

# Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

## BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

For the period ended June 30, 2025

This semi-annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the semi-annual or annual financial statements of the Portfolio. If the semi-annual or annual financial statements of the Portfolio do not accompany the mailing of this report, you may obtain a copy of the semi-annual or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-855-852-1026, by e-mailing us at [contact.centre@bmo.com](mailto:contact.centre@bmo.com), by writing to us at BMO Private Investment Counsel Inc., 1 First Canadian Place, 100 King St. W., 41st Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5X 1A1 or by visiting our website at [www.bmo.com/privatewealth/regulatory-documents/bpic/](http://www.bmo.com/privatewealth/regulatory-documents/bpic/) or SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca). You may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Portfolio's interim financial report, proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record and/or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

*BMO Private Investment Counsel Inc. (“BPIC” or the “Manager”), the manager and portfolio manager, is responsible for the management of the overall business, investments and operations of the BMO Private Portfolios and has engaged Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC (“CMIA”) and Vontobel Asset Management, Inc. (“Vontobel”) as the sub-advisors (each, a “sub-advisor” and collectively, the “sub-advisors”) of BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio (the “Portfolio”).*

### Results of Operations

Over the six-month period ended June 30, 2025, the Portfolio returned 0.33% in C\$ (5.91% in US\$), after expenses. The Portfolio's benchmark is the S&P 500 Index, which generated a 0.42% total return in C\$ (6.20% in US\$) over the same six-month period.

Markets declined significantly and volatility spiked in early April after President Trump's tariff announcements. Markets rallied in May and June as the administration backed off some of the higher tariffs and pushed out deadlines. Trade agreements with the U.K., an agreement between the U.S. and China on de-escalating tariffs, and progress in negotiations with Japan, India and South Korea boosted investor and consumer confidence.

The labour market gave mixed signals as continuing claims reached levels not seen since 2021. However, nonfarm payrolls remained relatively resilient and initial claims declined. First-quarter gross domestic product contracted 0.3% due to declining government spending and surging imports, while the Consumer Price Index came in slightly lower than expected.

The strongest-performing sectors were Industrials, Communication Services and Financials, while the Consumer Discretionary, Health Care and Energy sectors declined.

### Vontobel Component

The Vontobel component's stock selection within the Communication Services sector detracted from performance. Its position in Alphabet Inc. declined, given market concerns about competitors and a lack of exposure to Netflix Inc. The component's stock selection in the Materials sector detracted from performance, as certain holdings were down due to economic uncertainty. The component's lack of exposure to the Utilities sector also detracted. The top individual detractors included a lack of exposure to NVIDIA Corp., as the stock price rebounded. Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. was negatively affected by weakness in China and near-term uncertainty around tariffs. Becton, Dickinson and Co. announced softer results in the diagnostics space.



Private Wealth

## BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

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The Vontobel component's stock selection within the Financials sector contributed to performance due to its stock exchange exposure, where trading volumes increased during periods of volatility. The component's stock selection in the Consumer Discretionary sector contributed to performance due to its lack of exposure to Tesla Inc., which sold off amid declining sales. The top individual contributors to the Vontobel component included the absence of a position in Apple Inc., as the company faced challenges that weighed on its share price, particularly related to the integration of artificial intelligence ("AI") into its ecosystem. Amphenol Corp. saw strong growth, driven by data centres and reported better-than-expected earnings. Intercontinental Exchange Inc. benefitted from increased market volatility, which fueled greater volumes on its exchange.

The sub-advisor added a new position in Meta Platforms Inc., which is well-positioned as a dominant player in digital advertising. Akamai Technologies Inc. saw growth in its security business. AutoZone Inc. is a leading retailer of aftermarket auto parts with a dominant position in the do-it-yourself market. Workday Inc. is a leader in human capital management software and continues to expand its offerings to include financial management and business planning software.

Increased positions in the Vontobel component included Amphenol Corp. and Ferguson Enterprises Inc., as volatility around tariffs created opportunities to increase these positions. Ecolab Inc. offered attractive defensive attributes, given its position in critical sanitation and safety solutions.

Decreased positions included Amazon.com Inc., Alphabet Inc., and PepsiCo Inc. due to consumer uncertainty, regulatory challenges, competition and higher prices.

Eliminated positions from the component included Becton, Dickinson and Co. amid concerns over the new U.S. administration's potential policy changes. Brown-Forman Corp. continued to deal with the overhang of inventories and potential structural challenges. Keysight Technologies Inc. was sold as the stock had performed well, and the proceeds were reallocated to other opportunities.

### *CMIA Component*

The CMIA component's stock selection in the Information Technology, Industrials and Communication Services sectors detracted from performance. The top individual detractors from the component's performance included overweight positions in Deckers Outdoor Corp. and UnitedHealth Group Inc., as well as a lack of exposure to Netflix Inc.

The component's stock selection in the Consumer Discretionary and Energy sectors contributed to performance, as did its underweight exposure to the Health Care sector. The top individual contributors to the component's performance included an overweight position in McKesson Corp. and underweight positions in Tesla Inc. and Apple Inc.

The sub-advisor initiated a new component position in U.S. Bancorp, one of the highest-quality regional banks in the market. The company has a strong balance sheet and conservative approach to credit, and the stock was trading at an attractive valuation.

Increased positions in the CMIA component included retail giant Walmart Inc., which continued to demonstrate impressive growth and consistent profitability. The company appeared to be well-positioned to manage potential risks around tariffs and weaker consumer confidence.

Decreased positions included managed health care provider Cigna Group. Rising medical costs, along with numerous regulatory and legislative risks, exerted pressure on the company.

Eliminated positions included D.R. Horton Inc., as higher interest rates and deteriorating housing affordability have affected the home building industry.

*For information on the Portfolio's longer-term performance and composition, please refer to the Past Performance section and Summary of Investment Portfolio section of this report.*

## BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

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### Recent Developments

#### *Vontobel Component*

The sub-advisor believes it is premature to conclude that the economy is in the clear. While most employers have so far avoided cutting jobs, they are nervously watching the data and are prepared to react quickly. Vontobel believes that maintaining a defensive stance may be particularly prudent at this time, given that the market has rebounded to all-time highs, obscuring tariff risks.

So far, many importers are still working through inventories that were acquired before tariffs were implemented and have not raised prices yet. However, this dynamic will likely change in the coming months. The sub-advisor is confident that the superior profitability of the component's holdings should lead to greater resilience to tariff-related challenges.

The weakening U.S. dollar has provided a tailwind for U.S. multinationals. For the companies in this component, more than a third of their total revenues are generated outside the U.S. The component's non-U.S. exposure is similar to that of the S&P 500 Index. That means many large U.S. firms should benefit from the dollar weakness, and the sub-advisor expects to see the benefits in the next few months.

#### *CMIA Component*

Despite worries about the impact of tariffs on prices, inflation has continued to decelerate. However, the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (the "Fed") has maintained a cautious stance amid trade policy uncertainty, projecting two interest-rate cuts for the remainder of this year. President Trump has clearly indicated that he believes the Fed is dragging its feet. While he announced that he would not fire Chairman Powell, speculation about a potential replacement has increased. Such a move could significantly alter market expectations for interest rates and economic policy.

While markets stabilized following the Israel-Iran ceasefire agreement, which drove oil prices down 15%, the situation remains precarious and could reignite volatility in energy markets and global supply chains.

Corporate earnings have significantly exceeded expectations, but there are still opportunities among companies exhibiting operational discipline and the ability to adapt to trade challenges.

AI remains a significant market driver, and companies are starting to demonstrate tangible benefits from AI, which improves productivity and revenue growth. While the pace of adoption may moderate from initial projections, investors are rewarding companies who make strategic investments with clear monetization paths.

In this environment, market leadership has narrowed since the first quarter, with growth stocks significantly outperforming value stocks. The CMIA component's multifactor approach focuses on quality, valuation and catalysts. This helps identify companies with supply chain flexibility, pricing power and operational efficiency, which should allow them to navigate tariff uncertainties while maintaining strong margins and generating cash flow.

In January 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump was inaugurated. Subsequently, the U.S. government has made sweeping policy changes. These policy changes include both an increase in existing tariffs and the invocation of new tariffs on many countries, including Canada. In response, both domestic and global financial markets have reacted with increased volatility. As at the current date, President Trump's policy changes are continuously shifting. It is uncertain how long the market instability will continue and whether it will escalate further.

### Related Party Transactions

BMO Trust Company, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Montreal ("BMO"), is the trustee (the "trustee") and BPIC is the manager of the Portfolio. From time to time, BPIC may, on behalf of the Portfolio, enter into transactions or arrangements with or involving other members of BMO Financial Group, or certain other persons or companies that are related or connected to the Portfolio (each, a "related party" and collectively, the "related parties"). The purpose of this section is to provide a brief description of any transaction involving the Portfolio and a related party. In each instance where a conflict of interest is identified, it will be referred to the Portfolio's independent review committee (the "IRC"). The primary focus of the IRC is to determine whether the proposed action of the Manager in respect of the conflict of interest matter achieves a fair and reasonable result for the Portfolio.

## BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

### *Sub-advisors*

BPIC has hired CMIA and Vontobel to provide investment advice and make investment decisions for the Portfolio's investments. Each sub-advisor receives sub-advisory fees based on assets under management, which are paid quarterly. The sub-advisors are paid by BPIC, and BPIC charges a portion of the sub-advisory fees as an expense to the Portfolio.

### *Buying and Selling Securities*

During the period, the Manager relied on Standing Instructions provided by the Portfolio's IRC for any of the following related party transactions that may have occurred in the Portfolio:

- (a) investments in securities issued by BMO, an affiliate of the Manager, or any other issuer related to the Manager;
- (b) investments in a class of securities of an issuer during the distribution period of those securities or the 60-day period following the completion of the distribution where BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., an affiliate of the Manager, or any other affiliate of the Manager acts as an underwriter in the distribution of those securities;
- (c) trades in over-the-counter debt securities in the secondary market with BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., or any other affiliate of the Manager, acting as principal in the Canadian debt securities market; and
- (d) trades of a security of any issuer from or to, another investment fund managed by the Manager or an affiliate of the Manager or a managed account managed by an affiliate of the Manager

(each, a "Related Party Transaction").

In accordance with the IRC's Standing Instructions, in making a decision to cause the Portfolio to make a Related Party Transaction, the Manager and the sub-advisor of the Portfolio are required to comply with the Manager's written policies and procedures governing the Related Party Transaction and report periodically to the IRC, describing each instance that the Manager and/or the sub-advisor relied on the Standing Instructions and their compliance or non-compliance with the governing policies and procedures. The governing policies and procedures are designed to ensure that each Related Party Transaction (i) is made

free from any influence of BMO, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. or an associate or affiliate of BMO and/or BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. and without taking into account any considerations relevant to BMO, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. or an associate or affiliate of BMO and/or BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., (ii) represents the business judgment of the Manager and/or the sub-advisor, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Portfolio, and (iii) achieves a fair and reasonable result for the Portfolio. The IRC has reviewed the related party transactions described above and has provided an approval that each transaction achieves a fair and reasonable result for the Portfolio.

### *Brokerage Commissions*

The Portfolio pays standard brokerage commissions at market rates to BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., an affiliate of the Manager, for executing a portion of its trades. The brokerage commissions charged to the Portfolio during the periods were as follows:

	Period ended June 30, 2025 (\$000s)	Period ended June 30, 2024 (\$000s)
Total Brokerage Commissions	414	337
Brokerage Commissions paid to BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.	2	8

### *Wealth Management Fee*

Units of the Portfolio are only available through the wealth management service offered by BMO Financial Group. The trustee, a related party, and the Manager receive an annual fee from each investor for the wealth management service offered by BMO Financial Group. A tiered schedule is applied to calculate the annual fee for this service. The fee schedule starts at 1.95% and declines to 0.20% (depending on the nature and size of the investor's investment portfolio), and is calculated as a percentage of the assets under management. The actual wealth management fee payable by each investor is set out in BPIC's *Investment Management Fee Schedule* that is provided to the investor when the investor enters into an investment management agreement with the trustee and BPIC. The wealth management fee is paid directly by the investor to the trustee and the Manager. The trustee may compensate financial institutions and securities registrants within BMO Financial Group for client referrals to the wealth management service.

## BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

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### *Unitholder Services*

The Portfolio is provided with certain facilities and services by related parties. BPIC is the registrar of the Portfolio. The trustee and BPIC are paid by the Portfolio for fees relating to the custodial and administrative services they provide, respectively. Administrative services include fund accounting, record keeping and purchases/redemption order processing.

The fees charged to the Portfolio during the periods were as follows:

	<b>Period ended</b> <b>June 30, 2025</b> ( <b>\$000s</b> )	<b>Period ended</b> <b>June 30, 2024</b> ( <b>\$000s</b> )
Unitholder Services	181	163

### Management Fee

There is no management fee charged to the Portfolio. The trustee and the Manager receive an annual wealth management fee from investors for the wealth management service offered by BMO Financial Group.

## BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

### Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Portfolio and are intended to help you understand the Portfolio's financial performance for the periods indicated.

The Portfolio's Net Assets Per Unit <sup>(1)</sup>	Six months ended June 30, 2025		Years ended December 31			
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	
Net assets, beginning of period	\$ 48.43	37.93	31.17	35.46	29.44	25.87
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>						
Total revenue	\$ 0.26	0.49	0.43	0.43	0.39	0.39
Total expenses <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ (0.03)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.04)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	\$ 1.58	4.20	1.69	0.78	2.07	0.56
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	\$ (1.49)	7.22	5.13	(4.86)	4.77	2.82
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 0.32</b>	<b>11.86</b>	<b>7.21</b>	<b>(3.69)</b>	<b>7.20</b>	<b>3.73</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>						
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ —	0.00	0.00	0.01	—	—
From dividends	\$ —	0.48	0.42	0.39	0.33	0.37
From capital gains	\$ —	0.86	—	0.15	0.84	—
Return of capital	\$ —	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.02
<b>Total Annual Distributions <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>0.39</b>
<b>Net assets, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 48.59</b>	<b>48.43</b>	<b>37.93</b>	<b>31.17</b>	<b>35.46</b>	<b>29.44</b>

(1) This information is derived from the Portfolio's unaudited and audited financial statements.

(2) Includes commissions and other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes.

(3) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.

(4) Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Portfolio, or both.

Ratios and Supplemental Data	Six months ended June 30, 2025		Years ended December 31			
			2024	2023	2022	2021
Total net asset value (000s) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 6,935,032	6,947,054	5,731,358	5,241,096	5,768,955	4,329,595
Number of units outstanding (000s) <sup>(1)</sup>	142,738	143,454	151,118	168,159	162,670	147,068
Management expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	% 0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Management expense ratio before waivers or management absorptions <sup>(2)</sup>	% 0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19
Trading expense ratio <sup>(3)</sup>	% 0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(4)</sup>	% 15.67	25.03	19.47	27.55	28.10	37.26
Net asset value per unit	\$ 48.59	48.43	37.93	31.17	35.46	29.44

(1) This information is provided as at June 30 or December 31 of the period shown, as applicable.

(2) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(3) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(4) The portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Portfolio's sub-advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Portfolio buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the portfolio in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a portfolio.

# BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

## Past Performance

### General

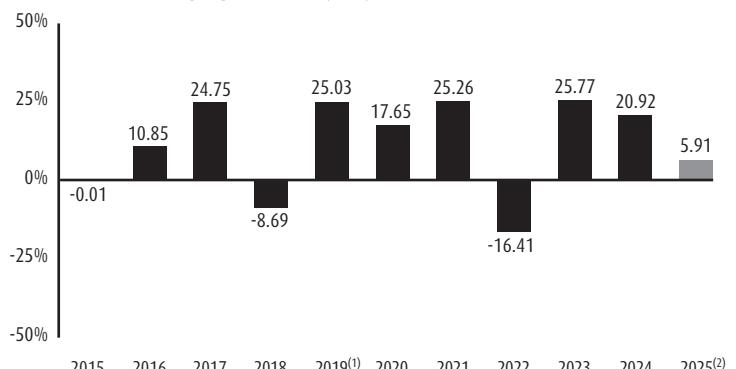
The Portfolio's performance information assumes that all distributions made by the Portfolio in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Portfolio and is based on the net asset value of the Portfolio. The reinvestment of distributions increases returns.

The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that, if applicable, would have reduced returns or performance. Please remember, how the Portfolio has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar charts show the performance for each of the financial years shown and for the six-month period ended June 30, 2025, and illustrate how the performance has changed from year to year. The bar charts show in percentage terms how an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have increased or decreased by the last day of each financial year.

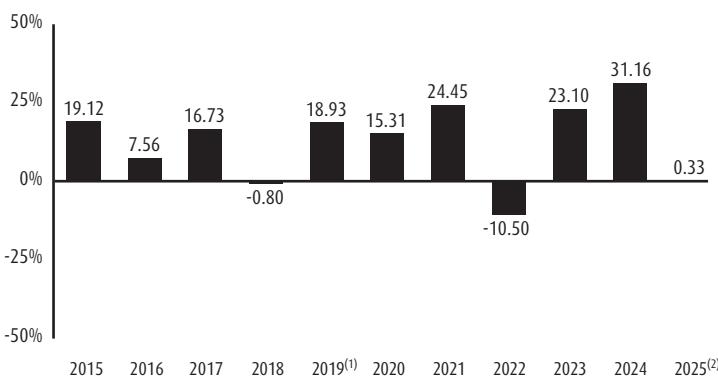
#### BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio (US\$)



<sup>(1)</sup> On July 19, 2019, Vontobel was appointed as an additional sub-advisor for the Portfolio and the Portfolio's investment strategies were changed. Accordingly, the Portfolio's performance prior to this date would have been different under the current two sub-advisors and investment strategies.

<sup>(2)</sup> For the six-month period ended June 30, 2025.

#### BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio (C\$)



## BMO Private U.S. Equity Portfolio

### Summary of Investment Portfolio as at June 30, 2025

Portfolio Allocation	% of Net Asset Value	Top 25 Holdings Issuer	% of Net Asset Value
U.S. Equity Funds	29.9	BMO S&P 500 Index ETF, Listed USD Units <sup>+</sup>	29.9
Information Technology	18.8	Microsoft Corporation	4.6
Financials	11.3	Amazon.com, Inc.	4.0
Health Care	7.5	NVIDIA Corporation	3.3
Communication Services	7.1	Alphabet Inc.	2.9
Consumer Discretionary	6.7	Meta Platforms Inc., Class A	2.6
Industrials	5.8	Mastercard Incorporated, Class A	2.2
Consumer Staples	5.5	Apple Inc.	1.7
Materials	2.5	Coca-Cola Company, The,	1.7
Cash/Receivables/Payables	1.5	Intercontinental Exchange, Inc.	1.6
Energy	1.3	Cash/Receivables/Payables	1.5
Real Estate	1.1	Adobe Inc.	1.5
Utilities	1.0	Abbott Laboratories	1.4
<b>Total portfolio allocation</b>	<b>100.0</b>	RB Global Inc.	1.4
		Intuit Inc.	1.3
		CME Group Inc., Class A	1.3
		CRH plc	1.2
		Amphenol Corporation, Class A	1.0
		Walmart Inc.	0.9
		Ecolab Inc.	0.9
		Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.	0.9
		Citigroup Inc.	0.8
		Exxon Mobil Corporation	0.8
		Zoetis Inc., Class A	0.8
		Ferguson Enterprises Inc.	0.7
		<b>Top holdings as a percentage of total net asset value</b>	<b>70.9</b>
		<b>Total Net Asset Value</b>	<b>\$6,935,031,552</b>

<sup>+</sup> The prospectus and other information about the underlying exchange traded fund(s) held in the Portfolio are available at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca) and [www.bmo.com/etflegal](http://www.bmo.com/etflegal).

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to the Portfolio's ongoing portfolio transactions. Updates are available quarterly.

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This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent our beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. We caution readers of this document not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from management expectations as projected in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Portfolio may invest and the risks detailed from time to time in the simplified prospectus of the BMO Private Portfolios. We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in the Portfolio, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties and potential events, and the inherent uncertainty of forward-looking statements. Due to the potential impact of these factors, BMO Private Investment Counsel Inc. does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.

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