

Global Health Expenditure Database

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Summary

The Global Health Expenditure Database (GHED) provides internationally comparable data on health spending for close to 190 countries from 2000 to 2018. The database is open access and supports the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by helping monitor the availability of resources for health and the extent to which they are used efficiently and equitably.

The Data Team uses this dataset for these series:

- **SSeriesHealthExpPriv%Tot**
- **SeriesHealthExpTot%GDP**
- **SeriesHealthExpGov%Tot**

To pull data from the Global Health Expenditure Database for uploading into IFs, please follow the instructions below.

Steps to Pull Data From GHED

Step 1: Navigate to the GHED Data Home Page

The Global Health Expenditure Database (GHED) provides comparable data on health expenditure for more than 190 WHO Member States since 2000 with open access to the public.

Health spending indicators are key guides for monitoring the flow of resources, informing health policy development, and promoting the transparency and accountability of health systems. The database can help to answer questions, such as how much countries spend on health, how much of the health spending comes from government, households, and donors, and how much of the spending is channeled through compulsory and voluntary health financing arrangements. The database also includes a detailed breakdown of spending for an increasing number of countries on health care functions and primary health care, spending by diseases and conditions, and spending for the under 5-year-old population.

WHO works collaboratively with Member States to update the database ([Explore the Data](#)) annually, using available information such as health accounts data, government expenditure records and official statistics. Where necessary, modifications and estimates are made to ensure the comprehensiveness and consistency of the data across countries and years. In this year's GHED update, we published health spending in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 data also include COVID-19 specific health spending for a set of countries.

Alongside the data, we are also pleased to announce the update of [individual country profiles](#) and [primary health care country profiles](#) for countries with available data. In the [documentation center](#), you will find the December 2022 country release note, as well as complimentary technical notes, methodology guidelines, global, regional, and country reports on health expenditure, etc.

Together with the data publication, we also released the annual report "[Global Health Expenditure Report: Rising to the Pandemic's Challenges](#)".

In addition to examining the level and composition of health spending in 2020, the report specifically focuses on the way that health systems responded during the first year of the pandemic. Sharp increases in government spending on health at all income levels underpinned the rise in health spending to a new high of US \$9 trillion (approximately 11% of global GDP). Government health spending generally increased in line with the various prevention, detection, and treatment needs of the pandemic and offset declines in out-of-pocket spending. Importantly, the rise in public health spending was part of a much broader fiscal response to the pandemic, in high income and upper-middle income countries social protection spending also increased sharply as governments attempted to protect populations from the economic impacts of COVID-19. While governments effectively rose to the challenge of the first year of the pandemic, they face the further challenge of sustaining increased public spending on health and other social sectors in the face of deteriorating macroeconomic conditions and rising debt servicing. A further challenge is sustaining external support for low income countries, which is essential for sustaining essential services in health services and strengthening pandemic response.

Step 2: Click the "Data Explorer" tab at the top of the page



You will be navigated to this page:

Select

Indicators and data
1 of 313 selected
Reset

Countries
0 of 192 selected
Reset

Years
0 of 22 selected
Reset

Units of expenditures
Million NCU

View data and build report

Download all data in XLSX format

All Items Selected

Indicators and data

Expand all Select all Deselect all

Quick filter

INDICATORS

- AGGREGATES
- FINANCING SOURCES
- FINANCING SCHEMES
- PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
 - Primary Health Care (PHC) Expenditure per Capita in US\$
 - Primary Health Care (PHC) Expenditure as % Current Health Expenditure (CHE)
 - Domestic General Government Expenditure on PHC per Capita in US\$
 - Domestic General Government Expenditure on PHC as % GGHE-D
 - Domestic General Government Expenditure on PHC as % PHC
 - External Expenditure on PHC per Capita in US\$
 - External Expenditure on PHC as % EXT
 - External Expenditure on PHC as % PHC
 - ☒ PHC (government and donors) as % of GDP
 - Domestic Private Expenditure on PHC per Capita in US\$
 - Domestic Private Expenditure on PHC as % PVT-D

Next

Step 3: Using the search bar or drop downs, select your desired indicator. As an example, we will be using **Primary Health Care as a percent of GDP**.

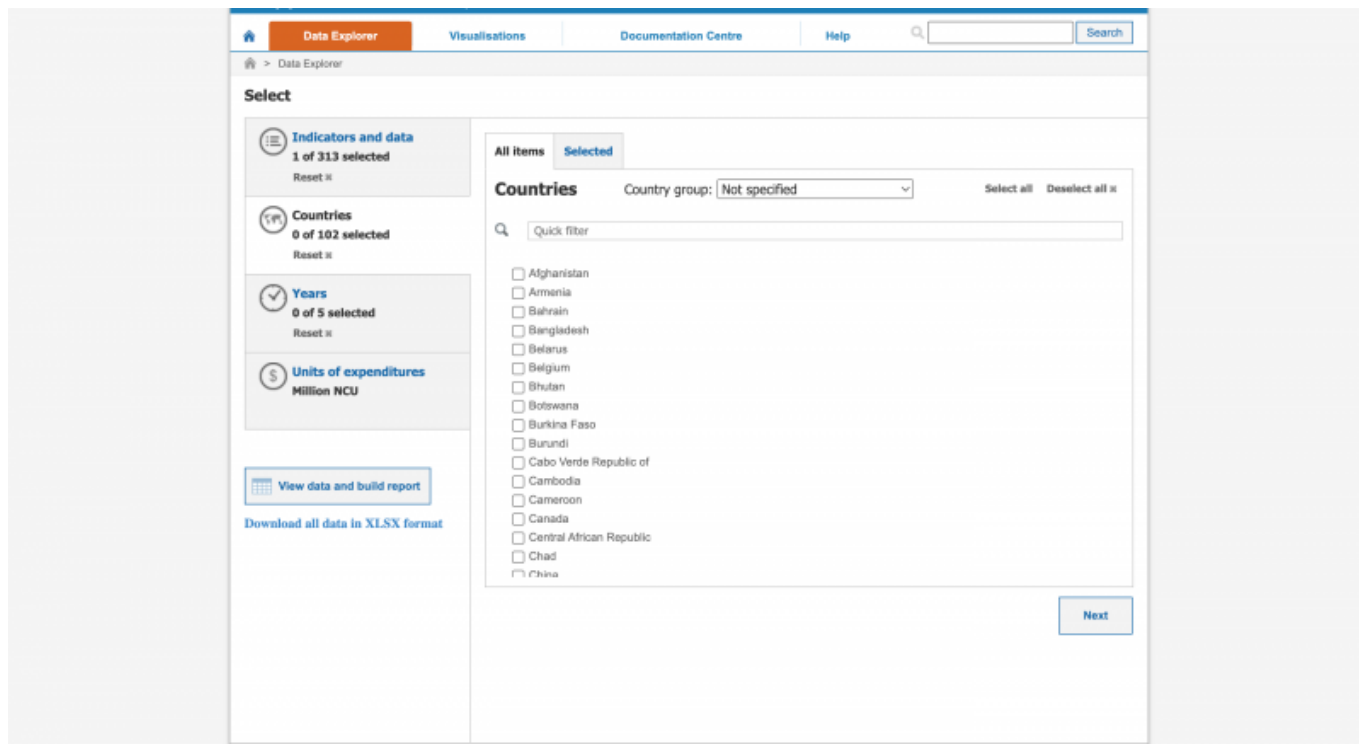
Selected indicators will look like this:

The screenshot shows the 'Global Health Expenditure Database' interface. On the left, under 'Select', there are four sections: 'Indicators and data' (1 of 313 selected), 'Countries' (0 of 192 selected), 'Years' (0 of 22 selected), and 'Units of expenditures' (Million NCU). A 'View data and build report' button is visible. The main area, 'Indicators and data', has a 'Quick filter' box and a list of indicators under the 'PRIMARY HEALTH CARE' category. The indicator 'PHC (government and donors) as % of GDP' is selected and highlighted with a red box. A 'Next' button is at the bottom right.

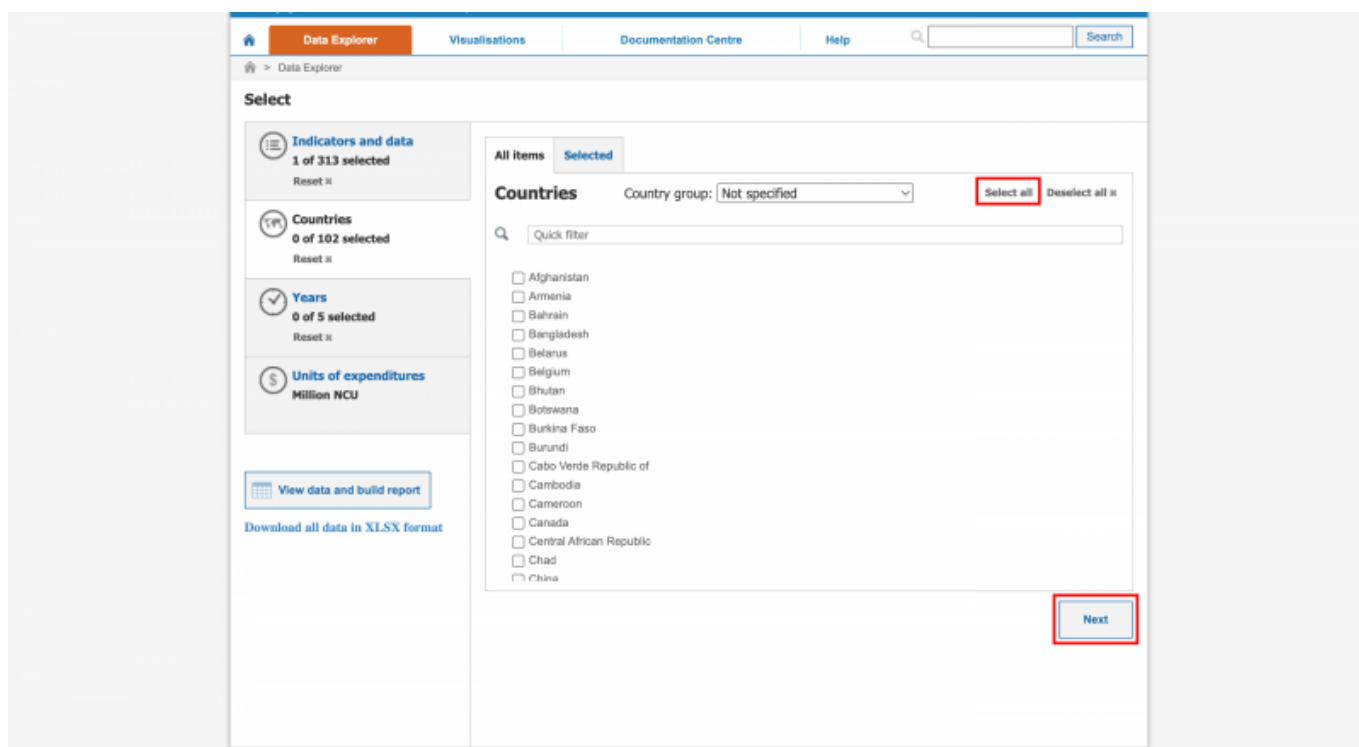
Step 4: Once you've selected your indicators, click "Next"

This screenshot is identical to the previous one, showing the same selection process. However, the 'Next' button at the bottom right is now highlighted with a red box, indicating the next step in the process.

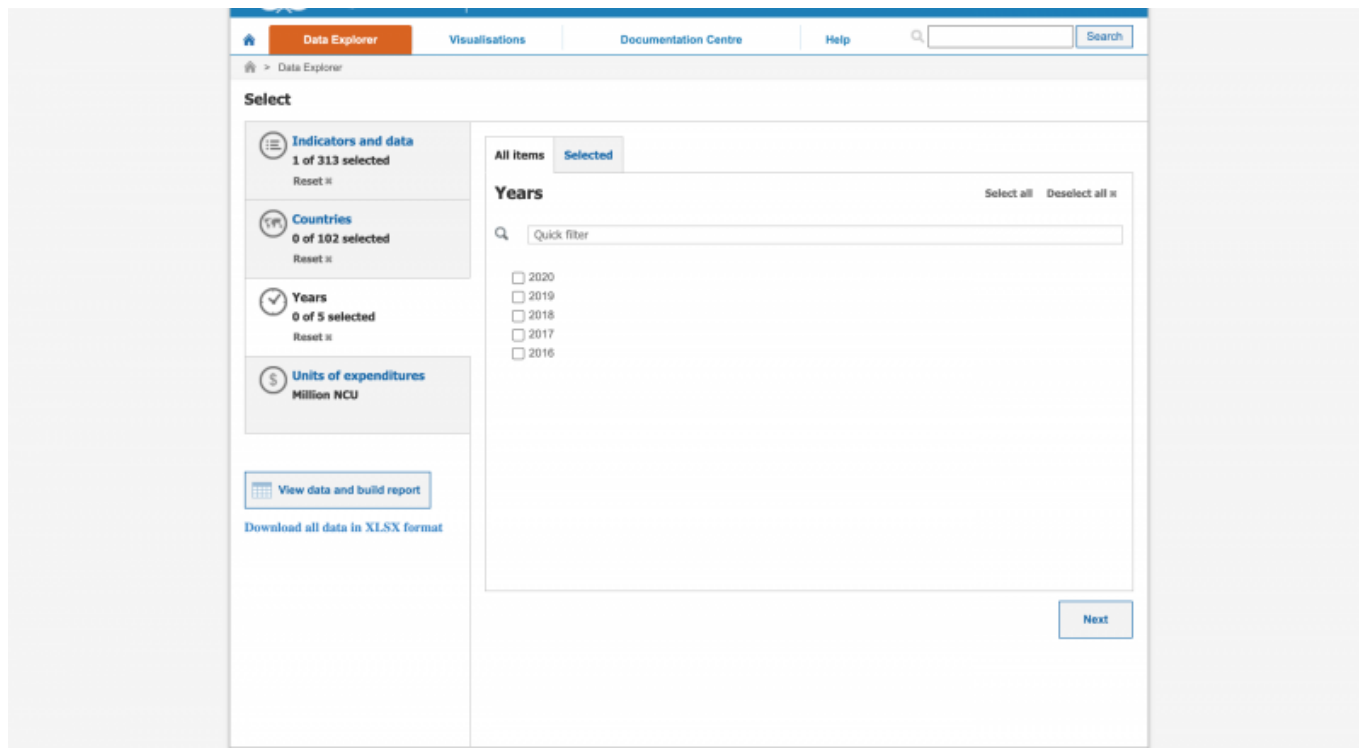
You will be navigated to this page:



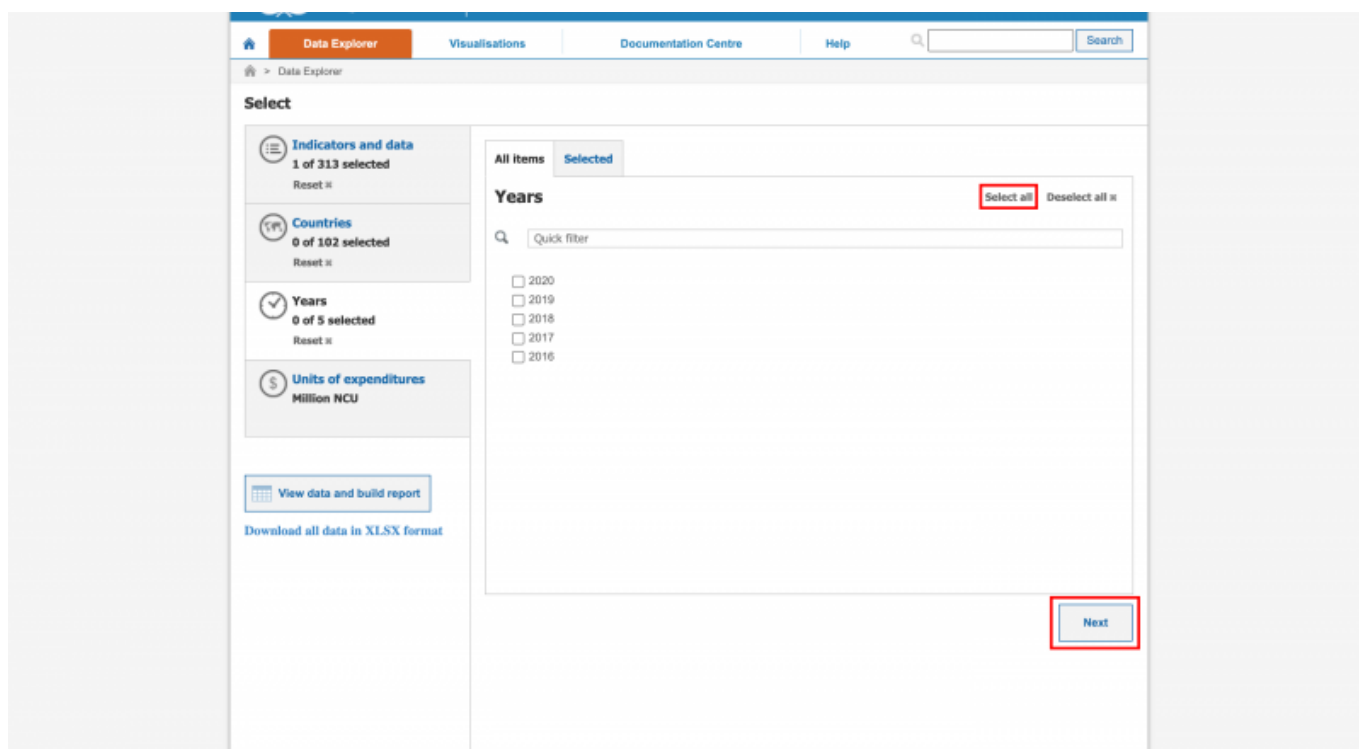
Step 5: On the countries page, click "select all" to select all countries, then click "Next"



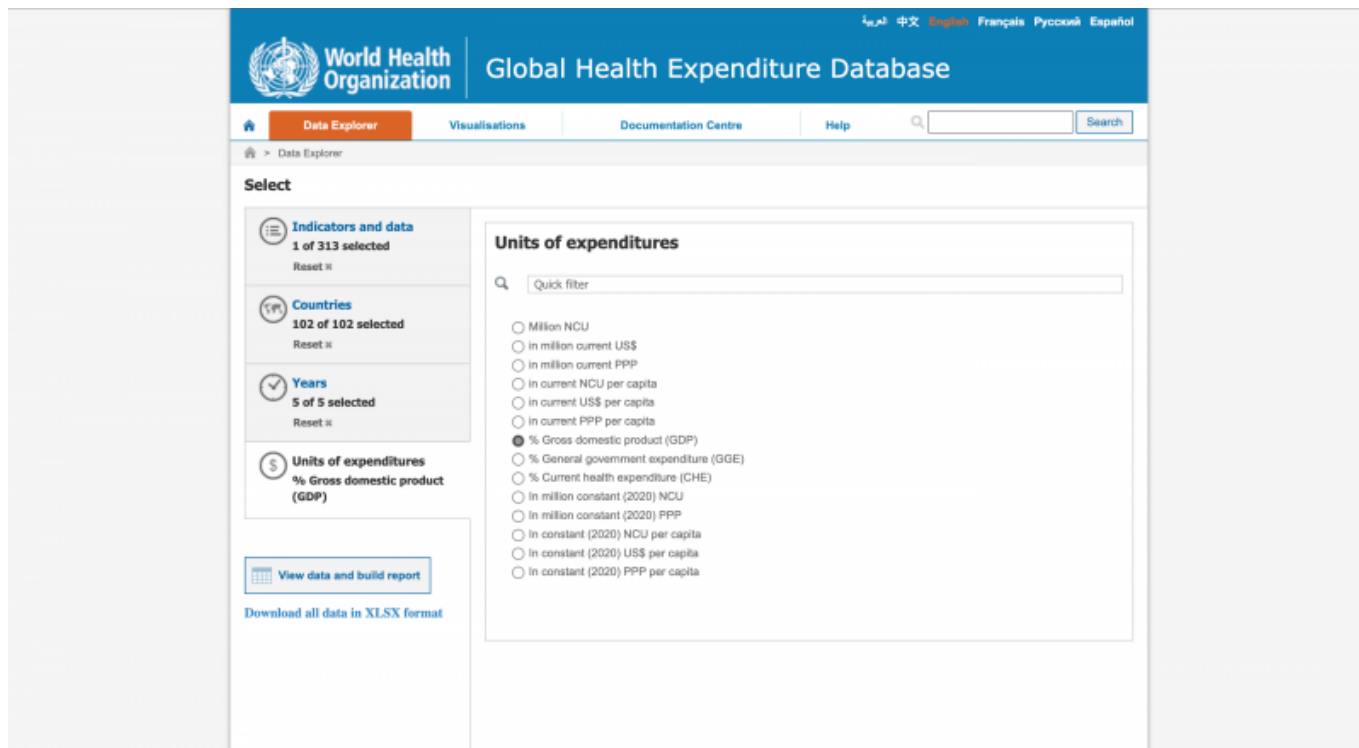
You will be navigated to this page:



Step 6: On the years page, click "select all" to select all years, then click "Next"

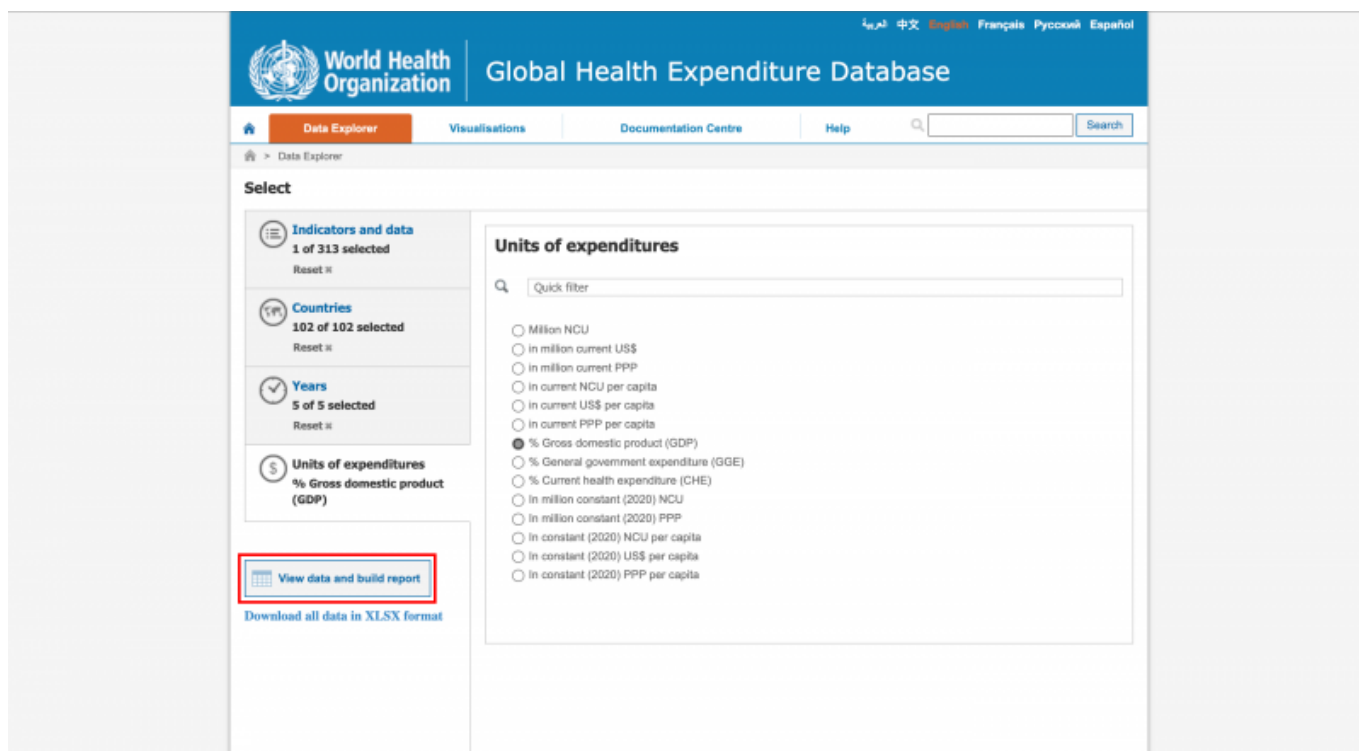


You will be navigated to this page:



Step 7: On the currency page, select the desired currency, then click "Next". For this example, we will be selecting **% GDP** (shown above).

Step 8: Once you've completed all of your selections, click the tab circled in the photo below to download the data in .xlsx format



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