



EHRENBERG SØRENSEN  
KOMMUNIKATION

# Situation in Denmark, Sweden and Germany due to the Corona virus

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## Situation in Denmark (June 26<sup>th</sup>)

The scenario in Denmark and all of the world is changing daily due to the Corona virus. In our small part of the world, we took drastic measures to contain the virus, and shut down most of the country. This decision has proven to work in the sense that less and less are hospitalized and the health care system has been able to take care of all patients. The country has gradually started to open again, everybody is safe and the office is open.

### General development:

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the new coronavirus was [detected in Denmark](#). The patient was declared healthy again March 5<sup>th</sup>. Since then, the virus has spread to the entire country. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, [the first death](#) related to the coronavirus in Denmark was registered.

Since March 11<sup>th</sup>, the government's efforts to decrease the spread of the virus have been continuously updated. The numbers of hospitalized continues to decrease, resulting in a gradual opening of the country [in several phases](#). See 'Most important measures' below for different phases of the opening. Furthermore, it is now possible for all Danes to book a time for a COVID-19 test on without the prior referral from a doctor or employer.

One of the biggest decisions when closing Denmark in March was that the Danish borders closed to foreigners without a so-called "recognized purpose", except for transport of goods. On May 29<sup>th</sup> the government held a press conference about the controlled reopening of the Danish borders. On June 18<sup>th</sup> the decision was expanded to include more countries. See 'Opening of borders' below.

Following the Danish government's announcement on March 11, the Danish C25 index [dropped by 8.03 percent](#) affecting a large part of the Danish economy. [The International Monetary Fund](#) predicts a decline in Danish economy on 6,5% this year and an increase in unemployment from 5% to 6,5% this year. The International Monetary Fund also predicts a quick recovery of the Danish economy in 2021.

The Danish state helps companies affected by the situation with economic compensation, and these help packages has already helped a lot of people and businesses to survive the crisis. Also, the Scandinavian airline SAS receive extraordinary help from both the Danish and Swedish state, who has agreed to provide a [guarantee of DKK 3 billion](#) to the airline. On April 28<sup>th</sup> SAS announced that they nevertheless have to lay off 1,700 employees in Denmark.

### Most important measures (more info about the opening of the country in Danish [here](#)):

- Phase 1: First phase included that some liberal businesses opened again from April 20<sup>th</sup> – for instance hairdressers, physiotherapists and beauty and massage clinics – in order to open the have to live up to some hygiene criteria. This phase also included that childcare and schools up until 5<sup>th</sup> grade opened again from April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Phase 2: Cafes, restaurants, malls, elite sports, some schools, oldest grades and libraries can open on May 11<sup>th</sup> or May 18<sup>th</sup>. On May 20<sup>th</sup> an expansion of phase 2 included opening of cultural institutions such as museums and cinemas.
- Phase 3: From June 8<sup>th</sup> the ban to gather in groups was raised from 10 people to 50 and will gradually be raised to 100 and 200 in July and August. Also, fitness centers, playgrounds and swimming facilities opened.
- Phase 4: This phase will begin in mid-August and includes opening of discos, venues, nightlife and also universities and higher education institutions. The ban on gatherings of more than 500 people, is maintained until at least August 31<sup>st</sup> with some exceptions.

### Opening of borders (facts in Danish about the borders can be found [here](#)):

- From June 15<sup>th</sup> the border between Denmark and Norway, Denmark and Iceland and Denmark and Germany opened. This means that Norwegians, Icelanders and Germans can travel to Denmark.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has changed their recommendations for traveling to the countries Norway, Iceland and Germany to “yellow”, which means that Danes can travel to these countries if they are still cautious.
- With effect from June 27, the Danish government introduce a new model for opening borders and easing travel guidelines for countries in the EU and Schengen areas as well as the UK. The model establishes some criteria such as a low number of infected people (to have less than 20 incidences per 100,000 inhabitants per week) and how the countries test people, which will determine which of the countries will be opened.
- This list of “yellow” countries will be expanded on June 27 to include all countries in the EU and Schengen areas as well as the UK – if those countries live up to the criteria.
- There is still no official list of countries living up to both criteria, since the Danish authorities are still working on detailing the criteria about testing.
- The opening of the borders comes with restrictions: Tourists have to prove that they have a reservation and tourists have to have booked at least 6 bed-nights
- There will be easy access to test for COVID-19 around the summer country, but there will not be a test opportunity at all border crossings.
- Countries with more than 30 incidence per 100,000 per week are considered critical and will be listed as a quarantine country, which means that tourist from countries listed as a quarantine country cannot visit Denmark unless they have a recognized purpose (family, work etc.) and Danes are advised against traveling to countries listed as a quarantine country. Only Sweden and Portugal are on that list.
- For Sweden, the new ‘Nordic mechanism’ applies, which means that if regions within Sweden live up to the criteria, then Danes can travel there and Swedes from these regions (Skåne, Sörmland and Västerbotten) can travel to Denmark if they have planned 6 bed-nights. People living in regions near the Danish border (Skåne, Halland and Blekinge) can travel to Denmark if the region lives up to the criteria or if the person can show a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours before entry

**Numbers of infected** (more information can be found [here](#)):

- 780,330 have been tested. At least 12,636 people have been infected and 11,460 are considered to have recovered.
- 36 are hospitalized. 9 of them are in the intensive care unit – 4 of them in the respirator.
- 603 have died after being infected according to official statistics. COVID-19 is not necessarily the cause of death.

**Thoughts on the Danish behaviour and mindset:**

The vast majority of Danes understand and adhere to the precautions and guidelines knowing that their behaviour has a huge effect on the situation. In general, most people are positive about the future and the governments’ measures to get the country safely through the crisis – and now also to open the country gradually again.

Throughout the country, people show what is called a great “social mind” or “sense of community” taking care and helping each other out in this unusual. Many Danes expect to stay in Denmark for the summer holiday and have booked summer cabins and camping spots around the country.

**Sources:**

All information about the Corona virus situation in Denmark can be found at: <http://coronasmitte.dk>, and the Danish Broadcasting Corporation continuously update with the latest news and numbers on: <https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/live-seneste-nyt-om-coronavirus>.

## Situation in Sweden (June 26<sup>th</sup>)

### Most important info and measures

- The risk of the coronavirus spreading in Sweden is considered to be very high.
- The number of people in intensive care for covid-19 continues to decline - under 200 are currently being treated (June 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Extension of temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden until 7 July 2020.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extends its recommendation from unnecessary travel to all countries until 15 July 2020.
- The government has decided to lift travel restrictions inside the country, for symptom-free people. From June 13 it is free for symptom-free people to travel within the country.
- The Act on Temporary Infection Protection Measures at Serving Places will come into force on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- 82 million SEK will be paid out to municipalities, regions and the county administrative board in Stockholm for the supervision of temporary infection control measures at serving places in Sweden (June 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Swedes' e-commerce increased by 32 percent in March compared with February.
- One in every eighth employed in Stockholm is laid off or notified (May 14<sup>th</sup>)
- The Swedish and Danish state now guarantees billion loans to SAS, according to a press release on the airline's website.
- The government proposes a temporary change of law on the basis of covid-19, with the purpose is to temporarily increase the government's ability to quickly take coronary-related measures.
- National ban on visiting elderly homes and increased sampling for covid-19.
- The government guarantees important flights, a temporary public service obligation on a number of routes to and from Norrland and Gotland.
- Prohibition of public gatherings or public events with more than 50 participants.

Sources: <https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/regeringens-arbete-med-anledning-av-nya-coronaviruset/strategi-med-anledning-av-det-nya-coronaviruset/>

<https://www.krisinformation.se/detta-kan-handa/handelser-och-storningar/20192/myndigheterna-om-det-nya-coronaviruset/restriktioner-och-forbud>

<https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2020/06/82-miljoner-for-tillsyn-av-tillfalliga-smittskyddsatgarder-pa-serveringsstallen/>

### Numbers of infected (25<sup>th</sup> of June):

- A total of 63 890 people has been found infected with covid-19 in Sweden
- In total, 2 401 intensive care patients with laboratory-confirmed covid-19. June 25<sup>th</sup> the number of people in intensive care for covid-19 was 191.
- 5 230 of the Swedish covid-19 cases have been reported deceased.
- Sweden are not doing mass testings. As of March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020, health care prioritizes sampling of people in need of hospital care and staff in healthcare and elderly care with suspected covid-19. The government announced on June 4<sup>th</sup> that it is now investing SEK 5.9 billion to increase test capacity.
- Starting from 15 of June, all residents in Stockholm will be given the opportunity to test themselves for covid-19.

Source: <https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/bekraftade-fall-i-sverige/>

### General information:

To counteract the spread of covid-19 in Sweden, people are urged to keep a social distance and to stay home when showing symptoms. Elderly and people in risk groups are advised to isolate in their homes, and of 31<sup>st</sup> of March the government announced a national ban on

visiting elderly homes and increased sampling for covid-19. People that can work from home are urged to do so. Gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed in Sweden, many shops, restaurants and pubs are keeping open. Swedens strategy is more about slowing the virus spread than stopping it.

- **Systembolagets sales increased during 2020 Q1**– Sales volume increased by 7 percent and amounted to 110.6 (103.6) million liters during the first quarter of 2020.
- **Swedes debate on alcoholism and domestic violence** Since the beginning of April numbers and news on the increase of alcohol abuse and domestic violence in homes around the world has been circulating on the news in TV, print and social media in Sweden.

### The Swedish economy

There are signals that the economy in Sweden is about to turn up again, says Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson (S) during a press conference, June 9th. At the same time, unemployment is expected to continue to rise. Despite indications of a recovery in the Swedish economy, the situation is far from what it was before the corona crisis. – There are signals that the economy in Sweden is about to turn around. But it is important to say that it is from a very low level, says Magdalena Andersson (S). Unemployment rose in March and April, and is expected to continue to rise, says the finance minister. In April, unemployment reached 8.1 percent in Sweden. This is the highest unemployment figure since 2014.

The government has introduced several packages to help Swedish businesses to survive during the crisis. The current situation will probably have severe long-term consequences for the Swedish economy. The government has among other measures introduced a state credit guarantee for loans to companies, temporarily reduced social security contributions, temporary discount for fixed rental costs, postponement with tax payments and a possibility of short-term leave to reduce labour costs. The Government has also proposed that airlines should be able to receive credit guarantees in 2020 amounting to a maximum of SEK 5 billion, of which SEK 1.5 billion is intended for SAS. The Swedish economy may decline by ten per cent and the number of unemployed will rise to over 700,000 this year if the effects on the economy become more prolonged. This shows the government's worst alternative scenario. However, the main scenario earlier was that Swedish GDP will fall by 4.0 per cent this year and then turn up and grow by 3.5 per cent next year, according to the forecast submitted in connection with the Government spring budget. On 24 April, the Swedish Minister of Finance declared that situation probably is worse than the main scenario. The minister has announced that the unemployment projection probably will be adjusted from 9 to around 11 per cent and the GDP fall projection from 4 to 7 per cent. The Minister of Finance, however, believes that the uncertain situation affects the accuracy of the forecasts. The forecasts should be seen rather as snapshots. The number of corporate bankruptcies between 1 March – 12 April has increased by 49 per cent compared to last year. The Government will, therefore, discuss new measures to support Swedish businesses. The Government will, for example, consider the possibility of so-called solvency support for companies in crisis, where the state could go in and buy newly issued shares in crisis-hit companies, and also some form of direct liquidity support for companies that have lost revenue.

Source: <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/inrikes/magdalena-andersson-om-regeringens-atgarder>  
<https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/regeringens-arbete-med-anledning-av-nya-coronaviruset/foretag/>  
<https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/regeringens-arbete-med-anledning-av-nya-coronaviruset/regeringens-beslut-och-initiativ-med-anledning-av-nya-coronaviruset/#ekonomianchor>

### The Swedish household economy

- The Corona pandemic has created new consumer groups, many older consumers have found online shopping.
- One in every eighth employed in Stockholm is laid off or notified (14<sup>th</sup> of May).
- Swedes' e-commerce increased by 32 percent in March compared with February.

- The grocery trade is among the e-commerce winners, thanks to bunkering and fewer restaurant visits, with an estimated increase of 75 percent in March compared to February.
- 24 percent who are worried about their livelihood over the next year.
- Half of the Swedish households predict that their finances will deteriorate during the year and many plans for increased savings.
- Households' uncertainty about how long the corona crisis will last means that many people believe in reduced consumption.
- In Svensk Handel's consumer survey, just over every third household indicates that they have reduced the consumption of consumer goods in physical stores (36 per cent) and almost as many are planning to increase their savings (35 per cent).
- Above all, it is the elderly who have reduced their consumption.
- The unemployment is rising at a rapid rate and is now 8.0 percent. However, the number of people who are notified of dismissal has been muted during the past week, says Arbetsförmedlingen.

Sources: <https://www.svenskhandel.se/nyhetscenter/press/2020/okad-osakerhet-far-hushallen-att-halla-hart-i-pengarna/>

<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/inrikes/arbetsformedlingen-presenterar-nya-siffror-over-varsel>

<https://www.kantarsifo.se/rapporter-undersokningar/allmanhetens-tillit-tankar-och-beteende-under-coronakrisen-8-maj>

## Situation in Germany (June 22<sup>nd</sup>)

### Latest update

On 1 July 2020, Germany takes of the lead of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. This week, the heads of the national government discuss the main points of the upcoming term of presidency. One major point is the further design and distribution of the European aid program with the amount of 750 bn. EUR.

The R-factor is currently just below 3 (June 21<sup>st</sup>: 2,88) which is explained by the local outbreaks of Corona such as in a building in Göttingen (120 infected people; 700 people in the building are in quarantine) and in the meat processing company Tönnies (more than 1300 infected people) in Nordrhein-Westfalen. According to the Robert-Koch-Institut, the R-factor is extremely sensitive to the increase of cases through local outbreaks.

In regards to the outbreak in the meat processing company Tönnies, the head of state Nordrhein-Westfalen, Armin Laschet, has stated that he does not consider a local lockdown currently despite the fact that there is a "enormous risk of course of the pandemia".

More than 10 mio German people have downloaded the Corona-warning-app. The extensive use of the app among the society aims at tracing infections and warning respective people if they have gotten in contact with infected people. The precondition is that infected people give that information anonomously to the app and by that burst chains of infection. You can find more information on the app [here](#).

As of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, there are further ease of restrictions in several federal states. For example, hotels can sell 100% of their rooms again in Niedersachsen. Find more information on the restrictions and the timetable in the Northern federal states [here](#). See also [here](#) for an overview of the rules and guidelines for the federal states.

### General information on the rules and guidelines

Germany has opened its borders to all of its neighbors and has also lifted its travelban for the majority of the EU member states, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein and the UK. For the latter, it is however recommended to not travel there as the UK demands a 14-day-quarantine for people entering the country. The travel warning is still valid for Sweden due to the high number of infections. Also for 160 other, non-European states, the travel warning is still valid. Find more information from the national ministry of foreign affairs on travelling [here](#). Also the public broadcast stations, such as [ARD](#) have extensive information on the issue.

People entering Denmark from Schleswig-Holstein are exempted the obligation to stay at least six nights, so they can enter the country also for day trips. People from other federal states entering Denmark have to show a proof that they are staying at least six nights.

Some federal states have announced that people entering from Sweden have to stay in a 14 days-quarantine due to the fact that the number of infections increased during the last week.

Regarding rules and guidelines in each federal state, please check the respective homepages: [Schleswig-Holstein](#), [Hamburg](#) or [Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#). More and packaged information for the national state as well as the federal states can be found on the websites of the [national government](#). Also the regional public broadcast service can be checked for information, such as the [NDR](#) for Northern Germany.

#### Numbers of infected (June 21<sup>st</sup>, [daily updates of the Robert-Koch-Institut](#)):

- 189.822 reported cases in total
- 6.040 current cases of Corona
- 8.882 people have deceased from Corona
- 174.900 are considered to be healed from Corona

#### Economic measures

Germany finds itself in the greatest recession since the Financial Crisis 2008/2009 and the second-greatest since its re-unification. The GDP decreased by 2.2 % during the first three months compared to the quarterly period before that.

On the other hand, the business climate index is increasing again (April: 74.3 → May: 79,5). The index is considered to be one of the most important numbers for the local economic climate. However, experts state that this is only a little relief and that the economy will suffer much longer from this crisis.

According to the ifo-institute (Institute for economic research) 7.3 million people have been in Kurzarbeit. During the world financial crisis 2008/2009, 1.5 million people had been in Kurzarbeit. Especially people working in the areas of economy-related service, industry and retail are especially affected.

Germany has introduced extensive state aid programs. All programs amount to 750 bn. EUR. For that, the national government agreed on a supplementary budget, making new debts with an amount of 156 bn. EUR. The debt limit is currently suspended. The state aid programs are the biggest in post-war Germany.

Concrete Measures (More information [here](#) on small, medium and big enterprises and [here](#) for self-employed and small business up to ten employees):

- *Kurzarbeitergeld* (short-time work compensation)
- *direct financial support*
- *Wirtschaftsstabilisierungsfonds* (economic stability fund)
- *tax deferral*
- each federal state has also individual *aid programs* for its companies
- each federal state also offers *state bonds*
- *KfW-Schnellkredit 2020* (quick loans)

The national government agreed on another extensive recovery package with an amount of 130 bn. EUR for Germany. Among others, following points were agreed on:

- CONSUMER: From July 1 to December 31, 2020, the VAT rate is to be reduced from 19% to 16%, and the reduced VAT (everyday goods such as food) rate from 7% to 5%. Financial requirements: 20 bn. EUR
- EEG: The EEG surcharge is to be reduced from 2021 onwards through grants from the federal budget. The current price is 6.67 cents per kilowatt hour. It will be lowered to 6.5 cents in 2021 and again to 6 cents in 2022. Financial requirements: 11 bn. EUR.
- COMPANIES: Among others: The government will stabilize the social security contributions at a maximum of 40% as part of a "Social Guarantee 2021". Financial requirements for 2020: 5.3 bn EUR. "Bridging aids for stressed sectors and companies are planned to a max of 25 bn. EUR for the months of June to August. Tax relief for companies are also planned. This extends the so-called tax loss carryforward. Companies can thus offset current crisis-related losses in the current year with profits from the previous year: The due date of import sales tax is postponed to the 26<sup>th</sup> of the following month. This gives companies a liquidity effect of around five bn. EUR and enables companies in Germany to "level playing field" with many of the European neighbors. Financial impact: shift effect of approx. five bn. EUR.

[Here](#) you find the script of the press conference with further information on the recovery package.

## Thoughts on the German behavior and mindset

### *Conspiracy theories*

As the current situation continues, more and more people of public interest, such as actors, influencers, singer, hold the opinion that the Coronavirus is a human invention and the restrictions are used to cut basic rights and to introduce "health dictatorship". Even demonstrations with over 1.000 have taken place and brutality against teams of the public broadcast stations have taken place. Political stakeholders fear the rise of anti-democratic tendencies.

### *Solidarity/ neighborly help*

Germany experiences a big wave of solidarity. Several platforms were created where people could register willing to help (walking the dog, taking care of grocery shopping, picking up medicine, etc.) and people asking for help in case they belong to a risk group.

### *Support local shops/restaurants/ etc.*

Similar to the neighborly help, several platforms were created in order to help smaller, local businesses to survive. Many of them -restaurants but also other shops- offer delivery service.

### *Digitalization/ New Work*

Germany has always been rather conservative in the area of new and digital forms of working. However due to the current circumstances, many companies are faced with the challenge of digitalization and home office. This is also considered to be a chance for Germany and its work environment.

### Further Sources:

- <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus/chronik-coronavirus.html>
- [https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/covid-19-aktuelle-zahlen-zum-coronavirus-in-deutschland.1939.de.html?drn:news\\_id=1123903](https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/covid-19-aktuelle-zahlen-zum-coronavirus-in-deutschland.1939.de.html?drn:news_id=1123903)
- <https://www.tagesschau.de/newsticker/liveblogcoronavirus-freitag-101.html>
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