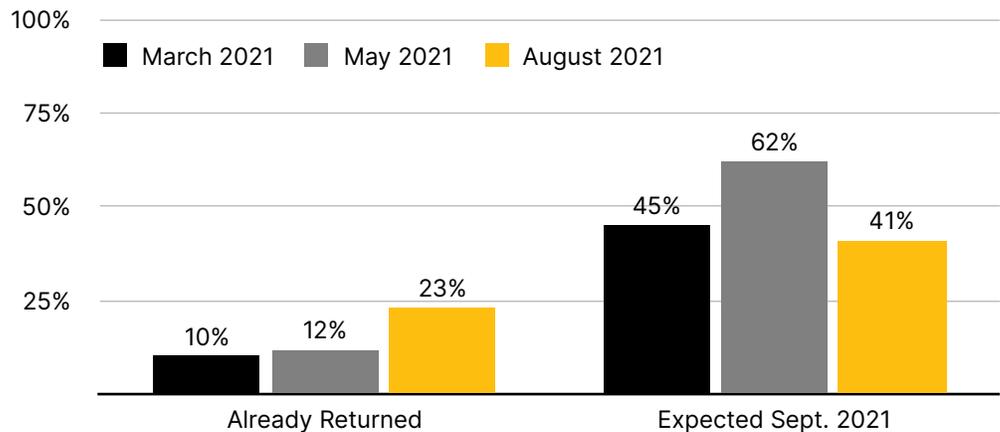


# Return to Office Survey Results

The Partnership for New York City surveyed major employers between August 9 and August 20, 2021, to develop projections on how long Manhattan's one million office workers will continue to work remotely.

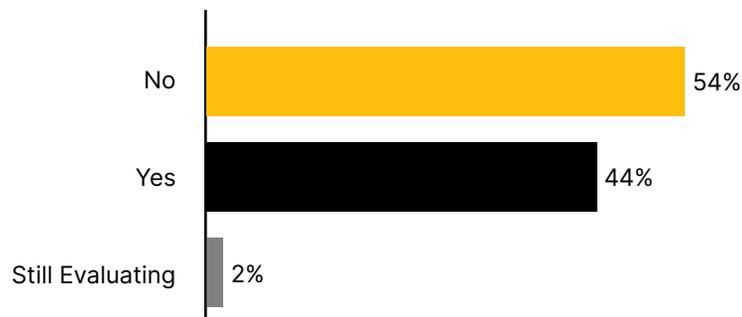
According to survey results, 23% of Manhattan office workers have returned to the workplace. Employers expect that 41% of office workers will return by September 30. This is still significantly below estimates from a previous Partnership survey in late May, when employers projected that 62% of employees would return to the office by the end of September. By January 2022, a full 76% of office employees are expected to return to the office. The new survey also finds that 81% of New York City-based employees of the companies represented in the survey are fully vaccinated.

## Return to office increased since May but September return delayed



## Delta variant has caused many employers to delay return-to-office plans

Q: Have you delayed return-to-office plans due to the recent increases in COVID-19 cases/rise of the Delta variant?

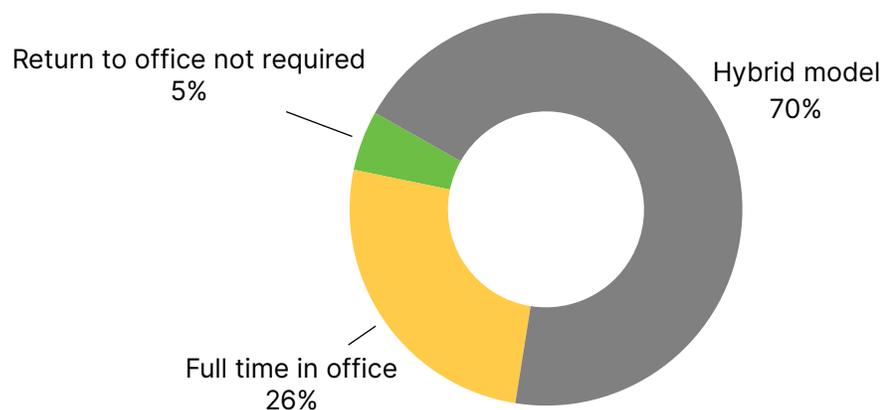


## The Partnership survey of employers found:

- 23% of Manhattan office employees have returned to the workplace as of late August, up from 12% in late May.
- Employers expect that 41% of employees will return by the end of September 2021—down from May estimates of 62%—and 76% of office workers are expected to return by the end of January 2022.
- 44% of employers have delayed their return-to-office plans because of the recent rise in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant, 54% have not delayed their return-to-office plans and 2% have not yet determined whether to delay.
  - Among employers that have delayed their return-to-office plans, 42% postponed for one month or less, 18% for between two and three months, 10% for three months or more, and 28% are evaluating on an ongoing basis.
- Employers in every industry reported increased office occupancy between May and August, with notable increases in the following:
  - 85% of real estate employees are currently in the office, up from 70% in May.
  - 29% of financial services employees are currently in the office, up from 14% in May.
  - 26% of consulting employees are currently in the office, up from 9% in May.
- Large employers (5,000+ employees) contributed most to the summer return to office, jumping from 8% in late May to 25% as of late August. Among firms with fewer than 500 employees, over one-third (34%) of office workers have returned, up from 24% in May.
- Consistent with past survey findings, the vast majority (70%) of employers are adopting a rotating or “hybrid” office schedule in which employees can work remotely for part of the week; only 26% of employers are requiring employees to be in the office full time; 5% will not require employees to return to the office at all.

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### Employer approach to return to office



Note: Total exceeds 100% due to rounding

### **The Partnership asked employers about vaccination and office policies:**

- 58% of companies that disclosed their vaccination policy plan to require that all employees are vaccinated for COVID-19 (with appropriate exemptions) and 44% plan to require that all office guests are vaccinated. Thirty-seven percent of companies reported not having a vaccination policy. Several employers noted that regular testing is required for unvaccinated employees.
- Of employers who provided information on office protocols for unvaccinated employees, 63% say they will restrict unvaccinated employees' attendance at in-person meetings, 57% will restrict attendance at client meetings and 43% will restrict business travel for unvaccinated employees.
- 49% of employers will require all returning employees to wear masks while in the office, 32% will mandate masks only for unvaccinated employees and 19% of employers will not have a mask mandate.

### **The Partnership asked employers for estimates of vaccination rates of their employees:**

- 81% of New York City-based workers are vaccinated, according to responses from companies that disclosed vaccination estimates (companies were asked for vaccination rates for all employees, not just Manhattan office employees).

### **The Partnership also asked employers whether they supported the city mandate requiring proof of vaccination for indoor dining and other activities:**

- The overwhelming majority (94%) of employers support the recent city mandate that requires customers to provide proof they have received at least one vaccine dose in order to enter indoor dining, fitness or entertainment facilities.

### **Additional information:**

- The majority of surveyed employers have offices in Midtown West (38%), Midtown East (33%) or the Financial District (16%).
- The majority of respondents are in financial services (36%), real estate (17%), law (11%), media (6%), tech (5%) and consulting (4%).
- The Partnership published its initial survey conducted in late May in their report [A Call for Action and Collaboration](#) and released subsequent surveys in [August](#) and [October 2020](#) and [March](#) and [June 2021](#).