



# 商界普遍欢迎更多援助措施 餐饮业者未能恢复堂食感失望

对于政府在新一轮的坚毅向前预算案中出台更多援助措施帮助本地企业和员工，商界皆表示欢迎，但也提出了各自的担忧。

新加坡制造商总会昨天发表文告，代表成员向政府听取总会所提建议，进一步推出更全面的支持配套，缓解营运挑战表达感激。

会长符标熊说：“我们的会员也很高兴看到我国政府正与其他国家密切合作，尽力降低疫情对供应链的影响。虽然如此，许多商家仍担心自己和供应商及顾客之间多年来辛苦建立的关系将难以维系，尤其是与海外伙伴的关系和合同义务。因此，我们希望政府能牵头和其他国家达成协议，制定相应法规体系，帮助跨境企业。”

新加坡工商联合总会执行总裁何鸣杰则说：“这份预算案相对注重数码化，以确保中小企业能跟上国家转型步伐。然而，政府能做的也有限。要挺过这个疫情，必须企业和员工都共同努力转型。”

他指出，工商总会将继续帮助会员公司，例如帮助受裁员影响的员工，欲转行的专业人士和即将步入职场的毕业生寻找就业机会。

新加坡中华总商会会长黄山忠也表示，将在这段非常时期支



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——新加坡餐饮业协会

持旗下会员善用预算案的各项措施适应新常态，例如鼓励会员响应“新心相连”就业计划，创造新的就业与实习机会。

另一方面，新加坡餐饮业协会却对预算案未对餐饮行业提供足够帮助而略感失望。

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协会同时也希望政府能披露提供给餐饮业者的租金减免和现金补贴的详细信息，以帮助业者更好地规划和经营。

中小企业商会会长王腾忆说：“总的来看，坚毅向前预算案是非常有力的一步，展现了政府帮助企业度过难关，为下半年重整旗鼓作准备的坚定姿态。但我们必须谨记，疫情当前，经济复苏前方仍有许多艰难险阻。”



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订户

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新加坡中华总商会会长黄山忠也表示，将在这段非常时期支持旗下会员善用预算案的各项措施适应新常态，例如鼓励会员响应“新心相连”就业计划，创造新的就业与实习机会。

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## 4 | SINGAPORE FORTITUDE BUDGET 2020

The Business Times | Wednesday, May 27, 2020

### S\$33b more to help firms, households, and to save, create jobs

Continued from Page 1

Most businesses are expected to reopen by July, said Mr Heng. For sectors such as aviation and tourism, which will take longer to reopen fully, the government “will consider providing additional help, depending on the situation and longer-term shape of these industries, and plans for the economy”, he said.

With the pandemic having accelerated firms’ digital transformation efforts, the Fortitude Budget will allocate more than S\$500 million to encourage this. This includes the new Digital Resilience Bonus for firms that adopt certain digital solutions, starting with the F&B and retail sectors.

For workers, the S\$2 billion SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package will create 40,000 jobs, 25,000 traineeships, and 30,000 full-time training places, with hiring incentives for employers who hire local workers of all ages who have undergone eligible traineeship or training schemes.

OCBC Bank chief economist Selena Ling said this will help to buffer the toll on the domestic job market, while minimising structural shocks from the accelerated digital transition.

The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry will help



With unprecedented levels of uncertainty in the Covid-19 crisis, the government will set aside an additional S\$13 billion in the Contingencies Funds “so that we can respond to urgent and unforeseen needs swiftly”, says Mr Heng.  
PHOTO: GOV.SG

its members make job and traineeship opportunities available under this scheme, and tap other measures, said its president Roland Ng.

Households, too, will get more support, with a further S\$800 million for the existing Covid-19 Support Grant. All households with at least one Singapore citizen, regardless of property type, will get a one-off S\$100 Solidarity Utilities Credit. Students and seniors will get support in going digital.

On the social front, top-ups will be made to the Enhanced Fund-Raising Programme and Invictus Fund for social service agencies.

Apart from new moves, the Fortitude Budget includes S\$3.8 billion of support during the extended circuit breaker, as announced on April 21.

As of noon on Tuesday, 383 new cases of Covid-19 were confirmed, including one Singaporean or permanent resident. This takes Singapore’s

total to 32,343.

The Fortitude Budget marks the second draw on past reserves in this financial year, taking the total draw on past reserves up to S\$52 billion this year. For the previous Unity, Resilience, and Solidarity Budgets, “we used up almost all our accumulated surpluses since the start of this term of government”, noted Mr Heng.

The Constitution allows Parliament to create Contingencies Funds,

with a total of S\$3 billion set aside in each year’s Budget in the Contingencies Fund and the Development Contingencies Fund. With unprecedented levels of uncertainty in the Covid-19 crisis, the government will set aside an additional S\$13 billion in the Contingencies Funds “so that we can respond to urgent and unforeseen needs swiftly”, he said.

The Fortitude Budget will be debated in Parliament on June 4.

# S\$33b more to help firms, households, and to save, create jobs


Fortitude Budget unveiled by DPM Heng aims to create 95,000 jobs, training places

WED, MAY 27, 2020 - 5:50 AM

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 Fortitude Budget highlights

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/s33b-more-to-help-firms-households-and-to-save-create-jobs>

Singapore

TO support firms, save jobs, and create opportunities for workers, a S\$33 billion supplementary Budget was presented by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat in Parliament on Tuesday, drawing a further S\$31 billion from past reserves for the fourth Budget this year.

The Fortitude Budget includes extensions and enhancements of existing measures, and a scheme to create 95,000 jobs and training places.

While providing immediate support for Singapore's phased reopening, it also prepares firms and workers for the longer-term "new normal" in the Covid-19 crisis, said analysts.

"While we try to preserve jobs in the midst of this crisis, we cannot protect every job. However, you have my assurance that the government will protect every worker," said Mr Heng.

With this Fortitude Budget, total government support in the Covid-19 crisis has risen to S\$92.9 billion, or almost a fifth of GDP. Singapore faces its largest overall budget deficit since independence, of S\$74.3 billion or 15.4 per cent of GDP.

Barclays economist Brian Tan estimates that the Fortitude Budget implies additional fiscal support equivalent to 6.2 per cent of GDP, which "appears sizeable enough to offset the continued economic drag under Phase One" of reopening and reduces downside risks to Barclays' full-year forecast of a 4.5 per cent fall in GDP.

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Trade and Industry raised its full-year GDP forecast contraction to between 4 and 7 per cent, from the previous range of -4 to -1 per cent.

This will be Singapore's worst recession since independence, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in a Facebook post, but added: "The fiscal prudence and discipline of successive governments have put us in a strong position to overcome this crisis, and emerge stronger after the pandemic."

"Saving and creating jobs will be our priority," he said. This is alongside help for frontline agencies, households and communities, and the needy and vulnerable: "No one will be left behind."

As Singapore gradually reopens after the circuit breaker period ends on June 1, existing schemes for firms have been extended. Wage support under the Jobs Support Scheme will be enhanced in three ways, with the changes costing S\$2.9 billion in total.

First, it will be extended by one month for all firms, at non-circuit breaker levels; second, firms that cannot resume operations immediately will continue to get wage support of 75 per cent until August 2020 or when they can reopen, whichever is earlier; and third, more sectors will be deemed "severely affected" and receive higher support.

Calling the Fortitude Budget "a bold stroke that helps businesses regroup for the second half of the year", Association of Small & Medium Enterprises president Kurt Wee said the extension of 75 per cent support is particularly appreciated as June will "remain a very painful month for SMEs".

Foreign worker levy waivers and rebates will be extended for up to two months for businesses that cannot resume operations immediately.

To help with rentals, a S\$2 billion cash grant will be given to small and medium enterprises. A new law will require landlords to grant rental waivers to SME tenants who have suffered a significant revenue drop. Government tenants will get one to two more months of rental waivers.

There is also targeted support, with S\$285 million in financing for startups, aiming to catalyse at least another S\$285 million in matching private investments.

The built environment sector will get co-funding for costs incurred in meeting requirements for the resumption of work.

Most businesses are expected to reopen by July, said Mr Heng. For sectors such as aviation and tourism, which will take longer to reopen fully, the government "will consider providing additional help, depending on the situation and longer-term shape of these industries, and plans for the economy", he said.

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## Fortitude Budget highlights



**S\$33 billion** with S\$31 billion to be drawn from past reserves

■ **S\$2.9 billion in Jobs Support Scheme** enhancements: extended for all firms for another month; 75% support level extended for firms that cannot re-open immediately; more sectors considered "severely affected", with higher support

■ **Foreign worker levy waivers, rebates** extended for up to two months for businesses that cannot resume operations immediately

■ **Deferment of rise in CPF contribution rates** for senior workers, to January 2022

■ **S\$2 billion in cash grants to offset rentals** for small and medium enterprises

■ Additional one or two months of **rental waivers for government tenants**

■ **S\$285 million in financing support for startups**

■ **More support for built environment** sector, including co-sharing of costs for safe working requirements

■ **S\$500 million** to support digitalisation, including **Digital Resilience Bonus** for digital solution adoption in F&B, retail

■ **S\$2 billion SUnited Jobs and Skills Package**, with 40,000 jobs, 25,000 traineeships, 30,000 training places, and hiring incentives

■ Additional S\$800 million for **Covid-19 Support Grant**

■ **Top-ups** to Enhanced Fund-Raising Programme, Invictus Fund for social service sector