

PCS Information Bulletin #41: COVID-19 Review

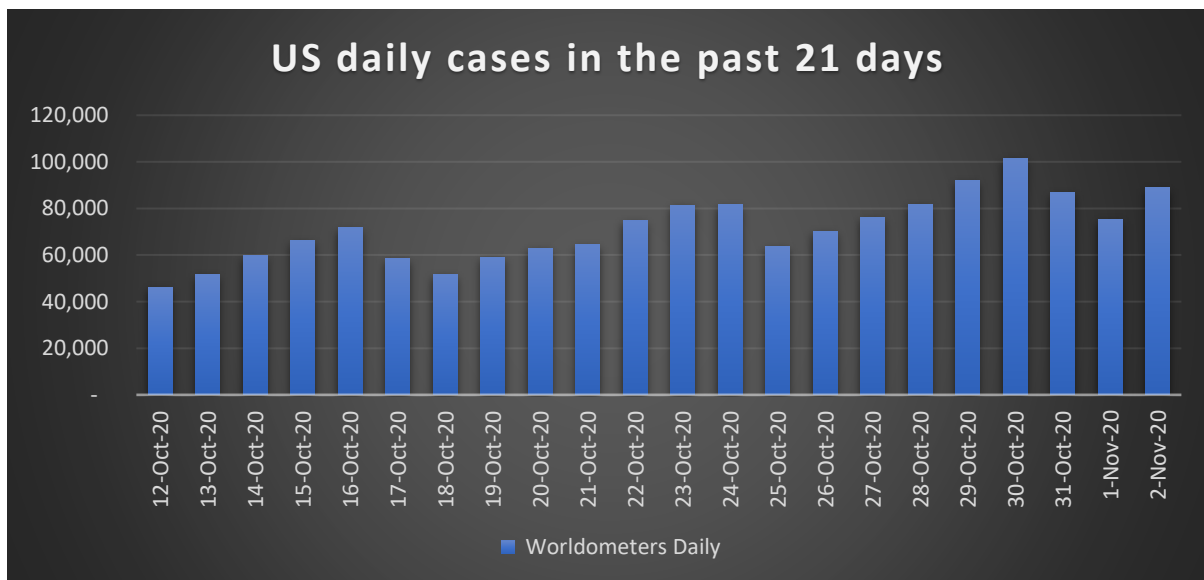
Wednesday, November 4, 2020

As always, please remember that **this report is for informational purposes only** and does not constitute the designation of a PCS event. We have decided to provide this report simply to help the market understand the COVID-19 situation and to provide access to some of the resources our team uses daily for intelligence on this event.

A second wave of lockdowns starts again in Europe

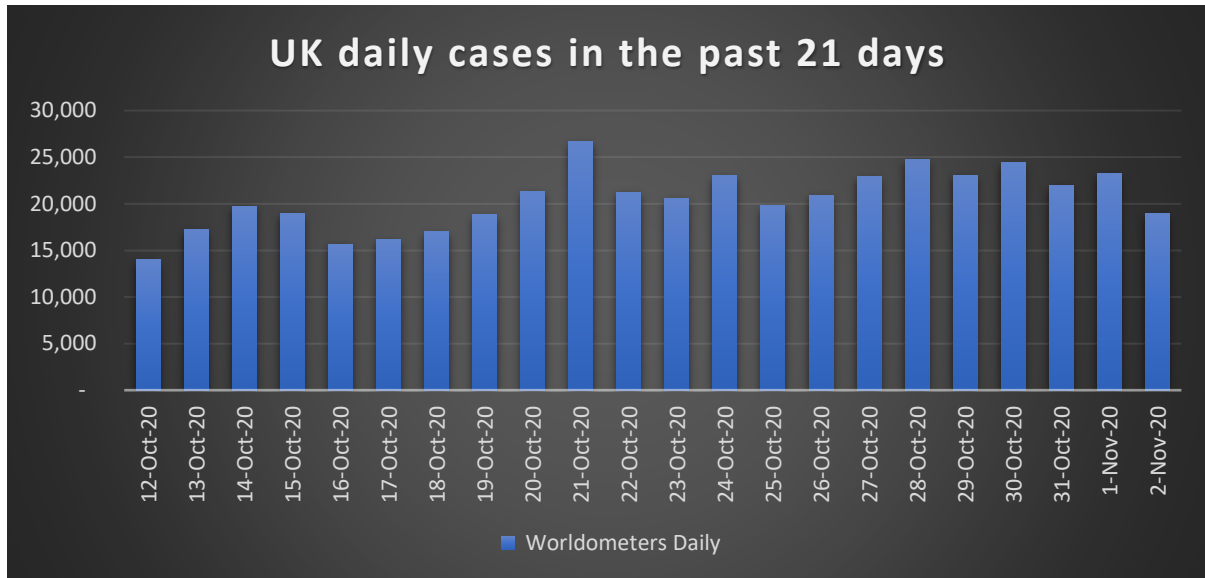
In many European countries, the number of reported COVID-19 cases surpassing daily records from the start of the pandemic, which prompted severe measures from governments:

- Germany and France both announced new four-week national lockdowns on Wednesday night.
- They followed the Czech Republic and Ireland, which put country-wide restrictions in place earlier this month.
- United Kingdom announced a lockdown through December 2, 2020, on Saturday, while Spain and Italy could be next.
- Belgium has announced a return to a national lockdown as the latest coronavirus figures show it has the highest infection rate per 100,000 inhabitants in 14 days in Europe.
- Austrians face a nighttime curfew, and 70 percent of Portuguese can only leave home for specific reasons.
- Authorities in Geneva say Switzerland's largest hospital complex is facing "imminent saturation" and is preparing to airlift patients to other Swiss hospitals after a six-fold spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations over the last two weeks.

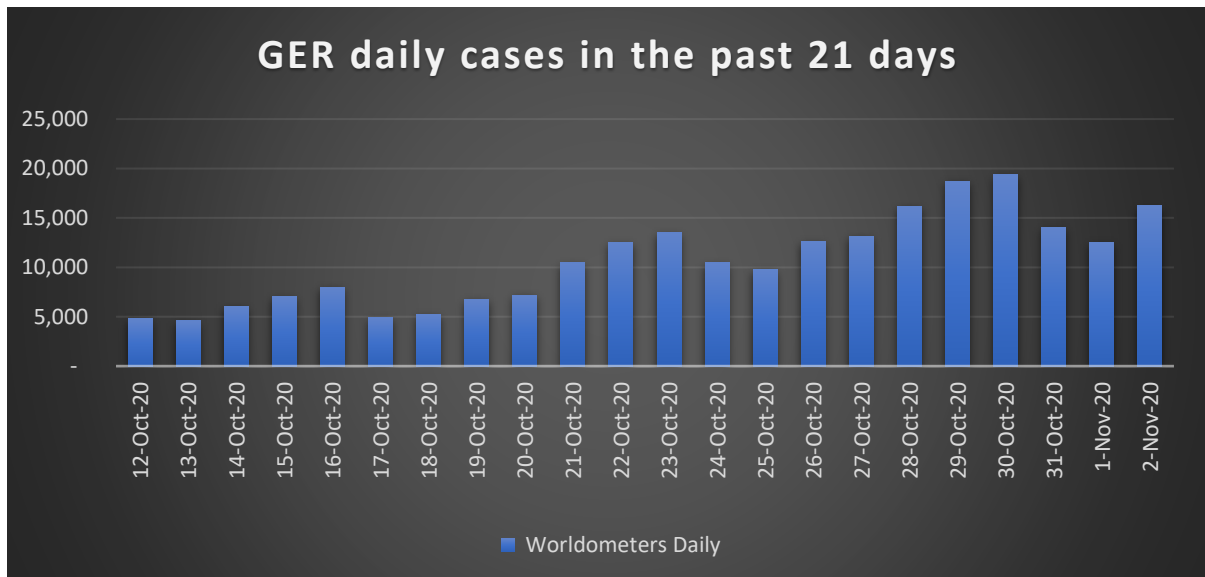


More than 100,000 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded in the United States on Saturday October 31, 2020, the highest number in a single day ever reported since the pandemic started. The number of daily infections reported in the last two days suggests the country is reporting more than one new case every second. The total number of COVID-19 cases in the United States reached at least 9.6 million and the

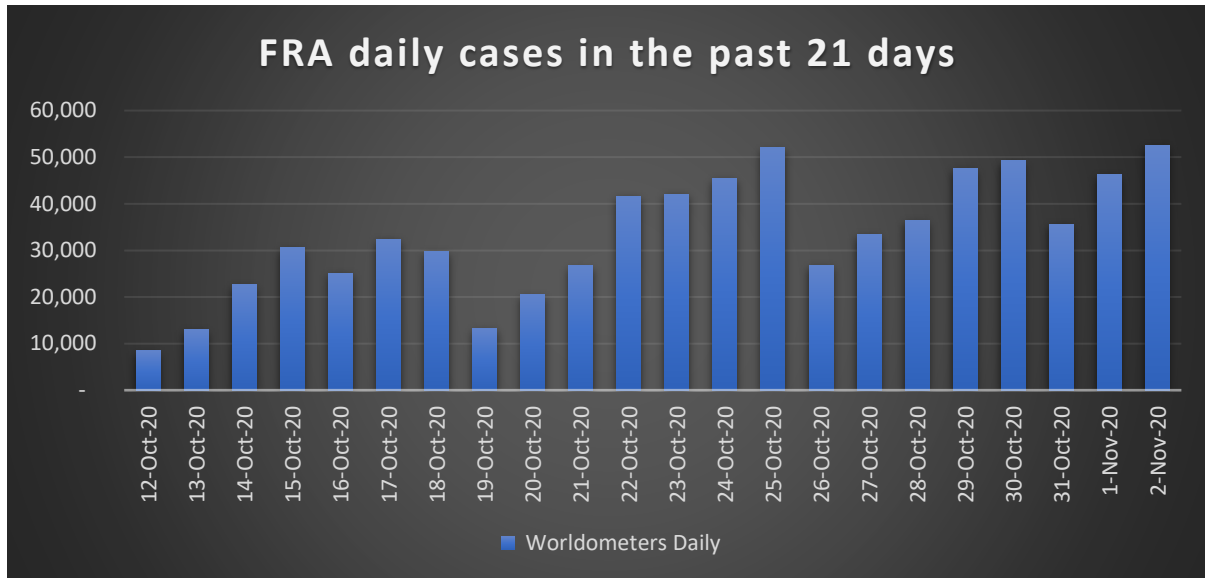
nation's death toll from the pandemic topped 236,000 on Saturday. Many states experiencing surges in case numbers are re-instituting restrictions, with experts considering drastic measures like mandatory lockdowns to be considered very soon as hospitals are struggling to meet the demand of COVID-19 patients. In New York on Saturday, Governor Andrew Cuomo told reporters most people arriving in the state must now quarantine for at least three days before taking a coronavirus test. If that test comes back negative, the traveler can leave quarantine.



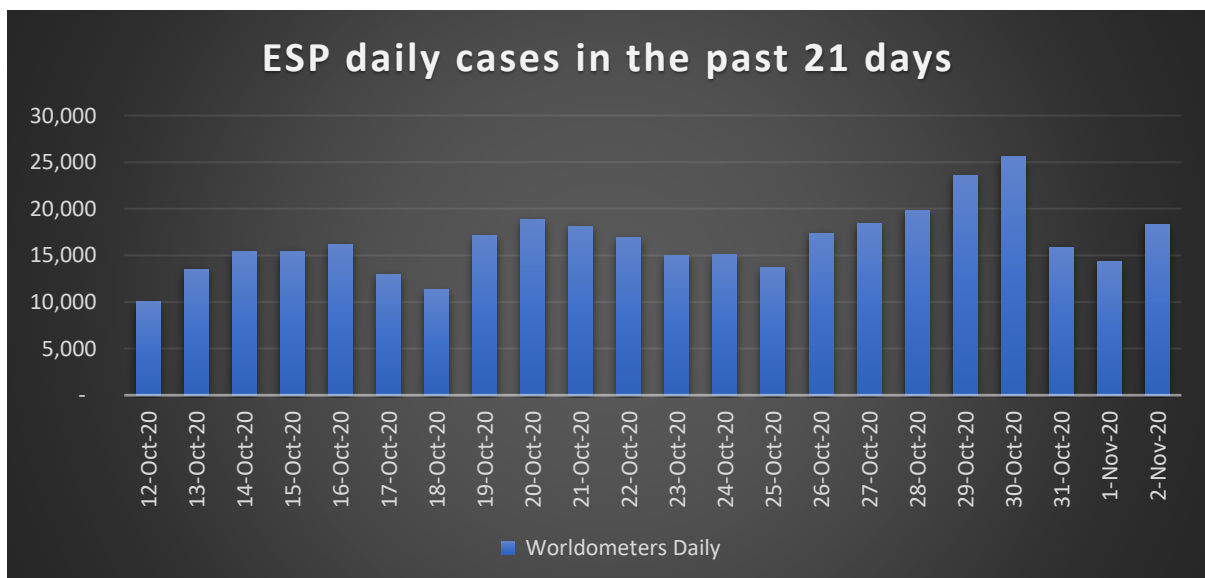
Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered England back into a national lockdown for the next four weeks after the United Kingdom passed the milestone of one million COVID-19 cases and a second wave of infections threatens to overwhelm the health service. With over 20,000 reported cases per day, the country has the biggest official death toll in Europe from COVID-19. The government will revive its emergency coronavirus wage subsidy scheme to ensure workers who are temporarily laid off during a new England-wide lockdown receive 80% of their pay. Essential shops, schools, and universities will remain open while pubs and restaurants will be open for takeaways. All non-essential retail will close.



Germany saw a record daily increase in new coronavirus cases on Friday, reporting almost 20,000 new infections and a total of at least 570,000 confirmed cases since the pandemic started. In response to the sustained rise in infections, Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier this week announced strict lockdown measures that are set to come into force on Monday for four weeks in a bid to curb the spread of the virus. During this period, restaurants, bars, sports and cultural venues will be shuttered and there will be limits to public and private gatherings.

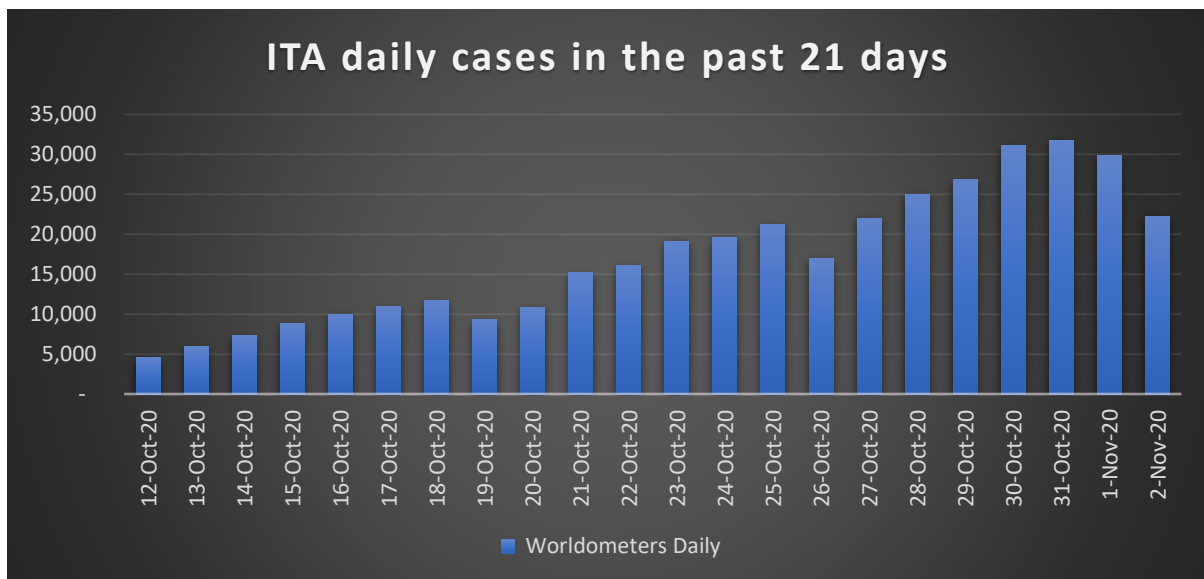


On Wednesday, President Emmanuel Macron announced a second lockdown in France that will begin on Friday to try to combat a strong resurgence of the coronavirus within the country. Around 50,000 cases have been reported consistently in the last few days, while the total number of cases surpassed 1.5 million since the pandemic started. More than half of France’s intensive care units are already occupied by COVID-19 patients. French military and commercial planes are ferrying critically ill virus patients to other regions as hospitals fill up and French doctors have called on the government to impose a new nationwide lockdown. Residents face a €135 (\$157) fine for first violation and then the fine could go up.



More than 25,000 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Spain on Saturday October 31, 2020, the highest number in a single day ever reported since the pandemic started. The total number of COVID-19 cases reached at least 1.3 million and the nation's death toll from the pandemic topped 35,000 on Saturday. Case numbers in Spain are provisional and subject to change as analysis of newly reported cases, weekly case figures, and previous revisions provided by the Ministry of Health are preliminary and validation process takes time to complete. Cases are expected to be revised retroactively once the weekly historical dataset is published by the Ministry of Health on Thursdays and hence retroactively adjusted for several weeks.

On Thursday, the Spanish government decided to extend the state of emergency for six months and allowed the country's regions to impose their own restrictions. As a result, some provinces introduced nighttime curfews and shut restaurants, bars and cultural venues. The government-imposed measures have spurred street demonstrations that have led to violent clashes between police and protesters in several Spanish cities for a second night on Saturday.



On Saturday, Italy recorded almost 32,000 new coronavirus cases, its highest daily record since the start of the crisis, and just under 300 deaths. The total number of people who have died due to COVID-19 in Italy stands at 39,412. Italy's health minister said on Sunday that new data on the coronavirus was "terrifying" and the country had two days to approve further restrictions to curb its spread. A new lockdown, although not as extended as the one imposed in March, appeared to be the only option to curb numbers, he said, but there were still doubts over how to manage schools and improve conditions on public transport. Last week the coalition government led by Prime Minister Conte imposed restrictions on business activity, ordering bars and restaurants to close at 6 p.m. and shutting gyms, cinemas and theatres to try to halt a rapid resurgence in the coronavirus.

COVID-19 challenges after earthquake activity in Turkey

As a result of the devastating 7.0 earthquake off the coast of Turkey on October 30th, we have issued the first PCS Turkey designation since 2017. As with our prior articles on COVID-19 effects in catastrophe prone areas of the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Japan, which are also countries where we provide catastrophe estimates, we are taking a look at the situation in Turkey and how it will present the country and its citizens some significant challenges as they respond to a natural catastrophe during a re.

Most affected by the quake was the city of Izmir, a metropolitan area of nearly three million residents. Search and rescue teams are working around the clock to save lives. Most recently, after 65 hours of searching, responders on the ground were able to rescue a 3-year-old little girl and transport her for medical care. Five mobile kitchens and five catering units provide three hot meals a day and shelters are provided for those who've lost their homes or cannot get back home. Constant aftershocks and the pervasive presence of COVID-19 complicate current relief efforts. To ensure the safety of everyone, face coverings and sanitizers are distributed to all in need. Finally, due to the traumatic nature of this disaster, emotional and mental health support is being provided to all who request it.

The Turkish Ministry of Interior previously issued a notice to the public regarding COVID-19 restrictions/guidance with violators will be receiving fines. As of September 8th, the guidelines are as follows:

- Face masks must be worn in public (e.g., streets, gardens, workplaces, etc.) at all times in all 81 provinces of Turkey.
- Standing passengers will not be allowed in urban public transportation vehicles where physical distance rules cannot be applied.
- The playing of live music at restaurants and cafes after midnight is forbidden.
- Turkish citizens and residents under the age of 18 will be able to go outdoors any time, in the company of a parent. This restriction does not apply to foreign tourists.
- Turkish citizens and residents above the age of 65 will be able to go out every day, between 10:00-20:00. Several provinces, including Ankara and Izmir, have implemented new restrictions on people 65 years and older. These measures include limiting the hours per day elderly individuals are allowed outside, limiting their use of public transportation, and prohibiting elderly individuals from attending large events such as weddings, market places, and shopping centers. This restriction does not apply to foreign tourists.
- Turkish citizens and residents over 65 can travel within Turkey by obtaining a permit from the Ministry of the Interior. This does not apply to foreign tourists.
- As of October 15, 2020, some schools have resumed classes with a mix of in-class and distance learning/online courses. Please check with your institution for specific information.
- All individuals must wear cloth face coverings where people are collectively located, including supermarkets, marketplaces, hair salons, shopping malls, and workplaces as well as in all forms of transportation (including private vehicles) with at least two persons inside.
- Local authorities may put in place additional COVID-19 restrictions, including curfews, with little or no advance notice.

Turkey has a total population of approximately 85 million citizens. As of November 3rd, over 380,000 COVID-19 infections have been recorded in Turkey with under 11,000 deaths. To give some perspective, in the U.S. there are over 9 million recorded cases with over 230,000 deaths. In the aftermath of a major catastrophe, transmission of COVID-19 may drive the rate of infection to surge in Turkey. Search and rescue work has been completed on 12 out of 17 collapsed buildings, with emergency crews working on five remaining structures. About 300 buildings experienced at least some structural damage in the event, according to Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay. With thousands of families being displaced and potentially sheltering in close proximity in temporary housing as a result of structures that are no longer stable and safe to reside in, transmission of COVID-19 post-catastrophe could present another catastrophe as the winter season approaches in Turkey.

Upcoming SRCC Webinar

PCS will be participating in the Verisk “Real Talk” webinar series on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 10am EST – covering the U.S. riots and global re/insurance industry implications. If you’d like to attend, register at <https://www.verisk.com/insurance/insights/real-talk/>. Please feel free to share this link with colleagues and clients!