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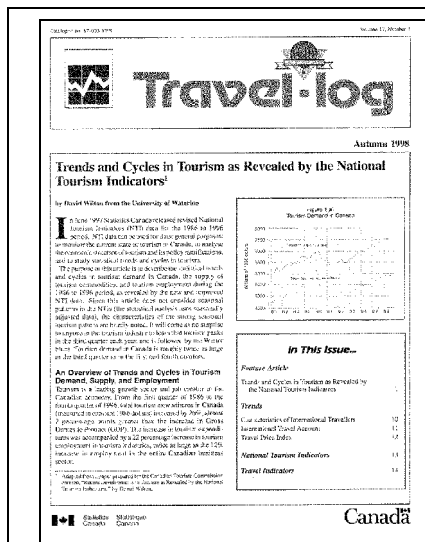
MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, August 1998** 3

Total manufacturing shipments rebounded sharply (+7.6%) in August. The large increase followed four consecutive monthly declines and was due primarily to a partial recovery in the automotive sector in the aftermath of the General Motors strike in the United States. Excluding the automotive sector, shipments increased 1.8% in August.
- **Travel between Canada and other countries, August 1998** 6

In August, overnight trips by non-residents to Canada surpassed the number of trips by Canadians abroad (1.6 million versus 1.3 million) for the third consecutive month. The number of overnight trips by Canadians abroad has been declining since the peak of 2.0 million in December 1991. Meanwhile, overnight trips by non-residents to Canada have been steadily increasing since 1993.

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Travel-log Autumn 1998

The Autumn 1998 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter, is now available. The feature article, "Trends and cycles in tourism as revealed by the national tourism indicators", examines statistical trends and cycles in tourism demand in Canada, the supply of tourism commodities, and tourism employment between 1986 and 1996.

Each quarter, *Travel-log* examines trends in the Travel Price Index, profiles the latest travel indicators, travellers' characteristics and the international travel account. A summary page on national tourism indicators for the tourism demand in Canada and employment generated by tourism is also provided.

The Autumn 1998 (Vol. 17, no. 4) issue of *Travel-log* (87-003-XPB, \$13/\$42, Internet version: 87-003-XIB, \$10) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Monique Beyrouiti (613-951-1673; fax: 613-951-2909; beyrmon@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



Statistics
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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

August 1998

Total manufacturing shipments rebounded sharply (+7.6%) in August. The large increase follows four consecutive monthly declines and was due primarily to a partial recovery in the automotive sector in the aftermath of the General Motors strike in the United States. Excluding the automotive sector, shipments increased 1.8% in August.

Total manufacturing shipments reached \$37.4 billion in August. Despite the strong gain, August's result fell just shy of the December 1997 peak and was 2.9% above the August 1997 level. Strong increases in both inventories and unfilled orders were also observed in August. Looking ahead, employment in the manufacturing sector fell for the third consecutive month in September. According to the Labour Force Survey the majority of the job losses in manufacturing over the last three months have been in the non-durable goods sector.

Shipments rebound in August from U.S. General Motors strike

Manufacturers' shipments increased in 18 of the 22 major groups in August, representing 86.2% of the total. The main contributors to the increase were the motor vehicle (+49.0%) and motor vehicle parts and accessories (+30.9%) industries. The motor vehicle and parts industries now stand 1.4% below the pre-strike level in May.

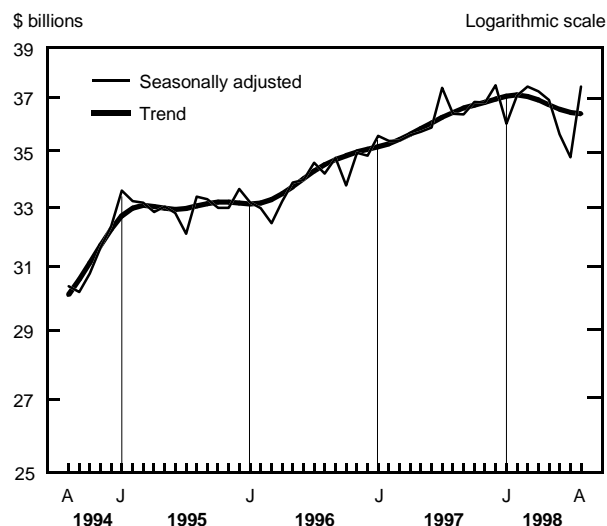
Note to readers

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders, which will contribute to future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled.

New orders represent orders received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the new orders variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Users should be aware that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile, particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is large in relation to the current month's change.

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to other countries.

Shipments rebound in August



Other major contributors to August's increase include aircraft and parts (+10.9%), fabricated metal (+4.8%), and primary metal (+3.8%) industries. The principle offsetting decreases were in the machinery (-5.3%), and electrical and electronics (-2.2%) industries.

Manufacturers' shipments increased in 10 of the 12 provinces and territories in August. The exceptions were Manitoba (-6.2%) and Alberta (-0.8%).

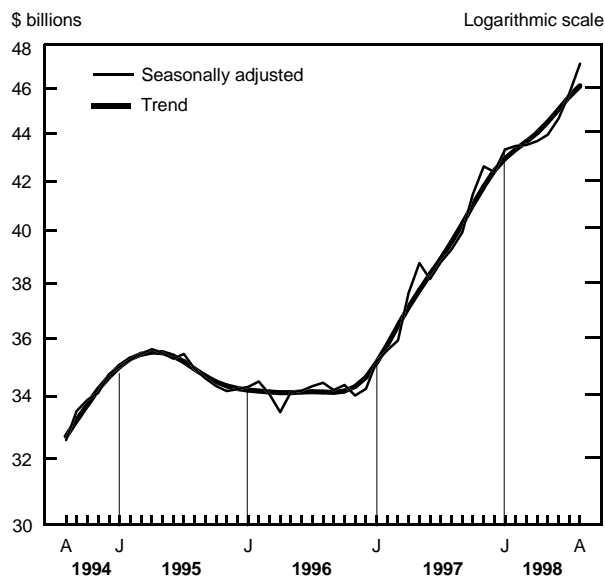
Shipments by province

	July 1998	August 1998	July 1998 to August 1998
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	128	139	8.8
Prince Edward Island	75	79	5.0
Nova Scotia	556	566	1.8
New Brunswick	579	659	13.9
Quebec	8,530	8,939	4.8
Ontario	18,019	20,233	12.3
Manitoba	917	860	-6.2
Saskatchewan	471	472	0.3
Alberta	2,726	2,705	-0.8
British Columbia	2,766	2,771	0.2
Territories	3	3	5.3

Unfilled orders continue to grow

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders increased 3.0% to \$47.1 billion in August. After slowing in the late winter and spring, the growth rate of unfilled orders has picked up momentum in the last three months — returning towards the strong upward growth trend observed throughout 1997.

Another strong increase in unfilled orders in August



The largest increases in unfilled orders in August were in the transportation equipment (+3.9%), and machinery (+6.5%) industries.

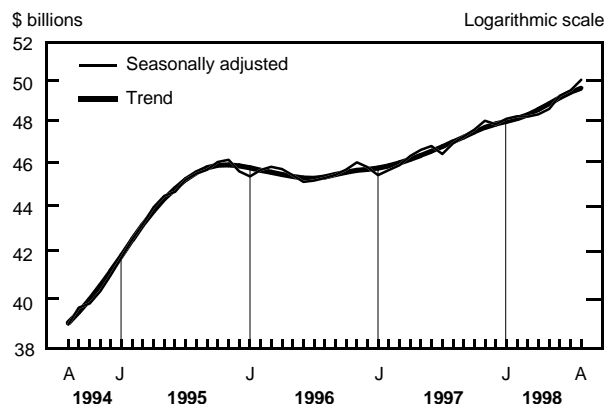
Unfilled orders in the non-durable sector declined (-1.2%) for the second consecutive month in August, corresponding with the employment losses observed in this sector by the Labour force Survey.

Unfilled orders are often considered a key determinant of future shipments. However, roughly half of the increase since the beginning of 1997 has been in the aircraft and parts industry, where some orders can be stretched out over a number of years before they are completed. In addition, large orders in any industry may occasionally have components manufactured in other countries.

Inventories increase strongly

Manufacturers' inventories increased 1.1% in August to \$50.0 billion. The August increase was due primarily to a build up of goods in process (+2.5%) inventories. The major contributors to August's increase were the aircraft and parts (+4.8%), motor vehicle (+11.6%), and machinery (+2.3%) industries.

Strong increase in inventories in August



The inventory-to-shipments ratio fell to 1.34 in August, down from 1.42 in July. This decrease breaks the brief upward trend seen in the inventory-to-shipments ratio in the last four months. However, the long-term trend has been a declining inventory-to-shipments ratio, with the lowest levels found in early 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9555, 9558, 9559, 9562-9565, 9568-9579 and 9581-9595.

For more information, the August 1998 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available

on request. For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; kuncrai@statcan.ca), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section.

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories- to- shipments ratio
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
August 1997	36,375	-2.7	46,889	1.1	39,278	1.2	36,849	-3.1	1.29
September 1997	36,363	0.0	47,231	0.7	39,954	1.7	37,040	0.5	1.30
October 1997	36,836	1.3	47,565	0.7	41,466	3.8	38,348	3.5	1.29
November 1997	36,823	0.0	48,004	0.9	42,610	2.8	37,967	-1.0	1.30
December 1997	37,492	1.8	47,815	-0.4	42,394	-0.5	37,276	-1.8	1.28
January 1998	36,015	-3.9	48,079	0.6	43,315	2.2	36,936	-0.9	1.33
February 1998	37,093	3.0	48,220	0.3	43,473	0.4	37,250	0.9	1.30
March 1998	37,442	0.9	48,189	-0.1	43,518	0.1	37,487	0.6	1.29
April 1998	37,254	-0.5	48,314	0.3	43,676	0.4	37,412	-0.2	1.30
May 1998	36,912	-0.9	48,576	0.5	43,962	0.7	37,198	-0.6	1.32
June 1998	35,606	-3.5	49,234	1.4	44,669	1.6	36,313	-2.4	1.38
July 1998	34,770	-2.3	49,508	0.6	45,760	2.4	35,861	-1.2	1.42
August 1998	37,427	7.6	50,043	1.1	47,128	3.0	38,796	8.2	1.34

Manufacturing industries, except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	%	\$ millions	%	\$ millions	%	\$ millions	%
August 1997	29,538	-1.3	44,419	1.2	34,493	1.5	30,044	-1.3
September 1997	29,660	0.4	44,662	0.5	35,052	1.6	30,218	0.6
October 1997	29,892	0.8	44,984	0.7	36,420	3.9	31,260	3.4
November 1997	29,787	-0.4	45,298	0.7	37,384	2.6	30,750	-1.6
December 1997	30,154	1.2	45,141	-0.3	36,881	-1.3	29,651	-3.6
January 1998	29,254	-3.0	45,266	0.3	37,568	1.9	29,942	1.0
February 1998	29,883	2.2	45,402	0.3	37,557	-0.0	29,872	-0.2
March 1998	30,131	0.8	45,435	0.1	37,539	-0.0	30,113	0.8
April 1998	30,063	-0.2	45,466	0.1	37,770	0.6	30,294	0.6
May 1998	29,736	-1.1	45,806	0.7	37,935	0.4	29,902	-1.3
June 1998	29,902	0.6	46,303	1.1	38,538	1.6	30,505	2.0
July 1998	29,807	-0.3	46,604	0.7	39,401	2.2	30,670	0.5
August 1998	30,350	1.8	46,982	0.8	40,631	3.1	31,579	3.0

Travel between Canada and other countries

August 1998

In August, overnight trips by non-residents to Canada surpassed the number of trips by Canadians abroad (1.6 million versus 1.3 million) for the third consecutive month. The number of overnight trips by Canadians abroad has been declining since the peak of 2.0 million in December 1991. Meanwhile, overnight trips by non-residents to Canada have been steadily increasing since 1993.

This high can be credited entirely to the boom in American tourism to Canada. A record 1.3 million Americans visited Canada in August, or 81% of all overnight trips to Canada. Overnight trips to Canada from countries other than the United States remained steady (319,000 trips in August). The tourism industry credited the attraction of Canada as a tourist destination and the relative value of the U.S. dollar for this surge in tourism. In August, the American dollar was at a record high of C\$1.54 compared with C\$1.39 in August 1997.

Despite the 6.6% monthly increase in overnight trips, the number of Americans arriving by plane dropped 0.1% compared with July. Air traffic from the United States might have been affected by a strike at Northwest Airlines.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise specified, data in this release are seasonally adjusted, (that is, adjusted for variations that repeat annually and for variability caused by the different volumes of travellers associated with different days of the week).

Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data. Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data (the actual traffic counts).

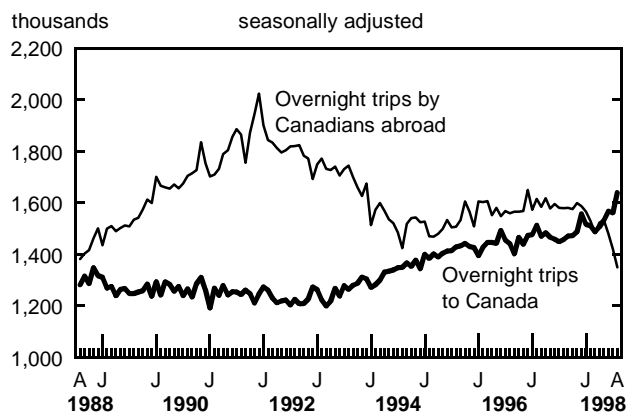
An excursion is a same-day trip.

Canadian travel to the United States continues to lead the decline in Canadian tourism abroad

Canadians made 5.0% fewer overnight visits abroad in August compared with a month earlier. This decline occurred in both travel to the United States (-6.4%) and to other countries (-0.9%). The number of Canadians returning from overnight trips to the United States by car (-7.9%) and by plane (-2.9%) also declined.

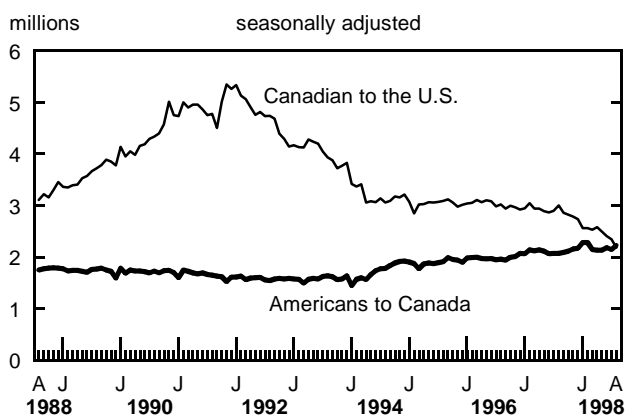
A fourth consecutive monthly decline (-6.8% to 2.2 million) in August led to the lowest number of same day car excursions by Canadians to the United States since November 1986. Same day car excursions are often used as an indicator of cross border shopping. Same-day car trips by Americans to Canada advanced 3.8% over July to 2.2 million.

Overnight trips



American visits to Canada were up substantially since the start of 1998 compared with the same period a year earlier. The total number of trips to Canada of one or more nights increased 8.3% (unadjusted) between January and August (on a year-over-year basis). Trips of one or more nights by car (+8.1%) and by plane (+13.8%) both advanced.

Same day automobile excursions



On a year-over-year basis, Canadian travel to the United States fell sharply to 2.7 million same-day car trips in August, down 28.0% from August 1997 (unadjusted). American car excursions to Canada jumped to 3.3 million in August, up 6.4% compared

with August 1997 (the highest level measured in August).

Car excursions between Canada and the United States

	Americans to Canada		Canadians to the United States	
	Aug. 1998 ^P	Aug. 1997 to Aug. 1998	Aug. 1998 ^P	Aug. 1997 to Aug. 1998
	unadjusted			
	'000	% change	'000	% change
Canada	3,255	6.4	2,692	-28.0
Place of entry/re-entry				
New Brunswick	186	4.6	418	-22.4
Quebec	159	14.0	266	-28.8
Ontario	2,516	5.7	1,235	-27.5
Manitoba	44	-13.5	70	-25.2
Saskatchewan	14	32.6	16	-26.9
Alberta	24	6.9	18	-18.8
British Columbia	307	12.5	664	-32.4
Yukon	6	7.3	6	22.9

^P Preliminary figures.

Same day excursions by Americans to Manitoba continued to decline compared with August 1997 (unadjusted). There was a surge of visits to Manitoba in the months following the 1997 flood. Current figures show a moderate increase over figures measured two years ago for the month of August.

Fewer overseas travellers to Canada

There were slightly fewer overseas travellers to Canada (-0.4% to 319,000) in August compared with July. The number of overseas visitors to Canada peaked at 401,000 in February 1997, declined until March 1998 and has been holding relatively steady ever since.

Number of trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of selected overseas countries (excludes same day excursions)

	Aug. 1998 ^P	Aug. 1997 to Aug. 1998
	unadjusted	
	'000	% change
Europe	355	-4.3
Germany	68	-7.6
France	70	-11.4
United Kingdom	107	0.6
Other European countries	110	-1.6
Asia	160	-20.2
South Korea	9	-61.6
Hong Kong	20	1.1
Japan	73	-13.9
Taiwan	15	-14.0
Other Asian countries	42	-22.4
Other regions	85	-3.6
Australia	18	-3.9
Mexico	15	-3.2
Other countries	51	-3.6

^P Preliminary figures

On a year-to-year basis, the number of overnight trips to Canada by overseas visitors was down 9.0% compared with August 1997 (unadjusted). The sharpest decline was measured from Asia (-20.2%), and in particular South Korea (-61.6%), Japan (-13.9%) and Taiwan (-14.0%). The exception has been Hong Kong, where the number of overnight trips advanced 1.1% from August 1997. Between January and August, 2.8 million overseas travellers stayed one or more nights in Canada, down 7.4% compared with the same period in 1997 (unadjusted).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6048 and 8200-8329.

The August 1998 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PPB, \$8/\$73) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Mark Irving (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; Mark.Irving@statcan.ca), or André Cyr (613-951-0277; fax: 613-951-2909; andre.cyr@statcan.ca), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	June 1998 ^r	July 1998 ^r	Aug. 1998 ^p	July 1998 to Aug. 1998
seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change
Canadian trips abroad				
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,409	2,344	2,185	-6.8
Total trips, one or more nights	1,479	1,421	1,349	-5.0
United States ¹	1,131	1,072	1,004	-6.4
Car	648	594	548	-7.9
Plane	384	378	368	-2.9
Other modes of transportation	99	99	88	-10.7
Other countries ²	349	349	346	-0.9
Travel to Canada				
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,184	2,146	2,228	3.8
Total trips, one or more nights	1,569	1,561	1,642	5.2
United States ¹	1,245	1,241	1,323	6.6
Car	781	769	837	8.9
Plane	312	324	324	-0.1
Other modes of transportation	153	148	162	9.6
Other countries ²	323	320	319	-0.4
	Aug. 1998 ^p	Aug. 1997 to Aug. 1998	Jan.-Aug. 1998 ^p	Jan.-Aug. 1997 to Jan.-Aug. 1998
unadjusted				
	'000	% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad				
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,692	-28.0	19,956	-16.7
Total trips, one or more nights	2,021	-18.2	12,764	-7.8
United States ¹	1,605	-22.1	9,711	-11.3
Car	1,118	-27.8	5,660	-16.9
Plane	325	-2.1	3,160	-1.4
Other modes of transportation	162	-9.7	891	-4.6
Other countries ²	416	1.6	3,053	5.3
Travel to Canada				
Same-day car trips from the United States	3,255	6.4	18,353	4.6
Total trips, one or more nights	3,107	1.1	13,521	4.6
United States ¹	2,507	3.9	10,702	8.3
Car	1,686	3.7	6,835	8.1
Plane	471	12.0	2,517	13.8
Other modes of transportation	351	-4.6	1,350	0.0
Other countries ²	599	-9.0	2,818	-7.4

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

² Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

OTHER RELEASES

Road motor vehicles: Fuel sales 1997

Net fuel sales advanced 4.7% compared with 1996 to 47.9 billion litres in 1997. Of these sales, 72.7% were net gasoline sales, 25.5% were net diesel fuel sales and 1.8% consisted of liquefied petroleum gas.

Net sales of gasoline increased 2.9% to 34.8 billion litres in 1997, with Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta showing above average increases.

Strong net sales of diesel oil (+11.6% to 12.2 billion litres) were due to increased consumption in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Road motor vehicles fuel sales 1997 (53-218-XIB, \$21) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact J.R. Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Primary iron and steel, August 1998

Catalogue number 41-001-XPB

(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

Industry price indexes, August 1998

Catalogue number 62-011-XPB

(Canada: \$22/\$217; outside Canada: US\$22/US\$217).

Travel-log, Autumn 1998

Catalogue number 87-003-XIB

(Canada: \$10/\$32; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$32).

Travel-log, Autumn 1998

Catalogue number 87-003-XPB

(Canada: \$13/\$42; outside Canada: US\$13/US\$42).

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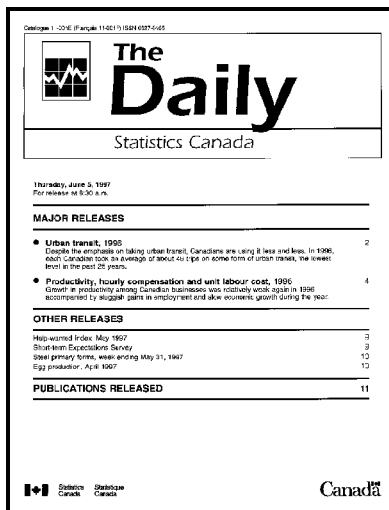
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