

Press Releases

Implementation Status of COVID-19 Financial Support Programs

Jul 02, 2020



OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

In response to the impact of the Covid-19 on the real economy and the spread of anxieties in financial markets, the government has introduced KRW175 trillion-plus financial support programs intended to help businesses and to stabilize markets.

(a) KRW100 TRILLION-PLUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT PACKAGE to provide small businesses with emergency loans and stabilize financial markets

(March 19 & March 24)

(b) KRW40 TRILLION STABILIZATION FUND FOR KEY INDUSTRIES & KRW35 TRILLION ADDED TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT PACKAGE (April 22)

To prevent gaps in the availability of support, the government has also prepared a KRW5 trillion working capital support program and KRW2 trillion-plus support package for auto parts industry. (June19)

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

- Financial support programs for small merchants and SMEs disbursed KRW44 trillion, two thirds of the target amount of KRW68 trillion over the past three months.
- Financial market stabilization programs (KRW73.5 trillion) serve as a backstop to the financial markets, although the uptake of such programs remained limited due to the



I. SMALL-SCALE BUSINESSES & SMES (KRW68 TRILLION)

(a) For small-scale businesses, KRW27.1 trillion out of KRW38.9 trillion provided (70%) in ultra-low interest rate loans, loan extensions and guarantees through policy banks and private banks

(b) For SMEs and middle market enterprises, KRW16.7 trillion out of KRW29.1 trillion provided (57%) in loans and guarantees as well as interest payment and fee exemptions

II. MARKET STABILIZATION MEASURES (KRW73.5 TRILLION)

(a) Stock market stabilization fund (KRW1.2 trillion out of KRW10.7 trillion total) and bond market stabilization fund (KRW3 trillion out of KRW20 trillion total) set up to provide a backstop to the financial markets

(b) P-CBOs in the amount of about KRW504 billion and KRW695 billion issued in May and June, respectively, and KRW1.2 trillion in corporate bond and CP refinancing support provided by policy banks

(c) KRW5.6 trillion in emergency liquidity provided to securities firms in March

III. KEY INDUSTRY STABILIZATION FUND (KRW40 TRILLION)

The government has taken necessary steps for the operation of the fund, making changes to the relevant law and establishing a fund management council. The government will finalize the target industries for support and begin providing support in July.

ASSESSMENT

I. PROACTIVE RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC SHOCKS

The government's comprehensive support to the real economy combined with the effective K-quarantine measures has helped to minimize damages to the economy and led to improvements in investor sentiment and financial market stabilization. Both the IMF and the OECD predict that Korea's growth rate for 2020 will be highest among advanced economies.

II. RAPID MARKET STABILIZATION FOLLOWING SWIFT RESPONSES



and began to implement the programs promptly mostly within two weeks in early April. Both the bond market and stock markets have quickly recovered soon thereafter.

III. BUSINESS LOAN ISSUANCE AT HIGHEST LEVEL

The issuance of business loans in the banking sector rose to a record high level in 2020, growing KRW76.2 trillion until May with the largest spike observed in March-April when the government's COVID-19 financial support measures became effective. Both policy banks and private banks made lending available to businesses with below average or low credit ratings. In addition, the government has been pursuing a flexible approach in providing financial assistance to businesses, starting with heavily affected small merchants at first but expanding support to SMEs and middle market enterprises. In this regard, the key industry stabilization fund is also serving as a backstop to help maintain the stability of the job markets and market sentiment.

IV. PREVENTING BLIND SPOTS IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH CLOSE COOPERATION

Policy banks have closely cooperated to create a tight-knit web of financial support system, providing targeted and tailored support to different business entities and industries. Policy banks have played the role of filling the vacuum before the government's support programs became available, and different inter-agency and public-private cooperation frameworks made more flexible and effective responses possible. Private sector lending institutions also played an active role to support the government's policy by swiftly implementing the emergency relief payment program.

FURTHER PLANS

The government will continue to monitor the implementation status of the COVID-19 financial support at the financial risk assessment meeting held every week. The government will work to improve the provision of support to the vulnerable sectors including the auto and shipping industries and to low-rated companies.

- Support programs for vulnerable sectors:



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- (b) Working capital support program for suppliers & subcontractors in key industries in July (KRW5 trillion)
 - (c) Financial support for auto part industry in July (KRW2 trillion-plus)
 - (d) SPV to purchase corporate asset upon the passage of supplementary budget (KRW2 trillion)

For the temporary relief and deregulatory measures scheduled to expire in September, such as maturity extensions and deferment of interest payments, the government will review whether to extend the relief period beyond the current schedule.

* Please refer to the attached PDF for details.

[PREV](#)

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[List](#)

Related Materials

Jun 03, 2020

[Government Proposes KRW4.7 Trillion in Additional Financial Support](#)

Mar 19, 2020

[Government Announces Additional Financial Support for SMEs and Small Merchants](#)

Mar 10, 2020

[Implementation of COVID-19 Financing Support and Business Continuity Plans](#)

Feb 07, 2020

[Government to Support Financing of SMEs and Small Merchants Hit by Coronavirus](#)



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