

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.3%

United States 3.4%

Seasonally adjusted

April 2023



Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE



For workers and businesses affected by COVID-19, Employment Security has updated information on the website at esd.wa.gov. For labor market information questions, please send your emails to data@esd.wa.gov.

Employment estimates in this report are generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Monthly employment estimates are subject to revision in subsequent months when more sample data become available. BLS data in this report are rounded to the nearest 100.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 6,100 in April 2023. BLS estimates the private sector gained 7,200 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 1,100 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for April 2022 through Apr 2023 indicate an increase in employment of 116,700 for the state. The private sector gained 98,300 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 18,400 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2023 is 4.3 percent. The revised estimated March 2023 unemployment rate is at 4.5 percent. The April 2022 unemployment rate was 4.1 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The March 2023 preliminary estimated gain of 1,500 jobs was revised to a gain of 4,300 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek at 360-706-3044

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The resident civilian labor force is the total number of people in the workforce, employed and unemployed, ages 16 and up.

The number of unemployed is the estimated number of people who currently do not have a job, are available for work and have actively looked for work in the last four weeks.

The unemployment rate is the ratio of the estimated number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted
United States and Washington state, March and April 2022 and 2023

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	April 2023 (Preliminary)	March 2023 (Revised)	April 2022 (Revised)	March 2022 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.5%	4.1%	4.3%
Resident labor force	4,057,300	4,047,300	4,023,300	4,003,000
Unemployed	174,700	180,400	163,000	165,800
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%
Resident labor force	1,792,700	1,787,800	1,765,000	1,753,200
Unemployed	53,100	53,200	51,600	54,700

Data Architecture, Transformation
and Analytics Division
April 2023

¹Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refers to jobs, not people. For example, if a person holds two positions, these positions are counted as two jobs in the employment series. In the section titled "Unemployment," these positions refer to individuals, not jobs. In this case, a person holding two jobs is counted only once.

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

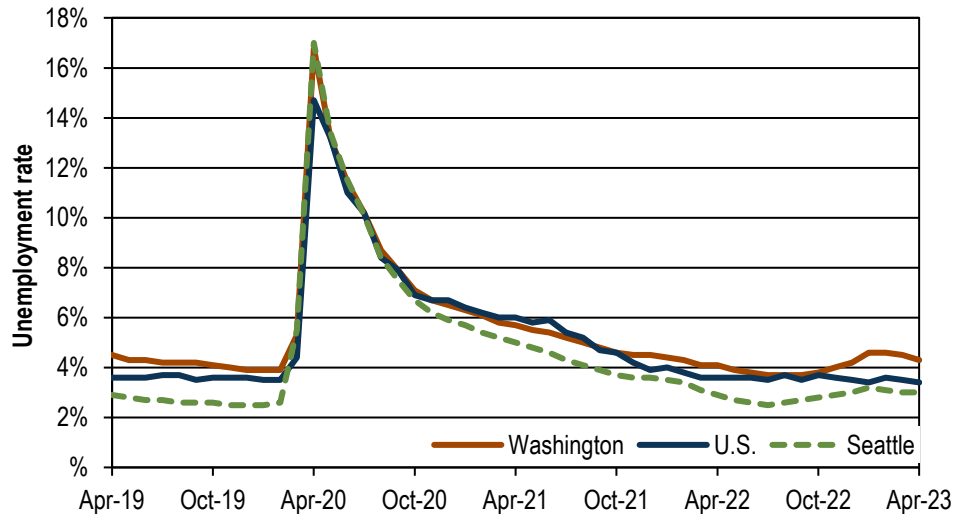
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2023 is 4.3 percent. The revised estimated March 2023 unemployment rate is 4.5 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 5,700 in April 2023 compared to March 2023. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 15,700. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 10,000 people in the labor force.

The preliminary April 2023 unemployment rate is 0.2 percentage points higher than the April 2022 rate of 4.1 percent.

April 2023 preliminary unemployment rates:
 U.S. (preliminary) 3.4%
 Washington (preliminary) 4.3%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 3.0%

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
 U.S., Washington and Seattle, April 2019 through April 2023
 Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 6,100 jobs from March 2023 to April 2023.

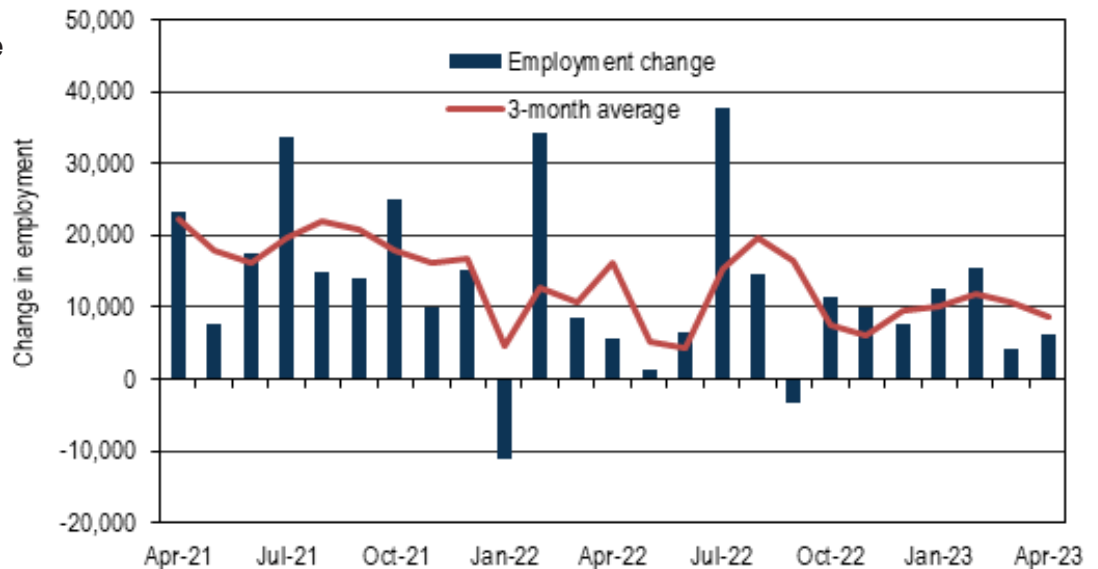
Recent employment change

February 2023: up 15,400 jobs (revised)

March 2023: up 4,300 jobs (revised)

April 2023: up 6,100 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted
 Washington state, April 2021 through April 2023
 Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics



Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

February 2020 (start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,512,700

Unemployment rate: 3.9%

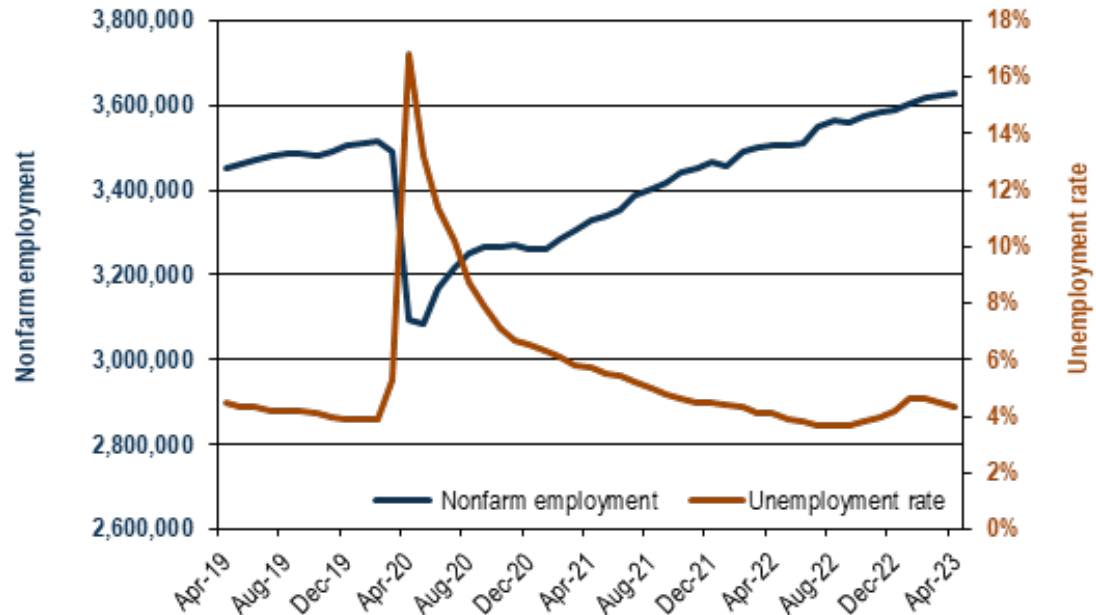
April 2023 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,628,600

Unemployment rate: 4.3%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, April 2019 through April 2023

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Workers and businesses affected by COVID-19

Employment Security's COVID-19 online information page covers topics for businesses and workers impacted by COVID-19. Topics include:

- Subscribing for updates
- Frequently asked questions
- Workers Q&A
- Business Q&A
- CARES ACT
- COVID-19 rulemaking
- COVID-19 resources
- Action alerts and updates

We are all in this together. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented demand for services, but we are building capacity, updating technology, and we thank you for your patience while we work to serve you better.

Did you know that you can subscribe for email updates on a number of Employment Security Department topics all at once?

Go to esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo and select the email icon at the top of the page.



Enter your email address and subscribe by checking the boxes for topics such as:

- COVID-19
- Labor market information
- News releases
- Employer news and resources
- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Employer information
- SharedWork program
- WorkSource system
- Unemployment insurance
- Training

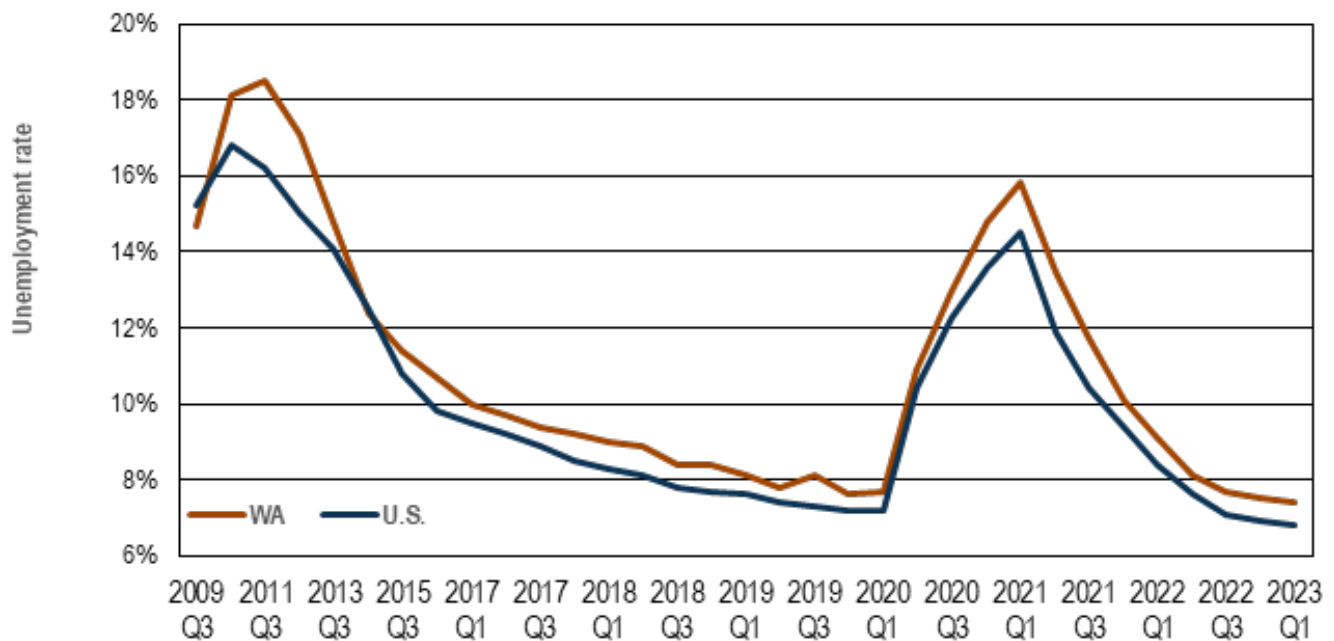
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

U-6 unemployment rate

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include four-quarter rates through first quarter 2023. One such alternative measure is the U-6 rate, which considers not only the unemployed population in the official “U-3” unemployment rate, but also marginally attached workers and those employed part time for economic

reasons. The U-6 rate is defined by BLS as the “total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.” This U-6 measure measures the “unemployed, underemployed, and those who are not looking but who want a job.”

The U-6 annual average unemployment rate for the four-quarter period through first quarter 2023 for Washington state was 7.4 percent. This was lower compared to the 10.1 percent average annual U-6 unemployment rate for 2021. The U.S. U-6 average annual unemployment rate for 2022 was 6.9 percent.



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2023	WA	7.4%			
	U.S.	6.8%			
2022	WA	9.1%	8.1%	7.7%	7.5%
	U.S.	8.4%	7.6%	7.1%	6.9%
2021	WA	15.8%	13.5%	11.7%	10.1%
	U.S.	14.5%	11.9%	10.4%	9.4%
2020	WA	8.1%	10.9%	13.0%	14.8%
	U.S.	7.7%	10.4%	12.3%	13.6%
2019	WA	8.1%	7.8%	8.1%	7.6%
	U.S.	7.6%	7.4%	7.3%	7.2%
2018	WA	9.0%	8.9%	8.4%	8.4%
	U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%
2017	WA	10.0%	9.7%	9.4%	9.2%
	U.S.	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	8.5%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>.

Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 6,100 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in seven major industries, decreased in five and was unchanged in one in April.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 7,200 and government employment decreased by 1,100.
- Construction employment rose by 4,300, with 3,700 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- The number of jobs in education and health services increased by 2,500 overall, with by 800 jobs gained in ambulatory health care services.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 1,300 overall, with 2,200 jobs gained in food services and drinking places.
- Retail trade employment increased by 700 overall, with 1,100 jobs added by general merchandise stores.
- Professional and business services employment decreased by 800 overall, with 1,000 jobs lost in employment services.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, March 2023 to April 2023

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Total nonfarm	6,100
Construction	4,300
Education and health services	2,500
Leisure and hospitality	1,300
Retail trade	700
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	600
Financial activities	600
Manufacturing	100
Other services	0
Mining and logging	-100
Information	-700
Professional and business services	-800
Government	-1,100
Wholesale trade	-1,300

Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

Change by industry over the year

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 116,700 jobs from April 2022 through April 2023.

- Overall, all thirteen major industries expanded.
- Private sector employment rose 3.4 percent, up an estimated 98,300 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.2 percent, up an estimated 18,400 jobs.
- Education and health services employment rose 26,200 overall, with 22,400 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 21,300, with food services and drinking places adding 15,200 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 16,100, with 4,900 jobs added in computer systems design and related services.
- Employment in construction is up 8,700 overall, led by an increase of 4,500 by specialty trade contractors.
- Manufacturing employment increased by 6,100, with 5,900 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted
Washington state, April 2022 through April 2023

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Total nonfarm	116,700
Education and health services	26,200
Leisure and hospitality	21,300
Government	18,400
Professional and business services	16,100
Construction	8,700
Other services	7,400
Manufacturing	6,100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,900
Financial activities	2,800
Information	1,500
Wholesale trade	1,000
Retail trade	1,000
Mining and logging	300

Seasonally adjusted employment

Seasonally adjusted numbers account for normal seasonal patterns that occur year after year, such as strong seasonal hiring in retail trade around the holidays. Taking into account normal seasonal variations makes it possible to see unusual changes in employment levels.

Normal seasonal change is the expected monthly change in employment based on history.

Estimated change is the employment change over the month based on BLS survey data.

Seasonally adjusted change is change in employment accounting for normal seasonal patterns.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change
Washington state, April 2023

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	14,100	20,200	6,100
Leisure and hospitality	5,700	7,000	1,300
Professional and business services	3,800	3,000	-800
Government	2,800	1,700	-1,100
Construction	2,000	6,300	4,300
Education and health services	1,300	3,800	2,500
Other services	1,000	1,000	0
Retail trade	600	1,300	700
Financial activities	600	1,200	600
Wholesale trade	200	-1,100	-1,300
Mining and logging	100	0	-100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,000	-400	600
Manufacturing	-1,400	-1,300	100
Information	-1,600	-2,300	-700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 14,100 from March to April. This year the state gained an estimated 20,200 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 6,100 jobs.

- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 1,400 in April. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 100 as the estimated decrease was 1,300.
- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 5,700 in April. The estimated gain was 7,000, so employment increased by 1,300 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment decrease on a seasonally adjusted basis was 800 in professional and business services in April. The normal seasonal increase is 3,800. It is estimated to have increased this April by 3,000.
- The estimated employment increase in construction was 6,300. The normal seasonal increase is 2,000, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 4,300.
- Employment in retail trade normally increases by 600. It is estimated to have increased by 1,300 this April so it increased by 700 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Media inquiries and contact information

Due to the high volume of requests for information, please send your emails to media@esd.wa.gov so that we can forward your requests to the appropriate staff.

For labor market information questions, please send your emails to data@esd.wa.gov.

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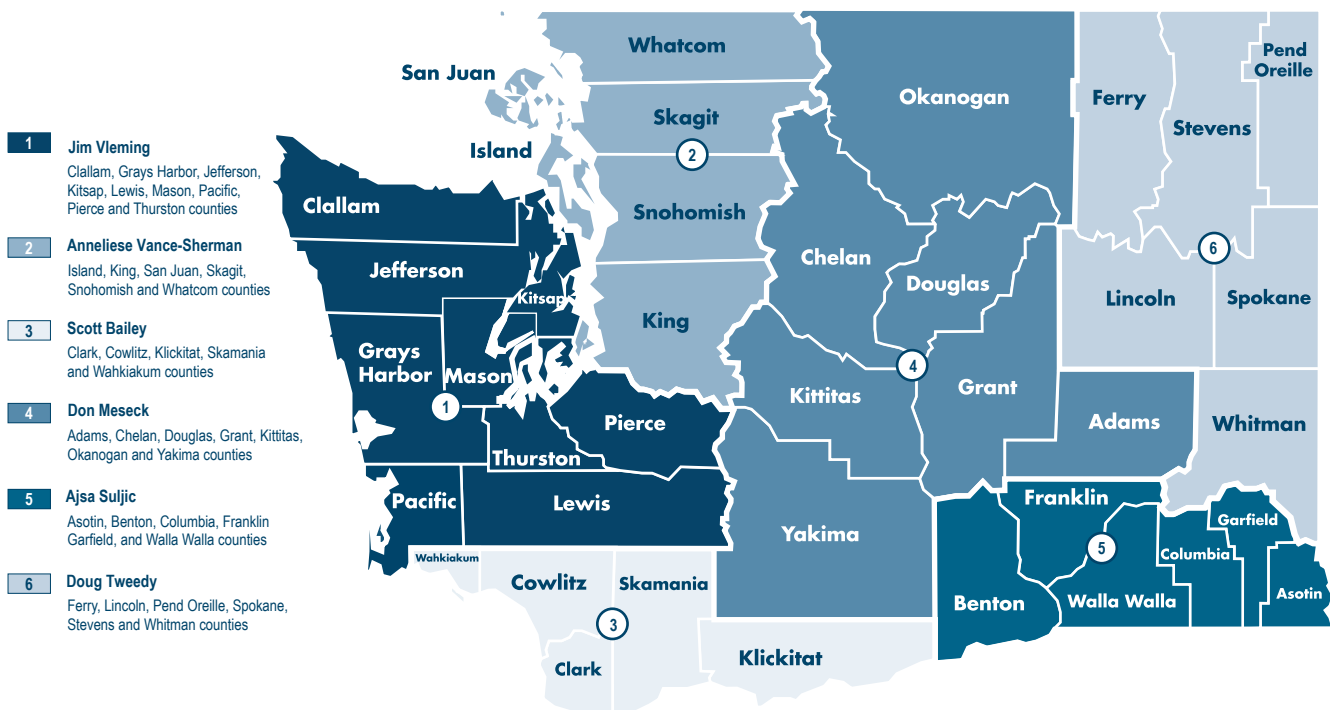
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., May 23, 2023. The publication schedule for 2023 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

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