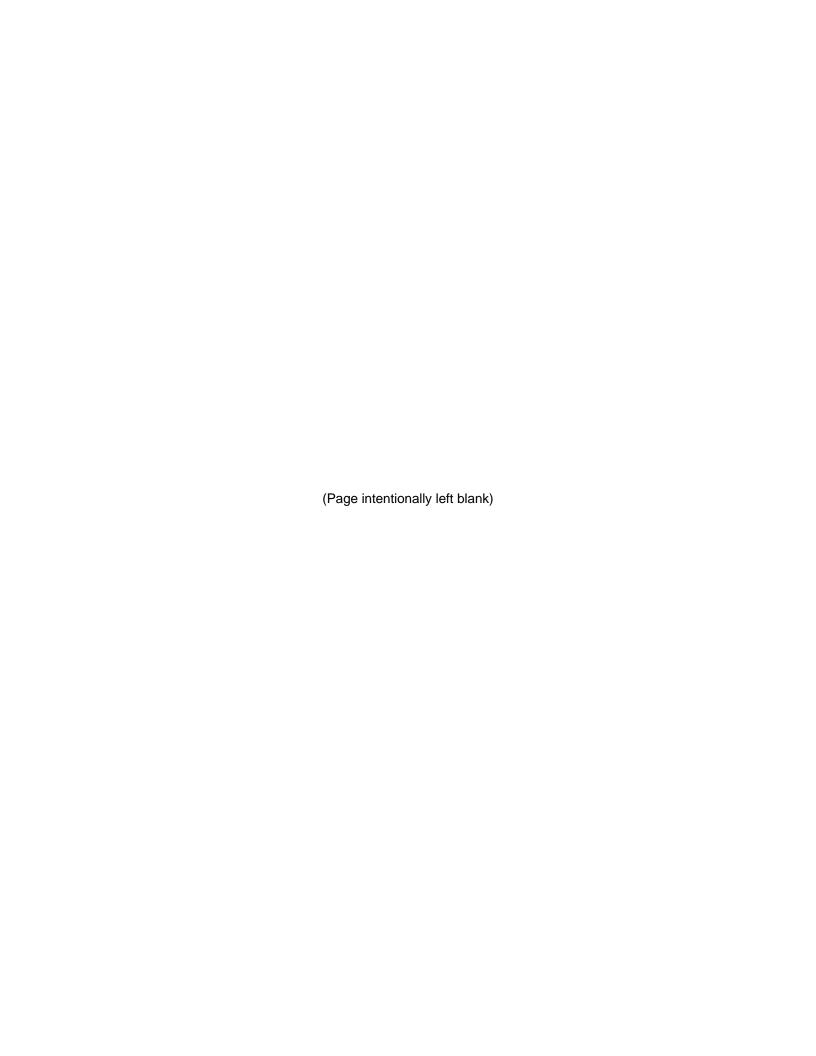


First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) • EUR, EUR.A

Annual Management Report of Fund Performance December 31, 2020



## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE December 31, 2020

First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) (the "First Trust ETF")

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete audited annual financial statements of the First Trust ETF. All references to dollars contained herein are to Canadian dollars.

Securityholders may also contact us to request a copy of the First Trust ETF's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosures relating to the First Trust ETF by calling 1-877-622-5552, by writing to us at FT Portfolios Canada Co., 40 King Street West, Suite 5102, Scotia Plaza, Box 312, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3Y2 or by visiting our website at www.firsttrust.ca or SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

## **Forward-looking Statements**

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 beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. Readers of this document should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. These factors include but are not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, the extent of industry sector exposure, the performance of the securities of the issuers held in the portfolio and regulatory developments and the risks detailed in the First Trust ETF's prospectus. The Manager 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.

# First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) Management Report of Fund Performance For the year ended December 31, 2020

## Investment Objective and Strategy

The fundamental investment objective of **First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged)** (the "First Trust ETF") is to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of the AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> European Dividend Index (the "Index"), net of expenses. The Index results from applying the AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> methodology to a universe of ADRs of European companies that are listed on the NYSE, NYSE Market and NASDAQ exchanges.

The investment strategy of the First Trust ETF is to invest in and hold a proportionate share of the constituent securities of the Index, or other securities, to seek to replicate the performance of the Index. The First Trust ETF may also hold cash and cash equivalents or other money market instruments to fund current liabilities. The First Trust ETF will generally seek to hedge substantially all of its U.S. dollar, British pounds sterling, euros and Swiss francs currency exposure associated with its portfolio investments back to the Canadian dollar.

The Index is developed, maintained and sponsored by the index provider, which employs the AlphaDEX™ stock selection methodology to select dividend paying ADRs from a universe of ADRs of European companies that meet certain investment criteria. The index provider constructs the Index by ranking the eligible universe of ADRs on growth factors including 3-month, 6-month and 12-month price appreciation, sales to price and one year sales growth, and then separately on value factors, including, book value to price, cash flow to price and return on assets. All ADRs are ranked on the sum of ranks for the growth factors, and separately all ADRs are ranked on the sum of ranks for the value factors. An ADR must have data for all growth and/or value factors to receive a rank for that style. The top 75% of the ADRs are then selected based on the better of their growth or value rank. The selected ADRs are divided into quintiles based on their rankings. The top ranked quintile receives a top weight of 5/15 (33.3%) of the portfolio with successive quintiles receiving 4/15 (26.7%), 3/15 (20.0%), 2/15 (13.3%) and 1/15 (6.7%). The ADRs are equally-weighted within each quintile. The Index will be rebalanced semi-annually and the constituent issuers in the Index will be adjusted at that time.

## Risk

The AlphaDEX™ stock selection process is a rules-based process and can result in sector weightings that differ from that of the MSCI Europe Index in local currency (the "benchmark"). The First Trust ETF invests in a base universe of stocks that pay dividends. The ability of the underlying stocks to pay a dividend in the future is dependent on factors that are not controlled by fund management. A security held in the First Trust ETF may, at any time, decide to cut or eliminate its dividend payment. Given the First Trust ETF employs a currency hedging strategy (GBP/CAD, EUR/CAD, CHF/CAD) to minimize the impact of changes in the exchange rates of hedged currencies and considering that the portfolio continues to seek to replicate the Index, we conclude there was no material change to the risk profile of the First Trust ETF. Investors should refer to the most recent prospectus as it contains detailed discussion of risk relating to the investment of the First Trust ETF.

## **Results of Operations**

## General

The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2020 was \$5,817,728 or \$19.40 per Common Class unit ("EUR") and \$19.29 per Advisor Class unit ("EUR.A"). The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2019 was \$11,653,182 or \$23.31 per EUR and \$23.30 per EUR.A.

For the year ended December 31, 2020, the First Trust ETF paid total cash distributions per unit of \$0.7250 for EUR and \$0.6050 for EUR.A. In addition, the First Trust ETF declared cash distributions per unit of \$0.0300 for EUR and \$0.0250 for EUR.A for record date of December 31, 2020 with payment date of January 8, 2021.

#### Investment Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2020, EUR returned -13.86% and EUR.A returned -14.82% compared to the "benchmark return of -2.21%. Unlike the benchmark, the First Trust ETF's returns are net of fees and expenses.

The First Trust ETF's strategy underperformed due to an underweight position in the Consumer Discretionary and an overweight position in the Energy and Communication Services sectors. The First Trust ETF's strategy was also

# First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) Management Report of Fund Performance For the year ended December 31, 2020

dragged down by selection in the Financials sector. However, the First Trust ETF's strategy benefited from having an overweight position in Information Technology stocks during the year. Lastly, the First Trust ETF's exposure to value and dividend yield stocks was also a drag on performance as the value and yield factors underperformed the benchmark during the year.

The top five stocks by contribution to return were Logitech International S.A., ASML Holding NV ADR, Credit Suisse Group AG Sponsored ADR, Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson Sponsored ADR Class B, and Pearson PLC Sponsored ADR. The bottom five stocks by contribution to return were ArcelorMittal SA ADR, Royal Dutch Shell Plc Sponsored ADR Class A, Barclays PLC Sponsored ADR, and Carnival plc Sponsored ADR.

The currency hedging strategy was mixed to the First Trust ETF as the U.S. dollar depreciated against the Canadian Dollar but the Euro and Swiss Franc appreciated versus the Canadian dollar during the year.

The portfolio held 28 equity securities at the end of the reporting year. The top ten equity holdings accounted for 54.59% of the portfolio. Financials, Information Technology, and Materials were the top three sector weightings at the beginning of the reporting year. At the end of the year, the top sector weightings were Communication Services, Financials and Information Technology. At the end of the year, Information Technology, Communication Services, and Financials holdings were the most overweight positions relative to the benchmark. Industrials, Consumer Staples, and Consumer Discretionary were the most underweight sectors relative to the benchmark at the end of the year. At the beginning of the year, the top three overweight sectors were Energy, Materials, and Information Technology. The most underweight sectors at the beginning of the year were Industrials, Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples. During the first half of the year, the First Trust ETF added 5 positions and removed 15 positions. At the December rebalance, the First Trust ETF added 7 positions and removed 7 positions. The changes were made by applying the quantitative AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> selection methodology to a universe of European market dividend paying stocks.

## **Recent Developments**

Investors in Europe are particularly vulnerable to the trade war between the United States and China, which are Europe's two largest export markets. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected trade on a global scale and the fallout has yet to be fully realized across the globe. In Europe, countries with an early rise in cases have successfully flattened case growth and begun to reopen their economies. The Nordic countries took a different approach and kept most of their economy open, most notably Sweden. The low case count early in the pandemic had the world looking at the countries as model for containment, but a spike in the fourth quarter was in line with most of the rest of the world. This was also true in Asia where growth has resumed after an effective virus response. Italy and Spain were two of the hardest hit nations and have demonstrated that a disciplined approach to containing the spread of the virus will allow for a quicker recovery. The extended shutdown of the United States has also put a damper on the global economic recovery. With multiple vaccines being deployed around the world, economic activity should improve in 2021.

## **Related Party Transactions**

FT Portfolios Canada Co. is the Manager of the First Trust ETF and is a Canadian affiliate of First Trust Advisors L.P., the investment advisor (the "Advisor") of the First Trust ETF.

Pursuant to terms of the declaration of trust of the First Trust ETF, the Manager provides or arranges for all management, administrative and other services required by the First Trust ETF. The Manager receives a management fee from the First Trust ETF. For further details, please see "Management Fees".

The Manager has retained the Advisor to provide certain services to the First Trust ETF pursuant to an investment advisory agreement. The Advisor receives advisory fees from the Manager out of the management fee.

## First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) Management Report of Fund Performance For the year ended December 31, 2020

## **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the First Trust ETF and are intended to help you understand the First Trust ETF's financial performance for the past five years. This information is derived from the First Trust ETF's current audited annual financial statements.

## Net Asset Value per Unit

EUR	Dec. 31,				
(4)	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Net asset value, beginning of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$23.31	\$20.33	\$23.33	\$21.62	\$19.63
Increase (Decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	0.82	1.05	0.94	0.92	0.74
Total expenses	(0.28)	(0.31)	(0.27)	(0.27)	(0.25)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(5,25)	(0.19)	1.53	1.17	0.61
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.70)	3.30	(3.72)	0.62	0.87
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$(5.41)	\$3.85	\$(1.52)	\$2.44	\$1.97
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.56)	(0.89)	(0.77)	(0.64)	(0.59)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	
Return of capital	(0.08)	-	-	(0.10)	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$(0.64)	\$(0.89)	\$(0.77)	\$(0.74)	\$(0.59)
Net asset value, end of year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$19.40	\$23.31	\$20.33	\$23.33	\$21.62
EUR.A	Dec. 31,				
LUN.A	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Net asset value, beginning of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$23.30	\$20.38	\$23.34	\$21.63	\$19.63
Increase (Decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	0.71	0.98	0.99	0.93	0.74
Total expenses	(0.49)	(0.55)	(0.53)	(0.53)	(0.47)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(7.36)	(0.23)	1.28	1.23	0.78
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	1.75	3.44	(3.73)	0.50	1.28
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$(5.39)	\$3.64	\$(1.99)	\$2.13	\$2.33
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.30)	(0.69)	(0.48)	(0.37)	(0.37)
From dividends	· · ·	` -		-	` -
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.23)	(0.02)	-	(0.12)	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$(0.53)	\$(0.71)	\$(0.48)	\$(0.49)	\$(0.37)
Net asset value, end of year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$19.29	\$23.30	\$20.38	\$23.34	\$21.63

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at December 31 of the years shown and is prepared under IFRS.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net asset value 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 year.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF, or both. Non-cash distributions are reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF and subsequently consolidated. Neither the number of units held by the unitholder, nor the net asset per unit of the First Trust ETF change as a result of any non-cash distributions.

<sup>(4)</sup> This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net asset value per unit.

## First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) Management Report of Fund Performance For the year ended December 31, 2020

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

EUR	Dec. 31, 2020	Dec. 31, 2019	Dec. 31, 2018	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Net asset value (000's)	\$5,317	\$9,883	\$13,702	\$23,886	\$26,463
Number of units outstanding	274,022	424,022	674,022	1,024,022	1,224,001
Management expense ratio (1)	0.66%	0.66%	0.66%	0.67%	0.67%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.69%	0.68%	0.68%	0.89%	0.89%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.28%	0.12%	0.09%	0.09%	0.12%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	84.67%	73.01%	86.07%	95.06%	94.41%
Net asset value per unit	\$19.40	\$23.31	\$20.33	\$23.33	\$21.62

EUR.A	Dec. 31, 2020	Dec. 31, 2019	Dec. 31, 2018	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Net asset value (000's)	\$501	\$1,770	\$1,548	\$2,941	\$1,644
Number of units outstanding	25,979	75,979	75,979	125,979	76,000
Management expense ratio (1)	1.78%	1.79%	1.77%	1.77%	1.78%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	1.80%	1.81%	1.79%	1.99%	2.00%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.28%	0.12%	0.09%	0.09%	0.12%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	84.67%	73.01%	86.07%	95.06%	94.41%
Net asset value per unit	\$19.29	\$22.30	\$20.38	\$23.34	\$21.63

<sup>(1)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated year and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the year.

## **Management Fees**

The First Trust ETF will pay the Manager a management fee of 0.60% and, in respect of the EUR.A, an additional amount for a service fee (see "EUR.A Service Fee" below) based on the average daily NAV of the First Trust ETF. The management fee, plus applicable taxes including HST, will be accrued daily and paid monthly in arrears. The Manager may, from time to time in its discretion, waive all or a portion of the management fee charged at any given time.

#### **EUR.A Service Fee**

The Manager pays registered dealers a service fee equal to 1.00% per annum of the NAV of the Units held by clients of the registered dealer, plus any applicable taxes. The service fee will be calculated and accrued daily and paid quarterly at the end of each calendar quarter.

<sup>(2)</sup> 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 year.

<sup>(3)</sup> The First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the First Trust ETF's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the First Trust ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading cost payable by the First Trust ETF 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 high turnover rate and the performance of a First Trust ETF.

## First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2020

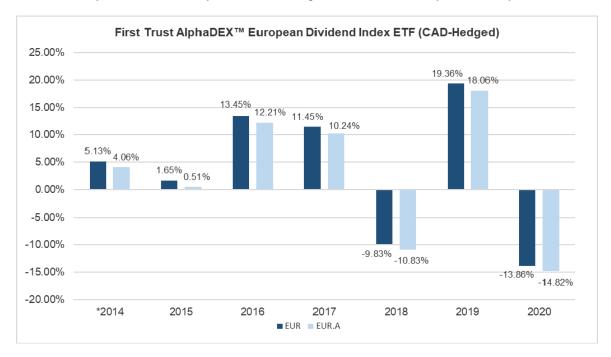
#### **Past Performance**

#### General

The past performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the First Trust ETF in the period/years shown were reinvested in additional securities of the First Trust ETF. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. How the First Trust ETF has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

## Year by Year Returns

The bar chart below shows the First Trust ETF's performance, per class, for the years ended December 31, and for the period from commencement of operations to December 31, 2014 and illustrates how the investment fund's performance has changed from year to year. The chart also shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.



\*First Trust ETF Commencement: February 4, 2014

### **Annual Compound Returns**

The table below shows the First Trust ETF's annual compound total return since inception and for the years ended December 31, 2020. The annual compound return is compared to the returns of the relevant broad benchmark; however, the First Trust ETF's return is net of fees and expenses. See Results of Operations section of this report for further information regarding the current year performance of the First Trust ETF relative to the benchmark.

	1-year	3-year	5-year	Since Inception
First Trust AlphaDEX™ European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) - EUR	-13.86%	-2.49%	3.23%	3.32%
First Trust AlphaDEX™ European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) - EUR.A	-14.82%	-3.57%	2.10%	2.17%
MSCI Europe Index (Local Currency)*	-2.21%	2.66%	5.58%	5.94%

<sup>\*</sup>Broad Benchmark: MSCI Europe Index (Local Currency) - The MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across 15 Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK). With 448 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across the European Developed Markets equity universe.

## First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) Management Report of Fund Performance

For the year ended December 31, 2020

## **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

The table below sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's top 25 holdings as at December 31, 2020. This summary of portfolio holdings may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the First Trust ETF. Daily and quarterly updates are available at www.firsttrust.ca.

Top 25 Holdings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Logitech International SA, Registered	6.89%
British American Tobacco PLC, ADR	6.80%
Vodafone Group PLC, ADR	6.36%
Orange SA, ADR	6.05%
STMicroelectronics NV, ADR	5.99%
Rio Tinto PLC, ADR	4.94%
ASML Holding NV, Registered	4.75%
Credit Suisse Group AG, ADR	4.38%
UBS Group AG	4.26%
AEGON NV	4.17%
Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, Class 'B', ADR	4.17%
Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA, ADR	4.14%
Sanofi SA, ADR	4.13%
ABB Ltd., ADR	4.07%
Fresenius Medical Care AG & Co. KGaA, ADR	3.77%
Telefónica SA, ADR	3.73%
CRH PLC, ADR	2.31%
Anheuser-Busch InBev NV, ADR	2.24%
National Grid PLC, ADR	2.22%
Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Class 'A', ADR	2.21%
Mobile TeleSystems PJSC, ADR	2.21%
GlaxoSmithKline PLC, ADR	2.13%
SAP SE, ADR	1.15%
Equinor ASA, ADR	1.14%
Novo Nordisk AS, ADR	1.11%
Total	95.32%

## Portfolio Breakdown

The table below sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's portfolio as at December 31, 2020.

Sector Weightings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Information Technology	22.94%
Communication Services	18.34%
Financials	16.95%
Health Care	13.32%
Consumer Staples	10.08%
Materials	7.25%
Industrials	4.08%
Energy	3.36%
Utilities	2.22%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	1.19%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.27%
Total	100.00%

# First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> European Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) Management Report of Fund Performance For the year ended December 31, 2020

The table below sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's portfolio excluding cash, by country, as at December 31, 2020.

Country Weightings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
United Kingdom	23.50%
Switzerland	20.71%
Netherlands	17.12%
France	10.18%
Spain	8.93%
Germany	4.92%
Sweden	4.17%
Ireland	2.31%
Belgium	2.24%
Russia	2.21%
Norway	1.14%
Denmark	1.11%
Total	98.54%



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