Mobility changes

This data set is intended to help remediate the impact of COVID-19. It shouldn’t be used for medical diagnostic, prognostic or treatment purposes. Nor is it intended to be used for guidance on personal travel plans.

The data shows how visits to places, such as corner shops and parks, are changing in each geographic region. Learn how you can use this report in your work by visiting Community Mobility Reports Help.

Location accuracy and the understanding of categorised places varies from region to region, so we don’t recommend using this data to compare changes between countries, or between regions with different characteristics (e.g. rural versus urban areas).

We’ll leave a region out of the report if we don’t have statistically significant levels of data. To learn how we calculate these trends and preserve privacy, read About this data.

Retail and recreation

-5% compared to baseline

Supermarket and pharmacy

+18% compared to baseline

Parks

-32% compared to baseline
Public transport

-26% compared to baseline

Mobility trends for places that are public transport hubs, such as underground, bus and train stations.

Workplaces

+1% compared to baseline

Mobility trends for places of work.

Residential

+8% compared to baseline

Mobility trends for places of residence.
Eastern Cape

Retail and recreation
-12% compared to baseline

Supermarket and pharmacy
+2% compared to baseline

Parks
-33% compared to baseline

Public transport
-21% compared to baseline

Workplaces
-6% compared to baseline

Residential
+7% compared to baseline

Free State

Retail and recreation
-8% compared to baseline

Supermarket and pharmacy
+17% compared to baseline

Parks
-31% compared to baseline

Public transport
-12% compared to baseline

Workplaces
-12% compared to baseline

Residential
+6% compared to baseline
Gauteng

Retail and recreation +2% compared to baseline
Supermarket and pharmacy +20% compared to baseline
Parks -23% compared to baseline
Public transport -21% compared to baseline
Workplaces +5% compared to baseline
Residential +8% compared to baseline

KwaZulu-Natal

Retail and recreation -9% compared to baseline
Supermarket and pharmacy +12% compared to baseline
Parks -33% compared to baseline
Public transport -40% compared to baseline
Workplaces -4% compared to baseline
Residential +10% compared to baseline
Limpopo

**Retail and recreation**
+4% compared to baseline

**Supermarket and pharmacy**
+16% compared to baseline

**Parks**
-31% compared to baseline

**Public transport**
-19% compared to baseline

**Workplaces**
+6% compared to baseline

**Residential**
+10% compared to baseline

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Mpumalanga

**Retail and recreation**
-8% compared to baseline

**Supermarket and pharmacy**
+25% compared to baseline

**Parks**
-18% compared to baseline

**Public transport**
+1% compared to baseline

**Workplaces**
-5% compared to baseline

**Residential**
+9% compared to baseline
North West

Retail and recreation
+4% compared to baseline

Supermarket and pharmacy
+23% compared to baseline

Parks
-24% compared to baseline

Public transport
+22% compared to baseline

Workplaces
-1% compared to baseline

Residential
+8% compared to baseline

Northern Cape

Retail and recreation
+3% compared to baseline

Supermarket and pharmacy
+12% compared to baseline

Parks
-29% compared to baseline

Public transport
-8% compared to baseline

Workplaces
-7% compared to baseline

Residential
+5% compared to baseline

* The data doesn’t meet quality and privacy thresholds for every day in the chart.
Western Cape

Retail and recreation
-14% compared to baseline

Supermarket and pharmacy
+9% compared to baseline

Parks
-41% compared to baseline

Public transport
-43% compared to baseline

Workplaces
-6% compared to baseline

Residential
+5% compared to baseline
About this data

These reports show how visits and length of stay at different places change compared to a baseline. We calculate these changes using the same kind of aggregated and anonymised data used to show popular times for places in Google Maps.

Changes for each day are compared to a baseline value for that day of the week:

- The baseline is the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the five-week period 3 Jan – 6 Feb 2020.
- The reports show trends over several weeks with the most recent data representing approximately 2–3 days ago (this is how long it takes to produce the reports).

The data that is included in the calculation depends on user settings, connectivity and whether it meets our privacy threshold. If the privacy threshold isn’t met (when somewhere isn’t busy enough to ensure anonymity) we don’t show a change for the day.

We include categories that are useful for social distancing efforts, as well as access to essential services.

We calculate these insights based on data from users who have opted in to Location History for their Google Account, so that the data represents a sample of our users. As with all samples, this may or may not represent the exact behaviour of a wider population.

We continue to improve our reports as places close and reopen. We updated the way that we calculate changes for groceries and pharmacy, retail and recreation, public transport stations and parks categories. For regions published before May 2020, the data may contain a consistent shift (up or down) which starts between 11–18 April 2020.

Preserving privacy

These reports were developed to be helpful while adhering to our stringent privacy protocols and protecting people’s privacy. No personally identifiable information, like an individual’s location, contacts or movement, is made available at any point.

Insights in these reports are created with aggregated, anonymised sets of data from users who have turned on the Location History setting, which is off by default. People who have Location History turned on can choose to turn it off at any time from their Google Account and can always delete Location History data directly from their Timeline.

These reports are powered by the same world-class anonymisation technology that we use in our products every day and that keep your activity data private and secure. These reports use differential privacy, which adds artificial noise to our data sets enabling high-quality results without identifying any individual person. These privacy-preserving protections also ensure that the absolute number of visits isn’t shared.

Further resources

To learn how you can get the most out of this report in your work, visit Mobility Reports Help.

To get the latest report, visit google.com/covid19/mobility