

Rolls-Royce says to briefly shut UK engine factories

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British aircraft engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce said Monday that it will temporarily shut its jet engine factories for a fortnight this summer to combat a coronavirus-fuelled slump in demand.

Rolls added in a statement that the move was part of its ongoing efficiency drive to counter chronic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has savaged [global air travel](#).

"As we continue to manage our cost base in response to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the whole commercial aviation sector, we are proposing a two-week operational shutdown of civil aerospace over the summer," the company said in response to [media reports](#).

"We understand that this will be disappointing to our colleagues and intend to reduce the impact on pay by spreading it across the year."

Rolls-Royce, which will publish annual earnings in March, added it was holding talks with [trade unions](#) over the matter.

"As part of the agreement reached with the union last [summer](#), we agreed in principle to enter into negotiations about delivering a 10-percent productivity and efficiency improvement across our civil aerospace operations in the UK," it said.

"We have now begun complex and constructive discussions with the

union on how this can be achieved."

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