

**Disclaimer:** This factsheet has not been subject to the full Eurofound evaluation, editorial and publication process.

Factsheet for case **AT-2020-10/229**

## Corona short time work scheme

Factsheet generated on 01 May 2020, 18:26

Country	Austria, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 01 March 2020 - 30 September 2020
Type	Tripartite agreement
Category	Employment protection and retention – Income support for people in employment (e.g. short-time work)
Case created	31 March 2020 (updated 16 April 2020)

### Background information

Short-time work enables working hours to be reduced within a company during temporary economic difficulties. Short-time work has been a well established crisis measure for a long time and was last used to a great extent during the 2008/09 financial crisis, alleviating the economic downturn to quite some extent. (see e.g. a Eurofound report from 2010:

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2010/austria/working-conditions-labour-market-business/austria-short-time-working-subsidy>)

### Content of measure

Short time work scheme applies if a company temporarily reduces the working time. In order to prevent dismissals and to protect businesses and employees from negative economic and social impacts of COVID-19, social partners (Chamber of Labour, Trade Unions, Economic Chamber) negotiated the current scheme.

Working hours of employees can be reduced up to zero hours keeping full/almost full pay. The employer only pays for the actual working time.

Reduced working hours: The reduced standard working hours must be on average between 10% and 90% of standard working hours as agreed under collective working arrangements. A new aspect of this is that it may temporarily also be set at zero. Thus, for instance, in the context of a short-time working period of six weeks,

it may be set at 0% for five weeks (i.e. no work will take place, and for one week at 60%). Another important point to note is that, in some business sectors, the agreement on short-time work may also include overtime.

## Use of measure

As of 14 April 2020, short-time work applications have been made for the jobs of 608,607 people. Therefore, the funds for short-time work support are increased for the second time, from three to five billion euros (Source: Der Standard, 14 April, 2020).

## Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Social partners jointly	Employees All companies	National funds

## Social partners

Role of social partners	Negotiated
Form of involvement	Bi-or tripartite social dialogue bodies

This is based on a social partner agreement.

## Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

## Sources

- 26 March 2020: wko FACT SHEET corona Kurzarbeit ([www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at))
- 31 March 2020: Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Familie und Jugend ([www.bmafi.gv.at](http://www.bmafi.gv.at))
- 14 April 2020: 608 000 short time work applications, funds increased from 3 to 5 bio euros ([www.derstandard.at](http://www.derstandard.at))