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Farm Labor

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FARM EMPLOYMENT UP SEASONALLY
WAGE RATES HIGHER

Farm employment during the last week of March was up 13 percent from late February, totaling 5,663,000 family and hired workers. This represented about the usual seasonal increase. In spite of this gain, however, farm employment in March was 1 percent lower than a year earlier and the lowest of record for the date. Farm family workers numbered 4,431,000, down 1 percent from March 1962. Hired workers employed on farms totaled 1,232,000, also down 1 percent from the previous year. Even though the total farm employment in the United States was at a low for the month, farms in the South Atlantic and East South Central regions were employing more family and hired workers than a year earlier. Excellent conditions for field work during the survey week in these regions helped farmers move ahead with preparations for the new crop season.

Wage Rates Continue Moderate Increase

Farm wage rates on April 1, 1963 averaged about 3 percent higher than a year earlier, reaching a record level for the date. The composite rate of cash wages, reported on a per hour basis, was $.799 per hour. The seasonally adjusted index, computed from this rate, is 683 percent of the 1910-14 base. Converted to the 1957-59 base, the index is 117, a less striking comparison that reflects the moderate annual increases in recent years. Compared with a year earlier, the U. S. monthly and hourly rates were up slightly more than weekly and daily rates. As in other years, these wage reports are average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for specified hiring arrangements. Only cash wages are included.

Spring Work Pushes Ahead Under Generally Good Weather Conditions

With temperatures above normal and accompanied by little rainfall over most of the country except for the Pacific Coast States, field work conditions improved greatly and farm work moved ahead rapidly. New England farmers were

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busy maple sugaring and pruning fruit trees. Much of the snow was gone and some plowing had begun in the southern coastal area during the last week of March.

The Middle Atlantic States were finally getting some spring-like weather and farm work activities increased rapidly. Plowing for spring crops and potato planting were beginning as fields became dry enough. Fruit tree pruning continued. Farm work had been considerably behind schedule, but was beginning to catch up as the weather improved.

In East North Central States, fields were still too wet over much of the area for extensive field work but were drying out fast under warm spring days during the last of March. Where field conditions permitted, however, planting of oats and preparing ground for corn and soybeans had begun. Farmers were also top dressing wheat and sowing clover seed.

Most of the West North Central States had extremely good weather during the last week of March, and field work progressed rapidly. Seeding of oats was about three-fourths completed in Kansas by the end of the month and almost completed in Missouri; it had only started in Iowa where work was held back by wet fields. Seedbeds were rapidly being prepared for other spring crops. Sugar beets were being planted in Kansas and Nebraska.

Farmers in the South Atlantic and East South Central States had excellent working conditions during late March, and farm activities moved briskly after being delayed by earlier bad weather. Planting of oats and grasses was advancing. Tobacco transplanting was moving ahead in Florida, southern Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, and fields were being prepared in the other tobacco producing areas. Farmers were also busy planting corn and several spring specialty crops. Cotton planting had begun in southern Mississippi. In Florida, vegetable harvest was very active and many workers were still engaged in the citrus harvest. Fertilization, cultivation, spraying, pruning, top-working, and pushing out of dead trees became more active in the Florida citrus area.

Farm work in the West South Central States was also active during this period with much progress being made in seedbed preparation and planting of spring crops. Some rice was planted in Louisiana. Texas cotton farmers had about one-sixth of their cotton and about one-fourth of their sorghum acreage planted by the end of March.

Ranchers in the Mountain States were devoting considerable time to feeding and care of livestock. Calving and lambing was progressing rapidly and sheep were being sheared. Seedbed preparation and planting of spring crops were moving along. Irrigation of vegetables, pre-planting irrigation, and planting of cotton were well underway in New Mexico and Arizona. Lettuce harvest was approaching peak volume in the Salt River Valley and in central areas of Arizona. The first cutting of alfalfa was being harvested in Arizona.

Farm activities moved along normally in most of the Pacific Coast region but were delayed somewhat by wet weather near the coast. Considerable work was being done in the preparation of ground and the planting of various field specialty crops. Alfalfa hay was being harvested in the Imperial and San Joaquin Valley areas of California. Harvest of navel oranges continued in southern California, but was about finished in the central area. Sugar beets were being planted.

Farm Employment and Indexes, March 1963, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1962	Annual average 1961	Annual average 1957-61 1/	March average 1957-61 1/	March 18-24 1962	March 24-30 1963
FARM EMPLOYMENT						
(Thousands)						
Total	6,700	6,919	7,284	6,201	5,736	5,663
Family labor	4,873	5,029	5,353	4,907	4,488	4,431
Hired labor	1,827	1,890	1,931	1,294	1,248	1,232
INDEXES 2/						
(1910-14=100)						
Total	49	51	54	54	50	49
Family labor	48	49	53	53	49	48
Hired labor	54	56	57	57	55	54
(1957-59=100)						
Total	90	93	98	98	91	89
Family labor	88	91	98	98	90	88
Hired labor	93	96	98	98	95	94

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

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, April 1, 1963 United States

	Annual average 1962	January average 1957-61	April 1, 1962	April 1, 1963
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.856	$ 0.852	$ 0.779	$ 0.799
Per month with house	200.00	183.00	192.00	199.00
Per month with board and room	155.00	145.00	150.00	154.00
Per week with board and room	37.00	33.50	35.75	36.50
Per week without board and room	47.75	43.75	47.50	47.25
Per day with house	5.60	5.10	5.50	5.60
Per day with board and room	6.70	6.00	6.20	6.30
Per day without board or room	6.90	6.30	6.70	6.80
Per hour with house	.92	.77	.81	.84
Per hour without board or room	1.01	1.02	1.07	1.11
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	658	600	666	683
(1957-59=100)	112	103	115	117

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

Workers on Farms, March, 1963
(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	March Average 1957-61 1/			March 1962 Week of 18-24			March 1963 Week of 24-30		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	30	20	10	25	18	7	26	18	8
N. H.	12	9	3	9	7	2	9	7	2
Vt.	31	23	8	25	20	5	25	19	6
Mass.	35	23	12	26	19	7	28	19	9
R. I.	6	3	3	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	24	18	6	21	16	5	22	16	6
N. Eng.	138	96	42	110	83	27	113	81	32
N. Y.	150	106	44	139	99	40	122	88	34
N. J.	37	26	11	33	23	10	29	20	9
Pa.	185	159	26	160	138	22	150	131	19
M. Atl.	372	291	81	332	260	72	301	239	62
Ohio	240	212	28	218	194	24	205	181	24
Ind.	214	198	16	194	179	15	183	171	12
Ill.	229	185	44	209	169	40	206	166	40
Mich.	196	173	23	180	158	22	180	159	21
Wis.	280	254	26	255	233	22	247	224	23
E. N. Cent.	1159	1022	137	1056	933	123	1021	901	120
Minn.	240	218	22	219	196	23	215	196	19
Iowa	258	238	20	247	227	20	255	236	19
Mo.	240	218	22	221	200	21	225	205	20
N. Dak.	83	73	10	72	65	7	74	67	7
S. Dak.	90	83	7	82	77	5	85	79	6
Nebr.	139	123	16	129	115	14	121	108	13
Kans.	145	132	13	136	124	12	141	127	14
W. N. Cent.	1195	1085	110	1106	1004	102	1116	1018	98
Del.	10	7	3	10	7	3	9	6	3
Md.	52	37	15	48	35	13	48	35	13
Va.	171	139	32	154	124	30	150	115	35
W. Va.	64	53	11	55	46	9	50	41	9
N. C.	284	245	39	257	216	41	295	242	53
S. C.	148	101	47	131	87	44	127	88	39
Ga.	165	126	39	145	108	37	129	95	34
Fla.	148	55	93	155	50	105	157	52	105
S. Atl.	1042	763	279	955	673	282	965	674	291
Ky.	204	173	31	191	159	32	196	161	35
Tenn.	196	160	36	180	145	35	188	150	38
Ala.	120	95	25	102	79	23	97	78	19
Miss.	201	158	43	183	139	44	183	140	43
E. S. Cent.	721	586	135	656	522	134	664	529	135
Ark.	181	122	59	166	103	63	168	107	61
La.	135	87	48	138	91	47	122	77	45
Okla.	147	132	15	142	125	17	134	119	15
Tex.	345	248	97	340	240	100	326	240	86
W. S. Cent.	808	589	219	786	559	227	750	543	207
Mont.	47	39	8	43	37	6	44	36	8
Idaho	52	42	10	52	44	8	52	42	10
Wyo.	17	13	4	15	11	4	16	12	4
Colo.	54	45	9	51	42	9	50	42	8
N. Mex.	30	20	10	30	19	11	30	20	10
Ariz.	41	9	32	37	8	29	39	9	30
Utah	26	20	6	25	20	5	24	19	5
Nev.	4	3	1	4	3	1	4	3	1
Mount.	271	191	80	257	184	73	259	183	76
Wash.	99	72	27	94	67	27	98	69	29
Oreg.	86	68	18	86	67	19	85	66	19
Calif.	310	144	166	298	136	162	291	128	163
Pac.	495	284	211	478	270	208	474	263	211
U. S.	6201	4907	1294	5736	4488	1248	5663	4431	1232

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 1962
January and February 1963

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average 1962			January 1963 Week of 20-26			February 1963 Week of 17-23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	19	12	23	17	6	24	18	6
N. H.	10	7	3	8	6	2	9	7	2
Vt.	24	19	5	22	17	5	23	18	5
Mass.	32	20	12	21	16	5	22	16	6
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	16	9	17	13	4	18	13	5
N. Eng.	126	84	42	94	71	23	99	74	25
N. Y.	153	101	52	116	87	29	117	87	30
N. J.	41	23	18	28	20	8	28	20	8
Penn.	171	141	30	127	110	17	143	126	17
M. Atl.	365	265	100	271	217	54	288	233	55
Ohio	226	192	34	158	145	13	188	174	14
Ind.	206	181	25	159	150	9	167	156	11
Ill.	241	191	50	170	142	28	177	148	29
Mich.	206	166	40	155	133	22	165	145	20
Wis.	266	238	28	220	205	15	235	214	21
E. N.Cent.	1145	968	177	862	775	87	932	837	95
Minn.	261	221	40	191	179	12	198	181	17
Iowa	288	246	42	198	184	14	210	194	16
Mo.	266	227	39	196	183	13	210	194	16
N. Dak.	88	69	19	50	45	5	56	50	6
S. Dak.	88	77	11	61	57	4	69	64	5
Nebr.	153	130	23	115	108	7	117	108	9
Kans.	152	128	24	112	105	7	127	117	10
W. N. Cent.	1296	1098	198	923	861	62	987	908	79
Del.	12	7	5	8	6	2	7	5	2
Md.	56	38	18	37	27	10	36	27	9
Va.	177	127	50	131	106	25	131	106	25
W. Va.	64	53	11	43	37	6	44	38	6
N. C.	397	295	102	221	192	29	255	215	40
S. C.	178	117	61	104	84	20	103	75	28
Ga.	160	115	45	89	70	19	97	72	25
Fla.	122	44	78	127	37	90	143	45	98
S. Atl.	1166	796	370	760	559	201	816	583	233
Ky.	232	182	50	166	149	17	172	154	18
Tenn.	229	178	51	149	131	18	156	129	27
Ala.	138	103	35	76	65	11	88	70	18
Miss.	225	160	65	113	95	18	131	105	26
E. S. Cent.	824	623	201	504	440	64	547	458	89
Ark.	195	110	85	104	84	20	136	90	46
La.	144	87	57	90	74	16	101	70	31
Okla.	149	119	30	116	108	8	127	115	12
Texas	415	243	172	264	197	67	286	211	75
W. S. Cent.	903	559	344	574	463	111	650	486	164
Mont.	48	36	12	35	30	5	36	30	6
Idaho	67	48	19	39	33	6	44	37	7
Wyo.	19	13	6	12	10	2	15	11	4
Colo.	67	48	19	40	34	6	46	39	7
N. Mex.	36	21	15	23	16	7	24	18	6
Ariz.	40	10	30	37	10	27	37	9	28
Utah	33	24	9	21	17	4	22	18	4
Nev.	5	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	315	203	112	210	152	58	227	164	63
Wash.	111	74	37	64	52	12	75	59	16
Oreg.	97	67	30	64	54	10	73	58	15
Calif.	352	136	216	301	121	180	297	126	171
Pac.	560	277	283	429	227	202	445	243	202
U. S.	6700	4873	1827	4627	3765	862	4991	3986	1005

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

Farm Wage Rates, April 1, 1962 1/

State and Region	Per month		Per week		Per day		Per hour		Composite 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 board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	203	155	40.00	57.00	-	-	9.50	-	1.13	.946	600
N.H.	220	160	45.00	60.00	-	-	10.00	-	1.20	1.01	690
Vt.	205	158	39.50	56.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.15	.939	651
Mass.	240	164	47.00	65.00	-	-	10.60	-	1.29	1.08	732
R.I.	245	165	47.00	65.00	-	-	10.70	-	1.26	1.07	775
Conn.	244	166	47.00	65.00	-	-	10.80	-	1.37	1.10	791
N.Eng.	221	160	43.25	60.25	-	-	10.00	-	1.22	1.01	685
N.Y.	218	148	37.75	54.50	-	-	9.20	-	1.14	.816	557
N.J.	222	160	40.25	60.50	-	-	10.00	-	1.16	.863	684
Pa.	190	136	35.25	47.50	-	-	8.20	-	1.07	.743	673
M.Atl.	210	146	37.25	53.00	-	-	9.00	-	1.12	.800	621
Ohio	175	132	-	-	-	6.50	8.60	-	1.09	.693	610
Ind.	183	138	-	-	-	6.50	8.30	-	1.08	.700	641
Ill.	208	159	-	-	-	7.70	9.50	-	1.14	.784	668
Mich.	217	151	-	-	-	7.00	9.10	-	1.09	.756	633
Wis.	203	152	-	-	-	7.10	9.00	-	1.10	.751	598
E.N.Cent.	199	148	-	-	-	7.10	9.00	-	1.11	.745	637
Minn.	194	152	-	-	-	7.70	9.60	-	1.12	.800	569
Iowa	214	169	-	-	-	8.40	10.20	-	1.17	.860	589
Mo.	163	125	-	-	-	6.50	7.90	-	1.02	.684	694
N.Dak.	185	151	-	-	-	6.80	8.60	-	1.05	.751	480
S.Dak.	195	154	-	-	-	7.00	8.70	-	1.05	.764	520
Nebr.	223	169	-	-	-	8.20	10.10	-	1.14	.856	634
Kans.	211	161	-	-	-	7.80	9.70	-	1.14	.829	762
W.N.Cent.	197	153	-	-	-	7.60	9.30	-	1.11	.795	616
Del.	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	8.40	.95	1.05	.857	864
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	8.00	.92	1.00	.825	905
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.50	-	6.60	.67	.83	.650	793
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	5.70	.65	.78	.602	525
N.C.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	6.10	.62	.76	.601	751
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	4.40	.46	.56	.440	633
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.95	.58	.68	.515	636
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.30	.80	.88	.674	748
S.Atl.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	5.90	.67	.78	.602	735
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.50	.65	.81	.537	611
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	5.00	.53	.65	.483	561
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	4.70	.53	.64	.468	578
Miss.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	4.50	.51	.58	.458	541
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	4.90	.55	.66	.485	575
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	6.20	.65	.76	.630	640
La.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.50	.58	.67	.554	634
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.20	-	8.20	.89	.99	.826	701
Texas	-	-	-	-	6.40	-	7.10	.73	.83	.712	646
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	6.00	-	6.60	.69	.79	.670	659
Mont.	225	180	-	-	-	-	9.30	-	1.15	.897	490
Idaho	264	209	-	-	-	-	10.70	-	1.23	1.02	625
Wyo.	236	166	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.14	.900	506
Colo.	228	169	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.11	.879	629
N.Mex.	193	149	-	-	-	-	7.60	-	.86	.723	657
Ariz.	253	175	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	.98	.860	609
Utah	252	204	-	-	-	-	10.20	-	1.25	.993	672
Nev.	250	180	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	1.25	.929	549
Mountain	238	176	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.06	.876	583
Wash.	272	217	-	-	-	-	-	1.25	1.31	1.26	635
Oreg.	250	192	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.24	1.19	597
Calif.	294	235	-	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.28	1.25	595
Pac.	288	229	-	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.28	1.24	601
U. S.	192	150	35.75	47.50	5.50	6.20	6.70	.81	1.07	.779	666

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, April 1, 1963 1/

State and Region	Per month		Per week		Per day		Per hour		Composite 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	210	153	38.00	56.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.12	.927	587
N.H.	229	167	44.00	62.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.23	1.028	704
Vt.	201	158	40.00	57.00	-	-	9.80	-	1.17	.964	667
Mass.	250	167	47.00	67.00	-	-	10.80	-	1.35	1.105	752
R.I.	250	168	47.00	68.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.36	1.115	806
Conn.	250	170	47.00	68.00	-	-	11.00	-	1.38	1.123	806
N.Eng.	229	162	43.00	62.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.25	1.030	701
N.Y.	222	158	41.00	55.50	-	-	9.40	-	1.19	.851	581
N.J.	235	180	46.75	58.50	-	-	9.90	-	1.19	.902	716
Pa.	201	140	36.75	50.25	-	-	8.70	-	1.10	.774	701
M.Atl.	218	156	40.50	54.25	-	-	9.30	-	1.16	.835	649
Ohio	175	132	-	-	-	6.70	8.60	-	1.12	.700	616
Ind.	188	143	-	-	-	7.00	8.70	-	1.12	.728	666
Ill.	213	162	-	-	-	8.00	9.80	-	1.17	.803	684
Mich.	222	155	-	-	-	7.00	9.10	-	1.11	.768	643
Wis.	210	152	-	-	-	7.20	9.10	-	1.13	.763	608
E.N.Cent.	203	151	-	-	-	7.30	9.20	-	1.14	.760	650
Minn.	201	159	-	-	-	8.00	10.00	-	1.16	.832	592
Iowa	220	172	-	-	-	8.70	10.60	-	1.21	.877	601
Mo.	175	131	-	-	-	6.30	8.20	-	1.04	.708	718
N.Dak.	201	171	-	-	-	7.70	9.40	-	1.08	.813	519
S.Dak.	208	164	-	-	-	7.60	9.40	-	1.10	.813	554
Nebr.	226	179	-	-	-	8.20	10.10	-	1.20	.883	654
Kans.	215	160	-	-	-	7.80	9.90	-	1.17	.841	774
W.N.Cent.	205	160	-	-	-	7.80	9.70	-	1.14	.824	638
Del.	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	8.80	.95	1.05	.866	873
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	8.20	.94	1.04	.852	936
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.70	-	6.80	.71	.89	.679	829
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.50	-	5.90	.66	.79	.614	535
N.C.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.20	.66	.79	.621	776
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.45	.49	.58	.452	650
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.45	-	5.10	.60	.71	.532	658
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.70	-	6.10	.80	.89	.664	737
S.Atl.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	5.90	.70	.81	.619	757
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.80	-	5.60	.63	.80	.558	634
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	5.10	.54	.68	.498	578
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.85	.55	.66	.486	600
Miss.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.60	.53	.59	.466	551
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.00	.56	.68	.500	592
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.40	.68	.80	.655	665
La.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.70	.65	.73	.586	671
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.30	-	8.40	.93	1.05	.857	727
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.50	-	7.20	.75	.86	.727	660
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	6.00	-	6.70	.72	.83	.686	674
Mont.	232	183	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.15	.917	500
Idaho	270	210	-	-	-	-	10.90	-	1.27	1.036	638
Wyo.	240	175	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.16	.909	512
Colo.	237	175	-	-	-	-	8.80	-	1.15	.885	634
N.Mex.	200	140	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.92	.728	662
Ariz.	279	175	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.02	.901	639
Utah	260	219	-	-	-	-	10.40	-	1.30	1.033	700
Nev.	245	180	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.35	.978	578
Mount.	253	177	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.09	.899	599
Wash.	287	225	-	-	-	-	11.50	1.26	1.35	1.032	654
Oreg.	261	192	-	-	-	-	10.90	1.20	1.28	1.225	615
Calif.	310	235	-	-	-	-	11.30	1.23	1.33	1.293	616
Pac.	303	230	-	-	-	-	11.30	1.23	1.33	1.288	622
U. S.	199	154	36.50	47.25	5.60	6.30	6.80	.84	1.11	.799	683

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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