



Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020

RE: Federal Relief Passes Senate 96-0, Ohio Passes Relief Unanimously (third-party perspectives to foster communication with business and economic development stakeholders)

Key Takeaways

- Global: The World Economic Forum highlights the need for decisive [health actions over financial](#) reactions in this crisis. [A third of the world](#) is under lockdown.
- U.S.: Passage of the largest relief package in U.S. history [passed 96-0](#), although some [governors say it is not enough](#)
- Ohio: The Ohio legislature unanimously passed [COVID19 relief measures](#). Hospital systems, grocery stores, pharmacies, delivery businesses hiring.

Global

The World Economic Forum makes an economic argument for the need for decisive [health actions over financial](#) reactions in this crisis, “The focus must be on virus containment, testing, public-health infrastructure...” The UN Secretary-General calls for a [global ceasefire](#) to focus on “the true fight of our lives”. [UN humanitarian chief](#) warns that failing to help vulnerable countries fight the coronavirus now could place millions at risk and leave the virus free to circle back around the globe. The IMF warns that the economic impact of the virus will be [worse than the great recession](#).

The UK launches a self-reporting [app to track the spread](#) of the virus and seeks [250,000 volunteers](#) in good health to help with shopping and medicine delivery for approximately 1.5M most vulnerable. [British Parliament](#) is set to close for at least four weeks. [Prince Charles](#) tests positive for coronavirus. Alberta, Canada freezes education [property taxes](#). Almost one million [Canadians](#) applied for unemployment insurance as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) announced will allow applicants to receive \$2000 a month for the next four months for those who have lost their income during the coronavirus pandemic. Malaysia, which manufactures 3 out of 4 of the [world’s medical gloves](#) has reduced production by half to protect workers.

Spain and [Italy’s](#) individual death tolls surpass China. [Germany](#) with lower death rate, possibly due to lower median age. [Iran](#) sees 2,000 new cases. [India](#) orders a lockdown for 21 days. [South Sudan](#) continues to experience massive swarms of locusts, with hunger exacerbating vulnerability to the virus.

3M has [doubled global production](#) of N95 masks to nearly 100M a month. [Fiat Chrysler](#) is donating face masks to first responders and health care workers and will begin manufacturing masks in the coming weeks with initial distribution across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. [Ford](#) will expand plant closures in more countries. The suspension started March 21 and will continue for several weeks depending on the crisis evolution.

U.S. [seaborne imports fell](#) 15% year-over-year for the first two weeks of March, including an unprecedented 44.9% slump in imports from China. [Carbon emissions](#) are down, and it is speculated that this is due to coronavirus restrictions. With no cruise ships in Italy, Venice lagoon’s water is clear enough “to bathe in.”

U.S.

Passage of the largest Congressional relief package in U.S. history passed 96-0, and [governors say it is not enough](#). Conversely, Federal Reserve Bank has [acted boldly](#). Hospitals have unprecedented shortage of nurses. The WHO says the U.S. could be the next [virus epicenter](#), and epidemiologist [Donald G. McNeil Jr.](#) raises a red flag on the U.S. approach, “it’s a giant patchwork across the country”. Compounding the lack of consistent social distancing nationally, states are [desperate for supplies](#), experiencing a gap of millions of masks, ventilators, and other supplies. Puerto Rico announced a record [\\$787 million relief package](#), more than any US state.

The National Conference of State Legislatures has launched a state [COVID relief legislation tracker](#). Another website for medical [supplies](#) is posted in addition to the [BIO web site](#). What keeps [medical and PPE supplies low](#) is 1) a shortage of raw materials, 2) a need for production expertise to make change in manufacturing lines, & 3) challenges around certifications & qualifications.

[Ford](#) is working with GE to boost production of ventilators, while GM will team up with Ventec Life Systems to majorly increase ventilator production. Teva Pharmaceuticals will [donate potential COVID-19 treatment](#), hydroxychloroquine sulfate tablets to hospitals nationwide, while [Nationwide Foundation](#) is contributing \$5M to charities. Apple Inc. will donate “[millions](#)” of masks. Facebook Inc. [will give 720,000](#) masks from the supply it had amassed in case California’s wildfires persisted. Intel will donate



more than a million items. Startup Flexport [tapped its logistics operation](#) to buy \$1.4M of face masks and other medical protective equipment for San Francisco's health department.

Ohio's [Worthington Industries](#) is shuttering its Michigan plant. The [UAW announced](#) that two FCA plant workers have died of the virus. In response to UAW pressure, [Ford Motor Co.](#) on Tuesday said its North American manufacturing facilities will remain closed beyond March 30. [GM](#) doubles its cash reserve by borrowing \$16B. Six employees of [Amazon warehouses](#) have tested positive at warehouses in Florida, Michigan, New York, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The [National Restaurant Association](#) members could lose \$225B in sales and between 5 and 7 million jobs, forcing restaurants to rethink their approach to labor issues like paid sick leave. Dollar General plans to double its normal hiring rate to add up to 50,000 employees across the country. Meanwhile, Yum! Brands (Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Domino's Pizza) are collectively hiring over 50,000 additional workers in the U.S. Instacart is looking to hire 300,000 additional shoppers over the next three months. Instacart lets users shop from grocery stores like Whole Foods, Costco, Safeway, among others, to be delivered to their homes.

Moody's revised its outlook yesterday on the U.S. retail industry to negative as it expects coronavirus disruptions to impact companies that were already struggling. The rating agency now forecasts U.S. retail's operating income to drop between 2% and 5% in 2020 and sales to remain flat or fall 3%. Energy-concentrated U.S. banks may face credit issues as prices fall, including several Ohio banks. [Mortgage rates jump](#) despite historic lows in U.S. Treasury rates.

Ohio
The Ohio legislature unanimously passed [COVID19 relief measures](#). In addition to the [hiring freeze for state](#) agencies, boards, and commissions, there is also a call for a pay freeze, a freeze on new contract services, and a directive for state agencies to cut unnecessary spending by up to 20% for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Ohio essential businesses remaining open include: [Swagelok](#), focusing on the manufacture and sale of gas and fluid systems components headquartered in Solon; [Gorman-Rupp Company](#), a leading designer, manufacturer and international marketer of pumps and pump systems; [Huntington Bank](#), which has 90% employees working from home and has drive-through service available at its branches. A Cincinnati grad helps develop [quick DNA test](#) for COVID-19 while Ohio turns to [empty hotels and dorms](#) to respond to COVID-19.

<i>Positive Company-Specific News (since 3/23)</i>	<i>Negative Company-Specific News (since 3/23)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ohio's Rogue Fitness will manufacture masks, face shields to fight coronavirus & hire 100 new employees. - JM Smucker announces a one-time \$1,500 hardship award to its 5,700 employees and guidance on additional benefits including paid sick time, 12 weeks full pay in the event of a plant closure. - Big Lots is boosting its workforce and providing a temporary \$2-an-hour raise to both store and distribution center employees. - Campbell Soup Co. announced a raise for hourly workers of \$2-an-hour and/or \$100 a week which will benefit around 11,000 workers throughout the U.S. They announced a 366% increase in weekly case orders compared to same period year ago. - Huntington Bank waives fees on loan payments, offering payment deferrals in the event of a job loss, and halting its foreclosure and repossession programs. - Fifth Third is offering credit card payment deferrals, waiving late fees, and offering mortgage forbearance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PACCAR temporarily suspends worldwide production until April 6 due to changes in customer demand and a weaker global economic outlook (roughly 2,500 employees in Ohio). - Thor Industries will temporarily be suspending production in North America (roughly 1,000 Ohioans through subsidiary Airstream) - Libbey Glass (Toledo) employee tests positive for COVID-19 and facilities in both Louisiana and Ohio halt production (roughly 1,100 employees) - Fuyao operates a "skeleton crew" - Taiho Corporation of America of Tiffin to lay off 229 workers - International Automotive Components of Huron to lay off 234 - Mark Porter Auto Group of Jackson, Pomeroy, Meigs, Athens to lay off 161

Resources

- Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 Website: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov
- JobsOhio's resource portal remains available at: <https://www.jobsohio.com/covid-19-resources/>