

STUDY ON MIGRATION IN RURAL AREA OF ROMANIA IN 2012-2016 PERIOD

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Abstract. *The issue of migration in the rural area leads to a decrease in the agricultural labor force and at the same time to the deterioration of the Romanian rural area. Based on the survey we made a comparison as well as a hierarchy of migration in the rural area, by region, gender and age, during 2012-2016. The results showed an increase in rural migration, especially for women and young people, even if the net salary in agriculture was higher than in previous years. Also, the highest values of migration were recorded, as expected, in Romania's poorer areas. Good news is the decrease of rural migration in the age range of 25-39 years, which contains both the peak performance period and the one in which most of those who have completed higher education or specialization are found.*

Key words: *migration, demography, rural areas, hierarchy*

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge, research, improvement and development of rural space are vital activities for a country, both through the size of the rural area, expressed by the area it owns, and by the share of employed population in productive activities, social-cultural services, habitat and tourism. The Romanian rural area also includes most of Romania's surface, with 93.7%, according to statistical data. The importance of rural space for Romania can be easily demonstrated by the numerical stability of the rural population [8].

Demographic factors that can be invoked in changing age structure, in aging, are mortality, birth / fertility and migration. The demographic phenomenon of migration is a very important phenomenon in its constituents, immigration and emigration, which most directly influence the movement of the population and should therefore be included in the category of fundamental demographic phenomena [11].

Migration has become a global phenomenon that affects most states on the world map. After 1989, with the fall of the communist regime, migration to Romania became a worrying phenomenon, up to 15 percent of the Romanian population leaving the country [3]. The migration phenomenon is a move of people from one place to another, this move being permanent or temporary. In most cases, the move is made over long distances and even by going to another country, but the migration term is also used for shorter distances or within a country. There are several types of migration, such as individual, family or mass migration, influenced by many factors such as economic, political, social and environmental factors, etc. [5]. We can also say that moving from one location to another is influenced either by the situation at home, by the incentive to leave, or by the situation at the destination, an attraction to go there.

The International Organization for Migration highlights the underlying factors of the migration phenomenon, namely push factors (low living standards, poverty, lack of employment, ethnic problems, crises resulting from natural disasters, technological accidents or terrorism, or even financial crises, political and social conflicts, etc.) and pull factors (higher living standards, higher salary levels, better job opportunities, social networks, individual freedom, etc.) [4].

Romania is a country where the rural environment is almost equal to the urban environment, from a population perspective. Throughout its entire history, Romania was a country with a predominantly rural population [10].

The internal migration through the change of the residence environment presented for the whole period after 1990 a predominant travel on the urban-rural route [7]. If we refer to the village-city migration process, it has as a primary effect the removal from the close rural community [9]. This social carrying-off results from the amplification of individual liberty and, above all, of anonymity, which allows the satisfaction of one's own needs and goals to the detriment of those imposed on society. In this type of migration, people often suffer from a cultural shock, mainly caused by the sudden change in the living environment. In order to adapt to the new context, the person coming from the rural environment must adopt new values and most of the time to give up old ones, with the point that this change does not occur in certain socio-political contexts [2]. Also, when people leave the village, there is a decrease in the labor force, a population aging and a gradual loss of Romanian knowledge, customs and traditions, which are extremely difficult to recover.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data presented were taken from various statistical databases (National Institute of Statistics website, Eurostat and WorldBank), after which they were sorted, aggregated and processed in order to reveal the main aspects of the study. The analysis focused mainly on taking and interpreting data on rural migration, by region, gender and age groups, with particular emphasis on migration from rural to urban. Some of the results were also compared with the wage level in rural areas to see its impact on migration.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Sustainable rural development is one of Romania's priorities as an EU member state, and this implies strategic responses, Romanian Rural occupying a considerable share in Europe's countryside [1]. In 2016 there was the largest internal migration in Romania after 1991, with almost 400,000 people changing from one locality to another. The 10 counties considered "attractive" for the Romanians were: Arad, Bihor, Brasov, Cluj, Constanta, Giurgiu, Iasi, Ilfov, Sibiu and Timis, and the largest population losses are recorded in Braila, Galati, Teleorman and Vaslui [15].

For the beginning, we determined, based on the data taken, the evolution of the resident population from the rural area during the period 2005-2016. By this we wanted to see if this trend was an upward trend, a decreasing one, or if there are no significant differences between the values. We used in the study data about rural residents, in order not to alter the results by people who have housing in the village, but residing in the urban area.

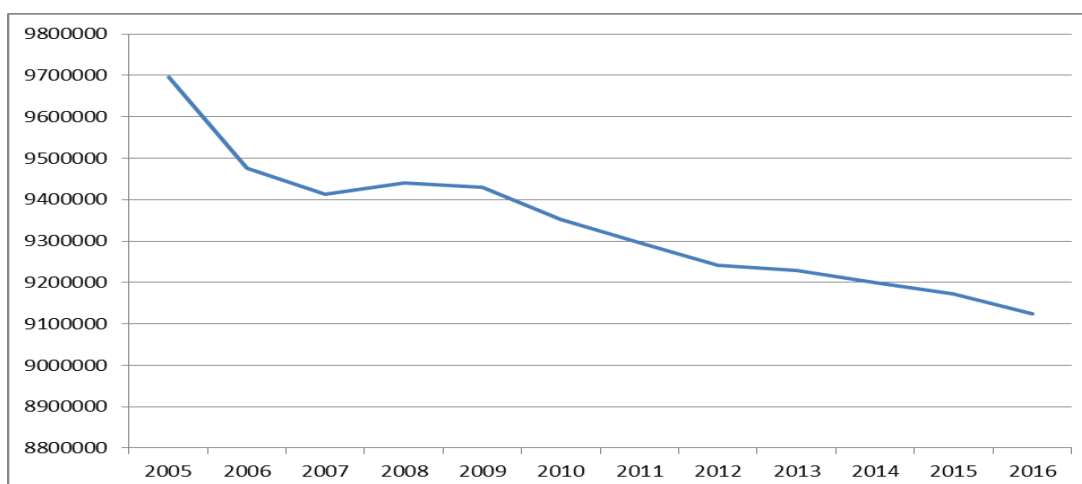


Figure 1. Evolution of the resident population from rural areas, 2005-2016, persons
 Source: own processing after 14, 16

The results showed that during the 12-year study period, the rural population dropped by approximately 700,000 people and the trend is still decreasing (Figure 1). This means that nearly 60,000 people have "disappeared" from the countryside each year. If we refer to the classification of localities according to the minimum number of inhabitants (the city has at least 5000 inhabitants, the commune has at least 1500 inhabitants, according to [12]), this would mean the disappearance of 12 cities or 40 communes annually.

We continued the study with the situation of people who left the village definitively, by sex, during the same period. The results show a similarity between the two evolutions, with a difference between about 1,000 and 2,500 people, between men and women, in favor of the latter. The evolution as a whole, ranges from 4,000 male and 6,500 female in 2005, to 10,000 male and over 13,000 female in 2016. The lowest migration rates were between 2007 and 2014, both of which were followed by abrupt increases, the highest one being recorded at the level of the last year surveyed, i.e. 2016 (Figure 2).

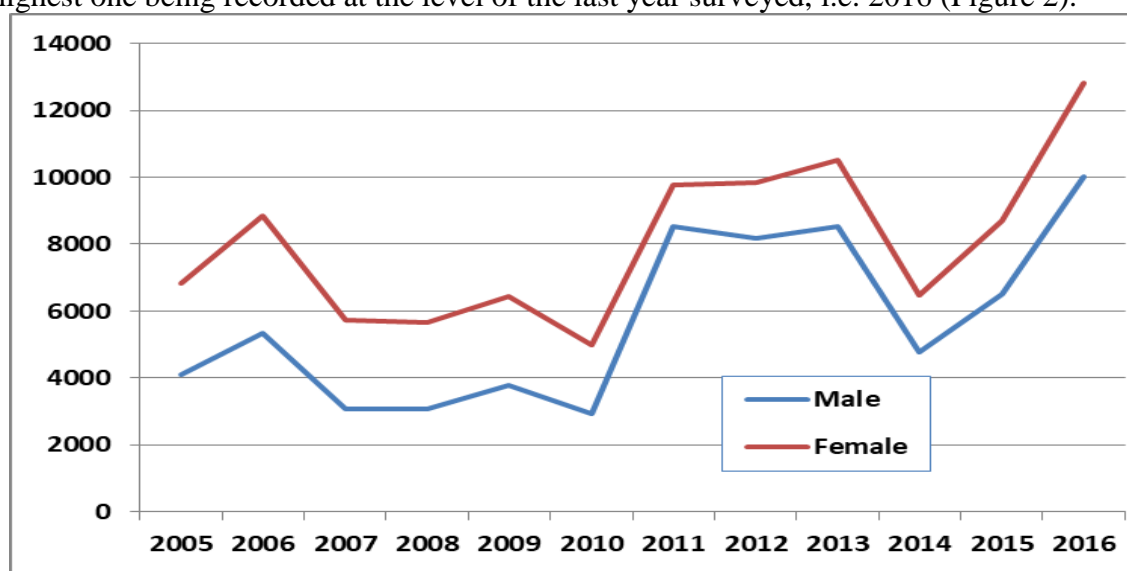


Figure 2. The evolution of rural definitive emigrants at country level, by sex, 2005-2016, persons

Source: own processing after 13, 14

The following analyzes focused on the evolution of population migration by sex and the net average wage in rural areas. Both sets of data were processed at the level of Romania's development regions. In this way, we analyzed the possibility of a correlation

between the two indicators, migration and the wage level, but at the same time which are the regions with the most departures and how this migration evolved during 2012-2016.

According to the surveyed data, the regions with the largest migration in the rural areas are South-Muntenia and North-East, and those with the lowest migration are Bucharest-Ilfov (as normal), followed by the West region. On the middle stage are the other regions, in descending order being Northwest, South-East, South-West Oltenia and Center. The order is the same, both for males and for females, differing only by the number of migrants. Thus, if for men's, the highest value is slightly more than 9,400 in the South and North-East regions in 2015 (Figure 3), at females in the same regions, but in 2016, we find values over 10,400 inhabitants (Figure 4).

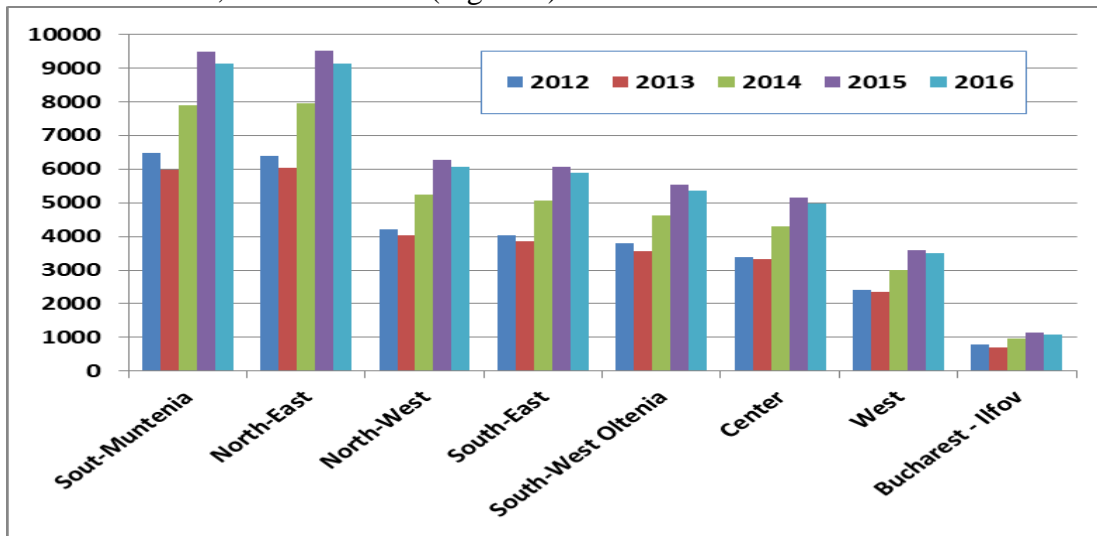


Figure 3. Evolution of male rural migrants, by regions of development, 2012-2016, persons

Source: own processing after 13, 14

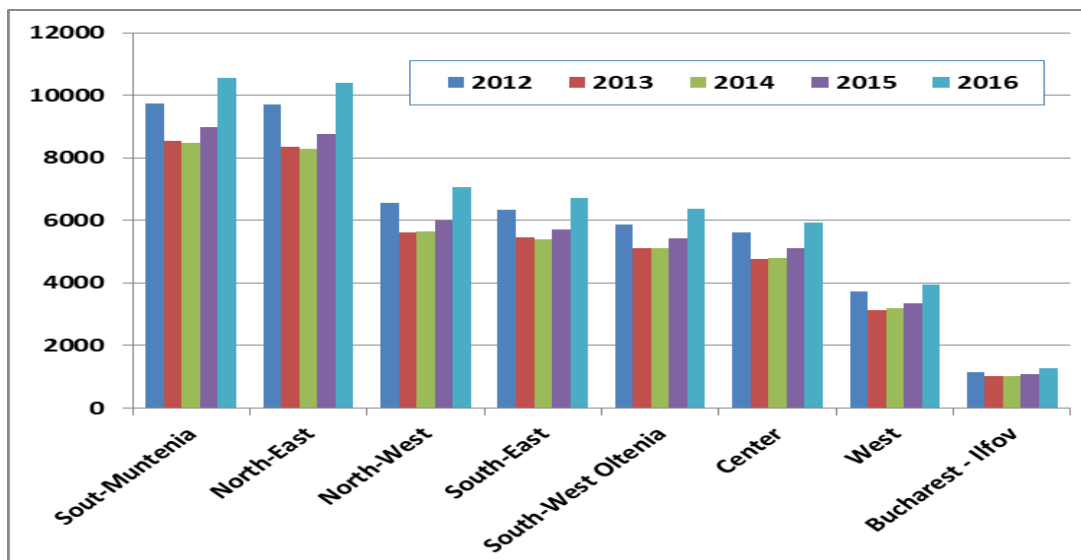


Figure 4. Evolution of female rural migrants, by regions of development, 2012-2016, persons

Source: own processing after 13, 14

Moreover, regardless of the year taken into account, the order of the development regions according to the number of migrants remains unchanged, both in the case of the male or female persons migration.

Comparing the monthly average net nominal earning in the rural area by development regions (Figure 5), with the evolution of the above migrants, some similarities can also be observed. Respectively, the regions with the highest monthly net salary, Bucharest-Ilfov and the West, have the lowest migration, and of the four regions that are at the beginning of the migrant ranking (South, North-East, South-West and South-East) only one (North-East region) is not found towards the end of the salary ranking.

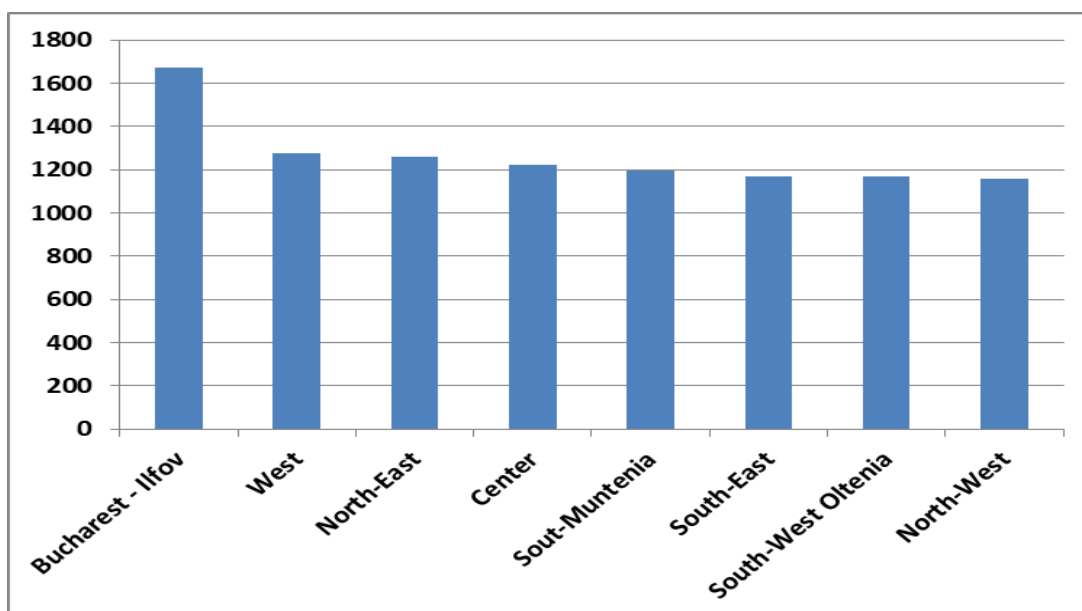


Figure 5. Monthly net average nominal earning in rural areas by development region, average 2010-2016, RON

Source: own processing after 13, 14, 16

The latest study data refers to the structure of urban-rural migration flows and to the differences between urban-rural home-based changes by age groups.

Referring to the structure of the urban-rural migration flows, it can be observed (Figure 6) that the period 1990-1995 was one in which took place a massive migration from rural to urban areas, especially in the first part of this period. After 1995 and even today, the urban-rural migration flow exceeded the rural-urban one. The automatic conclusion is that the rural area does not lose, but, on the contrary, the number of inhabitants slowly slowly grows. However, the data presented mostly include those who make summer or holiday accommodation in rural areas, older people and pensioners, who prefer to retire in rural areas, where they have a more affordable living. This is also evident from the balance of urban-rural home changes by age group (Figure 7), where over 50% of people who come to rural areas are over 45 years old. It can also be noticed that in the vast majority of the studied period, those who leave the rural area are the young people in the age group of 20-30 years due mainly to economic reasons.

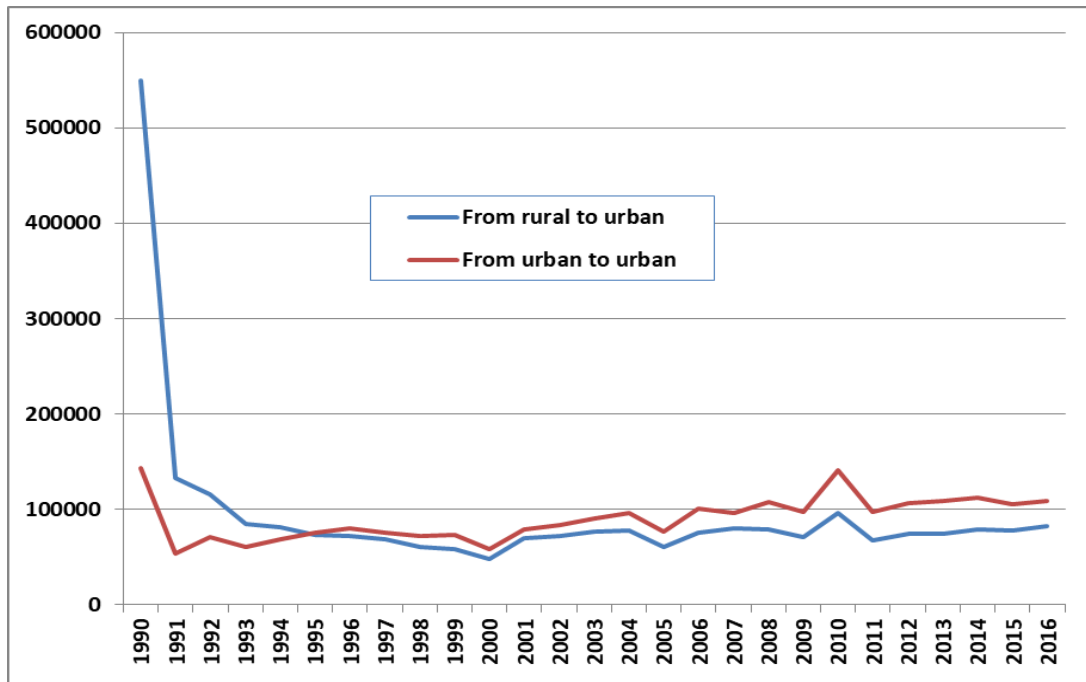


Figure 6. Structure of urban and rural internal migration flows due to home change
 Source: own processing after 13, 14, 16

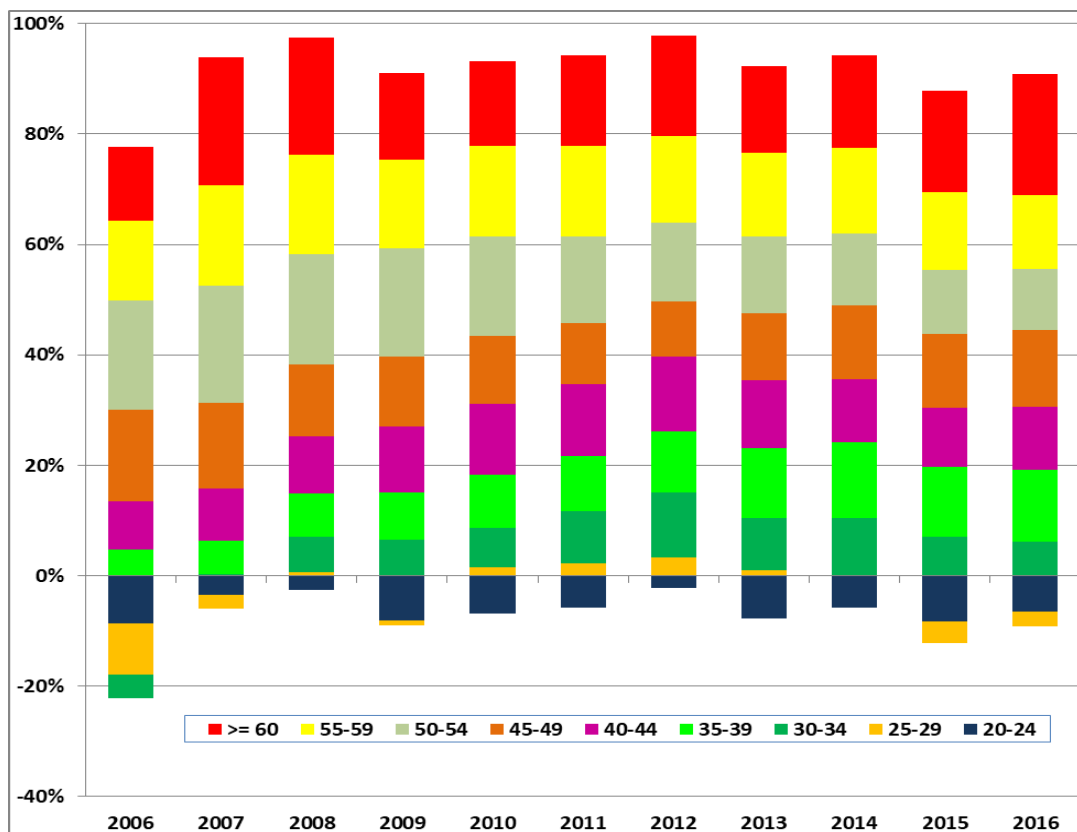


Figure 7. The balance of urban-rural home changes by age group

Source: own processing after 13, 14

CONCLUSIONS

The factors contributing to the decline of the rural population have a demographic, economic and administrative nature. The most important factor that led to the reduction of the rural population was migration, a phenomenon that shaped both the evolution of people living in rural areas and the demographic structure of the countryside.

After the study we can say:

- The resident population in rural areas declined during the study period and in the years before and after, due to internal migration (from rural to urban), to external migration (to other countries), and to negative natural growth;
- Migration from the rural area showed the same developments, regardless of gender, the tendency being higher among females;
- Labor force from the rural area migrated mainly for economic reasons;
- The development regions with the highest migration from rural to urban areas were those in which agricultural income was the lowest;
- People leaving rural areas are mainly young people, leading to an aging population;
- People who come to rural areas, even if in the last few years they have exceeded those who leave the countryside, are mainly pensioners or those who make summer or holiday accommodation in the countryside and who no longer contribute as a force work in the area;
- Migration to rural areas (for all age groups) also includes peri-urban residential environments that have urban characteristics, but are administratively assimilated to the rural area and do not help the economy in any way.

In conclusion, the departure of the inhabitants of the village, especially the young ones confronted with the unpredictability of the labor market, primarily affects the human capital in rural areas and in agriculture, in particular, automatically leading to the aging of the rural population. Besides, the resources obtained as a result of migration incite an increase in financial aspirations to those who have not migrated, modifying their wage expectations, giving them an extra motivation to migrate and perpetuate this phenomenon. On the other hand, urban-rural migration is largely made up of mainly elderly people, or to a lesser extent the rural economic sphere, with too few of the former migrants developing businesses in the localities where they left.

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