

Confirmed Cases

157,149

0.96
Change rate (5-
day average)

Deaths

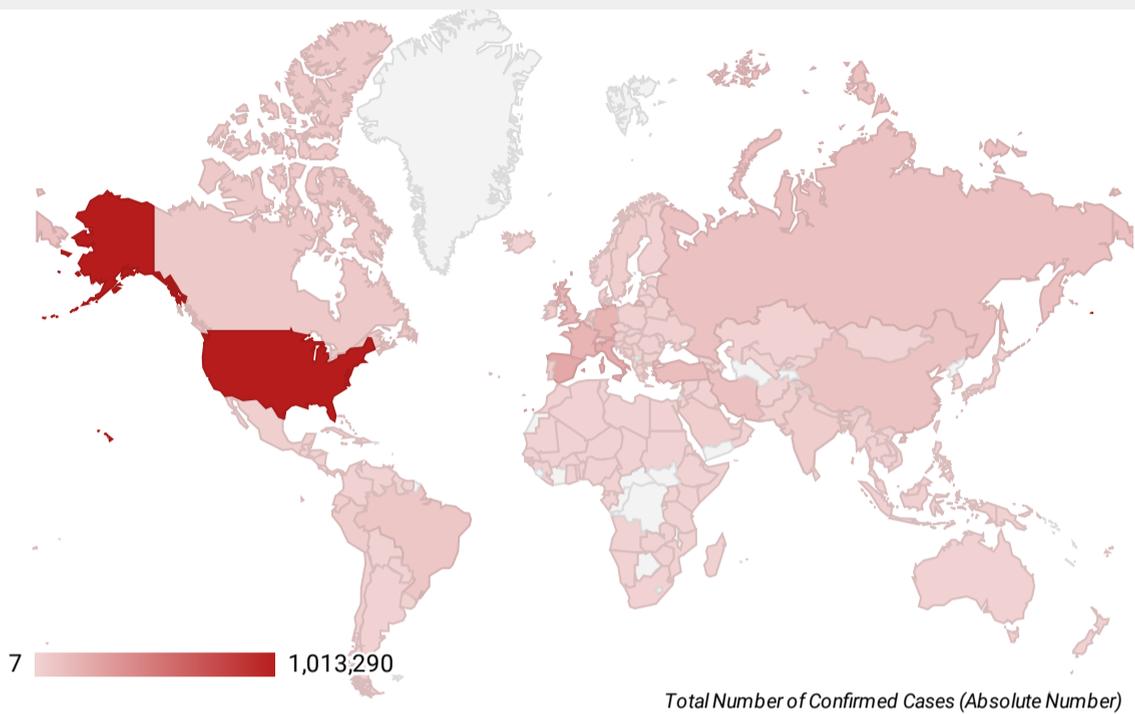
21,092

0.9
Change rate (5-
day average)

Deaths as % of cases

13.42

How do COVID-19 Cases compare to other countries?



Key Developments

As of 30 April, the World Health Organisation records 3,232,061 cases of the novel coronavirus and 228,505 associated fatalities. More than one million people worldwide have now recovered from the virus.

The UK's Chief Medical Officer has said that some lockdown restrictions, such as the ban on mass gatherings, are likely to stay in place for a year. The UK currently has the second-highest COVID-19 death toll in Europe and figures which only count out of hospital deaths have been criticised as misleading, as not all those who died received tests for the virus. On 23 April, the government announced that it is working to develop an app that would notify people when they had been in close contact – two metres for at least 15 minutes – with someone who had tested positive for the virus. However, the uptake of this technology by those most at risk such as over 65s is likely to be low. The UK government is reviewing its lockdown measures every three weeks, with the next review due on 7 May, but Prime Minister Boris Johnson is likely to provide further guidance in a speech this week following his return to work after contracting COVID-19 earlier this month.

Restrictions put in place by several countries in Eastern Europe, including Hungary and Slovakia, have been successful in mitigating the spread of the virus. Slovakia has recorded 1,396 cases of the virus and 23 associated deaths, while Hungary has recorded 2,775 cases and 312 deaths, significantly lower than other countries in Europe. Slovakia has made it mandatory to wear a mask outside the home and only Slovak citizens and residents are permitted to enter the country. Nonetheless, the measures imposed have raised concerns around government abilities to impose restrictions on freedom after the pandemic ends. This is particularly the case in Hungary where the government has enacted a law which allows it to rule by decree.

Spain has set out an eight-week program to move out of the lockdown. The de-escalation plan has four phases, each expected to last approximately two weeks. The Prime Minister has said the process will take a minimum of six weeks. Before the plan begins, there will be a preparatory "phase zero" from 4 – 11 May in which hairdressers and other businesses can reopen, restaurants can offer take-away services and professional sports leagues will go back to training, though no date has been set for when matches will resume. Despite the easing of restrictions, it remains unlikely that tourism will resume in Spain in summer 2020, in what will likely create additional economic strain.

Brent Crude Oil Price
USD 25.48

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

How are European Governments Responding to COVID-19?

Key Domestic and Travel Restrictions

UK

The UK Government confirmed on 16 April that lockdown restrictions will continue until at least 7 May. Citizens are advised to remain at home and to only leave their homes for essential shopping such as groceries and medication, one hour of daily exercise or to travel to work if it is not possible to work from home. However, international flights continue to operate from UK airports at a reduced frequency and the country has not issued entry or exits bans.

Ireland

No change to lockdown restrictions and travel in Ireland from the previous week. On 28 April Taoiseach Varadkar said there were no indications that disease levels are low enough to enable the easing of restrictions, indicating the lockdown will remain in place for several more weeks at least.

Italy

Lockdown measures are to be relaxed from 4 May onwards when phase two of the reopening will begin. People will be allowed to visit their relatives in small numbers. Parks, factories and building sites will reopen, but schools will not restart classes until September. If the number of infections begins to increase again, the government will likely intervene and reintroduce certain restrictions.

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. From 2 May adults will be allowed out to exercise or go for a walk. The Prime Minister has announced that the gradual lifting of other restrictions would begin in the second half of May, assuming the rates of infection continue to decline. Schools are expected to remain closed until September. Each region will relax restrictions at a different pace depending on the severity of its outbreak.

France

France's borders remain 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.

The first phase of "de-confinement" will last three weeks and run until 2 June, at which point the government will announce further measures depending on how the pandemic is evolving. Most businesses will be permitted to reopen from 11 May, but cafes, bars and restaurants are to remain shut for longer. Pre-schools and primary schools can reopen their doors on 11 May, but secondary and further education will not restart until the beginning of June. From 11 May, car trips of up to 100 km will be allowed. A ban on mass gatherings is unlikely to be lifted until September.

Germany

Despite the slight easing of lockdown restrictions over the past week, the reproduction rate of the virus has slightly increased. As a result, there is a possibility that the authorities will re-impose some lockdown measures or ensure that lockdown re-openings are progressing at a slower rate. The government is due to evaluate the measures on 6 May.

Netherlands

The Netherlands has begun to ease some of its lockdown restrictions this week, with primary school children due to return to school from May. Large gatherings such as sporting events remain banned until at least 1 September. Venues such as bars and restaurants will remain shut until at least 19 May.

Sweden

Travel restrictions remain unchanged from the previous week. However, if the number of COVID-19 cases rises sharply the government may choose to impose additional restrictions, despite its current 'herd immunity' strategy.

Hungary

The government has announced plans to begin easing lockdown measures. Starting from 4 May, smaller retail outlets may open. Over the course of May, a gradual opening of hotels, restaurants and coffee shops is likely if the number of cases continues to decrease.

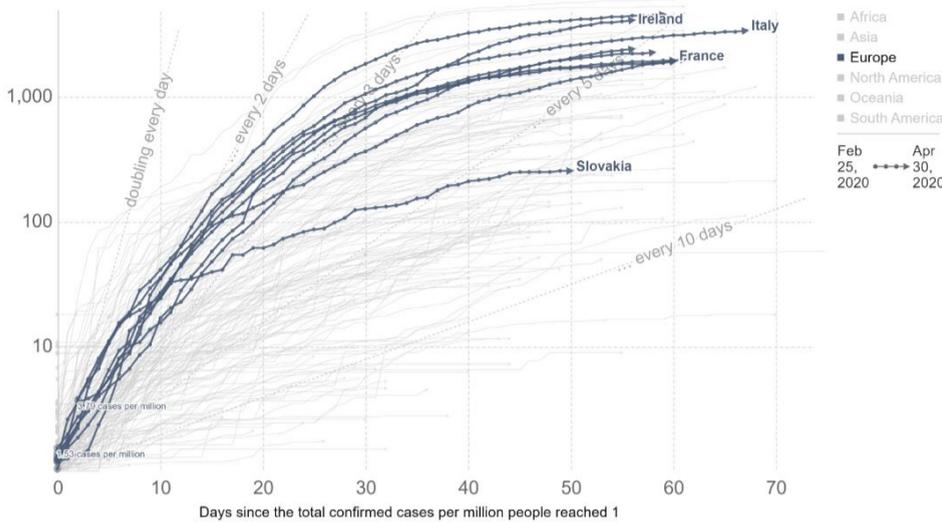
Slovakia

Travel restrictions remain unchanged from previous weeks. The authorities in Slovakia have presented a four-step plan outlining how they plan to ease the lockdown. Slovakia is currently in its first phase where small shops may reopen. Phase two will involve the opening of hair salons, taxi services and outdoor travel attractions. Phases three and four are unlikely to be implemented until mid-summer.

COVID-19 Cases per million population in the UK and Europe

Total confirmed COVID-19 cases per million: how rapidly are they increasing?

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 30th April, 11:50 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

	Country	Deaths (per 1M people)
1.	San Marino	1,208
2.	Belgium	633
3.	Andorra	518
4.	Spain	510
5.	Italy	446
6.	France	357
7.	United King...	311
8.	Netherlands	266
9.	Sweden	233
10.	Ireland	223

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UK Government Response

The UK government has responded to the outbreak of COVID-19 by implementing a series of prevention 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 those outlined in reports from the previous three weeks; however, the conversation around COVID-19 has now turned towards an exit strategy and plans to gradually ease the restrictions. Prime Minister Boris Johnson returned to work this week after being hospitalised for COVID-19, and is due to give a speech this week outlining the next steps in government's COVID-19 strategy.

Preventative Measures

The UK government implemented an initial 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. The government has extended this lockdown until 7 May, when it will once again review the measures. 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 has not yet announced when it will ease these restrictions, and how it plans to do so. However, the Prime Minister is due to give a speech this week, updating the UK on the government's strategy.

Individuals are currently 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. The government has said increased testing and contact tracing is necessary to enable a safe lifting of current restrictions and has confirmed it is working on enhancing these capabilities. Social distancing measures will almost certainly remain in place for the next three to six months, and it is likely that those who can work from home will be encouraged to continue to do so after lockdown measures are eased.

Health Protection Support

The government has worked to increase the capacity of the NHS to deal with the initial surge in cases, and Health Secretary Matt Hancock confirmed this week that the UK has now reached the peak of its COVID-19 outbreak. There has been no change this week to the health protection support put in place by the government and outlined below:

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. The availability of PPE supplies continues to prevent healthcare workers throughout the country from adhering to these guidelines, but a reduced number of hospital admissions has reduced demand for PPE and this is also now sourced from countries outside the UK where case numbers are lower. Health facilities such as residential care homes also continue to face PPE shortages despite clusters of cases in these facilities with a large number of vulnerable patients, and a debate remains ongoing around the inclusion of care home deaths in official data.

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

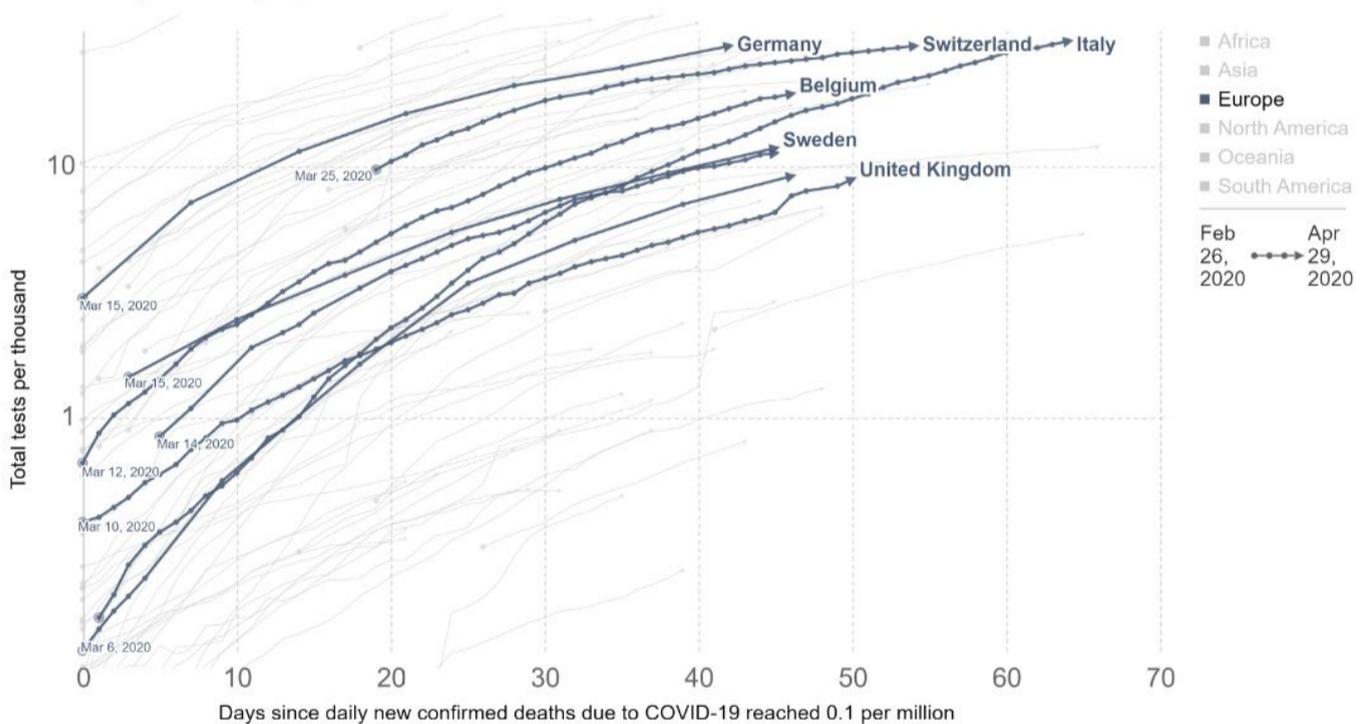
Economic Support

The government has announced multiple economic stimulus packages and finance schemes available for workers and employers affected by the crisis. This originally began with a furlough scheme for employees and later expanded to include the self-employed. On 21 April, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that a UK government-backed loan scheme for large businesses affected by coronavirus has been expanded to cover all viable firms. Business with turnovers of more than GBP500 million was originally not eligible for the scheme, which is being set up to help firms who do not qualify for the existing Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme for small and medium-sized businesses and the Bank of England COVID Corporate Financing Facility for investment-grade companies. On 27 April, the government further expanded its loan scheme to provide 100 percent government-backed loans of between GBP 2,000 and 50,000; known as the Bounce Back Loans scheme. According to the government, the scheme 'has been designed to ensure that small firms who need vital cash injections to keep operating can get finance in a matter of days'.

Banks have also stepped in to support businesses, with major banks such as HSBC waiving late payments for personal and commercial banking customers until July 2020.

Total COVID-19 tests per 1,000: how are testing rates changing?

Total tests for COVID-19 per thousand people of the country's population since the daily new confirmed deaths reached 0.1 per million people.



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data, European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 30th April, 11:50 (London time)
 Note: For testing figures, there are substantial differences across countries in terms of the units, whether or not all labs are included, the extent to which negative and pending tests are included and other aspects. Details for each country can be found at the linked page.
 OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY