



Boston's Night Time Economy

December 15th, 2023
Research Division

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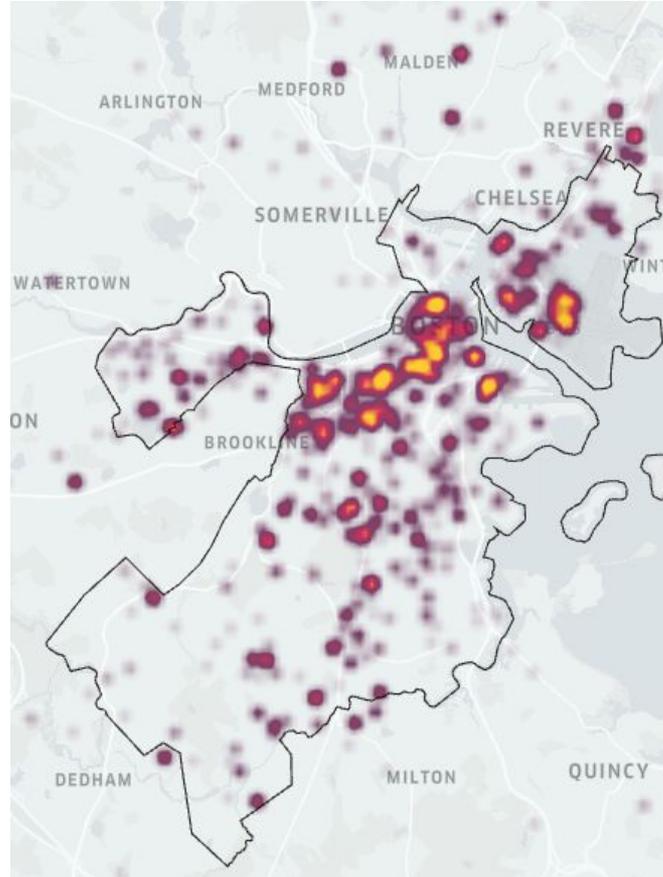
1. **Night time economy overview**
2. **Night time industry breakdown**
 - Leisure and hospitality industries
 - Trade and transportation industries
3. **Night shift workers demographic profile**

1.

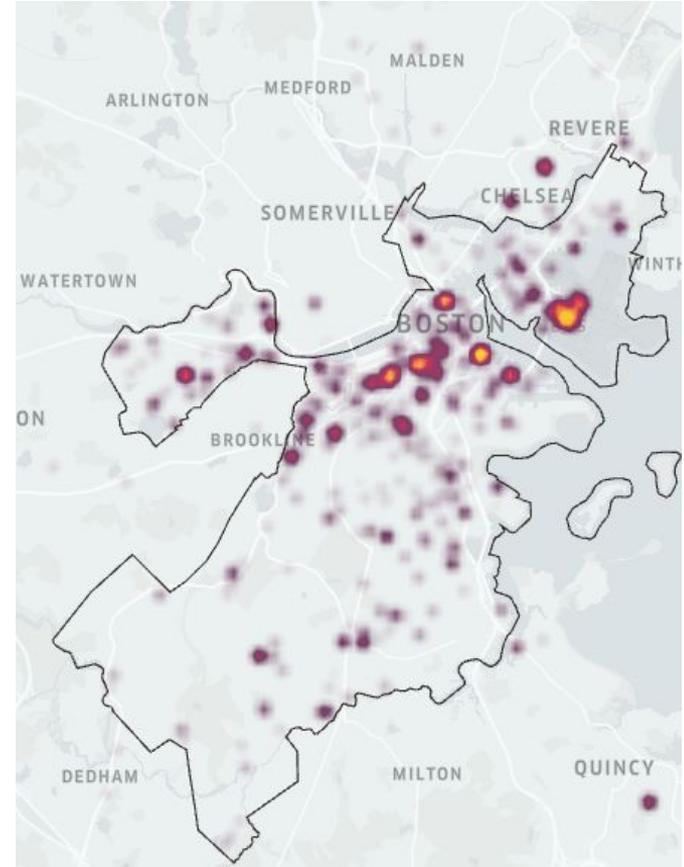
Night time economy overview



Trips starting from 9 pm to 1 am



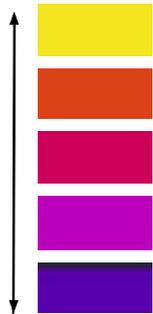
Trips starting from 1 am to 5 am



Parts of Downtown, Back Bay, South Boston Waterfront and the airport are active through the night.

10% of trips in the city happen after 9 pm and before 5 am

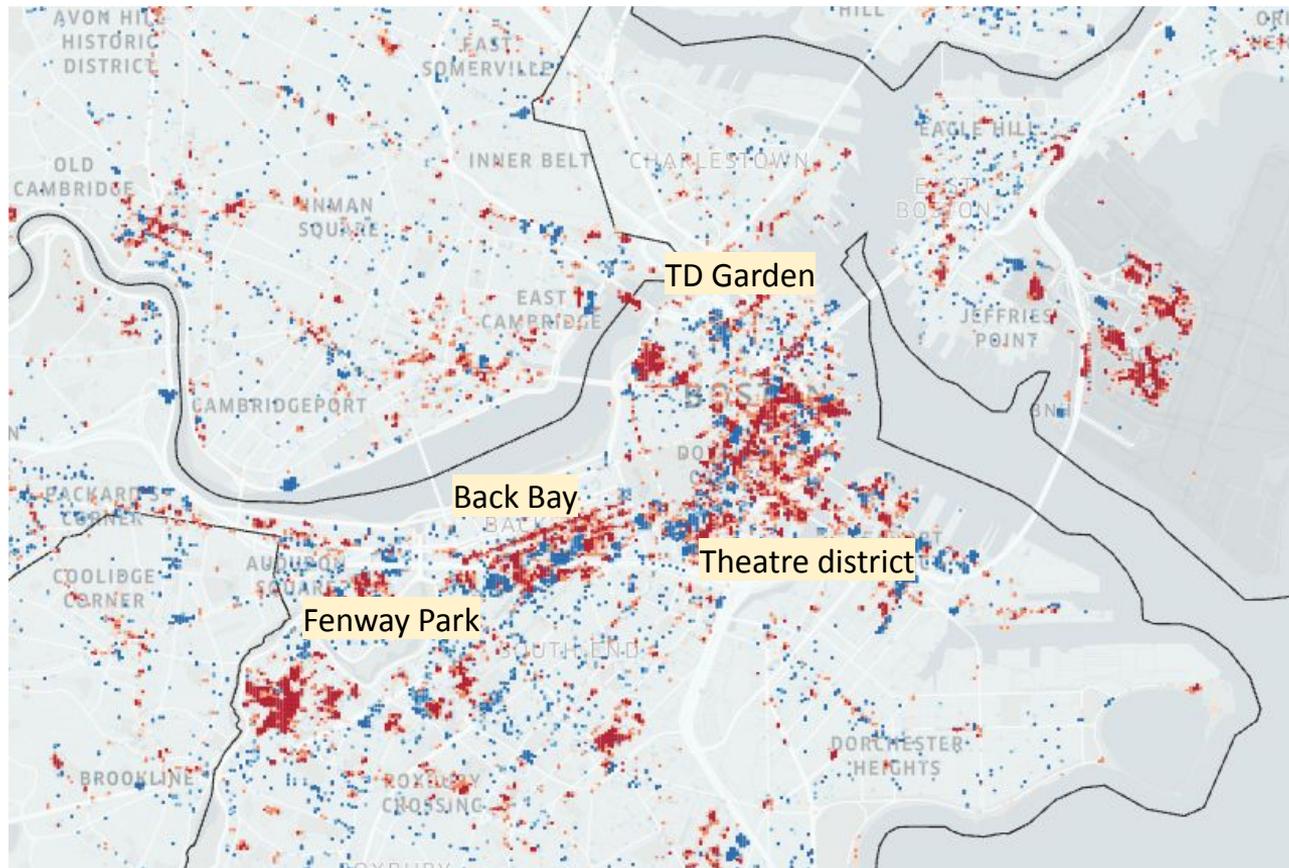
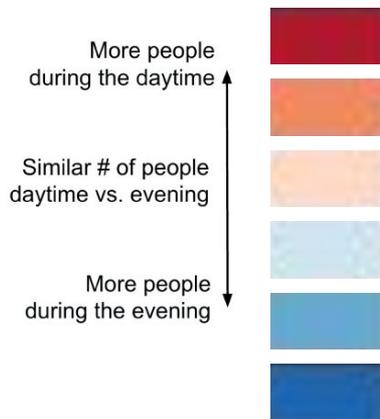
More trips



Fewer trips

Source: 2023 Cuebiq mobility data. Cuebiq collects first-party data from anonymized users who have opted-in to provide access to their location data anonymously through a GDPR-compliant framework. BPDA Research Division Analysis. Basemap: Mapbox, kepler.gl

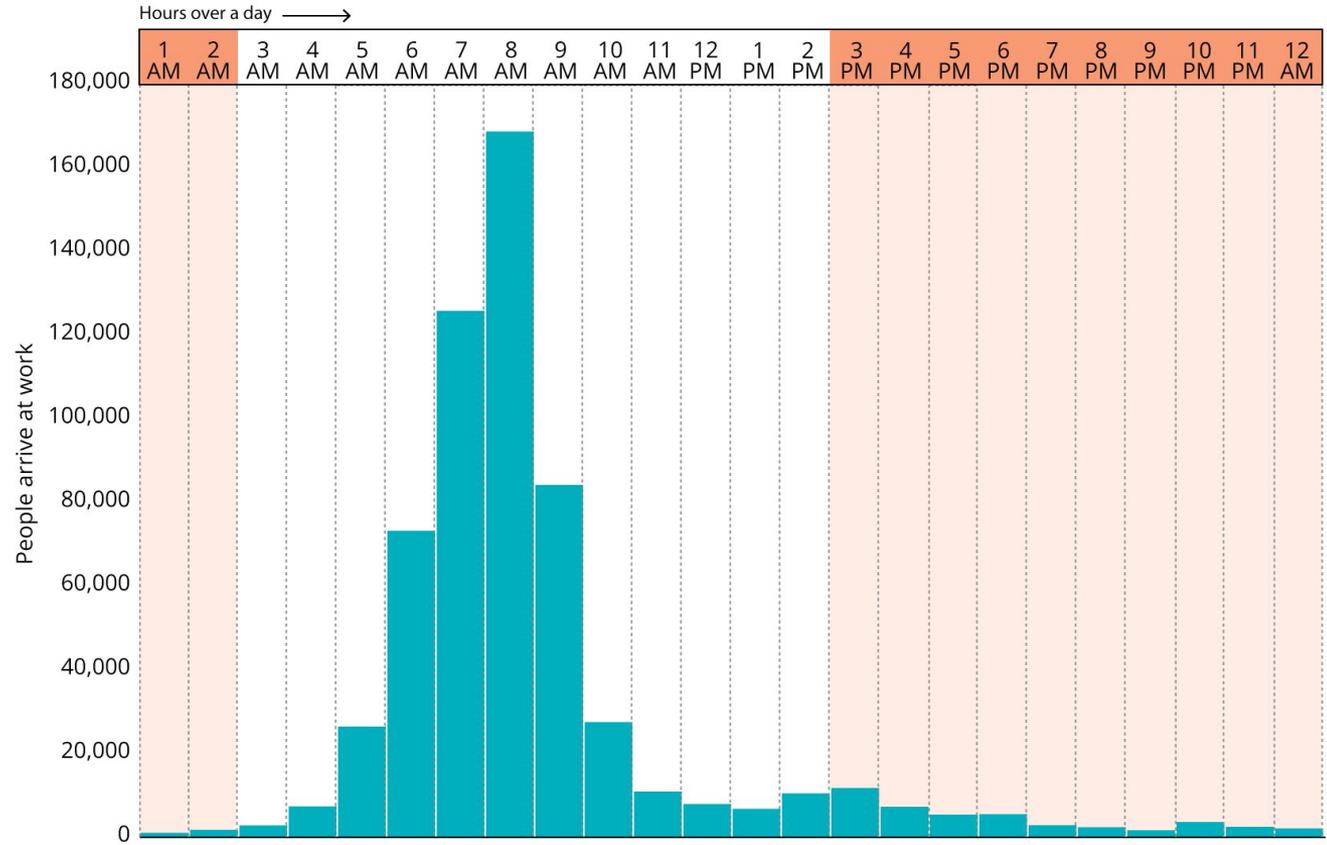
Areas in blue see more activity in the evening/night than during the day



Source: Cueb iq collects first-party data from anonymized users who have opted-in to provide access to their location data anonymously, through a GDPR-compliant framework. To preserve privacy, home and work locations are aggregated to the census-block group level. BPDA Research Division Analysis. Basemap: Mapbox, kepler.gl

~46,000 workers in Suffolk County (7.1%) work the night shift

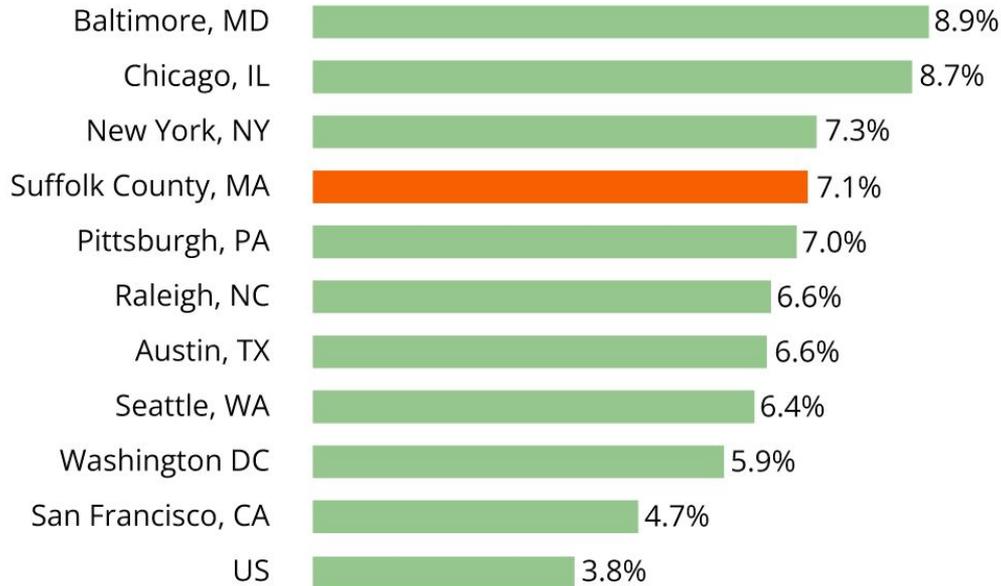
Workers arriving for work between 3 p.m. and 2 a.m. are defined as “night shift”



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Suffolk County has a relatively high share of night shift workers compared to other peer cities and the national level

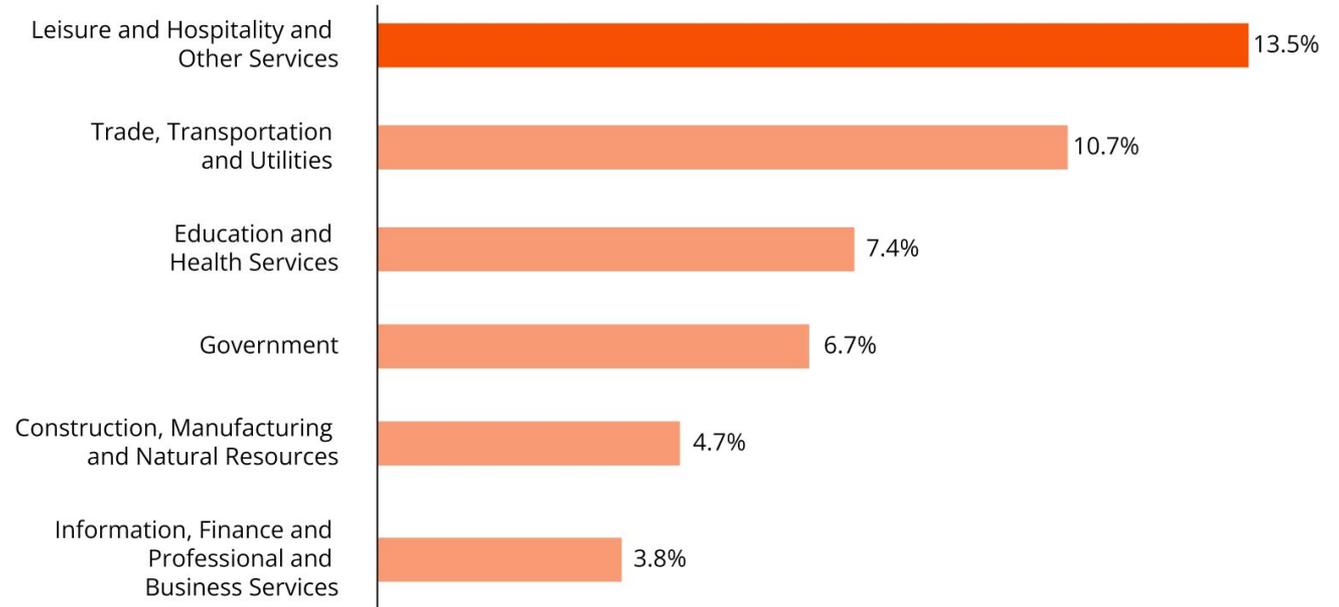
Night shift workers share over total workers



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, 2021 American Community Survey for other cities and the U.S.
BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Leisure and
hospitality
industries have
the highest
share of night
shift workers

Night shift worker share by supersectors in Suffolk County

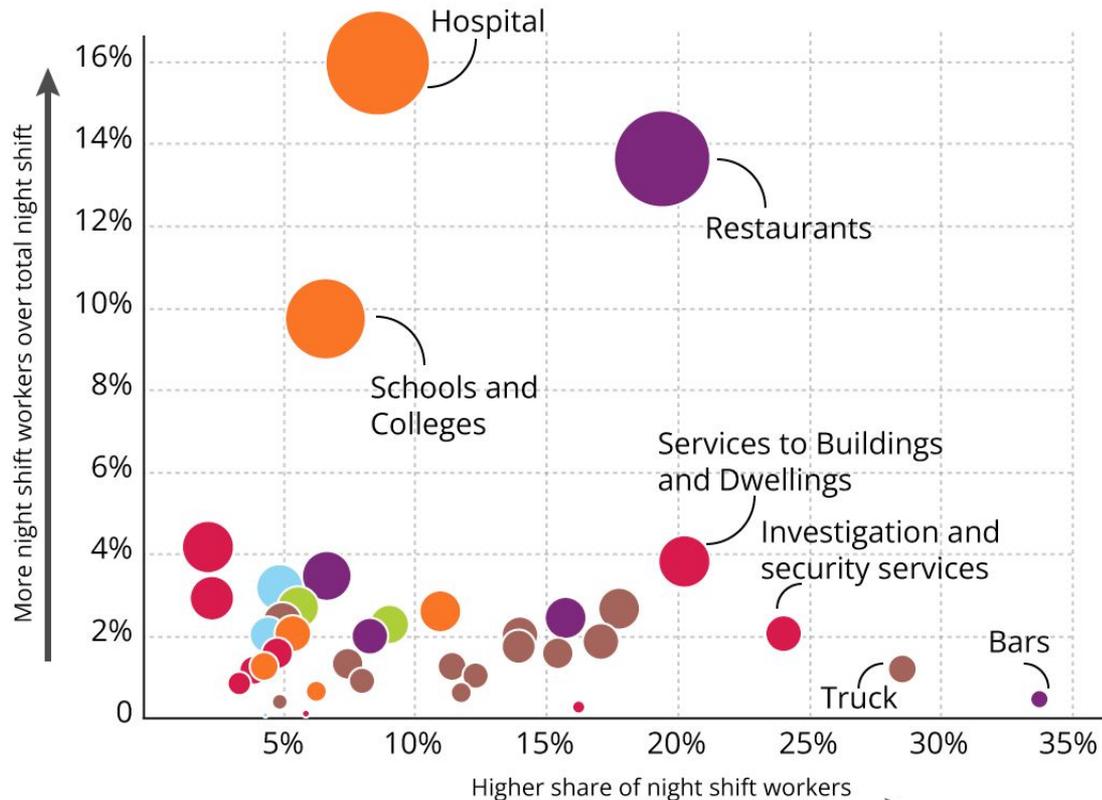
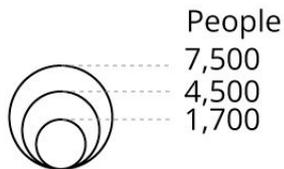


Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Hospitals and restaurants are the two largest industries for nighttime workers

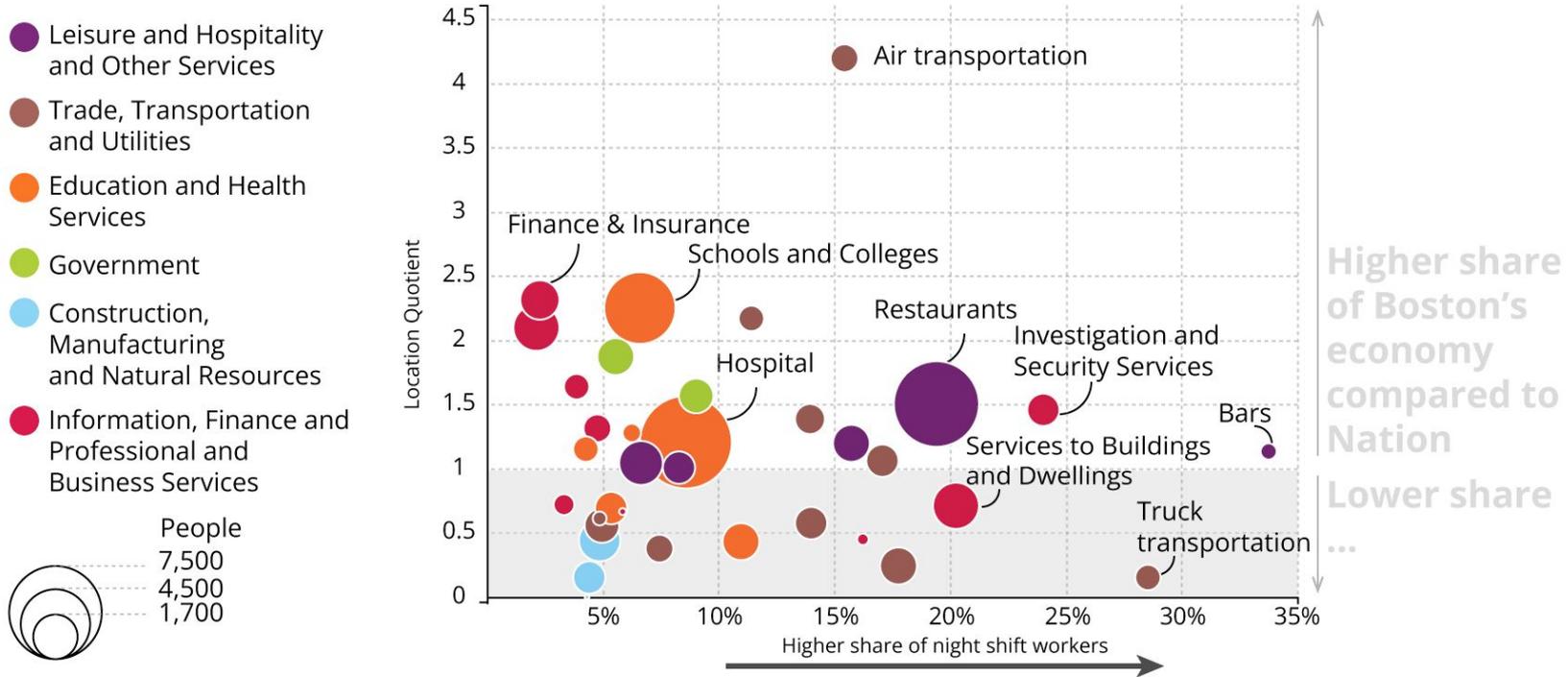
Nighttime workers in Suffolk County

- Leisure and Hospitality and Other Services
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities
- Education and Health Services
- Government
- Construction, Manufacturing and Natural Resources
- Information, Finance and Professional and Business Services



Restaurant and hospital employment makes up a larger share of Boston's economy compared to the nation.

Nighttime workers in Suffolk County



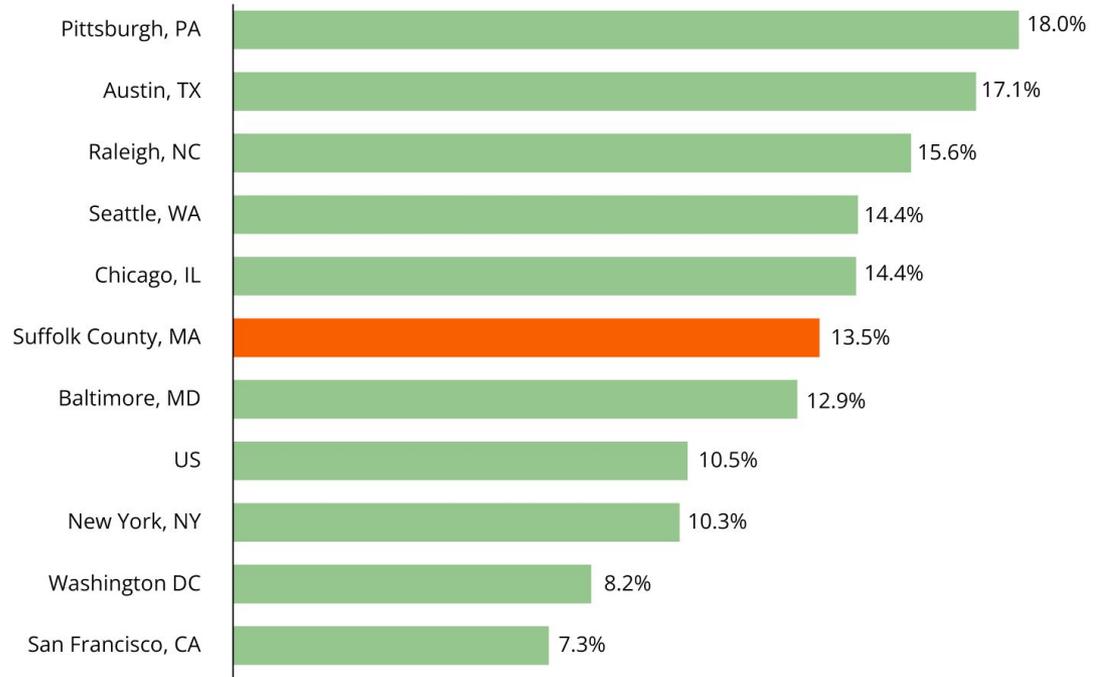
Note: Location quotient equals to location concentration divided by national concentration.
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

2.

Leisure and Hospitality Industries



Night shift worker share in Leisure and Hospitality and Other Services

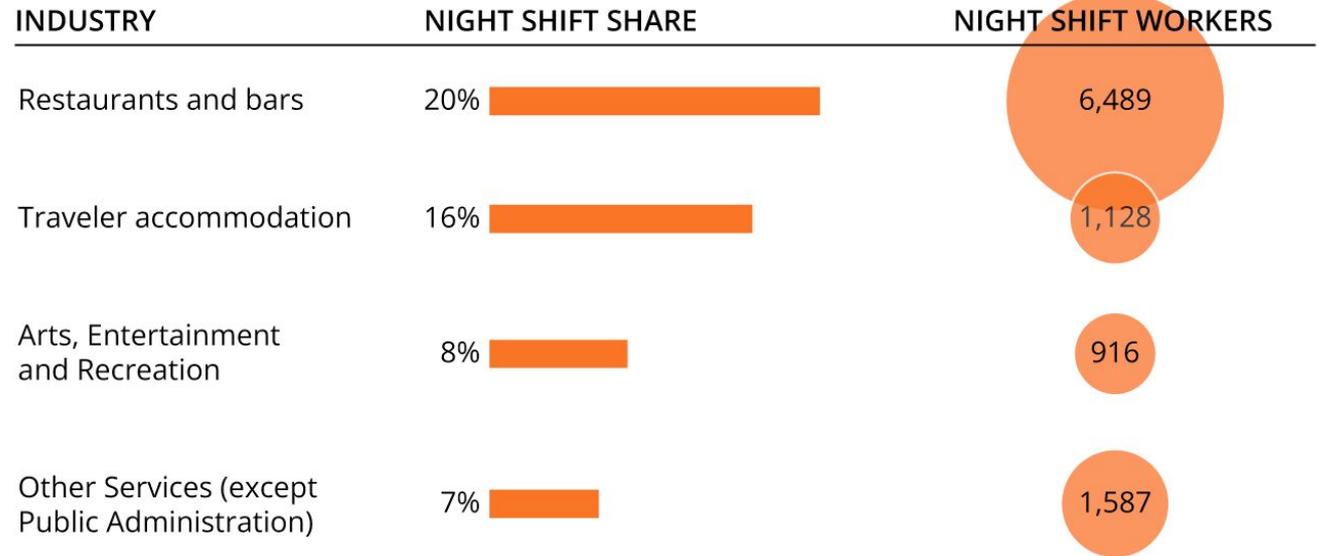


**13.5% of Suffolk
County's leisure and
hospitality workers
work the night shift**

Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, 2021 American Community Survey for other cities and the U.S.
BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Leisure and Hospitality Workers in Suffolk County

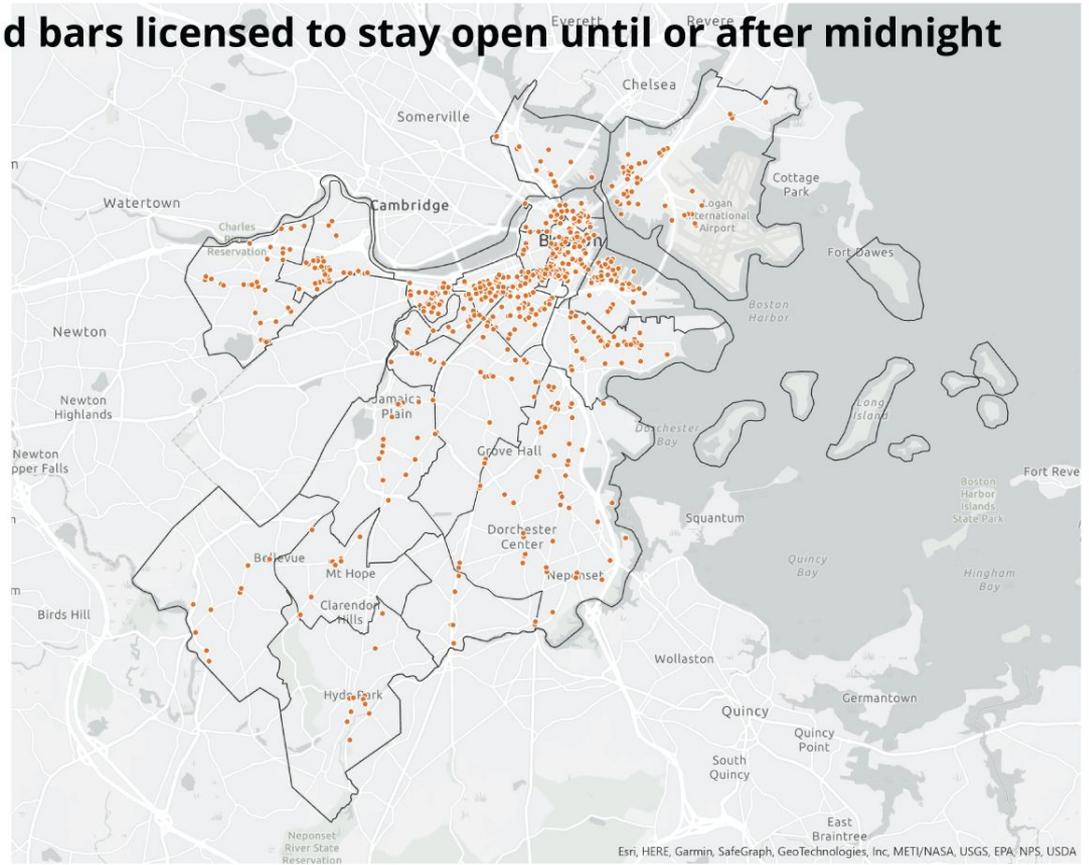
20% of restaurant and bar workers work the night shift



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Nearly 40% of restaurants in Boston are allowed to stay open until midnight or later

Restaurants and bars licensed to stay open until or after midnight

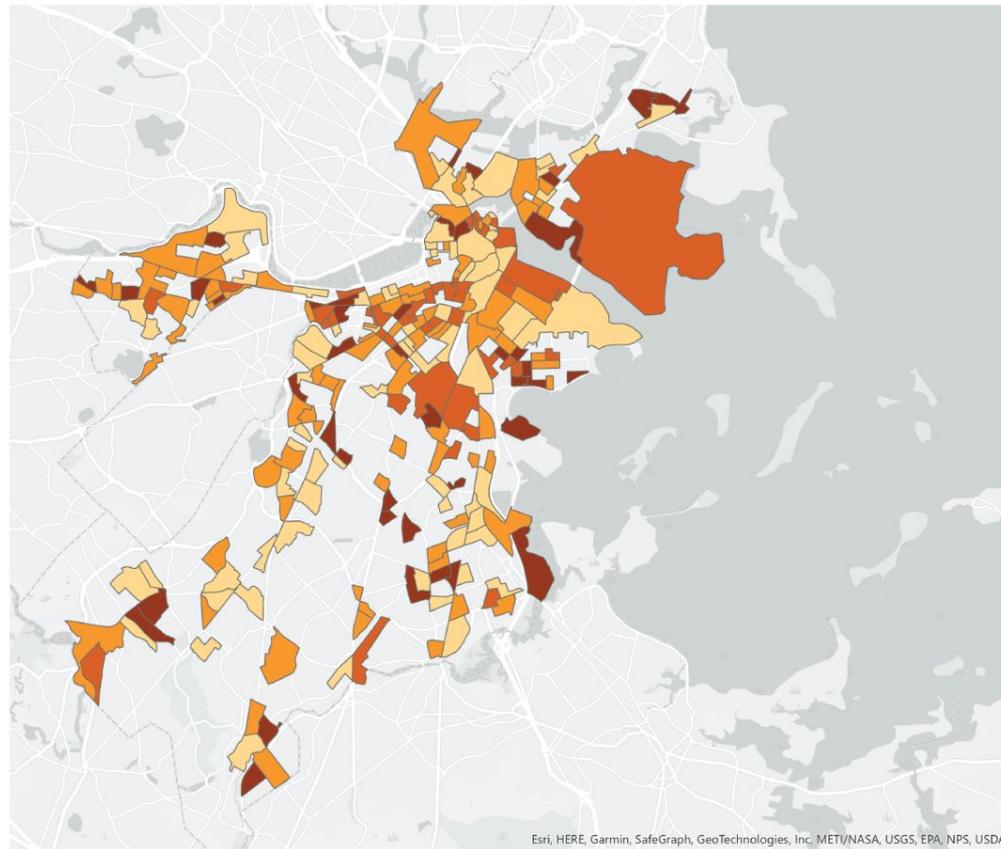


Note: According to data achieved on 02/10/2023, a total of 2,330 restaurants and bars can be found, of which 897 businesses are licensed to stay open until or past midnight.

Source: Boston Licensing Board, Yelp, Google, individual business websites. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

...but there is not a clear geographic pattern in share of restaurants that are licensed to stay open late

Share of Restaurants and Bars Licensed to Stay Open until Midnight or Later

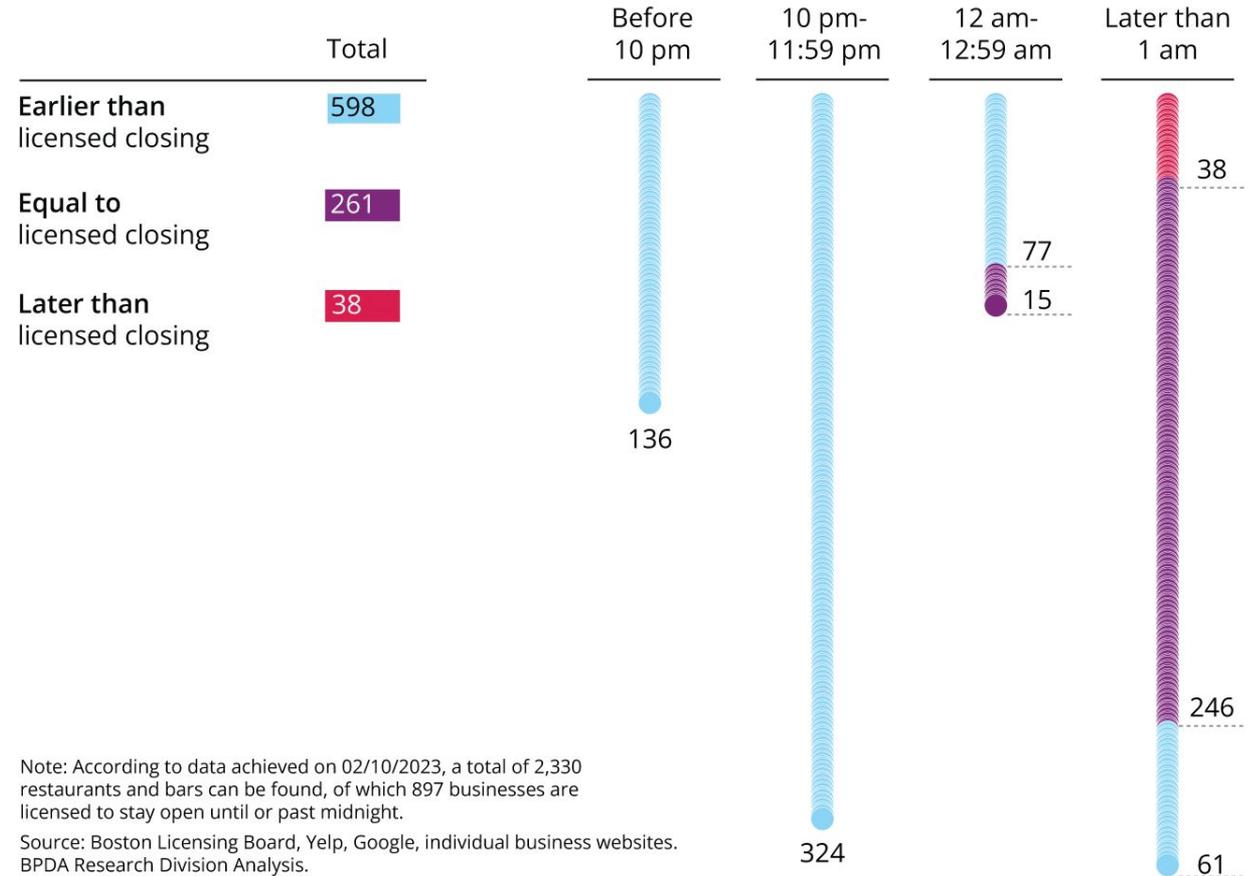


Note: According to data achieved on 02/10/2023, a total of 2,330 restaurants and bars can be found, of which 897 businesses are licensed to stay open until or past midnight.

Source: Boston Licensing Board, Yelp, Google, individual business websites. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

66% of these restaurants actually close earlier than their licensed closing hours

Restaurants licensed to stay open until midnight or later - actual closing hours

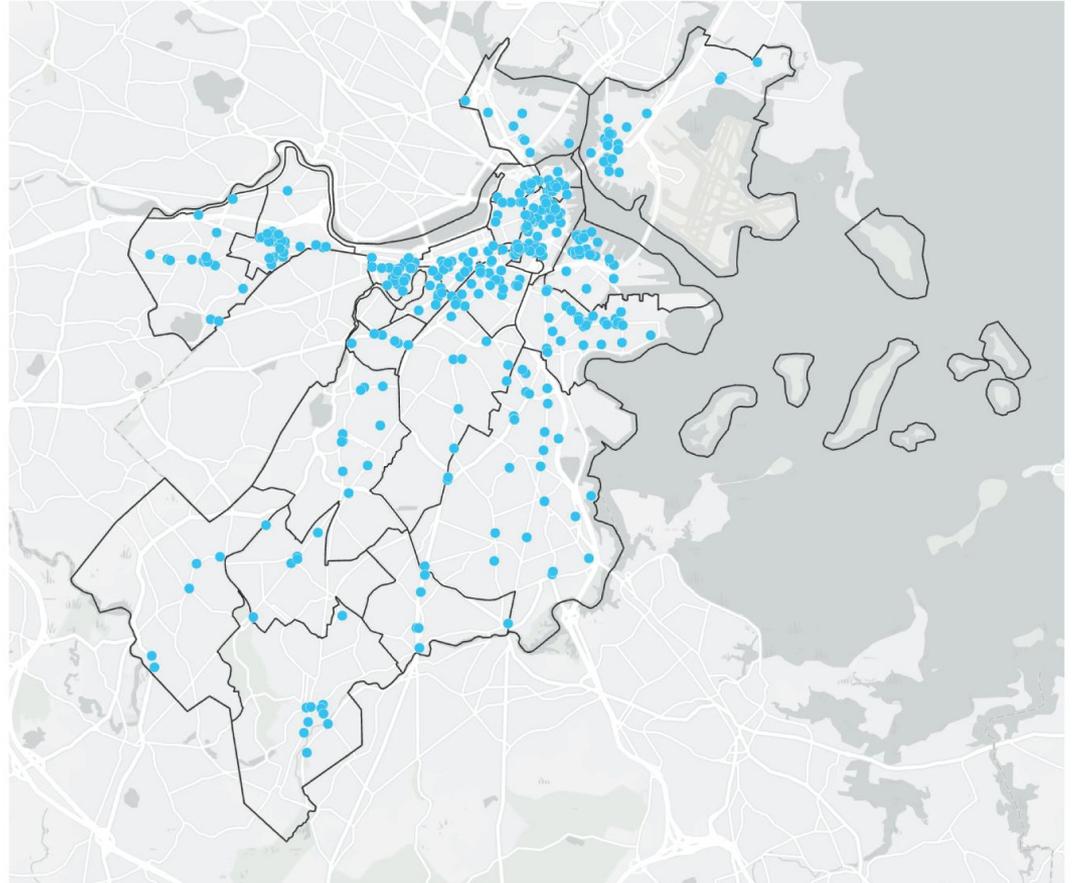


Note: According to data achieved on 02/10/2023, a total of 2,330 restaurants and bars can be found, of which 897 businesses are licensed to stay open until or past midnight.

Source: Boston Licensing Board, Yelp, Google, individual business websites. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Restaurants and bars that **actually** stay open until midnight or later

At least 437 restaurants and bars actually stay open until midnight or later

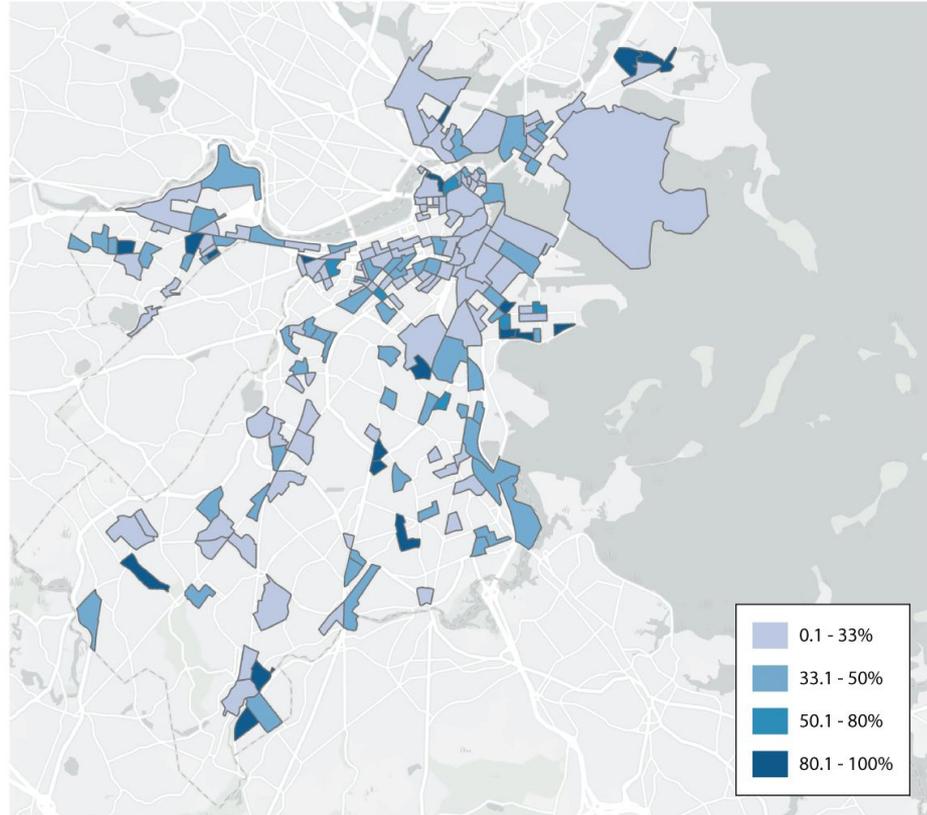


Note: According to data achieved on 02/10/2023, a total of 2,330 restaurants and bars can be found, of which 897 businesses are licensed to stay open until or past midnight.

Source: Boston Licensing Board, Yelp, Google, individual business websites. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

...but again, there is not a clear geographic pattern in share of restaurants that actually stay open late

Shares of restaurants and bars that **actually** stay open until midnight or later



Note: According to data achieved on 02/10/2023, a total of 2,330 restaurants and bars can be found, of which 897 businesses are licensed to stay open until or past midnight.
Source: Boston Licensing Board, Yelp, Google, individual business websites. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Hotels are an important part of Boston's night time economy

16% of hotel workers work the night shift

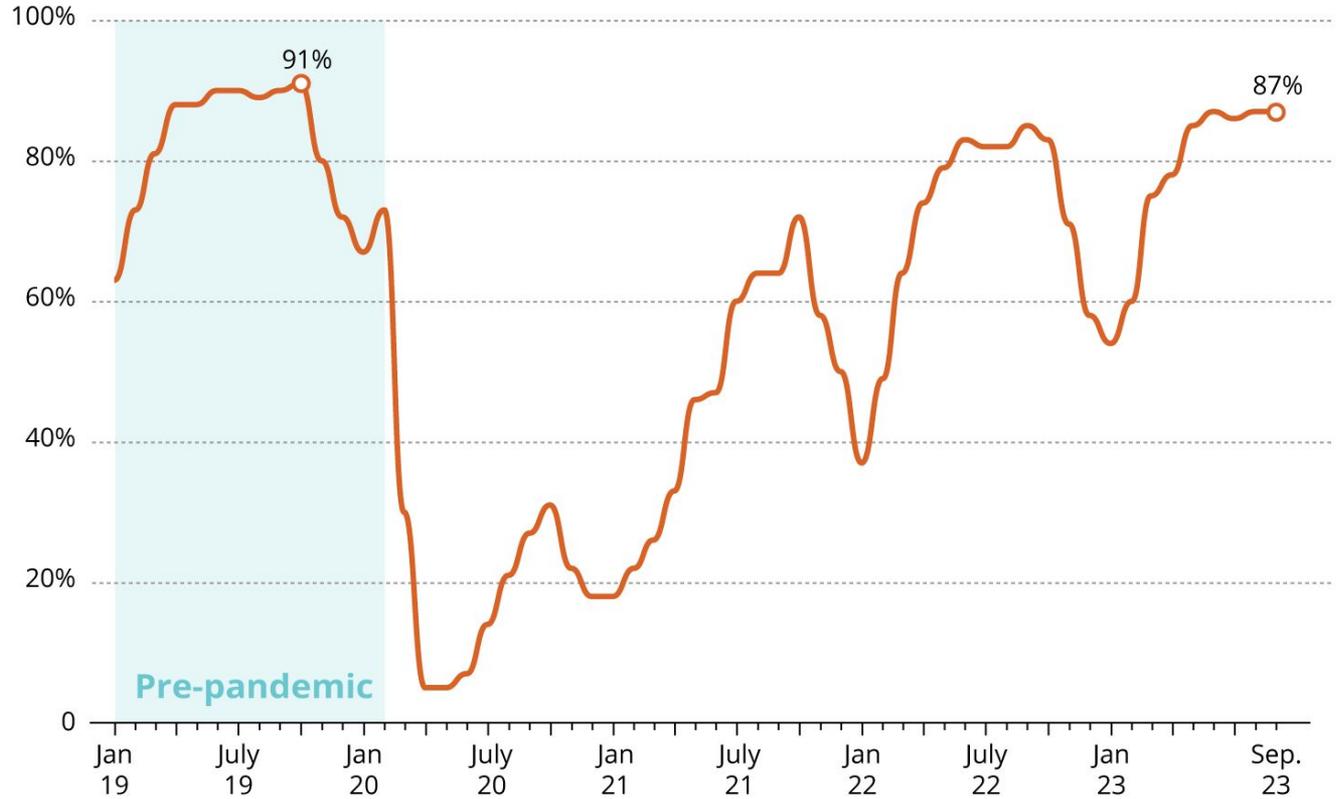
Hotels in Boston



Note: According to data achieved on 02/10/2023, a total of 95 hotels are found in Boston.
Source: Boston Licensing Board. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Boston hotel occupancy rates have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels

Hotel occupancy Rate since January 2019



Source: Boston Economic Indicators Dashboard. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Concerts, theater, and spectator sports are also important parts of Boston's night time economy

Boston ranks as the sixth largest concert market in the country

2023 CONCERT MARKET RANKINGS

RANK	RANK CHANGE	MARKET	2022 REPORTED GROSS	2022 REPORTED TICKETS SOLD	2022 AVG. TICKET PRICE	2022 AVG. TICKET PRICE CHANGE	2022 REPORTED SHOWS	2023 DMA RANK	DMA CHANGE
1	2	New York	\$ 796,613,879	7,568,956	\$ 105.25	27%	3,240	1	-
2	-1	Las Vegas	\$ 518,813,927	3,420,314	\$ 151.69	-21%	966	40	-
3	-1	Los Angeles	\$ 515,075,052	4,458,618	\$ 115.52	17%	841	2	-
4	1	Chicago	\$ 295,681,068	3,291,100	\$ 89.84	12%	1,207	3	-
5	-1	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose	\$ 276,405,667	3,029,716	\$ 91.23	-7%	803	6	-
6	16	Boston	\$ 241,196,035	3,007,936	\$ 80.19	25%	1,756	9	1
7	5	Miami	\$ 207,883,962	1,812,116	\$ 114.72	16%	399	16	2
8	-1	Dallas-Ft. Worth	\$ 206,799,956	2,252,572	\$ 91.81	3%	394	5	-
9	10	Seattle-Tacoma	\$ 199,495,942	2,377,347	\$ 83.92	27%	1,137	14	-2
10	4	Washington	\$ 194,070,404	2,642,273	\$ 73.45	-17%	1,789	7	2
11	-5	Atlanta	\$ 170,879,598	2,088,706	\$ 81.81	-19%	748	10	-3
12	-3	Nashville	\$ 168,859,507	2,074,789	\$ 81.39	6%	896	29	-
13	-2	Philadelphia	\$ 164,812,261	2,013,176	\$ 81.87	7%	811	4	-
14	-1	Detroit	\$ 164,665,824	2,140,552	\$ 76.93	6%	430	13	2
15	-5	Houston	\$ 138,209,762	1,374,414	\$ 100.56	20%	439	8	-
16	-8	Denver	\$ 134,568,071	1,569,758	\$ 85.73	7%	412	17	-1
17	-2	Minneapolis-St. Paul	\$ 129,671,417	1,964,182	\$ 66.02	-26%	974	15	-1
18	7	Orlando-Daytona Beach	\$ 125,388,650	1,309,441	\$ 95.76	20%	332	18	-1
19	-3	Phoenix	\$ 118,125,380	1,341,434	\$ 88.06	15%	364	12	-1
20	-2	Tampa-St. Petersburg	\$ 110,729,314	1,272,964	\$ 86.99	-2%	480	11	2

3.

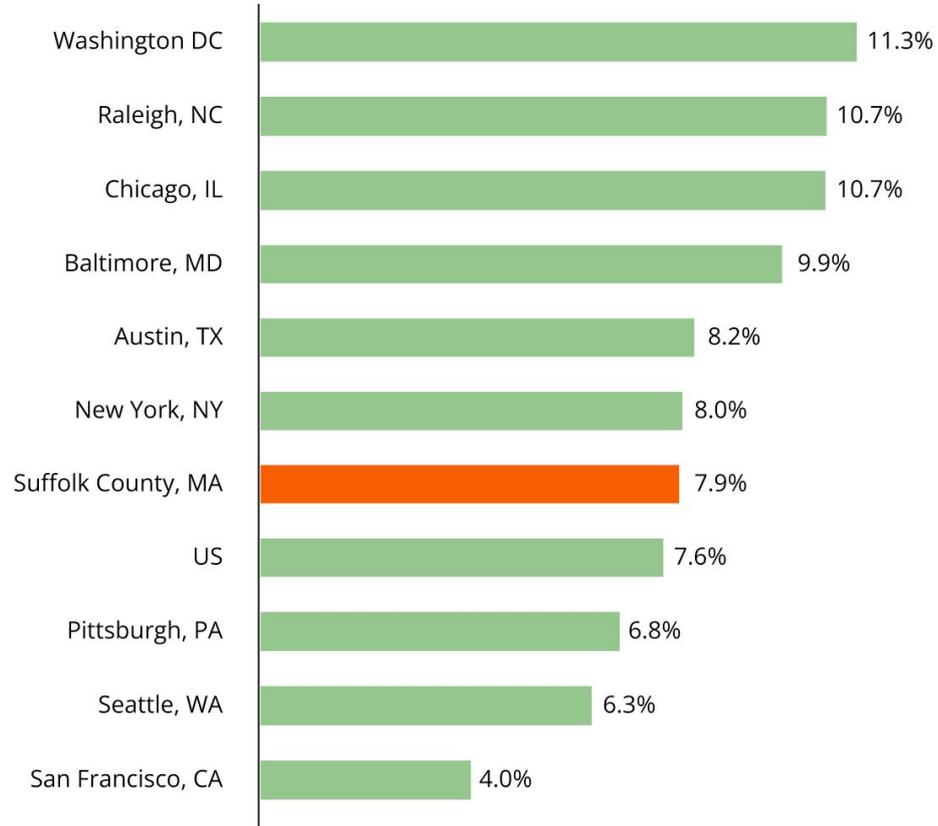
Trade and Transportation Industries



**boston planning &
development agency**

**7.9% of Suffolk
County workers in
retail and wholesale
trade work the
nightshift**

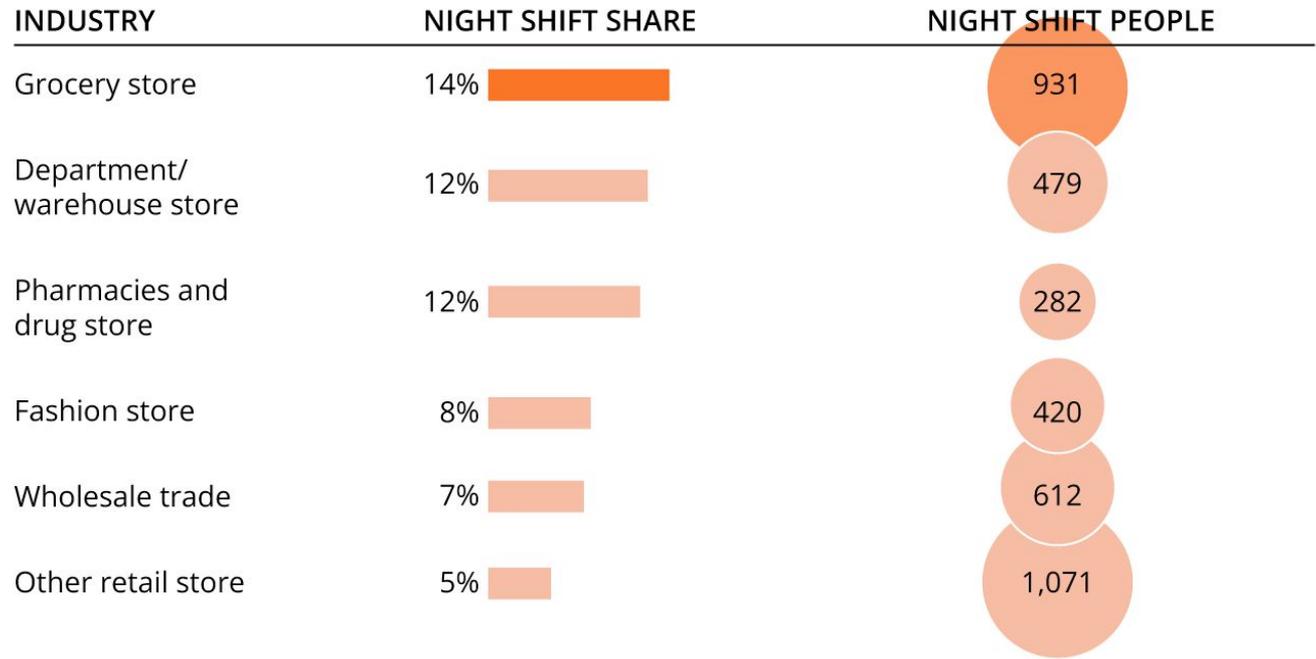
Night shift worker share in retail and wholesale trade



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, 2021 American Community Survey for other cities and the U.S.
BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Retail and Wholesale Trade Workers in Suffolk County

14% of grocery stores workers work the night shift



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

90% of food and liquor stores in Boston close before 12 am

Food and liquor stores in Boston

Closing Time

before 10 pm

77

10 pm- 11:59 pm

183

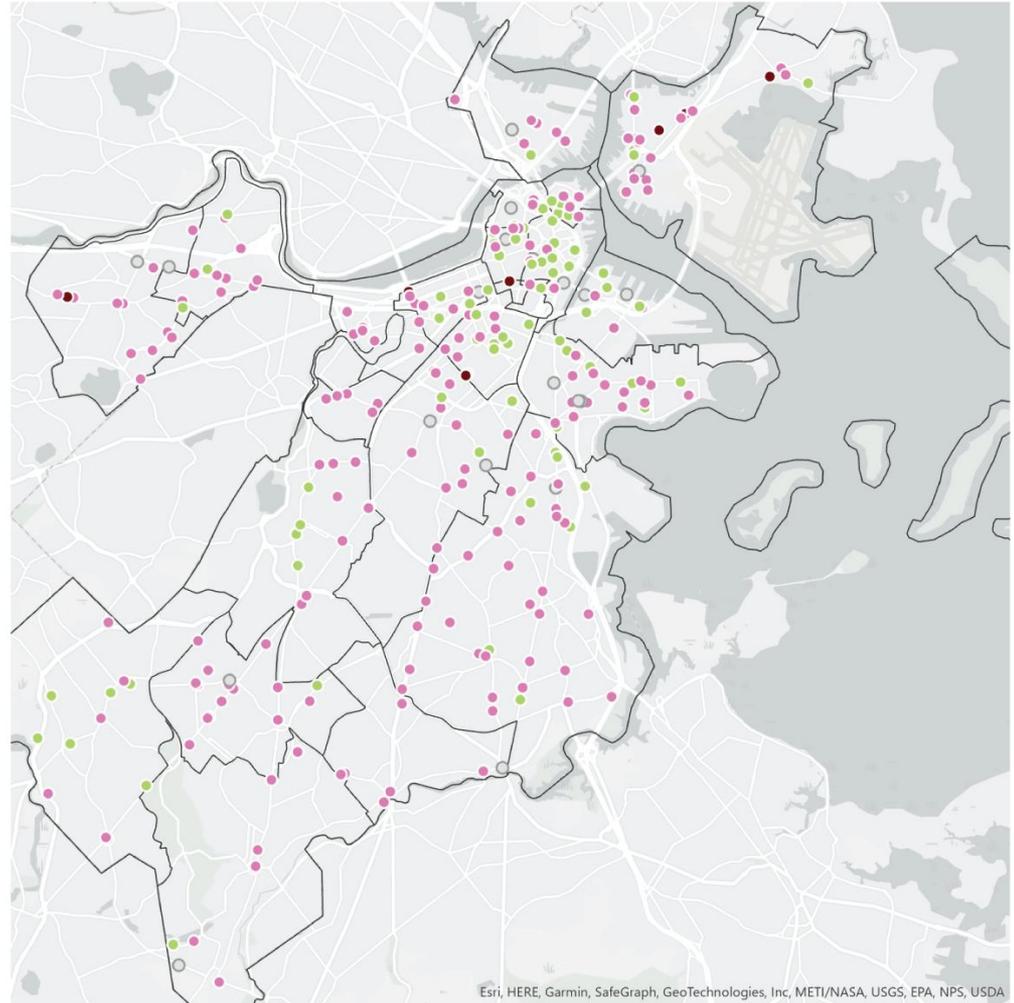
later than 12 am

7

Data unavailable

21

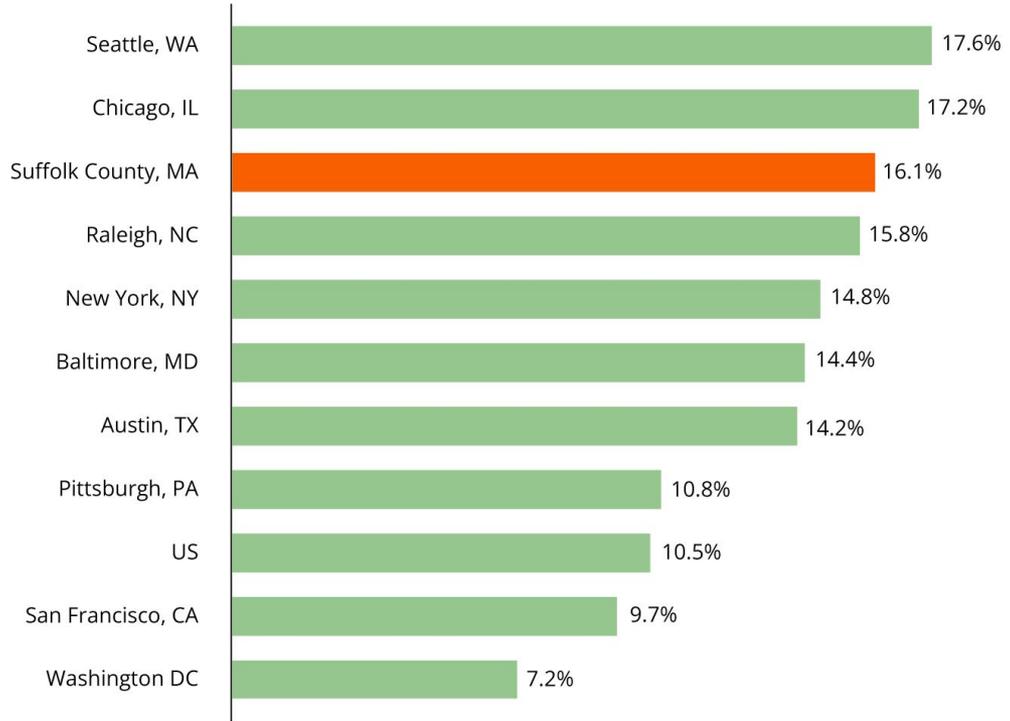
Note: According to data achieved on 02/10/2023, a total of 288 food and liquor stores can be found, of which 21 stores cannot be found
Source: Boston Licensing Board, Google, individual business websites. BPDA Research Division Analysis.



16.1% of Suffolk County workers in transportation work the night shift

Chicago and NYC have 24/7 subway systems. Many other cities have subways that run 5am-midnight.

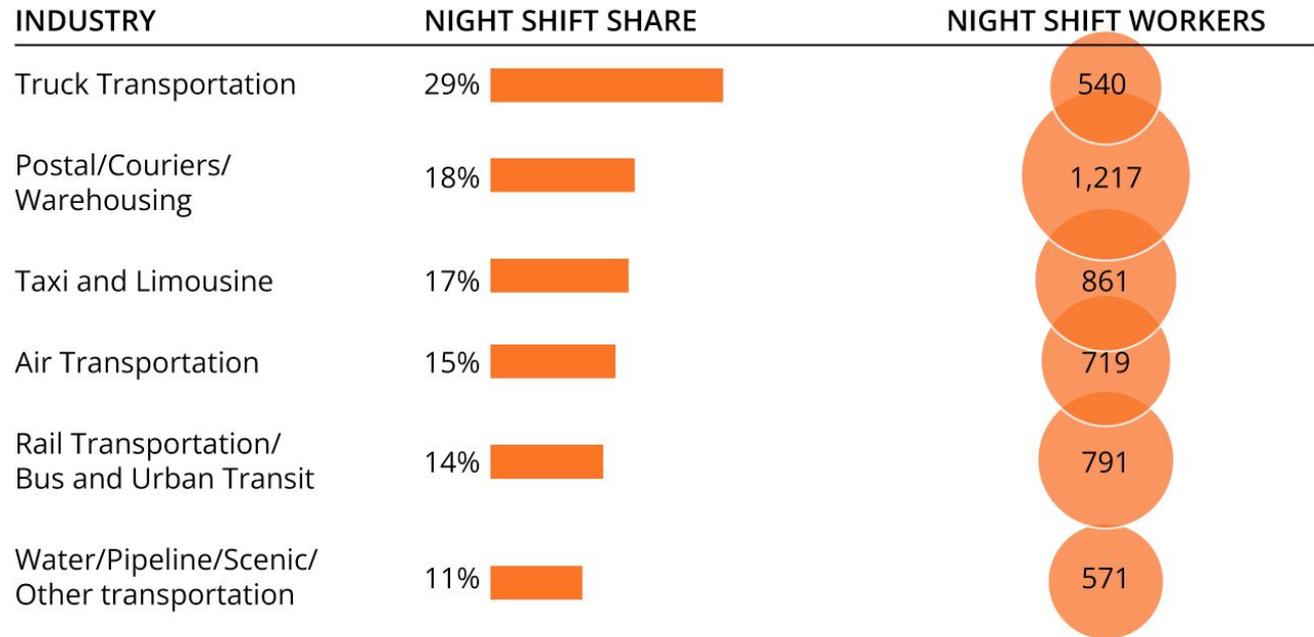
Night shift worker share in Transportation



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, 2021 American Community Survey for other cities and the U.S. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

All transportation sectors have relatively high share of nighttime workers

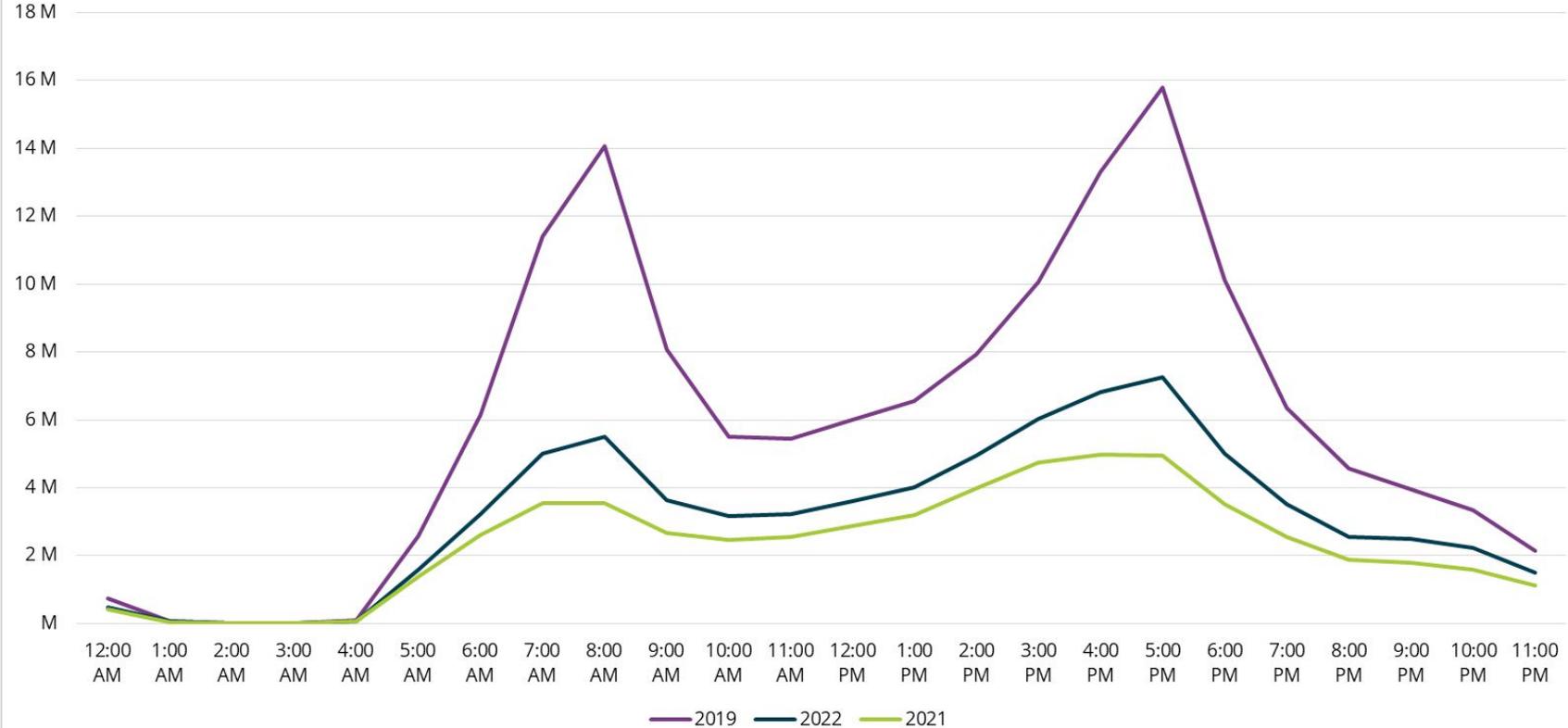
Transportation Workers in Suffolk County



Note: MBTA is included in the "Rail Transportation/Bus and Urban Transit," and Uber is included in "Taxi and Limousine."
Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

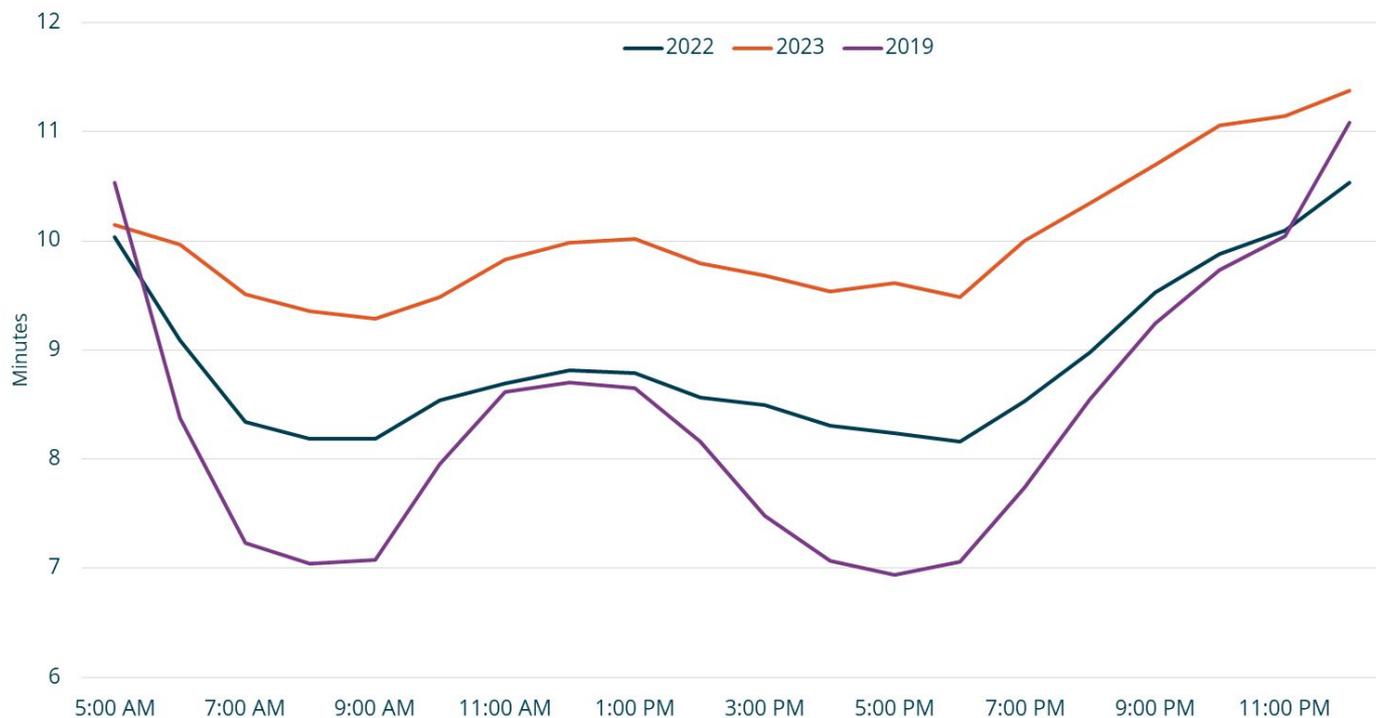
MBTA ridership declines sharply after 5pm, but continues until closing

MBTA train yearly ridership by hours



MBTA passengers need to wait longer in night than daytime

Average Wait time for MBTA Rapid Transit



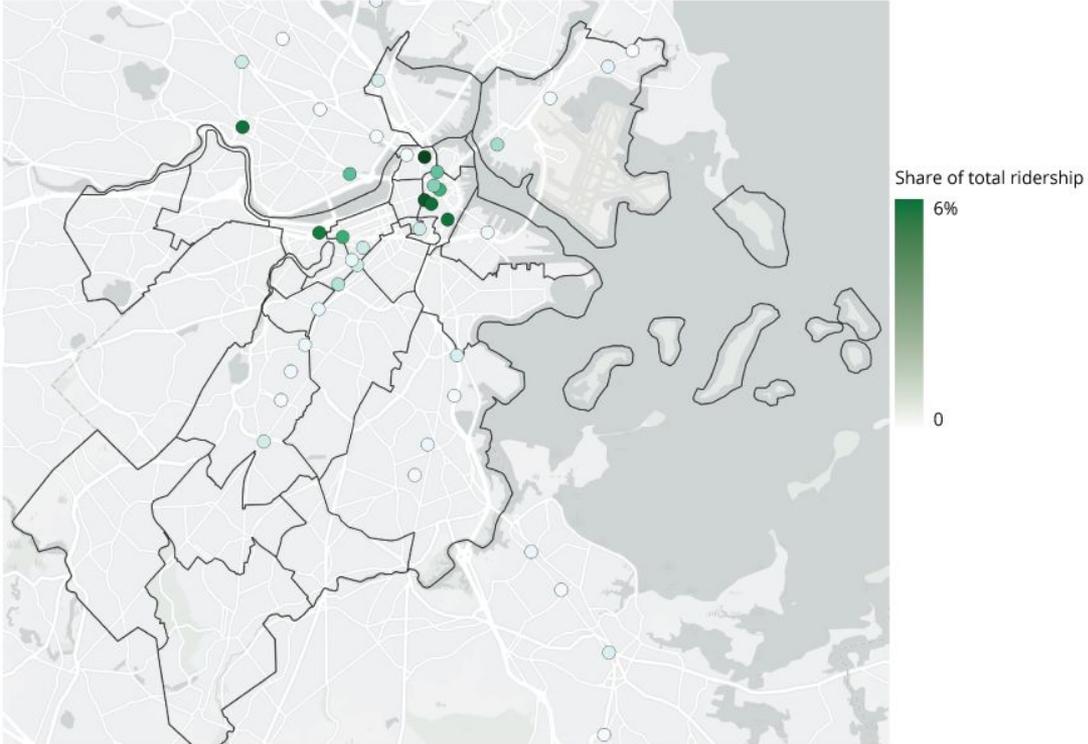
Note: Wait time defined as "time between the departure time of the current trip and the departure time of the previous trip for trips of the same 'destination'". Data does not include October 1st to December 31st because 2023 data is only available until September 30th
Source: MBTA Rapid Transit, BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Downtown area stations have the largest share of evening ridership

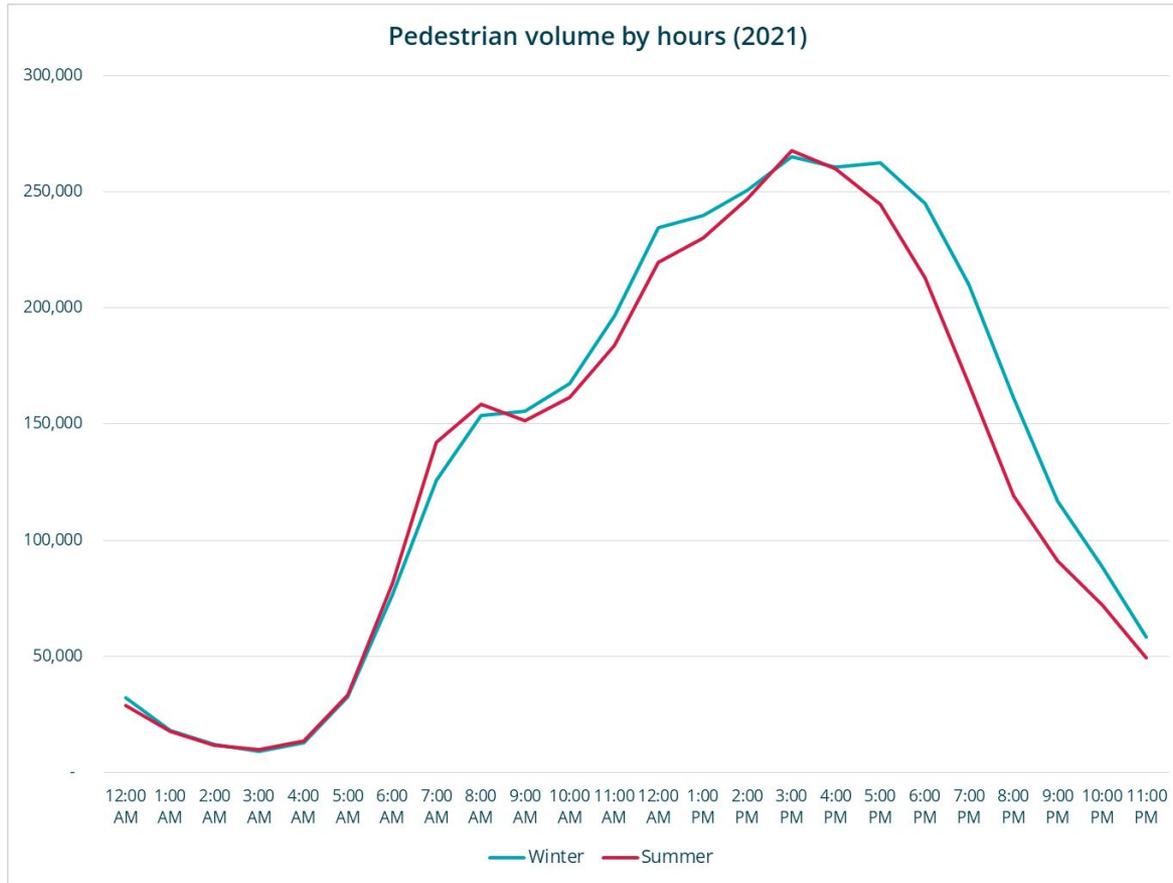
Top Stations by Share of Ridership after 7pm:

Station Name	2019	2022
North Station	4.2%	5.3%
Park Street	5.3%	5.0%
Copley	4.0%	4.7%
Downtown Crossing	6.4%	4.6%
Harvard	4.8%	4.6%
South Station	5.1%	4.6%

MBTA ridership after 7 pm (2022)



More people are out walking in Boston during the evening in winter than summer, maybe because there are more students in the city.



4.

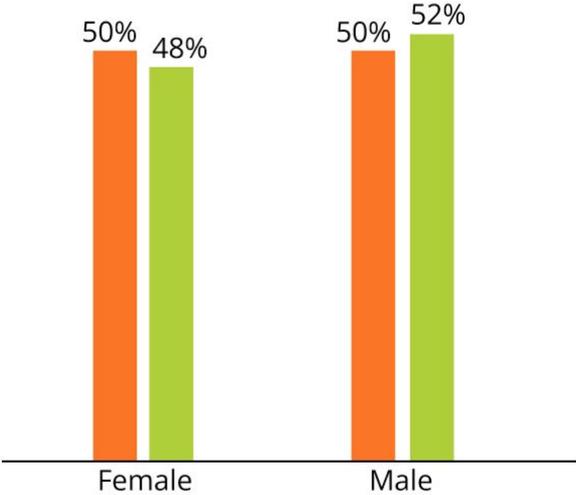
Night Shift Workers Demographics



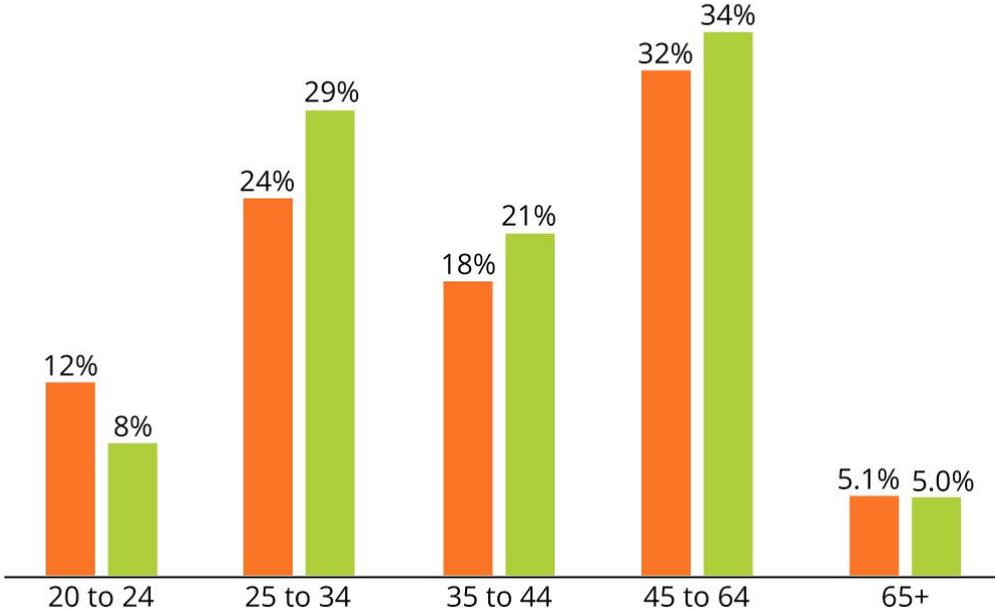
Night shift workers are more likely to be female and aged 20-24 compared to day shift workers.

Sex

Night shift Day shift



Age group

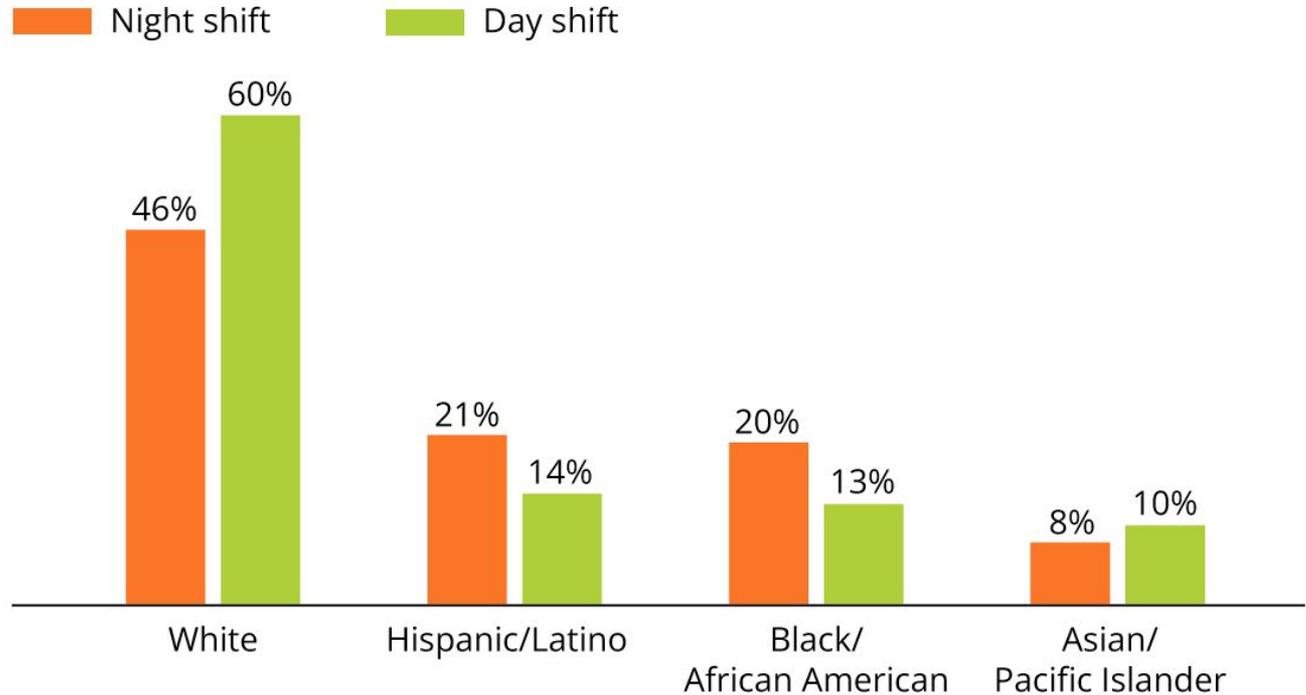


Note: The percentages represent shares of the subgroup over the total night/day shift workforce

Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Night shift workers are more likely to be Hispanic or African American

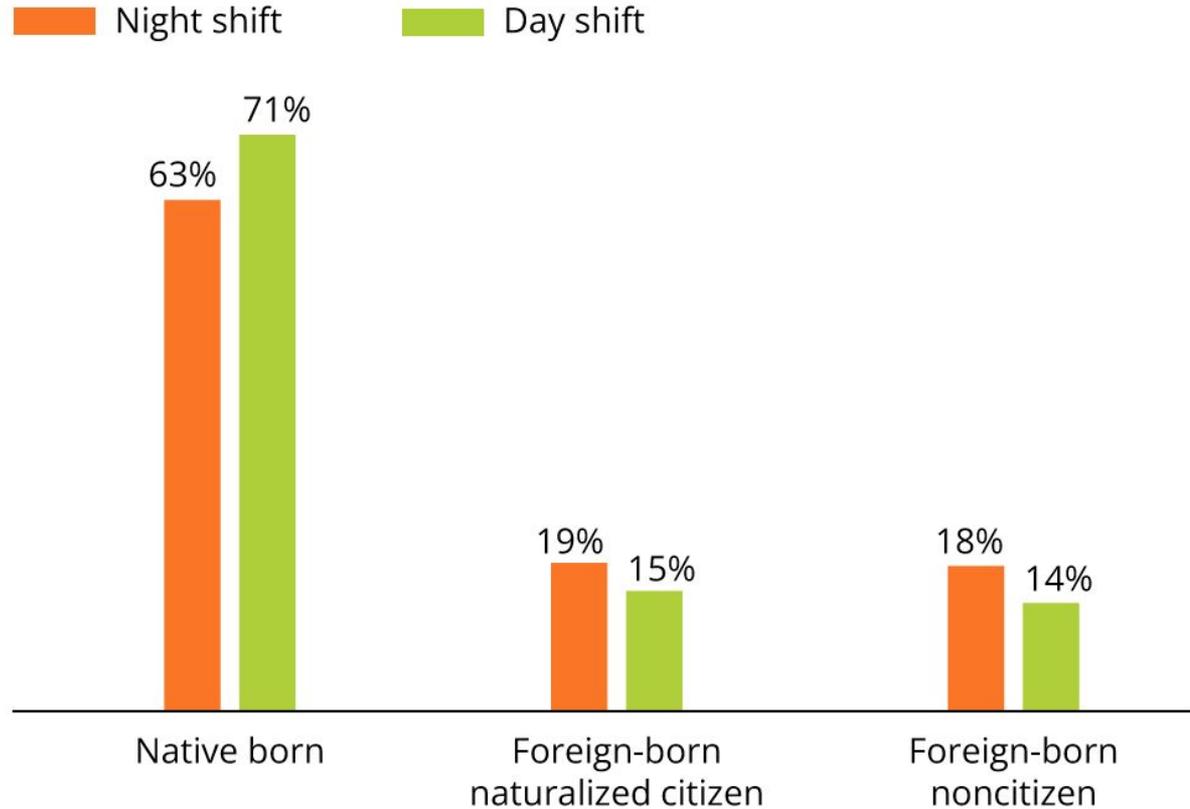
Race



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

37% of night shift workers are foreign born, up from 33% a decade ago

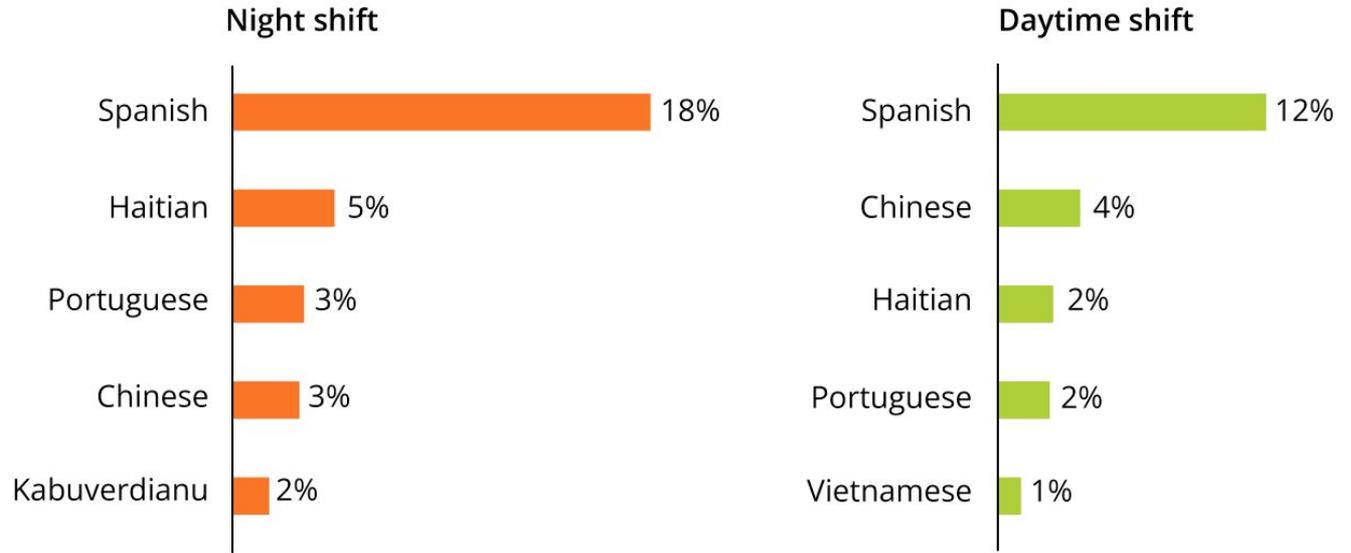
Nativity



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Top languages other than English

43% of night shift workers speak a language other than English at home, and almost 18% speak Spanish



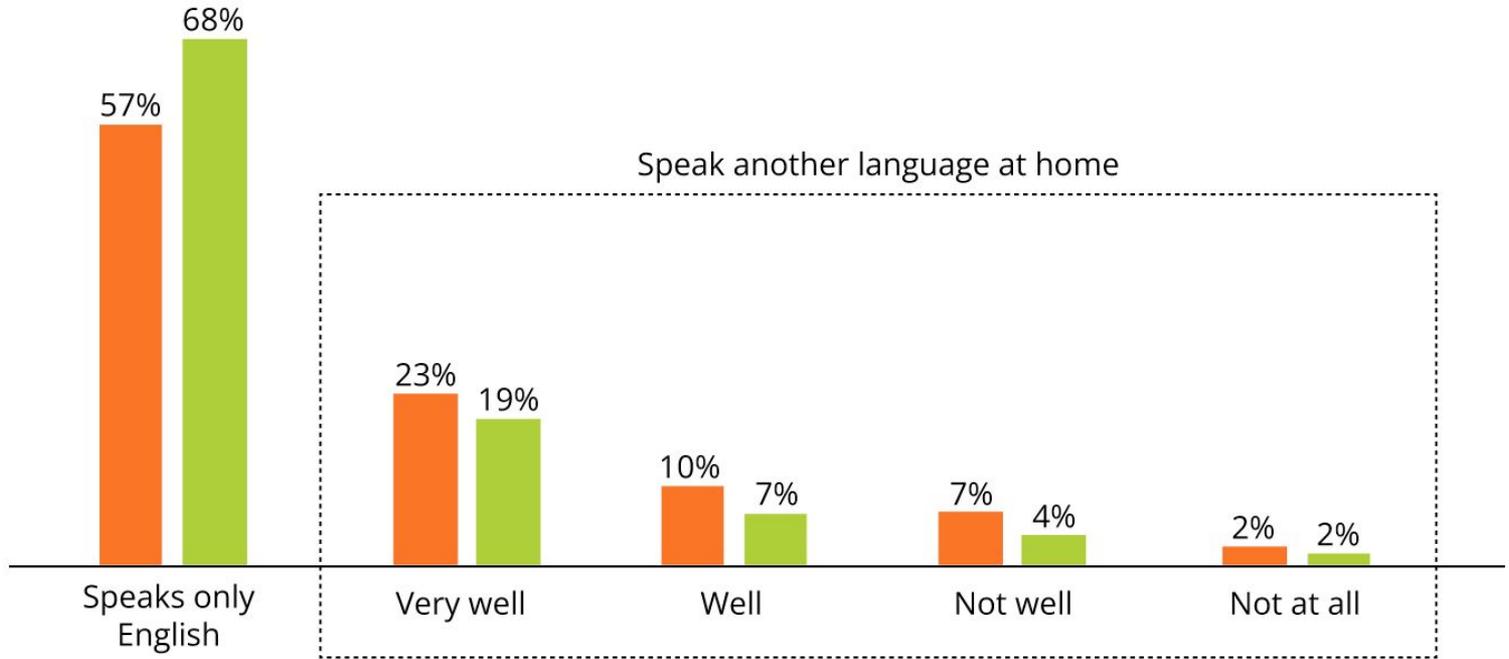
Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Only 19% of night shift workers do not speak English very well.

English speaking ability

Night shift

Day shift

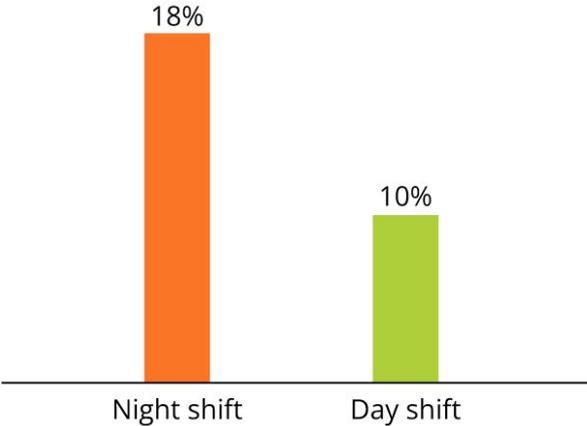


Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

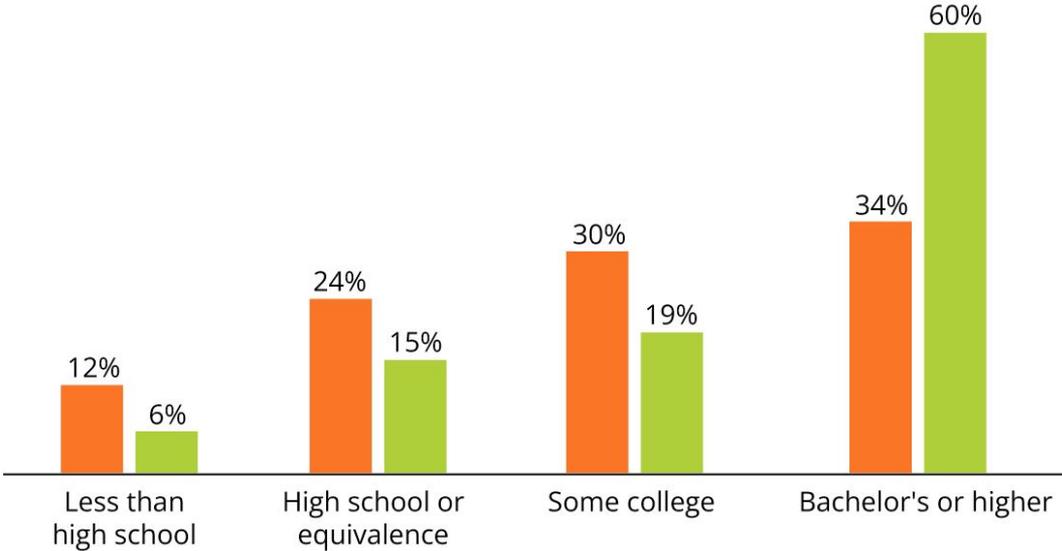
Night shift workers have lower levels of educational attainment, but a larger share are currently enrolled in college or university.

College or University Enrollment

Night shift Day shift



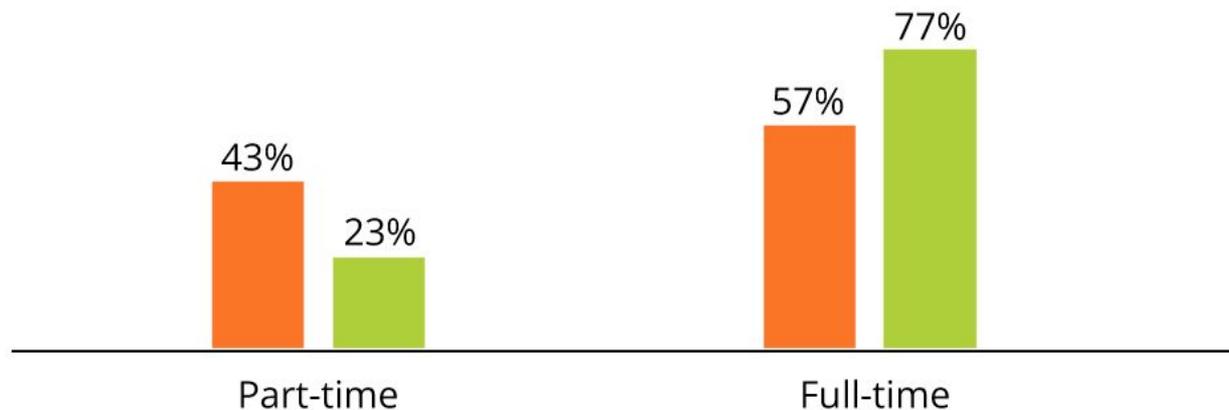
Educational Attainment



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Work status

■ Night shift ■ Day shift



Nearly half of night shift workers work part time

About 7% of night shift workers don't have health insurance, compared to 3% of day shift workers

Full-time worker personal income

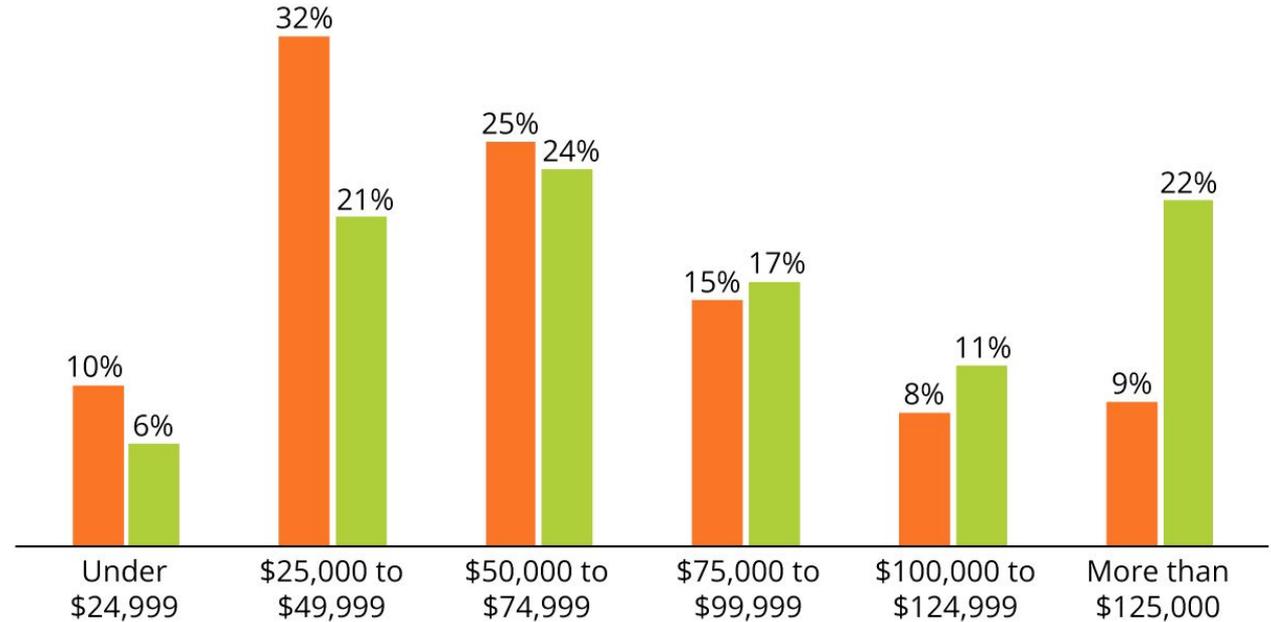
Night shift Day shift

Night shift workers tend to earn less money

Median income

Night shift: \$37,000

Day shift: \$61,000



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

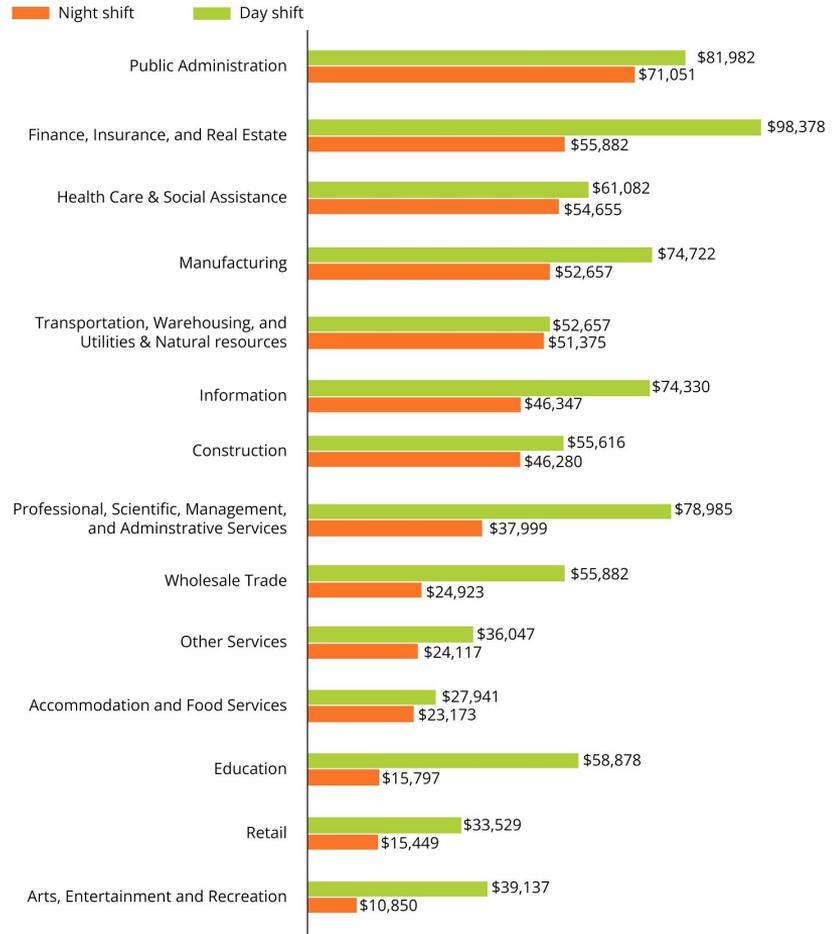
Among night shift workers, public administration workers, such as police and fire employees, have the highest median wages

Aggregate personal earnings

Night shift: \$2.4 billion

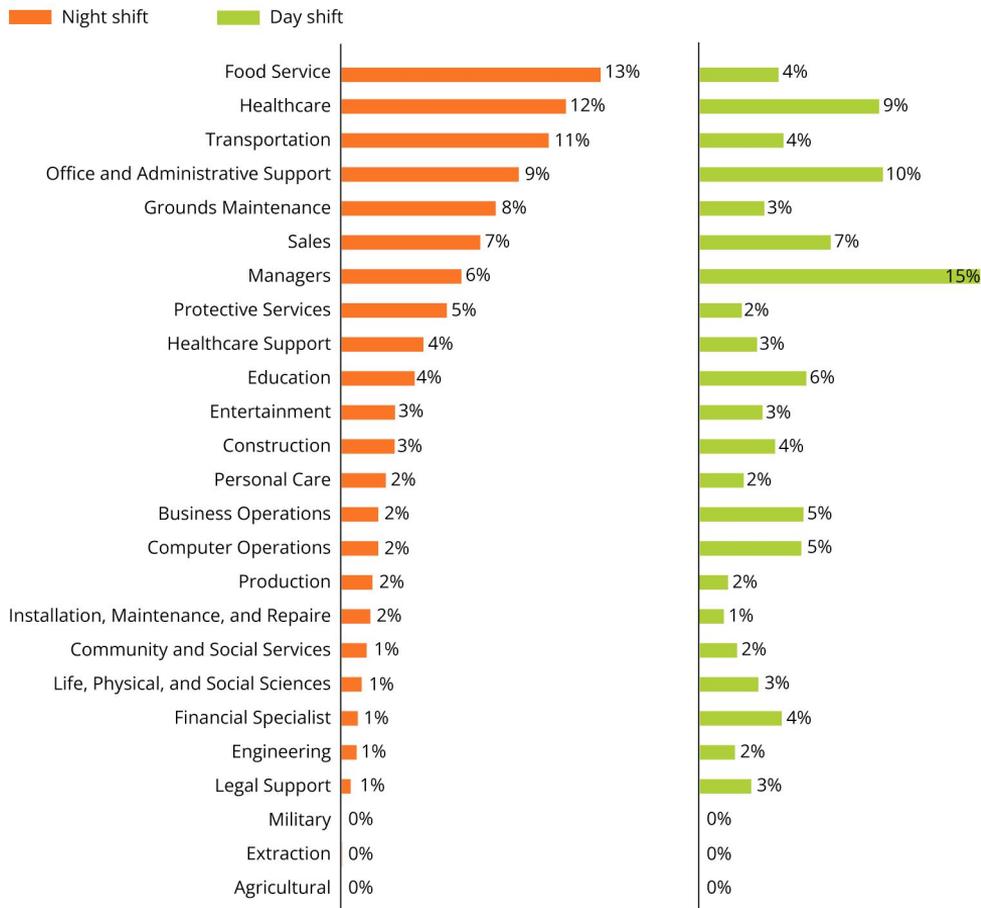
Day shift: \$49.8 billion

Median wages by industries



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Occupations by night shift and day shift

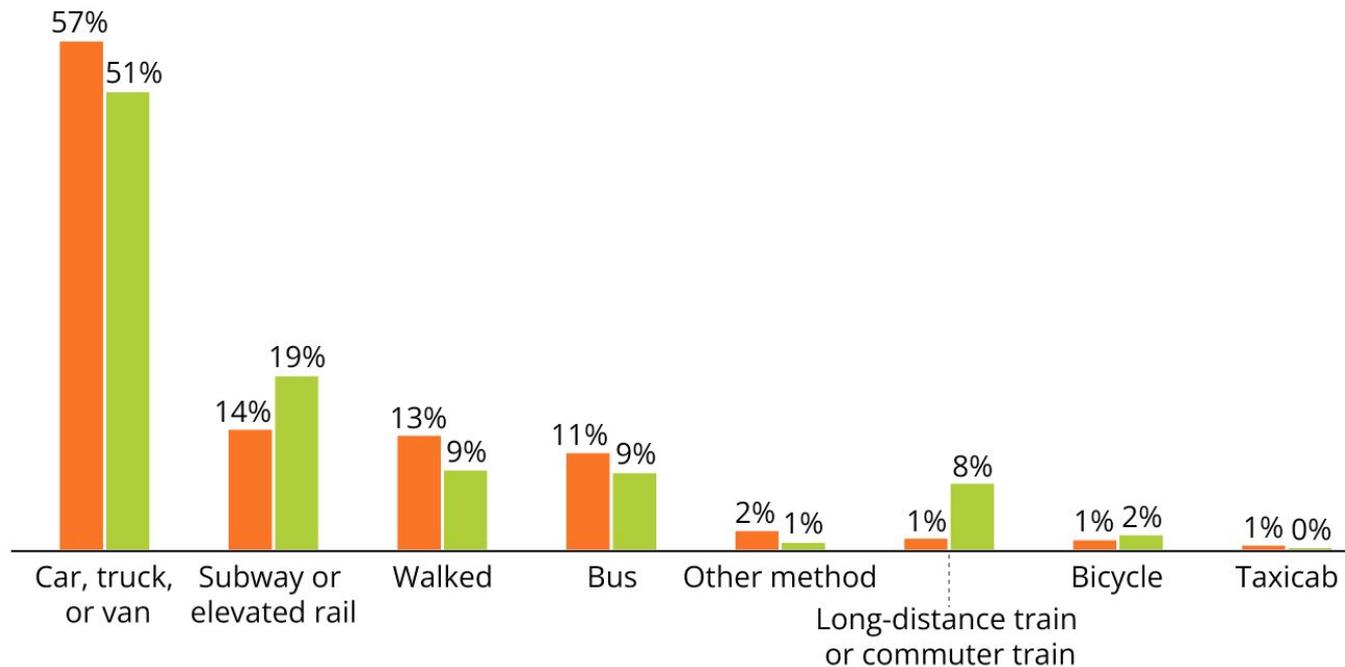


* The percentages don't add up to 100% because some records don't have arrival time.
 Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Night shift workers are concentrated in food service, healthcare, and transportation occupations

Transportation to work

Night shift Day shift

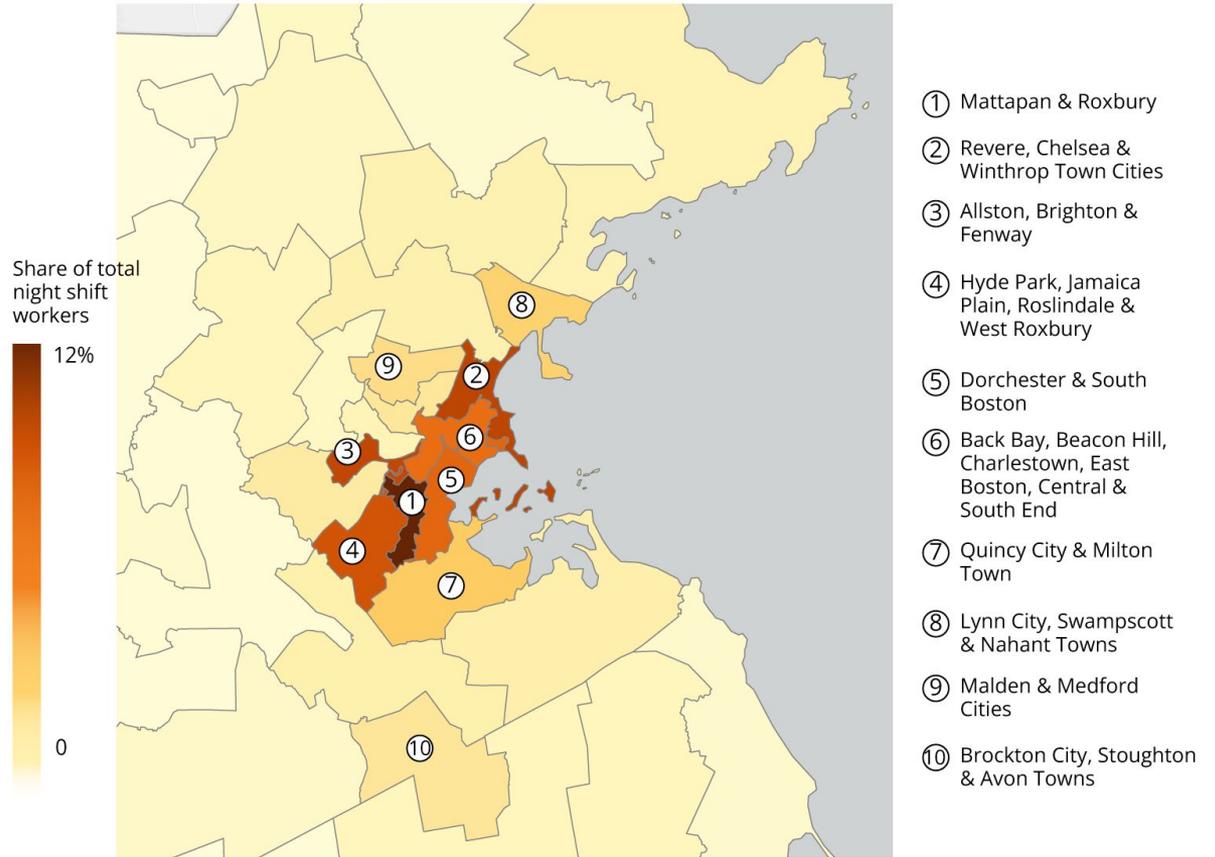


Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Fewer night shift workers take the subway or commuter rail to work, maybe because transit services do not match their work schedule

Nearly 12% of night shift workers employed in Suffolk County live in Mattapan and Roxbury neighborhoods

Where do night shift workers come from?



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey for Massachusetts, people who work in Suffolk County. BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Nighttime work and leisure activities are important to Boston's economy.

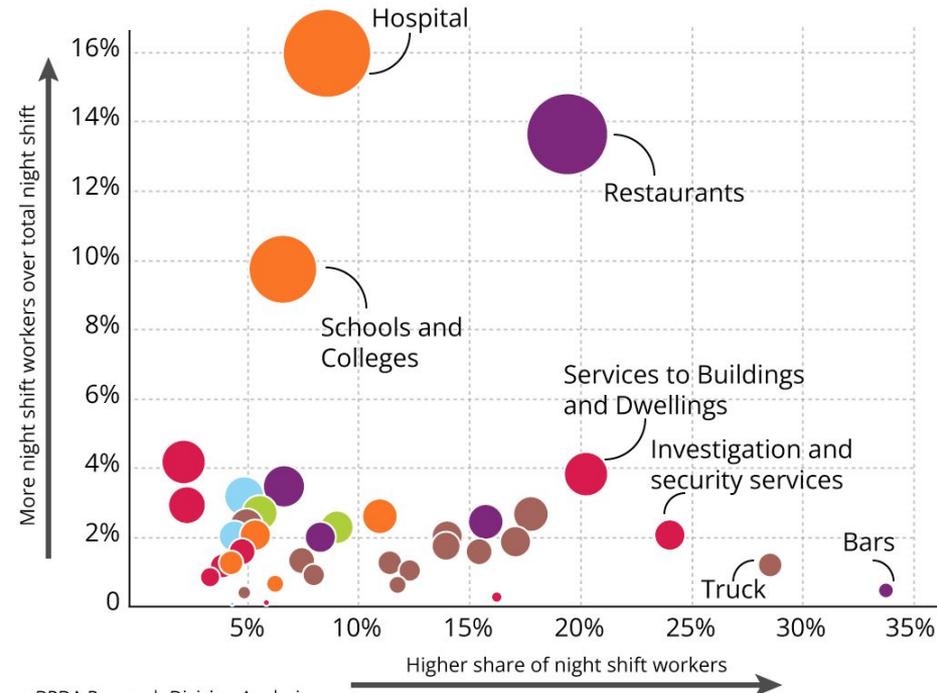
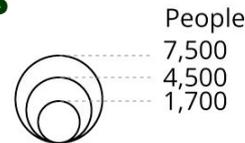
~46,000 workers in Suffolk County (7.1%) work the night shift

Leisure and hospitality industries have the **highest share** of night shift workers,

but hospitals and schools also have **large numbers** of night shift workers

Nighttime workers in Suffolk County

- Leisure and Hospitality and Other Services
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities
- Education and Health Services
- Government
- Construction, Manufacturing and Natural Resources
- Information, Finance and Professional and Business Services



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey. BPDA Research Division Analysis.