

Survey of Freelancers and Independent Contractors -- April 2017

Screener

On your main job last week, were you employed by government, by a private company, a nonprofit organization, or were you self-employed or working in the family business? Or were you not working at all last week?

- Government
- Private for-profit company
- Nonprofit organization including tax exempt and charitable organizations
- Self-employed
- Working in the family business
- Only work last week was filling out surveys → SCREENS OUT AFTER THE NEXT 3 DEM QS
- Did not have a job last week → SCREENS OUT AFTER THE NEXT 3 DEM QS

FIRST 5 CHOICES SKIP TO VER A OR VER B

FIRST 3 CHOICES → IF YES TO EITHER VER → SKIP TO CONSENT SCREEN

→ IF NO TO EITHER VER → GO TO DEM QS AND THEN SCREEN OUT

4TH AND 5TH CHOICE → AFTER VER A OR VER B → GO TO CONSENT SCREEN

Scr 1

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- No schooling completed
- Kindergarten to 8th grade
- Some high school, no diploma
- High School Equivalency (for example: GED)
- High school graduate
- Some college credit, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate degree

Scr 2

Are you?

- Male
- Female

Scr 3

What is your age?

Version A: Last week, were you working or self-employed as an independent contractor, an independent consultant, or freelance worker? That is, someone who obtains customers on their own to provide a product or service.

- Yes
- No

Ver A 1

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- No schooling completed
- Kindergarten to 8th grade
- Some high school, no diploma
- High School Equivalency (for example: GED)
- High school graduate
- Some college credit, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate degree

Ver A 2

Are you?

- Male
- Female

Ver A 3

What is your age?

Version B: Many people work in self-employment, on either a part-time or full-time basis, doing things such as working on construction jobs, selling goods or services in their businesses, or working through a digital platform or intermediary, such as Uber, Upwork or Avon. **Last week**, were you working or self-employed as an independent contractor, an independent consultant, or freelance worker? That is, someone who obtains customers on their own to provide a product or service.

- Yes
- No

Ver B 1

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- No schooling completed
- Kindergarten to 8th grade
- Some high school, no diploma
- High School Equivalency (for example: GED)
- High school graduate
- Some college credit, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate degree

Ver B 2

Are you?

- Male
- Female

Ver B 3

What is your age?

[PASS TO PRINCETON QUALTRICS SURVEY via LINK IF "YES" MARKED ABOVE; SCREEN OUT ALL OTHERS]

[CONSENT SCREEN]

- Yes, I give my consent to be a subject of your research
- No, I do not give my consent to participate in your research

Q98 Please use the buttons below to move from page to page in the survey. Do not use your browser's back button, as your responses may be lost. Click the arrow to the right below to start the survey.

[PAGE BREAK]

Q0 Do you currently own and operate a business of some type?

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO Q1

Q0.1 Is this business incorporated?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Q1 How many hours did you work last week in self-employment, counting all work you did as a self-employed worker?

Please enter: _____ hours worked in self-employment last week

Q2 How much did you earn per hour last week working in self-employment counting all work you did as a self-employed worker? (If you are paid on a project basis or some other basis, please do your best to estimate your earnings per hour for the work you did last week.)

Please enter earnings: \$ _____ per hour

Q3 Would you have preferred to work more or fewer hours last week in self-employment at that wage rate? Or were you satisfied with the number of hours you worked?

- More hours last week
- Fewer hours last week
- Satisfied with number of hours

Q3c Did you have unreimbursed expenses last week for the work you did in self-employment?

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO Q3a

Q3d Approximately how much were your unreimbursed expenses last week?

Please enter: \$ _____ unreimbursed expenses last week

Q3a Would you prefer to work for someone else rather than being self-employed?

- Yes
- No

Q3b Where were you usually based while you worked last week in self-employment?

- My home or home office
- My office or place of business
- Someone else's office or place of business
- My car or vehicle
- Other (please specify: _____)

Q4 Last week, did you find any paying work through a digital platform, such as Uber, TaskRabbit or Handy? This is often called gig work.

- Yes
- No

Q4a The due date for filing income taxes was April 18 this year. Is the amount that you have to pay in income taxes more than you planned for this year, about the same as you planned for this year, or less than you planned for this year?

- More than planned for
- About the same as planned for
- Less than planned for
- Haven't prepared taxes yet
- Don't know

Q5 Did you file a Schedule C income tax form for your income from self-employment in 2016, or do you plan to file one if you haven't filed your taxes yet?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q5a Do you expect to file a Schedule C income tax form for self-employment income this year (2017)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q6 Last week, did you do any paid work as a traditional employee for a company or organization?

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO Q8a

Q7 How many hours did you work as a traditional employee last week?

Please enter: _____ hours last week

[IF SUM OF Q1 AND Q7 IS LESS THAN 35 HOURS, ASK:]

Q8 Some people work part time because they cannot find full time work or because business is poor. Others work part time because of family obligations or other personal reasons. What is your MAIN reason for working part time last week?

- Slack work/business conditions
- Could only find part-time work
- Seasonal work
- Child care problems
- Other family/personal obligations
- Health/medical limitations
- School/training
- Retired/Social Security limit on earnings

[PRESENT CHOICES IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q9 How much did you earn per hour working as a traditional employee last week?

Please enter earnings: \$ _____ per hour

Q10 Suppose it was possible for you to work 5 more hours each week. How would you prefer to work: in self-employment at your typical hourly rate or in your job as a traditional employee at your current wage rate on that job?

- In self-employment
- In my job as a traditional employee
- Neither

Q11 From which do you expect to earn the most money this year?

- Working for an employer as a traditional employee
- Working as a self-employed independent contractor, consultant or freelancer
- Working as a gig worker
- From running a business

Q11a In your job as a traditional employee, what kind of work do you do, that is, what is your occupation? (For example: plumber, typist, farmer)

Q11b What are your usual activities or duties at this job as a traditional employee? (For example: typing, keeping account books, filing, selling cars, operating printing press, laying brick)

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Q11c What kind of business or industry are you in as a traditional employee?

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information, Publishing & Media
- Finance and Insurance
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Other (please specify _____)

[SKIP TO Q12]

[PAGE BREAK]

[if Q1<35 AND Q6=No] [SELF-EMPLOYED ONLY AND WORKING UNDER 35 HOURS PER WEEK]

Q8a Some people work part time because they cannot find full time work or because business is poor. Others work part time because of family obligations or other personal reasons. What is your MAIN reason for working part time last week?

- Slack work/business conditions
- Could only find part-time work
- Seasonal work
- Child care problems
- Other family/personal obligations
- Health/medical limitations

- School/training
- Retired/Social Security limit on earnings

[PRESENT CHOICES IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q12 Policymakers have been discussing the idea of creating a fund to help self-employed workers obtain work-related benefits, such as health insurance and retirement savings, that they would be able to receive regardless of where they worked, and they could take with them if they changed jobs.

Do you think this is a good idea?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Q13 If the government were to help you obtain benefits, which ones would be most desirable to you personally, and which would be least desirable? Please rank the following from most desired (1) to least desired (8):

- Retirement Savings
- Unemployment Insurance
- Paid Sick Leave
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Workers' Compensation Insurance (in case of work injury or illness)
- Paid Family Leave
- Disability Insurance

[DRAG AND DROP FORMAT BUT PRESENT INITIAL LIST IN RANDOM ORDER FOR EACH RESPONDENT]

Q13a Is there any other benefit that you would desire more than [FILL IN TOP RANKED BENEFIT FROM Q13]?

- Yes
- No SKIP TO Q14

Q13b What benefit(s)?

Q14 Would you be willing to pay for half the cost of FILL IN TOP RANKED BENEFIT FROM Q13 OR BENEFIT LISTED IN Q13a if the government offered a matching tax credit that paid for the other half?

- Yes
- No

Q17 Are you now covered by any type of health plan?

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO Q20

Q18 How do you currently get coverage from your health plan?

- From a family member's employer
- From my own employer
- Buy on healthcare.gov or a state exchange
- Buy individual plan through an agent or broker, or from an insurance company
- The government or state (e.g., Medicaid or Medicare)
- COBRA
- Some other way (please specify: _____)

Q20 Did you contribute last year to a tax deferred retirement account, such as an IRA, SEP, 401(k) or 403(b) plan?

- Yes
- No

Q22d Have you used a third party (such as Stride, the Freelancers Union, a professional association, or an individual agent) to assist you in obtaining health insurance or other benefits?

- Yes
- No

Q22e Would you be willing to provide your tax data (on a confidential basis) to an agent, broker, Freelancers Union or a professional association whom you select to help you obtain government subsidized benefits, such as health insurance?

- Yes
- No

Q21 Have you received any work-related training in the last year?

- Yes

- No SKIP TO Q21c

Q21a What type of training? (Mark all that apply)

- Technical or technology training
- Quality training
- Skills training
- Continuing education
- Professional training and legal training
- Managerial training
- Safety training
- Other (please specify: _____)

[LIST IN RANDOM ORDER, BUT OTHER IS LAST]

Q21b Who paid for the cost of the training?

- Me or a family member
- A contractor or customer
- My employer
- Someone else
- No one, it was free

Q21c Do you have a *currently active* professional certification or a state or industry license?
Do *not* include business licenses, such as a liquor license or vending license.

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO Q21e
- In Process/Working On It

Q21d Were any of your certifications or licenses issued by the federal, state, or local government?

- Yes
- No

Q21e Suppose that you have an emergency expense that costs \$400. Based on your current financial situation, how would you pay for this expense? If you would use more than one method to cover this expense, please select all that apply.

- Put it on my credit card and pay it off in full at the next statement
- Put it on my credit card and pay it off over time
- With the money currently in my checking/savings account or with cash
- Using money from a bank loan or line of credit

- By borrowing from a friend or family member
- Using a payday loan, deposit advance, or overdraft
- By selling something
- I wouldn't be able to pay for the expense right now

Q22 Have you had an incident in the last year where someone hired you to do a job or project and you were not paid on time?

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO Q22a1

Q22a How long did it take to be paid after the agreed upon due date?

- Less than a month
- 1-2 months
- 3-4 months
- 5-6 months
- 7-12 months
- More than 1 year

Q22a1 Have you had an incident in the last year where you were not paid the full amount that you were owed for a job or project that you completed?

- Yes
- No

Q22b Have you ever felt that you were discriminated against by a client or customer because of your...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Race?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sex?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Age?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ethnicity?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religion?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q22c Think about your most important client, contractor or customer. How big is that company or organization? Or is it a single individual?

- Single individual or individual customers
- Company with 1-10 employees
- Company with 11-100 employees
- Company with 101-500 employees
- Company with >500 employees
- Other (please specify: _____)

Q22g Do you currently employ any traditional employees (a traditional employee is someone to whom you issue a W2 tax form)?

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO Q22f

Q22h How many traditional employees do you currently employ?

[DROP DOWN LIST WITH NUMERALS 1 -99 and "100 or more" AS LAST CATEGORY]

Q22f In the last month, did you hire any freelancers, day laborers or other independent contractors to work for you?

- Yes
- No

[PAGE BREAK]

[IF Q6=Yes, SKIP TO Q23a]

Q23 What kind of work do you do, that is, what is your occupation? (*For example: plumber, typist, farmer*)

Q24 What are your usual activities or duties at this job? (*For example: typing, keeping account books, filing, selling cars, operating printing press, laying brick*)

Q25 What kind of business or industry are you in?

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information, Publishing & Media
- Finance and Insurance
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Other (please specify _____)

[SKIP TO Q26]

[PAGE BREAK]

Q23a In your job as a self-employed worker, what kind of work do you do, that is, what is your occupation? (For example: plumber, typist, farmer)

Q24a What are your usual activities or duties at this job? (For example: typing, keeping account books, filing, selling cars, operating printing press, laying brick)

Q25a In your job as a self-employed worker, what kind of business or industry are you in?

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information, Publishing & Media
- Finance and Insurance
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Other (please specify _____)

[PAGE BREAK]

Q26 Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No
- Yes

Q27 Which category or categories below best describe your race? (Mark all that apply)

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Some other race (please specify: _____)

Q28 What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- No schooling completed
- Kindergarten to 8th grade
- Some high school, no diploma
- High School Equivalency (for example: GED)
- High school graduate
- Some college credit, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate degree

Q29 Are you?

- Male
- Female

Q30 What is your age?

Years

[ALLOW ONLY WHOLE NUMBERS BETWEEN 18 AND 99]

Q31 Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated or never married?

- Married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never Married
- Other (please specify: _____)

Q32 Which category represents your total individual income (before taxes) during the past 12 months? This should include money from all jobs, net income from a business or farm, and any rent, pensions, dividends, interest, social security payments or other money income you received.

- Less than \$5,000
- \$5,000 to 7,499
- \$7,500 to 9,999
- \$10,000 to 12,499
- \$12,500 to 14,999
- \$15,000 to 19,999
- \$20,000 to 24,999
- \$25,000 to 29,999
- \$30,000 to 34,999
- \$35,000 to 39,999
- \$40,000 to 49,999
- \$50,000 to 59,999
- \$60,000 to 74,999
- \$75,000 to 99,999
- \$100,000 to 149,999
- \$150,000 or more

Q32 Which category represents total income (before taxes) of your household during the past 12 months? This should include money from all jobs, net income from a business or farm, and any rent, pensions, dividends, interest, social security payments or other money income that all members of your household received, including you.

- Less than \$5,000
- \$5,000 to 7,499
- \$7,500 to 9,999
- \$10,000 to 12,499
- \$12,500 to 14,999
- \$15,000 to 19,999
- \$20,000 to 24,999
- \$25,000 to 29,999
- \$30,000 to 34,999
- \$35,000 to 39,999
- \$40,000 to 49,999
- \$50,000 to 59,999
- \$60,000 to 74,999
- \$75,000 to 99,999
- \$100,000 to 149,999
- \$150,000 or more

[VALIDITY TEST – HOUSEHOLD INCOME MUST BE GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO
INDIVIDUAL INCOME]