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# Cambridge Retail and Consumer Trends

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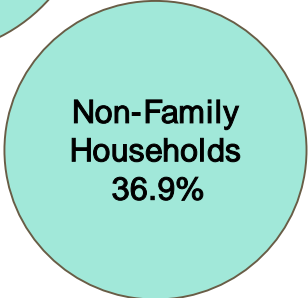
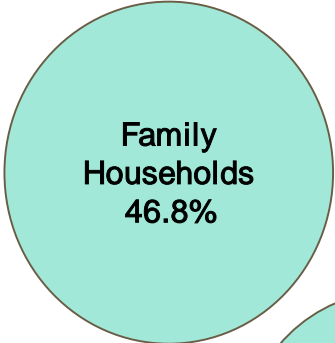
City of Cambridge  
Cambridge Community Development Department



# Cambridge Demographics and Retail Market

# Snapshot - Cambridge

	2010	2017	2022
Total Population	105,162	114,866	120,990
Median Age	30.3	31.7	32
Population aged 20-34	45%	42%	42%



Data source: ESRI Community Analyst 2018



# Snapshot - Cambridge

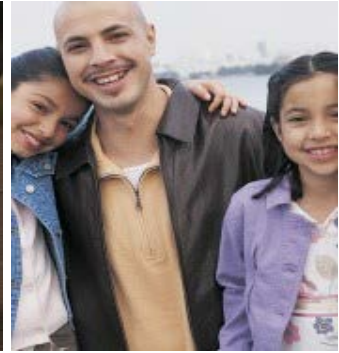
	2017	2022
Median Household Income (MHI)	\$77,105	\$96,347
Households with income <\$25,000	19%	17%
White Population	60%	56%
Black Population	13%	14%
Asian Population	19%	23%
Hispanic Population	10%	11%



Massachusetts MHI (2017):  
\$71,460

U.S. MHI (2017): \$56,124

# Cambridge Customer Psychographics



## Metro Renters

32.7%

## Laptops & Lattes

30.0%

## Trendsetters

25.9%

## Urban Chic

4.1%

## International Marketplace

2.9%

MHI: \$52,000

MHI: \$93,000

MHI: \$51,000

MHI: \$98,000

MHI: \$41,000

Median Age: 31.8

Median Age: 36.9

Median Age: 35.5

Median Age: 42.6

Median Age: 32.3

Well-educated  
Informed - cell phones  
are a part of everyday  
life

Health and image  
conscious

Young, educated, and  
single

Well-connected  
consumers, maintain a  
“green” lifestyle

Young, diverse market, mostly  
Spanish speaking households

Value education and  
creativity

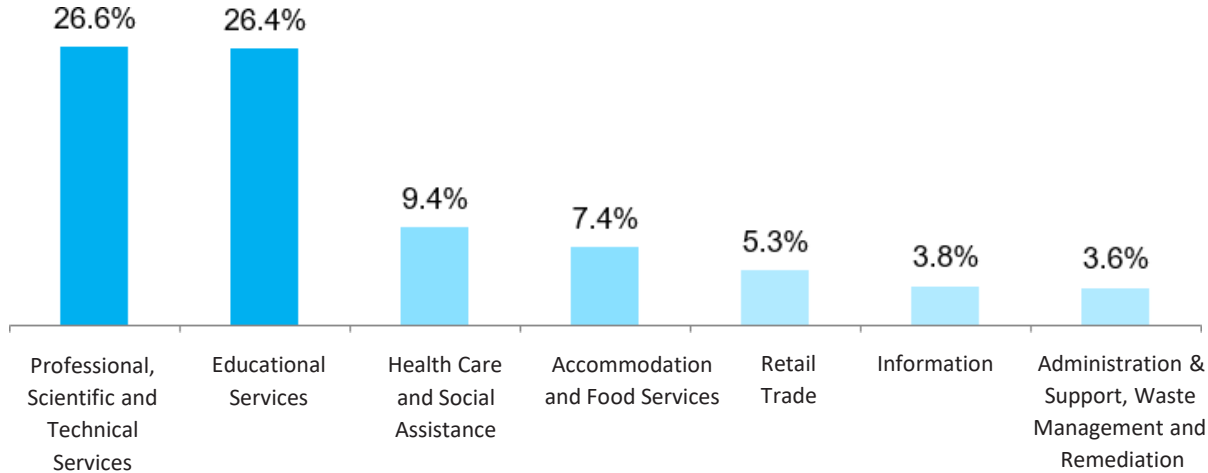
Enjoy dining out and  
travel

Upscale living, style-  
conscious

Avid readers

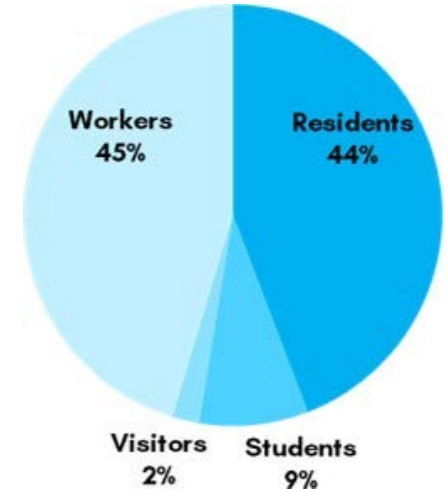
Enjoy a bargain

# Cambridge Workforce



Workers by industry in the City of Cambridge. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (2nd Quarter of 2014)

Market Composition of Cambridge



Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online 2016; Cambridge Hotel Directory; Larisa Ortiz Associates Calculations

131,311 persons employed in Cambridge (2012-2016 ACS)

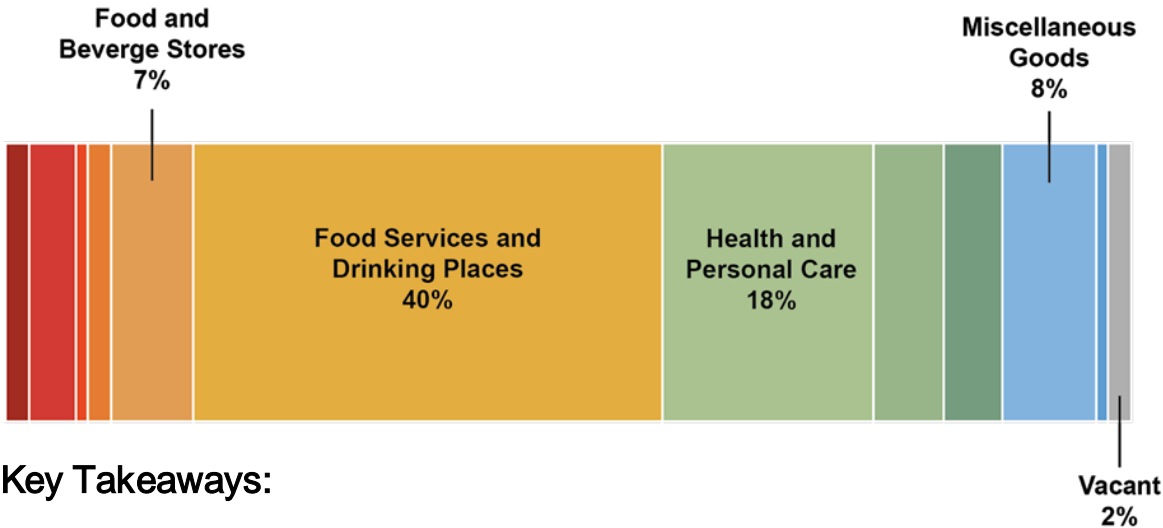
# Market Opportunities

Based on the market composition, customer traits, and the city's income levels, **retailers in Cambridge should position themselves to offer the following:**

- Contemporary, hip, and trendy merchandise
- Mix of products for different price points
- Consider lower priced items or discounts to meet student budgets



# Cambridge Retail Market



## Key Takeaways:

- Food Services and Drinking Places is the largest retail category followed by Health and Personal Care Stores.
- General Merchandise <1%

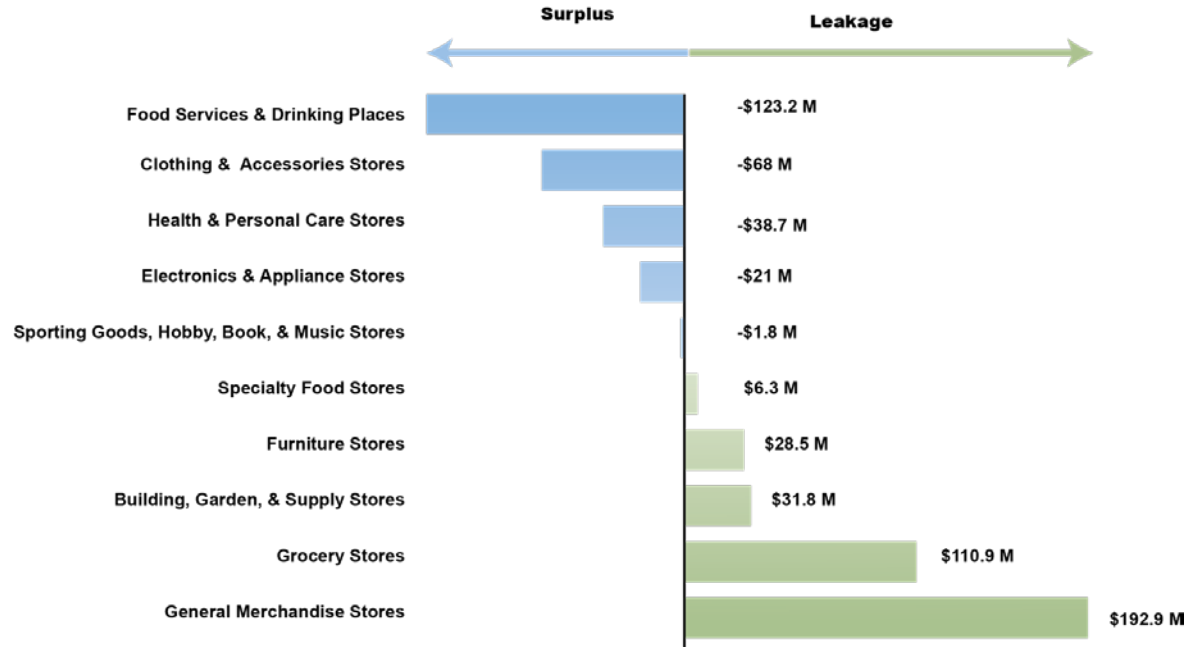
Note: Miscellaneous Goods refers to florists, office supplies, stationery and gift stores, used merchandise stores, and others. Food and Beverage refers to grocery stores, specialty food stores, and beer/wine/liquor stores.



# Citywide Surplus/Leakage

## Key Takeaways:

- General merchandise and grocers likely looking for opportunities.
- Surplus suggests Cambridge is already a regional eating and drinking destination.
- Opportunities lie in creating environments that support existing retailers.

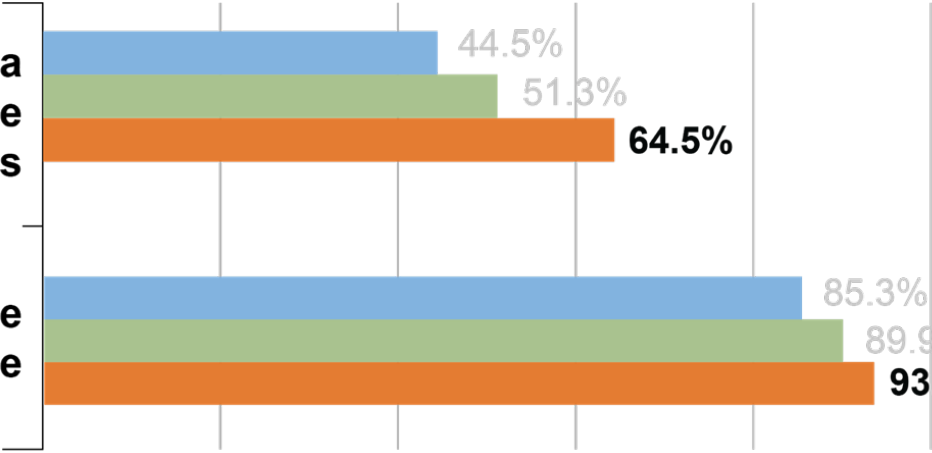


# Purchasing Habits and Trends

# Online Shopping Trends



**Residents who made a personal purchase online in the last 30 days**



■ USA      ■ Massachusetts      ■ Cambridge

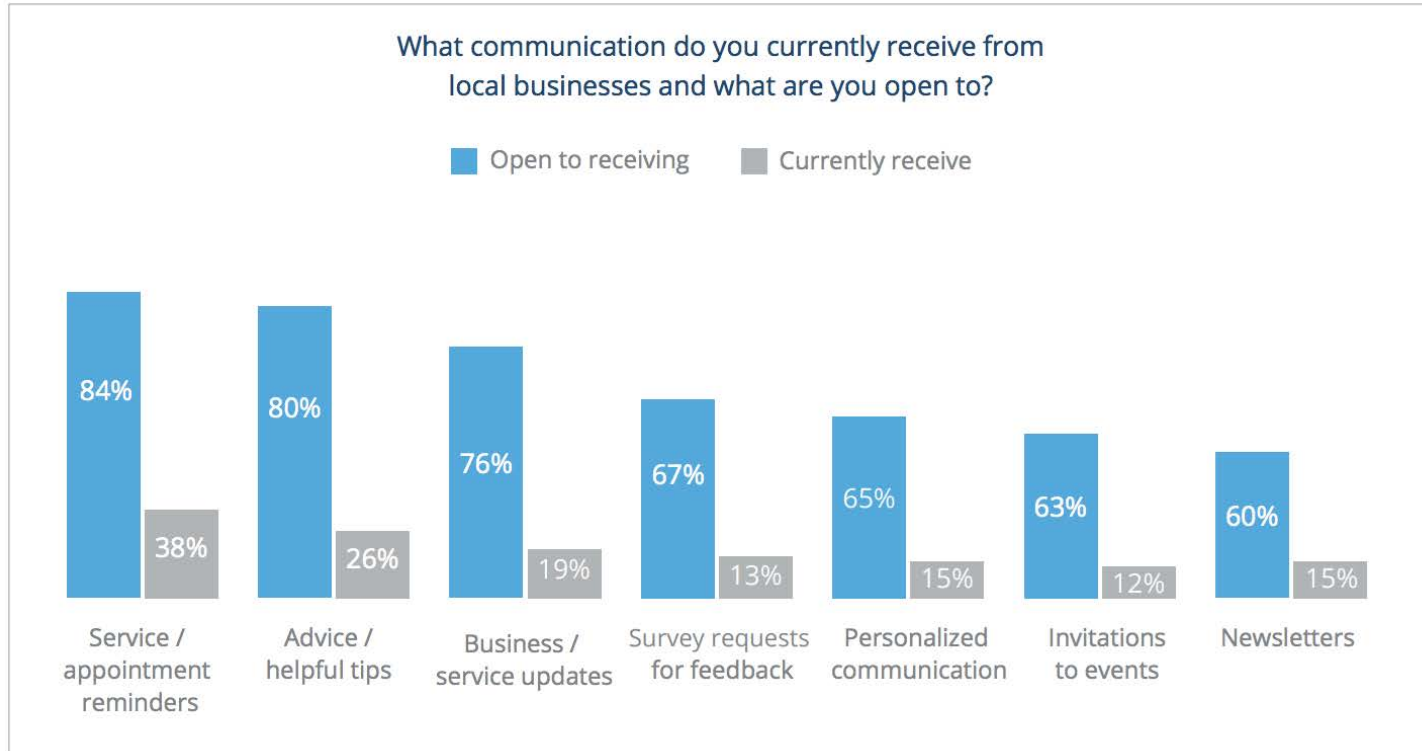
# How are Consumers Finding and Choosing Local Businesses?

**75%** Three-quarters of consumers go online to find or research a business before they decide if it is the right choice.

**42%** Four out of 10 consumers use social media to look for a new business.

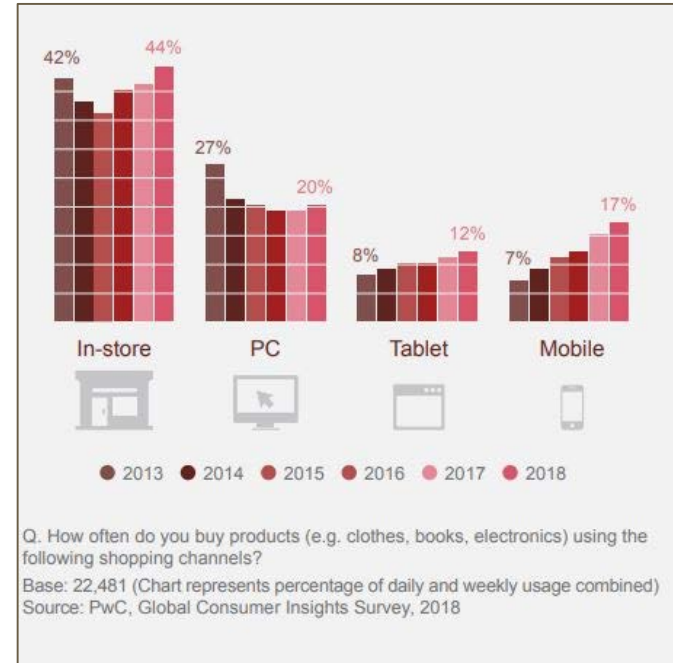
**27%** Even if they hear about a local business offline, more than a quarter of consumers still visit its website.

# How do Customers Want to Hear from You?

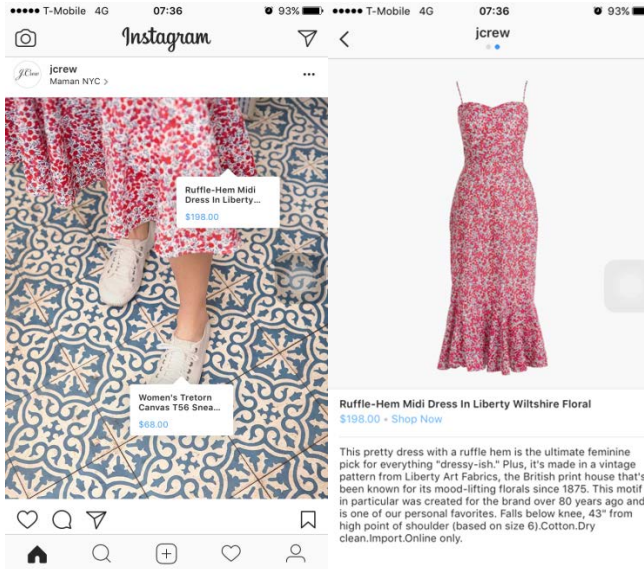


# Brick and Mortar Shopping is Stable

- The past three years have seen increases in **weekly brick-and-mortar shoppers**, from 40% in 2015 to 44% in 2018.
- **Consumers want to know what their peers think:** respondents stated that social media was the #1 choice to get inspiration for purchases.
- Companies can address these trends by **paying attention to smartphone dynamics, and focusing on store experiences.**



# Consumer Habits Have Changed



Growth of e-commerce and online tools is leading consumers to merge online and offline into a single shopping experience

The food industry is facing fundamental and cross-generational shifts in consumer dining habits.

Consumers are spending less on products and more on experiences and personal service-based retail.

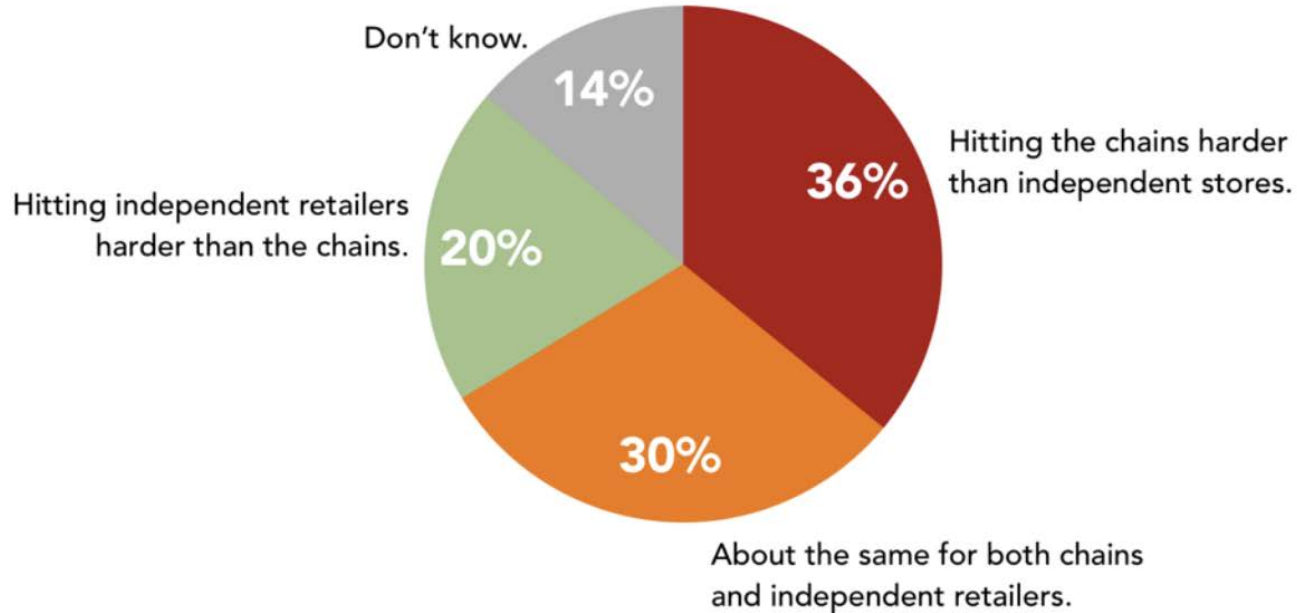
# Competing with E- Commerce

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# The Prime Factor

**Based on what you're seeing in your own community and industry, is the growth of Amazon hitting independents or chains harder?**



Source: Advocates for Independent Business, *Independent Retailers and the Changing Retail Landscape*

# Positioned to Succeed

**Which factors do you think make independent retailers better able than the chains to withstand Amazon? Please select the 3 most important factors:**

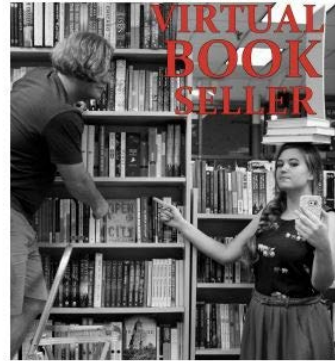


Source: Advocates for Independent Business, *Independent Retailers and the Changing Retail Landscape*

# Local Advantage - Service & Knowledge



## Virtual Bookseller



96% of consumers believe local businesses beat big-box stores on personalizing service and 91% think they're more trustworthy and reliable.

- "What Consumers Want from Local Business"  
Yodel, 2015.

Need a...  
Looking...  
make i...  
The Vi...  
below...  
the Po...  
couple days, we'll see...  
personalized book recommendations. It's the closest you can get to combining the convenience of online shopping with the conversations that drive bookish culture.

# Local Advantage - Community

Consumers can get products anywhere -  
but not social connection.

# Building a Customer Community



## GATHER HERE EVENTS

### SIP AND STITCH

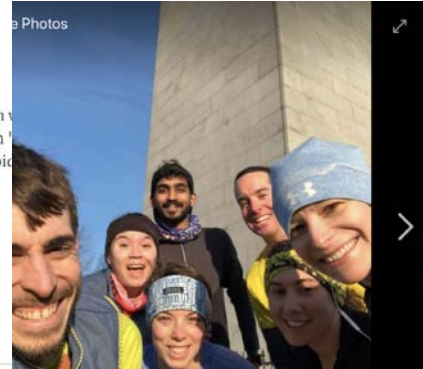
The first and third Thursday of every month from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. (when close!). No stitch lounge would be complete without a version of the "Stitch Bitch" but this is totally co-ed. Bring your hand work (knit, crochet, embroidery, etc.) and your stories. We can't wait to see what you are making! This is an opportunity to meet the makers in our community so please say "hey"!

- We provide: not-so-fancy snacks
- You bring: yourself, your current hand project, and a pint
- Cost: It's free!

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# Local Advantage - Experiment with Experiences

CHRISTINA'S #Homemade Ice Cream [FōMū] CHRISTINA'S #Homemade Ice Cream [FōMū] CHRISTINA'S #Homemade Ice Cream [FōMū] CHRISTINA'S #Homemade Ice Cream



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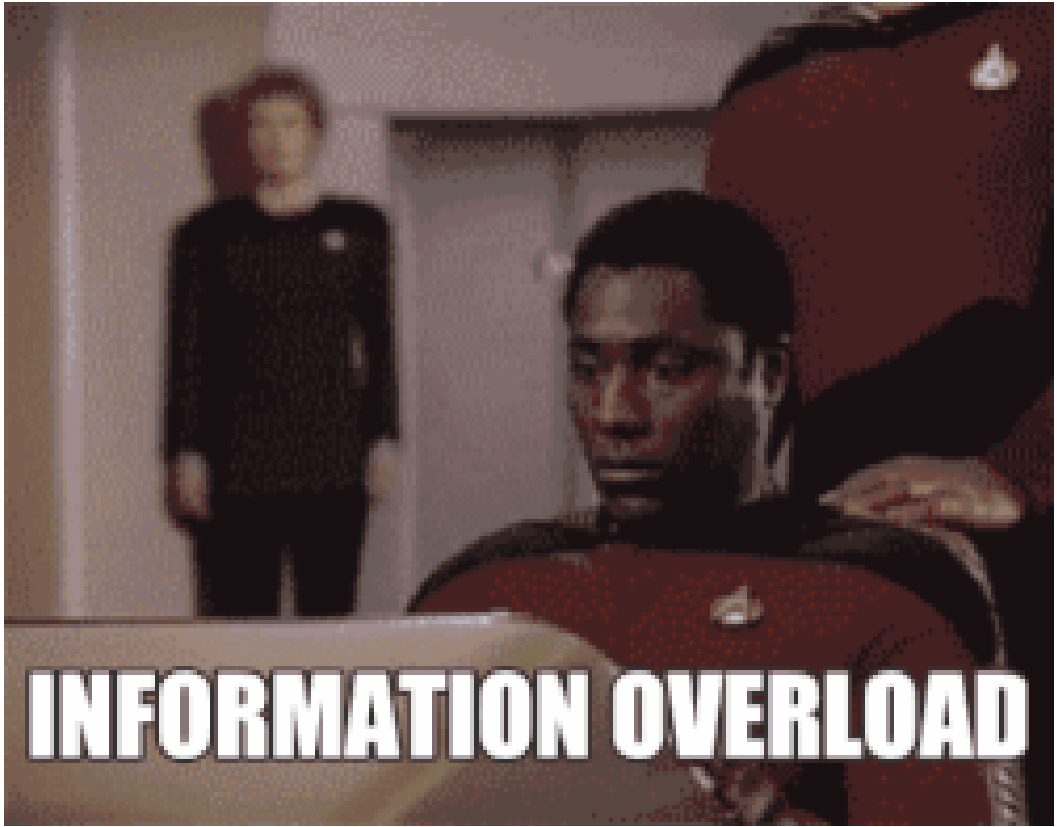
DECEMBER 16, 2017

**SATURDAY  
LATE NIGHT  
SHOPPING  
MADNESS!**

ON MASS AVE SOUTH OF PORTER SQUARE  
ABODEON • CLOTHWARE • COCCINELLE • JOIE DE VIVRE • MADE BY ME  
NOMAD • SUSANNA • MBTAGIFTS • WARDMAPS • AND MAYBE MORE...



(CONTACT INDIVIDUAL STORES FOR HOURS)





**THANK YOU!**