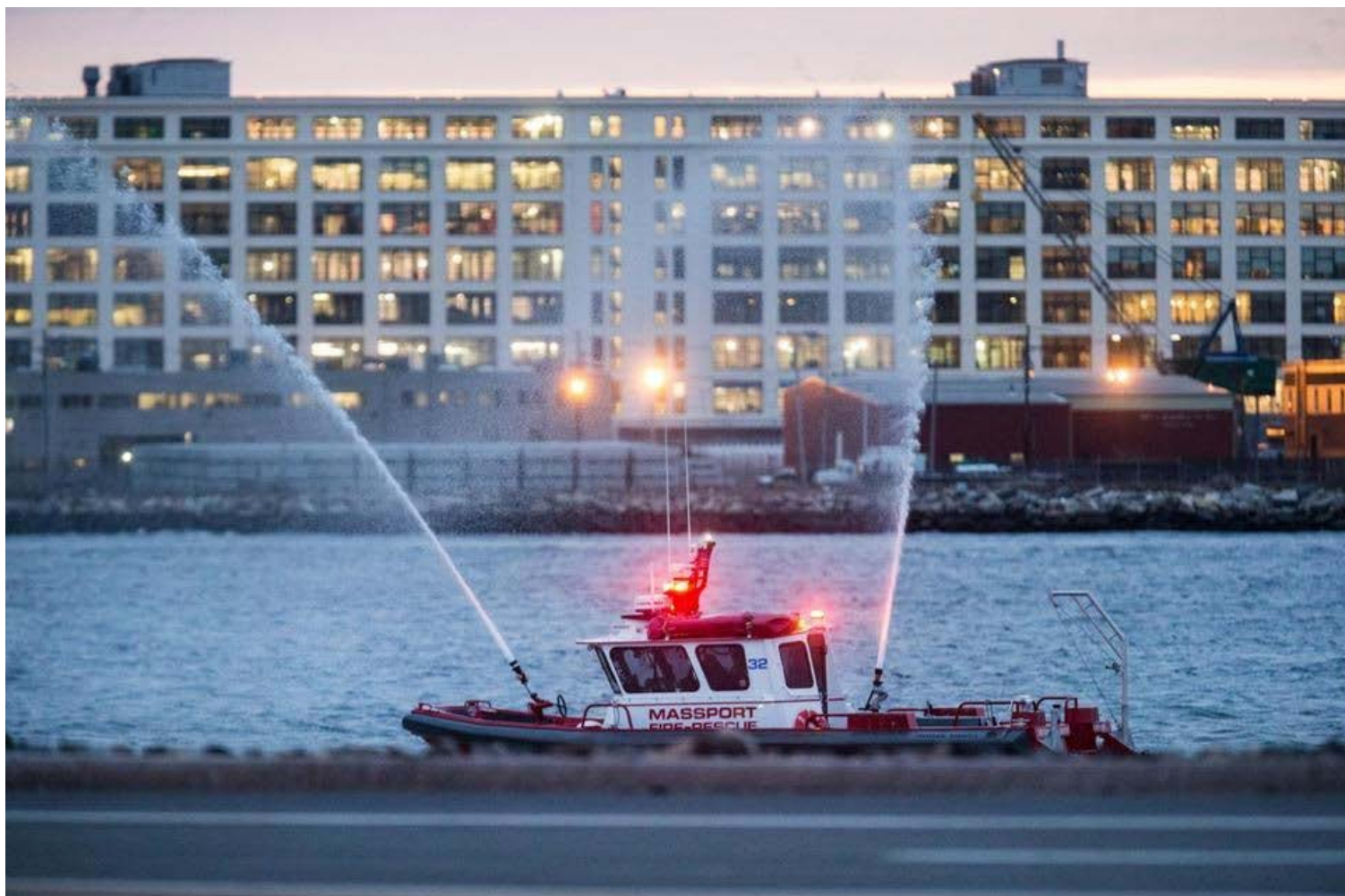




40 percent of Massport workers earned \$100,000 or more last year



ARAM BOGHOSIAN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massport Fire-Rescue boats fired their water cannons as the New England Patriots arrived at Logan Airport.

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF MARCH 30, 2018

Four in 10 workers earned \$100,000 or more in 2017 working for the Massachusetts Port Authority, which manages Logan International Airport and seaport terminals in Boston as well as Worcester Regional Airport and the Hanscom Field airport in Bedford.

Of the 1,381 employees who received a check from Massport last year, 555 of them, or 40 percent,

received six-figure sums, according to payroll records for the authority, which is one of several independent state agencies that files its records separately from most state offices.

The figures did not include [newly disclosed pay records for State Police troopers who work at Massport properties](#) and whose salaries are covered by Massport, but who are still considered State Police employees.

ADVERTISEMENT



3 Easy Steps:

- 1) **Click** 'Start Now'
- 2) **Download** on our website!
- 3) **Get** Easy Speed Test

Easy Speed Test

Massport's ratio of six-figure earners was significantly higher than at another major independent state agency, [the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](#), where about one-third of workers topped \$100,000 last year. It also soared well above the overall average of 12 percent across [most state offices](#).

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

Still, Massport did not claim the highest share of workers who collected \$100,000 or more last year. For example, at least two-thirds of [State Police](#) employees had six-figure sums; among troopers alone, at least 88 percent did.

Massport defended its spending on payroll.

"The authority strives to be a fiscally prudent organization while maintaining the highest levels of safety, security and service at each

of our facilities," spokeswoman Jennifer Mehigan said in a statement. "We require specialized, highly trained staff and must remain competitive to attract the appropriate people for numerous critical roles."

RELATED LINKS

Table: Massport workers who made \$100,000 or more in 2017

Forty percent of workers earned \$100,000 or more in 2017 working for the Massachusetts Port Authority, up from 36 percent in 2016.

Massport is funded differently than most other state offices. Nearly all of its operating costs are paid for with money it generates from its various properties, including fees paid by airlines, rental car companies, and people who park in lots it owns.

ADVERTISEMENT



LinkedIn Talent Solutions

8 millennial traits to know before you hire

Read the blog

The advertisement features a circular inset image of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a white shirt, sitting at a desk with a laptop and a coffee cup, looking at a document. The background is a light orange color.

Payroll accounts for about 17 percent of Massport’s total annual budget. It is the authority’s third-largest expense category, and that percentage does not account for benefits for both active and retired workers. Mary Z. Connaughton, director of government transparency at the Pioneer Institute, a nonprofit think tank that supports limited government, said that, on the one hand, “managing Massport is a complicated operation, and compensation that assures high-quality management is important.”

But on the other hand, she cautioned, “these levels of pay may jeopardize Massport’s long-term fiscal health.”

“Of course, they will not affect Massport’s profitability in the short term, with agency revenues spiking higher in Boston’s booming economy,” she added. “But, longer term, the upward trend of higher salaries and increased pension liabilities that go with them may no longer be sustainable when the next downturn hits.”

At Massport, 23 employees earned \$200,000 or more, including five who collected more than \$250,000 in 2017. The highest-paid employee was Edward C. Freni, director of aviation at Logan, who was paid \$320,599.

ADVERTISEMENT



nationalgrid mass save

Stay warm, without the soaring energy costs.
Here's how. Start saving

The advertisement features a blue background with white and green text. On the right side, there is a small image of a white house with a snow-covered roof and a brown door. A small question mark icon is located in the bottom left corner of the advertisement area.

Next was John P. Prankevicius, chief financial officer at Massport, who collected \$293,612.

Houssam H. Sleiman, director of capital programs and environmental affairs, received \$289,774.

Massport CEO Thomas P. Glynn was paid \$287,298.

The port director, Lisa S. Wieland, received \$250,713.

Massport officials said top-level executives manage multiple, large areas of the authority's operations.

For example, they said, Freni's job includes oversight of Logan Airport, which served over 38 million customers last year and generates an estimated \$13.3 billion in economic activity annually.

Massport also said some jobs demand high pay to attract quality talent. Massport said it has lost employees and failed to hire prospective workers because they received higher salary offers elsewhere.

Massport, like other arms of state and municipal governments, has faced [criticism](#) in the past for [generous pay and benefits](#) for employees and for other [payroll-related issues](#).

The agency says it is careful about payroll spending. For example, officials said Massport froze worker pay and new hiring and laid off some employees in the years immediately following the start of the 2008 recession.

But since then payroll spending has grown, records show.

The share of six-figure earners last year topped the 36 percent of Massport employees who earned \$100,000 or more in 2016. In 2011, the earliest year of available data, 27 percent of Massport employees earned \$100,000 or more.

Among all Massport employees, the average pay was \$93,616 last year, up from \$88,448 in 2016 and \$80,366 in 2011.

Altogether, Massport spent about \$129.3 million on payroll last year, up from about \$95 million in 2011.

Massport officials said the increasing amounts were in line with significant growth in operations over those years. The number of employees who received pay from the agency last year was up slightly — by about 1.4 percent — from the 1,362 workers the agency paid in 2016. The number is up by about 16 percent from the 1,193 employees it paid in 2011.

“For the time frame between 2011 and 2017, several business areas, including Logan International Airport, Conley Terminal [a marine shipping facility in South Boston], and [nearby] Flynn Cruiseport Boston, increased business activity by 30 percent,” Mehigan said.

The agency said that in recent years it also has bolstered its information technology staff to protect against growing cybersecurity concerns and expanded the number of multilingual customer service workers at Logan to account for increased international flight options.

Available data on Massport's payroll only showed the total amount of money employees were paid

during the year. It didn't include more detailed breakdowns of other types of compensation, such as overtime pay.

Massport officials provided general statistics about overtime spending: Last year, 902 employees earned overtime pay at an average amount of \$16,157 per employee.

Officials said overtime is needed to keep operations running smoothly and safely, and they said it is often cheaper than hiring permanent workers, particularly since demand for services can fluctuate, depending on season, weather, day of the week, and security concerns that can arise if violence or threats occur in other parts of the world.

Massport's payroll, by the numbers

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total payroll	\$129.3m	\$120.5m	\$119.3m	\$109.6m	\$103.2m	\$95.9m	\$95.9m
Average pay	\$93,616	\$88,448	\$89,072	\$85,954	\$83,949	\$80,702	\$80,366
Total number, employees paid	1,381	1,362	1,339	1,275	1,229	1,188	1,193
Number, employees who made ...							
\$100k to \$149k	434	403	442	377	328	266	290
\$150k to \$199k	98	71	65	40	38	25	26
\$200k to \$249k	18	9	12	9	2	4	3
\$250k to \$299k	4	4	3	2	2	0	0
\$300k+	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Top pay	\$320,599	\$297,948	\$290,545	\$271,769	\$262,731	\$236,118	\$233,908

SOURCE: Office of the Comptroller

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

[Show 175 Comments](#)

Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.

Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking

Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

[Six things to know about Michael Bennett, the newest Patriot](#)

[Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth's last surviving child, dies at 102](#)

[‘SNL’ tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue](#)

[Yvonne Abraham | Recycling can't fix what really ails us](#)

[Patriots could be diving into the quarterback market](#)

[Can a former agent succeed in running the Mets?](#)

[Shooting leaves a loss beyond measure](#)

[Danny Amendola released by the Dolphins](#)

[Tara Sullivan: Enough with the PED excuses](#)

[Eliza Dushku: I worked at CBS. I didn't want to be sexually harassed. I was fired](#)

[The movie is called ‘The Post,’ but it was the Times that got the scoop on the Pentagon Papers](#)

[Millennials aren't lazy, they're workaholics](#)

[The guy I was dating proposed — to someone else](#)

[Replace your high-tech car keys for less](#)

[Daylight saving time year round? Some Mass. officials think so](#)

[Feeling that DIY impulse? Try taking a nap instead](#)

[Sex trafficking is in plain sight in Massachusetts communities](#)

[Recycling can't fix what really ails us](#)

[First lady has a growing ease in her official role, but not politics](#)

[At SXSW, Elizabeth Warren defends call for breaking up tech giants](#)

[Tara Sullivan: Enough with the PED excuses](#)

[New Orleans Saints fans need to get a grip](#)

[As UMass makes a big bet on online education, rivals offer words of caution](#)

[Drugs took their children but not their hope: That others might be saved](#)

[Trump will seek more money for border wall](#)

[Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time](#)

[Most Popular In Metro →](#)

Subscribe Now

[Digital Access](#)

[Home Delivery](#)

[Gift Subscriptions](#)

My Account

[Manage my Account](#)

[Mobile Customer Service](#)

[Sign Up For Newsletters](#)

Contact

[Help](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Globe newsroom](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Order back issues](#)

Social

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Google+](#)

More

[ePaper](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC