Farm Labor

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FARM WORK MOVES AHEAD IN GRAIN AND HAY HARVESTS
WAGE RATES CONTINUE MODERATE INCREASE

Farm work made good progress in June under weather which helped push crop timing ahead of normal stages over large areas. The number of persons working on farms the survey week of June 17-23 totaled 8,043,000. This represented an increase of 7 percent over a month earlier, not far from the usual seasonal upswing, but was 3 percent under the comparable week in late June of last year. The advanced progress of work and crop timing over large central areas of the Nation this year contrast with the more intense drive to "catch up" which was notable in late June last year after prolonged wet weather.

The number of farm family workers indicated in the June survey week was 5,416,000--1 percent under a month earlier and 3 percent under June 1961. The number of farm family workers was slightly under a year earlier in all geographic regions except the Mountain region. Despite the slight reduction from May, which is usual, family workers made up over two-thirds of the farm working force.

Hired farm workers totaled 2,627,000, up 32 percent from May but 4 percent under a year earlier. The number of hired workers equalled or exceeded the June 1961 totals in the North Central, Mid-Atlantic, and New England regions, and also in the West South Central region where varied activities in Texas and Arkansas required a larger number than in the survey week last year. Hired-worker numbers were sharply lower in the Pacific region where some fruit, vegetable, and other activities have been delayed by a slow season. In contrast, the early and rapid progress in cotton chopping and other tasks in the South Atlantic and East South Central Regions reduced the number of hired workers needed during the June survey week this year compared with 1961.

Farm Wage Rates 3 Percent Over July 1961

The U.S. composite average wage rate on July 1, 1962, was $0.848 per hour. This weighted average for different hiring arrangements is exclusive of value of lodging, food, or other items furnished. This is a moderate

increase of 2.8 percent over the $0.825 reported a year earlier. Slight to moderate increases were reported for most States and generally for most hiring arrangements, as shown by the State and regional comparisons on pages 6 and 7. The U.S. index of the composite rate per hour, seasonally adjusted, reached 662 percent of the 1910-14 base, or 114 percent of the comparable levels for 1957-1959. This rise thus continues the moderate but steady increases which have occurred annually since 1954. The rates cited for all States are average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for the arrangements specified in the tables.

Harvests Move Toward Central Place in Farm Work

During June the critical farm jobs over wide areas changed from planting and early cultivation of crops, which had claimed attention in previous weeks, to center increasingly on harvesting of grains and hay. The harvest of hay and other livestock forage remains a giant task, although eased by an array of improved machines which have speeded the work. Dry weather this June in extensive areas helped farmers use these machines to cut, cure, and store many millions of tons of excellent quality hay. By late June first cutting of hay was well advanced as far north as northern New England, and several counties in Western and Central New York reported the harvest of almost three-fourths of the first cutting. In Wisconsin, the Nation's largest hay State, the heavy crop of first cutting hay was hit by frequent rains and some flattening storms. Minnesota and Iowa, next of rank as hay producers last year, had somewhat better hay curing weather and by the end of June had stored most of the first cutting of hay. Pacific Coast hay cuttings, although well along, are somewhat later than usual as a result of cool weather through mid-June.

Wheat harvest was the front-runner in importance in June in the southern half of the Great Plains. In Texas and Oklahoma, harvest was interrupted by rains and some hail, but the job was completed during June. Harvest of the large Kansas wheat acreage started about 10 days ahead of the usual time and even with some rainy delays was four-fifths complete by the last week of June, compared with an average of three-fifths. Much of the acreage in eastern Nebraska was finished in June but large acreages remained to be combined in western counties. The combine invasion of the Dakotas will proceed in coming weeks.

California fruit maturity has been on the slow side with harvests expected to run about a week later than last year. Apricot harvest was active in late June and cherry harvest was completed in the central and coastal valleys. Harvests of grapes, pears, peaches, plums, and other fruit will swell in July, but the slow start held down the number of workers needed in the June survey week.

In the South, farm work on field crops included cotton cultivation and insect control, small grain harvest, and tobacco harvest in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Almost 20 percent of the Georgia tobacco crop was in barns by July 1.

Florida orange harvest continued heavy with over 3 million boxes picked during the June survey week. The Southern peach crop moved in increasing volume as picking expanded in principal South Carolina areas. Digging of potatoes was active in Virginia's "Eastern Shore" counties. Blueberry harvest was starting in New Jersey at the month's end.

Farm employment and indexes, June 1962 with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1961	Annual average 1960	Annual average 1956-60 1/	June average 1956-60 1/	June 18-24 1961	June 17-23 1962
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	6,990	7,118	7,485	8,707	8,324	8,043
Family labor	5,104	5,249	5,572	6,042	5,585	5,416
Hired labor	1,886	1,869	1,913	2,665	2,739	2,627
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	52	52	55	56	53	52
Family labor	50	52	55	55	51	49
Hired labor	55	55	56	57	59	56
(1957-59=100)						
Total	94	95	99	100	96	92
Family labor	91	94	100	100	93	89
Hired labor	96	96	98	100	103	98

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.
2/ Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, July 1, 1962, United States

	Annual average 1961	July average 1956-60	July 1, 1961	July 1, 1962
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.834	$ 0.750	$ 0.825	$ 0.848
Per month with house	$195.00	$185.00	$203.00	$208.00
Per month with board and room	151.00	138.00	151.00	156.00
Per week with board and room	35.75	34.75	36.75	39.00
Per week without board and room	46.50	44.00	48.25	50.00
Per day with house	5.30	4.80	5.30	5.50
Per day with board and room	6.50	6.50	7.00	7.20
Per day without board or room	6.60	6.00	6.50	6.90
Per hour with house	.90	.88	.94	.95
Per hour without board or room	.99	.96	1.04	1.06
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	642	580	648	662
(1957-59=100)	110	100	111	114

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, June 1962

(Thousand of persons)

Region and State	June average 1956-60			June 1961 Week of 18-24			June 1962 Week of 17-23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	197	117	80	161	95	66	157	91	66
New York	197	121	76	183	111	72	179	106	73
New Jersey	62	34	28	57	34	23	55	32	23
Pennsylvania	247	193	54	220	175	45	209	164	45
Middle Atlantic	506	348	158	460	320	140	443	302	141
Ohio	293	240	53	275	223	52	275	215	60
Indiana	280	243	37	267	229	38	252	212	40
Illinois	319	244	75	317	228	89	303	221	82
Michigan	274	212	62	265	199	66	259	188	71
Wisconsin	326	290	36	300	263	37	295	258	37
East North Central	1,492	1,229	263	1,424	1,142	282	1,384	1,094	290
Minnesota	366	287	79	352	270	82	366	272	94
Iowa	360	280	80	361	280	81	368	273	95
Missouri	315	256	59	310	245	65	293	238	55
North Dakota	110	83	27	101	79	22	104	78	26
South Dakota	111	92	19	108	87	21	101	83	18
Nebraska	196	153	43	194	146	48	189	148	41
Kansas	205	155	50	204	146	58	187	139	48
West North Central	1,663	1,306	357	1,630	1,253	377	1,608	1,231	377
Delaware	16	9	7	16	9	7	15	9	6
Maryland	75	45	30	62	39	23	65	41	24
Virginia	252	154	98	241	143	98	234	139	95
West Virginia	92	71	21	84	62	22	77	58	19
North Carolina	537	361	176	543	354	189	506	332	174
South Carolina	296	162	134	275	140	135	248	134	114
Georgia	222	153	69	196	134	62	177	123	54
Florida	90	50	40	77	41	36	79	41	38
South Atlantic	1,580	1,005	575	1,494	922	572	1,401	877	524
Kentucky	275	193	82	287	196	91	266	185	81
Tennessee	277	207	70	265	196	69	245	186	59
Alabama	157	123	34	135	102	33	135	103	32
Mississippi	316	263	53	244	198	46	255	205	50
East South Central	1,025	786	239	931	692	239	901	679	222
Arkansas	250	154	96	222	130	92	228	127	101
Louisiana	154	90	64	160	86	74	155	83	72
Oklahoma	201	153	48	196	141	55	176	134	42
Texas	490	290	200	494	259	235	512	261	251
West South Central	1,095	687	408	1,072	616	456	1,071	605	466
Montana	65	40	25	61	38	23	60	37	23
Idaho	91	53	38	95	54	41	93	54	39
Colorado	88	58	30	84	53	31	89	54	35
N.Mex.-Ariz.	97	36	61	82	31	51	79	32	47
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	84	51	33	77	46	31	75	46	29
Mountain	425	238	187	399	222	177	396	223	173
Washington	179	105	74	182	100	82	167	102	65
Oregon	144	81	63	138	81	57	134	75	59
California	401	140	261	433	142	291	381	137	244
Pacific	724	326	398	753	323	430	682	314	368
UNITED STATES	8,707	6,042	2,665	8,324	5,585	2,739	8,043	5,416	2,627

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual average 1961
April and May 1962

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average 1961			April 1962 Week of 22-28			May 1962 Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	143	88	55	134	88	46	146	89	57
New York	160	105	55	140	95	45	149	98	51
New Jersey	44	27	17	40	26	14	48	27	21
Pennsylvania	185	152	33	169	143	26	179	137	32
Middle Atlantic	389	284	105	349	264	85	376	272	104
Ohio	242	206	36	251	220	31	253	218	35
Indiana	213	187	26	226	200	26	242	215	27
Illinois	246	197	49	283	225	58	299	235	64
Michigan	217	175	42	205	172	33	235	194	41
Wisconsin	273	244	29	269	245	24	287	261	26
East North Central	1,191	1,009	182	1,234	1,062	172	1,316	1,123	193
Minnesota	262	225	37	264	239	25	286	249	37
Iowa	289	252	37	297	270	27	318	279	39
Missouri	269	232	37	259	231	28	275	233	42
North Dakota	87	70	17	89	76	13	92	74	18
South Dakota	89	78	11	90	83	7	88	81	7
Nebraska	157	132	25	160	133	27	174	145	29
Kansas	154	130	24	153	135	18	166	138	28
West North Central	1,307	1,119	188	1,312	1,167	145	1,399	1,199	200
Delaware	12	7	5	13	8	5	15	9	6
Maryland	56	38	18	58	41	17	63	42	21
Virginia	203	149	54	189	150	39	240	178	62
West Virginia	69	56	13	66	52	14	74	57	17
North Carolina	413	309	104	339	278	61	410	326	84
South Carolina	190	124	66	161	99	62	194	120	74
Georgia	175	127	48	174	127	47	188	135	53
Florida	104	46	58	119	52	67	114	49	65
South Atlantic	1,222	856	366	1,119	807	312	1,298	916	382
Kentucky	236	190	46	215	176	39	237	182	55
Tennessee	236	188	48	202	170	32	221	178	43
Alabama	142	109	33	128	99	29	139	108	31
Mississippi	246	182	64	256	187	69	307	248	59
East South Central	860	669	191	801	632	169	904	716	188
Arkansas	203	118	85	214	122	92	254	134	120
Louisiana	156	92	64	159	92	67	152	83	69
Oklahoma	165	129	36	176	149	27	175	138	37
Texas	444	250	194	444	293	151	530	293	237
West South Central	968	589	379	993	656	337	1,111	648	463
Montana	48	37	11	54	42	12	51	37	14
Idaho	68	48	20	70	53	17	70	50	20
Colorado	68	49	19	71	60	11	75	58	17
N.Mex.-Ariz.	85	31	54	63	29	34	74	30	44
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	57	40	17	56	41	15	64	44	20
Mountain	326	205	121	314	225	89	334	219	115
Washington	111	74	37	108	74	34	123	86	37
Oregon	95	68	27	100	72	28	109	77	32
California	378	143	235	310	134	176	366	145	221
Pacific	584	285	299	518	280	238	598	308	290
UNITED STATES	6,990	5,104	1,886	6,774	5,181	1,593	7,482	5,490	1,992

Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, July 1, 1961 1/

Region and States	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour		Com- posite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	203.00	147.00	36.50	55.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.08	.944	575
N. H.	221.00	161.00	44.50	60.00	-	-	9.50	-	1.17	1.02	671
Vt.	203.00	157.00	39.00	55.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.14	.970	638
Mass.	237.00	161.00	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.50	-	1.20	1.07	699
R. I.	238.00	161.00	45.00	63.00	-	-	10.70	-	1.20	1.08	751
Conn.	235.00	159.00	43.00	63.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.29	1.11	764
New Eng.	218.00	156.00	41.00	58.50	-	-	9.80	-	1.16	1.01	662
N. Y.	217.00	151.00	38.50	54.50	-	-	9.20	-	1.15	.983	566
N. J.	218.00	155.00	43.00	56.00	-	-	9.70	-	1.16	1.00	665
Pa.	187.00	136.00	35.50	47.50	-	-	8.30	-	1.07	.902	667
Mid. Atl.	208.00	147.00	38.25	52.50	-	-	9.00	-	1.13	.961	622
Ohio	176.00	129.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.60	-	1.10	.849	607
Ind.	182.00	132.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.50	-	1.07	.837	622
Ill.	201.00	156.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.50	-	1.12	.912	650
Mich.	208.00	138.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.80	-	1.08	.867	600
Wis.	203.00	154.00	-	-	-	7.10	9.00	-	1.12	.899	592
E.N.Cent.	196.00	143.00	-	-	-	7.10	9.00	-	1.10	.877	614
Minn.	192.00	152.00	-	-	-	8.10	9.90	-	1.12	.984	556
Iowa	206.00	163.00	-	-	-	8.50	10.50	-	1.17	1.03	573
Mo.	156.00	117.00	-	-	-	6.40	7.90	-	1.00	.842	671
N.Dak.	196.00	165.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.20	-	1.04	.926	471
S.Dak.	191.00	156.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.10	-	1.05	.925	501
Nebr.	218.00	170.00	-	-	-	8.30	10.20	-	1.13	1.01	617
Kans.	206.00	157.00	-	-	-	8.30	9.80	-	1.14	1.00	709
W.N.Cent.	194.00	152.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.60	-	1.11	.969	596
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.10	-	8.90	-	1.05	.933	865
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	8.10	-	1.03	.876	903
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.50	-	.81	.692	785
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	5.90	-	.79	.649	520
N.C.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.80	-	.70	.612	703
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.20	-	.50	.441	608
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.20	-	4.75	-	.66	.529	620
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.00	-	.85	.677	705
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.80	-	5.60	-	.70	.594	688
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.50	-	.77	.548	588
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	4.75	-	.60	.475	533
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.95	-	4.45	-	.58	.454	567
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.70	-	4.00	-	.52	.414	506
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	4.90	-	.65	.488	559
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	5.70	-	.71	.608	617
La.	-	-	-	-	4.75	-	5.20	-	.64	.552	632
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.40	-	8.20	-	1.00	.865	673
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	6.70	-	.77	.695	611
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.40	-	.76	.675	635
Mont.	232.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.16	.910	496
Idaho	259.00	202.00	-	-	-	-	10.50	-	1.19	.974	600
Wyo.	224.00	164.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.12	.864	486
Colo.	225.00	173.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.11	.878	628
N.Mex.	200.00	137.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.86	.700	636
Ariz.	255.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	.99	.857	614
Utah	249.00	208.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.20	.958	649
Nev.	260.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.20	.930	550
Mountain	239.00	182.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.10	.889	586
Wash.	276.00	223.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.24	1.30	1.25	623
Oreg.	258.00	195.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.22	1.17	590
Calif.	303.00	230.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.25	1.22	580
Pacific	292.00	224.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.26	1.22	589
U. S.	203.00	151.00	36.75	48.25	5.30	7.00	6.50	.94	1.04	.825	648

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U. S. averages and State composite rates include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance.

2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, July 1, 1962 1/

Region and State	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour		Composite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	With house	Without: With board and room	With board and room	Without: board or room	With house	With board and room	Without: board or room	With house	Without: board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	200.00	155.00	40.00	55.00	-	-	9.50	-	1.12	.972	592
N.H.	220.00	165.00	45.00	59.00	-	-	10.00	-	1.20	1.04	685
Vt.	204.00	162.00	40.50	55.00	-	-	9.70	-	1.17	.995	649
Mass.	243.00	164.00	47.00	64.00	-	-	10.80	-	1.29	1.12	732
R.I.	243.00	164.00	47.00	65.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.26	1.12	776
Conn.	243.00	170.00	47.00	65.00	-	-	11.00	-	1.35	1.15	792
New Eng.	219.00	161.00	43.25	59.00	-	-	10.10	-	1.21	1.04	682
N. Y.	218.00	153.00	40.00	56.25	-	-	9.30	-	1.17	1.00	576
N. J.	225.00	165.00	48.75	60.50	-	-	10.60	-	1.20	1.06	693
Pa.	195.00	138.00	37.00	49.25	-	-	8.40	-	1.08	.916	684
Mid. Atl.	212.00	150.00	40.50	54.75	-	-	9.20	-	1.15	.983	636
Ohio	179.00	139.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.60	-	1.09	.855	611
Ind.	186.00	139.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.60	-	1.09	.858	644
Ill.	207.00	160.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.80	-	1.16	.942	671
Mich.	218.00	152.00	-	-	-	7.00	9.00	-	1.10	.892	617
Wis.	208.00	151.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.20	-	1.13	.907	597
E.N.Cent.	201.00	150.00	-	-	-	7.30	9.10	-	1.12	.895	633
Minn.	193.00	156.00	-	-	-	8.20	10.00	-	1.15	1.00	573
Iowa	214.00	171.00	-	-	-	8.70	10.70	-	1.20	1.06	588
Mo.	168.00	127.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.20	-	1.05	.884	704
N.Dak.	200.00	173.00	-	-	-	7.60	9.60	-	1.08	.961	493
S.Dak.	197.00	161.00	-	-	-	7.80	9.60	-	1.11	.975	532
Nebr.	227.00	171.00	-	-	-	8.50	10.30	-	1.16	1.03	632
Kans.	211.00	167.00	-	-	-	8.50	10.40	-	1.18	1.04	743
W.N.Cent.	202.00	160.00	-	-	-	8.10	10.00	-	1.15	1.00	624
Del.	-	-	-	-	6.90	-	8.40	-	1.05	.895	829
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.90	-	8.20	-	1.03	.877	904
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	6.80	-	.84	.722	818
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.10	-	5.90	-	.80	.650	521
N. C.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	6.20	-	.74	.651	756
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	4.45	-	.54	.470	648
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.35	-	5.00	-	.68	.552	646
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.60	-	.85	.714	752
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	5.10	-	5.90	-	.74	.632	732
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.50	-	5.70	-	.81	.567	608
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.95	-	.63	.494	554
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.65	-	.60	.474	592
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	4.20	-	.51	.430	519
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	5.00	-	.62	.504	571
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	6.00	-	.74	.640	650
La.	-	-	-	-	4.80	-	5.20	-	.65	.556	636
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.40	-	8.70	-	1.02	.895	697
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.40	-	6.90	-	.79	.715	629
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	6.10	-	6.60	-	.78	.691	651
Mont.	236.00	179.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.19	.920	502
Idaho	267.00	214.00	-	-	-	-	11.20	-	1.26	1.03	634
Wyo.	233.00	161.00	-	-	-	-	10.20	-	1.16	.903	508
Colo.	237.00	176.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.15	.907	643
N.Mex.	196.00	145.00	-	-	-	-	7.40	-	.86	.701	631
Ariz.	254.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.00	.866	620
Utah	252.00	218.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.25	.985	667
Nev.	250.00	190.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.25	.957	566
Mountain	244.00	186.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.14	.917	604
Wash.	284.00	217.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.25	1.32	1.27	632
Oreg.	258.00	195.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.21	1.26	1.21	608
Calif.	320.00	240.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.21	1.28	1.25	594
Pacific	304.00	229.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.28	1.24	596
U. S.	208.00	156.00	39.00	50.00	5.50	7.20	6.90	.95	1.06	.848	662

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U.S. averages and State composite rates include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

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STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES DIVISION
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