

The Financial Effects of COVID-19

The current COVID-19 crisis is affecting all of us in many different ways. For many UK nationals who are resident in Spain we know that the lockdown has significantly affected your ability to work and hence your income. We hope that the following information is useful in pointing you in the right direction for support. Please be aware that the Embassy cannot offer financial advice and we would encourage you to seek guidance from your employer, a gestor or the Spanish authorities, as appropriate.

The Spanish Government has put in place a special package of economic measures. Please see [SEPE](#) for further information, as well as a comprehensive FAQ section on issues, including pensions and benefits [here](#). These measures are announced in the Boletín Oficial del Estado (BOE) and you can find links to various announcements that might be relevant below. The BOEs are in Spanish, but they might prove useful in discussions with your professional advisers.

If you are self-employed or have seen your business affected:

There are tax deferrals available for small businesses and the self-employed. Depending on the number of employees you have, you may be exempt from paying employers' social security contributions.

If you are self-employed and your income has been reduced by 75% you can access the "self-employed unemployment scheme". You may also be eligible for suspension of mortgage payments and discounts on electricity. You can find more information on measures for the self-employed [here](#)

If your work contract has been temporarily suspended (ERTE):

You will receive unemployment benefit, even if you haven't made social security contributions, as long as you were legally employed. You should not need to submit any application; your employer should have notified you and the authorities. You can find more information [here](#)

If you have lost your job and are now unemployed:

You may be eligible for Spanish benefits and you may be able to include time previously worked in the UK or other EU member states towards your claim. Our [Living in Spain](#) guiden and the

[European Commission](#) pages (both in English) provide further information. To find out how to claim unemployment benefit in Spain visit [SEPE](#)

If you find yourself in severe financial hardship you should talk to social services at your local town hall in the first instance.

Links to relevant announcements in the Boletín Oficial del Estado (BOE)

DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY:

- Limitation to movement and closure of retail establishments. Link to BOE [here](#).

HOUSING:

- Rents: increased facilities for tenants, especially for those defined as vulnerable. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Utilities: provisions for the continuation of services. Link to BOE [here](#) and BOE [here](#).
- Mortgages: moratoria permitted under specific circumstances. Link to BOE [here](#) and BOE [here](#).
- Temporary closure of tourist accommodation. Link to BOE [here](#).

WORKERS:

- Enhanced access to unemployment benefit. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Support for workers ending fixed-term contracts. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Fixed-term contracts and the furloughed worker scheme. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Details of the scheme for temporary layoffs. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Sick leave related to Covid-19. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Working hours: adaptation or reduction of working hours. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Provisions for remote working. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Paid leave for non-essential workers 30 March – 9 April. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Rules for redundancies. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Agriculture: facilitation of short-term employment. Link to BOE [here](#).

SELF-EMPLOYED:

- Social security contributions: flexibility on payment. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Special scheme for those suffering a reduction of revenues: Link to BOE [here](#).

BUSINESSES:

- Industry: availability of state backed loans Link to BOE [here](#).
- Company tax deferrals. Link to BOE [here](#).
- State backed guarantees. Link to BOE [here](#).
- ICO credits lines. Link in BOE [here](#).

- SMEs credit lines to promote digitalization. Link to BOE [here](#).

CONSUMERS:

- Consumer loans: special provisions for vulnerable consumers. Link to BOE [here](#).
- Travel bookings: cancellation and compensation provisions. Link to BOE [here](#).

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

- Spanish Employment Service's Covid-19 website: [here](#)
- Spanish Social Security's Covid-19 website: [here](#)
- GOV.UK's Lists of English-speaking lawyers for British nationals in Spain: [here](#)
- European Commission's workers' rights website: [here](#)
- European Commission's unemployment website: [here](#)