

# MTA Analysis & Insights

**Q: What trends did you notice in subway ridership?**

**A:** There was a **76% drop** in 2020 compared to 2019. Ridership fell from **1.686 billion** to **370 million**. By 2024, it recovered to **988 million**, showing gradual but incomplete recovery.

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**Q: Which transit mode recovered the fastest?**

**A: Bridges and Tunnels** recovered the fastest. By 2023, ridership had already reached **101% of 2019 levels**, making it the only mode to **fully recover and surpass pre-COVID traffic**.

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**Q: Between buses and subways, which mode showed a faster recovery in ridership?**

**A:** Although buses initially showed a quicker recovery in 2021, subway ridership ultimately recovered more by 2024. Subways reached **70.2%** of their pre-pandemic levels, while buses recovered to **59.91%**. Therefore, **subways showed a stronger overall recovery in ridership than buses** by 2024.

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**Q: How was LIRR impacted?**

**A:** LIRR dropped by **77%** in 2020, from **91.1 million** to **17.8 million** riders. In 2024, it reached **61.9 million**, a slower recovery compared to other transportations.

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**Q: What about Metro-North ridership?**

**A:** Metro-North dropped by **84%** in 2020, from **84.6million** to **11.4 million**. In 2024, it climbed back to **53.9 million**.

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**Q: Did car traffic bounce back quickly?**

**A:** Yes. Car traffic through Bridges & Tunnels **fell by 27% in 2020** (from 333 million to 206 million). Recovery began steadily in 2021, and by 2023 it slightly exceeded pre-pandemic levels, reaching 336 million. So **while the bounce back was not instant, it was strong and complete by 2023**.

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**Q: Which mode had the highest ridership before the pandemic?**

**A: Subways**, with **1.686 billion annual riders** in 2019.

**Q: Which had the lowest ridership before the pandemic?**

**A: Staten Island Railway, with 4.6 million total riders in 2019.**

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**Q: And during the pandemic?**

**A: Although subways experienced a sharp decline in the early months of the pandemic, they ultimately maintained the highest relative usage during pandemic, recovering to 48% in pandemic levels.**

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**Q: Is there a noticeable difference between weekdays and weekends?**

**A: Yes. Weekday ridership is higher** than weekends across most modes, especially for commuter-heavy lines like LIRR and Metro-North.

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**Q: When did ridership start to recover after the initial pandemic drop?**

**A: Recovery began in mid-2020, with significant growth in 2021.** For example, subway ridership grew from **370 million (2020)** to **760 million (2021)**.

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**Q: Were there any sudden drops or spikes later in the dataset?**

**A: Yes.** Sudden drops occurred during **holiday weeks, winter storms, and COVID-19 variant waves** (like Omicron in late 2021). Spikes appeared during **reopening phases and summer months**.