



# Travel Patterns

in the New York Metropolitan Area

First  
Quarter **(Q1)** 2021

## About the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) is a regional council of governments that is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. NYMTC provides a collaborative planning forum to address transportation-related issues, develop regional plans and make decisions on the use of federal transportation funds for its planning area. NYMTC's planning area includes 2,440 square miles and a 2020 population of 13.17 million, approximately 65% of New York State's population and 4 percent of the population of the nation. For more information, please visit [www.nymtc.org](http://www.nymtc.org).

**This quarterly brochure is compiled by the  
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council.**

### Data Monitoring and Analysis Unit

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Project Manager:     | Leokadia Glogowski |
| Data/IT Manager:     | Munnesh Patel      |
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### Disclaimer

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**Travel Patterns in the New York Metropolitan Area** for First Quarter 2021 provides an overview of regional travel patterns. Data were collected from the agencies operating each facility. The information in this report is meant to provide a snapshot of travel from New York City, Long Island, the lower Hudson Valley and New Jersey. Regional travel patterns may change for a variety of reasons, including economic changes, service disruptions, construction, weather conditions or seasonal travel variations.

Starting from March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused sharp reductions in passenger travels of all transportation modes in the New York Metropolitan Area. This reduction in passenger numbers continued in 2021.

The number of vehicles that crossed the New York metropolitan area’s major rivers decreased by 7% in the First Quarter of 2021 due to more than 0.6 million fewer total vehicle river crossings in January and February 2021, compared to the corresponding months of 2020.

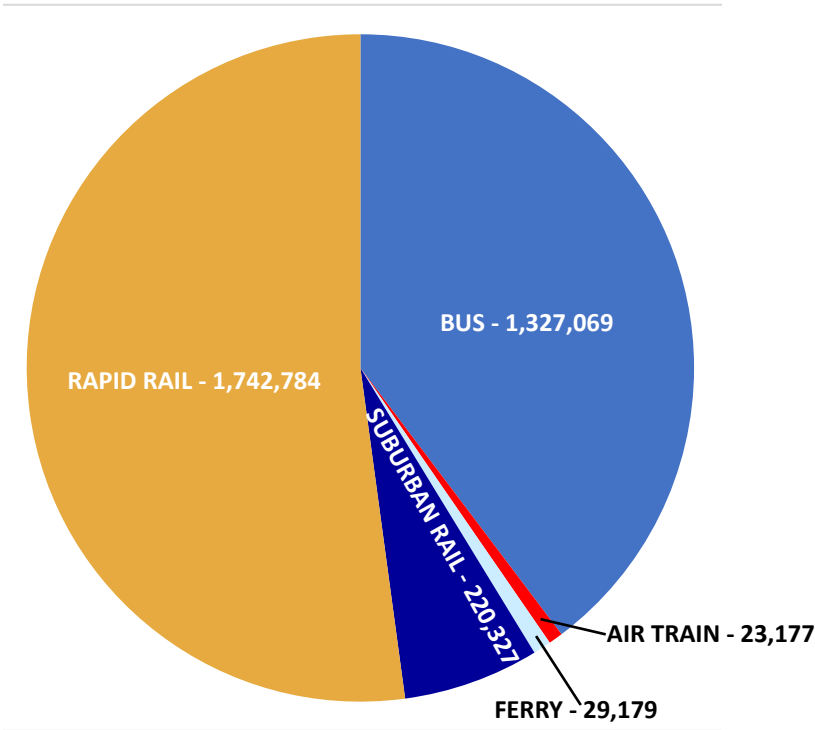
**VEHICLE RIVER CROSSINGS**  
0.6 million or 7% decrease  
between  
Q1-2020/Q1-2021

On an average weekday in the First Quarter of 2021, there were approximately 3.3 million total bus, rail and ferry trips (about 4.8 million less than in the First Quarter of 2020).

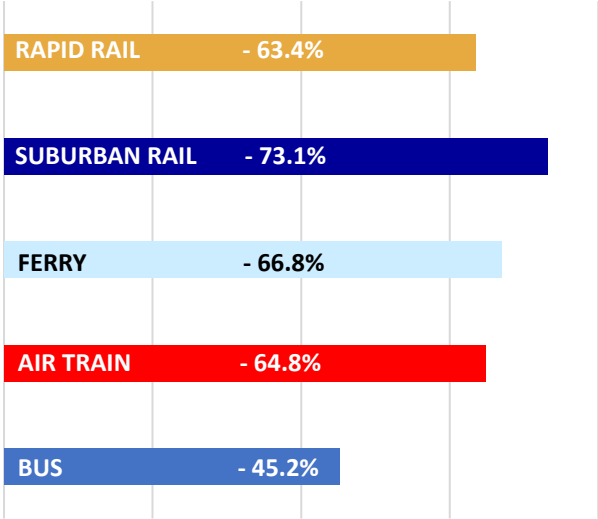
**TRANSIT TRIPS**  
4.8 million or 59% decrease  
between  
Q1-2020/Q1-2021

## AVERAGE WEEKDAY BUS, RAIL, and FERRY TRIPS In the New York Metropolitan Area

Total Trips by Mode  
in Q1 2021



Percentage Change  
from Q1 2020 to Q1 2021



# MAJOR VEHICULAR RIVER CROSSINGS TRAFFIC

## First Quarter 2021

### Monthly Comparison Q1-2020 vs. Q1-2021

| VEHICLE RIVER CROSSINGS                       |          | Agency      | Jan-21           | Feb-21           | Mar-21           | Average<br>Q1 2021 | Q1 2020<br>to<br>Q1 2021<br>% Change |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>EAST RIVER/LONG ISLAND SOUND CROSSINGS</b> |          |             |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| Ed Koch Queensborough Bridge                  | (1)      | NYC DOT     | n/a              | n/a              | n/a              | n/a                | n/a                                  |
| Williamsburg Bridge                           | (1)      | NYC DOT     | n/a              | n/a              | n/a              | n/a                | n/a                                  |
| Manhattan Bridge                              | (1)      | NYC DOT     | n/a              | n/a              | n/a              | n/a                | n/a                                  |
| Brooklyn Bridge                               | (1)      | NYC DOT     | n/a              | n/a              | n/a              | n/a                | n/a                                  |
| Queens Midtown Tunnel                         |          | MTA B&T (2) | 60,354           | 56,608           | 69,256           | 62,073             | -14.7                                |
| Hugh L. Carey Tunnel                          |          | MTA B&T     | 47,485           | 43,830           | 52,680           | 47,998             | -3.8                                 |
| RFK Bridge-Bronx Plaza                        | (3)      | MTA B&T     | 117,083          | 107,487          | 127,243          | 117,271            | -6.6                                 |
| RFK Bridge-Manhattan Plaza                    | (3)      | MTA B&T     | 31,824           | 30,124           | 36,232           | 32,727             | -7.9                                 |
| Bronx Whitestone Bridge                       |          | MTA B&T     | 110,416          | 102,016          | 122,505          | 111,646            | -7.0                                 |
| Throgs Neck Bridge                            |          | MTA B&T     | 90,680           | 80,781           | 97,602           | 89,688             | -12.3                                |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |          |             | <b>457,842</b>   | <b>420,846</b>   | <b>505,518</b>   | <b>461,402</b>     | <b>-8.9</b>                          |
| <b>HUDSON RIVER CROSSINGS</b>                 |          |             |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| George Washington Bridge                      | (Note 1) | PANY&NJ (4) | 233,814          | 215,543          | 257,187          | 236,936            | -3.8                                 |
| Lincoln Tunnel                                | (Note 1) | PANY&NJ     | 83,948           | 76,488           | 92,454           | 84,832             | -3.3                                 |
| Holland Tunnel                                | (Note 1) | PANY&NJ     | 64,352           | 58,738           | 70,199           | 64,808             | -13.5                                |
| Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge                    | (5)      | NYS TA (6)  | 111,163          | 104,693          | 129,297          | 115,051            | -9.5                                 |
| Bear Mountain Bridge                          |          | NYS BA (7)  | 17,123           | 14,327           | 18,901           | 16,784             | -14.0                                |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |          |             | <b>510,400</b>   | <b>469,789</b>   | <b>568,038</b>   | <b>518,411</b>     | <b>-6.7</b>                          |
| <b>ARTHUR KILL CROSSINGS</b>                  |          |             |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| Bayonne Bridge                                | (Note 1) | PANY&NJ     | 16,454           | 14,676           | 17,380           | 16,249             | -11.8                                |
| Goethals Bridge                               | (Note 1) | PANY&NJ     | 80,422           | 72,991           | 87,344           | 80,717             | -4.4                                 |
| Outerbridge Crossing                          | (Note 1) | PANY&NJ     | 66,720           | 59,044           | 71,106           | 65,983             | -6.8                                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |          |             | <b>163,596</b>   | <b>146,711</b>   | <b>175,830</b>   | <b>162,949</b>     | <b>-6.2</b>                          |
| <b>HARLEM RIVER CROSSINGS</b>                 |          |             |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| Henry Hudson Bridge                           |          | MTA B&T     | 51,746           | 49,168           | 61,152           | 54,022             | -11.7                                |
| <b>SOUTH SHORE/JAMAICA BAY CROSSINGS</b>      |          |             |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| Marine Parkway Bridge                         |          | MTA B&T     | 17,274           | 15,377           | 18,817           | 17,156             | -12.8                                |
| Cross Bay Bridge                              |          | MTA B&T     | 19,502           | 17,806           | 21,575           | 19,628             | -8.3                                 |
| Atlantic Beach Bridge                         | (8)      | NCBA (9)    | 10,758           | 10,153           | 12,296           | 11,069             | -0.1                                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |          |             | <b>47,534</b>    | <b>43,336</b>    | <b>52,688</b>    | <b>47,853</b>      | <b>-8.3</b>                          |
| <b>NEW YORK BAY CROSSINGS</b>                 |          |             |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| Verrazano-Narrows Bridge                      |          | MTA B&T     | 187,530          | 171,422          | 199,097          | 186,016            | -2.1                                 |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                            |          |             | <b>1,418,648</b> | <b>1,301,272</b> | <b>1,562,322</b> | <b>1,430,653</b>   | <b>-7.0</b>                          |

(1) NYC DOT - New York City Department of Transportation (Monthly data not available. Average weekday data collected in October are used for the average 4th Qtr each year).

(2) MTA B&T- Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Bridges and Tunnels

(3) The Triborough Bridge, renamed to the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge in 2008, and sometimes referred to as the RFK Triborough Bridge.

(4) Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

(5) The Tappan Zee Bridge was renamed to Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, in 2017.

(6) New York State Thruway Authority

(7) New York State Bridge Authority

(8) Monthly average traffic data include weekends.

(9) Nassau County Bridge Authority

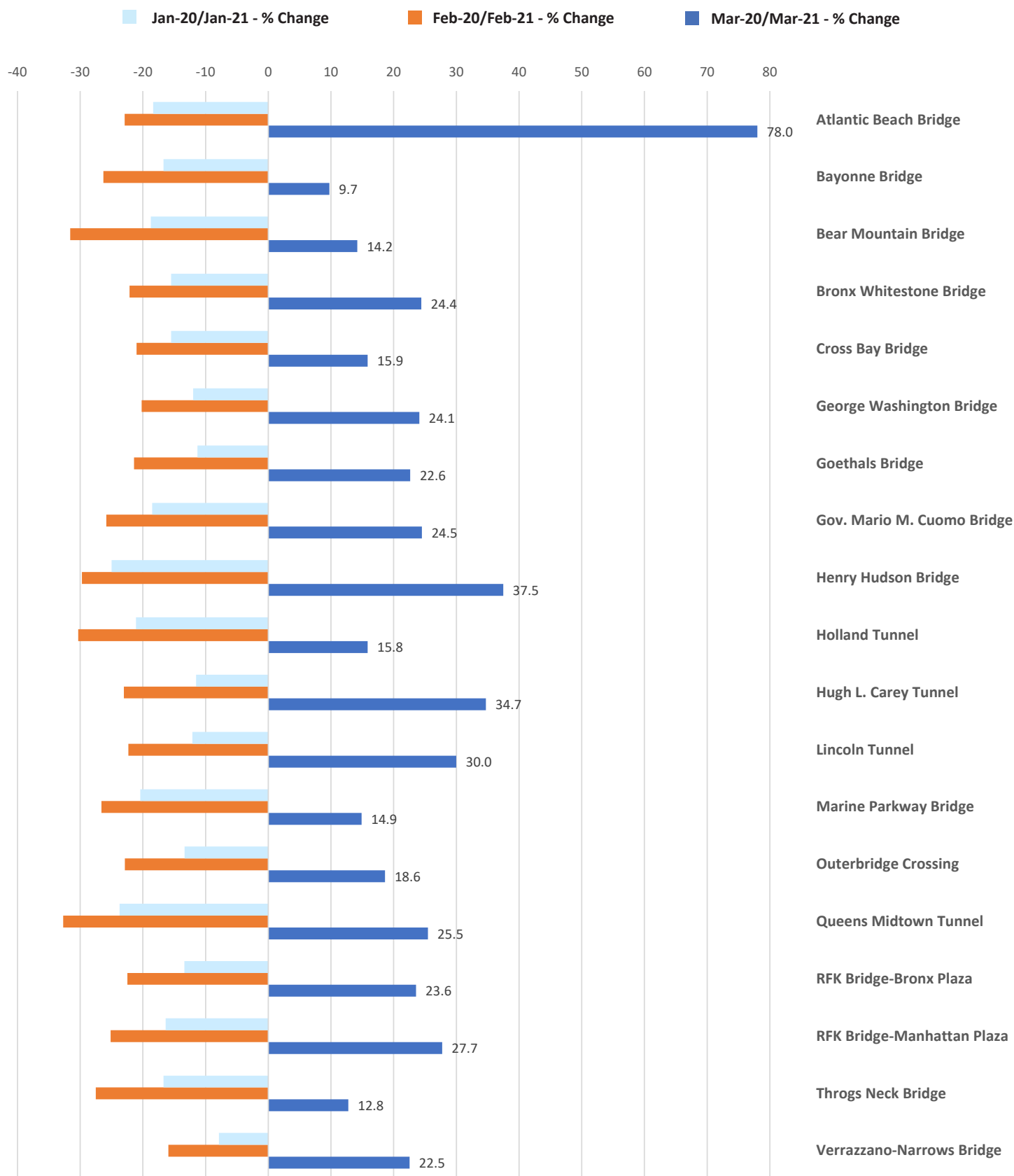
Note 1: Weighted average data provided by PANY&NJ.  
n/a - Data not available.

Note: Starting from March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused sharp reductions in passenger travels of all transportation modes in the New York Metropolitan Area. This reduction in passenger numbers continued in 2021.

# MAJOR VEHICULAR RIVER CROSSINGS

## Average Weekday Traffic

### Percentage Change from Q1 2020 to Q1 2021, by Month



Note 1: For Ed Koch Queensborough Bridge, Williamsburg Bridge, Manhattan Bridge, and Brooklyn Bridge only 4th Qtr data for each year is available.

Note: COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began in mid-March 2020 and resulted in significantly less travel. Travel was less restrictive by March 2021 than in March 2020 but still reduced from previous years.

# AVERAGE WEEKDAY BUS & RAIL TRIPS

First Quarter 2021

Monthly Comparison Q1-2020 vs. Q1-2021

| BUS and RAIL RIDERSHIP                         |                 |                  |                  |                  | Average<br>Q1 2021 | Q1 2020<br>to<br>Q1 2021<br>% Change |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>NEW YORK TRANSIT RAIL SYSTEM</b>            |                 |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| MTA/NYC Transit Subway                         | (1)             | 1,595,200        | 1,598,244        | 1,850,071        | 1,681,172          | -62.8                                |
| MTA/Staten Island Railway                      |                 | 3,590            | 3,450            | 3,958            | 3,666              | -73.2                                |
| MTA/Metro-North Railroad                       | (2)             | 53,485           | 53,527           | 62,429           | 56,480             | -75.6                                |
| MTA/Long Island Rail Road                      |                 | 73,051           | 67,318           | 74,271           | 71,547             | -71.0                                |
| <b>Total MTA Rail</b>                          |                 | <b>1,725,326</b> | <b>1,722,539</b> | <b>1,990,729</b> | <b>1,812,865</b>   | <b>-63.9</b>                         |
| <b>NEW YORK CITY BUSES</b>                     |                 |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| MTA/NYC Transit Bus                            |                 | 795,797          | 760,077          | 882,210          | 812,695            | -45.3                                |
| MTA Bus Company (formerly private buses)       |                 | 176,149          | 170,318          | 195,148          | 180,538            | -44.9                                |
| Academy Bus                                    |                 | n/a              | n/a              | n/a              | n/a                | n/a                                  |
| <b>Total NYC Buses</b>                         |                 | <b>971,946</b>   | <b>930,395</b>   | <b>1,077,358</b> | <b>993,233</b>     | <b>-45.2</b>                         |
| <b>PORT AUTHORITY TRANS-HUDSON (PATH) RAIL</b> |                 |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| PATH-New York Stations                         |                 | 25,996           | 23,948           | 29,200           | 26,381             | -74.4                                |
| PATH-New Jersey Stations                       |                 | 30,908           | 28,656           | 35,132           | 31,565             | -74.9                                |
| <b>Total PATH</b>                              |                 | <b>56,904</b>    | <b>52,604</b>    | <b>64,332</b>    | <b>57,947</b>      | <b>-74.7</b>                         |
| <b>NEW JERSEY TRANSIT RAIL SYSTEM (3)</b>      |                 |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| New Jersey Transit Rail                        |                 |                  |                  |                  | 57,250             | -78.9                                |
| Newark Light Rail                              | (4)             |                  |                  |                  | 7,900              | -55.9                                |
| New Jersey Transit HBLR                        | (5)             |                  |                  |                  | 23,250             | -49.5                                |
| River Line                                     |                 |                  |                  |                  | 3,900              | -47.7                                |
| <b>Total NJ Rail</b>                           |                 |                  |                  |                  | <b>92,300</b>      | <b>-73.0</b>                         |
| <b>AIRPORT RAIL ACCESS</b>                     |                 |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| Newark AirTrain                                | (6), (Note 1)   | 8,655            | 9,293            | 9,848            | 9,265              | -56.6                                |
| JFK AirTrain                                   | (6), (Note 1)   | 12,633           | 14,173           | 14,929           | 13,912             | -68.7                                |
| <b>Total Airport Rail Access</b>               | <b>(Note 1)</b> | <b>21,287</b>    | <b>23,467</b>    | <b>24,776</b>    | <b>23,177</b>      | <b>-64.8</b>                         |
| <b>SUBURBAN BUSES</b>                          |                 |                  |                  |                  |                    |                                      |
| New Jersey Transit Bus                         |                 |                  |                  |                  | 228,100            | -47.8                                |
| Nassau Inter-County Express (NICE)             |                 | 40,330           | 39,270           | 43,883           | 41,161             | -37.8                                |
| Westchester County Bee-Line Bus                |                 | 45,263           | 40,975           | 48,843           | 45,027             | -36.6                                |
| Orange County Buses                            | (7)             |                  |                  |                  | 2,795              | -24.7                                |
| Putnam County Buses                            | (6)             | 169              | 156              | 204              | 176                | -33.7                                |
| Rockland County Buses                          | (7), (Note 2)   | 5,655            | 4,690            | 6,843            | 5,729              | -54.8                                |
| Hudson Link Bus                                |                 | 852              | 711              | 921              | 828                | -32.7                                |
| Dutchess County Public Transit                 |                 | 1,636            | 1,538            | 1,775            | 1,650              | -19.6                                |
| City of Long Beach                             |                 | 356              | 325              | 337              | 339                | -54.7                                |
| Suffolk County Buses                           | (6), (8)        | 9,176            | 5,088            | 9,828            | 8,031              | -45.5                                |
| <b>Total Suburban Buses</b>                    |                 |                  |                  |                  | <b>333,836</b>     | <b>-45.2</b>                         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                             |                 |                  |                  |                  | <b>3,313,357</b>   | <b>-59.0</b>                         |

(1) MTA - Metropolitan Transportation Authority

(2) MTA/M-N Railroad ridership covers MTA trains leaving from GCT (Grand Central Terminal) and Penn Station (West of Hudson trains).

(3) Only quarterly data available.

(4) Newark Light Rail data was formerly added to Hudson Bergen Light Rail (HBLR) System.

(5) Hudson Bergen Light Rail

(6) Monthly average ridership data include weekends.

(7) Local and Express buses

(8) Suffolk Cty includes local and pass-through buses, HART - Huntington Area Rapid Transit.

n/a Data not available.

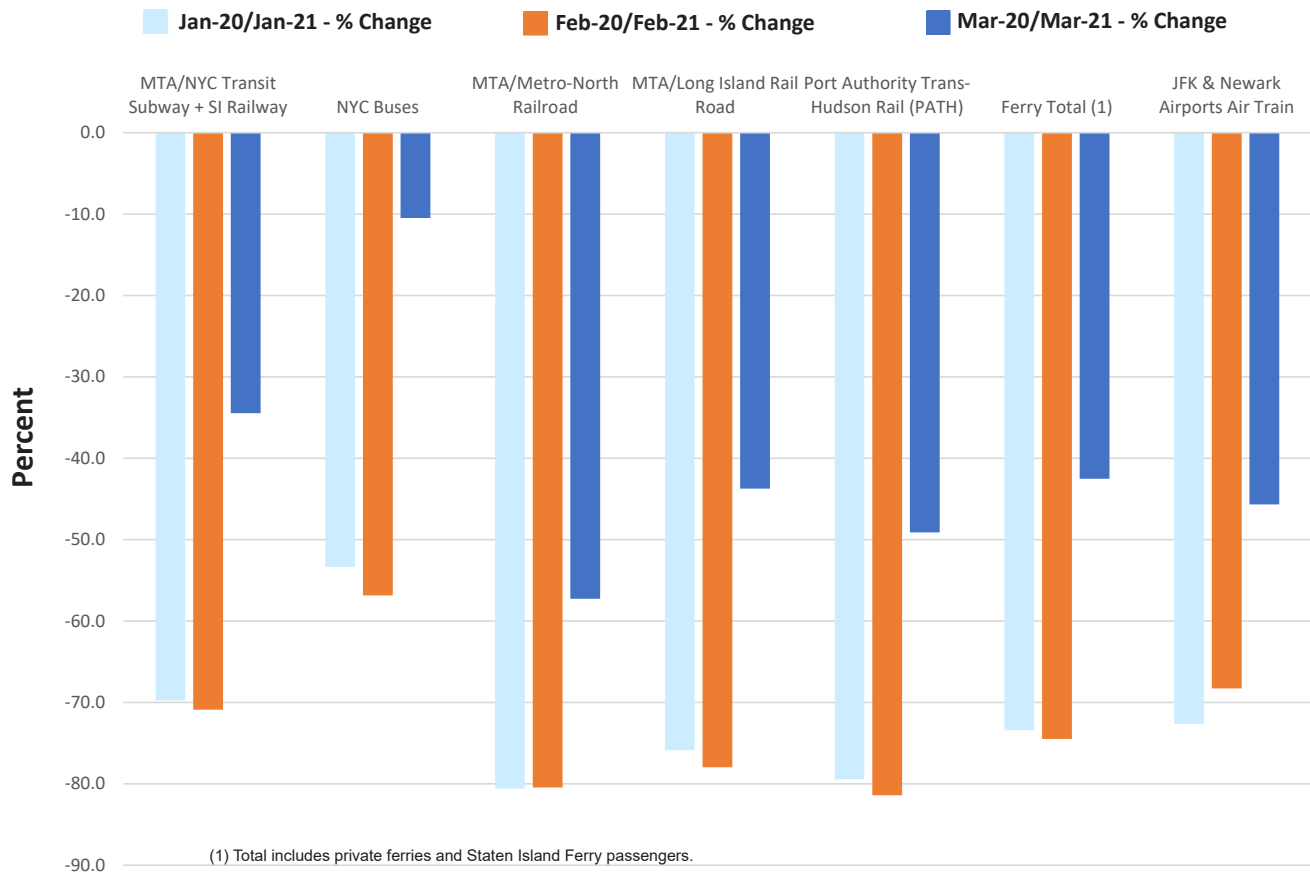
Note 1: Air train passenger counting includes all passengers throughout the system.

Note 2: Orange-Westchester Link (through buses) ridership in Rockland County include both private and County buses.

Note: Starting from March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused sharp reductions in passenger travels of all transportation modes in the New York Metropolitan Area. This reduction in passenger numbers continued in 2021.

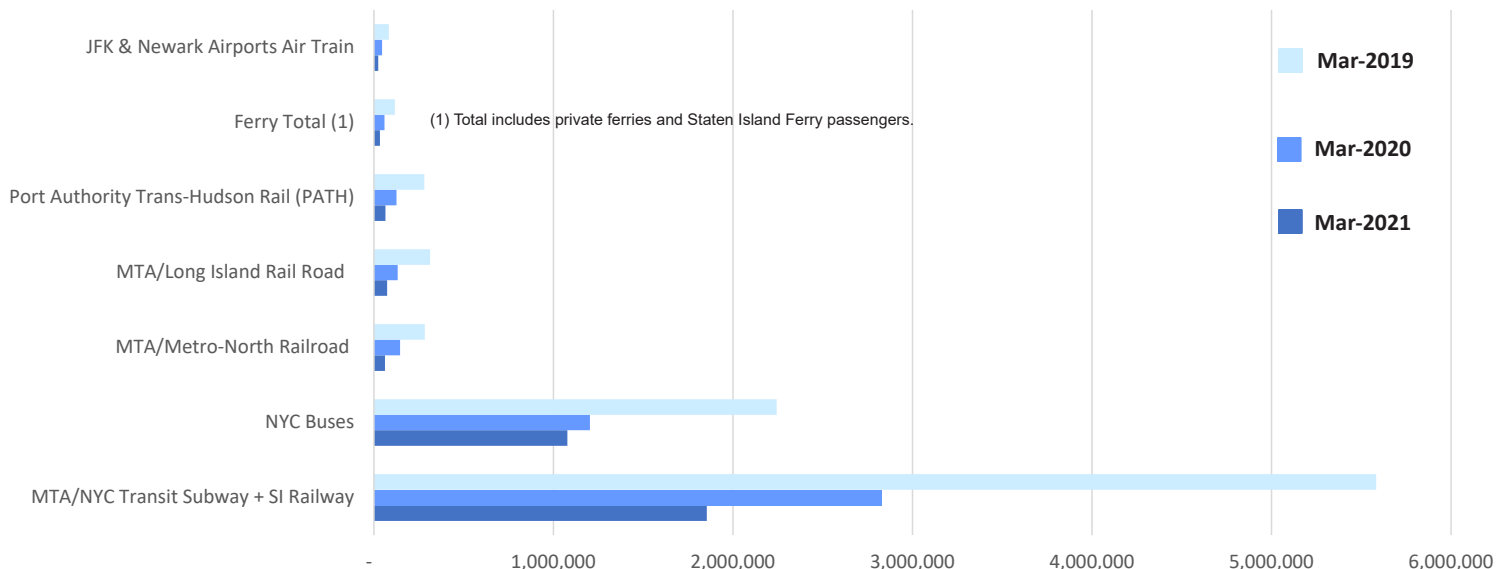
Sources: Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, MTA, New Jersey Transit Co, NYSDOT, NYCDOT, Westchester DOT, other NY counties bus operators.

# AVERAGE WEEKDAY PASSENGERS by Public Transportation Mode Percentage Change from Q1 2020 to Q1 2021, by Month



Note: COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began in mid-March 2020 and resulted in significantly less travel. Travel was less restrictive by March 2021 than in March 2020 but still reduced from previous years.

## TOTAL AVERAGE WEEKDAY PASSENGERS by Public Transportation Mode March 2019 vs. March 2020 vs. March 2021



Note: Starting from March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused sharp reductions in passenger travels of all transportation modes in the New York Metropolitan Area. This reduction in passenger numbers continued in 2021.

# AVERAGE WEEKDAY FERRY RIDERSHIP

## First Quarter 2021

### Monthly Comparison Q1-2020 vs. Q1-2021

| FERRY RIDERSHIP                                 | Jan-21        | Feb-21        | Mar-21        | Average<br>Q1 2021 | Q1 2020<br>to<br>Q1 2021<br>% Change |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Billybey Ferry</b>                           |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| <b>Hoboken South</b>                            |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| Hoboken - Pier 11                               | 30            | 32            | 51            | 38                 | -97.9                                |
| Hoboken - WFC (World Financial Center)          | 252           | 219           | 366           | 279                | -86.3                                |
| Hoboken - Pier 79 (West 39th St.)               | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>282</b>    | <b>251</b>    | <b>417</b>    | <b>317</b>         | <b>-92.0</b>                         |
| <b>Jersey City</b>                              |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| Paulus Hook - Pier 79 (West 39th St.)           | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| Paulus Hook - WFC                               | 382           | 340           | 521           | 414                | -83.2                                |
| Port Liberte - Pier 11                          | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| Liberty Harbor - Pier 11                        | 44            | 41            | 51            | 45                 | -87.5                                |
| Paulus Hook - Pier 11                           | 80            | 79            | 95            | 85                 | -86.4                                |
| Harborside - Pier 79                            | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| Harborside - Brookfield Place/Battery Park City | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>506</b>    | <b>460</b>    | <b>667</b>    | <b>544</b>         | <b>-88.3</b>                         |
| <b>Total Billybey</b>                           | <b>788</b>    | <b>711</b>    | <b>1,084</b>  | <b>861</b>         | <b>-90.0</b>                         |
| <b>NY Waterway</b>                              |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| <b>Weehawken/Hoboken North</b>                  |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| Weehawken - Pier 79 (West 39th St.)             | 795           | 753           | 983           | 844                | -82.9                                |
| Weehawken - Hoboken North - WFC                 | 68            | 71            | 96            | 78                 | -92.7                                |
| Hoboken North - Pier 79 (West 39th St.)         | 306           | 287           | 410           | 334                | -82.3                                |
| Weehawken - Pier 11                             | 55            | 53            | 68            | 59                 | -94.0                                |
| Lincoln Harbor - Pier 79 (West 39th St.)        | 139           | 128           | 159           | 142                | -89.5                                |
| Edgewater - Pier 79 (West 39th St.)             | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>1,363</b>  | <b>1,292</b>  | <b>1,716</b>  | <b>1,457</b>       | <b>-86.9</b>                         |
| <b>Belford/Haverstraw/Newburgh</b>              |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| Belford - Pier 11                               | 162           | 160           | 174           | 165                | -89.9                                |
| Haverstraw - Ossining                           | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| Newburgh - Beacon                               | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>162</b>    | <b>160</b>    | <b>174</b>    | <b>165</b>         | <b>-92.4</b>                         |
| <b>Total NY Waterway</b>                        | <b>1,525</b>  | <b>1,452</b>  | <b>1,890</b>  | <b>1,622</b>       | <b>-87.8</b>                         |
| <b>Seastreak</b>                                |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| Atlantic Highlands - Pier 11 - E34th St.        | 276           | 514           | 330           | 373                | -80.7                                |
| Highlands - Pier 11 - E34th St.                 | 264           | -             | 304           | 284                | -80.1                                |
| <b>Total Seastreak</b>                          | <b>540</b>    | <b>514</b>    | <b>634</b>    | <b>657</b>         | <b>-80.4</b>                         |
| <b>New York Water Taxi</b>                      |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| Ikea Terminal (Red Hook, Brooklyn) - Pier 11    | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| Hop-on/Hop-off Ferry Service (1)                | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| <b>Total NYWater Taxi</b>                       | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>           | <b>n/c</b>                           |
| <b>Liberty Park Water Taxi</b>                  |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| Liberty Landing - BPC (Battery Park City)       | 90            | 80            | -             | 85                 | -83.7                                |
| <b>Total Liberty Park Water Taxi</b>            | <b>90</b>     | <b>80</b>     | <b>-</b>      | <b>85</b>          | <b>-83.7</b>                         |
| <b>Hornblower Marine Services</b>               |               |               |               |                    |                                      |
| East River Ferry Service                        | 1,859         | 1,149         | 2,621         | 1,876              | -56.4                                |
| Rockaway Service                                | 475           | 759           | 698           | 644                | -38.8                                |
| Brooklyn Service                                | 439           | 523           | 823           | 595                | -24.1                                |
| Astoria Service                                 | 1,622         | 1,294         | 2,156         | 1,691              | -13.7                                |
| Sound View (2)                                  | 940           | 891           | 1,252         | 1,028              | -31.5                                |
| Lower East Side (2)                             | -             | -             | -             | -                  | n/c                                  |
| <b>Total Hornblower Marine Services</b>         | <b>5,335</b>  | <b>4,616</b>  | <b>7,550</b>  | <b>5,834</b>       | <b>-44.2</b>                         |
| <b>Total Average Weekday Private Ferries</b>    | <b>8,278</b>  | <b>7,373</b>  | <b>11,158</b> | <b>9,059</b>       | <b>-75.4</b>                         |
| <b>Total Staten Island Ferry</b>                | <b>19,468</b> | <b>18,389</b> | <b>22,501</b> | <b>20,119</b>      | <b>-60.7</b>                         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                              | <b>27,746</b> | <b>25,762</b> | <b>33,659</b> | <b>29,179</b>      | <b>-66.8</b>                         |

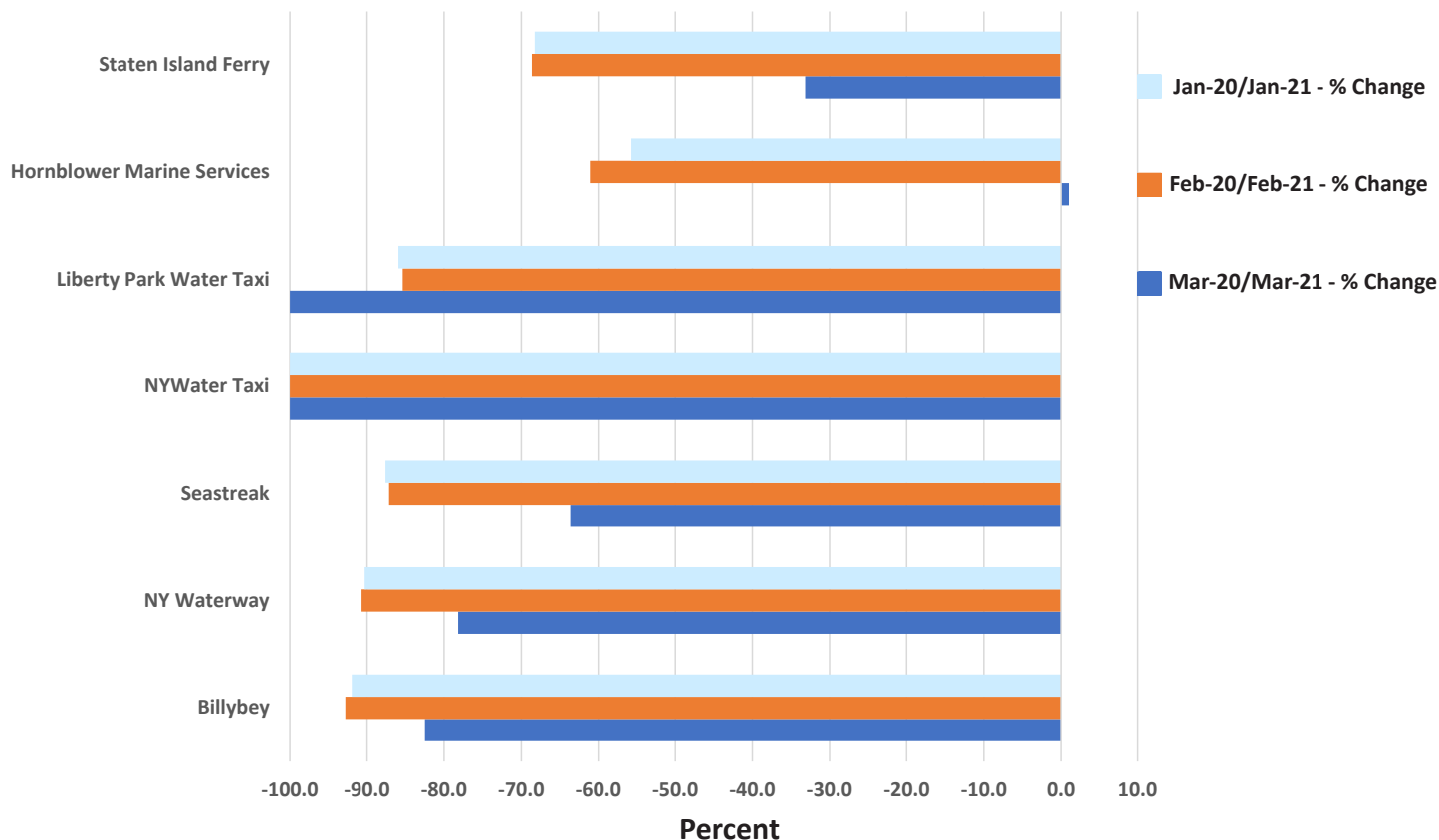
- No ferry operation in the first quarter of 2021.

n/c Data not comparable.

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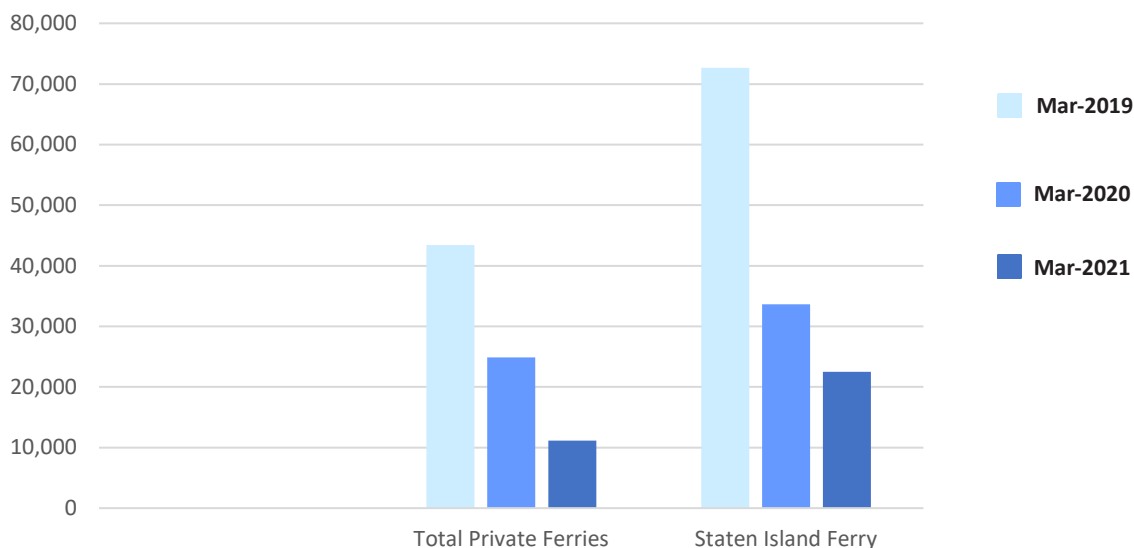
Sources: NYCDOT, PANY&NJ

# AVERAGE WEEKDAY FERRY RIDERSHIP by Ferry Operator Percentage Change from 2020 to 2021, by Month



Note: COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began in mid-March 2020 and resulted in significantly less travel. Travel was less restrictive by March 2021 than in March 2020 but still reduced from previous years.

## TOTAL AVERAGE WEEKDAY FERRY RIDERSHIP March 2019 vs. March 2020 vs. March 2021



COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began in mid-March 2020 and resulted in significantly less travel. Travel was less restrictive by March 2021 than in March 2020 but still reduced from previous years.