Coronavirus Beat

What’s next for Saudi Arabia:
Webinar on the new normal after COVID-19
Survey Details

• Research with 503 Saudi Citizens in Saudi Arabia 02.04.20 to 05.04.20

• Research conducted online, questions designed by APCO Worldwide, fielded by Censuswide

• Sample is broadly representative of wider demographics

• Margin of Error: +/- 4 points
Economy: Spending has held up well, some caution anticipated on ‘Bounceback’

Reported Spending vs Before Crisis*

- Purchasing less 40%
- Same level 16%
- Purchasing more 5%
- Unsure 39%

*Respondents were asked to discount purchasing which is currently unavailable (e.g. foreign travel)

Q1. Which of the following statements best describes your households purchasing at this present time? (In answering this question, please consider only purchases where you still have a choice not those where the option is not available at the moment, such as going abroad on holiday. Please also consider both essential purchases (e.g. food) and non-essential ones)

Projected Bounceback (All Spending Less)

- Immediately return to normal 41%
- Wait, then return to normal 40%
- Purchasing will take a long time to return to normal 16%
- Don’t know / None of the above 3%

Polling: n=503; 02.04.20 - 05.04.20; Margin of error: +/- 4%

Q2. Now, thinking ahead to when life seems to be returning to normal, which of the following do you think are most likely?
Economy: Reform seen as having made KSA economy more resilient; Confidence Saudi economy in stronger shape than rest of region

*Balance of Opinion – Agree vs Disagree*

The economic changes that have been taking place in Saudi Arabia in recent years mean the country is better-placed to recover from the Coronavirus crisis: 76%

The Saudi economy will recover quicker from the Coronavirus crisis compared to other economies in the region: 81%

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Economy: Views on 120bn Riyal stimulus are split: There may be value in stronger communication on the individual benefits it confers

% Selecting each option

“By investing in supporting the economy, the Government is taking the best route in supporting individuals such as myself and my family”

“I expect the Government to do more to help individuals such as myself and my family”

“Don’t know / other opinion”

Q4. The Government has recently announced that 120 billion riyls will be invested into the health sector and the economy (e.g. banks, financial institutions, small and medium enterprises). Thinking about this, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?
Urban expansion: invest in preparedness, rather than slow down

% Selecting each option

“We should not slow down the growth of large cities in future, but should invest in making sure they are as well-prepared as possible to deal with future pandemics”

“We should take the Coronavirus crisis as a warning to slow down the growth of large cities in future”

“Do neither / something else”

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Q5. If all of the following events were to be negatively impacted in the long-term due to the current restrictions, which of the following would you be most concerned about?

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KSA in the world: A majority of Saudis believe recovery efforts should extend into helping the region…

Q8. Thinking about the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis and the task of resuming normal life, rebuilding economies and societies in the region, which one of the following statements do you agree with most?

- “We should help our neighbours in rebuilding their economies and societies, even some of those who are not our traditional allies”
- “We should focus mainly on rebuilding the economy and society in our own country”
- “We should help our neighbours in rebuilding their economies and societies, especially those countries with fewer resources than us who are our allies”
- “Don’t know / None of the above”

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…and G20 is an opportunity to demonstrate a convening role in global economic recovery

% Selecting each option

“Coronavirus is a global crisis requiring a global response – Saudi Arabia has an important role to play in bringing the major economies together to coordinate economic recovery”

49%

43%

8%

“All countries – Saudi Arabia included – should focus mainly on what they can do to help their own economies recover”

“No opinion / None of the above”

Q9. Now thinking beyond the region and on a global scale, which of the following statements comes closest to your own view on the role Saudi Arabia should play recovering from the economic impacts of the Coronavirus crisis??
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