AUTOMATION OF STANDBY DUTY PLANNING FOR RESCUE DRIVERS VIA A FORECASTING MODEL

Case Study Model Engineering - DLMDSME01

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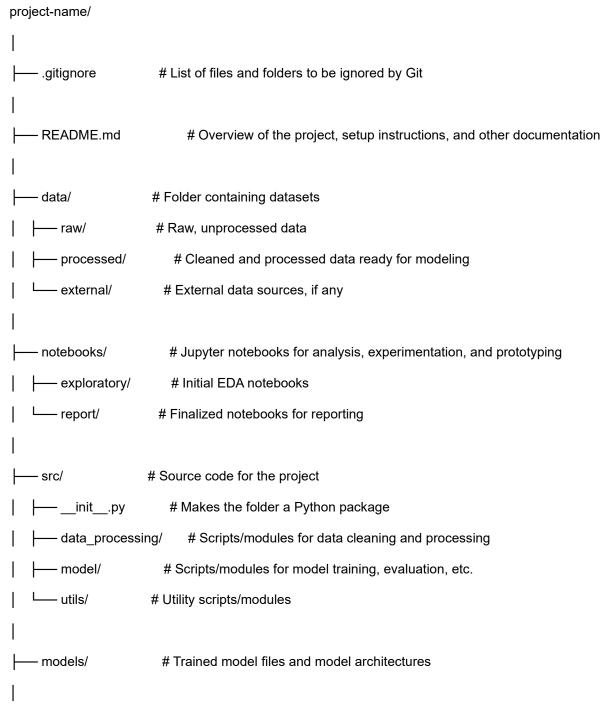
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Project Aim:

- Develop a predictive model to help the HR department estimate the number of daily standby rescue drivers needed.
- The new model should have a higher percentage of standbys being activated than the current approach.
- Situations where there aren't enough standby drivers should be minimized.

Git Repository Structure:



\vdash	— reports/	# Generated analysis as HTML, PDF, PowerPoint, etc.
	L— figures/	# Generated graphics and figures to be used in reporting
\vdash	— tests/	# Unit tests and testing scripts
	initpy	# Makes the folder a Python package
	└── test_sample.py	# Sample testing script
L	— requirements.txt	# Required libraries and dependencies for the project

- 1. .gitignore: This file instructs Git to exclude certain files or directories. Typically, you'd exclude large datasets, environment folders, or other files that shouldn't be versioned.
- 2. README.md: Provides a project overview, setup instructions, contributions, and other essential details. This is usually the first file someone checks when they encounter a new repository.
- 3. data/: Organizing data into raw and processed subfolders helps differentiate between the original datasets and the cleaned or manipulated versions.
- 4. notebooks/: Keeping Jupyter notebooks separate allows for easy prototyping and experimentation. Splitting them into exploratory and report subfolders helps differentiate between initial analysis and final report notebooks.
- 5. src/: All the Python scripts and modules related to data processing, modeling, utilities, etc., are kept here.
- 6. models/: Any trained models, serialized objects, or model architectures can be saved in this directory.
- 7. reports/: Contains any generated reports or analysis outputs. This can be particularly helpful when sharing findings with stakeholders.
- 8. tests/: Contains unit tests to ensure the integrity and correctness of the code. It's a best practice to write tests for your functions and classes to catch any regressions or bugs.
- 9. requirements.txt: This file lists all the Python library dependencies required for the project. It ensures that anyone cloning the repo can easily recreate the necessary environment.

Understanding the Dataset:

Columns:

- date: The specific day for which the data is recorded.
- n sick: The number of rescue drivers who reported sick on that day.
- calls: The number of emergency calls received on that day.
- n duty: The total number of rescue drivers who were available and on duty for that day.
- n_sby: The number of drivers kept on standby for that day.
- sby_need: The actual number of standby drivers who were called into action on that day.
- dafted: The number of additional drivers that were needed beyond the available standby drivers because there weren't enough standbys.

After checking the info() of the dataset, following can be interpreted:

- We have 1152 rows and 7 columns of data.
- There are no null values.

Summary Statistics:

Number of Sick Drivers (n_sick): The dataset reveals an average of approximately 69 drivers reporting sick daily.

The count of sick drivers can vary, with the lowest reported being 36 and the highest reaching up to 119.

The standard deviation of around 14.29 indicates that the number of sick drivers on a given day typically deviates from the mean by about 14 drivers.

Number of Emergency Calls (calls): On average, the service receives around 7,919.53 emergency calls daily.

The volume of calls can swing between a minimum of 4,074 to a peak of 11,850.

The standard deviation stands at approximately 1,290.06, suggesting a moderate day-to-day variation in the number of calls.

Number of Drivers on Duty (n duty): The average number of drivers on duty each day is approximately 1,820.57.

This count ranges between 1,700 to 1,900 drivers.

The standard deviation of around 80.09 indicates a relatively stable number of drivers on duty across days.

Number of Standby Drivers (n_sby): In line with the current planning approach, there's a constant of 90 standby drivers available every day.

Number of Standby Drivers Activated (sby_need): On average, about 34.72 standby drivers are activated daily.

The range is broad, with some days requiring no standby drivers, while on more demanding days, as many as 555 standby drivers might be activated.

Number of Additional Drivers Needed (dafted): The dataset reports an average requirement of approximately 16.34 additional drivers daily, beyond the available standby drivers.

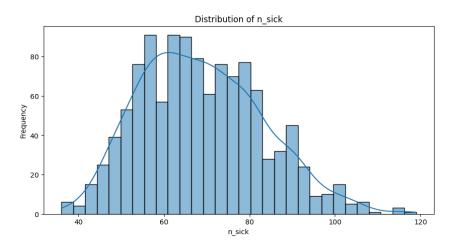
The need can vary drastically, with many days not requiring any additional drivers, while on certain challenging days, the demand can surge to as many as 465 additional drivers.

The standard deviation of 53.39 reflects the considerable variability in this measure.

Initial Data Analysis

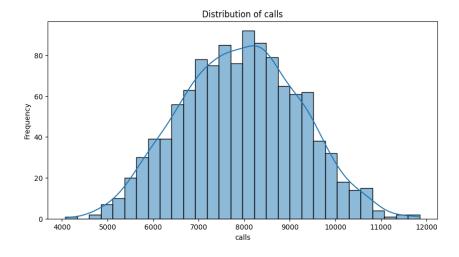
Distribution Analysis

1. **Dis**tribution of n sick-



- The dataset unveils that the majority of days witness a count of sick drivers hovering between 60 and 80.
- The distribution of sick drivers presents a roughly normal shape. However, a closer observation
 hints at a slight rightward skew, indicating occasional days with a higher-than-average number
 of sick drivers.

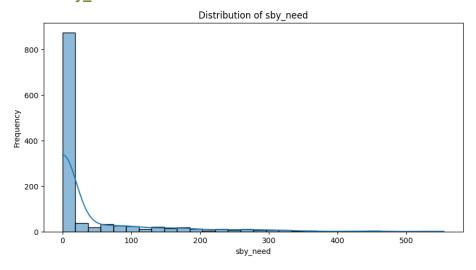
2. Distribution of calls-



The service's daily emergency call volume predominantly oscillates around 7,500 to 8,500 calls.

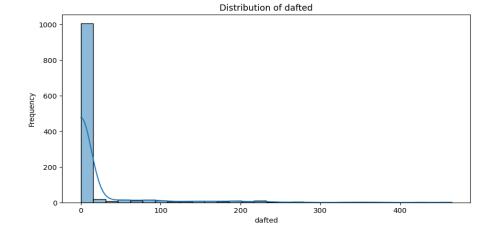
The distribution is a bell-shaped curve, characteristic of a normal distribution, underscoring a consistent pattern in emergency calls with minor day-to-day fluctuations.

3. Distribution of sby_need-



- A significant portion of days necessitates the activation of only a minimal number of standby drivers, if any. This is evident from the pronounced peak at the distribution's onset.
- Yet, the distribution unveils a long tail pointing towards days with exceptionally high standby driver
 activation. While these days are rarer in occurrence, their existence underscores the unpredictability of
 demands and the critical need for efficient HR planning.

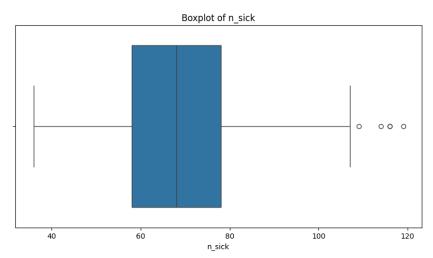
4. Distribution of dafted-



- The prevailing trend indicates that most days are well-managed with the available pool of standby drivers, negating the need for any additional drivers.
- However, the distribution also brings to light occasional days marked by a pronounced demand for additional drivers, over and above the standby pool. These outlier days, although infrequent, represent potential challenges and stresses the importance of a more dynamic and predictive allocation of resources.

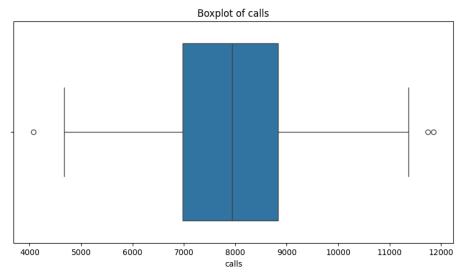
Checking for Outliers:

Outliers in Sick Drivers (n_sick) -



• Most of the data points for sick drivers are clustered around the median, with a few outliers visible on the higher end. These represent days with an unusually high number of sick drivers.

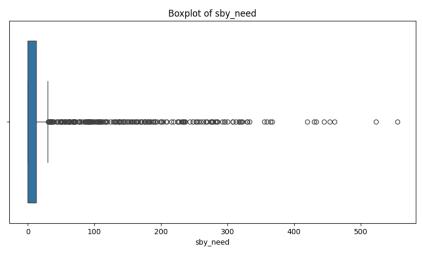
Outliers in Emergency Calls (calls) -



3 outliers were detected.

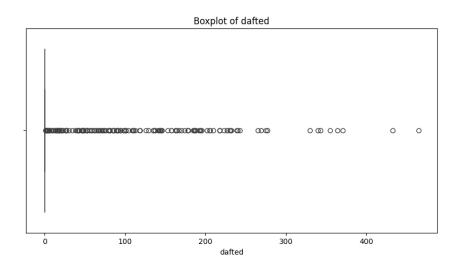
• The majority of data points for emergency calls are closely packed, with a few outliers on both the lower and higher ends.

Outliers in Standby Drivers Activated (sby_need) -



- The Number of Standby Drivers Activated has a considerable number of outliers, with 256 days falling outside the typical range. This indicates the inherent unpredictability in the demand for standby drivers.
- This distribution has a clear right-skew, with a considerable number of outliers on the higher side. These represent days when an unusually high number of standby drivers were activated.

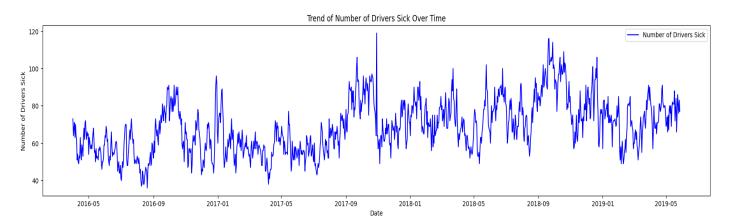
Outliers in Additional Drivers Needed (dafted) -



- 171 outlier days were identified.
- A significant portion of the data points are clustered around zero, indicating that on many days, no additional drivers were needed. However, there are several outliers on the higher end, showcasing days with a high demand for additional drivers beyond the standby pool.

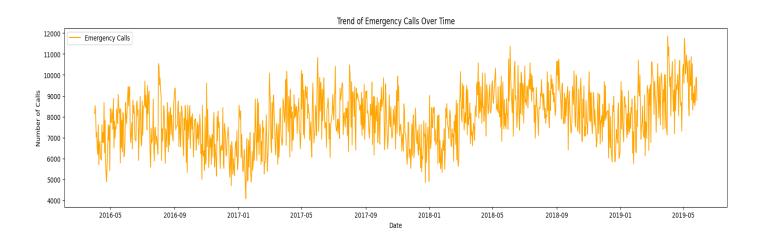
Time-Series Analysis

Number of drivers sick over time



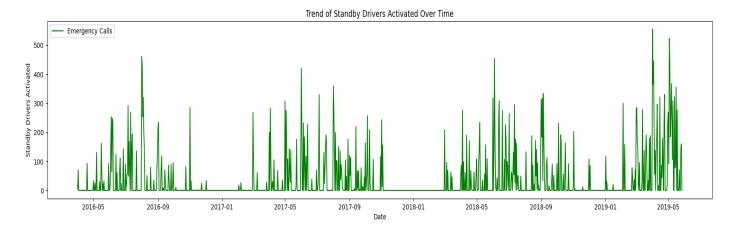
- There seems to be a recurring pattern or seasonality in the number of drivers calling in sick. This is evident from the peaks and troughs observed in the graph.
- We can see that more people are falling sick in between the months of September to January. This can be because of the cold weather so we need to keep in mind this insight while prediction.

Trend of Emergency Calls over time



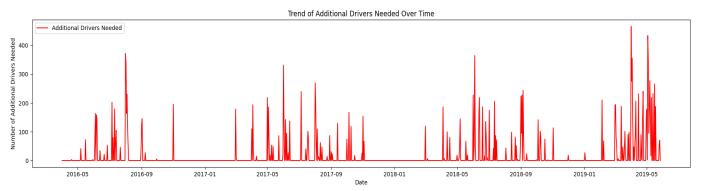
- The number of emergency calls also displays a seasonal pattern.
- Additionally, there appears to be a slight upward trend in the number of emergency calls over time, indicating that the volume of calls might be increasing. This suggests that certain times of the year may consistently require more standby drivers.
- The slight upward trend in emergency calls implies that the demand for rescue services is growing. This trend should be factored into future planning.

Trend of Standby Drivers Activated over time



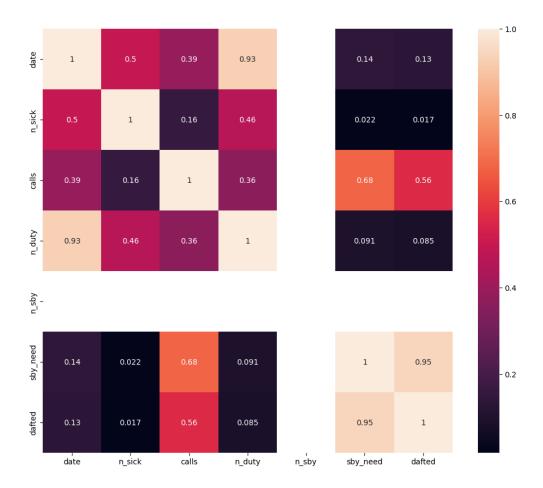
- There is a visible seasonality in the number of standbys activated in correlation with "Number of drivers sick over time".
- It's evident that on several days, no standbys are activated, while on other days, a significant number are activated.

Trend of Additional Drivers needed over time



 While the number remains fairly low, we can see that there are certain days when additional drivers are needed due to a lack of standbys. This highlights the inefficiency in the current approach of a fixed number of standbys.

Correlation Analysis



1. n sick (Number of Drivers Called Sick)

- Shows a moderate positive correlation with `n_duty` (0.459501). This suggests that as the number of drivers on duty increases, there's a corresponding increase in the number of drivers calling in sick.
- The correlation with `calls` is weakly positive (0.155371), indicating a slight association between the number of drivers calling in sick and the number of emergency calls.

2. calls (Number of Emergency Calls):

- It shows a strong positive correlation with `sby_need` (0.677468). On days with more emergency calls, there's a greater need to activate standby drivers.
- There's also a strong positive correlation with `dafted` (0.557340). This means that when emergency calls increase, there's often a need for additional drivers beyond the standby drivers.

3. n_duty (Number of Drivers on Duty)

Shows a weak positive correlation with both `sby_need` and `dafted`. This suggests that even as the
number of drivers on duty increases, there's still a need for standby drivers and, occasionally, additional
drivers.

4. sby need (Number of Standbys Activated)

• The extremely strong positive correlation with `dafted` (0.945168) is significant. It reveals that on days when more standby drivers are activated, there's also a higher need for additional drivers. This highlights a challenge in resource allocation and indicates that the current number of standby drivers might not be adequate.

Feature Engineering

I have implemented following feature engineering steps in order to enhance my dataset for better understanding and modeling-

Date-related Features:

Year, Month, Day, and Day of the Week: These features break down the date into its components, capturing the temporal structure. This helps the model recognize patterns like end-of-month effects, yearly trends, or weekday-specific patterns.

Is Weekend: Weekends might have different patterns compared to weekdays due to fewer working days, more recreational activities, etc. By distinguishing between them, the model can understand these patterns.

Quarter: Some patterns, like quarterly business cycles or seasonal changes, might be captured at the quarter level.

Lag and Rolling Features:

Lagged Features: Previous days' data can influence the current day's values. For instance, a spike in drivers calling in sick might have cascading effects for a few days.

Rolling Mean and Standard Deviation: These capture the local average and variability. For instance, if there's a sudden spike in the number of drivers calling in sick, comparing it to the rolling mean can give context.

Day-to-Day Difference: This captures daily fluctuations. A sudden change might indicate anomalies or specific events.

Ratios and Interactions:

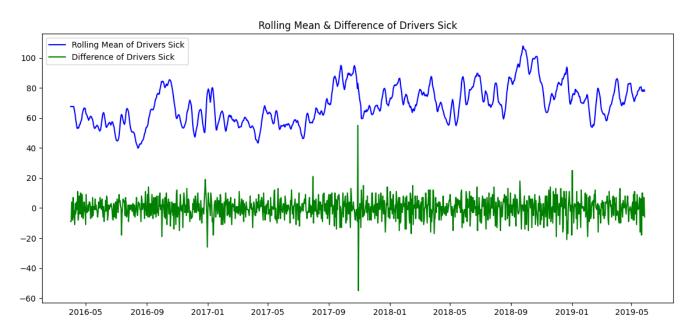
Sick to Available Ratio: By understanding the proportion of drivers who called in sick relative to available drivers, we can gauge the strain on the available resources.

Emergency Call to Driver Ratio: This ratio captures the demand (emergency calls) relative to the supply (available drivers). It can help in resource allocation and planning.

Sick Calls Interaction & Calls Driver Interaction: Interaction terms capture combined effects. For instance, days with both high sick calls and emergency calls might be particularly challenging. Similarly, understanding the relationship between demand and total resources can provide insights into operational efficiency.

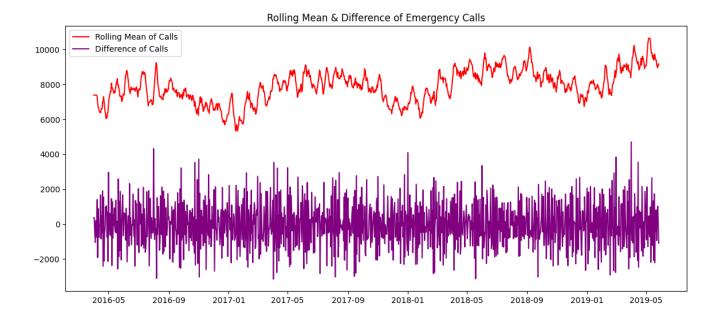
Post Feature Engineering EDA

Rolling mean and difference of sick drivers-



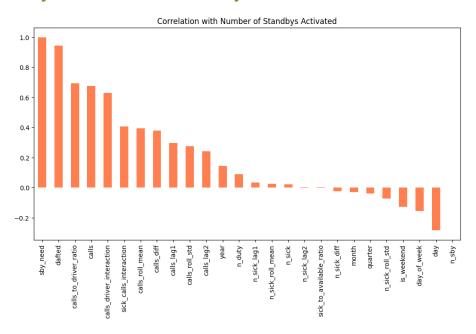
- The rolling mean of drivers calling in sick seems relatively stable, but there are noticeable peaks at specific times.
- The day-to-day difference for drivers calling in sick fluctuates around zero but does show occasional spikes and troughs. This indicates sudden increases or decreases in sick calls on certain days.

Rolling mean and difference of emergency calls -



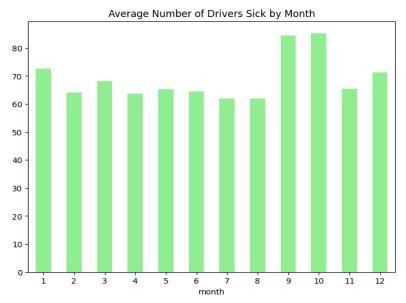
- The rolling mean for emergency calls shows a slight upward trend over time, suggesting an increase in emergency call volume.
- The day-to-day difference in emergency calls also fluctuates, with some days experiencing sharp increases or decreases in calls.

Correlation Analysis with Number of Standbys Activated -



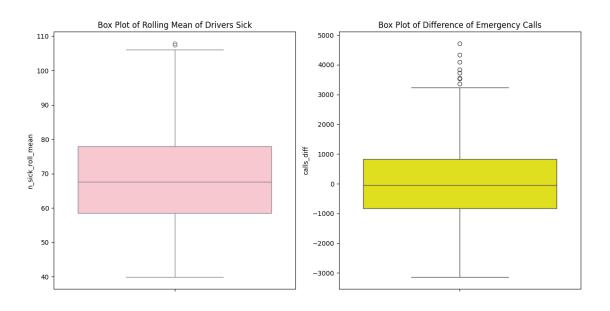
• The number of standbys activated (sby_need) has a very high correlation with the rolling mean of emergency calls, the day-to-day difference in calls, and the interaction between sick drivers and calls.

Drivers Sick by Month -



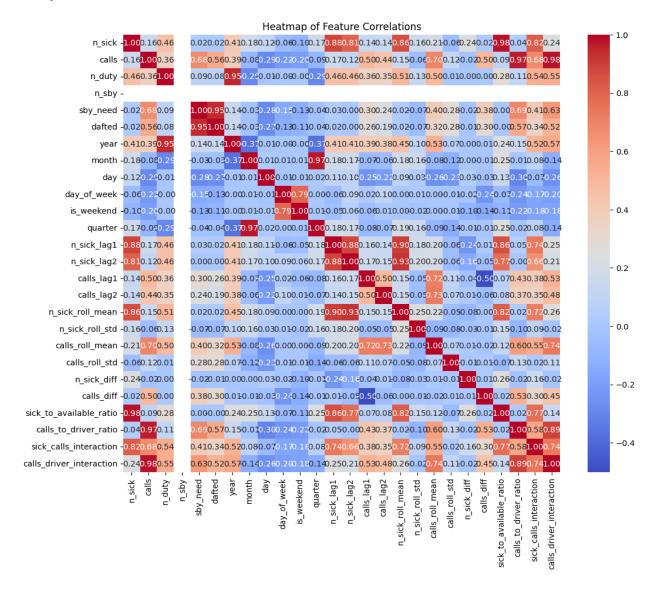
Some months, especially in the middle and end of the year, tend to have a higher average number of
drivers calling in sick. This could be indicative of seasonal factors or events in those months affecting
driver availability.

Box Plots-



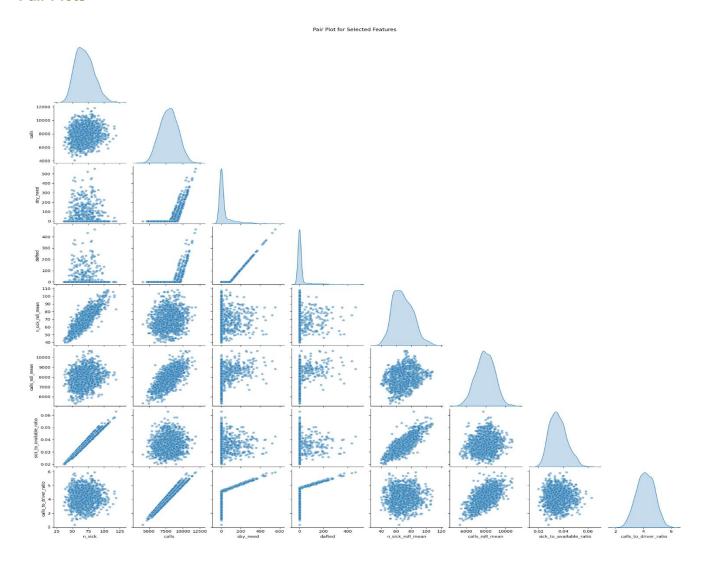
- The rolling mean of drivers calling in sick has a relatively compact interquartile range (IQR), indicating
 that most days have a consistent average number of sick calls. There are a few outliers suggesting
 unusually high or low sick calls on certain days.
- The day-to-day difference in emergency calls has a wider IQR, highlighting the variability in daily call volume changes.

Heatmap of Correlations-



- As seen in the correlation bar plot, sby_need has strong correlations with several features, emphasizing their importance in predicting the number of standbys needed.
- There's a strong positive correlation between the rolling mean of drivers calling in sick and the day-today difference in emergency calls. This indicates that when more drivers call in sick on average, there might be more variability in emergency calls.

Pair Plots-



'n_sick' vs. 'sby_need': There's a slight trend suggesting that as the number of sick drivers increases, the need for standby drivers might also increase.

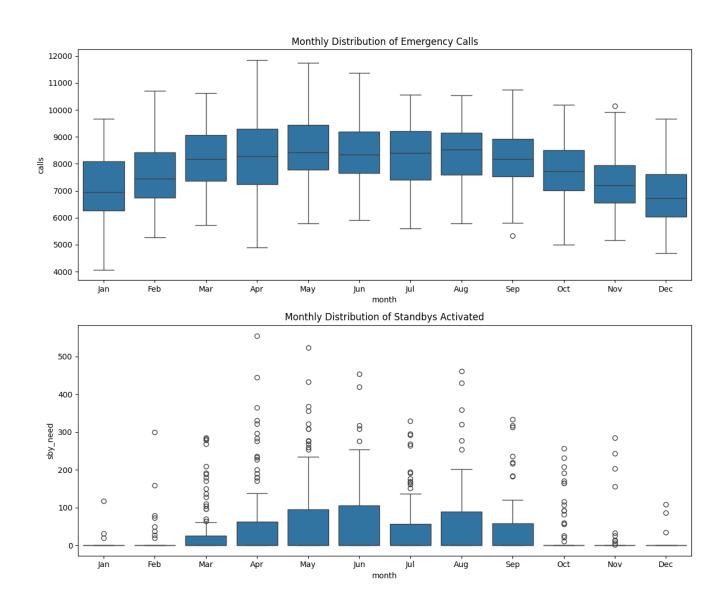
'n_sick' vs. 'n_sick_roll_mean': As expected, there's a strong positive relationship since the rolling mean is derived from the n_sick feature.

'calls' vs. 'sby_need': There seems to be a positive trend suggesting that as emergency calls increase, the need for standby drivers also goes up.

'calls' vs. 'calls_roll_mean': Strong positive relationship, which is expected since the rolling mean is derived from the calls feature.

'sby_need' vs. 'dafted': A positive relationship is evident. Days with higher standby needs also tend to have more drivers drafted from their days off.

Monthly Analysis-

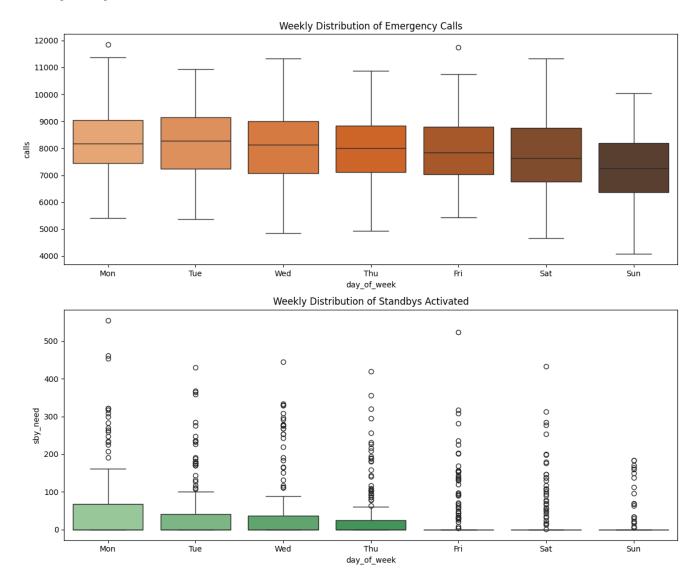


Emergency Calls: The months of January, February, November, and December seem to have a higher median number of emergency calls. This could be attributed to factors like winter-related accidents or illnesses, holidays, etc.

Standbys Activated: The requirement for standbys is higher in the months of January, February, November, and December. This aligns with the higher number of emergency calls observed in these months. The need for standbys remains relatively consistent across the other months, but there's a noticeable dip in June and September.

Outliers: There are certain outliers observed, especially in months like January, indicating days when the standby activations were unusually high.

Weekly Analysis-



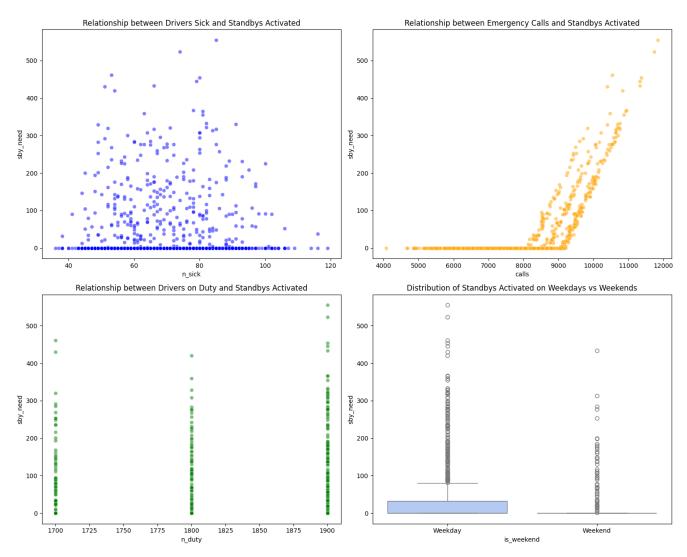
Emergency Calls: There appears to be a distinction between weekdays and weekends, with weekdays generally having a higher median number of emergency calls.

Mid-Week Surge: Wednesday seems to have a higher median and wider distribution compared to other days. This might indicate a higher variability in the number of calls received on Wednesdays. There's a noticeable drop in calls during the weekends, especially on Sundays.

Standbys Activated: Just like the emergency calls, standbys activated also show a higher median on weekdays, especially around mid-week. The number of standbys activated remains relatively consistent from Monday to Friday, with a slight dip on weekends.

Outliers: There are certain outlier days observed across the week, indicating specific days when the standby activations were unusually high or low. This could be due to special events, holidays, or other external factors.

Relationship Analysis:



Relationship between Drivers Sick and Standbys Activated (Top-left Plot - Blue): There seems to be a positive correlation between the number of drivers who called in sick and the number of standbys activated.

Insight: On days when more drivers call in sick, there's a corresponding increase in the activation of standby drivers. This relationship makes sense, as the absence of regular drivers would necessitate the use of standby resources to cover the shortfall.

Relationship between Emergency Calls and Standbys Activated (Top-right Plot - Orange): There's also a positive correlation between the number of emergency calls and the number of standbys activated.

Insight: This indicates that on days with a higher volume of emergency calls, more standby drivers are activated to handle the increased demand. This underscores the importance of having a flexible and responsive system to handle variations in emergency call volumes.

Relationship between Drivers on Duty and Standbys Activated (Bottom-left Plot - Green): The relationship here seems less direct, with a spread of points. However, there might be a slight trend indicating that as the number of drivers on duty increases, the number of standbys activated might decrease.

Insight: Having more drivers on duty can potentially reduce the need for activating standbys. However, other factors, like the actual number of emergencies or unexpected driver absences, will also play a role.

Distribution of Standbys Activated on Weekdays vs Weekends (Bottom-right Plot - Cool-warm Palette): The median number of standbys activated seems to be slightly higher on weekdays compared to weekends. There's also a broader range and more variability in the number of standbys activated on weekdays.

Insight: This might indicate a higher demand or more unpredictability during weekdays. This can be due to a variety of factors, including increased traffic, more people at work leading to potential workplace emergencies, or simply more activities taking place during weekdays.

Feature Selection and Standardization

In this step, The dataset is divided into features and the target variable.

We need to predict the sby_need, which represents the number of standby drivers that were activated on a given day.

And then we will standardize the data to ensures that all features contribute equally to the model's performance.

Model Building

In the Model Building phase, three regression models were trained and evaluated to predict the required number of standby drivers. The models chosen were Linear Regression, Random Forest Regressor, and XGBoost Regressor. Each model's performance was evaluated using the Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), a standard metric for regression tasks that quantifies the average difference between predicted and actual values.

1. Linear Regression: RMSE: 50.7533

Analysis: The RMSE value indicates that this model's predictions deviate, on average, by approximately 50.75 drivers from the actual values. The performance of the Linear Regression model is not satisfactory for this particular task, suggesting that the relationship between the features and the target variable might be non-linear or that there might be interactions between features that the Linear Regression model is unable to capture.

2. Random Forest Regressor: RMSE: 4.6019

Analysis: The Random Forest model significantly outperformed the linear regression model. With an RMSE of approximately 4.60, this model's predictions deviate by an average of roughly 4.6 drivers from the actual values.

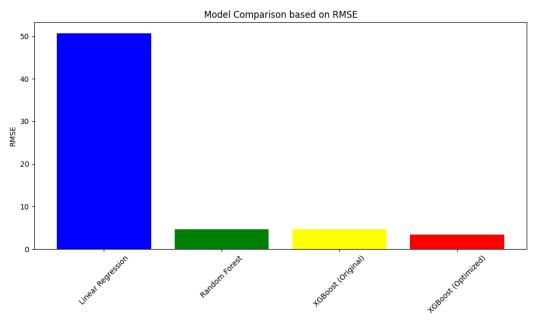
3. XGBoost Regressor: RMSE: 3.7471

Analysis: The XGBoost regressor delivered the best performance among the three models, with an RMSE of approximately 3.75. This suggests that the model's predictions deviate, on average, by about 3.75 drivers from the actual number. XGBoost is known for its efficiency and capability to handle complex datasets, making it a strong choice for this prediction task.

As we can see that XGBoost regressor gives best performance out of three. We will move forward with this model and perform some hyperparameter tuning to enhance it's performance.

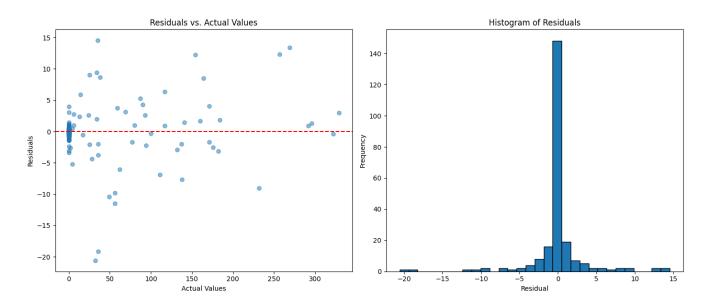
The optimized model gives an RMSE of approximately 3.47 and an MAE of 1.55. The optimized model's superior performance suggests it's well-suited for deployment and making future predictions on the required number of standby drivers.

Model Comparison



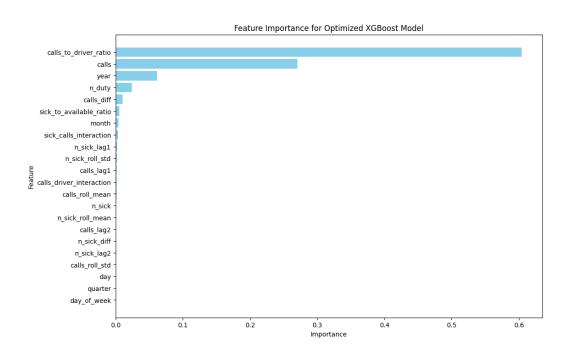
The models were compared based on their RMSE values, with the optimized XGBoost Regressor expected to perform exceptionally well given its refined hyperparameters. The bar chart visualization offers a clear depiction of each model's performance, assisting stakeholders in making informed decisions regarding model selection. Based on this comparison, we will move forward with Optimized XGBoost Model.

Error Analysis



The residual analysis for the optimized XGBoost model gives favorable results. The scatter plot suggests that the residuals, and thus the model's errors, are random across different actual values. The histogram further supports the model's effectiveness, showing a balanced distribution of residuals around zero, indicating no evident bias in predictions. Both visualizations corroborate the model's reliability and robustness in predicting the required target variable.

Feature Importance



The most critical features are displayed at the top for easy interpretation.

calls_to_driver_ratio: This feature seems to have the highest importance. This ratio likely provides insight into the balance between emergency calls and the available drivers. If this ratio is high, it suggests that there might be more calls per driver, which could be an indicator of increased need for standby drivers.

calls: The number of emergency calls on a given day. It's directly related to the demand for drivers, and it's no surprise that it's a key predictor for how many standby drivers might be required.

year: This feature's importance suggests that there might be year-over-year changes or trends affecting the number of required standby drivers. Factors such as population growth or changes in city infrastructure might influence this.

n_duty: The number of drivers available on duty. This helps determine the gap between available resources and demand, hence influencing the need for standby drivers.

calls_diff: This might represent the difference in calls from one day to the next or from a reference point. If there's a sudden spike or drop, it would certainly affect the number of standby drivers needed.

sick_to_available_ratio: This ratio gives an idea of how sickness impacts available resources. A high ratio might indicate a larger proportion of drivers calling in sick, thus stressing the system and potentially requiring more standby drivers.

month: Seasonal patterns as mentioned in the problem description. For example, more sickness during winter months.

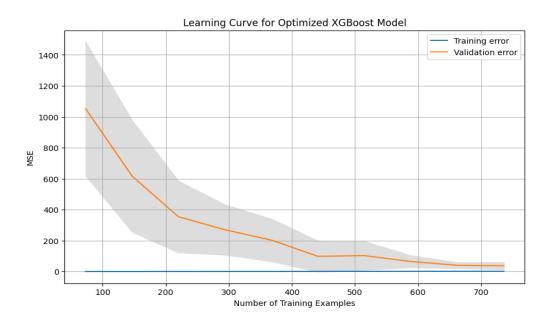
sick_calls_interaction: An interaction term between sickness and calls, which could capture how simultaneous increases in both these factors strain the system.

n_sick_lag1, calls_lag1, etc.: Lag features capture past values, which can help in identifying patterns or trends. For instance, if many drivers called in sick yesterday (n_sick_lag1), it might impact today's requirements.

n_sick_roll_std, calls_roll_mean, etc.: These are rolling statistics, which help capture short-term trends or patterns in the data. For example, if the rolling mean of calls is rising, it might suggest an increasing trend in demand.

day_of_week, quarter, etc.: These capture time-based patterns, like certain days of the week or quarters of the year having more demand or sickness.

Learning Curve Analysis



We can interpret following results from the learning curve analysis-

- 1. The Training error starts relatively low and then increases a bit as more data is added. This is expected behavior since it's generally easier for a model to fit to a smaller dataset perfectly. As the dataset grows, the model starts to generalize, leading to a slight increase in error.
- 2. The Validation error starts off quite high with a small dataset and then decreases as more data is added. This suggests that as the model is exposed to more training examples, its generalization capability improves, leading to better performance on unseen data.
- 3. The shaded regions represent the variability (standard deviation) of the error for both training and validation sets across the cross-validation folds. A tighter band suggests that the model's performance is consistent across different subsets of the data.
- 4. Over time, both curves appear to converge, but there's still a gap. This gap suggests that the model might be overfitting slightly, as it performs better on the training data compared to the validation data. However, the gap isn't very wide, which means the overfitting isn't severe.

Deployment of the Predictive Model through a Graphical User Interface

Introduction: After careful analysis, model selection, and optimization, we have developed a machine learning model that can predict the standby needs based on various features like sickness levels, call volumes, and other relevant parameters. To make the best use of this model, it's essential to make it accessible to the business users in the most seamless manner possible.

Why a GUI?

User-Friendly: A graphical interface is intuitive and requires minimal training. Users don't need to understand the underlying code or technical details to use the model.

Accessibility: A GUI can be accessed from various devices, including desktops, tablets, and even mobile phones.

Real-time Predictions: Users can input current data and get predictions on-the-fly, aiding in immediate decision-making.

Visual Feedback: Besides predictions, GUI can offer visual feedback, charts, and other visual aids to help interpret results.

Proposed GUI Layout and Features:

Data Input Section: Users can manually input data or upload a file containing the required information.

Features like n_sick, calls, n_duty, etc., would have dedicated input fields, along with date pickers for date-based fields.

Prediction Button: After inputting the data, users can click on a "Predict" button to get the standby needs prediction.

Results Display: The predicted standby needs will be displayed in a clear, prominent section.

Additionally, a confidence interval or prediction range could be shown, giving users an idea of the potential variability.

Historical Data & Predictions: A section where users can view past data alongside past predictions to understand the model's performance over time.

This could be in the form of a table or a chart.

Feature Impact Visualization: A small section that visually indicates which features had the most influence on the prediction. This can be derived from our feature importance analysis.

This helps users understand what's driving the model's decisions.

Feedback Loop: Users can provide feedback on the predictions, indicating whether it was accurate, overestimated, or underestimated. This feedback can be used to further refine and train the model.

Error Instances Analysis: A section dedicated to instances where the model's predictions had particularly large errors, allowing users to deep-dive into specific scenarios and understand potential reasons.

Technical Considerations:

- The GUI can be web-based, making it platform-independent and easily accessible.
- Backend APIs will handle the model prediction, ensuring that the GUI remains responsive.
- Data security and privacy measures will be in place, especially if the application is cloud-hosted.

Conclusion: Implementing a GUI for our predictive model will not only democratize access to the insights it provides but also ensure that decisions can be made efficiently and with a clear understanding of the influencing factors. The proposed GUI will be a valuable tool for business users, allowing them to make data-driven decisions in real-time, ultimately leading to more efficient operations and better resource management.

Please Find Attached the Code below-