

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.5%

United States 3.5%

Seasonally adjusted

March 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 1,500 in March 2023.1 BLS estimates the private sector gained 300 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for March 2022 through March 2023 indicate an increase in employment of 113,400 for the state. The private sector gained 95,900 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 17,500 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2023 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated February 2023 unemployment rate is at 4.6 percent. The March 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 February 2023 preliminary estimated gain of 15,300 jobs was revised to a gain of 15,400 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, February and March 2022 and 2023

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

	March 2023 (Preliminary)	February 2023 (Revised)	March 2022 (Revised)	February 2022 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.6%	4.1%	4.3%
Resident labor force	4,047,700	4,035,600	4,003,000	3,981,800
Unemployed	180,700	185,500	165,800	170,100
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.4%
Resident labor force	1,787,900	1,783,600	1,753,200	1,745,800
Unemployed	53,300	54,900	54,700	58,600

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division
March 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.

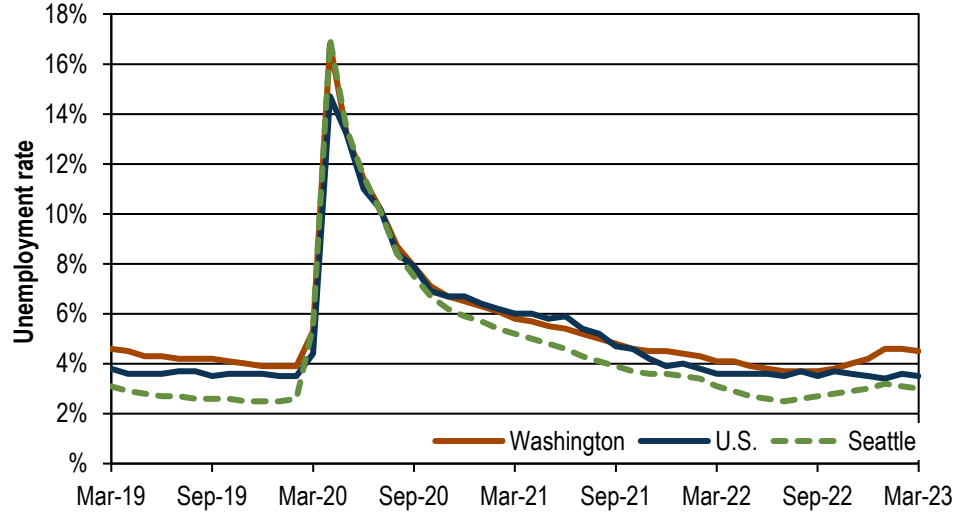
Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2023 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated February 2023 unemployment rate is 4.6 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 4,800 in March 2023 compared to February 2023. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 16,900. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 12,100 people in the labor force.

The preliminary March 2023 unemployment rate is 0.4 percentage points higher than the March 2022 rate of 4.1 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, March 2019 through March 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 1,500 jobs from February 2023 to March 2023.

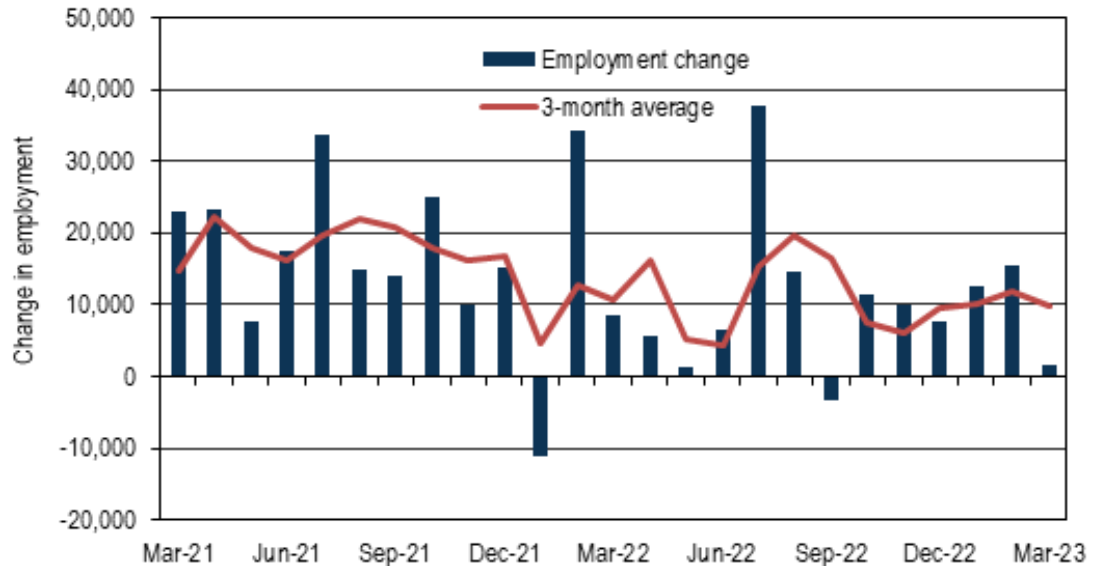
Recent employment change

January 2023: up 12,700 jobs (revised)

February 2023: up 15,400 jobs (revised)

March 2023: up 1,500 jobs (preliminary)

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

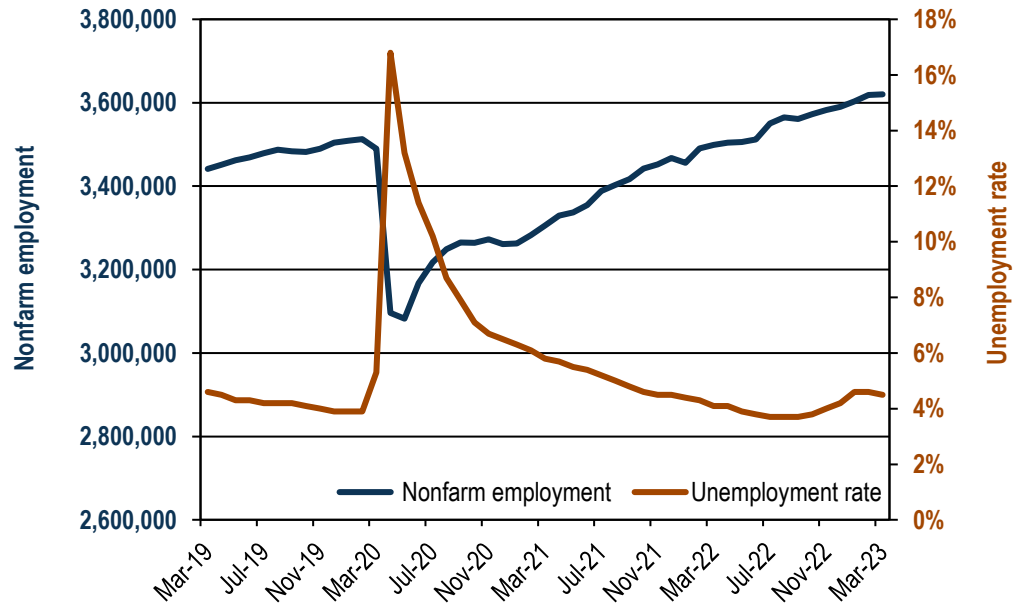
March 2023 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,619,700

Unemployment rate: 4.5%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, March 2019 through March 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
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- Unemployment insurance
- Training

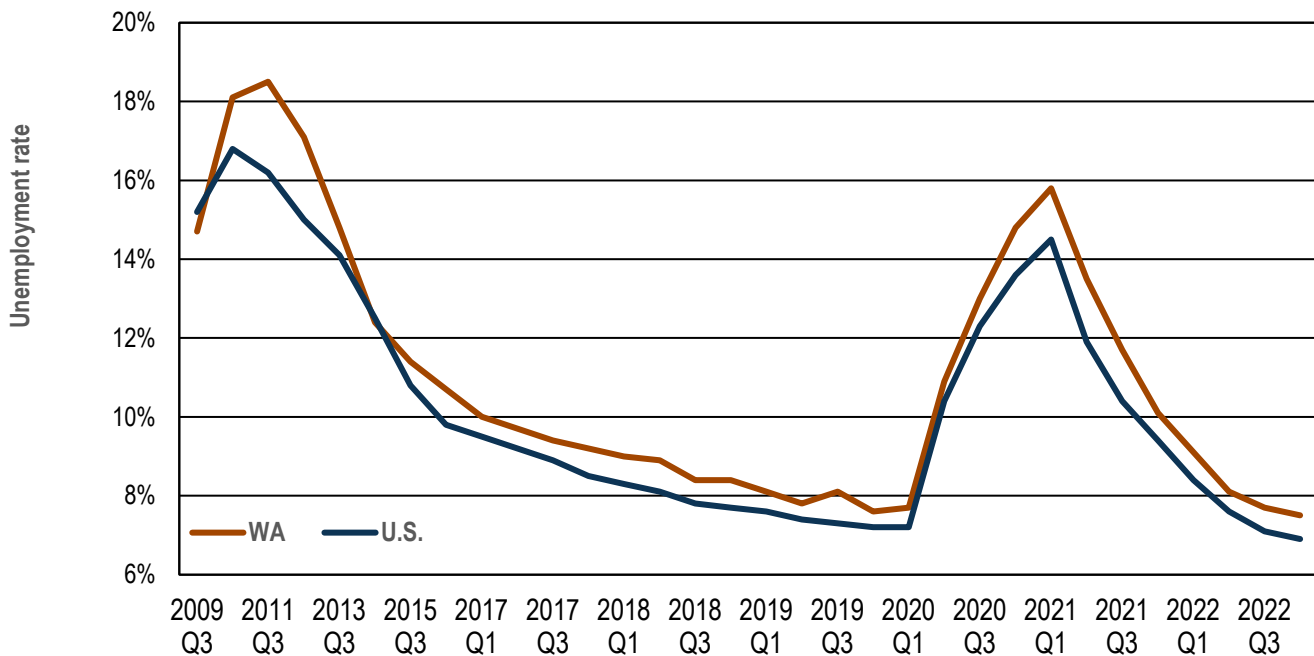
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

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 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 1,500 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in nine major industries, decreased in two and was unchanged in two in March.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 300 and government employment increased by 1,200.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 1,800, led by 1,000 jobs gained in food services and drinking places.
- The number of jobs in education and health services increased by 1,400 overall, led by 1,400 jobs gained in social assistance.
- Employment in information increased by 700 overall, with 700 jobs added by software publishers.
- Professional and business services employment decreased by 2,300 overall, with 2,100 jobs lost in administrative and support services.
- Construction employment fell by 3,600, with 2,700 jobs lost by specialty trade contractors.

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

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

Total nonfarm	1,500
Leisure and hospitality	1,800
Education and health services	1,400
Government	1,200
Other services	900
Information	700
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	600
Wholesale trade	400
Retail trade	300
Manufacturing	100
Financial activities	0
Mining and logging	0
Professional and business services	-2,300
Construction	-3,600

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 113,400 jobs from March 2022 through March 2023.

- Overall, eleven major industries expanded and two declined.
- Private sector employment rose 3.3 percent, up an estimated 95,900 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.1 percent, up an estimated 17,500 jobs.
- Education and health services employment rose 23,700 overall, with 18,900 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 22,900, with food services and drinking places adding 14,000 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 17,900, with 4,600 jobs added in computer systems design and related services.
- Manufacturing employment increased by 8,300, with 5,500 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in retail trade is down 1,700 overall, led by a decrease of 2,700 in other retail trade.

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

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

Total nonfarm	113,400
Education and health services	23,700
Leisure and hospitality	22,900
Professional and business services	17,900
Government	17,500
Manufacturing	8,300
Other services	7,100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	6,900
Construction	4,900
Information	4,400
Wholesale trade	2,000
Mining and logging	300
Financial activities	-800
Retail trade	-1,700

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, March 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	10,100	11,600	1,500
Leisure and hospitality	3,800	5,600	1,800
Construction	3,400	-200	-3,600
Other services	1,500	2,400	900
Education and health services	1,200	2,600	1,400
Professional and business services	500	-1,800	-2,300
Government	400	1,600	1,200
Information	400	1,100	700
Wholesale trade	100	500	400
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Retail trade	-100	200	300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-200	400	600
Manufacturing	-400	-300	100
Financial activities	-500	-500	0

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 10,100 from February to March. This year the state gained an estimated 11,600 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 1,500 jobs.

- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 400 in March. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 100 as the estimated decrease was 300.
- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 3,800 in March. The estimated gain was 5,600, so employment increased by 1,800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment decrease on a seasonally adjusted basis was 2,300 in professional and business services in March. The normal seasonal increase is 500. It is estimated to have decreased this March by 1,800.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 200. The normal seasonal increase is 3,400, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment decreased by 3,600.
- Employment in retail trade normally decreases by 100. It is estimated to have increased by 200 this March 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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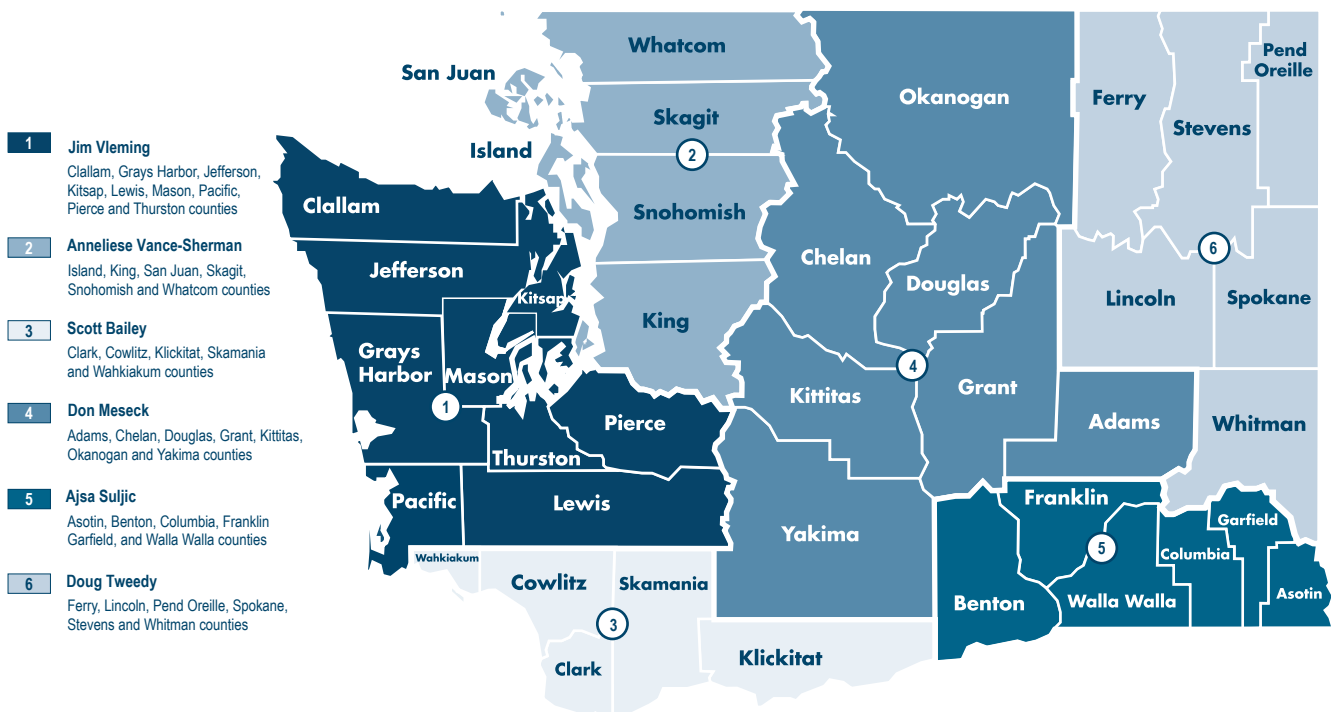
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., April 25, 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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