

RECENT TRENDS IN INTERNAL MIGRATION IN NUEVO LEÓN, MEXICO

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— Abstract—

Nuevo León State, Mexico, has historically been a pole of population attraction at the national level, the population growth recorded in this geographic space during the last 50 years is largely a product of immigration processes, stimulated by economic growth of a growing industrial sector, which generated a labor demand that without the arrival of population from other parts of the country would not have been possible to cover.

This research presents the recent trends of immigration in Nuevo León using as a primary source of information the Intercensal Survey 2015 of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), which analyzes some contextual variables such as sex, age, Indigenous speaking status and schooling. As a reference, data derived from the 1970, 1990, 2000 and 2010 censuses are also used, because it is not possible to understand the present without understanding the past.

Keywords

Internal migration; Nuevo León; labor maker; aging.

Studying internal migration as a social phenomenon is essential to know the spatial distribution, demographic dynamics and changes in a population. This research is based on the assumption that population mobility can only be understood if we observe the interaction of economic and social factors at different scales, as well as their own characteristics.

Studies of migration from the local perspective are essential for the planning and development of sectoral and multisectoral public policies -transportation, infrastructure, housing, urban and rural development, among others- for the implications of these changes in the amount and profile of the relevant requirements for such policies.

Several factors, such as the abandonment of the countryside in pursuit of an industrial development, coupled with the ease of displacement contributed to put mobility in first place next to nearby migration circuits. In a second moment, geographical distance has ceased to be a migration barrier, due to technological progress and the development of transport systems.

Partida (1994) using census data showed how the unequal distribution of social and economic development between the different regions is the main cause of internal migrations in Mexico. Chávez (1999) delves into the issue and points as a trigger for migration, inequality understood as "a manifestation of the way in which the economic, political and social structure of a country is shaped. It is expressed, in general terms, in the differential access that the population has to the basic satisfactions that allow a dignified life "(p.20).

This way, migrations have been transformed, not only from points of origin and destination, as shown by several investigations (Partida, 1994; Corona, 1996; Pimienta, 2002; Romo, Téllez and López, 2013), but also from the migrants' point of view.

The objective of this research is to present the recent trends of immigration in Nuevo León. In a schematic way, the research is divided into five sections, the first of which is called methodology and describes the sources of information used in its preparation; the second named "Internal migration in Nuevo León-Context 1970-2010" and deals with two aspects, the first describes the main studies on internal migration carried out in Nuevo León, the second presents the trends of internal migration in Nuevo León 1970-2010; the third is the results where the recent trends of internal migration are exposed in Nuevo León, Mexico; a fourth section is devoted to the conclusions; and in the fifth the bibliography used in the elaboration of the research is stated.

METHODOLOGY

In carrying out this research, the census microdata of the years 1970, 1990, 2000 and 2010 are used as primary sources of information, in addition to the intercensal survey conducted in 2015 by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). Two variables captured by the sources of information referred to, were fundamental in the analysis presented here, the place of birth and place of residence five years before, as well as contextual variables such as sex, age and cumulative schooling, among others.

INTERNAL MIGRATION IN NUEVO LEÓN - CONTEXT 1970-2010

a) Studies conducted on internal migration in Nuevo León

Interest in the study of migration to Nuevo León began in the late sixties and early seventies of the last century, a historic moment in which migration to the city was a growing phenomenon in the country's main capital cities; the pioneering study on migration, named *Occupational structure and social mobility (The case of Monterrey)* by Balán and Jelín from 1973, where they point out, among other things, that under certain conditions migrants arriving in Monterrey compete successfully with the natives, and in most cases experience a certain social ascent in relation to those that do not migrate. "This social ascent is explained by the occupational opportunities that Monterrey offers" (p.240).

Another study of the seventies in Nuevo León is the one carried out by the state government in 1977, which was called *Demographic Aspects of the State of Nuevo Leon: brief description of some demographic indicators and sources of information*, that although it is not specializing in migration treats the issue tangentially as one more variable that should be considered in the study of demographic dynamics. During the following decade there were practically no studies on migration in Nuevo León, it is until the nineties that the interest in migration began again.

In the nineties the study conducted by Valero and Tijerina (1998) *Immigration to the metropolitan area of Monterrey, wages, employment and occupation, 1985-1996* stands out, which conclude that historic immigration to the State of Nuevo León has been decreasing since 1965 and fell stronger between 1985-1990; it was also characterized as coming from neighboring states. Regarding the relationship between education and income Valero and Tijerina highlight that in the Metropolitan Area of Monterrey the income

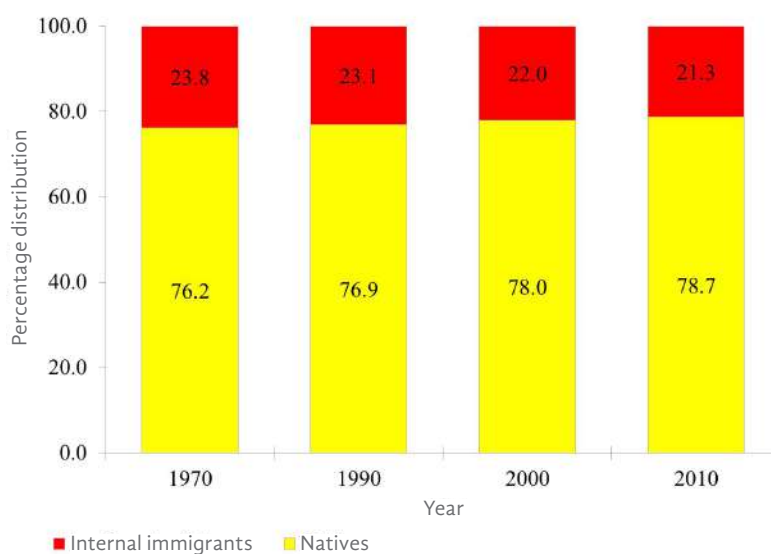
of the most educated is greater; and it is shown that immigrants are not only placed in traditional sectors of the economy but move to the sectors of greater profitability.

In the first three decades of this century, studies on migration have focused on subgroups of migrants residing in Nuevo León as an indigenous population and domestic workers from an anthropological perspective (Durin, 2003; Durin, 2003a; Durin, 2012; Durin, 2013; Velázquez, 2014). Other studies carried out, which come out of the previous classification, are those of Solís in 2007 on inequality and social mobility in Monterrey; Sanchez, Luyando, Aguayo and Picazzo (2014), which deals with sustainable labor development and its relationship with internal migration in Mexico; and that of Jáuregui, Ávila and Bedoya (2017), where the aging process of the migratory flows that arrived in Nuevo León in the sixties and seventies is dealt with.

b) Internal migration trends in Nuevo León 1970-2010

In four decades spanning between 1970 and 2010, the migratory process to Nuevo León has been a living entity with a growing dynamic. As can be seen in Image 1, the proportion of immigrants residing in Nuevo León remained above 20 percent of the total population, that is, one in five inhabitants in Nuevo León was born in another entity of the country.

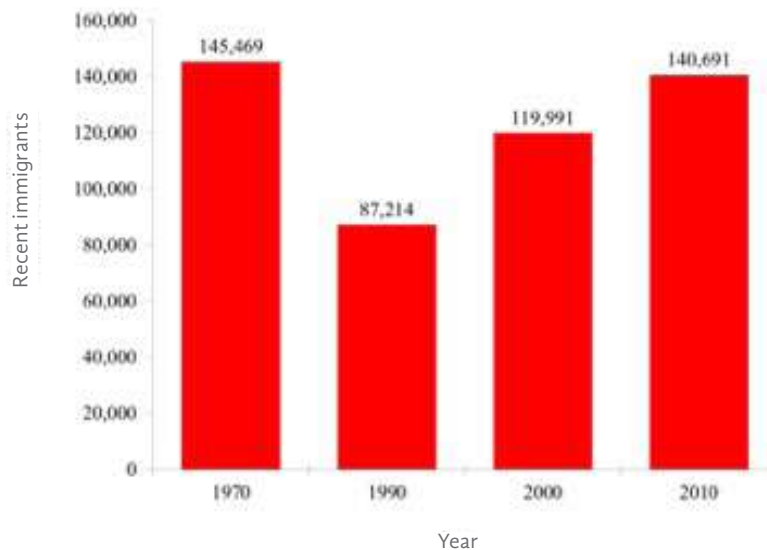
Image 1. Percentage of immigrants and natives residing in the State of Nuevo León, 1970, 1990, 2000 and 2010



Source: Own elaboration based on census microdata, 1970, 1990, 2000 and 2010, IPUMS 2016

Immigration in Nuevo León was encouraged by the economic growth of the industrial sector since the mid-20th century, which generated a demand for labor that without the arrival of population from other parts of the country would not have been possible to cover. According to statistics on recent migration¹, the years in which the state has received more national immigrants was in 1970 (Image 2), however the arrival of immigrants has not stopped over time.

Image 2. Recent immigrants residing in the State of Nuevo León, 1970, 1990, 2000, and 2010

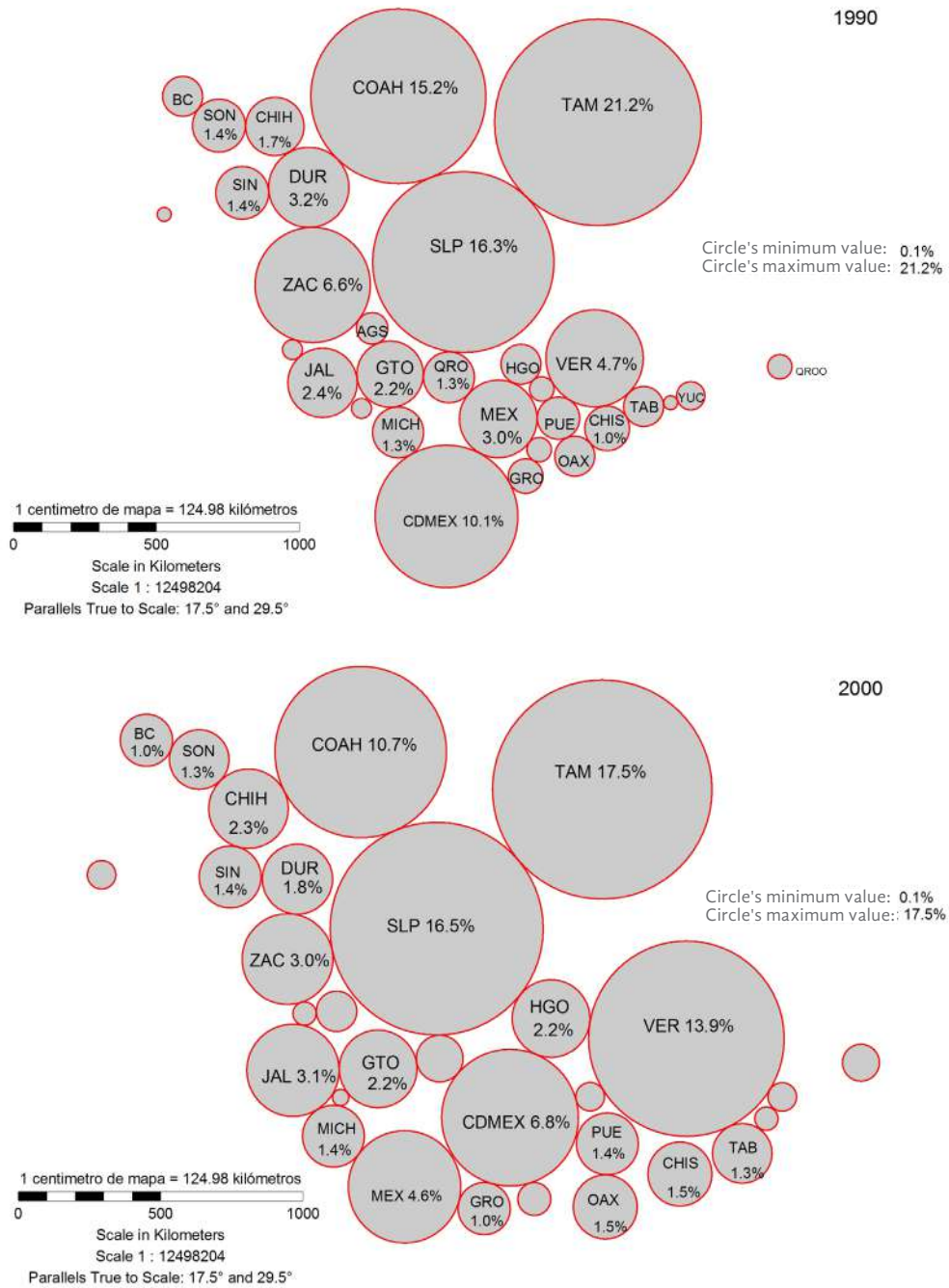


Source: Own elaboration based on census microdata, 1970, 1990, 2000 and 2010, IPUMS 2016

These recent immigrants in Nuevo León come primarily from neighboring entities such as Coahuila, San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas or Zacatecas, although with the increase in roads and means of communication and transportation that shortened distances, makes it easy to arrive at immigrant entities throughout the country, for example, immigrants can come from entities such as Hidalgo, Jalisco and Oaxaca (Image 3).

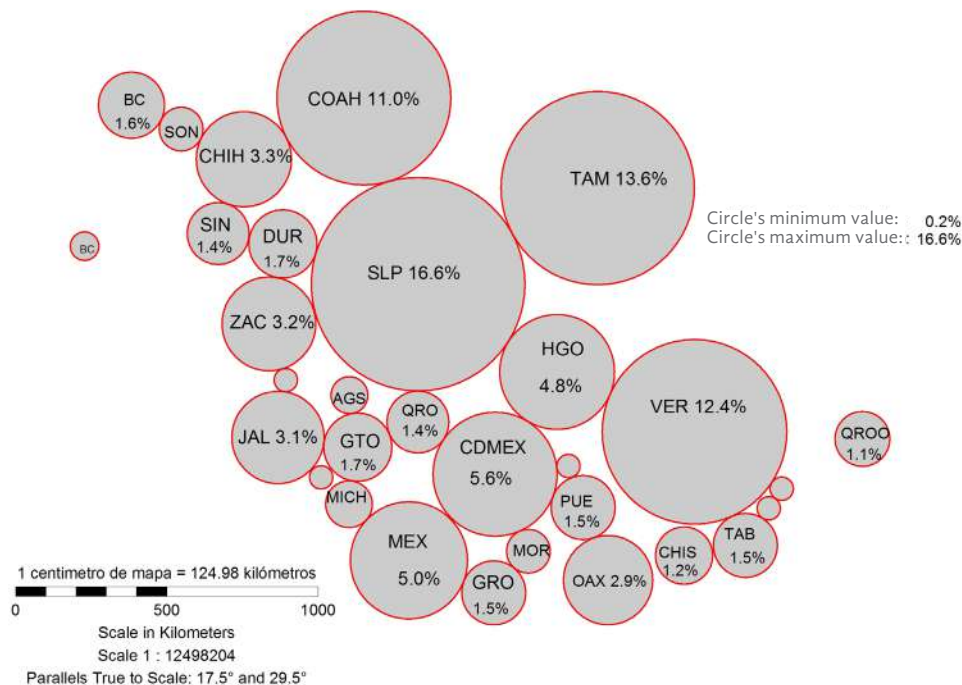
1 It is understood as recent migration the set of people resident in Nuevo León who, at a given time, lived 5 years ago in an entity other than Nuevo León.

Image 3. Entity of origin of recent immigrants, 1990, 2000 and 2010²



2 The data for the year 1970 are omitted because the recent migration variable was not captured in addition to the year 1980 because it is a census with a high rate of non-response.

2010



Source: Own elaboration based on census microdata 1990, 2000 and 2010, IPUMS 2016

Among the socio-demographic characteristics of recent migrants stand out in the years 1990, 2000 and 2010:

- A small female preponderance, 109 women arrived in Nuevo León for every 100 men, which has remained constant during the period 1970-2010, a trend related to a high supply of employment in economic activities associated with the female role, such as domestic service (Durin, 2013 and Velázquez, 2014), although these market niches are generally characterized by job insecurity as indicated by Huerta (2014).
- The age cohort is concentrated in productive ages because more than eighty percent are in the age group of 15 to 64 years, of which 25 percent are between 20 and 34 years old, a similar proportion belongs to the group 35- 49 years.
- The schooling of immigrants has increased in the study horizon in two years, from 7.2 years in 1990 to 9.2 years in 2010. On average they have one more year of schooling than the natives, a difference that has been preserved even with the increases in schooling recorded by the natives.

One fact that cannot be overlooked is the rapid aging process that is developing among the internal immigrants of Nuevo León which reaches three times the same process in the native population (Jáuregui *et al.*, 2017).

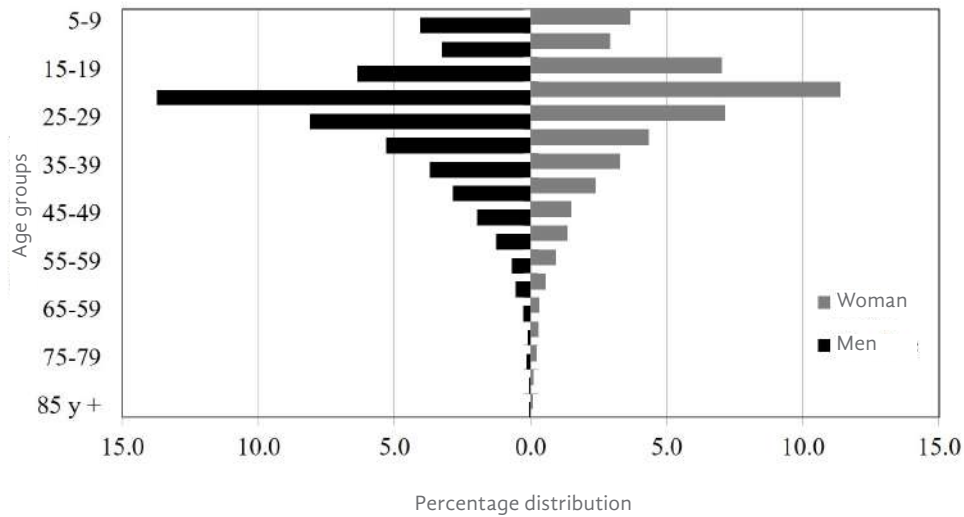
Among the immigrants, a group of special relevance is the speakers of indigenous language, while in 1970 there were barely 1,000 people. By 2010, there were 45,043 people. Although, numerically, they only represent 1.1 percent of the population, indigenous migrants show a sustained growth dynamics throughout the study horizon, so it is clear that the trend will continue in the future, consolidating Nuevo León as a labor destination for indigenous immigrants of the country.

RESULTS

In 2015, 1,032,567 of people born in another state reside in Nuevo León and represent 20.6 percent of the total population, that is, one out of every five people are immigrants. This population group is characterized by increasing with the population in general, so that at a percentage level it remains almost constant since 1970.

Recent migrants, that is, those who live in the entity in 2015 but who in 2010 were settled in other parts of the country, amount to 164,552 people. Fifty percent comes from places bordering Nuevo León, such as Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosí, Coahuila and Zacatecas, the rest moved from other places, highlighting its importance, in the center of the country, Mexico City, Hidalgo and the State of Mexico, in addition to Veracruz in the southeast (Image 4), together these entities represent almost a third of the total of migrants.

Image 4. Percentage distribution of recent migrants in Nuevo León according to entity of origin, 2015

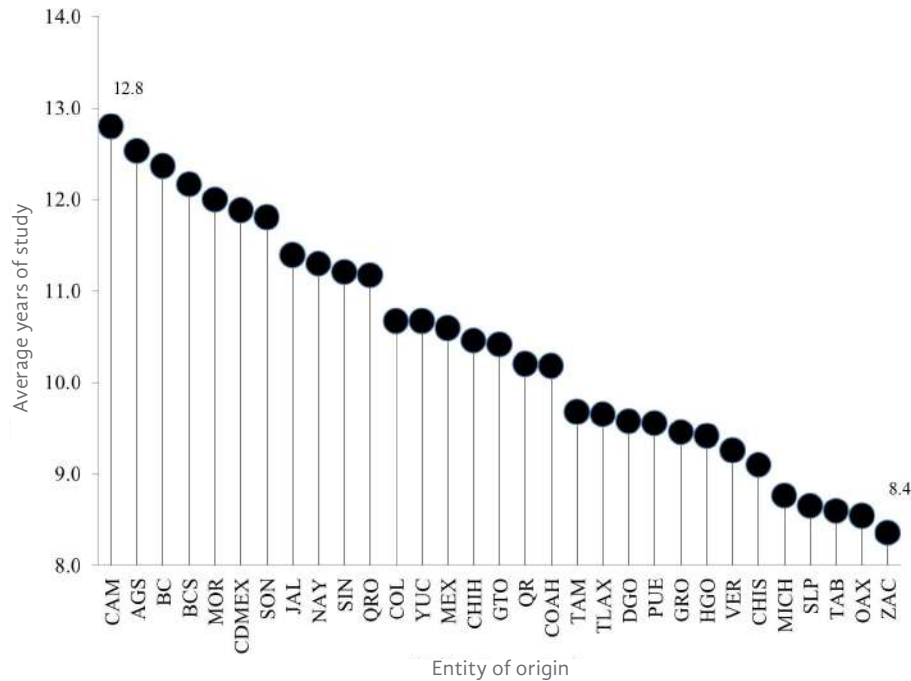


Source: Own elaboration based on census microdata of the Intercensal Survey 2015, IPUMS 2016

When analyzing the average of the accumulated schooling by entity of origin of the immigrants, there are gaps greater than four years, as in the case of those from Aguascalientes in opposition to those of Zacatecas, a pattern that could be related to the niche of economic activity in which they are inserted and the degree of specialization of migrants³ (Image 6).

Image 6. Average schooling accumulated in years of recent migrants in Nuevo León according to entity of origin, 2015

3 The labor market in Nuevo León is so large that it needs both migrants with low levels of education to perform low-skilled activities and migrants with high levels of education to perform highly qualified activities.



Source: Own elaboration based on census microdata of the Intercensal Survey 2015, IPUMS 2016

The economic activity of recent migrants corroborates the variability of jobs in which they are inserted into the labor market, while 4.2 percent hold positions as director, coordinating manager or area manager, 19.6 percent perform elementary and support activities. Depending on the entity of origin, some specialization is registered in niche markets, for example, 24 percent of street vendors come from San Luis Potosí.

The monetary income that can be obtained in Nuevo León is a factor of attraction. Recent immigrants have an average income of \$8,402, similar to the average of the *Neoleoneses*, \$8,558; however, depending on the place of origin and economic activity, a great variability can be seen. Thus, those from San Luis Potosí earn less than \$ 6,000 per month for their work, while those who arrived from Mexico City earn a monthly average of \$14,813. Although a strong correlation between income and cumulative schooling was to be expected, as indicated by the literature, in the case of Nuevo León a very weak relation of 0.158 was obtained for 2015.

CONCLUSIONS

The results presented in this paper constitute a first approach to the migration dynamics of Nuevo León developed over a period of 45 years, between 1970 -2015, but it is necessary to make more complex its analysis and conduct

studies according to the characteristics of the migrants according to their place of origin, economic activity, schooling, among others. In addition, it would be necessary to show how these variables are correlated.

On the trends of recent migration in Nuevo León, the following stand out:

- Consolidation of the traditional flows of immigrants from bordering states such as San Luis de Potosí, Coahuila and Zacatecas, along with a strengthening of migrants from central and southern states, such as Mexico City, Hidalgo, State of Mexico and Veracruz.
- Changes in the sex variable between immigrants, where the relationship between men and women, which used to favor females, is reversed.
- Concentration in productive and young ages, for example the age group 20-29 years represents more than 20 percent of the total.
- A cumulative schooling variable depending on the place of origin where a gap of more than four years is observed, as it happens with those from Aguascalientes and Zacatecas, two neighboring entities.
- A diverse labor market, with a need for migrants with different degrees of qualification.

Some facts are glimpsed, such as the population aging that they are experiencing as a result of the age of the first migratory arrivals, the diversification of the places of origin, the dynamics of growth of the indigenous people and the changes in the composition by sex, which makes the flow of migrants residing in Nuevo León increasingly heterogeneous.

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