



Global Employer Services

Social security

COVID-19 measure: target group reduced social security contributions for third quarter of 2021

On 1 July 2021, the Belgian government agreed on an additional COVID-19 support measure in the form of targeted reduced social security contributions for certain employers with a view to restoring employment. The measure is available to sectors that have remained closed for a period of time or have otherwise experienced reduced activity as a result of the pandemic and to sectors that are creating employment. The reduction applies for the third quarter of 2021 (i.e., 1 July to 30 September 2021) for a maximum of five employees per establishment of the employer in Belgium.

Which employers are eligible for the reduction?

To qualify for the target group reduction, the employer must increase the size of the active workforce in the third quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2021. The increase required depends on the average number of employees.

The employer also must satisfy the following conditions:

- Retain the employees for whom the target group reduction applies throughout the third quarter of 2021, unless the employee resigns or is dismissed for serious misconduct;
- Not pay dividends to shareholders or bonuses to the directors or management of the company during 2021; and
- Announce no collective redundancies during the second and third quarters of 2021.

Amount of the reduction

The amount of the target group reduction is different for employers whose activity was “severely affected” during the pandemic and those who were either less severely affected or unaffected, as follows:

- For severely affected employers, the reduction is EUR 2,400 per employee for a maximum of five employees per establishment; and
- For other employers, the reduction is EUR 1,000 per employee for a maximum of five employees per establishment.

To determine whether an employer qualifies as severely affected, the size of the active workforce in different quarters is compared (the first quarter of 2021 with the first quarter of 2020 and the fourth quarter of 2020 with the fourth quarter of 2019).

Deloitte's assistance

Deloitte can assist in assessing whether the eligibility criteria to obtain the relief are satisfied and in completing the procedures necessary to claim the deduction. Our payroll incentive experts also can help eligible companies claim the benefits of other available support measures, including the reduction of social security contributions and the partial exemption of wage withholding tax. For further information, please refer to our previous tax alerts of [17 September 2019](#) and [15 January 2021](#).

Contacts

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