areas, and expanded space for cafes to increase outdoor seating.

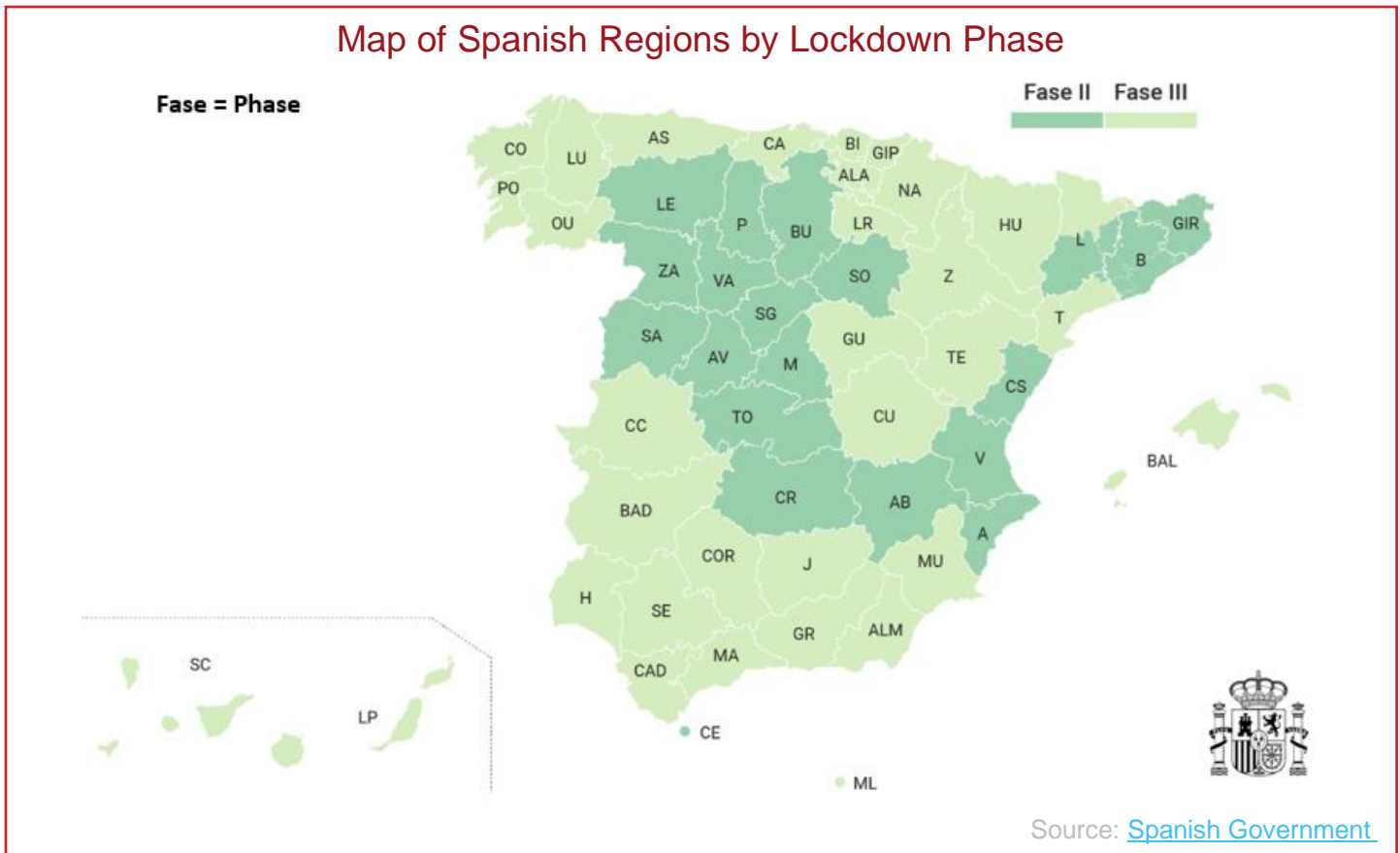
Russia

On June 9, the epicenter of Russia's outbreak, Moscow, eased restrictions for the capital region and suspended the digital pass scheme. However, Russia continues to have a substantial number of daily new cases, including 8,595 reported on June 9. The same day, the national death toll climbed by 171, passing 6,000 total deaths, with ongoing questions over the accuracy of the nationwide death toll. For example, St Petersburg had a 30 percent increase in death certificates issued in May, compared to May of 2019, though as of early June, the city's total official COVID-19 death toll was only 172. Economic concerns are seen as a driving factor in the decision to ease restrictions, with many businesses now able to reopen, while restaurants and cafes in Moscow will have a two-phase reopening from June 16. Russia is easing restrictions on international travel, permitting travel abroad for work, medical treatment, study, and to care for relatives.

Spain

While Spain is progressing with its easing of lockdown measures at varying rates around the country, the health minister announced on June 9 that face masks would be mandatory until a vaccine or effective

treatment is available. The current state of alarm is scheduled to expire on June 21, with no further anticipated extensions. Free movement throughout Spain will resume once the state of alarm expires, and international tourists will be able to enter the country from July 1. With the restart of international tourism, transport companies, including airlines, will be required to maintain passenger details for at least four weeks after a trip to facilitate contact tracing, should it be necessary.



United Kingdom

While the overall average rate of transmission (the R number) remains below 1.0 for the United Kingdom as a whole, there have been concerns of increased transmission in some areas of the country. Reopening progress continues at differing paces for each of the four nations, with England the furthest along in the process of reopening. On June 9, the business minister announced that nonessential retailers in England can reopen with social distancing provisions in place from June 15. The UK’s quarantine requirement for most international arrivals took effect on June 8, though broad criticism continues of the policy. Officials have indicated that there may be some form of “travel corridors” in place by the end of the month.

SPREAD OF COVID-19: ASIA/PACIFIC

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Asia-Pacific region increased by 15 percent to more than 570,000 from June 4 to June 9. The number of deaths in the region increased by 12 percent over the same period to more than 17,000. Most countries and territories are continuing to relax lockdown restrictions, and Japan and Hong Kong are the most recent to announce plans to lift quarantine requirements for some business travelers. Outbreaks remain less contained in parts of South Asia and Southeast Asia, with new cases continuing to rise rapidly in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal particularly. New Zealand has entered its lowest level of lockdown restrictions and most businesses and activities have been able to resume.

East Asia

Japan

- Japan's new COVID-19 cases have remained at 50 or fewer for the past week. Only 12 new cases were reported in Tokyo on June 9, which is the third day in a row that the city has confirmed fewer than 20 new cases—one of the criteria set by the local government for further easing business closure recommendations.
 - Nearly half of Tokyo's new cases over the past week have been confirmed among employees of nightclubs and other entertainment venues. The government is working to increase testing availability for workers in the nightlife industry.
- While the city of Kitakyushu in Fukuoka Prefecture continues to report new cases, daily confirmed cases have remained at less than ten for more than a week now, possibly indicating that what was feared as a potential second wave of infections has been brought under control.
- The government is continuing work on plans to expedite business travel from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, and Vietnam. According to Japanese media reports, travelers to Japan will have to pass a COVID-19 test before departing for Japan and another upon arrival. They must also provide their itineraries while in Japan, and the Japanese companies that they are linked with must provide an explanation for why their travel is essential. Mandatory 14-day quarantines will not be required for those meeting these qualifications. Travelers may also be required to allow location tracking on their smartphones and will not be allowed to use public transportation while in Japan. An exact timeframe for the implementation of the plan has not been released, but it was previously reported that the plan was targeted to go into effect in June.
- Several US military bases in Japan have eased COVID-19-related restrictions in recent days.
- Universal Studios Japan in Osaka reopened to some pass-holders on June 8.

China

- China's overall outbreak remains under control, with most reported cases remaining imported.
- The city of Mudanjiang in the northeastern Heilongjiang Province has performed more than 700,000 COVID-19 tests in the past week in response to an outbreak in the city. At least 19 asymptomatic cases were confirmed, with more largescale testing in the city planned.
- In Jilin City, Jilin Province, some schools have reopened following lockdown restrictions due to an outbreak in the province.

Hong Kong

- On June 8, the government announced that executives at large companies traded on the Hong Kong stock exchange may apply for quarantine exemptions when moving between Hong Kong and mainland China.
- The Ocean Park theme park will reopen on June 13, while Hong Kong Disneyland is expected to reopen at an unspecified date in the near future.

South Korea

- South Korea's new daily cases remain elevated following resurgent outbreaks connected to nightclubs, businesses, and churches. For the past week, the country's daily case number has hovered between 38 and 57, with most of these in the Seoul metro area.
- The government has urged people to remain home except for essential trips out, but there has been no indication of plans to reinstate restrictions.

Southeast Asia

Singapore

- Singapore reported 218 new COVID-19 cases on June 9, which is the lowest number in around two months. While several hundred new cases continue to be reported daily, there has been a general downward trend, with June 5 also seeing fewer than 300 new cases and several other days this week having fewer than 400 new cases confirmed.
 - According to the government, around half of the recent confirmed cases have been asymptomatic, which has reinforced the decision to allow businesses to reopen only gradually as there may be additional asymptomatic carriers who have not been detected.
- Last week, government officials announced that wearable, Bluetooth-enabled devices called TraceTogether Tokens will be distributed to the entire population in order to track who infected persons have potentially been in contact with. The devices are expected to be deployed to test groups by the end of June.

- According to the government, the devices will not be capable of location tracking. They will be voluntary to use at first, although officials have warned that they may be made mandatory if they are not used by enough people.

Indonesia

- Indonesia confirmed 1,043 new cases of COVID-19 on June 10, which is a record high for the country.
- Flight restrictions will be reduced beginning on June 10. Passengers on domestic flights will be required to have a doctor's note saying that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms, while passengers on international flights must have COVID-19 test results to fly. Planes will only be able to transport 70 percent of their normal passenger loads.
- Long distance trains and buses will also resume service on June 10.

Philippines

- The Philippines' Department of Health is expected to release additional data on June 10 showing the potential impact of less restrictive quarantines on the spread of the virus, which will also be used to decide on whether restrictions should be increased or decreased further in Metro Manila. New cases have remained steady at several hundred reported daily.
- Additional domestic flights resumed on June 8. Flight restrictions can still be imposed by local governments, so service resumption may be staggered in some areas.

Malaysia

- Beginning on June 10, Malaysia will enter the recovery phase of its COVID-19 response. Normal business and other activities will be able to resume with additional health protocols in place, and interstate travel will be allowed except in local areas that have been designated as hotspots. Bars, clubs, and other entertainment businesses will remain closed. The recovery phase will remain in place until at least August 31.

South Asia

India

- India's confirmed cases continue to climb, and new daily cases surpassed 10,000 on June 6 and June 7. Local authorities in Delhi have warned of a shortage of hospital beds, and the city has delayed reopening hotels in case they are needed as temporary hospitals in the future.
- Additional businesses and restaurants reopened on June 8.

Bangladesh

- Bangladesh reported 3,171 new cases on June 9, and new daily cases have continued to rise, approaching 3,000 almost every other day over the past week. A record of 45 people also died from

the virus on June 9. At least 975 people have been confirmed to have died in total from COVID-19 in Bangladesh.

Nepal

- Nepal's new daily cases have been near or above 300 for most days of the past week. The virus has now been confirmed in at least 72 of the country's 77 districts.
- On June 9, around 500 protesters and police clashed in Kathmandu, with demonstrators calling for improved quarantine and COVID-19 testing centers. At least ten people were arrested.

Oceania

Australia

- Australia reported no new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases on June 9, which is the first time no cases of community transmission have been confirmed since the peak of the outbreak in March.
- Qantas Airways says that it expects to increase its domestic flights to 40 percent of its usual number by August. The airline is currently flying only about five percent of the number of flights it was before the COVID-19 outbreak.

New Zealand

- Officials in New Zealand reported on June 8 that the last COVID-19 patient in the country recovered, leaving no active cases.
- The country is at Alert Level 1 restrictions, which means that most activities can occur normally, although border restrictions remain in place.
- Although the government has still not given an exact date for the resumption of international travel between New Zealand and Australia, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has indicated that such travel will likely be possible by September.

SPREAD OF COVID-19: MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region increased by 17.79 percent to 855,102 over the past week. To date, 20,304 of the region's confirmed coronavirus cases have been fatal. The number of confirmed cases continues on an upward trajectory, with the rate of infection showing a slight increase since June 2 across the region. That said, many countries' rate of infection remains largely unchanged, and plans for a gradual reopening of economic activities continue to be implemented. Yet, despite the lifting of lockdown measures, protest activity continues to escalate in multiple countries following a relative lull in social unrest over the past three months due to movement restrictions and social distancing guidelines. The increased protest activity invites the possibility of a resurgence of cases, as large demonstrations are considered vectors for transmission of the virus. Indeed, a handful of countries have

begun to experience what appears to be a resurgence of the virus, with Iran surpassing Turkey to reclaim its spot as the most affected country in the region with 173,832 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Resurgences such as these have caused some governments to re-impose select lockdown measures that may help promote social distancing and limit close personal contact. The public is advised to stay apprised of associated developments in this regard, as new restrictions could negatively affect businesses, transportation, logistics, and general security conditions in the affected areas. Still, some countries have not followed regional trends, and have reported a decreased rate of infection over the past week, despite continuing to lift coronavirus security measures.

Many countries have reported an increase in the rate of infection during the period between June 2 and June 9, which is likely the result of the incremental lifting of containment measures across the region. Most of these increases have been gradual thus far, though the possibility that they could escalate into a full-blown second wave of infection cannot be ruled out entirely.

- COVID-19 cases in the MENA region have increased by roughly 18 percent since June 2, an increase of approximately three percent versus the period of May 27-June 2, reflecting a slight increase in the overall rate of infection across the region, though some countries individually reported slight decreases, and many remained largely unchanged.
- Israel (5.05%), Jordan (11.39%), Morocco (6.99%), Lebanon (10.14%), Saudi Arabia (21.97%), and Syria (17.07%) marked an uptick in the rate of infection from the previous period.
- Iraq is one of the few countries that has seen a significant spike in coronavirus cases (107.75%), with the rate of infection more than doubling in the past week.

In response to a gradual lifting of containment measures, protest activity continues to escalate across the MENA. Some citizens are demonstrating against lasting COVID-19 restrictions, whereas some populations are seeing the gradual lifting of restrictions as an opportunity to resume anti-government demonstrations. Cases have been creeping upward since movement restrictions have been eased, and a return to protest activity is likely to only exacerbate this trend in the coming weeks. As demonstrations continue to evolve and increase in frequency, the possibility of a resurgence of cases stands to grow, as large demonstrations are considered vectors for transmission of the virus.

- Anti-government protests resumed in Beirut on June 6, with at least hundreds of protesters largely ignoring a nightly curfew that runs from midnight until 5:00 AM local time.
- Protests were reported on June 5-6, in Tel Aviv and throughout the West Bank against a plan by the Israeli government to extend sovereignty to Jewish settlements in the West Bank.
- Protests denouncing the government and an extended curfew, in effect through June 13, have been reported in increasing frequency in the Iraqi southern governorates of Diwaniyah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, and Najaf, which could threaten oil infrastructure and production in the region. Protests were also

reported in the northern Kurdistan region over a region-wide lockdown on June 1-2, prompting authorities to lift recently adopted lockdown measures early.

- Protests against the Tunisian parliamentary speaker and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement were reported in Tunis on June 2 and June 6, respectively.
- Protests over the worsening economic situation were reported in Syria's Daraa and Sweida governorates on June 7-8. Protests in government-controlled areas have generally been infrequent, and the June 7-8 protests could signal escalating tensions over the increased economic volatility in the country.
- In Afghanistan, protests were reported on June 9, following the opening of many non-essential businesses in Kabul, outside the Iranian Embassy against alleged discrimination by Iranian security forces targeting Afghans.

A handful of countries are witnessing significant resurgences that may represent a second wave of coronavirus outbreak. In response, most affected MENA governments are adopting new restrictions on personal movement and social interaction despite having recently lifted such measures to relieve mounting financial pressure. Governments are likely wary to not re-impose lockdown measures that would negatively affect the economy or stir up public aggravation.

- Iraq extended flight suspensions to and from the country through June 13, and some leaders have called on authorities to prevent all gatherings and demonstrations in the country, in response to the accelerated outbreak. The wearing of face masks for all movements outside of homes remains mandatory, including in vehicles.
- In response to a recent uptick in cases, some sources posit that the Saudi government may severely limit attendance at, or even cancel, the annual hajj pilgrimage, which is scheduled to begin on the evening of July 28. The Saudi Interior Ministry also imposed a curfew from 3:00 PM to 6:00 AM local time in Jeddah until at least June 20, and suspended prayers in mosques and work in offices.
- Iran and Afghanistan both recently made the use of face masks mandatory as the COVID-19 outbreaks do not show signs of slowing in either country. This development follows an easing of restrictions in both nations.
- On June 4, Lebanon's cabinet extended for the sixth time a so-called "State of General Mobilization" until at least July 5, keeping in place a curfew from midnight to 5:00 AM local time.
- Health professionals in Pakistan have repeatedly called for tighter anti-virus efforts to be adopted, as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in the country since the government lifted lockdown measures last month; however, the government has not expressed any interest in reinstating lockdown measures.

Despite a slight increase in the rate of COVID-19 infections reported in most countries, some countries reported a decline in cases, even amidst the lifting of anti-virus measures. As some restrictions still remain, the public is advised to heed all anti-virus guidelines that are still in effect.

- Tunisia continues to implement its three-phased strategy to gradually lift the COVID-19 confinement measures, as the president ordered the lifting of a nationwide curfew on June 9, and all land, air, and maritime borders expected to open on June 27, as coronavirus infections continue to decline.
- Algeria has witnessed a decrease in the rate of infection in the past week, as the government announced a multi-stage plan to ease coronavirus restrictions, which began on June 7.
- Bahrain allowed some retail establishments and industrial enterprises to reopen on May 7 and continues to report a decreased rate of infection.
- In Egypt, malls and shops were recently able to open all week beginning Sunday, June 7, following a shortening of a nightly curfew and the resumption of government services.
- Authorities in Kuwait shortened a curfew to between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM local time until at least July, as part of a five-stage plan to lift restrictions and gradually restore normalcy; however, some cities remain under total lockdown.
- Emirati authorities continue to gradually lift coronavirus restrictions, though, despite showing a decrease in the rate of infection in the nation, Abu Dhabi announced the extension of the travel ban into and out of the emirate for another week beginning on June 9.
- On June 8, the Qatari government announced a four-stage plan to ease COVID-19 restrictions, set to begin on June 15, which is expected to involve the reopening of some mosques and shopping malls to start, as the country continues to show a declining rate of infection.
- Libya showed a slight decrease in the rate of infection from June 2-9, as compared to the previous week, but still witnessed a significant rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, with its rate of infection nearly doubling at a 97.62 percent increase. That said, it is worth noting that conflict and a poor testing regime is widely perceived to be hampering data completeness.

SPREAD OF COVID-19: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Over the past week, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in sub-Saharan Africa has risen to over 140,000, including more than 3,000 deaths. While the pandemic is continuing to grow across the region, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for less than two percent of all COVID-19 infections globally, and less than one percent of all deaths. The pace of new infections has remained fairly steady in recent weeks and is significantly slower than in early May. This could suggest that the pandemic is stabilizing; however, there are increasing concerns regarding underreporting, in part due to resistance, as well as a shortage of testing kits and materials. Additionally, as more countries continue to relax or lift their anti-infection measures, including border closures

and flight suspensions, there is a high risk of a second wave of infections. Although this recent trend toward lifting anti-infection measures has allowed economic activities to partially resume in many countries, disruptions to cargo shipments, mining operations, and exports continue to be reported and are likely to persist for at least several weeks. There is also a risk that as new infections spike, more localized lockdowns and other measures could be adopted, leading to further disruptions to business activities, travel, and potentially supply chains.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to grow across sub-Saharan Africa; however, the pace of new infections has remained fairly steady.

- As of the morning of Tuesday, June 9, at least 143,575 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded across the region.
- This marks a 29% increase in infections compared to last Tuesday, June 2, and is equal to the percentage increase recorded during the last reporting week. It is also significantly lower than the percentage increases in cases recorded in early May and could suggest that the pandemic is stabilizing; however, it could also be linked to low testing rates.
- The number of fatalities has also increased by 29% to 3,131.
- The modes of transmission have remained fairly static in recent weeks, with only seven countries and territories in the region reporting sporadic cases, and 17 recording only clusters. The remaining countries are experiencing community transmission.

Significant increases in cases continue to be reported in a number of countries, including some that have recently eased their lockdown measures. This has highlighted the persistently high risk of a second wave of infections as anti-infection measures are lifted and relaxed.

- The largest increases in cases occurred in Lesotho (100%), Mauritania (98%), Ethiopia (74%), Central African Republic (73%), and Mozambique (71%) over the past week.
- Uganda, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, and South Africa also recorded increases of between 42% and 69% over the past week. These occurred after each of the countries further eased their anti-infection measures.

Several countries have experienced resurgences in cases after previously being declared virus-free. This has underscored the high risk of underreporting and imported cases, particularly as countries begin to reopen to international travel.

- Eritrea reported two new cases last week shortly after being declared virus-free. The cases were uncovered during a randomized community testing campaign in Asmara.
- Previously, both Namibia and Mauritius recorded new imported cases involving travelers who had recently returned to the country.

Underreporting remains a significant concern that could hamper efforts to combat the pandemic.

- Tanzania has not released any updated data on COVID-19 cases and/or deaths since April and President John Magufuli has declared the country virus-free. However, the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam continues to report ongoing community transmission and President Magufuli has been accused of seeking to downplay the outbreak.
- Equatorial Guinea has not updated its numbers since May 25 and expelled the WHO representative last week, accusing her of “falsifying” data. This could suggest that authorities are also seeking to cover up the extent of the outbreak in the country.
- There are growing concerns regarding a shortage of testing kits and materials. In South Africa, which has conducted the most tests in the region, some regions have been forced to change their testing protocols to test only those with symptoms, or those over the age of 55 with comorbidities.

Many countries and territories have continued to ease their anti-infection measures, including allowing schools to reopen and resuming passenger flights. However, some have extended these measures or implemented them in localized areas following an uptick in cases.

- Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, and Togo have lifted their lockdowns and/or curfews over the past week, while Cameroon and South Africa have partially reopened schools.
- Zanzibar reopened its airspace to commercial flights, while Nigeria, South Africa, and Liberia have announced plans to do so over the coming weeks.
- Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Congo have extended their confinements, while Kenya did so only in certain areas.
- Rwanda lifted its nationwide lockdown but imposed new restrictions on travel in specific areas. Namibia has also expanded the area under Stage 1 lockdown restrictions after previously lifting many of its restrictions and moving the rest of the country to Stage 3 restrictions. This suggests that as some countries relax their anti-infections measures at the national level, they could impose more stringent restrictions at the local level in areas of high transmission.

A number of high-level government officials have been diagnosed with COVID-19, which could heighten the risk of political instability, particularly if any of these cases prove fatal.

- Three of South Sudan’s five vice presidents have tested positive for COVID-19, including first vice president and former rebel leader Riek Machar. Several other senior ministers, including Machar’s wife and defense minister, have also contracted the virus.
- Guinea-Bissau’s prime minister and three members of his cabinet tested positive for COVID-19 in late April.
- On Tuesday, May 9, Burundian authorities announced that President Pierre Nkurunziza had died suddenly, aged 55. Although officials claim he died of a heart attack, there has been some speculation that it could be linked to COVID-19. Nkurunziza’s wife was airlifted to Kenya for treatment late last month amidst rumors that she may have contracted the virus, and Nkurunziza’s government had been accused of seeking to cover up and downplay the outbreak.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to affect supply chains across the region, causing congestion along trucking corridors and disrupting mining and agricultural activities.

- Long queues continue to be reported at many border crossings across East, Central, and Southern Africa, leaving truck drivers stranded for days at a time.
 - The queues are most prevalent along trucking corridors, notably those linking landlocked countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Zambia to ports in Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa.
 - The queues are due to mass testing, bans on foreign drivers, border closures, and other measures implemented to combat the spread of COVID-19.
 - The queues have exacerbated food insecurity issues across the region and led to an uptick in protests and labor actions at border crossings.
 - While many countries are expected to begin reopening their borders to passenger traffic over the coming weeks and months, the restrictions on cargo shipments appear likely to remain in place and could continue to cause shipping and transportation delays over the coming weeks.
- Although mines in South Africa have been allowed to reopen at full capacity under the current Level 3 regulations, there are lingering challenges that could lead to further disruptions to production.
 - Mining companies have warned that an estimated 10% to 15% of mineworkers come from other countries in southern Africa, and with the continuing border closures, it could take weeks for them to return to work and for full operations to resume.

- Nearly 400 mineworkers across the country have tested positive for COVID-19, forcing several mines to temporarily shut down operations and highlighting the risks of resuming normal operations, particularly in crowded locations, such as underground mines.
- Monitors have estimated that up to U.S. \$4.8 billion in agricultural exports could be lost in Africa due to the pandemic.
 - This could include up to U.S. \$2 billion in fruit, vegetable, and nut exports; U.S. \$2 billion in cocoa exports; U.S. \$200 million in coffee exports; and up to U.S. \$600 million in flower exports.

ASSESSMENT

Although many countries have begun phased reopenings of their economies, the pandemic and associated anti-infection measures continue to exact a major financial toll across the globe. The World Bank released a comprehensive report on Monday, predicting that the global economy will contract by 5.2 percent this year, amounting to the worst recession since World War II. Developing economies (particularly those that are reliant upon tourism, commodity exports, and the informal sector) are being hit exceptionally hard. Worldwide, approximately 50 million people are at risk of being pushed into extreme poverty. The United Nations cautions that the world could be facing the worst food crisis to be seen for at least 50 years. Not only do job losses make it difficult for low-income households to purchase adequate supplies of food, but lockdown measures in many countries have disrupted food distribution networks. In some cases, seasonal laborers have been prevented from assisting in harvests in their usual numbers.

A range of other industries continue to face pandemic-related disruptions as well. The container shipping industry, for instance, has undergone a slowdown as many retailers have adjusted to reduced demand. Less frequent cargo shipments have left some firms (notably e-commerce companies that have not been as adversely impacted by the pandemic) competing for available container space. Some shipping lines have altered their routes to avoid canal passage fees, resulting in longer delivery times. Additionally, most of the airliners around the world presently remain parked. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reports that airlines are projected to lose U.S. \$84 billion this year.

The overall situation remains highly fluid. Restrictions on businesses and personal mobility remain in flux at the local, state/provincial, and federal levels across the world. Although many governments have begun to ease anti-infection measures, such initiatives are expected to result in a resurgence of COVID-19 cases. In some areas, such rebounds could potentially be severe enough to cause governments to pause or even reverse reopening plans. The public is advised to stay abreast of the shifting contours of the pandemic and associated lockdown measures. Basic precautions such as social distancing, wearing face coverings in public, and frequent handwashing will remain advisable for the foreseeable future.