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2006/2007 – 2009/2010 (Provisional)****INTRODUCTION**

1. This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the latest provisional initial participation rates for 17-30 year old English domiciled first-time participants at UK Higher Education Institutions, English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges, alongside a historical time series.
2. Provisional figures for 2009/10 exclude students studying in Welsh Further Education Colleges. This is due to a delay in receiving data from the Welsh Assembly Government. Due to the small number of these students who count towards the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), it is estimated their exclusion will not affect the figure to the level of accuracy reported. If, on receipt of this data, the 2009/10 provisional figure changes, an updated version of this release will be published.
3. As noted in previous years' publications, due to a change in the underlying data, a new methodology was introduced which resulted in a discontinuity in the time series at 2006/07, first published in 2009. The latest figures (for 2006/07 to 2009/10) are therefore not comparable to the historical time series (see Supplementary table A). Details of the methodology changes can be found in the Revisions section.

KEY POINTS

4. The provisional HEIPR for 2009/10 was 47%, up from the final figure for 2008/09 of 46%.
5. The provisional HEIPR for males for 2009/10 was 41%, up from the final figure for 2008/09 of 40%. For females, the provisional HEIPR for 2009/10 was 52%, up from the final figure for 2007/08 of 51%.
6. The provisional figure for full-time students in 2009/10 was 40%, up from

the final figure for 2008/09 of 39%. The provisional figure for part-time students was 6% in 2009/10, no change from the final figure for 2008/09.

7. The provisional figures for 2009/10 on the age specific initial participation rates for males and females show that participation rates for females were higher than those for males for all ages from 17 to 30.
8. Initial entrants of all ages have seen an increase or no change in age specific initial participation rates between 2008/09 and 2009/10. 18 year old initial entrants show the highest growth with an increase of 0.7 percentage points.
9. Figures for the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the first decimal place are also provided in the tables to inform comparisons over time.
10. The figures in this SFR supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

TABLES

Table 1 Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 2006/07 to 2009/10

Academic Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 (Provisional) ⁽¹⁾
HEIPR (male and female) %	42 (42.0)	43 (43.4)	46 (45.5)	47 (46.5)
Initial entrants (thousands)	285	296	313	324
HEIPR (male) %	37 (36.5)	38 (37.9)	40 (40.1)	41 (41.1)
Initial entrants (thousands)	127	133	141	147
HEIPR (female) %	48 (47.8)	49 (49.1)	51 (51.2)	52 (52.2)
Initial entrants (thousands)	158	163	172	177
HEIPR (full-time) %	35 (35.3)	37 (36.9)	39 (39.0)	40 (40.3)
Initial entrants (thousands)	240	252	268	280
HEIPR (part-time) %	7 (6.8)	6 (6.4)	6 (6.5)	6 (6.2)
Initial entrants (thousands)	45	44	45	44

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are shown in parentheses. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures for 2009/10 exclude students studying in Welsh Further Education Colleges.

**Table 2 Higher Education Initial Participation Rates by Age
2008/09 (final) and 2009/10 (provisional)**

Age	2008/09			2009/10 ⁽¹⁾		
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	2,985	678,200	0.4%	3,150	667,800	0.5%
18	149,340	683,900	21.8%	154,955	687,300	22.5%
19	73,210	682,600	10.7%	77,305	695,800	11.1%
20	22,850	702,600	3.3%	23,065	696,900	3.3%
21	11,935	701,500	1.7%	12,790	719,600	1.8%
22	9,005	707,300	1.3%	8,870	720,300	1.2%
23	7,445	729,200	1.0%	7,425	726,900	1.0%
24	6,430	716,200	0.9%	6,390	747,300	0.9%
25	5,915	702,100	0.8%	5,835	731,200	0.8%
26	5,525	684,500	0.8%	5,455	714,100	0.8%
27	5,195	700,900	0.7%	5,035	693,500	0.7%
28	5,095	705,200	0.7%	4,750	707,400	0.7%
29	4,540	680,100	0.7%	4,435	710,000	0.6%
30	3,770	643,200	0.6%	4,180	683,500	0.6%
17-30 (overall)	313,240		45.5%	323,635		46.5%

The HEIPR is defined as the sum of the initial participation rates by age over ages 17-30. In this table the overall initial participation rate and the rates by age have been rounded to one decimal place, the counts of the initial entrants have been rounded to the nearest 5 and the counts of the relevant population have been rounded to the nearest 100. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures for 2009/10 exclude students studying in Welsh Further Education Colleges.

**Table 3 Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Males by Age
2008/09 (final) and 2009/10 (provisional)**

Age	2008/09			2009/10 ⁽¹⁾		
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	1,170	349,400	0.3%	1,360	343,200	0.4%
18	66,595	351,200	19.0%	69,445	353,800	19.6%
19	35,155	349,200	10.1%	37,355	356,900	10.5%
20	11,320	360,300	3.1%	11,370	356,000	3.2%
21	5,730	360,600	1.6%	6,095	368,200	1.7%
22	3,950	359,700	1.1%	3,960	369,200	1.1%
23	3,165	372,800	0.8%	3,110	369,100	0.8%
24	2,630	368,000	0.7%	2,530	381,900	0.7%
25	2,330	362,000	0.6%	2,370	375,900	0.6%
26	2,185	347,400	0.6%	2,160	368,700	0.6%
27	1,990	354,900	0.6%	1,930	352,600	0.5%
28	1,915	356,700	0.5%	1,815	358,800	0.5%
29	1,770	343,100	0.5%	1,715	359,500	0.5%
30	1,400	323,800	0.4%	1,570	345,000	0.5%
17-30 (overall)	141,300		40.1%	146,795		41.1%

The HEIPR is defined as the sum of the initial participation rates by age over ages 17-30. In this table the overall initial participation rates and the rates by age have been rounded to one decimal place, the counts of the initial entrants have been rounded to the nearest 5 and the counts of the relevant population have been rounded to the nearest 100. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures for 2009/10 exclude students studying in Welsh Further Education Colleges.

**Table 4 Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Females by Age
2008/09 (final) and 2009/10 (provisional)**

Age	2008/09			2009/10 ⁽¹⁾		
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	1,820	328,700	0.6%	1,790	324,600	0.6%
18	82,740	332,800	24.9%	85,505	333,500	25.6%
19	38,050	333,300	11.4%	39,950	338,900	11.8%
20	11,525	342,300	3.4%	11,690	340,900	3.4%
21	6,200	340,900	1.8%	6,690	351,400	1.9%
22	5,050	347,500	1.5%	4,905	351,000	1.4%
23	4,275	356,400	1.2%	4,315	357,800	1.2%
24	3,795	348,200	1.1%	3,855	365,400	1.1%
25	3,585	340,100	1.1%	3,460	355,300	1.0%
26	3,340	337,200	1.0%	3,295	345,500	1.0%
27	3,205	346,000	0.9%	3,105	340,900	0.9%
28	3,180	348,500	0.9%	2,935	348,600	0.8%
29	2,765	336,900	0.8%	2,720	350,500	0.8%
30	2,370	319,400	0.7%	2,605	338,500	0.8%
17-30 (overall)	171,910		51.2%	176,815		52.2%

The HEIPR is defined as the sum of the initial participation rates by age over ages 17-30. In this table the overall initial participation rates and the rates by age have been rounded to one decimal place, the counts of the initial entrants have been rounded to the nearest 5 and the counts of the relevant population have been rounded to the nearest 100. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures for 2009/10 exclude students studying in Welsh Further Education Colleges.

NOTES TO EDITORS

11. The HEIPR is the National Statistic which was used to measure progress towards the former target to “Increase participation in Higher Education towards 50 per cent of those aged 18 to 30...” The participation rate has been published by BIS (and former Departments) since 2004.
12. The HEIPR roughly equates to the probability that a seventeen year old will participate in higher education by age thirty given the age specific participation rates.
13. In November 2002, the Department for Education and Skills commissioned a National Statistics Quality Review of Higher Education participation statistics. The review was carried out independently by Professor Ramsden in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines and was designed to ensure rigour and transparency. The report on the review was published in July 2003 and is available on the Office for National Statistics website, at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/quality_review/education.asp. The report recommended that the HEIPR be a measure of initial participation in higher education.
14. In August 2004, the Department for Education and Skills commissioned a further review to assess the feasibility of disaggregating the HEIPR by ethnicity, disability, social class and region. This review was also carried out by Professor Ramsden. The report on this review was published in August 2005 and is available at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/publicationDetail/Page1/RR676>
15. In December 2006, the National Audit Office published a review of the data systems underpinning target measurement in a number of Government Departments. The HEIPR methodology was reviewed as part of this process. The report is available on the National Audit Office website, at:
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0607/third_validation_compendium_re.aspx
16. In December 2010, the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) published an assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics for Higher Education Statistics in England and the UK. The Participation Rates in Higher Education Statistical First Release was covered as part of this assessment. The full assessment report is available on the UKSA website at:
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-77--higher-education-in-england-and-the-uk.pdf>
17. The methodology for calculating the HEIPR was revised in 2007, in line with recommendations set out in the National Statistics Quality Review and the recent National Audit Office review. The details of the

revisions and their impact on the HEIPR time series were reported in Statistical First Release 8/2007, "Methodological Revisions to the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)", which is available at: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000714/SFR08-2007.pdf>

18. The methodology for calculating the HEIPR was further revised in 2009 due to a change in the underlying data. Details of the revisions were reported in the Statistical First Release 02/2009, "Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/00 to 2007/08 (Provisional)" which is available at: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000839/SFR02-2009webversion1.pdf> . Details of the impact of the revisions on the HEIPR time series were detailed in an appendix to the main Statistical First Release which is available at: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000839/SFR02-2009appendix.pdf>.
19. Professor Ramsden drafted a report on "Non-traditional Routes into Higher Education", which included an estimate of 4,500 English domiciled initial entrants to higher education studying wholly overseas in 2004. In the context of the latest figure for the HEIPR, 46.5% in 2009/10 based on 324,000 English domiciled initial participants in higher education in the UK, 4,500 additional English domiciled initial entrants would equate to an increase in initial entrants of 1.4% and could potentially add roughly up to 0.7 percentage points to the HEIPR. Professor Ramsden concludes that it is not possible on the basis of available data to disaggregate these students by age and therefore to include them in the HEIPR calculation: however they should not be disregarded.
20. The same report suggested that some 900 entrants to private higher education institutions might appropriately be counted within the HEIPR. 900 additional initial entrants would equate to an increase in initial entrants of 0.3% and could potentially add roughly up to 0.1 percentage points to the HEIPR. Again, it is not possible to disaggregate these students by age and therefore to include them in the HEIPR calculation, but they should not be disregarded.
21. The Annex contains supplementary tables as follows:
 - **Supplementary Table A:** Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 1999/00 to 2006/07 (based on old methodology).
 - **Supplementary Table B:** Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year olds (HEIPR20) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher

Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges, 2006/07 to 2009/10.

- **Supplementary Table C:** Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-60 year olds (HEIPR60) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges, 2006/07 to 2009/10.
- **Supplementary Table D:** Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate (PGIPR) for English domiciled 17-30 year old first time participants in Postgraduate Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions 1999/00 to 2009/10.

22. The figures in Supplementary Table A show the historical HEIPR time series, prior to the methodology change in 2006/07. These figures are not comparable to the figures in Table 1.

23. The figures in Supplementary Tables B, C and D have been derived using similar methods to the HEIPR. The figures for the HEIPR20 are the sums of the age specific initial participation rates for 17 to 20 year olds and are at least as robust as the figures for the HEIPR itself. The figures for the HEIPR60 are the sums of the age specific participation rates for 17 to 60 year olds and are not as robust as the figures for the HEIPR itself because it is not possible to check as thoroughly whether participants aged 31 to 60 are initial participants.

DEFINITIONS

24. The figures in this SFR were derived from data on Higher Education students collected from publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the United Kingdom and from the University of Buckingham (from 2004/05) by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and from Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), in Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government, and in Scotland by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Population estimates were provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which have been converted to an academic year basis by the Department for Education (DfE).

25. The HEIPR counts English-domiciled 17-30 year old Higher Education students. Students are counted if they participate for at least six months on a course expected to last for at least six months, except that students are not counted if they have participated in Higher Education previously for at least six months. Students at FECs in England, Scotland and Wales are counted if they are on courses designated as National Vocational Qualification Level 4 or above, or listed as Higher Education.

26. The HEIPR does not count English domiciled Higher Education students (as defined above):

- at FECs in Northern Ireland;
- at privately funded institutions, with the exception of the University of Buckingham from 2004/05;
- at institutions outside the UK.

Information on these students is not currently available to the Department in sufficient detail to be included in the calculations.

27. The HEIPR includes students studying via both Full-time (FT) and Part-time (PT) modes. FT study is defined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as attendance at an institution for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks per year, with learning activity amounting to an average of at least 21 hours per week. The PT mode refers to study which is less intensive than this definition. There is no lower limit on the intensity of PT courses for inclusion in the HEIPR.

28. In order to ensure that only initial participants are counted in the HEIPR in a given year, algorithms are applied to match back over 12 years for HE data and FE data. This method looks back over the previous years' HE and FE datasets and checks whether a student appears in these datasets, recorded as studying at HE level for a minimum period of six months. If so, they are eliminated from the calculations as they are not initial participants in the current year. Matching the 2009/10 figures back over 12 years ensures that any 30 year old in the dataset, who has at least six months' prior HE experience, can be detected all the way back to when they were 18 years old. The algorithms are provided to BIS by HEFCE.

29. 2007/08 was the first year for which this approach was possible (as 12 years' worth of HE data is available up to that point). In order to provide some time series comparison, and to demonstrate the impact of this change, the 2006/07 figure was also calculated using this methodology – although this used one fewer year of matching due to early data availability. It is estimated that the 12th year of matching could detect up to 35 additional students who have at least six months' prior HE experience. This would not affect the 2006/07 HEIPR to the level of accuracy quoted.

REVISIONS

30. Updates to the underlying data:

As revisions and updates to the source data from HESA, SFA, SFC, the Welsh Assembly Government and the population estimates and projections from ONS and GAD are made available at different times during the year, any revisions to the provisional figures for 2009/10 will be published as soon as the provisional figures for 2010/11 are available. The Department is planning to publish the provisional figures for 2010/11 in March 2012.

31. An error in the matching process has been discovered which affects previously published figures for the Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate (PGIPR). The figures affected are the 2007/08 academic year (2009 publication) and the 2007/08 and 2008/09 academic year (2010 publication). This year's PGIPR time series, which supersedes previously published time series, can be found in Supplementary Table D. To demonstrate the effect of the error, the 2010 published PGIPR for 2008/09 was 9% (9.4% to one decimal place), and the correct version in this year's publication is 9% (8.8% to one decimal place).

ANNEX

Supplementary Table A: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 1999/00 to 2006/07 (based on old methodology).

Academic Year	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
HEIPR (male and female) %	39 (39.2)	40 (39.6)	40 (40.2)	41 (41.1)	40 (40.3)	40 (40.1)	42 (42.4)	40 (39.8)
Initial entrants (thousands)	238	238	244	255	258	261	281	270
HEIPR (male) %	37 (37.0)	37 (36.6)	36 (36.5)	37 (36.9)	35 (35.5)	35 (35.4)	37 (37.4)	35 (34.9)
Initial entrants (thousands)	113	111	112	117	117	118	127	122
HEIPR (female) %	41 (41.4)	43 (42.6)	44 (44.0)	46 (45.6)	45 (45.5)	45 (45.0)	47 (47.3)	45 (45.0)
Initial entrants (thousands)	125	127	131	138	142	143	153	148
HEIPR (full-time) %	34 (33.6)	34 (34.4)	35 (35.0)	36 (35.6)	35 (34.6)	34 (34.4)	37 (36.6)	34 (34.0)
Initial entrants (thousands)	202	205	211	220	222	224	243	231
HEIPR (part-time) %	6 (5.6)	5 (5.2)	5 (5.1)	6 (5.6)	6 (5.8)	6 (5.7)	6 (5.9)	6 (5.9)
Initial entrants (thousands)	36	33	33	35	37	37	39	39

Figures in this table are not comparable to the later figures shown in Table 1.

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are shown in parentheses. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

Supplementary Table B: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year olds (HEIPR20) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges 2006/07 – 2009/10

Academic Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 (Provisional) ⁽¹⁾
HEIPR20 (male and female) %	33 (32.8)	34 (34.4)	36 (36.3)	37 (37.4)
Initial entrants (thousands)	223	234	248	258
HEIPR20 (male) %	29 (29.3)	31 (30.8)	33 (32.5)	34 (33.7)
Initial entrants (thousands)	103	108	114	120
HEIPR20 (female) %	37 (36.5)	38 (38.1)	40 (40.2)	41 (41.4)
Initial entrants (thousands)	120	126	134	139
HEIPR20 (full-time) %	31 (31.1)	33 (32.6)	34 (34.4)	36 (35.5)
Initial entrants (thousands)	211	222	236	245
HEIPR20 (part-time) %	2 (1.7)	2 (1.8)	2 (1.9)	2 (1.9)
Initial entrants (thousands)	12	12	13	13

Figures for the HEIPR20 are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are shown in parentheses. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures for 2009/10 exclude students studying in Welsh Further Education Colleges.

Supplementary Table C: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-60 year olds (HEIPR60) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges 2006/07 – 2009/10

Academic Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 (Provisional) ⁽¹⁾
HEIPR60 (male and female) %	52 (52.4)	53 (53.0)	55 (54.7)	55 (55.3)
Initial entrants (thousands)	360	365	379	386
HEIPR60 (male) %	44 (43.8)	45 (44.6)	47 (46.8)	47 (47.5)
Initial entrants (thousands)	154	157	165	169
HEIPR60 (female) %	61 (61.3)	62 (61.7)	63 (62.8)	63 (63.3)
Initial entrants (thousands)	207	209	214	217
HEIPR60 (full-time) %	37 (37.4)	39 (39.1)	41 (41.2)	43 (42.6)
Initial entrants (thousands)	256	268	284	296
HEIPR60 (part-time) %	15 (15.0)	14 (13.9)	13 (13.4)	13 (12.6)
Initial entrants (thousands)	105	98	95	90

Figures for the HEIPR60 are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are shown in parentheses. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures for 2009/10 exclude students studying in Welsh Further Education Colleges.

Supplementary Table D: Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate (PGIPR) for English domiciled 17-30 year old first time participants in Postgraduate Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions 2006/07 – 2009/10 (no methodology change)

Academic Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 (Provisional)
PGIPR (male and female) %	9 (8.8)	8 (8.3)	9 (8.8)	10 (9.6)
Initial entrants (thousands)	59	58	62	69
PGIPR (male) %	7 (6.8)	6 (6.5)	7 (6.8)	8 (7.6)
Initial entrants (thousands)	23	23	24	28
PGIPR (female) %	11 (10.8)	10 (10.3)	11 (11.0)	12 (11.7)
Initial entrants (thousands)	36	35	38	41
PGIPR (full-time) %	6 (5.9)	6 (5.5)	6 (5.7)	6 (6.5)
Initial entrants (thousands)	40	38	40	47
PGIPR (part-time) %	3 (2.9)	3 (2.8)	3 (3.1)	3 (3.1)
Initial entrants (thousands)	19	19	22	22

Figures for the PGIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures rounded to the nearest decimal place are shown in parentheses. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

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