



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

December 2020



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Manitoba, including the regions of Winnipeg, Northern Manitoba and Southern Manitoba.

### OVERVIEW

A surge in positive COVID-19 cases in Manitoba initiated the Province to re-introduce measures to contain the virus. The Government of Manitoba re-imposed stricter regulations in November and maintained these measures throughout December. Provincial restrictions include the temporary closure of most non-essential businesses and capacity restrictions for those remaining open. In turn, provincial employment fell in the fourth quarter of 2020 — down 3,300 to 636,200. Significant part-time employment losses (-7,900) were only partially offset by gains in full-time employment (+4,700).

On an annual basis, total employment in Manitoba is down 2.6%. Most of these job losses are in the private sector (-18,300), while public sector employment is down slightly (-1,300) and self-employment increased (+2,500).<sup>1</sup>

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Manitoba's economic recovery from the pandemic is not expected to occur until 2022 due to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases.<sup>2</sup> Initially, the Conference Board forecast provincial employment to reach pre-pandemic levels by the first quarter of 2021.<sup>3</sup>

Manitoba's unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 7.6% in the fourth quarter of 2020 and remains well below the national average (8.7%). However, the province's unemployment rate is still higher than it was in the fourth quarter of 2019 (5.3%).

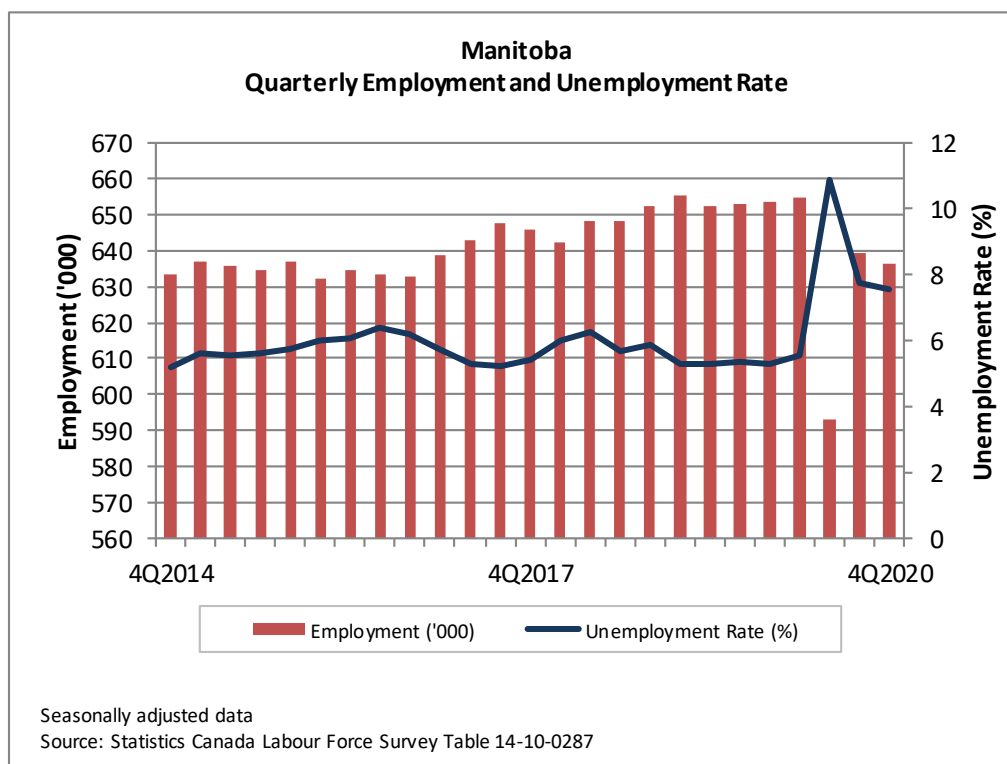
Manitobans aged 15 to 24 were disproportionately affected by job losses in the fourth quarter. Indeed, youth employment was down 3,700 while the youth unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 15.9%. On average, approximately 44% of all youth employment in Manitoba is part-time work. These positions are typically more precarious than full-time jobs and offer less job security in times of economic uncertainty.

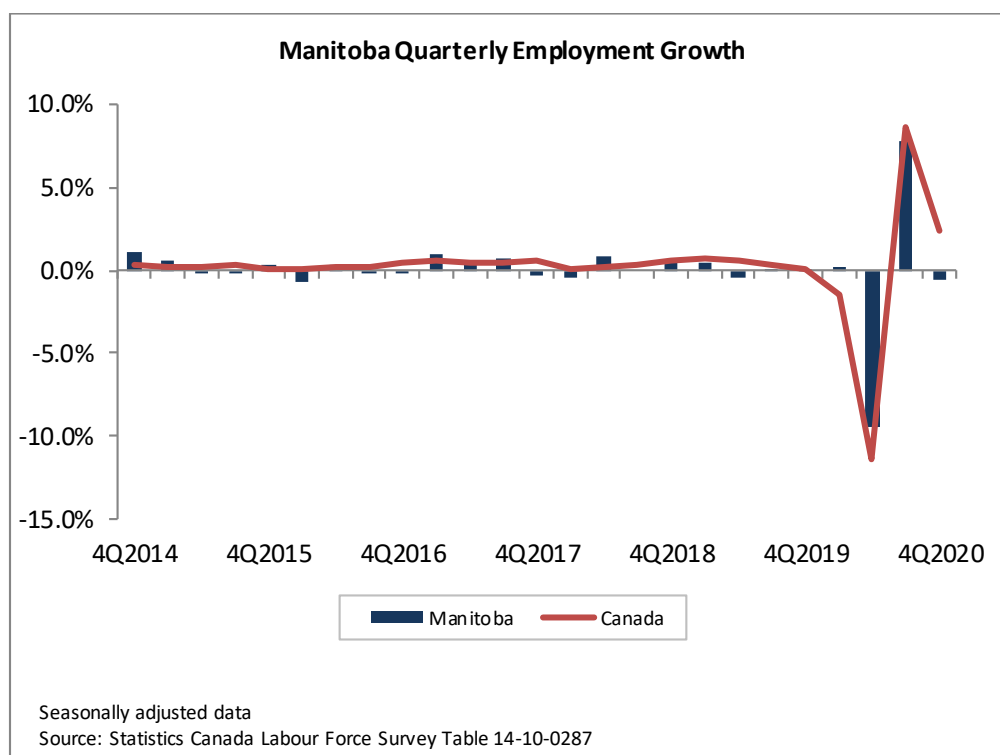
## Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally adjusted data	4th Quarter 2020	3rd Quarter 2020	4th Quarter 2019	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,048.2	1,047.2	1,042.9	1.0	0.1	5.3	0.5
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	688.4	693.3	689.8	-4.9	-0.7	-1.4	-0.2
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	636.2	639.5	653.4	-3.3	-0.5	-17.2	-2.6
Full-Time ('000)	513.9	509.2	525.7	4.7	0.9	-11.8	-2.2
Part-Time ('000)	122.4	130.3	127.7	-7.9	-6.1	-5.3	-4.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	52.1	53.9	36.4	-1.8	-3.3	15.7	43.1
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.6	7.8	5.3	-0.2	-	2.3	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	65.7	66.2	66.1	-0.5	-	-0.4	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	60.7	61.1	62.7	-0.4	-	-2.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087





The unemployment rate for young women in Manitoba increased 1.4 percentage points to 14.0% in the fourth quarter. On an annual basis, young women saw the most significant increase in their unemployment rate (+5.4 percentage points). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young men remains the highest among all demographic groups. Although the rate edged down 1.1 percentage points to 17.5% this quarter, it remains significantly higher than a year ago (13.2%).

**Manitoba Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally adjusted data	4th Quarter 2020 (%)	3rd Quarter 2020 (%)	4th Quarter 2019 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.6	7.8	5.3	-0.2	2.3
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.1	6.3	4.2	-0.2	1.9
Men - 25 years and over	5.9	6.4	4.3	-0.5	1.6
Women - 25 years and over	6.3	6.1	4.1	0.2	2.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	15.9	15.7	10.9	0.2	5.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.5	18.6	13.2	-1.1	4.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.0	12.6	8.6	1.4	5.4

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087*

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment was relatively unchanged in Manitoba's **goods-producing sector** in the fourth quarter of 2020. Employment losses in **resource extraction** (forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas) (-900) and **agriculture** (-800) were offset by gains in the **manufacturing** industry (+2,200). Meanwhile, employment in the province's **services-producing sector** was down 3,400, primarily due to losses in the **accommodation and food services** industry (-7,600).

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	4th Quarter 2020	3rd Quarter 2020	4th Quarter 2019	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	636.2	639.5	653.4	-3.3	-0.5	-17.2	-2.6
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	141.3	141.1	149.9	0.2	0.1	-8.6	-5.7
Agriculture	24.7	25.5	25.9	-0.8	-3.1	-1.2	-4.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	3.7	4.6	5.6	-0.9	-19.6	-1.9	-33.9
Utilities	5.2	5.6	6.4	-0.4	-7.1	-1.2	-18.8
Construction	47.5	47.3	49.8	0.2	0.4	-2.3	-4.6
Manufacturing	60.2	58.0	62.3	2.2	3.8	-2.1	-3.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	495.0	498.4	503.5	-3.4	-0.7	-8.5	-1.7
Trade	90.2	88.4	90.3	1.8	2.0	-0.1	-0.1
Transportation and warehousing	41.7	38.4	39.7	3.3	8.6	2.0	5.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.6	34.4	33.7	0.2	0.6	0.9	2.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	31.0	32.0	29.8	-1.0	-3.1	1.2	4.0
Business, building and other support services	22.3	21.8	21.7	0.5	2.3	0.6	2.8
Educational services	56.4	56.2	51.9	0.2	0.4	4.5	8.7
Health care and social assistance	102.3	101.8	105.2	0.5	0.5	-2.9	-2.8
Information, culture and recreation	20.3	21.0	22.5	-0.7	-3.3	-2.2	-9.8
Accommodation and food services	30.4	38.0	44.1	-7.6	-20.0	-13.7	-31.1
Other services	29.6	30.6	28.2	-1.0	-3.3	1.4	5.0
Public administration	36.3	35.8	36.2	0.5	1.4	0.1	0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table T14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

Employment in the **resource extraction** industry is down almost 20% on a quarterly basis and 34% year-over-year. In Manitoba, the majority of employment in this industry is concentrated in mining and quarrying. The province currently has four active mines; however, Hudbay plans on closing their Flin Flon mine by 2022 and Vale Manitoba Operations already significantly reduced their Thompson workforce in 2020.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, new jobs are expected to open this summer at Hudbay's refurbished New Britannia mine in Snow Lake.<sup>5</sup>

Employment in Manitoba's **manufacturing** industry grew almost 4% in the fourth quarter of 2020. Manufacturing represents nearly 10% of all employment in Manitoba and generated \$6.1 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019.<sup>6</sup> The manufacturing industry has been considered an essential service throughout the pandemic, and as

such, facilities were able to continue operating while observing provincial health regulations.<sup>7</sup> Despite remaining operational, manufacturers did face pandemic-related pressures in 2020. In December, NFI shut down production in Winnipeg for two weeks due to COVID-19 related absenteeism.<sup>8</sup> Earlier in 2020, Maple Leaf Foods in Brandon faced increased absenteeism and a suspension of exports to China after numerous employees tested positive for COVID-19.<sup>9,10</sup> According to the Conference Board of Canada, Manitoba manufacturing industry output is expected to fall 10.8% in 2020.<sup>11</sup>

The most significant job losses in the fourth quarter of 2020 were in the **accommodation and food services** industry. Indeed, there was a 20% reduction in employment on a quarterly basis and a 31% reduction year-over-year. This industry was already hard hit by travel restrictions that date back over ten months. Visitor volumes remain at an all time low. During the holiday season, the Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport saw a 93% drop in visitor volume due to COVID-19. The airport usually sees up to 16,000 travellers per day this time of year compared to 1,000 a day this year.<sup>12</sup>

Provincial measures recently put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 also significantly reduced employment opportunities for those working in the food services industry. On November 2, the Province banned all dine-in service in Winnipeg restaurants, and ten days later, the same restrictions were imposed throughout the province.

In an effort to mitigate the impact of these measures on the restaurant industry, the Government of Manitoba is allocating \$5 million towards financial relief for restaurants forced to switch to pick-up and delivery due to the restrictions.<sup>13</sup> The Dine-in Restaurant Relief Program is offered in addition to the Manitoba Bridge Grant that provides a one-time payment of \$5,000 to small- and medium-sized businesses affected by these measures.<sup>14</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment fell in three of Manitoba's six economic regions during the fourth quarter of 2020 with **Interlake** (-12.0%) posting the largest percentage decline year-over-year. The **Winnipeg** region saw the greatest number of total job losses (-13,800) for this period and its unemployment rate increased 3.5 percentage points to 8.4% — the highest unemployment rate of any region in Manitoba.

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally unadjusted data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2020 ('000)	4th Quarter 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2020 (%)	4th Quarter 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	635.7	653.6	-2.7	7.0	4.9	2.1
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	59.4	58.6	1.4	5.0	5.6	-0.6
South Central and North Central	56.8	54.3	4.6	2.2	3.7	-1.5
Southwest	56.3	58.1	-3.1	4.9	5.8	-0.9
Winnipeg	393.2	407.0	-3.4	8.4	4.9	3.5
Interlake	40.4	45.9	-12.0	6.7	3.8	2.9
Parklands and Northern	29.7	29.7	0.0	6.0	5.4	0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

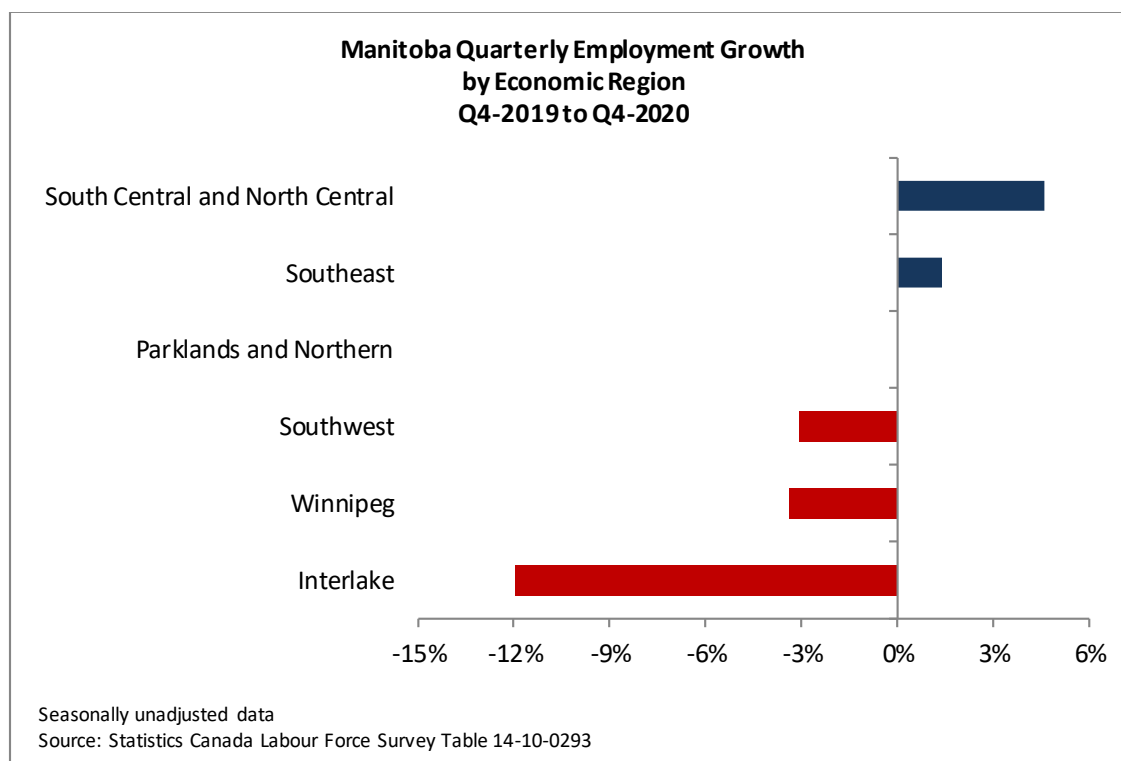
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

A province-wide lockdown led to the closure of leisure facilities throughout Manitoba in the fourth quarter of 2020. In Winnipeg, the City laid off 599 temporary staff from their Community Services Department since many civic facilities had to remain closed due to COVID-19. The temporary layoff began on November 29, 2020.<sup>15</sup> Winnipeg's accommodation and food services industry is also being significantly affected by the pandemic. In fact, employment in Winnipeg's accommodation and food services industry is down over 30% year-over-year.

Employment increased on an annual basis in the South Central and North Central region (+4.6%), while its unemployment rate fell 1.5 percentage points to 2.2%. Manufacturing represents approximately 14% of all employment in this economic region with new developments expected to bolster local industry employment. For instance, Buhler Industries is relocating their Farm King product line from the U.S. to their Morden factory in 2021. The move will gradually create a number of jobs as operations transition to the Manitoba plant.<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, operations began at Roquette's new Portage la Prairie pea processing plant in mid-November. Approximately 100 employees have been hired and 20 more will be added in 2021.<sup>17</sup>

Employment is unchanged in the Parklands and Northern region. However, Hudbay's plans to close the 777 mine in Flin Flon by 2022 will likely lead to some job losses in this region over the next year. Mines have a significant impact on remote northern local economies by offering high-paying employment and bolstering overall local business opportunities through the purchase of goods and services. In this case, the town of Flin Flon will certainly feel the loss of the Hudbay mine. Meanwhile, Hudbay already plans to contribute \$2 million toward building a new 30-lot subdivision in Snow Lake in anticipation of expanding their local mining operations. Hudbay

also recently signed an agreement with the Town of Snow Lake to build a permanent dormitory and business park.<sup>18</sup>



**Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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- <sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0288-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0089) Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months (x1,000). Accessed December 4, 2020: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028801>
- <sup>2</sup> Conference Board of Canada (November 25, 2020). Tough Times Ahead: Provincial Outlook. Retrieved from: <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10894>
- <sup>3</sup> Conference Board of Canada (September 29, 2020). Tough times ... but it could be worse: Manitoba's two-year Outlook – September 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10811>
- <sup>4</sup> Thompson Citizen (October 29, 2020). Elimination of nearly 150 jobs at Vale a 'punch in the stomach for Thompson'. Retrieved from: <https://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/thompson/elimination-of-nearly-150-jobs-at-vale-a-punch-in-the-stomach-for-thompson-1.24230100>
- <sup>5</sup> Flin Flon Reminder (September 29, 2020). Hudbay 2022 mine closure, care and maintenance details issued to employees. Retrieved from: <https://www.thereminder.ca/news/local-news/hudbay-2022-mine-closure-care-and-maintenance-details-issued-to-employees-1.24212055>
- <sup>6</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0402-01 (formerly CANSIM 379-0030) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by price, by industry, provinces and territories (x1,000,000) annual. Accessed on January 8, 2021: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3610040201>
- <sup>7</sup> Government of Manitoba. Public Health Orders – Businesses Permitted to Open – November 20, 2020. Accessed on January 8, 2021: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/orders/essential-business.html>
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- <sup>9</sup> Global News (August 19, 2020). Manitoba pork plant suspends products to China amid coronavirus outbreak. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7286055/maple-leaf-foods-manitoba-suspends-pork-china-coronavirus/>
- <sup>10</sup> Maple Leaf (August 18, 2020). Maple Leaf Foods Provides Update on COVID-19 at Brandon Plant. Retrieved from: <https://www.mapleleaffoods.com/news/maple-leaf-foods-provides-update-on-covid-19-at-brandon-plant/>
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- <sup>12</sup> Global News (December 20, 2020). Winnipeg airport sees 93% drop in passengers amidst 2020 COVID-19 holiday season. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7533350/winnipeg-airport-drop-passengers-2020-covid-19-holiday-season/>
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- <sup>14</sup> Ibid.
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<sup>15</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (December 1, 2020). City makes temporary layoffs official. Retrieved from:  
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<sup>17</sup> Portage Online (November 27, 2020). Processing begins at Roquette's crown jewel. Retrieved from:  
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<sup>18</sup> The Reminder (December 30, 2020). Huidbay, Snow Lake reach funding deal for camp, subdivision. Retrieved from:  
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