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#### **Global Economic Review**

Robin Bew Editorial Director and Chief Economist Economist Intelligence Unit

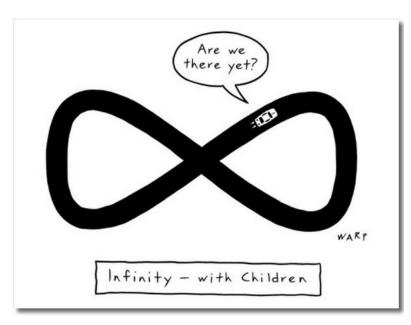
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# The global economy in 2013

Surely this can't go on for ever?



Robin Bew, Editorial Director & Chief Economist British Council, December 2012

## 2013—better than 2012, but it may not feel like it

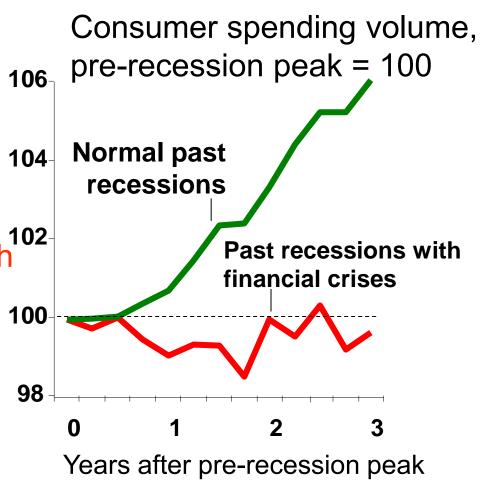
- Europe struggles will continue, but no collapse
  - Euro recovery anaemic—0.2% contraction
    - Parts of periphery in depression
  - UK growth remains subpar
- US recovery has modest momentum
  - Policy makers not helping
- China yoyo-ing—8.6%
  - Strongly outperforming the West
    - But experiencing growing pains as it moves to middle income status
- Rest of the world blowing in the breeze
  - Hanging on Chinese demand for raw materials or western demand for goods
  - Asia is the fastest growing-region



### Why such a slow, volatile recovery?

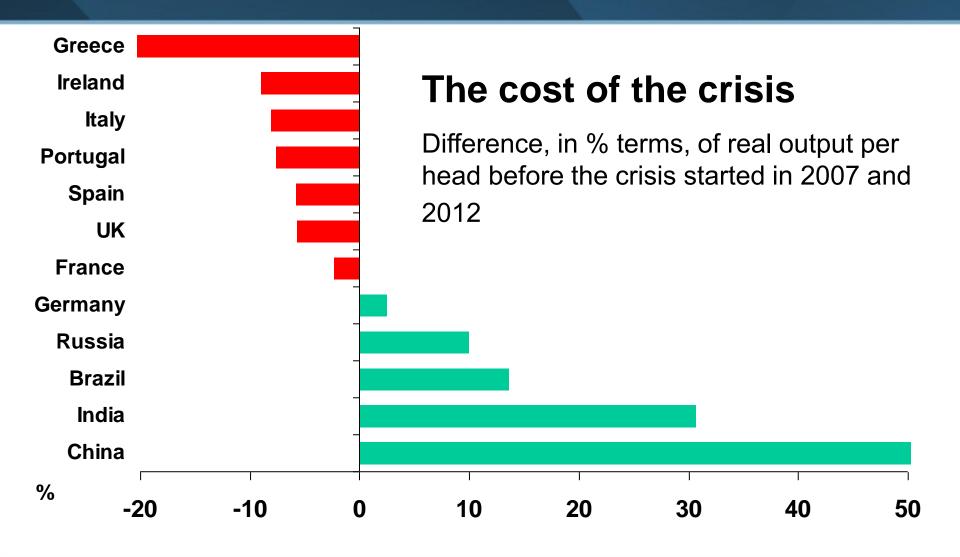
Features of a post-crisis decade

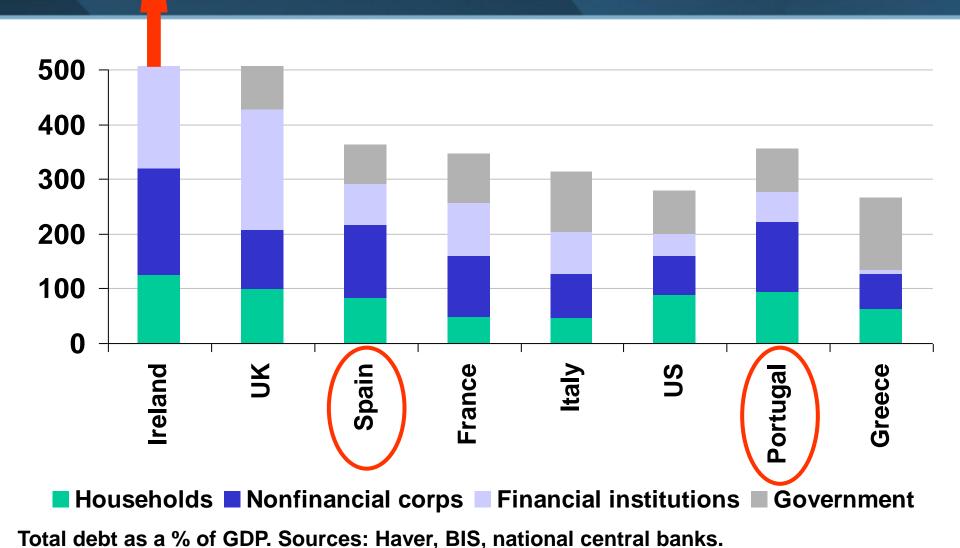
- Credit growth: Weak
- House prices: Fall in real terms
- Unemployment: Stubbornly high
- GDP growth: Weak
- Banks: Financial repression



# Western Europe

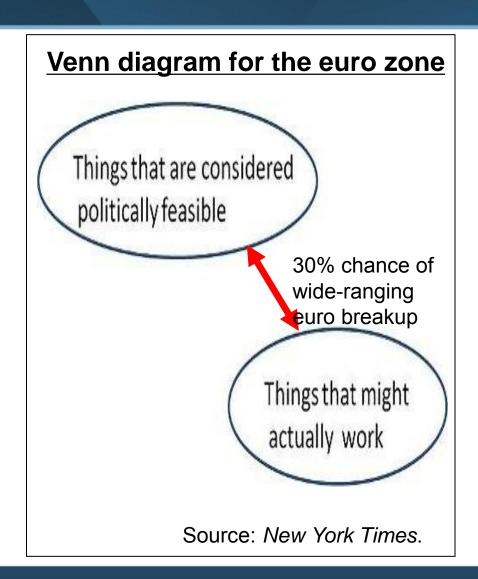
### **Euro zone: paying the price**





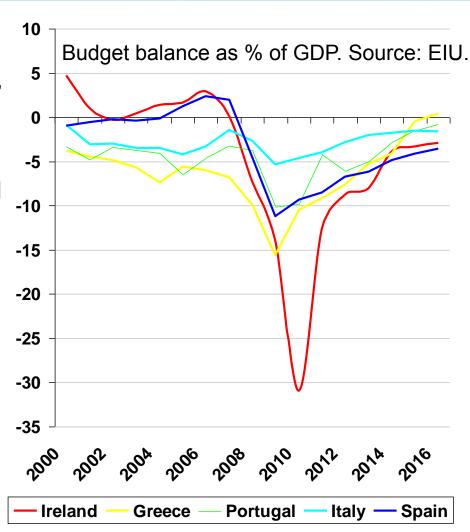
## Have they done enough?

- Liquidity or solvency crisis
  - Bailouts, ECB action are sufficient if we face a liquidity crisis
    - Provided they are honoured
  - But if we face a solvency crisis then insufficient
    - Need fundamental change in growth picture
    - Need debt forgiveness
  - Remember liquidity crisis can become solvency crisis
    - Death spiral of austerity
- Immediate risks addressed
  - Long term risks remain



#### **Euro zone: What to watch for**

- Greece political rejection of austerity
  - End of bailout, economic collapse
    - Political decision to exit from euro, mass default
- 2. Loss of confidence in long-run sustainability of public finances
  - Euro yields spike across the board
    - Spain and Italy cut out of capital markets
      - or access only at unaffordable rates
    - ECB intervention limited by political constraints
      - Especially if followed by reform backsliding
    - Fiscal solution required
      - Spain could be rescued, if there is the will; Italy too big?
- Liquidity problem? Or, solvency problem?



### The curse of the continent

#### 60% chance euro zone remains intact

- Bailouts and ECB support provide essential liquidity, reducing short term risks
  - Single bank supervisor followed by single resolution system provides back door pooling of fiscal sovereignty
  - Structural reforms allow growth to recover in periphery, lifting tax receipts

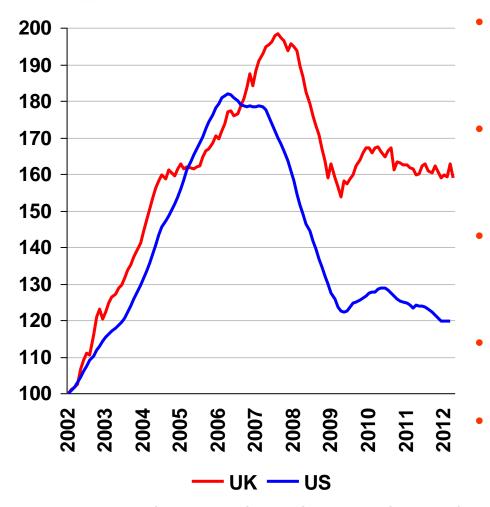
#### 10% chance Greece comes out and rest of euro zone survives

- ECB galvanised into greater action by Greek exit
  - Although it will be tough to credibly intervene if Greece has left

#### 30% chance the euro zone breaks apart

- Either: Greece leaves and contagion cannot be contained
- Or: Spain and Italy lose market access and ECB is constrained from extending unlimited support by Euro Zone hawks
  - Break-up, extending to at least Italy and maybe France
  - Global financial crisis.
  - Euro zone depression, dragging rest of world down (trade and financial links)
    - ► Hard to assess impact as unconventional policy will become the norm
      - Capital controls, travel bans, untrammelled monetisation

### **UK: Stabilising at a low level?**



- Consumers are enduring the biggest squeeze on real incomes since the 1940s
- Euro contagion to Spain, Italy and France could trigger financial-sector stress in the UK
- More QE is likely in 2012-13, with total rising to £450bn by 2013; no rate rises before 2015
- Large companies are hoarding cash--£80bn in 2011, £72bn in 2010
- Private sector is not offsetting job losses in the public sector

Jan 2002=100. Sources: Case-Shiller (US), Halifax (UK).

## **United States**

### The US election

- No change at the top
  - Same President, Democrats retain Senate, Republicans retain House
- Country still very divided
  - Popular vote vs electoral college
    - So don't read too much into victory
      - Not much of a mandate for change (lost share)
- Why did he win?
  - Improving economy (housing, equities, confidence)
    - Although still pretty poor in absolute terms
      - Also Romney gaffs
- Policy
  - Big issue is long-term fiscal reform
    - May be opportunity to push forward?
  - But events will be the big driver
    - Little consensus on policy direction, so policy will be reactive

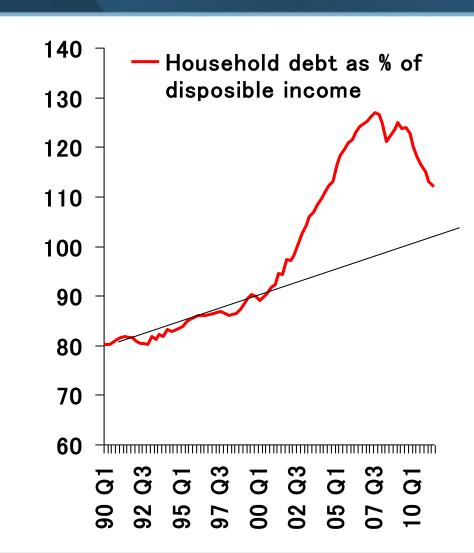
### **US:** Green shoots?



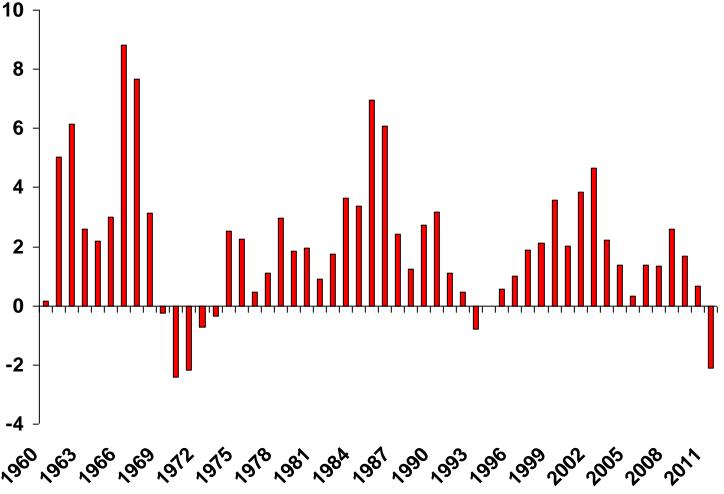
US: Housing starts, '000s, SAAR. Source: Bureau of the Census.

## US clawing out of the hole

- Subprime created similar problems to Europe
  - Hit banking sector hard
    - Government bailouts
- But having an independent monetary policy and currency makes all the difference
- Debts still too high
  - But growth has improved
    - Helped by the Fed
    - And despite Congress

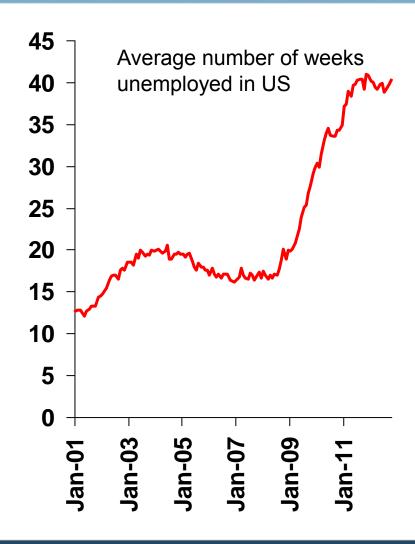


## No "fiscal cliff" diving, but fear of heights



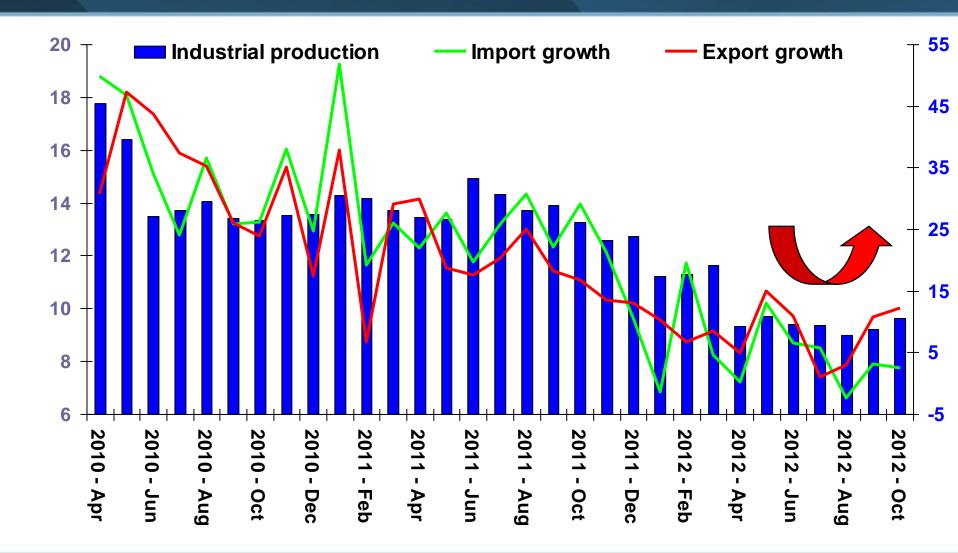
- •2011: largest decline in gov't spending since Vietnam war
- Spending has contracted for eight straight quarters
- If "fiscal cliff" happens, GDP will contract by 0.5%
- Worst will be averted, but fears are weaken economy in 4th quarter

- Need to recalibrate long-run expectations
  - It's not all over for the US
  - But it will take time to return to normality
    - Aging population
    - Fiscal problems
      - Although not like peripheral Europe
    - Long-term unemployment
    - Slowing productivity growth
    - High debt burdens



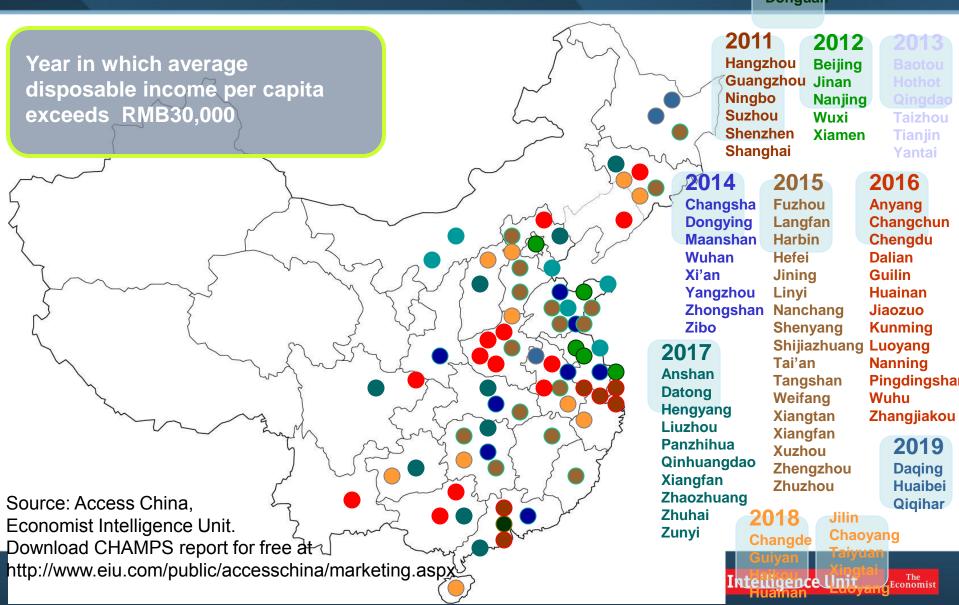
# China

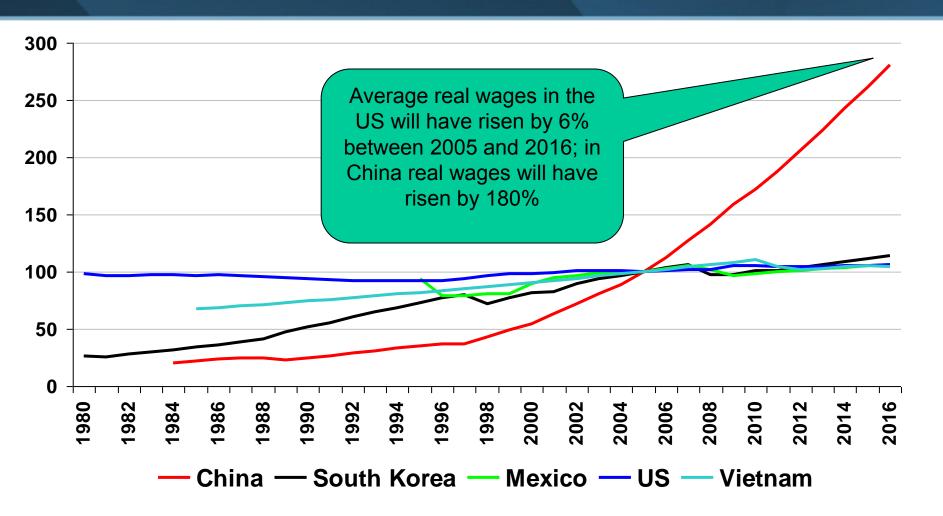
### Recovery has started



## China: Mega-urbanisation

2009 Donguar





## And rising to them.....

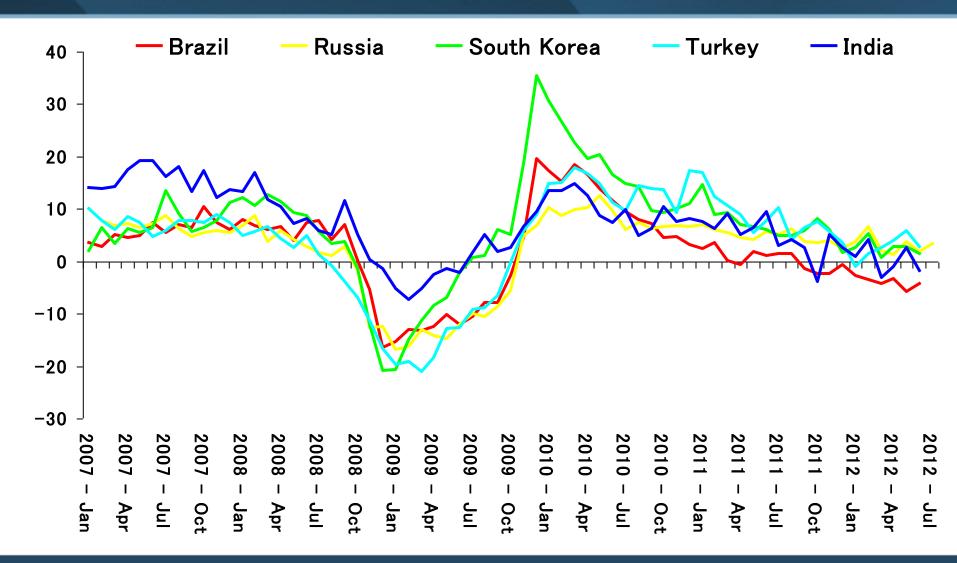
- **Great Wall Motors** 
  - opened a production facility in Bulgaria in February 2012
- Geely Motors purchased Volvo
  - Aims to enter UK market under Geely brand in 2013
- Chery Autos has joint venture with Italian DR **Motors** 
  - Purchased Fiat production facility in Sicily
- Beijing Automotive Industry Holding (BAIC)
  - Purchased Saab's production technology





## **Rest of the World**

## Emerging market industry has slowed in last year



## **Emerging world round-up**

- Middle East: Ludwig Von Mises was right
  - War and revolutions are bad for business.....
- Africa: brightness in the gloom
  - > Population trends, business environment, growth
- Asia: so much about China
  - India in a hole, and trying to stop digging
- Latin America: the giant disappoints
  - ➤ The return of Mexico? Plenty of bright other spots.
- East Europe: long faces all round
  - Central Europe like W Europe, only with less money and weaker institutions
  - Russia 2.0? We don't think so.

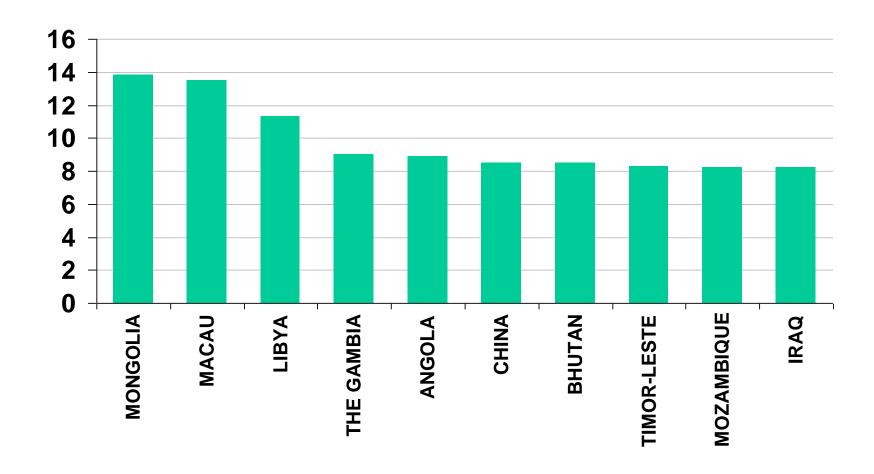
## So what?

## Key takeaway

- Rich world likely to struggle for many years
  - Europe in real trouble
  - US also has big problems, and is likely to disappoint
- Emerging world set to outperform
  - Have their problems, such as weak western demand, but:
    - Growing importance of local demand
    - South-south trade
    - Demographic trends
      - ▶ Populations, urbanisation,
    - Many countries at key point in income scale
      - Burgeoning middle class

## GDP growth in 2013: The losers ...





- Fees
  - Not helpful
- FX
  - Modestly favourable against many Emerging markets, but not against euro
- Visas
  - No relief
- Competition
  - FX likely to help Australia, US
- Foreign incomes
  - Broadly good in emerging markets
- Foreign instability
  - Expecting political instability to increase

## Questions?

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