

COVID-19

Impact on KSA and GCC economies





Richard Boxshall
PwC Middle East

Key messages...

‘Nike-swoosh’ recovery
looking more likely

Economies could be
approaching low point

Path to new normal
likely to be slower than
businesses anticipate

Gov’ts need to double
down on diversification
efforts post-crisis

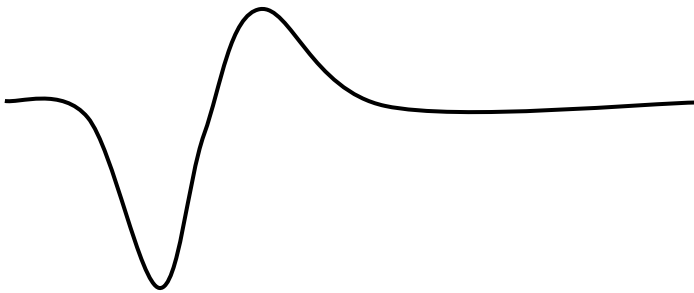
'Nike-swoosh' recovery looking more likely

Current IMF WEO base case forecast

V-Curve

Deep Contraction, Quick Recovery

Economic Indicators*



Drivers

- COVID-19 cases spike quickly and recede quickly, allowing containment measures to be removed in H2

Effects

- Short-term damage only to economy
- Recession expected in Q1&Q2
- Rapid return to steady-state economic indicators

Looking more likely based on recent data

U-Curve ('Nike-swoosh')

Contraction flattened but extended, slow recovery

Economic Indicators*



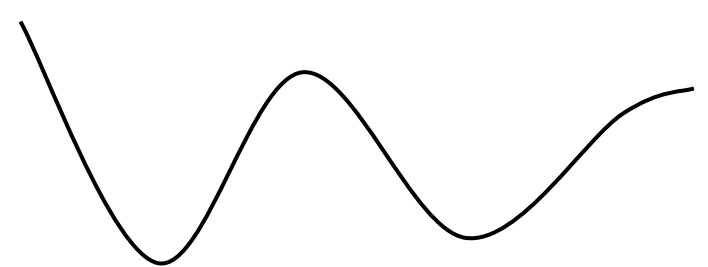
- Stringent containment measures, spreading out COVID-19 cases
- Outbreak curve is flattened due to effective managed release

- Some economic scarring
- Slow economy recovery as containment measures gradually eased over time

W-Curve

Contraction, recovery in oscillation until stabilization

Economic Indicators*

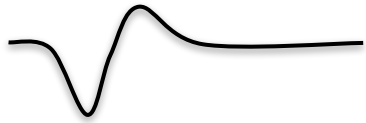


- Oscillation due to periodic spikes in COVID-19 cases which are subject to further containment measures

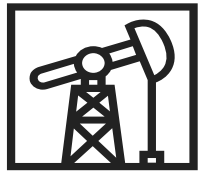
- Economy oscillates between anemic growth and recession
- Significant economic scarring

Based on a 'V-shaped' recovery, the IMF project GCC GDP will shrink by ~3% in 2020

Forecast assumptions



- Pandemic fades in H2
- Containment gradually lifted



- \$31.6 in 2020
- \$37.9 in 2021

*average of UK Brent, Dubai Fateh and WTI

	GDP projection (% change)		Government balance (% of GDP)	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Global	-3.0	5.8		
GCC	-2.7	3.3	-10.4	-8.1
KSA	-2.3	2.9	-12.6	-9.0
UAE	-3.5	3.3	-11.1	-7.1
Oman	-2.8	3.0	-16.9	-14.8
Qatar	-4.3	5.0	5.2	1.4
Kuwait	-1.1	3.4	-11.3	-14.1
Bahrain	-3.6	3.0	-15.7	-11.9

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2020

Unprecedented deterioration in global data, but will April prove to be the low point?

US

Q1 GDP (Jan-Mar)

↓ **1.8% q/q**
US Q1 2020 GDP
(deannualised)

April PMI (Contraction below 50)

↓ **36.1 Apr**
US manufacturing PMI

Europe

↓ **3.8% q/q**
Eurozone Q1 2020 GDP

↓ **33.4 Apr**
EU manufacturing PMI

China

↓ **9.8% q/q**
China Q1 2020 GDP

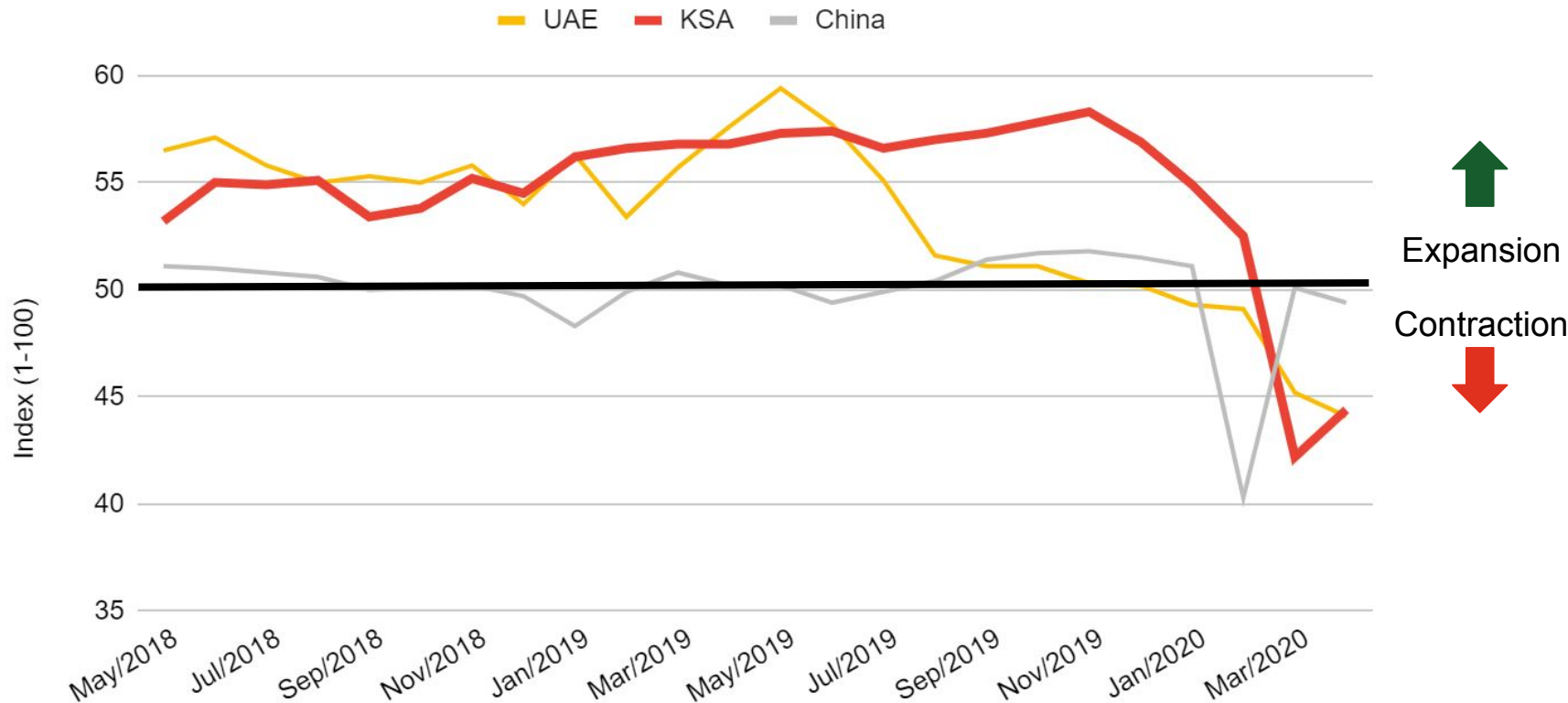
49.4 Apr
China manufacturing PMI

Commentary

- US Q1 GDP registered the sharpest drop since 2008
- April manufacturing PMI for US signals further contraction
- Largest quarterly decline in GDP on record in Eurozone
- April Eurozone PMI sharply down on March
- First contraction in China GDP since 1992
- China PMI data suggests economic decline stabilised in March/April

Business conditions in KSA and the region continue to deteriorate

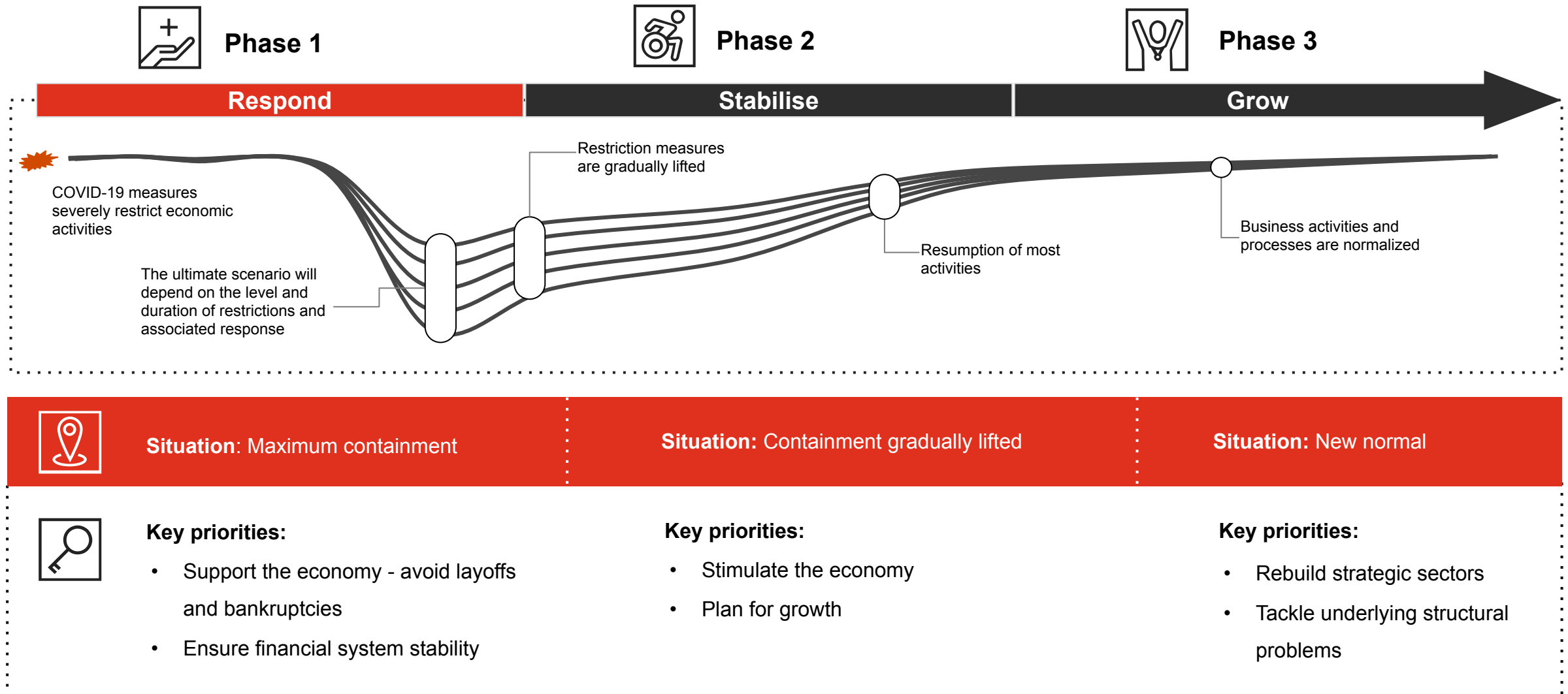
Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)



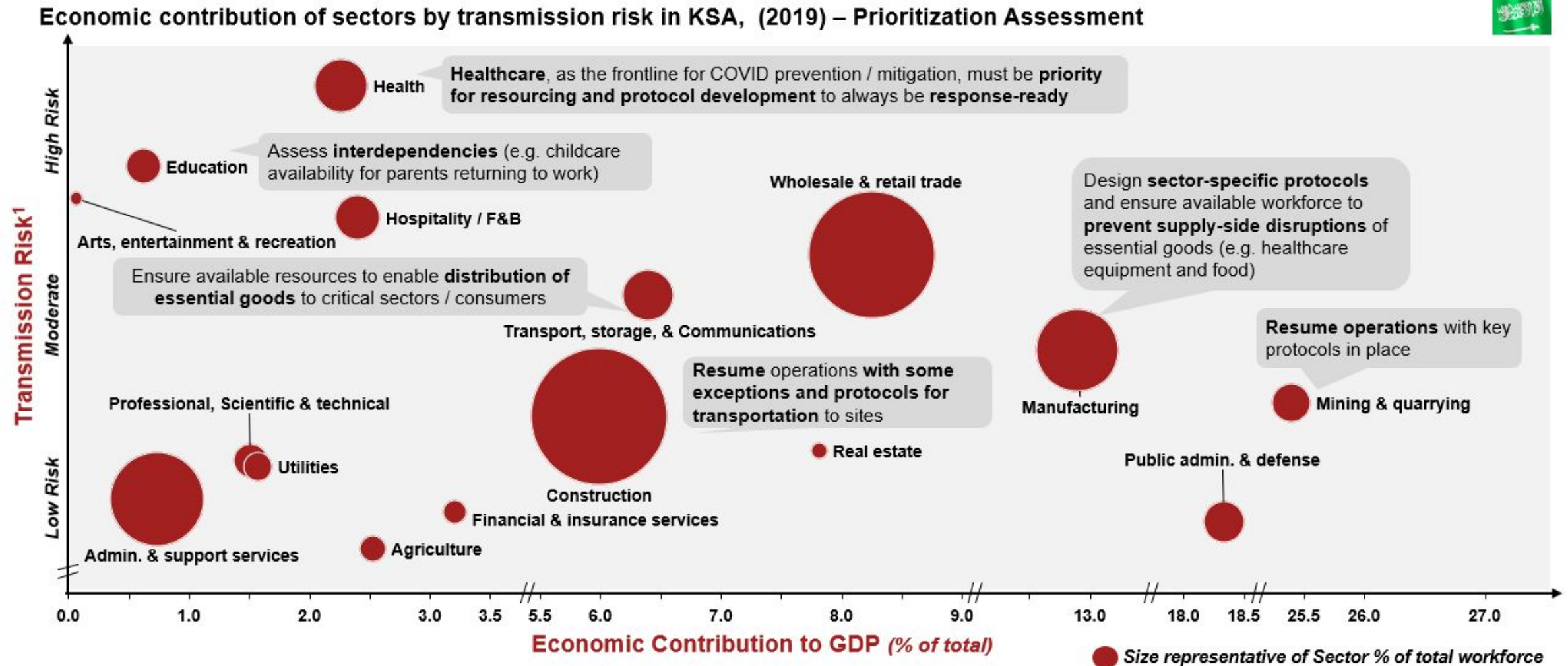
Commentary

- PMI is an indicator of non-oil private sector activity in KSA
- KSA enter crisis with a slowing private sector
- Indicates contraction in March and April
- Lower activity attributed to business closures and shrinking customer demand.
- New export orders and employment dropped at the fastest pace since the survey began in August 2009

What does the path to the new normal look like?

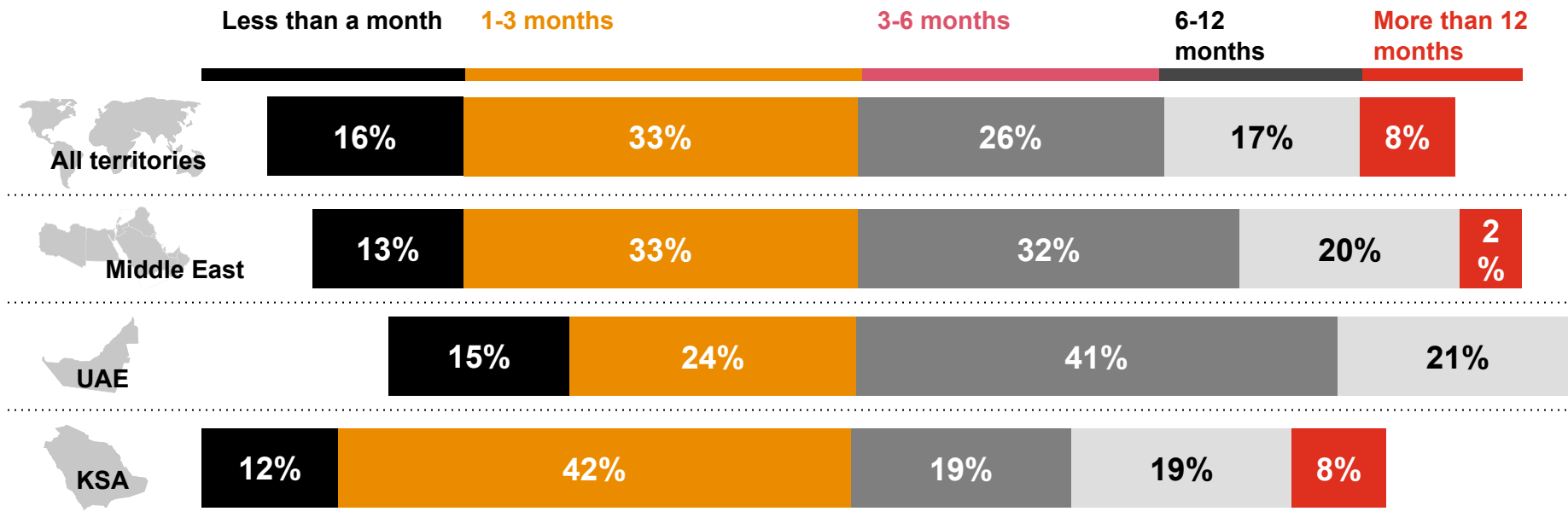


Sector prioritization should be undertaken by evaluating sectors based on their economic contribution and risk of virus transmission



Middle East CFO Pulse Survey

If COVID-19 ended today, how long would it take for your company to get back to 'business as usual'?

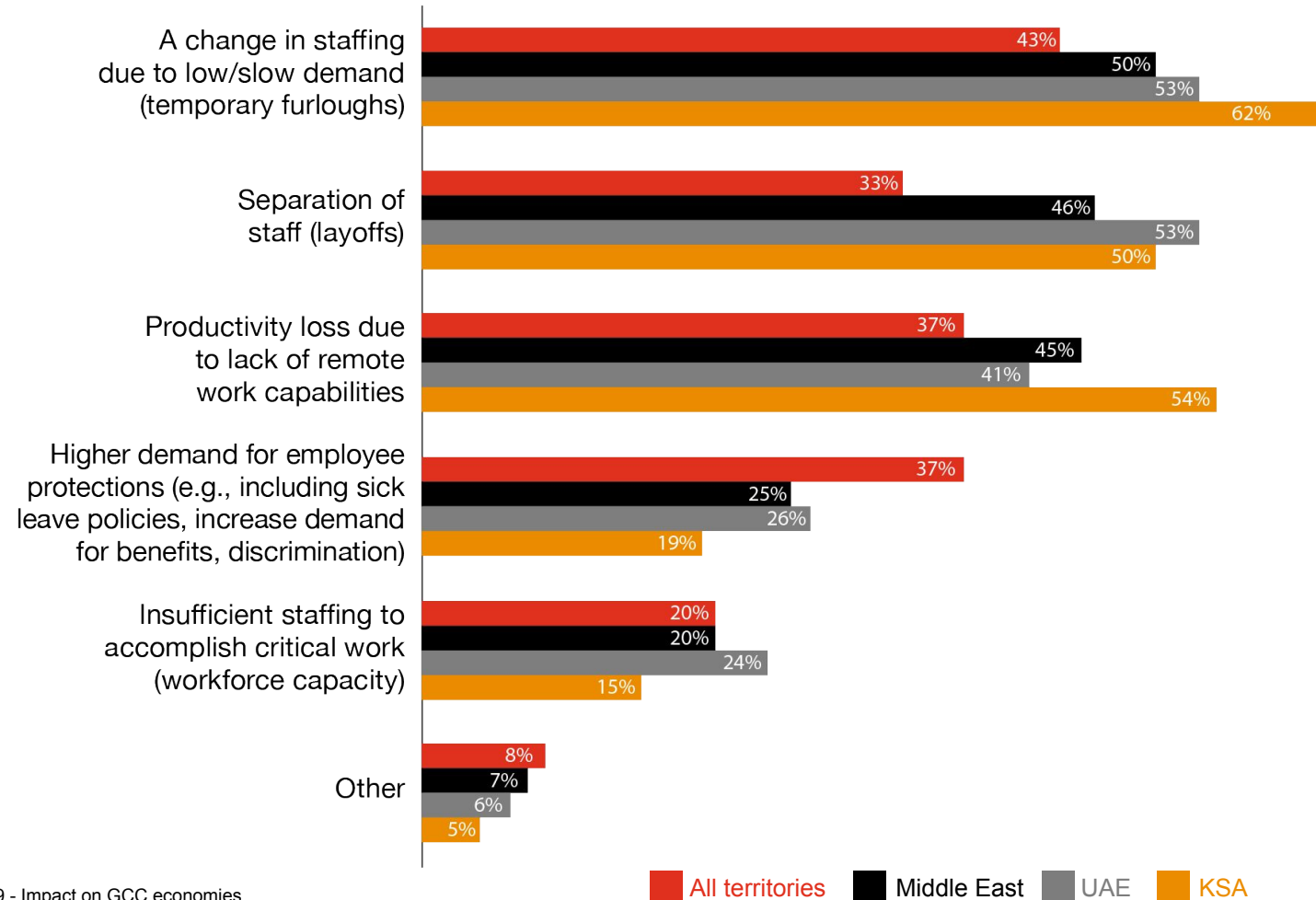


Middle East CFOs are now expecting the return to 'business as usual' to take more than 3 months but KSA CFOs remain optimistic.

Source: PwC COVID-19 Middle East CFO Pulse Survey, 28 April, 2020
Base: all territories: 871; ME: 96; UAE: 34; KSA: 26

Middle East CFO Pulse Survey

As a result of COVID-19, which of the following does your company expect to occur in the next month?

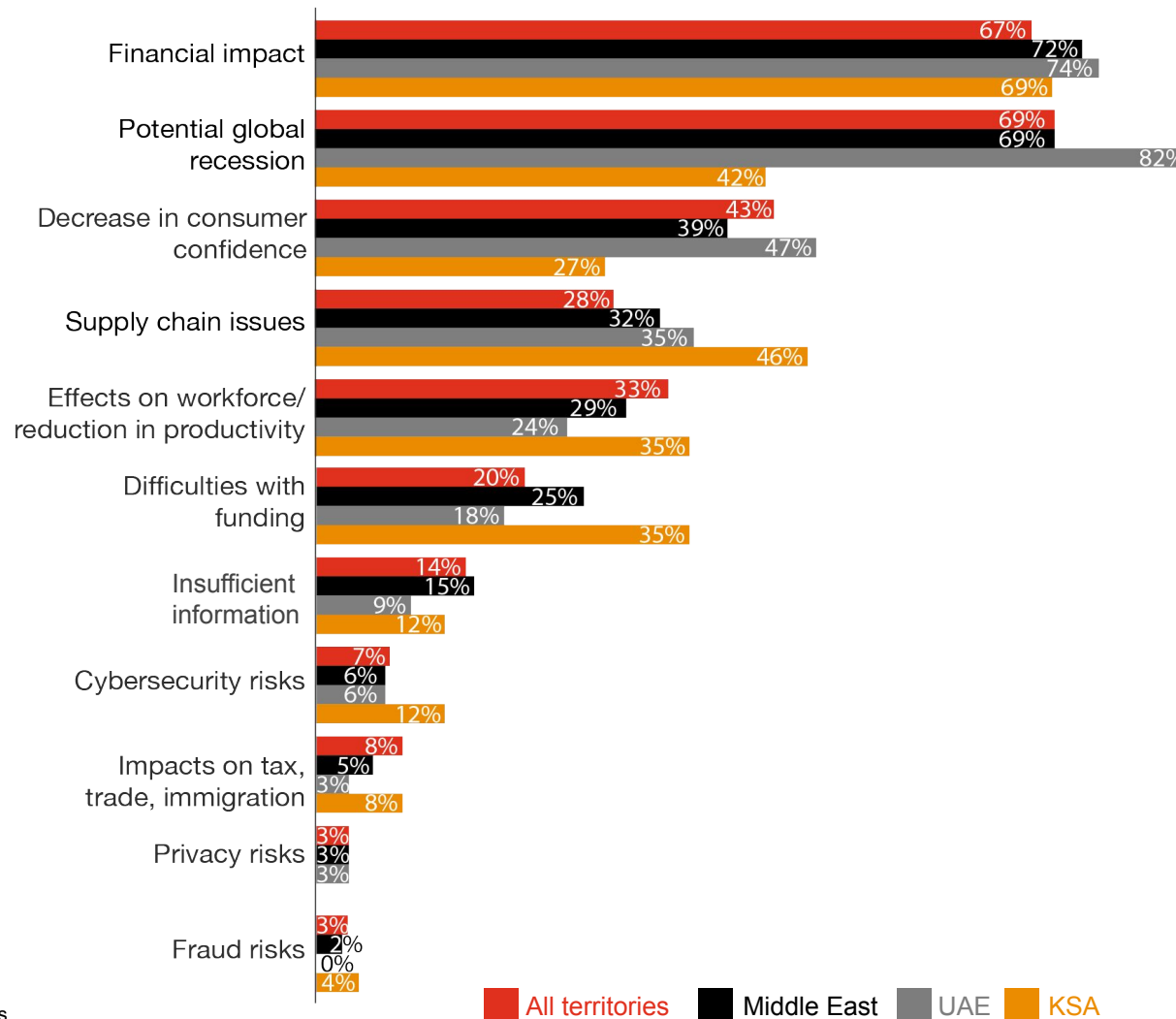


Cost cutting is still front of mind for CFOs and workforce investment is the most likely to be cut in the Middle East.

46% of executives in the region expect to see layoffs compared to 33% globally.

Middle East CFO Pulse Survey

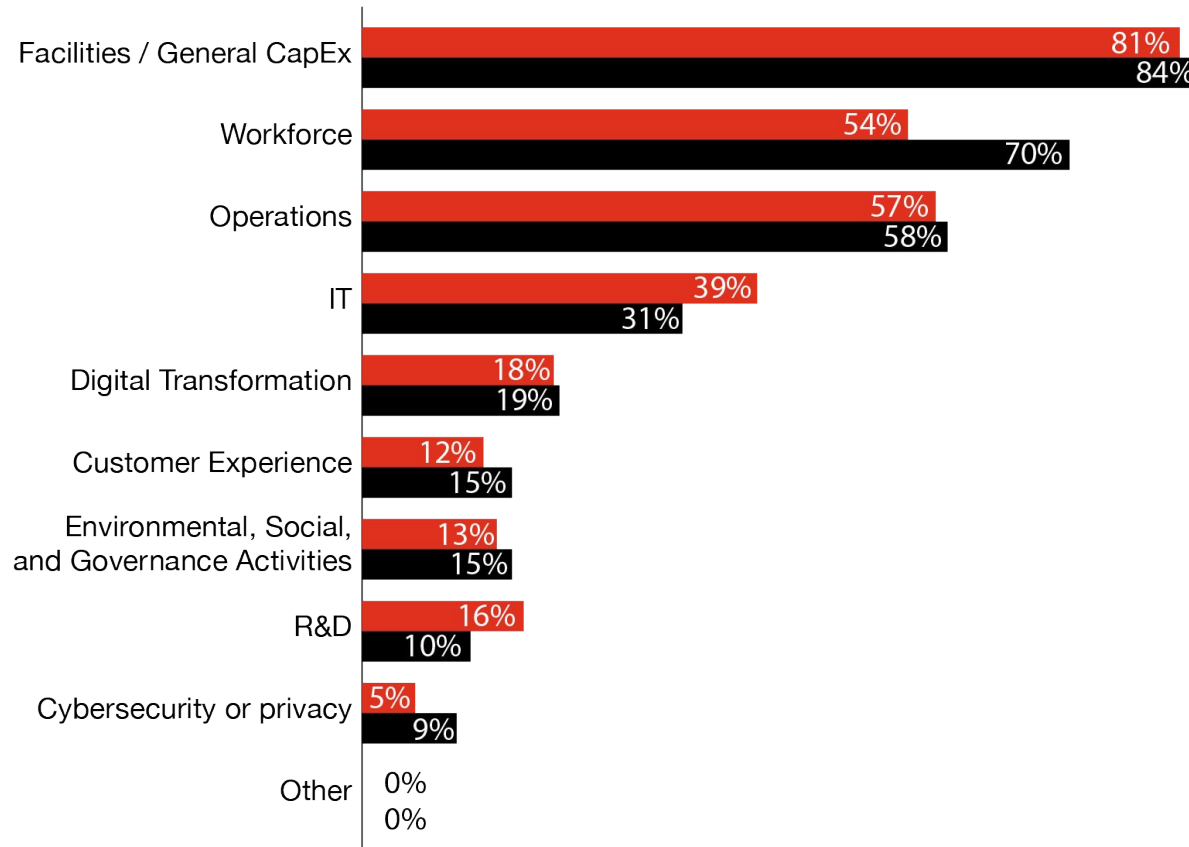
What are your top 3 concerns with respect to COVID-19?



The financial impact of COVID-19 remains the primary concern. However, unease around a potential global recession has grown significantly – especially in the UAE (82% from 58%).

Middle East CFO Pulse Survey

Which investment types is your company considering deferring or cancelling as a result of COVID-19?



CapEx followed by Workforce are the top two planned investments companies are either considering deferring or cancelling.

Post-crisis, Gov'ts will need to double down on the diversification agenda...

1

Will we want to carry on working from home or will we be desperate to get back to the office?

2

Will the crisis change our attitude to international travel, both for work and leisure?

3

Will we go back to previous patterns of spending once restaurants and shops re-open or will this period lead to long-term changes in what we spend our money on, whether we shop in store or online etc?

4

How will government's close the fiscal deficit?

' ... '

....

...but economic visions will also need to adjust to recognise the profound implications that behavioral changes will have on the structure of our economies

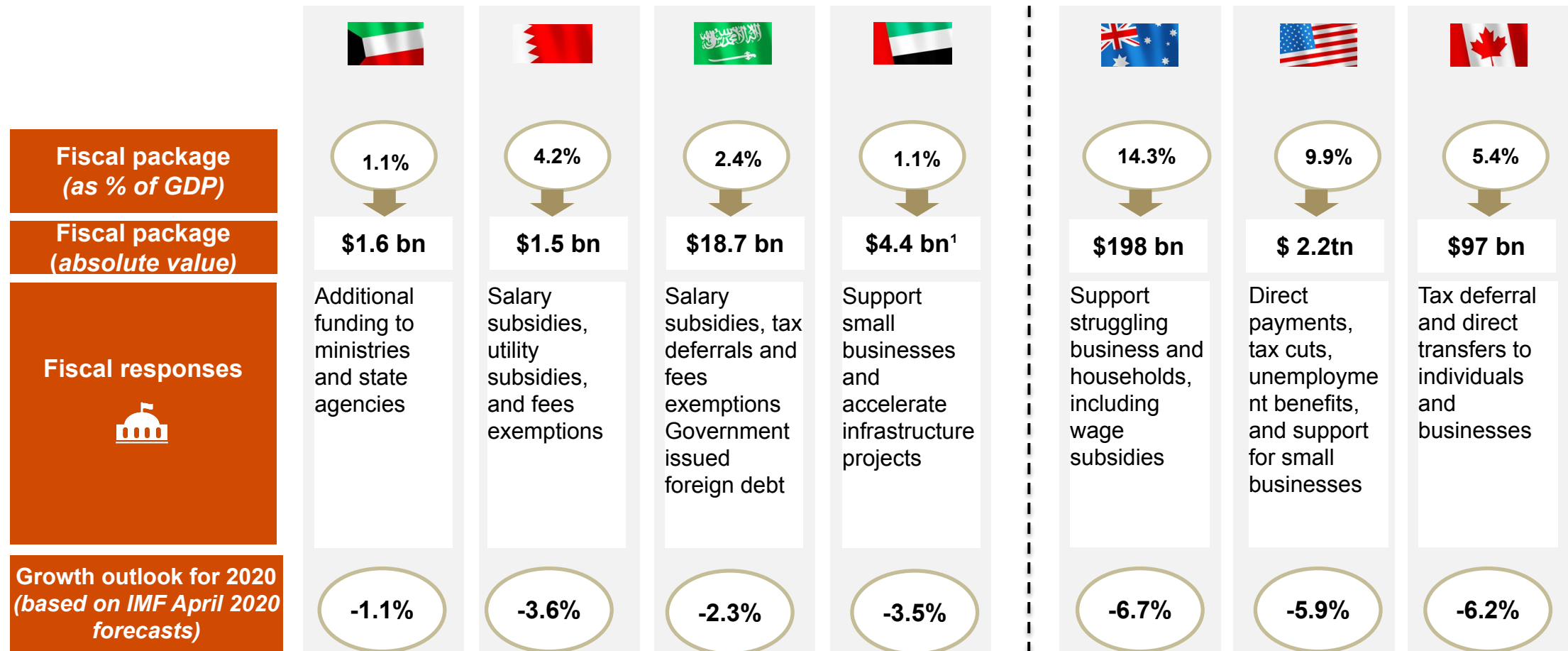


A

The image features a dark gray background with a complex network of thin white lines connecting small square nodes. The nodes are colored red, white, or gray. A large white letter 'A' is positioned in the upper left. To its right is a red rectangular box containing the word 'Backup' in white serif font, with a light gray rectangular box directly beneath it.

Backup

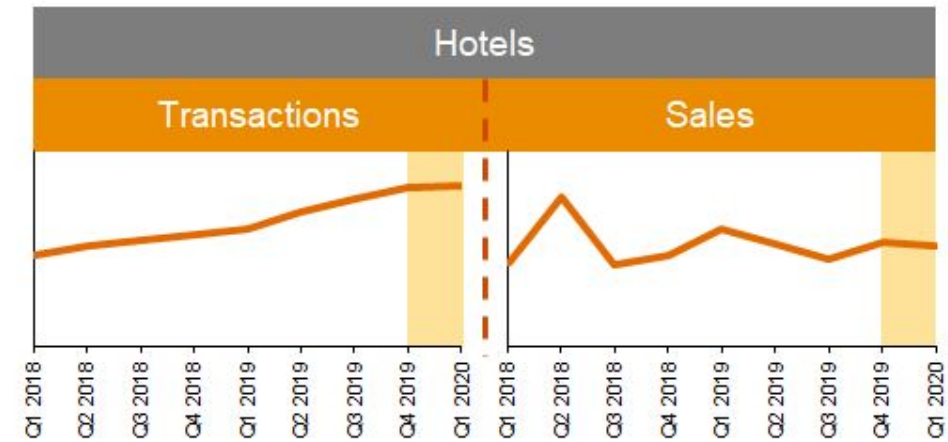
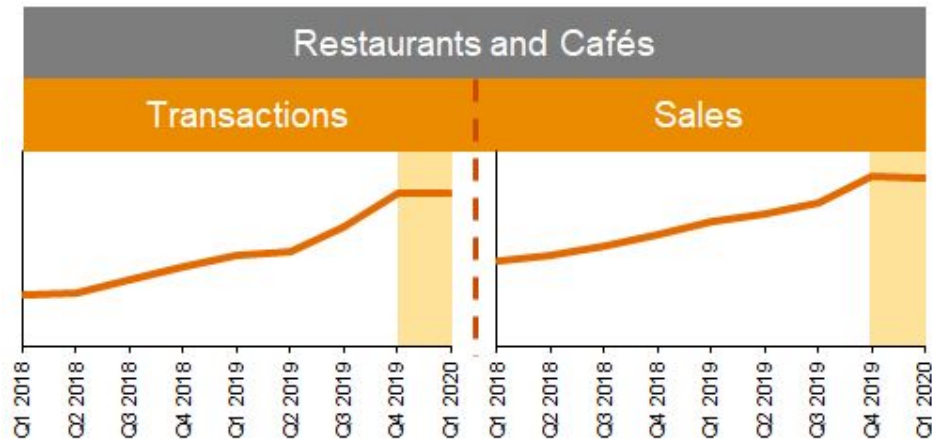
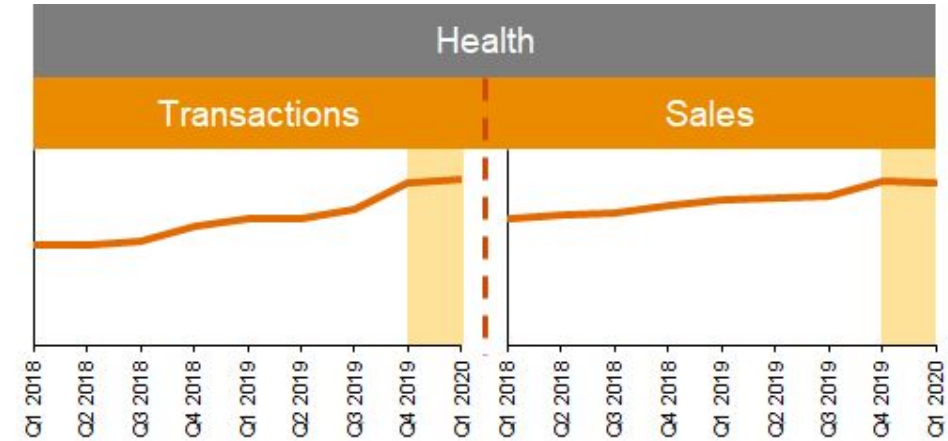
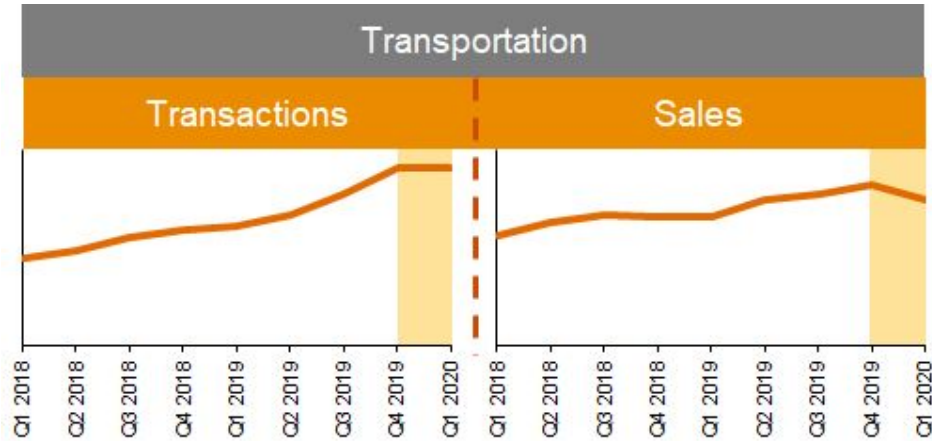
Fiscal packages in the region less than seen globally



Note: (1) UAE figure includes the package announced by the federal government only. Abu Dhabi's package is an additional ~3% of GDP

Source: Financial Times, Bloomberg, CNBC, Reuters, IMF, Arabian Business, Al Arabiya, CBO, CBUAE

Economic indicators in KSA suggest



Sources: IHS Markit

Thank you

[pwc.com/me](https://www.pwc.com/me)

This content is for general information purposes only, and should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional advisors.
Established in the Middle East for 40 years, PwC has 22 offices across 12 countries in the region with around 5,600 people. (www.pwc.com/me).
PwC refers to the PwC network and/or one or more of its member firms, each of which is a separate legal entity. Please see www.pwc.com/structure for further details.

© 2020 PwC. All rights reserved