

# Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales 2019 - 20

## 1 Introduction

This note covers parking finances for the 22 local authorities in Wales. As in England and Scotland, local authorities are required to submit details of all their finances to the Welsh Government in a standard format. They are normally published in October, seven months after the financial year end. This report looks at the section on parking income and expenditure from 2015-16 to 2019-20 and is based primarily on data reported by Statistics for Wales (Welsh Government (2022)), as well as data reported by English and Scottish Local Government authorities; all of the sources are listed in the references.<sup>1</sup>

The published data is less comprehensive than in England and does not split out on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately. The figures do not include any commercial off-street parking. In 2019-20, 20 councils showed surpluses and two showed deficits. All councils are now receiving income from parking.

## 2 Summary

Table 1: Summary of parking accounts for Wales (£ millions)

		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change 2019-20 on 2018-19
Parking	Income	35.8	37.4	38.5	41.9	43.0	2.5%
	Expenditure	22.0	23.4	24.1	25.8	27.6	6.8%
	Surplus	13.8	14.0	14.4	16.1	15.4	-4.2%
Total transport	Net expenditure	271.2	270.5	265.3	267.1	270.5	1.3%
	Parking surplus as percentage of net transport expenditure	5.1	5.2	5.4	6.0	5.7	

<sup>1</sup>Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Table 1 shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Wales of the incomes and expenditures arising from parking charges and penalty income both for on- and off-street parking. The income has increased by 2.5 %, the expenditure has increased by 6.8 % and the surplus has fallen by 4.2 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport expenditure has increased by 1.3 % and the surplus now represents 5.7 % of net transport expenditure. Since 2015-16 income has risen by 20.0% and expenditure has risen by 25.4%. Over the same period the surplus has risen by 11.5%. Figure 1 gives a longer term overview of the trends in incomes, expenditures and surpluses.

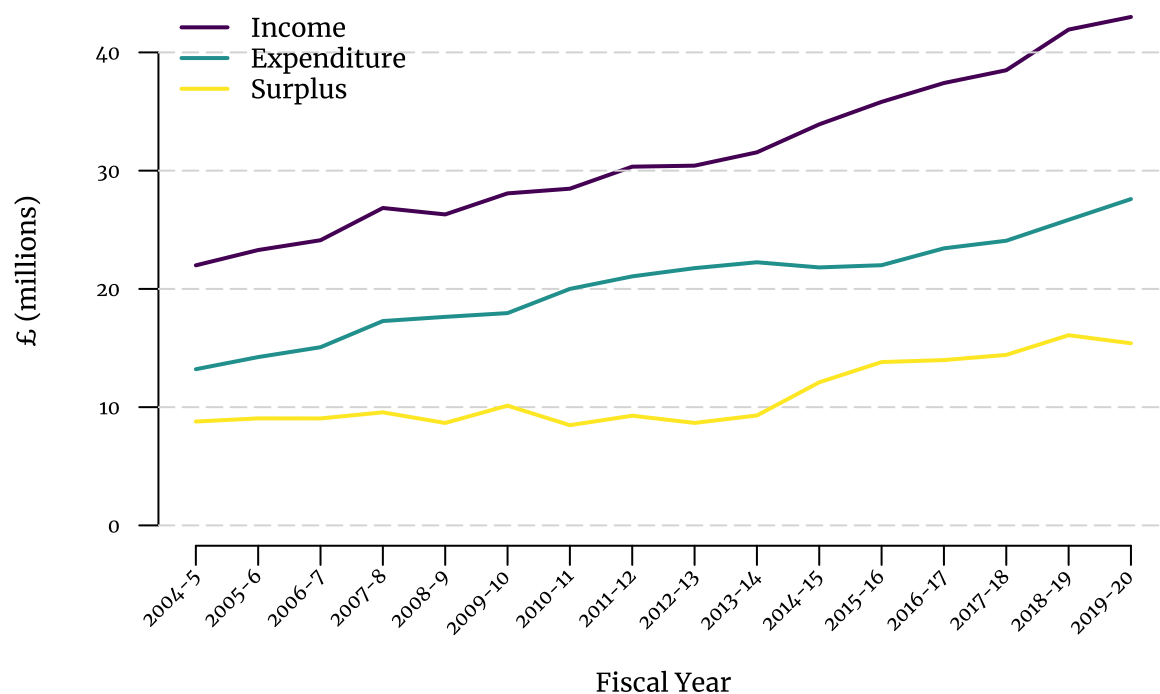


Figure 1: Parking revenues–Wales

### 3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2019-20 was £43.0 million, 2.5% higher than 2018-19. Note that this includes penalty income, which is not shown separately, but does not include off-street income received by commercial off-street parking facilities. Table 2 ranks the Welsh councils in terms of parking income.

In Wales as a whole 14 councils increased their income over the past year and eight decreased their income. The changes from 2018-19 are mapped<sup>2</sup> in Figure 4 in the Annex. The annualised changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 5, using the same colour palette.

The top three Welsh councils by income were Cardiff, Swansea, and Carmarthenshire, and between them accounted for 43.5% of parking income.

The three councils which had the largest year-on-year percentage increases in income were Torfaen (up 1700.0%), Caerphilly (up 51.2%) and Bridgend (up 41.4%). The biggest decreases were in Blaenau Gwent (24.1%), and Isle of Anglesey (12.2%).

Table 2: Parking income for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change 2019-20 on 2018-19	Average annual change from 2015-16
Cardiff	7,257	7,599	8,629	9,739	9,551	-1.9%	7.1%
Swansea	5,446	5,666	5,932	6,978	6,441	-7.7%	4.3%
Carmarthenshire	3,106	3,092	3,035	2,882	2,709	-6.0%	-3.4%
Gwynedd	2,538	2,490	2,539	2,697	2,699	0.1%	1.5%
Conwy	1,886	1,935	1,903	2,227	2,391	7.4%	6.1%
Pembrokeshire	1,783	1,867	1,916	2,173	2,065	-5.0%	3.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,291	1,322	1,090	1,324	1,764	33.2%	8.1%
Powys	1,602	1,684	1,653	1,683	1,741	3.5%	2.1%
Neath Port Talbot	1,376	1,375	1,500	1,652	1,722	4.2%	5.8%
Bridgend	1,220	1,127	1,139	1,211	1,712	41.4%	8.8%
Denbighshire	1,300	1,711	1,517	1,515	1,585	4.6%	5.1%
Monmouthshire	1,421	1,522	1,535	1,446	1,492	3.2%	1.2%
Ceredigion	980	1,109	1,055	1,058	1,259	18.9%	6.4%
Wrexham	896	974	1,113	1,067	1,092	2.3%	5.1%
Caerphilly	702	675	641	688	1,041	51.2%	10.4%
Flintshire	439	599	571	721	925	28.3%	20.5%
Vale of Glamorgan	686	764	737	807	738	-8.6%	1.8%
Merthyr Tydfil	690	608	725	684	697	1.9%	0.2%
Newport	640	643	591	649	637	-1.9%	-0.1%

<sup>2</sup>Boundary data for this and all further maps is from Office for National Statistics (2017). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Table 2: Parking income for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

Local Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change 2019-20 on 2018-19	Average annual change from 2015-16
Isle of Anglesey	523	605	639	682	599	-12.2%	3.5%
Torfaen	5	15	4	6	108	1700.0%	115.6%
Blaenau Gwent	30	30	30	40	30	-24.1%	0.0%
Total	35,817	37,410	38,494	41,929	42,997	2.5%	4.7%

## 4 Expenditure

Table 3 ranks the councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Overall expenditure has risen by £1.8 million (6.8%) after a rise of £1.8 million last year.

In Wales as a whole 16 councils increased their expenditures over the past year and six decreased them. The changes from 2018-19 are mapped in Figure 2 in the Annex. The average annual changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 3 in the Annex, using the same colour palette.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Torfaen where it increased by 238.8% while Flintshire and Bridgend increased by 41.1% and 37.9% respectively. The biggest decreases were in Newport (30.6%), and Isle of Anglesey (14.0%).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2019-20. Nationally in Wales it is 64.2% with Cardiff at 58.2%.

Table 3: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change 2019-20 on 2018-19	Average annual change since 2015-16	Expenditure as proportion of income
Cardiff	3,763	3,941	4,764	5,291	5,559	5.1%	10.2%	58.2%
Swansea	3,044	3,199	3,087	3,697	3,833	3.7%	5.9%	59.5%
Carmarthenshire	1,712	1,764	2,115	1,925	1,948	1.2%	3.3%	71.9%
Neath Port Talbot	1,168	1,256	1,332	1,480	1,459	-1.4%	5.7%	84.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	794	791	906	1,255	1,389	10.7%	15.0%	78.8%
Bridgend	988	833	889	1,007	1,388	37.9%	8.9%	81.1%
Gwynedd	1,130	1,135	1,157	1,135	1,310	15.4%	3.8%	48.5%
Pembrokeshire	1,200	1,270	1,319	1,370	1,306	-4.7%	2.1%	63.2%
Denbighshire	842	1,053	1,053	1,069	1,178	10.2%	8.8%	74.4%

Table 3: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

Local Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change 2019-20 on 2018-19	Average annual change since 2015-16	Expenditure as proportion of income
Conwy	828	916	954	1,058	1,158	9.5%	8.8%	48.4%
Caerphilly	512	658	550	990	1,024	3.4%	18.9%	98.3%
Powys	763	789	822	823	858	4.4%	3.0%	49.3%
Monmouthshire	490	594	671	667	816	22.2%	13.6%	54.7%
Wrexham	580	838	812	665	647	-2.7%	2.7%	59.2%
Ceredigion	964	589	567	572	639	11.7%	-9.8%	50.8%
Vale of Glamorgan	578	632	686	706	630	-10.8%	2.2%	85.4%
Flintshire	862	726	678	400	564	41.1%	-10.1%	60.9%
Merthyr Tydfil	519	504	510	404	417	3.3%	-5.3%	59.9%
Torfaen	86	87	82	121	410	238.8%	47.8%	379.6%
Blaenau Gwent	340	866	483	363	409	12.8%	4.7%	1364.1%
Isle of Anglesey	337	358	351	379	326	-14.0%	-0.8%	54.4%
Newport	503	633	286	468	325	-30.6%	-10.4%	51.0%
Total	22,003	23,431	24,074	25,844	27,595	6.8%	5.8%	64.2%

Table 4 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was 64.2% compared to 61.6% in the previous year.

Cardiff's expenditure was 58.2% of its income having risen since last year, while Swansea's has risen to 59.5%.

Care should be taken in interpreting the percentages towards the bottom of the table, as the very low parking incomes can lead to extreme values which are less meaningful.

Table 4: Parking expenditure as a proportion of parking income

Local Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Cardiff	51.9%	51.9%	55.2%	54.3%	58.2%
Swansea	55.9%	56.5%	52.0%	53.0%	59.5%
Carmarthenshire	55.1%	57.1%	69.7%	66.8%	71.9%
Neath Port Talbot	84.9%	91.4%	88.8%	89.6%	84.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	61.5%	59.8%	83.1%	94.8%	78.8%
Bridgend	81.0%	73.8%	78.0%	83.1%	81.1%
Gwynedd	44.5%	45.6%	45.6%	42.1%	48.5%
Pembrokeshire	67.3%	68.0%	68.8%	63.0%	63.2%
Denbighshire	64.8%	61.5%	69.4%	70.6%	74.4%
Conwy	43.9%	47.3%	50.1%	47.5%	48.4%
Caerphilly	72.9%	97.5%	85.8%	143.8%	98.3%

Table 4: Parking expenditure as a proportion of parking income  
(*continued*)

Local Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Powys	47.6%	46.9%	49.7%	48.9%	49.3%
Monmouthshire	34.5%	39.0%	43.7%	46.2%	54.7%
Wrexham	64.8%	86.0%	73.0%	62.3%	59.2%
Ceredigion	98.4%	53.1%	53.8%	54.1%	50.8%
Vale of Glamorgan	84.3%	82.7%	93.1%	87.5%	85.4%
Flintshire	196.4%	121.3%	118.8%	55.4%	60.9%
Merthyr Tydfil	75.2%	82.9%	70.4%	59.1%	59.9%
Torfaen	1720.0%	580.0%	2050.0%	2016.7%	379.6%
Blaenau Gwent	1134.8%	2887.2%	1599.7%	918.1%	1364.1%
Isle of Anglesey	64.4%	59.2%	54.9%	55.6%	54.4%
Newport	78.5%	98.5%	48.3%	72.1%	51.0%
Total	61.4%	62.6%	62.5%	61.6%	64.2%

\* Any empty cells indicate the council reported no income and/or no expenditure

## 5 Surpluses

Table 5 shows the parking surpluses from from 2015-16 to 2019-20 and the change from 2018-19 to 2019-20. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure.

The total *surpluses* for Wales amounted to £16.1 million between 20 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd contributed 49.7%.

‘Two councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits falling to £0.7 million from £0.7 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £15.4 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2019-20 compared with £16.1 million in 2019-20, an increase of -4.2%.

Rhondda Cynon Taf increased their surplus by 441.9% while Newport and Bridgend increased by 72.1% and 58.5% respectively. The biggest decreases were in Carmarthenshire (20.5%), and Swansea (20.5%).

The largest increase of deficit was incurred by Torfaen which increased their deficit by 162.6 %

The biggest decrease was in Blaenau Gwent where the deficit fell by (17.4 %)

Table 5: Parking surpluses for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change 2019-20 on 2018-19	Surplus as proportion of transport spending
Cardiff	3,494	3,658	3,865	4,448	3,991	-10.3%	17.0%
Swansea	2,402	2,467	2,845	3,281	2,608	-20.5%	11.9%
Gwynedd	1,408	1,355	1,382	1,562	1,389	-11.1%	9.0%
Conwy	1,058	1,019	949	1,169	1,233	5.5%	15.3%
Powys	839	895	831	860	883	2.6%	6.5%
Carmarthenshire	1,394	1,328	920	957	761	-20.5%	4.7%
Pembrokeshire	583	597	597	803	759	-5.5%	6.7%
Monmouthshire	931	929	864	778	676	-13.1%	13.0%
Ceredigion	16	520	488	486	619	27.4%	5.1%
Wrexham	316	136	301	403	445	10.5%	5.0%
Denbighshire	458	658	464	445	407	-8.7%	4.3%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	497	531	184	69	375	441.9%	2.1%
Flintshire	-423	-127	-108	321	361	12.5%	1.9%
Bridgend	232	295	250	204	324	58.5%	2.7%
Newport	137	9	306	181	312	72.1%	2.6%
Merthyr Tydfil	171	104	215	280	279	-0.2%	5.5%
Isle of Anglesey	186	247	288	303	273	-9.9%	3.4%
Neath Port Talbot	208	118	168	173	263	52.2%	1.9%

Vale of Glamorgan	108	132	51	101	108	6.9%	1.2%
Caerphilly	190	17	91	-302	17	NA%	0.1%
Torfaen	-81	-72	-78	-115	-302	<i>162.6%</i>	<i>-3.7%</i>
Blaenau Gwent	-310	-836	-453	-323	-379	<i>17.4%</i>	<i>-7.0%</i>
Total deficit	-814	-1,035	-639	-740	-681	<i>-7.9%</i>	<i>-5.0%</i>
Total surplus	14,628	15,015	15,059	16,825	16,083	<i>-4.4%</i>	<i>6.3%</i>
Total	13,814	13,979	14,420	16,085	15,402	<i>-4.2%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>

\* Where the change in surplus is actually a change in deficit, the values are in italics

## References

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## National comparisons

Table 6: Comparison of parking income and expenditure in across the nations of Great Britain (£ millions, latest year available)

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Fiscal year	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2017-18)	(2021-22)	(2017-18)
Parking income	1021.3	728.0	88.2	36.9	1787.1
Parking expenditure	539.6	273.5	43.6	28.5	854.8
Surplus	481.7	454.4	44.6	8.4	932.3
Surplus as proportion of income	47.2%	62.4%	50.5%	22.8%	52.2%

Table 6 provides a comparison with London, England excluding London, Wales, and Scotland for the most recent available data, while Table 7 compares the changes between 2019-20 and the previous year, with the average annual change over the four-year period starting in 2015-16 (or the most recent four-year period for which data is available). In the last year the surpluses for Wales have decreased by -191.2%, which is less than the average annual increase observed over the preceding four years, which was -12.6%.

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 6.2% annually over the four years compared with 2.1% annually for the Retail Prices Index during the same period (Office for National Statistics (2022)).<sup>3</sup>

Table 7: Changes in parking income and expenditure over previous four years (from most recent year available) across the nations of Great Britain

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Most recent year available	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2017-18)	(2021-22)	(2017-18)
Average annual change in income	4.3 %	5.8 %	4.7 %	-1.0 %	4.2 %
Change in income since previous year	4.2 %	7.1 %	6.8 %	116.9 %	5.3 %
Average annual change in expenditure	2.8 %	0.0 %	2.3 %	4.3 %	1.3 %
Change in expenditure since previous year	5.1 %	-0.1 %	9.2 %	8.7 %	4.3 %
Average annual change in surplus	6.1 %	10.2 %	7.5 %	-12.6 %	7.3 %
Change in surplus since previous year	3.1 %	11.9 %	4.6 %	-191.2 %	6.2 %

<sup>3</sup>The most recent data available for Great Britain as a whole is from the year 2017-18 and all calculations are therefore performed for the four years previous i.e. from 2013-14.

## Maps

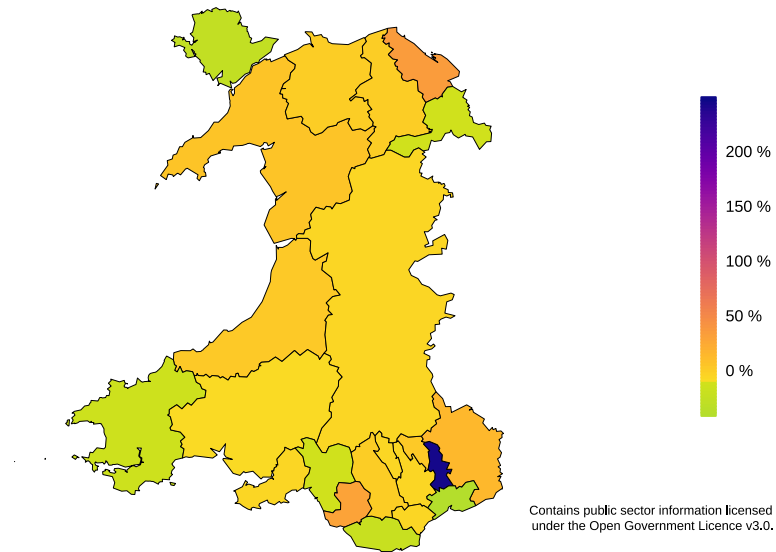


Figure 2: Map of change in parking expenditure from 2018-19 to 2019-20 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

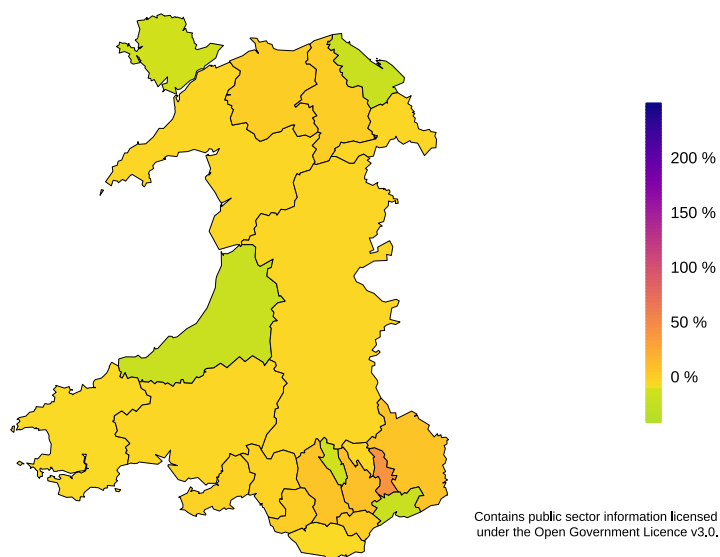


Figure 3: Map of average annual change in parking expenditure over the past four years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

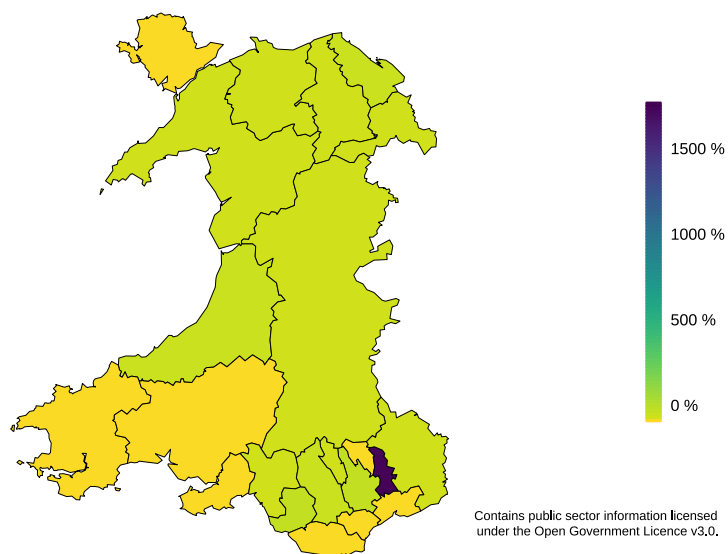


Figure 4: Map of change in parking income from 2018-19 to 2019-20 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

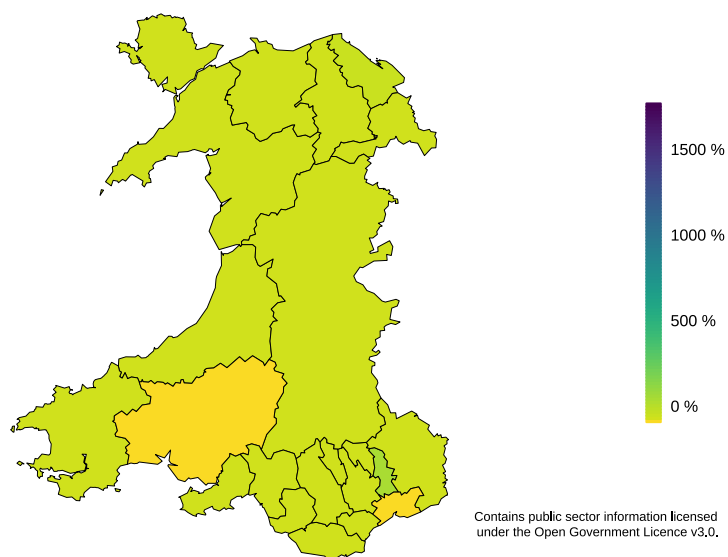


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