



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 26, 2015

Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2015 Seasonal Factors and revised seasonal factors and historical series for CY 2010-2014 for both initial claims and continued claims will be made available April 2, 2015, with the release of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Weekly Claims News Release.

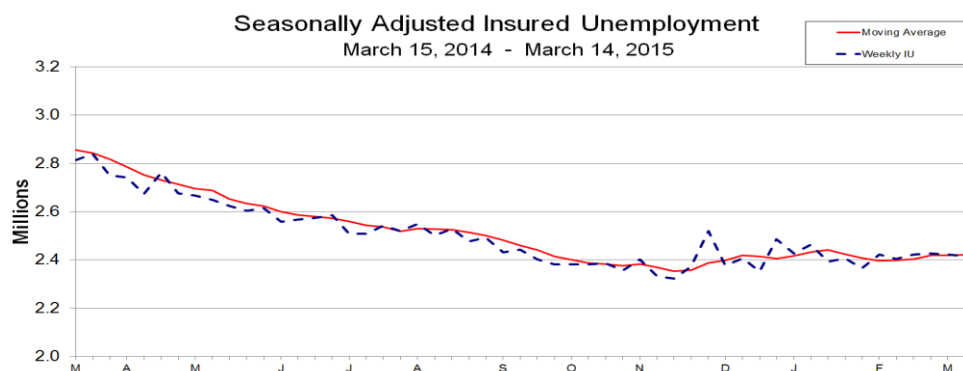
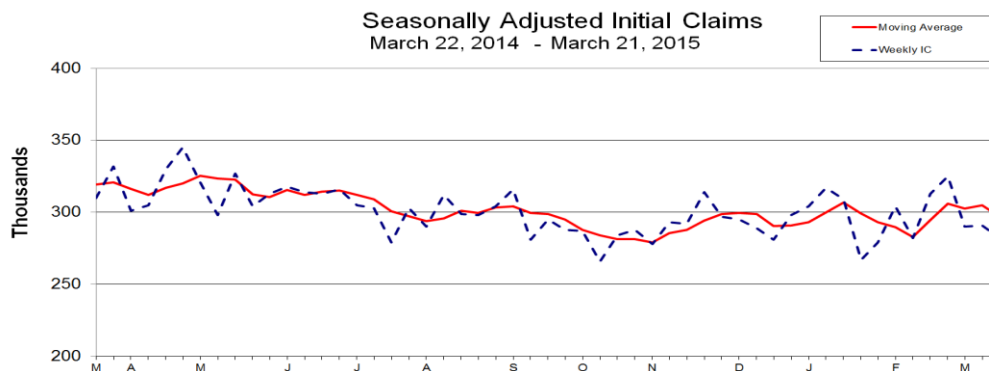
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 21, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 282,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 291,000. The 4-week moving average was 297,000, a decrease of 7,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 304,750.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims.

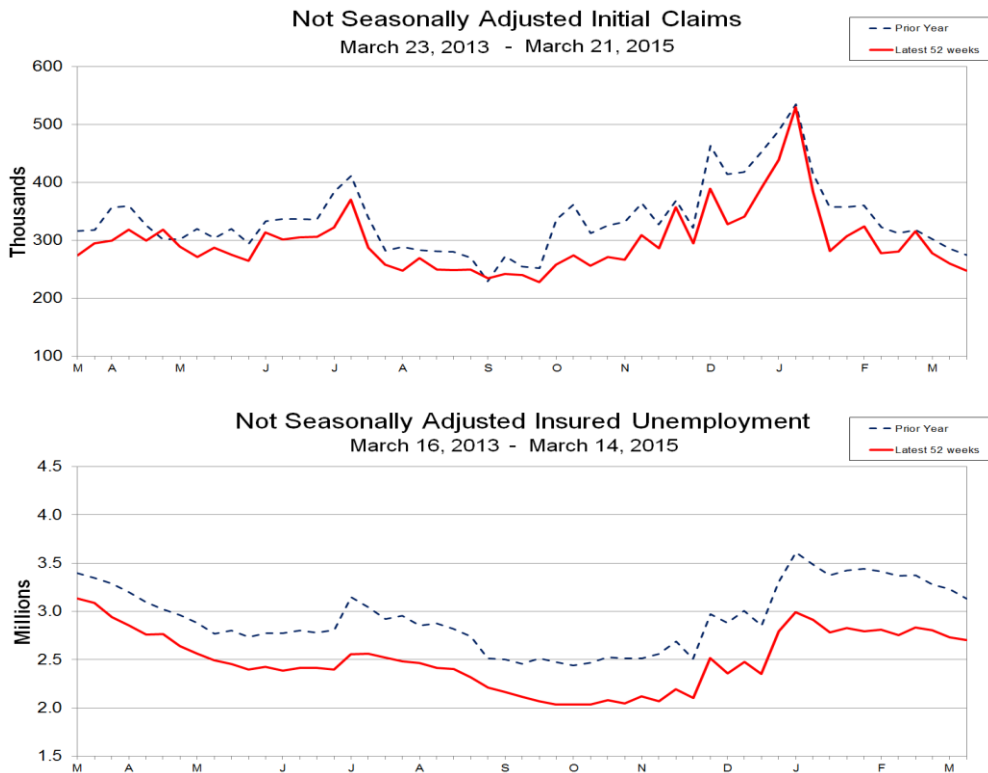
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending March 14, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 14 was 2,416,000, a decrease of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 2,417,000 to 2,422,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,422,250, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,418,000 to 2,419,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 247,256 in the week ending March 21, a decrease of 12,986 (or -5.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 4,371 (or -1.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 274,072 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.0 percent during the week ending March 14, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,700,795, a decrease of 28,953 (or -1.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 21,799 (or -0.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.4 percent and the volume was 3,132,104.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 7 was 2,784,951, a decrease of 74,194 from the previous week. There were 3,306,871 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2014.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending March 7.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 947 in the week ending March 14, an increase of 52 from the prior week. There were 1,402 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 191 from the preceding week.

There were 15,280 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 7, a decrease of 118 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 22,243, an increase of 79 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 7 were in Alaska (4.1), New Jersey (3.6), Connecticut (3.4), Rhode Island (3.3), Pennsylvania (3.2), Massachusetts (3.1), West Virginia (3.1), Montana (3.0), Illinois (2.9), and Puerto Rico (2.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 14 were in Tennessee (+2,976), California (+1,020), Michigan (+457), Mississippi (+355), and Arkansas (+315), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-2,265), New York (-2,201), Georgia (-1,969), Illinois (-1,961), and Texas (-1,773).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 21	March 14	Change	March 7	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	282,000	291,000	-9,000	290,000	310,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	247,256	260,242	-12,986	277,925	274,072
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	297,000	304,750	-7,750	302,500	319,250
WEEK ENDING	March 14	March 7	Change	February 28	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,416,000	2,422,000	-6,000	2,428,000	2,814,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,700,795	2,729,748	-28,953	2,804,575	3,132,104
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,422,250	2,419,250	+3,000	2,419,250	2,855,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	2.1%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	2.0%	2.0%	0.0	2.1%	2.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 14	March 7	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	947	895	+52	1,010
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,402	1,593	-191	1,827

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 7	February 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,725,709	2,800,970	-75,261	3,227,182
Federal Employees	15,280	15,398	-118	19,359
Newly Discharged Veterans	22,243	22,164	+79	28,354
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	5	6	-1	62
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	7,747	7,571	+176	10,518
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	13,967	13,036	+931	21,396
TOTAL	2,784,951	2,859,145	-74,194	3,306,871

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 133,397,155 as denominator.
3. Information on the EB program can be found here: [EB Program information](#)
4. Some states maintain additional benefit programs for those claimants who exhaust regular, extended and emergency benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-5 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-9 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 14, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TN	+2,976	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
CA	+1,020	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-2,265	Fewer layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
NY	-2,201	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
GA	-1,969	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, trade, and professional, scientific and technical service industries.
IL	-1,961	No comment.
TX	-1,773	No comment.
FL	-1,659	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
KY	-1,046	No comment.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
March 15, 2014	323	4	329.50	2,814	-55	2,855.75	2.1
March 22, 2014	310	-13	319.25	2,838	24	2,842.75	2.2
March 29, 2014	332	22	321.00	2,750	-88	2,817.75	2.1
April 5, 2014	301	-31	316.50	2,741	-9	2,785.75	2.1
April 12, 2014	305	4	312.00	2,674	-67	2,750.75	2.0
April 19, 2014	330	25	317.00	2,761	87	2,731.50	2.1
April 26, 2014	345	15	320.25	2,676	-85	2,713.00	2.0
May 3, 2014	321	-24	325.25	2,666	-10	2,694.25	2.0
May 10, 2014	298	-23	323.50	2,648	-18	2,687.75	2.0
May 17, 2014	327	29	322.75	2,623	-25	2,653.25	2.0
May 24, 2014	304	-23	312.50	2,603	-20	2,635.00	2.0
May 31, 2014	313	9	310.50	2,615	12	2,622.25	2.0
June 7, 2014	318	5	315.50	2,559	-56	2,600.00	1.9
June 14, 2014	314	-4	312.25	2,568	9	2,586.25	2.0
June 21, 2014	313	-1	314.50	2,575	7	2,579.25	2.0
June 28, 2014	316	3	315.25	2,586	11	2,572.00	2.0
July 5, 2014	305	-11	312.00	2,508	-78	2,559.25	1.9
July 12, 2014	303	-2	309.25	2,508	0	2,544.25	1.9
July 19, 2014	279	-24	300.75	2,542	34	2,536.00	1.9
July 26, 2014	303	24	297.50	2,519	-23	2,519.25	1.9
August 2, 2014	290	-13	293.75	2,549	30	2,529.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	312	22	296.00	2,502	-47	2,528.00	1.9
August 16, 2014	299	-13	301.00	2,528	26	2,524.50	1.9
August 23, 2014	298	-1	299.75	2,478	-50	2,514.25	1.9
August 30, 2014	304	6	303.25	2,492	14	2,500.00	1.9
September 6, 2014	316	12	304.25	2,432	-60	2,482.50	1.8
September 13, 2014	281	-35	299.75	2,442	10	2,461.00	1.8
September 20, 2014	295	14	299.00	2,402	-40	2,442.00	1.8
September 27, 2014	288	-7	295.00	2,382	-20	2,414.50	1.8
October 4, 2014	287	-1	287.75	2,382	0	2,402.00	1.8
October 11, 2014	266	-21	284.00	2,382	0	2,387.00	1.8
October 18, 2014	284	18	281.25	2,387	5	2,383.25	1.8
October 25, 2014	288	4	281.25	2,356	-31	2,376.75	1.8
November 1, 2014	278	-10	279.00	2,403	47	2,382.00	1.8
November 8, 2014	293	15	285.75	2,333	-70	2,369.75	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	-1	287.75	2,323	-10	2,353.75	1.8
November 22, 2014	314	22	294.25	2,372	49	2,357.75	1.8
November 29, 2014	297	-17	299.00	2,520	148	2,387.00	1.9
December 6, 2014	295	-2	299.50	2,378	-142	2,398.25	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	-6	298.75	2,407	29	2,419.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	281	-8	290.50	2,352	-55	2,414.25	1.8
December 27, 2014	298	17	290.75	2,485	133	2,405.50	1.9
January 3, 2015	304	6	293.00	2,428	-57	2,418.00	1.8
January 10, 2015	317	13	300.00	2,463	35	2,432.00	1.8
January 17, 2015	309	-8	307.00	2,394	-69	2,442.50	1.8
January 24, 2015	267	-42	299.25	2,406	12	2,422.75	1.8
January 31, 2015	279	12	293.00	2,367	-39	2,407.50	1.8
February 7, 2015	304	25	289.75	2,422	55	2,397.25	1.8
February 14, 2015	282	-22	283.00	2,404	-18	2,399.75	1.8
February 21, 2015	313	31	294.50	2,423	19	2,404.00	1.8
February 28, 2015	325	12	306.00	2,428	5	2,419.25	1.8
March 7, 2015	290	-35	302.50	2,422	-6	2,419.25	1.8
March 14, 2015	291	1	304.75	2,416	-6	2,422.25	1.8
March 21, 2015	282	-9	297.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 14 INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 7 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT CHANGE FROM						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	3003	-379	-305	33	16	23838	1.3	-870	-5332	129	260	24227
Alaska	1227	42	-173	3	3	12994	4.1	-475	-4317	244	66	13304
Arizona	3605	-389	-832	7	7	28719	1.2	369	-11017	288	220	29227
Arkansas	2848	315	-407	11	8	25133	2.2	189	-2478	130	240	25503
California	46784	1020	-14286	209	234	432241	2.8	-11773	-110529	3261	4373	439875
Colorado	2584	-891	37	21	56	36548	1.6	-413	-7143	444	900	37892
Connecticut	3376	-110	-225	9	10	54736	3.4	-581	-6393	92	202	55030
Delaware	986	225	152	0	3	9145	2.2	310	-1037	18	36	9199
District of Columbia	301	9	-68	9	1	8856	1.7	38	-2229	410	26	9292
Florida	8832	-1659	-3069	14	77	62155	0.8	-3422	-33250	272	562	62989
Georgia	6440	-1969	-457	31	58	39161	1.0	-3108	-9925	257	679	40097
Hawaii	1392	-49	-288	4	21	8327	1.4	-80	-2176	109	236	8672
Idaho	1533	-326	-65	17	3	12564	2.0	-771	-3601	244	62	12870
Illinois	9513	-1961	-739	13	25	161621	2.9	-5257	-40864	472	618	162711
Indiana	3277	-784	-630	13	10	38232	1.3	-1483	-10787	132	173	38537
Iowa	2033	-422	-422	4	8	33172	2.2	-1410	-5101	68	116	33356
Kansas	2100	-123	177	4	7	19248	1.5	-1241	-3985	108	172	19528
Kentucky	3092	-1046	-613	7	14	33052	1.9	1234	-2544	232	452	33736
Louisiana	2520	-262	288	1	8	20758	1.1	-355	794	46	81	20885
Maine	949	-103	-124	3	0	14632	2.5	-285	-3004	37	56	14725
Maryland	4587	310	-29	31	18	55519	2.3	1431	-5227	432	364	56315
Massachusetts	5420	-465	-382	19	28	101758	3.1	-483	-3333	245	584	102587
Michigan	7921	457	174	28	35	100449	2.5	-4942	-20876	362	446	101257
Minnesota	3902	-280	-777	14	7	64136	2.4	-3828	-8683	206	224	64566
Mississippi	2098	355	-41	13	9	12853	1.2	-140	-5750	145	119	13117
Missouri	5347	-63	-854	19	26	47002	1.8	-1991	-7436	239	202	47443
Montana	975	-144	-115	11	7	12608	3.0	-628	-1727	485	67	13160
Nebraska	1207	115	-1212	6	1	10076	1.1	-209	-1875	37	21	10134
Nevada	3119	-156	237	7	10	28831	2.5	-516	-5526	231	200	29262
New Hampshire	750	-112	-144	2	3	7892	1.3	-890	-2299	7	21	7920
New Jersey	8263	-77	-285	22	36	137871	3.6	-303	-16509	335	495	138701
New Mexico	1054	-149	-2	8	9	14530	1.9	-125	-2369	332	137	14999
New York	17211	-2201	-910	44	63	215823	2.5	-3558	-28522	558	1238	217619
North Carolina	4343	-824	-683	22	55	38985	1.0	-1721	-26082	194	473	39652
North Dakota	492	-21	222	0	0	7180	1.7	-191	1139	21	14	7215
Ohio	7723	-878	-649	14	26	94620	1.9	-2311	-12030	183	560	95363
Oklahoma	2062	32	279	5	19	18785	1.2	3	1082	73	211	19069
Oregon	4551	-677	-931	32	18	37445	2.2	-901	-9411	721	316	38482
Pennsylvania	19971	-2265	1059	82	66	176561	3.2	-14064	-23885	682	902	178147
Puerto Rico	1838	-70	122	2	9	26139	2.9	-949	-3723	55	235	26429
Rhode Island	979	-190	-471	0	0	14761	3.3	-583	-2520	30	77	14868
South Carolina	2561	-443	-459	5	23	17278	0.9	-856	-7153	55	187	17520
South Dakota	278	21	-15	3	1	3507	0.9	-179	-323	58	3	3568
Tennessee	8040	2976	3681	20	26	36159	1.4	2307	-400	197	230	36586
Texas	17302	-1773	3131	51	187	152495	1.4	872	-6915	638	2982	156118
Utah	1300	-189	-119	20	8	14359	1.2	-533	-2913	286	84	14729
Vermont	682	-83	-20	1	1	7146	2.4	-317	-691	26	17	7189
Virgin Islands	42	2	-12	0	0	776	2.1	-68	-132	20	8	804
Virginia	3729	-74	-820	11	39	36156	1.0	-1098	-7578	389	804	37349
Washington	6676	-615	-1534	28	83	60980	2.1	-4842	-13764	604	1200	62784
West Virginia	1485	-269	196	1	6	20715	3.1	-453	-1189	100	108	20923
Wisconsin	7366	-938	-2443	8	10	75101	2.8	-3047	-12698	191	136	75428
Wyoming	573	-133	127	5	4	6120	2.2	-330	877	150	48	6318
Totals	260242	-17683	-25728	947	1402	2729748	2	-74827	-503359	15280	22243	2767276

Figures Appearing In columns showing Over-The-Week Changes reflect all revisions in data for prior week submitted by State agencies.

1. The Unemployment Compensation program for Federal Employees (UCFE) and the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) exclude claims filed jointly under other programs to avoid duplication.
2. Rate is not seasonally adjusted. The source of US total covered employment is BLS.

TECHNICAL NOTES

This news release presents the weekly unemployment insurance (UI) claims reported by each state's unemployment insurance program offices. These claims may be used for monitoring workload volume, assessing state program operations and for assessing labor market conditions. States initially report claims directly taken by the state liable for the benefit payments, regardless of where the claimant who filed the claim resided. These are the basis for the advance initial claims and continued claims reported each week. These data come from ETA 538, Advance Weekly Initial and Continued Claims Report. The following week initial claims and continued claims are revised based on a second reporting by states that reflect the claimants by state of residence. These data come from the ETA 539, Weekly Claims and Extended Benefits Trigger Data Report.

A. Initial Claims

An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The claimant requests a determination of basic eligibility for the UI program. When an initial claim is filed with a state, certain programmatic activities take place and these result in activity counts including the count of initial claims.

The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance is a leading economic indicator because it is an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the country. However, these are weekly administrative data which are difficult to seasonally adjust, making the series subject to some volatility.

B. Continued Weeks Claimed

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment then files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. Continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment.

The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. Continued claims reflect the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits in the nation. While continued claims are not a leading indicator (they roughly coincide with economic cycles at their peaks and lag at cycle troughs), they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the U.S. economy.

C. Seasonal Adjustments and Annual Revisions

Over the course of a year, the weekly changes in the levels of initial claims and continued claims undergo regularly occurring fluctuations. These fluctuations may result from seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, the opening and closing of schools, or other similar events. Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on the level of a series can be tempered by adjusting for regular seasonal variation. These adjustments make trend and cycle developments easier to spot.

At the beginning of each calendar year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) with a set of seasonal factors to apply to the unadjusted data during that year.

Concurrent with the implementation and release of the new seasonal factors, ETA incorporates revisions to the UI claims historical series caused by updates to the unadjusted data.

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)

[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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