

Demographic, Economic & Education Measures for the Healthcare Workforce Listening Session

Yakima Valley College

June 26, 2024




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About the Institute

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 **Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis**
Eastern Washington University

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The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis

About Us

The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis is a research institute for applied regional research that provides easily accessible community indicator data. The Institute publishes seven **community trend sites** for nine Washington counties, all of which cover a variety of factors like economic vitality, health, housing, and more. The Institute's work is aimed to promote data-based decision making and provide readily available and extensive data for communities across Washington state.

Our History

The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis was created in 2002 as a pilot project administered by Eastern Washington University, until it was fully established as an integral part of the University in 2005. Headed by executive director Dr. Patrick Jones, the Institute has been a vital research institute producing community research projects for 20 years. The Institute is supported by a broad coalition of community sponsors across Washington state, and proudly constructs its community trends websites based on community-based feedback processes.

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Today, will utilize data from Yakima Valley Trends to examine supply & demand factors of the healthcare workforce

WELCOME TO YAKIMA VALLEY TRENDS!

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Our Home

In Yakima County you will enjoy four seasons, great weather, plenty of scenic vistas, and numerous outdoor amenities. These natural assets are complemented by a burgeoning healthcare sector, inexpensive land, a high speed fiber optic network, low tax rates, and a highly trained workforce. The County has a strong agricultural...

[Read More](#)

Blog

Throughout the year, each of the approximately 170 indicators on the Trends website are updated within a few weeks of new data becoming available. But, which ones and when? Our blog webpage provides the answers with a list of recently updated indicators - check it out

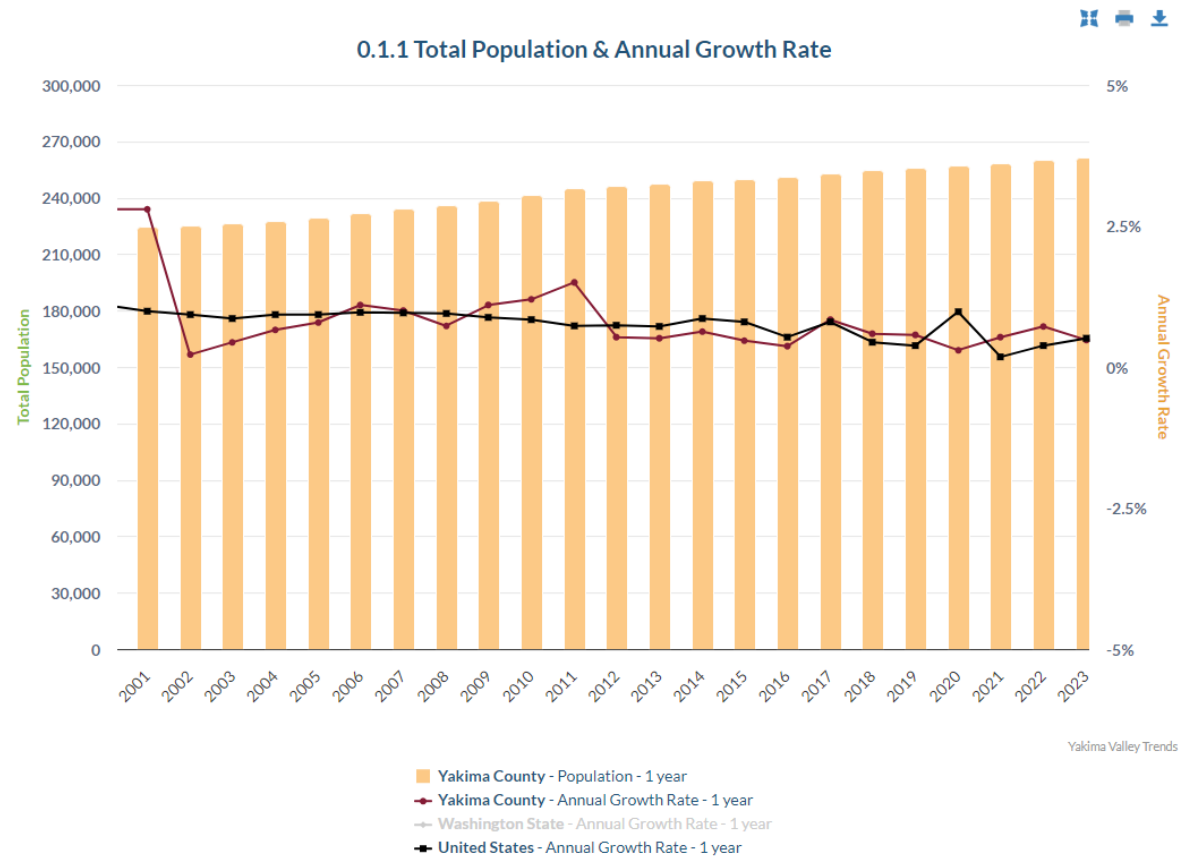
[Our Blog](#)

Map labels: WHITCOM, SKAGIT, OKANOGAN, PERRY, STEVEN, PING, OREILLE, SAN JUAN ISLAND, SNOHOMISH, CHELAN, DOUGLAS, LINCOLN, SPOKANE, CLALLAM, KITSAP, KING, GRANT, ADAMS, WITMAN, JEFFERSON, MASON, GRAYS HARBOR, THURSTON, PIERCE, NITITAS, FRANKLIN, GARFIELD, PACIFIC, LEWIS, EDWTON, WELLSVILLE, ASOTY, COWLITZ, SKAMMARA, KLANITAT, CLARK, NACHES, COWICHE, SELAH, YAKIMA, UNION GAP, WAPATO, ZILLAR, WHITE SWAN, TOPPENISH, GRANGER, SUNNYSIDE, GRANDVIEW, MARTON.

Population

Yakima County has experienced slow growth for years

- 2023: ~263,000
- Average growth since 2013
 - Yakima County: 0.5%
 - U.S.: 0.6%
 - WA: 1.4%
- Unlike other E. WA counties, growth here largely due to natural increase (births-deaths)

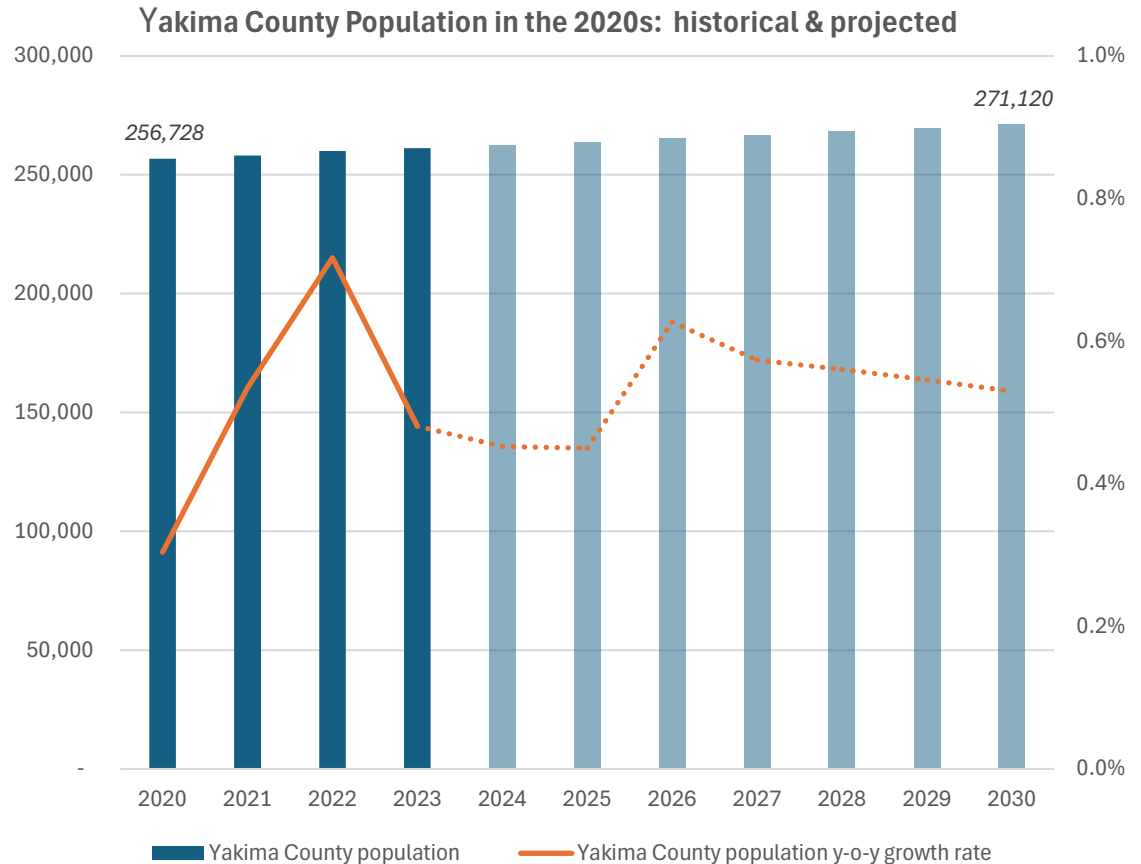


[Yakima Valley Trends](#)

Population

WA State (OFM) is forecasting continued slow growth

- A projected county gain of ~14,000 from 2020 to 2030
- Average annual forecasted growth 2024-2030 ~ 0.5%

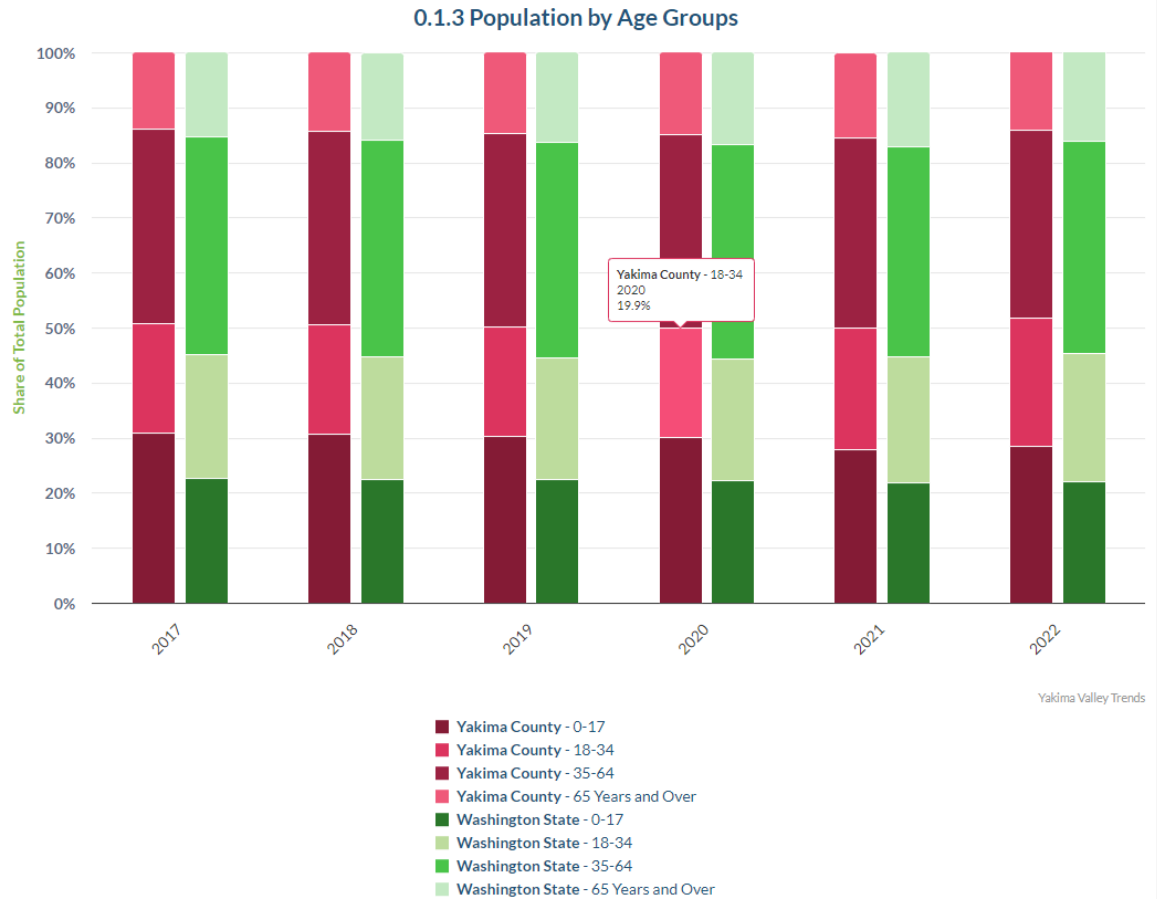


[WA OFM \(medium series\)](#)

Population

Yakima County is currently a very young county

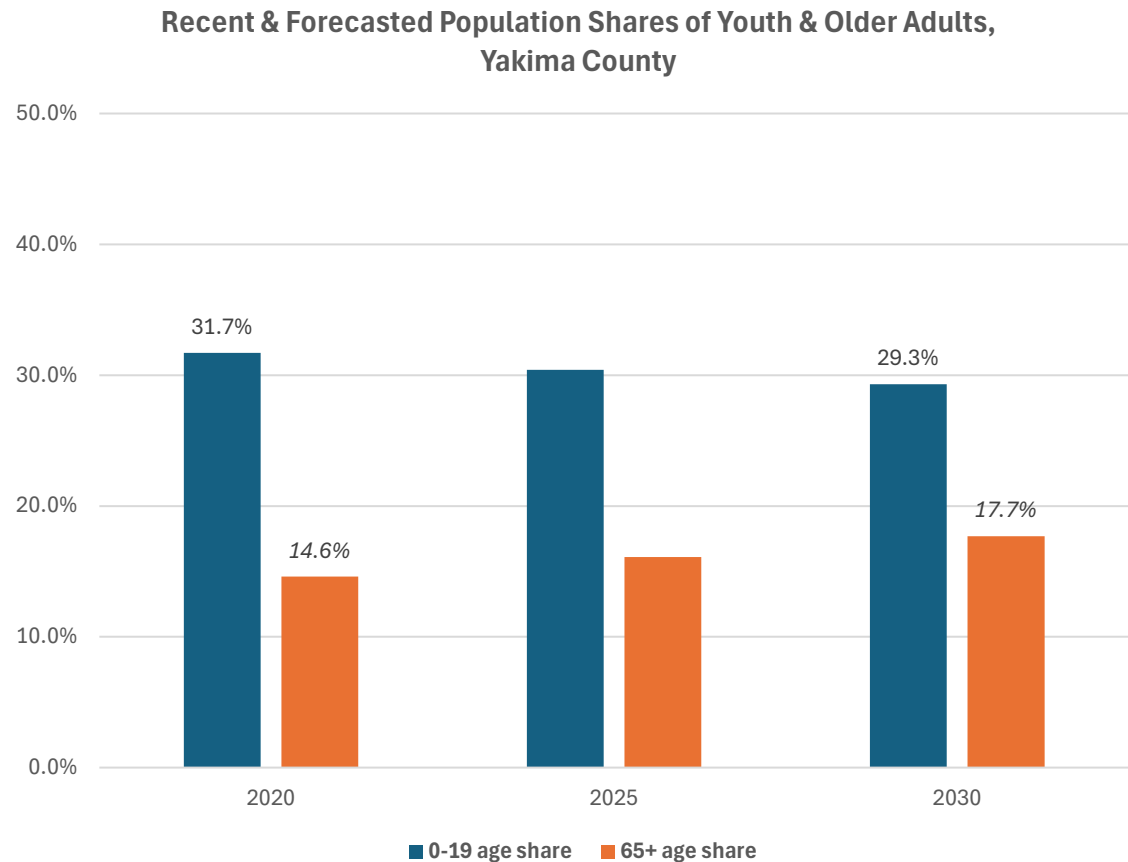
- Regard this graph as a population pyramid, moving over time
- 2022 youth share of the population: 28.5% vs. 21.9% in WA
- Young adults' share close to WA's
- “Working adults” share, at 34.2% in 2022, much < WA (38.6%)



Population

Yakima County is a young county, but trending older

- By the end of the decade, OFM is predicting that the 65+ population will make up 18% of total population, or a gain of 10,500
- Over the same period, the 0-19 group will shrink by ~ 2,000



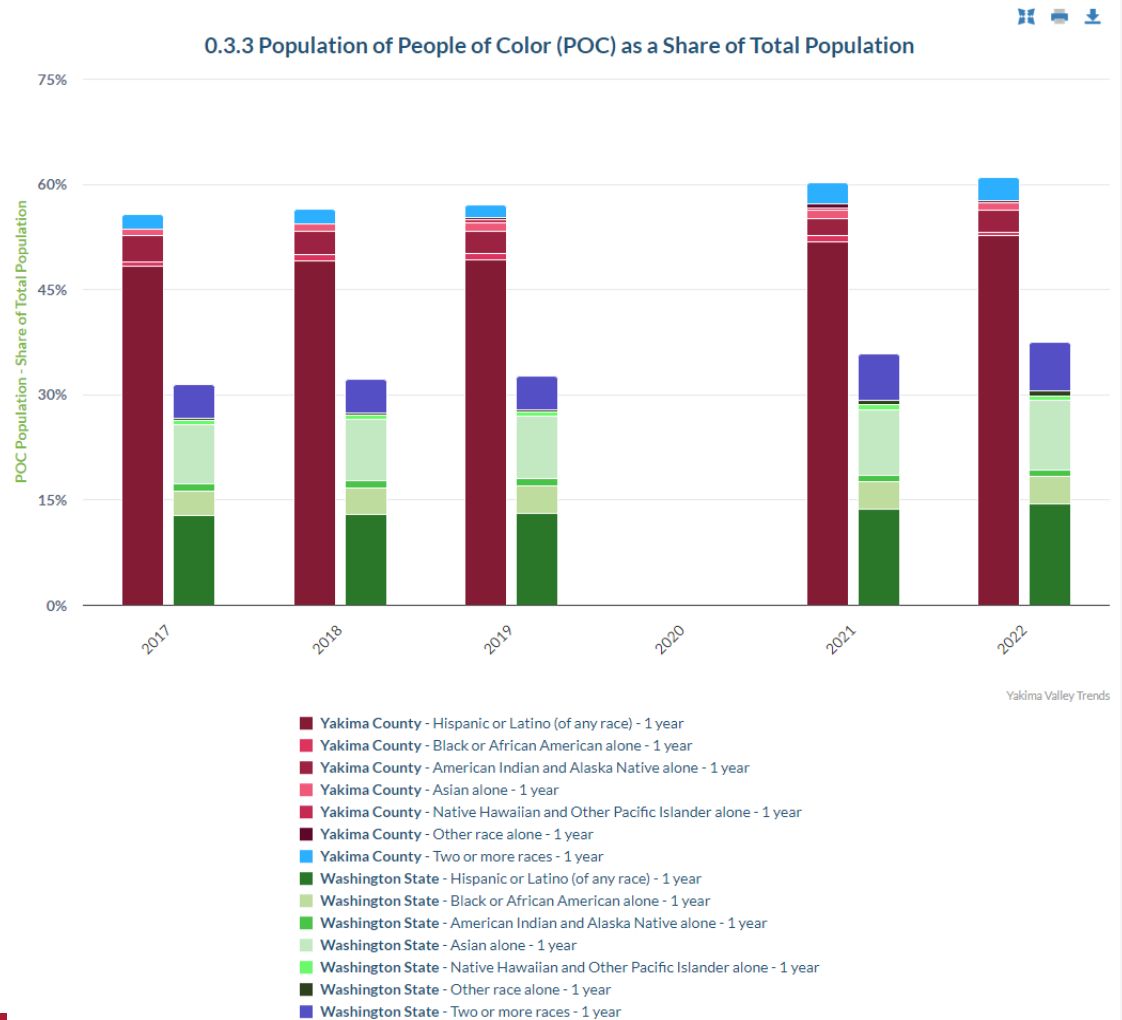
[OFM \(medium series\)](#)

Population

Yakima County is now a majority minority county

- A story of the rise of the Hispanic/Latino population; as of 2022, about 53% of the population
- Two other relatively large groups: American Indian & “2 or more races”
- Overall, POC claim a much higher share of population here than in WA: 61% to 37%

[Yakima Valley Trends](#)

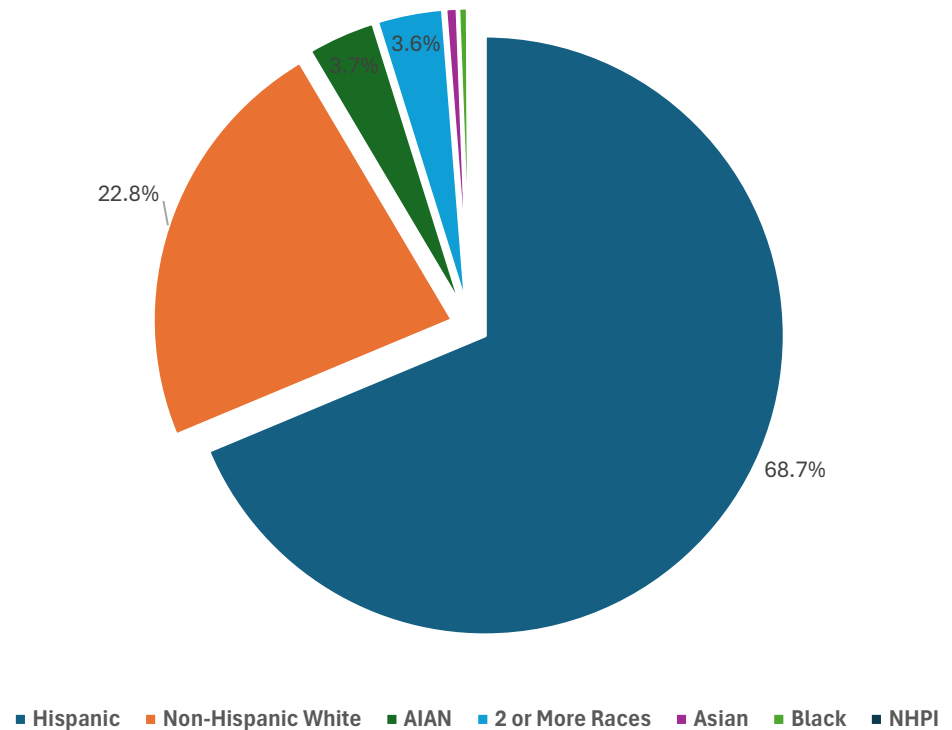


Population

Yakima's Youth of Color are even more represented in the general population than for all ages

- More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of all the County's youth are kids of color
- Hispanic/Latinos are even more represented than in the general population
- Native Americans & "2 or More Races" contribute ~7.5% to total

Estimated race& ethnicity distribution by Yakima County Youth (0-19), 2023

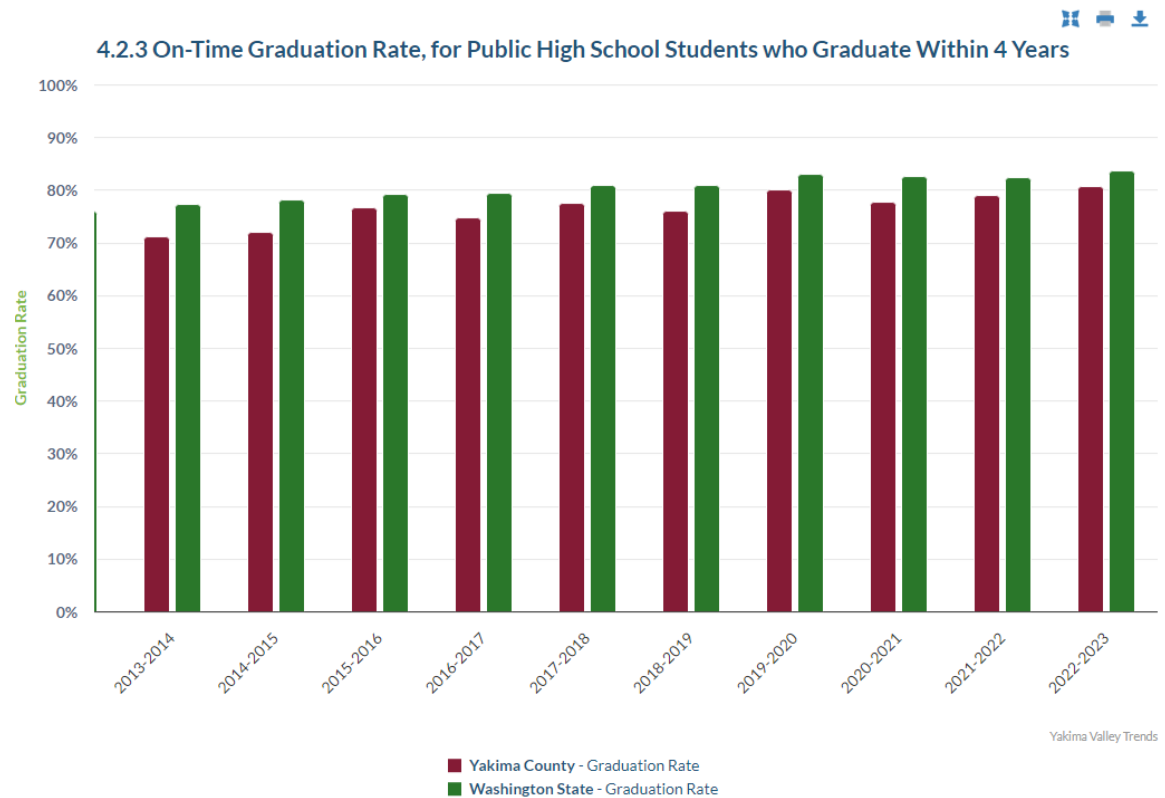


[WA OFM Small Area Demographic Estimates](#)

Education

Yakima County's HS graduation rate lags WA's but has improved over past decade

- Overall rate in 2022-23 was ~81%
 - WA average: 84%
- An increase of about 10 percentage points from 2013-14
- Substantial variation among school districts

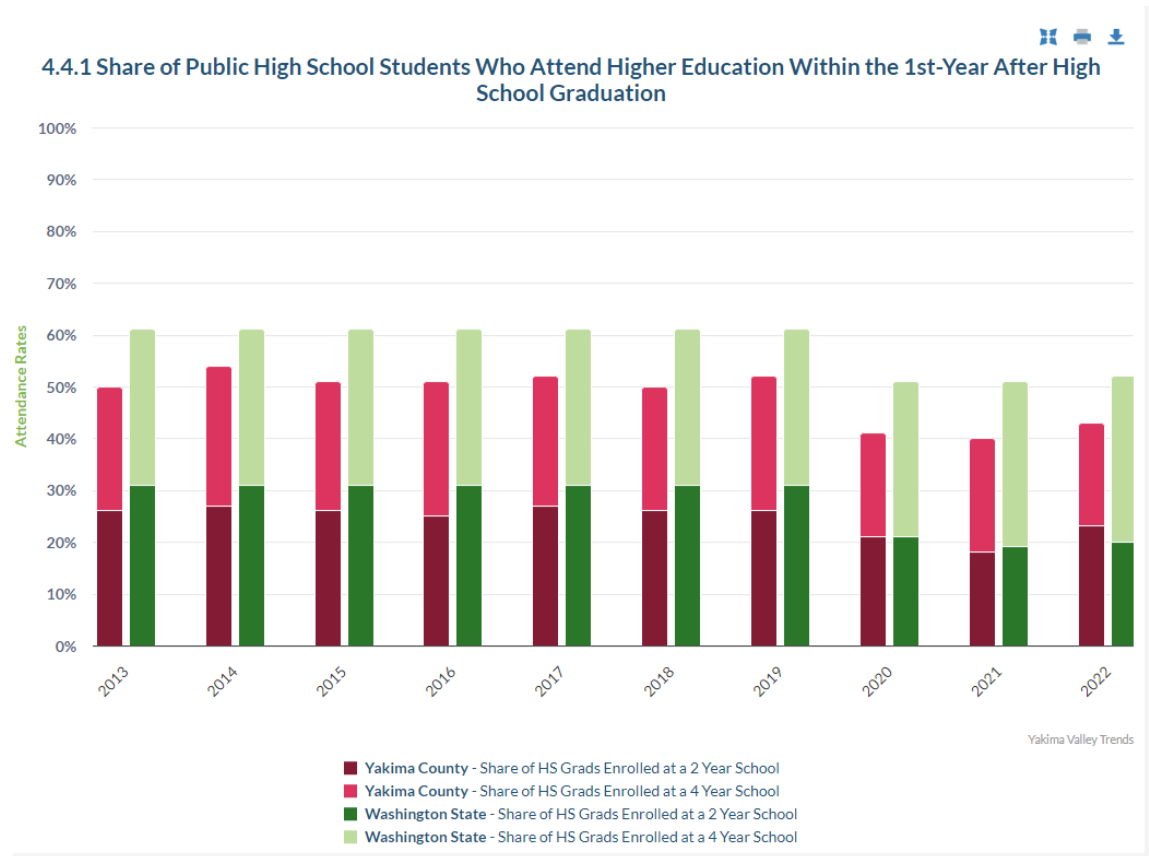


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Education

The share of Yakima County's HS grads who go on to some post-secondary education has slumped

- Total share for the class of 2022: 43%
 - WA average: 52%
- Total share for the class of 2019: 52%
- The decline a bit more pronounced for those seniors pursuing a degree or certificate at a 2-year or trade school

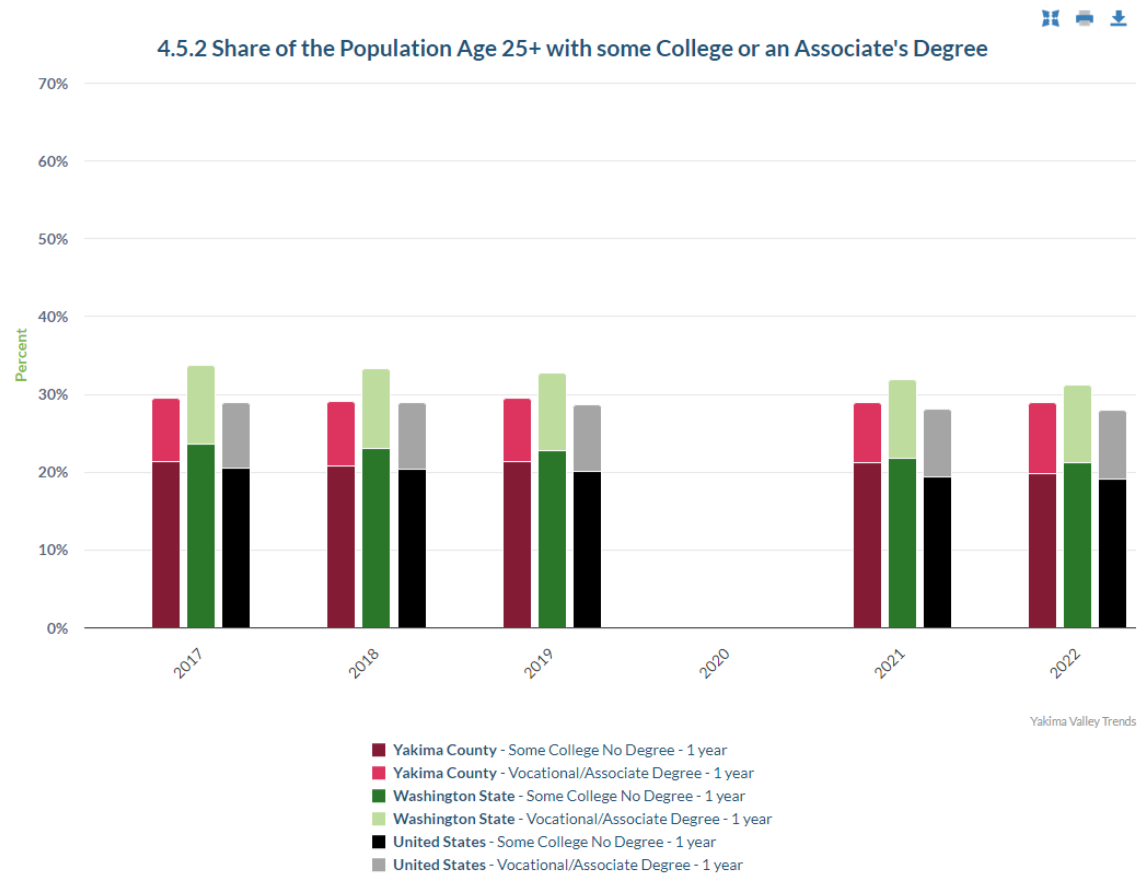


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Education

The share of Yakima County adults with some education at a community college or trade school

- Overall rate has stayed constant over past several years
- Yakima County rate < WA's but > U.S. average
- Larger share of those with some coursework but no degree



Education

The share of Yakima County adults with a Bachelor's degree or higher has slowly grown

- But 2022 share of 18.9% was far below those of benchmarks
 - WA: 39.5%
 - U.S.: 35.6%
- 2017 Yakima share: 17.6%
- Undoubtedly reflects the needs of the local economy

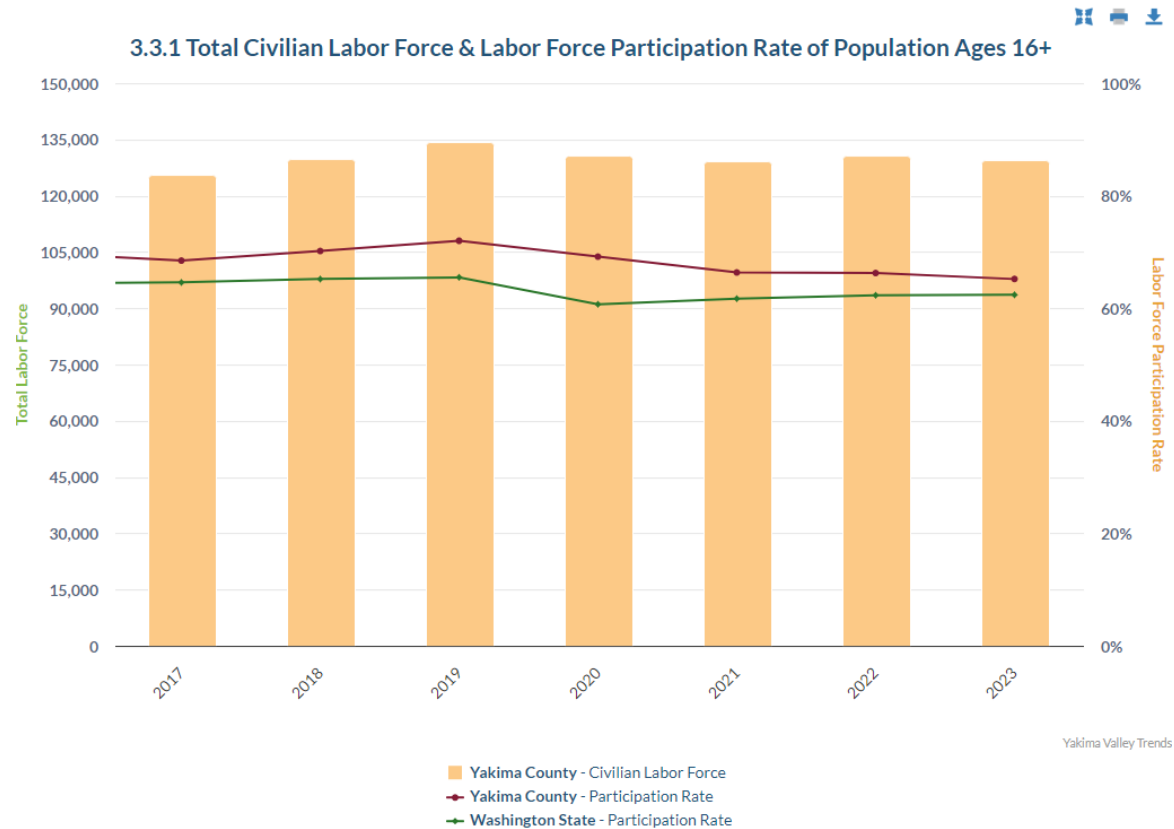


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Yakima County Workforce

The number & participation rate in the workforce have yet to recover from the pandemic

- At 129,500 the 2023 County workforce was still lower, by 4,500, than 2019 peak.
- Participation rate has also dropped – by 7 percentage points!
 - Still a bit > WA average
- Participation rate = (total employed + total unemployed), divided by 16+ population.

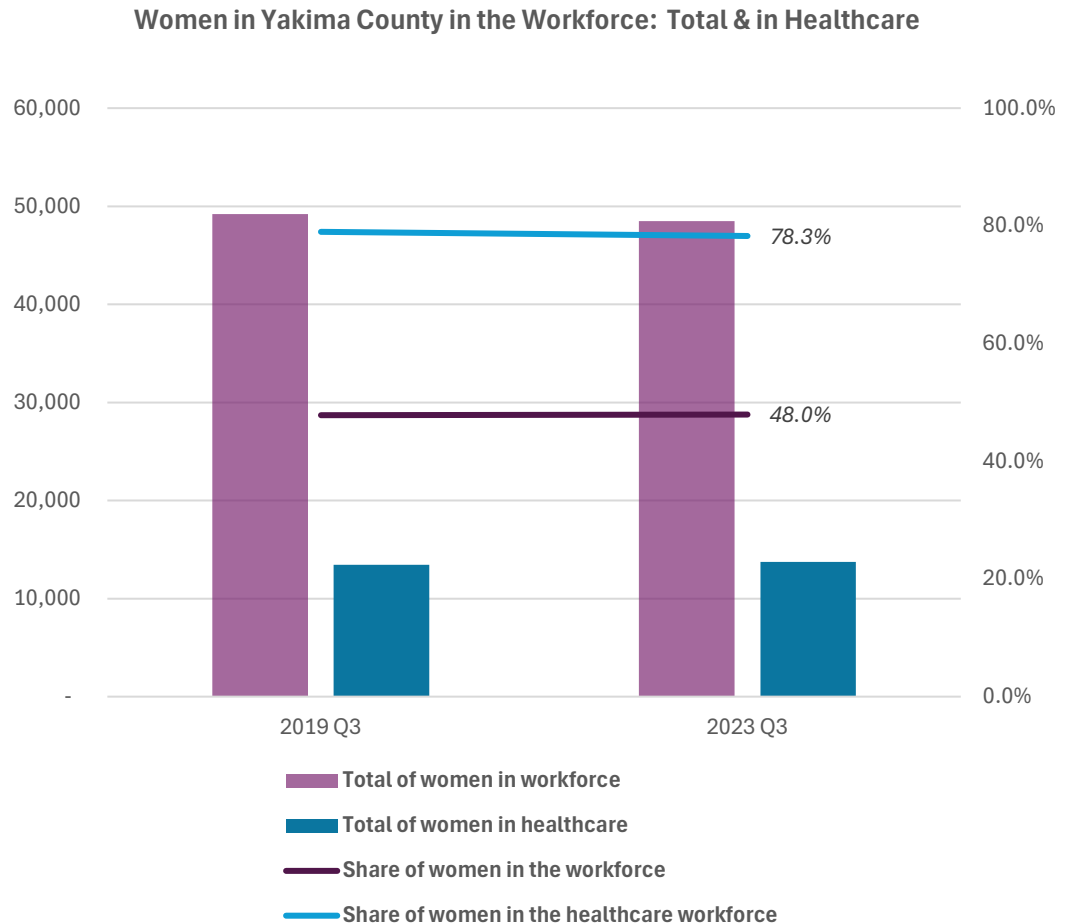


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Yakima County Workforce Women

- Little change in the number & share of women in the County workforce pre- and post-pandemic
- Women make up ~half of the general workforce but nearly 80% of the healthcare workforce

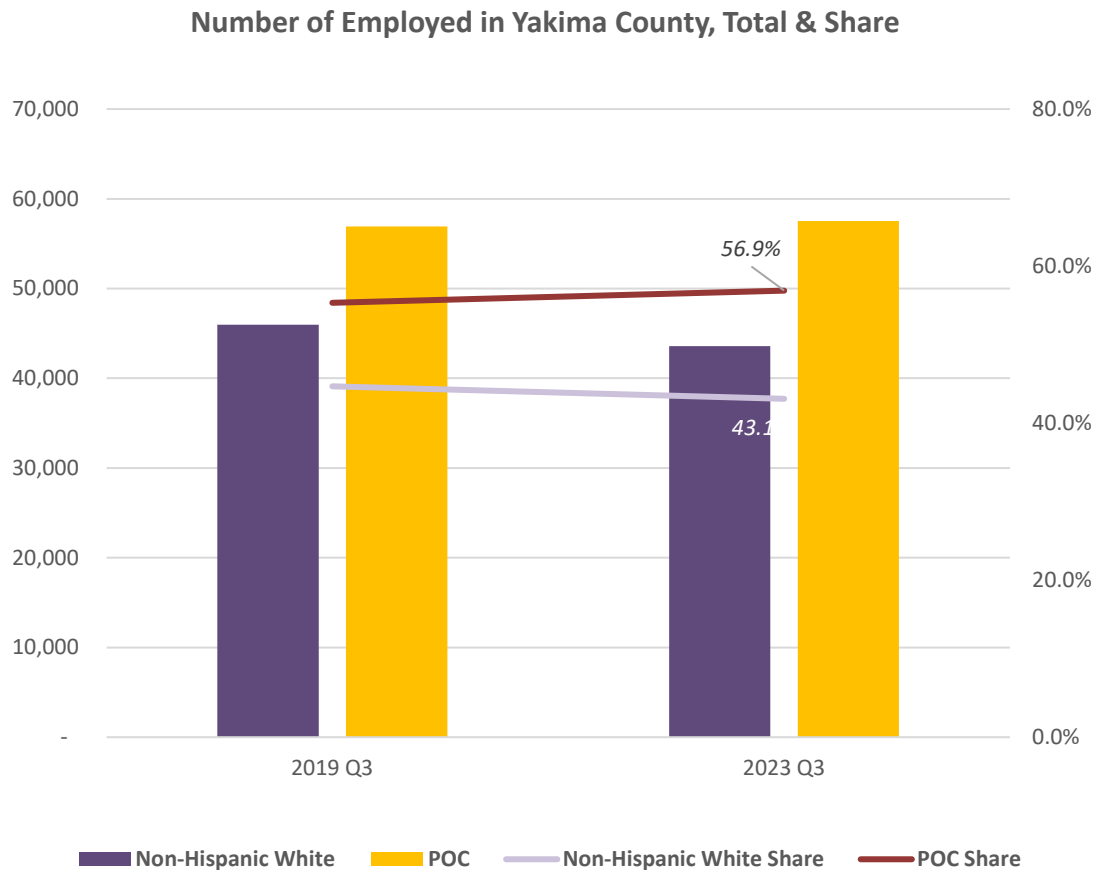
[Census: Quarterly Workforce Indicators](#)



Yakima County Workforce

Number of POC employed overall in the county is considerably larger than for non-Hispanic Whites

- The share of POC employed is a bit less than their overall share in the population
 - Likely due to high number of students of color who are too young to be in the workforce
- The share of POC employed changed little during the pandemic

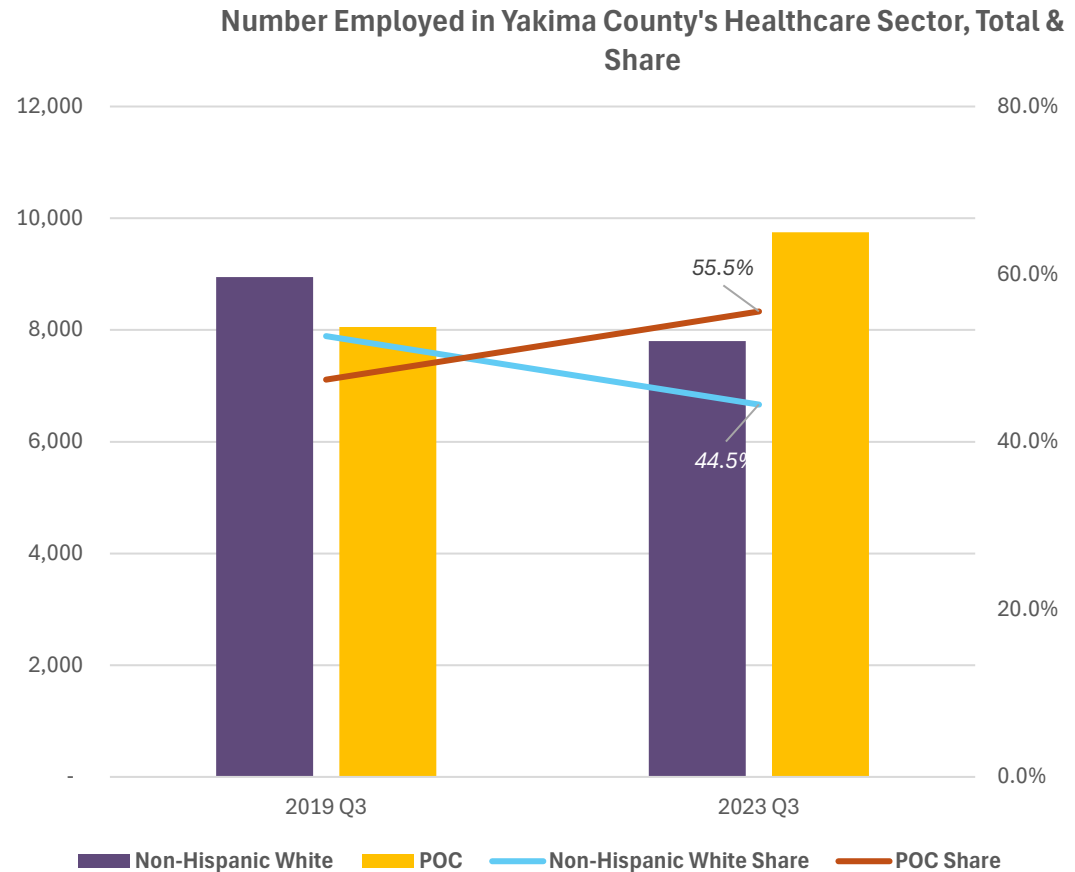


[Census: Quarterly Workforce Indicators](#)

Yakima County Workforce

Number of POC employed in Healthcare is now considerably larger than for non-Hispanic Whites

- Sector also includes “Social Assistance” (settings for youth & elderly care)
- Dominant share switched to POC over the pandemic



[Census: Quarterly Workforce Indicators](#)

Healthcare workforce determinants

A brief summary for Yakima County (vs. WA)

- Slow historical **population growth**; modest growth forecasted thru 2030
- A very **young county**, largely due to outsized numbers of youth but trending older
- A **majority minority county**, due to large presence of Hispanic/Latinos
- **HS graduation rates** have improved substantially, but not college-going
- **Ed attainment profile** skews toward community college or “some college”
- **Labor force** has yet to regain pre-pandemic levels, but participation rate is high
- **Women** dominate the healthcare workforce
- **POC** are now the dominant group in the healthcare workforce

THANK YOU

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