

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.6%

United States 3.6%

Seasonally adjusted

February 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 15,300 in February 2023.1 BLS estimates the private sector gained 12,600 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 2,700 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for February 2022 through February 2023 indicate an increase in employment of 125,000 for the state. The private sector gained 106,700 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 18,300 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2023 is 4.6 percent. The revised estimated January 2023 unemployment rate is at 4.6 percent. The February 2022 unemployment rate was 4.3 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The January 2023 preliminary estimated gain of 10,800 jobs was revised to a gain of 12,700 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, January and February 2022 and 2023

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

	February 2023 (Preliminary)	January 2023 (Revised)	February 2022 (Revised)	January 2022 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.4%	3.8%	4.0%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%	4.4%
Resident labor force	4,036,300	4,022,900	3,981,800	3,960,400
Unemployed	186,200	184,400	170,100	173,900
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.2%	3.4%	3.5%
Resident labor force	1,783,800	1,782,000	1,745,800	1,735,500
Unemployed	55,000	56,900	58,600	60,700

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division
February 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.

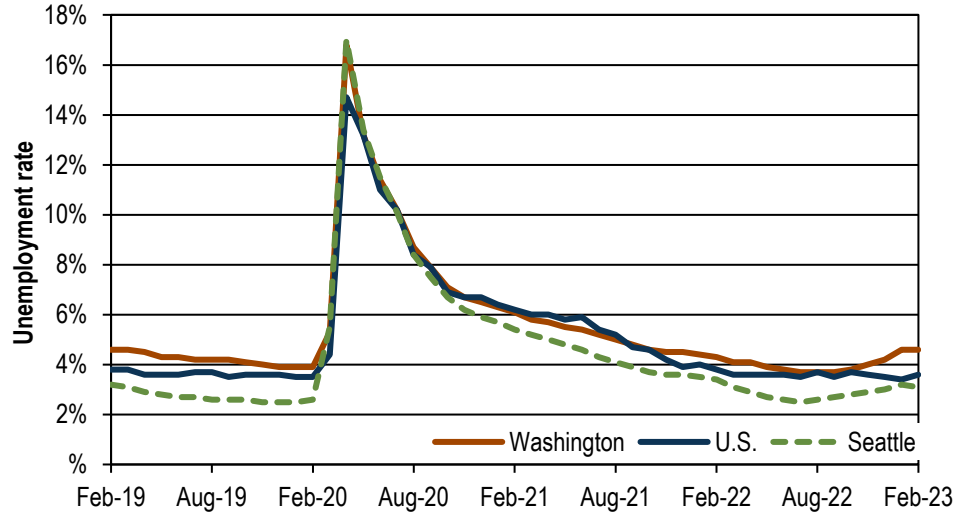
Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2023 is 4.6 percent. The revised estimated January 2023 unemployment rate is 4.6 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 1,800 in February 2023 compared to January 2023. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 11,600. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 13,400 people in the labor force.

The preliminary February 2023 unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage points higher than the February 2022 rate of 4.3 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, February 2019 through February 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 15,300 jobs from January 2023 to February 2023.

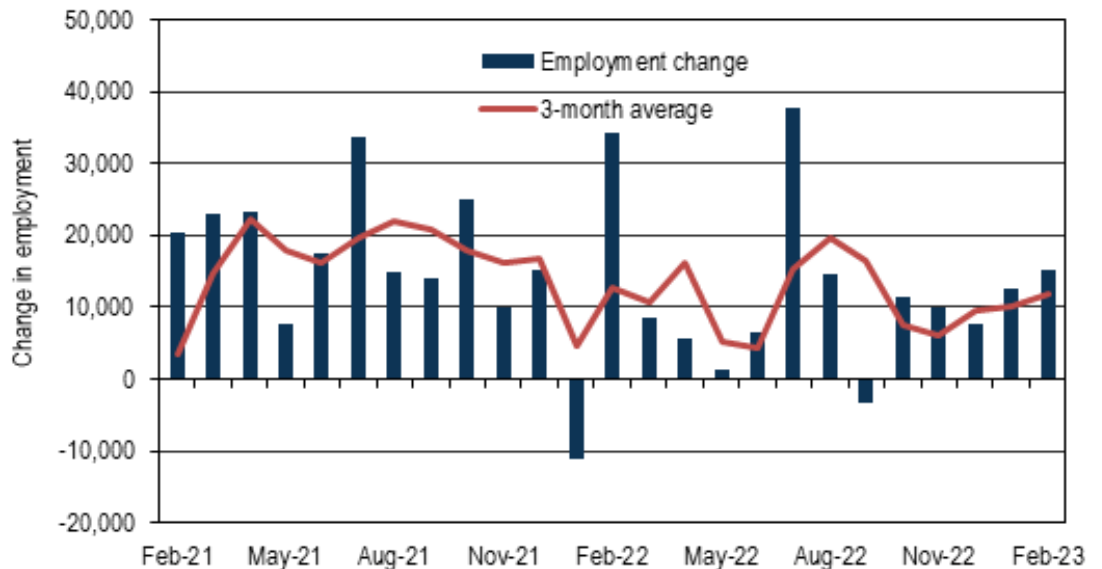
Recent employment change

December 2022: up 7,700 jobs (revised)

January 2022: up 12,700 jobs (revised)

February 2023: up 15,300 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, February 2021 through February 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%

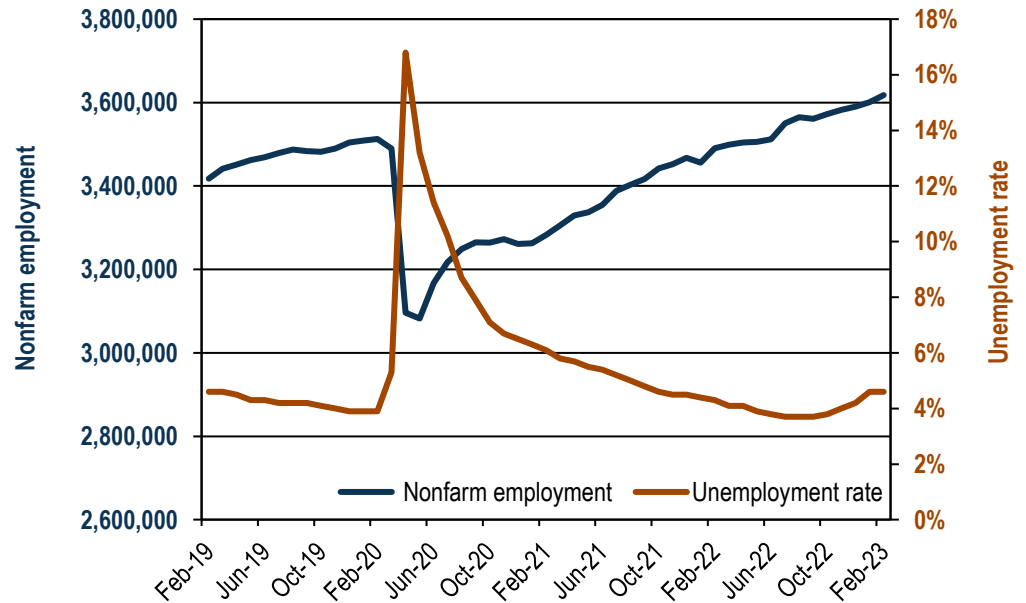
February 2023 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,618,100

Unemployment rate: 4.6%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, February 2019 through February 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
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- Training

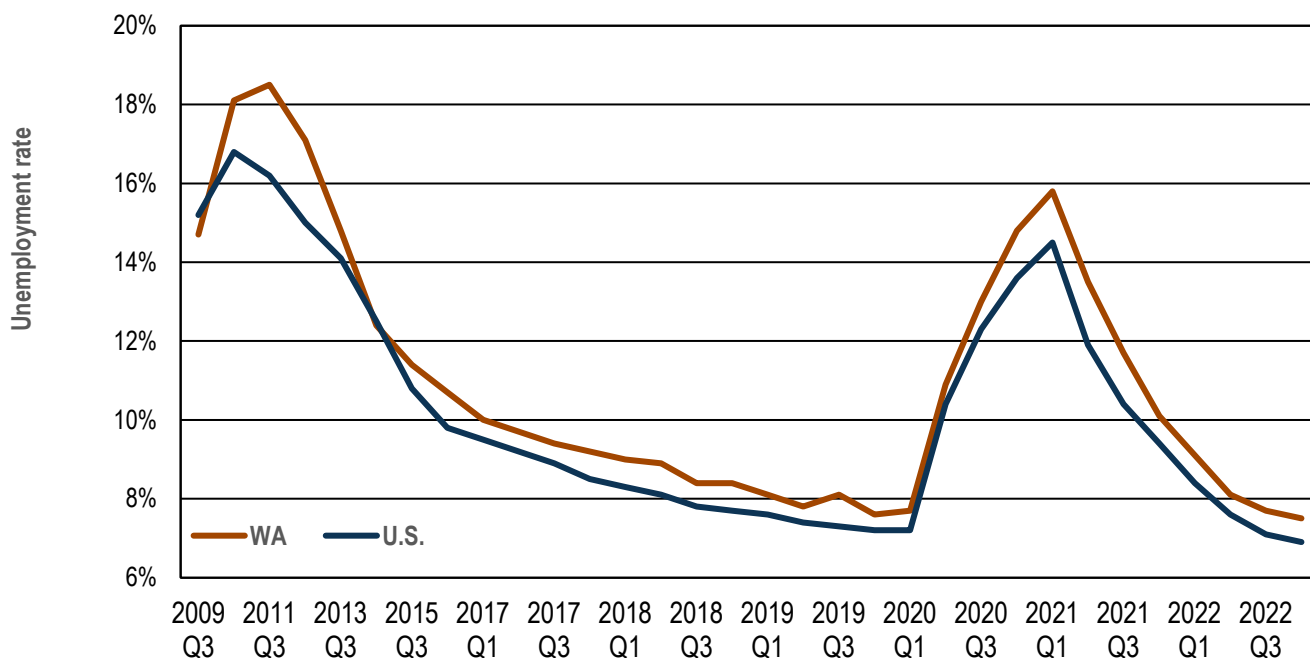
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

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 for 2022. 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 2022 period for Washington state was 7.5 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
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%
2016	WA	10.9%	10.7%	10.7%	10.3%
	U.S.	10.1%	9.9%	9.8%	9.6%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/sta/t.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 15,300 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:
- Overall, employment increased in ten major industries and decreased in three in February.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 12,600 and government employment increased by 2,700.
- The number of jobs in education and health services increased by 4,500, led by 2,300 jobs gained in social assistance.
- Employment in information increased by 1,000, with 700 jobs added by software publishers.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 2,400, led by 1,900 jobs gained in food services and drinking places.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 4,600 overall, with 2,200 jobs gained in administrative and support services.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 800 overall, with 600 jobs gained in food manufacturing.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, January 2023 to February 2023

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

Total nonfarm	15,300
Professional and business services	4,600
Education and health services	4,500
Government	2,700
Leisure and hospitality	2,400
Information	1,000
Manufacturing	800
Wholesale trade	700
Retail trade	300
Mining and logging	100
Other services	100
Construction	-100
Financial activities	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,500

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 125,000 jobs from February 2022 through February 2023.
- Overall, eleven major industries expanded and two declined
- Private sector employment rose 3.7 percent, up an estimated 106,700 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.3 percent, up an estimated 18,300 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 25,600, with food services and drinking places adding 16,000 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 25,400, with 6,800 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Education and health services employment rose 21,700 overall, with 17,200 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Manufacturing employment increased by 8,100, with 3,400 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in construction is up 7,000 overall, led by an increase of 3,500 in residential building construction.

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

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

Total nonfarm	125,000
Leisure and hospitality	25,600
Professional and business services	25,400
Education and health services	21,700
Government	18,300
Manufacturing	8,100
Construction	7,000
Other services	6,400
Information	5,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,600
Wholesale trade	2,500
Mining and logging	300
Financial activities	-300
Retail trade	-1,400

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, February 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	13,400	28,700	15,300
Professional and business services	4,500	9,100	4,600
Education and health services	4,100	8,600	4,500
Government	3,300	6,000	2,700
Leisure and hospitality	2,400	4,800	2,400
Construction	2,100	2,000	-100
Manufacturing	1,500	2,300	800
Other services	400	500	100
Financial activities	200	-100	-300
Mining and logging	0	100	100
Wholesale trade	-200	500	700
Information	-300	700	1,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,500	-3,000	-1,500
Retail trade	-3,100	-2,800	300

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 13,400 from January to February. This year the state gained an estimated 28,700 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 15,300 jobs.

- Typically, manufacturing employment increases by 1,500 in February. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 800 as the estimated increase was 2,300.
- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 2,400 in February. The estimated gain was 4,800, so employment increased by 2,400 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 4,600 in professional and business services in February. The normal seasonal increase is 4,500. It is estimated to have increased this February by 9,100.
- The estimated employment increase in construction was 2,000. The normal seasonal increase is 2,100, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment decreased by 100.
- Employment in retail trade normally decreases by 3,100. It is estimated to have decreased by 2,800 this February so it increased by 300 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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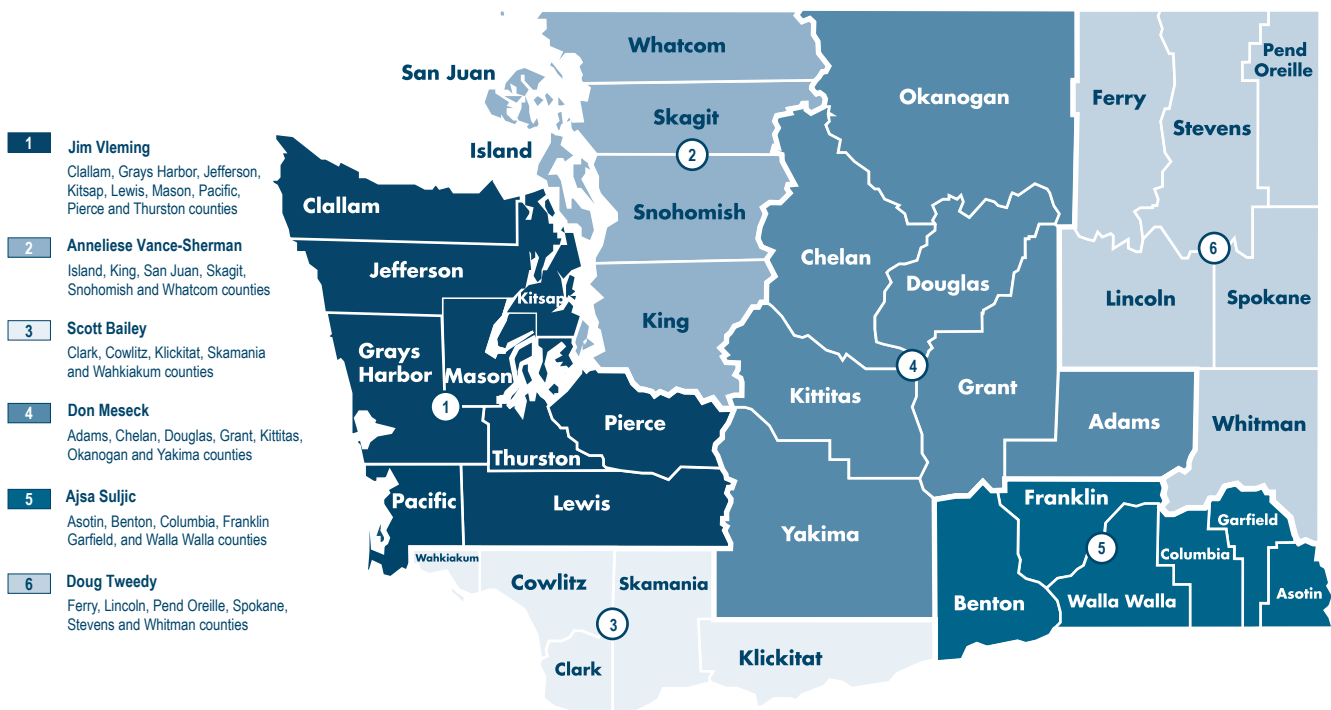
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., March 28, 2023. The publication schedule for 2023 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711.

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