



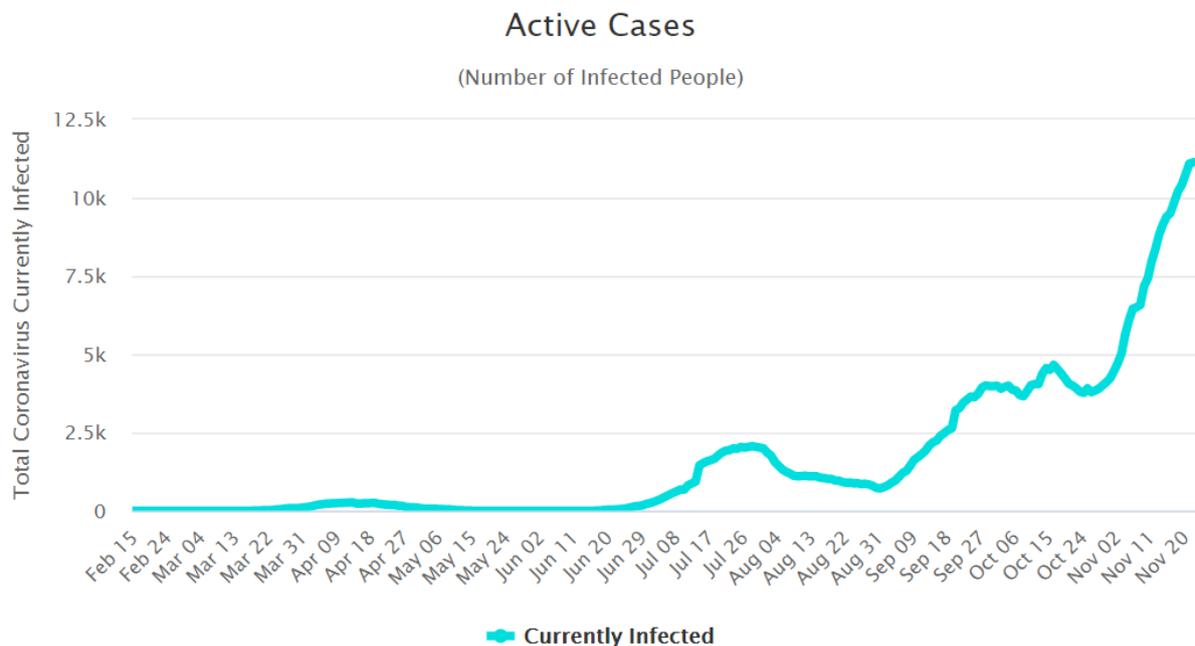
THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN MONTENEGRO

30 November 2020

COVID-19 health situation – November 2020

After successfully achieving zero cases at the end of May, Montenegro began experiencing a second wave of infections as of 14 June. The situation worsened over the summer and throughout autumn. On [23 November](#), the total number of cases reached 31 618, with 444 death cases since the outbreak. There were 11 143 active cases, or 1 774 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. Montenegro continues to record the second highest rate of cases in Europe at about 5 034 total cases per 100 000 people.

Evolution of active cases in Montenegro



Source: Worldometers.info

- [Wearing protective masks indoors and outdoors remains mandatory](#), including for children older than 5 years. The government announced that strict controls will apply to check whether people wear masks, while private business owners are in charge of assuring the respect of measures by their customers on site.

Policy reactions – November 2020

Measures to slow the spread of the virus and support the health system

- As of 14 November the National Coordination Body decided to abolish the system of localised measures and introduce [uniform economy-wide measures](#). The measures are to remain in place until [8 December](#).
- A countrywide curfew was introduced, with more restrictive conditions from 25 November until 8 December, whereby leaving the place of residence is prohibited from 19:00 to 5:00.
- Mobility is further restricted, as walking in groups larger than 4 and travel between municipalities during weekends are prohibited. Any religious and private gatherings are not allowed, while religious ceremonies can be performed without visitors.
- All stores, cafes, bars and restaurants can be open from 7:00 to 18:00 and are obliged to respect specific sanitary measures while catering services may remain open until 22:00. Fitness centres remain open, with significant restrictions due to strict sanitary measures.
- Public and private educational institutions, as well preschool institutions, partially [reintroduced physical learning model](#). As of 16 November, it is applicable to preschool children, as well as students in grades one to six of elementary schools and grade one of high schools, while the rest will be following a remote learning programme. In case education moves to the online learning system again, one of the parents of a child under the age of eleven and children with special educational needs are entitled to paid leave.
- All border crossings for entry into Montenegro remain open, with the exception of Vuča (with Serbia) and Šćepan Polje (with BiH). Passengers are allowed to leave Montenegro without restrictions at these crossings.
- Passengers traveling from green list destinations, can enter the territory without additional restrictions, if they have spent at least 15 days before entry into Montenegro in a country from the green list. For passengers traveling from yellow list countries, a 15-day stay prior to entering and a negative PCR test no older than 72 hours is required. Borders remain closed for countries in the red list.

Economic support measures

- Economic support measures continued throughout November, due to the previously extended wage subsidy programme, first introduced as a part of the government's [third package of support measures](#) adopted in July. As of 22 October, [measures introduced by the Central Bank](#) include a moratorium on loan repayment for citizens who lost their jobs due to the pandemic and a possibility of loan restructuring for those whose wages have fallen by at least 10%.

Economic impact and outlook

- Montenegro experienced a sharp fall in GDP, largely driven by losses in the tourism sector, with foreign tourist arrivals decreasing by 80% in the first half of the year. Different projections for 2020 expect the annual GDP growth to reach between [-9](#) and [-12%](#). The economy experienced deflation as of the second quarter (with the exception of September), which resulted in projected annual

inflation rate of -0.1%. As a result of economic slowdown and implemented fiscal measures, the Government estimates the budget deficit to reach 7.3% of GDP in 2020, while some projections suggest a record high deficit of 10%.

- Registered unemployment in the first nine months of 2020 increased by 9.5% compared to the same period in 2019. The total employment for the same period dropped by 11.3% compared to 2019, with the largest decrease of 34.9% recorded in administrative and support services sector.
- In October, the MNSE10 index reached its lowest value since the pandemic outbreak. It lost around 16% of its value between 12 March and end of October 2020, after which it remained relatively stable, settling at 644.86 on 25 November.

All previously published COVID-19 notes for Montenegro can be accessed [here](#).

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