WHITE PAPER

The Most Common Times of Day for Lockouts

A two-year analysis of nearly 55,000 lockout transactions by hour of day, showing when Americans get locked out most — and when they almost never do.

Executive Summary

KeyMe Locksmiths analyzed 54,888 lockout transactions from the last two years, grouped by the hour of the day in which they occurred, to identify when Americans are most likely to find themselves locked out.

The pattern is sharp and consistent. Lockouts build steadily through the afternoon, peak at 6 PM, and fall away through the night. There is no morning rush: the early hours, when many people head out for work, are among the quietest. And nearly half of all lockouts happen outside the standard nine-to-six workday.

6 PM	38.9%	47%	5 AM
Busiest hour of the day (8.4% of all lockouts)	Share of lockouts between 4 PM and 8:59 PM	Share of lockouts outside 9 AM–5:59 PM	Quietest hour, with just 0.24% of lockouts

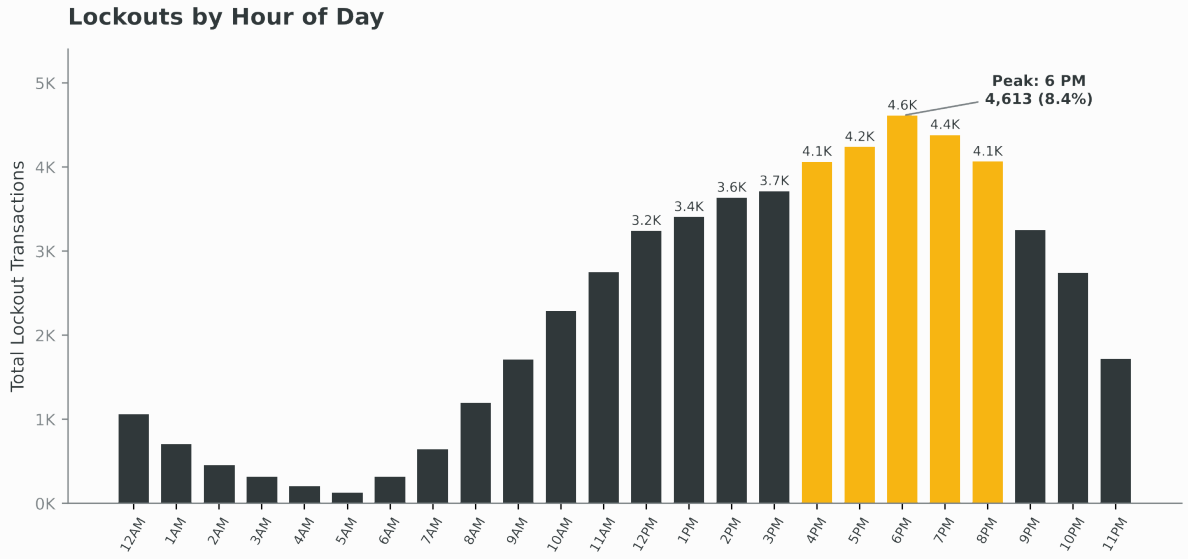
Key Findings

- **6 PM is the single most common hour for a lockout**, with 4,613 transactions (8.4% of the total). The next four busiest hours are 7 PM (7.99%), 5 PM (7.72%), 8 PM (7.41%), and 4 PM (7.40%).
- **The five hours from 4 PM to 8:59 PM account for 38.9% of all lockouts**, and the afternoon and evening together (12 PM to 8:59 PM) account for 64.4%.
- **There is no morning rush.** The 7 AM and 8 AM hours account for just 1.18% and 2.18% of lockouts. Volume climbs gradually from 9 AM and does not reach its peak until the early evening.
- **Nearly half of lockouts (47%) happen outside 9 AM to 5:59 PM**, including 37.9% between 6 PM and midnight.
- **Lockouts at night are rare but real.** The 9 PM to 11:59 PM window accounts for 14.1% of lockouts, while the overnight hours from midnight to 5:59 AM account for just 5.3%.

> *“Lockouts don't happen when people leave in the morning. They happen as the day winds down, when people are finishing work, running errands, and heading home. The curve builds all afternoon and peaks right at six o'clock.”*
>
> KEYME LOCKSMITHS ANALYST

The 24-Hour Curve

Plotting lockouts by hour shows a single, clear peak. Volume rises from a low point around 5 AM, climbs steadily through the morning and early afternoon, peaks at 6 PM, and then falls off quickly after 8 PM.



The busiest hour (6 PM) sees about 35 times as many lockouts as the quietest hour (5 AM), and about 14.6 times as many as 3 AM. The midpoint of the day's lockouts falls in the 4 PM hour: by the end of 3:59 PM, 47.0% of lockouts have occurred, and by the end of 4:59 PM, 54.4% have. Morning hours are slow to build: 7 AM (645 lockouts) and 8 AM (1,198) are far below 9 AM (1,715), 10 AM (2,292), and 11 AM (2,748), and well below the 3,243 lockouts at noon.

> *“There's no morning rush in this data. Seven and eight a.m. are some of the quietest daytime hours, which tells us the trouble isn't the trip out the door. It's the stops along the way and the trip home.”*
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> **KEYME LOCKSMITHS PRODUCT LEAD**

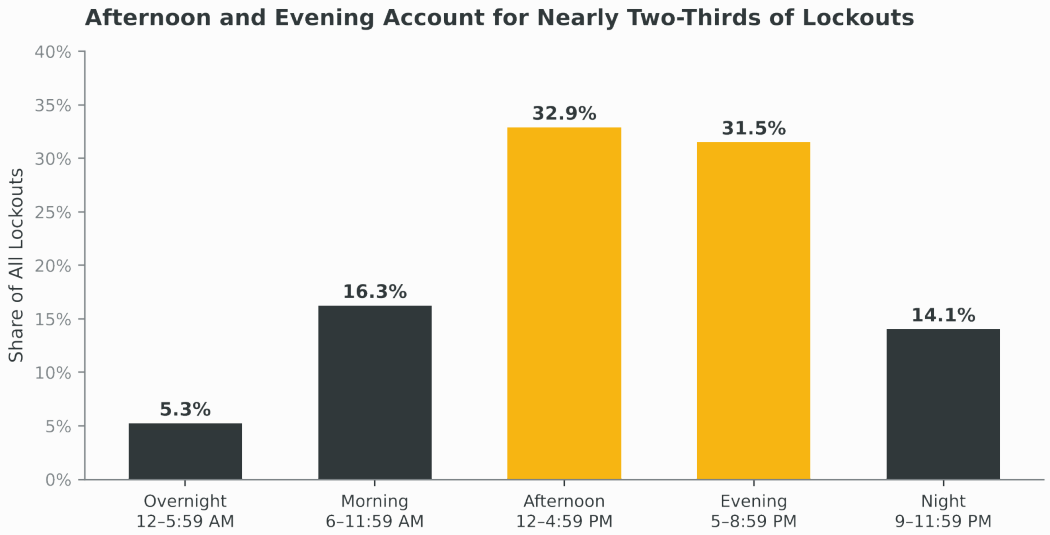
Hour-by-Hour Breakdown

Hour	Lockouts	Share of Total	Rank
12:00 AM – 12:59 AM	1,063	1.94%	17
1:00 AM – 1:59 AM	707	1.29%	18
2:00 AM – 2:59 AM	457	0.83%	20
3:00 AM – 3:59 AM	317	0.58%	22
4:00 AM – 4:59 AM	207	0.38%	23
5:00 AM – 5:59 AM	133	0.24%	24
6:00 AM – 6:59 AM	324	0.59%	21
7:00 AM – 7:59 AM	645	1.18%	19
8:00 AM – 8:59 AM	1,198	2.18%	16
9:00 AM – 9:59 AM	1,715	3.12%	15
10:00 AM – 10:59 AM	2,292	4.18%	13
11:00 AM – 11:59 AM	2,748	5.01%	11
12:00 PM – 12:59 PM	3,243	5.91%	10
1:00 PM – 1:59 PM	3,407	6.21%	8
2:00 PM – 2:59 PM	3,637	6.63%	7
3:00 PM – 3:59 PM	3,715	6.77%	6
4:00 PM – 4:59 PM	4,064	7.40%	5
5:00 PM – 5:59 PM	4,240	7.72%	3
6:00 PM – 6:59 PM	4,613	8.40%	1
7:00 PM – 7:59 PM	4,383	7.99%	2
8:00 PM – 8:59 PM	4,066	7.41%	4
9:00 PM – 9:59 PM	3,254	5.93%	9
10:00 PM – 10:59 PM	2,742	5.00%	12
11:00 PM – 11:59 PM	1,718	3.13%	14

Each row covers a full clock hour (for example, 6:00 PM–6:59 PM). Rank 1 is the busiest hour. Shares are as reported in the source data and sum to approximately 100% due to rounding.

Dayparts and Business Hours

Grouping hours into dayparts makes the shape of the day easier to see. Afternoon (12 PM to 4:59 PM) and evening (5 PM to 8:59 PM) are nearly tied as the busiest periods, together accounting for 64.4% of all lockouts.



Daypart	Lockouts	Share of Total
Overnight (12 AM–5:59 AM)	2,884	5.3%
Morning (6 AM–11:59 AM)	8,922	16.3%
Afternoon (12 PM–4:59 PM)	18,066	32.9%
Evening (5 PM–8:59 PM)	17,302	31.5%
Night (9 PM–11:59 PM)	7,714	14.1%

Viewed against a standard workday, 52.9% of lockouts (29,061) happen between 9 AM and 5:59 PM, 37.9% (20,776) happen between 6 PM and 11:59 PM, and 9.2% (5,051) happen between midnight and 8:59 AM. In other words, 47.1% of lockouts take place outside typical business hours.

> *“Nearly half of all lockouts happen outside the nine-to-six workday, which is exactly when many other options are closed. Late night is small, but nine to eleven p.m. is still about one in seven lockouts.”*
>
> **KEYME LOCKSMITHS ANALYST**

Consumer Insights

- **Expect to need help in the evening, not the morning.** The peak window is 4 PM to 8:59 PM, so a spare key is most valuable for the end-of-day routine: work, errands, dinner, and the drive home.
- **Keep a spare somewhere other than your car or home.** With 47% of lockouts outside business hours, a spare held by a family member or in a secure lockbox avoids depending on services that may be closed.
- **Don't assume mornings are the risky time.** The 7 AM and 8 AM hours account for just 3.4% of lockouts combined, far below any hour from noon to 9 PM.
- **Late-night lockouts are less common but leave fewer options.** The 9 PM to 11:59 PM window accounts for 14.1% of lockouts, so it's worth knowing in advance who you'd call after hours.
- **Build the check into your end-of-day routine.** A quick pocket-and-bag check before you step out of the car or the house is the simplest way to avoid joining the evening peak.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the most common time of day for a lockout?

6 PM (the 6:00 to 6:59 PM hour), with 4,613 transactions, or 8.4% of the total. The hours from 4 PM to 8:59 PM are the five busiest.

Why do lockouts peak in the evening?

The data doesn't say, but the pattern is consistent with the end of the workday, when people are making more stops, carrying more items, and getting in and out of vehicles and buildings. This is an interpretation, not something the data confirms.

Are lockouts common in the middle of the night?

No. The hours from midnight to 5:59 AM account for 5.3% of lockouts, and the 5 AM hour is the quietest of the day at 0.24%.

Does this show weekday versus weekend patterns?

No. The data is grouped by hour of day only, so it can't show how the pattern differs by day of the week or season.

What time zone are these hours in?

The source data does not specify. See the Methodology section.

Methodology

This analysis is based on KeyMe Locksmiths data showing the total number of lockout transactions for each hour of the day (0 through 23, where 0 is midnight to 12:59 AM and 18 is 6:00 PM to 6:59 PM) over the last two years. The dataset contains 54,888 transactions across 24 hourly rows. Percentages were verified against the transaction counts and match the reported shares to within rounding.

The source export does not specify the time zone in which hours were recorded, nor whether the hour reflects when a request was placed, when a job was dispatched, or when it was completed. The shape of the curve, with a low point in the early morning and a peak in the early evening, is consistent with local time, but this is not confirmed. Readers should treat the hour labels as reported.

The export is labeled as lockouts and does not break the data out by vehicle versus residential lockouts, by state, or by day of the week or season. Daypart groupings (overnight, morning, afternoon, evening, night) and the business-hours comparison (9 AM to 5:59 PM) are defined by this report and are not part of the source data.

Interpretive statements about why lockouts peak when they do are presented as reasonable explanations consistent with the observed pattern, not as findings verified through customer or behavioral records.