Measure package for the economy

Department for Economic Affairs
Corona: Measure package for the Economy

Public and economic life in Switzerland is severely restricted due to the new coronavirus. In order to safeguard jobs and incomes in the Canton of Zurich as far as possible, the Federal Council has resolved upon a measure package to support the Zurich economy. These measures are meant to be applied where the instruments of the Federal Government (DE, FR, IT) are not effective.

The Cantonal Council subsequently adopted the package of measures on March 30, 2020 without a dissentient vote.

Loan loss guarantee for small and medium-sized enterprises

The Government Council of the Canton of Zurich is calling on the Zurich commercial banks to provide loans to the companies affected by the corona measures. To cover the risks, it has granted a loan loss guarantee of CHF 425 million. All Zurich commercial banks can participate.

Requirements for the cantonal loan loss guarantee:

- Loans to companies with a tax domicile in the canton of Zurich
- Companies with up to 259 employees

Contact your commercial bank if you meet those requirements Your bank decides on the granting of credit and is your contact.

This measure complements the fast and uncomplicated handling of applications for short-time work and unemployment benefits as well as social welfare for personal emergencies.

- Detailed information for small and medium-sized enterprises
- Detailed information for employees
- Bankers Association: Questions & Answers
- Department of Finance guarantees twelve banks loans of CHF 500 million - press release of 31.03.2020
COVID19 Interim Aid by the Federal Government

According to the Federal Council, SMEs should have quick access to credits in order to bridge liquidity shortages caused by corona. The best way to apply for the loans is to apply for them at your house bank. They are secured by the federal government.

- [Further Information on the Federal Government's interim aid](#)

Support for non-profit organizations

(also see separate documents culture & sports)

The Government Council of the Canton of Zurich wants to help and support non-profit organizations in areas such as culture, social services and education: To this end, it supplements the annual contributions from the lottery fund by making an additional CHF 20 million available to the Cultural Department. A total of CHF 8 million will go to the Building Department, the Department of Education and the Department for Economic Affairs, as well as to the Sports fund for their non-profit organizations.

[Detailed information for non-profit organizations](#) (DE)

Help for the self-employed (see separate document 'self-employed')

Self-employed persons often have a small capital buffer. This is why the Federal Council is making CHF 15 million from the ZKB anniversary dividend available for fast and unbureaucratic support. The municipalities are familiar with the local circumstances and can ensure that the emergency relief is coordinated with other social security systems.

[Detailed information for the self-employed](#)

Taxes (also see separate document finances)

- **Extension of deadline for filing tax returns** for natural persons: The Department of Finance has extended the statutory deadline for filing the 2019 tax return for natural persons until May 31, 2020.

- **Provisional tax invoices**: Companies expecting to incur losses due to the effects of coronavirus or natural persons incurring loss of income may request an adjustment of the provisional invoice for federal and municipal taxes.

- **Payment Deadline and Payment by Installments**: Companies and natural persons who are currently unable to pay due final tax invoices owing to the effects of the coronavirus can request an extension of the payment deadline or payment by installments.
Regarding direct federal tax, **provisional tax invoices** can also be deferred. Contact the relevant tax office as needed.

- Municipal tax office: Federal and municipal taxes
- Cantonal tax office: direct federal tax
- [Visit the website of the Cantonal Tax Office](#)
- [E-mail inquiries Cantonal Tax Office](#)

**Rent deferrals in cantonal real estate**

The Canton can grant a rent deferral but cannot waive the rent. Until further notice, the rent (or, in the case of quarterly payments, the rent portion for the months of April and May 2020) can be paid at a later date. If you have any questions, please contact the real estate office:

- [Contact real estate management](#)

**Goodwill regarding invoices**

The Government Council of the Canton of Zurich calls on all public bodies to pay incoming invoices faster than within 30 days. The payment deadlines for issued invoices shall be extended to 120 days. This is supposed to alleviate the cost pressure on companies.

**Municipalities receive contributions for rapid support of the self-employed**

(06.04.2020)

The Head of the Department of Finance of the Canton of Zurich has signed a decree by which a total of CHF 15 million can be paid out to the municipalities from the cantonal ZKB anniversary dividend. It is the municipalities, which determine and pay out the support. According to the Head of the Department of Finance's decree, the funds are subject to conditions. They are supposed to be applied subsidiary to the Federal funds and must particularly be applied in cases in which they can avoid for someone to become dependent on social welfare. Self-employed persons who run a micro-enterprise with a maximum of two full-time positions should be the ones to benefit. The municipalities must commit themselves to the conditions and can retrieve the amount due to them from the Department of Finance by the end of September. By the end of April 2021, they have to submit a statement of account to the Department of Finance. If they do not need the disbursed money in full, the corresponding amount is due for re-payment.
Press release on the contributions for municipalities of 06.04.2020

Further information

- Media release of 19.03.2020
- Information on the Federal Government's measure package (DE, FR, IT)

Questions about the measure package?

- Contact form