

COVID19 IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION

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

December 15, 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. Bicycles
 8. Pre-COVID commuting patterns
 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) with questions or comments.

- There have been minimal changes to ridership on subways and buses week over week. Ridership dropped last week, attributed to the Thanksgiving holiday, and has mostly – but not entirely – bounced back from that week.
- AM peak hour subway entries remain at less than half of what they were pre-COVID, even in neighborhoods where more than 70 percent of resident workers who previously commuted by subway are assumed to be not able to work remotely.
- The MTA board is weighing substantial service cuts in 2021, including the continued suspension of overnight subway service. However, as a vaccine is distributed and the city returns to a new post-pandemic normal, we expect the overnight mobility needs of our workforce to expand beyond current rates of travel.
- Weekend ridership on NYC Ferry has been higher in recent weeks than during comparable weekends in December 2019.
- Total average weekday daytime inbound vehicles to Manhattan and the Manhattan central business district are comparable to pre-pandemic levels.
- Citi Bike ridership continues to decline as the weather gets colder and wetter, which is consistent with pre-pandemic trends. Weekend travel, however, remains higher in recent weeks than over comparable weeks in 2019. Recent weeks have seen an increase in the share of all trips taken by Critical Workers, perhaps as poorer weather dissuades more casual riders.

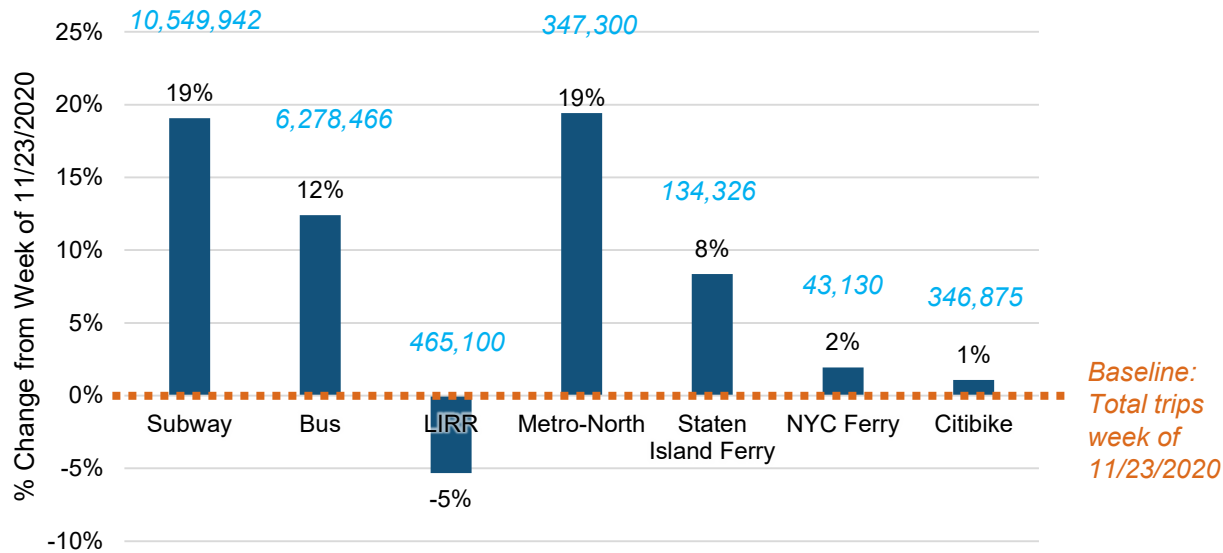
Citywide Trends

Citywide Trends

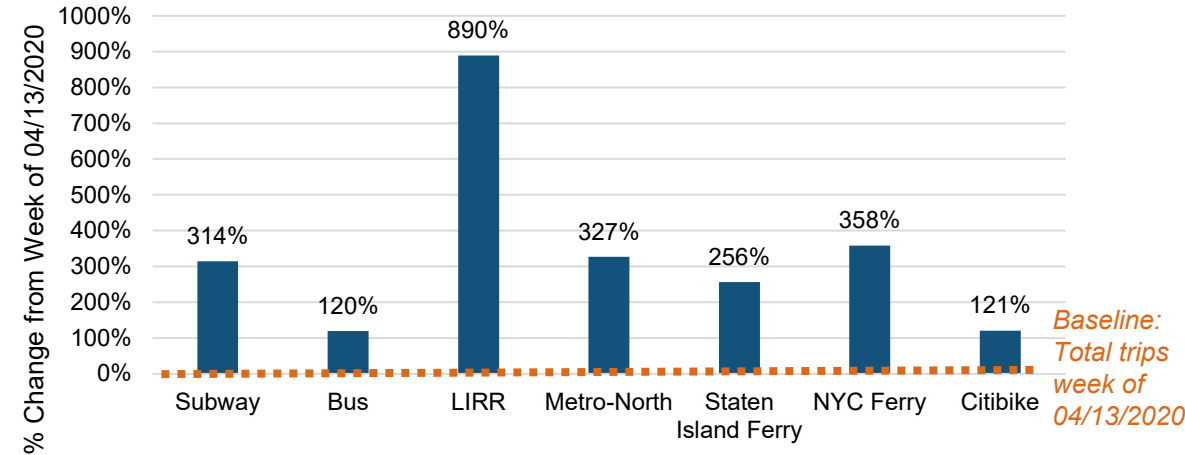
- Growth across most modes over the past two weeks reflects the suppressed ridership during the week of November 23rd due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- The subway is the only mode to currently reflect substantial growth in ridership since the end of August, though bus ridership data is affected by a change in how passengers were estimated.

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.

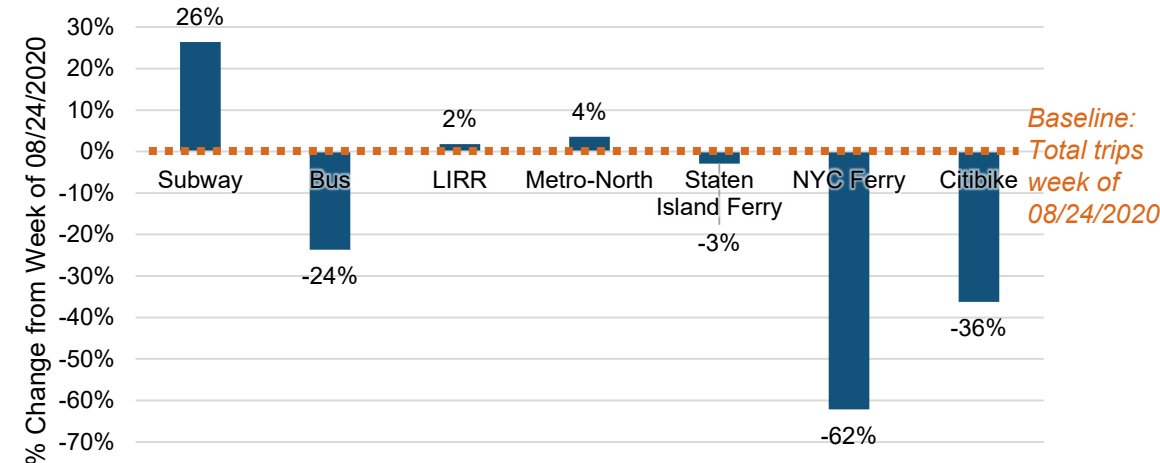
**Week of 12/07/2020 Compared to Week of 11/23/2020
(Weekly Total)**



**Week of 12/07/2020 Compared to Week of 04/13/2020
(Weekly Total)**



**Week of 12/07/2020 Compared to Week of 08/24/2020
(Weekly Total)**

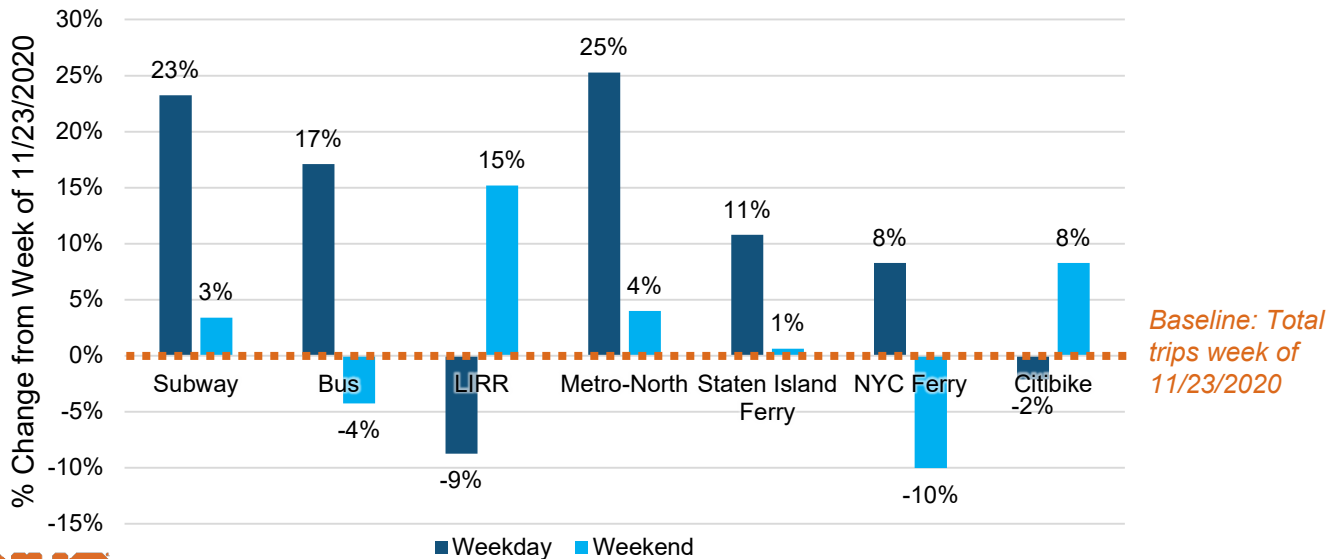


Citywide Trends: Weekday vs Weekend

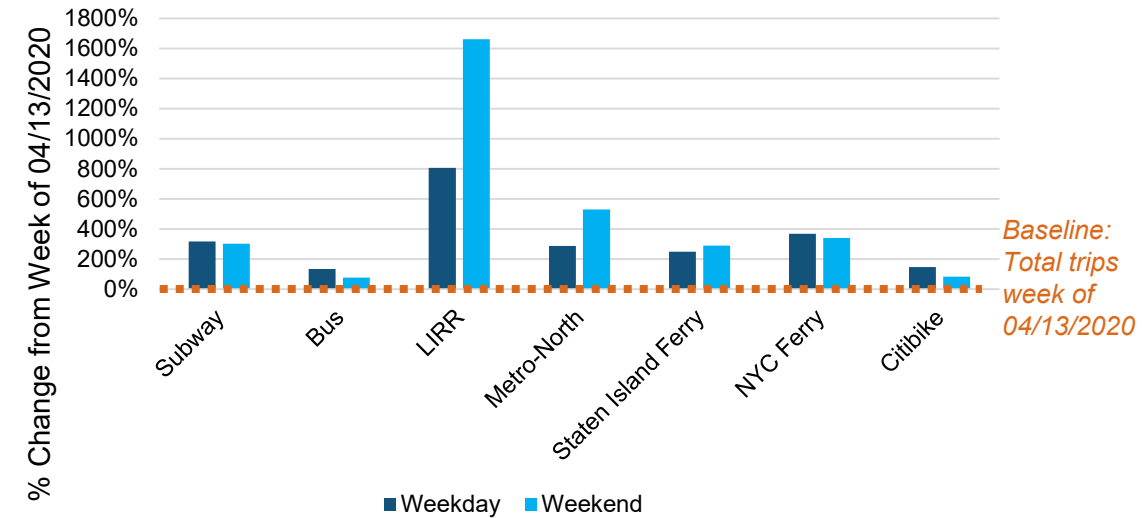
- Weekend ridership continues to be stronger on many modes compared to weekday ridership. Weekday growth over the past two weeks reflects the suppressed ridership during the week of November 23rd due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.

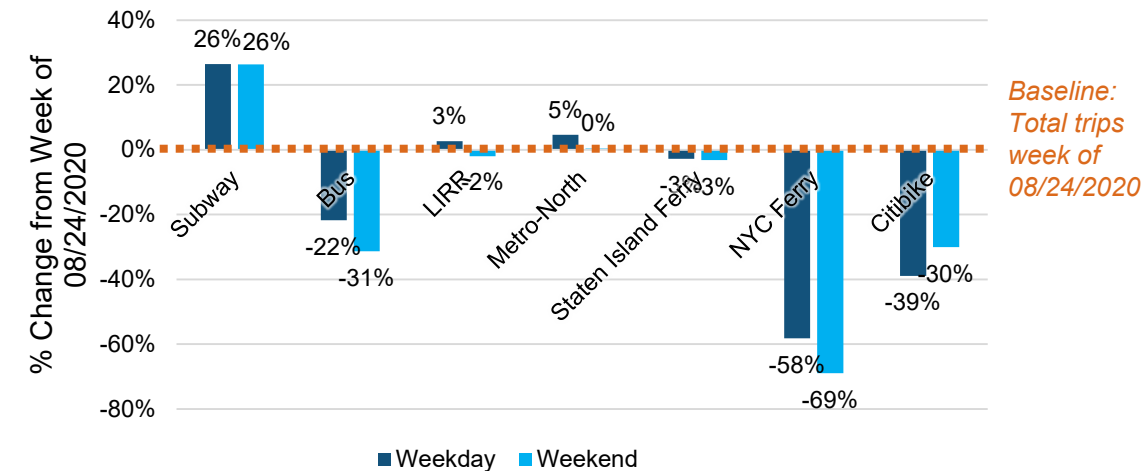
**Week of 12/07/2020 Compared to Week of 11/23/2020
(Weekday vs. Weekend)**



**Week of 12/07/2020 Compared to Week of 04/13/2020
(Weekday vs. Weekend)**



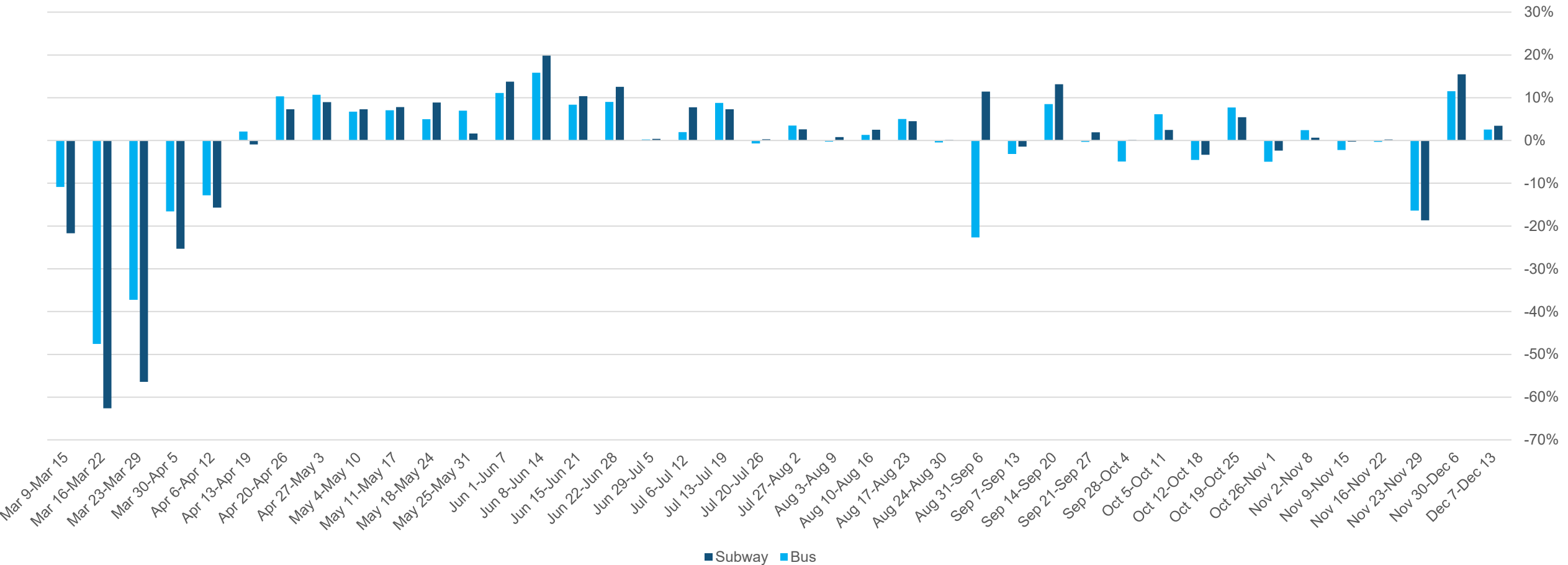
**Week of 12/07/2020 Compared to Week of 08/24/2020
(Weekday vs. Weekend)**



MTA data: Subway and Bus

MTA Subway & Bus System-wide Ridership Changes

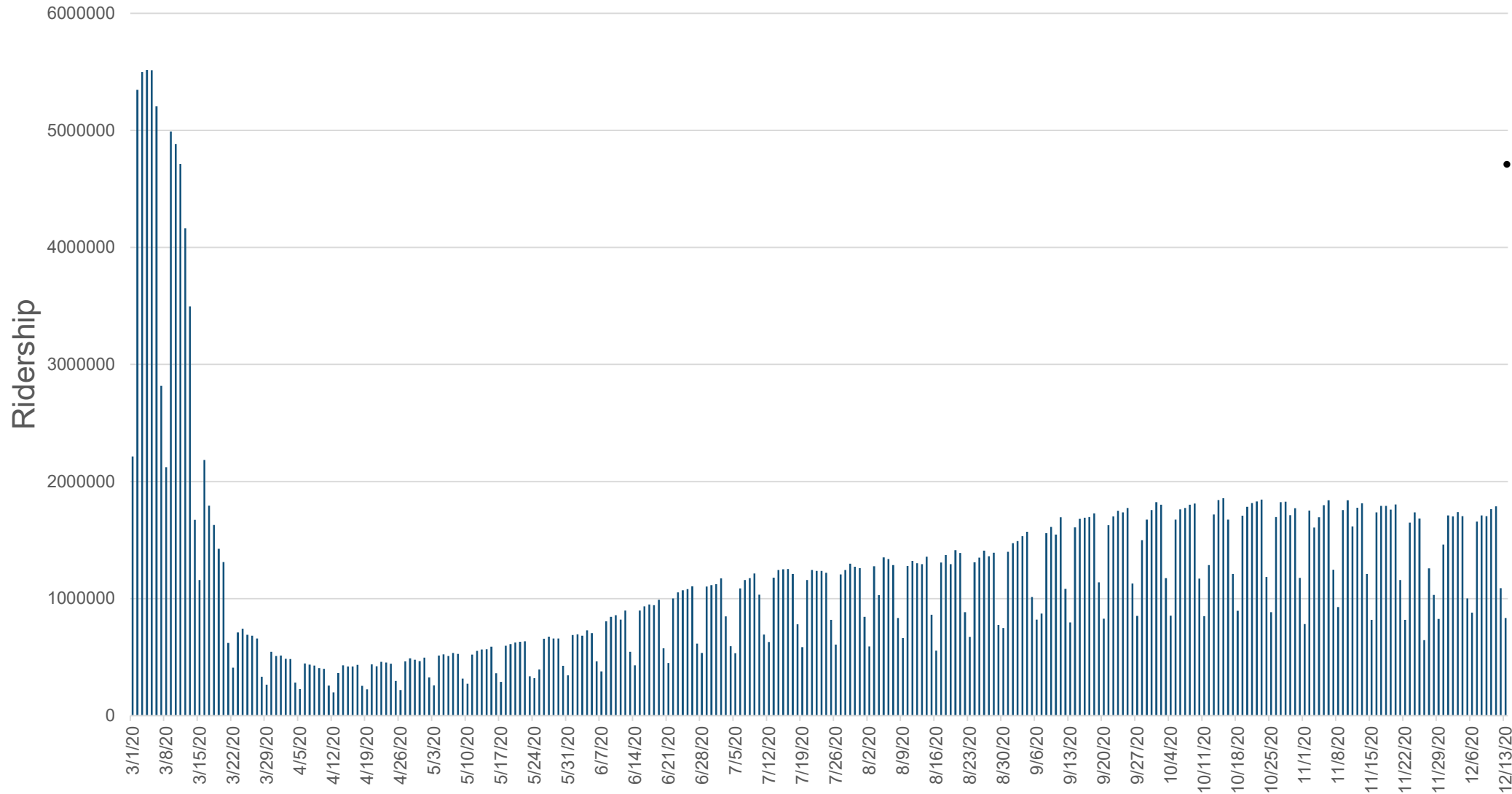
Percent Change of Estimated* MTA Subway & Bus Weekly Ridership
(March 1- December 13, 2020)



- After a dip during the Thanksgiving holiday week, ridership on buses and subways remains slightly below where it was the week prior to Thanksgiving.

MTA Subway System-wide Ridership Changes

Estimated* MTA Subway Ridership (March 1- December 13, 2020)

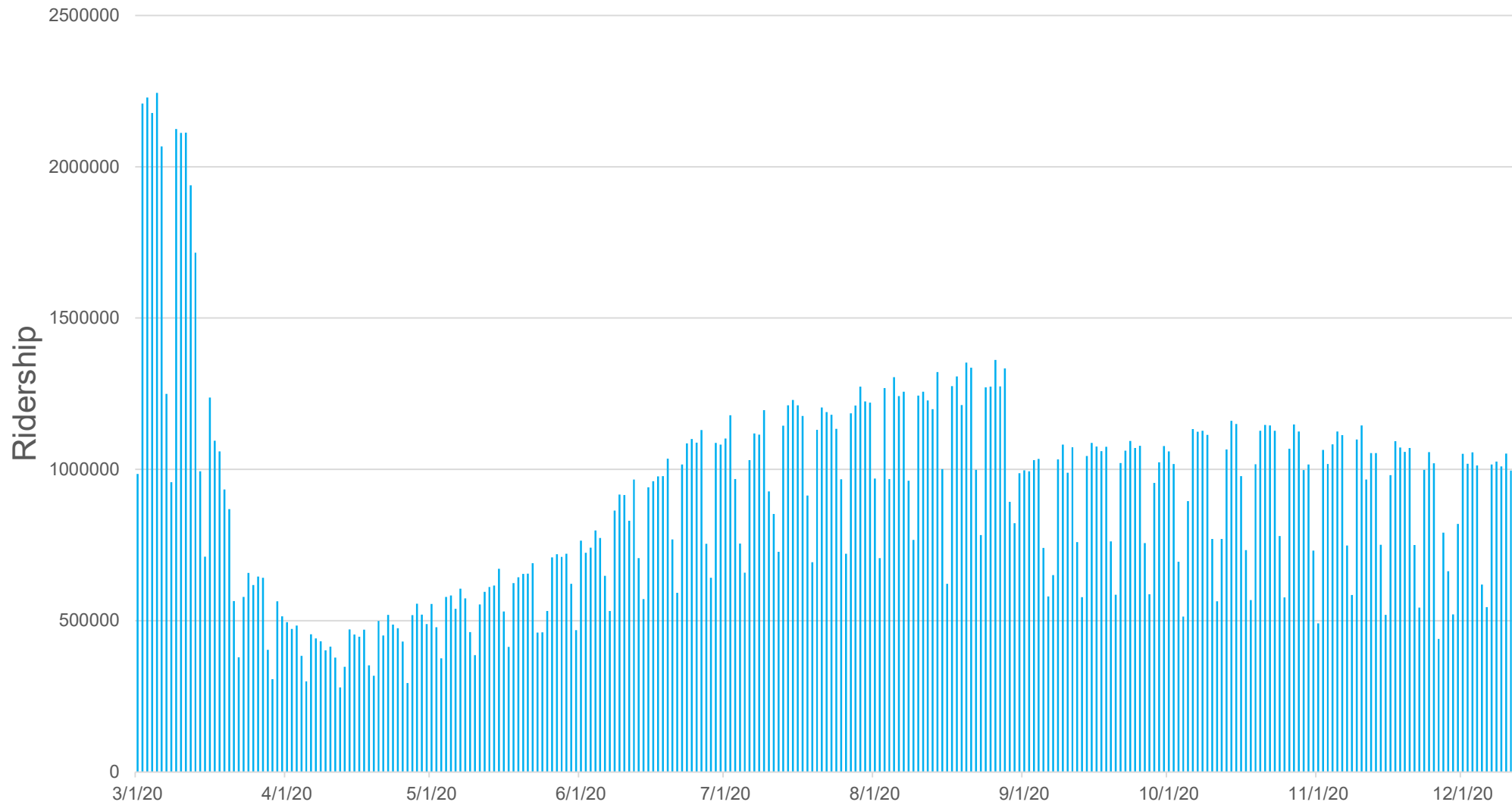


- Weekday subway ridership was up 24 percent during the week of December 7 compared to the week of November 23 (Thanksgiving week), while weekend ridership was up 4 percent.

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

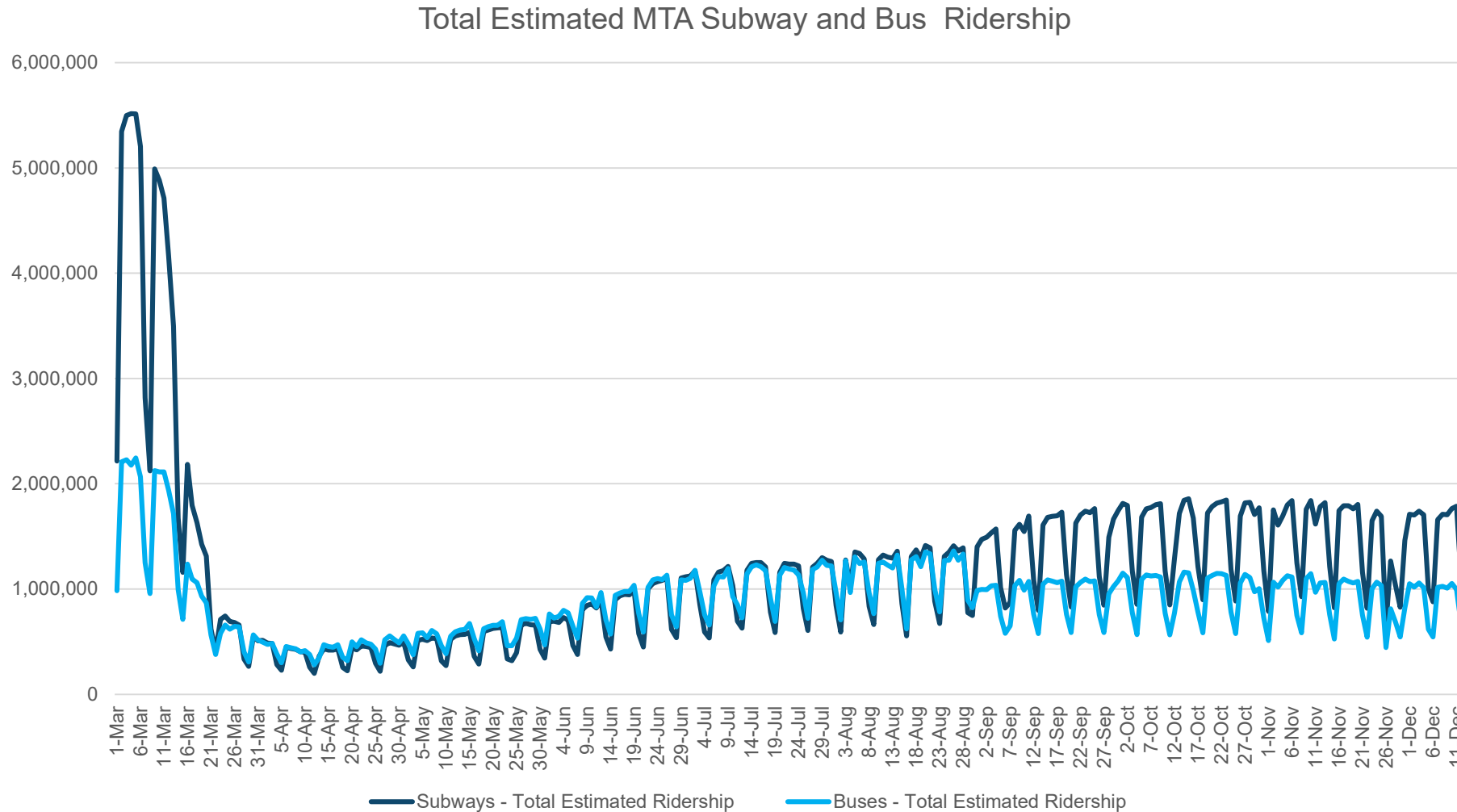
Estimated * MTA Bus Ridership (March 1- December 13, 2020)



- Weekday bus ridership was up 18 percent during the week of December 7 compared to the week of November 23 (Thanksgiving week), while weekend ridership remained unchanged.
- 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.”

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>)

MTA Subway and Bus System-wide Ridership Changes

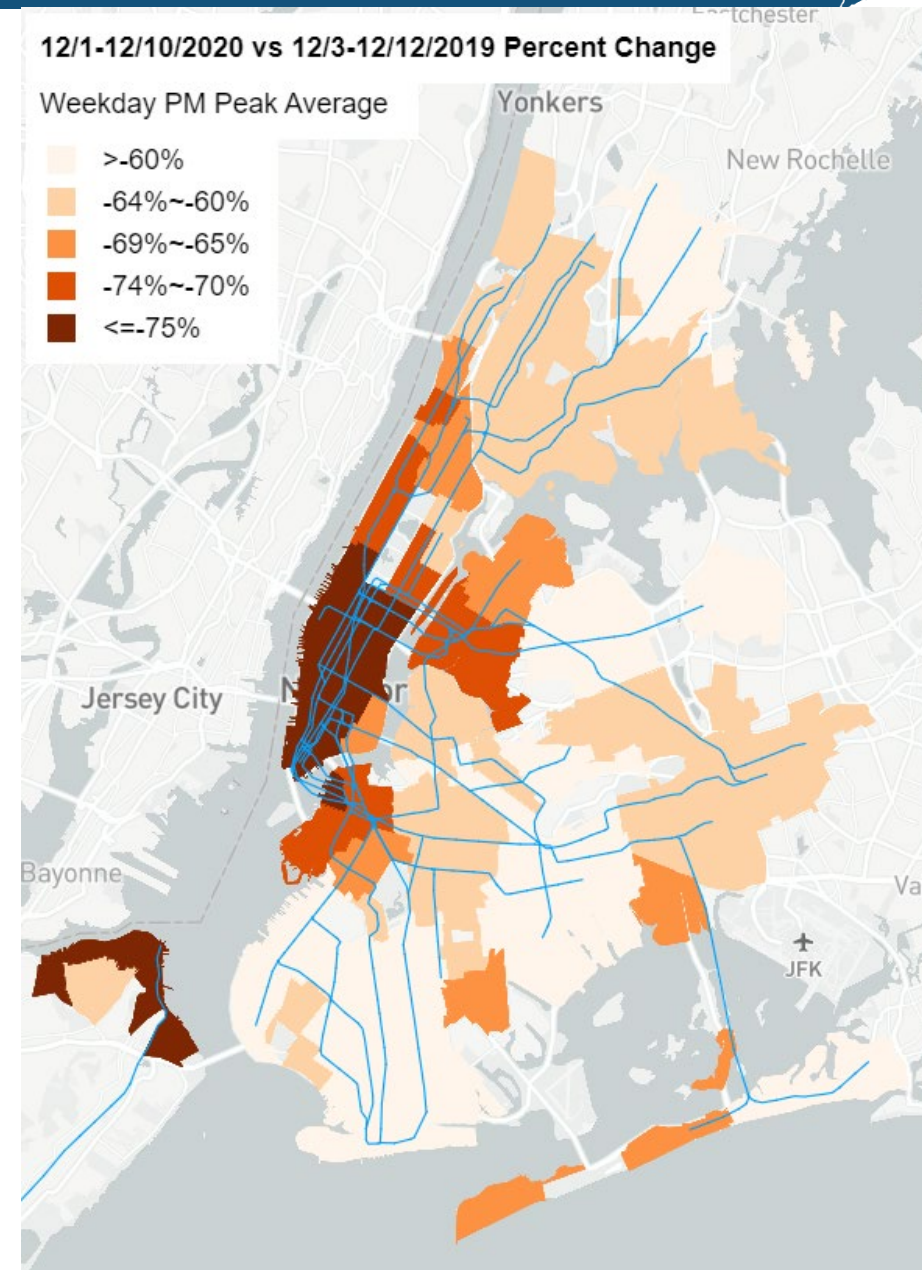
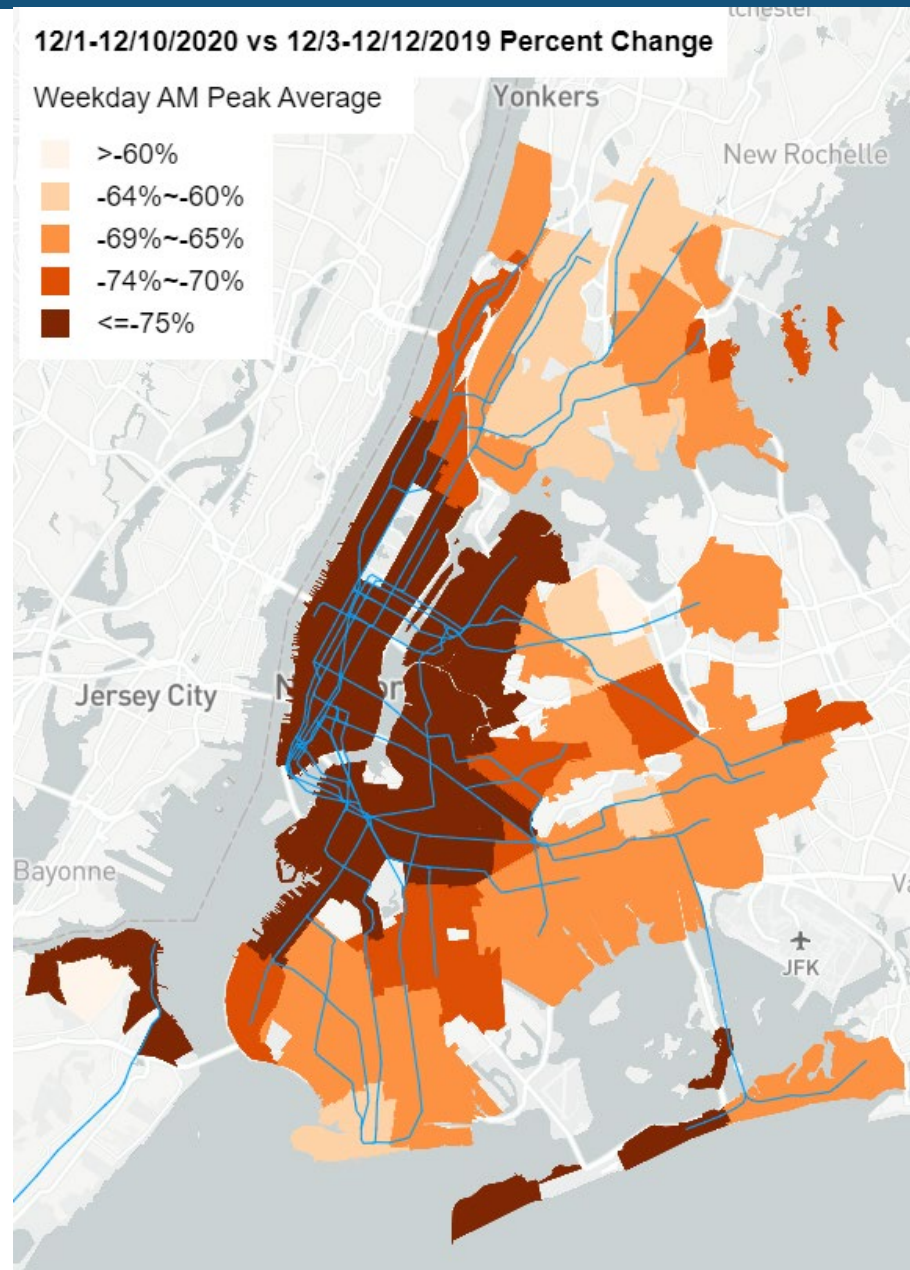


- Observing subway and bus ridership by total volume rather than percent, the majority of trips by subway becomes more obvious.
- Total bus and subway riders appeared to be nearly identical during the spring and summer, but the resumption of fare collection on buses in early September tipped the share of riders back towards the subway.

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>)

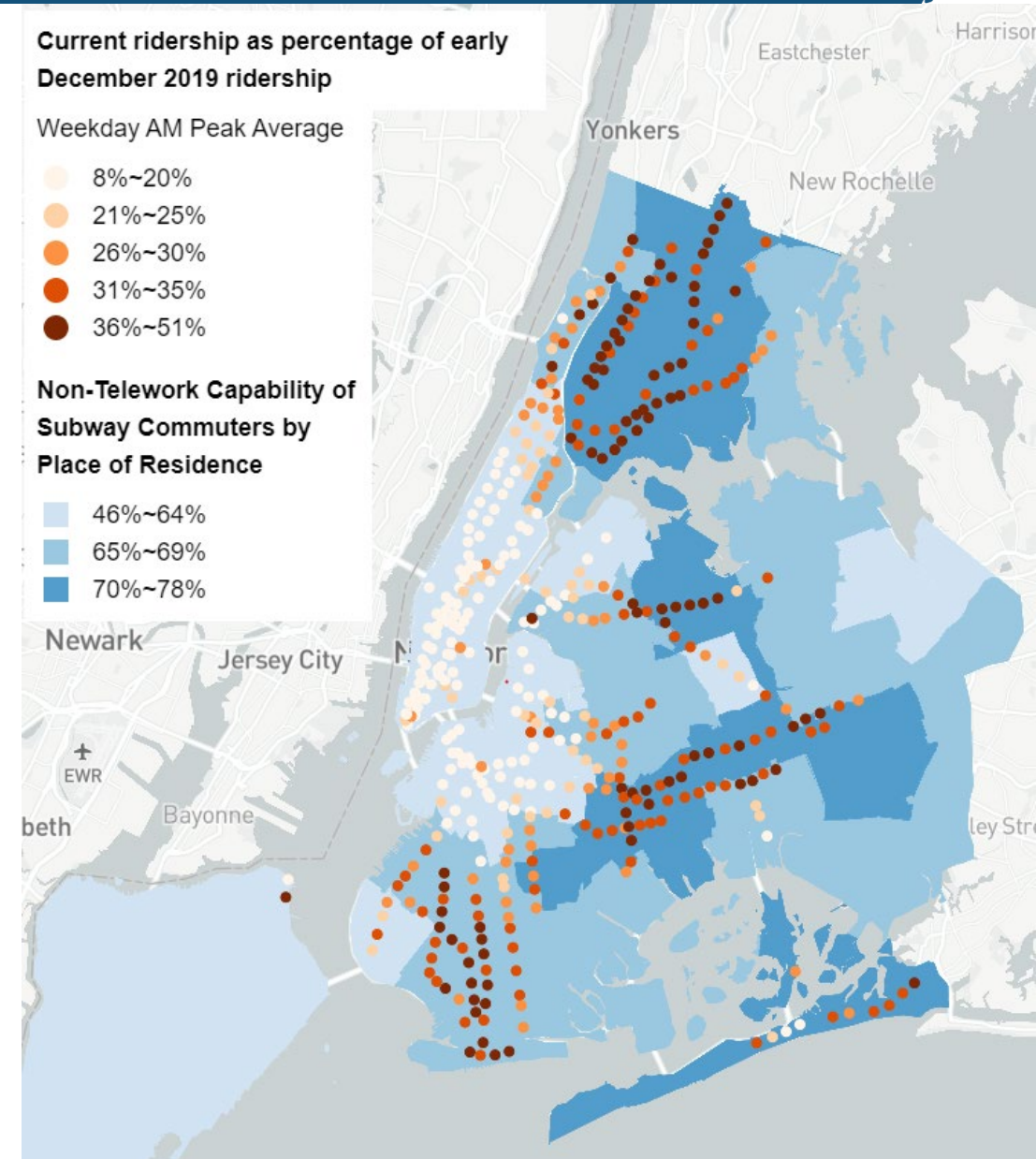
Weekday AM and PM Peak Turnstile Data – Comparisons with Dec 2019

- While subway ridership has been increasing in recent months, AM and PM peak hour trips 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 Non-Telework Capability

- A University of Chicago study estimated the “telework capability” of workers in different economic sectors.
- This map shows where subway commuters assumed to be unable to telework live, and the extent to which AM peak hour subway entries align with expectations around morning commutes.
- Most neighborhoods have at least half of their resident subway-commuting workforce unable to telework.
- Subway ridership remains at levels closer to pre-pandemic in parts of the city where a greater share of the workforce is unable to work remotely, but still isn’t at levels we would expect if the full universe of pre-COVID non-telework capable workers were commuting.
- AM peak hour subway entries remain at less than half of what they were pre-COVID, even in neighborhoods where more than 70 percent of resident workers who previously commuted by subway are assumed to be not able to work remotely. These workers may have shifted to other modes for their commutes; reduced their work hours; gotten a new job with a different commute; become unemployed; or moved to a different neighborhood.

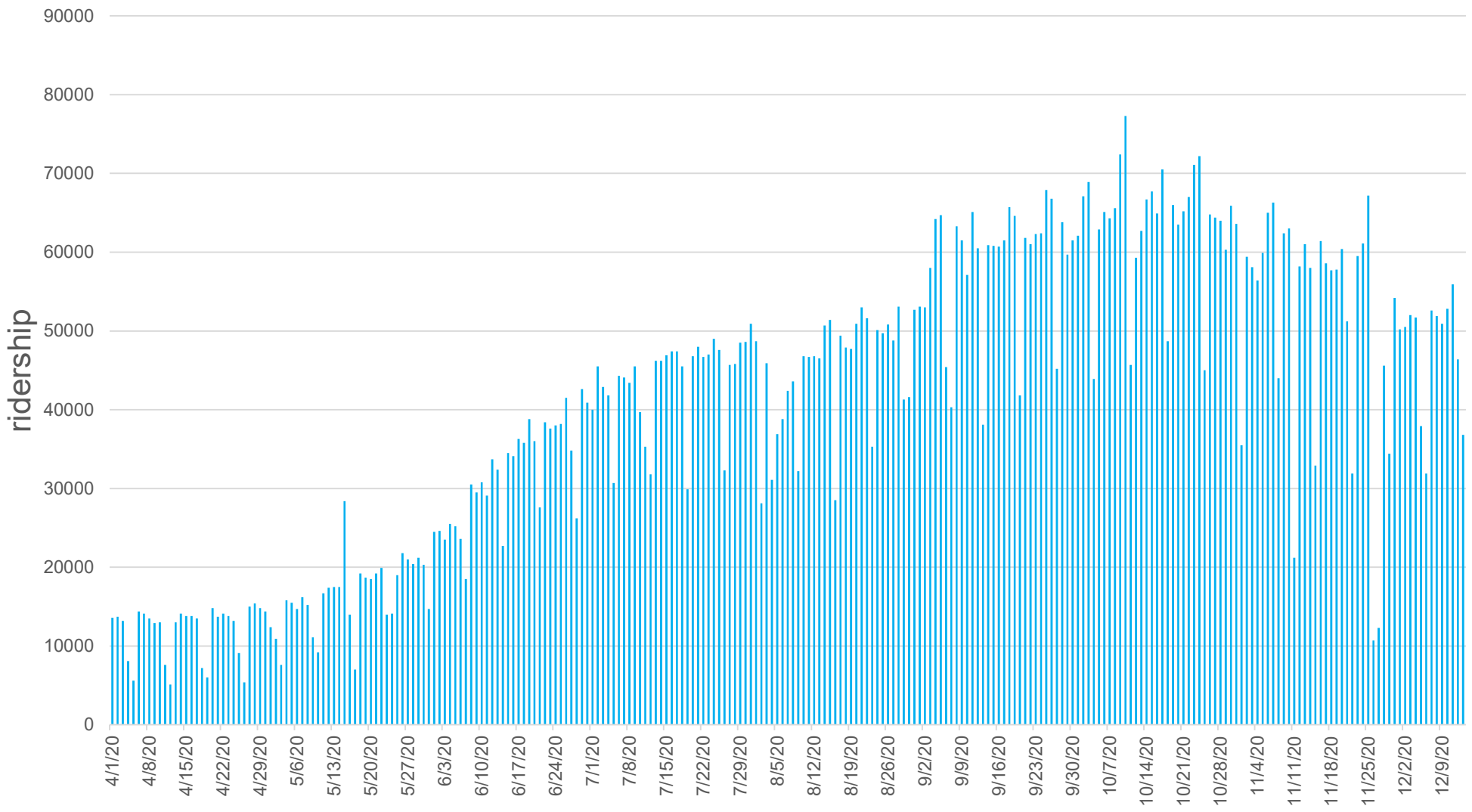




MTA data:
Metro North Railroad, Long Island Rail
Road, Access-A-Ride

Metro-North Railroad Ridership Changes

Estimated * MTA Metro-North Railroad (March 1- December 13, 2020)

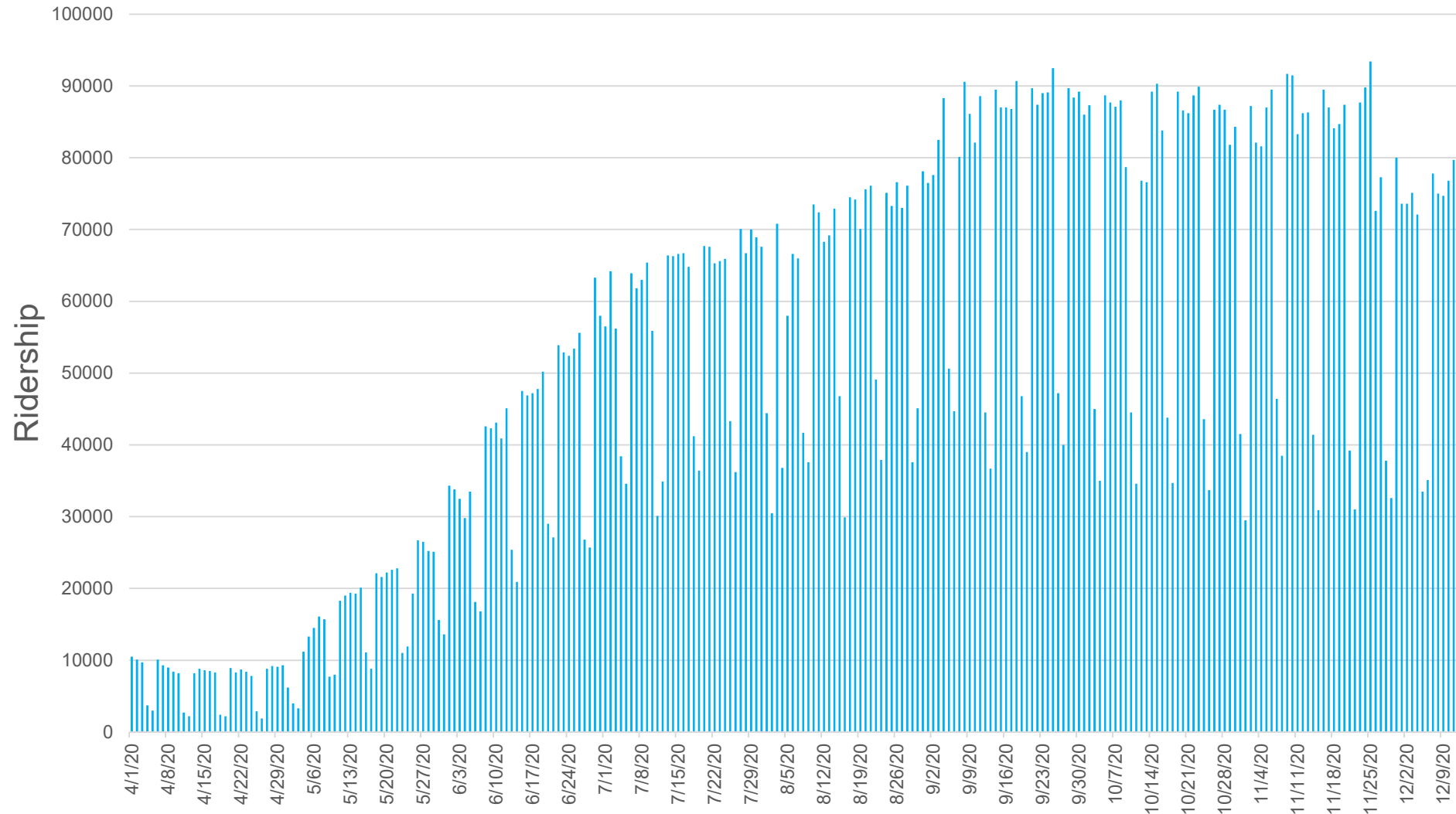


- Weekday and weekend Metro-North Railroad ridership for the week of December 7 was up 25 and 4 percent, respectively, compared to the week of November 23.

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- December 13, 2020)

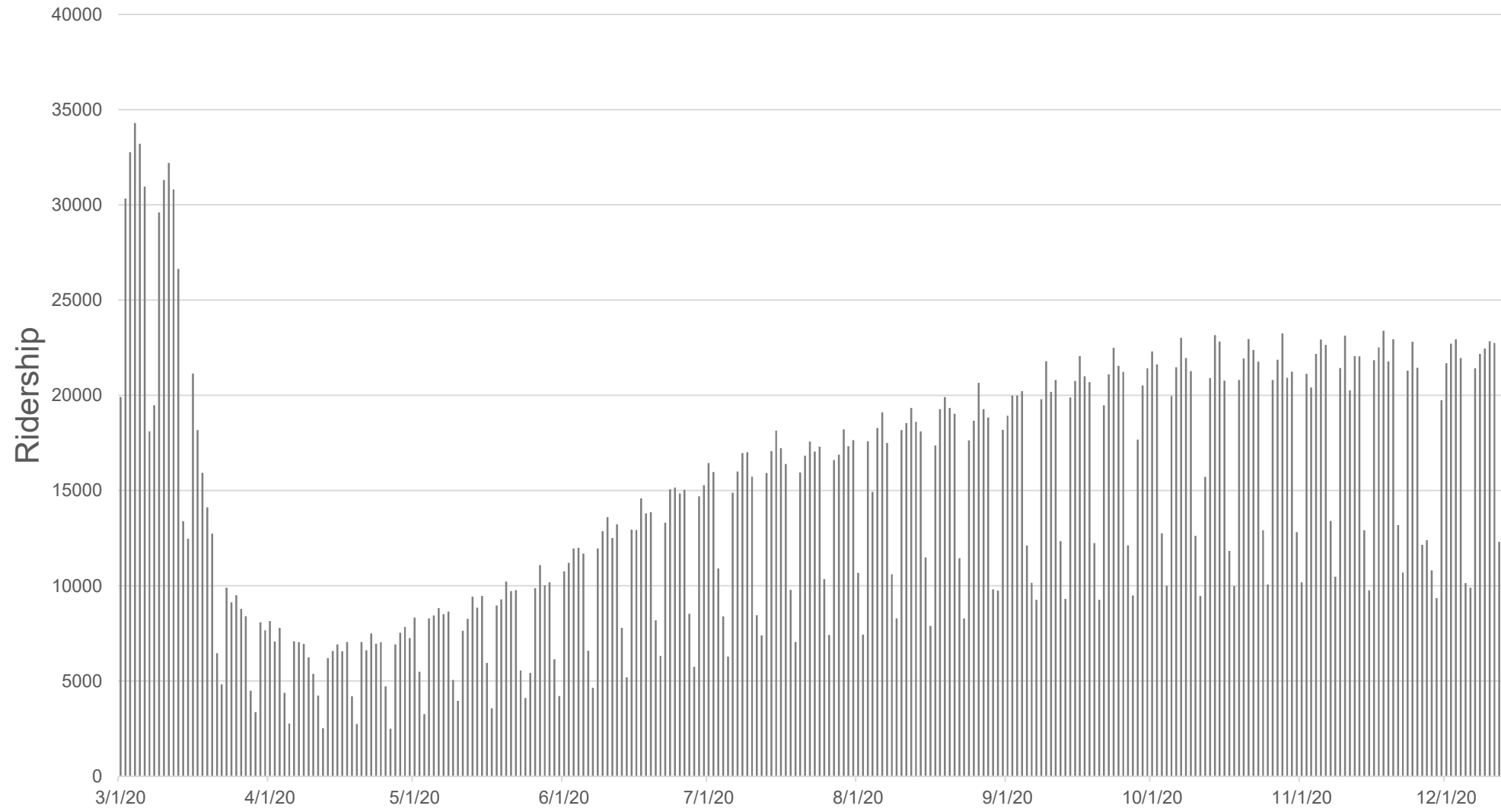


- Weekday LIRR ridership for the week of December 7 was down 9 percent compared to the week of November 23, while weekend ridership was up 15 percent.

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- December 13, 2020)



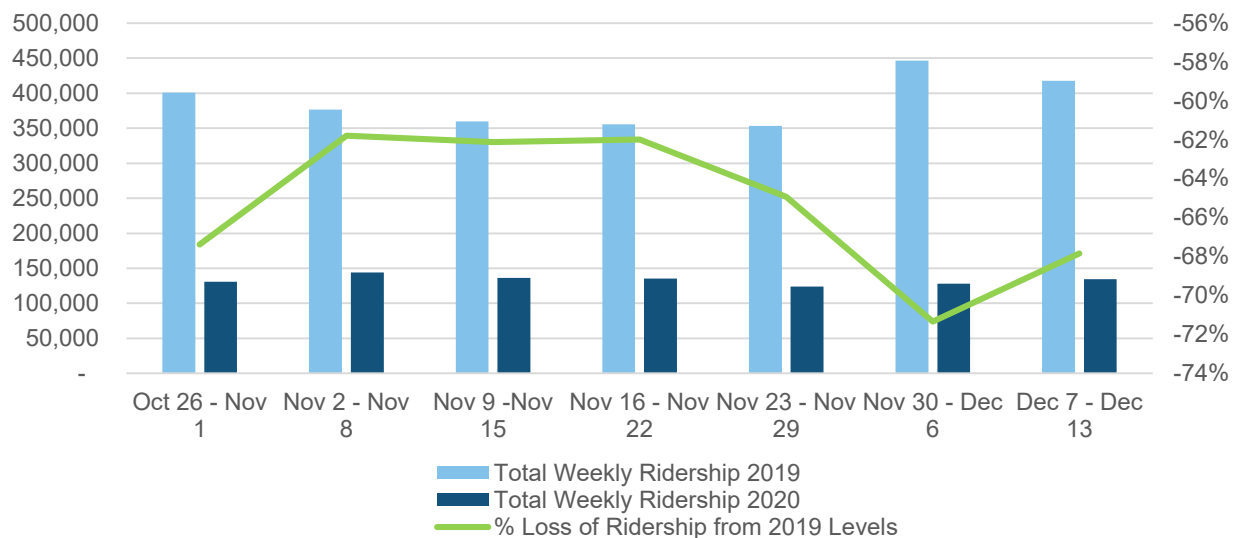
- Weekday Access-A-Ride scheduled trips for the week of December 7 were up 24 percent compared to the week of November 23, while the weekend scheduled trips were up 12 percent.

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

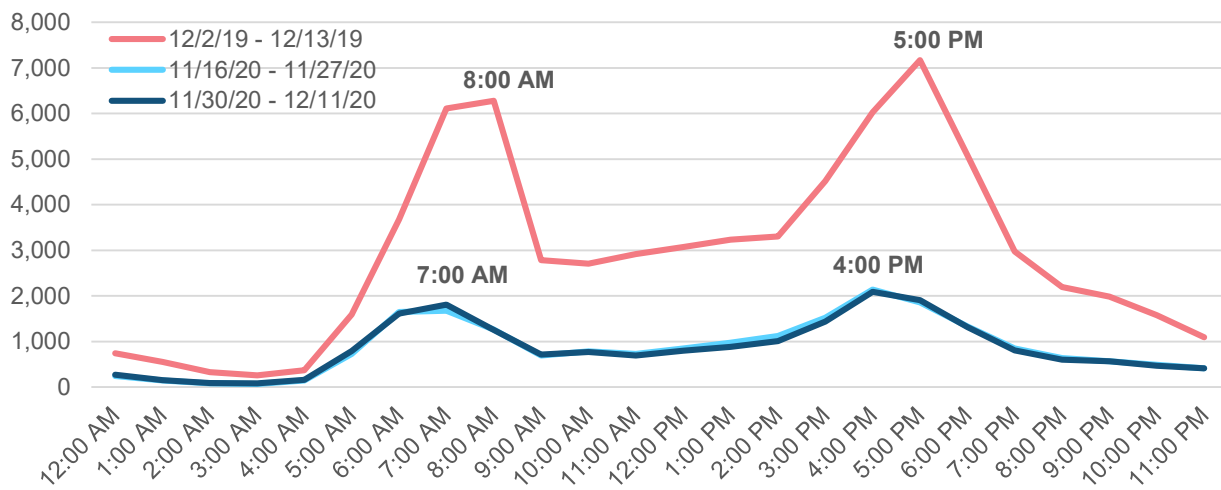
The Staten Island Ferry and NYC Ferry

SIF Total Weekly Ridership

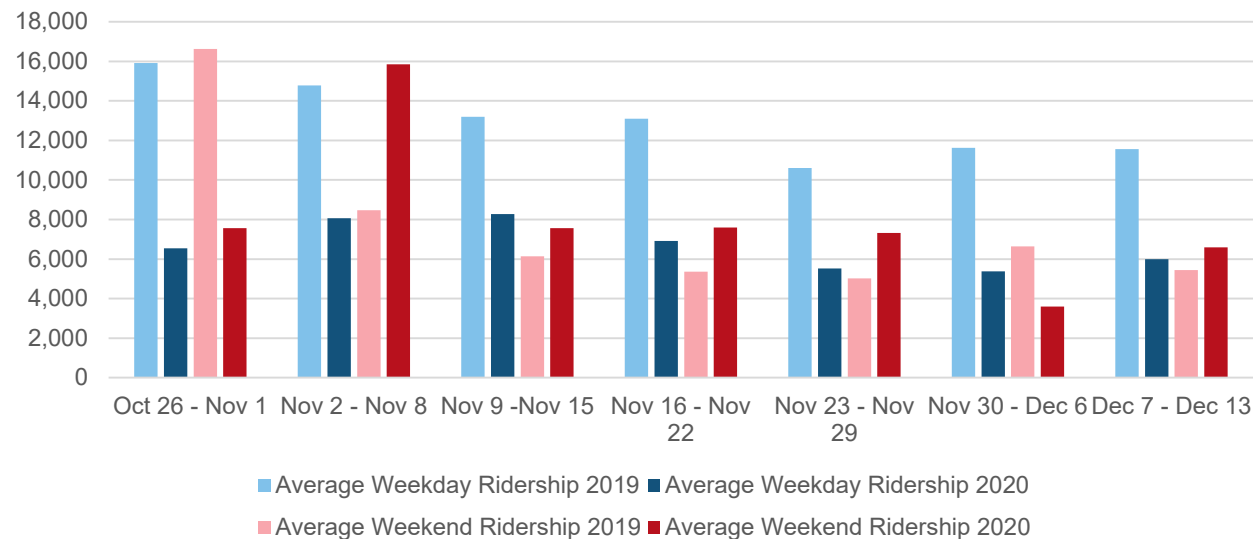


- The two-week period of **November 30 to December 13** saw a daily weekday average of about **20,660 Staten Island Ferry riders**. During these two weeks, the SIF has **recovered an average of about 31 percent of its daily ridership**, compared to 2019 levels.
- For the SIF, weekday peak hour ridership for the two-week period of November 30 to December 13 was **7:00am and 4:00pm** compared to 8:00am and 5:00pm in December 2019.
- The two-week period of November 30 to December 13 saw NYC Ferry weekly ridership **average 49 percent of its weekday ridership**, and **average 88 percent of its weekend ridership**, compared to 2019 levels.

SIF Average Weekday Total Ridership Per Hour



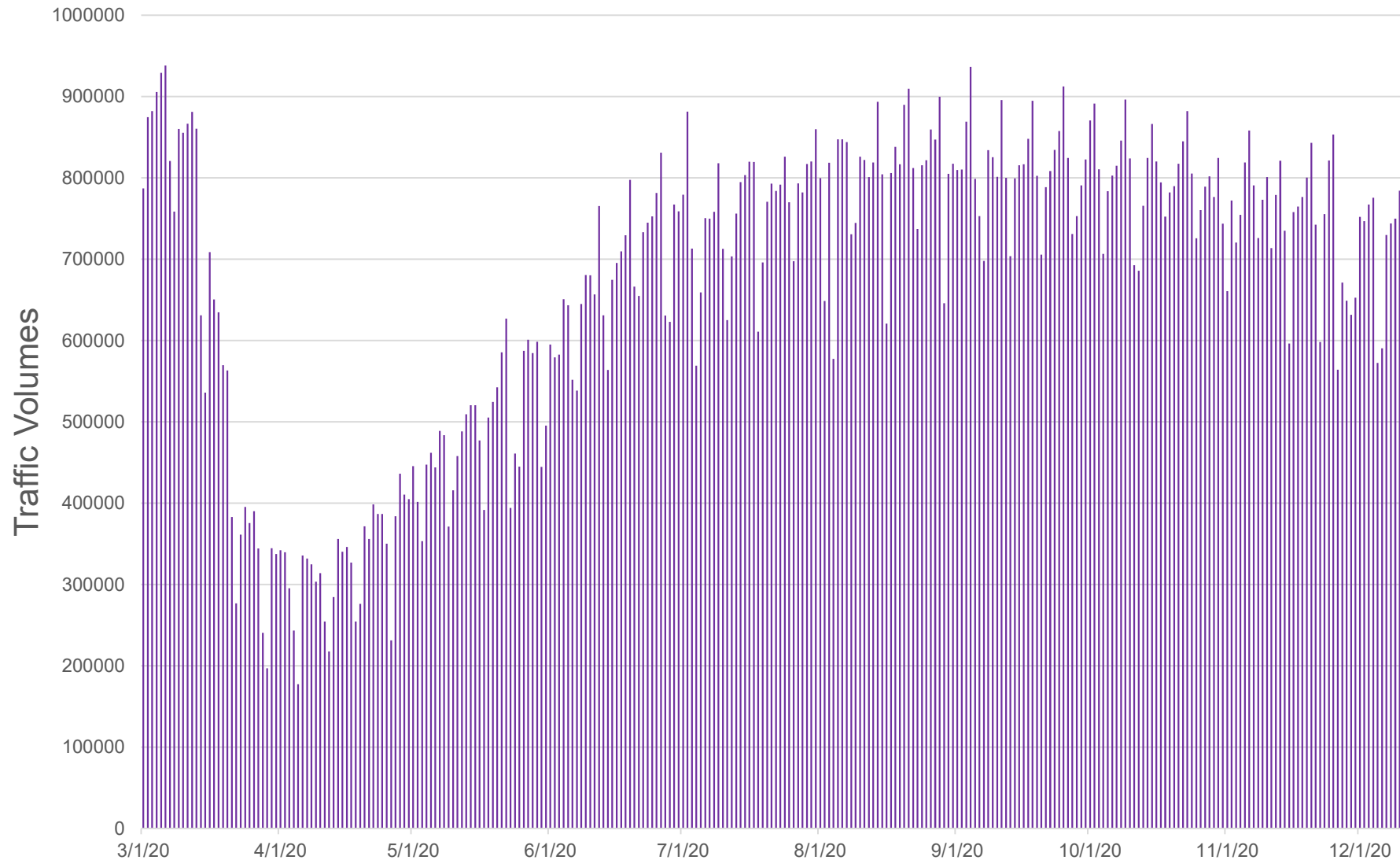
NYC Ferry Weekly Ridership Weekday vs. Weekend Averages



Traffic

MTA Bridge and Tunnel Traffic Volumes

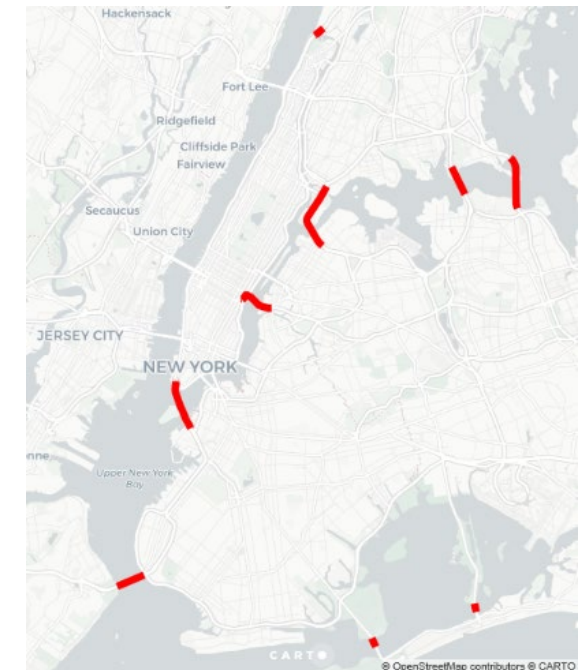
Estimated * MTA Bridge and Tunnel Traffic Counts (March 1 - December 13, 2020)



- Weekday traffic counts on MTA bridges and tunnels during the week of December 7 were up 4 percent compared to the week of November 23. Weekend traffic counts were up 4 percent.

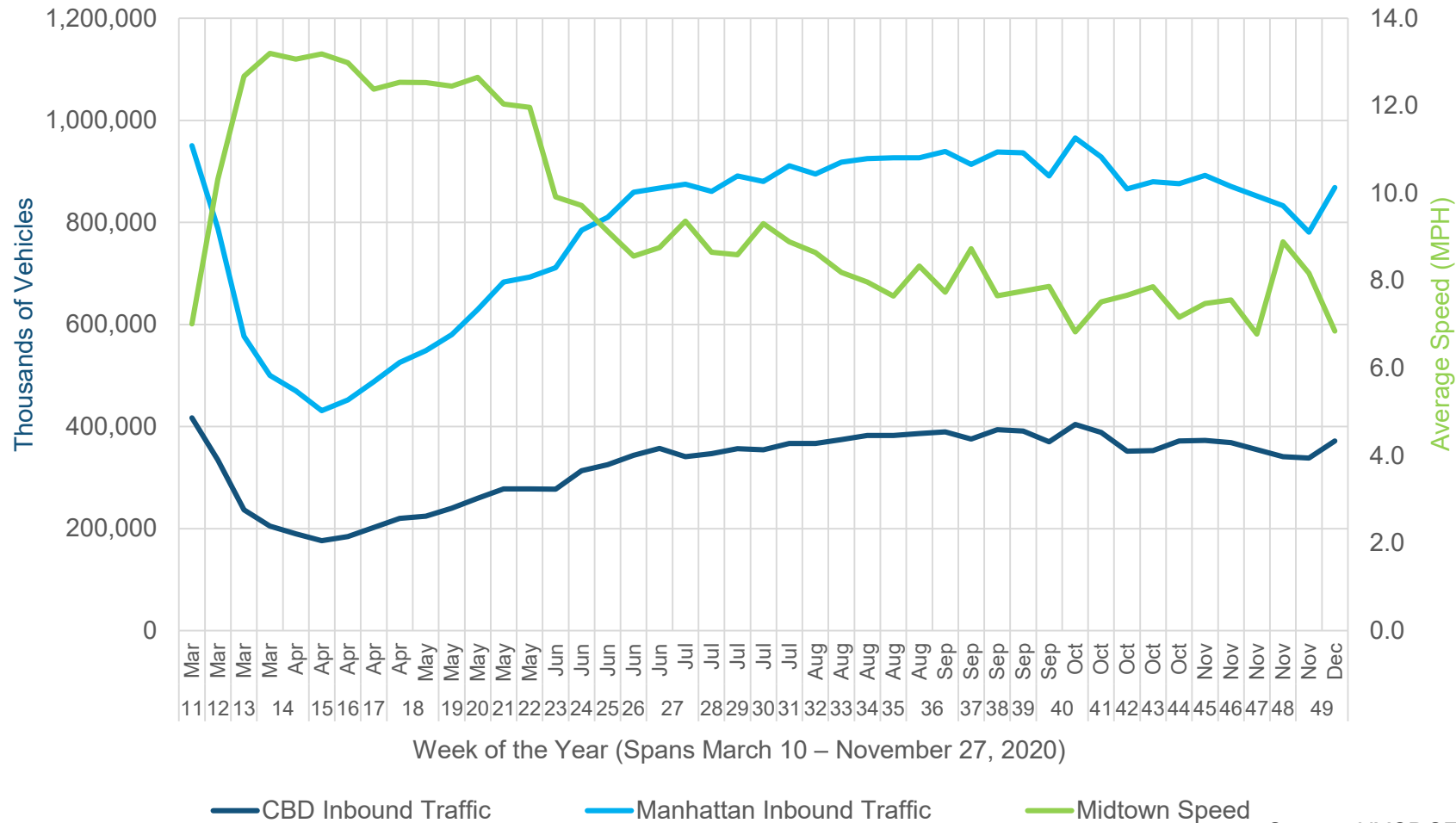
MTA crossings include:

- 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.



Manhattan Inbound Traffic

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

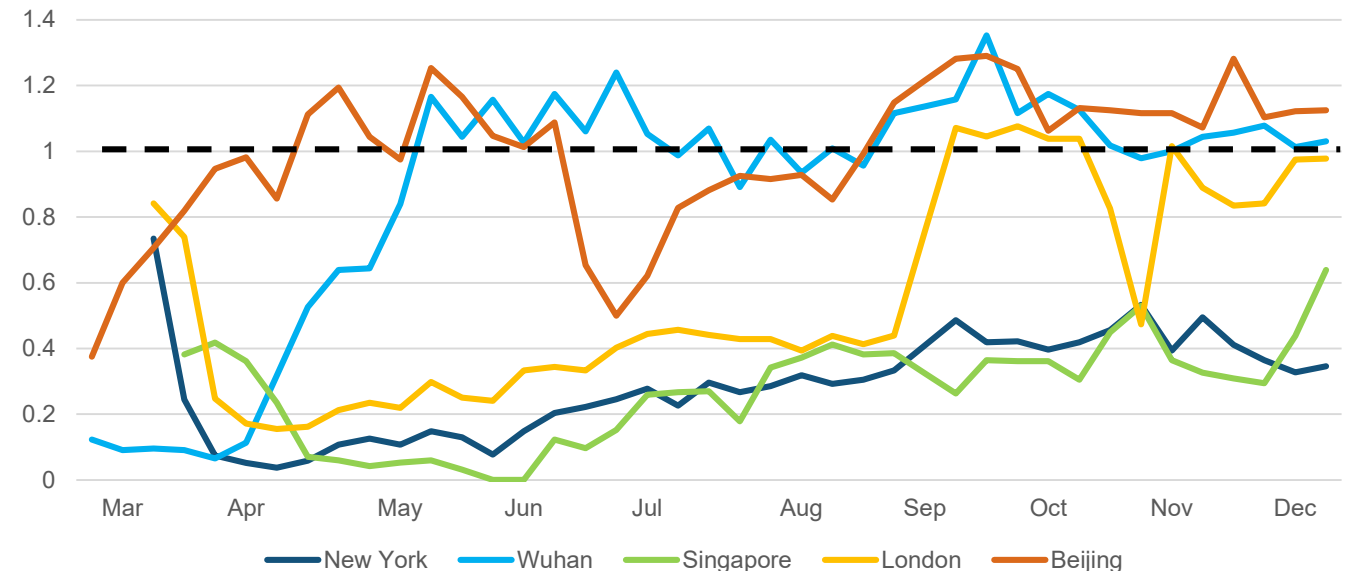
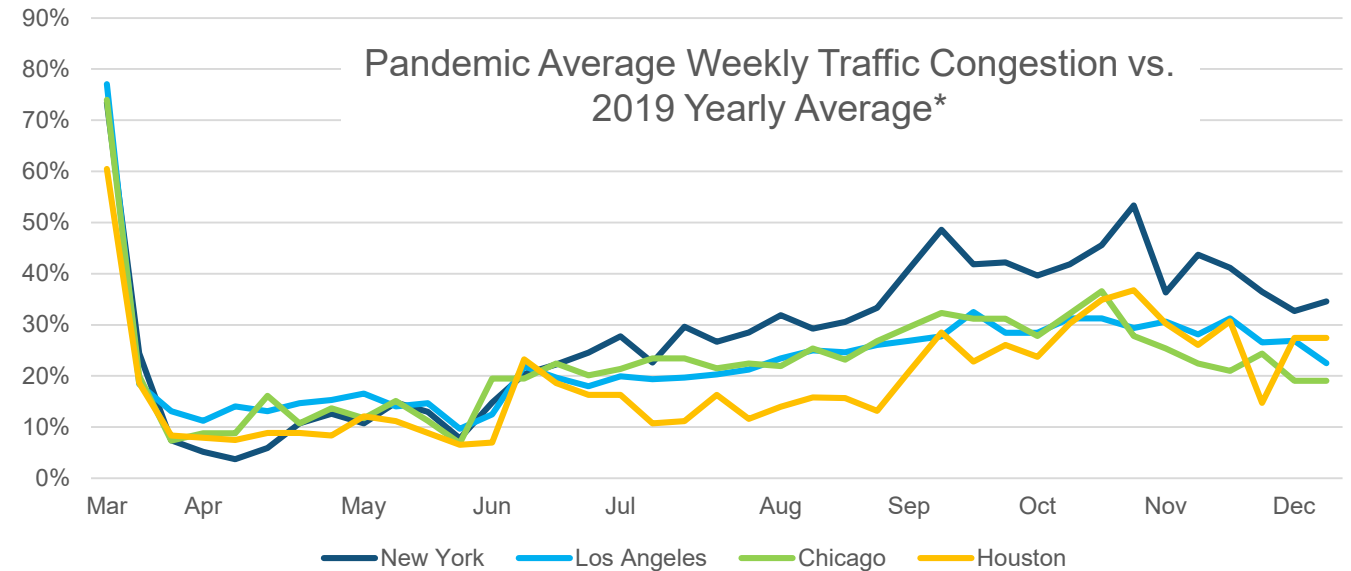


- Total average weekday daytime inbound vehicles to Manhattan and the Manhattan central business district are comparable to pre-pandemic levels.
- After peaking in early April at about 13 mph, average Midtown Manhattan speeds dropped sharply in early June and have held at about 8 mph in recent weeks.
- Reduced traffic and higher speeds were observed the week of Thanksgiving.

Source: NYCDOT, providing data from NYCTLC, 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 increased somewhat since June.
- Internationally, Beijing, Wuhan and London are currently seeing around average congestion levels.

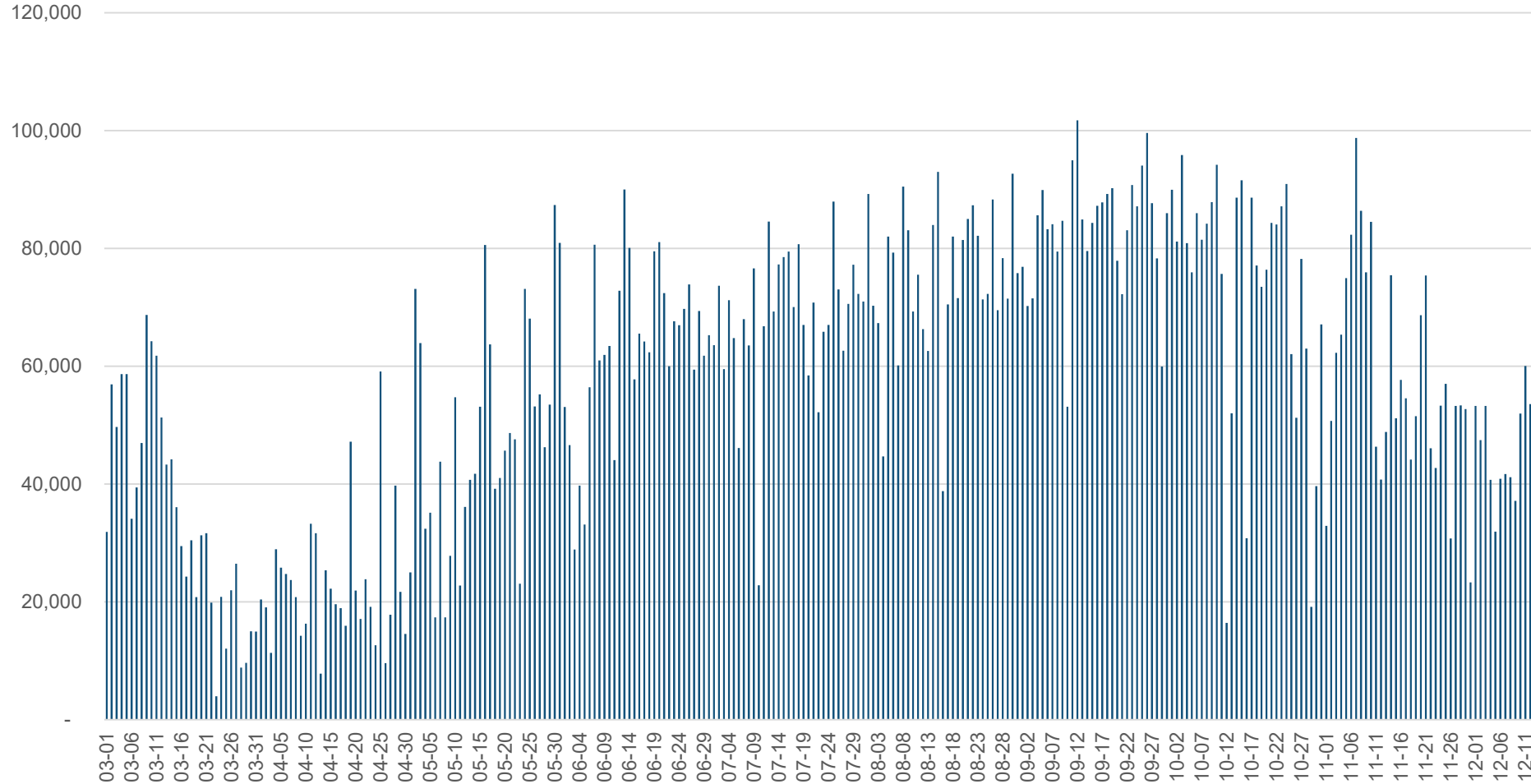


*Some weeks contain less than five days due to holidays and gaps in the data.

Data source: TomTom Traffic Index (https://www.tomtom.com/en_gb/traffic-index/)

Bicycles

Citi Bike Ridership (Mar 1, 2020- Dec 13, 2020)

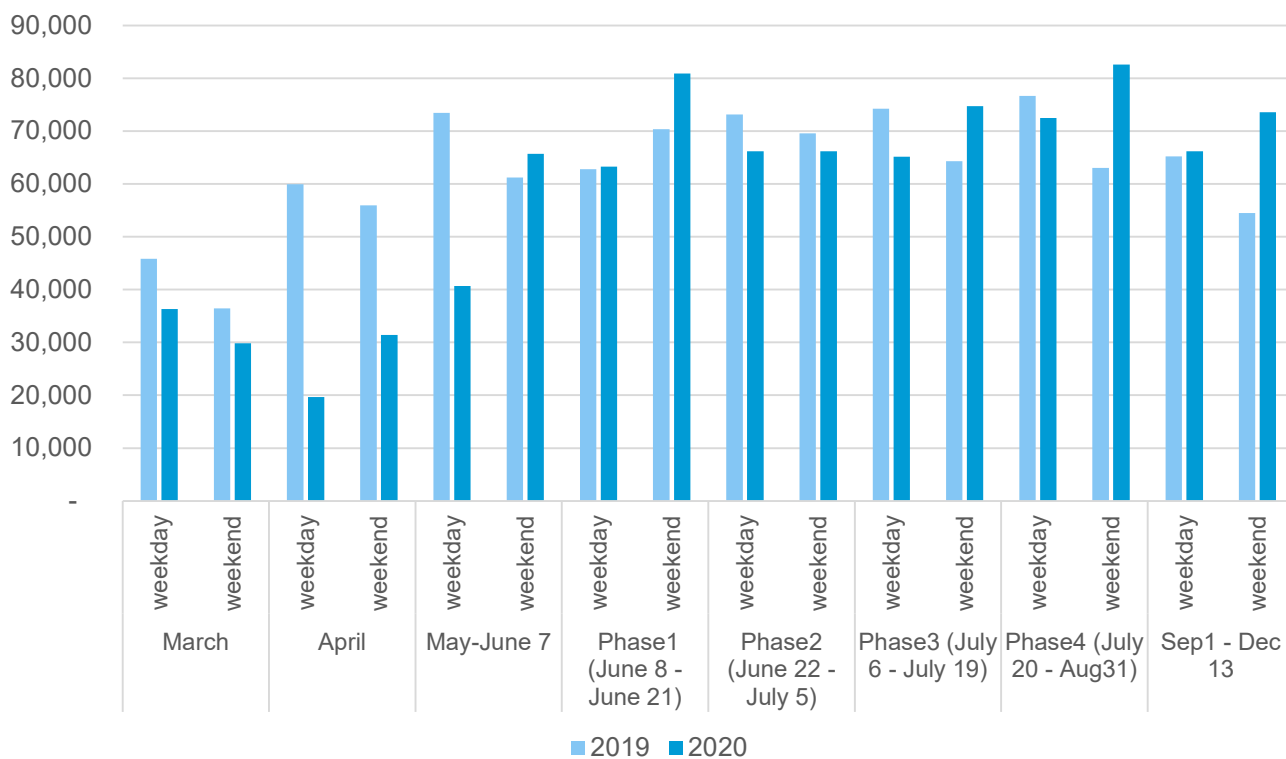


- Citi Bike ridership has been trending down since mid-November as the weather has gotten colder.
- Most days in recent weeks have seen between 40,000 and 50,000 trips, with some nice weather days seeing up to 60,000 trips.

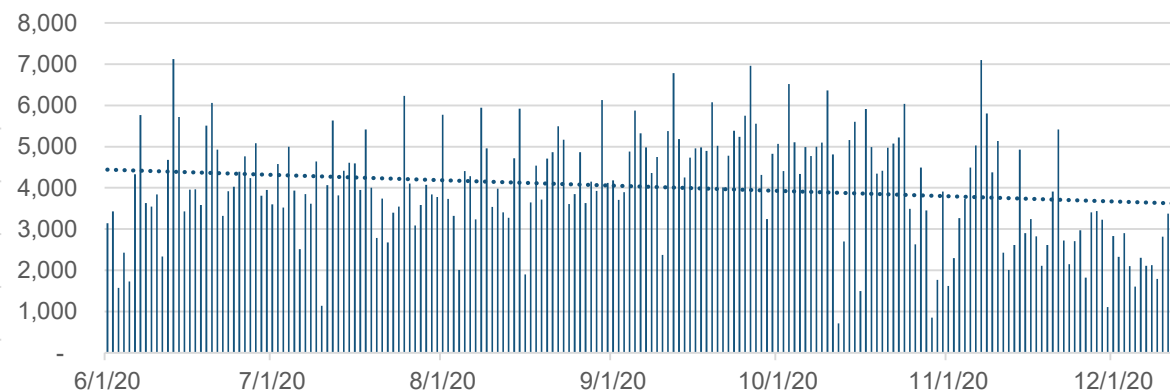
Citi Bike Ridership

- From June through mid Dec 2020, Citi Bike weekday ridership has been fairly consistent with ridership patterns during the same months in 2019; Weekend ridership in 2020 through summer, fall and winter continues to exceed weekend ridership in 2019.
- Citi Bike ridership on East River bridge crossings has been decreasing slowly as temperatures drop, with peak travel occurring on weekends.
- Recent weeks have seen an increase in the share of all trips taken by Critical Workers, perhaps as poorer weather dissuades more casual riders.

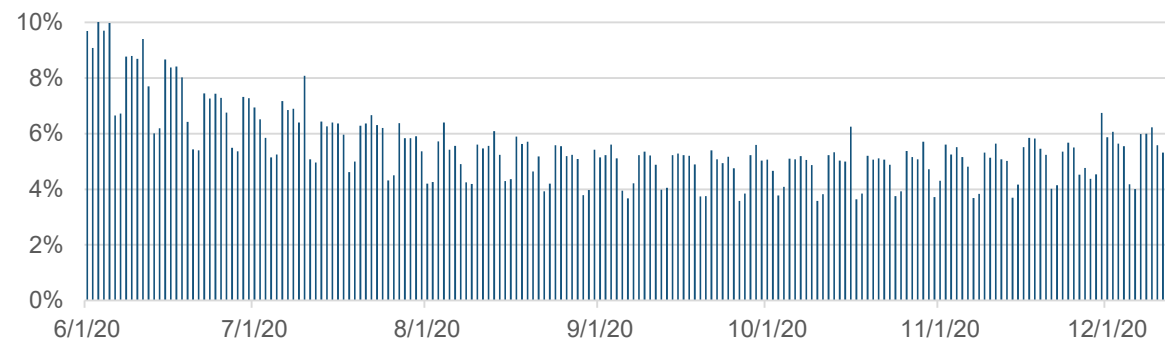
Citi Bike Average Daily Trips 2019 vs 2020 (Mar- Dec)



Daily East River Bridge Crossings



Percent of all trips taken by Critical Workers



Pre-COVID Commuting Patterns

Pre-COVID subway commuters travelling overnight

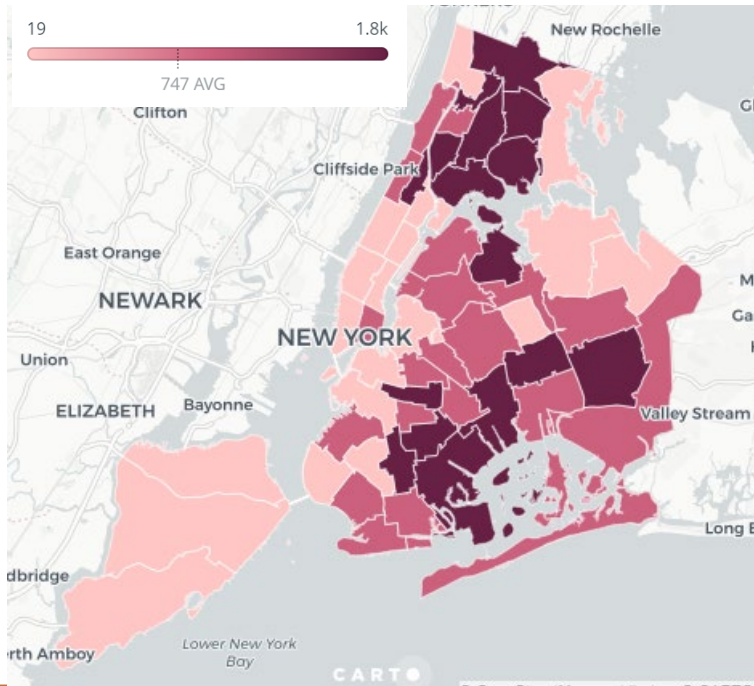
The MTA board is weighing **substantial service cuts in 2021**, including the continued suspension of overnight subway service.

One cohort of commuters likely to be commuting to or from work during the overnight hours are food service workers. Due to extended curfews, limited indoor dining, and curtailed socializing, the food service industry has suffered greatly during the pandemic and **far fewer workers are likely to have continued commuting during the overnight hours regardless of subway service.**

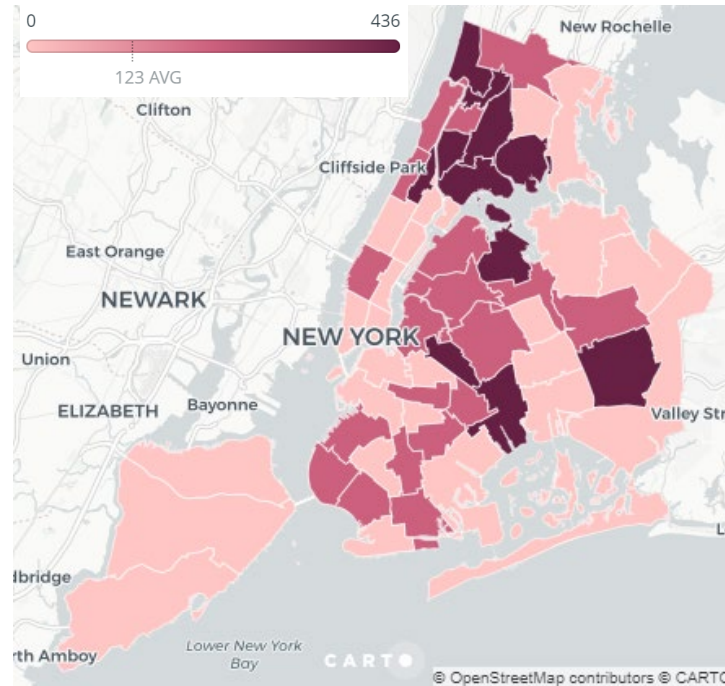
However, as a vaccine is distributed and the city returns to a new post-pandemic normal, we expect the overnight mobility needs of our workforce to expand beyond current rates of travel. **Regular and reliable transportation is essential if we hope for a recovery of our 24-hour economy.**

More than 40,000 workers commuted to work by subway between 1am and 5am pre-Covid; 17 percent of these were food service workers. Another 18,000 food service workers leave for work between 3pm and 7pm, likely resulting in an overnight commute home after their shifts in bars and restaurants end.

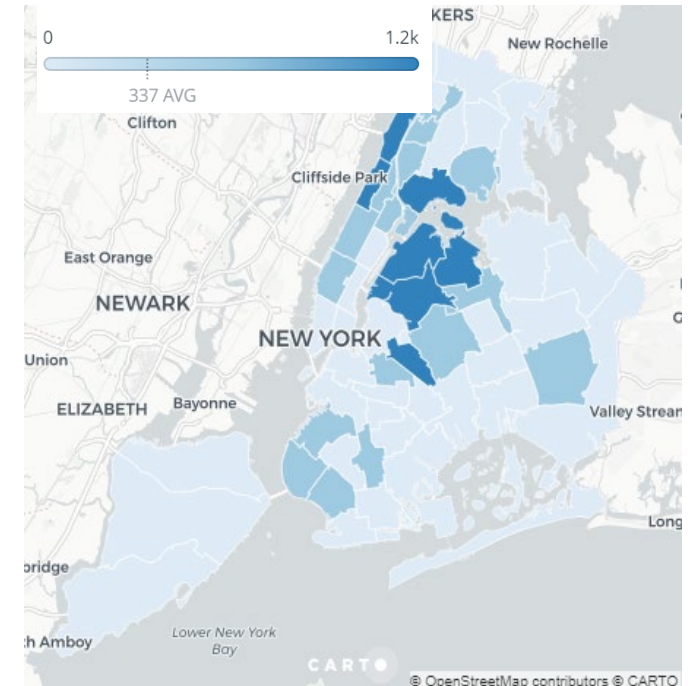
Total Subway Commuters Leaving for Work between 1am and 5am



Food Service Workers Leaving for Work between 1am and 5am by Subway



Food Service Workers Leaving for Work between 3pm and 7am by Subway



Timeline



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

- March 1st, 2020: **First confirmed case** in New York (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/first-case-of-coronavirus-confirmed-in-new-york-state-11583111692>)
- March 7th, 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 12th, 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 15th, 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 17th (<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/152-20/statement-mayor-de-blasio-bars-restaurants-entertainment-venues>)
- March 18th: 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 20th: Governor Cuomo announces **statewide stay at home rules**, effective the evening of the 22nd. **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 24th: 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 27th: The Governor halts **non-essential construction** (<https://thecity.nyc/2020/03/cuomo-calls-off-non-essential-construction-statewide.html>)
- May 1st: 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 6th: 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 22nd: 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 29th: Governor Cuomo announces that New York City is expected to **begin Phase 1 of reopening on Monday, June 8th**. (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-city-enter-phase-1-reopening-june-8-and-five-regions-enter>)
- June 1st: 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 96th 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 5th: 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 7th: 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 8th: 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 14th 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 18th: 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 19th: 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 22nd: 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 15th**. 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 24th: 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)
- June 29th: 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 6th, **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 6th: 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 20th: 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 7th: 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 31st: 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. 21st: 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 26th: An updated NYC Ferry Fall 2020 Schedule went into effect.
- October 4th: 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 6th: 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 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>
- October 27th: Governor Cuomo announces the MTA to launch a new **voluntary COVID-19 screening program** for frontline employees. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-mta-launch-voluntary-covid-19-screening-program-frontline-employees>
- October 30th: Governor Cuomo releases guidelines on **testing protocol for schools to re-open** in red or orange micro-cluster zones: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-releases-guidelines-testing-protocol-schools-reopen-red-or-orange-micro-cluster>
- October 31st: Governor Cuomo announces new guidelines allowing out-of-state travelers to **test out of mandatory 14-day quarantine**. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-guidelines-allowing-out-state-travelers-test-out-mandatory-14-day>



New York COVID19 Pandemic Timeline: November - December 2020

- November 14th: Amid rising positivity rates, Governor Cuomo announces that restaurants, bars, and other SLA-licensed entities must **close in-person service from 10pm to 5am**. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-announces-restaurants-bars-other-sla-licensed-entities>
- November 18th: Mayor de Blasio announces that, in light of New York City reaching 3.0% positivity rates in coronavirus testing, **City schools would temporarily close, effective November 19th**. <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/790-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>
- November 19th: Governor Cuomo urges New Yorkers to **avoid Thanksgiving gatherings and travel** to curb the spread of Covid-19. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-urges-new-yorkers-avoid-thanksgiving-gatherings-and-travel>
- November 29th: Mayor de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza announce a plan to safely **reopen New York City schools for in-person learning**, starting with students in grade 5 and under, starting on **Monday, December 7th**. Middle and high schools will remain remote for the time being. <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/817-20/mayor-de-blasio-chancellor-carranza-plan-return-in-person-learning-new-york>
- December 11th: Citing increasing hospitalization and case rates, Governor Cuomo announces that **indoor dining will close in New York City on Monday, December 14th**, though outdoor dining and takeout will continue to be available. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-photos-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-during-8>
- December 14th: Governor Cuomo warns that if a region of the state experiences an increase in cases and hospitalizations such that its hospital capacity would reach 90% in three weeks, it will become **classified as a red zone and re-enter shutdown**. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-photos-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-announces-updated-covid-19-micro-cluster-1>