

Confirmed Cases

201,101 ¹
Change rate (5-
day average)

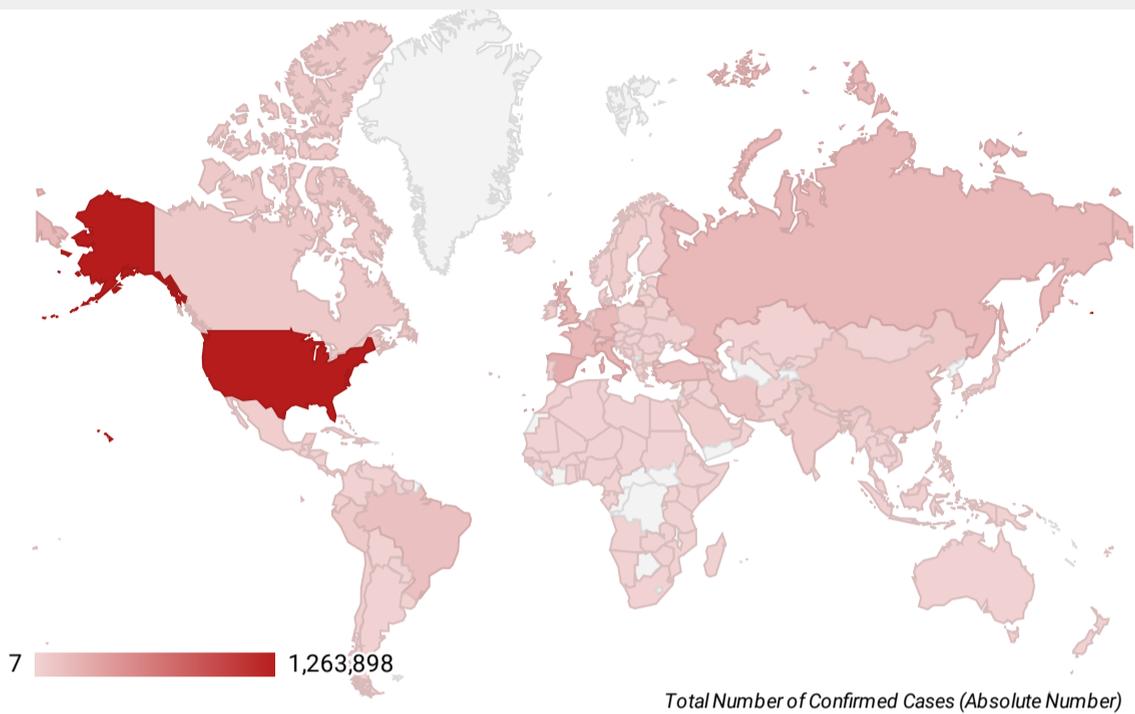
Deaths

30,076 ^{1.0}
Change rate (5-
day average)

Deaths as % of cases

14.96

How do COVID-19 Cases compare to other countries?



Key Developments

As of 7 May, the World Health Organisation records 3,843,524 cases of COVID-19 and 265,668 associated fatalities. More than 1.3 million people worldwide have now recovered from the disease.

Today, 7 May, is the deadline for the UK government to make a decision on extending the lockdown, which has now been in place for over six weeks. It is highly likely the government will decide to maintain most of the current measures for a further three-week period, but some restrictions may be eased from 11 May as the country looks to gradually emerge from the lockdown. As of 7 May, the UK has recorded 201,101 cases and 30,076 associated fatalities, the highest number in Europe, and surpassing Italy, which has recorded 29,684 deaths.

On 4 May, police in the UK released data that shows a 300 percent increase in the number of reported hate crimes against individuals of East Asian appearance between January and March 2020 when compared with the two years previous. The increase in attacks appears to coincide with the spread of COVID-19 from Wuhan, China to Europe in early 2020. Most incidents have taken the form of verbal abuse, but police have also recorded cases of physical assault and vandalism. It remains likely that further such attacks will continue to occur as lockdown restrictions ease, with some elements of the population continuing to blame individuals from East Asia for the outbreak. Europe has seen an increase in support and sympathy for far-right groups over the past several years and the economic decline caused by the outbreak will likely exacerbate anti-immigrant sentiment. According to the Counter Extremism Project, a non-profit which combats extremist groups, there has been an increase in online neo-nazi groups using the pandemic to generate support for their cause.

Meanwhile, with European economies likely entering protracted and uneven recoveries, the debate around state responses to the pandemic and availability of financial support will probably intensify. In countries where citizens judge government responses inadequate, corrupt, or have disproportionately affected certain social groups, anti-government sentiment could translate into protests, though the risk of civil unrest in Europe remains negligible. The EU's Economic Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni has said this week that economic fissures caused by the crisis threaten the Eurozone, with divergence in economic recoveries throughout the zone posing a threat to the single market.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has said this week that a second wave of coronavirus is likely to occur in October/November 2020, stating that the country is prepared to "ward off the virus's next attack". The comments are likely intended to shore up support for the emergency rule which is currently in place and allows the government to rule by decree, raising further concerns about democratic freedoms in Hungary.

Brent Crude Oil Price
USD 30.79

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 is due to announce today, 7 May, its plans for the next phase of its COVID-19 strategy. The current lockdown measures expire today and it is highly likely that the government will choose to extend the measures. Citizens are currently 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. From 7 May, passengers traveling through London Stansted (STN) and East Midlands Airport (EMA) will be required to cover their faces and wear gloves.

Ireland

Flights and ferry services continue to operate between the UK and Ireland. The Republic of Ireland has extended lockdown measures until 18 May but has allowed people to travel 5km from their homes rather than the 2km limit which was previously in place.

Italy

The government eased lockdown measures from 4 May onwards, with phase two of the reopening beginning. People are now allowed to visit their relatives in small numbers. Parks, factories and building sites have reopened, 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), with the measure extended again until 10 May. 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

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. France's borders remain closed until 11 May, only French nationals and residents may enter the country. 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.

Germany

Despite the slight easing of lockdown restrictions over the past week, the reproduction rate of the virus has slightly increased. Nonetheless, Germany continues to ease lockdown restrictions. Bundesliga football is due to resume this month and restaurants will be permitted to reopen "in the coming weeks".

Netherlands

The Netherlands began to ease some of its lockdown restrictions last week, with primary school children due to return to school from mid-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. So far, Sweden has recorded over 2,900 deaths from the virus, higher than other Scandinavian countries.

Hungary

Starting from 4 May, smaller retail outlets have begun to reopen with social distancing measures in place. Over the course of May, a gradual opening of hotels, restaurants, and coffee shops is likely if the number of cases continues to decrease.

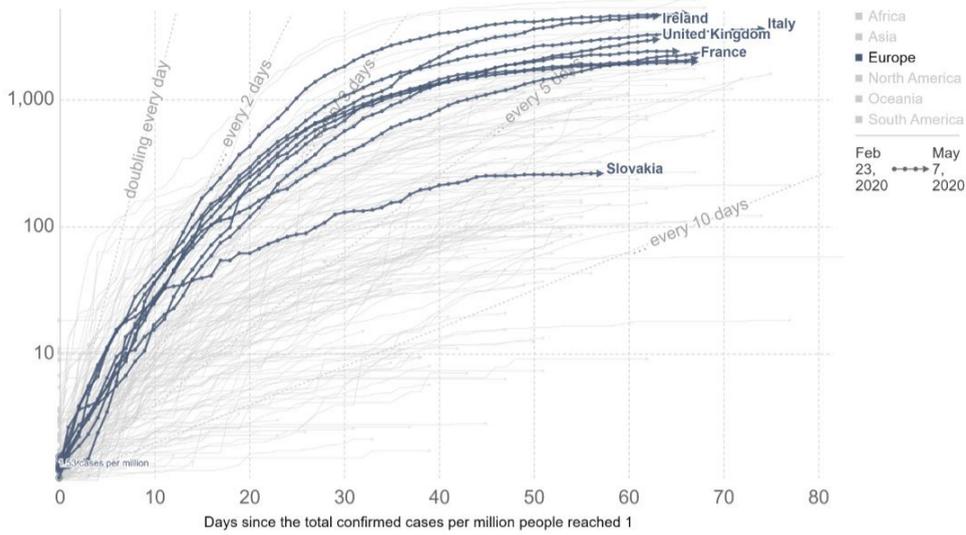
Slovakia

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 7th May, 11:15 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

	Country	Deaths (per 1M people)
1.	San Marino	1,208
2.	Belgium	726
3.	Andorra	595
4.	Spain	558
5.	Italy	491
6.	United King...	443
7.	France	395
8.	Netherlands	309
9.	Sweden	301
10.	Ireland	278

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UK Government Response

The UK government has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak 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. The government is due to announce today, 7 May, its three-week lockdown review. The government will likely extend lockdown measures for a further three weeks until 28 May but may ease some restrictions on smaller gatherings, as has been the case in other countries. However, the UK currently has the highest death toll in Europe from the virus and any easing of the lockdown risks further increasing the number of cases and fatalities. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is due to make an address to the nation at 2000hrs on 10 May.

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 and is due to announce its review today. All non-essential businesses, including bars and restaurants, have been forced to close and people are advised to work from home where possible.

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. It is likely that the government will allow small gatherings of individuals from the same family who do not live together from 11 May, as has been the case in other countries who have begun to ease lockdown measures.

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 Office of National Statistics (ONS) is due to begin reporting on the prevalence of the virus within the population based on a random sampling of those not admitted to the hospital to support the government's decision-making process.

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 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 debate remains ongoing around the inclusion of care home deaths in official data.

Food retailers continue to implement social distancing measures and 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. Cafes, bars and restaurants are likely to begin opening from 11 May for takeaways, but a full opening remains highly unlikely until at least 28 May.

UK Government Response

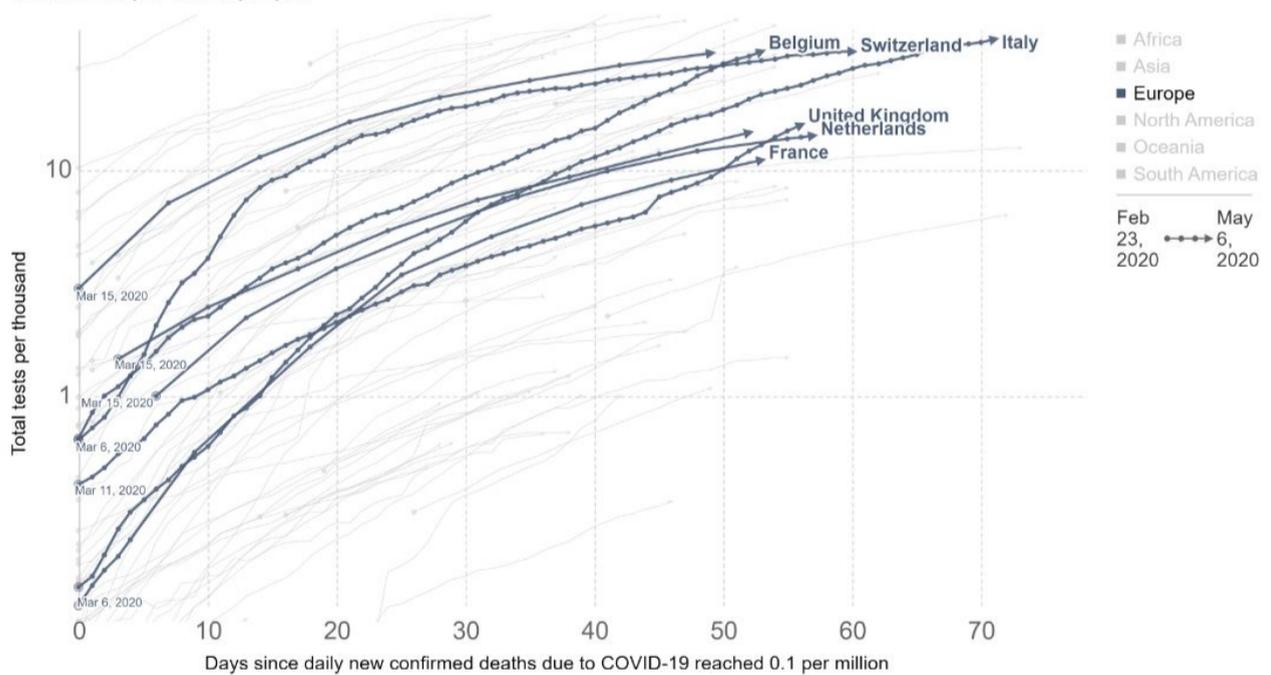
Economic Support

The Bank of England has warned this week that the UK is currently heading towards its sharpest recession on record. The Bank's Governor, Andrew Bailey, has said he expects the UK economy to shrink by 14 percent this, based on the government relaxing lockdown measures in June. He also noted that consumers would remain cautious after lockdown measures are eased, amid fears of further redundancies stemming from the pandemic. The government will also face issues with closing the furlough scheme, as businesses may not be in a financial position to rehire all staff members when the scheme expires, creating an increase in unemployment figures.

The government has implemented several schemes to assist employers, employees and the self-employed, and which we have outlined in previous iterations of this report; however, reports indicate that HM Revenue and Customs have rejected their application for support despite meeting the criteria. Economic considerations will likely influence the government's decision to ease lockdown measures, but Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned a second wave of the virus would cause further economic damage in the long term if lockdown measures are eased too soon.

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 7th May, 11:15 (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