

The FBC Weekly Briefing - Covid-19 Outbreak

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- *Dubai starts receiving international tourists with the highest global standards of safety and precautionary measures.*
- *Guidelines for entry to Abu Dhabi have been updated.*
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| IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE GCC ECONOMIES & ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLANS



| UAE - COVID-19'S IMPACT, RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS AND STIMULUS PACKAGES

| UAE

UAE citizens and residents are now able to travel. The United Arab Emirates, represented by the National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, has announced that all citizens and residents in the UAE are now able to travel in accordance with the health preventive and precautionary requirements enforced within the UAE's airports and the destinations' regulations.¹

| DUBAI

Dubai starts receiving international tourists with the highest global standards of safety and precautionary measures. Ahead of the reopening, Dubai received the Safe Travels Stamp from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which validates the stringent global hygiene and safety protocols the city has put in place to ensure the health and safety of tourists and passengers.²



DMCC – the world's flagship Free Zone and Government of Dubai Authority on commodities trade and enterprise – has expanded and extended its 'Business Support

Package' which will run until 31 August 2020. The announcement follows the positive market reaction from the Dubai business community to the original package launched in April – DMCC's largest ever commercial incentive. Designed to reduce the cost of doing business, support SMEs, and boost the commercial resilience of members during an economic climate shaped by COVID-19, a whole range of cost reduction measures have been announced.³

Dubai FDI calls on free zone companies and investors to capitalise on stimulus measures. Dubai Investment Development Agency (Dubai FDI), an agency of Dubai Economy, called on businesses and investors to capitalise on the incentives announced by the various free zones to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on economic activity in the emirate.⁴

Dubai Developments Group extends rental holiday for business tenants. Tenants in properties owned by Dubai Developments Group are set to benefit from an extended rental holiday after a Dh200 million relief package was announced by Dubai's Deputy Ruler and Minister of Finance, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid. All business tenants in the company's properties will now be exempt from paying rent for six months, up from three months previously. The move is aimed at helping companies of all sizes tide through a tough economic period caused by the Covid-19 outbreak and the restrictions put in place to stop its spread.⁵

Dubai Land Department launches real estate promotion initiative 'Invest in Dubai'. The Dubai Land Department, DLD, through the Promotion and Real Estate Investment Management Sector, launched its new 'Invest in Dubai' initiative under the theme 'Discussing the Opportunities that Arise from Dubai as a Real Estate Investment Destination'. The initiative aims to highlight Dubai's position in real estate on a global front. It also sets out

1 <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302852943>

2 <https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/July/07-07/Dubai-starts-receiving-international-tourists>

3 <https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/July/07-07/DMCC-extends-business-support-package-in-boost-to-Dubai-economy>

4 <https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/July/07-07/Dubai-FDI-calls-on-free-zone-companies-and-investors-to-capitalise-on-stimulus-measures>

5 <https://www.thenational.ae/business/dubai-developments-group-extends-rental-holiday-for-business-tenants-1.1044998>

to confirm the vision and aspirations of Dubai, being a leading city in the world underpinning various real estate investment projects through an automated, virtual platform that features everyone operating in this field, including developers, investors, and brokers, linking them with investors from around the world.²



DP World's Dubai Trade portal launches e-delivery order to reduce disruptions. The company has already processed more than 17,000 transactions for over 1,400 customers. The e-delivery order, designed to support trade, logistics and supply chain players in times of operational disruptions, eliminates paperwork, minimises cargo clearance turnaround time, increases competitiveness and creates greater visibility of the cargo flow. The process is further underscored by Dubai Customs accepting digital bills of lading and delivery orders from agents.⁶

Dubai Economy sees 83% growth in DED Trader licences issued in first half of 2020. The DED Trader licence launched by the Business Registration & Licensing (BRL) sector in Dubai Economy (DED), enabling start-ups in Dubai to conduct business activities online and across social networking accounts, has seen overwhelming response with 1947 licences issued during the first half (January to end of June) of this year, an increase of 83% compared to the same period last year as the total number

of licences reached 1064 licences.⁷

Dubai Chamber has extended its digital tie-ups through a new deal with Dubai Airport Free Zone to connect their digital services.⁸

Dubai hotel operators 'cautiously optimistic' as tourists begin to trickle in. On Tuesday, July 7, Dubai reopened its doors to international visitors in the hopes of reviving its tourism industry after a closure that lasted almost four months. Hotel operators in Dubai have recorded an increase in enquiries as the emirate re-opens to tourism, with many expressing cautious optimism that demand will pick up over the coming months.⁹

in5 startups raise AED65 million in H1 2020. in5, an enabling platform for startups and entrepreneurs launched by TECOM Group, announced that its members have raised more than

AED65 million in direct investment, through multiple funding sources such as venture capital funds or angel investors, during the first six months of 2020. Small businesses, startups and SMEs have been among the hardest hit sectors by the COVID-19 pandemic, but agile entrepreneurs have successfully identified opportunities to raise capital. This suggests Dubai's entrepreneurial ecosystem will contribute to the UAE's economic resilience and recovery, consolidating its position as a hub for talent, knowledge and innovation as markets get moving again.¹⁰

School reopening : the protocols have been developed by the Government of Dubai. They're in place to make sure there's a consistent and effective approach to keeping everyone at school safe and healthy once schools open again in September.¹¹

6 <https://gulfbusiness.com/dp-worlds-dubai-trade-portal-launches-e-delivery-order-to-reduce-disruptions/>

7 <https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/July/04-07/Dubai-Economy-sees>

8 <https://gulfnnews.com/business/company-releases/dubai-chamber-and-dafza-ink-deal-for-digital-services-1.1594198971718>

9 <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/travel-hospitality/449295-dubai-hotel-operators-cautiously-optimistic-as-tourists-begin-to-trickle-in>

10 <https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/July/06-07/in5-startups-raise-AED65-million-in-H1-2020>

11 <https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/July/06-07/School-reopening-protocols-issued-by-Dubai-Government-place-safety-first>

| ABU DHABI

Guidelines for entry to Abu Dhabi have been updated to enable those leaving to take a test in the emirate before departing and present this result on return, provided this result is within 48 hours of receipt.¹²



Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transports announced the reopening of a selection of parks and public beaches from Friday, 3 July 2020, while adhering to all preventative and precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of community members.¹³

Etihad to operate at 45% pre-Covid capacity by August; to add 20 destinations from next month. Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways has confirmed that it will add several new destinations to its network starting August 1.¹⁴

¹² <https://twitter.com/admediaoffice/status/1279486728710041620>

¹³ <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302852846>

¹⁴ <https://gulfbusiness.com/abu-dhabis-etihad-to-operate-at-45-pre-covid-19-capacity-by-august/>

| KSA - COVID-19'S IMPACT, RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS AND STIMULUS PACKAGES

Saudi Arabia is extending some private sector stimulus measures that would have expired this month, with the government saying it's keen to support businesses that are struggling to recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Among the initiatives extended is a pledge to cover 60% of some Saudi salaries in the private sector through a government unemployment insurance program called Saned.¹

Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as president of the G20 group of nations, has unveiled a six-point business plan to jump start the global economy out of the recession brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan sets out a series of policy recommendations to counter the effects of the disease which threaten to spark the deepest economic recession in nearly a century. Yousef Al-Benyam, the chairman of the B20 business group within the G20, told a webinar from Riyadh that the response to the pandemic — including the injection of \$5 trillion into the global economy — had been “reassuring.”²

¹ <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-extends-economic-measures-to-mitigate-pandemic-impact-1.1593705148423>

² <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1701056/business-economy>





| KUWAIT - COVID-19'S IMPACT, RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS AND STIMULUS PACKAGES

Kuwait will disburse some 240.5 million dinars (\$780 million) to support its citizens employed in the private sector as part of efforts to soften the

impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the finance ministry said. The Public Authority for Manpower will transfer sums to Kuwaiti business owners and private sector employees for six months effective from last month.¹

1 [https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/595235/World/Mena/Kuwait-to-disburse-\\$780mn-tosupport-citizens-in-pvt-sector](https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/595235/World/Mena/Kuwait-to-disburse-$780mn-tosupport-citizens-in-pvt-sector)



| BAHRAIN - COVID-19'S IMPACT, RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS AND STIMULUS PACKAGES

Gulf Air resumes flights from Bahrain to Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Gulf Air will fly between Bahrain and Dubai six times a week until July 13, when the airline will increase this service to two flights a day. For now, all Gulf Air flights will operate out of Dubai International Airport's Terminal 3. To Abu Dhabi, the airline will operate five flights this week, and from next week it will launch a daily service to the capital.¹

Bahrain delays mosque reopening again, for fear of the spread of the new coronavirus due to congregations amid a spike in cases. The country's Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs unanimously decided at an online meeting Wednesday to keep the mosques closed and continue to suspend group prayers inside them.²

1 <https://www.thenational.ae/lifestyle/travel/gulf-air-resumes-flights-from-bahrain-to-dubai-and-abu-dhabi-1.1045363>

2 <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/bahrain/covid-19-bahrain-delays-mosque-reopening-again-1.72373993>



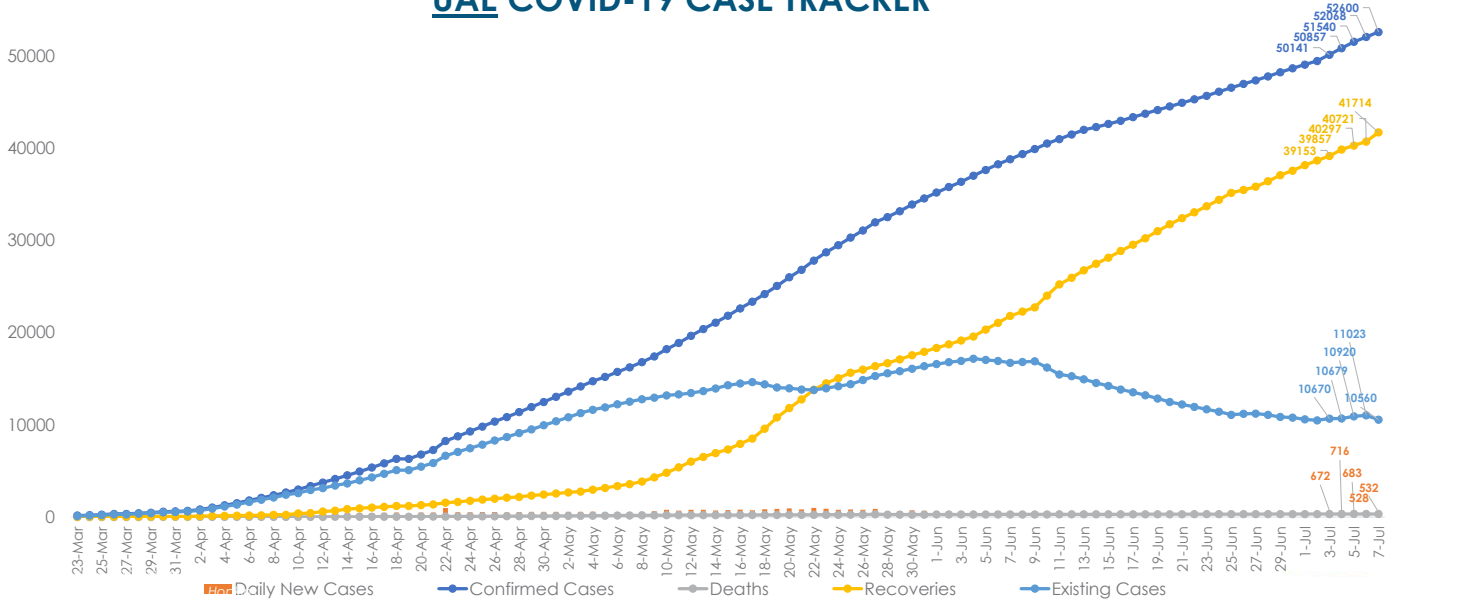
| OMAN - COVID-19'S IMPACT, RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS AND STIMULUS PACKAGES

The Sultanate's Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation declined by 0.73% during June 2020 compared to the same month of 2019, according to the latest data released by the National Centre

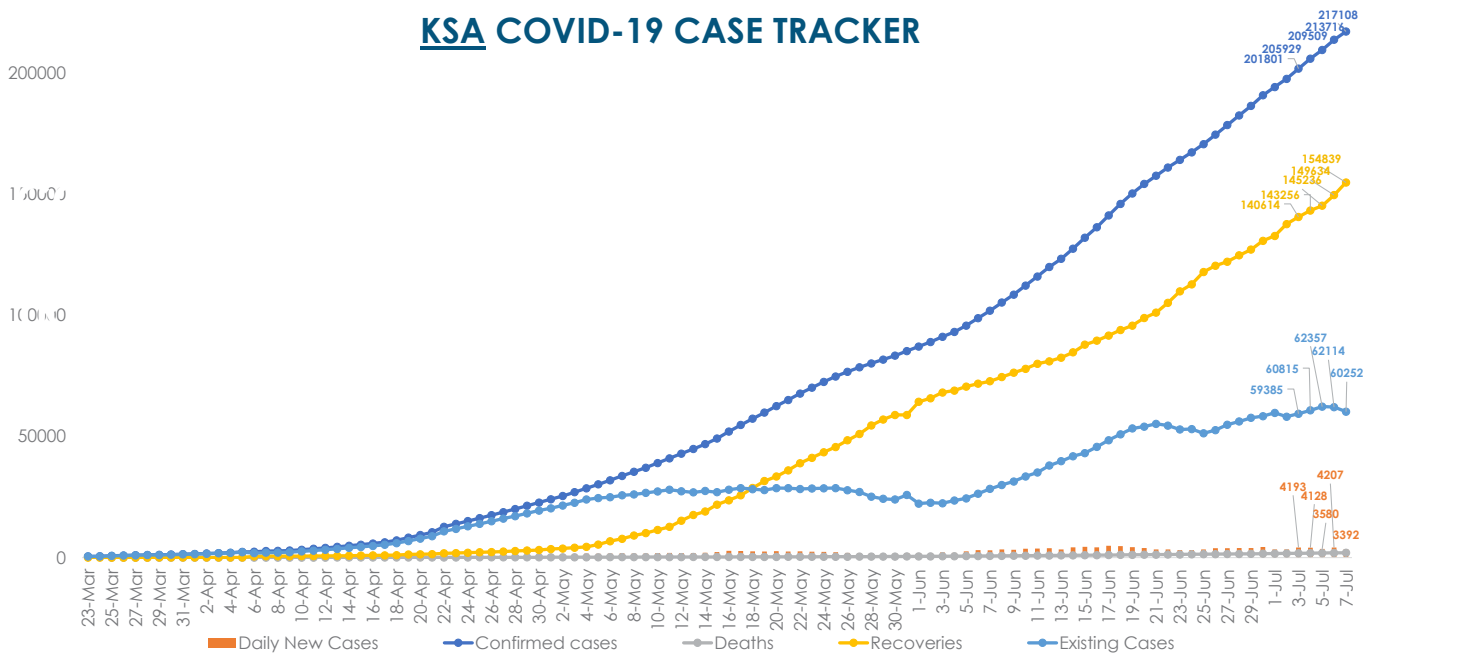
for Statistics and Information (NCSI) on CPI. According to the report, the inflation rate in June 2020 rose by 0.42% compared to May 2020. The food and non-alcoholic beverages group witnessed a price rise by 3.39%; health by 0.98%; education by 2.21%, and restaurants and hotels by 0.88%.¹

1 <https://omannews.gov.om/NewsDescription/ArtMID/392/ArticleID/15847/Inflation-Falls-073pc-in-the-Sultanate-during-June-2020>

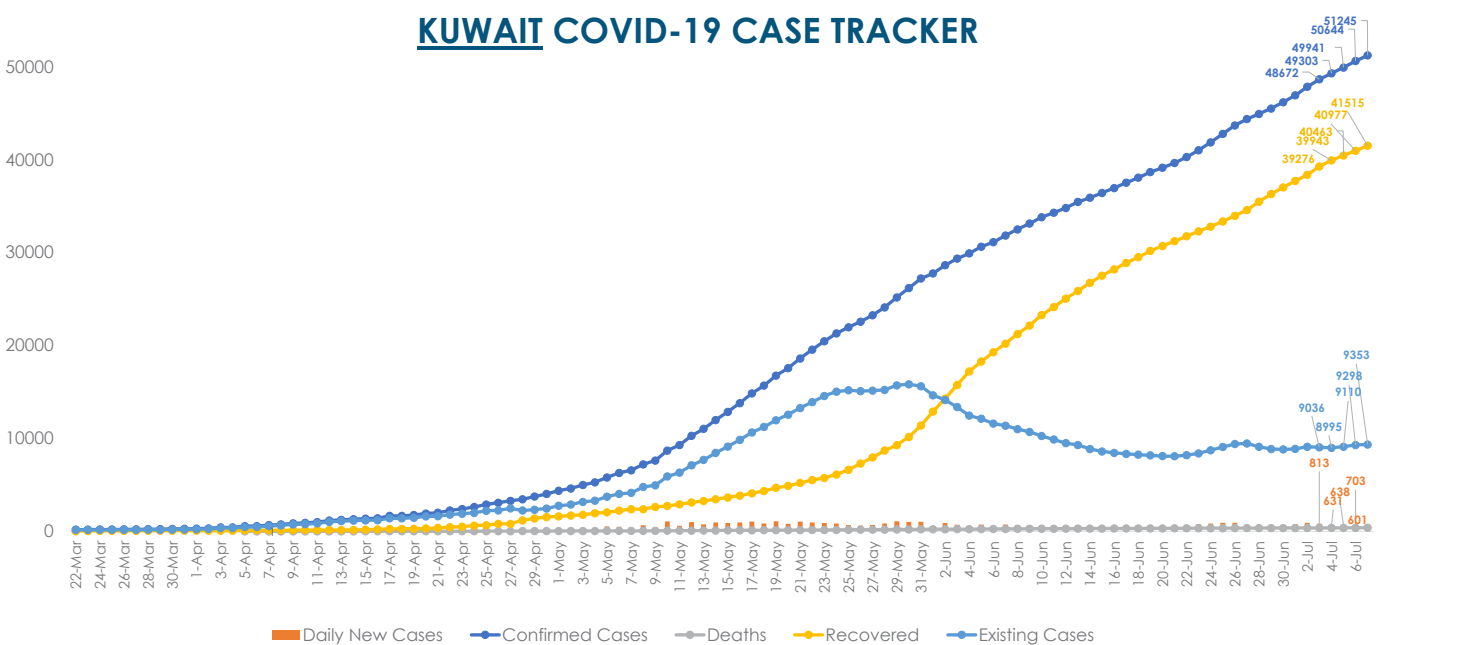
UAE COVID-19 CASE TRACKER



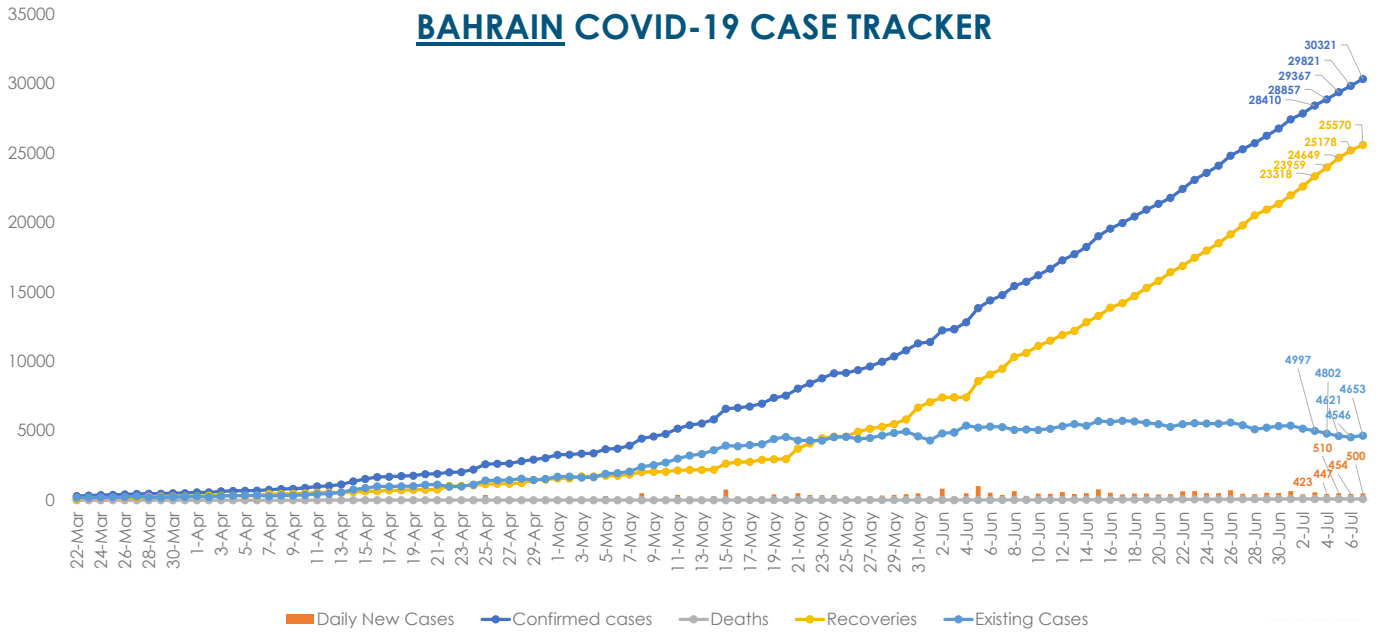
KSA COVID-19 CASE TRACKER



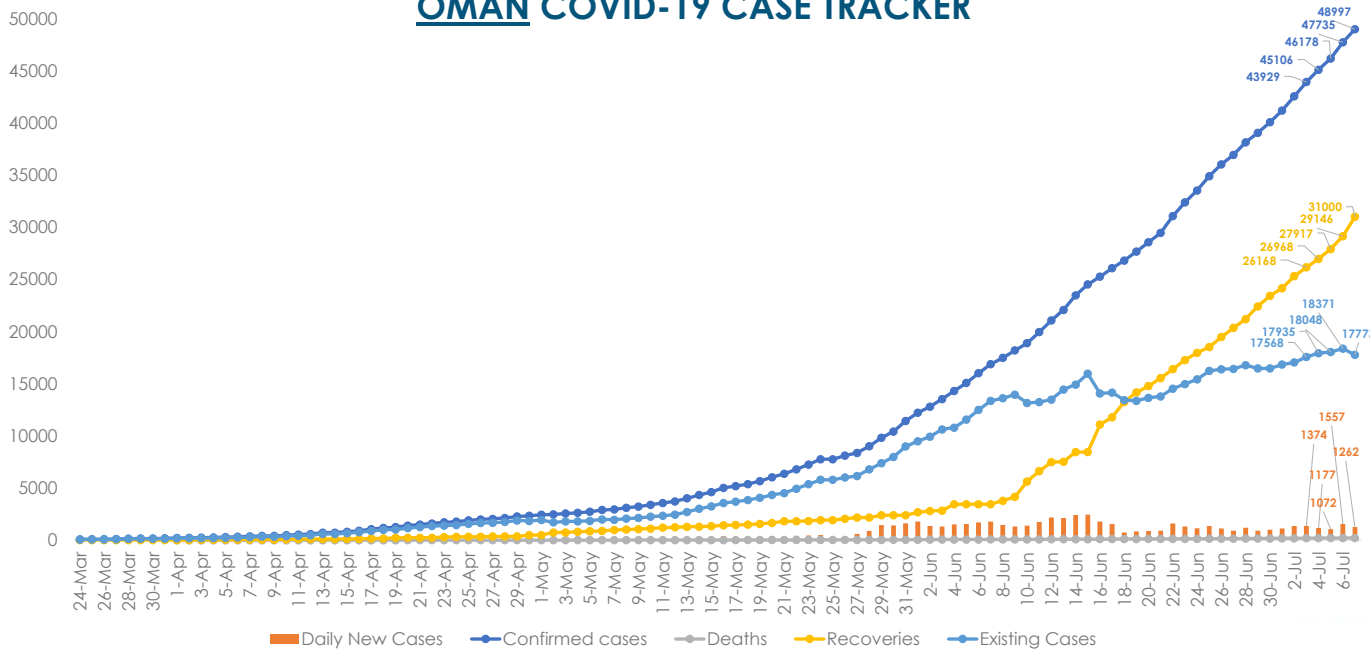
KUWAIT COVID-19 CASE TRACKER



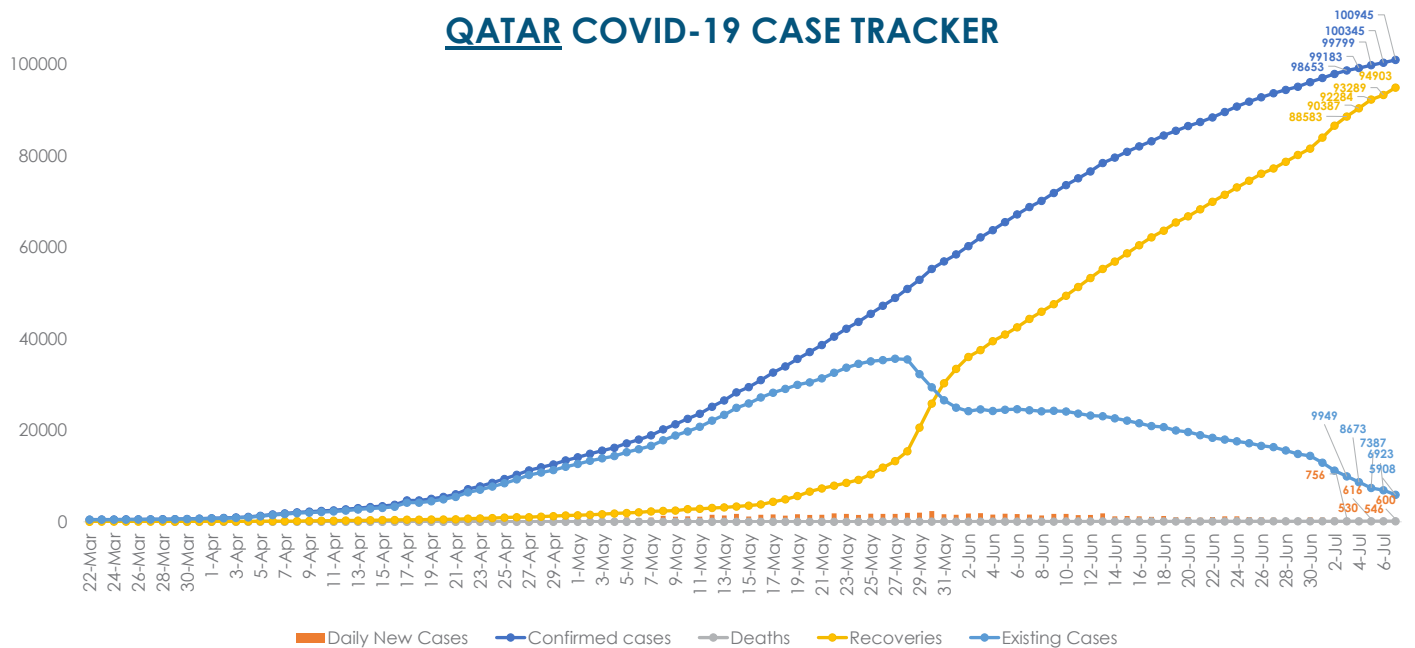
BAHRAIN COVID-19 CASE TRACKER



OMAN COVID-19 CASE TRACKER



QATAR COVID-19 CASE TRACKER



How Eolisair Operates Amidst the Covid-19 Situation

We are a French professional air purifier specialist located in Dubai Science Park. Indeed, Eolisair has a special response to the Covid-19 situation.

We are proud to have been recognized by Dubai Government as one of the firms boosting UAE response to Covid-19.¹ We provide a highly effective solution to fight Covid-19 in indoor environments which resulted to an increase in demand of our product from the UAE healthcare sector during these last months.



In opposition, this unexpected situation has negatively impacted our business with the hospitality and education sectors. As they now prepare for reopening and with the country opening for tourists, we will be able to propose a very safe environment in their buildings.

Their cashflow situation, resulting from this scenario, pushed us to be supportive and innovative with a new

business model, offering the lease and lease to own options for our devices.

Overcoming the Difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic

Since Eolisair provides an anti-coronavirus equipment, it is important to continuously communicate about our unique air purification system to the healthcare, hospitality, education, public and private sectors.

To compensate for in person meetings, we increased our marketing efforts in social media networks by posting daily content and sending emails to bring awareness to the potential customers.

We also communicated through our blogs, the technologies we have inside Eolis Air Manager for our customers to understand how the device works in eliminating coronavirus in the air. Our device has been installed in UAE hospitals to prevent and fight Covid-19 infection.

Perceived Challenges in the coming months

Looking ahead, we plan to focus more on customer services. The challenge for us is to continuously improve our professional support, as well as reconsider our business model and adapt it to the “new normal” professional situation.



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¹ <https://mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/May/03-05/Dubai%20Science%20Park%20Firms%20Boost%20UAE%20Response%20to%20COVID-19?fbclid=IwAR3hJVgtN8yJhorniN830HFgjHJxGuEMKXifBoB-k0DpxHkxAsz9ageMNHV8>