

COVID-19 MEASURES AND MOBILITY BEHAVIOR

STATISTA DOSSIERPLUS ON THE FIGHT
AGAINST THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
AND ITS EFFECTS ON MOBILITY

Measures taken by national governments to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and its effects on mobility

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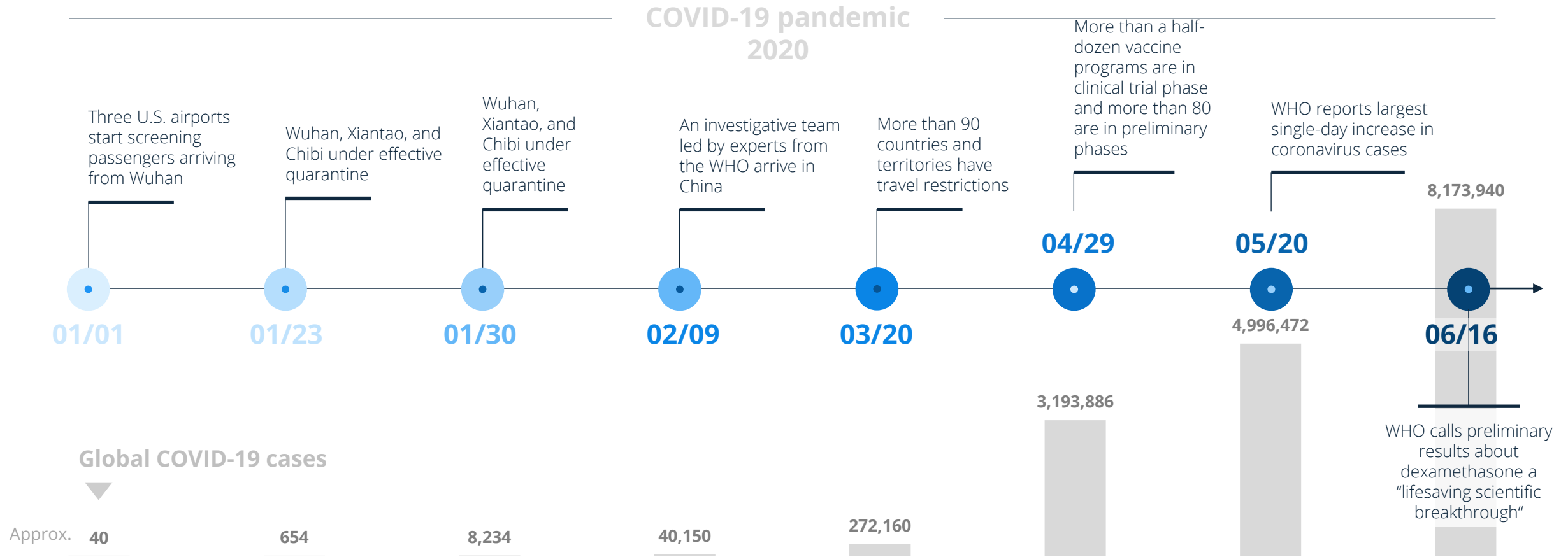


01 **Global**

- Timeline of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Newly confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Governmental measures by type and region
- Number of students impacted by countrywide closures
- Share of employees working from home and workplace presence

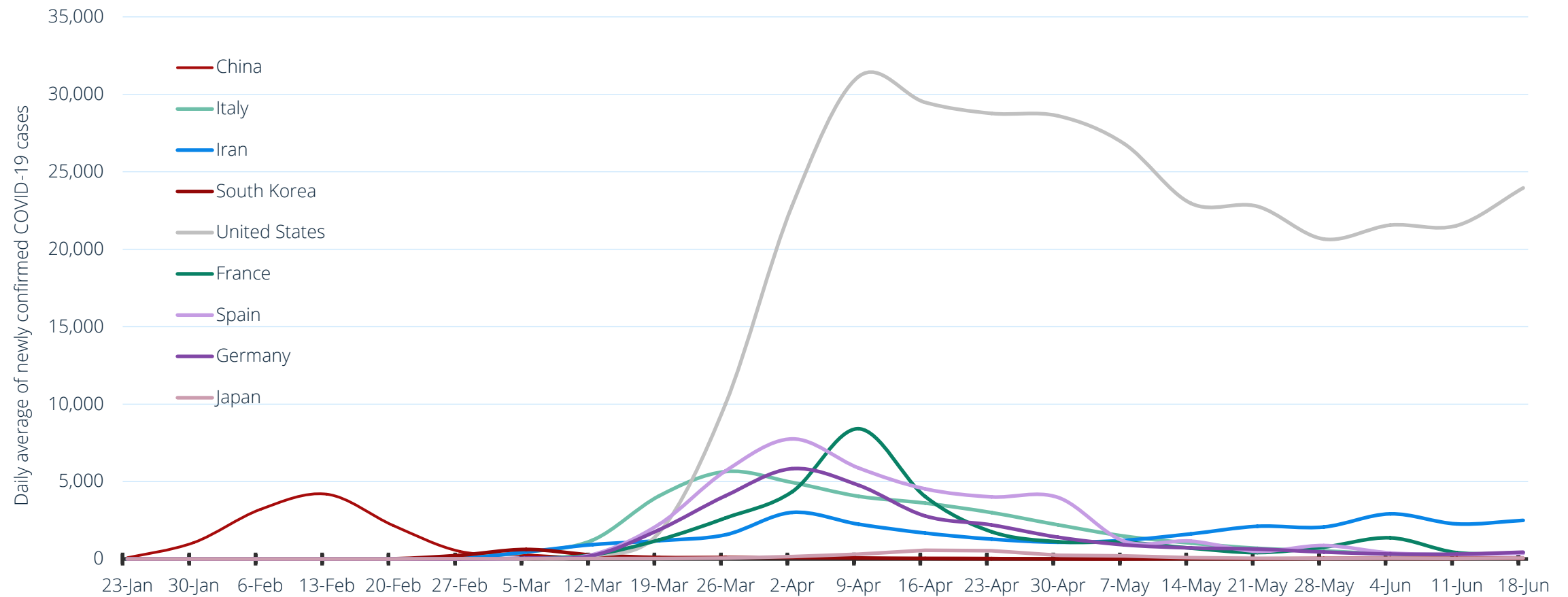
From several cases of unusual pneumonia in Wuhan to a worldwide pandemic within weeks

Major events regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020



Strict governmental measures in Asian and European countries significantly reduced the number of new cases

Daily average of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis in selected countries as of June 18, 2020



Note: Spain reported minus 23,464 new cases on April 30 which are not included in estimating the week average.

Source(s): Statista, Johns Hopkins CSSE

Governmental responses to COVID-19 can be grouped into three categories

Categorization of the different governmental measures taken to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak

Categories of governmental measures as of June 18	
Countries with social distancing measures:	98.4%
Countries with movement restriction measures:	100.0%
Countries with public health measures:	99.5%

As the number of confirmed cases is rising globally, governments around the world are taking measures to slow down the spread of the coronavirus. Three types of measures were differentiated, namely social distancing, movement restrictions, and public health measures. Their definitions are the following:

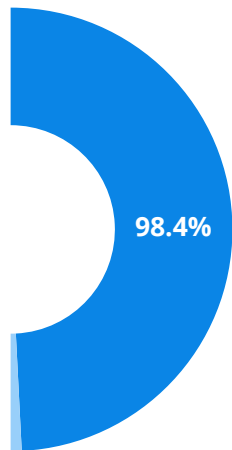
- **Social distancing:** This includes nonpharmaceutical infection control actions that minimize physical and social contact between individuals. Measures include limiting the number of people who can attend public events or canceling them altogether, closing schools and shops, encouraging working from home, and restricting access to public spaces.
- **Movement restrictions:** Such restrictions can limit both international and national travel. Movement restriction measures include health control at borders, border closures, flight suspensions, and visa restrictions. Furthermore, governments can impose travel restrictions or even travel bans, nationally and internationally.
- **Public health measures:** These measures can be implemented both by individuals and governments, however, governmental initiatives play a major role in both cases. For example, individuals can adjust to proper respiratory etiquette, practice social distancing, and make sure to wash hands thoroughly and frequently. Governments can promote these individual activities and can ensure that essential healthcare and information is accessible. Additionally, self-isolation can be enforced for those who are returning from heavily affected regions or who are showing symptoms.

This DossierPlus shows what types of measures were implemented in various regions and examines the measures taken by some of the countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ultimately, certain effects of the implemented measures are shown, such as school closures, change in mobility behavior, or the increase in web searches for hygiene products.

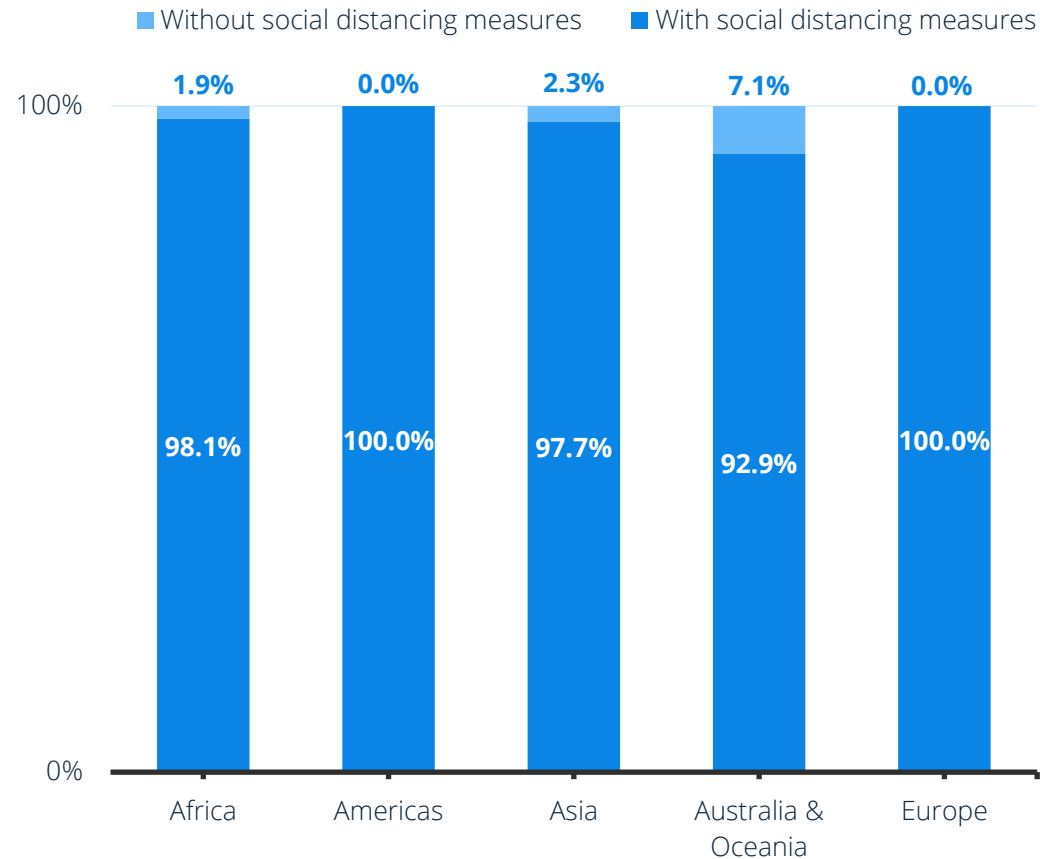
All European and American countries practice social distancing, only a small share of countries have not implemented such measures

Share of countries with governmental social distancing measures by region as of June 18, 2020

Share of countries implementing **social distancing measures**



■ With measures
■ Without measures

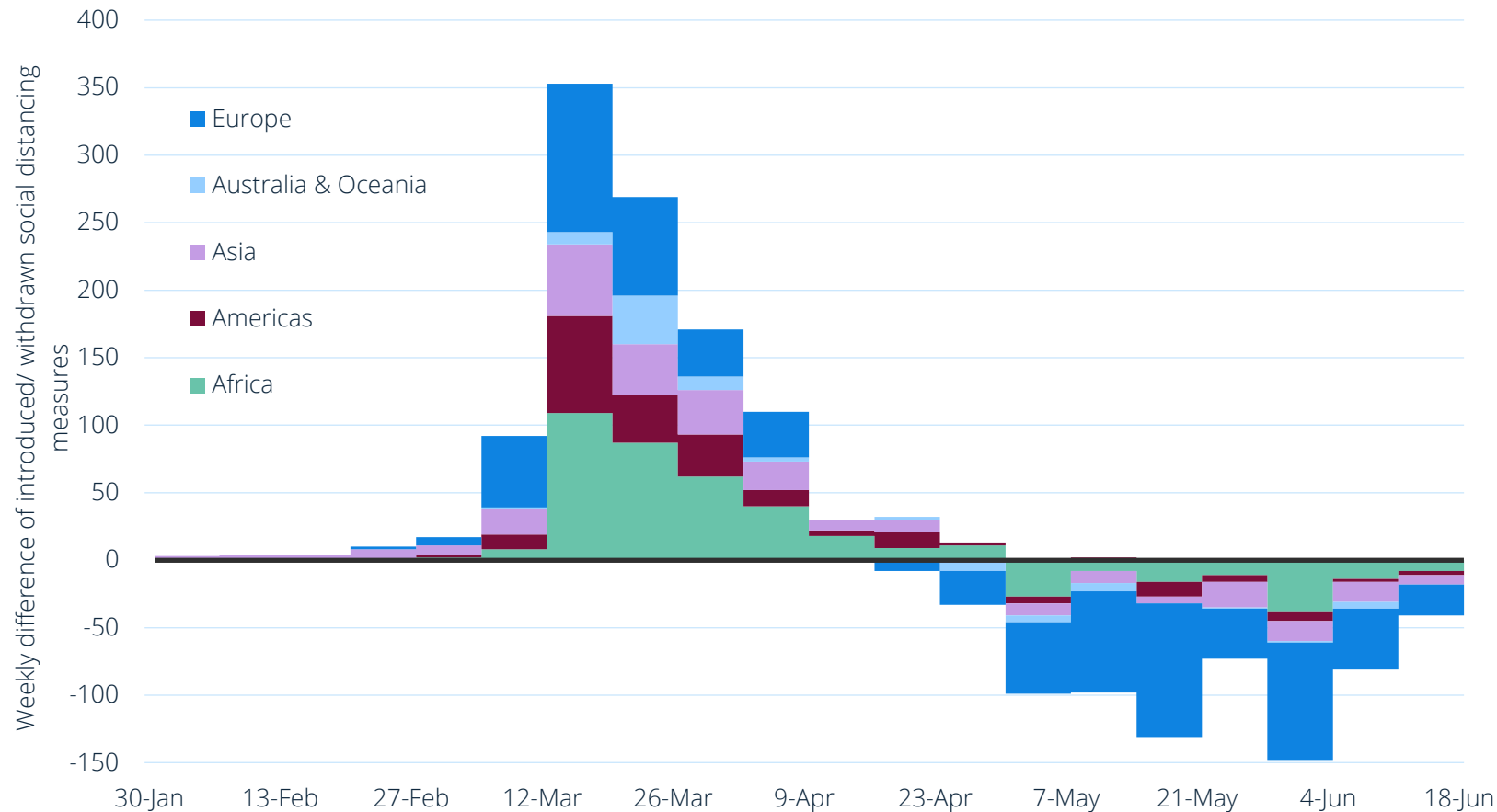


Social distancing measures, which include the limitation or cancellation of public events or school closures, for example, have been implemented in almost all countries. The region with the largest share of countries with no social distancing measures is found in Australia and Oceania with only 7 percent.

In Europe and the Americas, all governments have implemented measures to support social distancing; limiting the number of participants at public gatherings or prohibiting them altogether were the most common tools used.

Most social distancing measures were introduced in March, governments have been gradually easing measures starting in April

Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn social distancing measures by region as of June 18, 2020



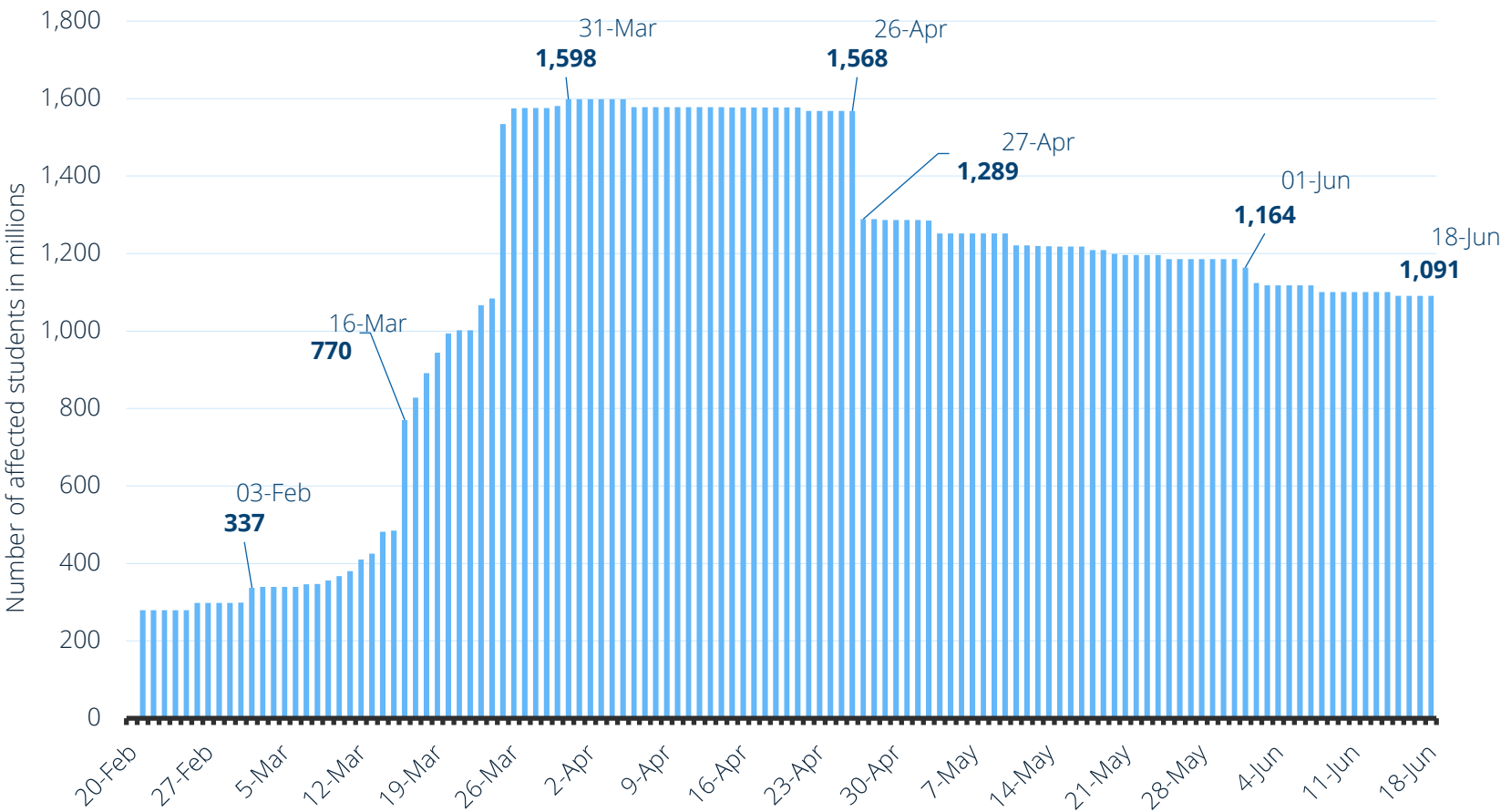
On a global scale, most social distancing measures were introduced in March. European countries alone implemented several hundred new measures within a month.

Since mid-April, however, less new social distancing measures have been introduced and governments began to ease previously introduced measures, as the number of newly confirmed cases began to decrease.

In late April, more measures were eased than introduced in Europe as well as in Australia and Oceania, and by mid-May, this was the case in all five regions.

By the end of March, almost 1.6 billion students were affected by country-wide school closures; schools began to reopen end of April

Number of students impacted by pre-primary to tertiary educational institute closures worldwide, 2020



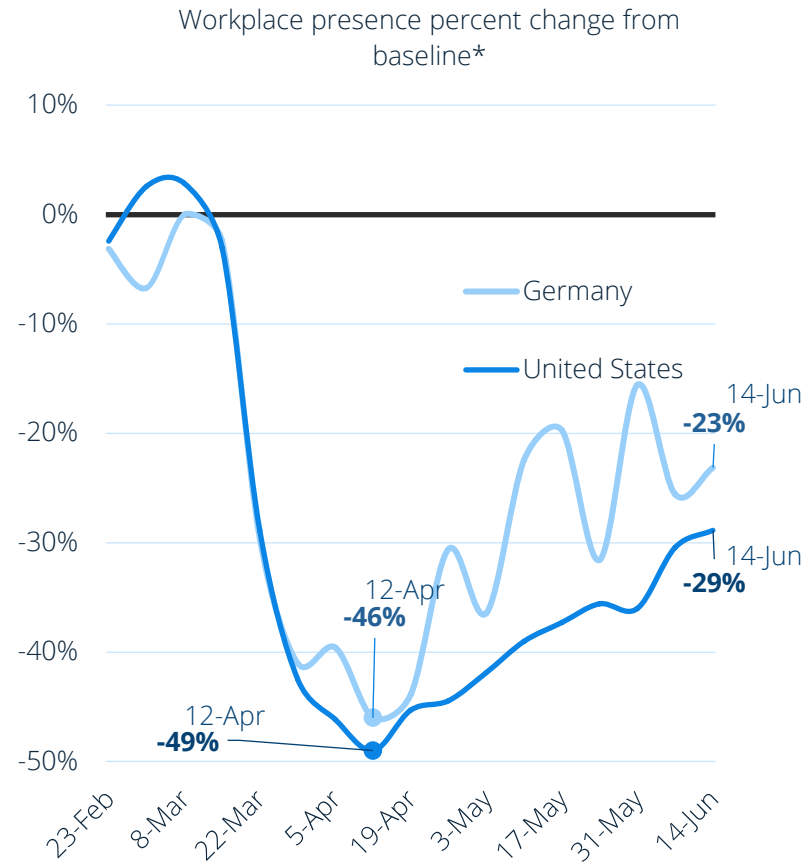
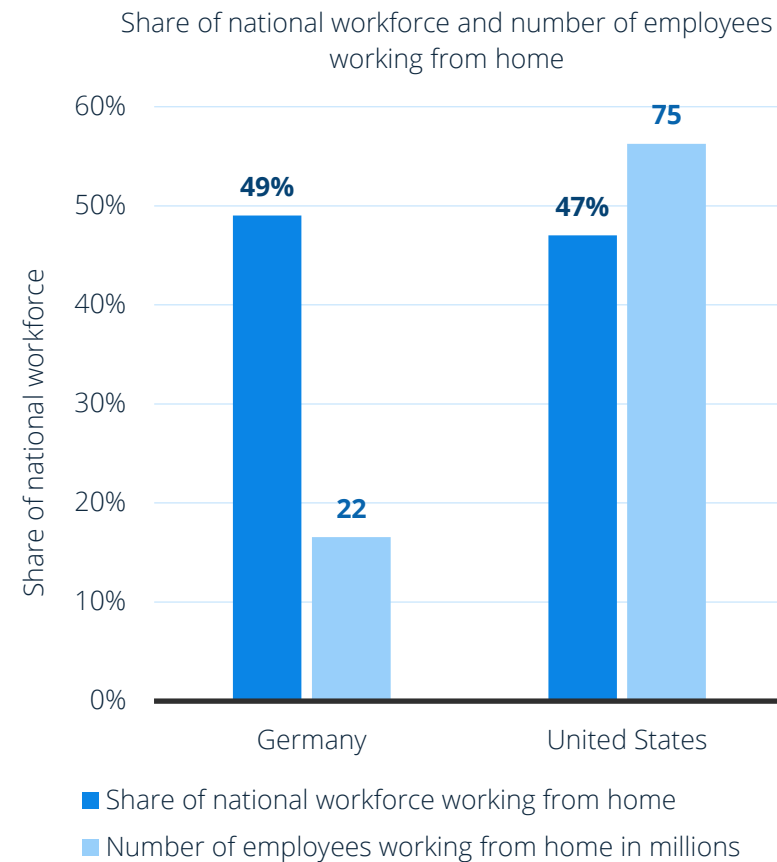
Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, continuously more countries closed their educational institutions to curtail the spread of the virus.

Countries hoped to limit the spread of the virus by homeschooling kids. Due to these country-wide school closures, the number of students affected rose to 1,598 million by March 31.

A significant decrease in school closures was first visible at the end of April, when the number of homeschooled students dropped by nearly 300 million worldwide. Nonetheless, as of the end of May, the schools remain closed to over one billion students.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to an increase in home office workers; office presence decreased sharply in March

Estimated share of employees working at least partially from home as of March, 2020 and change in workplace presence from February to June, 2020 in the United States and Germany



The spread of COVID-19 has had a major impact on the workforce and the everyday routines of people. To keep their employees safe and business alive, companies around the world have encouraged their employees to work from home.

In Germany and the United States, nearly half of the workforce was able to work from home in March. The presence at the workplace rapidly fell in March in both countries, but employees have been gradually returning to the office. In the United States, as the number of COVID-19 cases remains high, the return is slower than in Germany.

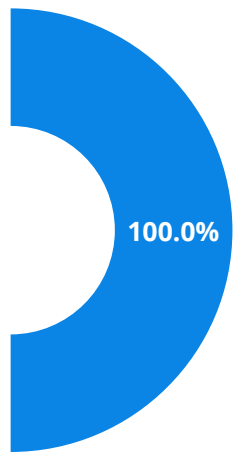
* Note: Shows the weekly average percentage change of workplace presence compared to the median of the previous five weeks

Source(s): Statista, Wall Street Journal, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Gallup, Bundesagentur fuer Arbeit, bitkom, Straitstimes, Trading Economics, Google mobility

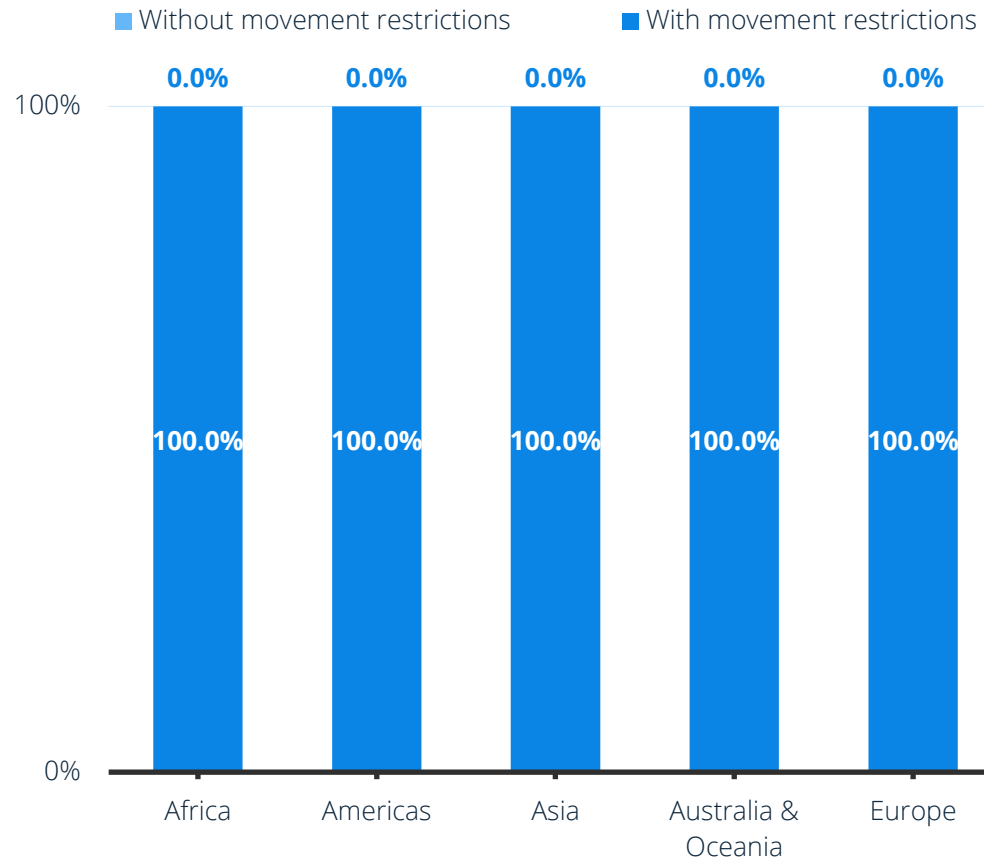
All countries implemented at least one movement restriction to fight the spread

The share of countries with movement restrictions by region as of June 18, 2020

Share of countries implementing **movement restriction measures**



■ With measures
■ Without measures



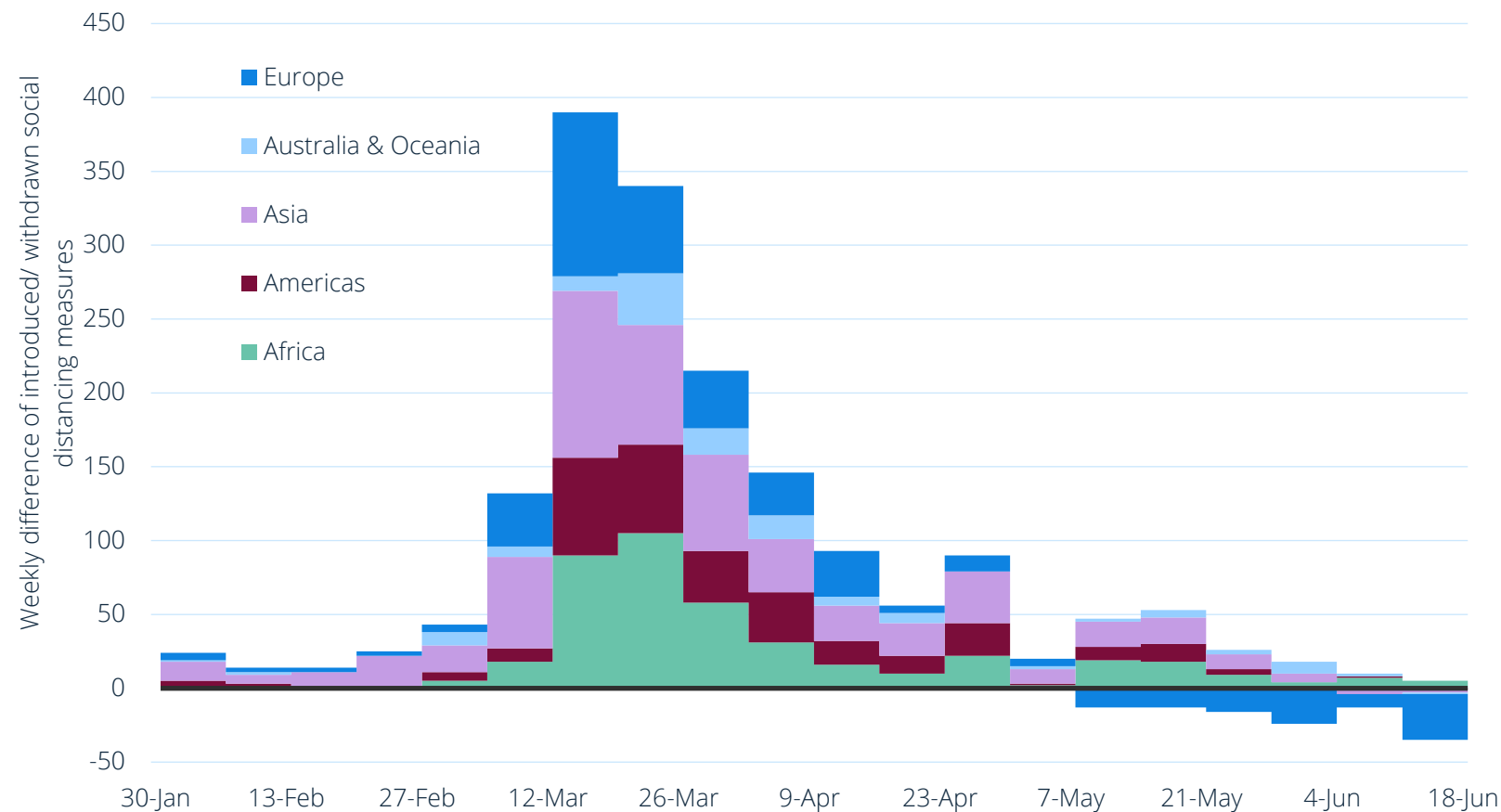
To slow down the spread of the coronavirus, all countries have introduced movement restrictions, ranging from restricting domestic or local movement to international travel.

The most common type of movement restrictions globally are border closures followed by international flights suspensions.

A more detailed picture of national and international travel restrictions by country can be found on pages 17, 24 and 33 in the study.

The first region which revoked more movement restrictions as it introduced was Europe in the second week of May

Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn movement restriction measures by region as of June 18, 2020



While the number of revoked movement restriction measures exceeded the number of newly introduced ones in Europe at the beginning of May, in all other regions, still more new measures were introduced than revoked at this time.

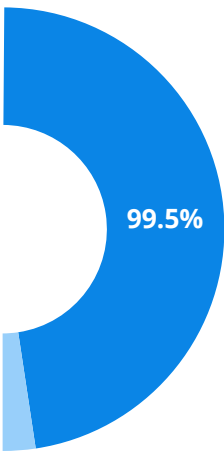
The strongest ease of movement restrictions in Europe was visible in the Czech Republic, followed by Albania, Croatia, Estonia, and Montenegro.

Other regions, excluding Africa, started following the European trend starting mid-June.

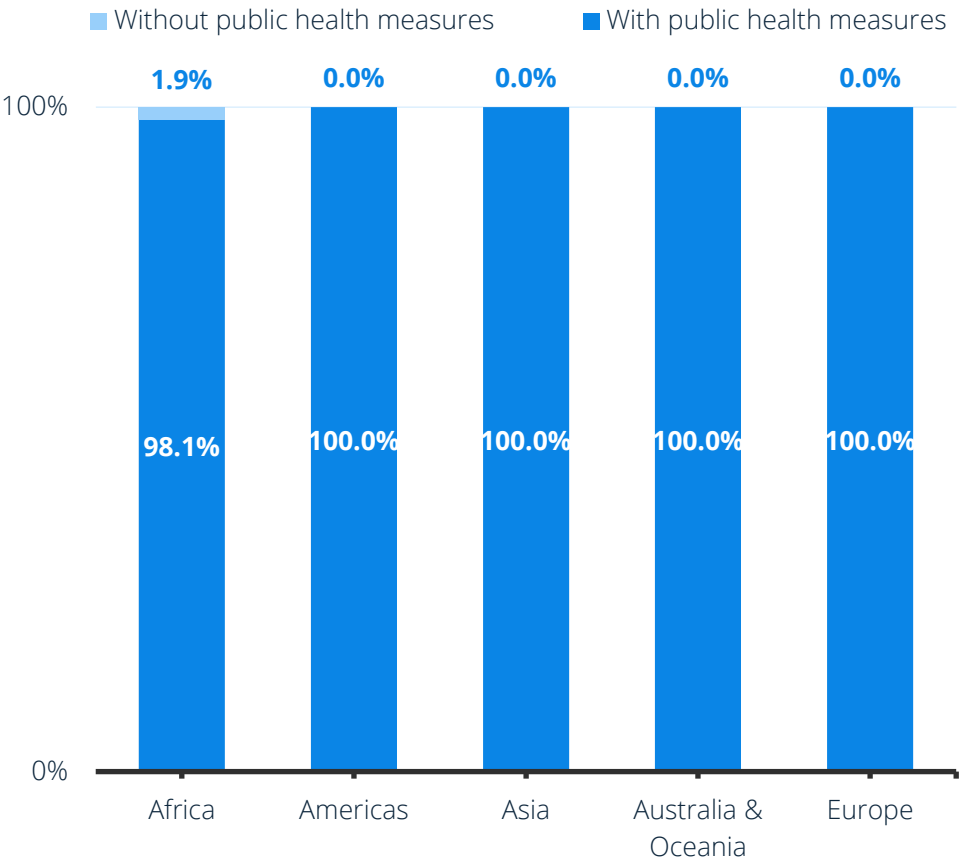
Governments are still increasing the number of public health measures, only one country hasn't introduced any as of June

The share of countries with governmental public health measures by region as of June 18, 2020

Share of countries implementing **public health measures**



■ With measures
■ Without measures

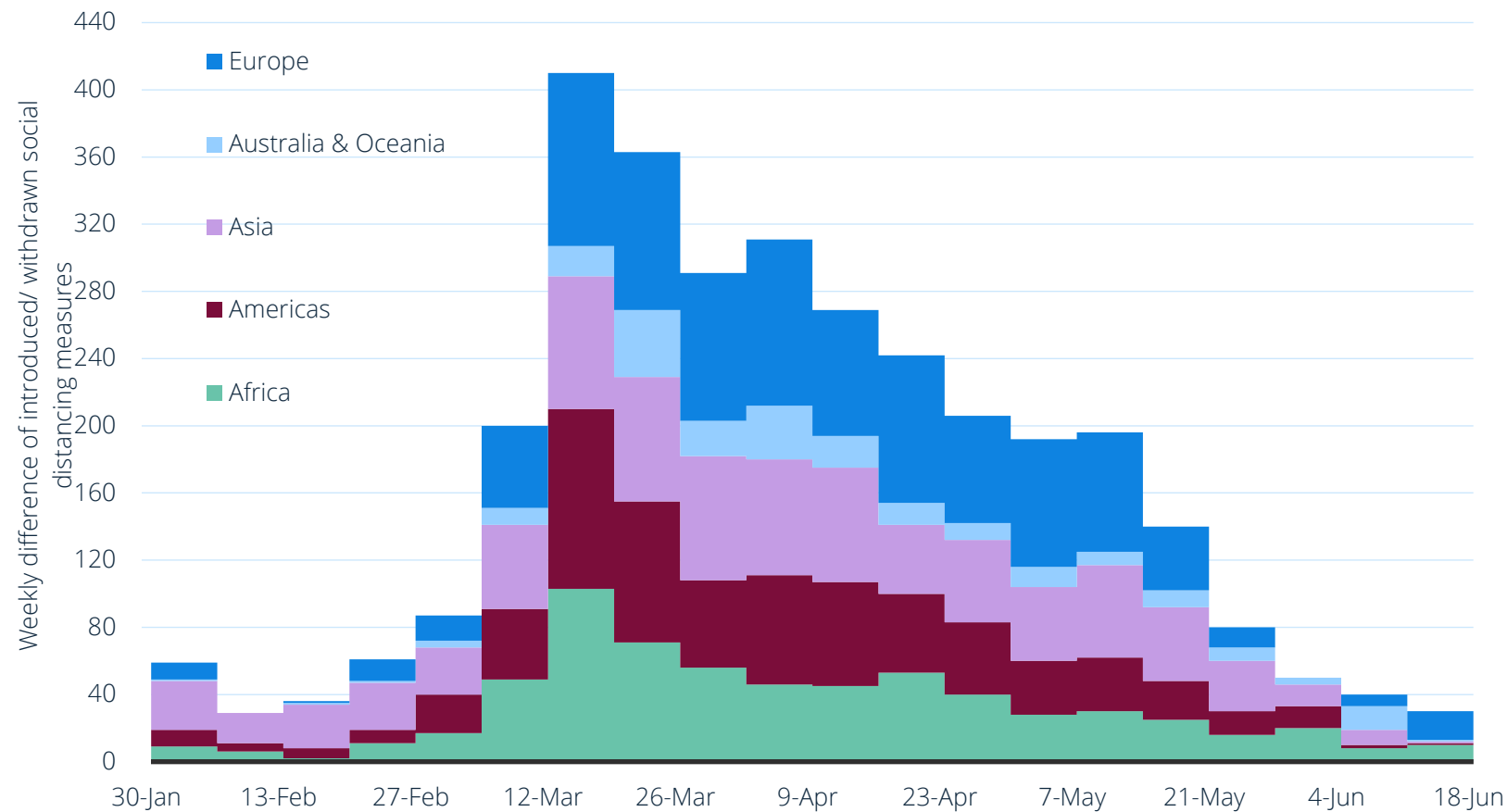


Public health measures, which include, for example, the requirement to wear protective gear in public or mass testing, are the second most common governmental measures globally. 99.5 percent of all countries have introduced such measures by June to curtail the spread of the pandemic.

The only country which hasn't introduced public health measures is Sudan in Africa.

Most public health measures were introduced in March, while the number of such measures in place is still increasing

Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrew public health measures by region as of June 18, 2020



Governmental social health measures include, for example, strengthening the public health system, or isolation and quarantine policies. Such measures were widely introduced in all regions in both March and April. Asia started to introduce comprehensive public health measures earlier, as it was the first to experience the spread of the virus, however, still more measures are introduced than revoked.

Until May, the number of public health measures has been continuously increasing in all five regions.

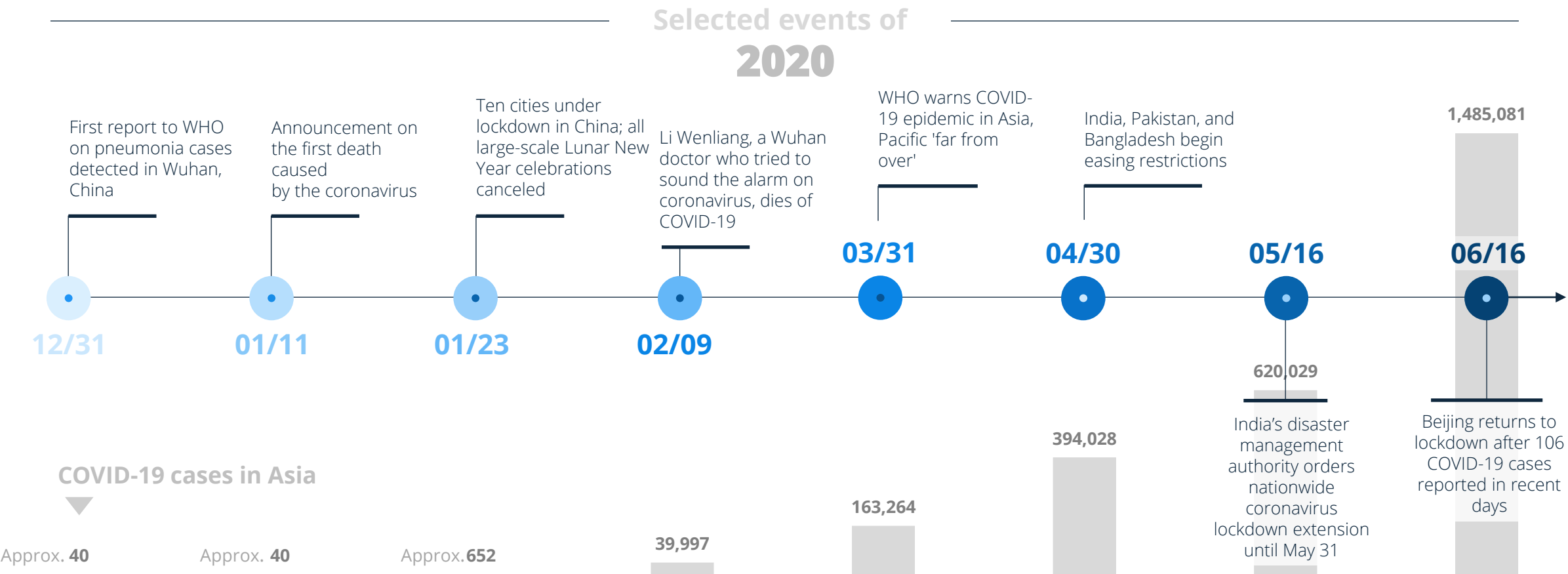


02 Asia

- Timeline of the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia
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Weeks after the first reported case, ten cities in China were already under lockdown

Major events regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia, 2020



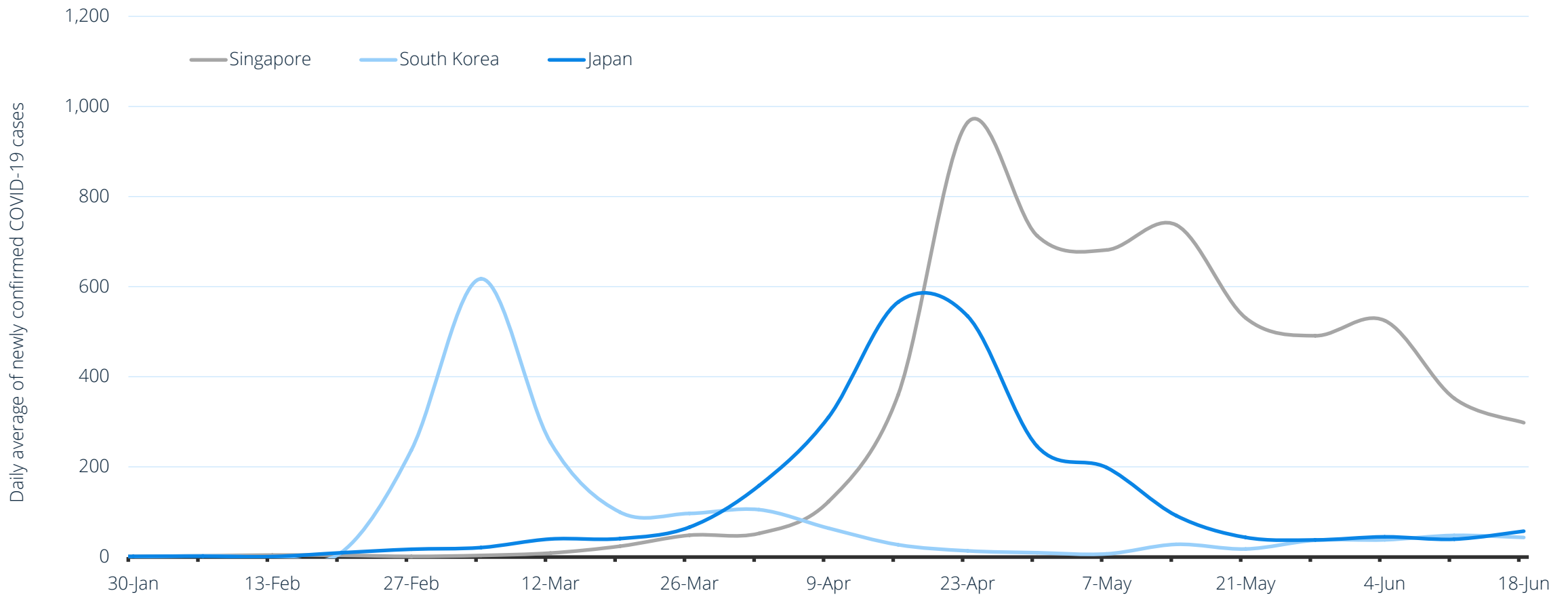
In many Asian countries, schools opened partially but under restrictions and with emergency plans

Restrictions implemented to halt the spread of COVID-19 in selected Asian countries as of June 18, 2020



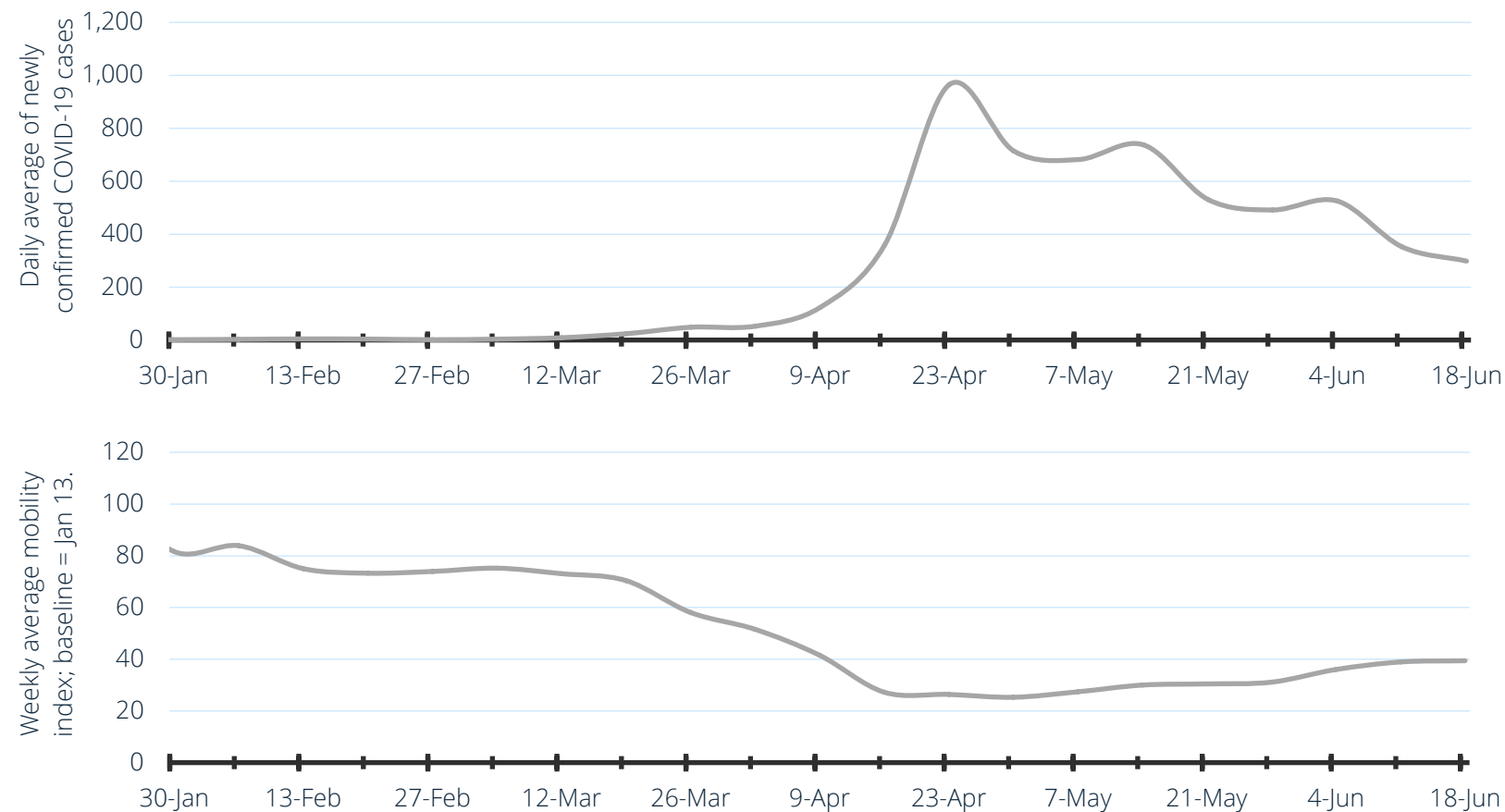
The curves of newly confirmed cases in Asian countries differed strongly, Singapore already experienced a second wave

Daily average of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis in selected Asian countries as of June 18, 2020



Mobility in Singapore decreased slowly but constantly, even before the steep increase in COVID-19 cases

Daily average of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis and mobility trends in Singapore as of June 18, 2020

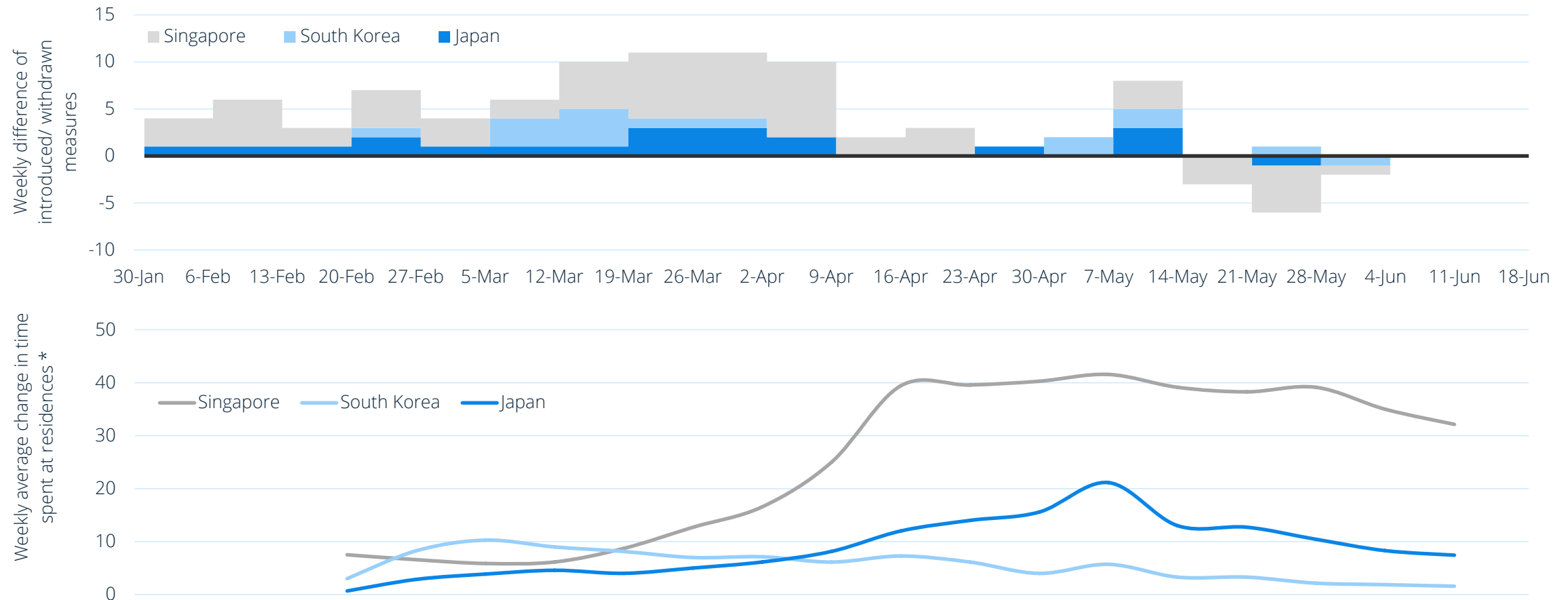


The number of COVID-19 cases increased strongly in the beginning of April in Singapore. However, Singaporeans became more cautious and began to walk, drive, and travelling less on public transportation in February, already before the steep rise in cases.

Mid-April, when the number of newly confirmed cases peaked in Singapore, mobility in the country had decreased by 75 percent compared to January 13th. Although the number of cases has significantly decreased since, mobility has only recovered slightly.

Although Singapore introduced numerous restriction measures in March, time spent at residence only increased sharply in April

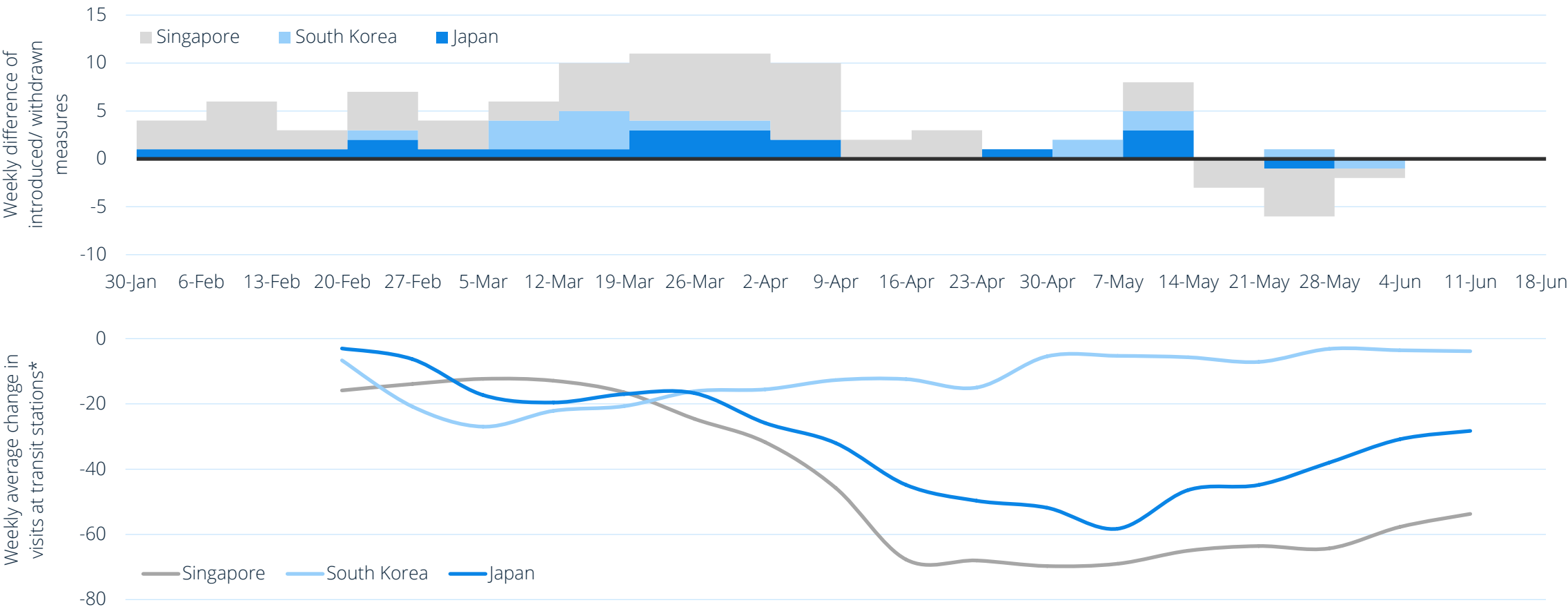
Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn movement restrictions, social distancing, and lockdown measures and change in time spent at residences in selected Asian countries, 2020



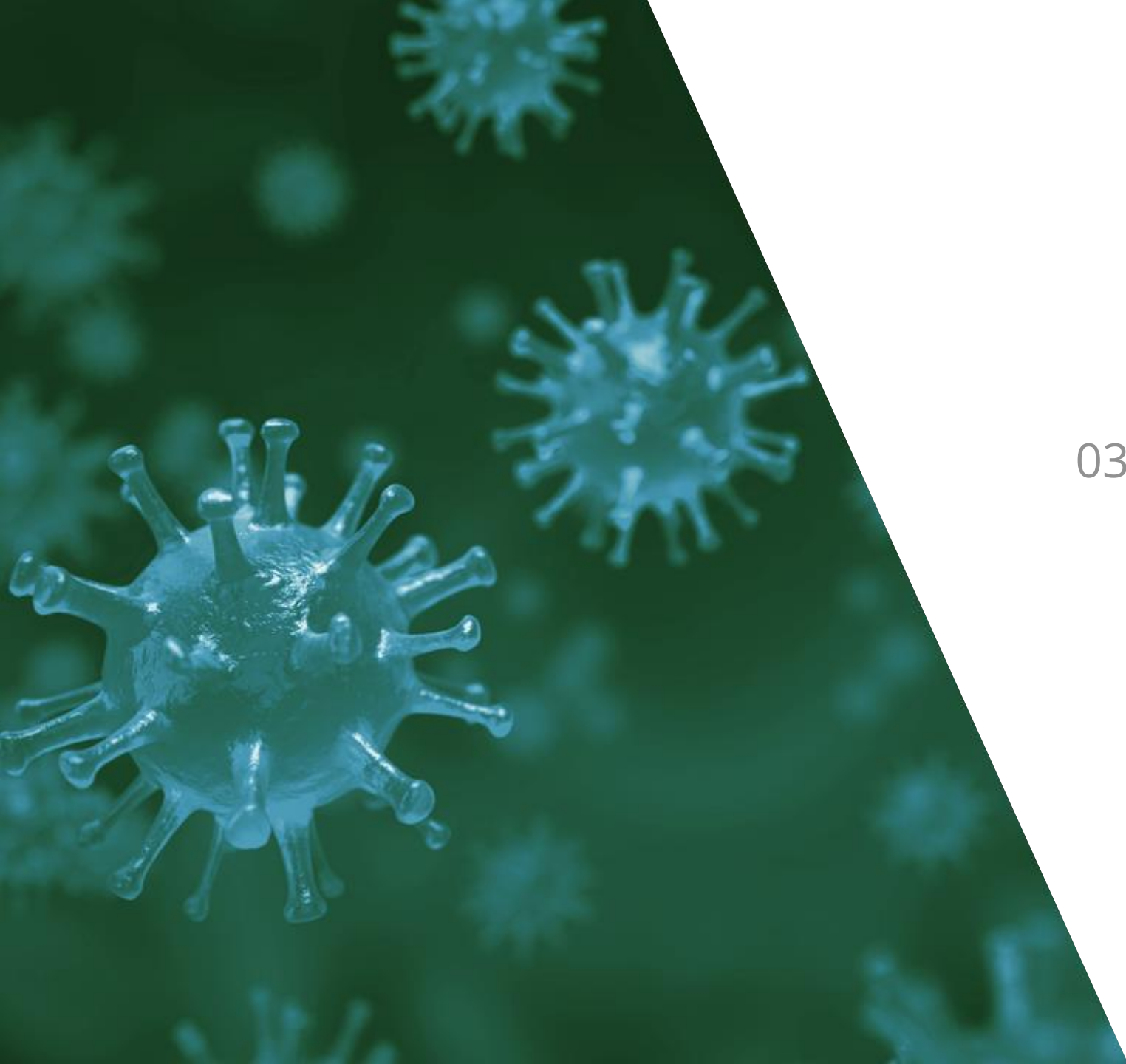
* **Note:** Shows the weekly average percentage change in time spent at residential properties compared to the median of the last five weeks
Source(s): Statista, ACAPS, Google mobility

Restriction measures have not affected transit station visits strongly in South Korea; in Singapore, the decrease was significant

Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn movement restrictions, social distancing, and lockdown measures and change in visits at transit stations in selected Asian countries, 2020



21 *** Note:** Shows the weekly average percentage change of visits at transit stations (e.g. subway station, taxi stand) compared to the median of the last five weeks
Source(s): Statista, ACAPS, Google mobility



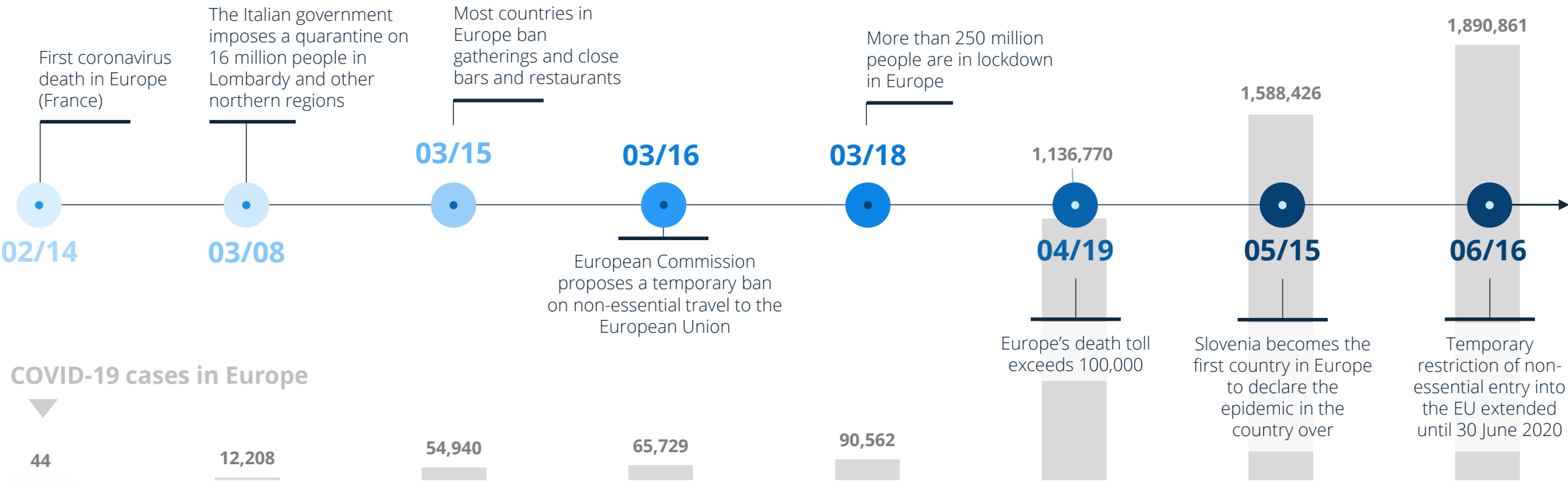
03 Europe

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From the first coronavirus death in Europe to the first European country declaring the pandemic over in just three months

Major events regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe, 2020

Selected events of 2020



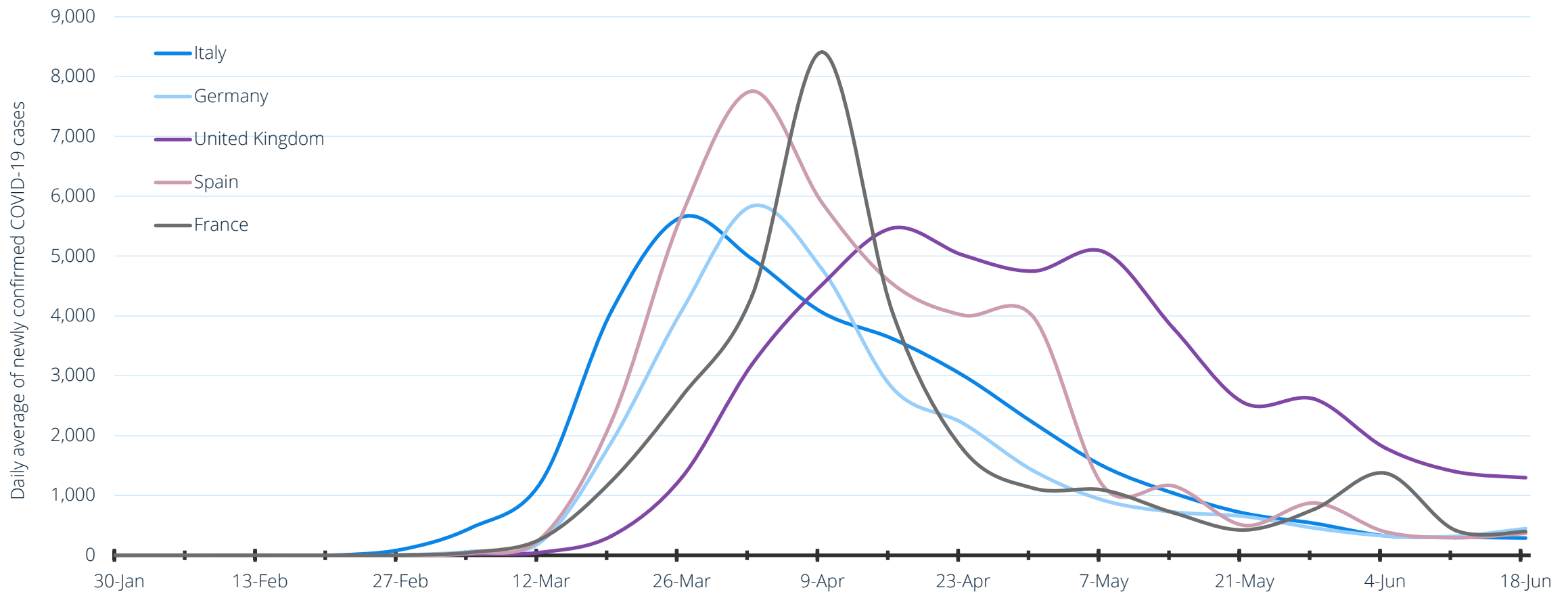
Most European countries eased traveling restrictions for EU citizens within the Schengen Area

Restrictions implemented to halt the spread of COVID-19 in selected European countries as of June 18, 2020



Italy and Germany show a very similar trend in new cases; the United Kingdom was less successful in flattening the curve quickly

Daily average of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis in selected European countries as of June 18, 2020

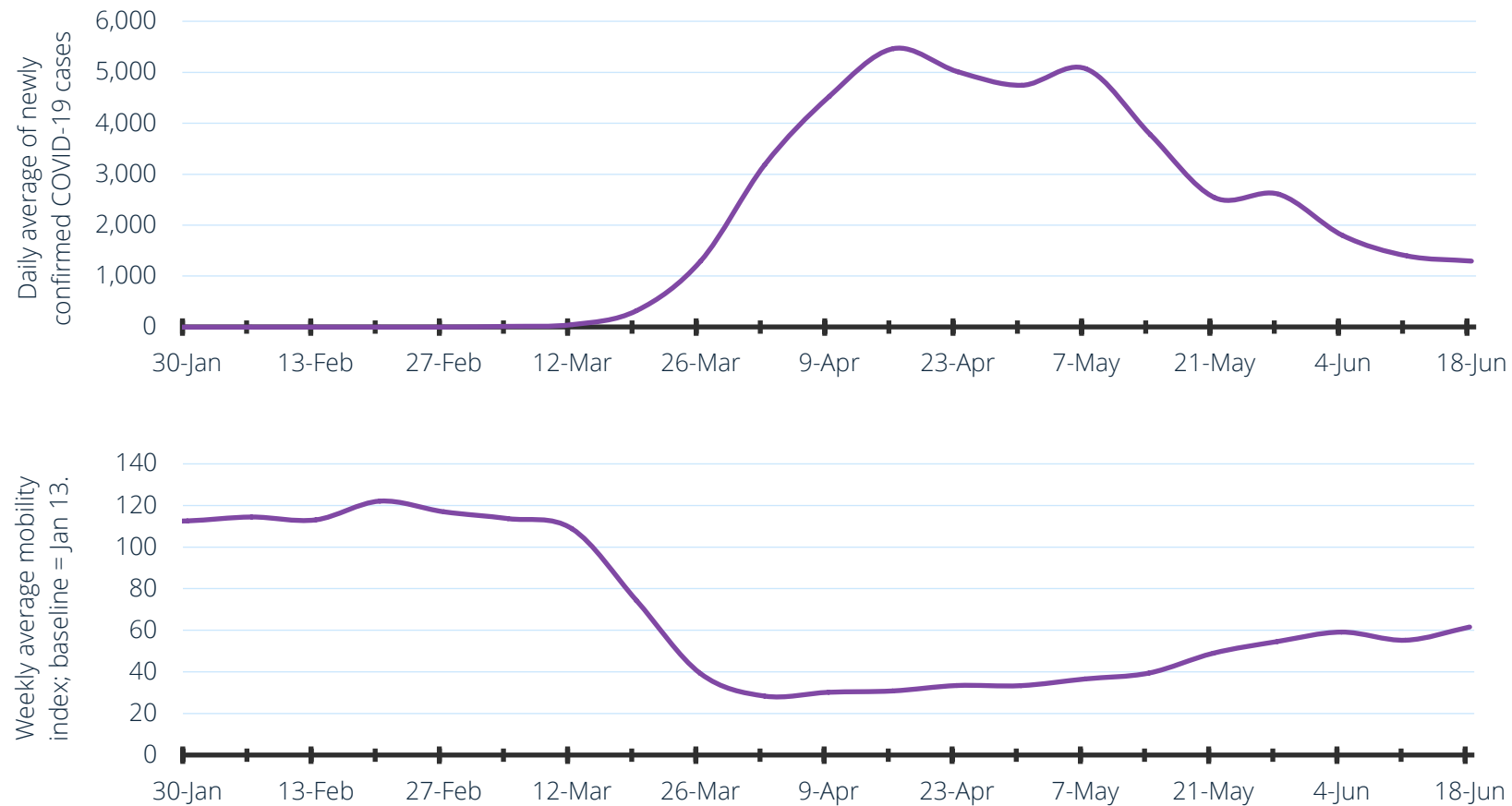


Note: Spain reported minus 23,464 new cases on April 30 which are not included in estimating the week average.

Source(s): Statista, Johns Hopkins CSSE

In the United Kingdom, mobility decreased almost at the same time the number of new cases increased

Daily average of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis and mobility trends in the United Kingdom as of June 18, 2020

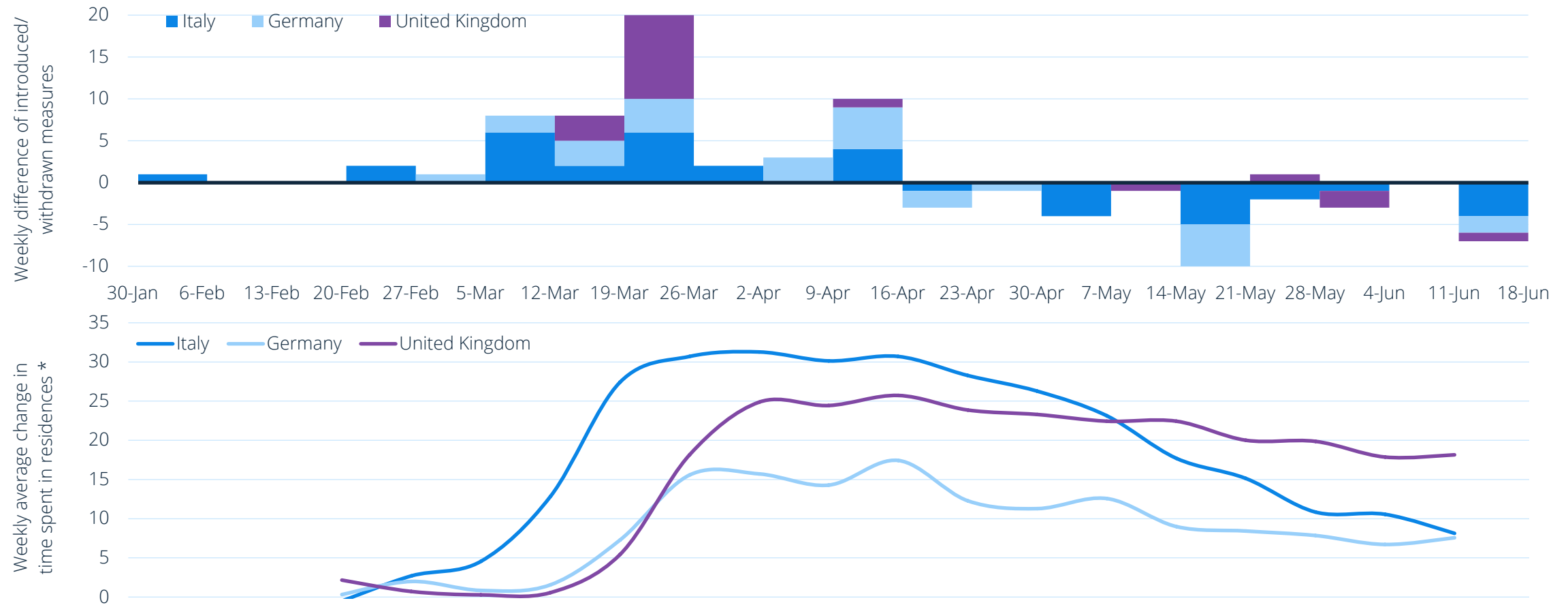


The week after the 12th of March, the United Kingdom experienced a sharp increase in newly confirmed cases. This is when the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, advised everyone to avoid non-essential travel and stay at home, which led to a significant drop in mobility. This was followed by a nationwide lockdown on the 23rd of March, which further decreased mobility.

As the number of daily average new cases decreased sharply since May, mobility has only slightly increased compared to the end of March.

As numerous restrictions were introduced, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom showed an increase in time spent at residences

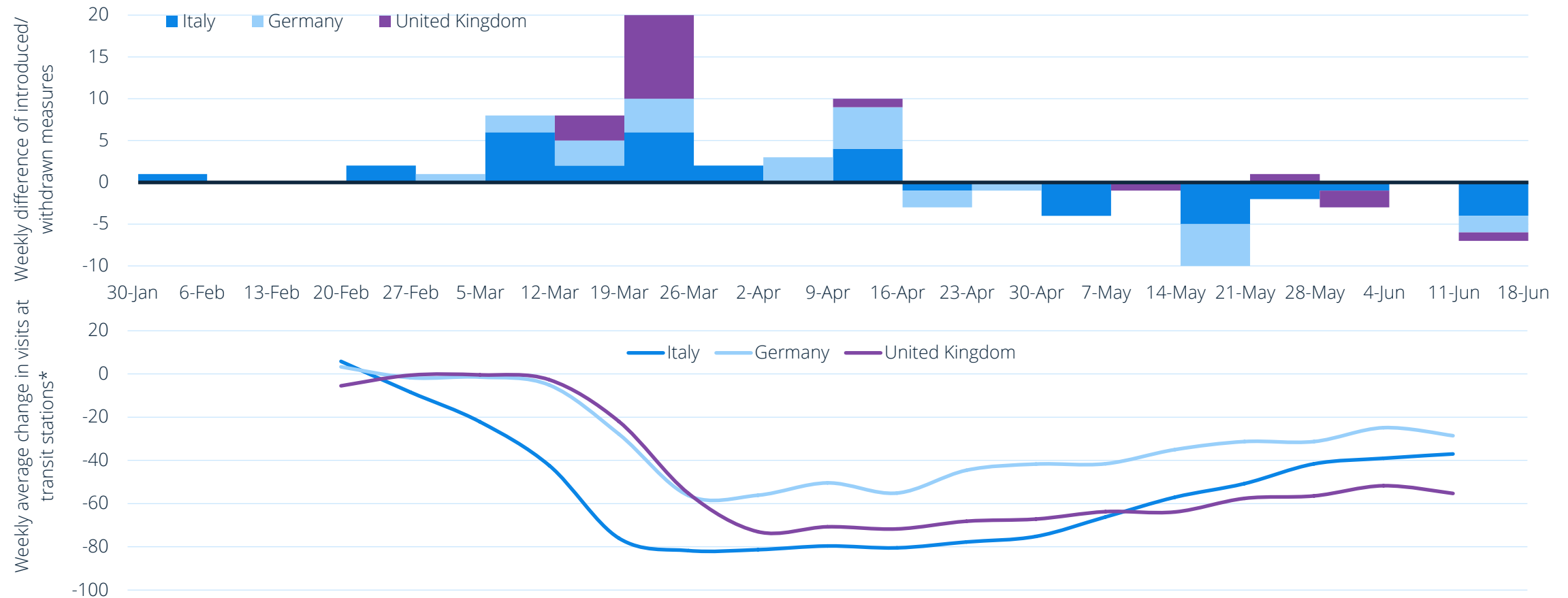
Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn movement restrictions, social distancing, and lockdown measures and change in time spent at residences in selected European countries, 2020



* **Note:** Shows the weekly average percentage change in time spent at residential properties compared to the median of the last five weeks
Source(s): Statista, ACAPS, Google mobility

As Italy had one of the strictest lockdowns, the visits of transit stations decreased over 80 percent in March

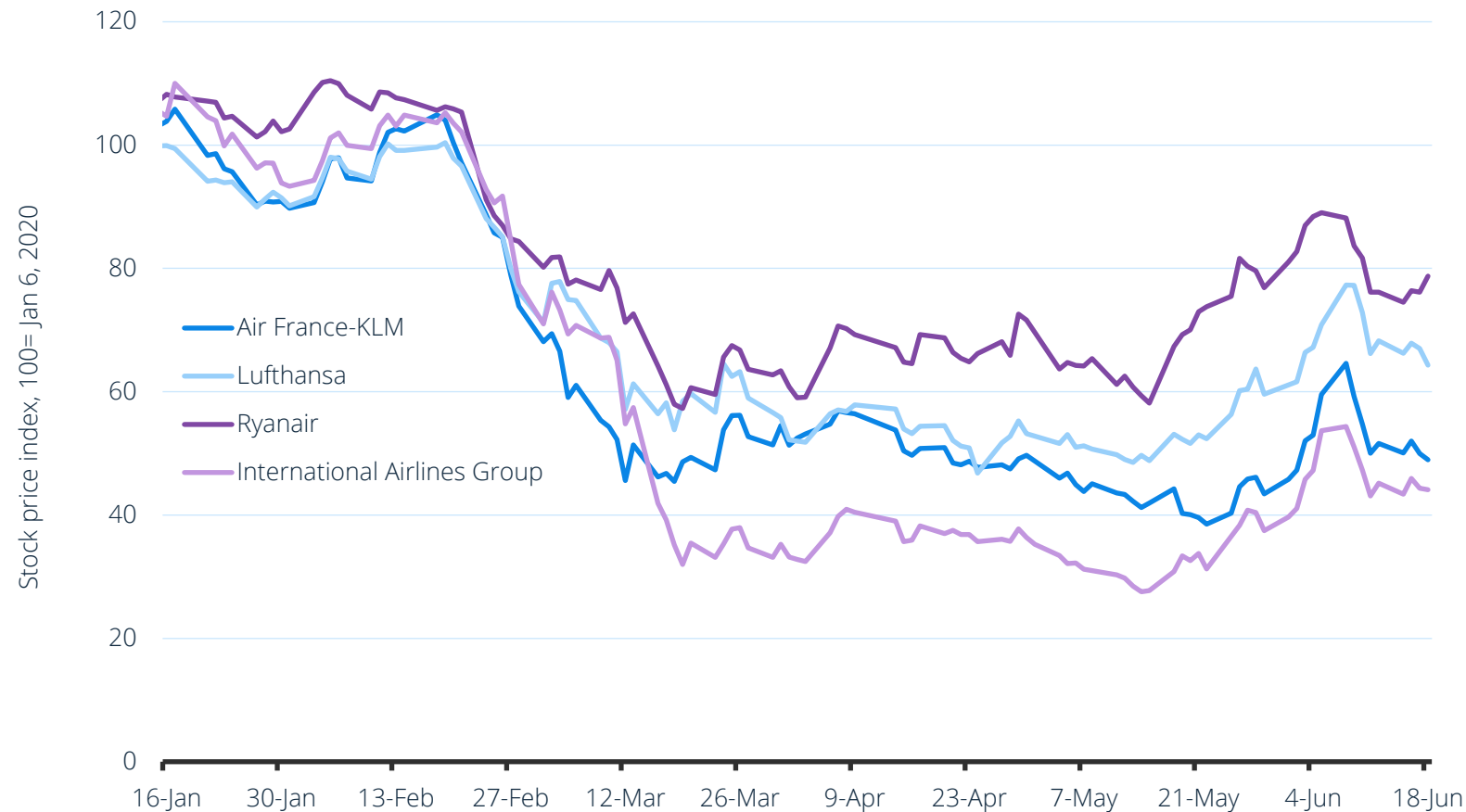
Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn movement restrictions, social distancing, and lockdown measures and change in visits at transit stations in selected European countries, 2020



* **Note:** Shows the weekly average percentage change of visits at transit stations (e.g. subway station, taxi stand) compared to the median of the last five weeks
Source(s): Statista, ACAPS, Google mobility

Stock prices of European airlines have been hit hard by travel bans and passenger uncertainty, but they are slowly recovering

Stock price index of major European airlines, 2020



European nations have closed their borders, and governments advised their citizens to postpone unnecessary trips.

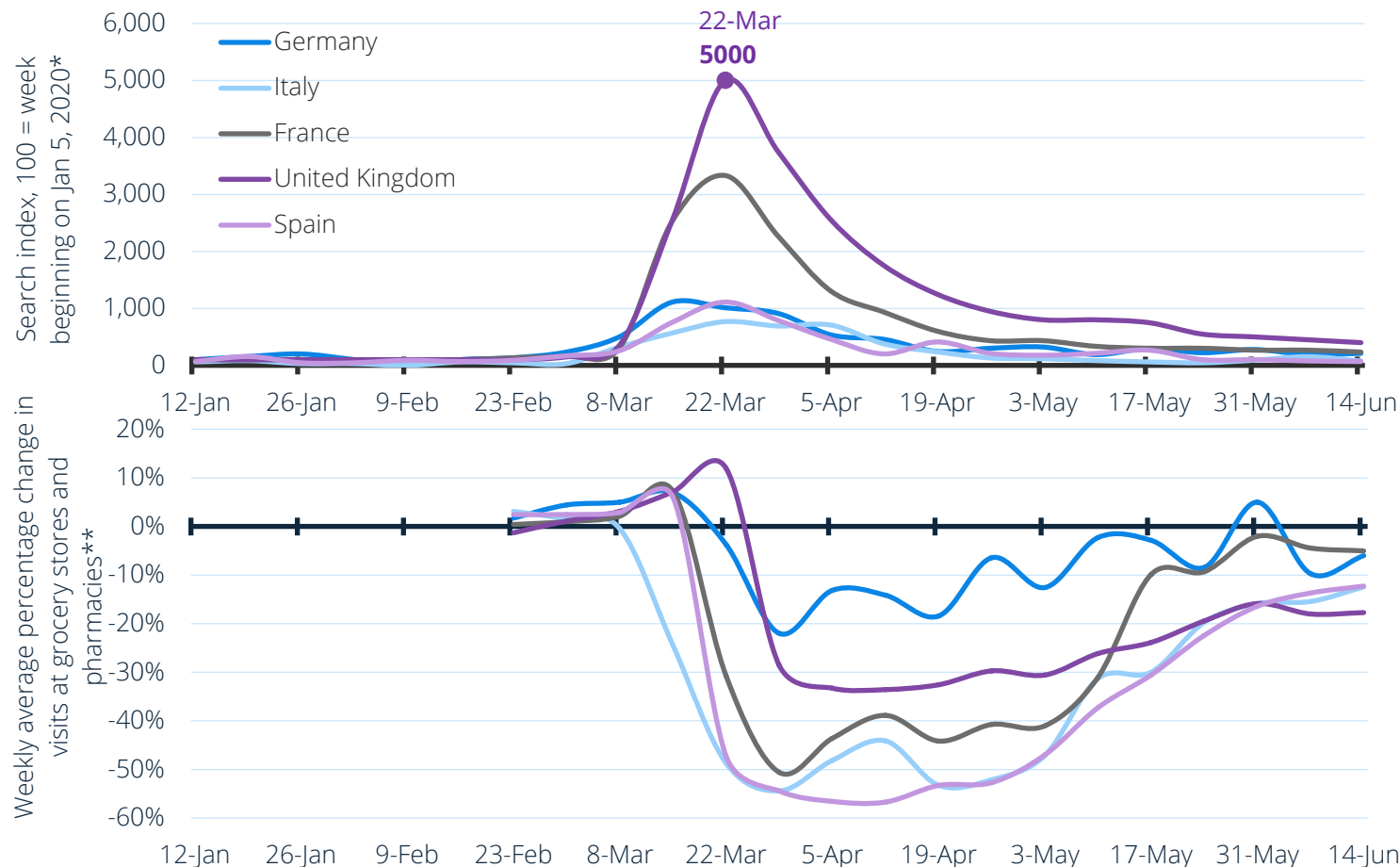
This situation has left many airports around the continent with much less buzz than usual. The stock prices of European airlines reacted accordingly.

With most of their fleet forced to stay on the ground, the International Airlines group, for example, was only worth a third of its early-January value by mid-March.

Nonetheless, as travel restrictions are gradually being lifted and international travel negotiations are being made, the stock prices of airlines have begun to increase again.

As restaurants and cafés were closed and supermarkets initially often avoided, consumers looked for food delivery options

Web search index for food delivery of supermarkets and change in visits of grocery stores and pharmacies in selected countries, 2020



In March and April, as more and more countries were placed under lockdown and governments advised their citizens to avoid crowded places and long queues in supermarkets, all selected countries saw a strong increase in online search for food delivery, ranging from growing nearly tenfold in Germany and Spain to increasing fiftyfold in the United Kingdom.

Simultaneously, the number of those visiting grocery stores and pharmacies decreased significantly. As the bottom graph shows, the largest decrease was seen in Spain and Italy where the lockdowns were the strictest.

* **Note:** Indexing is intra-country-based, which means that only change within the country is displayed

** **Note:** Shows the weekly average percentage change of visits at grocery stores and pharmacies compared to the median of the last five weeks

Source(s): Statista, Google trends, Google Mobility



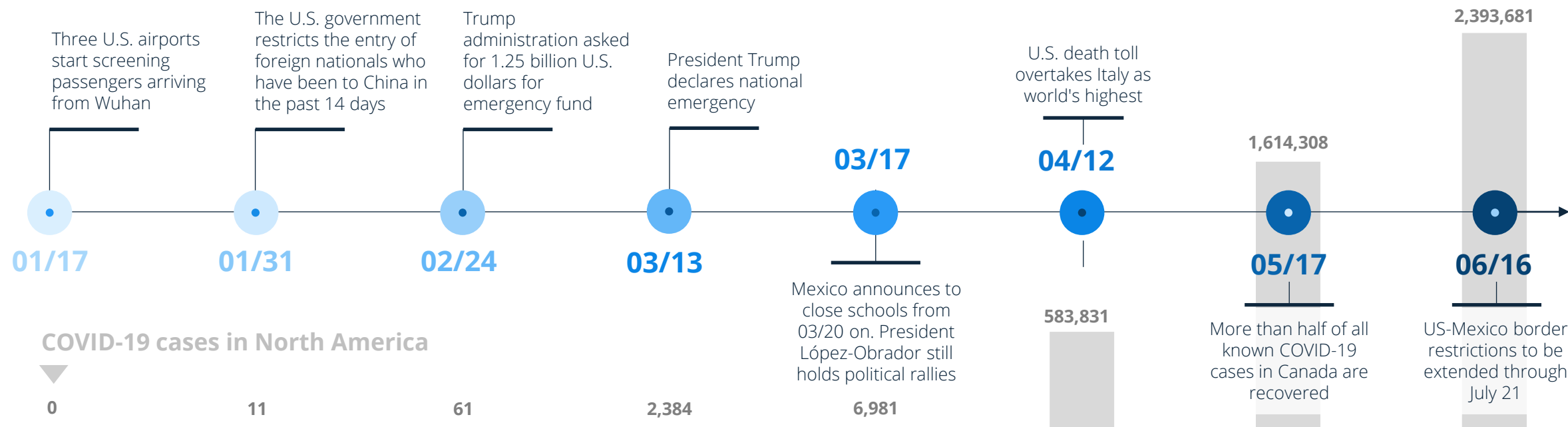
04 North America

- Timeline of the COVID-19 pandemic in North America
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Two weeks after the first COVID-19 death in the United States, President Trump declares a national emergency

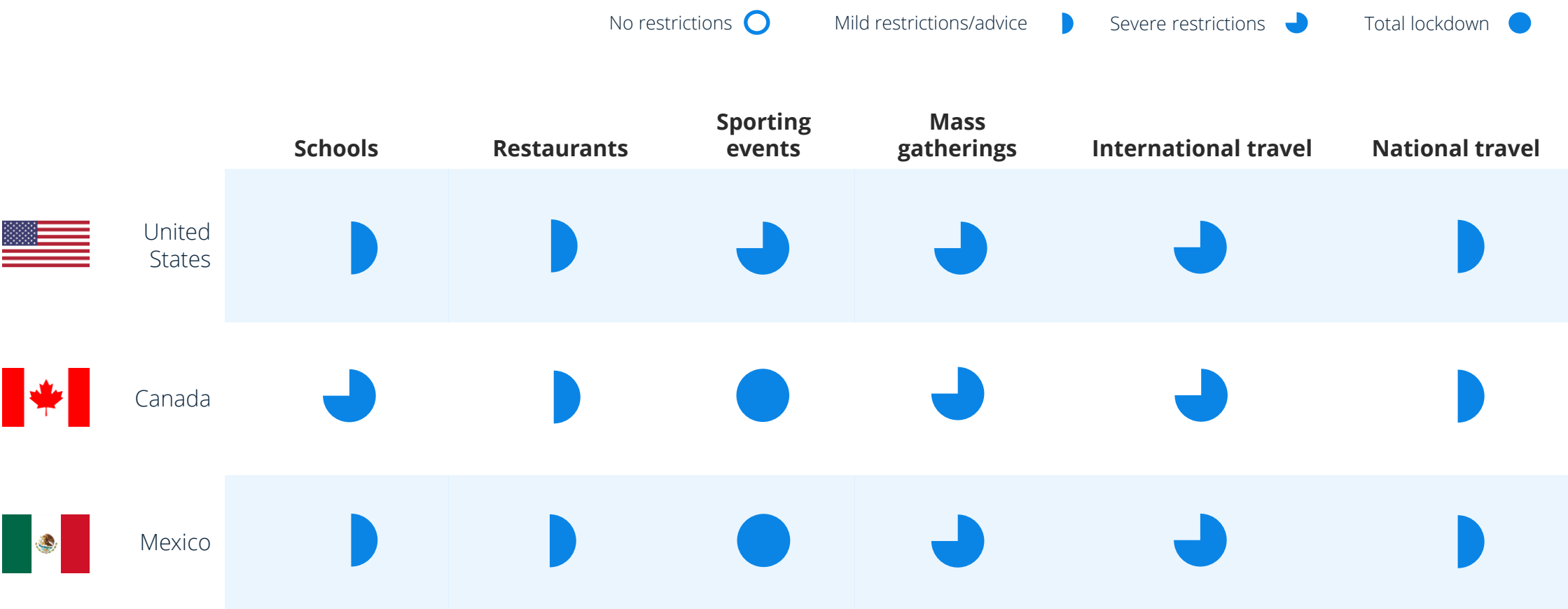
Major events regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in North America, 2020

Selected events of 2020



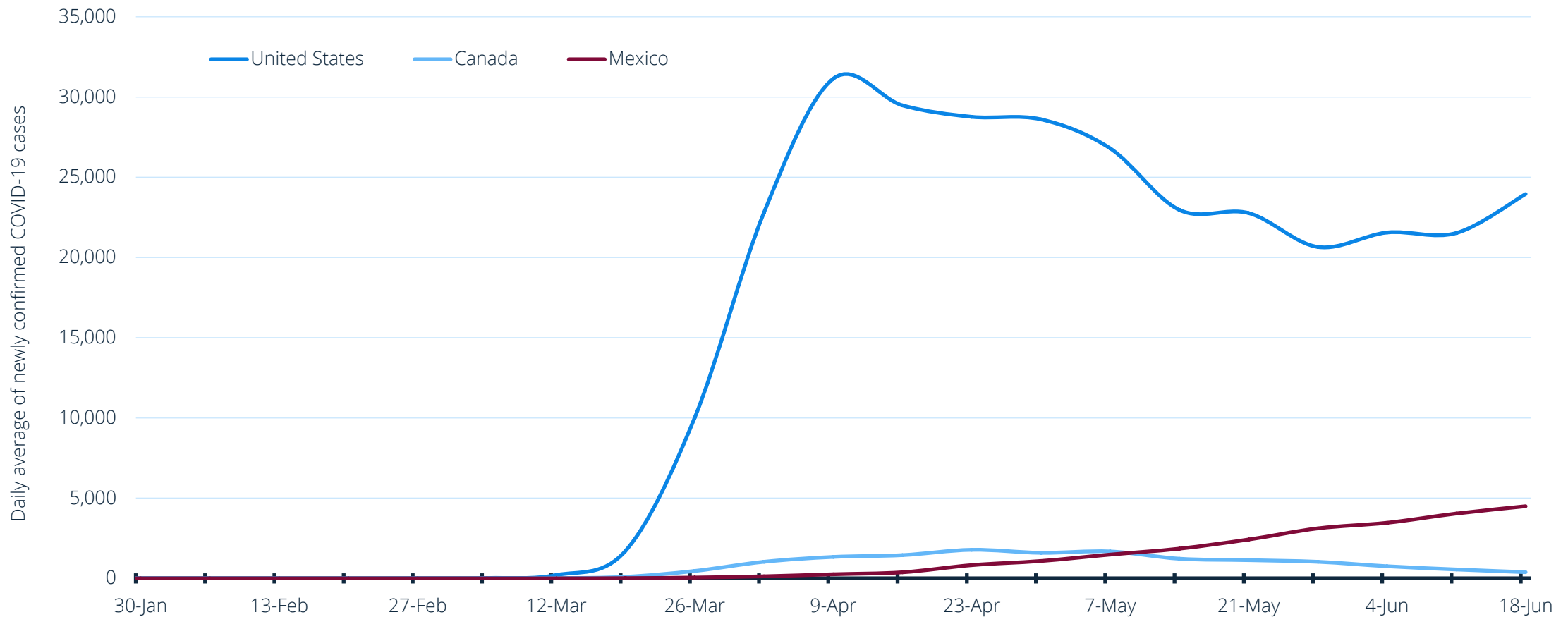
Sporting events remain strongly restricted in Canada and Mexico, while limitations of other activities are less strict

Restrictions implemented to halt the spread of COVID-19 in North America as of June 18, 2020



The number of newly confirmed cases in the United States has highly exceeded that in neighboring countries

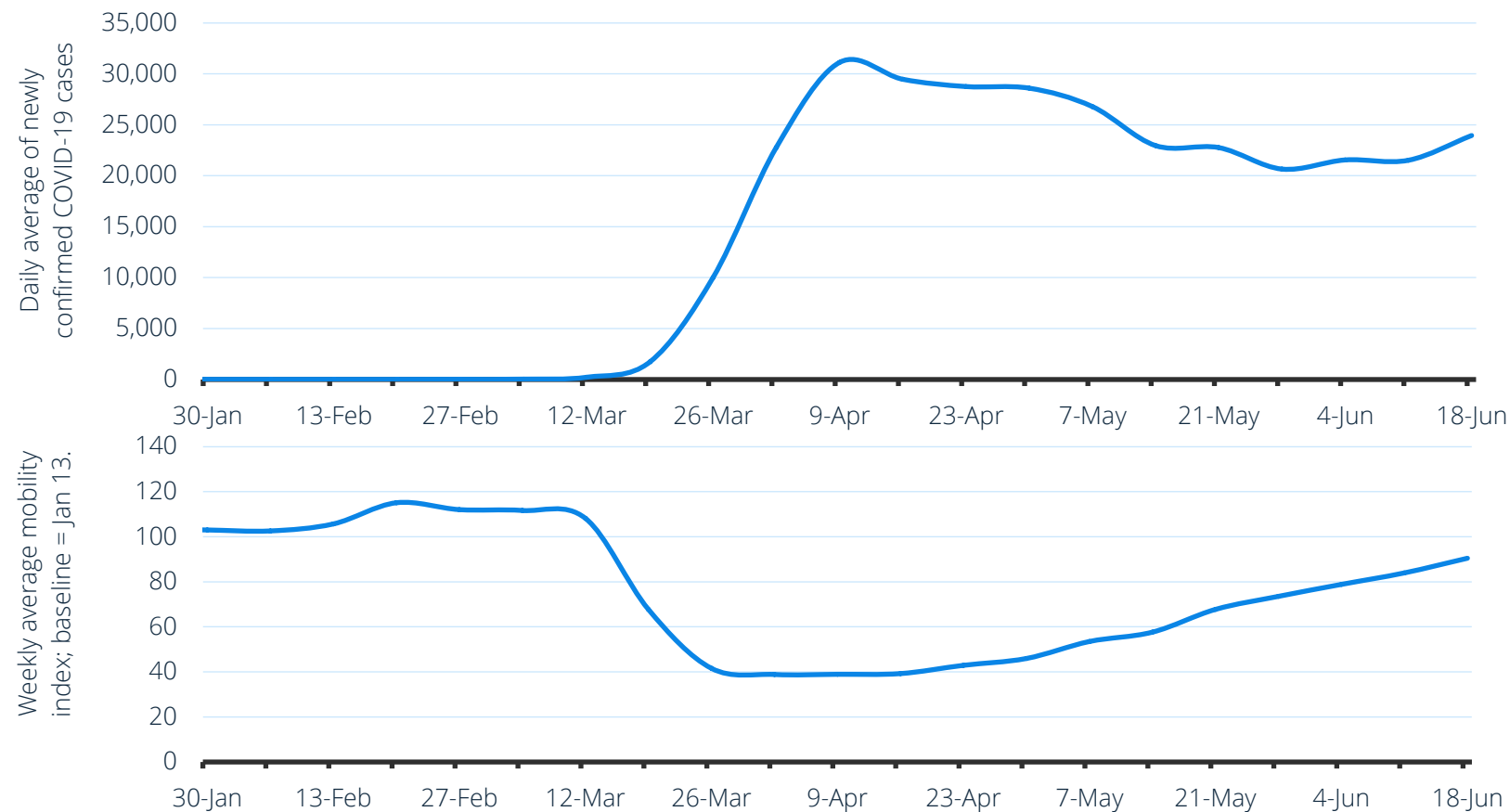
Daily average of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis in selected North American countries as of June 18, 2020



Source(s): Statista, Johns Hopkins CSSE

The huge increase of new cases in the United States led to a declaration of a national emergency and a stark drop in mobility

Daily average of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis and mobility trends in the United States as of June 18, 2020



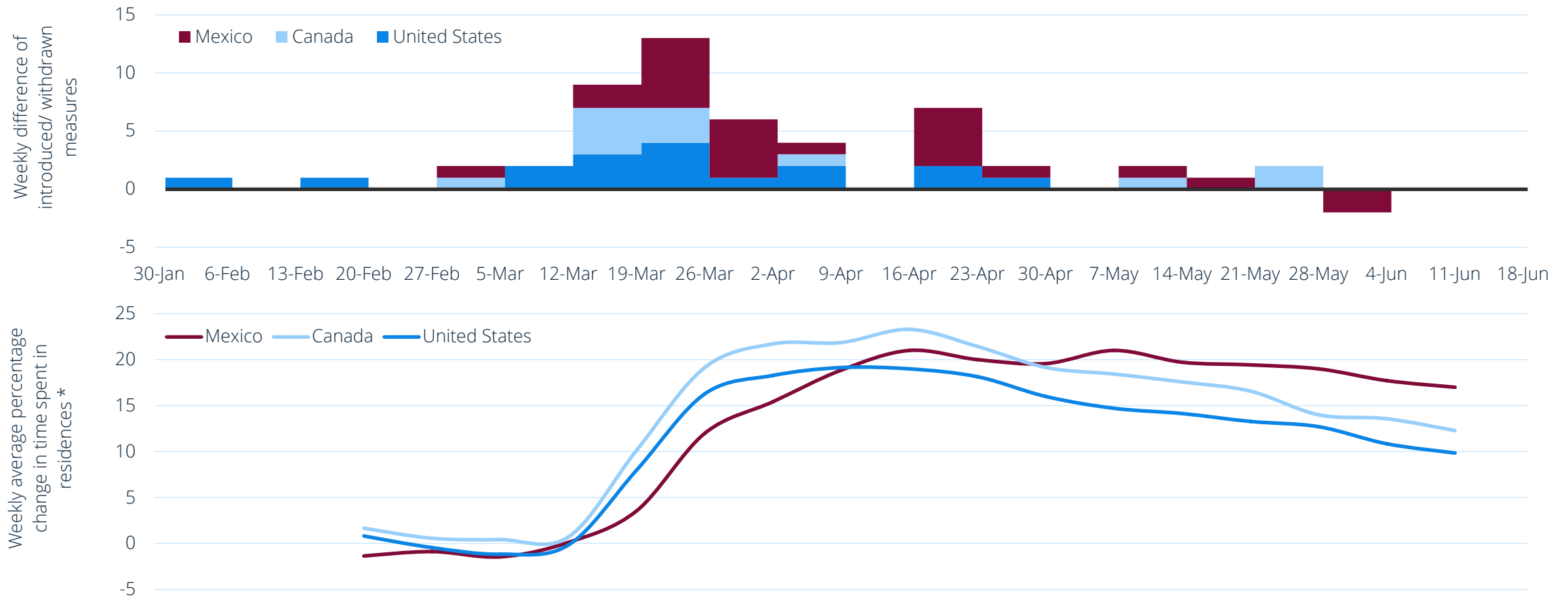
The United States is one of the countries hit hardest by the pandemic. As the number of cases increased significantly in mid-March, on March 13th, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency. This has led to a significant drop in mobility.

The number of newly confirmed cases was highest in mid-April, and mobility in the country only reached 40 percent of January values during this period.

Although the number of new cases remains high, mobility has slowly recovered and already reached 80 percent of January values by the end of May.

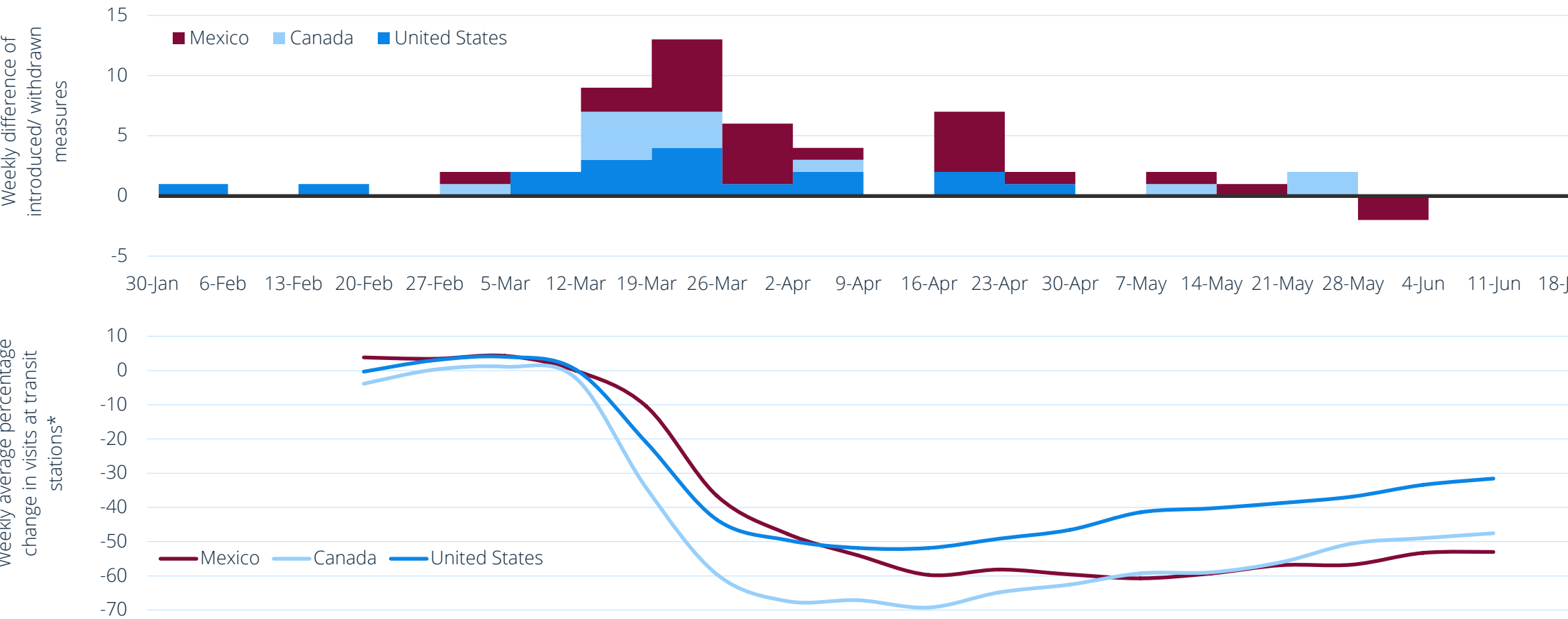
The large number of measures introduced by the Mexican government in April did not affect the time spent at residences

Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn movement restrictions, social distancing, and lockdown measures and change in time spent at residences in North American countries, 2020



During the pandemic, transit station usage has been cut in half in Canada, the United States, and in Mexico

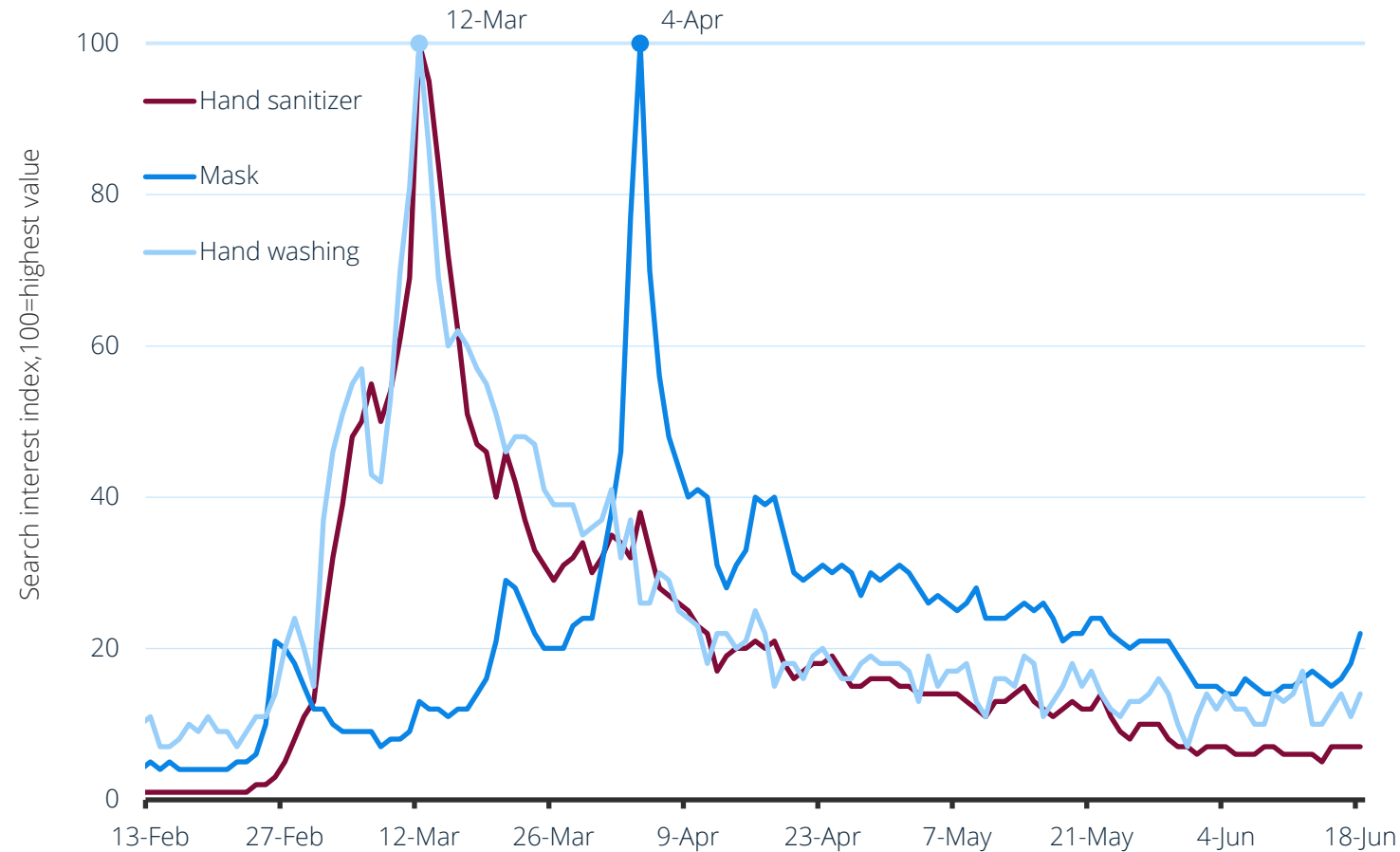
Weekly difference of introduced/ withdrawn movement restrictions, social distancing, and lockdown measures and change in visits at transit stations in North American countries, 2020



37 *** Note:** Shows the weekly average percentage change of visits at transit stations (e.g. subway station, taxi stand) compared to the median of the last five weeks
Source(s): Statista, ACAPS, Google mobility

Americans have been searching for ways to lower the chance of getting infected with the coronavirus, but interest is decreasing

Search interest in the United States for corona-related search topics, 2020



As the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing in the United States, more people are looking up hygiene measures online. Furthermore, as the usage of facemasks and hand sanitizer has been advised by experts around the world, Americans also began searching more often for these products.

Although washing your hands more often is already known as an effective method to decrease the chance of getting infected, search values on this topic did increase significantly.

As restriction measures are eased in the United States and daily life is slowly returning to normal, online searches for these particular items or terms are decreasing.

Sources

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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QZ

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Straitstimes

The Guardian

TMR

Trading Economics

UNESCO

VOA News

Wall Street Journal

Yahoo Finance

For full coverage on the latest developments and facts on the
COVID-19 pandemic, visit:
<https://www.statista.com/page/covid-19-coronavirus>

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