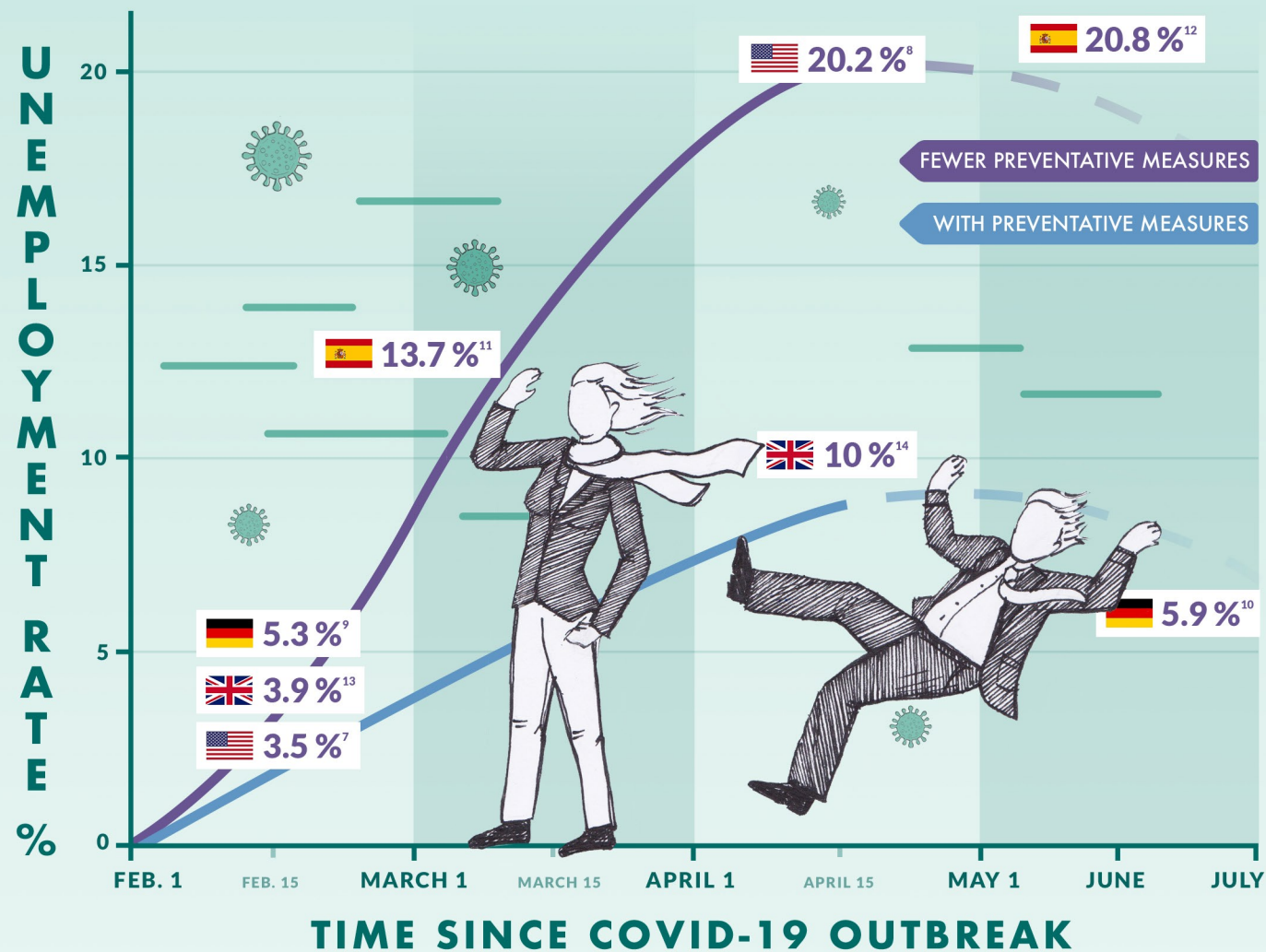


# FLATTENING THE UNEMPLOYMENT CURVE

The COVID-19 pandemic has cut a swathe of economic devastation across the world – nearly 200 million jobs could be lost to the crisis.<sup>1</sup>

Flattening the long-tail curve of unemployment and economic hardship is key to restarting economies. But Europe and the United States have adopted different protective measures to immunize jobs – and workers – from the ill-effects of COVID-19.



## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST JOB LOSS

### GERMANY'S KURZARBEIT:

A short-term scheme that temporarily reduces hours, but government guarantees up to 2/3 of salary while companies keep workers employed. Germany estimates 2.35 million people will draw on the program.<sup>2</sup>

### UNITED KINGDOM:

Government guarantees 80 percent of wages until June 2020 if companies keep workers on the books.<sup>3</sup>

### SPAIN:

Temporary unemployment schemes introduced. Parliamentary debate over a Spanish version of Germany's "Hartz IV" welfare payments.<sup>4</sup> Universal Basic Income under discussion.

### EUROPEAN UNION:

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed a modified version of Germany's Kurzarbeit, backed by as much as 100 billion Euros in funding.<sup>5</sup>

### U.S.:

Unemployment insurance, one-time \$1200 stimulus payment, sector specific job protection guarantees tied to bailouts.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061322> <sup>2</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/03/kurzarbeit-germany-is-using-a-familiar-weapon-to-prevent-layoffs.html> <sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/20/business/coronavirus-uk-pubs-wages/index.html> <sup>4</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/spain-discusses-basic-income-for-the-poorer-amid-coronavirus-fallout/a-53096390> <sup>5</sup> <https://www.irishtimes.com/business/economy/eu-commission-eyes-markets-to-fund-100bn-pandemic-jobs-scheme-1.4217968> <sup>6</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/04/13/coronavirus-stimulus-checks-first-payments-going-out-irs/2968900001/> <sup>7</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2020/19-point-2-percent-of-the-unemployed-had-been-jobless-for-27-weeks-or-more-in-february-2020.htm> <sup>8</sup> [https://alexibick.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/1/3/101306056/bb\\_covid.pdf](https://alexibick.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/1/3/101306056/bb_covid.pdf) <sup>9</sup> <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/en/press/en-2020-10-the-labour-market-in-february-2020> <sup>10</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/> <sup>11</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/15/imf-coronavirus-to-create-more-unemployment-in-spain-than-italy.html> <sup>12</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/15/imf-coronavirus-to-create-more-unemployment-in-spain-than-italy.html> <sup>13</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/9f3661b9-14cb-472a-9246-d784d436ea52> <sup>14</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/thousands-died-uk-government-reporting-200414184316282.html>