

Economic Research & Policy Group (ERP)

## Weekly Recovery Dashboard: **March 7 and 14, 2021**

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### **Report Summary – Week of March 7**

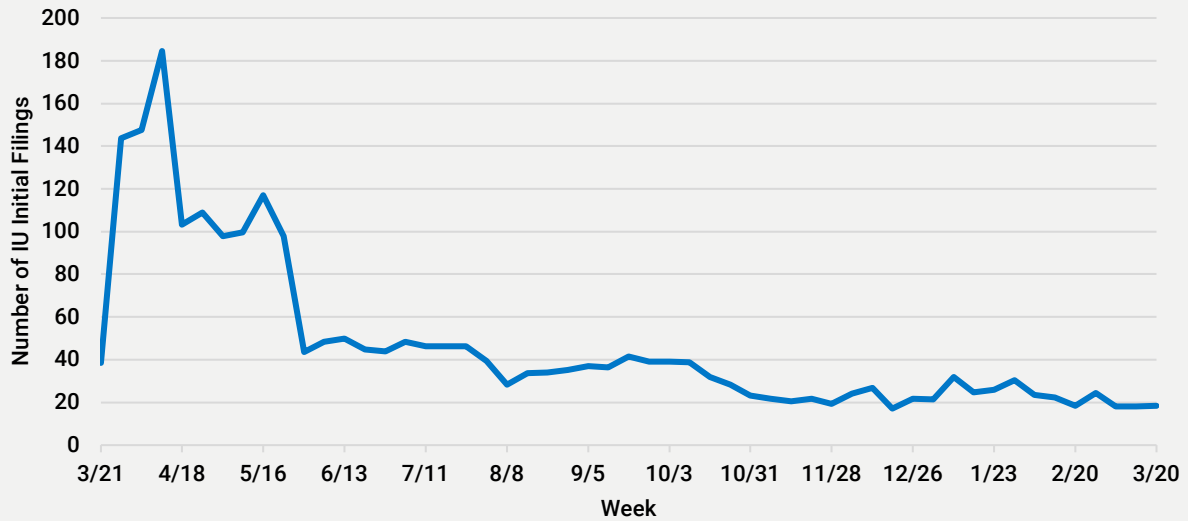
- The week of March 7 saw the number of initial unemployment filings (18,088) remain virtually unchanged (+13), remaining below 20,000 for the second week in a row. Given the back-and-forth of this past month, however, it is hard to know whether this is a temporary phenomenon or the beginning of a stable downward trend.
- The use of all transportation modes increased from the prior week (though overall ridership has held relatively stable since October). During weekdays March 8–14, bus traffic increased by 2% from the prior week for a weekday average of 1.1M trips (49% of the 2019 baseline). Subway traffic increased by 3%, but is still markedly below pre-pandemic levels, with a weekday average of 1.84M trips, which is 33% of the 2019 baseline.
- The Mobility and Engagement Index (MEI) for March 7–13 decreased slightly from the prior week (-1.1 citywide) to -52.3. Mobility and engagement decreased in all but one borough. Staten Island (-2.9) saw the largest fall in activity levels, followed by Queens (-1.7), Manhattan (-1.7), and Brooklyn (-0.9). The Bronx was the lone borough in which activity increased (+1.7) and has consistently held the highest level of activity on average since the spring 2020 trough.

### **Report Summary – Week of March 14**

- The week of March 14 saw the number of initial unemployment filings (18,319) increase very slightly (+231), remaining below 20,000 for the third week in a row. Although New York City did not follow the rest of the country, which saw the number of initial UI claims drop to its lowest point in a year, this represents a third week of stability near NYC's lowest weekly levels.
- The use of all transportation modes decreased from the prior week (though overall ridership has held relatively stable since October). During weekdays March 15–21, bus traffic decreased by 5% from the prior week for a weekday average of 1M trips (47% of the 2019 baseline). Subway traffic decreased by 1%, with a weekday average of 1.82M trips, which is 32% of the 2019 baseline.
- The Mobility and Engagement Index (MEI) for March 14–20 remained virtually unchanged from the prior week (-0.1 citywide) at -52.4. Mobility and engagement changes were sporadic. Brooklyn's activity (+1.4) increased, while Staten Island held stable (no change). Mobility in Queens (-0.7), the Bronx (-0.6), and Manhattan (-0.5) decreased slightly. Overall, NYC has seen a 36% increase in its MEI from the week of Phase 1 to the most recent week measured.

**Number of Initial NYC Unemployment Insurance Filings, March 21, 2020–March 20, 2021 (in thousands)**

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

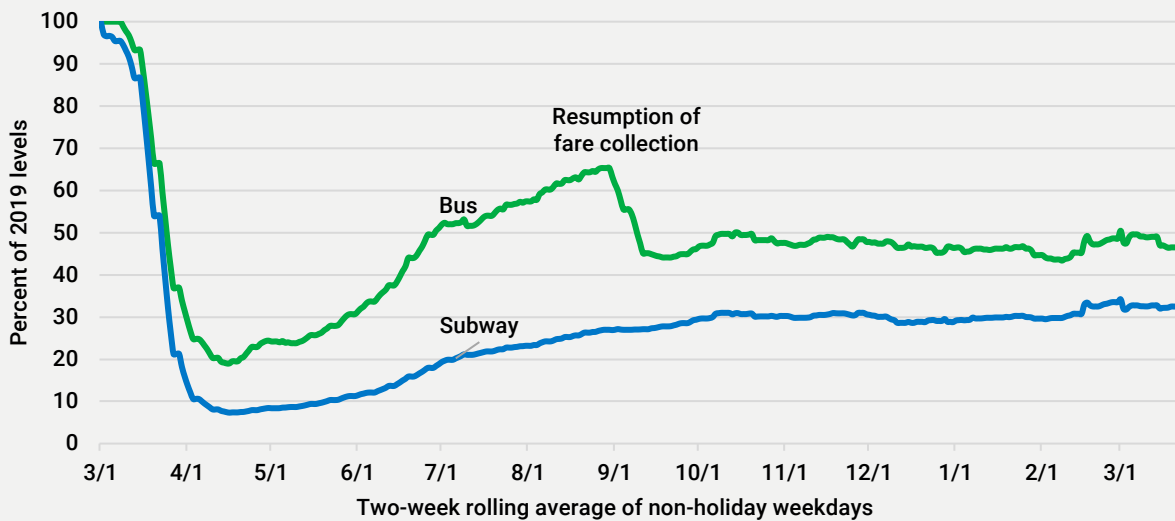


Source: [New York State Department of Labor](https://www.labor.ny.gov/)

**Current week:** Mar 13, 2021: 18,319      **Peak:** Apr 11, 2020: 184,525      **Trough:** Dec 19, 2020: 17,104

**MTA Transportation Usage, Weekdays between March 1, 2020–March 21, 2021 (percent of 2019 levels)**

Two-week rolling average of non-holiday weekdays on bus and subway (excluding weather events)



Source: [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](https://www.mta.info/)

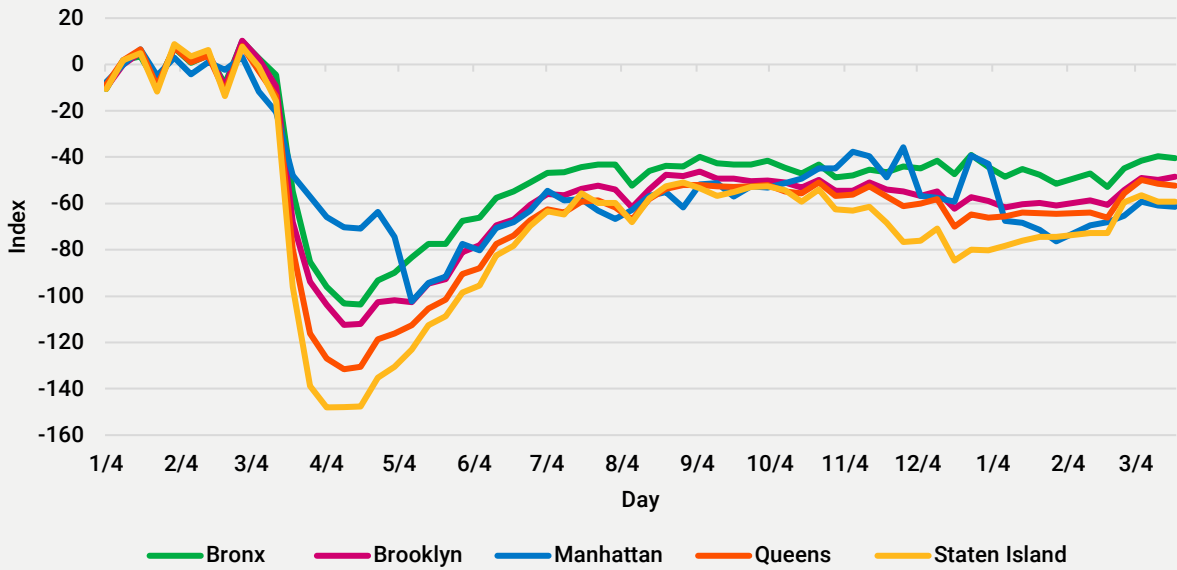
Daily Total Estimated Ridership

**Bus:**      **Current weekday average:** Mar 21, 2021: 1,039,537      **Peak:** Aug 26, 2020: 1,361,400  
                  **Trough:** Apr 12, 2020: 279,100

**Subway:**      **Current weekday average:** Mar 21, 2021: 1,817,158      **Peak:** Oct 15, 2020: 1,857,697  
                  **Trough:** Apr 12, 2020: 199,696

**Mobility and Engagement Index by Borough, January 4, 2020–March 20, 2021 (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 2020 activity.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

**Current week:** Mar 13, 2021: -52.4

**Peak:** Oct 24, 2020: -48.5

**Trough:** Apr 11, 2020: -113.0

## 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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