

Economic Research & Policy Group (ERP)

## Weekly Recovery Dashboard: **November 22, 2020**

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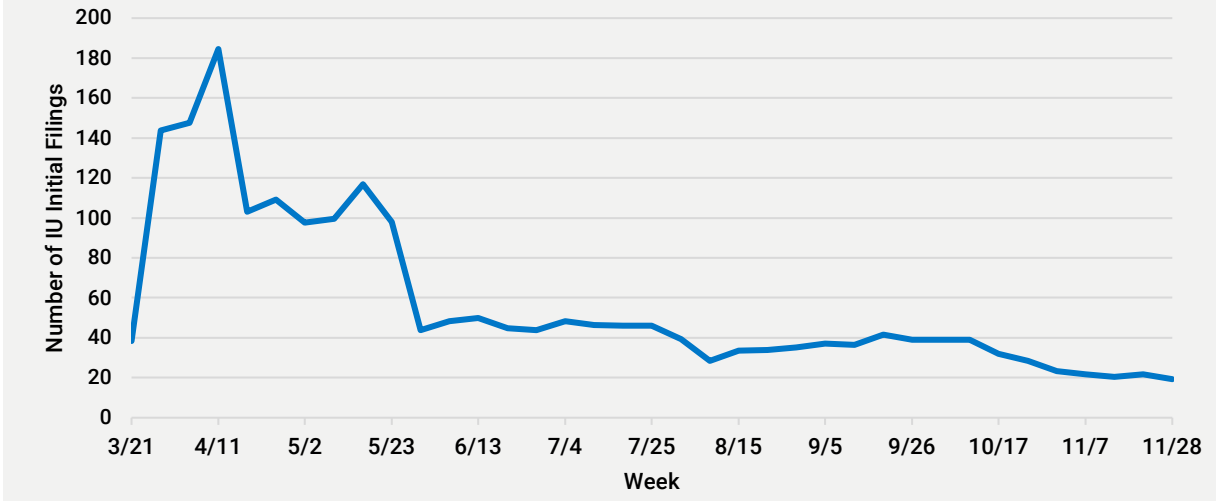
### Report Summary

- The week of November 22 saw the number of initial unemployment filings (19,293) decrease by 11% from the prior week (-2,429) after a slight increase the week before. This is the first time this number has dropped below 20,000 since the beginning of the pandemic.
- The trends in bus and subway traffic show week-on-week decreases during Thanksgiving week. Although it is preferable to evaluate transportation data over several weeks, there are changes: Bus traffic during the weekdays November 23–29 decreased 19% from the prior week for a weekday average of 861K trips (50% of the 2019 baseline). Subway traffic decreased by 22% and is still markedly below pre-pandemic levels, with a weekday average of 1.4M trips (31% of the 2019 baseline). Vehicle traffic (through tolled MTA bridges and tunnels only) decreased by 7%, for a weekday average of 733K trips, which is 80% of the 2019 baseline.
- The Mobility and Engagement Index (MEI) for November 22–28 increased very slightly from the prior week (+0.4 citywide), largely driven by Manhattan (+12.9), after a large decrease the week before (-4.9). Other boroughs generally saw lower levels of activity, except for the Bronx which increased slightly (+2.3). Staten Island posted the largest drop (-8.3), while Queens (-4.9) and Brooklyn (-0.9) were also down.
- Estimated weekly average consumer spending from average credit and debit card spending in the NYC metro area for the week of November 9 increased from the prior week, from 89.6% to 91.5% relative to the January 2020 baseline. Preliminary data for the week of November 15 suggest this increasing trend will continue.

All information is publicly available data that NYCEDC organizes and presents. Data are the property of their source. Some data points may not refresh every week. Each indicator is from the most recent data available and does not represent a snapshot of a single point in time.

**Number of Initial NYC Unemployment Insurance Filings, March 21–November 28, 2020 (in thousands)**

Weekly employment information from the Department of Labor is not seasonally adjusted

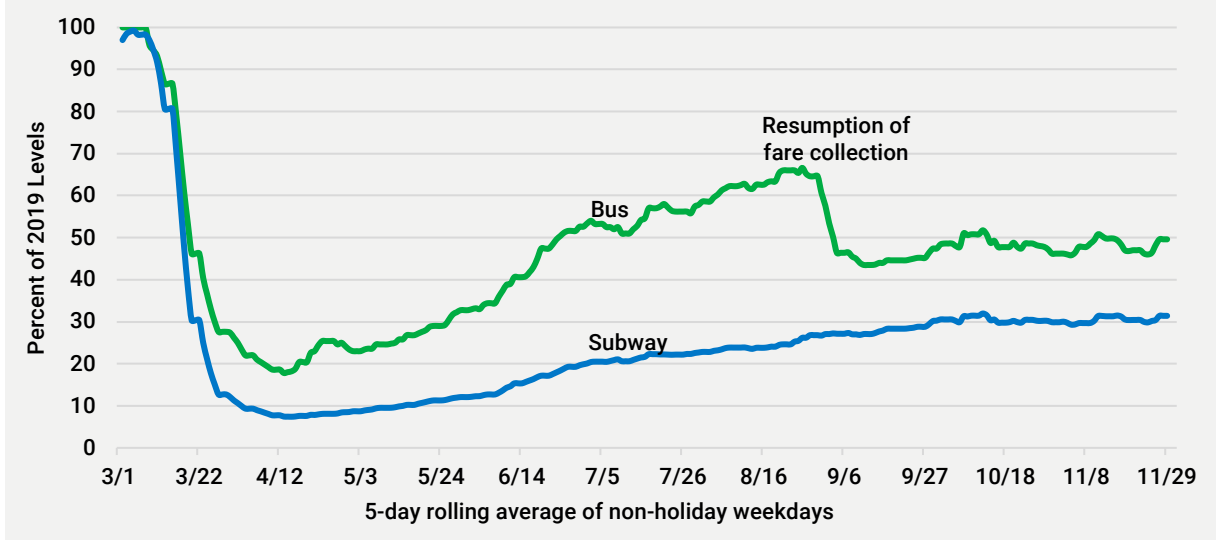


Source: [New York State Department of Labor](#)

**Current week:** November 28: 19,293     **Peak:** April 11: 184,525     **Previous Trough:** August 8: 28,447

**MTA Transportation Usage, Weekdays between March 1–November 29, 2020 (percent of 2019 levels)**

Five-day rolling average of non-holiday weekdays on bus and subway



Source: [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#)

Daily Total Estimated Ridership

**Bus:**     **Current weekday average:** November 29: 861,151     **Peak:** August 26: 1,361,400

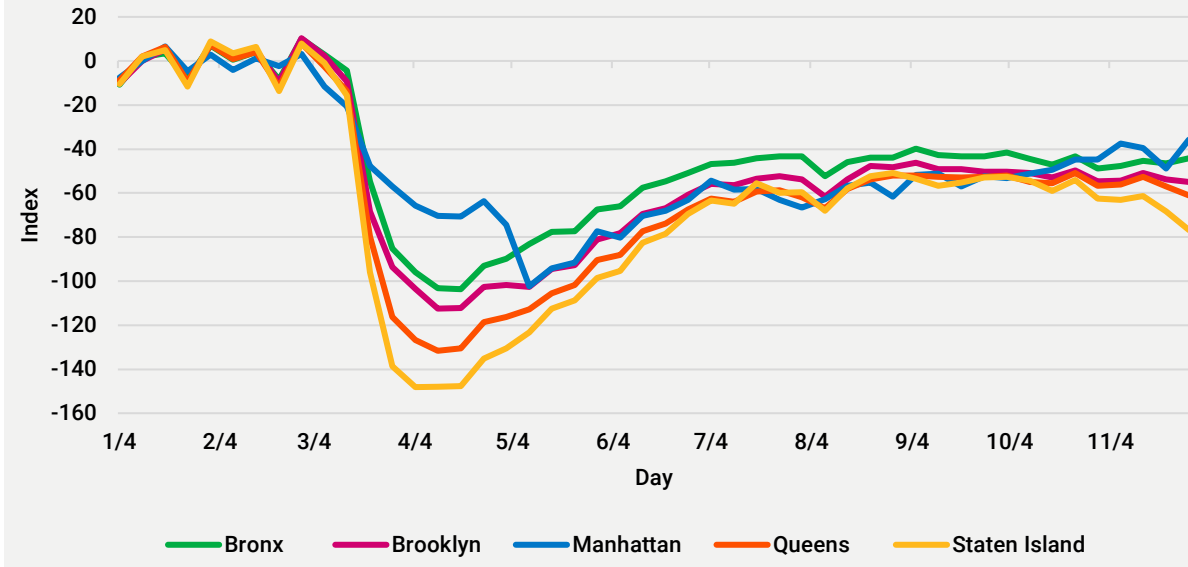
**Trough:** April 12: 279,100

**Subway:**     **Current weekday average:** November 29: 1,395,098     **Peak:** October 15: 1,857,697

**Trough:** April 12: 199,696

**Mobility and Engagement Index by Borough, January 4–November 28, 2020 (indexed)**

The Mobility and Engagement Index (MEI) is a composite of seven types of mobile phone geolocation data indicating activity outside the home, indexed to average January and February activity.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

**Current week:** November 28: -54.5    **Peak:** October 24: -48.4    **Trough:** April 11: -113.1

## About NYCEDC

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NYCEDC is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization that creates shared prosperity across New York City. Our projects and initiatives are about serving New Yorkers. We are working with and for communities through every step of the economic development process—bringing emerging industries to the five boroughs; creating the spaces and facilities they need to thrive and create jobs; giving New Yorkers the tools and training to succeed in those jobs; and investing in the public infrastructure and neighborhood development projects that make this city a great place to live, work, and do business. Ultimately, we strive to create a sustainable and resilient future, with shared prosperity and opportunity for all New Yorkers.

Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, or visit [edc.nyc](http://edc.nyc) to learn more about our projects and initiatives.

## The Economic Research & Policy Group at NYCEDC

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The Economic Research & Policy (ERP) Group performs industry and economic research to provide insights into key policy issues, conducts economic analysis of New York City projects, and tracks economic trends for policymakers and the public as a whole. ERP also supports NYCEDC in the evaluation of projects by setting up tools to assess, measure, and report on ideation and results. The team advances high-impact thought leadership on inclusive and innovation-driven economic development.

For more information, visit [edc.nyc/NYCeconomics](http://edc.nyc/NYCeconomics)  
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