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Department of Labor
Office of the Commissioner

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To: Vermont General Assembly
From: Commissioner's Office, Department of Labor
Date: March 30, 2021
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

Executive Summary:

For the benefit week ending March 20, there were 33,788 weekly claims filed. This is a decrease of 953 over the previous week, the benefit week ending March 13, where 34,741 weekly claims filed. Even with a decrease in claims filed, this is still significantly higher than pre-pandemic conditions. For the week ending March 20, \$13,236,291 in benefits were paid out to claimants.

On March 26, the Department released data on the Vermont economy for the month of February 2021. According to the household data, the seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate for February was 3.1 percent. This reflects a decrease of one-tenth of one percentage point from the prior month's revised estimate of 3.2 percent.

We are currently seeing a large number of claimants approach the one-year anniversary of submitting their initial unemployment application. When an initial application is submitted, the over-arching claim remains active for 12-months. When the 12-months expires, the benefit year expires as well, and claimants must open a new benefit year to continue to file weekly claims. This can be done by logging into the online claimant portal and only applies to individuals filing in the regular UI system, not Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Claimants who are identified as approaching the end of their benefit year will receive an email from the Department reminding them of the necessary steps so they may continue to file without disruption.

The Department continues to review program guidance related to the implementation and administration of the unemployment programs extended in the American Rescue Plan Act. At this time, program extensions have been granted until the benefit week ending September 4, 2021. This includes Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

Links and Resources:

- [UI "How-To" video library \(applying for benefits, reopening a claim, submitting weekly claims\)](#)
- [Workforce Development services \(online job board, workshops, events, and local staff\)](#)
- [Vermont Job Link](#)
- [CARES Act UI Extension FAQ](#)
- [UI Updates Page \[Newsfeed\]](#)
- [Appealing UI Claim Determinations](#)
- [UI Adjudications Process](#)
- [1099-G Incident Page](#)
- [1099-G Incident FAQs](#)

IDENTITY PROTECTION

Vermont Department of Labor Status Report



Mailing Data	
Final Mailing Count:	98,719
Returned as Undeliverable:	1,333
Remailed:	

Call Activity				Enrollments		
	Calls In	Calls Out	Total Calls	Call Center	Website	Total Enrollments
Week 1						
2/18/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0
2/19/2021-2/21/2021	4	0	4	1	0	1
Week 2						
2/22/2021	23	0	23	10	74	84
2/23/2021	28	0	28	18	77	95
2/24/2021	25	0	25	12	74	86
2/25/2021	73	0	73	38	212	250
2/26/2021-2/28/2021	118	0	118	81	1607	1688
Week 3						
3/1/2021	343	0	343	203	1208	1411
3/2/2021	249	1	250	148	1316	1464
3/3/2021	190	2	192	110	765	875
3/4/2021	250	0	250	116	1011	1127
3/5/2021-3/7/2021	198	8	206	113	1532	1645
Week 4						
3/8/2021	143	2	145	71	383	454
3/9/2021	105	2	107	55	296	351
3/10/2021	88	6	94	53	223	276
3/11/2021	48	8	56	23	209	232
3/12/2021-3/14/2021	56	5	61	29	496	525
Week 5						
3/15/2021	70	1	71	38	217	255
3/16/2021	48	0	48	24	150	174
3/17/2021	39	1	40	22	99	121
3/18/2021	29	2	31	13	100	113
3/19/2021-3/21/2021	28	2	30	13	234	247
Week 6						
3/22/2021	24	2	26	15	84	99
3/23/2021	35	2	37	11	71	82
3/24/2021	34	2	36	12	65	77
3/25/2021	24	0	24	6	68	74
3/26/2021-3/28/2021	40	2	42	14	212	226
Grand Totals	2312	48	2360	1249	10783	12032

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Week Ending	Continued Claims Filed							
	1/30	2/6	2/13	2/20	2/27	3/6	3/13	3/20
Regular UI	13,241	13,150	12,834	12,295	12,087	12,195	11,691	11,074
PEUC	12,706	13,232	13,547	13,358	13,860	13,735	14,208	13,981
EB	64	52	44	40	29	19	33	19
PUA	8,713	8,739	8,801	8,650	8,761	8,745	8,809	8,714
Total	34,391	35,173	35,226	34,343	34,737	34,694	34,741	33,788

Figure 1

The data presented in this publication represents unofficial information collected from a variety of sources, and is being provided in order to ensure transparency, the freedom of information, and a well-informed public. While it is accurate to the extent ascertainable by the Department at the time of publication, it has not been subject to inspection or validation, and does not constitute verified employment data for the purposes of required reporting and formal release. This data is for the sole purpose of informing the public and shall not be recreated or reposted in any way, without this disclaimer. The information provided herein is not related in any way to the certified data provided to the U.S. Department of Labor.

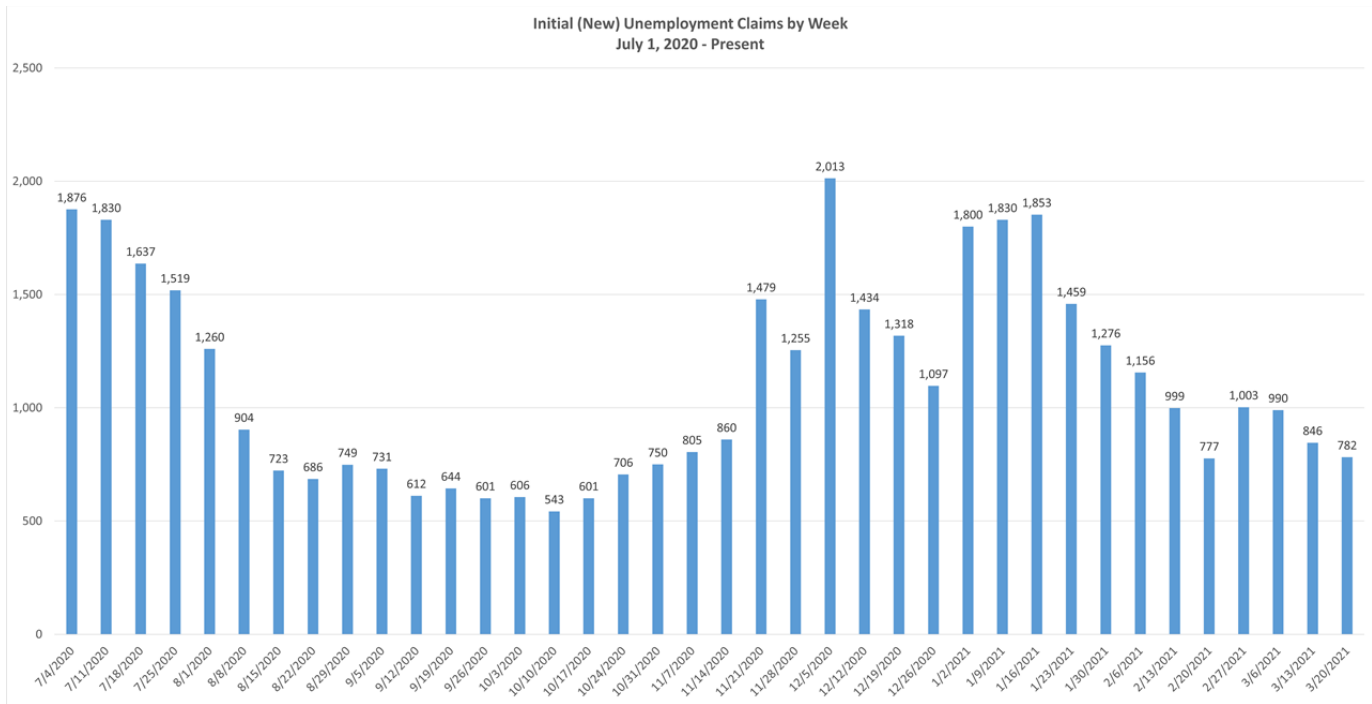


Figure 2

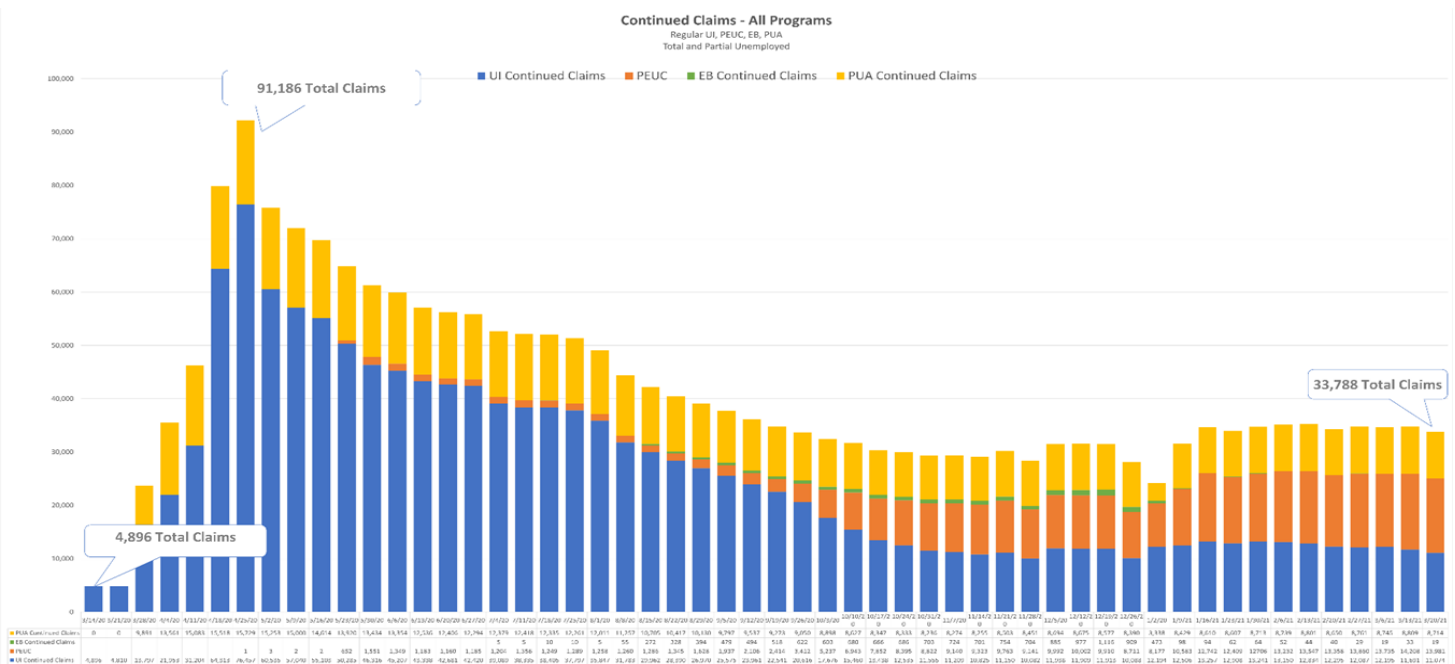


Figure 3

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BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Claims Payment Processing						
Week Ending	All UI Claims Paid	All UI Payments	PUA Claims Paid*	PUA Payments	Total Payments Issued	Trust Fund Balance
January 23	23,195	\$7,827,257	7,736	\$4,762,209	\$12,589,466	\$233,645,327
January 30	23,499	\$7,911,766	8,595	\$5,296,654	\$13,208,420	\$231,866,628
February 6	24,476	\$8,389,274	8,564	\$5,273,597	\$13,662,871	\$230,211,298
February 13	24,231	\$8,201,345	9,382	\$5,656,278	\$13,857,623	\$228,073,511
February 20	24,051	\$8,124,670	7,851	\$4,764,568	\$12,889,238	\$224,265,194
February 27	24,353	\$8,308,811	8,460	\$5,187,084	\$13,495,895	\$220,634,570
March 6	24,532	\$8,257,067	8,800	\$5,265,854	\$13,522,921	\$216,886,619
March 13	25,932	\$8,125,362	8,809	\$5,039,666	\$13,165,028	\$213,374,056
March 20	24,024	\$7,955,310	8,501	\$5,280,981	\$13,236,291	\$210,031,857

*Only identifies payments issued and may include multiple benefit weeks being paid to one claimant.

Figure 4

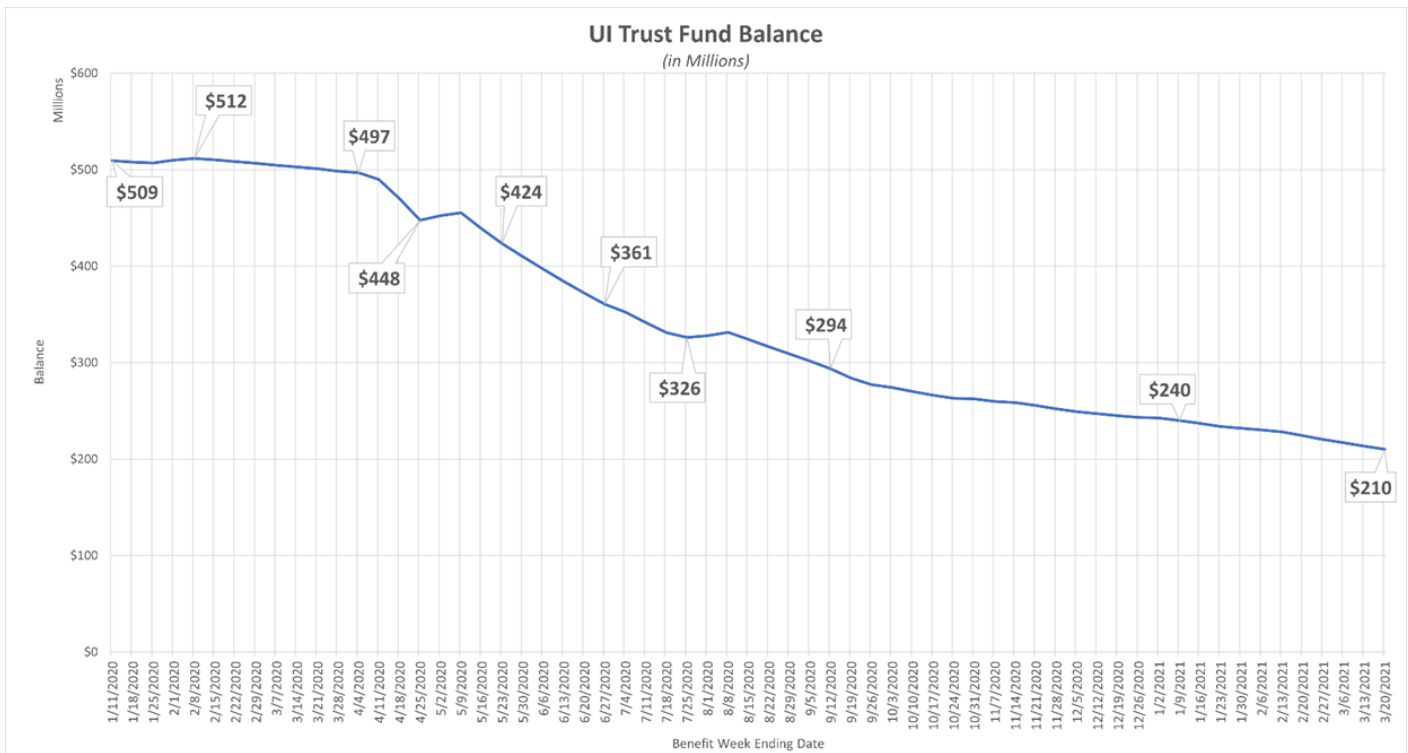


Figure 5

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CALL VOLUME

Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
132	2,917	9:04	2:53

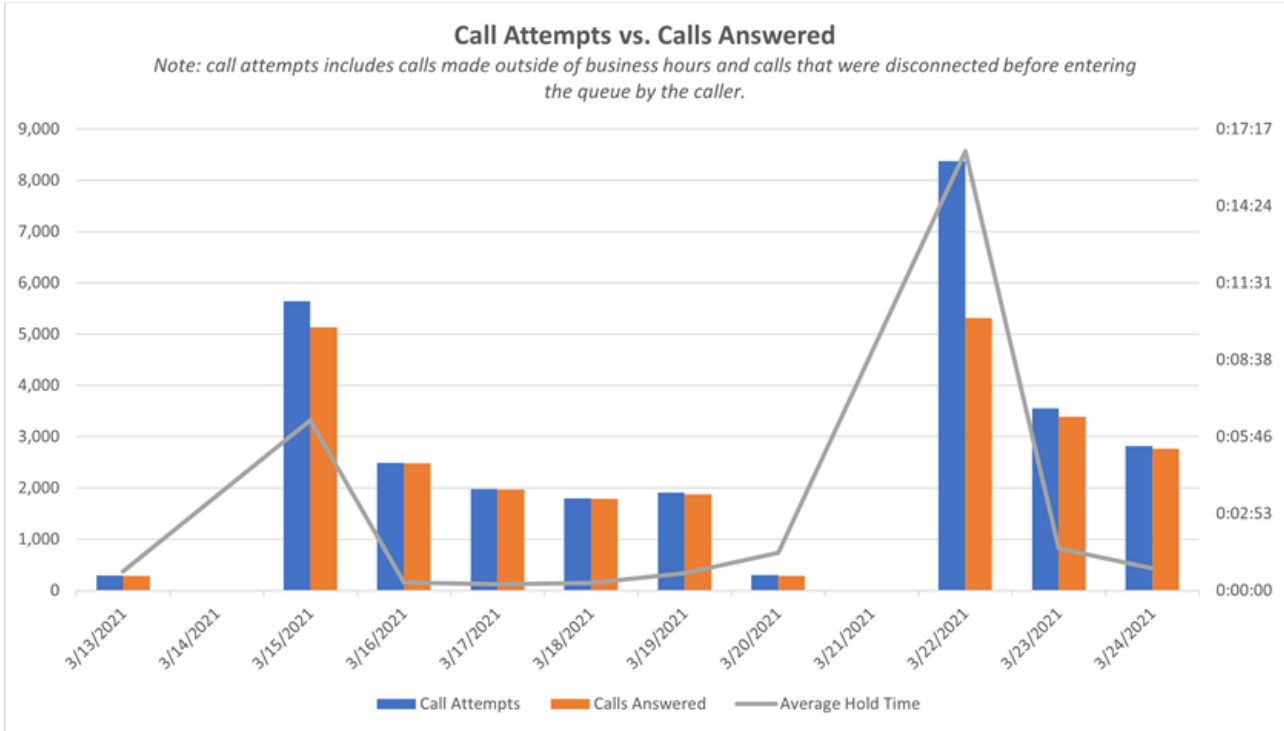


Figure 6

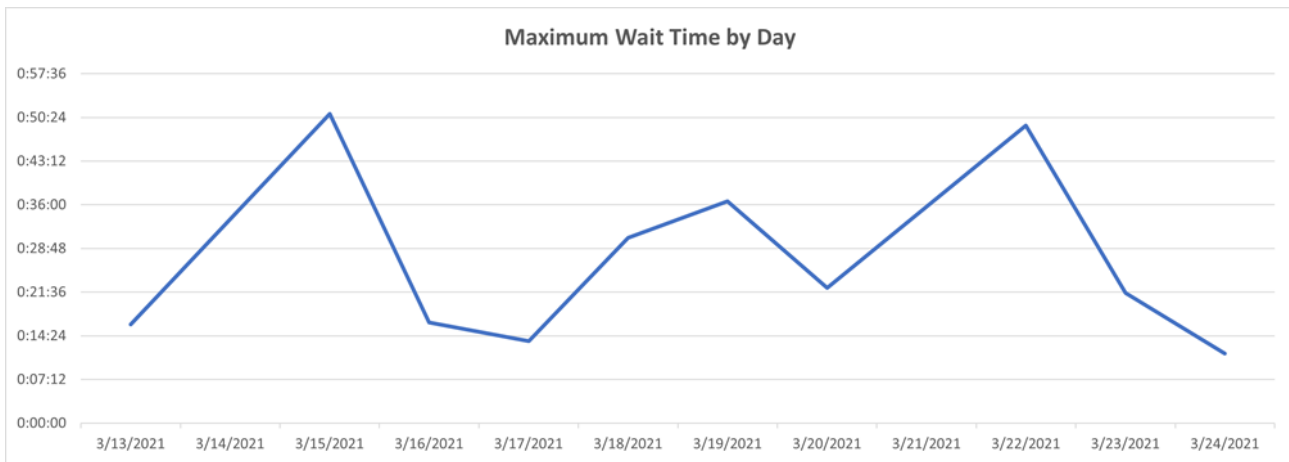


Figure 7

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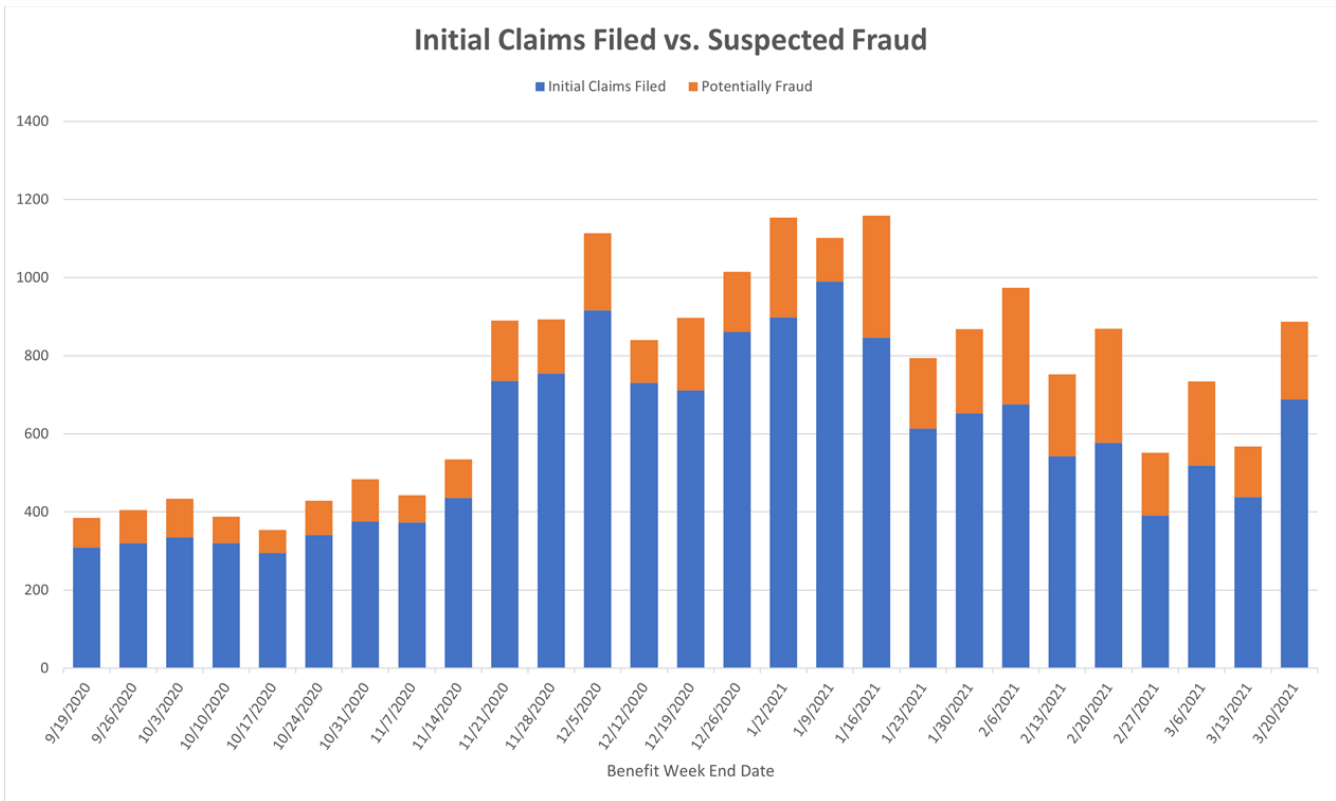


Figure 8

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