

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 3.8%

United States 3.9%

Seasonally adjusted

October 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 7,900 in October 2023. BLS estimates the private sector gained 4,800 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 3,100 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for October 2022 through October 2023 indicate an increase in employment of 59,100 for the state. The private sector gained 36,200 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 22,900 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2023 was 3.8 percent. The revised estimated unemployment rate for September 2023 was 3.6 percent. The October 2022 unemployment rate was 4.6 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The September 2023 preliminary estimated gain of 7,900 jobs was revised to a gain of 4,900 jobs.

For more information, call Anneliese Vance-Sherman at 564-900-0748

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, September and October 2022 and 2023
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	October 2023 (Preliminary)	September 2023 (Revised)	October 2022 (Revised)	September 2022 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.6%	4.6%	4.4%
Resident labor force	4,056,188	4,061,138	4,014,624	4,007,520
Unemployed	153,526	146,934	183,083	177,698
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%
Resident labor force	1,817,332	1,821,214	1,781,071	1,779,028
Unemployed	61,194	59,162	57,648	56,474

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division
October 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 October 2023 was 3.8 percent. The revised estimated September 2023 unemployment rate was 3.6 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 6,592 in October 2023 compared to September 2023. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 11,542. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 4,950 people in the labor force.

The preliminary October 2023 unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage points lower than the October 2022 rate of 4.6 percent.

October 2023 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.9%

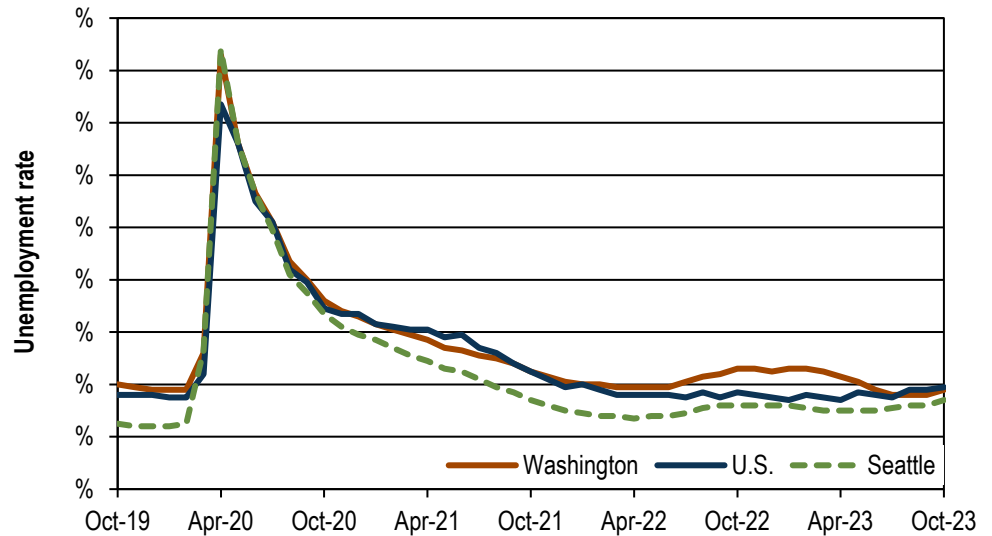
Washington (preliminary) 3.8%

Seattle area (preliminary) 3.4%

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, October 2019 through October 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 7,900 jobs from September 2023 to October 2023.

Recent employment change

August 2023: up 2,500 jobs (revised)

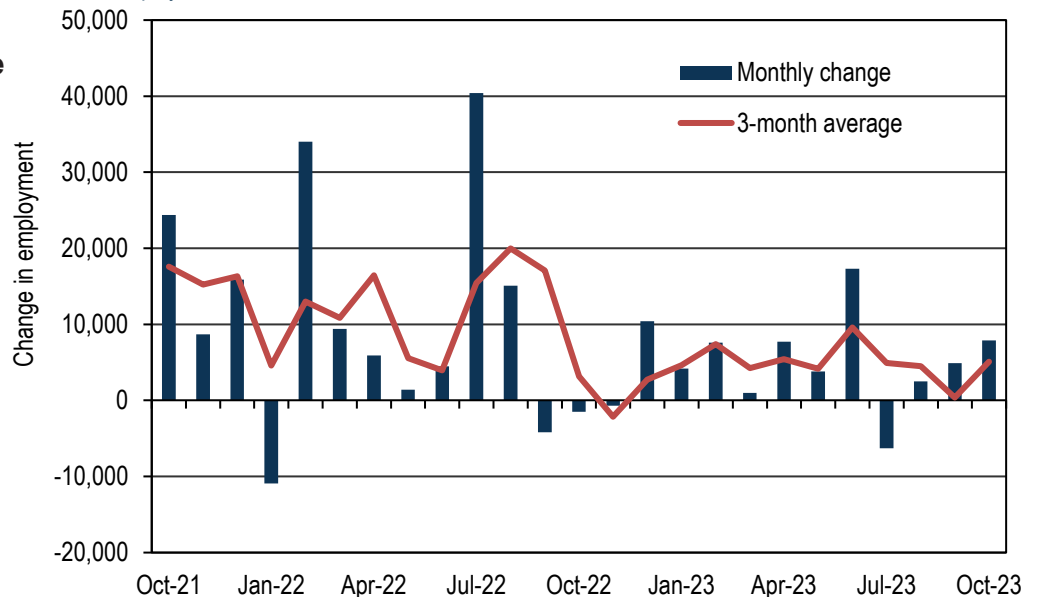
September 2023: up 4,900 jobs (revised)

October 2023: up 7,900 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, October 2021 through October 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: 3,512,000

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

October 2023 (preliminary)

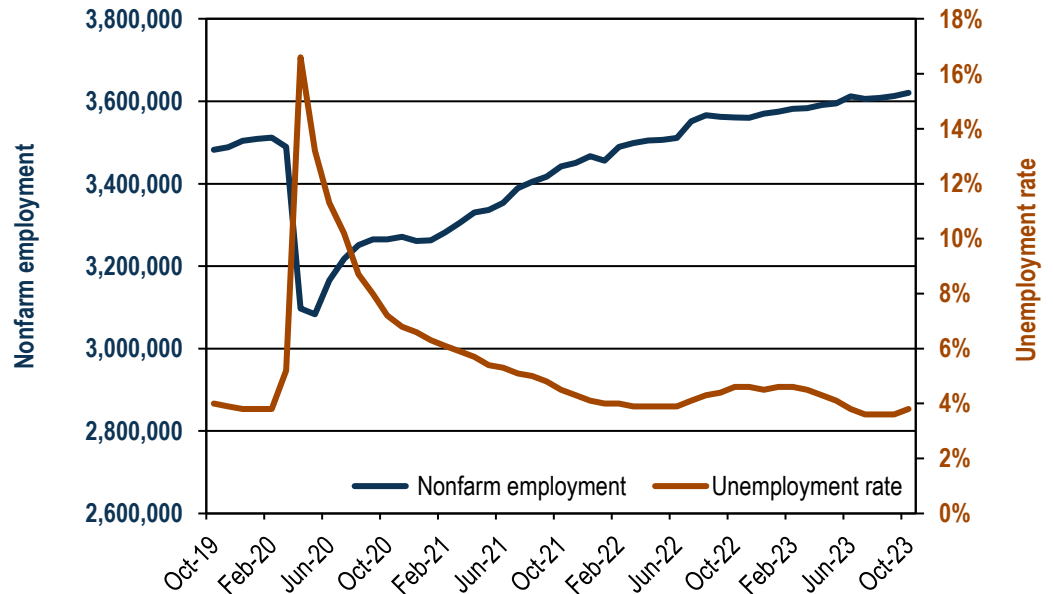
Nonfarm employment: 3,620,900

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

3.6%

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

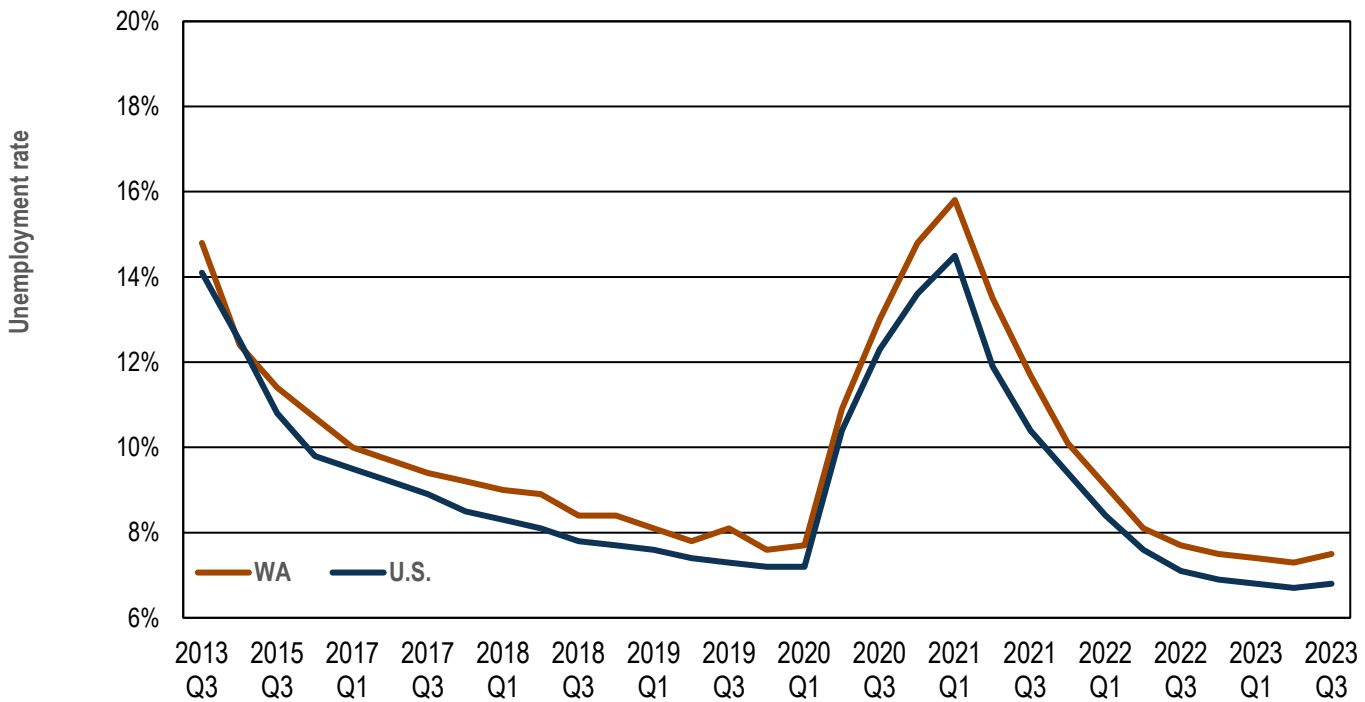
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

U-6: Broader annual average unemployment measure increased in the four-quarter period through third quarter 2023

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include four-quarter rates through the third quarter of 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 third quarter 2023 for Washington state was 7.5 percent. This was above the 7.3 percent average for the four-quarter period through second quarter 2023. The U.S. U-6 average for the four-quarter period through third quarter 2023 was 6.8 percent.



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2023	WA	7.4%	7.3%	7.5%	
	U.S.	6.8%	6.7%	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/stait.htm>.

Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington added an estimated 7,900 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in seven major industries and decreased in four.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 4,800 and government employment increased by 3,100.
- Private education and health services employment increased by 3,700, with 2,000 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Government employment increases were concentrated in local government.
- Retail trade employment increased by 2,500 with the largest observed gains attributable to other retail trade (1,000) and food and beverage stores (800).
- Employment in the information sector fell by 1,600, with losses observed in publishing industries except internet (-2,400) and software publishers (-1,800).
- Employment in financial activities decreased by 1,800 overall. Losses were concentrated in finance and insurance which decreased by 2,000.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, September 2023 to October 2023

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

Total nonfarm	7,900
Education and Health Services	3,700
Government	3,100
Retail Trade	2,500
Manufacturing	1,100
Other Services	900
Professional and Business Services	400
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	400
Mining and logging	0
Leisure and hospitality	0
Wholesale Trade	-300
Construction	-500
Information	-1,600
Financial Activities	-1,800

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 59,100 jobs from October 2022 through October 2023.

- Overall, nine major industries expanded and three decreased.
- Private sector employment rose 1.2 percent, up an estimated 36,200 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 4.0 percent, up an estimated 22,900 jobs.
- Education and health services employment rose by 19,000 overall, with 16,000 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality was up 11,600, with arts, entertainment and recreation adding 5,100 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment increased by 5,700, with 5,500 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in construction dropped by 4,100 overall, led by a decrease residential building construction which was down 3,000 in October.
- Information sector employment dropped by 5,000 over the year. Losses directly attributable to software publishing amounted to 200 jobs.

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

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

Total nonfarm	59,100
Government	22,900
Education and health services	19,000
Leisure and hospitality	11,600
Manufacturing	5,700
Wholesale trade	4,500
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,700
Other services	1,600
Professional and business services	400
Retail trade	200
Mining and logging	0
Financial activities	-400
Construction	-4,100
Information	-5,000

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, October 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	3,000	10,900	7,900
Education and health services	3,900	7,600	3,700
Government	15,000	18,100	3,100
Retail trade	1,500	4,000	2,500
Manufacturing	-2,100	-1,000	1,100
Other services	-600	300	900
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000	1,400	400
Professional and business services	-2,600	-2,200	400
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	-9,400	-9,400	0
Wholesale trade	100	-200	-300
Construction	-1,500	-2,000	-500
Information	-2,700	-4,300	-1,600
Financial activities	400	-1,400	-1,800

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 7,600 from August to September. This year the state gained an estimated 300 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 7,900 jobs.

- The largest seasonally adjusted increase in employment was observed in education and health services. The normal seasonal change would have added 3,900 jobs. The observed increase in employment was 7,600, resulting in a seasonally adjusted change of 3,700 jobs.

- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 2,100 in October. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 1,000, resulting in a seasonally adjusted increase of 1,100.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment was expected to be about 9,400. This aligned with the actual estimated change, resulting in a seasonally adjusted estimation of no jobs lost or gained.

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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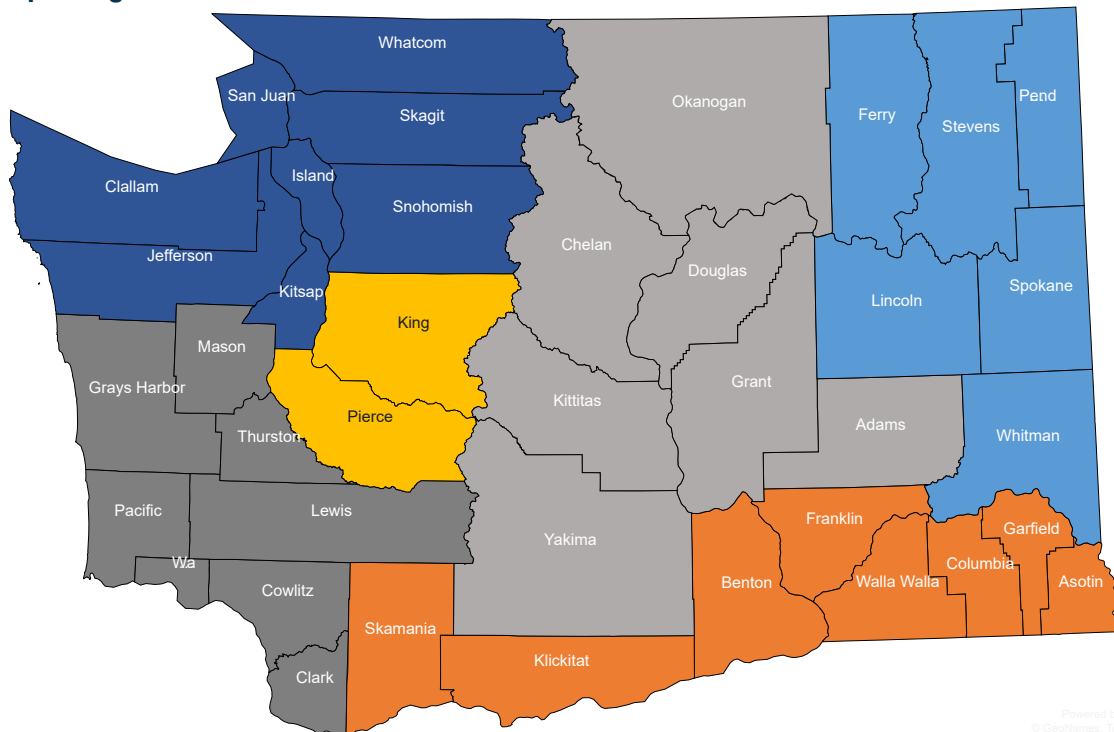
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., November 21, 2023. The publication schedule for 2023 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

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