

Weekly Report on 2020 Census Self-Response (Rates Issued on May 7) New York City Department of City Planning—Population Division

The self-response rate measures the percentage of housing units that self-responded to the 2020 Census either online, by mail, or by phone.

Why We Care

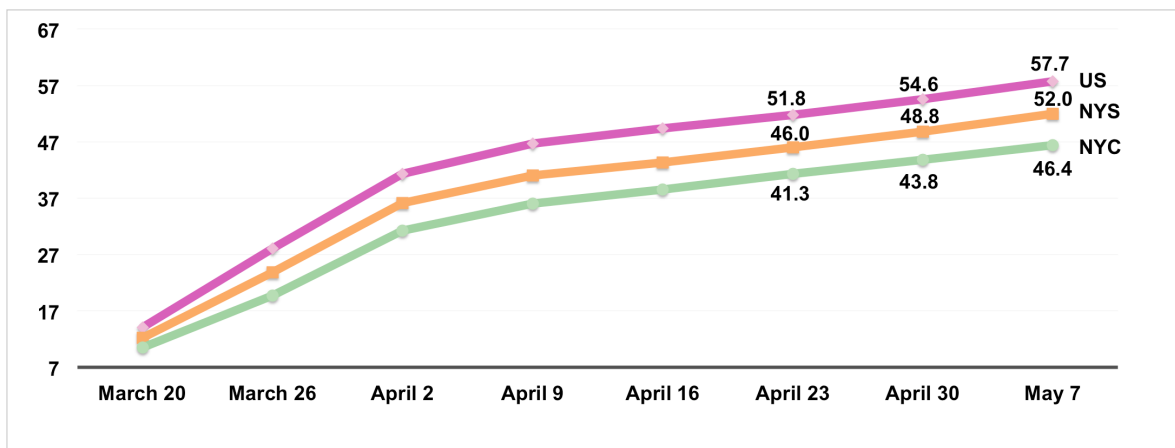
If an area has a low self-response rate, it means:

- More census enumerators will need to knock on doors to count residents in-person; and
- It is more likely people in the area may be missed or counted inaccurately.

How does New York City Compare to New York State and the U.S.?

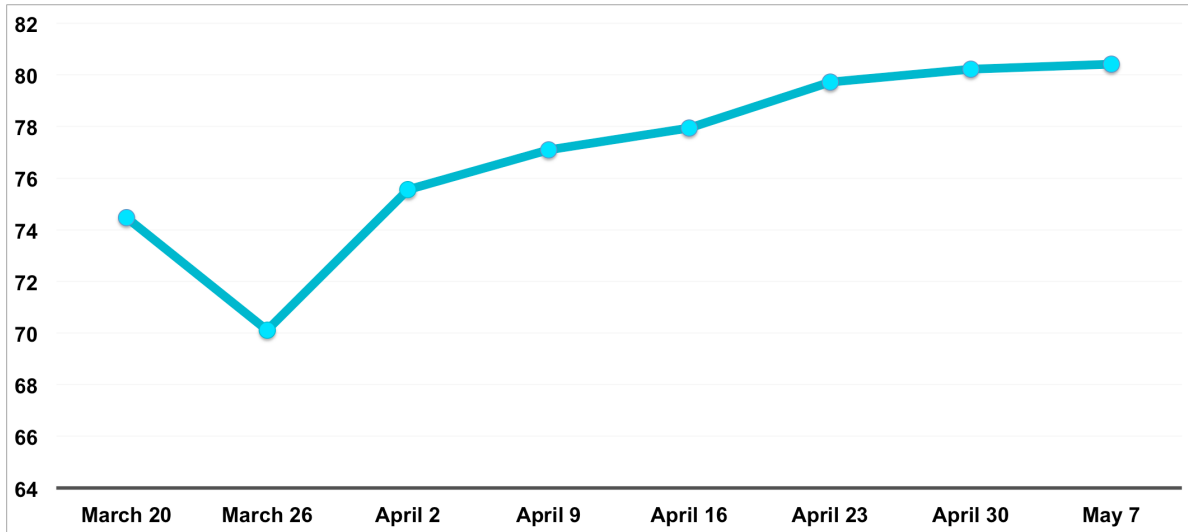
New York City's response rate stands at 46.4 percent, compared to 52.0 percent for New York State, and 57.7 percent for the U.S. (figure 1). Over the past week (April 30 – May 7), New York City was up 2.6 percentage points, compared to 3.2 for New York State and 3.1 the nation. Over the past two weeks (April 23 – May 7), New York City was up 5.1 percentage points, compared to 6.0 for New York State and 5.9 for the nation.

Figure 1. Comparison of 2020 Census Self-Response Rates



The city’s self-response rate as a percentage of U.S. self-response increased during most of April, but has plateaued over the past two weeks. It now stands at 80.4 percent of U.S. self-response (figure 2).

Figure 2. NYC Self-Response as a Percentage of U.S. Response Rate in 2020

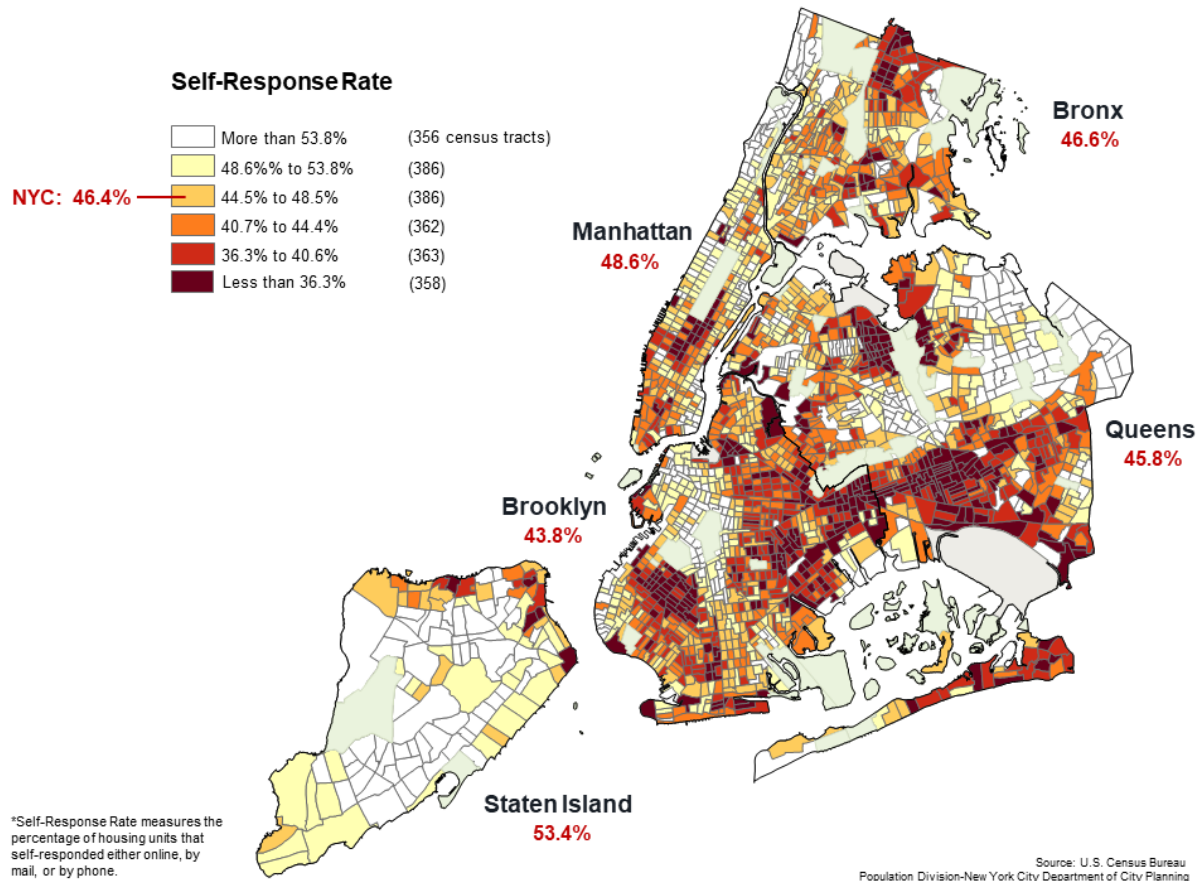


A Detailed Look at Self-Response in New York City

As part of the Census Bureau’s fourth mailing, which began April 8th and ended April 30th, households that had failed to respond received a paper questionnaire, providing a mail-in paper option for **all** households, including those previously limited to the internet and phone options. The hope was that this would provide a boost to self-response, especially in areas where rates were very low and internet access was less than optimal. Thus far, however, patterns throughout the city have remained largely the same. (The fifth and final scheduled mailing — a postcard reminder to answer the census — is scheduled to reach all non-responding households by May 9th. Given the proposal not to send out field enumerators until the middle of August as part of the proposed 120 day extension of the census, discussions at the Census Bureau are underway about additional mailings to increase self-response.)

Within New York City, Staten Island had the highest self-response, with over one-half of housing units responding, while Brooklyn had the lowest (43.8 percent) (figure 3).

Figure 3. New York City Self-Response Rates* as Issued on May 7 by Census Tract



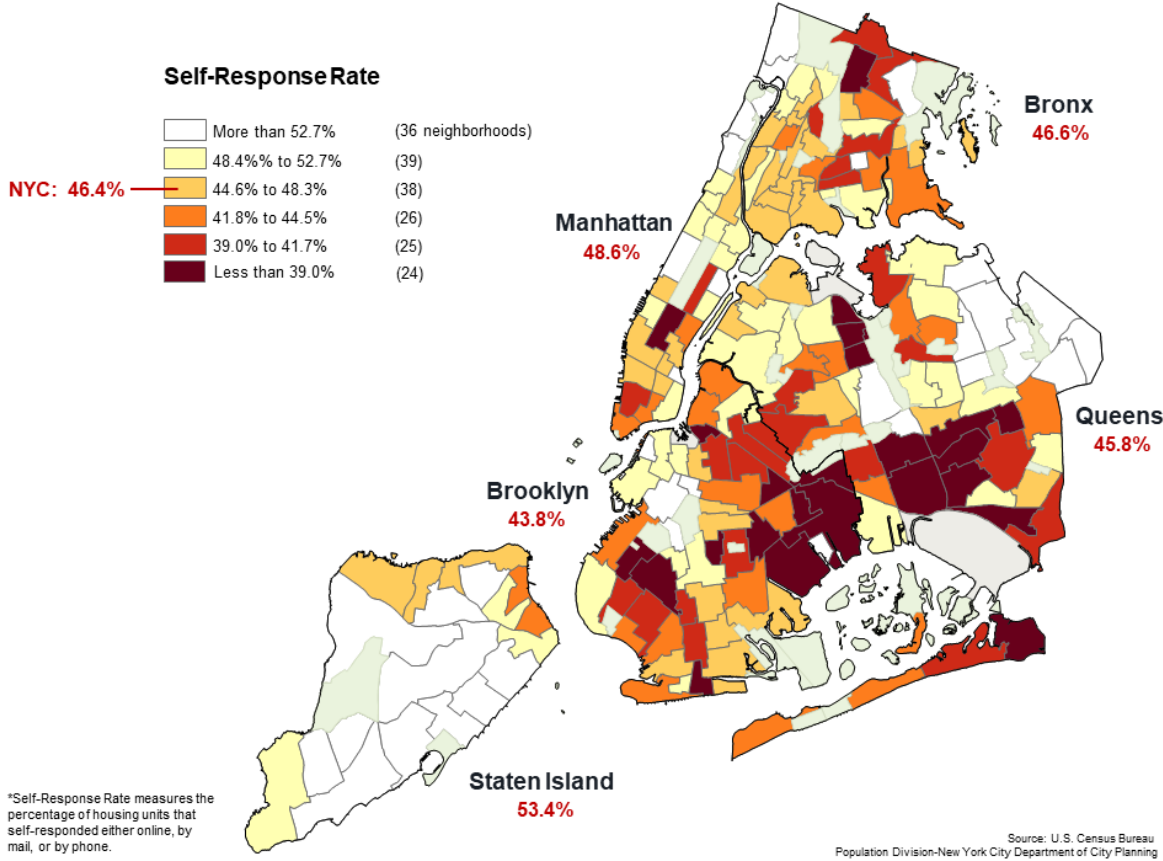
Self-Response by Neighborhood

The seventh week of the self-response period reveals a persistent pattern of lower self-response in neighborhoods that are predominantly black. There are 23 neighborhoods where 60 percent or more of the population is black nonhispanic. The response rate for these neighborhoods is 40.5 percent, compared to the citywide rate of 46.4 percent, a gap that grew slightly over the

past week (from 5.7 to 6.1 percentage points). Self-response ranges from a high of 49.2 percent (Cambria Heights, Queens) to a low of 34.7 percent (South Jamaica, Queens).

A large number of black communities in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn remain in the lowest two intervals of self-response (figure 4). These include Stuyvesant Heights, Ocean Hill, Rugby-Remsen Village, Erasmus, Canarsie, and East New York in Brooklyn; South Jamaica, Baisley Park, Springfield Gardens, Rosedale, and Far Rockaway in Queens; and Williamsbridge, Eastchester, and Wakefield in the Bronx (see Appendix A for reference map of neighborhoods).

Figure 4. New York City 2020 Self-Response Rates* as Issued on May 7 by Neighborhood Tabulation Area



Continuing the pattern for the past month, several communities with a majority or plurality of black residents are above the city average, including Cambria Heights in Queens, Harlem in Manhattan, Flatbush in Brooklyn, and Co-op City and Parkchester in the Bronx.

Consistent with previous patterns, most of Staten Island continues to exhibit high levels of self-response, although Stapleton-Rosebank and West New Brighton-St. George are exceptions (there was a slight improvement in the latter neighborhood over the past week). Most areas of Manhattan are also showing relatively high self-response, though the Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill, Midtown, and SoHo-Tribeca are lagging. Finally, Borough Park and Williamsburg in Brooklyn continue to have low levels of self-response. In the Bronx, over the past two weeks, a pattern of low response has emerged in Van Nest-Morris Park, West Farms, and Soundview-Bruckner, along with Belmont to the west. Additionally, a persistent pattern over the past several weeks is a corridor of low response in Maspeth and Ridgewood in Queens, and just across the border in Brooklyn, in Bushwick North and Bushwick South.

As noted in the report on April 16th, a higher share of foreign-born residents in a neighborhood is associated with lower levels of self-response, though the relationship is neither strong nor straightforward. This continues to be true. Neighborhoods with large foreign-born concentrations lie on both ends of the self-response spectrum. Some neighborhoods with large concentrations of immigrants have relatively high response, most notably in a corridor from Washington Heights South, Washington Heights North, and Marble Hill-Inwood in Upper Manhattan, extending to Kingsbridge Heights and Van Cortlandt Village in the Bronx.

There are also a sizable number of immigrant neighborhoods that show low self-response: North Corona, Corona, East Elmhurst, East Flushing, Queensboro Hill, and College Point in the northern section of Queens, and Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park, and Jamaica in the southern part of the borough. In Brooklyn, a corridor of low response starts in Sunset Park, Dyker Heights, and Bensonhurst, and runs through Homecrest and into Brighton Beach — all neighborhoods with large immigrant populations. Over the past week, however, gains can be

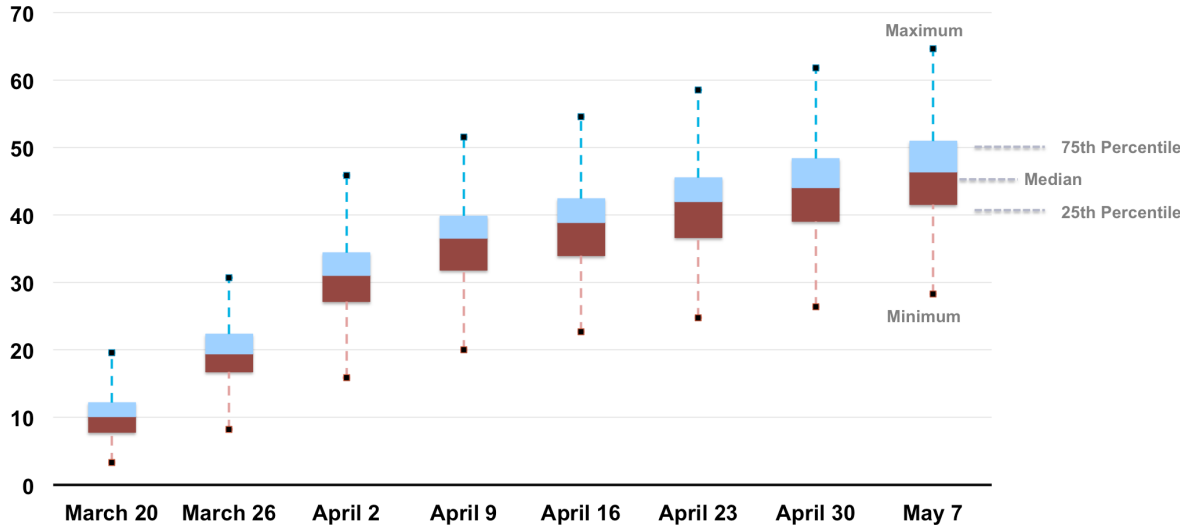
seen in Flushing, now in the middle category of self-response. Finally, several neighborhoods characterized by large black West Indian populations have low response, including Erasmus, Rugby-Remsen Village, East Flatbush-Farragut, Flatlands and Canarsie in Brooklyn, and Rosedale in Queens.

Dispersion of Response Rates

Each column in Figure 5 shows the range of self-response rates for NTAs on a weekly basis. For example, at the beginning of the self-response period on March 20th, the median self-response rate (50th percentile) was just 10.1 percent, with a fairly limited interquartile range of 4.4, as evidenced by the neighborhoods at the 25th to the 75th percentiles (the outer edges of the red and blue areas) only a very few points apart. In an ideal world, we would want to see this pattern repeated as rates increase, with most NTAs moving up in unison, within a limited range, all having received and accepted the same message about the importance of responding to the Census. But as the weeks progressed, the distance between the 25th percentile (the outer edge of the red area) and the 75th percentile (outer edge of the blue area) has grown larger. Over the past two weeks, this distance has increased from 8.9 to 9.4 percentage points. This is a reflection of the wide range of issues affecting response, with neighborhoods respond differently, resulting in an increased dispersion of self-response rates by neighborhood.

Moreover, even as the median self-response rate for the city has risen, the overall range of rates (range of minimum to maximum values) in recent weeks has increased somewhat from 33.8 on April 23rd to 36.4 on May 7th. This means that low-response NTAs have not gained ground relative to those at the top.

Figure 5. Variability in Response Rates Among Neighborhood Tabulation Areas



Turning the focus to those NTAs that are losing ground, Figure 6 shows 24 neighborhoods in the lowest category of response as of May 7th (map on the left) and their level of change since April 23rd (map on the right). Most of these NTAs are falling further behind, as evidenced by increases in their response rates being lower than the city increase of 5.1 percentage points. Three well-defined clusters of low response neighborhoods that are falling further behind are apparent:

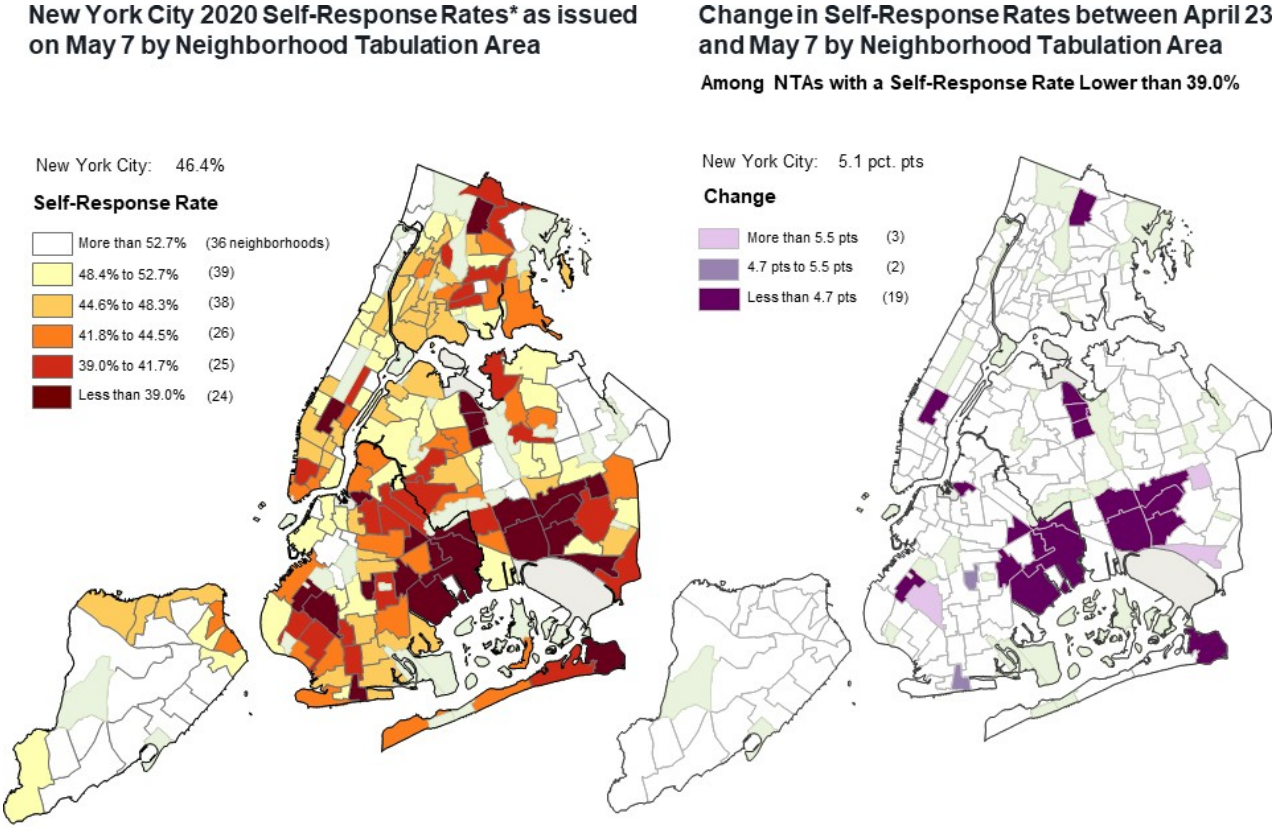
1. Corona, North Corona, and East Elmhurst in Queens
2. Jamaica, South Jamaica, Baisley Park, Richmond Hill, and South Ozone Park in Queens (along with Far Rockaway)
3. Ocean Hill, Cyprus Hills, East New York, Rugby-Remsen Village, and Canarsie in Brooklyn

In addition, Williamsbridge in the Bronx and Midtown in Manhattan are displaying low response that has persisted. (The large number of vacant housing units in Midtown may be depressing response rates in that neighborhood.)

Finally, despite very low self-response, there are a few areas that are improving, in excess of the city average. These include Borough Park in Brooklyn, and Springfield Gardens and Hollis

in Queens. Changes in self-response for all neighborhood in the city, over the past week and two weeks, are available in Appendix B.

Figure 6. Overall Neighborhood Response Rates and Change over Two Weeks for Neighborhoods with the *Lowest* Response Rates



*Self-Response Rate measures the percentage of housing units that self-responded either online, by mail, or by phone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

Please note: This overview offers a broad picture of self-response based on the aggregate characteristics of neighborhoods and census tracts. We cannot determine at an individual level who is and who is not self-responding to the census, nor can we attribute characteristics of neighborhoods or tracts to individuals within those neighborhoods or tracts. It is important to note this when discussing aggregated characteristics of neighborhoods and tracts, such as proportion of the population of different race/Hispanic origins and/or nativity.

Appendix A

New York City Neighborhood Tabulation Areas Reference Map

Appendix B

Response Rates by Neighborhood and Recent Change in Rates

New York City

	Resp. Rate Apr 23	Resp. Rate Apr 30	Resp. Rate May 7	One- Week Change: Apr 30 - May 7	Two- Week Change: Apr 23 - May 7
New York City Total	41.3	43.8	46.4	2.4	4.9

Bronx

Neighborhood Name	Resp. Rate Apr 23	Resp. Rate Apr 30	Resp. Rate May 7	One- Week Change: Apr 30 - May 7	Two- Week Change: Apr 23 - May 7
Bronx Total	42.6	44.4	46.6	2.2	4.0
Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge	51.0	53.7	57.4	3.7	6.4
North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale	51.6	54.4	57.4	3.0	5.8
Co-op City	53.1	54.8	57.3	2.5	4.2
Parkchester	51.0	53.2	55.9	2.7	4.9
Van Cortlandt Village	47.3	50.1	52.7	2.6	5.4
West Concourse	46.6	48.5	50.8	2.3	4.2
Kingsbridge Heights	45.9	48.3	50.5	2.2	4.6
Soundview-Castle Hill-Clason Point-Harding Park	45.8	47.5	49.2	1.7	3.4
Norwood	44.6	47.0	49.2	2.2	4.6
Pelham Parkway	43.3	46.4	49.1	2.7	5.8
East Concourse-Concourse Village	44.0	45.9	48.2	2.3	4.3
Highbridge	44.2	46.0	48.1	2.0	3.9
Melrose South-Mott Haven North	44.6	46.2	47.9	1.7	3.2
Pelham Bay-Country Club-City Island	42.8	44.6	47.2	2.6	4.4
Claremont-Bathgate	43.4	45.1	47.2	2.1	3.8
Bedford Park-Fordham North	42.6	44.6	46.6	2.0	4.0
University Heights-Morris Heights	42.7	44.3	46.4	2.1	3.7
Hunts Point	42.6	44.2	46.0	1.8	3.4
Fordham South	40.9	43.4	45.9	2.5	4.9
Morrisania-Melrose	42.7	44.0	45.5	1.5	2.7
Mott Haven-Port Morris	42.3	43.9	45.4	1.6	3.2
Bronxdale	40.3	42.4	45.4	3.0	5.1
East Tremont	42.0	43.6	45.3	1.8	3.4
Longwood	42.2	43.5	45.0	1.5	2.8
Mount Hope	41.1	42.6	44.2	1.6	3.1
Schuylerville-Throgs Neck-Edgewater Park	39.1	40.7	42.8	2.1	3.7
Allerton-Pelham Gardens	37.7	39.3	42.6	3.3	4.9
Crotona Park East	39.9	41.2	42.4	1.2	2.4
Westchester-Unionport	37.9	39.8	41.9	2.1	4.0
Van Nest-Morris Park-Westchester Square	36.2	39.0	41.5	2.6	5.3
Eastchester-Edenwald-Baychester	35.7	38.2	41.3	3.1	5.6
Soundview-Bruckner	37.3	39.0	40.4	1.5	3.2
Belmont	37.4	38.8	40.0	1.2	2.6
West Farms-Bronx River	36.9	38.2	39.5	1.3	2.6
Woodlawn-Wakefield	35.0	37.0	39.2	2.2	4.2
Williamsbridge-Olinville	33.5	34.9	37.2	2.3	3.7

Brooklyn

Neighborhood Name	Resp. Rate Apr 23	Resp. Rate Apr 30	Resp. Rate May 7	One- Week Change: Apr 30 - May 7	Two- Week Change: Apr 23 - May 7
Brooklyn Total	38.9	41.2	43.8	2.6	4.9
Windsor Terrace	51.9	55.2	58.6	3.4	6.7
Prospect Heights	50.4	53.2	55.9	2.8	5.5
Starrett City	51.4	52.8	55.1	2.3	3.7
Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill	50.2	52.6	54.5	1.9	4.3
Park Slope-Gowanus	49.4	51.7	53.9	2.3	4.5
DUMBO-Vinegar Hill-Downtown Brooklyn-Boerum Hill	48.3	50.7	52.6	1.9	4.3
Bay Ridge	44.3	48.0	51.4	3.4	7.0
West Brighton	46.4	48.7	50.9	2.3	4.5
Flatbush	45.3	47.8	50.6	2.7	5.2
Fort Greene	46.6	48.6	50.5	2.0	3.9
Carroll Gardens-Columbia Street-Red Hook	45.0	47.5	49.6	2.1	4.7
Kensington-Ocean Parkway	43.3	46.7	49.6	2.9	6.3
East Williamsburg	42.6	45.6	48.5	2.9	5.9
Crown Heights South	41.7	44.9	47.9	3.0	6.2
Clinton Hill	42.9	45.2	47.5	2.3	4.7
Midwood	40.4	43.4	47.0	3.6	6.6
Prospect Lefferts Gardens-Wingate	42.3	44.2	46.8	2.6	4.6
Sheepshead Bay-Gerritsen Beach-Manhattan Beach	39.9	42.9	46.4	3.5	6.5
Madison	39.4	42.6	45.9	3.3	6.5
Gravesend	41.2	43.2	45.8	2.6	4.6
Georgetown-Marine Park-Bergen Beach-Mill Basin	38.7	40.8	45.1	4.3	6.3
Greenpoint	39.4	41.7	44.1	2.4	4.7
Crown Heights North	39.0	41.2	43.5	2.3	4.5
Bath Beach	36.9	40.5	43.4	2.9	6.5
North Side-South Side	38.2	40.7	43.3	2.6	5.1
Flatlands	38.2	40.6	43.3	2.7	5.0
Brownsville	38.8	40.2	42.5	2.3	3.7
Bensonhurst East	36.8	39.7	42.4	2.7	5.6
Sunset Park West	36.6	39.6	42.2	2.6	5.6
Seagate-Coney Island	38.6	39.9	42.0	2.1	3.4
Bensonhurst West	35.6	38.8	41.7	2.8	6.0
Bushwick South	37.3	39.3	41.6	2.3	4.3
Bushwick North	36.7	38.9	41.4	2.5	4.7
Ocean Parkway South	34.9	37.6	40.8	3.2	5.9
Dyker Heights	35.4	38.0	40.6	2.5	5.2
Bedford	35.5	37.7	40.2	2.5	4.7
East Flatbush-Farragut	36.4	38.0	40.2	2.2	3.7
Homecrest	34.1	36.7	39.3	2.7	5.2
Stuyvesant Heights	34.6	36.6	39.3	2.7	4.7
East New York	35.3	36.8	38.8	2.0	3.6
Canarsie	34.3	36.4	38.6	2.2	4.3
Erasmus	33.8	35.6	38.6	3.0	4.8
Brighton Beach	33.4	35.3	38.4	3.0	5.0
East New York (Pennsylvania Ave)	33.3	35.3	37.3	2.0	4.0
Ocean Hill	33.4	34.8	36.6	1.8	3.2
Sunset Park East	31.4	33.6	35.7	2.1	4.3
Rugby-Remsen Village	31.1	32.7	34.7	1.9	3.6
Cypress Hills-City Line	29.9	31.7	33.4	1.7	3.5
Williamsburg	28.5	30.8	33.1	2.3	4.6
Borough Park	26.6	28.7	32.3	3.6	5.8

Manhattan

Neighborhood Name	Resp. Rate Apr 23	Resp. Rate Apr 30	Resp. Rate May 7	One- Week Change: Apr 30 - May 7	Two- Week Change: Apr 23 - May 7
Manhattan Total	43.6	46.1	48.6	2.5	5.0
Stuyvesant Town-Cooper Village	58.6	61.8	64.7	3.0	6.1
Washington Heights North	51.9	55.2	58.4	3.2	6.5
Washington Heights South	49.6	53.1	56.1	3.0	6.5
Marble Hill-Inwood	49.6	51.6	55.6	4.0	5.9
Yorkville	49.7	52.2	55.0	2.8	5.3
Upper West Side	48.4	51.3	54.0	2.6	5.6
Lower East Side	46.6	49.5	52.0	2.5	5.4
Morningside Heights	47.1	49.7	52.0	2.3	4.9
Hamilton Heights	45.5	48.6	51.4	2.8	5.9
East Harlem South	45.7	48.5	51.1	2.6	5.5
Manhattanville	44.6	47.6	50.3	2.6	5.7
Lenox Hill-Roosevelt Island	44.2	46.9	49.6	2.7	5.4
Central Harlem South	44.2	46.8	49.3	2.5	5.1
Clinton	44.0	46.6	48.9	2.4	4.9
East Harlem North	44.0	46.0	48.6	2.6	4.6
Murray Hill-Kips Bay	42.9	45.2	47.5	2.3	4.6
Gramercy	43.6	45.6	47.4	1.7	3.8
Lincoln Square	42.4	45.0	47.3	2.3	4.8
Hudson Yards-Chelsea-Flatiron-Union Square	42.8	44.9	46.9	2.0	4.2
Central Harlem North-Polo Grounds	41.3	43.7	46.3	2.6	5.0
East Village	41.6	43.9	46.0	2.1	4.4
West Village	40.1	42.5	44.6	2.1	4.5
Chinatown	39.4	42.1	44.5	2.4	5.1
Battery Park City-Lower Manhattan	39.9	42.2	43.9	1.7	4.0
Turtle Bay-East Midtown	39.1	41.2	43.6	2.4	4.5
SoHo-TriBeCa-Civic Center-Little Italy	36.7	38.8	40.8	2.0	4.1
Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill	35.3	37.7	40.6	2.9	5.3
Midtown-Midtown South	29.6	31.8	33.8	2.0	4.1

Queens

Neighborhood Name	Resp. Rate Apr 23	Resp. Rate Apr 30	Resp. Rate May 7	One- Week Change: Apr 30 – May 7	Two- Week Change: Apr 23 – May 7
Queens Total	40.1	43.0	45.8	2.8	5.7
Oakland Gardens	53.1	57.5	61.1	3.6	8.0
Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck	51.1	54.6	59.4	4.7	8.2
Glen Oaks-Floral Park-New Hyde Park	52.7	55.4	58.5	3.1	5.8
Ft. Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview	52.8	55.8	58.0	2.2	5.2
Fresh Meadows-Utopia	49.9	53.3	57.9	4.6	8.0
Forest Hills	50.5	54.3	57.8	3.5	7.3
Auburndale	49.3	52.4	55.2	2.9	6.0
Bayside-Bayside Hills	48.1	52.0	55.2	3.2	7.1
Bellerose	45.0	50.3	53.9	3.6	9.0
Kew Gardens	48.8	51.7	53.8	2.1	5.1
Rego Park	46.4	49.4	52.4	3.0	6.0
Whitestone	42.7	48.1	51.7	3.6	9.0
Jackson Heights	43.9	47.6	50.8	3.2	6.9
Jamaica Estates-Holliswood	44.4	47.7	50.4	2.7	6.0
Kew Gardens Hills	44.6	47.7	50.0	2.2	5.3
Astoria	43.5	46.8	49.9	3.1	6.4
Hunters Point-Sunnyside-West Maspeth	44.7	47.4	49.9	2.5	5.2
Murray Hill	43.5	46.7	49.9	3.2	6.3
Lindenwood-Howard Beach	46.1	47.5	49.8	2.3	3.7
Pomonok-Flushing Heights-Hillcrest	44.8	47.5	49.6	2.0	4.8
Woodside	42.0	45.9	49.6	3.6	7.5
Cambria Heights	44.3	46.4	49.2	2.8	4.9
Springfield Gardens North	42.6	45.8	48.9	3.1	6.3
Middle Village	42.0	44.9	48.2	3.3	6.2
Old Astoria	42.6	45.2	47.3	2.1	4.7
Steinway	39.4	43.1	46.5	3.4	7.1
Briarwood-Jamaica Hills	39.7	42.8	45.5	2.7	5.7
Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City	41.3	43.1	45.4	2.3	4.1
Laurelton	39.6	42.1	44.7	2.6	5.1
Elmhurst	38.4	41.3	43.9	2.6	5.5
Glendale	35.7	40.3	43.6	3.3	7.9
East Flushing	37.1	39.9	42.6	2.6	5.5
Breezy Point-Belle Harbor-Rockaway Park-Broad Channel	37.1	39.5	42.3	2.8	5.2
Flushing	36.5	39.1	42.2	3.0	5.7
Elmhurst-Maspeth	36.8	39.6	42.1	2.5	5.4
Queens Village	38.4	40.1	42.1	2.0	3.7
Ozone Park	36.7	39.5	42.0	2.4	5.2
Queensboro Hill	37.0	39.2	41.2	2.0	4.2
Maspeth	35.3	38.0	41.0	3.0	5.7
Ridgewood	34.9	38.1	40.8	2.8	6.0
St. Albans	35.9	38.1	40.8	2.7	4.9
Hammels-Arverne-Edgemere	36.7	38.6	40.8	2.2	4.1
Woodhaven	34.5	37.2	39.5	2.4	5.0
College Point	34.2	36.7	39.3	2.6	5.1
Rosedale	33.7	36.1	39.0	2.9	5.3
Hollis	32.1	35.2	38.3	3.1	6.2
Baisley Park	33.9	36.1	38.2	2.1	4.3
Far Rockaway-Bayswater	33.5	35.3	38.0	2.7	4.5
Corona	33.3	35.6	37.8	2.2	4.5
Jamaica	33.7	35.3	37.1	1.8	3.4
Springfield Gardens South-Brookville	31.1	34.1	37.1	3.0	6.0
South Jamaica	30.9	32.6	34.7	2.1	3.9
Richmond Hill	29.5	31.8	33.8	2.0	4.3
South Ozone Park	30.1	31.7	33.8	2.1	3.7
East Elmhurst	29.2	31.3	33.6	2.2	4.4
North Corona	24.8	26.4	28.3	1.9	3.5

Staten Island

Neighborhood Name	Resp. Rate Apr 23	Resp. Rate Apr 30	Resp. Rate May 7	One- Week Change: Apr 30 – May 7	Two- Week Change: Apr 23 – May 7
Staten Island Total	46.2	49.6	53.4	3.8	7.2
Arden Heights	52.1	55.0	61.0	6.0	8.9
Great Kills	48.8	54.1	59.5	5.4	10.7
Oakwood-Oakwood Beach	51.6	56.2	59.4	3.3	7.8
Westerleigh	51.6	54.9	59.4	4.5	7.9
Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville	49.1	52.2	56.8	4.6	7.7
New Springville-Bloomfield-Travis	47.9	51.7	55.5	3.8	7.6
Todt Hill-Emerson Hill-Heartland Village-Lighthouse Hill	47.8	51.3	55.5	4.2	7.7
Rossville-Woodrow	45.5	49.8	55.5	5.6	10.0
New Brighton-Silver Lake	47.3	51.3	54.8	3.5	7.5
New Dorp-Midland Beach	46.8	50.3	53.3	3.0	6.5
Old Town-Dongan Hills-South Beach	46.0	49.8	52.8	3.0	6.8
Grasmere-Arrochar-Ft. Wadsworth	44.7	48.0	51.6	3.6	6.9
Staten Island:Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills	45.7	48.7	51.3	2.6	5.6
Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville	43.3	46.9	50.8	4.0	7.5
Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville	41.1	44.6	48.3	3.6	7.1
Port Richmond	42.4	45.3	47.7	2.3	5.2
West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George	40.7	42.5	44.8	2.3	4.1
Stapleton-Rosebank	39.1	40.9	43.2	2.3	4.1