THE TENTH ANNUAL EDITION OF

NOMAD PASSPORT INDEX 2026



NOMADCAPITALIST.COM

NOMAD CAPITALIST®

ABOUT **NOMAD CAPITALIST**

GO WHERE YOU'RE TREATED BEST®

– ANDREW HENDERSON

Nomad Capitalist is a boutique tax and immigration consultancy for high-net-worth individuals who want more freedom, less tax and a stable, global lifestyle.

Founded in 2012 by perpetual traveller and serial entrepreneur Andrew Henderson, the firm helps six- and seven-figure clients legally reduce their tax burden, obtain second citizenship and build international wealth strategies.

Frustrated by the lack of clear, results-driven advice, Andrew Henderson created the company he wished existed – a one-stop-shop for modern entrepreneurs seeking to go where they're treated best.

Today, he's the author of the best-selling Nomad Capitalist book, and his advice reaches more than six million viewers annually through articles, videos and client consultations that cut through the noise to deliver real-world strategies.

MALTA

THIS YEAR'S ①
HIGHEST RANKING PASSPORT



PURPOSE

To Debate:

We wish to open up debate on topics like freedom of travel, borders, visas, citizenship rights and other key policy areas like immigration and taxation.

To Educate:

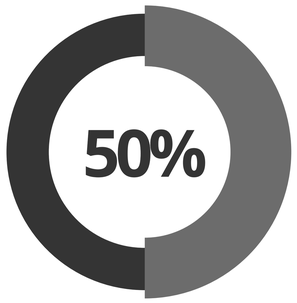
A passport is more than a travel document – it helps form our identity. We aim to show how a second citizenship can be truly empowering through removing restrictions, expanding your freedom and unlocking a world of new opportunities.

To Elevate:

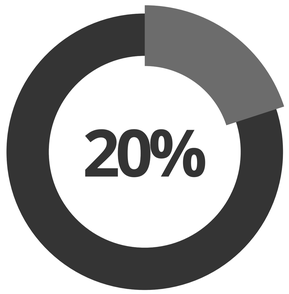
Having a second citizenship lets you transcend boundaries. It enhances your freedom to travel, work and do business while providing peace of mind in a volatile world.



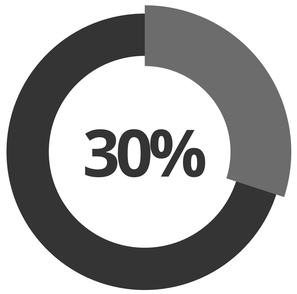
INDEX **METHODOLOGY**



VISA-FREE TRAVEL



TAXATION OF CITIZENS



PERCEPTION, DUAL CITIZENSHIP, FREEDOM

THIS INDEX RANKS PASSPORTS ON FIVE FACTORS:

1. Visa-Free Travel ---------- **50%**
2. Taxation of Citizens ---------- **20%**
3. Perception ---------- **10%**
4. Dual Citizenship ---------- **10%**
5. Personal Freedom ---------- **10%**

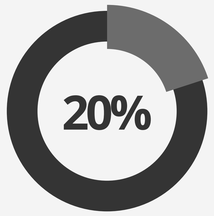
The Index is the result of aggregating data from nearly twenty unique sources and based on priorities that Nomad Capitalist believes are important to citizens and potential citizens of each given country.

HOW WE **RANK PASSPORTS**



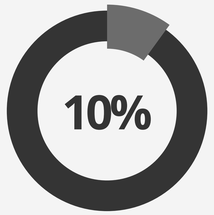
TRAVEL

We relied on government data from 199 passport-issuing countries and territories, combined with real-time intelligence and proprietary research. This factor includes a MobilityScore (MS) measuring ease of travel, which focuses on visa-free (VF) travel, visa on arrival (VOA), and electronic travel authorizations and e-visas issued within three days.



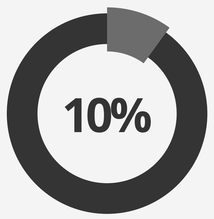
TAXATION

We relied on data from our network of tax vendors, news sources and tax authorities. We assigned the lowest score of 10 to countries that tax citizens no matter where they live (e.g. the United States); scores of 20 or 30 to countries that allow citizens to relocate and change tax residence to reduce or avoid tax (e.g. Finland); 40 for those that generally don't tax foreign income of resident citizens under a territorial or remittance-basis approach (e.g. Panama); and 50 for countries with no personal income tax (e.g. Vanuatu).



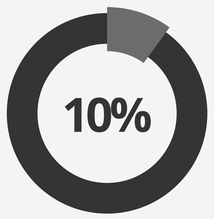
PERCEPTION

We relied on the World Happiness Report, the Human Development Index and subjective factors from our network's experiences to determine how each country's citizens are perceived, received and recognised around the world.



DUAL CITIZENSHIP

We relied on embassy data and our experiences to assess the ability to hold dual citizenship ranging from a score of 10 for strictly forbidden (e.g., China) to a score of 50 for freely allowed (e.g., Canada).



FREEDOM

We relied on data and news reports about mandatory military service, government surveillance, press freedom and other factors to determine the personal freedom of citizens, travellers and expats, with scores ranging from 10 to 50.

T=Tied

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Malta	1	172	40	50	50	50	109
Greece	2T	174	40	40	50	40	108
Ireland	2T	174	30	50	50	50	108
Romania	2T	172	40	40	50	50	108
Cyprus	5	171	40	40	50	50	107.5
Bulgaria	6T	172	40	40	50	40	107
Czech Republic	6T	172	30	50	50	50	107
Italy	6T	174	40	40	50	30	107
New Zealand	6T	172	30	50	50	50	107
Hungary	10T	173	40	40	50	30	106.5
United Arab Emirates	10T	179	40	40	20	30	106.5
Belgium	12T	174	20	50	50	50	106
Denmark	12T	174	20	50	50	50	106
Finland	12T	174	20	50	50	50	106
Latvia	12T	172	30	40	50	50	106
Luxembourg	12T	174	20	50	50	50	106
Norway	12T	174	20	50	50	50	106
Sweden	12T	174	20	50	50	50	106
Switzerland	12T	174	20	50	50	50	106
Croatia	20T	173	30	40	50	40	105.5
Germany	20T	175	20	40	50	50	105.5
Liechtenstein	20T	171	40	50	20	50	105.5
Singapore	20T	175	40	50	10	40	105.5

T=Tied

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
France	24T	174	20	40	50	50	105
Portugal	24T	174	20	40	50	50	105
Australia	26T	171	20	50	50	50	104.5
Monaco	26T	167	50	50	10	50	104.5
Poland	26T	173	20	40	50	50	104.5
Slovenia	26T	173	30	40	30	50	104.5
Iceland	30	170	20	50	50	50	104
Estonia	31T	173	30	40	20	50	103.5
Lithuania	31T	171	30	50	20	50	103.5
Slovakia	31T	173	30	40	30	40	103.5
Spain	31T	175	20	40	30	50	103.5
Canada	35T	169	20	40	50	50	102.5
South Korea	35T	173	20	40	30	50	102.5
United Kingdom	35T	169	20	50	50	40	102.5
Austria	38T	174	20	50	10	50	102
Malaysia	38T	174	30	40	10	40	102
Netherlands	38T	174	20	50	10	50	102
Japan	41	173	20	50	10	50	101.5
Brazil	42	163	30	40	50	40	100.5
United States	43	168	10	50	50	40	100
San Marino	44	161	40	50	10	50	99.5
Barbados	45T	156	40	40	50	40	99
Hong Kong	45T	162	50	50	10	20	99

T=Tied

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Andorra	47	161	40	40	10	50	98.5
Argentina	48T	162	20	40	50	40	98
Chile	48T	162	20	40	50	40	98
Saint Kitts and Nevis	50T	149	50	40	50	40	97.5
Uruguay	50T	151	40	40	50	50	97.5
Bahamas	52	154	50	40	20	40	97
Vatican City	53	150	50	40	30	40	96
Costa Rica	54	144	40	50	50	50	95
Brunei	55T	155	50	40	10	20	94.5
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	55T	147	40	40	50	40	94.5
Seychelles	57	149	40	40	20	50	93.5
Trinidad and Tobago	58	144	40	40	50	40	93
Mexico	59	153	20	40	50	30	92.5
Antigua and Barbuda	60T	144	40	30	50	40	92
Mauritius	60T	142	40	40	50	40	92
Peru	60T	150	30	30	50	30	92
Grenada	63	141	40	40	50	40	91.5
Paraguay	64T	144	40	30	50	30	91
Saint Lucia	64T	140	40	40	50	40	91
Israel	66	153	30	10	50	20	90.5
Macao	67T	143	50	40	10	20	88.5
Panama	67T	141	40	30	20	50	88.5
Dominica	69	137	30	40	50	40	87.5

T=Tied

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Solomon Islands	70	137	30	30	50	40	86.5
Samoa	71T	132	40	30	50	40	86
Serbia	71T	134	30	40	50	40	86
El Salvador	73T	132	40	30	50	30	85
Tuvalu	73T	130	40	30	50	40	85
Ukraine	73T	146	20	40	30	10	85
Honduras	76	131	40	30	50	30	84.5
Colombia	77	136	20	40	50	30	84
Georgia	78T	133	40	30	30	30	83.5
Guatemala	78T	133	40	30	30	30	83.5
North Macedonia	78T	133	30	30	50	30	83.5
Taiwan	81	128	30	50	30	50	83
Montenegro	82	131	30	40	30	40	82.5
Palau	83T	122	40	30	50	50	82
Tonga	83T	128	30	30	50	40	82
Kiribati	85	129	30	30	30	40	80.5
Marshall Islands	86	126	40	30	10	50	80
Bosnia and Herzegovina	87T	124	30	30	40	40	79
Moldova	87T	124	30	30	50	30	79
Micronesia	89T	121	30	30	50	40	78.5
Turkey	89T	123	30	40	50	20	78.5
Albania	91T	122	30	30	50	30	78
Nicaragua	91T	126	40	30	30	10	78

T=Tied

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Qatar	93	119	50	40	10	20	76.5
Venezuela	94	125	30	10	50	10	75.5
Kuwait	95	111	50	40	10	30	73.5
Russia	96	124	20	20	30	10	72
South Africa	97T	110	20	30	50	40	71
Vanuatu	97T	96	50	30	50	50	71
Maldives	99	102	40	30	50	30	70
Ecuador	100	102	30	30	50	40	69
Belize	101T	100	30	30	50	40	68
East Timor	101T	100	30	30	50	40	68
Jamaica	101T	100	30	30	50	40	68
Guyana	104	98	30	30	50	40	67
Bahrain	105T	101	50	40	10	10	66.5
Saudi Arabia	105T	101	50	40	10	10	66.5
Fiji	107	98	30	30	50	30	66
Nauru	108	90	40	30	50	40	65
Bolivia	109T	88	40	30	50	40	64
Thailand	109T	96	30	40	30	30	64
Kosovo	111	93	30	30	50	30	63.5
Botswana	112	84	40	30	50	50	63
Dominican Republic	113	84	40	30	50	40	62
Kazakhstan	114T	93	40	40	10	20	61.5
Oman	114T	97	40	30	10	10	61.5

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Morocco	116	85	30	30	50	30	59.5
Namibia	117	80	40	30	30	50	59
Indonesia	118T	92	30	30	10	20	58
Suriname	118T	88	30	30	10	40	58
Armenia	120	81	30	30	50	30	57.5
Kenya	121	78	30	30	50	40	57
China	122	93	20	40	10	10	56.5
Belarus	123T	92	30	20	10	10	56
Tunisia	123T	78	30	30	50	30	56
Cape Verde	125T	75	30	30	50	40	55.5
Ghana	125T	75	30	30	50	40	55.5
Lesotho	127T	82	40	20	10	30	55
Papua New Guinea	127T	88	20	20	20	30	55
Zambia	127T	76	30	30	50	30	55
Eswatini	130	81	40	30	10	20	54.5
Azerbaijan	131T	86	30	20	10	20	54
Mongolia	131T	78	30	30	10	50	54
Gambia	133T	74	30	30	40	30	53
Malawi	133T	80	30	10	30	30	53
Kyrgyzstan	135T	75	40	30	20	20	52.5
Philippines	135T	77	30	30	30	20	52.5
Rwanda	135T	73	30	30	50	20	52.5
Uganda	135T	73	30	30	50	20	52.5

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Benin	139T	70	30	20	50	30	51
Senegal	139T	68	30	30	50	30	51
Zimbabwe	139T	72	40	20	30	20	51
Sao Tome and Principe	142	71	30	30	30	30	50.5
Cambodia	143T	68	30	30	50	20	50
Sierra Leone	143T	68	30	20	50	30	50
Tanzania	143T	76	30	30	10	20	50
Algeria	146	69	30	30	40	20	49.5
Burkina Faso	147T	68	30	20	50	20	49
Mozambique	147T	68	30	20	50	20	49
Gabon	149T	69	30	30	30	20	48.5
Tajikistan	149T	71	30	30	20	20	48.5
Togo	149T	67	30	20	50	20	48.5
Uzbekistan	149T	75	30	30	10	10	48.5
Angola	153T	64	30	20	50	30	48
India	153T	74	20	30	10	30	48
Madagascar	153T	70	30	20	20	30	48
Vietnam	153T	70	20	30	50	10	48
Egypt	157T	65	30	30	40	20	47.5
Jordan	157T	65	30	30	40	20	47.5
Comoros	159T	63	30	20	50	20	46.5
Guinea	159T	63	30	20	50	20	46.5
Bhutan	161T	66	30	30	10	30	46

T=Tied

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Cuba	161T	74	20	20	20	10	46
Guinea-Bissau	161T	60	30	20	50	30	46
Ivory Coast	161T	66	30	20	30	20	46
Liberia	165T	59	30	20	50	30	45.5
Sri Lanka	165T	57	30	30	50	30	45.5
Lebanon	167	58	40	10	50	20	45
Djibouti	168T	63	30	20	30	20	44.5
Mali	168T	61	30	20	50	10	44.5
Niger	170	64	30	20	30	10	44
Haiti	171T	61	30	10	50	10	43.5
Republic of the Congo	171T	57	30	20	50	20	43.5
Cameroon	173T	60	30	30	20	20	43
Chad	173T	60	30	20	30	20	43
Equatorial Guinea	173T	66	30	20	10	10	43
Turkmenistan	173T	64	40	10	10	10	43
Central African Republic	177	61	30	20	30	10	42.5
Nigeria	178	54	30	30	30	30	42
Mauritania	179	65	20	20	10	20	41.5
Laos	180	62	30	20	10	10	41
South Sudan	181	53	30	20	50	10	40.5
Burundi	182	58	30	10	20	20	40
Libya	183	53	40	30	10	10	39.5
Bangladesh	184T	50	30	30	30	20	39

T=Tied

Country	Rank	Travel	Taxation	Perception	Dual Cit	Freedom	Total Score
Nepal	184T	54	30	20	10	30	39
Ethiopia	186T	55	30	20	10	20	38.5
Sudan	186T	53	30	10	40	10	38.5
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	188	54	30	20	10	10	37
Myanmar	189T	58	20	10	10	10	36
Yemen	189T	46	30	10	50	10	36
Somalia	191	45	30	10	50	10	35.5
Palestinian Territory	192	50	30	10	20	10	35
Iran	193	55	20	10	10	10	34.5
Pakistan	194	45	20	20	30	20	33.5
North Korea	195	50	20	10	10	10	32
Iraq	196	44	20	10	30	10	31
Eritrea	197T	51	10	10	10	10	30.5
Syria	197T	39	30	10	30	10	30.5
Afghanistan	199	38	30	10	10	10	28

ABOUT **THIS INDEX**

10-YEAR TREND LINES FOR THE NOMAD PASSPORT INDEX (2017–2026)

Nordic and core EU passports stayed in the blue-chip tier.
Over ten editions, countries like Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium, and Denmark rarely left the top band. They traded places among themselves, but consistently offered the same formula: top mobility, strong freedoms, open dual citizenship, and boringly reliable institutions.

SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE MOVED FROM "NICE" TO "NECESSARY."
Passports from Portugal, Italy, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Romania began the decade as secondary options and end it at the center of strategy. With EU access plus flat-tax, non-dom, or low-rate regimes, they steadily climbed until Malta reached No. 1 in 2026 and Ireland, Greece, and Romania tied for No. 2.

THE UAE'S RISE AND CORRECTION DEFINED THE "TAX-FREE" STORY.
The United Arab Emirates went from high-mobility outlier to No. 1 in 2023, powered by visa-free deals and a tax-free brand, then eased back to a tie at No. 10 once corporate tax arrived and the index gave more weight to its still-narrow dual-citizenship framework and ongoing civil-liberties concerns. The pattern: residency alone is not enough if the passport itself has structural limits.

ANGLO-SAXON GIANTS NEVER BROKE INTO THE TRULY ELITE TIER.
Across ten years, the US, UK, Canada, and Australia stayed clearly above average but never cracked the very top. The US has been stuck mid-table (now No. 43) under the weight of citizenship-based taxation. The UK slid from upper-tier to a tie at No. 35 as the non-dom regime disappeared. Canada (No. 35) and Australia (No. 26) remained superb lifestyle passports, but their high, residence-based tax systems kept them just outside the first rank.

THE DECADE ENDS WITH A CLEAR "BARBELL" STRATEGY.
By 2026, serious global citizens are no longer chasing a single perfect passport. Instead, they pair a blue-chip lifestyle passport (Nordics, core EU, Canada, Australia) with one or more efficiency passports or residencies (Southern/Eastern Europe, Gulf, selected LatAm/Caribbean) to blend reputation, mobility, tax flexibility, and exit options.

2017 → 2026

ADDITIONAL **ANALYSIS**

TOP RANK CLIMBERS & FALLERS (BY POSITIONS GAINED)

Country	2025 Rank	2026 Rank	Change
Bulgaria	29T	6T	▲ 23
Hungary	32T	10T	▲ 22
Cyprus	26T	5	▲ 21
Romania	21T	2T	▲ 19
Czech Republic	13T	6T	▲ 7
Malta	5T	1	▲ 4
New Zealand	10T	6T	▲ 4

Country	2025 Rank	2026 Rank	Change
Netherlands	13T	38T	▼ −25
Portugal	4	24T	▼ −20
Switzerland	2T	12T	▼ −10
Germany	13T	20T	▼ −7
Luxembourg	7T	12T	▼ −5
Finland	7T	12T	▼ −5
Norway	7T	12T	▼ −5

WHO **ENTERED** THE TOP 10

ROMANIA
BULGARIA
CZECH REPUBLIC
HUNGARY

WHO **EXITED** THE TOP 10

SWITZERLAND
PORTUGAL
LUXEMBOURG
FINLAND
NORWAY

ADDITIONAL **ANALYSIS**

G7 RANKS (2025 → 2026)

Country	2025 Rank	2026 Rank	Change
Italy	5T	6T	▼ −1
France	21T	24T	▼ −3
Japan	37T	41	▼ −4
Germany	13T	20T	▼ −7
United Kingdom	21T	35T	▼ −14
Canada	40T	35T	▲ +5
United States	45T	43	▲ +2

KEY INSIGHTS:

- **Italy is now the only G7 country consistently inside the Top 10**
- **The UK and Germany experience the sharpest relative declines**
- **The G7 is no longer clustered, it spans Top 10 to mid-40s**

ADDITIONAL **ANALYSIS**

BRICS RANKS (2025 → 2026)

Country	2025 Rank	2026 Rank	Change
Brazil	43T	42	▲ 1
South Africa	100T	97T	▲ 3
Russia	95	96	▼ −1
China	119T	122	▼ −3
India	148T	153T	▼ −5

KEY INSIGHTS:

- **Brazil remains the only BRICS passport in the top quartile**
- **China and India remain firmly in the bottom third**
- **Changes are marginal, rankings are structurally stable**

Additional Notes

Malta claims the top spot in this year's Nomad Passport Index, taking No. 1 and finally displacing last year's leader, Ireland. The story here is not that Ireland has fallen so much as Malta has edged ahead: Ireland now shares No. 2 with Romania and Greece, while Malta stands alone at the top thanks to strong EU mobility, fully liberal dual citizenship, and a remittance-basis regime for non-doms that is more accommodating for globally mobile individuals than Ireland's more restrictive tax structure.

Romania delivers one of the decade's biggest jumps, leaping into that tie for No. 2 after years outside the absolute top tier. A low flat tax, full EU and now Schengen-aligned mobility, and an open dual-citizenship stance allow it to overtake several older Western European leaders and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Ireland and Greece.

Greece likewise cements its place among the elite, joining Ireland and Romania in the No. 2 group. Its flat-tax regime for new residents and pensioners, deep EU mobility, and full dual-citizenship access have turned it into a headline option, while Ireland offers long-established reputation and a common-law system, and Romania brings one of the most clearly attractive special flat-tax options in the EU.

Just below the summit, Italy, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and New Zealand cluster together at No. 6. Italy stays in the upper ranks by pairing EU access with its lump-sum and pension regimes. The Czech Republic and Bulgaria showcase the rise of Central and Eastern Europe—EU mobility plus simpler, often lower taxes and open dual citizenship—while New Zealand holds its ground on lifestyle, institutions, and liberal dual-cit rules despite a more traditional tax system.

Cyprus, at No. 5, shows how a focused regime can propel a small country near the top. EU travel, non-dom treatment, a relatively short path to tax residence, and open dual citizenship keep it ahead of the larger pack tied at No. 6.
Further down the upper tier, Switzerland, Norway, and Luxembourg now share No. 12. They remain among the world's most desirable places to live, with outstanding mobility and top freedom and perception scores, but high worldwide tax and a lack of newcomer-focused regimes have pushed them from the very top into the low teens. High-tax, high-freedom models alone no longer guarantee a top-five spot.

The United Arab Emirates, which topped the index only a few years ago, now sits in a tie at No. 10. Best-in-class mobility and no personal income tax for most individuals still support a strong position, but corporate tax and a narrow, exception-based dual-citizenship policy have allowed EU and OECD passports with more open nationality rules to move ahead.

Portugal, once the poster child for combining EU access with a headline special regime, is now tied at No. 24. It is still a strong passport, but the end of its broad Non-Habitual Resident regime and a shift to a narrower innovation-focused framework have eroded the tax edge that once set it apart, especially now that Malta is No. 1, Greece is tied at No. 2, and Italy shares No. 6.

Among non-European heavyweights, the rankings highlight the gap between reputation and flexibility. The United States sits at No. 43, far below what its economic weight might suggest. Strong mobility and a powerful brand cannot outweigh citizenship-based worldwide taxation and a heavy compliance burden, particularly when many countries with similar mobility let citizens fully exit their tax net by moving abroad.

The United Kingdom, once comfortably near the front, is now tied at No. 35. Abolishing the non-dom regime and moving toward full worldwide taxation for residents has sharply reduced its appeal as a base for globally mobile wealth. Mobility, courts, and dual-cit rules remain strong, but the tax framework now looks like a typical high-tax OECD system with fewer planning options.
Canada, also tied at No. 35, tells a similar story. It is an excellent lifestyle and reputation passport, but its conventional, high-tax, residence-based system keeps it firmly in the upper-middle tier rather than in serious contention for the top group.

Australia, tied at No. 26, sits somewhat above Canada and the UK but still well behind the new leaders. World-class living standards, good mobility, and liberal dual citizenship are tempered by a straightforward high-tax, residence-based regime that offers less flexibility than the systems powering the rise of Malta, Greece, Romania, or Cyprus.

Taken together, these shifts produce a top ten that looks markedly different from last year's. Malta rises to No. 1, Ireland is joined at No. 2 by Romania and Greece, Central and Eastern Europe move decisively into the upper ranks, and Gulf and Anglo-Saxon passports drift further down the table. The change reflects a higher bar: to sit at the very top now requires not just great mobility or a strong brand, but a coherent mix of travel freedom, tax flexibility, dual-citizenship openness, and durable democratic institutions.



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