

| Singapore | |
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| Policy responses | |
| Containment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting up multi-agency task force - increasing travel ban on visitors from high-risk areas - screening & tracing - precautionary measures advised - compulsory self-quarantine - distribution of medical supplies • 7 Feb <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DORSCON level raised to Orange - step up on precautionary measures (partial restrictions on public gathering & activities) • 10-26 Mar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suspension of all gov activities for seniors - suspension of all events/gathering of 250+ people - call for social distancing - ban on all short-term visitors - ban on gathering of 10+ people - advising general public to stay home • 2-14 Apr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 day distance learning per week for schools - face mask is advised, & later required (16 Apr) - "circuit breaker": all non-essential work places and schools closed till 4 May, later extended to 1 Jun (21 Apr) - additional measures in foreign worker dormitories • 2 Jun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase-1 (2 June): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - partial business reopening with safeguard measures (upto 75% of the economy & 1/3 of workers to return to offices and factories) - limited people movement is allowed - partial reopening of schools • 19 Jun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 2 (19 June) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - most business operations and people movement/interactions would be allowed - schools would be fully reopened (29 June) - religious (26 June) & tourism (1 July) places reopened with reduced capacity • 17 Aug <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Singapore and Malaysia reopened their border |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (August 25-26) Singapore held discussions with Indonesia and Thailand to establish reciprocal travel arrangements for essential business - Phase 3 (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fully returning to normal except for large gatherings and for the elderly • Sep-Oct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new green travel lanes with several countries - mass compulsory contact tracing (TraceTogether tokens) to be implemented - pilot pre-event testing before mass gathering (20 Oct) |
| Fiscal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-Feb, 1.2% GDP (US\$4.4 bn, S\$6.4 bn) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Jobs support scheme: gov wage co-funding of 8% for 3 months 2) enhanced Wage Credit Scheme: increase gov co-funding of wage increase from 10% to 15% & monthly wage ceiling from S\$4000 to S\$5000 for 2020 3) CIT tax rebate by 25% for 2020 with a cap of S\$15,000 per company 4) strengthened credit support for SMEs 5) freezing GST rate increase for 2021 6) various tax cuts for the tourism, aviation, food services, and retail sectors, & cash support for taxi and private-hire drivers 7) household support: one-off cash payments, doubling GST-voucher & U-Save rebates, additional 20% income for those on workfare, grocery voucher for lower-income households 8) 3-year economic transformation and growth package of S\$8.3 bn (US\$5.9 bn) • 26-Mar, 9.3% GDP (US\$33.7 bn, S\$48 bn) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) deferment of income tax for 3 months 2) property tax rebates of 30-100% with greater coverage 3) strengthened trade loan financing scheme for businesses & SMEs 4) further rental waiver (from 1 month to 3 months) for stallholders in hawker centers 5) protecting the livelihood of workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accounts for 1/3 of the budget package - enhancing Jobs Support Scheme: gov wage co-funding from 8 to 25%, extended to end of 2020, new incentives for the aviation, tourism, food services sector - S\$3,000 (US\$2,000) one-off cash payment to lower-income workers - monthly cash transfer for self-employed of S\$1,000 (US\$696) for 9 months - universal one-off cash payment of S\$300 -S\$900 (US\$627) & special cash payment of S\$300 to all parents - freezing all gov fees & charges for 1 year, suspension of student loan repayment & interest charge for 1 year, suspension on mortgage payment for 3 months |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-Apr, 1% GDP (US\$3.6 bn, S\$5.1 bn) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) enhancing Jobs Support Scheme: gov wage co-funding from 25% to 75% for April & accelerated payment 2) Increased Risk Sharing by the Government under the Enterprise Financing Scheme: from 80% to 90% 3) further property tax rebates 4) enhanced rental waivers for gov-owned properties • 26-May, 6.5% GDP (US\$23.2 bn, S\$33 bn) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enhanced wage support for businesses that cannot resume operations immediately the “circuit breaker” is lifted, or those in hard-hit sectors 2) Waivers and rebates in foreign worker levy for companies in selected industries; 3) Rental waivers and relief for SMEs 4) Expanding the number of opportunities in public and private sectors to more than 40,000 jobs • 17-Aug, 1.6% GDP (US\$5.6 bn, S\$8 bn) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) wage subsidies extended from August 2020 to March 2021 2) S\$187 million for the aviation sector <p>Total 19.6% of GDP (based on Singapore gov 2019 GDP estimation in S\$), US\$70 bn, S\$99.5bn</p> |
| Monetary/financial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • announcements from banks and insurers in Singapore to support their customers facing financial difficulties due to the impact of COVID-19 (14 Feb) • liquidity support package for SMEs and individuals to overcome temporary cashflow difficulties (31 Mar) • including ensure liquidity in interbank funding markets • second package on April 30 extending the scope of relief for individuals to a broader set of loan commitments (30 Apr) • US\$60 billion swap facility with the US Federal Reserve to finance liquidity support measures (19 Mar) • adopting a zero percent per annum rate of appreciation of the policy band and reduced the mid-point to the prevailing level of the S\$NEER, with no change to the width of the band (30 Mar) • announcing potential relaxation on selected regulatory requirements & supervisory programs on financial institutions (7 Apr) • S\$125 million support package for financial services and FinTech sectors (8 Apr) • MAS called on banks headquartered in Singapore to cap their total dividends per share to 60% of the FY2019 level and offer shareholders the option to receive dividends in scrip (as shares) instead of cash • New measures by MAS to enhance the banking system’s access to USD & SGD liquidity, through wider range of collaterals & MAS facilities (28 Sep) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced loan repayment for individuals and SMEs at 60% and 80% rates for eligible applicants (5 Oct) |
| Trade measures ¹ | <p>Restrictive: N/A.</p> <p>Liberalizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary relaxation of import licensing requirements for hand sanitizers, masks, thermometers, and protective gear. • Elimination of import tariffs and other duties on essential goods including medical, hygiene, pharmaceutical products and agricultural products. |
| SME measures | <p>Tax exemption and tax reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The authorities (i) exempted the Foreign Worker Levy for SMEs in April and May and (ii) implemented corporate income tax (CIT) deductions and property tax deductions for certain businesses. • The goods and services tax will be based on the current 7 per cent in 2021. <p>Tax refund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foreign Worker Levy (FWL) was fully waived from April to June 2020. Additionally, a FWL rebate of SGD 750 per month for the months of April to June 2020 was granted for each work permit or S-pass holder. This measure has been partially extended in July with a 50 per cent waiver and an SGD 375 rebate.² • Companies benefit from an enhanced Corporate Income Tax (CIT) rebate of 25 per cent of tax payable, capped at SGD 15,000 for 2020.³ <p>Deferral of tax payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government allowed companies to defer Corporate Income Tax (CIT) payments for three months from April 2020 to June 2020. • SMEs can defer principal payments on their secured term loans until the end of 2020.⁴ <p>Other fiscal support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2020, the Enterprise Singapore (ESG) launched an E-Commerce Booster Package, which aims to help SMEs diversify their income sources. The ESG cooperated with e-commerce service platforms (Amazon, Lazada Singapore, Qoo10, and Shopee) to enable SMEs to be exempted from 90 per cent of qualifying costs (comprising content development services, product listing and advertising) for online sales. SMEs can directly contact the e-commerce platforms and use the Package until 30 September 2020. In addition, the service |

¹ <https://www.macmap.org/covid19>

² <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

³ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-tax-developments-in-response-to-covid-19.html>

⁴ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

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| | <p>platforms will have six months of cooperation with SMEs to plan and launch products, assist with promotion activities and order fulfilment, and analyze sales data.⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parliament passed a “Rental relief framework” on 5 June 2020 to help 260,000 SMEs cope with issues of rent. The government expects to spend SGD 2 billion around the end of July to compensate property owners for losses of rent waivers and/or rent reductions, which will be paid through the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore.⁶ • The government can offset approximately two months’ rent for eligible commercial property SME tenants, and approximately one month’s rent for eligible industrial and office property SME tenants.⁷ • Commercial tenants and hawkers can receive another two months of rent exemptions, bringing the total rent exemptions for commercial tenants to four months. Hawker centers and market stalls managed by government agencies can receive rent exemptions for a total of five months.⁸ • Two months of interest-free instalments will be granted to companies paying their corporate income tax by GIRO when they file their Estimated Chargeable Income (ECI) within three months from their financial year-end. Companies that file their ECI from 19 February 2020 to 31 December 2020, or before 19 February 2020 and have ongoing instalment payments to be made in March 2020, are eligible.⁹ <p>Employment support:¹⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilization and Support Package: aims to provide companies with comprehensive financing and wage subsidy schemes to support affected industries and self-employed people. The Package includes a Jobs Support Scheme to help corporates retain workers. Enterprises can receive up to 8 per cent wage offsets for three months within certain caps. • Job Support Scheme: In April 2020, the government allocated an additional SGD 5.1 billion to subsidize 75 per cent of the first SGD 4,600 of gross monthly wages for more than 1.9 million local workers. This monthly support will help workers for nine months, until end-2020.¹¹ • The cap of another Wage Credit Scheme has been raised to SGD 5,000. • Self-Employed Persons Income Relief Scheme (SIRS): eligible Singaporean will receive SGD 1,000 a month for nine months. |
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⁵ <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/help-for-sme-retailers-to-start-selling-online-0>

⁶ <https://www.straitstimes.com/politics/smes-to-get-more-rent-relief-new-bill-in-the-works-to-mandate-landlords-give-rental-waiver>

⁷ <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/more-clarity-on-rent-relief-for-tenants-soon>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-tax-developments-in-response-to-covid-19.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2020/04/14/map-of-sme-support-measures-in-response-to-covid-19>

¹¹ https://www.straitstimes.com/politics/coronavirus-9-billion-to-go-out-in-april-to-help-families-businesses-says-dpm-heng-swee?cx_testId=20&cx_testVariant=cx_1&cx_artPos=0#cxrecs_s

- Employers will receive cash grant of up to the first SGD 4,600 gross monthly salary for each local employee for the months of October 2019 to December 2019, and February to August 2020.¹²
- The Foreign Worker Levy (FWL) was fully waived from April to June 2020. Additionally, an FWL rebate of SGD 750 per month for the months of April to June 2020 was granted for each work permit or S-pass holder. This measure has been partially extended in July with a 50 per cent waiver and an SGD 375 rebate.¹³
- The SME Working Capital Loan has been enhanced to increase the maximum loan quantum to SGD 1 million. The Government's risk share has been increased to 90 per cent and a deferment of principal repayment for one year can be requested.¹⁴

Loan support:¹⁵

- On March 31, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the financial industry announced a series of detailed measures to help individuals and SMEs who overcame temporary cash flow difficulties. The package includes: (i) helping individuals expand their loan and insurance commitments; (ii) supporting SMEs to continue to obtain bank credits and insurance protection; and (iii) ensuring that the inter-bank financing market remains liquid and functioning well.
- Temporary Bridging Loan Program: Eligible enterprises of all industry sectors will be able to borrow up to SGD 5 million, with the interest rate capped at 5 per cent. The MAS strengthened financing support for enterprises by increasing the Government's loan risk share from 80 to 90 per cent.¹⁶
- Enterprise Financing Scheme: Singapore-based enterprises are able to borrow up to SGD 10 million to finance short-term import, export and guarantee needs. The Government's loan risk share amounts to 90 per cent of the borrowing risk.¹⁷
- The MAS cooperated with the ESG to lend Singapore dollars to eligible financial institutions at 0.1 per cent per annum for a two-year tenure to indirectly help lenders reduce interest rates on SME loans.
- The authorities have increased emergency funds to meet unforeseen spending needs and set aside SGD 20 billion in loan capital to help businesses and individuals facing cash flow challenges with loan obligations and insurance premiums.
- The SME Working Capital Loan has been enhanced to increase the maximum loan quantum to SGD 1 million. The Government's risk share

¹² <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ <https://www.mas.gov.sg/news/media-releases/2020/mas-and-financial-industry-to-support-individuals-and-smes-affected-by-the-covid-19-pandemic>

¹⁶ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

¹⁷ Ibid.

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| | <p>has been increased to 90 per cent and a deferment of principal repayment for one year can be requested.¹⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan Insurance Scheme: SMEs, who secure their loans by having commercial insurers co-share loan default with Participating Financial Institutions, benefit from the Government providing subsidies for loan insurance premiums of 80%.¹⁹ • New Skills Future Enterprise Credits: Aim to help enterprises to cover 90 per cent of business transformation costs, job redesign and skills training. It is capped at SGD 10,000 per enterprise.²⁰ <p>Deferral of loan repayment:²¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MAS has announced SMEs with good credit after evaluation can defer principal repayments on their secured term loans until 31 December 2020. During this deferred loan period, SMEs still have to pay interest. • On October 5, the MAS and the financial industry announced extended support for SMEs that need more time to resume loan repayments. Eligible SMEs may opt to defer 80 per cent of principal payments on secured loans. <p>Other financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) allowed companies holding general insurance policies that protect their business and property risks to apply for insurance instalment plans with their insurers. Enterprises can work with their insurance companies to enjoy insurance for the paid periods by paying a smaller amount of premiums, without having to pay one-time premiums for entire policy periods from the beginnings. • Employers will receive cash grant of up to the first SGD 4,600 gross monthly salary for each local employee for the months of October 2019 to December 2019, and February to August 2020.²² • The Foreign Worker Levy (FWL) was fully waived from April to June 2020. Additionally, a FWL rebate of SGD 750 per month for the months of April to June 2020 was granted for each work permit or S-pass holder. This measure has been partially extended in July with a 50 per cent waiver and an SGD 375 rebate.²³ • Loan Insurance Scheme: SMEs, who secure their loans by having commercial insurers co-share loan default with Participating Financial Institutions, benefit from the Government providing subsidies for loan insurance premiums of 80%.²⁴ |
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¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ <https://www.skillsfuture.sg/sfec>

²¹ <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/mas-to-directly-lend-to-banks-at-near-zero-cost-pumping-cheap-credit-to-smes>

²² <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental relief for SME tenants: SME tenants with qualifying leases or licenses commencing before 25 March 2020 can receive a cash grant depending on the type of property leased. On the one hand, qualifying commercial properties benefit from a cash grant of approximately 0.8 month's of rent. On the other hand, other non-residential properties benefit from a cash grant of approximately 0.64 month's of rent. Cash grants were automatically disbursed to property owners in end-July 2020. SME property owners are also eligible for the new cash grant.²⁵ • Enterprise Development Grant (EDG): Provides maximum support of up to 90 per cent in three main areas: Core Capabilities, Innovation and Productivity, and Market Access.²⁶ • Market Readiness Assistance (MRA) grant scheme: Provides 70 per cent funding for eligible costs incurred by SMEs until 31 March 2023. The grant is capped from SGD 20,000 per year to SGD 100,000 per new market per company²⁷. With the COVID-19 outbreak, this scheme has been enhanced.²⁸ • Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) scheme: An allowance is provided to encourage and support enterprises, especially SMEs, to continue to transform and grow via strategic acquisitions²⁹. With the COVID-19 outbreak, this scheme has been tightened and extended until 31 December 2025.³⁰ |
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²⁵ https://www.singaporebudget.gov.sg/docs/default-source/budget_2020/download/pdf/fortitude_annexb2.pdf

²⁶ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

²⁷ <https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/financial-assistance/grants/for-local-companies/market-readiness-assistance-grant>

²⁸ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

²⁹ <https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/Businesses/Companies/Working-out-Corporate-Income-Taxes/Claiming-Allowances/Mergers-and-Acquisitions-Allowance/>

³⁰ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/singapore-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

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