

Bahrainis complying with stay-athome orders, says Google report

Google's COVID-19 mobility reports show changes in traffic to stores, parks, transit stations, and more

Like the detection of traffic jams or the measurement of traffic on Google Maps, the new reports use *"aggregated,* anonymised" data from users who have activated their location history

TDT | Manama

ahrain's measures to prevent the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is progressing on a healthy path with citizens and residents here responding positively to the lockdown measures installed.

Latest Google data, released to help public health officials understand responses to social distancing guidance related to COVID-19, confirms this trend.

According to the tech giant's data showing mobility changes, Bahrain recorded a 45 per cent fall in visits to the locations



According to the tech giant's data showing mobility changes, Bahrain recorded a 45 per cent fall in visits to the locations of restaurants, cafes, shopping centres, theme parks, museums, libraries, and movie theatres.

What Google data says about GCC nations?

Saudi Arabia: Visits to retail and recreation locations including restaurants, cafes, shopping centres, theme parks, museums and libraries declined 54pc. Trips to grocery and pharmacy locations fell by 24. Mobility trends for places like national parks, public beaches, marinas, dog parks, plazas, and public gardens dropped 49pc. Visits to workplaces fell by 45pc, while to public transport hubs such as subway, bus, and train stations fell 75pc.

Kuwait: Retail and recreation trips dropped 56pc, grocery and pharmacy visits fell 30pc, and visits to workplaces declined 42pc.

Oman: Retail and recreation visits fell 52pc. Grocery and pharmacy trips fell 35pc, and those to workplaces dropped 34pc.

The new data is expected

• UAE: Retail and recreation trips dropped 55pc in the country,

Retail & recreation	+80%
-45%	+40%
	Baseline
	-40%
compared to baseline	-80% Sun Feb 16 Sun Mar 8 Sun Mar 29
Grocery & pharmacy	+80%
000/	+40%
-22%	Baseline
	-40%
compared to baseline	-80% Sun Feb 16 Sun Mar 8 Sun Mar 29
Parks	+80%
100/	+40%
-40%	Baseline ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
	-40%
compared to baseline	-80% Sun Feb 16 Sun Mar 8 Sun Mar 29

In Bahrain

Transit stations	+80%
000/	+40%
-38%	Baseline
compared to baseline	-40%
compared to baseline	-80% Sun Feb 16 Sun Mar 8 Sun Mar 29
Workplaces	+80%
-25%	+40%
-23%	Baseline
compared to baseline	-80% Sun Feb 16 Sun Mar 8 Sun Mar 29
Residential	+80%
1/0/	+40%
+16%	Baseline
compared to baseline	-40% -80% Sun Feb 16 Sun Mar 8 Sun Mar 29

Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus expressed the organisation's pride in the support of HRH the Prime Minister in creating an urgent and wide-spread community momentum to end the pandemic as soon as possible.

Health Ministry statistics show, until yesterday, Bahrain has managed to send back 382 people to their homes after ensuring their successful recovery from coronavirus infections.

The recovery rate, which is also highest among the GCC states, is being boosted by measures including contact tracing as well as testing all individuals known to have been in contact 34pc. President Jair Bolsonaro with positive cases. As of yesterday, the Ministry cy measures including limiting rus as it continues to take fur- of Health tested a total of 37,996 COVID-19 cases in the Kingdom. Data shows, there are 286 active In a recent letter to HRH COVID-19 cases here, of which 283 are in stable condition, and Prime 3 remaining as critical. Four people succumbed fighting the virus.

Google data of affected nations globally

Italy: Retail and recreation trips in the country, which has seen the highest number of deaths globally, plunged 94pc. Grocery and pharmacy visits were down 85pc, and workplace trips fell 63pc. Italy has imposed severe limits on movement and shuttered all nonessential services until April 13.

Spain: Retail and recreation trips fell 94pc. The country has witnessed 112,065 cases - the second-highest after the United States. Grocery and pharmacy visits slumped 76pc, and workplace trips fell 64pc.

France: Retail and recreation trips slumped 88pc in the country, which has recorded roughly 59,000 cases and 5,387 deaths. The country's broad lockdown is likely to be extended beyond April 15. Grocery and pharmacy visits declined 72pc, and workplace visits fell 56pc.

India: Trips to retail and recreation spots fell 77pc, grocery and pharmacy visits dropped 65pc, and workplace visits fell 47pc. India went into a lockdown due to end April 14. With a recent spike in cases, the country's said it will pull out of the lockdown in phases.

Brazil: Retail and recreation trips dropped 71pc, grocery and pharmacy visits fell 35pc, and

of restaurants, cafes, shopping libraries, and movie theatres.

food warehouses, farmers mar- ic researchers. kets, speciality food shops, drug fell 22pc.

lic gardens.

public transport hubs such as show a 38pc decline.

Visits to workplaces fell by new reports use "aggregated, Kingplaces of residence.

3- Feb 6, 2020. (https://www. said. google.com/covid19/mobility/).

ogy companies have been asked "artificial noise" to raw data, by government agencies and making it harder for users to be health officials to share more identified. data to aid in the coronavirus response. Facebook has also made fight against coronavirus out-

which has recorded roughly 814 cases and 8 deaths. Grocery and centres, theme parks, museums, pharmacy trips fell 26pc, and those to workplaces dropped 45pc.

stores, and pharmacy locations post, signed by Jen Fitzpatrick, restaurants to function only as measures. who leads Google Maps, and take away and delivery services The report, based on users' the company's chief health of- on 17 March 2020. movements, further shows a ficer Karen DeSalvo, said, "This 40pc fall in visits to places like information could help officials ernment executive committee Minister, WHO national parks, public beaches, understand changes in essential meeting chaired by HRH Prince marinas, parks, plazas, and pub- trips that can shape recommen- Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, dations on business hours or inthe Crown Prince Deputy Su-Mobility trends for places like form delivery service offerings." preme Commander and First Like the detection of traf- Deputy Prime Minister. subway, bus, and train stations fic jams or the measurement of traffic on Google Maps, the to boost

25pc, while it shows a 16pc in- anonymised" data from users crease in mobility trends for who have activated their location history.

The data is compared to a No "personally identifiable baseline or median value for the information," such as a person's corresponding day of the week, location, contacts or movements, during the 5 weeks from Jan will be made available, the post

The reports will also employ The move comes as technol- a statistical technique that adds

Bahrain has toughened its

Trips to grocery markets, similar data available to academ- break by rolling out emergen- dom's efforts to contain the vi-Releasing the data, in a blog public gathering and requiring ther comprehensive preventive

the

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Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al The decisions followed a Gov- Khalifa, the

CIVIL DEFENCE

visits to workplaces declined has urged states to relax their strict quarantine policies, clashing with the country's health minister, who has advised maximum social distancing.

Canada: Retail and recreation visits fell 59pc. Grocery and pharmacy trips fell 35pc, and those to workplaces dropped 44pc.