New York City Scrapers

New York’s dramatic skyline, over a century in the making, has for years been the envy of cities around the world. From the very birth of the tall building typology, New York has been at the forefront of the scene. Even as recently as the 1970s, New York City alone contained over 50% of the world’s 150 m+ buildings. The city’s accomplishments, including both historic and under construction buildings, are impressive when examined in isolation as well as a part of the global whole. The study below examines the make-up and historical development of the New York City skyscraper.

By the end of 2011, 221 buildings 150 meters or taller will exist in New York City. This number, more than any other city save Hong Kong, makes up nearly 9% of the global total and 34% of the buildings in the United States.

In addition to these impressive figures, New York City has enjoyed a large number of records, including being the location of the first 150 meter building and the first supertall.

Map: Location of New York City Skyscrapers
Including all buildings 150m+

Office
Residential
Hotel
Mixed-use

Notes:
1. Three of New York’s 150 m+ buildings are not located in Manhattan and therefore not included in this map: The Brooklyn, Brooklyn; One Hanson Place, Brooklyn; and the Citicorp Building, Queens.
2. 150 meters was chosen as the minimum height threshold for this study to ensure accuracy of information.
Timeline of New York City Skyscraper Completion
Dots represent buildings: completion year and height; bars represent total number of buildings completed each year

History of the “World’s Tallest Building”
According to CTBUH Height Criteria: Height to Architectural Top

A remarkable 10 of the 16 skyscrapers which have enjoyed the title of the world’s tallest were located in New York, giving the city the title for a combined total of 84 out of 126 years.

As late as 1970, New York City contained 52% of the world’s 150 m+ buildings and 59% of USA buildings. These numbers are now at 9% and 34% respectively.

Far from slowing after the events of 9/11, 39 buildings 150 m+ have completed in NYC from 2002–2011, 18% of the city’s current total.