



# ARLINGTON COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON REGION: A LOOK AT ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

NOVEMBER 2005

Welcome to the first issue in a series of in-depth analyses on member jurisdictions in the Washington region. This newsletter contains economic and demographic data on Arlington County, placed in the context of the Washington region.

## Population

The population of Arlington County, according to the 2000 Census, is 189,500 people. Arlington residents contribute **4.2 percent** of the Washington region's 4.5 million people.

Between 2000 and 2030, Arlington's population is anticipated to grow by **59,300 people** or an increase of **31.1 percent**, while the region is expected to grow by more than 2 million people or 45.2 percent.

Nearly **17 percent** of the population in Arlington County is under 18 years old-- this represents a lower proportion of children compared to the regional average of 25 percent.

There are nearly 18,000 'seniors,' 65 years and older, who make up **nine percent** of Arlington residents. This percentage is the same as in the Washington region as a whole.

Sixty-nine percent of Arlington's population is White; nine percent is Black or African-American; and nine percent is Asian. More than 35,000 people or 19 percent of Arlington County's population also indicated that they are Hispanic or Latino. Regionally, 56 percent of the population is White; 28 percent Black or African-American; and eight percent is Asian. One out of ten people in the Washington region is Hispanic or Latino.

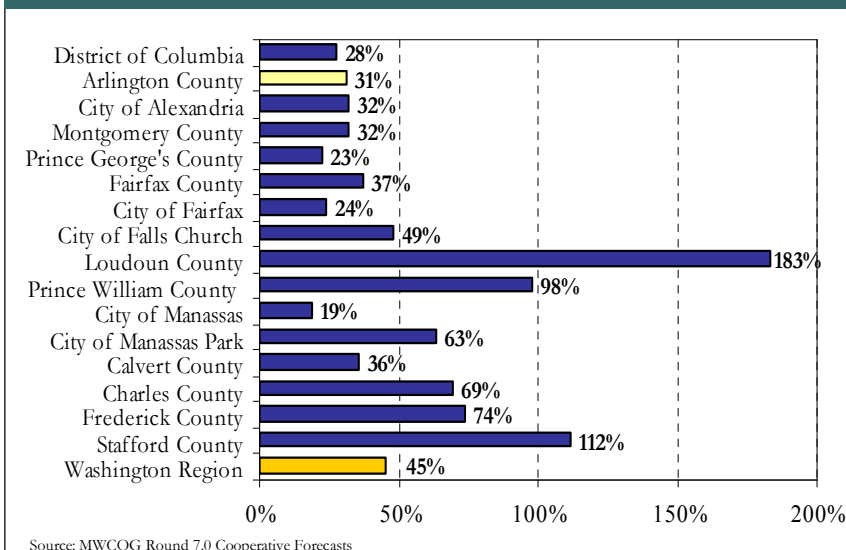


## Land Area

Arlington County is nearly **26 square miles**, making up **0.9 percent** of the Washington region's land area. Arlington has a population density of nearly **7,700 people** per square mile, more densely populated than regional average of 1,395 people per square mile.

In Focus: Arlington County

Percent Population Growth by Jurisdiction  
Forecast 2000–2030



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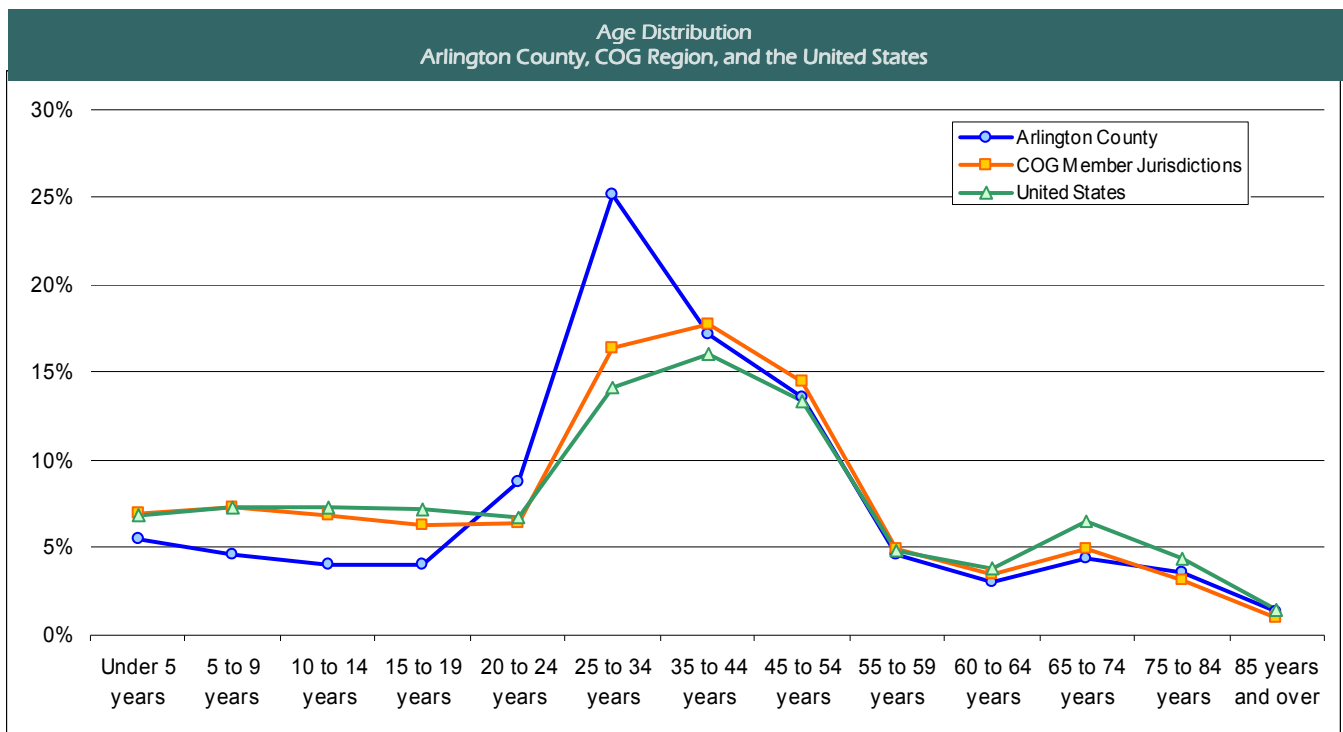
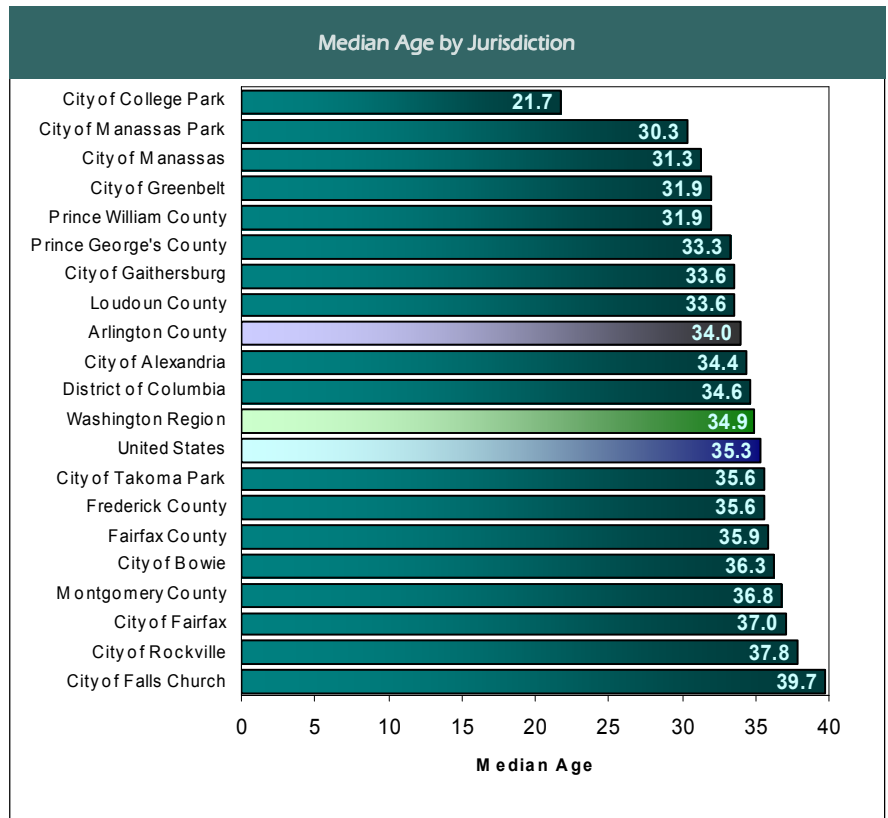
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*Population (continued)*

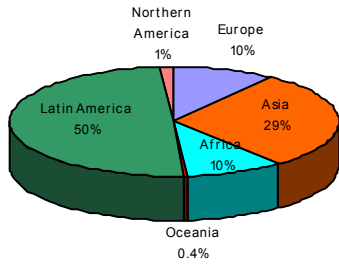
The median age of Arlington County residents is 34.0 years, slightly younger than the median age in the Washington region (34.9 years), and the United States (35.3 years.)

Arlington County has a high percentage of young adults compared to the age distributions of the Washington region and the United States. **Twenty-five percent** of Arlington residents are between 25 and 34 years of age, compared to 16 percent in the Washington region and 14 percent in the United States.

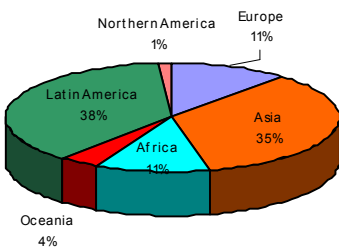




Region of Birth of Foreign Born in Arlington County



Region of Birth of Foreign Born in the Washington Region



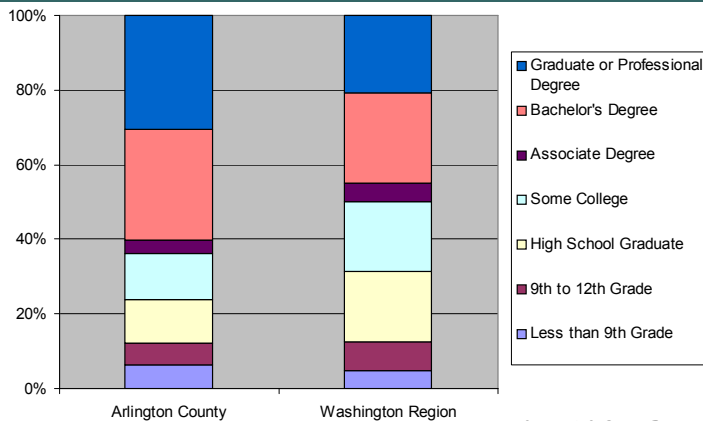
Note: Oceania refers to Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Foreign Born

Arlington County has a higher percentage of foreign born residents compared to other jurisdictions in the Washington region. **Twenty-eight percent** of the County's population was born in another country, compared to the regional average of 19 percent. Of the foreign born, **half** originate from Latin America.

A variety of foreign languages are spoken by Arlington County residents—**one-third** of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Arlington ranks second in the region with residents who speak Spanish at home (18 percent.)

Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Education

Nearly **41,000 people** in Arlington County (**one-fifth** of the population) are enrolled in school. 60 percent of these enrollees are school age children, and 40 percent are college or graduate students.

Arlington County has the second-highest educational attainment in the Washington region.

**Thirty-one percent** of Arlington residents over 25 years of age have a graduate or professional degree, compared to 21 percent of the region's population.

## Marital Status

Arlington County has a higher rate of 'singles' (those never married, as defined by the Census Bureau)-- **42 percent** of the population as compared 32 percent of the region's population.

## Residence

Arlington County residents tend to be more nomadic than the region as a whole. **Half** of Arlington residents moved between 1995 and 2000, as compared to 44 percent of the region's population.



## Employment

Between 2000 and 2030, Arlington County is projected to add more than **93,000 jobs** or an increase of more than **51 percent**. During the same period, the region is expected to add nearly 1.4 million jobs or an increase of approximately 49 percent.

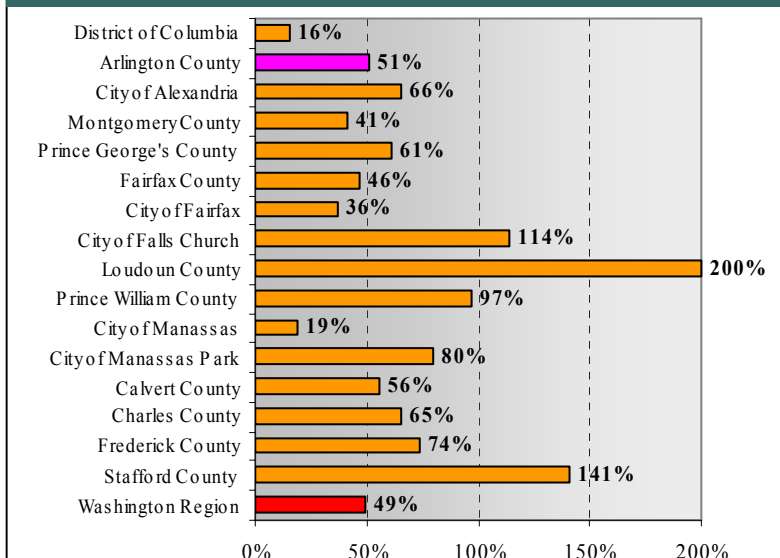
## Income

Arlington County led the region in per capita income at **\$56,888** in 2003. The per capita income for the Washington region was \$44,757.

## Unemployment Rate

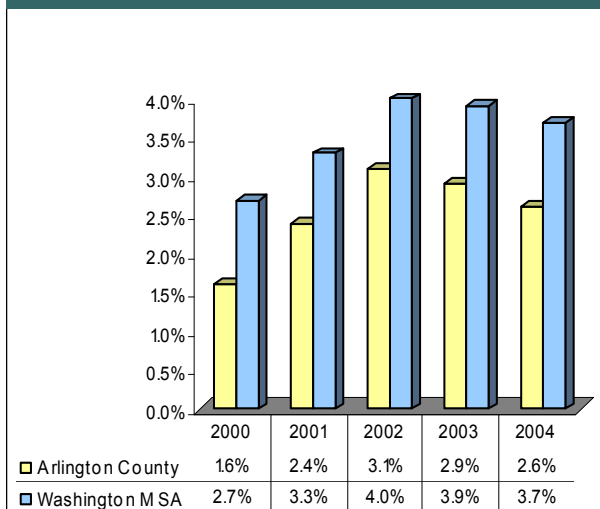
Over the last five years, Arlington County has enjoyed an unemployment rate lower than the regional average. In 2004, Arlington County had an unemployment rate of **2.6 percent**, while the regional unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.

Percent Employment Growth by Jurisdiction  
Forecast 2000–2030



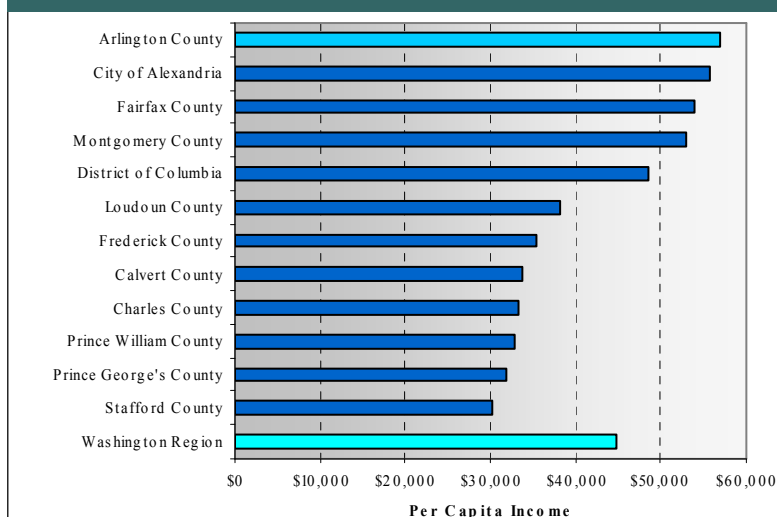
Source: MWCOG Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecasts

Unemployment Rate 2000 - 2004



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Annual Per Capita Income by Jurisdiction, 2003



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

## Construction

Nearly **8 million square feet** of commercial development was constructed in Arlington County over the last five years—this represents nearly five percent of all commercial development in the Washington region.

## Federal Spending

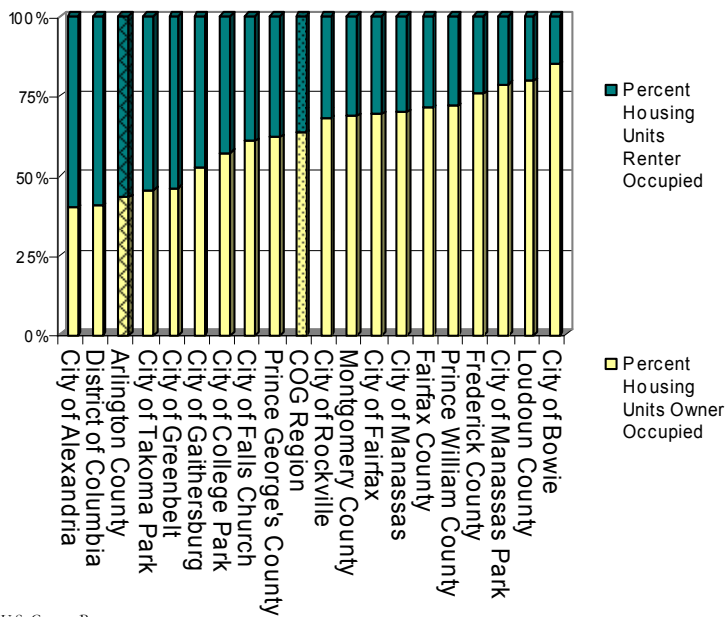
In Fiscal Year 2003, Arlington County received nearly **\$3.2 billion** in salaries and wages from the federal government. This figure represents approximately 12 percent of the region's federal salaries and wages. Arlington County was home to nearly **\$4.8 billion** in federal procurement, capturing 11 percent of the region's federal contract awards.



## Home Sales

The number of homes sold in Arlington County increased **32 percent** between 2000 and 2004, compared to the regional average of 42 percent. A total of **17,055 homes** were sold in Arlington County during that time period, which is nearly four percent of the total home sales in the region.

Owner-Occupied and Renter-Occupied Housing Units



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Housing

Arlington County tends to have a higher percentage of renter-occupied housing compared to the Washington region. Nearly 49,000 or **57 percent** of Arlington County's housing units are renter occupied, making Arlington the jurisdiction with the third highest percentage of rental units in the region behind the City of Alexandria (60 percent) and the District of Columbia (59 percent).

Arlington residents pay a higher median gross rent than the regional median. In 2000, the median gross rent in Arlington County was **\$897 a month**, \$76 higher than the regional median gross rent of \$821 per month.

The average household size in Arlington County is significantly smaller than the regional average of 2.59 people per household. At **2.15 people per household**, Arlington has the second lowest average household size in the Washington region, behind the City of Alexandria (2.04 people per household).

## Commuting

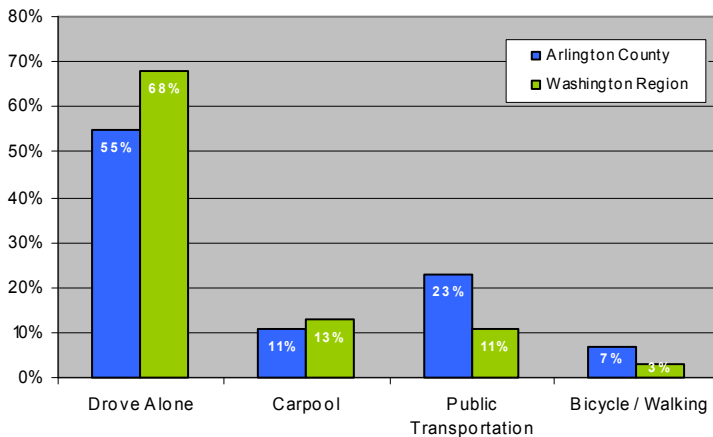
Arlington residents use public transportation at a rate twice the regional average. **Twenty-three percent** of Arlington's workers use public transportation compared to 11 percent of the Washington region's workers. **Fifty-five percent** of Arlington resident workers drive alone, compared to 68 percent of the Washington region's workers.

**Eighty-five percent** of Arlington residents commute to work in less than 45 minutes. In comparison, 72 percent of the region's workers have a travel time of less than 45 minutes.

## Vehicle Ownership

Of the 86,352 occupied housing units in Arlington County, **12 percent** (10,688 housing units) do not have vehicles. For renter-occupied housing units, approximately **18 percent** do not have vehicles. Eleven percent of the region's occupied housing units and 23 percent of the renter-occupied units do not have vehicles.

Means of Transportation



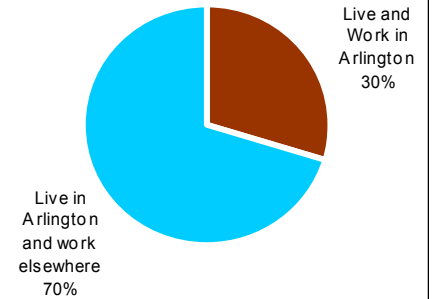
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



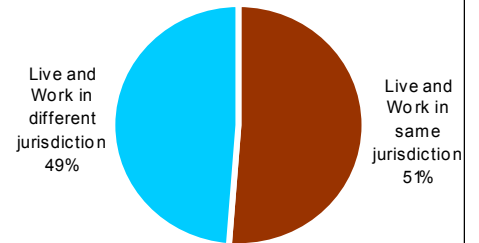
## Commuting Patterns

Of the **163,646** workers employed in Arlington County, nearly 49,000 workers (30 percent) live in Fairfax County. There are **116,048** resident workers in Arlington County. Thirty percent of Arlington's resident workers are employed in Arlington County. The majority of Arlington's resident workers (70 percent) commute to another jurisdiction. The largest percentage (30 percent) of these Arlington residents work in the District of Columbia.

Place of Work for Arlington's Residents



Location of Workers in the COG Region



Place of Residence for Arlington County's Workforce		Place of Work for Arlington County's Residents	
Fairfax County	48,670	District of Columbia	42,263
Arlington County	34,379	Arlington County	34,379
Prince George's County	15,912	Fairfax County	20,476
District of Columbia	12,164	City of Alexandria	4,962
City of Alexandria	10,755	Montgomery County	4,618
Prince William County	10,108	Prince George's County	2,043
Montgomery County	10,063	Loudoun County	1,230
Loudoun County	2,671	City of Fairfax	1,044
City of Falls Church	837	City of Falls Church	1,043
City of Fairfax	790	Prince William County	648
City of Manassas	593	City of Manassas	129
Frederick County	537	Frederick County	41
City of Manassas Park	175	City of Manassas Park	27
Stafford County	2,597	Spotsylvania County/Fredericksburg	156
Spotsylvania County/Fredericksburg	1,051	Stafford County	123
Fauquier County	665	Fauquier County	72
Warren County	162	Warren County	30
Culpeper County	149	Culpeper County	26
King George County	124	King George County	12
Clarke County	31	Clarke County	0
Other Virginia Jurisdictions	1,098	Other Virginia Jurisdictions	602
Baltimore PMSA	4,547	Baltimore PMSA	715
Charles County	2,039	Charles County	99
Calvert County	687	Calvert County	0
Other Maryland Jurisdictions	368	Other Maryland Jurisdictions	62
Pennsylvania	428	Pennsylvania	122
West Virginia	336	West Virginia	0
Elsewhere	1,710	Elsewhere	1,124
<b>Total Jobs</b>	<b>163,646</b>	<b>Total Resident Workers</b>	<b>116,046</b>
Live and Work in Arlington	34,379	Live and Work in Arlington	34,379
Work in Arlington and Live Elsewhere	129,267	Live in Arlington and work elsewhere	81,667
<b>Total Jobs</b>	<b>163,646</b>	<b>Total Resident Workers</b>	<b>116,046</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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