B B C   Home   News   Sport   Weather   ...   🔍

Home | InDepth | Israel-Gaza war | War in Ukraine | Climate | UK | World | More

Business | Politics | Culture

World | Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | Latin America | Middle East | US & Canada

Coronavirus: The world in lockdown in maps and charts

🕑 7 April 2020

Coronavirus has now infected more than one million people worldwide, but its impact extends far beyond just those who have had it.

Even the frequency of use of the word "unprecedented" is unprecedented at the moment. According to Google Trends it's been used three times more over the last two weeks than the highest point recorded previously.

As governments around the world have enacted new measures and given official advice, we take a look at the impact that it's had on people and the world around them.

How the world shut down

The approaches to dealing with coronavirus across the world have been wide-ranging to say the least.
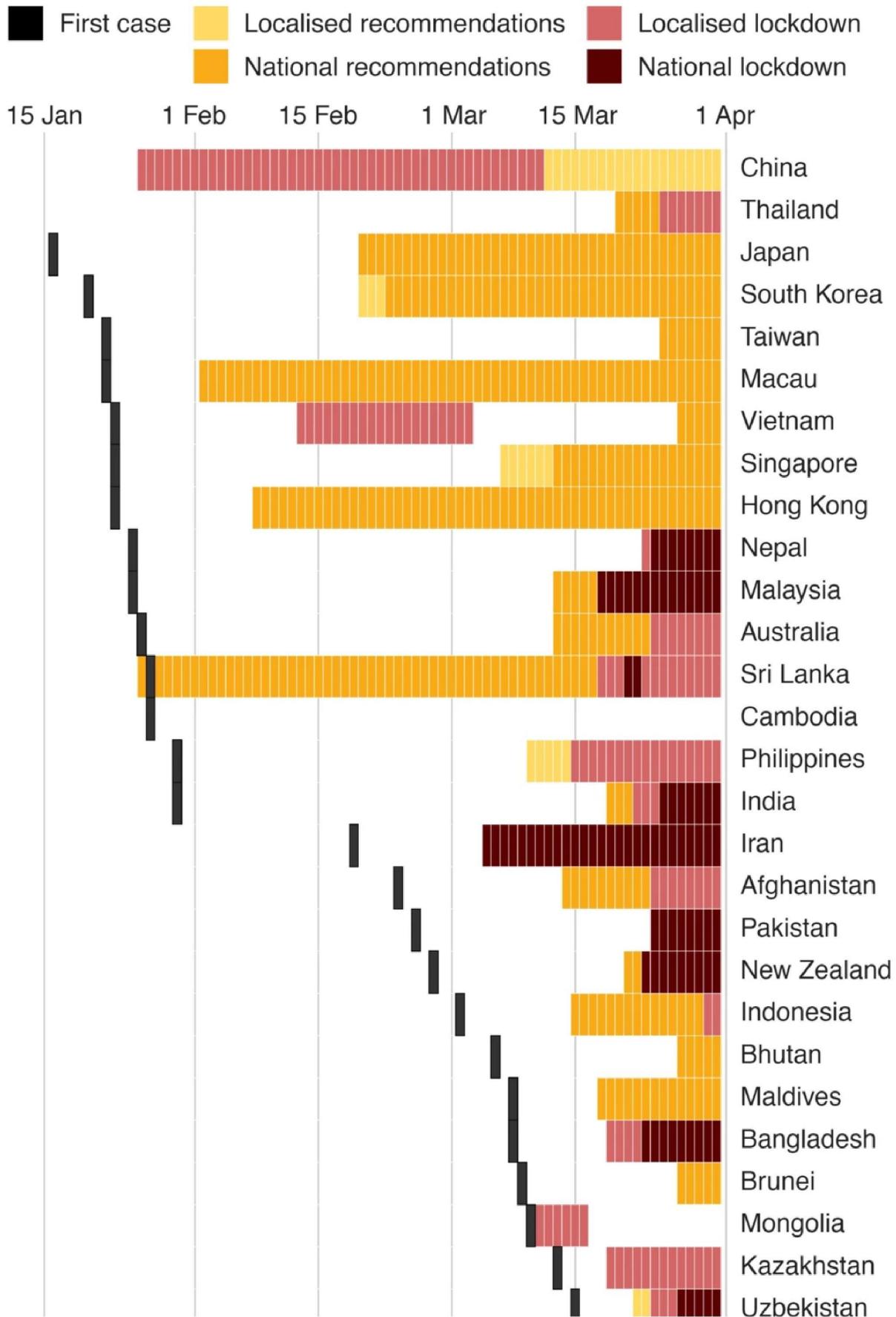
In Colombia the days that you're allowed to leave the house depend on the number of your national ID card; in Serbia a designated dog-walking hour was introduced; and in Belarus the president has gone against medical advice, recommending vodka and saunas as a way to stay safe.
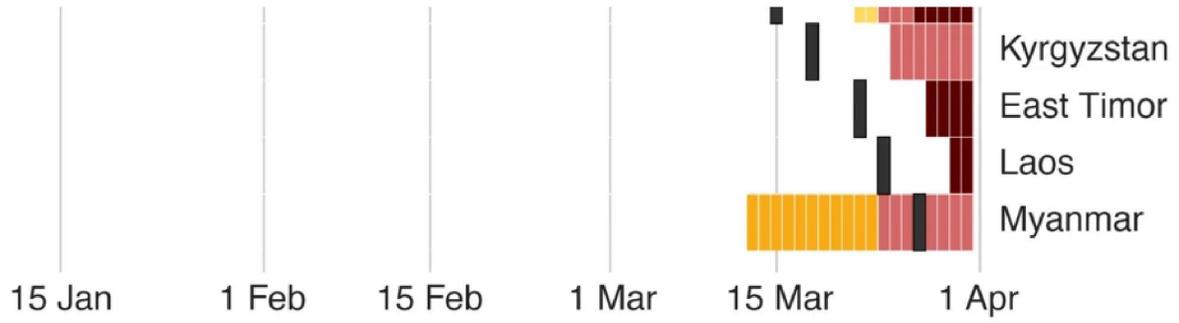
Some of the more common approaches have seen governments issue recommendations on social distancing for part or all of the country, while others have acted to restrict all non-essential internal movement. The latter is often called a lockdown.

When the virus was first identified in China in late 2019, lockdown seemed extreme.

Asia, Australia and New Zealand in lockdown

Dates and severity of restricted internal movement by country

Legend:
- **First case** (black)
- **Localised recommendations** (light yellow)
- **National recommendations** (orange)
- **Localised lockdown** (pink/salmon)
- **National lockdown** (dark red)

Timeline axis: 15 Jan | 1 Feb | 15 Feb | 1 Mar | 15 Mar | 1 Apr

Countries (top to bottom):
- China
- Thailand
- Japan
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Macau
- Vietnam
- Singapore
- Hong Kong
- Nepal
- Malaysia
- Australia
- Sri Lanka
- Cambodia
- Philippines
- India
- Iran
- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- New Zealand
- Indonesia
- Bhutan
- Maldives
- Bangladesh
- Brunei
- Mongolia
- Kazakhstan
- Uzbekistan

INQ000573841_0003

Note: China and Thailand confirmed their first cases prior to 15 January 2020
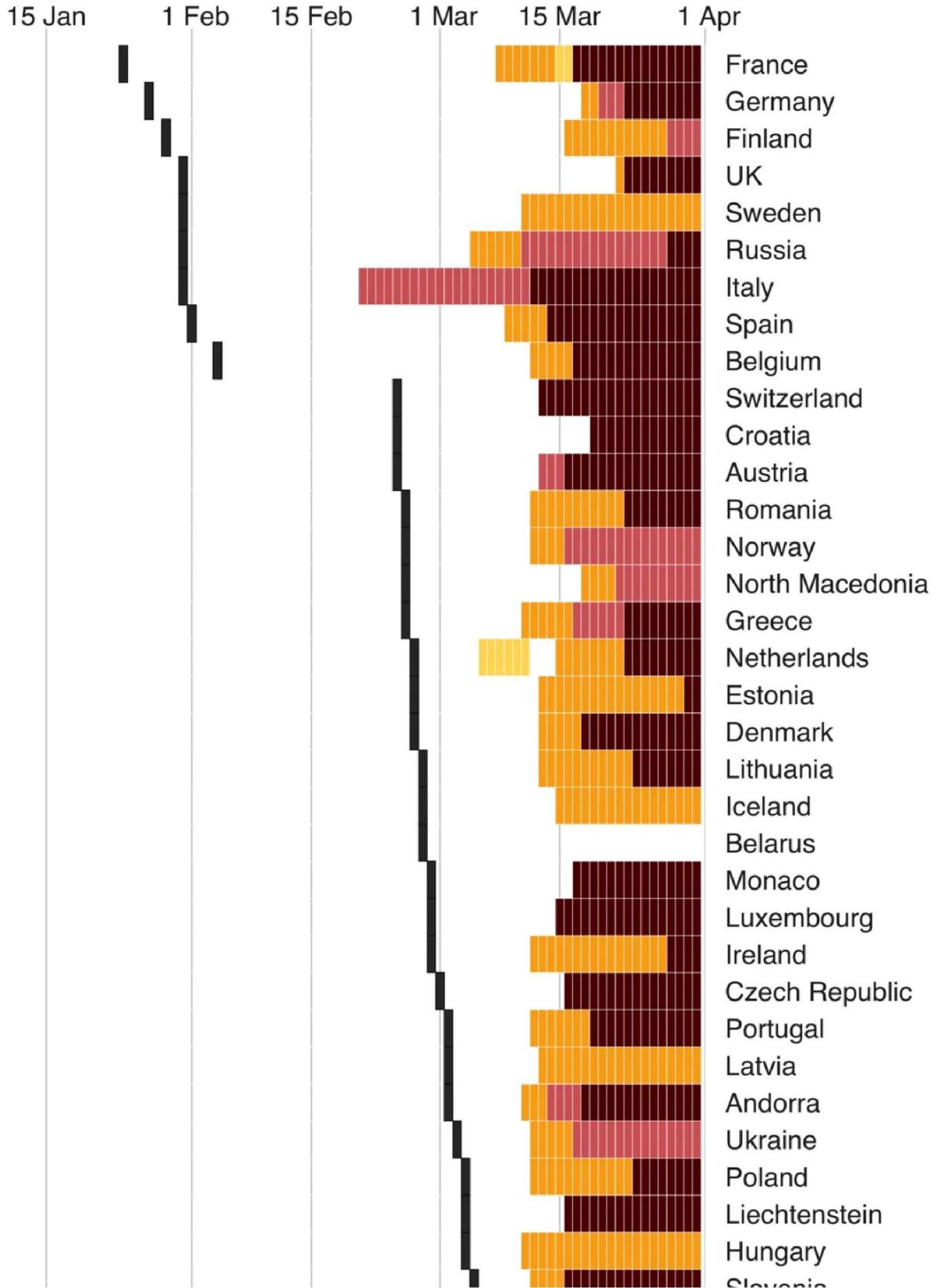
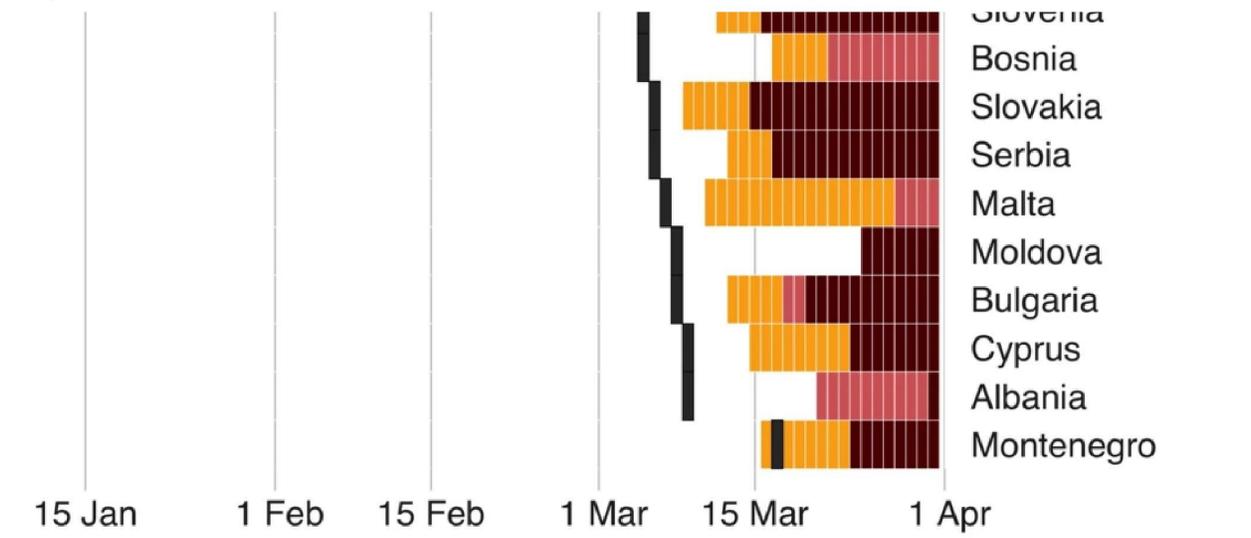Source: Oxford COVID–19 Government Response Tracker, BBC Research

BBC

European countries in lockdown

Dates and severity of restricted internal movement by country

■ First case	Localised recommendations	Localised lockdown
	National recommendations	National lockdown

Timeline from 15 Jan to 1 Apr showing dates and severity of restricted internal movement for European countries: France, Germany, Finland, UK, Sweden, Russia, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Croatia, Austria, Romania, Norway, North Macedonia, Greece, Netherlands, Estonia, Denmark, Lithuania, Iceland, Belarus, Monaco, Luxembourg, Ireland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Latvia, Andorra, Ukraine, Poland, Liechtenstein, Hungary, Slovenia.
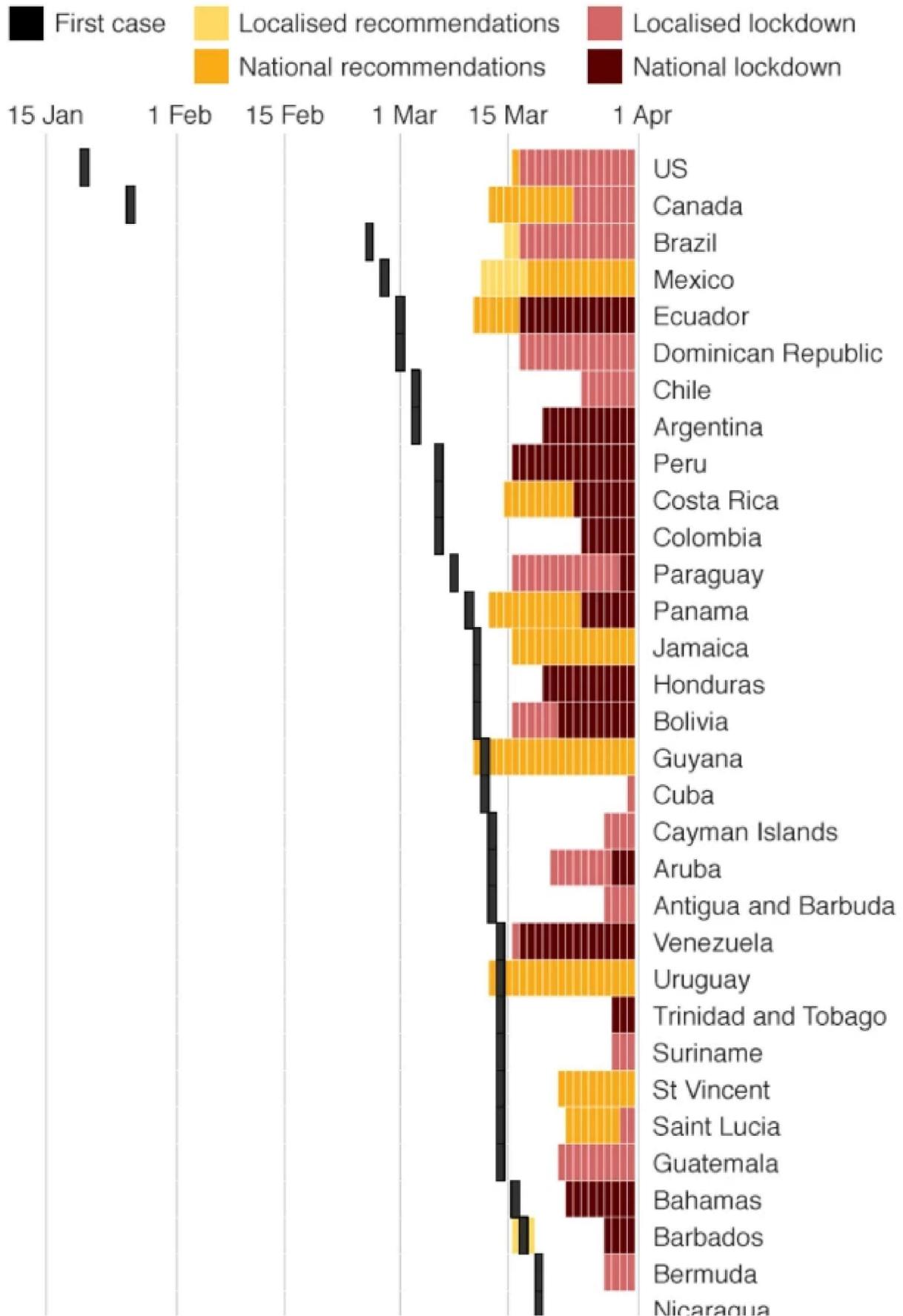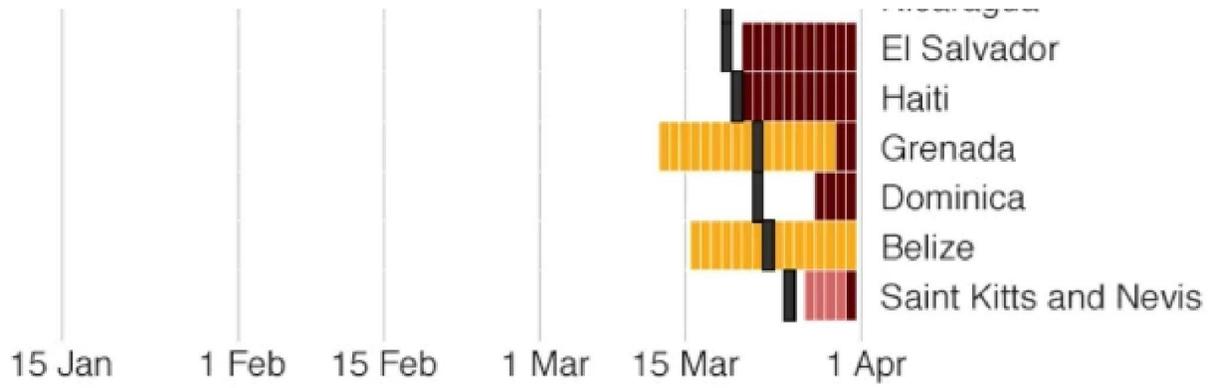
Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker, BBC Research

Countries in the Americas in lockdown

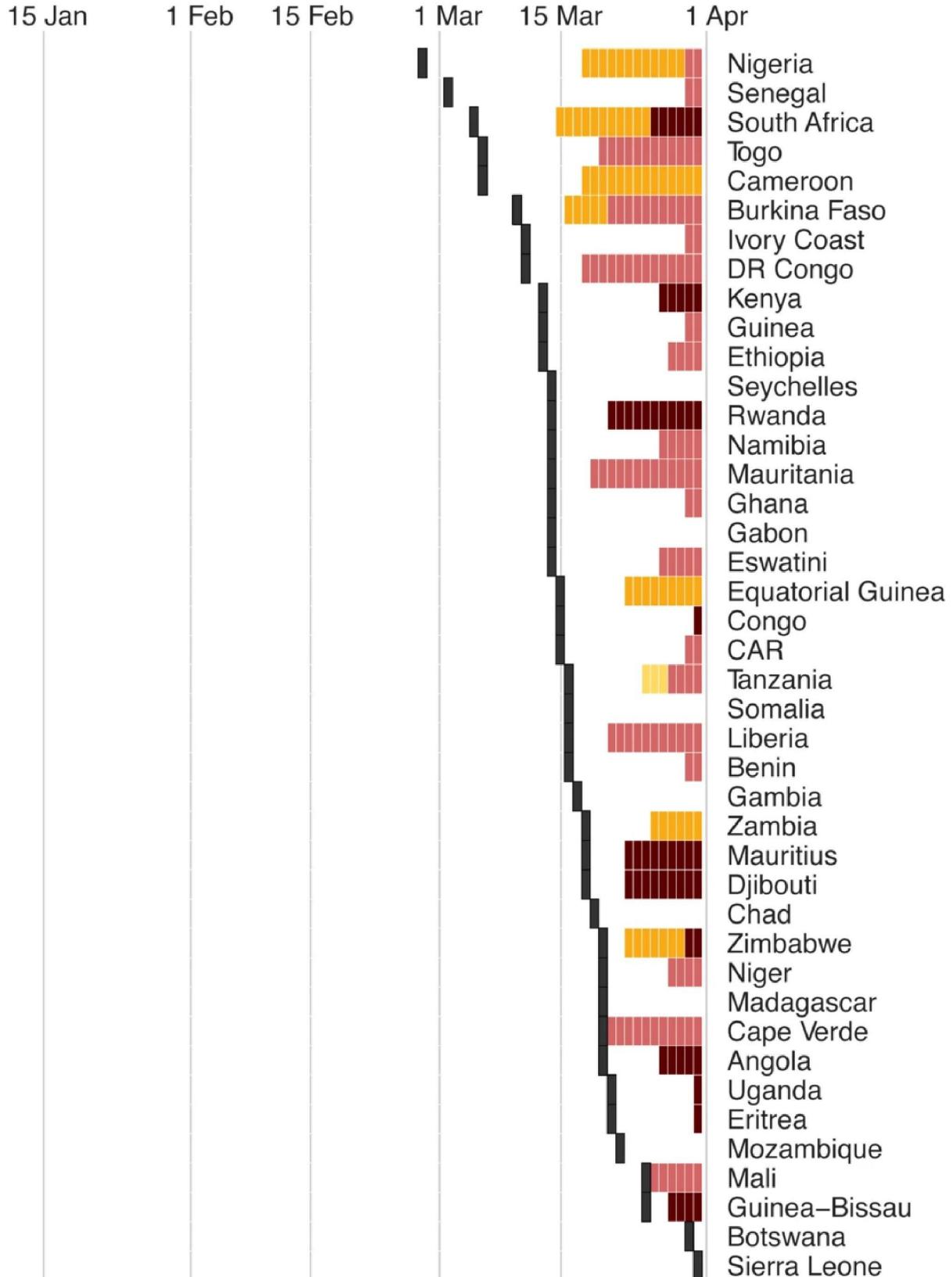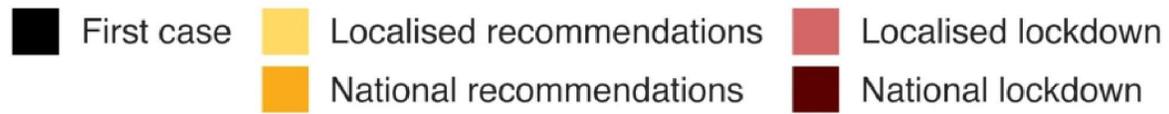## Dates and severity of restricted internal movement by country

■ First case   □ Localised recommendations   □ Localised lockdown

□ National recommendations   ■ National lockdown

15 Jan   1 Feb   15 Feb   1 Mar   15 Mar   1 Apr

US
Canada
Brazil
Mexico
Ecuador
Dominican Republic
Chile
Argentina
Peru
Costa Rica
Colombia
Paraguay
Panama
Jamaica
Honduras
Bolivia
Guyana
Cuba
Cayman Islands
Aruba
Antigua and Barbuda
Venezuela
Uruguay
Trinidad and Tobago
Suriname
St Vincent
Saint Lucia
Guatemala
Bahamas
Barbados
Bermuda
Nicaragua

INQ000573841_0007

El Salvador
Haiti
Grenada
Dominica
Belize
Saint Kitts and Nevis

15 Jan　1 Feb　15 Feb　1 Mar　15 Mar　1 Apr

Source: Oxford COVID–19 Government Response Tracker, BBC Research

BBC

Sub–Saharan African countries in lockdown

Dates and severity of restricted internal movement by country

- ■ First case
- ▨ Localised recommendations
- ▨ Localised lockdown
- ▨ National recommendations
- ▨ National lockdown

Timeline axis: 15 Jan · 1 Feb · 15 Feb · 1 Mar · 15 Mar · 1 Apr

- Nigeria
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Togo
- Cameroon
- Burkina Faso
- Ivory Coast
- DR Congo
- Kenya
- Guinea
- Ethiopia
- Seychelles
- Rwanda
- Namibia
- Mauritania
- Ghana
- Gabon
- Eswatini
- Equatorial Guinea
- Congo
- CAR
- Tanzania
- Somalia
- Liberia
- Benin
- Gambia
- Zambia
- Mauritius
- Djibouti
- Chad
- Zimbabwe
- Niger
- Madagascar
- Cape Verde
- Angola
- Uganda
- Eritrea
- Mozambique
- Mali
- Guinea–Bissau
- Botswana
- Sierra Leone

| | Burundi |
| | Lesotho |

15 Jan   1 Feb   15 Feb   1 Mar   15 Mar   1 Apr

Source: Oxford COVID−19 Government Response Tracker, BBC Research   B B C

Flight risk

When the virus first appeared, several countries brought in initial restrictions on flights from China, or required visitors from at-risk areas to be quarantined on arrival.

After it had been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, on 11 March, there were more all-encompassing measures.

President Trump blocked all non-essential arrivals to the US from the European Union on 15 March, and a day later the EU did the same to all visitors from outside the Schengen free-travel zone.

By the end of March, air traffic from some of the world's biggest airports had dropped to a fraction of what it was at the same time last year, or even what it was at the start of this month.

Number of flights around the world decrease

— 2019   — 2020

Source: Flightstats.com

BBC

The number of commercial flights last month was down by more than a quarter globally, **according to flight tracking service Flightradar24**.

In the final week of March, as more and more countries introduced travel restrictions to try to contain the virus, traffic declined 63% from the same period last year.

INQ000573841_0011

On 25 March, Heathrow - one of the busiest airports in the world serving about 80 million passengers per year - recorded more than 1,000 fewer flights compared with an equivalent day in 2019.

Number of Heathrow flights down by two thirds

Wednesday 27 March 2019
1,615 flights

Wednesday 25 March 2020
525 flights

BBC NEWS 'lightRadar   BBC

As of 31 March, residents in cities like Madrid, Paris, London and New York were making fewer than one-tenth as many journeys using the app as they did normally, according to data from travel app Citymapper.

In Milan in northern Italy, which has been locked down for several weeks now, only 3% of trips were being planned via the Citymapper mobile app, compared with before the outbreak.

The data also suggests that people cut down on travel in the days leading up to government-enforced shutdowns.

For example, the partial lockdown in Sao Paulo, Brazil's most populous city, came into place on 24 March but trips had already declined sharply the week before.

How travel has plummeted in major cities

Data shows trips planned compared with typical pre-virus period

Note: Data includes walking and use of public transport

Source: Citymapper Mobility Index   BBC

Even in cities where authorities have issued recommendations on social distancing and refrained from imposing strict lockdowns, it appears that people are still restricting their travel.

In Stockholm, Sweden, where the government has avoided draconian measures, issuing guidelines rather than strict rules, the Citymapper data suggests planned trips - which can include both walking and public transport - fell by 70%.

INQ000573841_0015

Stockholm's public transport company reported last week that passenger numbers on subway and commuter trains had halved.

Movement is also below normal rates in some of the Asian cities that Citymapper collects data for, like Hong Kong and Singapore, which have not enforced the type of shutdowns seen elsewhere.

The South Korean capital Seoul hasn't come to a standstill like European capitals, despite facing huge numbers of coronavirus cases - a sign of the country's decision to focus on widespread testing and contact tracing rather than social distancing.

Travel declines even without official lockdowns
Data shows trips planned compared with typical pre-virus period

Note: Data includes walking and use of public transport.
Sydney introduced a lockdown on 31 March

Source: Citymapper Mobility Index   BBC

We see the same behaviour with people on the roads. Major cities around the world were already becoming steadily less busy before official lockdown measures came in, congestion data from location technology specialists TomTom shows.

In Tokyo there hasn't been an official lockdown yet, but schools have been shut since the beginning of March. That, and a lack of tourists, could explain

why traffic there has been marginally below last year's levels without the sharp downturn obvious elsewhere.
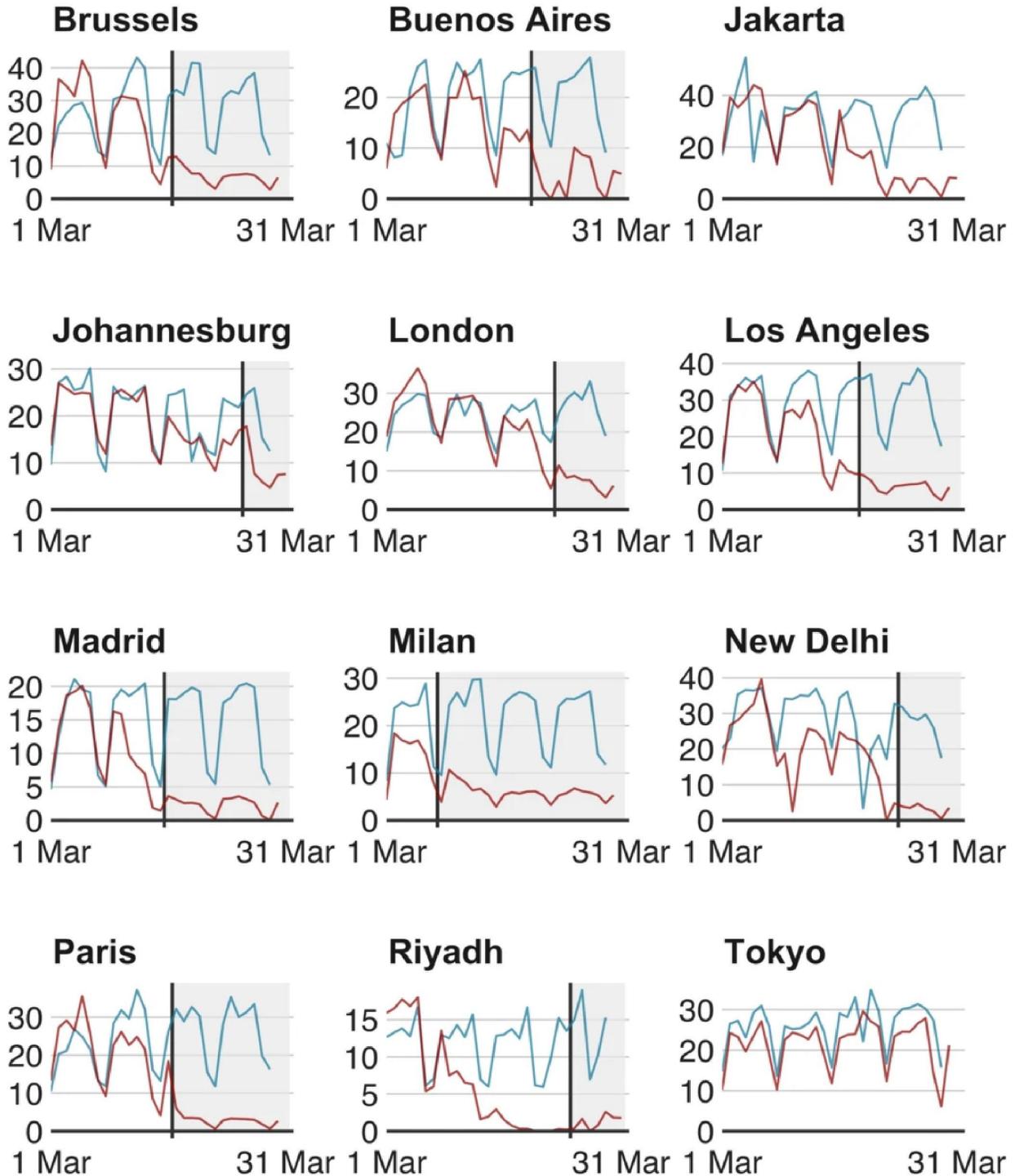
In Jakarta, Indonesia, where there has also been no official lockdown, congestion has already dropped to almost zero - similar to Los Angeles and New Delhi which shut down on different dates.

The congestion score in the graphic below is an indication of how much longer it would take to make a journey through the city compared with when there is no traffic at all. A rating of 50 means that a trip will take 50% more time than it would if the roads were completely free, for example, so a half-hour drive would become 45 minutes. The regular low points on the chart generally come at weekends.

Traffic flows in selected cities

Average congestion per day

— 2019   — 2020   ▬ Lockdown

Source: TomTom, 31 March 2020

BBC

In China there are signs that things are beginning to get back to normal.
Traffic levels are back to about half the 2019 level in Beijing and Shanghai but
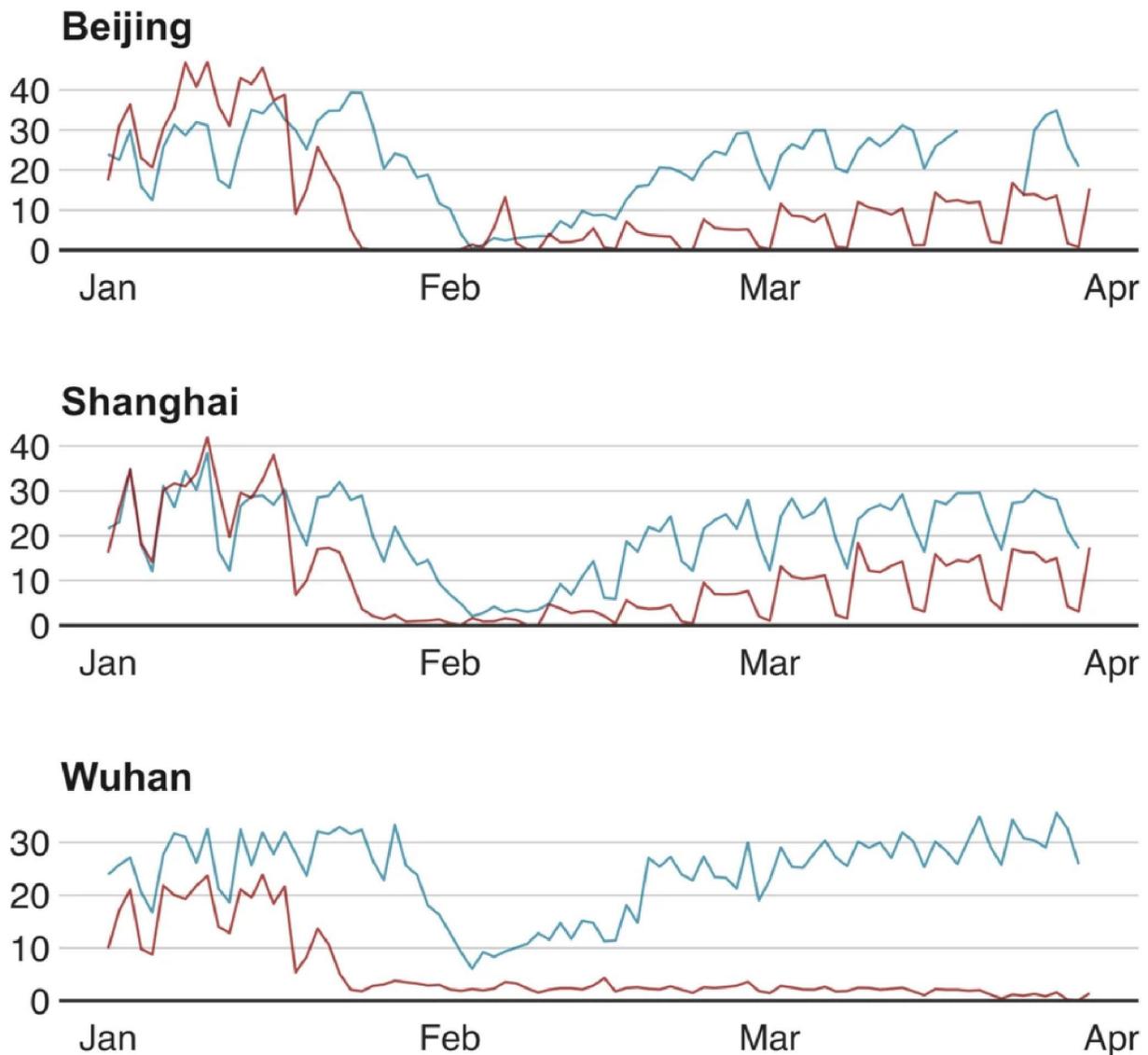
INQ000573841_0018

have been steadily growing since the beginning of February following extended Chinese New Year celebrations from 25 January.

In Wuhan, where the outbreak originated, traffic levels are still next to zero compared with last year.

Wuhan is still quiet but weekday traffic is starting to return to other Chinese cities

Average congestion per day

— 2019 — 2020

Beijing

Shanghai

Wuhan

Note: Data missing for certain dates in 2019. Chinese New Year earlier in 2020

Source: TomTom, 31 March 2020

BBC

The environment

One of the few positive effects of the shutdown is that there seems to have been a drop in pollution in some parts of the world.

Levels of NO2 in the atmosphere fluctuate widely with factors like wind speed, and satellites trying to measure these levels can be hampered by cloud cover.

This may explain some of the variability seen over Wuhan and northern Italy between January and March 2019 in the maps below.

But in these places, shutdowns have been stricter and in place for longer than elsewhere, and the change in NO2 levels between 2019 and the months of 2020 in which the shutdowns have been in effect appears to be significant.

Pollution levels down significantly in Wuhan

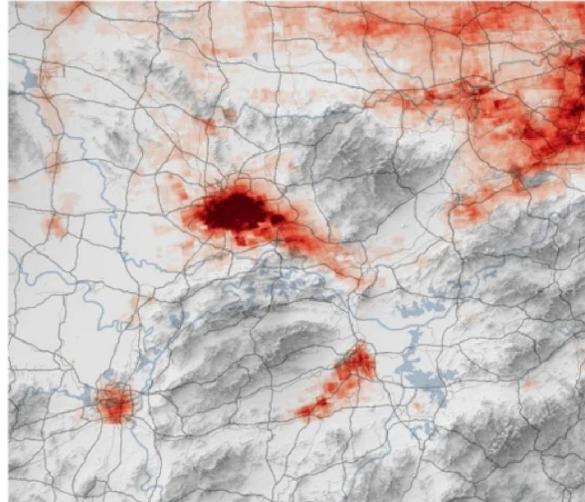**Density of Nitrogen dioxide in lowest level of atmosphere**
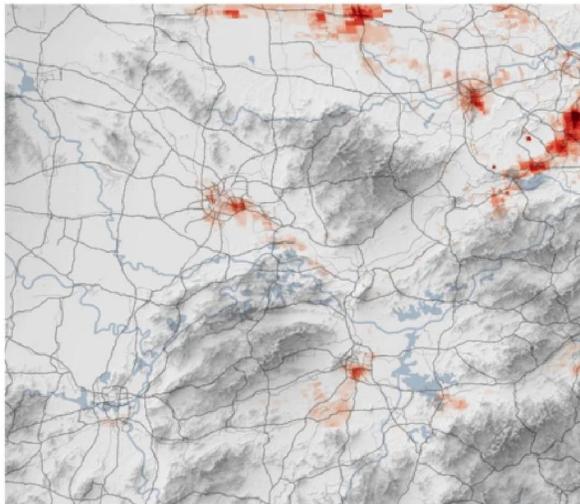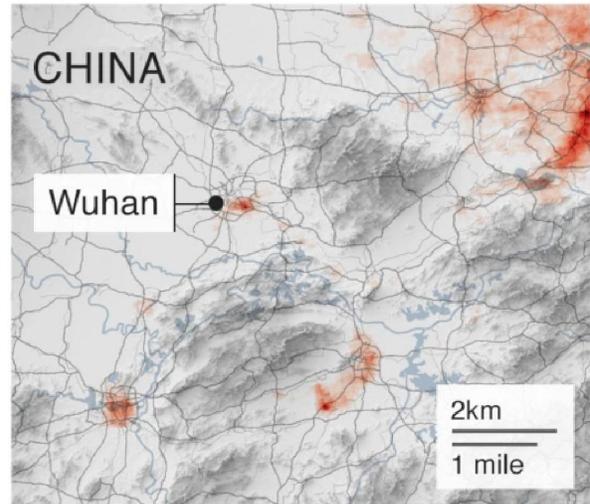
Low ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢ High

January 2019

March 2019

January 2020 - Lockdown starts

March 2020

CHINA

Wuhan ●

2km
1 mile

ALAMY ᵉ: Sentinel-5P satellite data, OpenStreetMap   BBC

INQ000573841_0021

Pollution also down in northern Italy

Density of Nitrogen dioxide in lowest level of atmosphere

Low [ ] High

Source: Sentinel-5P satellite data, OpenStreetMap

BBC

In the UK, and in many other places, the available satellite data does not yet show either way whether the ongoing reduction in economic activity is being accompanied by a corresponding fall in emissions, although **some other sources** suggest that it is.
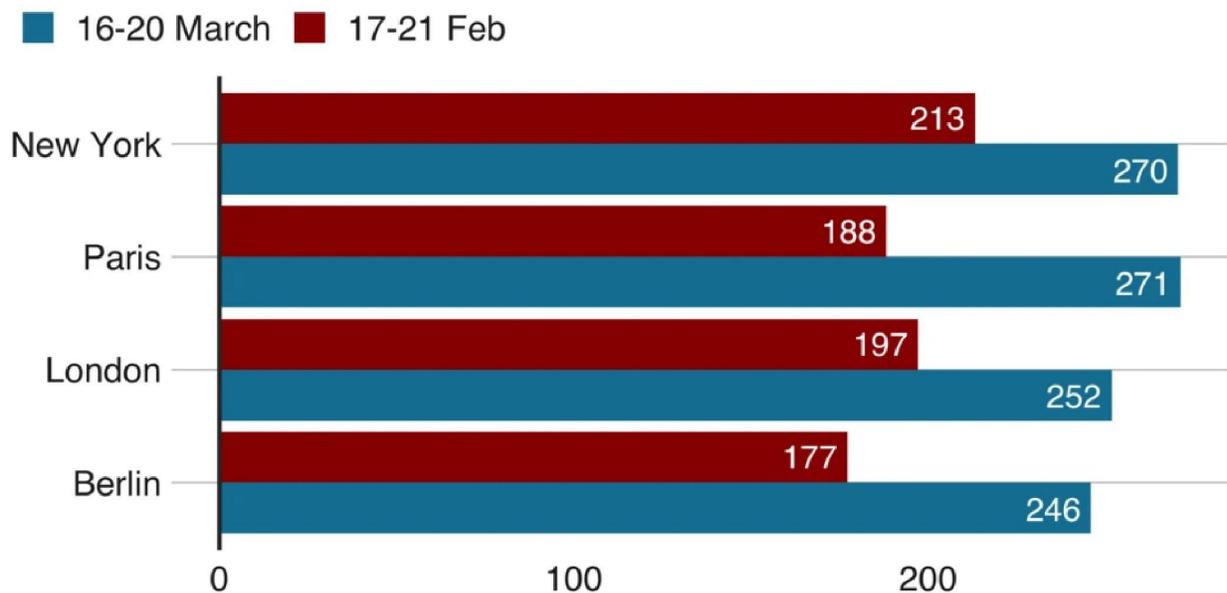
How we're working

As countries have shut down, many workers have had to try to continue their office jobs from home.

That means video calls and instant messaging have become invaluable workroom tools.

The average number of messages sent by users in New York, Paris, London and Berlin has increased by more than a third in just a few weeks.

Workers around the world are communicating more using instant messaging software

Average Slack messages sent per user

■ 16-20 March   ■ 17-21 Feb

City	17-21 Feb	16-20 March
New York	213	270
Paris	188	271
London	197	252
Berlin	177	246

Source: Slack   BBC

Not everyone has got used to their new ways of working just yet. But - depending on where you are - there could be a good deal of time left to do so.

By Daniel Dunford, Becky Dale, Nassos Stylianou, Ed Lowther, Maryam Ahmed and Irene de la Torre Arenas.

Top stories

◉ LIVE Trump says Palestinians would have no right of

[Play-fight claim dad jailed for murdering daughter](#)

Man wants to buy tip where he lost Bitcoin fortune

return to Gaza under
his takeover plan

4 hours ago   5 hours ago

More to explore

Taylor Swift, Lionel Messi, Jay-Z and Trump among big names at Super Bowl

How Spain's economy became the envy of Europe

Nine years and 3 million words of script: Acting in a video game epic

'I miss my school': BBC launches programme for children in war zones

'It's seen as the naughty school but it's turned our lives around'

Trump wants to end birthright citizenship. Where do other countries stand?

The DR Congo rebel leader whose fighters have created turmoil

Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl show was one big tease

The Upbeat newsletter: Start your week on a high with uplifting stories delivered to your inbox

Elsewhere on the BBC

The acclaimed, satirical teen comedy returns

With a new headmistress at the helm, do the Boarders have what it takes?

▶ iPlayer

Who is running America under Donald Trump's presidency?

Marco Rubio's route to becoming America's top diplomat

🔊 Sounds

Keeley Hawes shines in a notorious chapter of the Austen story

Will Cassandra send her sister Jane's legacy up in flames?

▶ iPlayer

A gripping tale of ambition, power, and chaos

Exploring Vladimir Romanov's journey from power and wealth to scandal, infamy, and exile

🔊 Sounds

Most read

1 Man wants to buy tip where he lost Bitcoin fortune

2 Play-fight claim dad jailed for murdering daughter

3 Illegal workers held in raids on nail bars and takeaways

4 Trump says US is 'committed to buying and owning Gaza'

5   'Billionaires own my mouldy rental property'

6   More quakes hit Santorini and surrounding islands

7   Archbishop of York 'wrong person' to lead reform, says bishop

8   How Spain's economy became the envy of Europe

9   Nine years and 3 million words of script: Acting in a video game epic

10   Teenagers mocked by nurses at psychiatric unit

BBC News Services

📱   On your mobile

🎤   On smart speakers

✉   Get news alerts

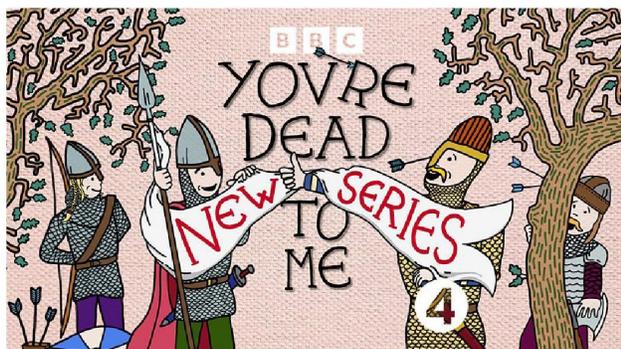✉   Contact BBC News

Best of the BBC

Gripping new true cyber-crime podcast

Sounds

Facing the horror of modern teens

iPlayer

The legends of King Arthur   Chilling stories of the supernatural

Sounds   iPlayer

Home   Weather   Bitesize   Food

News   iPlayer   CBBC

Sport   Sounds   CBeebies

Terms of Use   About the BBC   Privacy Policy   Cookies   Accessibility Help   Parental Guidance

Contact the BBC   Make an editorial complaint   BBC emails for you

The legends of King Arthur   Chilling stories of the supernatural