

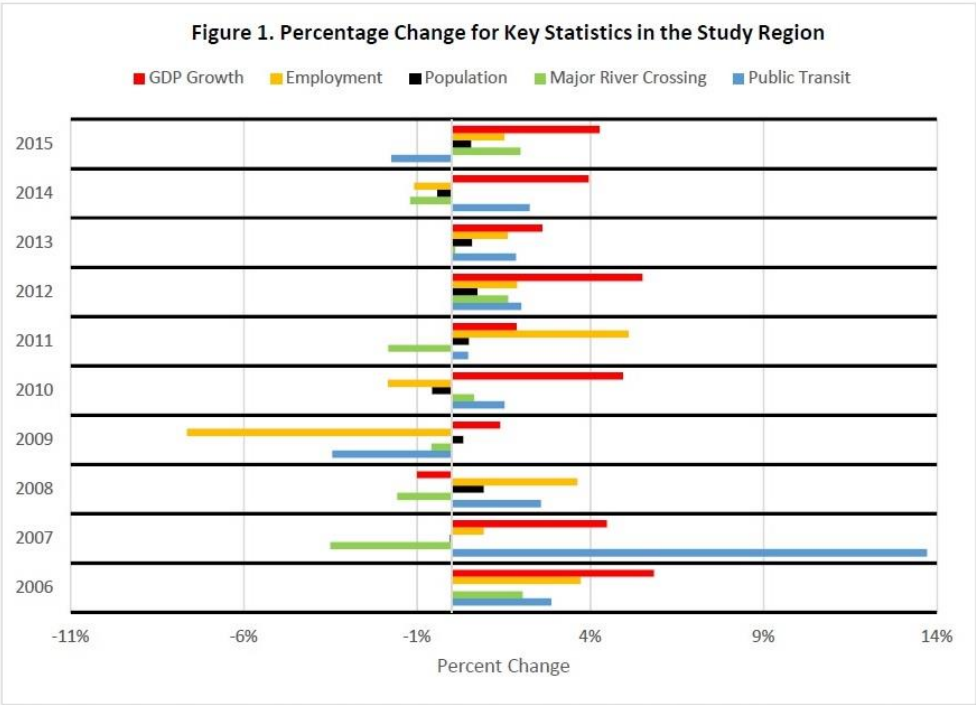
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CONTACT:
Mike Giardina, Public Information Officer
212-383-7203 | 917-886-3762 (mobile)
michael.giardina@dot.ny.gov

**NYMTC REPORT: TRANSPORTATION USAGE KEEPS PACE WITH RECORD SURGE IN
POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT**

NEW YORK – Public transit ridership, use of ferries and the sheer number of vehicles crossing New York’s waterways blew past prior heights, according to new data from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC).

“We have seen record growth in the New York metropolitan area and it comes as no surprise that more people are relying on our transportation network to get to where they need to go,” said NYMTC Executive Director José M. Rivera. “NYMTC is pleased to offer its Regional Transportation Statistical Report, which serves as a brief picture of how our massive transportation system is handling all those that live and commute within our very connected region.”



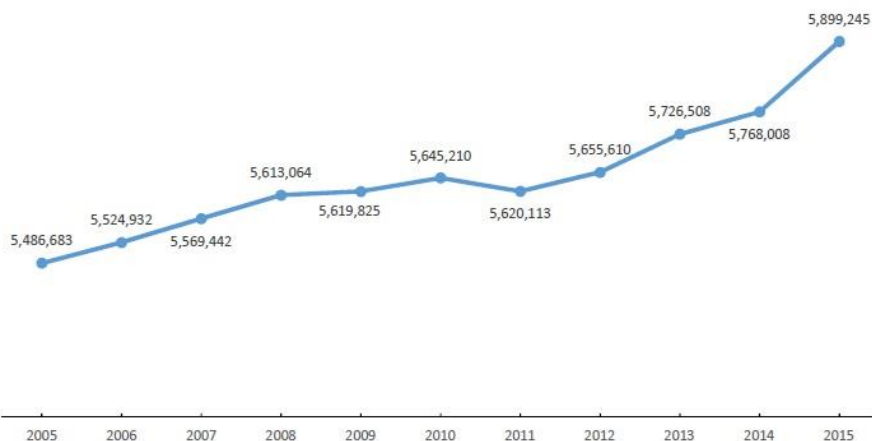
Source: National Transit Database- Federal Transit Administration, New York City Department of Transportation, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bridges and Tunnels, New York State Department of Transportation, Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce, American Community Survey- US Census Bureau

NYMTC’s new report highlights growth for employment (1.51%) and population (0.56%) for New York, New Jersey and Connecticut in 2015 (see Figure 1). For New York City alone, population increases ballooned to approximately 8.4 million, which was higher than any other year over the past decade. Similarly, for the multi-state metropolitan area, population figures reached nearly 21.1 million in 2015. All the while, the unemployment rate dipped to 8.1%, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) - the lowest unemployment rate for the region since the Great Recession.

However, the Regional Transportation Statistical Report does highlight public transit trips decreased by 1.74% in 2015 following a record high ridership year in 2014. At that time, approximately 2.8 billion unlinked passenger trips were taken on the subway and 184.5 million trips were reported on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad – a bellwether year that surpassed the prior decade. When looking further into the data, the MTA reported increases in overall ridership to 1.76 billion for New York City Transit in 2015.

Also, millions of more people turned to our trusted waterways to get around daily. Unlinked passenger trips for the Staten Island Ferry – run by the New York City Department of Transportation – and private ferries showed a continued uptick in usage in New York and New Jersey in 2015. Specifically, there were nearly 1.6 million more trips reported on the Staten Island Ferry and private ferries in 2015, with each service reporting an 800,000 increase in annual unlinked passenger trips when compared to the prior year.

Figure 2. Annual Registered Motor Vehicles in New York State Study Counties



Source: New York State Department of Motor Vehicles

Over the same period, overall traffic volume for bridge and tunnel crossings increased by nearly 2% in 2015 in the multi-state metropolitan region. One reason for this may be the reported historical surge in new registered motor vehicles in New York's study counties to nearly 5.9 million (See Figure 2), indicating that 90% of these registrations were registered for personal use in 2015.

The Regional Transportation Statistical Report includes key statistics, which serve as a report card on the overall

region's performance toward achieving the mobility and safety goals outlined in NYMTC's Regional Transportation Plan. Recently, NYMTC adopted [Plan 2045](#), its current Regional Transportation Plan, where numerous projections are utilized to effectively plan for the transportation system. NYMTC uses the [New York Best Practice Model \(NYBPM\)](#), a travel demand forecasting model that helps with transportation planning.

For more information, please view the Regional Transportation Statistical Report [here](#).

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 is comprised of nine voting members and seven advisory members who develop plans, goals and a shared vision for the region's transportation network, which includes a planning area that covers 2,440 square miles and includes a population of 12.4 million, which was approximately 64% of New York State's population, based on the 2010 Census.