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## Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Labor Department Releases State, Borough and Place 2007 Populations

(Juneau) – Alaska's statewide population increased 7.9 percent, or 49,454 people, from 2000 to 2007, based on new population estimates released today by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Alaska's growth was slightly faster than the 6.9 percent increase for the United States as a whole during the seven-year period. (Unless otherwise indicated, all population estimates in this press release have a reference date of July 1. The 2007 estimates are provisional.)

The number of people living in Alaska climbed from 627,533 in 2000 to 676,987 in 2007 (See Table 1).

**Table 1** Annual Components Of Population Change For Alaska, 1990-2007

July 1 to June 30	End of Period	Population	Change	Average Annual Rate of Change	Components Of Change				Net International Migrants <sup>2</sup>	Net Internal Migrants <sup>3</sup>
					Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migrants		
1990		553,171			11,798	2,225	9,573	6,310	—	—
1990-91	569,054	15,883	2.83		11,744	2,214	9,530	8,138	—	—
1991-92	586,722	17,668	3.06		11,347	2,477	8,870	1,314	—	—
1992-93	596,906	10,184	1.72		10,978	2,422	8,556	-4,840	—	—
1993-94	600,622	3,716	0.62		10,439	2,500	7,939	-6,980	—	—
1994-95	601,581	959	0.16		10,079	2,707	7,372	-3,741	—	—
1995-96	605,212	3,631	0.60		10,018	2,574	7,444	-3,001	—	—
1996-97	609,655	4,443	0.73		9,924	2,642	7,282	145	—	—
1997-98	617,082	7,427	1.21		9,864	2,609	7,255	-2,337	—	—
1998-99	622,000	4,918	0.79		10,102	2,829	7,273	-1,740	—	—
1999-00	627,533	5,533	0.89		9,980	2,934	7,046	-2,488	956	-3,444
2000-01	632,091	4,558	0.72		9,892	3,075	6,817	1,614	-25	1,639
2001-02	640,522	8,431	1.32		10,025	3,107	6,918	333	-1,995	2,328
2002-03	647,773	7,251	1.13		10,299	3,060	7,239	2,302	2,116	186
2003-04	657,314	9,541	1.46		10,365	3,165	7,200	-454	666	-1,120
2004-05	664,060	6,746	1.02		10,620	3,110	7,510	-612	1,423	-2,035
2005-06	670,958	6,898	1.03		10,964	3,208	7,756	-1,727	602	-2,329
2006-07 <sup>1</sup>	676,987	6,029	0.89							

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau

<sup>3</sup> Migration between Alaska and the rest of the U.S.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

Alaska's average annual rate of population change was 1.1 percent during the 2000-2007 period and 0.9 percent for the 2006-2007 period. Alaska is still the 47th most populous state, and is larger than North Dakota, Vermont, the District of Columbia and Wyoming.

Currently, growth in Alaska as a whole is primarily through natural increase. From 2000 to 2007, Alaska's natural increase (births minus deaths) added 50,486 people, while net-migration (in-migration minus

out-migration) accounted for a loss of 1,032 people. During the 2006-2007 period, Alaska added 7,756 people through natural increase and lost 1,727 people to net out-migration.

In the early 1990s, Alaska added an average of 8,100 people each year through natural increase. A gradual decline in births and a gradual increase in deaths – both tied to an aging population – have resulted in a slowdown in natural increase to about 7,300 people a year.

When international and domestic migration are considered separately, the loss of 1,727 migrants between 2006 and 2007 breaks down to a gain of 602 international migrants and a loss of 2,329 domestic migrants. Thus, inter-

national migration is currently compensating for some of the outward domestic migration. About 70,000 people now migrate to and from Alaska each year. In- and out-migration are nearly equal at about 35,000.

"It is important to note that, because our estimates are for resident population, any troops deployed overseas are counted as being in Alaska in our estimates," said Greg Williams, state demographer. "This means that the populations for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage, where the main Alaska military bases are located, as well as other communities with a substantial National Guard presence, may be somewhat lower than these estimates indicate, depending on the current deployment of military and National Guard personnel."

## Boroughs and Census Areas

Department of Labor population estimates have also been released for Alaska's 28 boroughs and census areas (see Table 2), as well as for 343 places located throughout the state. Unlike Table 1, which considers population change from the average annual population in 2000, Table 2 (and the remainder of this press release) considers population change from the April 1, 2000 U.S. Census.

Most of Alaska's boroughs and census areas grew slowly or lost population between the 2000 Census and 2007. Of the 28 boroughs and census areas, 10 gained population between 2000 and 2007. The largest population increases occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage (+23,540), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+20,734), Fairbanks North Star Borough (+8,123), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+2,679), Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+848), Bethel Census Area (+786) and Wade Hampton Census Area (+567).

Population growth in the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough accounted for roughly 76.5 percent of the growth in those 10 boroughs and census areas. The Municipality of Anchorage made up 40.7 percent of the growth, with population gains in the Mat-Su Borough making up 35.8 percent.

The Mat-Su Borough continued in 2007 to be the fastest-growing area in the state, as it has been since 1990. Between 2000 and 2007, it grew at an average annual rate of 4.1 percent, which is slightly greater than its 4.0 percent annual growth rate during the 1990s. However, its growth slowed to 3.5 percent between 2006 and 2007.

The increases in both the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough in the 2000-2007 period were due to a mix of natural increase and net-migration. A substantial part of migration to Anchorage comes from other parts of Alaska.

The Mat-Su Borough was the only area of the state where growth came primarily from net in-migration. Since the 2000 Census, net in-migration accounted for 16,030 of the Mat-Su Borough's population increase of 20,734.

The majority of Mat-Su's migration comes from the Municipality of Anchorage. Those two areas, plus the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+408) and Kenai Peninsula Borough (+245), were the only areas where in-migration noticeably exceeded out-migration during the 2000-2007 period.

In the more recent 2006-2007 period, Anchorage gained a total of 579 people, while the Mat-Su Borough gained 2,782 people. And while Anchorage had a current natural increase of 3,350 compared to the Mat-Su Borough's 822, Mat-Su gained 1,960 migrants and Anchorage lost 2,771.

Eighteen boroughs and census areas lost population between 2000 and 2007. The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, losing 5.1 percent of its population since 2000, with a natural increase of 3,650 people and a net out-migration of 7,404 people. No Southeast area had long-term growth between 2000 and 2007.

In the 2006-2007 period, only Haines Borough (+18) had any population gain. In all Southeast areas except Haines, out-migration was greater than natural increase. In part, that was due to population aging in the region.

Between 2000 and 2007, net out-migration from Southwest Alaska (-4,707) was greater than the natural increase in the region (+4,579). The Southwest areas that increased were the Bethel Census Area, Wade Hampton Census Area and Aleutians East Borough. In every other area of Southwest, net out-migration exceeded natural increase.

In the Northern region, natural increase (+3,025) failed to keep up with out-migration (-3,161).

In the Gulf Coast region, natural increase (+4,182) kept ahead of out-migration (-2,433) between 2000 and 2007. The Kodiak Island Borough had more net out-migration (-1,531) than natural increase (+1,186) and the Valdez-Cordova Census Area declined as natural increase (+562) failed to match net out-migration (-1,147). The Kenai Peninsula Borough grew mainly through natural increase (+2,434) as opposed to net-migration (+245).

During the 2006-2007 period, the Valdez-Cordova Census Area declined as net out-migration (-239) exceeded natural increase (+78). In the Kenai Peninsula Borough, however, both natural increase (+365) and net-migration (+557) were positive. The Kodiak Island Borough grew through natural increase (+160) despite slight out-migration (-44).

In the Interior, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (+8,123) and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+848) grew in the 2000-2007 period, largely due to natural increase. The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-758) and Denali Borough (-162) shrank as out-migration exceeded natural increase.

During the 2006-2007 period, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (+3,197) and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+275) grew. In the former, natural increase (+1,244) was exceeded by net in-migration (+1,953). The net in-migration was mostly military and dependents. The Southeast Fairbanks Census Area gained as a result of both natural increase and net in-migration tied to missile defense.

## Places

Alaska had 35 places with populations of more than 2,000 in the year 2000 (see Table 3); 22 of them were incorporated cities or city-boroughs in 2007. Thirty-two places in Alaska had populations of more than 2,500 in 2007, meeting the old U.S. Census Bureau definition of urban place.

The Municipality of Anchorage continued to dominate the state. Its population of 283,823 in 2007 accounted for 41.9 percent of the state's population, up slightly from 41.5 percent in 2000. The Anchorage/Mat-Su region (363,879) accounted for 53.7 percent of Alaska's population in 2007, up from 51.0 percent in 2000.

The 15 places with populations greater than 2,000 that have had the highest average annual growth rates since the 2000 Census include the Knik-Fairview Census Designated Place, or CDP, (+7.5 percent), Fishhook CDP (+5.7 percent), Tanaina CDP (+4.9 percent), Meadow Lakes CDP (+4.8 percent), Homer city (+4.5 percent), Gateway CDP (+4.2 percent), Deltana CDP (+3.8 percent), Wasilla city (+3.4 percent), Butte CDP (+3.1 percent), Willow CDP (+2.9 percent), Kalifornsky CDP (+2.7 percent), Ester CDP (+2.7 percent), Palmer city (+2.7 percent), Lakes CDP (+2.6 percent) and Big Lake CDP (+2.5 percent).

All but four of the top 15 places that experienced the most rapid growth in the 2000-2007 period are in the Mat-Su Borough.

Indeed, if they were to incorporate, three places in the Mat-Su Borough would be larger than Wasilla city and an additional CDP, Meadow Lakes, would be bigger than Palmer city. Knik-Fairview would become the fourth-largest city in the state. Of the remaining four rapidly growing places, the Kalifornsky CDP and Homer city are in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Deltana is in the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area and Ester CDP is in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Homer's growth is largely due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge CDP and Miller Landing CDP in 2002.

"Outside the Anchorage/Mat-Su region, a majority of communities are flat or declining," Williams said. "Fourteen of the places that had more than 2,000 people in 2000 have since declined. In fact, 195 (56.9 percent) of the 343 places in Alaska have had either zero gains or population losses since the 2000 Census. That includes four of the largest communities: the Juneau city and borough, Sitka city and borough, Ketchikan city and Kodiak city."

The larger places that declined an average by more than 1.0 percent each year during the 2000-2007 period were Eielson Air Force Base CDP (-3.7 percent), Wrangell city (-2.3 percent), Unalaska city (-2.1 percent), Barrow city (-1.7 percent), Valdez city (-1.6 percent), Cordova city (-1.6 percent), Kodiak city (-1.5 percent) and Seward city (-0.8 percent). Wrangell slipped below a population of 2,000 in 2005.

*Population estimates are available on Research and Analysis' Web site at [almis.labor.state.ak.us](http://almis.labor.state.ak.us). Click on "Population & Census" on the left and pull down to "Estimates & Projections." Then, toward the middle of the page, click on "Alaska Population Estimates 2000-2007," and then "Vintage 2007 Estimates."*

**Table 2** Population of Alaska by Labor Market Area, Borough and Census Area, 1990-2007

Area Name	Vintage 2007 Population Estimates								April 1				April 1				Natural Increase				Migration			
	Estimate 2007	Estimate 2006	Estimate 2005	Estimate 2004	Estimate 2003	Estimate 2002	Census 2000	Census 1990	Census 2000	Census 1990	Change 2000- 1990	Average Annual Rate of Change	2006- 2000	2000- 1990	2006- 2000	2000- 1990	(Births minus Deaths)	(In minus Out)	(Births minus Deaths)	(In minus Out)	04/1/00- 06/30/07	04/1/00- 06/30/07		
Alaska	676,987	670,958	664,060	657,314	647,773	640,522	632,091	626,931	550,043	6,029	50,056	76,888	0.9	1.1	1.3	7,756	-1,727	52,232	-2,176					
Anchorage / Mat-Su Region	363,879	360,518	352,389	348,258	340,556	332,158	328,590	319,605	266,021	3,361	44,274	53,584	0.9	1.8	1.8	4,172	-811	27,249	17,025					
Anchorage, Municipality of	283,823	283,244	278,294	277,810	273,024	267,810	264,840	260,283	226,338	579	23,540	33,945	0.2	1.2	1.4	3,350	-2,771	22,545	995					
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	80,056	77,274	74,095	70,448	67,532	64,348	61,750	59,322	39,683	2,782	20,734	19,639	3.5	4.1	4.0	822	1,960	4,704	16,030					
Gulf Coast Region																								
Kenai Peninsula Borough	75,548	74,671	74,956	74,772	75,461	74,386	73,681	73,799	64,063	877	1,749	9,736	1.2	0.3	1.4	603	274	4,182	-2,433					
Kodiak Island Borough	52,370	51,448	51,248	51,226	51,446	50,672	50,073	49,691	40,802	922	2,679	8,889	1.8	0.7	2.0	365	557	2,434	245					
Valdez-Cordova CA	9,610	9,771	10,021	9,976	10,200	10,073	10,045	10,195	9,952	-161	-585	243	-1.7	-0.8	0.2	78	-239	562	-1,147					
Interior Region																								
Denali Borough	1,731	1,796	1,823	1,850	1,916	1,887	1,901	1,893	1,764	-65	-162	129	-3.7	-1.2	0.7	15	-80	109	-271					
Fairbanks North Star Borough	90,963	87,766	87,704	85,453	82,160	84,749	83,261	82,840	77,720	3,197	8,123	5,120	3.6	1.3	0.6	1,244	1,953	8,722	-599					
Southeast Fairbanks CA	7,022	6,747	6,471	6,143	5,922	5,944	5,906	6,174	5,913	275	848	261	4.0	1.8	0.4	88	187	440	408					
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	5,752	5,843	6,056	6,275	6,300	6,354	6,484	6,510	6,714	-91	-758	-204	-1.6	-1.7	-0.3	36	-127	276	-1,034					
Northern Region																								
Nome Census Area	9,509	9,541	9,464	9,430	9,353	9,341	9,264	9,196	8,288	-32	313	908	-0.3	0.5	1.0	144	-176	1,103	-790					
North Slope Borough	6,748	6,809	6,896	7,131	7,223	7,238	7,230	7,385	5,979	-61	-637	1,406	-0.9	-1.2	2.1	134	-195	967	-1,604					
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,396	7,332	7,326	7,334	7,283	7,230	7,127	7,208	6,113	64	188	1,095	0.9	0.4	1.6	156	-92	955	-767					
Southeast Region																								
Haines Borough	2,257	2,239	2,208	2,252	2,318	2,357	2,368	2,392	2,117	18	-135	275	0.8	-0.8	1.2	12	6	26	-161					
Juneau City and Borough	30,305	30,811	31,225	31,122	31,294	30,997	30,453	30,711	26,751	-506	406	3,960	-1.7	-0.2	1.4	261	-767	1,875	-2,281					
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,160	13,201	13,131	13,082	13,525	13,675	13,745	14,059	13,828	-41	-899	231	-0.3	-0.9	0.2	116	-157	688	-1,587					
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	5,328	5,479	5,510	5,568	5,591	5,681	5,815	6,157	6,278	-151	-829	-121	-2.8	-2.0	-0.2	36	-187	291	-1,120					
Outer Ketchikan CA																								
Stikine City and Borough	8,640	8,989	8,944	8,824	8,890	8,793	8,725	8,835	8,588	-349	-195	247	-4.0	-0.3	0.3	77	-426	497	-692					
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	3,001	3,016	3,063	3,117	3,165	3,242	3,372	3,436	3,680	-15	-435	-244	-0.5	-1.9	-0.7	14	-29	100	-535					
Skagway Municipality	845	854	834	873	843	843	837	862	892	-9	-418	-414	-0.3	-2.4	-1.5	--	--	--	--					
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	6,016	6,034	6,167	6,269	6,323	6,461	6,587	6,684	7,042	-18	-668	-358	-0.3	-1.5	-0.5	16	-34	148	-816					
Yakutat City and Borough	621	636	643	676	690	719	695	808	705	-15	-187	103	-2.4	-3.6	1.4	5	-20	25	-212					
Southwest Region																								
Aleutians East Borough	39,111	39,530	40,084	39,758	39,803	39,310	38,887	39,239	38,479	-419	-128	760	-1.1	-0.0	0.2	627	-1,046	4,579	-4,707					
Aleutians West CA	2,795	2,591	2,656	2,655	2,713	2,722	2,547	2,697	2,464	204	98	233	7.6	0.5	0.9	12	192	86	12					
Bethel CA	16,832	17,043	17,092	16,879	16,748	16,511	16,104	16,046	13,656	-211	786	2,390	-1.2	0.7	1.6	329	-540	2,421	-1,635					
Bristol Bay Borough	1,035	1,058	1,176	1,100	1,103	1,163	1,173	1,258	1,410	-23	-223	-152	-2.2	-2.7	-1.1	7	-30	60	-283					
Dillingham CA	4,792	4,805	4,791	4,851	4,903	4,917	4,889	4,922	4,012	-13	-130	910	-0.3	-0.4	2.0	63	-76	443	-573					
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,538	1,558	1,620	1,626	1,639	1,732	1,823	1,668	-20	-285	155	-1.3	-2.3	0.9	10	-30	78	-363						
Wade Hampton CA	7,595	7,560	7,422	7,382	7,288	7,189	7,028	5,791	35	567	1,237	0.5	1.1	1.9	183	-148	1,306	-739						

Note: All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, and US Census 2000, 1990.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, and US Census 2000, 1990.

**Table 3** Places with More than 2,000 People, 2000-2007

Area Name	Vintage 2007 Population Estimates							April 1, 2000 Census	2000- 2007 Change	Average Annual Rate of Change			
	2007 Estimate	2006 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2001 Estimate			Place Rank	Place Rank	City Rank	City Rank
										2000- 2007 Rank	2007 Rank	2007 Rank	2000 Rank
Anchorage municipality	283,823	283,244	278,294	277,810	273,024	267,810	264,840	260,283	23,540	1.2	1	1	1
Fairbanks city	31,627	30,179	31,104	30,101	28,924	29,773	29,516	30,224	1,403	0.6	2	3	2
Juneau city and borough	30,305	30,811	31,225	31,122	31,294	30,997	30,453	30,711	-406	-0.2	3	2	3
Knik-Fairview CDP	12,283	11,380	10,276	9,258	8,559	8,000	7,637	7,049	5,234	7.5	4	7	---
College CDP	12,149	12,133	12,211	12,158	12,055	11,936	12,052	11,402	747	0.9	5	4	---
Sitka city and borough	8,640	8,989	8,944	8,824	8,890	8,793	8,725	8,835	-195	-0.3	6	5	4
Lakes CDP	8,126	7,972	7,761	7,478	7,042	6,926	6,814	6,706	1,420	2.6	7	9	---
Ketchikan city	7,728	7,638	7,684	7,711	7,977	8,373	8,457	7,922	-194	-0.3	8	6	5
Tanaina CDP	7,141	7,014	6,630	6,297	5,860	5,600	5,262	4,993	2,148	4.9	9	15	---
Kalifornsky CDP	7,129	6,993	6,833	6,643	6,248	6,159	6,016	5,846	1,283	2.7	10	11	---
Wasilla city	7,025	6,483	6,369	6,144	6,380	5,947	5,515	5,469	1,556	3.4	11	13	6
Kenai city	6,971	6,796	6,776	6,843	7,129	7,075	6,886	6,942	29	0.1	12	8	7
Meadow Lakes CDP	6,830	6,533	6,383	5,949	5,576	5,308	5,040	4,819	2,011	4.8	13	16	---
Kodiak city	5,689	5,668	6,137	6,208	6,107	6,099	6,074	6,334	-645	-1.5	14	10	8
Bethel city *	5,650	5,808	5,961	5,871	5,883	5,738	5,460	5,471	179	0.4	15	12	9
Palmer city	5,504	5,441	5,306	5,220	5,260	4,837	4,580	4,533	971	2.7	16	19	10
Homer city #	5,502	5,430	5,398	5,354	5,877	5,535	4,068	3,946	1,556	4.5	17	23	11
Sterling CDP	5,123	5,057	4,986	4,922	4,878	4,780	4,755	4,705	418	1.2	18	17	---
Nikiski CDP	4,345	4,211	4,195	4,292	4,351	4,361	4,362	4,327	18	0.1	19	20	---
Eielson AFB CDP	4,119	4,378	4,553	4,679	4,433	5,840	5,150	5,400	-1,281	-3.7	20	14	---
Barrow city *	4,052	4,068	4,178	4,367	4,410	4,435	4,443	4,581	-529	-1.7	21	18	12
Gateway CDP	4,003	3,861	3,686	3,562	3,299	3,215	3,119	2,952	1,051	4.2	22	28	---
Soldotna city	3,982	3,761	3,798	3,778	4,001	3,851	3,791	3,759	223	0.8	23	24	13
Unalaska city *	3,677	4,027	4,298	4,363	4,370	4,034	4,248	4,283	-606	-2.1	24	21	14
Valdez city	3,599	3,675	3,752	3,717	3,894	3,951	3,824	4,036	-437	-1.6	25	22	15
Nome city	3,495	3,539	3,510	3,481	3,412	3,481	3,485	3,505	-10	-0.0	26	25	16
Butte CDP	3,209	3,202	3,114	2,975	2,920	2,784	2,736	2,561	648	3.1	27	31	---
Big Lake CDP	3,166	3,082	2,984	2,928	2,889	2,704	2,614	2,635	531	2.5	28	30	---
Kotzebue city *	3,133	3,102	3,122	3,141	3,068	3,074	3,059	3,082	51	0.2	29	27	17
Fishhook CDP	3,082	2,946	2,797	2,643	2,349	2,243	2,190	2,030	1,052	5.7	30	35	---
Petersburg city	3,071	3,124	3,155	3,131	3,080	3,156	3,224	3,224	-153	-0.7	31	26	18
Seward city	2,661	2,593	2,597	2,544	2,744	2,755	2,758	2,830	-169	-0.8	32	29	19
Dillingham city *	2,404	2,404	2,370	2,407	2,384	2,468	2,461	2,466	-62	-0.4	33	32	20
Cordova city	2,192	2,237	2,291	2,298	2,290	2,303	2,381	2,454	-262	-1.6	34	33	21
Deltana CDP	2,072	1,928	1,902	1,741	1,706	1,668	1,652	1,570	502	3.8	35	45	---
Willow CDP	2,048	1,963	1,898	1,863	1,814	1,719	1,667	1,658	390	2.9	36	43	---
Ester CDP	2,041	1,936	1,857	1,816	1,804	1,824	1,704	1,680	361	2.7	37	42	---
Ridgeway CDP	1,987	1,971	2,063	2,060	2,020	1,968	1,961	1,932	55	0.4	38	36	---
Wrangell city	1,947	1,908	1,975	2,022	2,123	2,180	2,222	2,308	-361	-2.3	39	34	22

Note: All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development estimates unless stated otherwise.  
All estimates represent July 1 of that year unless stated otherwise.

CDP = Census Designated Place

\* Alaska Native Village Statistical Area

# Homer had a substantial annexation in 2002.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, and Census 2000.

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