

# **COVID19 IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION**

Produced by the NYC Department of City Planning's Transportation Division

October 20, 2020



- The NYC Department of City Planning's Transportation Division is compiling data to help understand the effects of COVID19 on the transportation network. This report and all prior reports beginning in April 2020 can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/planning-level/transportation/transportation-overview.page>
- This week's report includes the following information:
  1. Executive Summary
  2. Citywide Trends
  3. MTA: Subway and Bus
  4. MTA: Metro North Railroad, Long Island Rail Road, Access-A-Ride
  5. Ferry
  6. Traffic
  7. DMV Car Ownership
  8. Citi Bike
  9. Timeline
- This report may serve to help in pandemic response and longer-term recovery. We are eager for feedback in how to make this more useful. Feel free to reach out to Laura Smith ([lsmith@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:lsmith@planning.nyc.gov)) with questions or comments.

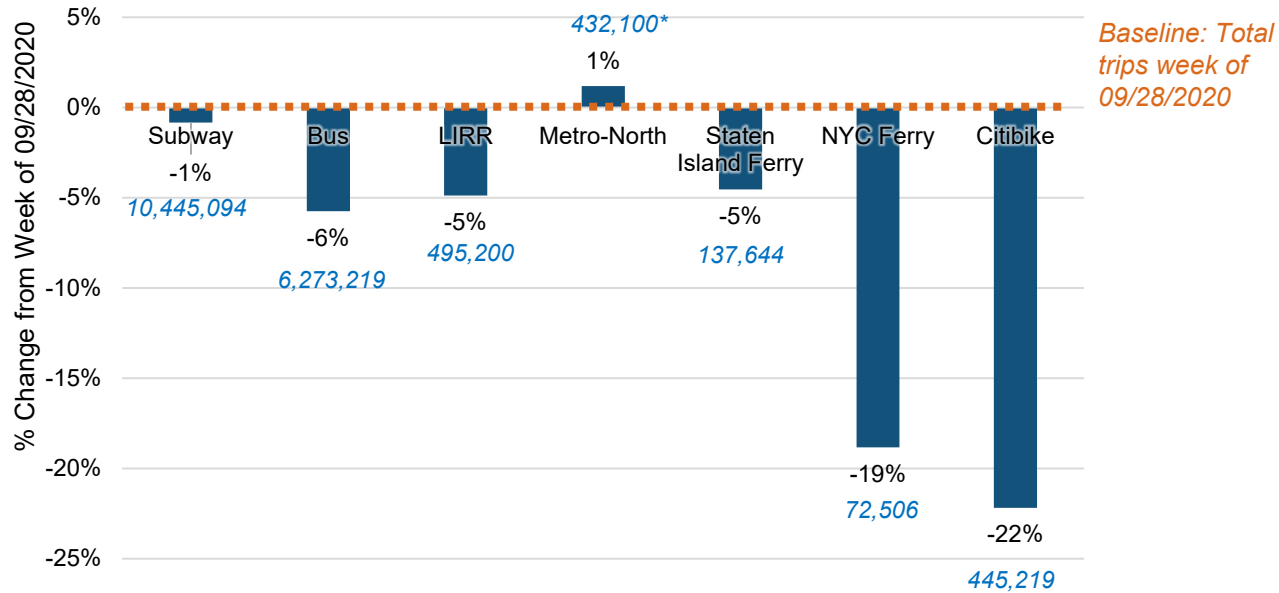
- **Gains in travel across different modes have been substantial, but distributed unevenly, since the mid-April low.** The modes showing the greatest gains since April are those that experienced the greatest declines at the start of the pandemic.
- The Columbus Day holiday on Monday, October 12, coupled with some poor weather, resulted in **declines in total ridership across several modes.**
- The **city's business districts** in midtown and lower Manhattan, downtown Brooklyn, and Long Island City continue to see less than a quarter of their PM peak subway entries, indicating a **very limited return to work in those areas.**
- Year over year, the **greatest ridership differences are currently seen in neighborhoods with the strongest likelihood of having telework-capable populations**, including much of Manhattan, Downtown Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Long Island City, and Astoria.
- Yet, despite sustained low levels of AM peak hour subway ridership in neighborhoods where residents are more likely to telework, **ridership growth since Labor Day has been strong at certain stations** in these same areas.
- The two-week period of October 5 to October 18 saw NYC Ferry weekly ridership recover **an average of 67 percent of its weekday ridership**, and **an average of 78 percent of its weekend ridership**, compared to 2019 levels.
- Total **average weekday daytime inbound vehicles** to Manhattan and the Manhattan central business district **are comparable to pre-pandemic levels.**
- Total Citi Bike trips in September and October of 2020 are just slightly lower than they were over this same period in 2019. **Compared to 2019, men are taking fewer Citi Bike trips, while women are taking more.**

# Citywide Trends

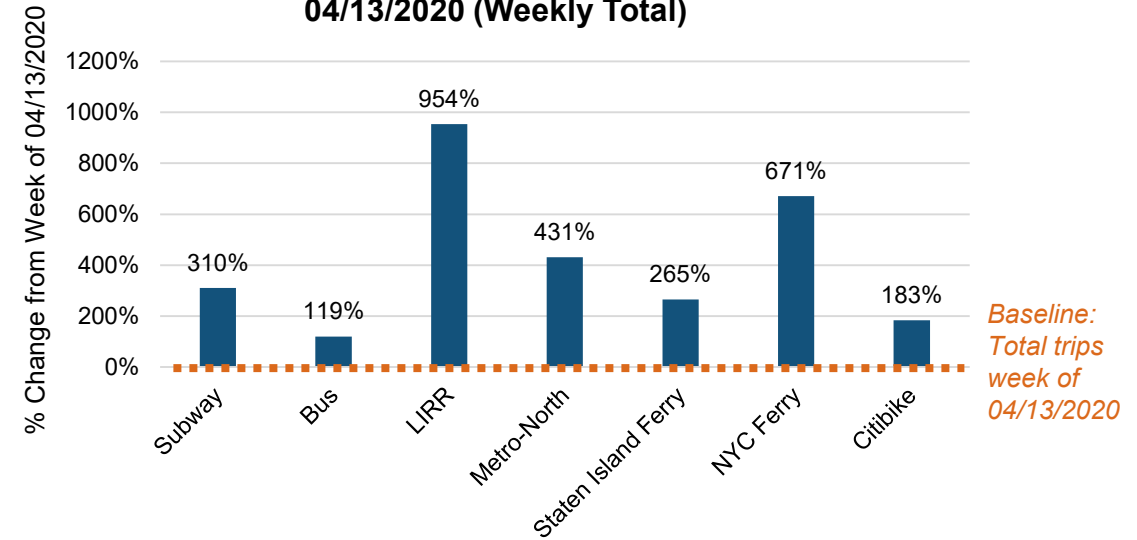
# Citywide Trends

- The Columbus Day holiday on Monday, October 12, coupled with some poor weather, resulted in declines in total ridership across several modes. Additionally, public schools remain only partially open for in-person learning, and office re-occupancy has been slow.
- Still, travel across all modes is up substantially over mid-April volumes.
- Note: While bus ridership data had been estimated during the suspension of fare collection, bus ridership data from 10/1/20 onward is based on actual MetroCard and OMNY swipes and taps and an estimate of cash fares paid, which may account for some of the change observed this week over earlier in September.*

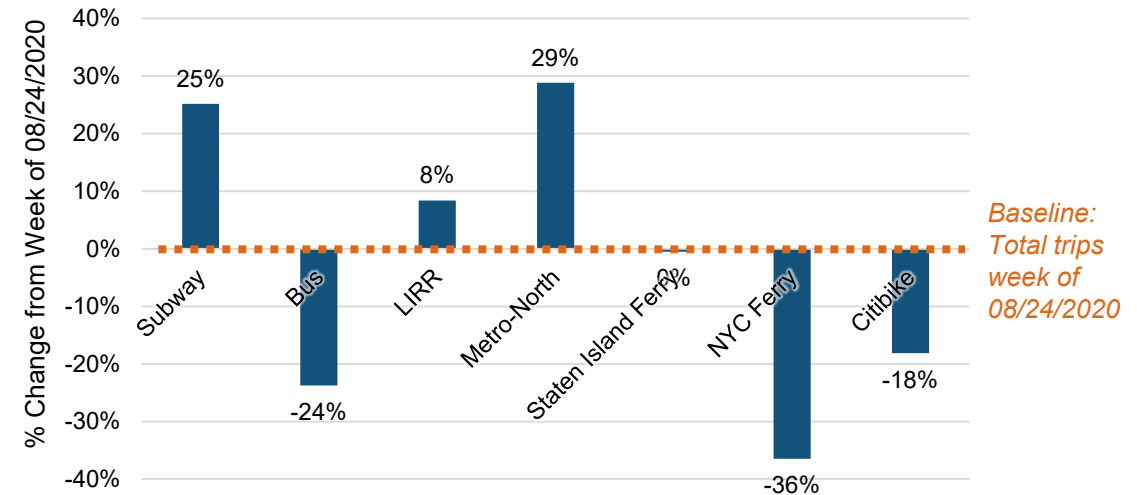
**Week of 10/12/2020 Compared to Week of 09/28/2020 (Weekly Total)**



**Week of 10/12/2020 Compared to Week of 04/13/2020 (Weekly Total)**



**Week of 10/12/2020 Compared to Week of 08/24/2020 (Weekly Total)**



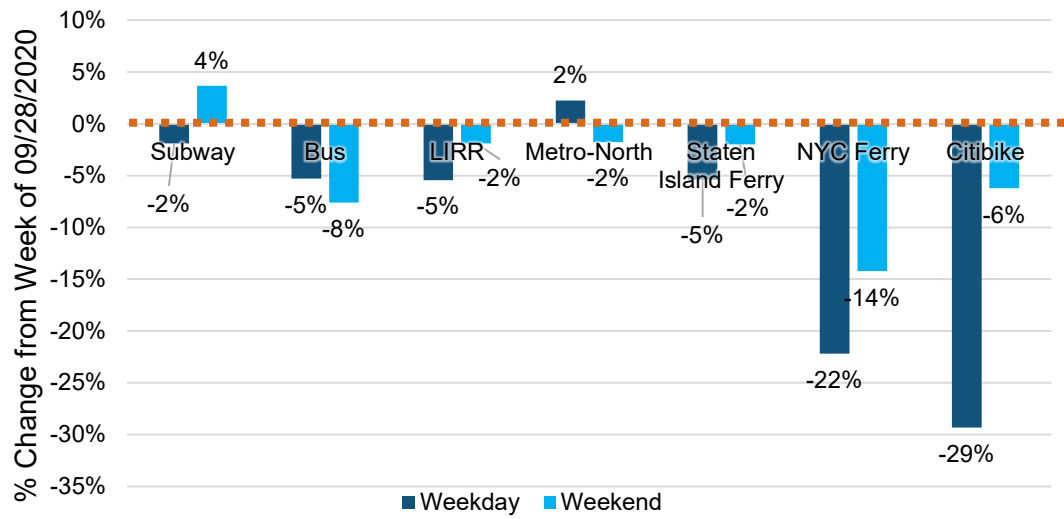
Data sources: MTA (Subway, Bus, LIRR, Metro North), EDC (NYC Ferry), DOT (Citi Bike, SI Ferry).

\*Note: As Metro-North ridership on 10/18/2020 has not yet released, the week of 10/10-10/17 is used for the Metro-North weekly total and weekend average calculation.

# Citywide Trends: Weekday vs Weekend

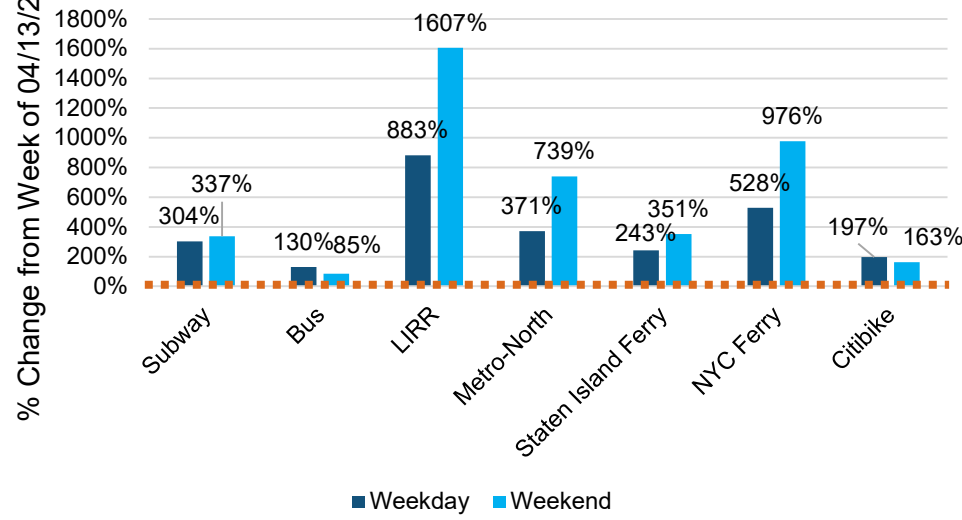
- Gains in travel across different modes have been substantial, but distributed unevenly since the mid-April low, and skewed more towards weekend travel. The modes showing the greatest gains since April are those that experienced the greatest declines at the start of the pandemic.
- This indicates a growing willingness to leave home, but perhaps not a return to places of work for many people who would typically be commuting.
- Note: While bus ridership data had been estimated during the suspension of fare collection, bus ridership data from 10/1/20 onward is based on actual MetroCard and OMNY swipes and taps and an estimate of cash fares paid and thus may be unreliable to compare against ridership counts from earlier this year.*

**Week of 10/12/2020 Compared to Week of 09/28/2020 (Weekday vs. Weekend)**



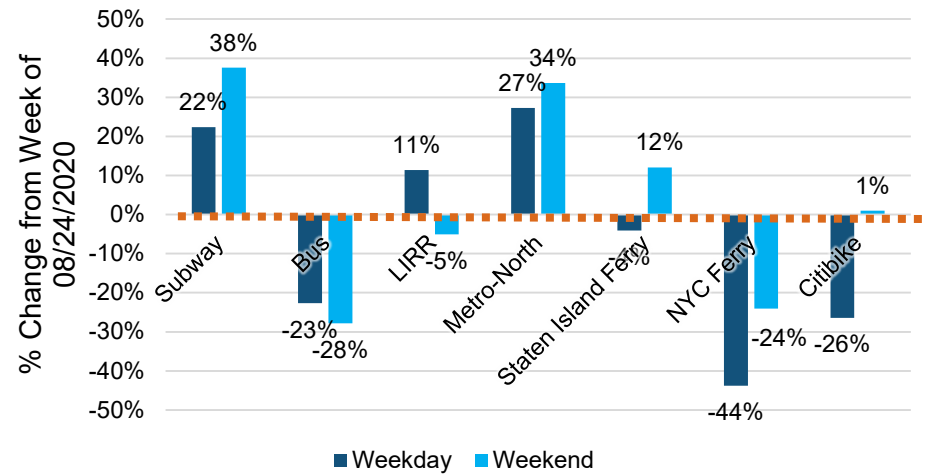
Baseline: Total trips week of 09/28/2020

**Week of 10/12/2020 Compared to Week of 04/13/2020 (Weekday vs. Weekend)**



Baseline: Total trips week of 04/13/2020

**Week of 10/12/2020 Compared to Week of 08/24/2020 (Weekday vs. Weekend)**

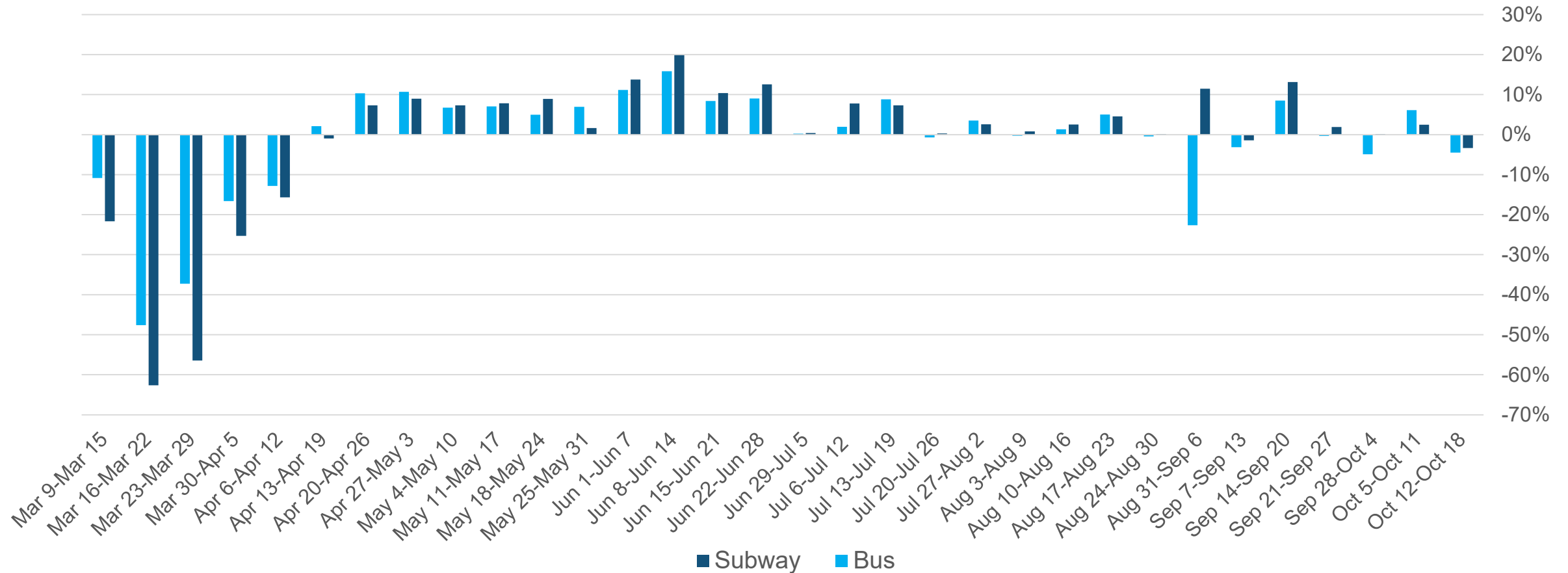


Baseline: Total trips week of 08/24/2020

# MTA data: Subway and Bus

# MTA Subway & Bus System-wide Ridership Changes

Percent Change of Estimated\* MTA Subway & Bus Weekly Ridership  
(March 1- October 18, 2020)

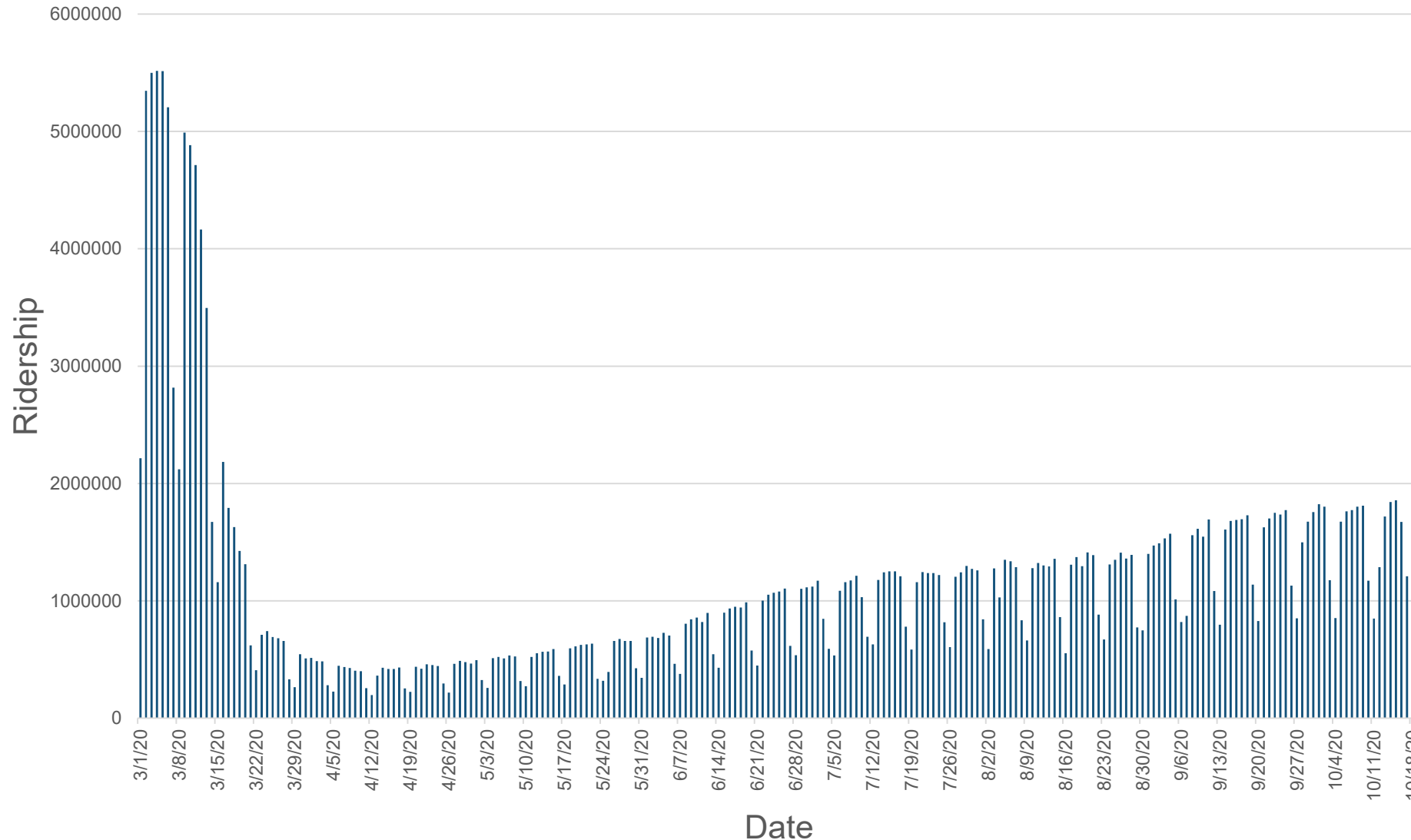


- Ridership on subway and bus has remained stable week over week since mid-September.



# MTA Subway System-wide Ridership Changes

Estimated\* MTA Subway Ridership (March 1- October 18, 2020)

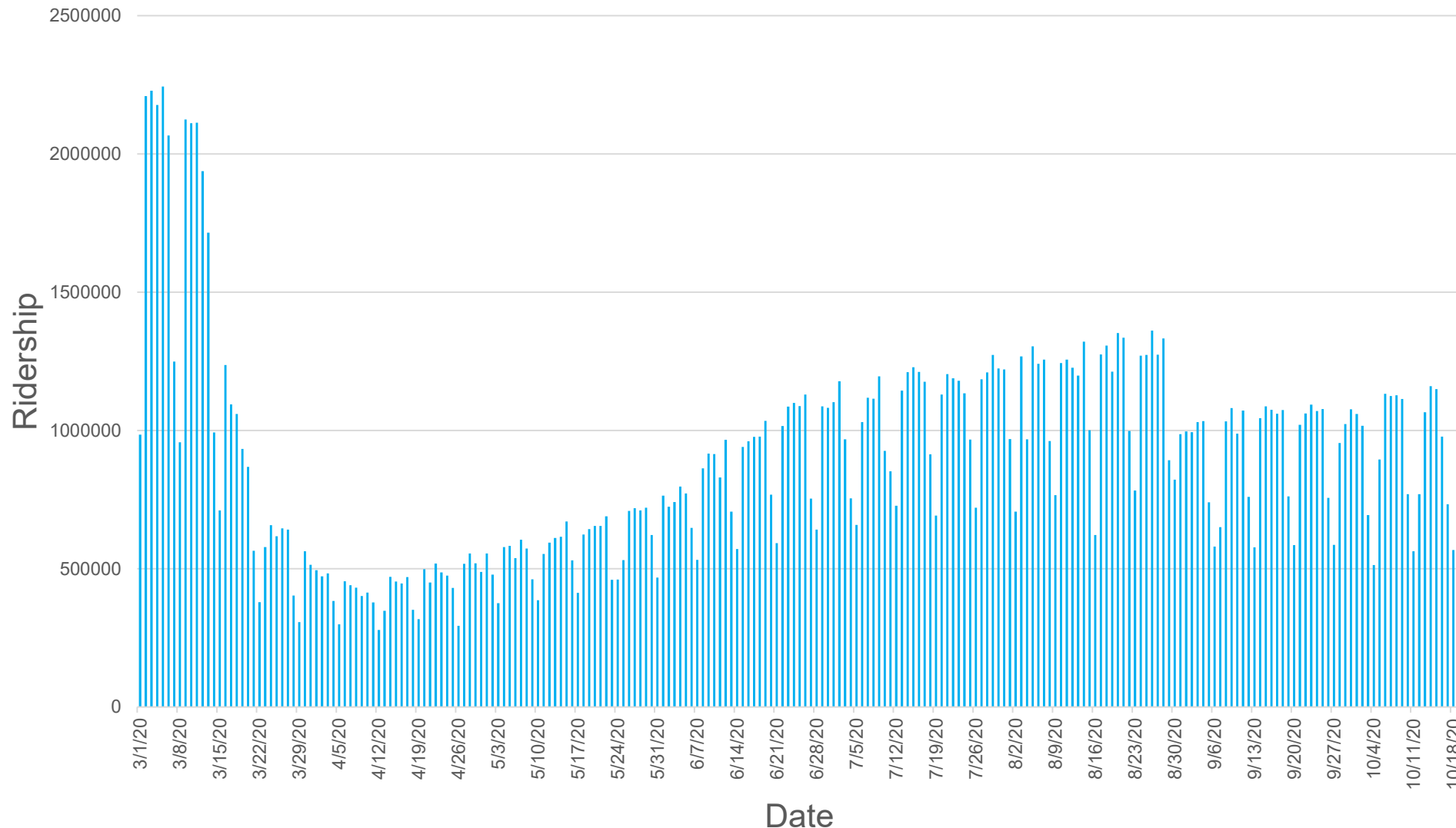


- Weekday subway ridership during the week of October 12 was down 2 percent over the week of September 28, and weekend ridership was up 4 percent over the week of September 28.
- Weekday subway ridership is now at nearly 35 percent of 2019 averages.

From the MTA: Subway ridership figures are determined from MetroCard and OMNY swipes and taps. Figures from recent days may be revised as data reconciliation processes are carried out. Data sources: MTA (<https://new.mta.info/coronavirus/ridership>)

# MTA Bus System-wide Ridership Changes

Estimated \* MTA Bus Ridership (March 1- October 18, 2020)

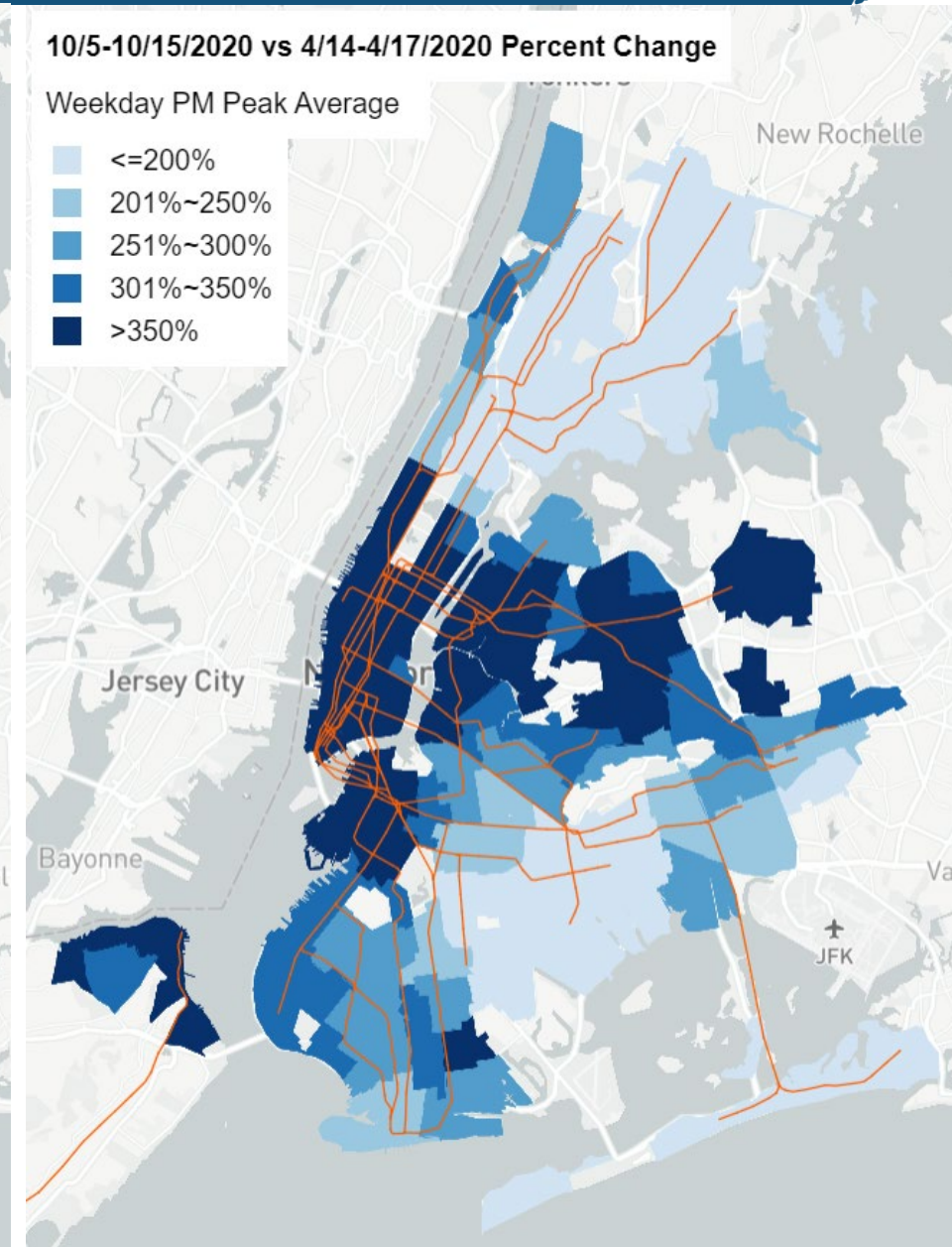
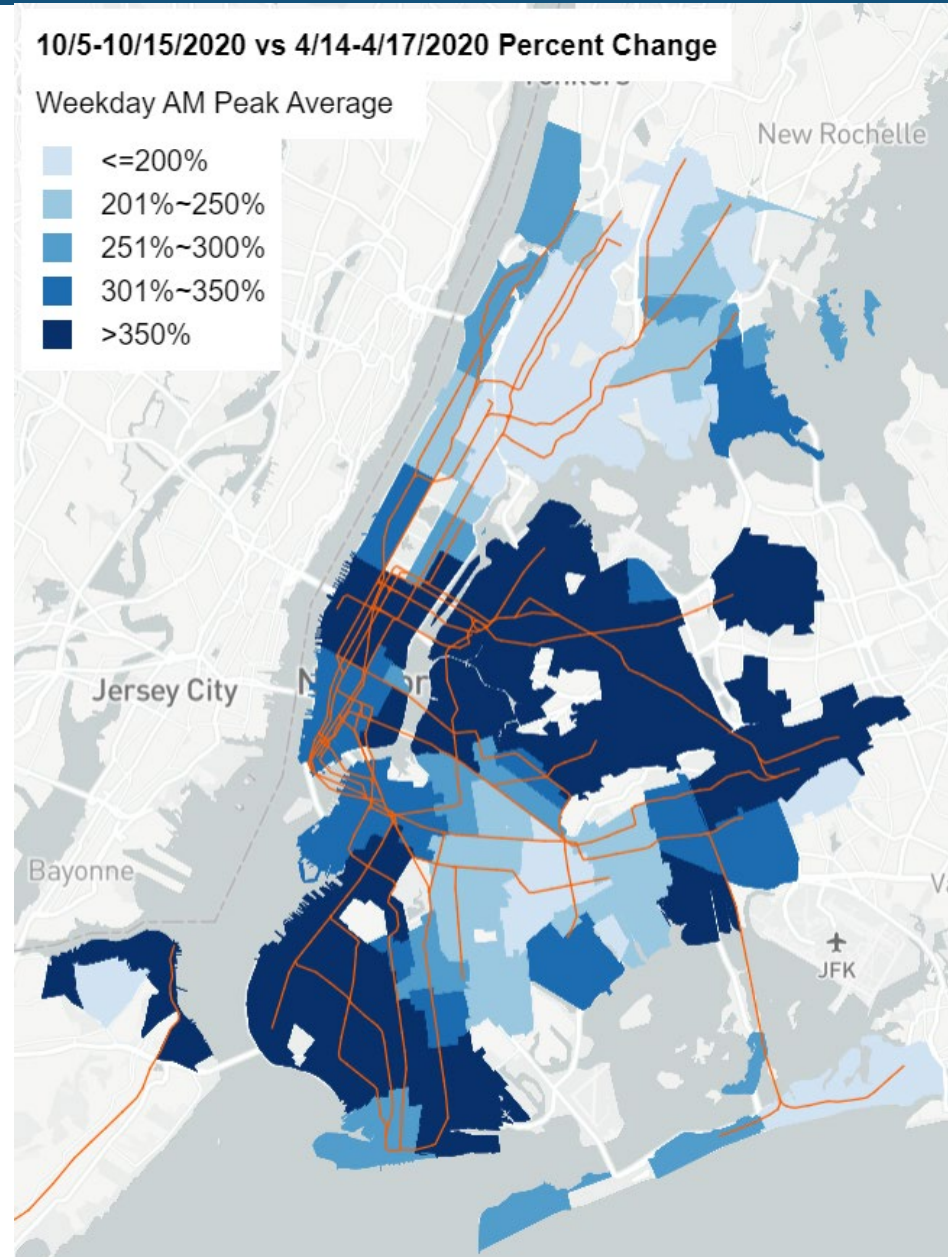


- Weekday bus ridership during the week of October 12 reportedly was nearly the same as the week of September 28, while weekend ridership was up 8 percent compared to the week of September 28.
- On October 1, the MTA changed how ridership is reported, noting on their website: “*Bus ridership data from 10/1/20 onward is based on actual MetroCard and OMNY swipes and taps and an estimate of cash fares paid.*”
- Weekday bus ridership is now at nearly half of 2019 averages.

From the MTA: Current bus ridership figures are estimated from models that use MetroCard and OMNY swipes and taps and Automatic Passenger Counter data that is available on a portion of our bus fleet. These figures are indicative of ridership but not a precise count. Figures from recent days may be revised as reconciliation processes are carried out. Data sources: MTA (<https://new.mta.info/coronavirus/ridership>)

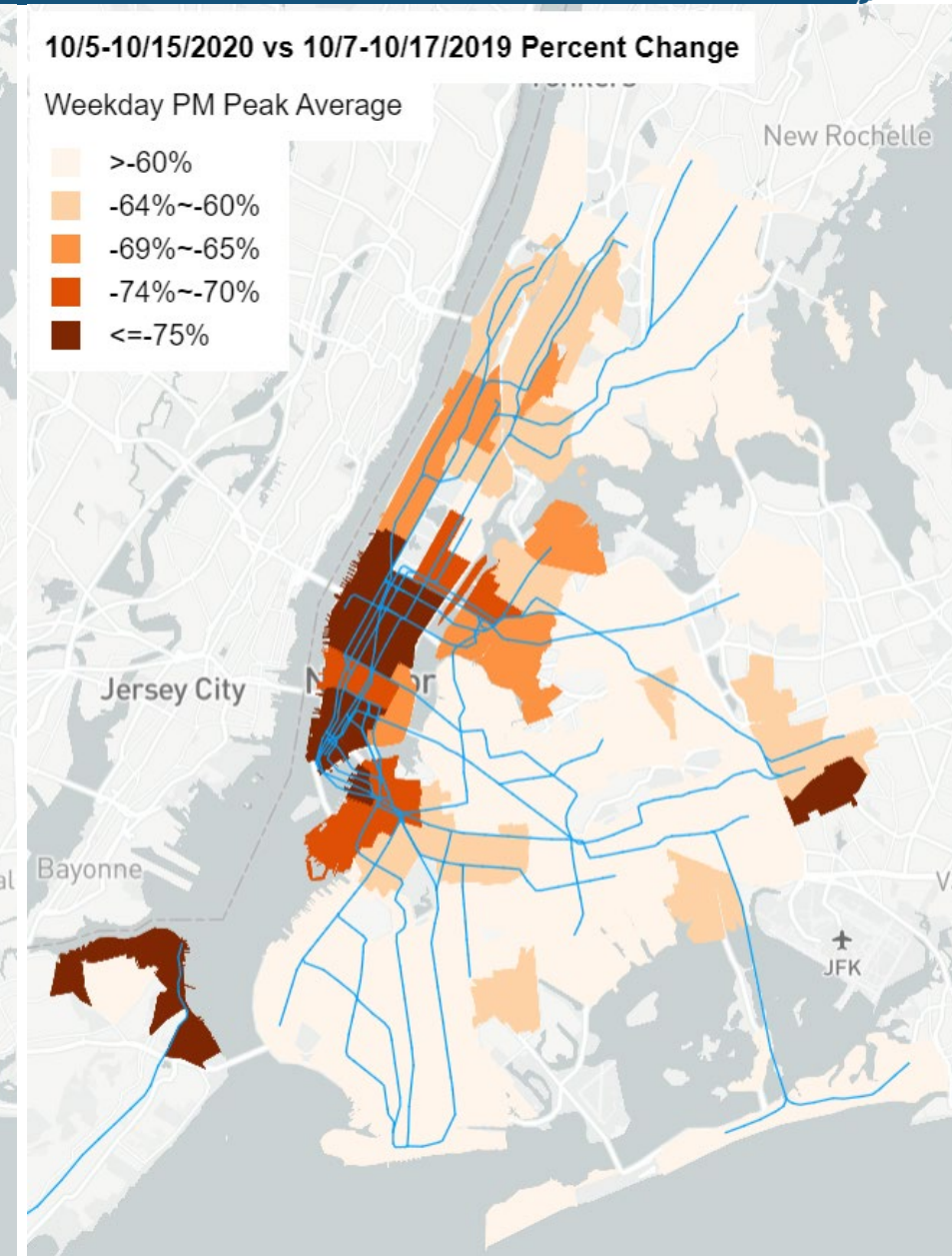
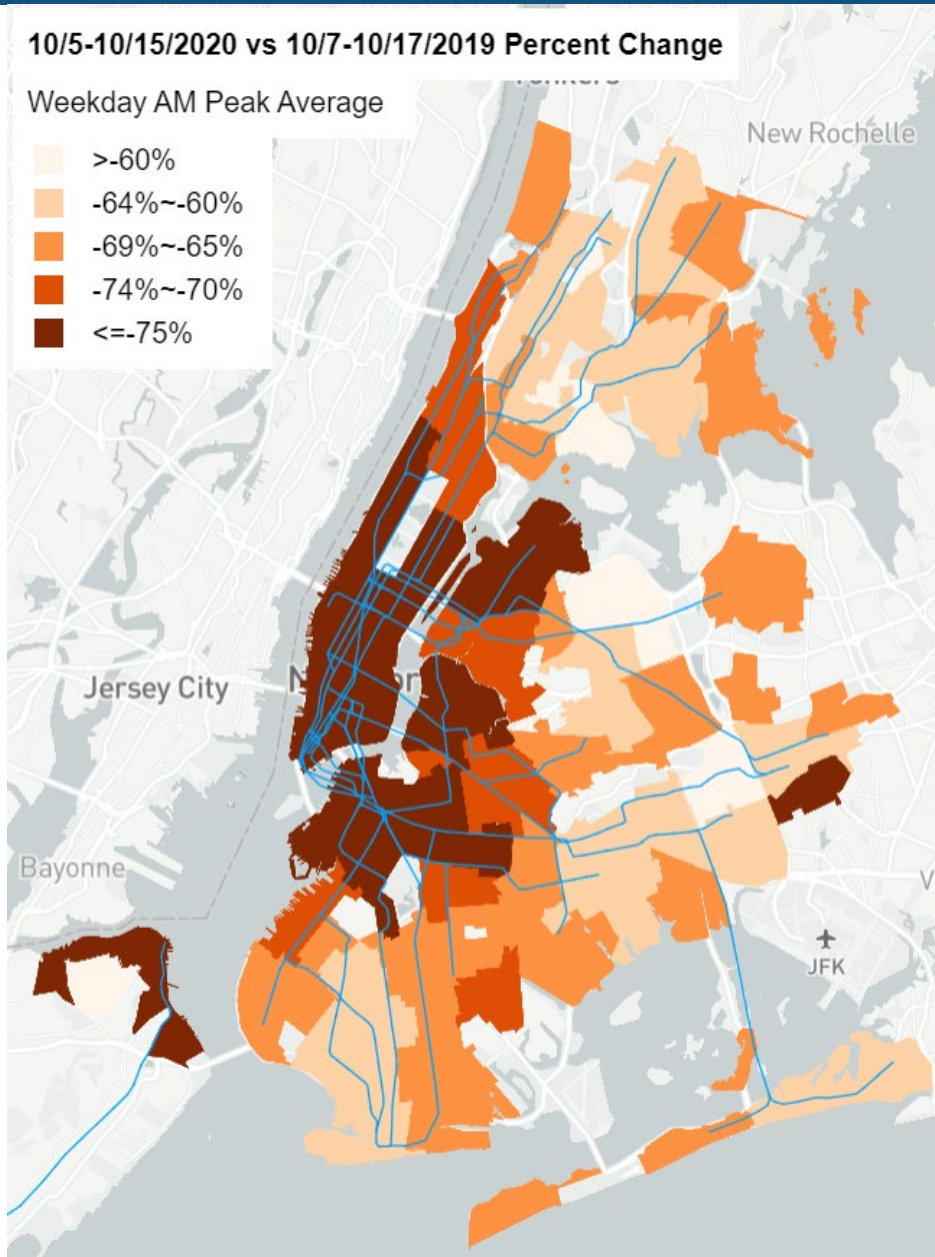
# Weekday AM and PM Peak Turnstile Data – Comparisons with April 2020

- **In mid-April, subway travel was at its lowest.** Ridership has been increasing since then, to varying degrees across the city. The areas showing the least amount of increase coincide with those that declined the least in April.
- The AM peak hour map may indicate where commuters are returning to the subway system, while the PM peak hour map may indicate where people are commuting home from.
- Much of Queens and south Brooklyn are seeing strong AM peak hour gains. The city's business districts have gained substantial PM peak ridership since mid-April.



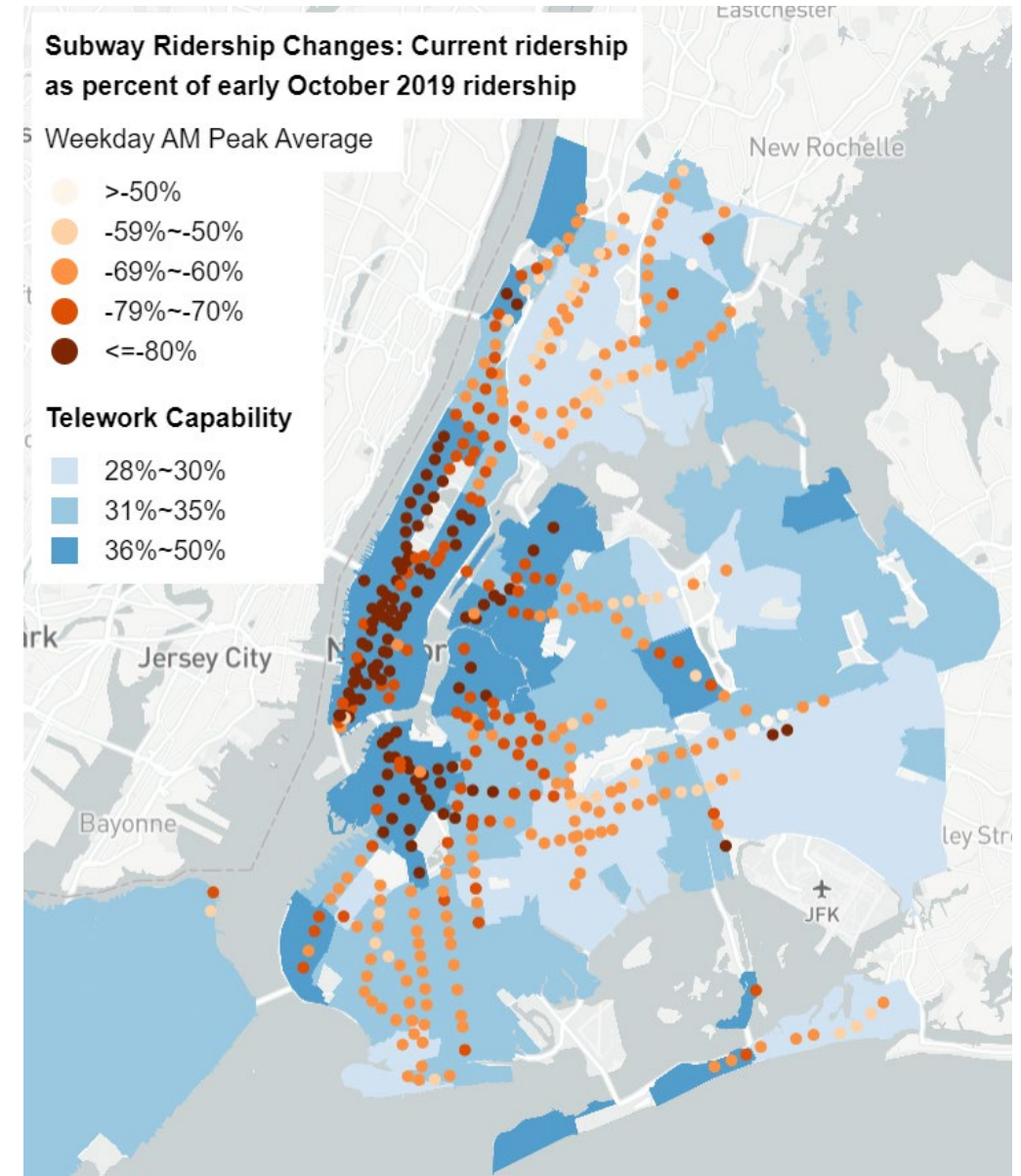
# Weekday AM and PM Peak Turnstile Data – Comparisons with Oct 2019

- While subway ridership has been increasing in recent months, AM and PM peak hour trips in remain substantially off from their volumes during the same weeks in 2019.
- **The city's business districts** in midtown and lower Manhattan, downtown Brooklyn, and Long Island City **continue to see less than a quarter of their PM peak subway entries**, indicating a very limited return to work in those areas.



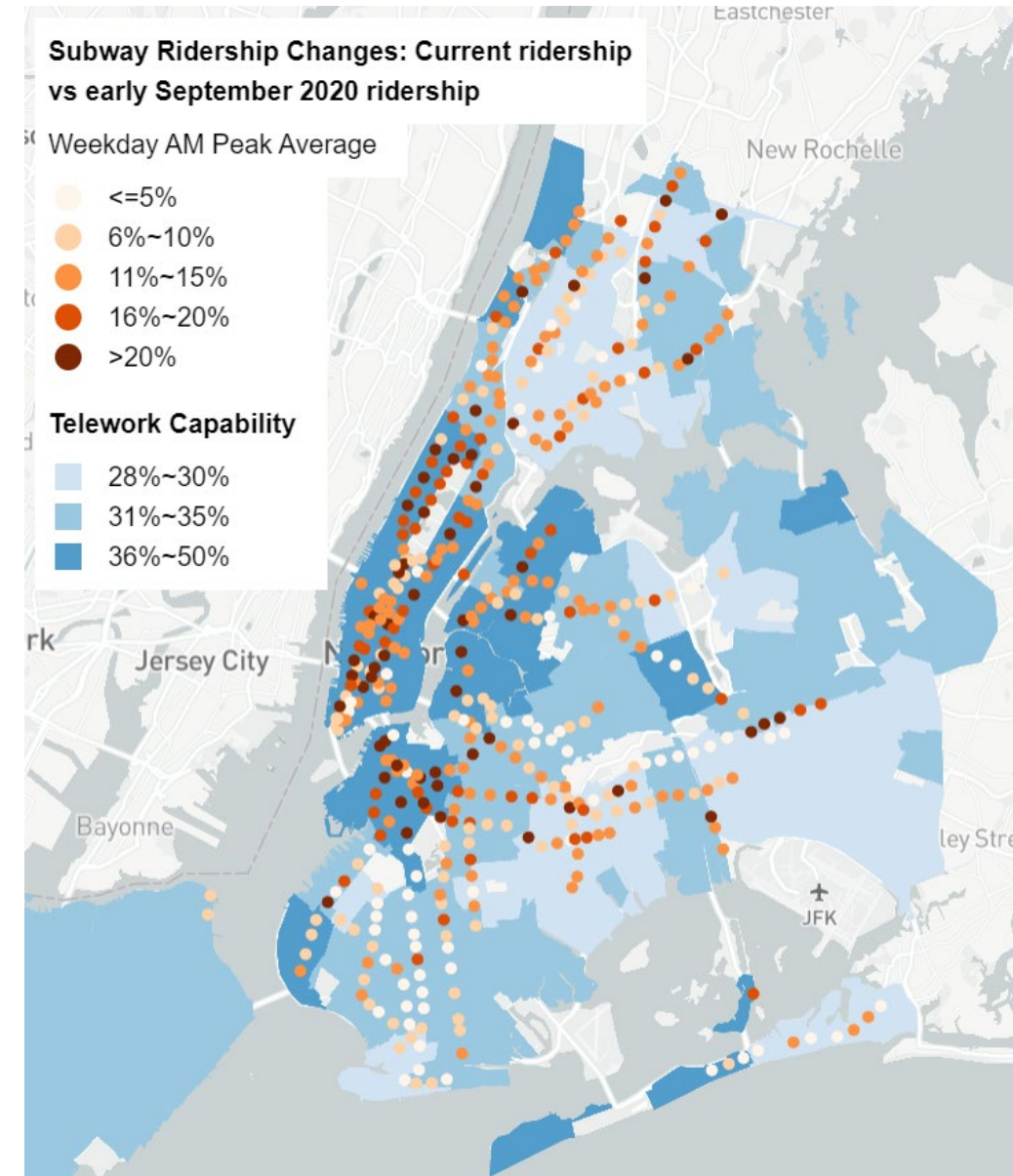
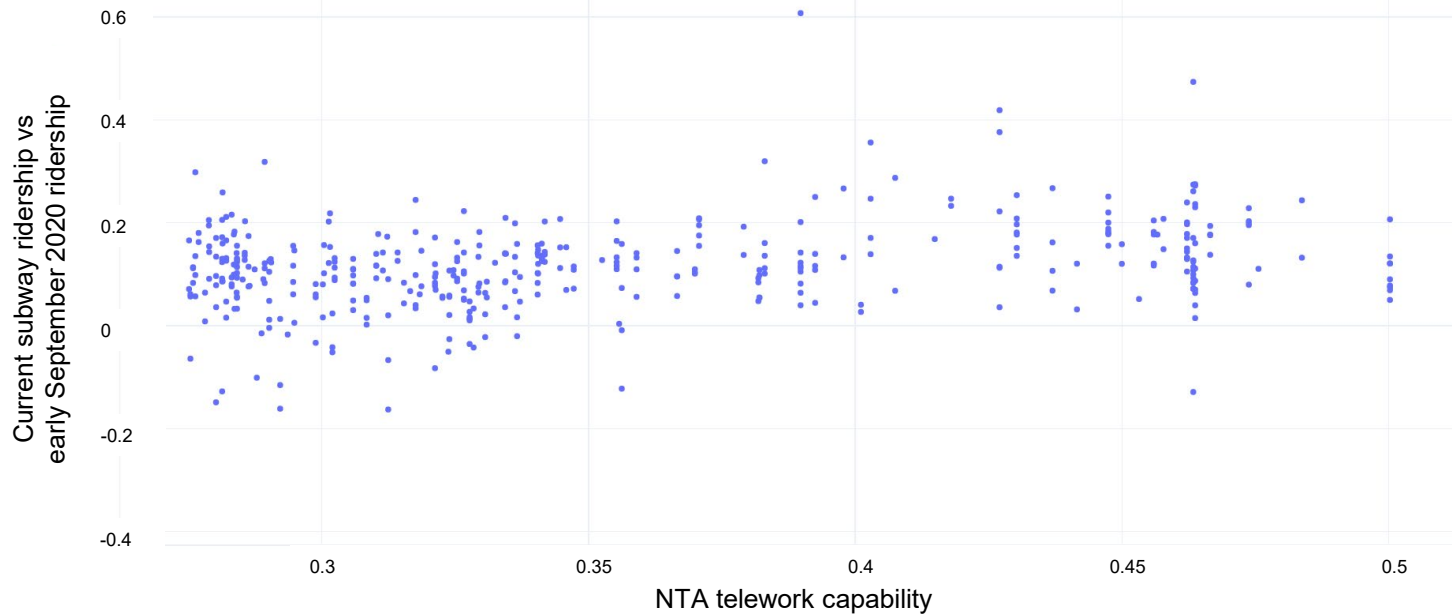
# Weekday AM Peak Subway Turnstile Data and Telework Capability

- A University of Chicago study estimated the “telework capability” of workers in different economic sectors. The map to the right shows the proportion of the residential labor force in a neighborhood that is able to work remotely from home based on these estimates.
- By mapping AM peak subway entries during early October 2020 and comparing them to entries over the same period in 2019, the **highest rates of ridership decreases are seen in neighborhoods with the strongest likelihood of having telework-capable populations**, including much of Manhattan, Downtown Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Long Island City, and Astoria.
- **Neighborhoods with the lowest share of residents able to work remotely show AM peak subway ridership at levels closer to the previous year as compared to other parts of the city.** These areas include much of the Bronx, eastern Queens, and central Brooklyn, where larger proportions of the city’s non-office-oriented and essential workers live.



# Weekday AM Peak Subway Turnstile Data and Telework Capability

- Yet, despite sustained low levels of AM peak hour subway ridership in neighborhoods with **high concentrations of residents who are able to telework, ridership growth since Labor Day has been strong at certain stations in these same areas.**
- Stations in Manhattan, downtown Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Long Island City, and Astoria have seen AM peak hour ridership gains of more than 20 percent in recent weeks, but **the relationship between recent AM peak hour ridership growth and the telework-capability of the surrounding neighborhood appears weak.**



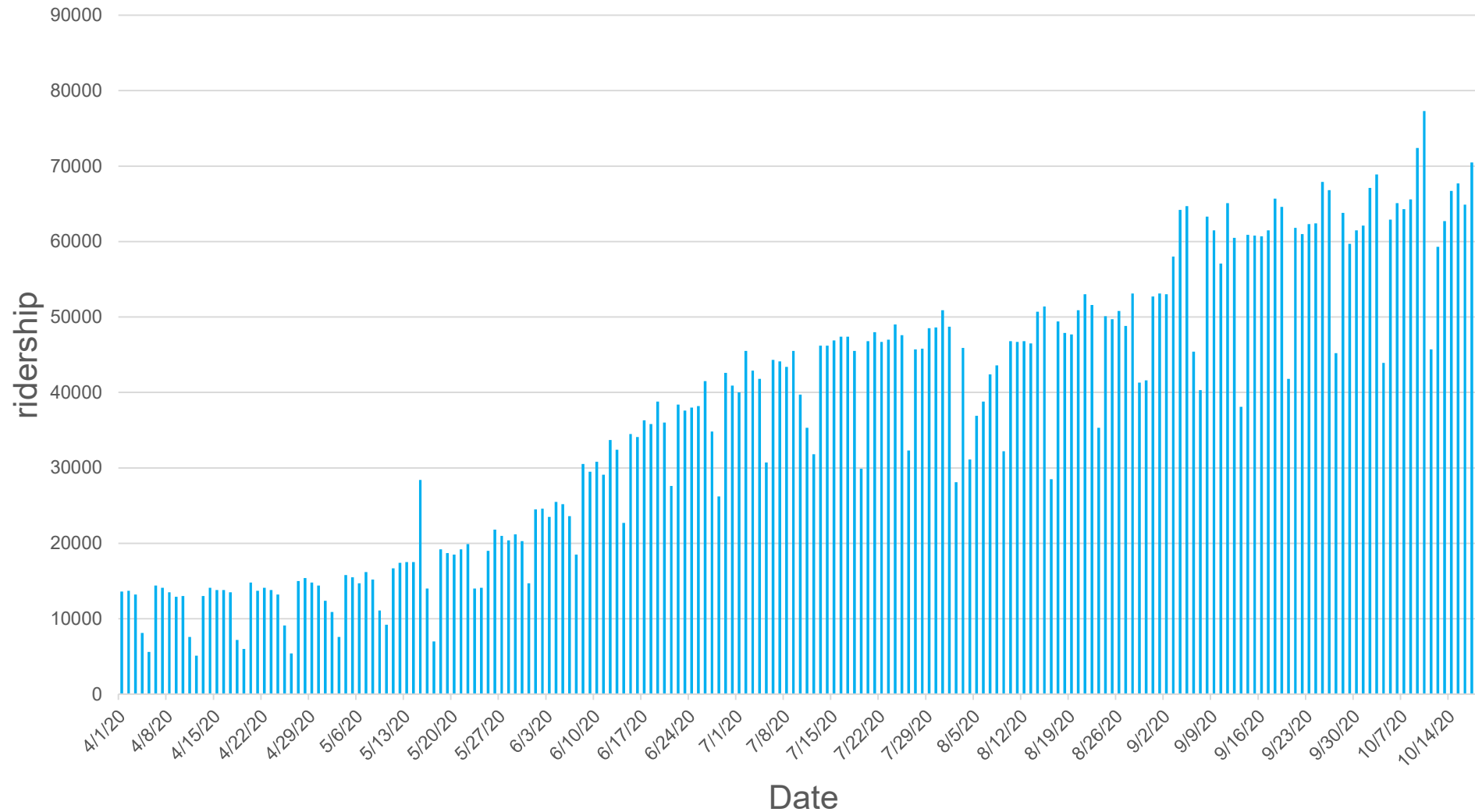


**MTA data:**

**Metro North Railroad, Long Island Rail  
Road, Access-A-Ride**

# Metro-North Railroad Ridership Changes

Estimated \* MTA Metro-North Railroad (March 1- October 18, 2020)



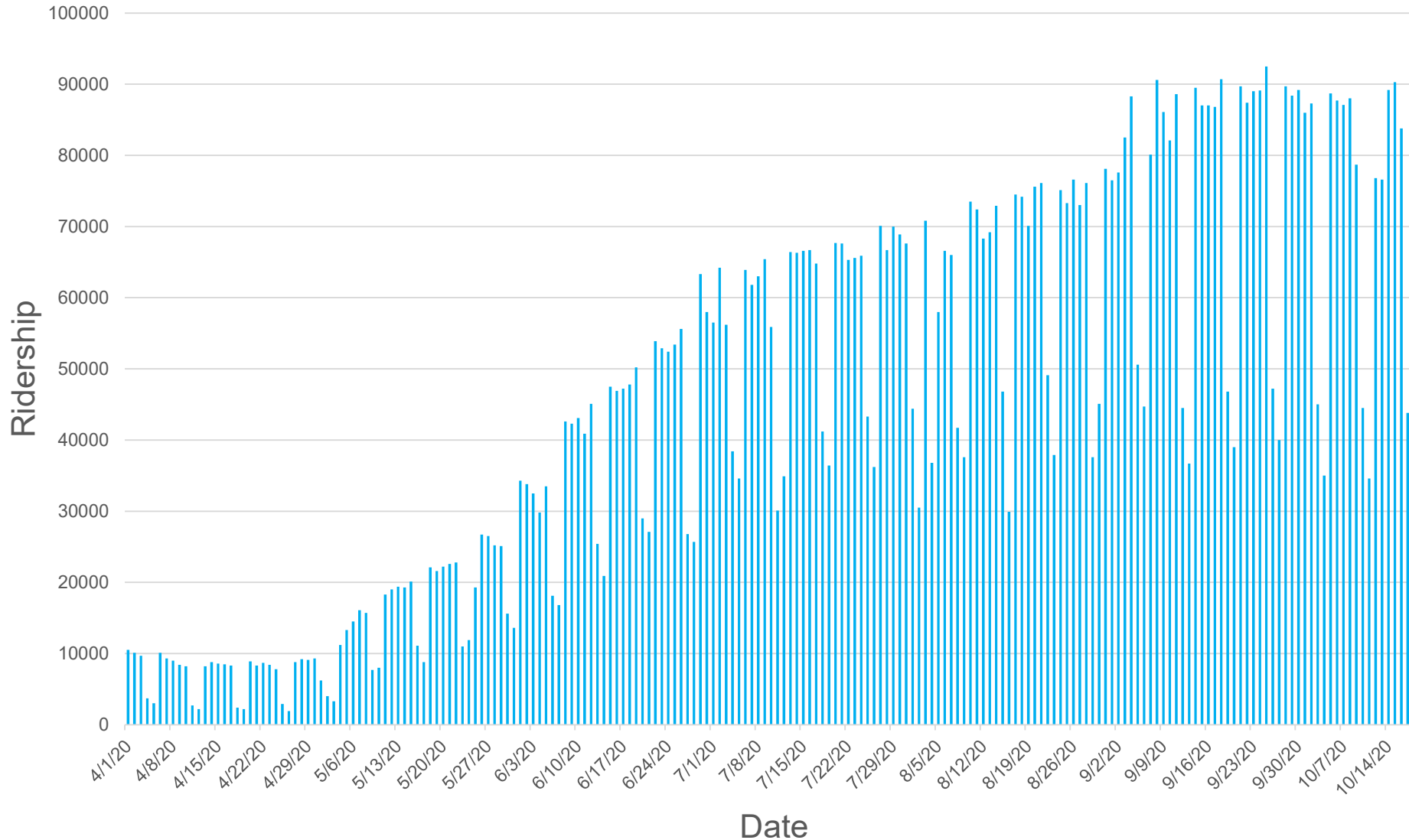
- Weekday MNR ridership for the week of October 12 was up 2 percent compared to the week of September 28, while weekend MNR ridership was up 6 percent.

From the MTA: Metro-North ridership is estimated by a model using monthly, weekly, ten-trip, and daily ticket sales. Percent change is calculated based on 2019 monthly average weekday/Saturday/Sunday ridership figures. Data sources: MTA (<https://new.mta.info/coronavirus/ridership>)



# Long Island Rail Road Ridership Changes

Estimated \* MTA Long Island Rail Road Ridership (April 1- October 18, 2020)

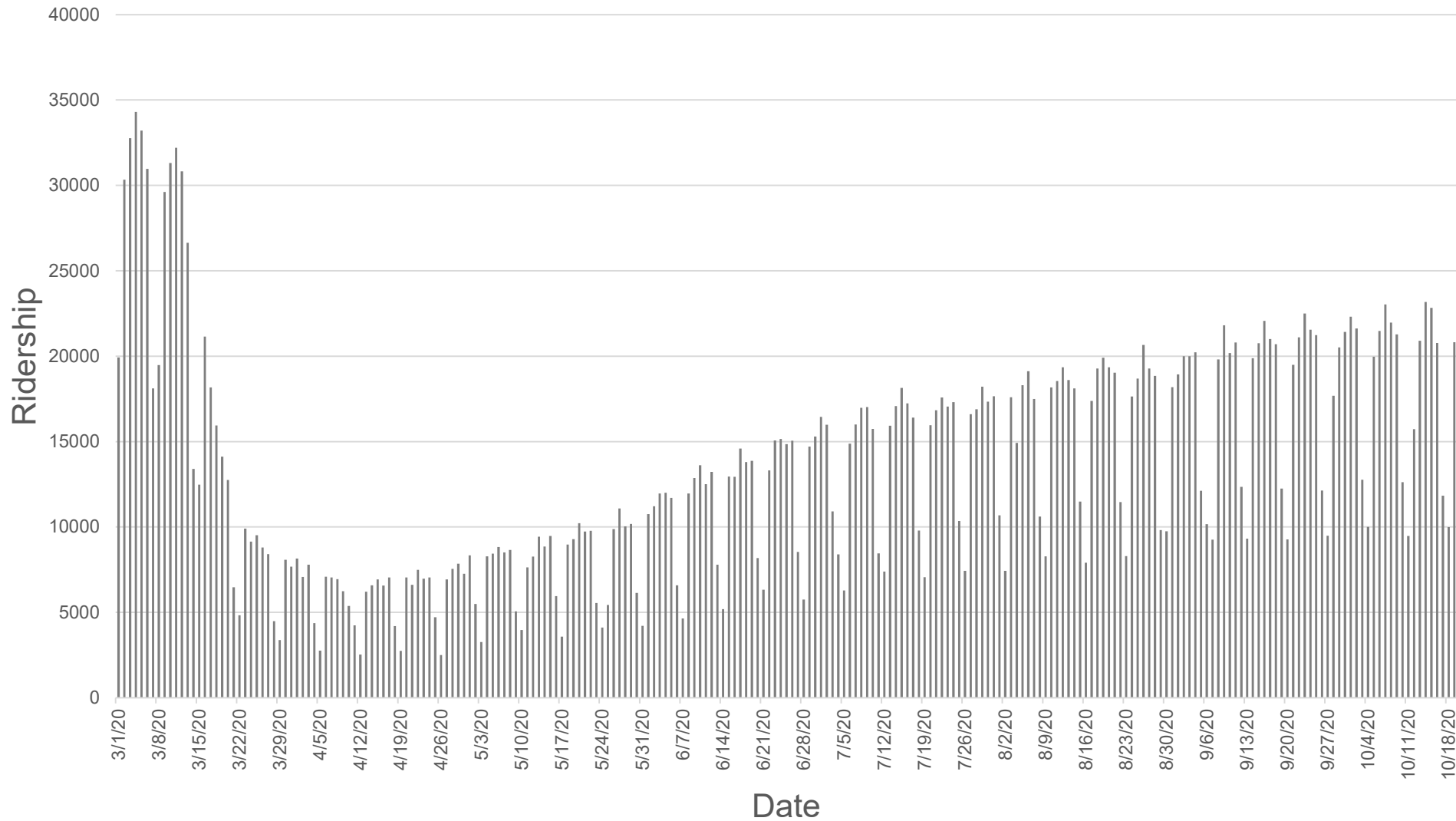


- Weekday LIRR ridership for the week of October 12 was down 5 percent to the week of September 28, while weekend ridership was down 2 percent.

From the MTA: LIRR ridership is estimated by a model using monthly, weekly, ten-trip, and daily ticket sales. Percent change is calculated based on 2019 monthly average weekday/Saturday/Sunday ridership figures. Data sources: MTA (<https://new.mta.info/coronavirus/ridership>)

# Access-A-Ride Scheduled Trip Changes

Estimated\* MTA Access-A-Ride Scheduled Trips (March 1- October 18, 2020)



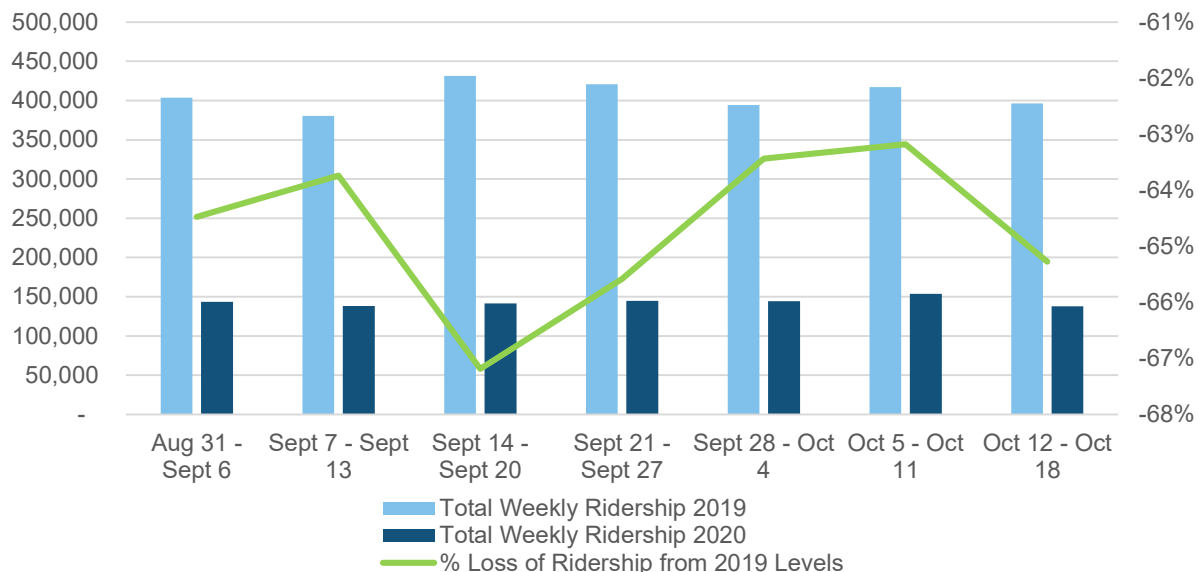
- Weekday Access-A-Ride scheduled trips for the week of October 12 were nearly same as the week of September 28, while the weekend scheduled trips were down 4 percent.

From the MTA: To provide timely updates, this data presents scheduled Access-A-Ride trips as an indicator of demand, rather than completed trips. The process to reflect completed trips, including adjusting for on-demand trips, cancellations, no shows, and on-street issues, would delay release of data for several weeks.. Data sources: MTA (<https://new.mta.info/coronavirus/ridership>)

# Ferry

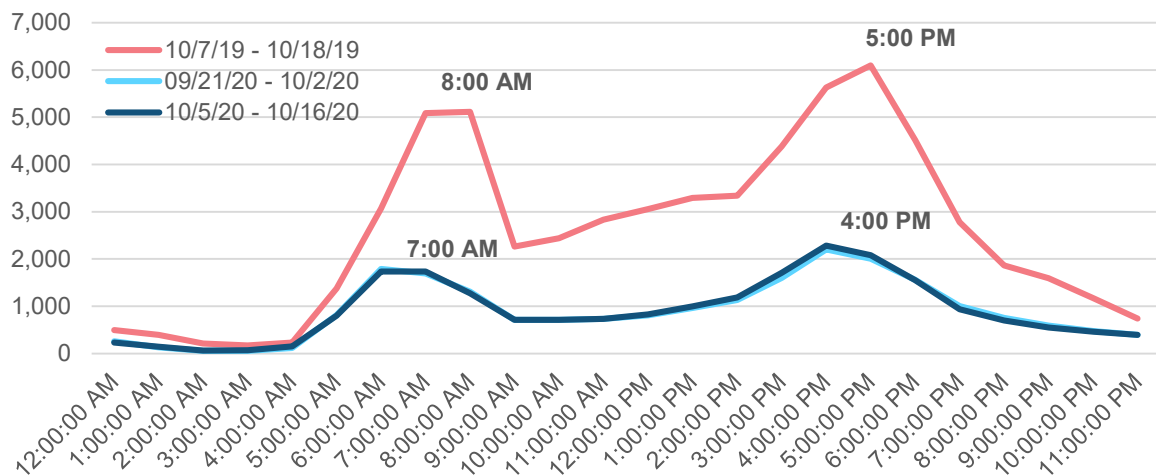
# The Staten Island Ferry and NYC Ferry

### SIF Total Weekly Ridership

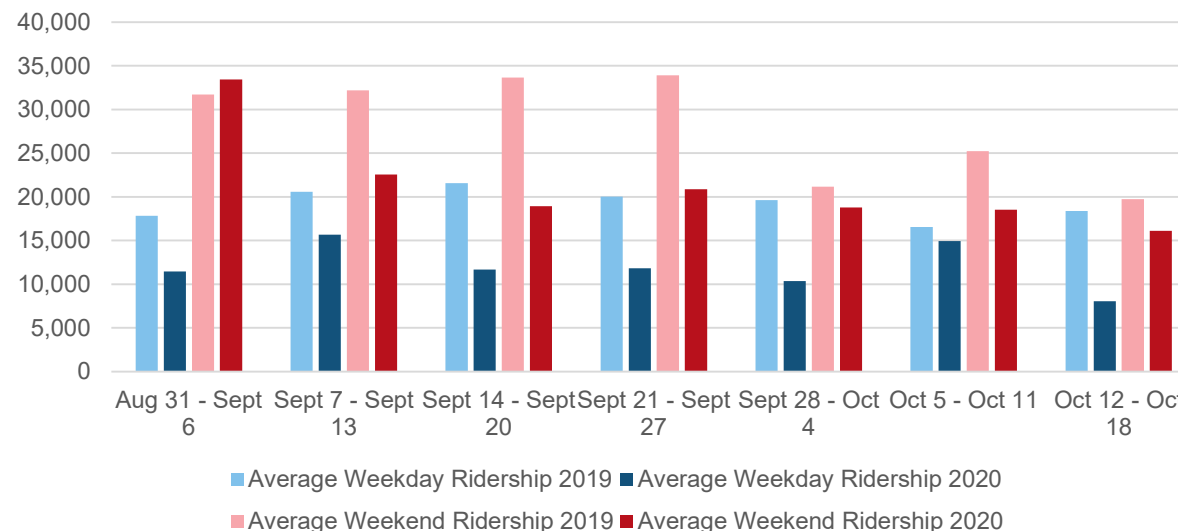


- The two-week period of **October 5 to October 18** saw a daily weekday average of over **22,000 Staten Island Ferry riders**. During these two weeks, the SIF **recovered an average of about 36 percent of its daily ridership**, compared to 2019 levels.
- For the SIF, weekday peak hour ridership for the two-week period of October 5 to October 18 **changed from 6:00 am to 7:00 am for the morning and remained at 4:00 pm for the afternoon**, compared to the previous two-week period.
- The two-week period of October 5 to October 18 saw NYC Ferry weekly ridership recover **an average of 67 percent of its weekday ridership**, and **an average of 78 percent of its weekend ridership**, compared to 2019 levels.

### SIF Average Weekday Total Ridership Per Hour



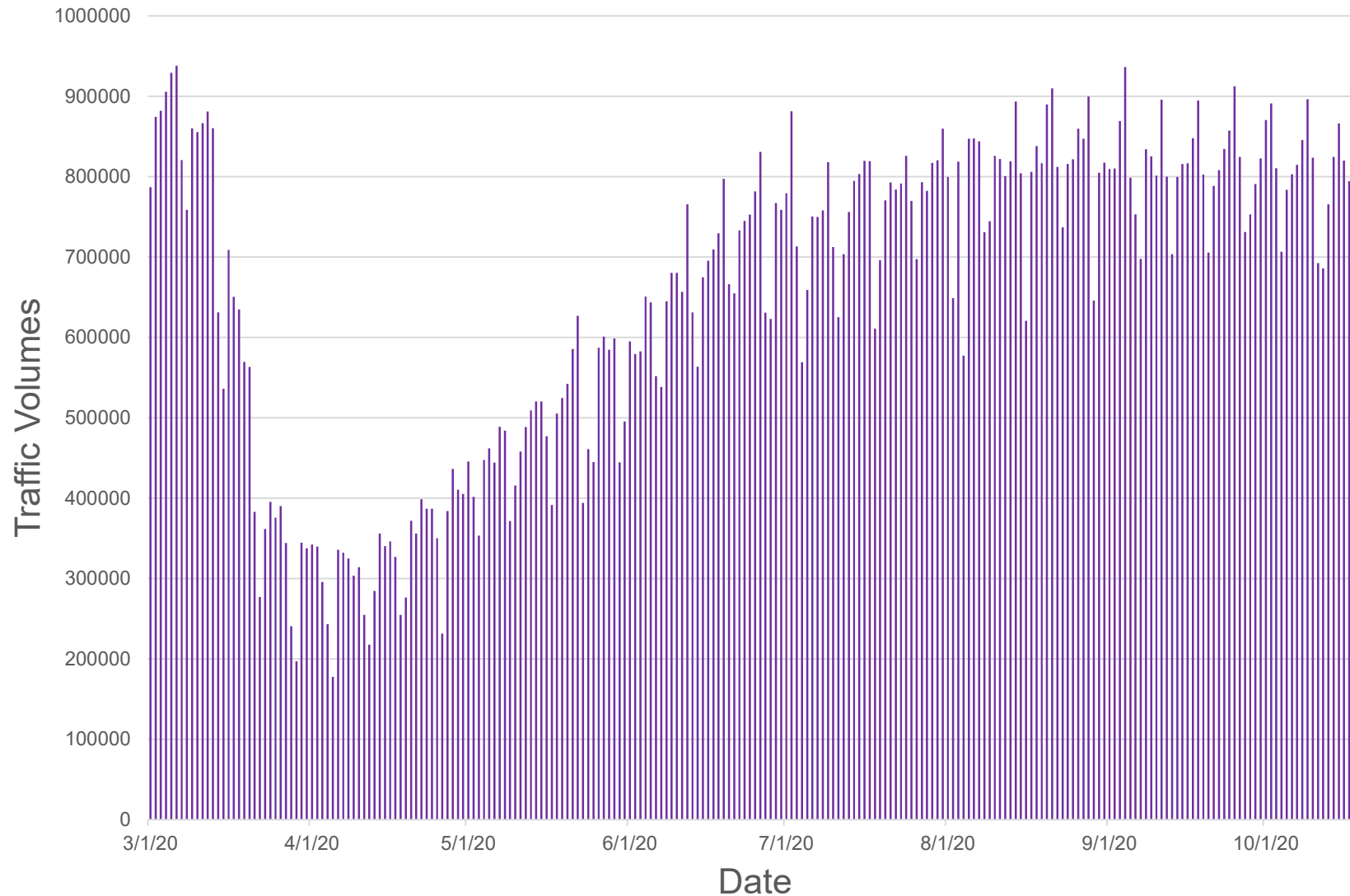
### NYC Ferry Weekly Ridership Weekday vs. Weekend Averages



# Traffic

# MTA Bridge and Tunnel Traffic Volumes

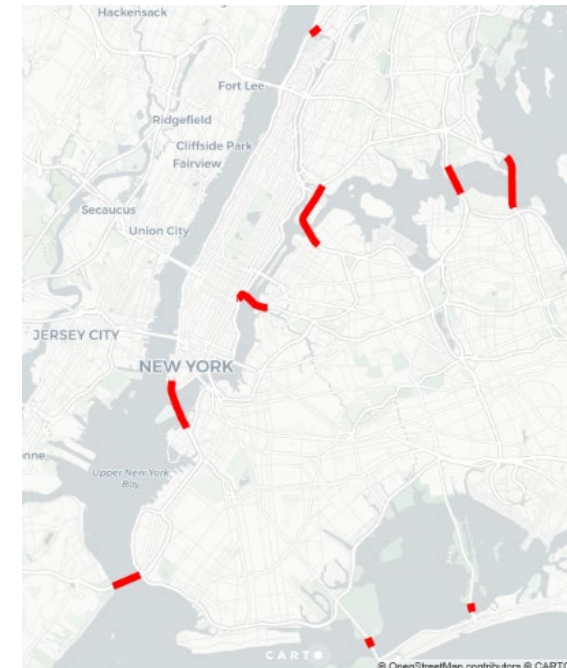
Estimated \* MTA Bridge and Tunnel Traffic Counts (March 1 - October 18, 2020)



- Weekday traffic counts on MTA bridges and tunnels during the week of October 12 were down 4 percent compared to the week of September 28. Weekend traffic counts were up 2 percent.

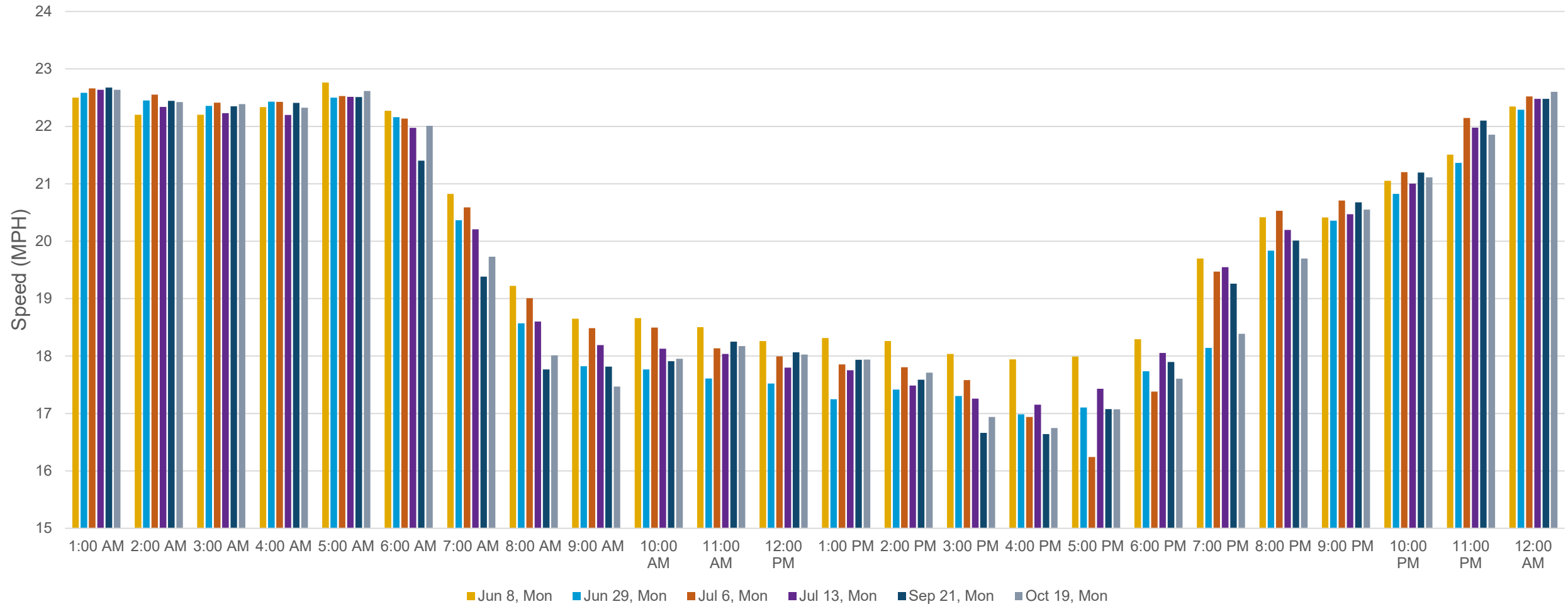
MTA crossings include:

- Bridges: Robert F. Kennedy, Throgs Neck, Verrazzano Narrows, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial, and Cross Bay Veterans Memorial bridges.
- Tunnels: the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel and the Queens Midtown Tunnel.





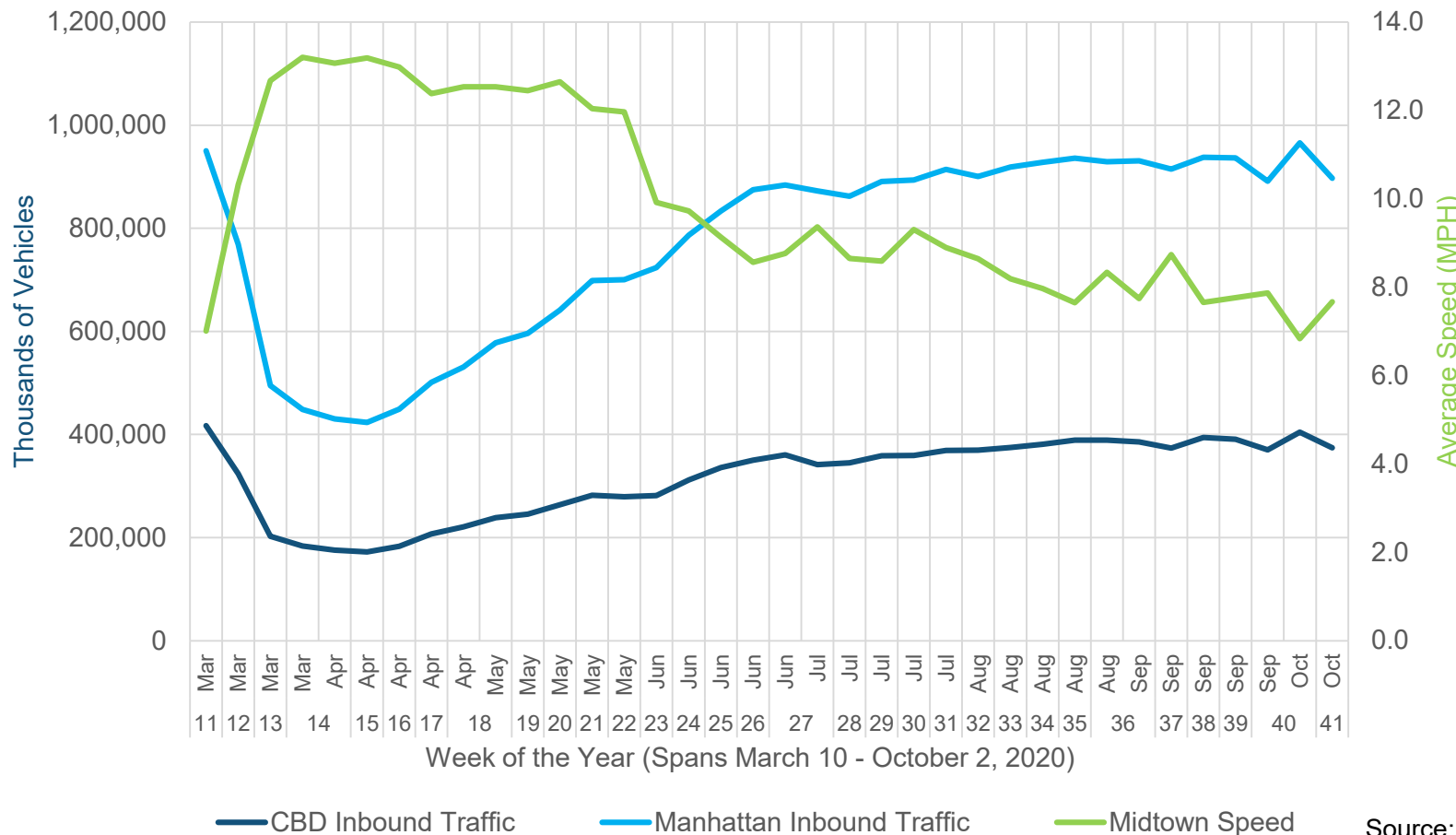
## Real-time Traffic Flow Speed by Hour in NYC



- Compared to earlier weeks, average hourly traffic flow speeds on Monday, October 19 were generally consistent with mid September, and peak hour speeds were much slower than those observed in June.

# Manhattan Inbound Traffic

Total average vehicles entering Manhattan CBD and Manhattan via river crossings and average weekday daytime travel speeds in Midtown



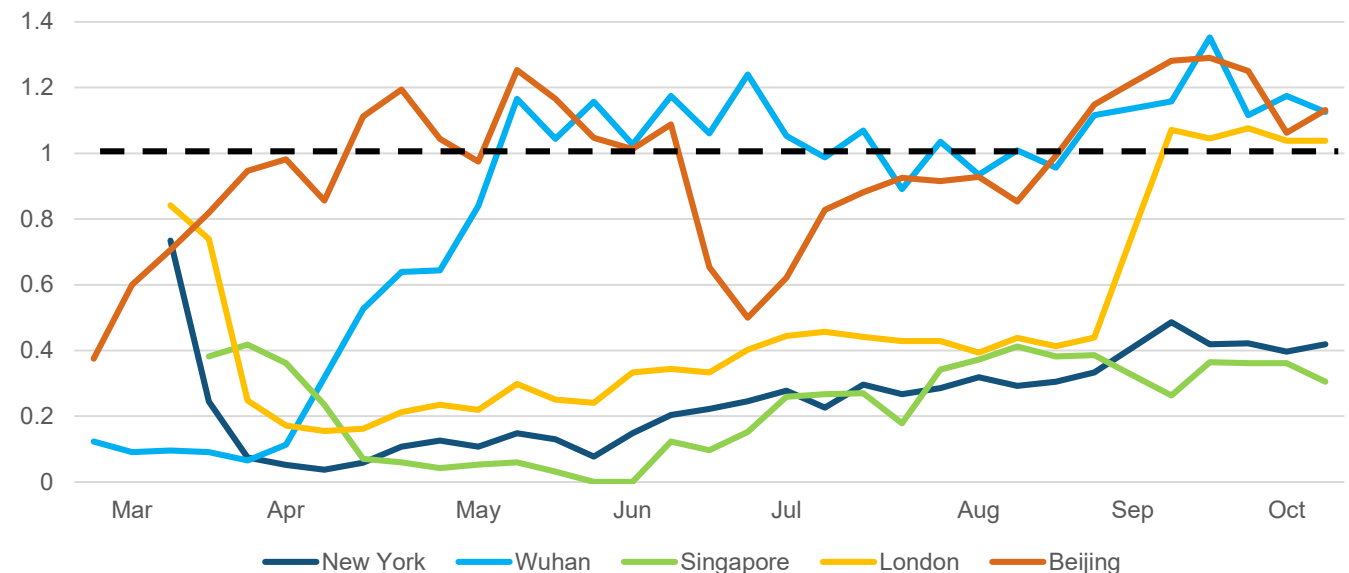
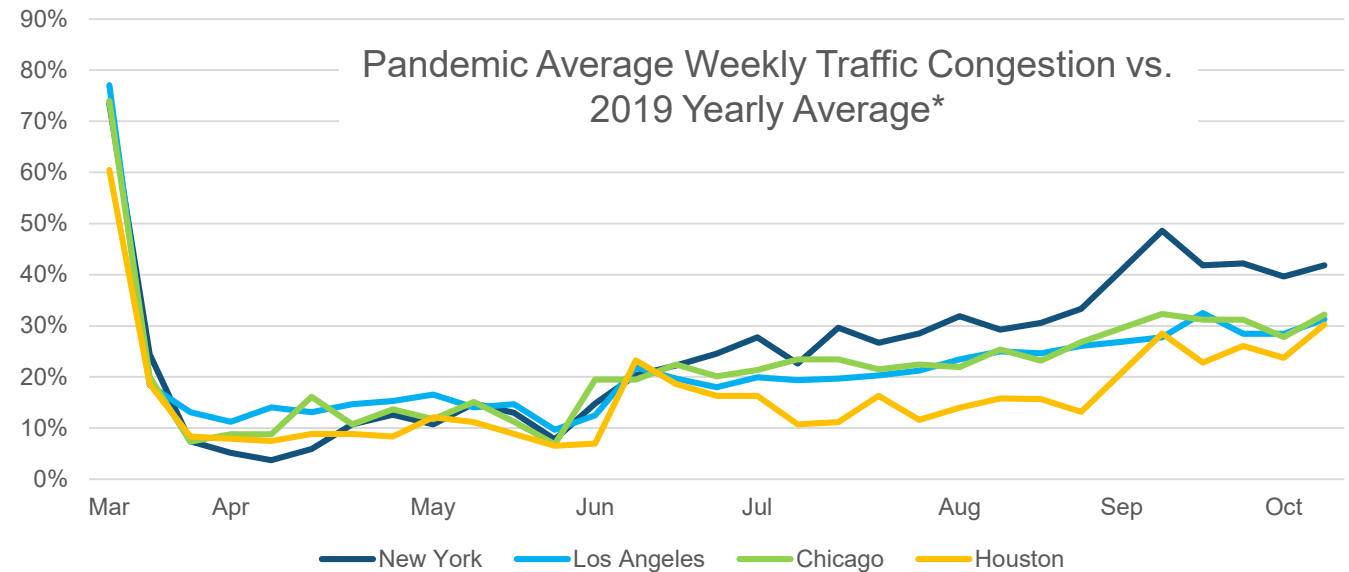
- Total average weekday daytime inbound vehicles to Manhattan and the Manhattan central business district are comparable to pre-pandemic levels.
- Volumes and speeds during the week of October 12 likely reflect the Columbus Day holiday.
- After peaking in early April at about 13 mph, average Midtown Manhattan speeds dropped sharply in early June and have continued to slowly decline.

Source: NYCDOT, providing data from NYCTL, Port Authority, Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority



# Traffic Congestion

- These charts show average citywide congestion during the morning peak at 7am or 8am depending on the city.
- Congestion is a measure of the average amount of additional travel time needed to get to a destination anywhere in a city compared to free flow conditions. Zero percent represents free flow speeds; 100 percent represents 2019 yearly average congestion for each city.
- After a significant initial decline in congestion in March, congestion in NYC has been slowly increasing since June.
- Internationally, Beijing, Wuhan and London are currently seeing higher than normal levels of congestion.



\*Some weeks contain less than five days due to holidays and gaps in the data.

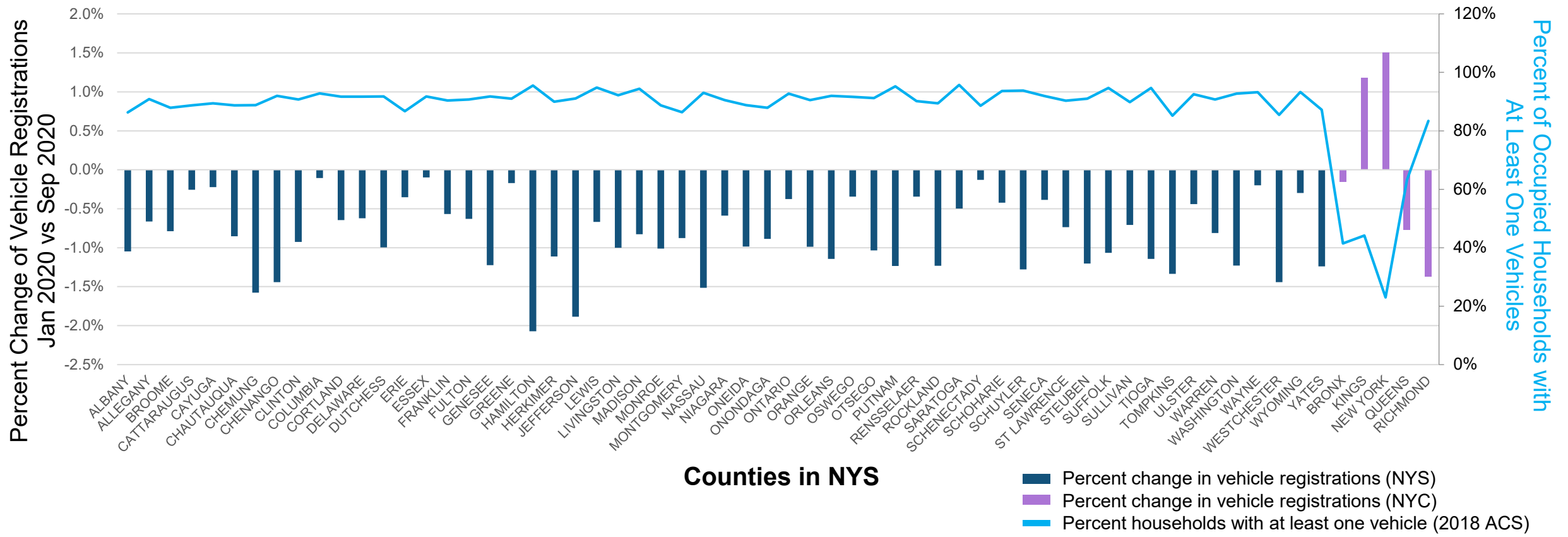
Data source: TomTom Traffic Index ([https://www.tomtom.com/en\\_gb/traffic-index/](https://www.tomtom.com/en_gb/traffic-index/))

# DMV Car Ownership



# Changes in Vehicle Registrations vs. Household Vehicle Ownership

## Percent Change of Vehicle Registrations (January 2020 vs September 2020) vs Percent of Occupied Households with At Least One Vehicles

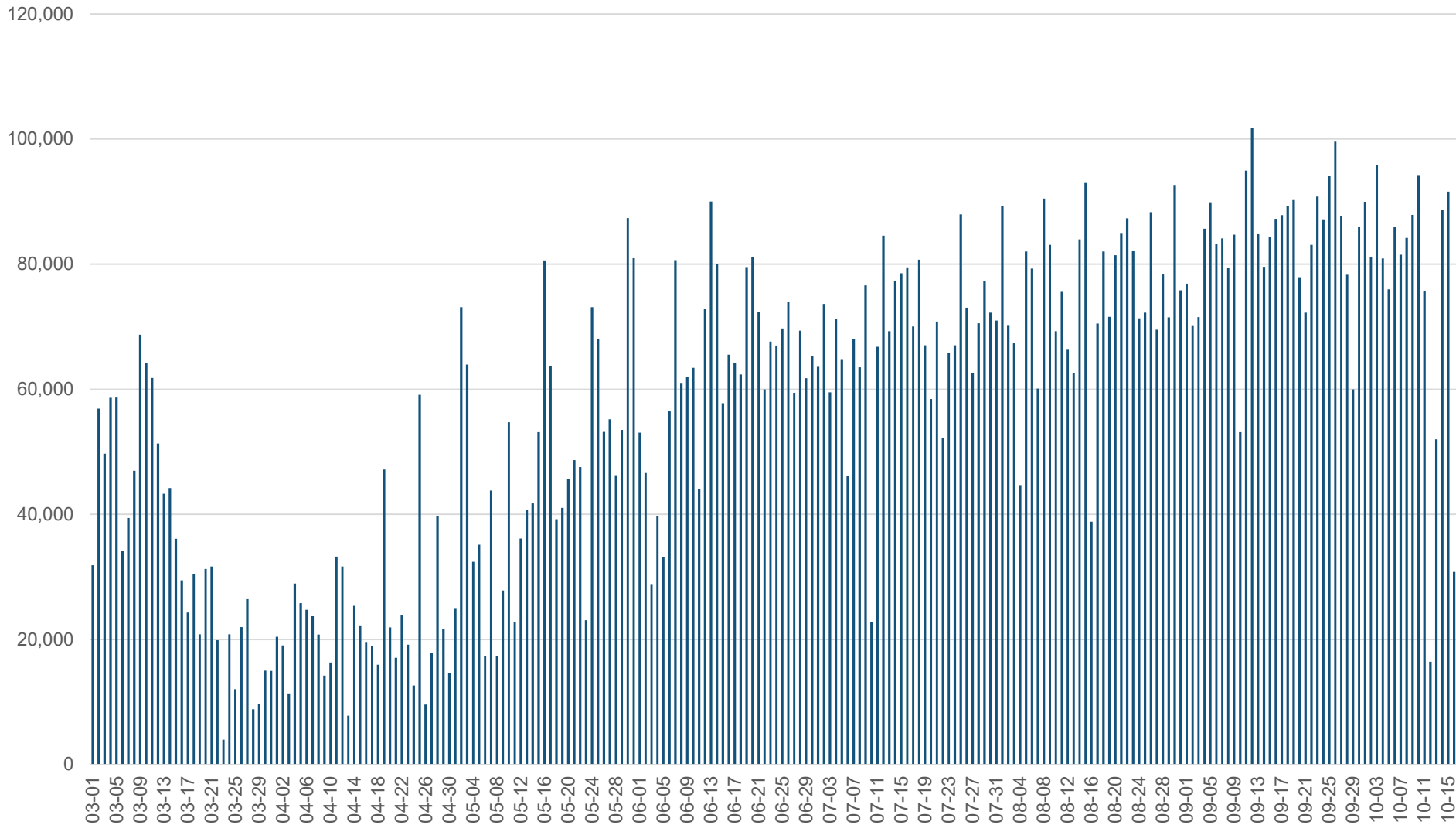


- When NYS counties are compared in terms of changes to vehicle registrations from January – September 2020, the only two counties with a slight increase in registrations were the NYC boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan. According to 2018 ACS Census Data, these two counties have extremely low household vehicle ownership rates when compared to the rest of the state.

# Citi Bike

# Citi Bike Ridership Changes

Citi Bike Ridership (Mar 1- Oct 18 2020)

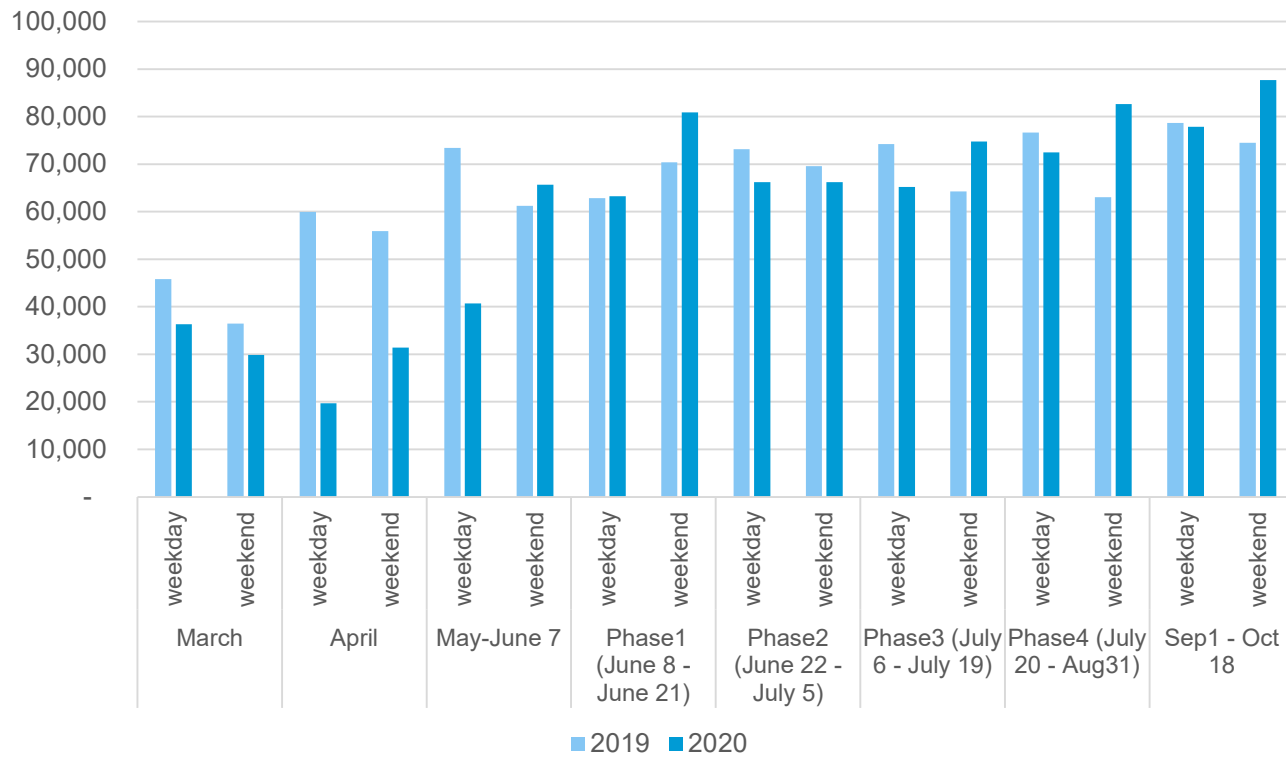


- Citi Bike ridership was trending up between early March 2020 and June, and ridership is highly correlated with weather. Ridership has been stable in recent months.

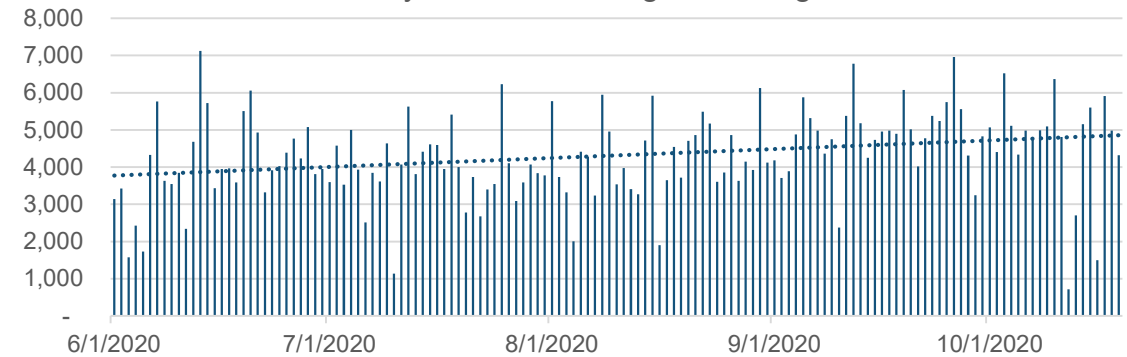
# Citi Bike Ridership

- From June through early Oct 2020, Citi Bike ridership has been fairly consistent with ridership patterns during the same months in 2019.
- Citi Bike ridership on East River bridge crossings has been increasing slowly, with peak travel occurring on weekends.
- The percentage of trips taken by Critical Workers has been declining, though nearly 18,000 members are part of the Critical Worker program.

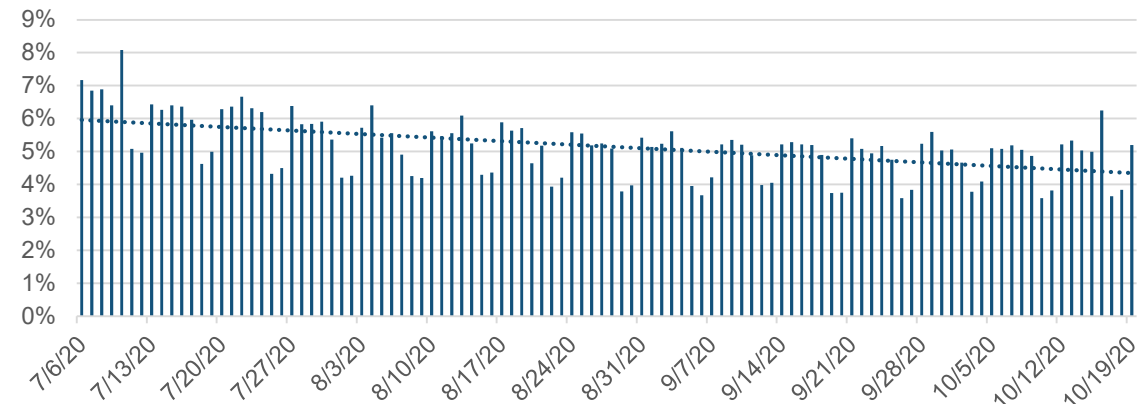
Citi Bike Average Daily Trips 2019 vs 2020 (Mar-Oct)



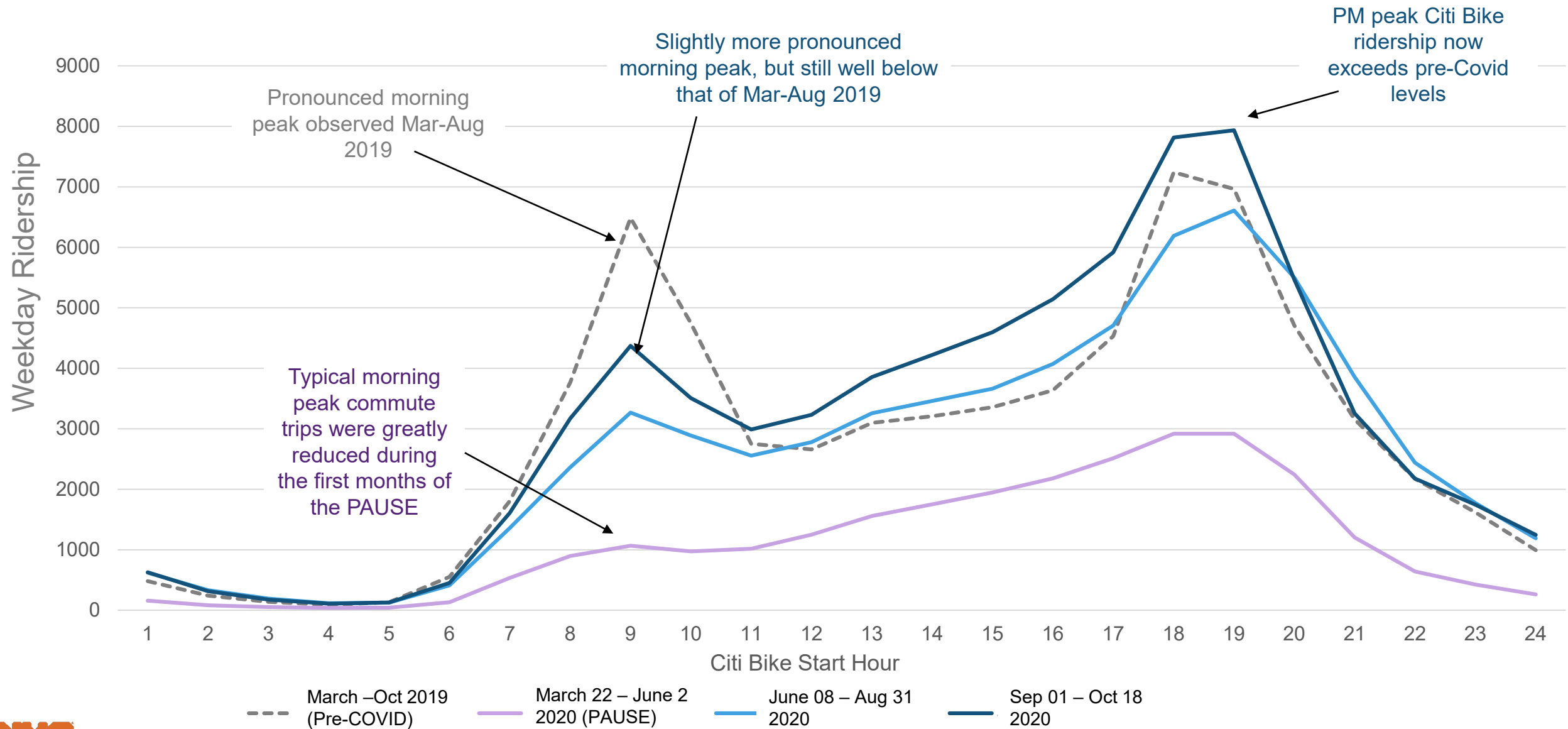
Daily East River Bridge Crossings



Percent of all trips taken by Critical Workers

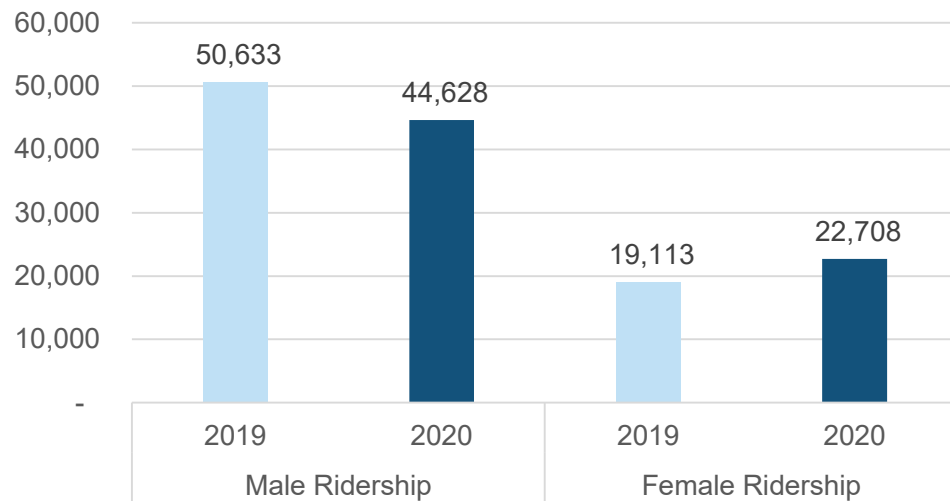


# Citi Bike Weekday Daily Ridership by Time of Day

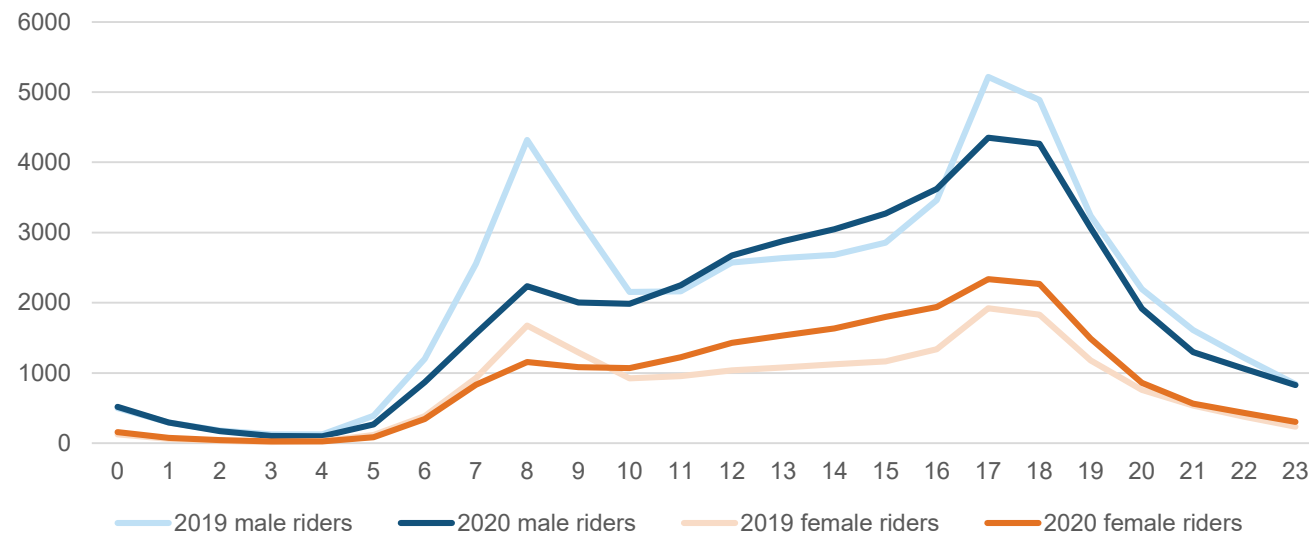


# Citi Bike Ridership By Gender

Average Daily Ridership by gender  
Sept-Oct 2019 vs Sept-Oct 2020

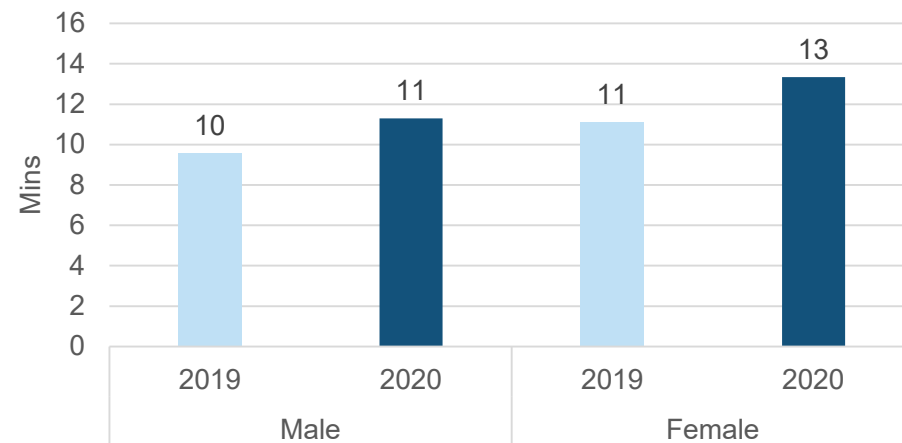


Average Daily Ridership by time of day by gender  
Sept-Oct 2019 vs Sept-Oct 2020



- Total trips in September and October of 2020 are just slightly lower than they were over this same period in 2019. Compared to 2019, men are taking fewer Citi Bike trips, while women are taking more.
- Women also made longer Citi Bike trips in September and October 2020 vs this period in 2019, and longer trips than men.
- Trips made in September and October 2020 are less oriented around the AM and PM peak hours for both women and men, though the peaks remain more pronounced among male riders.

Trip Duration Comparison  
Sept-Oct 2019 vs Sept-Oct 2020

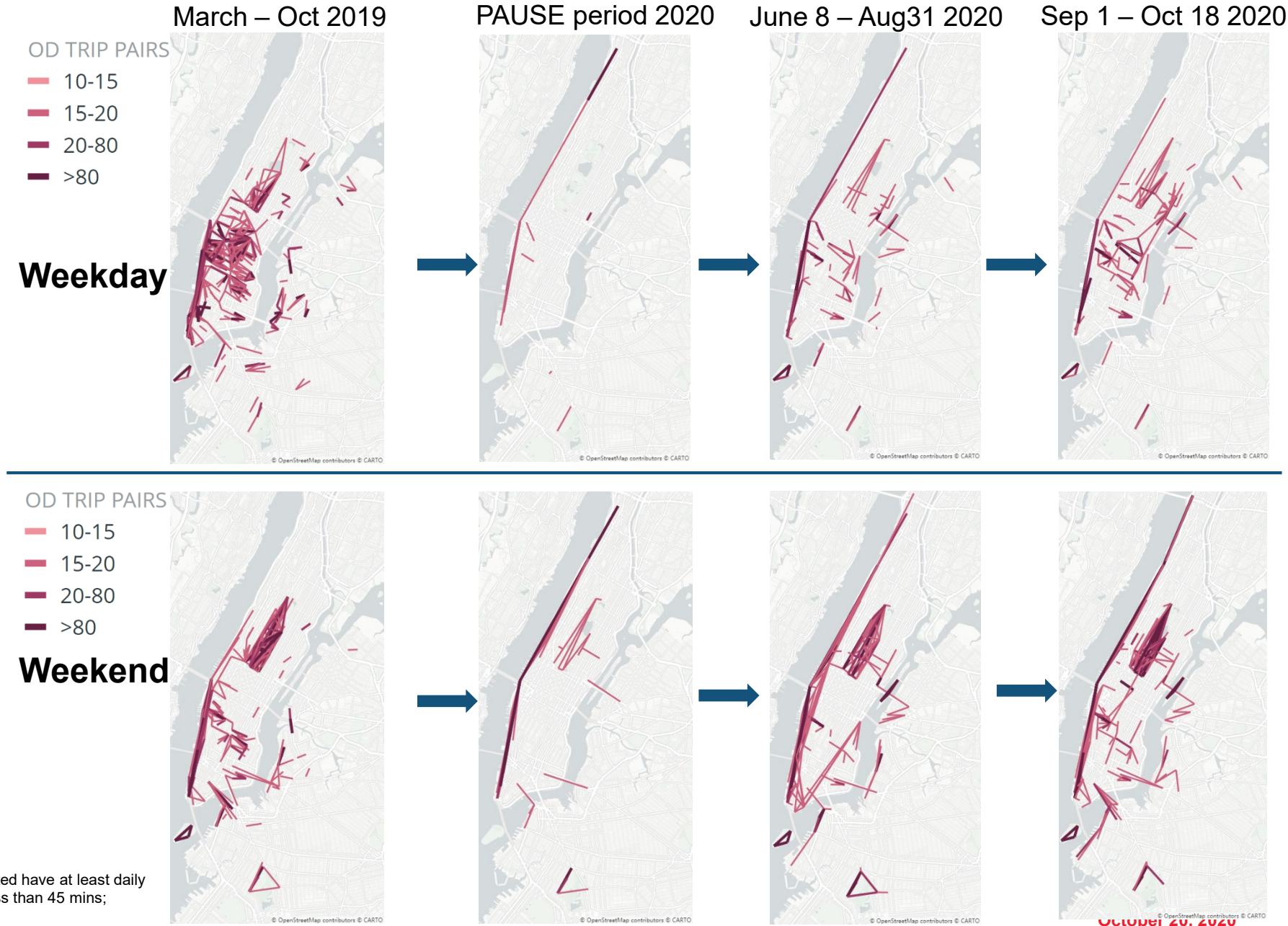


• Citi Bike gender : "unknown" gender is not calculated; the time period of this slide is from Sep1st to Oct 18<sup>th</sup> for 2019 and 2020



# Citi Bike Ridership Origin-Destination Comparison

- The maps on the right show Citi Bike trips that have origin-destination pairings that are made at least 10 times per day on average.
- While weekday and weekend Citi Bike ridership volumes in September and October 2020 are comparable to their volumes during this same time period in 2019, trips in 2019 appear to be far more concentrated around Manhattan cross-town origin and destination pairings.
- Weekend trip pairings in September and October 2020 closely resemble the common pairings in 2019, though more north-south Manhattan trips commonly occurred in 2020.



\* Citi Bike Origin-Destination : Origin Destination pairs selected have at least daily 10 trip pairs, and trip duration is greater than 1.5 min and less than 45 mins;

Data sources: DOT Citi Bike Data

# Timeline



# New York COVID19 Pandemic Timeline: First Case to End of PAUSE

- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020: **First confirmed case** in New York (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/first-case-of-coronavirus-confirmed-in-new-york-state-11583111692>)
- March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Governor Cuomo **declares state of emergency** (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/novel-coronavirus-briefing-governor-cuomo-declares-state-emergency-contain-spread-virus>)
- March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Governor Cuomo announces **restrictions on mass gatherings**, directing events with more than 500 people to be cancelled or postponed and any gathering with less than 500 people in attendance to cut capacity by 50 percent. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/during-novel-coronavirus-briefing-governor-cuomo-announces-new-mass-gatherings-regulations>)
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020: **NYC school closures announced**. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/151-20/new-york-city-close-all-school-buildings-transition-remote-learning>) Mayor de Blasio announces the **closure of schools, bars, and restaurants** (except takeout/delivery) effective the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/152-20/statement-mayor-de-blasio-bars-restaurants-entertainment-venues>)
- March 18<sup>th</sup>: Governor Cuomo announces that **50% of non-essential employees** must work from home (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2026-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>)
- March 20<sup>th</sup>: Governor Cuomo announces **statewide stay at home rules**, effective the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. **100% of non-essential workers** must stay home. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-issues-guidance-essential-services-under-new-york-state-pause-executive-order>), travel on transit only when necessary
- March 24<sup>th</sup>: MTA announces service reduction to **Essential Service** plan (<http://www.mta.info/press-release/mta-headquarters/mta-implements-%E2%80%99Cny-essential-service-plan%E2%80%99D-move-healthcare-workers>)
- March 27<sup>th</sup>: The Governor halts **non-essential construction** (<https://thecity.nyc/2020/03/cuomo-calls-off-non-essential-construction-statewide.html>)
- May 1<sup>st</sup>: Mayor de Blasio announces first seven miles of streets in **Open Streets NYC** program. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/306-20/open-streets-mayor-de-blasio-speaker-johnson-name-first-streets-be-used-social>)
- May 6<sup>th</sup>: Governor Cuomo enacts nightly 1am-5am subway shutdowns: (<http://www.mta.info/press-release/mta-headquarters/mta-announces-overnight-closure-subway-deep-cleaning-launches->)
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Mayor de Blasio announces 43 miles of **open streets**, the most in the nation, with the City to eventually reach 100 miles. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/370-20/mayor-de-blasio-surpasses-open-streets-target-13-more-miles-streets-be-opened-by>)
- May 29<sup>th</sup>: Governor Cuomo announces that New York City is expected to **begin Phase 1 of reopening on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-city-enter-phase-1-reopening-june-8-and-five-regions-enter>)
- June 1<sup>st</sup>: Governor Cuomo announces overnight curfew in NYC after a weekend of protests due to the death of George Floyd. No-non local vehicles permitted in Manhattan below 96<sup>th</sup> street, and Citi Bike is shut down during curfew hours. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-and-mayor-de-blasio-announce-citywide-curfew-new-york-city-will-take-effect>)
- June 5<sup>th</sup>: The MTA lays out its 13-point **“Action Plan For a Safe Return”** in preparation for New York City’s reopening. (<https://new.mta.info/document/17751>)
- June 7<sup>th</sup>: Mayor de Blasio announces the end of protest-related curfews ahead of schedule, effective immediately. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/executive-orders/2020/eo-122.pdf>)



# New York COVID19 Pandemic Timeline: Phase 1 to Phase 4

- June 8<sup>th</sup>: New York City begins **Phase 1 of re-opening**. Manufacturing, non-essential construction, and non-essential retail via curbside pickup can resume operations (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/420-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-appears-inside-city-hall>)
  - The Staten Island Ferry begins moving to a 20-minute rush hour schedule beginning with the 3:30 PM trip from St. George. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/ferrybus/siferryschedule.shtml#SISchedule>)
  - Mayor De Blasio announces **five new busways** to be created throughout the city, modeled after the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Busway, which will be made permanent. More bus lanes will be added along major corridors. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/417-20/better-buses-restart-mayor-de-blasio-major-projects-speed-buses-during-city-s-phased>)
- June 18<sup>th</sup>: Mayor de Blasio announces guidance for the City's **Open Restaurants program**, which allows qualifying restaurants and bars to expand outdoor seating on sidewalks, curb lanes, backyards, patios, plazas, and Open Streets. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/449-20/open-restaurants-new-york-city-prepares-phase-2-reopening-mayor-de-blasio-announces>)
- June 19<sup>th</sup>: Governor Cuomo holds his **final daily coronavirus briefing**, saying “We have done the impossible.” He will continue to monitor the situation and hold press conferences as needed. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-photos-rush-transcript-111th-day-covid-19-briefings-governor-cuomo-delivers-address>)
- June 22<sup>nd</sup>: New York City begins **Phase 2** of re-opening, including in-store retail, offices, hair salons and barbershops, house of worship, and car sales. Social distancing and hygiene guidelines remain in place. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/456-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>)
  - Governor Cuomo says he is actively talking to Governor Murphy of NJ and Governor Lamont of Connecticut, and that the three governors are “seriously considering” implementing a **14-day isolation protocol for visitors** from Florida, which could be extended to travelers from Arizona, Texas, and several other states who are experiencing a rapid rise in Covid cases. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-guest-cnns-newsroom-poppy-harlow-and-jim-sciutto>)
  - According to a survey conducted by the Partnership for New York City, while Phase 2 allows office workers to return to their offices, respondents from 60 companies predicted that only **10% of their employees would return to the office by August 15<sup>th</sup>**. Rudin Management Company said that, across its 14 offices in New York that reopened on Monday, it reached a collective **5.2 percent occupancy rate**. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/22/nyregion/nyc-phase-2-reopening-coronavirus.html>
- June 24<sup>th</sup>: The state governments of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut issue self-quarantine restrictions on **travelers returning from a list of 9 states** with high infection rates, with the ability to add more as the situation changes. ([https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/interimguidance\\_traveladvisory.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/interimguidance_traveladvisory.pdf))
- June 29<sup>th</sup>: Mayor de Blasio announces that, while outdoor dining is “working” in New York City and that the city is moving on track for Phase 3 of reopening on July 6<sup>th</sup>, **the reopening of indoor dining may be delayed** due to ongoing coronavirus concerns. Governor Cuomo echoed these concerns. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/482-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>)
- July 6<sup>th</sup>: New York City **begins Phase 3** of re-opening. Originally, this was to include indoor dining at restaurants, but this element has been postponed in light of outbreaks in other states. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/497-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>)
  - The Staten Island Ferry resumes regular rush-hour service, with boats running every 15 minutes from 7:00 am – 9:00 am and 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. <https://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ea13aec9-00c3-46cf-998e-a31fa521b891>
- July 20<sup>th</sup>: New York City **enters Phase 4** of re-opening, which includes outdoor activities like zoos and botanical gardens, as well as professional sports without spectators. Indoor dining, originally part of Phase 3, is still prohibited. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/531-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>)
- August 7<sup>th</sup>: Governor Cuomo announces that schools in New York State can reopen in the fall, though it will be up to local districts to determine if and how to do so. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-announces-based-each-regions-infection-rate-schools-across>)



# New York COVID19 Pandemic Timeline: September 2020 – October 2020

- August 31<sup>st</sup>: MTA restarts front door bus loading and **fare collection** (<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/transit/2020/08/18/mta-bringing-back-front-door-bus-boarding-and-fare-collection#:~:text=On%20August%2031%2C%20the%20MTA,the%20%242.75%20fare%20once%20again.>)
- September 9th: Governor Cuomo announces that restaurants can accommodate **indoor dining a 25% capacity** starting September 30th (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-indoor-dining-new-york-city-allowed-resume-beginning-september-30-25>)
- September 12th: Citi Bike records over **100,000 rides in a single day**, setting a record for the service
- September 16th: Mayor De Blasio announces that Open Restaurants will expand to weekdays citywide: (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/660-20/mayor-de-blasio-open-streets-restaurants-will-expand-weekdays-40-locations-citywide>)
- September. 21<sup>st</sup>: 3-K, Pre-K and District 75 schools reopen, and all students who opted into the all-remote program start their first full day of instruction.
- September 26<sup>th</sup>: An updated NYC Ferry Fall 2020 Schedule went into effect.
- September 29<sup>th</sup>: K-5 and K-8 schools scheduled to reopen
- October 1<sup>st</sup>: Middle and high schools, as well as secondary schools and transfer/adult education, scheduled to reopen
- October 4<sup>th</sup>: Mayor Bill de Blasio sends a proposal to the New York State government to close non-essential businesses, including public and private schools, in **nine new York City zip codes** where Covid-19 rates have remained over 3\$ for the past seven days. This would also include closing down high-risk activities in **11 additional New York City zip codes of concern**. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/693-20/mayor-de-blasio-sends-state-proposal-close-schools-non-essential-businesses-nine-new-york#/0>)
- October 6<sup>th</sup>: Governor Cuomo announces the **Cluster Action Initiative**, which will close or reduce capacity at non-essential businesses based on distance from Covid-19 infection hotspots. <https://www.amny.com/news/cuomo-to-enact-new-action-plan-to-target-covid-19-clusters/>
- October 15th: Mayor de Blasio describes test results in New York City hot spots as "**plateauing.**" <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/716-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>
- October 17th: Governor Cuomo outlines a new "**micro-cluster**" strategy to tackle COVID-19 hot spots that emerge in New York over the fall. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-outlines-new-micro-cluster-strategy-tackle-covid-19-hot-spots-arise-fall> He also announces that most **movie theaters**—though not movie theaters in New York City—can **re-open at 25% capacity** on October 23rd. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-most-movie-theaters-outside-new-york-city-can-reopen-october-23>
- October 18th: Governor Cuomo announces a draft **New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Program**. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-draft-new-york-state-covid-19-vaccination-administration-program>