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Factsheet for case **FR-2020-10/533**

Extension of unemployment benefit entitlements for jobseekers

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Country	France, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 01 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income support to workers and those laid off – Income support for unemployed
Case created	13 April 2020 (updated 22 April 2020)

Background Information

On 18 March, the Government decided to extend the rights to unemployment benefit for jobseekers reaching the end of their entitlement during the month of March, in order to prevent these people from suffering a loss of income, as the current period of confinement does not give them any prospect of returning to work quickly. Furthermore, the Minister of Labour announced the postponement of the entry into force of the second part of the unemployment insurance reform, initially scheduled for 1 April 2020. The new rules, which modified the calculations of the duration of compensation and the reference daily wage used to determine the amount of the back-to-work allowance, are therefore postponed to an entry into force on 1 September 2020. These rules are less favourable to jobseekers.

Content of measure

This measure apply :

- To all jobseekers receiving unemployment benefit who reach the end of their entitlement during the month of March, whether they are seasonal, temporary workers or intermittent performers.
- Jobseekers who may have worked again during the period they are entitled to employment benefit, and who may therefore extend the duration of their entitlement to unemployment benefit;
- Beneficiaries of the Specific Solidarity Allowance (ASS) whose renewal takes place in March; the renewal of rights will be studied at the end of the confinement period.

Payment of unemployment benefit will be extended until the end of the confinement period. This additional compensation will not reduce any future entitlements.

The extension is automatic on the part of public employment service (Pôle Emploi) and is effective for payments since the beginning of April.

Jobseekers are still required to keep up to date. On the other hand, job search monitoring is suspended during the entire period of confinement. No jobseeker will be struck off the list or sanctioned during this period, ensures a question and answer published on the Pôle emploi website.

A decree published on 14 April provides that the payment of benefits to the unemployed at the end of their rights will go at least 'until the end of the calendar month in which the end of the confinement occurs', details the Ministry of Labour. At this stage, it would therefore be until 31 May 2020. But 'this date will be extended in case of a new extension of the containment measure', the ministry specifies.

Use of measure

According to the daily Les Echos, between 60,000 and 90,000 jobseekers should arrive at the end of the allowance period in March. It can be estimated a similar number of April. The measure could support from 150,000 to 250,000 jobseekers if the confinement period ends, as expected, on 11 May 2020.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
Public employment service	unemployed	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	Not applicable

The measure is decided by government but with connexion with social partners managing the unemployment scheme.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 25 March 2020: Ordonnance n° 2020-324 du 25 mars 2020 portant mesures d'urgence en matière de revenus de remplacement (www.legifrance.gouv.fr)

- 14 April 2020: Décret no 2020-425 du 14 avril 2020 portant mesures d'urgence en matière de revenus de remplacement mentionnés à l'article L. 5421-2 du code du travail (www.legifrance.gouv.fr)