

# Worker Health Chartbook, 2004



# 2004



## Overview

The *Worker Health Chartbook, 2004* summarizes data from multiple State and Federal sources to describe the health status of American workers. This report is compiled by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### Chartbook Features

The *Worker Health Chartbook, 2004* includes statistics on workplace injuries and illnesses in addition to data on the race, ethnicity, gender, age, geographic location and occupations of American workers. The *Chartbook* also describes the following occupational health priorities:

- Anxiety, stress, and neurotic disorders
- Bloodborne infections and percutaneous exposures
- Fatal injuries
- Hearing loss
- Lead toxicity
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Nonfatal injuries
- Disorders due to physical agents
- Poisoning
- Respiratory diseases
- Skin diseases and disorders

### Data Sources

The *Worker Health Chartbook, 2004* uses data from epidemiologic surveillance programs through NIOSH, State-based surveillance partners, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Examples of these diverse data sources include: Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risks, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

## A Profile of U.S. Workers

**Number of employed workers and distribution of female, black, and Hispanic workers by industry, 2001.**

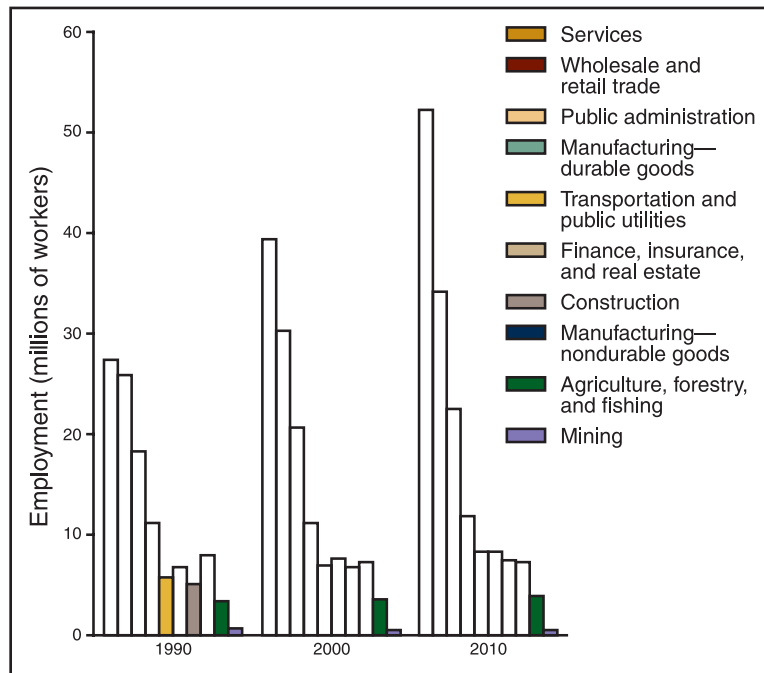
Industry	Number (thousands)	Distribution (%)		
		Women	Black	Hispanic
All	135,073	46.6	11.3	10.9
<b>Agriculture</b>	3,144	27.6	3.6	20.3
Forestry and fisheries	133	23.5	1.7	5.1
<b>Mining</b>	567	14.6	4.2	7.6
<b>Construction</b>	9,581	9.7	6.4	15.8
<b>Manufacturing</b>	18,970	31.8	10.1	12.3
Durable goods	11,588	27.3	9.0	10.6
Nondurable goods	7,381	38.8	11.8	15.1
<b>Transportation and public utilities</b>	9,738	29.2	15.8	9.6
<b>Wholesale and retail trade</b>	27,672	47.0	10.0	12.4
Wholesale trade	5,102	30.1	7.5	11.1
Retail trade	22,571	50.8	10.6	12.7
<b>Finance, insurance, and real estate</b>	8,797	58.3	10.8	7.2
<b>Services</b>	50,478	62.1	12.6	9.3
<b>Public administration</b>	6,126	45.1	16.2	8.0

Source: BLS [2001]. Current population survey. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [[www.bls.gov/cps/](http://www.bls.gov/cps/)] and [[www.bls.census.gov/cps/](http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/)].

- In 2001, the U.S. workforce consisted of 135 million people.
- Most workers (nearly 71.4%) were between the ages of 25-54.
- Male workers represented slightly more than half (53.4%) of the working population.
- The total U.S. workforce consisted of 83.3% white workers, 11.3% black workers, and 10.9% Hispanic workers.
- The wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, and services sectors employed the majority (71.9%) of U.S. workers.

## Future Workplace Trends

Employment by major industry division, 1990, 2000, and projected to 2010.

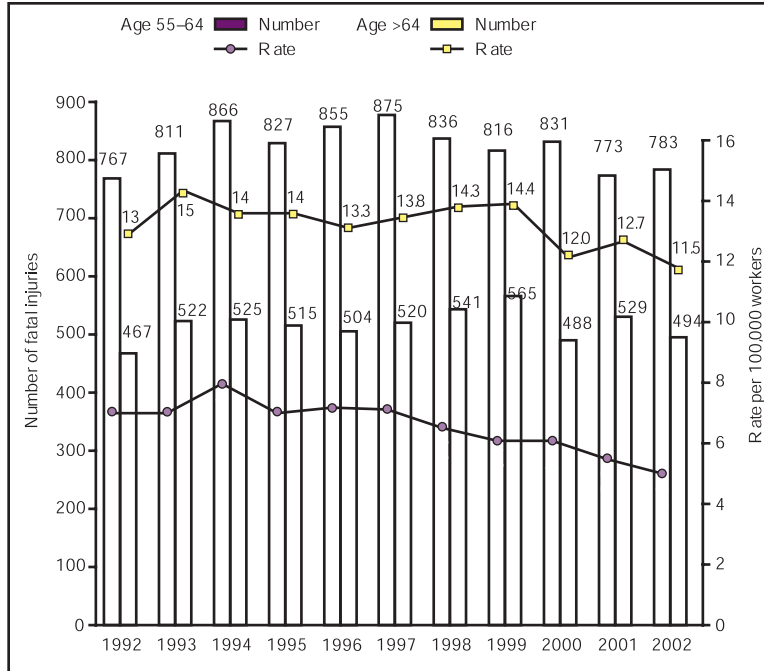


Source: BLS [2002]. Current population survey. BLS releases new 2000-2010 employment projections. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections [[www.bls.gov/emp/](http://www.bls.gov/emp/)].

- BLS projects employment to increase by 22 million workers over the next decade.
- The increasing size of the U.S. workforce and its shifts in ethnic and age distributions forecast increasing numbers of younger workers, older workers, and Hispanic workers.
- By 2010 middle age and older workers will outnumber younger workers.
- BLS predicts the Hispanic labor force will grow from 22.4 million in 2000 to 30.3 million by 2010.

## Special Populations

### Numbers and rates of fatal occupational injuries among workers aged 55-64 and older during 1992-2002.

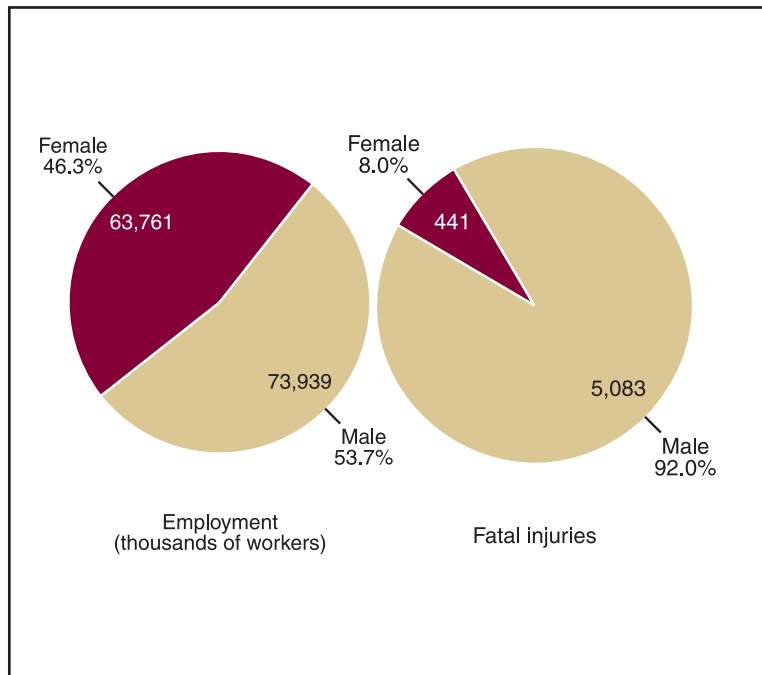


Source: BLS [2003]. Census of fatal occupational injuries. Special tabulation—number and rate of fatal occupational injuries by selected worker characteristics, 1992-2002. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics Program.

- Older workers experience high rates of traumatic fatalities and are also more susceptible to chronic diseases and other co-morbidities.
- Every year about 67 teenage workers die and an estimated 230,000 are injured in work-related incidents. Limited job knowledge as well as physical and psychosocial factors may render adolescents more susceptible to workplace risks.
- Though Hispanics accounted for 10.9% of the workforce in 2001, limited data are available on their occupational injury and disease risks.

## Fatal Injuries

Employment and fatality profiles by sex, 2002.

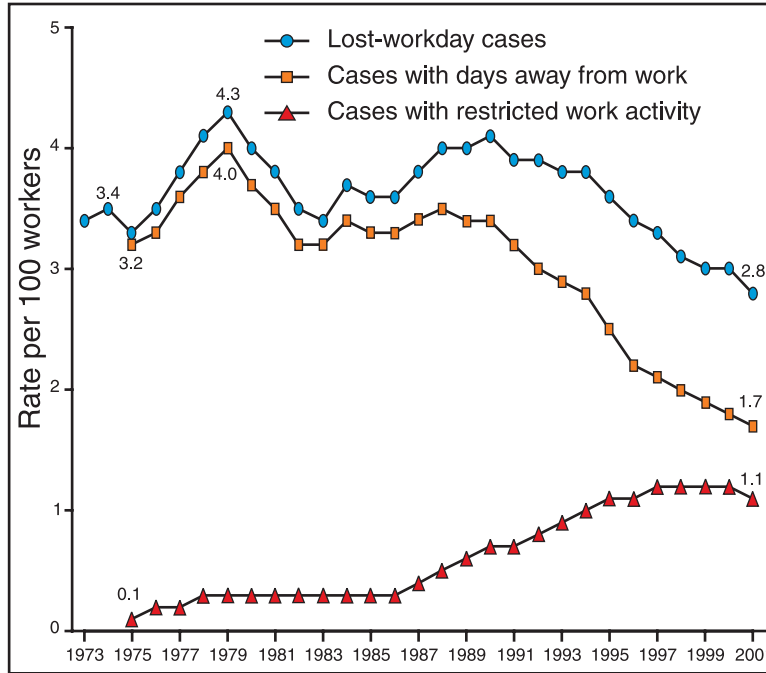


Source: BLS [2003]. Census of fatal occupational injuries. Fatal injuries. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics Program. [[www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm)].

- BLS reported 5,524 fatal work injuries in 2002. Since 1992, fatality rates have declined from 5.2 to 4.9 per 100,000 employed workers.
- Most fatalities (66.6%) are among non-Hispanic white males between the ages of 25-54.
- Two industry sectors accounted for over 40% of occupational fatalities: construction (22.6% and 1,121 cases) and transportation and public utilities (18.3% and 910 cases).
- Since 1992, the number of occupational fatalities associated with highway incidents increased 18.5%.

## Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses

**Incidence rates for lost-workday cases of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in private industry, 1973-2001.**

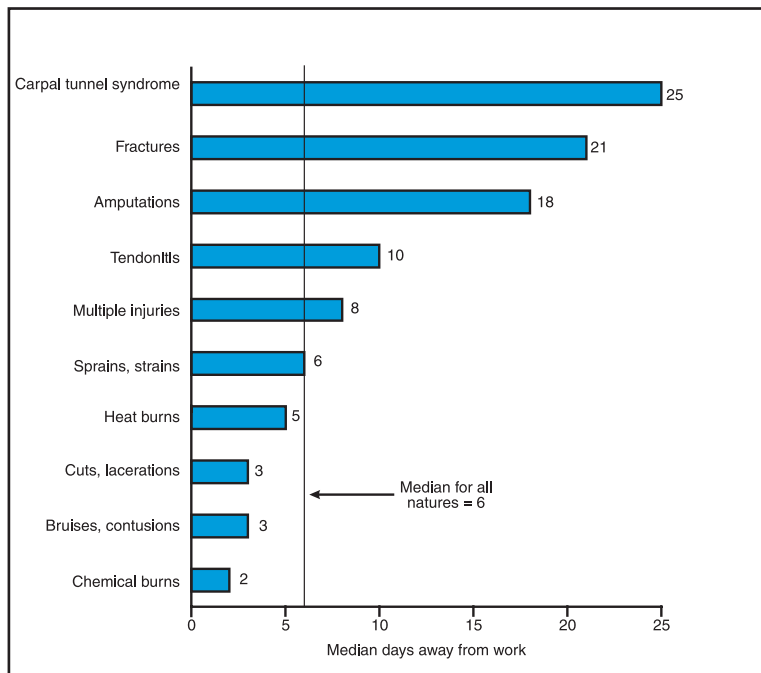


Source: BLS [2002]. Survey of occupational injuries and illnesses. Nonfatal (OSHA recordable) injuries and illness. Industry incidence rates and counts. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics Program. [www.bls.gov/iif/oshum.htm].

- The private-industry sector reported 5.2 million nonfatal occupational injuries and illness during 2001, corresponding to an overall rate of 5.7 cases per 100 full-time workers.
- Approximately 2.6 million injuries or illnesses were lost-workday cases requiring recuperation away from work or restricted duties at work.
- Restricted work activity cases have steadily increased since 1987. These cases include those with shortened workdays, temporary job changes, or temporary restrictions of job duties.

## Characteristics of Non-Fatal Injuries and Illnesses

**Median days away from work due to occupational injuries or illnesses in private industry by nature of injury or illness, 2001.**



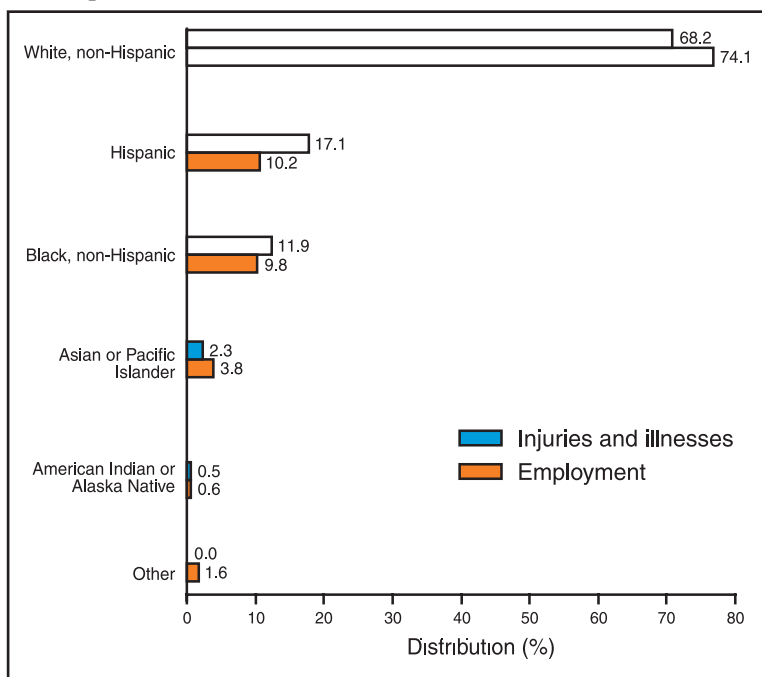
Source: BLS [2003]. Survey of occupational injuries and illnesses. Nonfatal (OSHA recordable) injuries and illnesses. Case and demographic characteristics. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics Program. [[www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm)].

- Disorders associated with repeated trauma (such as carpal tunnel syndrome and noise induced hearing loss) affected 216,400 workers or 4% of the 5.2 million occupational illnesses and injuries in 2001.
- Sprains and strains accounted for 43.6% of all nonfatal occupational illness and injuries.
- The back was involved in nearly one fourth of all occupational injuries and illnesses.



## Characteristics of Ill and Injured Workers

**Distribution of employed workers and injury and illness cases with days away from work in private industry by occupation, 2001.**



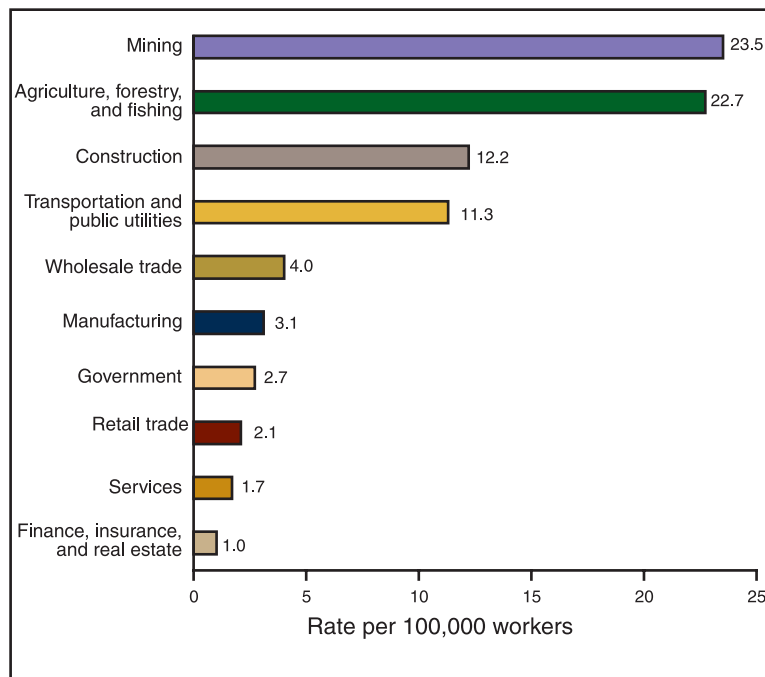
Sources: Census [2003]. Census 2000 special equal employment opportunity (EEO) tabulation. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. [<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/eeoindex.html>].

BLS [2003]. Survey of occupational injuries and illnesses. Nonfatal (OSHA recordable) injuries and illnesses. Case and demographic characteristics. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics Program. [[www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm)].

- The percentages of illnesses and injuries among black and Hispanic workers exceed the percentages of workers these groups represent.
- Operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for nearly 40% of all occupational injuries and illnesses, well above the percentage of workers they represent (15.4%)
- Workers aged 25-44 accounted for the majority of ill and injured workers during 2001.

## High Risk Industries and Occupations

Rates of fatal injuries by industry division, 2002.

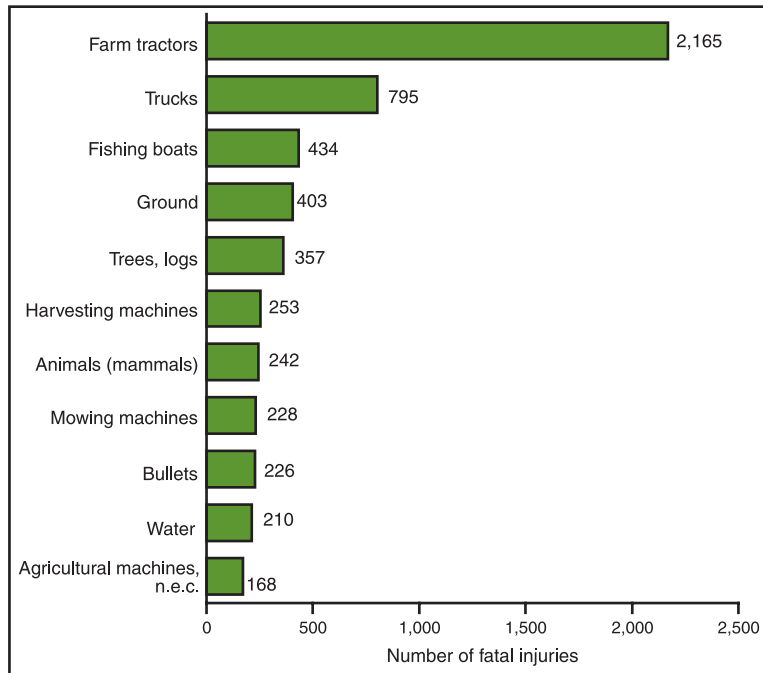


Source: BLS [2003]. Census of fatal occupational injuries. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics Program. Fatal Injuries. [[www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm)].

- Occupational fatality rates in 2002 were highest in mining; agriculture, forestry, and fishing; and construction.
- Both fatalities and lost time injuries are distributed unevenly among various subpopulations in mining. For example, the 1998-2002 rate of lost-workday cases in the underground areas of underground mines (7.8 per 100 full-time equivalent workers) was more than double the rate for all mining.
- Like mining, certain subpopulations of construction workers are at higher risk for fatal injury. The rate of fatal injuries ranged from a low of 6.0 per 100,000 full-time workers among dry-wall installers to a high of 75.6 per 100,000 full-time workers for ironworkers.

## Focus on Agriculture

### Leading sources of fatal occupational injuries in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry, 1992–2001.



Sources: BLS [2002]. Census of fatal occupational injuries. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics Program. [[www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm)]

Myers J [2003]. Analysis of the census of fatal occupational injury (CFOI) data, 1992-2001. Morgantown, WV: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Unpublished.

Note: Fatality data exclude New York City.

- Fatality rates within the agriculture sector, though decreasing, remain four times greater than those of the general private sector and disproportionately affect the youngest and oldest workers.
- Farm tractors are the leading source of fatal injury, accounting for 2,165 deaths in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry.
- Whites accounted for the highest number of work-related fatalities in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector. The highest rates, however, observed among blacks (26.9 fatalities per 100,000 employed).

## Ordering Information

The *Chartbook* is available in several formats:

- Users can obtain an Adobe Acrobat PDF file at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh). Use the Site Index to find *Chartbook 2004*.
- *Chartbook* figures and captions are available for individual use and may be downloaded at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh). Data tables for each figure are available in an Excel spreadsheet file.
- Data are available on a diskette as Excel spreadsheet files for use on Windows-compatible personal computers.
- A printed copy of the complete *Chartbook* is available through NIOSH.

To order a copy of the *Chartbook* or a *Chartbook* diskette, please contact:

**NIOSH—Publications Dissemination**  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>  
Telephone: 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674)  
Fax: 513-533-8573  
E-mail: [pubstaf@cdc.gov](mailto:pubstaf@cdc.gov)

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