

Snapshots

A Special Issue of the Mint News Quarterly

How COVID-19 Affects the Coin Producing Industry

Since January 2020 the coronavirus has been affecting the daily routine of billions of citizens, regardless of age, religion, gender and nationality. It has been influencing the national economies for the last few months. Therefore businesses around the globe are required to take action. In order to react, it's of major importance to evaluate how business partners might be affected.

M1/monea, the Mint News Quarterly as well as CoinsWeekly are not only thinking, but acting internationally. We see a need for a summary of what's going on in the coin industry right now.

Daniel Sheffer of M1/monea who initiated this newsletter says:

"This newsletter is meant to share experiences, to connect industries, to build the awareness of which problems other parts of the supply chain might face. This newsletter is meant to simply do what a premium service provider needs to do: Inform clients in order to secure the supply of the public with means of payment."



Operating / None-Operating

Central Banks: Most Central Banks are still fully functional, some have reduced their staff focusing on essential operations only. Until now, most Central Banks have shown great responsibility: They receive incoming deliveries and pay in time in order to avoid financial stress on their suppliers.

Mints: The situation for mints differs from nation to nation. The following mints are partially or fully on lockdown (week 16 of year 2020 / this list is certainly not intended to be exhaustive): Fabrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre (Spain), Monnaie de Paris (France), Royal Mint (Great Britain) and United States Mint.

Safe-at-home: While the offices of the staff in some mints, central banks, blank producers and other suppliers are closed, operations continue from home shelter. Visits and face-to-face meetings are replaced by telecommunication application and video communication. BUT: The security and privacy of digital tools such as zoom, skype and whatsapp has not been discussed yet. Make sure that those channels are used only in non-confidential issues.

Closed Borders

Inventory holding: Due to cross-border restrictions and intensified border controls in most European countries, delays of transport and delivery are to be expected. Make sure to order your supplies in time.

Reduced Supply in Steel Coils: Temporary closures of European steel foundries, especially in Spain and Italy, are causing delays of 2 to 4 months in the supply of coin steel strips. This impacts the blank production. Especially the blank production of 1, 2 and 5 euro cent might fall short.

Maintenance: Due to travel restrictions, maintenance work becomes more and more difficult. Specialists might not be able to come in person, virtual interactions grow in importance. Due to restrictions when it comes to postal operators, it might be difficult to get spare parts as fast as usually. It might make sense to check and replenish your spare parts depot.

Legal Issues

Force majeure: Delays and / or non-performance are becoming subject to the event of force majeure clauses.

Take care, stay safe, healthy and connected.

If you have any information to share, please make sure to send it to ukampmann@coinsweekly.com