



Bahrainis complying with stay-at-home orders, says Google report

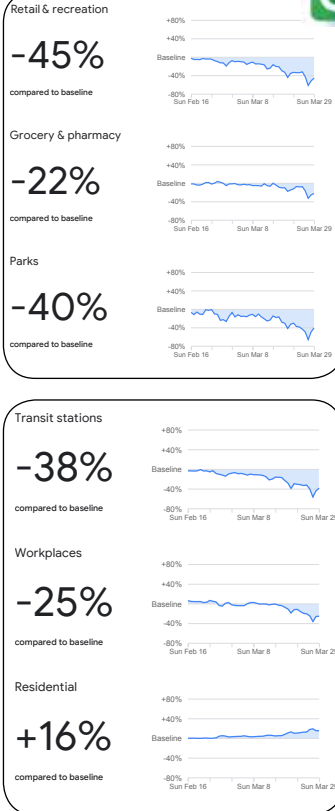
Google's COVID-19 mobility reports show changes in traffic to stores, parks, transit stations, and more

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



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.

In Bahrain



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 non-essential 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 visits to workplaces declined 34pc. President Jair Bolsonaro 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.

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.

● **UAE:** Retail and recreation trips dropped 55pc in the country, which has recorded roughly 814 cases and 8 deaths. Grocery and pharmacy trips fell 26pc, and those to workplaces dropped 45pc.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain'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 of restaurants, cafes, shopping centres, theme parks, museums, libraries, and movie theatres.

Trips to grocery markets, food warehouses, farmers markets, speciality food shops, drug stores, and pharmacy locations fell 22pc.

The report, based on users' movements, further shows a 40pc fall in visits to places like national parks, public beaches, marinas, parks, plazas, and public gardens.

Mobility trends for places like public transport hubs such as subway, bus, and train stations show a 38pc decline.

Visits to workplaces fell by 25pc, while it shows a 16pc increase in mobility trends for places of residence.

The data is compared to a baseline or median value for the corresponding day of the week, during the 5 weeks from Jan 3- Feb 6, 2020. (<https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>).

The move comes as technology companies have been asked by government agencies and health officials to share more data to aid in the coronavirus response. Facebook has also made

similar data available to academic researchers.

Releasing the data, in a blog post, signed by Jen Fitzpatrick, who leads Google Maps, and the company's chief health officer Karen DeSalvo, said, "This information could help officials understand changes in essential trips that can shape recommendations on business hours or inform delivery service offerings."

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.

No "personally identifiable information," such as a person's location, contacts or movements, will be made available, the post said.

The reports will also employ a statistical technique that adds "artificial noise" to raw data, making it harder for users to be identified.

Bahrain has toughened its fight against coronavirus out-

break by rolling out emergency measures including limiting public gathering and requiring restaurants to function only as take away and delivery services on 17 March 2020.

The decisions followed a Government executive committee meeting chaired by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The new data is expected to boost the King-

dom's efforts to contain the virus as it continues to take further comprehensive preventive measures.

In a recent letter to HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, WHO

