57 million Americans freelanced this year

Freelancing income is nearly $1T

Younger generations are more likely to freelance

Freelancing opens up opportunities

Freelancing gives flexibility

Tech is enabling freelancing

Soft skills matter

Education needs to adapt

Top professionals freelance

*Of freelancers who believe the freelance job market has changed within the last 3 years

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"Freelancing in America" (FIA) is the most comprehensive study of the independent workforce. Commissioned by Upwork and Freelancers Union, this study analyzes the size and impact of the freelance economy, as well as the motivations and challenges of this way of working. This year 53 percent of Gen Z workers freelanced—the highest independent workforce participation of any age bracket since FIA’s launch in 2014.

7 in 10 freelancers interested in moving somewhere other than a large city, if opportunities were the same

77% of freelancers say technology has made it easier to find freelance work*

46% of freelancers agree that freelancing gives them the flexibility they need because they are unable to work for a traditional employer due to personal circumstances

78% of freelancers agree that soft skills are at least equally important as technical skills to succeed in their work

89% of freelancers wish education better prepared them for freelance work

64% say that professionals who are the top in their industry are increasingly choosing to work independently*

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*Of freelancers who believe the freelance job market has changed within the last 3 years