

# An economic Study for Intra-Egyptian Trade Exchanges under the African and Arab Unions

[Manal Mashhour Elsaid, Rasha Saleh Mansour, Mamdouh Elbadry Mohamed]

**Abstract**— Is the export of the most important of the main sources for the provision of foreign exchange, especially in light of lower revenues Egyptian trade balance, where the deficit in the trade balance reached about 3.393 billion dollars in 2014, as total exports total imports coverage rate of about 27.9% over the average period (2000-2014), where increasing the value of total imports of about \$ 3.53 in 2000 to about 6.749 billion in 2014 an increase of about 91.2% from 2000, while Increasing total exports value of about 0.441 billion US dollars in 2000 to about 2.709 billion dollars in 2014 an increase of approximately 514.4% from 2000, but that the value of agricultural imports may Increasing of about 0.706 billion US dollars in 2000 to about 2.231 billion in 2014 an increase of approximately 216.3% from 2000, while increased agricultural exports from about 0.264 value million in 2000 to about 0.594 billion in 2014 an increase of approximately 124.9% from 2000, was the deficit in the agricultural balance reached about 1.638 billion dollars in 2014, while agricultural exports agricultural imports coverage rate of about 44.3% over the average period ( 2000-2014).

The average total Egyptian total exports value of about 1.397 billion dollars, representing about 2%, 0.4% and about 3.3% of the total exports of African and Arab countries and COMESA value, respectively, amounting to about 68.41, about 402.836 and about 44.927 billion dollars over the average period (2000 -2014). While the average total value of Egypt's total imports amounted to about 4.791 billion dollars, representing about 9%, 2.1% and about 17.3% of the total value of total imports of African and Arab countries and the COMESA respectively, amounting to about 59.079, about 270.246 and about 32.571 billion dollars over the average period ( 2000-2014).

While the average total Egyptian agricultural exports value reached about 0.503 billion dollars, representing about 6.2%, 40.6% and about 29.9% of the total agricultural exports of African and Arab countries and COMESA value, respectively, amounting to about 8.845, about 1.288 and about 1.743 billion dollars over the average period ( 2000-2014).

While the average total value of Egyptian agricultural imports amounted to about 1.274 billion dollars, representing about 28.7%, 26.4% and about 72.1% of the total value of agricultural imports African and Arab countries and the COMESA respectively, amounting to about 4.434, about 4.82 and about 1.731 billion dollars over the average period ( 2000-2014).

The total deficit in the Egyptian balance of trade has reached about 3.089 billion US dollars in 2000 and then increased to about 4.040 billion dollars in 2014, an increase represents about 30.8% of its value in 2000, while showing that the total deficit in the Egyptian agricultural balance has reached about 0.441 billion dollars in 2000 and then increased to about 1.638 billion dollars in 2014, representing an increase of about 271% of their value in 2000.

There is no doubt that this is a chronic deficit in the balance of trade and agriculture, it should be reviewed in the policies relating to the total foreign trade, in general, and agricultural where in particular, and the need to search for ways to further economic cooperation, trade and investment integration, between Egypt and the Arab States of the Union, African and COMESA, in light of benefit from the conditions of accession to the conglomerate of regional associations.

## Recommendations:

1. Policies directed towards the expansion of Arab economic integration and of Africa, to benefit from the advantages of economic conglomerates, whether Arab or African conglomerate or conglomerate COMESA, leading to a rise in the total foreign trade of agricultural and opportunities alike.
2. Activation the trade exchange between Egypt and the Member States, and to focus on commodities where Egypt enjoys a competitive advantage, such as agricultural commodities and food products, which results showed the relative distribution of foreign trade study between Egypt some of these countries accounted for about 10.6%, and about 6.8%, and only about 2.5% of the total value of Egyptian exports African Union and the Arab Union and the Union of COMESA, and about 4.3% and about 4.2%, and about 2% Total imports from countries African Union and the Arab Union and the Union of COMESA.
3. Working to attract Arab and African investments in agricultural production, especially in the field of plant production, leading to increased provision of goods with low rate of self-sufficiency, to ensure that the final consumer get the goods at the price fair and appropriate quality.
4. Activating the role of agricultural foreign trade interfaces to food security, through the achievement of the maximum amount of the agricultural and the African Arab

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integration, and conversion of agricultural exports of African and Arab to African and Arab interfaces agricultural exports, which would entail raising the proportion of agricultural exports to agricultural imports cover, thereby raising self-sufficiency and the African Arab ratio.

5. Activating the Foreign Agricultural Trade interfaces with the African Union and the Arab world and the Union of COMESA countries, where it was found a decrease similar to exports in some countries index, and this indicates that there is a difference between the productive structures of Egypt and these countries, which means that the production structure more integrated and not competitive, and thus potentially creating trade between Egypt and these large states.
6. Establishment of a network of information and the definition of commercial investment opportunities the countries of the African Union, the Arab and COMESA.

**Keywords**— African Union, COMESA, Arab Union, Total Exports, Total Imports, Agricultural Exports, Agricultural Imports, Integrated.

## I. Introduction

The research problem can be addressed through regional economic unions such as the Arab and the African Union and the Union of COMESA, and the impact of the gradual liberalization of the various obstacles and constraints specific to the paths of foreign trade among Member States in accordance with the degree of integration affecting the amounts and trends in bilateral trade between the integration of countries, including two-way trade of agricultural Total, Since Egypt was involved in the membership of the Arab Union and the African Union and COMESA, has resulted in that changes in trends and the amounts of total agricultural trade and two-way between them and the countries of the bloc. The average total Egyptian total exports value of about 1.397 billion dollars, representing about 2%, 0.4% and about 3.3% of the total exports of African and Arab countries and COMESA value, respectively, amounting to about 68.41, about 402.836 and about 44.927 billion dollars over the average period (2000 -2014). While the average total value of Egypt's total imports amounted to about 4.791 billion dollars, representing about 9%, 2.1% and about 17.3% of the total value of total imports of African and Arab countries and the COMESA respectively, amounting to about 59.079, about 270.246 and about 32.571 billion dollars over the average period ( 2000-2014).

While the average total Egyptian agricultural exports value reached about 0.503 billion dollars, representing about 6.2%, 40.6% and about 29.9% of the total agricultural exports of African and Arab countries and COMESA value, respectively, amounting to about 8.845, about 1.288 and about 1.743 billion dollars over the average period ( 2000-2014). While the average total value of Egyptian agricultural imports amounted to about 1.274 billion dollars, representing about 28.7%, 26.4% and about 72.1% of the total value of agricultural imports African and Arab countries and the

COMESA respectively, amounting to about 4.434, about 4.82 and about 1.731 billion dollars over the average period ( 2000-2014).

The total deficit in the Egyptian balance of trade has reached about 3.089 billion US dollars in 2000 and then increased to about 4.040 billion dollars in 2014, an increase represents about 30.8% of its value in 2000, while showing that the total deficit in the Egyptian agricultural balance has reached about 0.441 billion dollars in 2000 and then increasing to about 1.638 billion dollars in 2014, representing an increase of about 271% of their value in 2000.

There is no doubt that this is a chronic deficit in the balance of trade and agriculture should be reviewed in the policies relating to the total foreign trade in general and agricultural in particular, the need to search for ways to further economic cooperation, trade and investment between Egypt and the Arab States of the Union and integration, African and COMESA under the benefit of the conditions of accession to the bloc of regional associations.

## II. Methodology

This study is based on analysis method of statistical descriptive and quantitative, with the use of some analytical statistical methods such as the analysis of time series, simple and annual rates of growth and decline, have also been some measure of foreign trade efficiency indicators such as Exports Similarity Index to measure the similarity between the Egyptian productive structures with union countries for the possibility of the creation of trade between Egypt and the union countries , Trade Compatibility Index to measure the extent of exports agree or imports Egypt with union countries with imports or Africa exports with Egypt for a possible diversion of trade between Egypt and the union countries, in addition to the use of Maximum Magnitude Index to measure the ability of union countries to Egyptian imports

**Exports Similarity** = [  $\sum \text{Min} \{X_i(\text{ac}), X_i(\text{bc})\} * 100$  ]

**Trade Compatibility** =  $\left\{ 1 - \frac{\sum |M_{bi} - X_{ai}|}{2} \right\}$

**$X_i(\text{ac})$ :** The proportion of agricultural imports to the country's total exports a  
 **$X_i(\text{bc})$ :** By agricultural imports to the country's total exports b  
 **$M_{bi}$ :** The proportion of agricultural imports to total imports of the country b  
 **$X_{ai}$ :** The proportion of agricultural imports to the country's total exports a

**Maximum Magnitude Index** = [  $\text{Ex}/\text{Im}/\text{Min} \{ \text{Im}/\text{Ex} \} * 100$  ]

Where: Ex: Egyptian Exports to Union countries

Im: Union countries Imports from the World

## III. Research results and discussion

**Egyptian overall measure of foreign trade efficiency standards during the period (2000-2014):**

Shows that the relative importance of Egypt's total trade in the total Egyptian GDP it amounted to about 4% in 2000 and then fell to around 3.3% in 2014, down about 0.7% represents about 17% from 2000, while showing that the relative importance of Egypt's total exports in total Egyptian GDP it amounted to about 0.4% in 2000 and then increased to around 0.9% in 2014, an increase of about 0.5% representing about 114.1% from 2000, also it shows that the relative importance of Egypt's total imports in the total Egyptian GDP it amounted to about 3.5% in 2000 and then fell to around 2.4% in 2014, down about 1.2% represents about 33.4% in 2000. It turns out that the degree of economic exposure amounted to about 4% in 2000 and then fell to around 3.3% in 2014, down about 0.7% represents about 17% from 2000, which is an indicator refers to the degree of economic dependence which refers to the importance of imports and imports in GDP shows where affected the national economy to foreign trade and the degree of economic dependence of the outside.

While showing that the average per capita GDP has reached about 1509.6 dollars in 2000 and then increased to about \$ 3436.3 in 2014, an increase representing about 127.6% from 2000, while showing that the average per capita Egyptian overall foreign trade has reached about \$ 60 in 2000 and then increased to about \$ 113.4 in 2014, an increase represents about 88.9% from 2000, also it shows that the average per capita Egyptian total exports amounted to about \$ 6.7 in 2000 and then increased to about \$ 32.5 in 2014, an increase of representing approximately 387.3% from 2000, also it shows that the average per capita share of the total Egyptian imports amounted to about \$ 53.4 in 2000 and then increased to about \$ 80.9 in 2014, representing an increase of about 51.6% from 2000.

While showing that the Egyptian total exports annual growth rate has reached about 6.3% in 2000 and then increased to about 7.9% in 2014, up representing about 26.6% from 2000, it turns out that the Egyptian total imports annual growth rate has reached about 8% in 2000 then increased to about 8.8% in 2014, an increase represents about 10.2% from 2000, it turns out that the Egyptian Total of Business annual growth rate has reached about 8.2% in 2000 and then increased to about 9.2% in 2014, an increase represents about 12.5% of the year 2000.

It turns out that the coverage of the Egyptian foreign trade rate of about 12.5% in 2000 and then increased to about 40.1% in 2014, an increase representing about 221.4% from the year 2000, an indicator shows the extent of state control imports and their enjoyment of purchasing power as indicating a rate increase for 100 % that there is a surplus in the trade balance of the state and provide foreign exchange to the state and improvement in the economic situation of the state- Table (1).

While showing that the degree of Egyptian overall economic stability of foreign trade has reached about 27.3% in 2000 and then dropped to about 2.2% in 2014, down about 25.1% represents about 92% from 2000, where crosses instability for comparative advantage and competitiveness of the state coefficient If the value of this parameter is equal to

zero it means that the stability of the phenomenon calculated and the higher the value indicates that the lack of consistency and stability, while showing that the degree of economic stability Egyptian Total of seized amounted to about 62.8% in 2000 and then dropped to around 7.3% in 2014, It represents a decrease of about 88.3% in 2000, while showing that the degree of economic stability Egyptian total imports amounted to about 23.9% in 2000 and then dropped to around 0.3% in 2014 represents a decrease of about 98.9% in 2000.

We conclude from the results of measuring the efficiency of the Egyptian Foreign Trade Total during the period (2000-2014), that there is an improvement in the Egyptian foreign trade situation, especially during the post-global financial crisis period in 2008

#### Exports Similarity Index:

It is clear from the results of Exports Similarity Index Egyptian African States and the Arab countries and the COMESA countries that amounted to an average of about 28.5%, 14.7%, 25.9%, respectively, rising Exports Similarity Index in some of those countries shows a similarity between the productive structures of Egypt with those countries, ie that the production structure more competitive and not integrated, and thus potentially creating trade between them is limited, though, there is the possibility of expansion in the trade exchange between them and because of the difference of goods and distinguish them from other goods. While the decline in exports is similar in some of those states index, and this indicates that there is a difference between the productive structures of Egypt and these countries, which means that the production structure is not a more integrated and competitive, and thus create the possibility of trade between Egypt and these large state - Table (2).

#### Trade Compatibility Index between Egypt's agricultural exports and the union's countries imports during the period (2000-2014):

Showing from a table (3) - the Trade Compatibility Index between the Egyptian agricultural exports and agricultural imports from Africa, Arab States, COMESA countries that amounted to an average of about 0.809, 0.744, 0.822, which means that there is a commercial consensus between the Egyptian agricultural exports and agricultural imports from Africa , Arab States, COMESA countries, which means that those countries are market appropriate Egyptian agricultural products, as rising Trade Compatibility Index farm for agricultural imports means that Egypt is a source of agricultural imports to those of Arab States, COMESA countries more of a market for agricultural exports from Africa. This means that the expansion of Egyptian agricultural imports opportunities to those countries than for opportunities expand agricultural imports from Africa to Egypt, which means the possibility of diversion of the trade so that the Egyptian agricultural products replace agricultural products imported by African countries, the Arab countries, COMESA countries of the world more the likelihood that solve agricultural products from these countries replace the agricultural products imported by Egypt of the world.

**Trade Compatibility Index between Egypt's agricultural imports and the union's countries exports during the period (2000-2014)**

The value of Trade Compatibility Index between Egyptian agricultural imports and exports than the average at about 0.874, 0.806, 0.895, respectively, for the countries of Africa, the Arab States, COMESA countries, which means that there are commercially consensus between the Egyptian agricultural imports and agricultural exports from Africa, Arab countries, COMESA countries, that is, those countries where it is appropriate the Egyptian market for agricultural imports, as rising Trade Compatibility Index Egyptian agricultural imports means that the countries of Africa, the Arab States, COMESA countries most suitable for the Egyptian agricultural exports from those countries to Egypt- Table (4).

**Maximum Magnitude Index for the markets of union countries from Egyptian imports**

deducing from Maximum Magnitude Index study to the markets of African countries and the Arab countries and the COMESA countries of Egyptian imports that the index has improved during the first period of the study (2007-2000) averaging during that about 68.2% period, it turns out that the Maximum Magnitude Index has begun to deteriorate During the period prior to the revolution of January 2011, the second period of the study (2010-2008) by an average of about 45.7%, and then sharply deteriorated during the third period of the study (2008-2014), a period after the revolution of January 2011, an average of about 32.9%, where it can be seen from the bad influence of the revolution in January 2011 of impairment Maximum Magnitude Index to the markets of African countries and the Arab countries and the COMESA countries of Egyptian imports- Table (5).

## Figures and Tables

**Table (1):Egypt's Total Foreign Trade Efficiency Standards during the period (2000-2014)**

Report	unit	Total Egypt Trade (2000-2014)
Coverage rate (%)	%	26.2
Degree of Economic Exposure (%)	%	4.1
The degree of Importance of Exports (%)	%	0.8
The degree of Importance of Imports (%)	%	3.2
Average per capita foreign trade	\$	81.7
Average per capita than \$ Exports	\$	18.2
Average per capita than \$ imports	\$	63.5
Average per capita GDP of \$	\$	2096
Instability of total Exports Coefficient	%	13.0
Instability Coefficient of Total Imports	%	5.4
Instability of the total Trade Coefficient	%	6.5
The Growth rate of Total Exports	%	7.1
The Growth rate of Total Imports	%	8.4
The Growth rate of Total Trade	%	8.7

**Source:** Collected and calculated from references data (1: 5) from study.

**Table (2): Agricultural Exports Similarity Index between Egypt and the union's countries during the period (2000-2014)**

African countries		African countries		Arabian countries		COMESA	
Algeria	23.98	Rwanda	25.2	Algeria	23.98	Sudan	42.18
green head	2.67	Zambia	8.16	Jordan	5.63	Uganda	62.27
Senegal	51.20	Zimbabwe	47.7	Emirates	0.05	Ethiopia	39.21
Sudan	42.05	Sao Tome	7.57	Bahrain	0.08	Eritrea	11.18
Somalia	0.00	Swaziland	30.7	Saudi Arabia	16.46	Burundi	22.59
Cameroon	48.85	Sierra Leone	3.79	Sudan	42.09	Comoros	4.33
Congo	33.30	Seychelles	18.3	Somalia	0.00	Republic of the Congo	1.14
Niger	54.76	Gambia	12.6	Iraq	31.20	Djibouti	7.82
Angola	7.83	Ghana	56.5	Kuwait	23.53	Ronda	25.28
Uganda	62.27	Guinea	29.7	Morocco	46.03	Zambia	8.16
Ethiopia	39.21	Equatorial Guinea	0.01	Yamani	0.63	Zimbabwe	47.67
Eritrea	8.76	Guinea-Bissau	0.44	Iran	0.48	Swaziland	30.85
Botswana	29.03	Côte d'Ivoire	56.8	Tunisia	15.62	Seychelles	37.72
Benin	56.56	Kenya	48.6	Comoros	4.33	Kenya	48.61
Burkina FSU	60.77	Libya	0.00	Djibouti	7.82	Libya	0.005
Burundi	22.59	Liberia	0.21	Syria	33.29	Madagascar	59.04
Chad	0.61	Lesotho	35.2	Oman	0.07	Malawi	8.90
Tanzania	55.11	Mali	44.6	Palestine	0.00	Mauritius	8.62
Togo	55.23	Madagascar	59.0	Qatar	0.01		
Tunisia	15.61	Malawi	8.90	Lebanon	41.38		
Gabon	15.53	Mauritania	2.37	Libya	0.00		
Comoros	4.33	Mauritius	9.54	Mauritania	2.37		
Republic of Congo	1.14	Mozambique	69.2				
Central African Republic	49.20	Namibia	28.9				
South Africa	71.28	Nigeria	28.3				
Djibouti	7.82		-				

**Source:** Collected and calculated from references data (1: 5) from study

## Conclusion

This study aims to identify the current status of the balance of trade and agricultural Egyptian, commercial and agricultural relationship between Egypt ,Arab and African countries to identify ways that help increase the effectiveness of two-way agricultural trade between Egypt ,Arab and African countries through the achievement of sub-objectives the following.:(1) studying the evolution of the balance of trade and the Egyptian Agricultural, (2) Identifying the size of agricultural trade exchanges between Egypt ,Arab States and African,(3) Measuring the efficiency of the Total Egyptian Foreign Trade using some measures of foreign trade efficiency standards such as Exports Similarity Index , Trade Compatibility Index, in addition to using the Maximum Magnitude Index to measure the ability of union countries to Egyptian imports.

Table (3): Trade Compatibility Index between Egypt's agricultural exports and the union's countries imports during the period (2000-2014)

African countries		African countries		Arabian countries		COMESA	
Algeria	0.842	Rwanda	0.872	Algeria	0.842	Sudan	0.809
green head	0.797	Zambia	0.795	Jordan	0.860	Uganda	0.853
Senegal	0.824	Zimbabwe	0.806	Emirates	0.790	Ethiopia	0.794
Sudan	0.809	Sao Tome	0.803	Bahrain	0.792	Eritrea	0.790
Somalia	0.000	Swaziland	0.817	Saudi Arabia	0.820	Burundi	0.852
Cameroon	0.852	Sierra Leone	0.794	Sudan	0.809	Comoros	0.796
Congo	0.802	Seychelles	0.825	Somalia	0.000	Republic of the Congo	0.790
Niger	0.873	Gambia	0.806	Iraq	0.790	Djibouti	0.790
Angola	0.789	Ghana	0.843	Kuwait	0.808	Ronda	0.872
Uganda	0.853	Guinea	0.796	Morocco	0.899	Zambia	0.795
Ethiopia	0.794	Equatorial Guinea	0.789	Yamani	0.794	Zimbabwe	0.806
Eritrea	0.790	Guinea-Bissau	0.790	Iran	0.796	Swaziland	0.817
Botswana	0.835	Côte d'Ivoire	0.817	Tunisia	0.903	Seychelles	0.825
Benin	0.872	Kenya	0.857	Comoros	0.796	Kenya	0.857
Burkina FSU	0.810	Libya	0.791	Djibouti	0.790	Libya	0.791
Burundi	0.852	Liberia	0.790	Syria	0.871	Madagascar	0.836
Chad	0.790	Lesotho	0.835	Oman	0.792	Malawi	0.840
Tanzania	0.852	Mali	0.811	Palestine	0.000	Mauritius	0.892
Togo	0.840	Madagascar	0.836	Qatar	0.792		
Tunisia	0.903	Malawi	0.840	Lebanon	0.845		
Gabon	0.800	Mauritania	0.799	Libya	0.790		
Comoros	0.796	Mauritius	0.892	Mauritania	0.799		
Republic of Congo	0.790	Mozambique	0.837				
Central African Republic	0.877	Namibia	0.841				
South Africa	0.912	Nigeria	0.829				
Djibouti	0.790						

Source: Collected and calculated from references data (1: 5) from study.

Table (4): Trade Compatibility Index between Egypt's agricultural imports and union's countries exports during the period (2000-2014)

African countries		African countries		Arabian countries		COMESA	
Algeria	0.890	Rwanda	0.913	Algeria	0.890	Sudan	0.903
green head	0.878	Zambia	0.888	Jordan	0.881	Uganda	0.931
Senegal	0.949	Zimbabwe	0.882	Emirates	0.872	Ethiopia	0.935
Sudan	0.903	Sao Tome	0.885	Bahrain	0.872	Eritrea	0.890
Somalia	0.000	Swaziland	0.854	Saudi Arabia	0.906	Burundi	0.906
Cameroon	0.829	Sierra Leone	0.880	Sudan	0.903	Comoros	0.881
Congo	0.923	Seychelles	0.907	Somalia	0.000	Republic of the Congo	0.874
Niger	0.953	Gambia	0.879	Iraq	0.882	Djibouti	0.844
Angola	0.889	Ghana	0.925	Kuwait	0.881	Ronda	0.913
Uganda	0.931	Guinea	0.885	Morocco	0.955	Zambia	0.888
Ethiopia	0.935	Equatorial Guinea	0.872	Yamani	0.873	Zimbabwe	0.882
Eritrea	0.886	Guinea-Bissau	0.872	Iran	0.873	Swaziland	0.854
Botswana	0.920	Côte d'Ivoire	0.967	Tunisia	0.902	Seychelles	0.903
Benin	0.772	Kenya	0.920	Comoros	0.881	Kenya	0.920
Burkina FSU	0.837	Libya	0.872	Djibouti	0.844	Libya	0.872
Burundi	0.906	Liberia	0.872	Syria	0.894	Madagascar	0.940
Chad	0.873	Lesotho	0.890	Oman	0.872	Malawi	0.889
Tanzania	0.905	Mali	0.878	Palestine	0.000	Mauritius	0.887
Togo	0.849	Madagascar	0.940	Qatar	0.872		
Tunisia	0.902	Malawi	0.889	Lebanon	0.931		
Gabon	0.899	Mauritania	0.877	Libya	0.872		
Comoros	0.881	Mauritius	0.888	Mauritania	0.877		
Republic of Congo	0.874	Mozambique	0.911				
Central African Republic	0.881	Namibia	0.926				
South Africa	0.942	Nigeria	0.877				
Djibouti	0.844						

Source: Collected and calculated from references data (1: 5) from study.

Tab (5): The Maximum Magnitude Index for the Union Markets from the Total Egyptian Exports during the period (2000-2014)

	AFRICA	ARABIAN	COMESA
2000	36.2	62.9	45.0
2001	36.9	62.0	40.6
2002	39.7	68.7	44.0
2003	73.6	80.1	75.8
2004	70.4	84.3	61.7
2005	87.7	100.0	99.3
2006	72.2	96.4	89.9
2007	100.0	86.8	100.0
2008	50.4	33.7	45.6
2009	48.1	46.0	46.4
2010	53.1	42.2	47.0
2011	51.8	37.9	36.5
2012	44.3	32.6	35.3
2013	32.5	28.0	25.6
2014	26.4	26.9	25.4
Average	51.2	53.8	49.7

Source: Collected and calculated from references data (1: 5) from study

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