






Country	Government Measures	Economic Impact and Available Packages
 Argentina	<p>On March 12, the government introduced measures to try to contain the virus, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banning of all flights from certain countries for 30 days • Remote working measures • Obligatory quarantine since March 20 • An extension of closed borders, initially announced on March 26, covering ports, airports and land borders until April 12 • A requirement that employees change their coverage plans to ensure that those impacted by the virus can receive benefits 	<p>On March 23, a family emergency income was implemented for the month of April, with the possibility of extension. The government also announced that it would raise salaries for medical workers.</p> <p>On March 25, the World Bank announced its decision to lend US\$300 million in emergency funds to Argentina.</p> <p>On March 29, the government announced a suspension of evictions and rent freezes, along with a freezing of mortgage loan rates until September 30.</p> <p>Since April 1, firing employees is prohibited without just cause for 60 days. The government also brought the Employment and Production Assistance Program into effect, which includes the postponement or reduction of up to 95% of employer social security payments, along with a compensatory salary for workers in companies of up to 100 employees who are in obligatory quarantine, at a high health risk or whose commission has been highly impacted.</p> <p>Since April 1, import taxes on critical supplies have been eliminated, and on April 7, as a result of the country's decision to delay international debt payments, the country was downgraded in its overall global ratings.</p> <p>On April 8, the government implemented the Provincial Financial Emergency Program, allocating circa US\$1.85 billion to help provincial finances during the crisis.</p> <p>On April 9, a US\$460,000 development fund was created to help cultural institutions cover costs and salaries.</p> <p>The World Bank has estimated that Argentina's growth will contract by 5.2% in 2020.</p>

Country	Government Measures	Economic Impact and Available Packages
 <p>Brazil</p>	<p>On March 27, the government announced that borders would close via air to all foreigners for 30 days.</p> <p>There has been much disagreement between the federal government and regional governments over quarantine policies. Overall, the government has received intense backlash over the handling of the pandemic.</p> <p>On April 13, Brazil's Prosecutor General stated that President Bolsonaro has the right to lessen or enforce social distancing measures, in contradiction of the Supreme Courts' decision that he is prohibited from interfering with any such measures.</p> <p>On April 6, the Ministry for Health defined criteria for social distancing based on local health capacities, including the availability of equipment, beds and the number of professionals available. In more densely populated areas, including Rio de Janeiro, social distancing rules are intended to be universal.</p> <p>On April 10, there was an announcement concerning the measures the government would be taking to protect the indigenous communities from the virus.</p> <p>On April 13, the Chamber of Deputies approved a measure worth circa US\$17 billion to compensate for losses in tax revenue, along with other measures proposing an amendment, which would alter the constitution to allow for a waiver of fiscal spending and debt limits for 12 months.</p> <p>On April 15, the Supreme Court confirmed that states and municipalities have the autonomy to regulate social distancing measures.</p> <p>On April 16, the Health Minister was removed and replaced.</p>	<p>On March 11, the government announced that it would be dedicating at least US\$1 billion to fight the pandemic. On March 26, it was estimated that the cost to the healthcare system would be just under US\$2 billion, and that the government would be asking the World Bank for a loan in the region of US\$100 billion.</p> <p>As a result of the pandemic, the Brazilian stock market has tumbled, growth projections have been revised by the federal government and the national currency has been devalued.</p> <p>Since the Senate's passing of a state of calamity measure, which frees up federal funds for the purpose of combating the pandemic, the government has offered economic relief to individuals and businesses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit lines of roughly US\$2.1 billion to small businesses, where they do not lay off employees • Funds to support public health • A so-called "war budget" in order to separate spending on the pandemic until the 31 December • US\$4 billion for a workers' severance fund and a stimulus package of over US\$29 billion to accelerate social assistance payments, defer corporate taxes, and in order to ease severance fund access • An emergency universal income plan • Measures aimed at reducing job losses, including allowing companies to reduce or suspend salaries and subsidization of salaries proportionate to what would have been received as part of unemployment benefits <p>On April 14, a provisional measure relaxing labor regulations for employees between the ages of 29 and 55 was passed.</p> <p>On April 16, governors signed a letter asking the Senate to approve the economic packages that were approved on April 13.</p> <p>The World Bank has estimated that the Brazilian economy will contract by 5% in 2020.</p>

Country	Government Measures	Economic Impact and Available Packages
 <p>Chile</p>	<p>Since March 16, the country has been within the most complex phase and decided to close all borders on March 18, allowing only Chilean citizens to reenter the country with an obligatory 14-day quarantine.</p> <p>On March 18, a nationwide state of emergency was declared for 90 days and an action plan was put in place.</p> <p>On April 14, quarantine was lifted in certain municipalities; however, three new areas were placed in quarantine. There is a national curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. in place.</p> <p>On April 15, a US\$11.4 million Winter Plan to help those on the streets was announced and on the same day a measure was approved, which prohibits cuts or suspensions to utility services during the 90-day catastrophe that will run until mid-June.</p>	<p>On March 27, the government announced that it would be providing economic relief to small- to medium-sized companies. In addition, the government approved the new Covid-19 Bond, which is part of an economic plan that includes the ability of low-income families to delay debt payments and job protection for those who are unable to work during the crisis.</p> <p>On April 1, the new Employment Protection Law was passed, securing the jobs of over 4.7 million workers as part of the government's US\$12 million economic package.</p> <p>In addition, private health insurers have been banned from any increase on insurance plan costs.</p> <p>On April 8, the government announced the second phase of its emergency plan, with new measures that will aid 2.6 million informal workers. As part of the package, the following measures will come into force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$3 billion will be available as a guaranteed fund for small companies from BancoEstado • US\$2 billion will be available for workers who require access to emergency jobs and benefits • Entities will be implemented in order to regulate the Central Bank's liquidity facilities <p>The IMF downgraded its projection for the Chilean economy, estimating that it would contract by 4.5% in 2020.</p>
 <p>Colombia</p>	<p>Prevention measures have been in place since March 13. On March 16, the government announced that all borders and parts would be closed through to May 30, with limited shipments allowed in.</p> <p>Restrictions have also been placed on foreigners and non-citizens trying to enter the country, and all citizens and residents returning are required to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine.</p> <p>As of March 17, the country has been in a state of emergency, and those over 70 must stay at home in self-isolation through May.</p> <p>On March 20, it was announced that beginning March 24, the country would begin a nationwide quarantine until April 13.</p> <p>On April 6, it was announced that the national quarantine would be extended until April 27.</p> <p>As of April 13, movement restrictions by gender have been in place, with men going out on odd days and women on even days.</p>	<p>A series of economic relief packages were announced, including accelerated tax refunds, elimination of import taxes on medical supplies and technology, grace periods for mortgages and loan payments, and special lines of credit for certain industries.</p> <p>On March 24, a new set of economic measures were announced as the national quarantine began, including disbursements to low-income families, virtual mental health facilities and food distributions.</p> <p>On April 8, it was announced that US\$128 million would be allocated to provide half a million lower-class families in Bogota with financial support.</p> <p>The government has requested assistance in the form of US\$14 billion in loans from international lenders.</p> <p>On April 12, it was estimated by the World Bank that the Colombian economy would contract by 2.0% in 2020.</p>

Country	Government Measures	Economic Impact and Available Packages
 <p>Peru</p>	<p>On March 15, the country was declared to be in a state of national emergency for a period of 15 days. This resulted in a closure of all borders, including domestic travel between provinces.</p> <p>As of March 19, the country has been under a nationwide curfew, and all private vehicles are banned from the road. In addition, 3 million low-income families have received payments of US\$100 in order to cover two weeks' worth of basic goods.</p> <p>On April 8, the nationwide quarantine was extended until April 26. In addition, more restrictive and mandatory social immobilization measures were put in place for April 9 and 10 to limit people's movements.</p> <p>On April 14, it was indicated that the national quarantine and curfew measures might be eased during the month of May.</p>	<p>On March 30, it was announced that Peruvians who have made contributions to private retirement funds are able to make penalty-free withdrawals of US\$300 during the months of April and May.</p> <p>The Central Bank of Peru and the Ministry for Economy have submitted a proposal to inject US\$30 billion into local businesses, which is equal to circa 14% of GDP.</p> <p>On April 6, the government launched the program Reactiva Peru, the purpose of which is to guarantee up to 98% of business loans amounting to US\$9,000 or less for those struggling to pay employees or suppliers.</p> <p>The administration announced that it is working on a plan to subsidize salaries of non-essential workers.</p> <p>On April 12, the World Bank projected that the economy will contract by 4.7% in 2020.</p>
 <p>Mexico</p>	<p>On March 30, a national health emergency was declared and through to April 30, certain measures have been brought in, including a limit on gatherings and a strict quarantine for those over 60 or those who are at risk. In addition, a list of essential services was announced.</p> <p>On April 10, the federal government authorized governors and mayors to redirect security funds toward protection materials for police forces.</p> <p>On April 14, it was announced that a cash injection would be made into Mexico's economy in order to boost consumer consumption, and that the country was entering into the third phase of the pandemic.</p> <p>On April 16, it was announced that the period of social distancing, initially due to expire in April, would be extended to May 30, and that in Mexico City, this might be extended until June 25.</p>	<p>On March 20, Banca de Mexico cut its benchmark interest rate to 6.5%.</p> <p>On March 31, it was announced that the health emergency required the closure of beaches.</p> <p>On April 2, it was agreed that worker salaries during the month of April would be guaranteed.</p> <p>On April 3, government public trusts were cancelled, with the funds being redirected by April 15 to the Federal Treasury, representing more than US\$10 billion.</p> <p>On April 5, the President announced the government's economic response to the pandemic. This includes a reduction in salaries for high-level officials, financial support for the state oil firm Pemex and a reiteration of the government's commitment to infrastructure projects.</p> <p>As part of OPEC+ negotiations in the face of the crisis, members discussed individual production cuts in an effort to boost oil prices. Mexico was a key hurdle to reaching any deal, but eventually agreed to cut their production by 100,000 barrels per day rather than the 400,000 that was originally requested.</p> <p>On April 16, it was announced that there would be an expansion of a plan initially launched on March 24, to extend 1 million low to no interest loans to small businesses. In addition, in May, another 1 million credits of circa US\$1,000 each will be extended to small businesses who have not fired employees. These must be repaid under specific terms over a three-year period.</p> <p>The World Bank has estimated a contraction of 6.0% for Mexico's economy in 2020.</p>

Contacts

José María Viñals

Partner and Latin America Practice Executive
Committee Member, Madrid/Brussels
T +34 91 426 4840
T +32 2 627 1111
E josemaria.vinals@squirepb.com

Alejandro Peña-Prieto

Partner and Chair, Latin America Practice, Santo Domingo
T +1 809 472 4900
E alejandro.penaprieto@squirepb.com

Carolina Gamba

Associate, Madrid
T +34 91 520 0776
E carolina.gamba@squirepb.com

Laura Delap

Associate, Brussels
T +32 2 627 7628
E laura.delap@squirepb.com