



Since March 25, 2020

Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA)

Strategic Watch: COVID-19 Overview by country and region (situation at January 20, 2021)

Based on FIEC's COVID-19 Construction Observatory, FIIC's, CIAN's and MEDEFI's and IFAWPCA's data

For more information go to the CICA Website: <http://www.cica.net/cica-covid-19-overview/> and Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/home/Observatory%20COVID-19>

El Salvador

Country/Region	Measures for construction
EL SALVADOR	
Lockdown	<p>In general, gatherings of more than 50 people were prohibited. Access to the territory was prohibited for 30 days (as of 14 March) to all foreigners, except for residents and diplomats quarantined on entry. All persons arriving from abroad were systematically placed in confinement. Airport San Salvador International Airport has been closed since 17 March 2020 for 15 days.</p> <p>Concerning public works, the Government called for the definitive suspension of all projects that have not begun to be implemented and the projects that are at an advanced stage should be suspended in their current state, since uncommitted resources will be frozen and redirected towards meeting the needs and priorities arising from the emergency (defined by the President) (April 2020).</p> <p>At the very beginning of the pandemic, the construction industry was on halt, except for a hydroelectric power generation project and the construction of a new hospital that the Government wants to build to deal with the pandemic. There has been a debate about who will pay for the employees (whether it should be the Government through Social Security contributions or the private sector itself).</p> <p>As such, the construction was authorized in a targeted manner during the most restrictive period of the quarantine and is part of the activities allowed in Phase I of the re-opening process.</p> <p>Sanitary protocols were in place. However, the return to work was only accounting for 30%, partly because of the restriction on public transport and the dispersal of staff. As of September 2020, 60% to 80% of workers were able to return on site again. The implementation of the health and sanitary protocols has been a challenge as there is a strong demand for more health inputs. This also represents an additional cost for the construction industry. Some private construction projects are still underway, but others that were planned may be postponed for more than three months. In some cases, the situation is more critical, for example in tourism projects (September 2020).</p> <p>The construction chamber of Salvador, CASALCO, proposes a protocol of action to maintain the health of the personnel who collaborate in construction projects (13 March):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness on enhanced hygienic measures (disinfection, washing hands);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the number of workers in a workplace, companies will establish staggered feeding schedules for their employees in order to reduce the number of people grouped together; • Isolation for contaminated workers; • Companies will ask their suppliers and subcontractors to comply with these measures in order to help prevent the disease in the workplace.
Economic outlook	<p>Construction financial records should close the year with a sharp drop in 2020, hampered by the pandemic that cut the sustained growth the industry recorded in the last five years. The sector expected to generate US\$1.56 billion in activity this year. The expectations were revised to US\$1.35 billion (September 2020).</p> <p>The construction sector used to be one of the most dynamic sectors with a growth rate of 9%, now a growth rate of merely 4% is estimated. A recovery would take up to 12 months to catch up and two more years to resume growth, according to the newly elected president of the Salvadoran Chamber of Construction (cf. CASALCO).</p> <p>For this year US\$783 million were forecasted in planned public investment, which is generally executed at 60% per year. Because of the pandemic, it is estimated that between 30 and 40% could be executed.</p>
Employment	<p>The construction sector is seen as one of the pillars of the economy, it is estimated that it generates some 25,000 direct jobs and up to 200,000 indirect ones (September 2020).</p>
Recovery	<p>In private sector construction, new works will be developed, among them seven residential buildings where construction will start between November 2020 and June 2021.</p> <p>The Government is also planning infrastructure investments for the coming five-year period. Among the projects promoted by the Government are the improvement of the road network, through the building of different bridges and overpasses, and the possibility of the execution of a new peripheral. It is estimated that about more than US\$600 million will be invested. Casalco is pressing for design ready projects in order to ensure quick execution (September 2020).</p> <p>CASALCO had also been pushing for a law on inclusive and social housing. The Minister of Housing has been discussing the issue as it might be viable to promote the construction of social housing, and there are also identified sources of funding for this type of project (August 2020).</p>



Since March 25, 2020

Other Overviews

The OECD LAC Regional Programme (including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, **El Salvador**, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay), provides an update of the situation, that can be downloaded hereunder (cf. OECD) (20 November):

- Concerning [selected Health measures implemented in response to the Covid-19 crisis in LAC](#)
- Concerning [vaccine strategies in response to the Covid-19 crisis in selected LAC countries](#)
- Concerning [selected Social policy measures implemented in response to the Covid-19 crisis](#)