**Freelancing in America**

2018

This study, conducted by an independent research firm and commissioned in partnership by Upwork and Freelancers Union, surveyed more than 6,000 U.S. workers. In its fifth year, findings show Americans are spending more than 1 billion hours per week freelancing. Beyond quantifying the amount of freelancing happening, new insights delve into why people are increasingly choosing to work this way.

56.7 million Americans freelanced this year

- **2014**: 53 million
- **2018**: 56.7 million

+3.7 million Americans are spending more time freelancing

- **2015**: 998 million hours per week
- **2018**: 1.07 billion hours per week

+72 million hours per week

More people are choosing to freelance

- **2014**: 53%
- **2018**: 61%

+8 points

Nearly everyone prioritizes lifestyle over earnings

- **84%** full-time freelancers
- **64%** full-time non-freelancers

Percent who get their preferred lifestyle

Freelance lifestyles bring some anxiety but better balance

- **63%** feel anxious about all that they have to manage
- **77%** have a better work/life balance

* FULL-TIME FREELANCERS

Freelancing provides more opportunities

- **42%** of freelancers say that freelancing gives them the flexibility they need because they are unable to work for a traditional employer

Freelancers value skills training over a formal education

- **79%** college education
- **93%** skill-related education/training

Type of education more useful to the work freelancers with at least a 4-year college degree do now

Freelancers are more politically active

- **53%** full-time freelancers
- **34%** full-time non-freelancers

Participation in political activities

- **2014**: 53%
- **2018**: 64%

+22 points

The best days of freelancing are ahead

- **2014**: 77%
- **2018**: 87%

+10 points

Tech is enabling freelancing

- **2014**: 42%
- **2018**: 64%

+22 points

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