

COVID-19 REPORT

latest news and updates from the workers of Israel



ISRAEL COVID-19

CASES CLIMB TO 5591;

21 Fatalities

RESTRICTIONS:

Public Services to reduce activity to emergency activities only.

Private business operating at 20%.

Essential services continue.

Israel Employment Service:

Unemployment exceeds one million for the first time ever (24.1% of workforce).

In October, unemployment reached an historic low of 3.4%

Histadrut concerned with Israeli Economic Response Plan COVID-19

On 30 March 2020, the Government of Israel revealed the [economic response plan to COVID-19](#). The program identified four efforts of financial aid and allocated NIS 70 billion, following a previously announced NIS 10 billion (The entire package represents 6% of Israel's GDP.):

1. NIS 10 billion to the Ministry of Health.
2. NIS 20 billion is being added as a social and welfare safety net for salaried employees, the self-employed, small businesses and the elderly.
3. NIS 32 billion is being allocated to large corporations.
4. NIS 8 billion is being allocated to stimulate the economy when it reopens.

After the initial review, Chairman of the Histadrut Arnon Bar David announced that the plan is too little too late. Bar-David concluded that the plan doesn't create the required safety net to keep the Israeli economy and its workers afloat. Furthermore, the plan doesn't alleviate bureaucracy, to ease the difficulties created by shutting down the economy that is currently at 80% shutdown. Jobs and businesses remain vulnerable under the plan.

Unique needs:

The Histadrut is particularly concerned with the failure to support the Israeli [aviation industry](#) as a national resource on the verge of collapse. The industry requires a unique recovery plan that will bail out the entire sector as thousands of employees of El Al and other airlines are currently on furloughed leave. The Histadrut believes that the airlines need immediate oxygen. Otherwise, they will collapse, and Israel will remain without airlines.

Self-employed:

Due to the void, lack of representation, and the mutual interests between self-employed and small businesses the Histadrut announced its intention to establish a union for the self-employed. Preliminary services given by the Histadrut are expected to be legal advice.

Negotiating back to business

Finally, following the [collective agreement](#) to regulate the employment of public sector workers during the national emergency period. The agreement stipulated that a non-essential designated employee will not to work during the crisis period, take a mandatory vacation at the expense of the workers' accumulated vacation days. We are continuing to negotiate with the government the terms of return to employment for the continuation of work for the public sector after the Passover holiday (1/5/2020).



Toda Campaign
Toda in Hebrew means thank you. In a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for the front-line workers putting themselves at risk for the general public, the Histadrut distributed hundreds of food parcels to 13 Magen David Adom stations, The National Insurance Institute, The Israel Employment Service, Haifa and Ashdod Ports.

Toda!