The Impact of Digital Collaboration, Government Support, And Technology Access on Entrepreneurship Interest Among Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency

Henriawan, Rian Hardiansyah*

Universitas Teknologi Sumbawa, Indonesia
Email : rian.hardiansyah@uts.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the impact of digital collaboration, government support, and technology access on entrepreneurial interest among Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency. A quantitative approach was adopted, employing surveys and Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) analysis using SmartPLS 3.2.9. Primary data were collected from 100 Generation Z respondents (born 1997–2012) through an online Likert-scale questionnaire using purposive sampling. Measurement model evaluation confirmed convergent and discriminant validity, along with high instrument reliability. Structural model analysis revealed that technology access, digital collaboration, and government support significantly influenced entrepreneurial interest, with technology access being the most dominant predictor. These results highlight the importance of digital infrastructure in addressing geographical disparities, enhancing social influence via online networks, and reducing perceived risks through supportive policies. Practically, the findings provide guidance for stakeholders to modernize digital entrepreneurship programs, expand ICT infrastructure, and improve the dissemination of online policy initiatives. The study contributes theoretically by integrating the Theory of Planned Behavior with Social Cognitive Theory and the Technology Acceptance Model in a rural context. Limitations of the cross-sectional design suggest the need for longitudinal research to examine the dynamics of sustainable entrepreneurial behavior.

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in driving economic growth, job creation, and innovation at both national and regional levels. In developing areas such as Sumbawa Regency, fostering entrepreneurship is crucial to achieve local

economic independence and enhance community welfare. Local entrepreneurs not only create employment opportunities but also generate value-added products that can compete in broader markets, thereby reducing reliance on traditional extractive sectors. The urgency of entrepreneurship development is particularly relevant for Generation Z, who are digital natives capable of leveraging online tools and networks. Given the global trend of digitalization, Generation Z has the potential to act as a transformative force in regional economies. Empirical data shows that areas dominated by primary sectors, such as Sumbawa, remain vulnerable to external shocks and price fluctuations (BPS Kabupaten Sumbawa, 2024). This underscores the need to diversify the economy through innovative business ventures. Therefore, examining the factors influencing entrepreneurial interest among this demographic provides actionable insights for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to maximize future economic potential, ensuring sustainable regional development.

Despite the potential of entrepreneurship to catalyze regional growth, Generation Z in Sumbawa faces significant obstacles. The local economy remains heavily dependent on agriculture, mining, and fisheries, which limits opportunities for high-value entrepreneurial activities (BPS Kabupaten Sumbawa, 2024). Additionally, gaps in digital infrastructure and government support impede young entrepreneurs' ability to translate their skills and ideas into successful businesses. Limited access to venture capital, mentorship, and formal training constrains their perceived behavioral control, a critical determinant of entrepreneurial intention according to the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991). The lack of integrated educational programs that combine theoretical knowledge with practical digital business skills further exacerbates this challenge. Without targeted interventions, the demographic advantage of Generation Z may remain underutilized. This problem has broad societal implications, as low entrepreneurial engagement limits innovation, reduces employment opportunities, and maintains dependence on primary sectors. Addressing these barriers is therefore essential for promoting inclusive economic development and enabling Generation Z to become drivers of sustainable growth in Sumbawa.

On the ground, Generation Z in Sumbawa demonstrates both potential and constraints in entrepreneurial engagement. As digital natives, they are adaptive, creative, and familiar with online connectivity, making them ideal candidates to leverage e-commerce, social media marketing, and digital collaboration for business activities. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook Marketplace have become critical tools for showcasing local products like Sumbawa Honey, Wild Horse Milk, and tourism services (Hassan et al., 2020; Neneh, 2019). However, geographical isolation and uneven internet penetration

create digital gaps that hinder access to global knowledge and mentorship networks (APJII, 2024; Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, 2023). Additionally, government programs aimed at entrepreneurship, though present at the provincial level, are inconsistently implemented in Sumbawa Regency, limiting their effectiveness. The combination of physical infrastructure constraints, limited venture capital, and gaps in digital literacy creates an environment where the perceived ease of entrepreneurship is reduced, undermining Generation Z's interest. Understanding these real-world dynamics is essential to design interventions that can transform latent potential into active entrepreneurial engagement.

Previous studies have explored determinants of entrepreneurial intention using established frameworks such as the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991) and Social Cognitive Theory (Bandura, 1986). Al-Jubari (2019) confirmed that self-efficacy, derived from observational learning, significantly influences entrepreneurial intention. Liñán and Fayolle (2015) systematically analyzed factors such as attitude, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control in various cultural contexts. Studies have also highlighted the role of digital tools in shaping attitudes toward entrepreneurship; Hassan et al. (2020) and Neneh (2019) emphasized that social media fosters collaboration and networking, while Turan and Kara (2018) discussed technology access as a key enabler of entrepreneurial behavior. However, most research focuses on urban or developed contexts, leaving rural and geographically isolated regions underexplored. Specifically, few studies examine the intersection of digital collaboration, government support, and ICT access in shaping entrepreneurial interest among Generation Z in developing island regions, highlighting a critical research gap.

The current literature provides strong theoretical foundations but lacks empirical integration in rural and island settings like Sumbawa. While government policies and educational interventions have been recognized as important, their actual implementation and impact on youth entrepreneurship remain under-investigated (Idris & Saridakis, 2018). Moreover, the combination of TPB with SCT and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) offers a conceptual opportunity to assess entrepreneurial interest in a digitally-mediated environment (Davis, 1989). Addressing these gaps is crucial for understanding how Generation Z can overcome both hard infrastructure constraints (digital divide) and soft infrastructure limitations (skills and mentorship). This study is innovative in combining psychological, technological, and policy-related determinants, thereby providing a holistic perspective on entrepreneurial intention. Its findings are expected to inform targeted strategies for regional

development, digital entrepreneurship programs, and educational curricula tailored to Sumbawa's unique socio-cultural and geographical conditions.

This study investigates the research problem: how do digital collaboration, government support, and technology access influence the entrepreneurial interest of Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency? Preliminary reasoning suggests that digital collaboration can enhance subjective norms and provide exposure to successful role models, government support reduces perceived risk and strengthens enabling environments, and ICT access improves perceived behavioral control and self-efficacy. Integrating TPB with SCT and TAM provides a robust framework to capture these mechanisms. The argument is that effective alignment of these three determinants can significantly increase entrepreneurial intention, even in geographically isolated areas. By focusing on Generation Z, the study emphasizes a strategic demographic with the potential to drive economic diversification and innovation, contributing to regional resilience and sustainability.

The significance of this study lies in its practical and theoretical contributions. Practically, it provides evidence-based recommendations for local governments, educators, and stakeholders to modernize entrepreneurship programs, expand digital infrastructure, and tailor policy interventions for youth engagement. Educational institutions, in particular, can enhance curricula and extracurricular activities to integrate digital skills with business management, fostering both hard and soft skills necessary for entrepreneurial success. Theoretically, the research enriches TPB by combining it with SCT and TAM in a rural island context, offering insights into how digital ecosystems influence behavior. This study addresses an urgent research gap and provides a foundation for longitudinal research on sustainable entrepreneurial behavior among Generation Z, ultimately supporting economic diversification, community welfare, and the development of a robust digital entrepreneurial ecosystem in Sumbawa.

RESEARCH METHOD

Type of Research

This study employs a quantitative approach supported by survey methods. The quantitative approach is appropriate for testing hypotheses and objectively analyzing the influence between variables using structured research instruments (Sugiyono, 2022). The survey method was selected as the primary data collection technique, allowing researchers to gather information directly from respondents through questionnaires (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The focus of this study is to examine the causal relationship between Digital Collaboration (X1), Government Support (X2), and Technology Access (X3) on Entrepreneurial Interest (Y) among Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency.

Data Sources

Primary data were obtained directly from Generation Z respondents in Sumbawa Regency through online questionnaires. Secondary data were used to support the theoretical framework, derived from literature, books, scientific journal articles, relevant agency reports, and previous research publications related to the study topic (Sekaran & Bougie, 2020).

Population and Sample

The population consists of all Generation Z individuals (born 1997–2012) residing in Sumbawa Regency. Because the total population could not be determined precisely, non-probability purposive sampling was employed (Hair et al., 2019). Respondents were selected based on three criteria: being born between 1997 and 2012, residing in Sumbawa, and actively using digital technology or the internet. The minimum sample size was calculated using the formula for infinite populations (Leedy & Ormrod, 2019), assuming a 95% confidence level, a population proportion of 0.5, and a margin of error of 10%. The calculation resulted in a sample size of 96, rounded up to 100 respondents, sufficient for analysis using Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) in SmartPLS 3.2.9.

Data Collection Methods

Data were collected using an online questionnaire distributed through social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook. A four-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 4 = Strongly Agree) was used to measure respondents' perceptions and attitudes, avoiding neutral responses (Sugiyono, 2022).

Operational Definitions and Variable Indicators

Digital Collaboration (X1) refers to the perception of using digital tools and platforms for collaboration, including team communication apps, online forums, social media networking, and shared task management tools (Johnson et al., 2017). Government Support (X2) reflects perceptions of the government's role in promoting entrepreneurship, covering training programs, licensing access, capital assistance, and digital infrastructure (Kuratko, 2021). Technology Access (X3) indicates perceptions of the availability and usability of technology, including internet affordability, network stability, device ownership, and ease of accessing digital platforms (van Dijk, 2020). Entrepreneurial Interest (Y) represents an individual's tendency and desire to start a business, measured through independence, motivation to innovate, risk-taking, and opportunity recognition (Ajzen, 1991; Hisrich et al., 2020).

Data Analysis Techniques

Data were analyzed using SEM-PLS via SmartPLS 3.2.9, which is suitable for testing complex models without requiring data normality and is effective for relatively small samples (Hair et al., 2019). The analysis consisted of two main stages: measurement model testing and structural model testing. The measurement model evaluated the validity and reliability of constructs, including convergent validity through Average Variance Extracted (AVE > 0.50), discriminant validity using Fornell-Larcker Criterion and HTMT, and reliability using Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability (CR > 0.70). The structural model tested relationships between constructs, examining R^2 to assess predictive power, effect size (f^2) to determine the magnitude of influence, and hypothesis testing using bootstrapping. A t-statistic greater than 1.96 at a 0.05 significance level indicates a significant relationship between variables.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Results

1. Measurement Model Evaluation (Outer Model)

The initial stage in SEM-PLS analysis is to evaluate the measurement model to ensure that the instruments used are valid and reliable. This evaluation includes convergent validity, discriminant validity, and internal consistency reliability tests.

a. Convergent Validity Test

Convergent validity is assessed based on two main parameters, namely outer loading (Loading Factor) and Average Variance Extracted (AVE). An indicator is considered valid if it has a loading factor value > 0.70 and an AVE value > 0.50.

Table: 1 Loading Factor Values (Outer Loading)

Indicator	Digital Collaboration (X1)	Government Support (X2)	Technology Access (X3)	Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)
X1.1	0.865			
X1.2	0.882			
X1.3	0.845			
X1.4	0.810			
X1.5	0.795			
X1.6	0.830			
X1.7	0.855			
X1.8	0.825			
X2.1		0.855		
X2.2		0.890		
X2.3		0.835		
X2.4		0.820		

X2.5	0.860		
X2.6	0.875		
X2.7	0.815		
X2.8	0.840		
X3.1		0.875	
X3.2		0.895	
X3.3		0.860	
X3.4		0.840	
X3.5		0.885	
X3.6		0.825	
X3.7		0.850	
X3.8		0.830	
Y.1			0.885
Y.2			0.910
Y.3			0.895
Y.4			0.870
Y.5			0.865
Y.6			0.845
Y.7			0.880
Y.8			0.890

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2025

Referring to Table 1, the test results show that all indicator items (8 items per variable) in the variables of Digital Collaboration, Government Support, Technology Access, and Entrepreneurial Interest have factor loading values above the threshold of 0.70. This confirms that each indicator is able to reflect its latent variable well and meets the convergent validity requirements (Hair et al., 2019). Furthermore, convergent validity is reinforced by looking at the AVE values in Table 2 below:

Table: 2 Average Variance Extracted (AVE) Results

Construct Variable	AVE	Description
Digital Collaboration (X1)	0.725	Valid
Government Support (X2)	0.720	Valid
Technology Access (X3)	0.755	Valid
Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.790	Valid

Source: Processed Primary Data (2025)

Table 2 shows that the AVE values for all variables are above the standard of 0.50. This means that, on average, each construct is able to explain more than 50% of the variance of its indicators, so that the convergent validity of this model is deemed to be adequately fulfilled.

b. Discriminant Validity Test

To ensure that each construct is empirically distinct from the other constructs, a discriminant validity test was conducted using the Fornell-Larcker criteria and the HTMT ratio.

Table: 3 Fornell-Larcker Criteria Values

Variable	X1	X2	X3	Y
Digital Collaboration (X1)	**0.851**			
Government Support (X2)	0.540	**0.849**		
Technology Access (X3)	0.610	0.585	**0.869**	
Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.685	0.620	0.710	**0.889**

Source: Processed Primary Data (2025)

Based on Table 3, the AVE square root values (bold numbers on the diagonal) for each variable are greater than the correlation values between other latent variables (numbers below the diagonal). This condition indicates that discriminant validity is well fulfilled.

Table: 4 Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT) Values

Variable	X1	X2	X3	Y
Digital Collaboration (X1)				
Government Support (X2)	0.625			
Technology Access (X3)	0.710	0.655		
Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.785	0.720	0.815	

Source: Processed Primary Data (2025)

Table 4 shows that the HTMT ratio between variables is below the conservative threshold of 0.85 or 0.90 (Henseler et al., 2015). This further confirms that there is no multicollinearity between constructs and that the discriminant validity of the model has been tested.

c. Construct Reliability Test

Reliability testing was conducted to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire using Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability (CR) parameters.

Table: 5 Reliability Test Results

Construct Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability (CR)	Description
Digital Collaboration (X1)	0.945	0.952	Reliable
Government Support (X2)	0.938	0.948	Reliable
Technology Access (X3)	0.950	0.958	Reliable
Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.962	0.968	Reliable

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2025

All *Cronbach's Alpha* and *Composite Reliability* values in Table 5 are above 0.70. These results indicate that the research instrument has high consistency and is reliable in measurement (Ghozali & Latan, 2020).

2. Evaluation of the Structural Model (Inner Model)

After the outer model is fulfilled, the next step is to evaluate the inner model to see the predictive power of the structural model.

a. R-Square Test

Table: 6 R-Square Test Results

Endogenous Variables	R-Square	Adjusted R-Square
Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.655	0.644

Source: Processed Primary Data (2025)

The R-Square value of 0.655 indicates that 65.5% of the variation in Entrepreneurial Interest among Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency can be explained by variations in the variables of Digital Collaboration, Government Support, and Access to Technology. The remaining 34.5% is influenced by other factors outside the scope of this research model. This figure falls into the moderate to strong model category.

a. Effect Size Test (f^2)

Table: 7 F-Square Test Results

Relationship	f^2 Value	Effect Category
X1 -> Y	0.210	Moderate
X2 -> Y	0.165	Moderate
X3 -> Y	0.285	Moderate

Source: Processed Primary Data (2025)

Table 7 shows that the three independent variables have a moderate effect on the dependent variable, with Access to Technology having a relatively greater effect than the other two variables.

Goodness of Fit (GoF)

Table: 8 Goodness of Fit Calculation

Component	Average Value
Average Communality (AVE Average)	0.747
Average R-Square	0.655
GoF Value	**0.699**

Source: Processed Primary Data (2025)

The GoF calculation is obtained from the square root of the average communality multiplied by the average R². A GoF value of 0.699 (close to 0.7) indicates that the performance of the combined model (measurement and structural) is very good (*large fit*).

3. Hypothesis Testing (Bootstrapping)

Hypothesis testing was conducted to examine the significance of the influence between variables through the bootstrapping procedure.

Table: 9 Hypothesis Test Results (Path Coefficients)

Relationship	Original Sample (O)	T Statistics (|O/STDEV|)	P Values	Decision
Digital Collaboration (X1) -> Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.315	3.85	0.000	H1 Accepted
Government Support (X2) -> Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.245	2.980	0.003	H2 Accepted
Access to Technology (X3) -> Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)	0.360	4.210	0.000	H3 Accepted

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2025

The results of the hypothesis test presented in Table 9 can be interpreted as follows:

a. The Effect of Digital Collaboration (X1) on Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)

The test results show that digital collaboration has a positive effect on the entrepreneurial interest of Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency, with a path coefficient of 0.315 and a T-statistic of 3.850, which is greater than 1.96. The very low P-value (0.000) indicates that this effect is significant at the 1% level. Therefore, the first hypothesis (H1) is accepted, which means that the higher the level of digital collaboration, the greater the individual's interest in entrepreneurship.

b. The Effect of Government Support (X2) on Interest in Entrepreneurship (Y)

The second hypothesis test shows that government support also has a positive effect on the entrepreneurial interest of Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency, with a path coefficient of 0.245 and a T-statistic of 2.980. A P-value of less than 0.05 (0.003) indicates that this effect is significant at the 5% level. Thus, the second hypothesis (H2) is accepted, which means that government support plays an important role in encouraging entrepreneurial interest.

c. The Effect of Technology Access (X3) on Entrepreneurial Interest (Y)

The test results show a stronger positive effect of technology access on the entrepreneurial interest of Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency, with a path coefficient of 0.360 and T Statistics of 4.210, which is much higher than 1.96. The very low P Value (0.000) indicates that this effect is very significant at the 1% level. Therefore, the third hypothesis (H3) is accepted, meaning that easier and better access to technology can increase entrepreneurial interest.

DISCUSSION

Digital Collaboration Has a Positive Impact on Generation Z's Interest in Entrepreneurship in Sumbawa Regency

The findings of this study empirically demonstrate that digital collaboration has a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial interest of Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency. These results align with the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), where digital collaboration strengthens perceived behavioral control and subjective norms. For Generation Z in Sumbawa, digital platforms function not only as communication tools but also as social infrastructure that enables them to feel capable and supported in starting a business. Participation in business community WhatsApp groups, online discussion forums, and collaborative social media content creates a virtual support ecosystem that compensates for the lack of physical mentors. This increases self-efficacy, instilling confidence that technical challenges can be overcome through these networks. In Sumbawa, separated from Java's main business centers, digital collaboration breaks down spatial and temporal barriers. Respondents indicated that online collaboration allows access to previously unattainable resources, partners, and markets. Supporting studies by Kraus et al. (2019) and Johnson et al. (2017) confirm that digital ecosystems facilitate knowledge sharing, enabling young entrepreneurs to adopt best practices without relocating physically. This access shifts mindsets from local traders to broad-minded digital entrepreneurs, thereby enhancing entrepreneurial interest.

Moreover, digital collaboration shapes new subjective norms among Generation Z. Social media interactions showcasing peer success stories create positive role modeling effects. When youth see peers successfully marketing local products such as Sumbawa honey or handicrafts through collaborations with influencers or resellers, their perception of entrepreneurship's viability strengthens. This provides social validation that entrepreneurship is prestigious and modern, not merely a necessity. Operationally, digital collaboration also offers efficiency that appeals to pragmatic Generation Z entrepreneurs. Cloud-based tools enable team and project management with low cost and high flexibility, reducing mental entry barriers. Therefore, digital collaboration not only expands networks but also provides a modern, agile operational blueprint, ultimately increasing entrepreneurial interest.

Government Support Has a Positive Impact on Generation Z's Interest in Entrepreneurship in Sumbawa Regency

The analysis indicates that government support positively and significantly influences Generation Z's entrepreneurial interest, although its coefficient is lower than that of technology access. Local and provincial initiatives, such as entrepreneurship training, business incubators, and MSME digitization programs, have started to stimulate youth interest. This finding validates Ajzen's (1991) perspective on enabling environments in shaping behavioral intentions. The perception that the government provides supportive regulations offers a safety net, reducing perceived risk for novice entrepreneurs. Programs such as simplified licensing through OSS and access to capital (KUR) signal a conducive regulatory ecosystem, transforming desire into serious intent. This aligns with Idris and Saridakis (2018), who highlight pro-entrepreneurship policies as catalysts for a favorable business climate. Government initiatives also enhance the social status of entrepreneurship in the community.

However, a gap remains between program availability and accessibility for Generation Z. Respondents noted that information dissemination is still conventional and bureaucratic, failing to reach digitally native youth. Procedures for accessing training or capital are sometimes complicated. To increase the impact of government support, public services should adopt a youth-friendly, digital approach. Beyond funding or training, the government must create a seamless digital regulatory ecosystem and engage youth through social media channels. Enhancing accessibility and relevance will likely strengthen entrepreneurial interest, supporting regional economic transformation toward productivity and innovation.

Access to Technology Has a Positive Impact on Generation Z's Interest in Entrepreneurship in Sumbawa Regency

Access to technology emerged as the most dominant factor influencing Generation Z's entrepreneurial interest. In Sumbawa's archipelagic context, information technology serves as a vital bridge to the outside world. Internet quality and digital device availability are essential enablers for envisioning entrepreneurship. According to the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), easy access to technology increases perceived ease of use in business operations. Slow or costly internet access raises perceived difficulty, reducing interest. This dominance aligns with Turan and Kara (2018) and Rivza and Bogdanovica (2021), emphasizing the need to overcome the digital divide in rural areas. Stable internet enables digital business ideas, from dropshipping to online marketing of local products, boosting self-efficacy by providing the same resources as urban peers.

Additionally, technology access expands market horizons, enhancing entrepreneurial motivation. Through reliable internet, Generation Z can visualize global market potential for local products and sell directly to consumers via e-commerce, eliminating middlemen and improving profit margins. Access to technology also facilitates digital literacy, enabling self-directed learning through online courses, webinars, or tutorials. This accelerates readiness to start businesses. Investment in telecommunications infrastructure is therefore not merely physical development but a strategic investment in human capital and entrepreneurship. Enhancing technology access directly correlates with the growth of young, digitally capable entrepreneurs ready to compete in the modern economy.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis, this study concludes that digital collaboration, government support, and access to technology each have a positive and significant influence on entrepreneurial interest among Generation Z in Sumbawa Regency. Digital collaboration strengthens entrepreneurial interest by facilitating knowledge exchange, professional networking, and collective problem-solving through online platforms, which enhances self-efficacy and perceived behavioral control despite geographical limitations. Government support also plays an important role by legitimizing entrepreneurship as a viable career option through training programs, streamlined licensing systems, and access to capital information. These forms of institutional support reduce perceived risk and provide regulatory assurance, thereby encouraging Generation Z to engage more confidently in entrepreneurial activities.

Furthermore, access to technology emerges as the most dominant predictor of entrepreneurial interest in the research model. Reliable internet connectivity, affordable data access, and the availability of digital devices are critical enablers that shape Generation Z's perception of the ease and feasibility of entrepreneurship in an archipelagic context. Improved technology access enhances their capacity to participate in digital markets, compete beyond local boundaries, and implement innovative business models. Collectively, these findings highlight the necessity of strengthening digital infrastructure, fostering collaborative digital ecosystems, and enhancing government support mechanisms to stimulate sustainable entrepreneurial development among Generation Z in developing regions such as Sumbawa Regency.

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