



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CINÉMAS
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CINEMAS

UNIC RESEARCH

The impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on the European cinema industry

UNIC is collecting detailed information on the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on the cinema industry across the 38 territories it represents. If you need additional help, please reach out!

1. CLOSURE PROCESS

SUMMARY

The vast majority of cinemas across Europe closed in mid-March, with the exception of Italy (with almost 50% closed from 23 February), Russia (all closed from 31 March) and Sweden (partly closed as the strict ban only applied to gatherings of 500+ and more recently 50+ people). In the territories where a deadline has been set, the current dates officially announced by national authorities for the end of distancing measures are slowly aligning to mid-April, with political leaders already mentioning potential extensions to May or June.

Please bear in mind that all the “potential reopening” dates included below are official dates from national authorities which are not only provisional but also subject to additional restrictions. The end of a lockdown in a territory will not necessarily mean the official reopening of its cinemas.

Austria and Denmark on 6 April were the first European countries to announce concrete plans to reopen their societies after coronavirus lockdowns. France, Belgium and others have announced the creation of expert groups to come up with an “exit strategy”.

COUNTRY	CLOSURE DATE	POTENTIAL REOPENING	CLOSURE & REOPENING PROCESS
ALBANIA	11 March	No deadline	
AUSTRIA	16 March	13 April	Official decision from the Government. The Government announced a gradual reopening process, starting with small shops (14 April), larger stores (1 May), restaurants, hotel and schools (mid-May), other public events in July. This last category seems to include cinemas. That decision will be assessed at the end of April
BELARUS	Open		Cinemas are open in Belarus. Major chains have introduced distancing measures in their screening rooms.
BELGIUM	14 March	19 April	Major chains decided to close their sites on 13 March. Official decision from the Government on 14 March.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	9 March 13 March	No deadline	Major chains decided to close their sites on 9 March. Official decision from the Government on 13 March.
BULGARIA	13 March	13 April	The Government announced a state of emergency on 13 March until 13 April, effectively closing cinemas.
CROATIA	117 March	No deadline	It is worth noting that Croatia was hit by a significant earthquake on 22 March, adding to the health crisis.
CYPRUS	16 March	13 April	Official decision from the Government.
CZECH REPUBLIC	12 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government. The Czech Government has started easing down very strict restrictions from 7 April and announced it had managed to control the spread of the pandemic, allowing for a gradual return to normal.
DENMARK	12 March	10 May	The national cinema association Danske Biografer made a proposal to close on 12 March and all its members closed on the same day. The Danish Government formally closed all public spaces, including cinemas, on 18 March. Schools are expected to reopen on 14 April, while public and private events – including cinemas – might reopen on 10 May gradually. Authorities didn't provide additional information on this process.
ESTONIA	12 March	1 May	Official decision from the Government.
FINLAND	18 March	13 May	Closure was not forced <i>de jure</i> , it was forced <i>de facto</i> . Government declared a ban on gatherings of 10 persons but specified that cinemas were not forced to close. All cinemas decided to close.
FRANCE	14 March	15 April	Official decision from the Government.
GERMANY	14-18 March	15-20 April	The decision to close cinemas was made by local State authorities, with different start and end date applied across the country. The Government published a document outlining a staged, controlled return to normality. The document assumes the pandemic will last until 2021 and does not include a clear timeline.
GREECE	12 March	27 April	Official decision from the Government.
HUNGARY	17 March	No deadline	

IRELAND	16 March	19 April	National health authorities guidance on 2m social distancing effectively closed all cinemas on 16-17 March. The Irish government ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses on 25 March.
ITALY	23 February (48% of screens) 8 March (nation-wide)	13 April (nation-wide) 14-15 April (specific regions)	On 23 February, the decision came from Regional governments. On 8 March, the decision concerning the whole territory was taken by National government. Cinemas already operated with reduced capacity in the days prior. The national health emergency is declared until 31 July and the lock down will “inevitably be extended” according to authorities.
KOSOVO	14 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government.
LATVIA	14 March	12 May	Official decision from the Government.
LITHUANIA	13 March	13 April	Official decision from the Government on 13 March. Several cinemas had already closed from 11 March.
LUXEMBOURG	16 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government on 16 March. Most cinemas had closed from 14 March. The state of emergency is effective until end of June, so cinemas could be closed until then.
MALTA	16 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government on 16 March. Most cinemas had closed from 13 March.
MONTENEGRO	13 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government.
NETHERLANDS	15 March	28 April	Official decision from the Government on 15 March
NORTH MACEDONIA	10 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government.
NORWAY	12 March	13 April	Official decision from the Government on 12 March. Some screens already operated with reduced capacity in the days prior.
POLAND	12 March	13 April	Official decision from the Government.
PORTUGAL	16 March	17 April	Official decision from the Government. State of emergency effective until 17 April.
ROMANIA	12 March	15 April	Official decision from the Government.
RUSSIA	25-31 March	30 April	Official Government decree to close all public spaces from 25 March was in effect a directive for Regional Governments to make their own

			<p>directives. All cinemas were closed from 31 March.</p> <p>Public events of various scales were previously banned in Moscow, St Petersburg, Leningrad Oblast, Kaliningrad and the Republic of Crimea. All state or federal (non-private) cultural institutions, including cinemas, were closed from March 17. The Government “non-working week” is effective until 30 April.</p>
SERBIA	18 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government.
SLOVAKIA	9 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government.
SLOVENIA	10 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government.
SPAIN	14 March	26 April	Official decision from the Government. Cinemas progressively closed between 13-15 March.
SWEDEN	Partly closed 18 March	No deadline	Major operator closed its sites on 18 March due to the official restrictions on social gatherings for 500+ (18 March) then 50+ people (29 March). Other independent cinemas remain open.
SWITZERLAND	17 March	19 April (nation-wide) 30 April (some regions)	Official decision from a few Cantons on March 13, a few more on March 16. All the remaining Cantons aligned following an official federal decision on March 17. Major operators decided to close from 16 March.
TURKEY	17 March	No deadline	Official decision from the Government.
UKRAINE	17 March	24 April	Official decision from the Government. Cinemas were first officially closed in the capital from 12 March before an official decision from the Government on 17 March.
UNITED KINGDOM	17-20 March	No deadline	On 16 March the Government advised that it was no longer safe to visit social venues. Most cinemas closed within 48 hours. On 20 March, the government told all cinemas to close.

2. SUPPORT MECHANISMS

SUMMARY

National support measures have already been announced across most of Europe, but with different level of details and effective actions from authorities. Several Government have simply declared the creation of a crisis management fund or aid package, without providing much information yet about its redistribution, with stakeholders currently negotiating for their specific sector/interest. Other Governments have been quicker at providing support and fast-tracking financial aid to those worst-hit by the crisis. Support schemes specific to the film sector have been quite limited so far. Film sector bodies across Europe have accelerated payments of subsidies and delayed payments of levies, when existent.

For taxation or employment related support schemes, see dedicated sections further down.

The list below provides an idea of the range of initiatives currently introduced across Europe.

National support:

- Creation of national crisis management funds.
- Support businesses worst hit by the crisis, including cinemas
- Creation of dedicated support strategies for the film & cinema sector.
- Suspend loan repayments & introducing guarantees with low/no interest.
- Safeguard jobs.
- Support livelihoods of those out of work.
- Suspend tax payments.
- Suspend rent payments, energy bills & other fixed costs for cinema operators.

Cinema sector support:

- Industry collaboration to support the sector.
- Fast-track payment of subsidies and other support funds – when existent – to cinema operators.
- Suspend film fund payments – when applicable.
- Industry collaboration on future re-opening of cinemas.

COUNTRY	TYPE	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	National aid	The government created a crisis management fund of €15b to support affected businesses, part of a broader package of €38b. The way it will be divided has not yet been decided. €10b has been set aside to delay tax payments and €9b have been introduced as State loan guarantees (90% of the loaned amount) and protections. A hard-ship fund has been introduced, with a €2b emergency aid for very small business. Detailed information can be found on the WKO website, in German. More information on the hard-ship fund available here.
	Cinema sector support	The Austrian Film Institute is working on receiving a special budget from the government to support the sector.
BELGIUM	Regional aid	The Federal Government will guarantee loans for a total amount of €50b, which equals 10% of the country GDP. At regional level,

		<p>€233m has been set aside to support businesses in Wallonia, €150m in Flanders, €100m in Brussels.</p> <p>Regional authorities announced a one-off contribution of maximum €4,000 to €5,000 for small businesses (less than 50 employees).</p> <p>They have also introduced regional loan guarantees, lower interest rates on certain loans, accelerated payments of subsidies, etc.</p>
	Cinema sector support	<p>The Belgian cinema federation FCB estimates that cinema operators have lost €30 million in revenues between 13 March and 30 April (€4.3m per week). This amount does not include fixed costs.</p> <p>Regions are looking into aids for cultural entities (including cinemas). Guidelines have been created specifically for the cultural sector to explain potential support mechanisms to apply for. See Flanders guidelines here, in Flemish.</p> <p>Belgian film support bodies have introduced more flexibility regarding administration, reporting and other funding conditions until the end of 2020.</p> <p>In Brussels-Wallonia Federation, a support fund of €50m has been introduced specifically targeting those worst-hit by the crisis – cinemas can apply.</p> <p>In the French-speaking community, the ST'ART fund for SMEs in the cultural and creative sector has introduced short-term loans of €20,000-100,000 with fixed rate of 2%. This fund specifically targets businesses who have been worst-hit by the crisis. More information here.</p>
BULGARIA	National aid	<p>An amendment to the national budget is in the making. A legislation introducing compensation schemes for employees has been voted on 30 March. More information available here in Bulgarian.</p>
CROATIA	National aid	<p>The Government announced an aid package worth €3.9b. This include a set of measures related to preserving jobs and supporting businesses, including deferral of payment of income and profit tax, social, health and pension contributions, interest-free loans to municipalities, cities and counties, as well as to the country's health and pension insurance institutes, freezing and delaying loan repayments, as well as to provide financing for working capital and for restructuring of existing loans. More information available here.</p>
	Cinema sector support	<p>The Ministry of culture established a crisis fund to provide support to the cultural sector - independent artists, self-employed and other natural and legal persons. It will cover the fields of activity under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Croatian Audiovisual Center and the Culture New Foundation. Details to be published.</p>
CYPRUS	National aid	<p>The Government approved a bill suspending repayment of loans for nine months (until December 31) and a stimulus plan via state guarantees worth €2b to banks for low-interest loans, in a bid to boost liquidity in the economy amid the ongoing crisis.</p>



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		The guarantee scheme will start early next month while the first loans are expected to be approved beginning of May.
CZECH REPUBLIC	National aid	The Government announced a direct aid of €3.6b and an indirect aid package of €32.7b to businesses, with a focus on SMEs and independents. Loan repayments have been delayed.
	Cinema sector support	The Audiovisual Producers' Association and the Czech Film Fund are providing legal assistance to all film industry workers regarding the supporting programs and national financial help that is available. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Fund is currently working on a plan of automatic support and the increase of its budget.
DENMARK	National aid	The European Commission has approved a €12m Danish scheme to compensate damages caused by cancellations of large public events due to COVID-19 outbreak. The total national aid package amounts to €38b. The Danish government has announced 3 compensation programmes – they are not specific earmarked for the AV sector, but the film value chain/entertainment sector is included. They include compensation for cancelled events, extension of payment deadlines (VAT, taxes, etc.) and temporary pay compensations. Detailed information available here, in Danish. If you have been forced to shut down all your expenditures will be refunded, if there is no income. The payment of housing, power, water etc. will be fully reimbursed.
ESTONIA	National aid	The European Commission has approved two Estonian State aid schemes to support the Estonian economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The €1.75n schemes will enable the provision of public guarantees on loans and the granting of loans at favourable terms.
	Cinema sector support	The Culture and Sport Crisis Package totals €25m, with the Ministry of Culture seeking to ensure the sustainability of cultural organizations. The package includes compensation for already incurred costs and unavoidable fixed costs of interruption of events and organizations in the field of culture and sport.
FINLAND	National aid package	The Finnish Government has agreed on a comprehensive package worth €15b to safeguard jobs and livelihoods and ease the economic pressure on businesses. The Government is allocating EUR 1 billion for direct business subsidies. SMEs that employ less than 250 will be supported, as well as those with 250+ but with an annual turnover of less than €300m. In addition to direct business subsidies, the state will guarantee bank loans to companies. Those guarantees can cover up to 80 per cent of the bank loan and can be fast-tracked. Businesses will soon also be able to apply for financing from municipalities to address difficulties caused by the coronavirus. The state will provide this support in full by allocating €100m to their 2020 budget. Businesses that were profitable before the coronavirus-induced interruption will be eligible for support. The support would consist of a fixed sum, which could be used for

		any business expenses, particularly fixed costs. The support scheme would run for a fixed term and be in effect for 6 months. Entrepreneurs may be entitled to this support as well as extended unemployment security.
	Cinema sector support	A number of large Finnish film and cultural sector bodies are working together to grant swift assistance to arts and culture professionals who have been hard hit by the coronavirus outbreak. Funding totalling approximately €1.5m will be allocated during April via the Arts Promotion Centre (Taika). Foundations will also grant significant sums in aid through their own channels. The Finnish Film Foundation is working on support schemes for the film sector.
FRANCE	National aid	The French government announced a €45b aid package to support businesses and workers, adding to a €500b package announced earlier in the crisis. A solidarity fund of €1b per month has been introduced to support small business (10 employees and less than €83,333 monthly revenues). They will receive an aid of €1,500, with an additional €2,000 under certain conditions. Detailed information available on the FNCF website, in French. The French Government will support French businesses loans (90%, current and upcoming), delaying payments and facilitating agreement from banks. More information available here in French.
	Cinema sector support	Discussions are ongoing between the Government, the French National Cinema Centre (CNC) and sector representatives regarding support mechanisms for the film industry – these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CNC has stopped requesting payments of the film levy to cinema operators; - Cash flow measures for theatres and increased support for the sectors most affected, distribution and cinemas; - Assistance to cinemas to adopt the most protective measures against the spread of the virus, by enforcing barrier measures; - Accelerated payment from March of the Art et Essai cinemas grants for the 1,200 classified establishments; - Rapid adoption of a measure allowing exhibitors, distributors and producers to mobilize their support funds in advance. Various support schemes are currently being discussed. Additional, detailed information can be found on the FNCF website or on the CNC website , daily updated, all in French. The French culture and audiovisual bank (IFCIC) will guarantee up to 70% any loan granted in the context of COVID-19 and accept any request from a bank to prolong its guarantee.
GERMANY	National aid	The German government announced budgetary measures amounting to €353.3b and State guarantees of €819.7b. An emergency aid, totalling €50b, has been set up for self-employed and small businesses: up to €9,000 will be provided to self-employed and companies of less than 5 employees, up to

		<p>€15,000 to companies of less than 10. The amount of support varies from Bundesland to Bundesland, who can decide how much you can apply for exactly.</p> <p>The State will guarantee certain loans up to 90% for businesses of all size, for amounts that could go as high as €1b per business. The German state-owned development bank KfW will support companies in coping with the Corona crisis by facilitating the short-term loans.</p> <p>A deferral of loan repayment is planned from the cut-off date of 1 March 2020. Procedures that address late repayments of loans will not be pursued for the time being.</p> <p>More information available here, in German.</p> <p>Each Bundesland has other support mechanism. Here is an online database of all the different support schemes that have been introduced locally</p>
	Cinema sector support	<p>The German cinema association is negotiating with relevant authorities. The figure of €17m – which equals the average weekly loss for cinema operators in the country - per week to support cinemas has been suggested by the Federal film fund (FFA). The German exhibitors' association main request towards the government are subsidies for fixed costs (staff, rental fee, etc.).</p> <p>The FFA suspended the film levy for a limited period. The distribution of the Film Fund (FFA) money will be accelerated to provide more liquidity for cinemas in the short term, while reimbursements of loans and payment of levies will be deferred. Federal and State sponsors launched on 27 March an aid program for the film and media industry worth €15m. The aid program relates to projects jointly funded by various funding agencies and is intended to take effect where all other federal and state aid measures and funding programs taken in the context of the Corona crisis cannot be used. When it comes to cinema exhibition, the programme only to small Arthouse Cinemas who have been awarded a Kinograpmppreis.</p> <p>A database of relevant documents and guidelines can be found on the FFA website in German.</p>
GREECE	National aid	<p>The Greek government has announced a new batch of measures worth €10b to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on the country's economy, including by providing liquidity to small and medium-sized enterprises that have been severely affected.</p> <p>The Greek government announced a series of additional tax breaks and financial assistance to thousands of businesses and workers to support the country's economy.</p>
	Cinema sector support	<p>An emergency financial aid has been introduced by the Government targeting independent cinema owners, under two conditions: cinemas of 1 or 2 screens only, which have screened at least 2 Greek / European films in 2019-2020. The exact amount of this aid is not yet clear.</p> <p>The Greek Film Centre has taken measures to support the sector, with a strict focus on film production.</p>

HUNGARY	National aid	The Government announced sector-specific measures, such as in tourism, hospitality, and cultural services industries, promising to make labour market regulation more flexible. Tax exemptions and delayed tax debts have also been introduced.
IRELAND	National aid	The European Commission approved a €200 million scheme to support Irish companies affected by the outbreak. The support will be accessible to companies employing 10 or more full-time employees, that experience or expect to experience a decline in turnover of at least 15% compared to their revenue before the coronavirus outbreak. The maximum aid amount does not exceed €800,000 per company.
ITALY	National aid	The Government approved an aid package of up to €25 billion for families and companies, which will mobilise additional resources of up to €350 billion. Among the measures taken, the State will support enterprises' liquidity through guaranteed bank loans. A special tax credit will cover expenses to sanitize workplaces. A proposed amendment, to be discussed in Parliament, aims at creating a guarantee fund allowing the transferability of the tax credits of the exhibition sector. More information available here and here .
	Cinema sector support	Emergency measures supporting all economic sectors, including Culture and Cinema, have been approved. An Emergency Fund of 130 million euro has been provided for Cinema, Audiovisual and Live Entertainment sectors, to be split out through following decrees. The DG Cinema is accelerating the payments of ordinary funded aids from Cinema Law. That involves tax credit measures (€18m for 2019, €60m for 2020), €100m to facilitate investments in new and renovated cinemas, €10m for art-house cinemas. Relevant information and official documents can be found on the ANEC website, in Italian.
KOSOVO	National aid	The Government announced a €41m aid package dedicated to salvaging jobs.
LATVIA	National aid	The Latvian government announced a €2b aid package.
	Cinema sector support	The Cabinet of Ministers regulation No. 151 "Rules on sectors for which the financial situation has deteriorated significantly due to the spread of Covid-19" recognised several audiovisual and cinematographic activities as disrupted sectors justifying eligibility for several forms of government support funds, which include tax delays and compensation to employees.
LITHUANIA	National aid	€5b, amounting to 10% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), will be allocated for the implementation of all measures related to the Covid-19 crisis. Detailed information available here.
LUXEMBOURG	National aid	The national rescue package will mobilize €8.8b, which corresponds to 14% of the country's GDP. The state will provide up to €2.5b of loan guarantees for companies, as well as €1.25b of tax abatement to relieve financial pressure from companies and dedicate €300m to help SMEs specifically.

	Cinema sector support	The Ministry of Culture published an FAQ to address the cultural industries current issues along with hotline – available here, in French.
MALTA	National aid	Banks have provided moratoriums on capital repayment and are also talking about interest moratoriums too. Detailed information available here.
NETHERLANDS	National aid	<p>The Government announced an aid package for business worth €10b in total.</p> <p>A range of measures have been adopted by the Dutch government, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The implementation of a temporary scheme allowing companies to apply for help in paying their labour costs; - Additional support for independent contractors; - Relaxed rules for payment of taxes and reduced fines; - Broadening of the scope of the Guarantee Corporate Financing scheme (State loan guarantees); - Interest-rate deduction on Qredits microcredit for small companies; - Compensation scheme for impacted sectors;
	Cinema sector support	<p>The Government has entered into talks with the arts and culture sector in order to make sure that it benefits from the generic measures, as well as from potential sector-specific measures where necessary. More information available here.</p> <p>The Minister of Education, Culture and Science met with representatives of the cultural sector to discuss subsidies and funds to support the sector, also through labour regulations, reducing employers' contributions, aid package, etc. Additional meetings and consultations have been scheduled. The Dutch cinema association with also meet local authorities (municipalities) to discuss support mechanisms for subsidised institutions.</p> <p>The Government announced a one-off contribution of €4,000 for cinemas and other business included in the Education, Culture and Science category, which can be used for fixed costs.</p>
NORWAY	Cinema sector support	<p>The Government will support the cultural sector with NOK300m (€27m), including cinemas (see here). Cinemas with 60% public support or more will not be included.</p> <p>The government will not seek repayment of public subsidies paid for cultural and voluntary purposes.</p>
POLAND	National aid	<p>Poland's Prime Minister announced a Z212b (€47b) fiscal package. The package will consist of five parts: job safety, business financing, health care, strengthening the financial system and a public investment programme.</p> <p>The Polish government will make an extra 100 billion zloty (€22b) available to businesses to enable them to maintain liquidity and keep employees on their payroll during the coronavirus crisis. The aid will be directed at micro-enterprises, SMEs and big businesses that pay taxes in Poland, and which have lost at least 25 percent of their revenue due to the crisis.</p>

		Sixty percent of aid will take the form of subsidies that don't need to be paid back.
	Cinema sector support	The Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage is working on a package of support for cultural institutions as well as filmmakers and artists who have suffered losses due to the cancellation of artistic and entertainment events. More information in Polish available here. The Polish Government introduced an exemption from the payment of royalties to collective management organizations for entrepreneurs performing public reproduction and display – including cinemas. More information available here.
PORTUGAL	National aid	The Portuguese government set aside €9.2b of aid to support companies and households, with €3b in credit lines to help businesses meet cash needs. The aid will be spread among restaurants, travel agencies, events organizers, etc., with a particular focus on small companies. On top of the credit lines, €5.2b worth of tax postponements and deferrals plus €1b in delayed social-security contributions.
	Cinema sector support	The Portuguese film fund ICA will maintain and, where possible, speed up the grant procedures of cinema and audiovisual support. The ICA will suspend until further notice, and including the month of March, the 7.5% film levy. The Ministry of Culture created a website that is constantly updated with all relevant information for professionals in the cultural sector. The platform will inform about forthcoming extraordinary support measures. Available here, in Portuguese.
ROMANIA	National aid	The Government of Romania announced an aid package of €15b. It will implement a multiannual program to support SMEs worth €5b, by guaranteeing some credits and subsidizing the interest for these financings, providing facilities for companies experiencing financial difficulties, extending the payment deadlines for local taxes, etc. SMEs that obtain an emergency certificate will be able to also defer payment of utilities and rents. More information can be found here.
RUSSIA	National aid	There have been no announcements of direct policies or aid package to support businesses during the crisis. Employers are currently covering all costs related to the shutdown, which is officially called a “non-working week” by the Government.
SLOVAKIA	National aid	The Government announced monthly bank guarantees of €500m to enable banks to refinance entrepreneurs and reimbursements to the self-employed and employees of businesses that have suffered losses in revenue.
	Cinema sector support	For cinemas/events and distributors that were forced to close/cancel/suspend their activities by the State, horizontal measures have been prepared such as possible exemption from social and health care contributions for employees affected; reimbursement of certain expenses even when an event is cancelled or moved; postponement of payments for loans or levies; specific short-term loans to small cinemas, etc.

SLOVENIA	National aid	The Government announced a €2b stimulus package to support local businesses and citizens during the crisis. The measures related to safeguarding jobs, supporting liquidity of businesses and providing support to health research.
SPAIN	National aid	The Spanish government announced a €200b spending package. The main mechanism of support is that the state will guarantee the financial loans up to 80% for small business and 70% for large business, for a total amount of €100b. More information available here (in Spanish).
	Cinema sector support	The Spanish Film Institute (ICAA) in collaboration with the Minister of Culture is working on a plan to cushion the impact of the closure of cinemas, which should be the first step in a broader national process to support the sector during and after the crisis.
SWEDEN	National aid	The Swedish government announced a package of measures worth more than SEK300b (€27b). The State will cover sick leave from companies through the months of April and May, as well as temporary redundancies. The aid package for SMEs will guarantee 70% of new loans banks provide to companies that are experiencing financial difficulty due to the virus. Additional support has been introduced through reduced social security contributions and rent support.
	Cinema sector support	The Swedish Film Institute has confirmed the implementation of various provisions, including faster payments of subsidies to smaller exhibitors. Allocation of funding (SEK500m / €46m) to businesses in the cultural sector that lose revenue as a result of the restriction of public events. More information available here in Swedish.
SWITZERLAND	National aid	The government announced a CHF42b rescue package for the economy, which includes money to replace lost wages for employed and self-employed people, short-term loans to businesses, delay for payments to the government, and support for cultural and sport organizations. Many things still have to be clarified. But one of the first urgent measures is to allow any business to get very quickly and without any bureaucracy a loan up to CHF500,000, to be paid back within 5 years and with 0% interest. Bigger loans for bigger companies are also possible, with a little bit more bureaucracy and 0.5% interest. Direct payments and different forms of support are still being discussed.
	Cinema sector support	CHF280m were allocated to support culture in general. Cultural enterprises and artists may claim compensation from the cantons for financial loss caused in particular by the cancellation or postponement of events or the closure of establishments, up to a maximum of 80% of the damage; the Confederation will pay half of the compensation granted by the cantons. On top of that, usual support funds for playing Swiss movies and having a diversified programming still apply and will be paid earlier this year. Support for Swiss Movies will get an additional CHF0.6m to be distributed.

TURKEY	National aid	The government has unveiled an economic support package of €4b for all affected sectors including cinemas.
	Cinema sector support	Currently there is no official decision related to the local cinema industry. The Government indicated it would provide support to the sector, but nothing was announced formally.
UKRAINE	National aid	The Government announced a few key social measures to help specific groups – such as a monthly payment to people aged over 80 or those who receive a very small pension – and create additional jobs for after the crisis. No decisions specifically related to businesses so far. More information available here.
	Cinema sector support	The Ministry of Finances intended to reduce the governmental support for the cultural sector. This included €25m to the Ukrainian State Film Agency. Following the protests, the Prime Minister of Ukraine said that support of culture and education is going to be “preserved as much as possible”. But it remains to be seen whether this will be the case.
UK	National aid	<p>The British government will guarantee £330b of loans to businesses in a package of financial support. Would also be provided tax breaks and other measures worth £20b to protect companies and households suffering amid the economic collapse triggered by the virus. The previously-announced lending facility with the Bank of England for loans of up to £5m for small and medium-sized enterprises (typically those with less than 250 employees), will now be interest free for 12 rather than six months. Detailed information can be found on the UK Cinema Association website.</p> <p>The UK government have introduced a number of measures to support businesses, employers and employees, as well as the self-employed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A number of support grants (ranging from £10,000-£25,000 per property) for many companies operating in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector. - A Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme will support small and medium-sized businesses with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years. The scheme is open to businesses with a turnover of no more than £45m. <p>More detail can be found on the UKCA website, the UK Government website (here and here) and the BBC.</p>
	Cinema sector support	The UK government film agency the BFI have announced the establishment of an emergency relief fund with the support of The Film and TV Charity and Netflix. This fund will primarily support freelance workers in film production, rather than other parts of the film/cinema ecology.

3. TAXATION

SUMMARY

National authorities across Europe have been quick at delaying payments of various taxes for individuals and businesses.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	Tax deferrals, reduction of tax prepayments, etc have been introduced for a total amount of €10b. More information available in German online.
BELGIUM	A 3 months delay has been introduced for tax payments at national level. City tax (in Brussels) has been suspended as well as other local taxes.
CROATIA	Businesses with revenue of less than €1m (93% of all companies in the country) and have recorded a drop of more than 50% in revenue due to the coronavirus crisis, will not be required to pay profit tax, income tax or contributions. It will also be possible to postpone payment of VAT until they receive payment of issued invoices.
CYPRUS	Temporary suspension of the obligation to pay VAT for reasons of business liquidity, without the imposition of any penalties and interest for the periods ending 29 February 2020, 31 March 2020 and 30 April 2020, until 10 November 2020, provided that the relevant VAT returns are submitted within the prescribed deadlines. The Collection of Taxes and Assessments Law has been amended to give the Minister of Finance the power to extend the deadline for submission of tax returns as well as the deadline for settlement of tax liabilities.
CZECH REPUBLIC	Income tax deadline extended. Delay of tax return and VAT tax declaration until July 2020.
DENMARK	Tax authorities have made it possible to postpone tax and VAT for the industry this spring.
ESTONIA	Companies which are affected can be supported by differing taxes.
FINLAND	If your business is experiencing payment difficulties, you can request an extension to a tax return's filing deadline, and late-filing penalties may not be imposed for a justified special reason. You can apply for a tax settlement on new, easier terms. You can apply for a withholding tax adjustment if your business results appear to be lower than estimated. In this exceptional situation, the tax administration will support businesses by stepping up the handling of the above issues. VAT refund processing will also be stepped up. More information available in Finnish online.
GERMANY	A deferral of tax is planned for cinemas from the cut-off date of 1 March 2020. There are no strict requirement for granting the deferral, businesses must simply demonstrate they have been affected by the crisis, without evidence of the value of the damage incurred. Enforcement measures have been suspended.
GREECE	Suspension, for four months until August 2020, of tax and social security obligations of corporations that were ordered to close, with the sole condition that they do not dismiss any workers. Instalments of confirmed debts of March-April. 25% discount for March-April instalment payments if paid in due time.
HUNGARY	Tax authorities are to exempt 81,480 SMEs from the flat-rate tax liability until June 30 and delay tax debts already incurred before 1 March until after the end of the state of emergency.



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IRELAND	Currently deferment of Commercial Property Rates and VAT. Government still considering relief measures.
ITALY	Suspension of fiscal and welfare payments and compulsory insurance premiums until April 30th. Support to enterprises' liquidity through State-guaranteed bank loans. Tax credit for costs related to sanitizing of workplaces. The worst affected sectors (to be defined) will not have to meet their tax obligations and tax relief will be offered to companies that donate sums of money to combat the pandemic.
LATVIA	Companies which are affected can be supported by differing taxes.
LITHUANIA	VAT delayed if cinemas prove they are harmed by the breakage. It seems local tax related institutions do not understand what "cinema" means. Cinemas are not announced in the first list of harmed businesses and are forced to prove they are harmed by the quarantine.
LUXEMBOURG	There are possibilities to delay tax payments & advances.
MALTA	All taxes are deferred to June, so far although expected to be moved further along.
NETHERLANDS	It will be made easier for companies that have been impacted by the coronavirus to request a deferment of tax payment. The deferment of payment applies to income tax, corporation tax, payroll tax and value-added tax (VAT). The interest on overdue tax normally levied after the term of payment has expired will be temporarily lowered from 4% to nearly 0%. The rate for interest on tax will be temporarily lowered to practically 0% as well. This reduction will apply to all types of tax that are subject to interest on tax. The government will lower the interest rate as soon as possible.
NORWAY	The government has declared that the VAT will be reduced from 12% to 8% effectively from 1 January 2020. The association is trying to convince the government to skip the special cinema tax of 2,5% on the total revenue also from 1 January 2020.
POLAND	Businesses can delay their payments of social charges. Tax payments, due for 30 April, have been postponed to 30 May.
ROMANIA	Various measures including suspension of forced execution of budgetary depts, VAT refund during March for all settled settlements, suspension of fiscal control actions. More information here.
SERBIA	Deadlines for tax payments will be postponed. This decision should be confirmed officially soon.
SWEDEN	Tax delays are allowed in rescue package for a year, with a 6% interest.
SWITZERLAND	There are local and federal initiatives going in this direction. Payment of taxes on the federal level can be postponed without interest.
TURKEY	The Government has agreed to delaying taxes for 3 months and they will be paid after November in 6 instalments; delaying all credit payments for 3 months without interest; using governmental funds to support for long term and low rate credits for effected SME's.
UKRAINE	Cinemas are exempted from paying VAT until 2023, but this was already the case before the outbreak.
UK	The next VAT payment will be deferred for three months until the end of June and will not be fully payable until the end of the financial year. A business rates holiday has been introduced for all companies operating in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector.

4. RENT AND RELATED EXPENSES

SUMMARY

Across Europe, with a few exceptions included below, exhibitors are currently still asked to pay rent and service charges by landlords, despite these properties being closed to the public.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
ALBANIA	A Government decree will delay monthly rents for small businesses, but this has to be confirmed formally.
BELGIUM	Discussions are ongoing related to rent payments.
CYPRUS	Negotiated on a case by case basis with landlords.
DENMARK	If you have been forced by law to close down, all expenditures including rent will be fully covered by the State.
FINLAND	The City of Helsinki has decided to temporarily waive rental payments on commercial premises and terraces (more info). Municipalities support described in the support scheme section of this research can be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs such as rents.
FRANCE	The companies that can benefit from the solidarity fund to support small business (described in the support scheme section of this research) will be able to delay payments of rent and related expenses. More information on the FNCF website, in French.
GERMANY	The federal government agreed to delay payments of rents until 30.06.2020 so far, if the business owner can't pay rent due to the corona crisis. More information available here, in German.
GREECE	A 40% decrease on rent has been applied by the State for any company/enterprise that was obliged to suspend their activities by the governmental order.
IRELAND	Negotiated on a case by case basis with landlords.
ITALY	No payment of rents has been delayed. The only measure in the Law Decree concerns the March rent for shops forced to close (a 60% tax credit). This does not apply to cinemas, nevertheless the Italian cinema association ANEC has promoted an amendment, aiming at including cinemas, in view of the discussion and conversion into Law by the Parliament. No measures adopted for energy bills. The Government announced further measures to be issued in April.
LITHUANIA	Depending on agreements with landlords but most of them do not treat the quarantine as a <i>force majeure</i> , cinemas will have to prove it.
LUXEMBOURG	Negotiated on a case by case basis with landlords.
MALTA	Negotiated on a case by case basis with landlords.
NORWAY	A few cinemas are in shopping malls and still have to pay rent, though sometimes reduced or delayed.
SPAIN	Negotiated on a case by case basis with landlords.
SWITZERLAND	No federal agreement. It is simply recommended to everybody to talk to their landlords and find bilateral solutions.
TURKEY	Turkey Shopping Centres and Retailers Federation has announced that no rent will be received from the stores located in malls that have been closed due to the corona virus outbreak. Close to 70% of cinemas in Turkey are located in malls.



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UKRAINE	Cinemas still pay rent, but mainly a reduced amount. There is no universal regulation of this matter, it is negotiated on a case by case basis with landlords. A project law could make it illegal to penalize untimely payments of utility bills.
UK	In England, Northern Ireland and Wales, there will be a moratorium on enforcement action by commercial landlords initially for a period of three months.

5. EMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY

National authorities across Europe are slowly introducing measures to support jobs and livelihood of their citizens. Several territories have offered to pay a significant share of employees' salaries as long as they were not laid off by their employers. A diversity of support mechanisms and compensations have been introduced and continue to be updated daily as distancing measures are extended.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
BELGIUM	<p>Procedures for temporary leave in reason of <i>force majeure</i> have been rendered more fluid. Compensations have been introduced for employees that are on temporary leave. The average unemployment revenue has been increased by €150 per month for those on temporary unemployment because of the virus. Energy bills will be payed (in Flanders). There is no need to justify temporary leave. The State will cover 70% of the salary, previously it was 65%.</p>
BULGARIA	<p>National authorities introduced legislation on compensating employers who had suspended operations because of the State of Emergency, voted by Parliament on March 13. National authorities have mentioned adding €1b to the unemployment fund. The Unemployment Fund will cover 60% of salaries if employers refrain from lay-offs and cover the rest.</p> <p>More information in Bulgarian available here.</p>
CROATIA	<p>The Government will cover 100% of minimum net wages if employers do not lay off workers. That minimum wage has been increased from €425 to €525 approximately. The State will also cover social and pension contributions.</p> <p>Detailed information available here, in Croatian.</p>
CYPRUS	<p>Support Plan for Small Businesses, amounting to €10m, for businesses employing up to 5 people, under the condition that they keep employing their employees and have suffered a loss bigger than 25% of their turnover. The Plan foresees a subsidy of 70% of the workers' salary.</p> <p>The main condition in securing a loan guarantee from the Government is employers to keep their staff employed at least until September 30. The payment of overdue contributions of social insurance as well as the instalments for the months of March and April 2020 has been suspended and the deadline for settlement is extended by two months.</p>
CZECH REPUBLIC	<p>The State will cover a significant share of the salary of the employees impacted by the crisis – exact amount is unclear.</p>
DENMARK	<p>Staff expenses are covered: If the employer keeps the employee hired, he/she will get up to 75 % of their wages covered. This agreement is running from 9 March to 9 June (three months).</p>
ESTONIA	<p>Up to 70% from the employee's average salary is covered by the State, with a maximum amount of €1,000. The employer must pay at least €150. In order to apply, the employer must demonstrate a 30% turnover decrease per month (compared to the same month in 2019). Detailed information available here, in Estonian.</p>
FINLAND	<p>The notice period for lay-offs and the duration of co-operation negotiations on lay-offs is shortened. Various changes to lay-off rules. Employee re-employment</p>



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	<p>obligation extended: the employer will be obligated, for a period of nine months, to re-employ those employees who were dismissed for financial or production-related reasons between 1 April and 30 June.</p> <p>In response to the above, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is currently preparing a government proposal to safeguard the livelihoods of employees during lay-off, among other things.</p>
FRANCE	<p>The Government has announced various measures to limit lay-offs as much as possible. It will cover at least 70% of salaries, which can rise to 100% for those on minimum wage and employees covered by an industry agreement to cover their salaries in full. The French Government has also taken various steps to facilitate and accelerate the procedure to receive unemployment support. Detailed information is available in this document, in French.</p>
GERMANY	<p>Businesses can apply for “Kurarbeitergeld” covering maximum 67% of the monthly salary if they were forced to close because of a Government decree, such as cinemas. The rest has to be paid by the employer.</p> <p>Business who had to close because of the impact of the virus on their business – but were not forced by the State to do so – cannot lay off their staff and must pay 100% of their salaries.</p>
GREECE	<p>Companies wishing to benefit from the National aid package cannot lay off any of their staff. The measures include a benefit of €800 for each employee whose business was shut or was affected seriously by the virus, while the state will also cover their social security contributions. Another €800 will be provided to freelancers affected by the virus. The Easter financial bonus will be paid in full to all employees. The state will also cover the cost of beneficiaries’ insurance, pension, and health payments.</p>
HUNGARY	<p>Proposition to offer unemployment money for 9 months instead of 3 months is still debated at the Parliament.</p>
IRELAND	<p>The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in Ireland (ROI) have introduced a plan whereby companies keep staff that would have otherwise been laid off and pay them a Jobseekers welfare payment and the Company claim it back from the Government. For companies that have liquidity issues the Government and banks will supply short term low cost loans.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment has been increased from €203 to €350 for employees who lost their jobs due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Also a Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme has been set up by the Government whereby the state will provide Employers, who experience significant economic disruption, with a subsidy payment based on 70% of the weekly average take home pay for each employee up to a maximum of €410. Income tax will not be applied to the subsidy payment.</p>
ITALY	<p>Cinema employees do not have access to ordinary unemployment benefits, therefore in 2016 a Salary Integration Fund (FIS) was created with monthly contributions. The Covid-19 emergency measures extend ordinary unemployment benefits to FIS-related enterprises (5+ employees) for a maximum period of 9 weeks: the social welfare covers 80% of the salary due. The benefit was extended to companies with less than 5 employees with a separate procedure, involving Regional governments. A compensation of €600 has been provided for collaboration contracts, with reference to the month of March.</p>
KOSOVO	<p>The Government decided paying laid-off workers two months’ worth of the minimum wage (€170) plus pension contributions.</p>
LATVIA	<p>75% of gross salary will be covered by the State, but not exceeding €700.</p>

LITHUANIA	The Government has promised to cover 60% of salaries if owners remain paying 40% for employees during the closure – but the amount reimbursed by the State cannot be higher than the minimum monthly wage (€546).
LUXEMBOURG	The procedure for applying to and obtaining temporary leave has been accelerated and modified. In order to avoid laying offs, the State encourages temporary unemployment for reason of <i>force majeure</i> . From 16 March this possibility will be granted automatically for companies that were forced by the authorities to close. The State will cover 80% of the employee's salary, which is the share of total salary that employers will be obliged to pay to employees. The reimbursed amount is limited to 250% of the minimum average salary. The employers still have to cover social charges and actual working hours. More information available in French.
MALTA	Not differentiation between SMEs or large operators. The Government is offering €800 per person compensation for remaining employed and business has to top up to €1,200. Part timers get €500 per month. Quarantine leave compensation of €350 per week. Unemployed to receive €800 per month.
NETHERLANDS	Employers must continue to pay 100% of their employees salaries, while receiving a State compensation of up to 90% of the wage sum (up to a certain maximum) from the Dutch Labour Authority. The compensation applies to employees with permanent and flexible contracts. In order to qualify for the compensation, the employer must demonstrate that it expects at least 20% loss of turnover for a consecutive period of three months. So for instance, loss in turnover of 100% = 90% compensation of the employer's wage sum; 50% = 45%; 25% = 22.5%. Detailed information available here.
NORTH MACEDONIA	Employers have to pay 70% of the salary of workers on paid leave. The government will provide minimum monthly salaries of €240 for people in hardship in the private sector.
NORWAY	The cinemas have to pay the first two days salaries. Thereafter the government cover 18 days of full payment (100% of the employee salary is covered). After the first 20 days, 80% of the salary (for those earning between NOK75,000-300,000 yearly) or 62,4% (for those earning between NOK300,000 and approx. NOK600,000 yearly). Before one had to earn NOK150.000 in the last 12 months to get cover at all, now the limit is down to NOK75.000 in the last 12 month, which will help students who often are among the employees of the cinemas.
POLAND	The Polish Government will cover 40% of workers' salaries in struggling companies to avoid redundancies. Workers will also be allowed to delay their social security payments.
ROMANIA	The Government has established that during the state of emergency, for the period of suspension of the individual employment contract at the initiative of the employer, in case of temporary interruption of the activity, the employees' salary will be covered from the State's unemployment insurance budget. The level of the allowance will be at least 75% of the basic salary corresponding to the job occupied, but not more than 75% of the country's average gross wage. More information available here.
SERBIA	The State will cover minimum wages for micro and small businesses for three months. This decision should be confirmed officially soon.
SLOVAKIA	The State will pay 80% percent of an employee's salary in companies that have been or are being closed down. More information available here in Slovak.
SLOVENIA	The Government will co-finance until the end of May the salaries and social contributions of all workers who have been sent home, awaiting to resume work,



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	<p>with an option to extend this period if the current state of affairs persists. Workers who lost their jobs will automatically start receiving unemployment benefits. Self-employed workers who are unable to do their business in the current situation will be eligible to receive up to 70% of Slovenia's minimum net monthly salary, with the government also taking over the payment of their health and pension contributions.</p> <p>More information available here.</p>
SPAIN	<p>It is forbidden to lay off someone during the pandemic. There is a global mechanism call ERTE (expediente de regulacion temporal de empleo – temporary employment regulation file) During this period Government will cover up to 70% of the salary and reduce the employer’s charges.</p> <p>More information 1 (in Spanish) More information 2 (in Spanish)</p>
SWEDEN	<p>Salaries are covered 40 % by the Government, while the employee covers 10% and the employer 50%. The State will cover full cost for sick leave from companies through the months of April and May.</p>
SWITZERLAND	<p>The national program of “reduced work” (part/technical unemployment) applies to all employees when the business is forced to close. It was simplified and extended to temporary employees as well. It pays 80% of the loan. The idea is to allow companies to keep their employees until the end of the crisis.</p>
TURKEY	<p>The government will be paying salaries (up to %60) from governmental funds for the next 3 months, but it is not clear if this applies to all type of businesses.</p>
	<p>Nothing official so far. The union of cinema operators officially addressed the Prime Minister of Ukraine with the offer of providing 0% interest rate credit for cinemas to pay salaries to their employees because the government promised it would be possible.</p>
UK	<p>The government will introduce asap a 'Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme' which will cover 80 per cent of the wages of staff who would otherwise we laid off or 'furloughed'. This will be for up to £2,500 per month per individual and paid through HMRC. The Chancellor said that this would be up and running as soon as possible but at latest by end of April. It will cover pay back to 1 March, and be available initially for three months, to be reviewed at the end of that period. He invited employers to top up the remaining 20 per cent. He also made clear that this would be available to large and small businesses, and the charity and voluntary sector.</p> <p>A Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will support self-employed individuals whose income has been negatively affected by COVID-19 by providing a grant worth 80 per cent of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month.</p> <p>All small and medium-sized businesses and employers will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay paid to workers for sickness absence due to COVID-19.</p>



6. BOX OFFICE

Some of the figures below have been kindly shared by our colleagues at Comscore. Other figures are estimates from UNIC members.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	Weekend Estimates March 22: -13% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -18% BO YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -23% BO YTD
FRANCE	Weekend Estimates March 22: -32% ADM YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -35.2% ADM YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -39% BO YTD
GERMANY	Week 10 estimates: -4% BO YTD Week 11 estimates: -10% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 22: -14% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -18% BO YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -22% BO YTD
ITALY	Week 1 estimates: +88.2% BO YTD Week 7 estimates (prior to closures): +21.1% BO YTD Week 8 estimates (week of closure of 48% of sites): +15.7% BO YTD Week 9 estimates: +7.3% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 8: +0.5% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 15 (cinemas closed nation-wide): -6% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 22: -11% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -16% BO YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -22% BO YTD
NETHERLANDS	Weekend Estimates March 15: +4% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 22: +1% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -4% BO YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -9% BO YTD
PORTUGAL	Weekend Estimates March 22:



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	-9% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -14% BO YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -19% BO YTD
RUSSIA	Weekend Estimates March 8: +9% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 15: +8.2% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 22: +5% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -1% BO YTD
SPAIN	Weekend Estimates March 8: +5% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 15: -4% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 22: -12% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -19% BO YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -26% BO YTD
SWITZERLAND	Weekend Estimates March 8: -10.5% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 15: -15% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 22: -19.5% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -22.9% BO YTD
TURKEY	As of 17 March 2020: -17.7% BO YTD
UK	Weekend Estimates March 8: +14% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 15: +9% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 22: +2% BO YTD Weekend Estimates March 29: -5% BO YTD Weekend Estimates April 5: -12% BO YTD