

Freelance Forward 2020

The U.S. Independent Workforce Report

The state of freelancing in the wake of a pandemic, global economic upheaval, and the dawn of mass remote work.

upwork

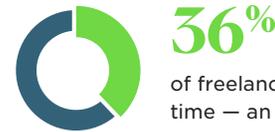
The U.S. freelance economy is essential

59M

Americans are now freelancing — that's 36% of our total workforce.



More professionals freelance full time



of freelancers do so full time — an 8% point increase from 2019.

Freelancing often increases income

75%

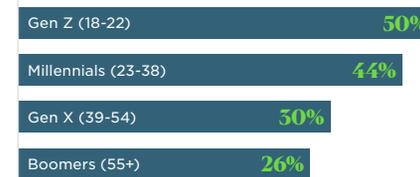
of those who left an employer to freelance say they make the same or more income than they did in their traditional job.

Annual earnings increased significantly



increase in total annual freelance earnings, with a total of \$1.2 trillion this year.

Every generation chooses freelancing



Freelancing provides necessary flexibility

48%

of freelancers are caregivers.

33%

live with someone who has a disability.

Better equipped for uncertainty



Freelancers report lower rates of negative impact of COVID-19 on their overall wellbeing and financial health.

More professionals are considering freelancing

58%

of traditional workers who began working remotely after COVID-19 are now considering freelancing.



Freelancers are optimistic about the future



86%

of all freelancers say the best days are ahead for freelancing.