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WICO Reverts to Three-Day Work Week as Pandemic Strains Finances

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ST. THOMAS — The West Indian Company, struggling to stay afloat as cruise travel continues to be delayed and its dock remains empty, has reverted to a three-day workweek [first initiated on November 2, 2020](#) but lifted on February 1st, 2021.

WICO President and CEO, Anthony Ottley, announced the reinstatement of the three-day workweek in a letter to employees, which was obtained by the Consortium.

In it, he says, "On February 1, 2021, WICO's reduced workweek was temporarily lifted, and work hours resumed to the regular 40 hours per week. Unfortunately, due to the continued uncertainty of when cruise ships will resume sailing, and the dependency of the company of their return we have no other choice than to revert to the three-day or twenty-four hour reduced workweek

starting April 1, 2021."

The letter added, "We anticipate sailing to resume at some point during the summer and look forward to returning to full time work hours as soon as possible."

Mr. Ottley told employees to inform the Dept. of Labor of the incoming change, "as it may affect your qualification for continued unemployment benefits."

In March 2020, [WICO announced](#) that a "significant" number of workers would lose their jobs as the company prepared for an end to its contract with the Government Employees' Retirement System (GERS) to manage Havensight Mall in St. Thomas.