



News Release

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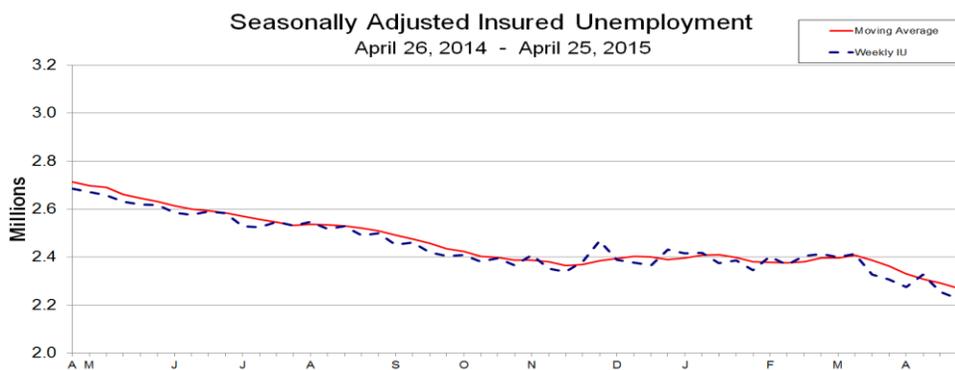
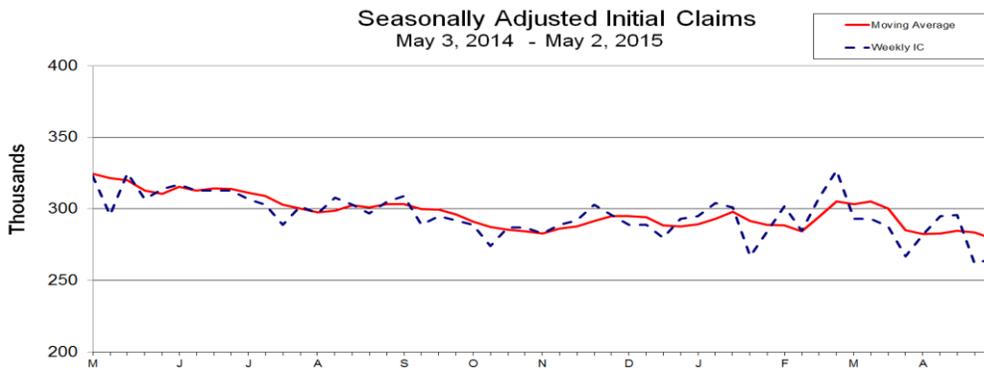
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 2, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 265,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 262,000. The 4-week moving average was 279,500, a decrease of 4,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 283,750. This is the lowest level for this average since May 6, 2000 when it was 279,250.

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

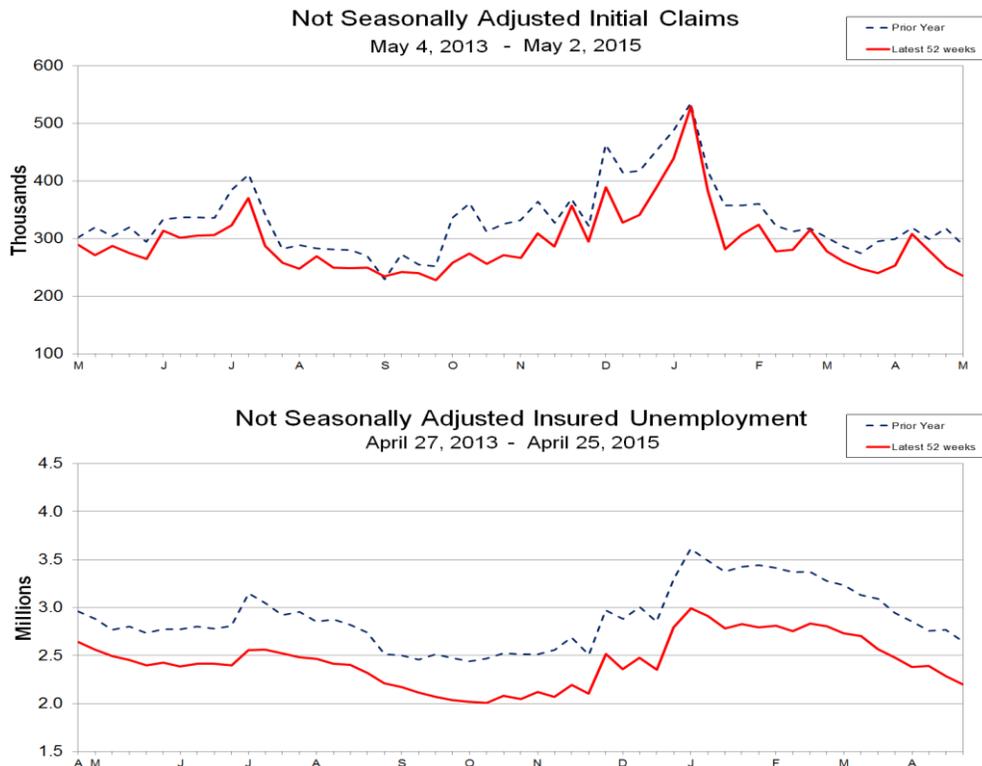
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending April 25, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 25 was 2,228,000, a decrease of 28,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since November 11, 2000 when it was 2,161,000. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,253,000 to 2,256,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,271,500, a decrease of 20,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 9, 2000 when it was 2,266,500. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 2,290,750 to 2,291,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 235,704 in the week ending May 2, a decrease of 15,076 (or -6.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 17,295 (or -6.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 288,748 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending April 25, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,199,211, a decrease of 81,853 (or -3.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 54,150 (or -2.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.0 percent and the volume was 2,641,583.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 18 was 2,334,281, a decrease of 105,948 from the previous week. There were 2,832,693 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 April 18.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 827 in the week ending April 25, an increase of 33 from the prior week. There were 1,267 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 59 from the preceding week.

There were 12,246 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 18, a decrease of 115 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 20,638, an increase of 71 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 18 were in Alaska (3.6), Connecticut (2.8), New Jersey (2.8), California (2.7), Puerto Rico (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.5), Massachusetts (2.3), West Virginia (2.3), Illinois (2.2), Nevada (2.2), Rhode Island (2.2), and Wyoming (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 25 were in Massachusetts (+4,518), Rhode Island (+2,099), Georgia (+704), Ohio (+520), and Illinois (+493), while the largest decreases were in New York (-17,505), California (-4,218), Michigan (-4,179), Connecticut (-1,934), and Pennsylvania (-1,750).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 2	April 25	Change	April 18	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Initial Claims (SA)	265,000	262,000	+3,000	296,000	323,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	235,704	250,780	-15,076	279,797	288,748
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	279,500	283,750	-4,250	285,000	324,750
WEEK ENDING	April 25	April 18	Change	April 11	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,228,000	2,256,000	-28,000	2,327,000	2,685,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,199,211	2,281,064	-81,853	2,389,905	2,641,583
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,271,500	2,291,500	-20,000	2,309,250	2,713,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²</u>	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	2.0%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²</u>	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.8%	2.0%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 25	April 18	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	827	794	+33	1,269
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,267	1,326	-59	1,554

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 18	April 11	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Regular State	2,276,387	2,385,946	-109,559	2,760,430
Federal Employees	12,246	12,361	-115	14,687
Newly Discharged Veterans	20,638	20,567	+71	26,004
<u>Extended Benefits³</u>	0	0	0	94
<u>State Additional Benefits⁴</u>	8,213	7,819	+394	10,311
<u>STC / Workshare⁵</u>	16,797	13,536	+3,261	21,167
TOTAL	2,334,281	2,440,229	-105,948	2,832,693

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 134,074,626 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 APRIL 25, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	+4,518	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
RI	+2,099	Layoffs in the educational service industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-17,505	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and public administration industries.
CA	-4,218	Fewer layoffs in the service, and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries.
MI	-4,179	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
CT	-1,934	No comment.
PA	-1,750	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
TX	-1,488	No comment.
NJ	-1,054	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, retail trade, construction, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food service industries.
AZ	-1,049	No comment.
WI	-1,013	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	
April 26, 2014	337	7	321.50	2,685	-60	2,713.25	2.0
May 3, 2014	323	-14	324.75	2,671	-14	2,697.75	2.0
May 10, 2014	296	-27	321.50	2,659	-12	2,690.00	2.0
May 17, 2014	325	29	320.25	2,631	-28	2,661.50	2.0
May 24, 2014	307	-18	312.75	2,620	-11	2,645.25	2.0
May 31, 2014	314	7	310.50	2,618	-2	2,632.00	2.0
June 7, 2014	317	3	315.75	2,586	-32	2,613.75	2.0
June 14, 2014	313	-4	312.75	2,576	-10	2,600.00	2.0
June 21, 2014	313	0	314.25	2,591	15	2,592.75	2.0
June 28, 2014	313	0	314.00	2,584	-7	2,584.25	2.0
July 5, 2014	307	-6	311.50	2,530	-54	2,570.25	1.9
July 12, 2014	303	-4	309.00	2,525	-5	2,557.50	1.9
July 19, 2014	289	-14	303.00	2,547	22	2,546.50	1.9
July 26, 2014	302	13	300.25	2,532	-15	2,533.50	1.9
August 2, 2014	297	-5	297.75	2,546	14	2,537.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	308	11	299.00	2,518	-28	2,535.75	1.9
August 16, 2014	303	-5	302.50	2,528	10	2,531.00	1.9
August 23, 2014	297	-6	301.25	2,491	-37	2,520.75	1.9
August 30, 2014	305	8	303.25	2,500	9	2,509.25	1.9
September 6, 2014	309	4	303.50	2,452	-48	2,492.75	1.9
September 13, 2014	289	-20	300.00	2,460	8	2,475.75	1.9
September 20, 2014	295	6	299.50	2,421	-39	2,458.25	1.8
September 27, 2014	292	-3	296.25	2,404	-17	2,434.25	1.8
October 4, 2014	289	-3	291.25	2,409	5	2,423.50	1.8
October 11, 2014	274	-15	287.50	2,383	-26	2,404.25	1.8
October 18, 2014	287	13	285.50	2,395	12	2,397.75	1.8
October 25, 2014	287	0	284.25	2,365	-30	2,388.00	1.8
November 1, 2014	283	-4	282.75	2,408	43	2,387.75	1.8
November 8, 2014	289	6	286.50	2,352	-56	2,380.00	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	3	287.75	2,339	-13	2,366.00	1.8
November 22, 2014	303	11	291.75	2,383	44	2,370.50	1.8
November 29, 2014	296	-7	295.00	2,469	86	2,385.75	1.9
December 6, 2014	289	-7	295.00	2,388	-81	2,394.75	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	0	294.25	2,377	-11	2,404.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	280	-9	288.50	2,366	-11	2,400.00	1.8
December 27, 2014	293	13	287.75	2,431	65	2,390.50	1.8
January 3, 2015	295	2	289.25	2,415	-16	2,397.25	1.8
January 10, 2015	304	9	293.00	2,418	3	2,407.50	1.8
January 17, 2015	301	-3	298.25	2,376	-42	2,410.00	1.8
January 24, 2015	267	-34	291.75	2,386	10	2,398.75	1.8
January 31, 2015	284	17	289.00	2,346	-40	2,381.50	1.8
February 7, 2015	302	18	288.50	2,402	56	2,377.50	1.8
February 14, 2015	285	-17	284.50	2,369	-33	2,375.75	1.8
February 21, 2015	308	23	294.75	2,405	36	2,380.50	1.8
February 28, 2015	327	19	305.50	2,414	9	2,397.50	1.8
March 7, 2015	293	-34	303.25	2,399	-15	2,396.75	1.8
March 14, 2015	293	0	305.25	2,413	14	2,407.75	1.8
March 21, 2015	288	-5	300.25	2,327	-86	2,388.25	1.7
March 28, 2015	267	-21	285.25	2,308	-19	2,361.75	1.7
April 4, 2015	282	15	282.50	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7
April 11, 2015	295	13	283.00	2,327	52	2,309.25	1.7
April 18, 2015	296	1	285.00	2,256	-71	2,291.50	1.7
April 25, 2015	262	-34	283.75	2,228	-28	2,271.50	1.7
May 2, 2015	265	3	279.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 25							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 18					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	3612	227	100	15	22	23045	1.3	825	-4287	145	218	23408
Alaska	1189	17	-279	6	2	11305	3.6	-4	-4083	130	71	11506
Arizona	4848	-1049	-744	4	10	33367	1.4	1561	-6497	165	213	33745
Arkansas	2842	158	345	7	4	21117	1.9	268	-1383	129	208	21454
California	47303	-4218	-13865	148	192	411700	2.7	8481	-74763	2750	4064	418514
Colorado	2960	-240	-68	19	44	33023	1.4	-295	-5900	262	822	34107
Connecticut	4137	-1934	-988	3	11	46463	2.8	1553	-8771	94	149	46706
Delaware	608	-105	-930	2	2	6430	1.5	-1138	-1350	15	32	6477
District of Columbia	315	-10	3	9	0	7910	1.5	-180	-2392	393	22	8325
Florida	9141	-153	-6716	23	75	60327	0.8	-1207	-34746	199	565	61091
Georgia	7352	704	-392	34	54	36417	0.9	245	-9520	251	602	37270
Hawaii	1304	-40	-297	5	17	7595	1.3	-430	-2867	98	225	7918
Idaho	1149	-31	-231	3	5	9156	1.5	-625	-1552	103	48	9307
Illinois	9811	493	-325	15	19	126566	2.2	-9818	-43376	450	593	127609
Indiana	3365	-158	-1037	20	14	25539	0.9	-2091	-10964	107	151	25797
Iowa	2067	55	-20	6	4	18667	1.2	-2269	-2386	77	113	18857
Kansas	1870	-33	-222	3	11	15201	1.1	-1939	-4039	91	180	15472
Kentucky	2618	-337	-435	6	10	25418	1.4	1200	-2866	205	407	26031
Louisiana	2737	-52	499	0	9	22809	1.2	561	3888	40	83	22932
Maine	1039	-149	-138	1	1	11211	1.9	-709	-3361	31	60	11302
Maryland	3492	-57	-580	23	20	41553	1.7	-2486	-12024	361	348	42262
Massachusetts	9101	4518	-140	14	27	76256	2.3	-6898	-5199	263	494	77013
Michigan	5759	-4179	-1763	17	20	71942	1.8	-11895	-31921	248	364	72554
Minnesota	3460	-30	-229	4	8	43364	1.6	-5282	-13115	126	208	43698
Mississippi	1642	-202	-340	22	7	12150	1.1	-22	-5010	133	92	12375
Missouri	4199	-387	-676	19	7	31225	1.2	-2598	-7414	203	179	31607
Montana	973	-112	-181	6	6	8550	2.0	-507	-1248	211	57	8818
Nebraska	767	-114	-223	3	3	6082	0.7	-431	-1844	42	20	6144
Nevada	3198	235	-176	6	12	26074	2.2	-833	-6322	148	196	26418
New Hampshire	784	124	-433	1	1	6100	1.0	-487	-2013	10	15	6125
New Jersey	7491	-1054	-3570	17	28	106380	2.8	-12589	-23453	308	446	107134
New Mexico	1102	-63	-135	6	6	13872	1.8	-155	-2462	172	116	14160
New York	15795	-17505	-24457	54	52	172662	2.0	-30674	-47070	569	1037	174268
North Carolina	4103	-240	-1012	15	45	34542	0.9	-530	-21435	192	449	35183
North Dakota	455	16	191	8	3	4099	1.0	-738	928	11	15	4125
Ohio	7221	520	-451	14	46	67358	1.3	-6033	-11120	171	537	68066
Oklahoma	2024	-42	520	7	24	20819	1.4	411	4647	77	190	21086
Oregon	4258	62	-1199	19	15	33022	2.0	-1305	-6650	480	239	33741
Pennsylvania	15130	-1750	-2222	83	68	137624	2.5	-8573	-28880	622	801	139047
Puerto Rico	1978	33	3	3	12	24387	2.7	-560	-5711	53	202	24642
Rhode Island	3100	2099	794	4	2	10154	2.2	-1168	-1561	30	47	10231
South Carolina	2698	-639	-985	15	21	15312	0.8	-435	-2706	53	198	15563
South Dakota	220	44	13	11	0	1624	0.4	-472	-443	26	5	1655
Tennessee	3733	103	199	13	14	25041	0.9	-620	-3072	172	202	25415
Texas	17372	-1488	2012	59	172	166152	1.5	2127	12087	675	3131	169958
Utah	1561	-57	-193	5	0	11489	0.9	-196	-1548	135	69	11693
Vermont	1087	107	101	2	0	6024	2.0	-10	-1016	21	11	6056
Virgin Islands	32	-9	-15	0	2	748	2.0	-204	-108	18	10	776
Virginia	3055	-181	-833	13	36	28682	0.8	-769	-8451	303	758	29743
Washington	6262	-759	-2307	16	91	52568	1.8	-1999	-9732	356	1130	54054
West Virginia	1283	-18	189	3	5	15727	2.3	10	-782	92	93	15912
Wisconsin	6696	-1013	-3600	15	7	50035	1.8	-7051	-21014	136	111	50282
Wyoming	482	-124	91	1	1	6181	2.2	142	1435	94	42	6317
Totals	250780	-29017	-67347	827	1267	2281064	1.7	-108841	-485442	12246	20638	2313949

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 temporary 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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