May 8, 2020

Today, the Bureau of Labor and Statistics released its April jobs report. As many expected, the current state of the job market is grim – the unemployment rate stands at 14.7 percent. This is a significant increase from March's 4.4 percent unemployment rate. The increase can be attributed to the thousands of businesses that have temporarily closed due to social distancing measures and stay at home orders, laying off and furloughing workers they could no longer afford to employ.

As I told Newsmax earlier this week, if Congress is serious about jumpstarting the economy, they should be serious about making an investment in infrastructure. That would follow the advice given by the majority of equipment manufacturing executives who weighed in on AEM's recent survey. We will be following up in the weeks ahead with another edition of the survey so that members can weigh in again on the impact of the COVID-19 and what more federal and state governments can do.

Finally, as federal and state governments turn their attention to reopening, we've compiled the latest and greatest on reopening plans into a presentation highlighted below.

Here are some of the day's other developments:

Congressional Update

This week, U.S. Representatives Lamb (D-Penn.) and Gibbs (R-OH) sent a note to fellow members of the House of Representatives, encouraging them to join a letter to Speaker Pelosi and House Minority Leader McCarthy in support of including nearly $50 billion for state Departments of Transportation. With much of the U.S. population staying at home to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, fewer people are driving, significantly lowering highway revenues. States are looking at as much as a 30 percent reduction, amounting to almost $50 billion, and have an urgent need to fill this gap in order to keep maintenance and construction projects moving forward. AEM has been on record several times urging Congress to pass in pandemic stimulus packages provisions to provide this funding to state DOTs, and AEM is listed as a supporter of the proposal in the note Lamb and Gibbs sent to members of Congress.

AEM Joins Critical Infrastructure Supply Chain Council (CISCC)

This week, AEM joined our friends at the Consumer Brands Association (formerly known as the Grocery Manufacturers Association) as they launched the Critical Infrastructure Supply Chain Council (CISCC). The CISCC is "a coordinated effort of more than 35 trade associations committed to addressing both long- and short-term supply chain challenges and weaknesses, including those made apparent by the coronavirus pandemic." AEM is looking forward to working with CISCC to address both short-term and long-term issues in the supply chain, and finding the right solutions to help navigate a post-COVID-19 global marketplace.

May 12 Webinar: COVID-19 and the Economic Impact to Agriculture

In AEM's latest webinar in the COVID-19 Response Webinar Series, economists from USDA, American Farm Bureau and the Farm Credit Council will discuss COVID-19's impact on the agricultural economy. Webinar participants will learn how farmers and ranchers are dealing with the global health crisis and receive valuable insight on how it may affect demand for agricultural equipment. Add it to your calendar.

May 14 Webinar: What the COVID Crisis Means for Contractors

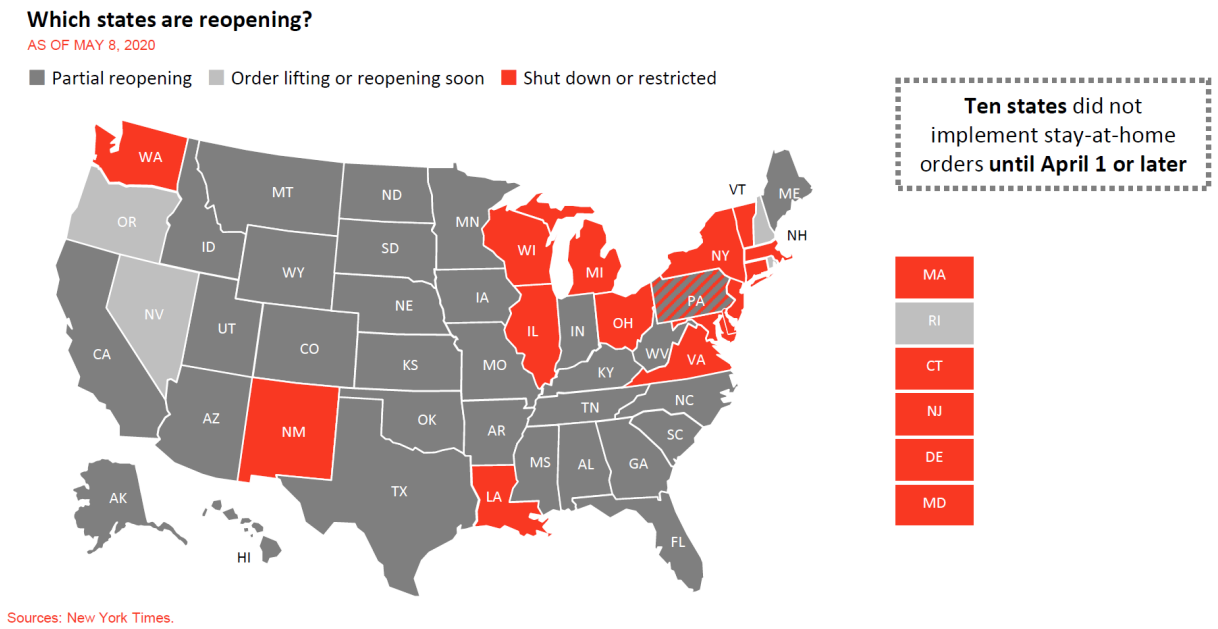
The pandemic has implications for every industry. What does in mean in the short-term and long-term for construction demand? Join AEM and Kenneth D. Simonson, Chief Economist, Associated General Contractors of America, as he presents the results of AGC's latest survey, which probes the impact of the pandemic on contractors, their employees, and their suppliers. Add it to your calendar.

State Activities

AEM has been monitoring activities taken by Governors as they continue to issue closure and reopening orders. We are in close contact with their staff to make the case that our industry is establishing health and safety protocols to protect both employees and customers.

Notable for today's update is that the Governor of Michigan extended the closure order. The Governors of Hawaii, Nevada, New Hampshire, and North Carolina announced the resumption of limited operations for certain businesses in the coming days, and the Governor of Connecticut announced a phased plan to allowing the resumption of businesses activities later in the month. The Governor of Pennsylvania announced the resumption of limited operations for certain businesses in certain counties and an extension of the Stay at Home order for other counties. The Governors of California, Tennessee, and Wisconsin released operating requirements and guidelines for reopening businesses.

Some states have started to reopen parts of the state for business



Sources: New York Times.

Now that state governments are transitioning into re-opening strategies, we are providing a new U.S. map showing when state shelter-in-place orders and stay-at-home advisories expire.

For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

Canada Activities

Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will be extended past its June deadline. Details on the extension are yet to be determined.

Updates from Canadian provinces include:

- **British Columbia**: Premier John Horgan has announced the details of B.C.'s Restart Plan, with Phase 2 set to begin in mid-May.
- **Quebec**: The province has announced that the planned reopening of schools and businesses in the Greater Montreal area has again been delayed, now to May 25.

We continue to update our resources on Canadian activities on AEM's COVID-19 resources page. You can also click here for the latest updates from Ottawa and all the provinces.

Do you have questions or need to get a hold of AEM's Advocacy Team? E-mail our Response Team at responseteam@aem.org with any questions or feedback.

As always, if you have any questions about AEM's ongoing efforts, need assistance with a specific issue, or would like to share how the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic is impacting your business, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at keideberg@aem.org.

Best,
-Kip

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