

## **Great Britain: job retention system extended until the end of October**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, the British government announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which was due to end on 30 June, would be extended for at least 4 months – until the end of October. The British unions [welcome](#) this announcement which is seen as a relief for millions of workers and their families.

The scheme allows companies to ask the State to pay 80% of their employees' salaries (monthly per salary cap of £2,500 (€2,830)). However, the executive has already made clear that from August onwards, workers who are technically unemployed will be able to start working part-time for their companies at the same time. Employers will then be asked to pay a percentage of their employees' salaries. Chancellor Rishi Sunak said: "The employer payments will substitute the contribution the government is currently making, ensuring that staff continue to receive 80% of their salary, up to £2,500 (€2,830), a month."

The scheme is seen as having prevented millions of redundancies. The government estimates at least 7.5 million workers to have benefited from the 'furlough' since it was introduced in March, with a total of 935,000 companies having applied. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has already cost Britain more than £10 billion (€11.33 billion). If the scheme continues in its current form until July, that cost is expected to amount to £60 billion (€67.95 billion).

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