How many small businesses in australia

Unlocking the Australian Small Business Landscape: A Deep Dive into the Numbers Hey entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners! Ever wondered just how many small businesses are bustling across Australia? It's a fascinating question, and one with implications for everything from economic growth to job creation. Today, we're diving deep into the Australian small business ecosystem, exploring the sheer scale and diverse nature of these crucial components of our economy. **The Sheer Magnitude of Small Businesses in Australia** The first thing to grasp is the sheer volume. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), small businesses are the backbone of the Australian economy. While a precise figure is hard to pin down (and varies based on definition), estimations consistently place the number in the hundreds of thousands, impacting local communities in profound ways. However, these figures don't just reflect a static number; they represent a vibrant and ever-changing landscape.

Defining "Small Business"

Before we delve further, it's crucial to define our terms. The ABS uses a multifaceted approach, focusing on employee numbers, annual turnover, and asset size. This allows for a more nuanced understanding, moving away from a simplistic "small" or "large" categorization. This diverse categorization means different policy approaches for different groups and different support needs.

Classifying by Industry

Small businesses are extraordinarily diverse, spanning a wide array of industries. From burgeoning tech startups to established cafes, from creative design firms to local repair shops, they underpin every facet of Australian life. A chart illustrating the distribution of small businesses across different industries would offer valuable context. (Insert hypothetical chart showing percentages of small businesses in retail, hospitality, professional services, etc.).

Economic Contribution and Job Creation

Small businesses play a critical role in job creation and economic growth. They often foster innovation and agility, filling niches and responding rapidly to market demands.

The Multiplier Effect

The economic impact of small businesses isn't limited to their own operations. Their success often spurs further growth, creating a ripple effect in supply chains and related industries. This is the "multiplier effect." For example, a successful online retail store in a small town can stimulate demand for local packaging companies, delivery services, and even related retail businesses.

Case Studies: Success Stories

Let's look at a few case studies illustrating these points. Imagine "Bella's Bakery," a small, family-run business that started with a single shop. Their success led them to expand, creating new jobs and contributing to local

economic vitality. Similarly, consider "TechSpark," a startup that developed a unique software solution, generating employment opportunities and driving innovation in the technology sector. This illustrates the critical role of supportive government initiatives and access to funding.

Challenges Facing Australian Small Businesses

While the contribution of small businesses is undeniable, they face significant hurdles.

Financial Constraints

Access to funding is often a major challenge. High interest rates, tight lending criteria, and a lack of readily accessible capital can stifle growth. Furthermore, the ongoing uncertainty in the global economic climate can have a significant impact on small business decision-making.

Regulatory Burden

Navigating the complex web of regulations, compliance requirements, and licensing procedures can be a significant burden for smaller operations.

Skills Gap

The skills gap in specific sectors, like digital marketing or software development, can impact efficiency and competitiveness for small businesses.

Government Support and Initiatives

Fortunately, various government initiatives and support programs are designed to help small businesses overcome these challenges.

Access to Grants and Loans

Government-backed loans and grants, specifically tailored to small businesses, can provide much-needed capital for expansion and innovation.

Mentorship and Training Programs

Mentorship programs, workshops, and online resources designed for small business owners provide invaluable guidance and skills development.

Support for Women and Indigenous Entrepreneurs

Australia is dedicated to supporting businesses run by women and Indigenous Australians, highlighting the importance of inclusive business models.

Expert FAQs

1. *What's the ideal size for a successful small business in Australia?* (Answer: This isn't about a specific size, but rather adaptable growth and tailored strategies for each niche.) 2. How can small businesses thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape? (Answer: By embracing digital marketing, leveraging technology, and continuous learning.) 3. What role do government incentives play in stimulating small business growth? (Answer: Government incentives can provide much-needed support, helping overcome hurdles and fostering innovation.) 4. How can small businesses leverage technology to improve efficiency and productivity? (Answer: By adopting cloud-based software, automation tools, and e-commerce platforms.) 5. What are the most common mistakes small business owners make? (Answer: Poor financial management, inadequate marketing strategies, and neglecting employee development.) **Concluding Thoughts** The Australian small business landscape is a dynamic and vital part of the nation's economic engine. Understanding the sheer volume, diverse industries, and the ongoing challenges empowers us to appreciate the importance of these businesses and the role they play in creating a more resilient and innovative economy. Continued support, adaptable strategies, and a commitment to fostering a supportive environment are crucial in nurturing the success and growth of these businesses. By collaborating and sharing knowledge, we can collectively build a strong and vibrant Australian small business community for the future.

How Many Small Businesses in Australia? Unpacking the Numbers and Their Impact

Australia's economic landscape is often painted with broad strokes, but beneath the surface of big corporations and national statistics lies a vibrant and bustling ecosystem of small businesses. These enterprises are the backbone of our communities, driving innovation, creating jobs, and shaping the unique character of our towns and cities. But just how many of these vital players are there? If you've ever wondered about the sheer scale of Australia's small business sector, you're in the right place. We're going to dive deep into the numbers, explore what defines a small business in Australia, and discuss the incredible impact these entities have on our nation.

Defining 'Small Business' in the Australian Context

Before we can count them, we need to understand what constitutes a 'small business' Down Under. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the primary source for this data, and their definition is key. Generally, a business is considered small if it:

Employment Size

The most common definition revolves around the number of employees. In Australia, a small business is typically defined as having fewer than 20 employees. This is a crucial benchmark that separates these agile ventures from medium and large enterprises.

Other Factors

While employee count is the primary differentiator, other factors can also be considered. These might include annual turnover, although the ABS primarily focuses on employee numbers for its small business statistics.

Understanding this definition is vital for appreciating the scale we're about to explore.

The Astonishing Numbers: How Many Small Businesses Are There?

Prepare to be impressed. According to the most recent data from the ABS, Australia is home to a staggering number of small businesses. As of June 2023, there were approximately **2.7 million actively trading businesses** in Australia. Of these, a colossal **97.9% were classified as small businesses**. That's right, almost every single business operating in Australia falls into the small business category!

To put that into perspective, that's over **2.6 million small businesses**. This figure is not static; it fluctuates as new businesses are born, some grow and evolve, and others unfortunately cease operations. However, the overwhelming majority consistently remains in the small business segment, highlighting its enduring significance.

Key Statistics and Trends

These numbers offer valuable insights into the Australian business environment:

1. **Dominance of the Sector:** The sheer percentage of small businesses underscores their pervasive presence. They are not a niche segment; they are the mainstream.
2. **Constant Flux:** The business landscape is dynamic. While the total number of small businesses remains high, there's always a turnover. Understanding birth and death rates of small businesses is crucial for policymakers.
3. **Geographic Distribution:** While many associate small businesses with bustling city centres, they are equally vital in regional and rural areas, providing essential services and employment where larger corporations might not venture.

Breaking Down the Small Business Landscape: Industry by Industry

The "small business" umbrella covers an incredibly diverse range of industries. From the local bakery and the corner coffee shop to the innovative tech startup and the skilled tradesperson, their contributions span every sector of the Australian economy.

Top Performing Industries

Some industries tend to have a higher concentration of small businesses due to their nature. These often include:

1. **Cafes, Restaurants, and Takeaway Food Services:** This is a perennial favourite for aspiring entrepreneurs, offering accessible entry points and strong community connection.
2. **Construction Services:** Think plumbers, electricians, builders, and renovators. These trades are often individual operators or small teams.
3. **Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services:** This broad category encompasses everything from accounting and legal services to IT consulting and marketing agencies, many of which thrive as specialised small firms.
4. **Retail Trade:** Independent boutiques, specialty stores, and online retailers often start as small operations.

The Rise of the Solopreneur and Micro-Businesses

Within the broader "small business" category, there's a significant and growing segment of **micro-businesses**, often defined as having 1-4 employees, or even being a sole trader (0 employees). The rise of the gig economy, online platforms, and the desire for flexible work arrangements has fueled the growth of solopreneurs. These individuals are essentially running their own small business from their home office or a shared workspace, offering specialised skills and services. Their numbers contribute significantly to the overall count and economic activity.

The Economic and Social Impact of Australian Small Businesses

The numbers are impressive, but the real story lies in the profound impact these 2.7 million businesses have on Australia.

Job Creation: The Engine Room of Employment

Small businesses are major employers. Collectively, they employ around **48% of the Australian private sector workforce**. This means nearly half of all jobs in the private sector are with a small business. They are often the first port of call for young people entering the workforce, offering invaluable experience and training. The growth or decline of the small business sector directly impacts national employment figures.

Driving Innovation and Competition

Small businesses are often at the forefront of innovation. Their agility allows them to adapt quickly to market changes, experiment with new ideas, and cater to niche demands that larger corporations might overlook. This competition also keeps larger businesses on their toes, driving efficiency and better products and services for consumers.

Community Cohesion and Local Character

Think about your local neighbourhood. It's likely the independent bookshop, the family-run restaurant, or the local mechanic that gives it its unique flavour. Small businesses are the heart of our communities, fostering local pride, supporting local events, and contributing to a sense of place. They are often more invested in the well-being of their local area than a national chain might be.

Economic Contribution and GDP

While individual small businesses might have smaller turnovers, their collective economic contribution is immense. They generate significant revenue, pay taxes, and contribute to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Their resilience and ability to adapt are crucial for the overall health of the national economy, especially during times of economic uncertainty.

Challenges and Support for Small Businesses

Despite their vital role, small businesses face numerous challenges. Understanding these hurdles is key to appreciating the support systems in place and what more can be done.

Common Hurdles

1. **Access to Finance:** Securing loans and capital can be difficult for new or growing small businesses.
2. **Competition:** Navigating a competitive market, especially against larger players with greater resources, is a constant challenge.
3. **Regulation and Compliance:** Keeping up with changing regulations, tax laws, and compliance requirements can be a significant burden.
4. **Cash Flow Management:** Maintaining healthy cash flow is critical for survival, and unexpected expenses or payment delays can be disastrous.
5. **Skills Shortages:** Finding and retaining skilled staff can be a major issue, particularly in certain industries.

Government and Industry Support

Recognising the importance of this sector, various levels of government and industry bodies offer support programs. These can include:

1. **Financial Assistance:** Grants, concessional loans, and tax incentives.
2. **Mentoring and Advice:** Business advisory services and mentorship programs.
3. **Training and Development:** Skill-building workshops and resources.
4. **Advocacy:** Industry associations represent the interests of small businesses to government.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) also provides specific guidance and resources tailored to small businesses, aiming to simplify tax obligations.

The Future of Small Business in Australia

The future for Australian small businesses looks dynamic and full of potential, albeit with ongoing challenges. Trends like digitalization, the increasing importance of sustainability, and the evolving consumer expectations will continue to shape the landscape.

Embracing Technology

Digital transformation is no longer optional. Small businesses that embrace online tools, e-commerce, social media marketing, and cloud-based software are better positioned to reach wider audiences and operate more efficiently. This includes leveraging technology for customer relationship management (CRM) and streamlining operations.

Sustainability and Ethical Practices

Consumers are increasingly conscious of the environmental and social impact of their purchasing decisions. Small businesses that can demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and ethical practices are likely to resonate more strongly with their customer base.

Resilience and Adaptability

The past few years have tested the resilience of businesses globally. Australian small businesses have shown remarkable adaptability, pivoting to new models and finding innovative solutions to navigate disruptions. This

capacity for resilience will be a key determinant of success moving forward.

Conclusion: The Unwavering Importance of Australia's Small Business Sector

So, to answer the core question: how many small businesses in Australia? The answer is a resounding **over 2.6 million**, making up almost 98% of all actively trading businesses. This is not just a statistic; it's a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit that defines Australia. These businesses are the engine of our economy, the creators of our communities, and the drivers of innovation.

From the bustling streets of Sydney and Melbourne to the remote outback towns, small businesses are woven into the fabric of Australian life. While they face their fair share of challenges, their impact is undeniable and their future, while evolving, remains critically important for the prosperity and character of our nation. Supporting small businesses isn't just good for the economy; it's good for our communities and the unique Australian way of life.

Understanding the Landscape: The Number of Small Businesses in Australia

Australia’s entrepreneurial spirit is well-documented, but the sheer scale of small businesses driving this economy often goes underappreciated. Current estimates suggest that small businesses constitute the backbone of the Australian private sector, with data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) indicating that over 2.2 million small businesses operate across the country. These enterprises—defined as businesses with fewer than 100 employees—represent more than 90% of all registered businesses, underscoring their central role in employment, innovation, and community development. The diversity of small business ownership spans industries, from retail and hospitality to professional services, manufacturing, and technology startups. This breadth not only reflects Australia’s varied economy but also highlights how small businesses adapt to shifting consumer demands and technological advancements. For instance, many small firms have embraced e-commerce, digital marketing, and cloud-based operations to stay competitive and reach broader markets, especially in the wake of recent global disruptions.

Key Insights into Small Business Distribution and Growth

While the total number of small businesses remains robust, deeper analysis reveals patterns in how they grow and evolve. Data shows that approximately 40% of small businesses are newly established each year, driven by entrepreneurial enthusiasm and increasing access to government support, grants, and startup incubators. Regional areas also contribute significantly—over 30% of small businesses operate outside major cities, helping to balance economic development and reduce urban concentration. Moreover, the survival rate of small businesses in Australia is a critical point of interest. Unlike in some other economies where high startup failure rates dominate headlines, Australia’s small business resilience is bolstered by strong community networks, mentorship programs, and flexible business models. However, challenges remain, particularly in accessing consistent funding and navigating complex regulatory environments, especially for microbusinesses and sole proprietorships.

Applications and Economic Benefits

Small businesses are far more than statistical figures—they are vital economic engines. Collectively, they generate a substantial portion of Australia’s GDP and provide employment for millions, often serving as the primary source of income for local communities. Their agility enables rapid innovation and responsiveness to market trends, fostering competition and consumer choice. Additionally, small businesses often source locally, reinforcing supply chain resilience and community interdependence. Beyond economic output, these enterprises contribute to social cohesion by creating local jobs, supporting skill development, and often championing sustainability and ethical practices. They also play a key role in cultural expression, with many businesses rooted in Indigenous enterprise, multicultural ventures, or niche creative sectors that enrich Australia’s social fabric.

The Future Outlook for Small Businesses in Australia

Looking ahead, the trajectory of small businesses in Australia appears dynamic and promising. Digital transformation continues to lower barriers to entry, enabling entrepreneurs to launch and scale ventures with greater ease than ever before. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, and automated workflows are increasingly accessible to small firms, leveling the playing field with larger competitors. Government initiatives aimed at supporting innovation, financial inclusion, and export development are expected to further empower small businesses. Moreover, growing consumer preference for local, sustainable, and personalized services strengthens the demand for small business offerings. However, ongoing challenges such as workforce shortages, inflation pressures, and evolving compliance requirements will require adaptive strategies and collaborative support systems. In summary, Australia’s small business ecosystem remains a cornerstone of national prosperity. With over 2.2 million active enterprises driving jobs, innovation, and community vitality, the future looks bright—provided that support mechanisms evolve to meet the needs of this ever-changing landscape.

Unpacking the Numbers: A Deep Dive into How Many Small Businesses Operate in Australia

The heartbeat of Australia's economy pulses through its small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These agile entities are the engines of innovation, job creation, and regional development. But just how prevalent are they? Understanding the sheer scale of small businesses in Australia is crucial for policymakers, aspiring entrepreneurs, investors, and anyone seeking to grasp the nation's economic landscape. This in-depth analysis will unpack the latest figures, explore the defining characteristics of Australian small businesses, and shed light on the sectors where they thrive.

Defining a Small Business in the Australian Context

Before we delve into the numbers, it's essential to establish what constitutes a "small business" in Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the primary source for this data, and their definition is key. Generally, an enterprise is classified as small if it has fewer than 20 employees.

Employee Count: The Primary Differentiator

The most common metric for identifying a small business is the number of individuals it employs. While some definitions might consider turnover, the employee count remains the most consistently applied benchmark by official statistical bodies. This focus on workforce size highlights the labour-intensive nature of many small enterprises and their direct contribution to employment.

Beyond Size: Other Considerations

While employee numbers are paramount, other characteristics often accompany small businesses. These can include:

1. **Independent ownership:** Often owned and managed by individuals or families.
2. **Limited market share:** Typically not dominant players in their respective industries.
3. **Local or regional focus:** Many operate within a specific geographic area, though online reach is increasingly blurring these lines.
4. **Flexibility and adaptability:** Their smaller structure allows for quicker responses to market changes.

The Latest Figures: Quantifying Australia's Small Business Population

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) regularly releases data on business counts, providing invaluable insights into the size and scope of the Australian business landscape. As of the latest available data (typically reflecting a recent financial year), the numbers paint a compelling picture.

The Sheer Volume of Small Businesses

Australia is home to a vast number of small businesses. While exact figures fluctuate with each reporting period, recent ABS data consistently indicates that small businesses make up the overwhelming majority of all businesses in the country. We are talking about millions of enterprises contributing to the national economic output.

Proportion of the Total Business Ecosystem

The true impact of small businesses becomes apparent when looking at their proportion of the entire Australian business population. Small businesses consistently account for a significant percentage – often around 95% or more – of all businesses with employees. This dominance underscores their foundational role in the nation's commerce.

Medium-Sized Businesses: The Next Tier

It's also worth acknowledging medium-sized businesses, which are defined by the ABS as having between 20 and 199 employees. While smaller in number than micro and small businesses, they represent a crucial segment, often bridging the gap between agile startups and larger corporations. Their combined presence with small businesses forms the backbone of the SME sector.

Key Sectors and Industries Where Small Businesses Flourish

Australia's small business landscape is incredibly diverse, spanning almost every conceivable industry. However, certain sectors are particularly conducive to the establishment and growth of smaller enterprises. Identifying these areas can offer valuable clues about where entrepreneurial activity is most concentrated and successful.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

This sector is a significant hub for small businesses. Think of accounting firms, legal practices, IT consultants, marketing agencies, and engineering services. The nature of these services often allows for a lean operational model, with expertise being the primary asset. Many of these are indeed owner-operated businesses, leveraging specialised skills.

Construction and Trades

From sole-trader plumbers and electricians to small building companies, the construction industry is a perennial stronghold for small businesses. These enterprises are vital for building and maintaining Australia's infrastructure and housing stock. The hands-on nature of trades lends itself well to individual or small team operations.

Retail Trade

Despite the rise of e-commerce giants, bricks-and-mortar retail outlets, along with online-only small retailers, continue to be a significant employer and economic contributor. Independent boutiques, specialty food stores, and local service providers often thrive by offering unique products and personalised customer experiences. The rise of niche online retail has also opened new avenues for small businesses in this domain.

Accommodation and Food Services

Cafes, restaurants, bars, and independent accommodation providers form a vibrant part of the Australian small business landscape. These enterprises are often at the forefront of local community engagement and tourism. While competitive, the demand for dining and hospitality experiences ensures ongoing opportunities for agile operators.

Manufacturing and Agriculture

While often perceived as dominated by larger corporations, niche manufacturing and specialized agricultural operations are also powered by many small businesses. Think of artisan food producers, craft breweries, specialised equipment manufacturers, and boutique farms. These businesses often focus on quality, innovation, and specific market demands.

The Economic and Social Impact of Australia's Small Businesses

The sheer number of small businesses in Australia translates into profound economic and social impacts. Their contributions extend far beyond their immediate financial performance.

Job Creation Powerhouses

Small businesses are arguably the most significant drivers of employment growth in Australia. They provide livelihoods for millions of Australians, offering opportunities for diverse skill sets and career paths. The flexibility of small businesses can also make them more amenable to offering part-time or flexible work arrangements.

Fueling Innovation and Competition

The agility of small businesses makes them fertile ground for innovation. They are often quicker to adopt new technologies, develop unique products or services, and respond to emerging market trends. This competitive spirit fosters a more dynamic and efficient economy overall.

Regional Development and Community Vitality

In regional and rural areas, small businesses are often the lifeblood of the local economy. They provide essential services, create local employment, and contribute to the unique character of their communities. Their presence helps to counter population decline and maintain social cohesion.

Entrepreneurship and Economic Resilience

The prevalence of small businesses reflects a strong entrepreneurial spirit within Australia. This inherent drive for self-employment contributes to economic resilience, as a diverse range of businesses can better withstand economic shocks compared to an economy heavily reliant on a few large players.

Trends and Challenges Facing Australian Small Businesses

While the outlook for many small businesses is positive, they also navigate a complex and evolving landscape. Understanding these trends and challenges is vital for supporting their continued success.

Digital Transformation and E-commerce

The rapid shift towards digital platforms and e-commerce presents both opportunities and challenges. Small businesses that can effectively leverage online sales channels, digital marketing, and cloud-based tools are better positioned for growth. However, the cost and expertise required for digital transformation can be a barrier for some.

Access to Finance and Capital

Securing adequate funding remains a perennial challenge for many small businesses, particularly during their startup and growth phases. While traditional lending exists, alternative financing options and government support programs are crucial for enabling investment and expansion.

Skilled Workforce and Labour Shortages

Attracting and retaining skilled employees can be a significant hurdle, especially in competitive sectors and for businesses located outside major urban centres. Addressing labour shortages and investing in workforce development are key to sustained growth.

Regulatory Burden and Compliance

Navigating the web of regulations, tax obligations, and compliance requirements can be time-consuming and costly for small business owners. Streamlining regulatory processes and providing accessible support are vital for reducing administrative burdens.

Economic Volatility and Uncertainty

Like all businesses, small enterprises are susceptible to broader economic fluctuations, including inflation, interest rate changes, and global supply chain disruptions. Building resilience and adaptability is therefore paramount.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of Australia's Small Business Sector

The answer to "how many small businesses in Australia" is not a static number but a dynamic, ever-growing population representing millions of entrepreneurial endeavors. These businesses are more than just statistical entities; they are the engines of job creation, the cradles of innovation, and the cornerstones of vibrant communities. While challenges exist, the ingenuity and resilience of Australian small business owners continue to drive the nation's economic prosperity. Policymakers and support organisations will undoubtedly continue to focus on nurturing this vital sector, ensuring it remains a powerful force for positive change in the years to come.

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Questions & Answers About how many small businesses in australia

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the latest buzz? Just how many small businesses are actually operating in Australia right now?	As of June 2023, there were an estimated 2.6 million small businesses in Australia, making up a massive 97.4% of all businesses!
2	Is the small business scene growing or shrinking in Australia? What's the trend for the number of small businesses?	The number of small businesses in Australia has been steadily growing. Recent data shows a consistent increase, reflecting a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and adaptability within the sector.

3	Which industries are seeing the most small business activity in Australia?	Professional, scientific, and technical services, followed closely by construction and retail trade, are currently home to the largest number of small businesses in Australia.
4	Can you break down the numbers? How many are micro-businesses vs. slightly larger small businesses in Australia?	The vast majority are micro-businesses with fewer than 5 employees (around 2.2 million). Larger small businesses (those with 5-19 employees) make up the remaining approximately 400,000.
5	Given the huge number, what's the typical size of an Australian small business?	The overwhelming majority of Australian small businesses are very small, with over 90% having fewer than 5 employees. This highlights the prevalence of sole traders and very small teams.

number of small businesses in australia, small businesses in australia statistics, count of small businesses australia, data on small businesses in australia, how many small businesses in australia 2024, small business growth in australia, statistics on australian small businesses, size and count of small businesses australia, small business trends australia, australian small business population

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Use Cases for How Many Small Businesses In Australia eBooks

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1. Educational platforms
2. Email marketing campaigns
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Future of How Many Small Businesses In Australia eBooks

In the coming years, How Many Small Businesses In Australia eBooks will continue to evolve. Smart analytics may further enhance content delivery.

Future eBooks could offer adaptive difficulty levels, making digital education more effective than ever.

Conclusion

How Many Small Businesses In Australia eBooks have become an essential tool in modern learning. Their flexibility make them ideal for long-term educational strategies.

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