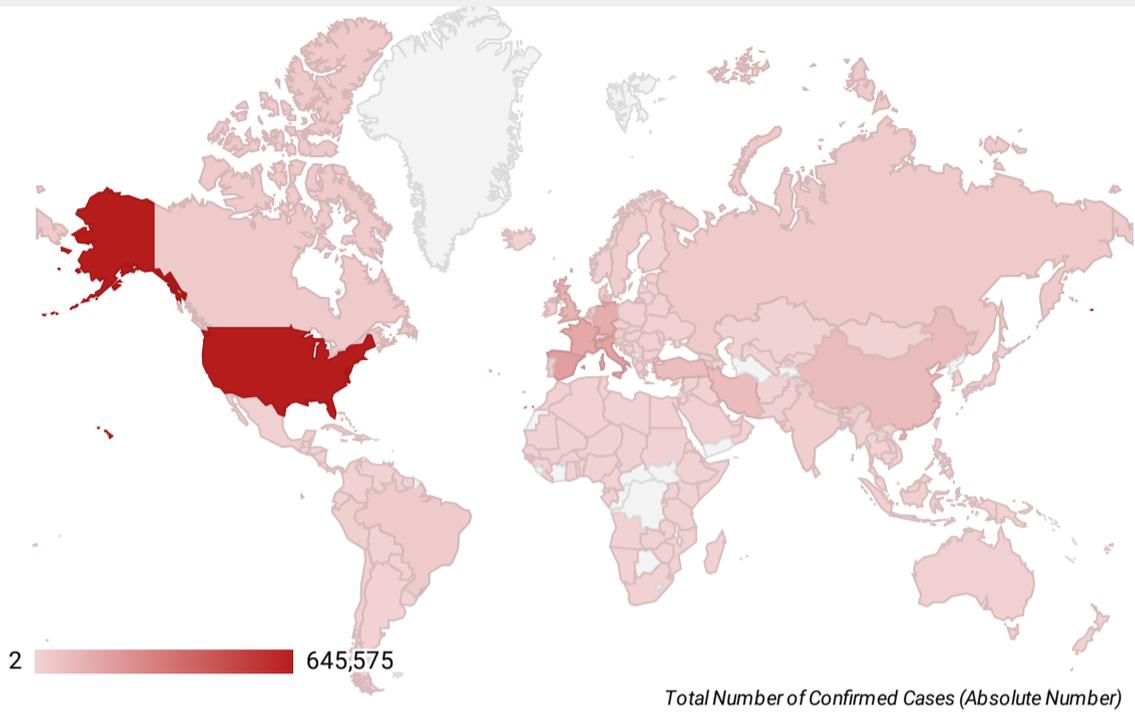


Confirmed Cases
103,093 -0.12
Ratio (compared to previous day)

Deaths
13,729 -0.0
Ratio (compared to previous day)

Deaths as % of cases
13.32

How do COVID-19 Cases compare to other countries?



Key Developments

As of 16 April, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recorded 2,094,839 cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and 135,569 associated fatalities.

Europe has suffered the highest death rate, with countries such as Spain, Italy, France, and the UK all experiencing a higher proportion of deaths than the US. However, the number of new cases per day is declining in Spain and Italy, whereas the trend remains flat in France, the UK, and the US, where new cases have not yet fallen.

The UK remains in lockdown for the fourth consecutive week and the government is expected to announce an extension until at least early May. In a press conference on 16 April, the Health Secretary Matt Hancock suggested that the government will announce an extension to the three-week emergency 'stay-at-home' rules.

In Ireland, the government has extended the lockdown until 5 May and people must stay within 2km of their residence unless travelling for essential reasons (food shopping or attending medical appointments). Public transport and passenger travel is restricted to those buying food or medicines, carers, and essential workers. Travel to offshore islands is limited to island residents.

Starting 4 May, Germany will begin allowing smaller shops and schools to reopen, with priority given to final-year students. However, larger gathering points such as bars, restaurants, and cinemas are to remain closed. German Chancellor Angela Merkel played down talk of a larger-scale re-opening, saying Germany had achieved merely a "fragile intermediate success" in its efforts to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. From 20 April, shops under 800 square meters may begin to re-open. Schools are to gradually re-open on 4 May. Large public gatherings, including religious services, are banned until 31 August.

Italy is moving into Phase Two of its COVID-19 response, following on from Phase One which saw the country enter into full lockdown. As of 14 April, the government has announced that some businesses can begin to re-open. These include bookstores, dry cleaners, stationery shops and those selling children's clothes. However, different regions can choose when to implement these re-opening measures. Sardinia will delay reopening until 26 April, whereas Lombardy and Campania will delay reopening until the end of the national lockdown on 3 May. Some industries have also been allowed to operate, such as forestry, wholesale of fertilizers and agricultural chemicals, manufacturers of computers and other electronics, tools, and machine parts manufacturers. Phase Three will involve a full return to pre-restriction life, however, a date for this has not been announced and will depend upon the number of cases.

Oil Price
USD 27.83

Global Health Security 2019 Index
Health Sector Index
59.8
Rapid Response Index
91.9

How are European Governments Responding to COVID-19?

Key Travel Restrictions

UK

The UK has not implemented entry restrictions. A number of UK-based airlines have reduced or cancelled flight services, including EasyJet and Ryanair. The government is working with airlines to repatriate British citizens stuck abroad. International airports remain open.

Ireland

There are no entry restrictions into Ireland; however, travellers entering the country from abroad (excluding Northern Ireland) must self-isolate on arrival for a 14-day period. Flights and ferry services continue to operate between Ireland and the UK. Airports remain open in Ireland. Large gatherings are prohibited and there are restrictions on non-essential movements.

Italy

There are significant entry restrictions into Italy. Only residents and Italian nationals are allowed to enter (unless travelling on business, for health reasons for an emergency). Passengers and crew transiting or entering Italy must inform the regional Department of Prevention of their transit or arrival. All arrivals must self-quarantine at their home or a hotel for 14 days. Only one airport per region is currently open, Rome Ciampino and Terminal 1 of Rome Fiumicino airport are closed. Flights from China and Taiwan to Italy have been suspended.

Spain

All Spanish borders were closed on 23 March for at least 30 days (23 April). Only Spanish nationals and residents can enter the country. Some flights have been suspended. Land borders are open to cross-border commuters and deliveries only.

France

France's borders are closed until 11 May, only French nationals and residents may enter France. Other EU nationals (including the UK) may transit through France but can be turned away from entering unless they show proof of residency. From 6 April an "attestation" (certifying the reason for travel) is required to enter mainland France. Some flights have been suspended. P&O and DFDS are operating with reduced ferry services from cross-Channel routes. The Eurostar is operating limited services between Paris and London. President Macron has called for the external borders of the Schengen passport-free travel zone to stay closed until September, showing further indications of prolonged travel disruption.

Germany

Germany has closed its borders to non-residents and foreign nationals. However, travellers may transit through Germany if they can show proof of onward journey (confirmed ferry or Eurotunnel booking). Arrivals in Germany must self-isolate at their home for 14 days. Flights are operating in and out of Germany on the basis of essential travel and repatriation of citizens.

Netherlands

Most non-European Union citizens and non-residents are barred from entering the Netherlands until at least 15 May. Any travellers arriving from the US, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Italy, Spain and Austria are subject to 14 days of self-isolation. All commercial flights to and from Austria, Italy, Iran and Spain (excluding repatriation flights) are indefinitely suspended.

Sweden

Sweden has closed borders to non-EU nationals and residents. There are no direct flights from Sweden to the UK. Sweden is not under a strict lockdown but some social distancing measures have been implemented. Gatherings larger than 50 people are banned and schools are closed. However, if the situation worsens Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has proposed an emergency law allowing the quick closure of public venues and transportation.

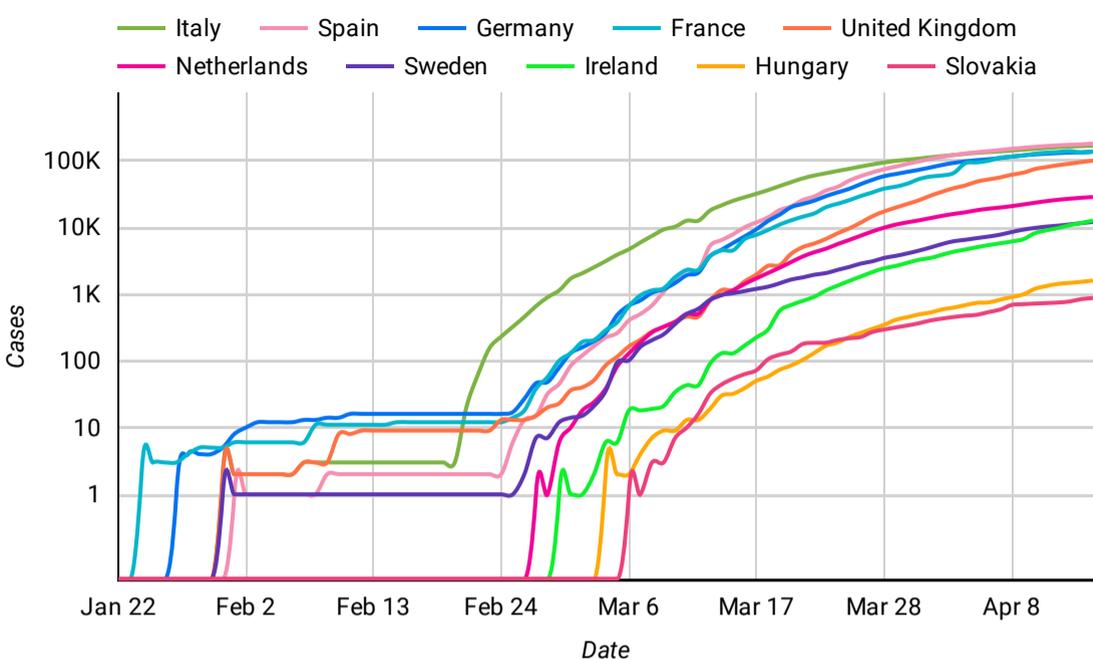
Hungary

From 26 March, Hungary has banned all passenger transport by air, rail or bus into the country. Only Hungarian citizens and residents of the EU can enter the country. Arrivals must undergo a medical examination upon entry. Flights from China, Iran, Israel, Italy and South Korea to Budapest are now suspended. However, Budapest airport remains open until further notice.

Slovakia

Slovakia has banned international passenger travel from 12 March. Slovakia has also closed land borders, exempting trucks carrying essential goods. Only residents and nationals may enter Slovakia but must remain in self-quarantine for 14 days. All three international airports are closed. International bus and rail travel have also been suspended.

COVID-19 Cases in the UK and Europe



	Country	Deaths (per 1M people) ▾
1.	San Marino	1,120
2.	Andorra	427
3.	Belgium	419
4.	Spain	409
5.	Italy	358
6.	France	263
7.	United King...	202
8.	Netherlands	193
9.	Switzerland	147
10.	Sweden	132

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UK Government Response

The UK government has responded to the outbreak of COVID-19 by implementing a series of protection measures aimed at slowing the spread of the virus, as well as an economic stimulus package to assist businesses and protect the income of millions of citizens. These measures remain largely unchanged from the previous week, with changes this week relating to an almost certain extension of the current lockdown which the government is expected to announce in its daily briefing on 16 April.

Preventative Measures

The UK government implemented a three-week countrywide lockdown, consisting of movement restrictions and business closures, on 23 March with a view to reviewing the measures once the initial three-week period has elapsed. As part of the lockdown, all non-essential businesses, including bars and restaurants, have been forced to close and people are advised to work from home where possible. The government is expected to extend the lockdown for three-weeks and plans for a gradual reopening of businesses have not yet been announced.

Individuals are permitted to leave their homes to purchase essential items such as food and medication, as well as to undertake outdoor exercise of up to one hour per day alone or with members of their household. People must also maintain a two-metre distance from one another at all times.

Schools and nurseries throughout the UK have closed, but some facilities remain open for children of key workers such as National Health Service (NHS) staff and others who cannot work from home.

The government has announced plans to develop a contact tracing app. However, this is unlikely to benefit the country's elderly population who are most at risk of the virus.

Health Protection Support

The government established several temporary healthcare facilities throughout the country solely for COVID-19 patients. These hospitals, known as 'Nightingale hospitals' have opened at the ExCel Centre in London, the G-MEX in Manchester and the NEC in Birmingham.

The government has issued guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by healthcare workers, stating that any individual within two metres of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient must wear an apron, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection. However, inadequate PPE supplies have prevented healthcare workers throughout the country from adhering to these guidelines. Health facilities such as residential care homes also continue to face PPE shortages despite clusters of cases in these spaces with a large number of vulnerable patients.

Food retailers continue to implement designated shopping hours for vulnerable customers and NHS workers, while online delivery slots are also restricted for vulnerable customers who cannot attend the store. Social distancing measures are in place at all food retailers and pharmacies and include restrictions on the number of people in the store at one time, a one-way system around the store, two-metre distance markers for queues and protective screens at checkouts.

UK Government Response

Economic Support

The UK government has announced a series of economic measures to support UK businesses and mitigate the economic disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The measures can be divided broadly into two categories: funding-based initiatives, which aim to bolster cash flow and liquidity position in the short to medium term, and tax or grant-based initiatives, which consist of VAT deferrals and Time to Pay support, business rate reductions and employer grants to pay salaries, among other measures.

The COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility (CCF) and the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS and CBILS) remain the key packages put forward by the government to date.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak has said he is deeply troubled by an Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) report which shows the UK economy could shrink by as much as 35 percent in the second quarter of 2020. Despite the warnings, the Chancellor has confirmed that social distancing measures would remain in place to protect the health of citizens and admitted this would almost certainly have negative economic consequences.

The government has allocated GBP 750 million to enable charities to carry out their work during the ongoing crisis. Charities such as those dealing with domestic abuse have seen a spike in requests for their services, while charities dealing with homelessness have struggled with a decrease in food donations due to restaurant closures and shortages of long-life food products in supermarkets.