

The European Union and the African Union

A STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

2016 EDITION



COMPACT
GUIDES

eurostat 

Cooperation for high quality official statistics

Eurostat, at the centre of the European Statistical System, and the Statistics Division of the African Union Commission (AUSTAT), at the centre of the African Statistical System, engage to share good practices and lessons learnt from their experiences in producing statistics across the different domains at regional level.

The Statistics Division of the African Union Commission, the African Centre for Statistics of the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa and the Statistics Department of the African Development Bank, together with the African Capacity Building Foundation, constitute the African Statistical Coordination Committee. They cooperate in strategic initiatives for statistical development in Africa, including the African Charter on Statistics, the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, the African Statistical Yearbook, etc.

This leaflet presents some highlights from the 2016 edition of the 'The European Union and the African Union; a Statistical Portrait', jointly prepared by Eurostat and AUSTAT. The main publication provides a wide range of detailed statistics and offers a broad comparative view of the EU and AU regions in figures.

Africa-EU Strategic Partnership

Africa's continental integration is a key priority for the strategic partnership between the African Union and the EU. The new Pan-African Programme provides a major contribution to the Africa-EU Partnership, established in 2007 with the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). The programme is a key instrument for the EU to implement, in close cooperation with African partners, the political priorities of the Joint roadmap 2014–2017.

To achieve the strategic objectives of the 4th priority area agreed in 2015 between the European Commission and the African Union Commission (economic growth for poverty reduction, creation of decent jobs, development of the private sector, continental integration, energy, industrialisation and investment), support for statistical capacity building is considered essential. Decisions to invest or develop new policies need to be based on reliable and comparable data. Therefore, cooperation between the European Statistical System and the African Statistical System in producing quality statistical service is being enhanced.

Within the Africa-EU Partnership and the JAES, the EU supports capacity building for statistics in the African Union.

The Pan-African Statistics (PAS) programme, as part of the overall Pan-African Programme, therefore aims to support African integration by improving the availability and quality of statistical information required for informed decision-making and policy monitoring. To this end it will provide technical assistance to enhance harmonisation of statistics on the continent and to foster institutional capacity building.

Key aspects of the socio-economic situation

According to UN projections, the importance of Africa in the world population will increase substantially over the coming decades, from 16.1 % of the world population in 2015 to 25.5 % by 2050. Infant and child mortality in Africa are steadily falling. At the same time, estimated life expectancy in Africa is rising, reaching 61.1 years in 2015. In comparison, life expectancy for the world of the whole is 70.1 years and in the EU 80.9 years (2014).

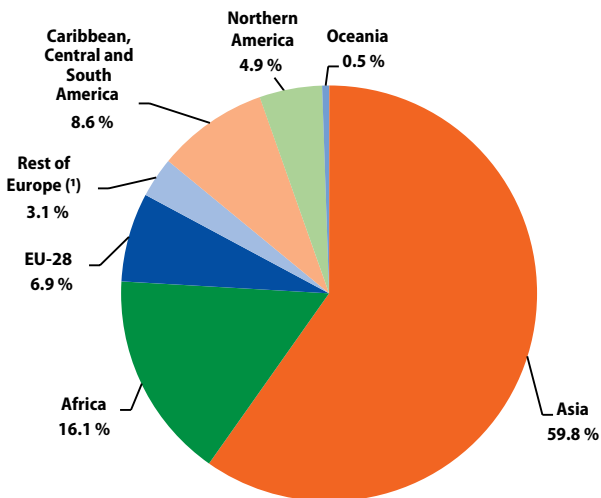
The African economy is also growing steadily. Overall inflation has remained between 7 % and 9 % since 2010, substantially higher than in the EU. Although GDP per capita in many African countries still remains well below EU levels, economic development in Africa is reflected in a strong GDP growth in many countries. Ethiopia, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire recorded the highest GDP growth from 2014 to 2015.

There are strong trade ties between Africa and the EU. In 2015, the main African trade partners for imports of goods to the EU were Algeria, South Africa and Nigeria. The main African destinations for EU-28 exports were South Africa, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. The main product group imported to the EU from Africa is energy products, representing 47 % of the value of the EU's imports from Africa in 2015. However, falling oil prices have led to a substantial fall in the value of the oil and gas imports from Africa over recent years. The main product group exported from the EU to Africa is machinery and vehicles, comprising both cars and machinery for industry, mining, extraction and energy production.

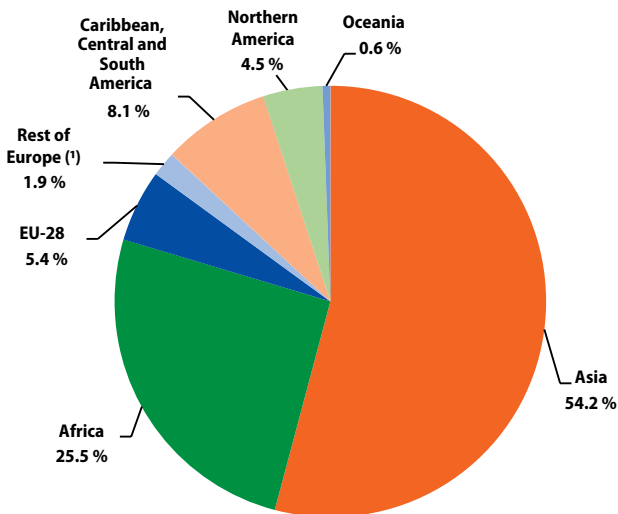
Mobile communications, both telephony and data transfer, are a key driving force for the information society. In both Africa and Europe, the number of subscriptions per capita is increasing, with Gabon, Botswana, Seychelles and Libya among the top 10 countries in Africa in terms of mobile communications.

World population by regions, 2015 and 2050 (% of total world population)

2015



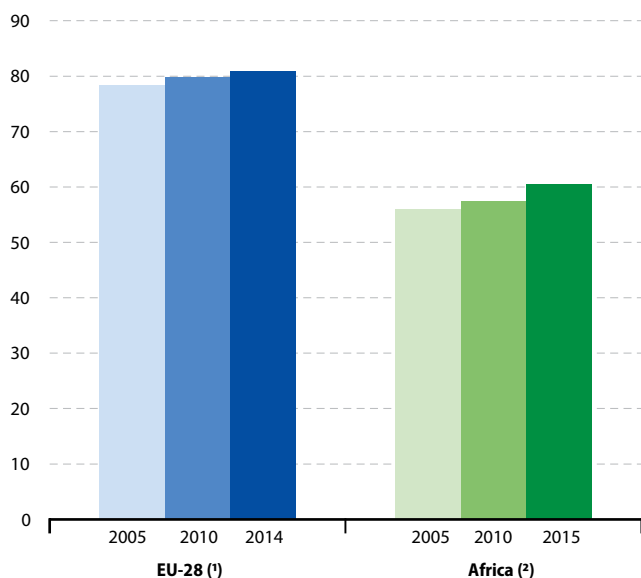
2050 (2)



(1) Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Kosovo*, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine (* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence);

(2) UNPD estimate, medium fertility scenario

Life expectancy at birth (years)

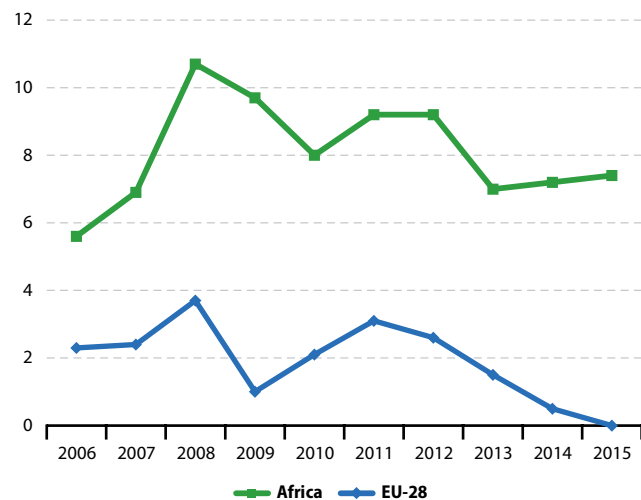


(¹) EU-28: 2014 instead of 2015

(²) Africa: estimated

Sources: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_mlexpec](#)) and the Statistics Division of the African Union Commission

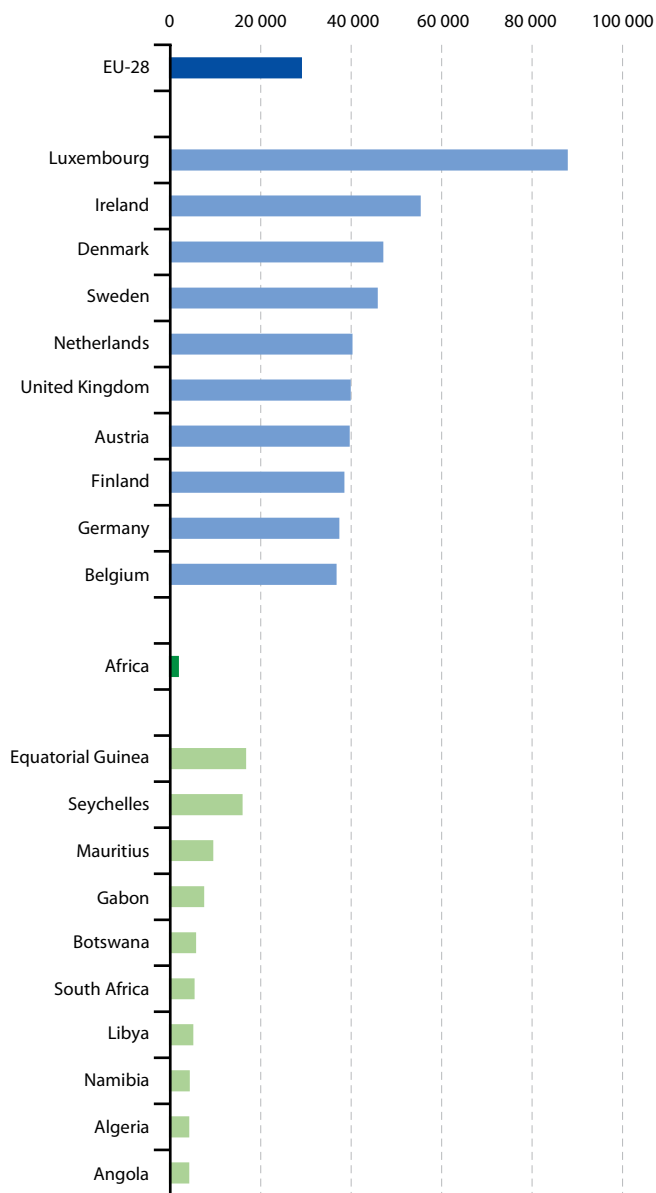
Inflation rate (% annual growth)



Sources: Eurostat (online data code: [prc_hicp_aind](#)) and the Statistics Division of the African Union Commission

GDP per capita at current prices, top 10 EU Member States and top 10 African countries, 2015

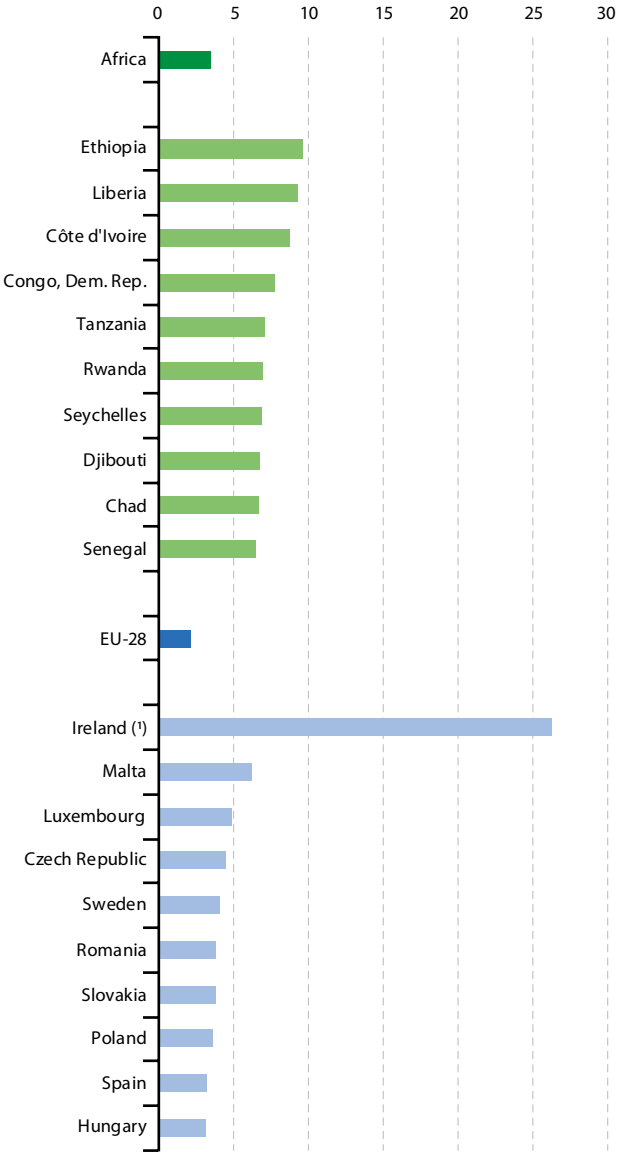
(Euro)



Sources: Eurostat (online data code: [nama_10_pc](#)) and the Statistics Division of the African Union Commission

GDP growth rates at constant prices, top 10 EU Member States and top 10 African countries, 2015

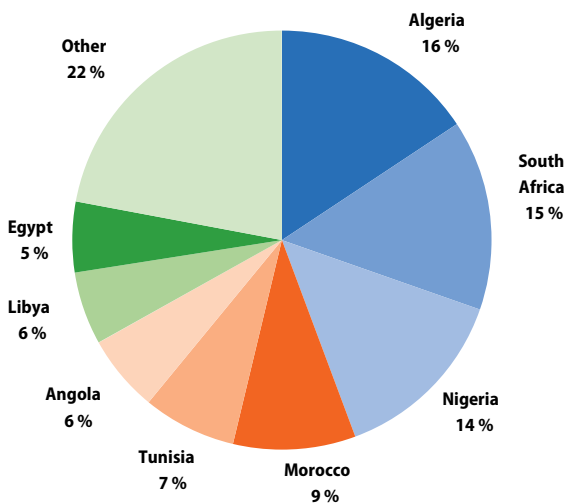
(%)



(¹) The Irish GDP for 2015 has been revised upwards. The high GDP growth rate from 2014 to 2015 is to a large extent caused by this revision.

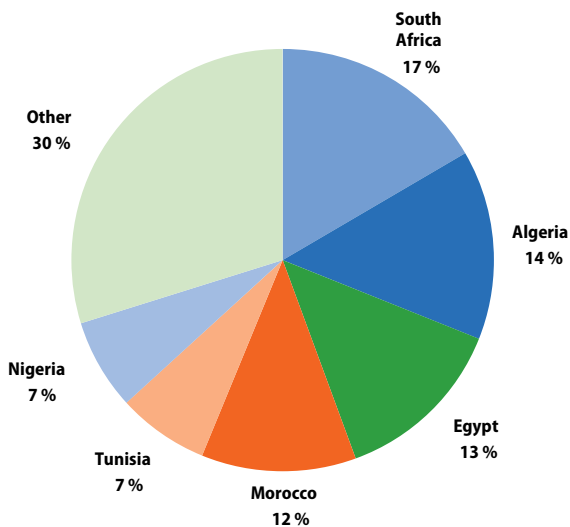
Sources: Eurostat (online data code: [tec00115](#)) and the Statistics Division of the African Union Commission

EU-28 imports of goods from Africa by main partners, 2015 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

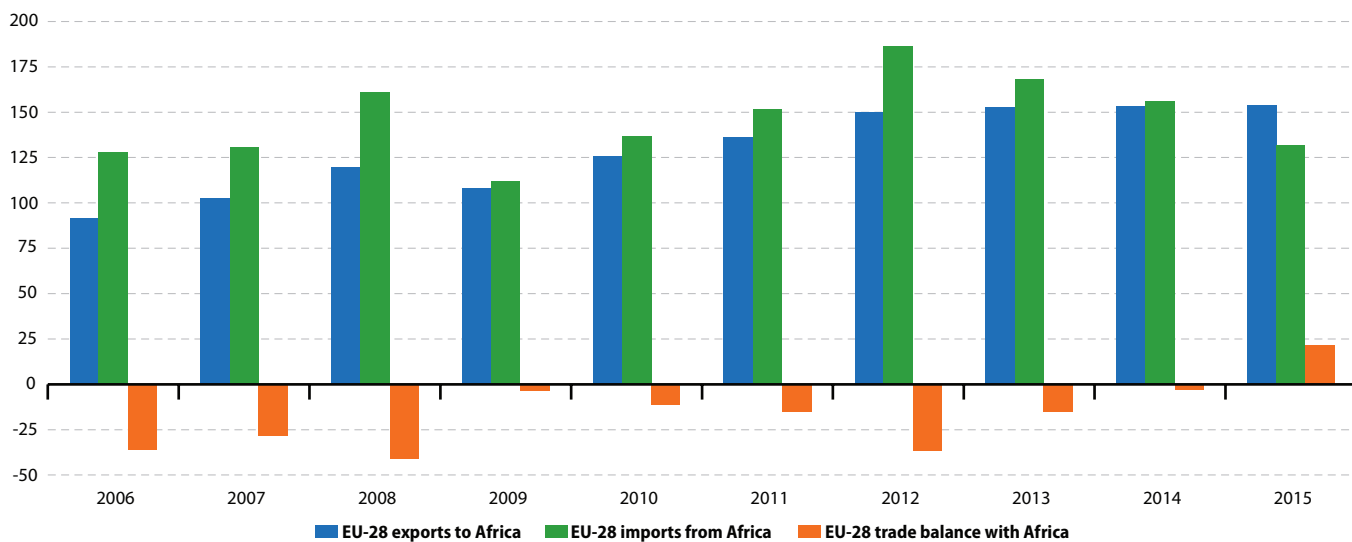
EU-28 exports of goods to Africa by main partners, 2015 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

EU-28 trade in goods with Africa, 2015

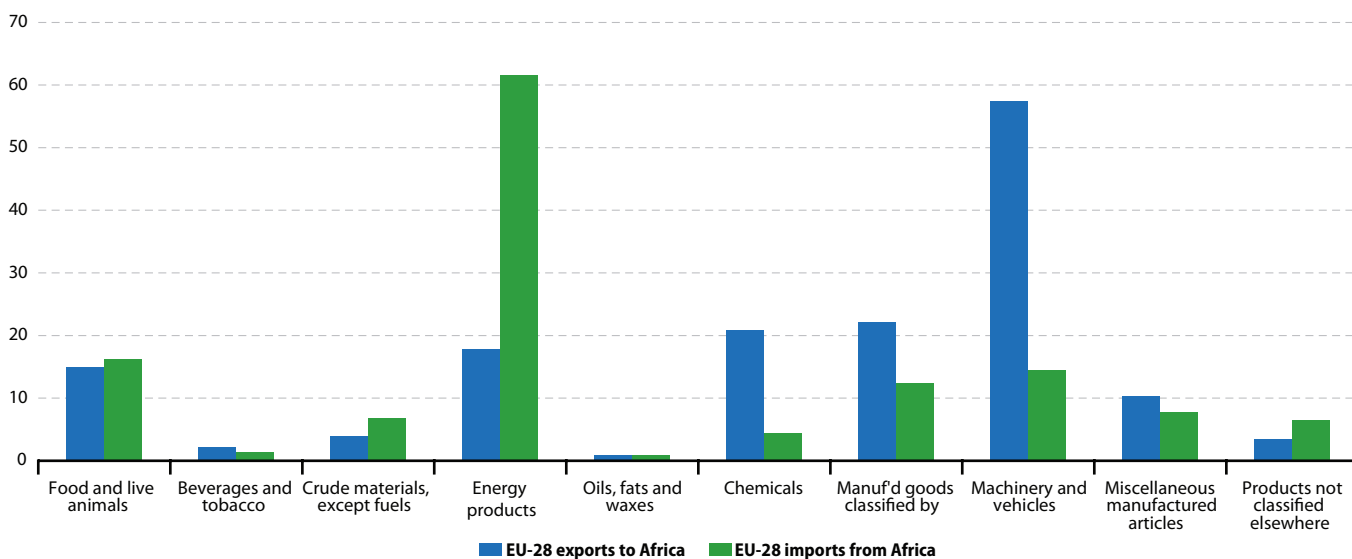
(billion EUR)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

EU-28 trade in goods with Africa, by SITC section, 2015

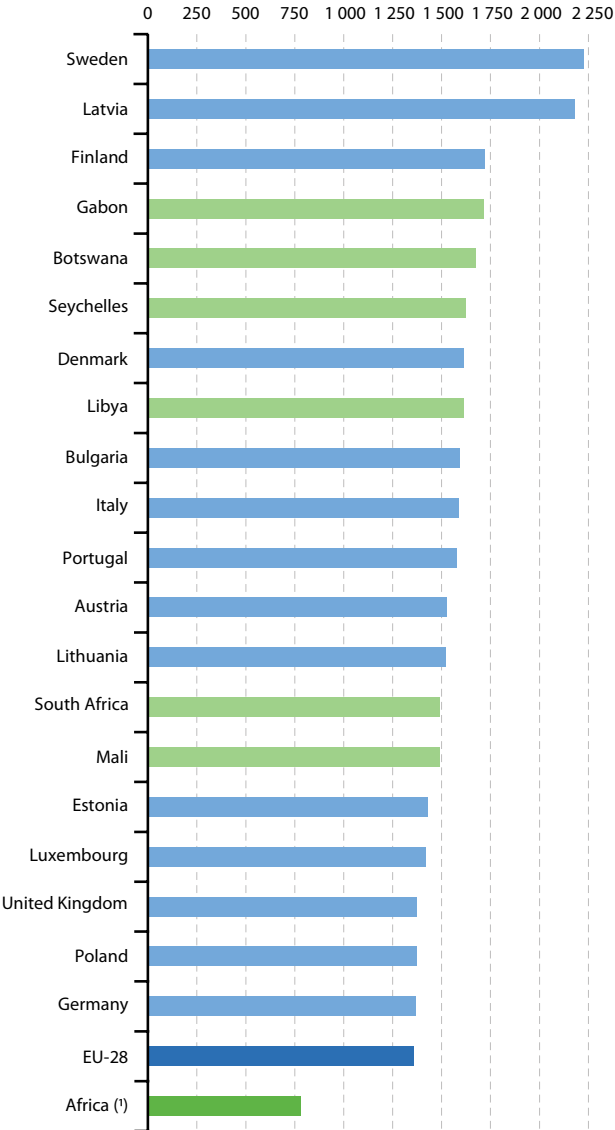
(billion EUR)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Mobile communication subscriptions, top 20 EU Member States and African countries, 2014

(subscriptions per thousand inhabitants)



(!) Estimated

Sources: DG CONNECT's Digital Agenda Scoreboard and the Statistics Division of the African Union Commission

EUROSTAT COOPERATION RESOURCES

For more information on European statistics, please go to the Eurostat website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

For more information on quality in statistics, see:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/overview>

For information on Eurostat's statistical cooperation activities:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/international-statistical-cooperation/overview>

E-mail: ESTAT-STATISTICAL-COOPERATION@ec.europa.eu



The European Union and the African Union A statistical portrait

2016 edition (Statistical Book with more detailed data)



Guide to statistics in European Commission development cooperation

2013 edition



Essential SNA: Building the basics

2014 edition



We can do better if we know better! Statistics for development

2016 edition



Building better statistics Eurostat's tools for statistical capacity building



Snapshot

A user-friendly tool to assess National Statistical Systems

See 'Statistics explained' for further insight into Eurostat's international cooperation activities:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Non-EU_countries

SEE ALSO

African Union Commission – Statistics Division:

<http://www.au.int>



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