

Turkmenistan	
No diagnosed positive COVID-19 cases as of 28 August 2020.	
Policy responses	
Containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border closure</li> <li>• Flight cancellations and rerouting</li> <li>• Mandatory COVID-19 testing for arriving travelers</li> <li>• From March 20 to April 20, foreign nationals were barred from crossing the state border of Turkmenistan.</li> <li>• [March 19] Starting from March 19, Turkmen citizens and citizens of other states were not allowed to enter Turkmenistan without a certificate of absence of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Social distancing: Starting March 24, 2020 all sports events have been cancelled. Gyms and sports clubs have been shut down in Ashgabat, although the latter measure was reversed on April 1.</li> <li>• School holidays were extended by one week until April 6. Restrictions were imposed over the summer season on holding cultural events in the National tourist zone Avaza, as well as swimming in the coastal zone of the Caspian.</li> <li>• Restrictions on internal movement: roads closure between some provinces, and suspension of rail transportation.</li> <li>• [May 20] Turkmenistan suspended international flights until June 20. Previously, Turkmenistan canceled all international flights until May 20, 2020.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• [July 14] Turkmenistan makes face masks compulsory.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• [16 July] A number of public health care measures were taken, including mandating mask wearing in public places and providing mobile health care services to remote and rural areas.</li> <li>• [7 September] The government has introduced a new legislation for those who avoid treatment for conditions "recognized as dangerous or infectious diseases of an epidemic or pandemic nature" now face jail terms of two to five years</li> <li>• The authorities stepped up efforts to digitalize government services, expand e-commerce, and facilitate online and phone payments by SMEs and SOEs through banks</li> <li>• [September 7] The government has introduced a new legislation for those who avoid treatment for conditions "recognized as dangerous or infectious diseases of an epidemic or pandemic nature" now face jail terms of two to five years</li> <li>• In addition, the government-built quarantine control rooms for 80 places at the border checkpoints while also constructing disinfection facilities.</li> <li>• The production of masks, protective equipment and disinfectants is incentivized. Besides, a new hospital with a variety of medical services is being constructed.</li> <li>• Turkmenistan has extended until 1 January 2021 temporary restrictions on crossing Turkmenistan's state borders as well as</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.kabar.kg/news/turkmenistan-extends-cancellation-of-international-flights/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.turkmen.news/news/turkmenistan-makes-face-masks-compulsory-but-remains-silent-on-covid-19/>.

	<p>restrictions on international air, sea, rail and road communications. Turkmenistan also extended until 1 December 2020 restrictions on holding mass events related to religious ceremonies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turkmenistan is working with UN agencies to develop a third national plan that covers the humanitarian component of the country's measures to combat COVID-19.</li> <li>• [December 30] Restrictions on domestic and international travel were extended until at least January 31, 2021.</li> <li>• A requirement was introduced that all outbound travelers have a signed negative COVID-19 test result within the previous 24 hours.</li> <li>• Turkmenistan was the first country in the CCA to register for the Russian vaccines Sputnik V and EpiVacCorona. Any Turkmen citizen who has the age of 18 and above can register for the vaccine. Polyclinics in Ashgabat and in the regions stated that citizens started signing up for the vaccine.</li> <li>• According to official media, there have been no diagnosed cases of COVID-19 as of September 22, 2020. However, Petronas, the Malaysian oil and gas company, closed its office in Ashgabat on July 29, after 10 of its employees had tested positive for the coronavirus.</li> <li>• In January 2020, the Extraordinary Commission on combatting the spread of disease was set up. In consultation with the WHO, the authorities issued guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in March 2020.</li> </ul>
Fiscal	<p>State budget spending is being revised, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase health spending for preventing an outbreak of COVID-19; and</li> <li>• to provide support to businesses (possibly through tax relief, bank loans, and assistance in providing raw materials) affected by the containment measures.</li> <li>• The government announced that the bonus salary of 20, 15, and 10 percent will be given to healthcare professionals working in the remote rural facilities, frontline facilities, and other rural facilities, respectively.</li> <li>• The authorities raised excises on both tobacco and alcohol products with varying rates based on the origin and type of product.</li> </ul> <p>No details yet.</p>
Monetary	<p>The authorities provided temporary suspension of loan repayments to businesses affected by the COVID containment measures.</p> <p>MONETARY AND MACRO-FINANCIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The authorities provided temporary suspension of loan repayments to businesses affected by the COVID containment measures.</li> </ul> <p>EXCHANGE RATE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The President approved the list of goods subject to customs duties and the magnitude of such duties. Custom duties on selected goods were raised to protect domestic suppliers. In addition, starting from March 24, 2020, only Turkmen freight carriers were allowed to transport cargo in Turkmenistan.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In April 2020, special regime was established for essential and high-priority imports and projects, which covers foreign currency rationing and transportation arrangements. A commission was set up for the purchase of essential supplies, medicines, construction equipment, etc. The commission was authorized to screen and ration requests to convert local currency into foreign currency for imports.</li> <li>• Exchange restrictions on current international payments and transactions were tightened. From May 15, Turkmen companies engaged in exports are required to surrender 100 percent of their foreign currency income at the official exchange rate, instead of 50 percent previously.</li> <li>• [May 22] The president signed a decree on the establishment of the Reserve Currency Fund. According to the decree, the holder of the Fund will be the Central Bank of Turkmenistan. The Fund will accumulate currency earnings of the ministries, industry departments, their subordinate enterprises, institutions, and all legal entities with public shareholding. Resources in the fund will be used for essential imports of food and materials for priority projects.</li> </ul>
Financial	<p>Exchange restrictions on current international payments and transactions for private businesses have been tightened.</p> <p>From May 15, Turkmen companies engaged in exports are required to surrender 100 percent of their foreign currency income at the official exchange rate to the Stabilization Fund, instead of 50 percent previously.</p> <p>On May 22, the president signed a decree on the establishment of the Reserve Currency Fund. According to the decree, the holder of the Fund is the Central Bank of Turkmenistan. The Fund will accumulate currency earnings of the ministries, industry departments, their subordinate enterprises, institutions, and all legal entities with public shareholding.</p> <p>A commission has been set up for the purchase of essential supplies, medicines, construction equipment, etc. The commission has also been authorized to screen and ration requests to convert local currency into foreign currency for imports.</p>
Trade measures <sup>3</sup>	<p><b>Restrictive:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Liberalizing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All imports of goods will be carried out by Turkmen freight carriers.</li> </ul>
Other policy measures	<p>The President has approved the list of goods subject to customs duties and the magnitude of such duties. Custom duties on selected goods have been raised to protect domestic suppliers.</p> <p>In addition, starting from March 24, 2020, only Turkmen freight carriers may transport cargo in Turkmenistan.</p> <p><b>International cooperation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [25 June] The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on June 25 approved a \$500 million loan to help the Government of Uzbekistan mitigate the</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.macmap.org/covid19>

	<p>adverse health and economic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.<sup>4</sup></p> <p><b>Help vulnerable groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [22 August] The Agency "Turkmenavtoyollary" developed rules for the organization of social taxi service for people with disabilities. According to the rules, a social taxi is a service with a reduced fare for transporting people with limited mobility to socially important objects, such as...health care institutions (except in cases of emergency medical care)...<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
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*Source:* IMF, Policy Responses to COVID-19, if not specified.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.timesca.com/index.php/news/22625-adb-500-million-loan-to-help-uzbekistan-mitigate-health-economic-impacts-of-covid-19>.

<sup>5</sup> [turkmenportal.com/en/blog/29691/a-social-taxi-service-will-operate-in-turkmenistan](http://turkmenportal.com/en/blog/29691/a-social-taxi-service-will-operate-in-turkmenistan).