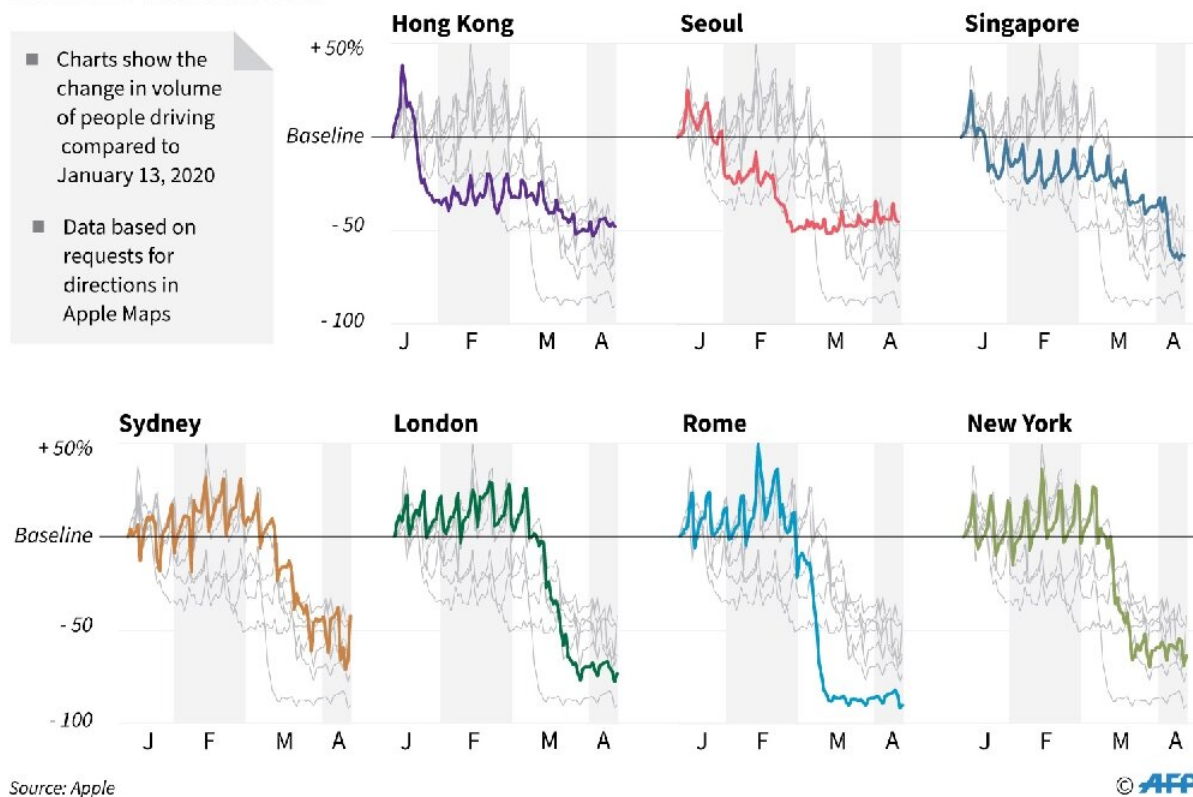# Apple data show dramatic impact of virus on movement

April 15 2020

COVID-19 mobility trends: Apple joins in

The US tech giant has launched a new website that aims to show how the coronavirus pandemic has affected movemtent around the world

- Charts show the change in volume of people driving compared to January 13, 2020

- Data based on requests for directions in Apple Maps

Hong Kong · Seoul · Singapore · Sydney · London · Rome · New York

Source: Apple

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Graphic showing data tha reflects changes in mobility, provided by Apple, based on queries for map directions.

Apple has launched a [new website](#) that shows with striking graphs how the coronavirus pandemic has slammed the brakes on life around the world.

The tool visualises the movement of people in dozens of major cities and countries around the world based on the number of requests made for directions on Apple Maps since January 13.

It shows the dramatic drop in the number of users driving, walking or taking [public transit](#) as governments around the world rolled out increasingly stringent containment measures to stop the spread of the deadly virus.

Apple said Tuesday that the purpose of the new website was to help global efforts to try and stop the spread of COVID-19 by giving insights into the movement of people to governments and [health authorities](#).

Hong Kong and Seoul, among the first places hit by the virus after it emerged in mainland China, saw mobility numbers drop by as much as 60 percent from the second half of January.

In the weeks that followed, the disease marched into Europe and North America, and the Apple data show the severe impact on movement in those regions.

Rome saw a staggering drop in mobility numbers—more than 90 percent—starting early March. London followed within a couple of weeks with a plunge in transit figures of nearly 90 percent.

The coronavirus has slammed the brakes on life around the world as people are forced to stay indoors

New York City, the epicentre of the outbreak in the United States, saw transit and walking down by more than 80 percent in March as the crisis worsened.

A similar drop was seen in Sydney in March as Australia strengthened its social distancing policies.

In Singapore, mobility figures were reduced but not dramatically since January, but following a surge in cases and a lockdown imposed earlier this month, they plunged.

Apple's website follows the launch earlier this month of a similar movement data tool from Google.

Both projects use anonymised data, the firms have said, as rights activists have raised concerns about the privacy and security of users being compromised in anti-coronavirus projects that involve personal information.

Google and Apple have also announced that they are teaming up to help authorities trace contacts between people using Bluetooth technology, and have vowed that privacy and security are "central" to the initiative.

 More information: www.apple.com/covid19/mobility

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