

## **Informal Work Activity in the United States: Evidence from Survey Responses**

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### **Abstract:**

Given the weak labor market conditions that have prevailed in the United States since the Great Recession, along with the recent emergence of web-based applications (such as Uber) that facilitate a variety of informal earning opportunities, we designed a survey aimed at describing the nature and extent of participation in informal work activities in recent years and measuring its economic importance to participants. The survey, conducted in December 2013, shows that roughly 44 percent of respondents participated in some informal paid work activity during the past two years, not including survey work. The most common reason given for engaging in informal paid activity is to earn money (rather than to pursue a hobby, meet people, or maintain job-related skills). Among the participants, 35 percent say that informal work helped them either “somewhat” or “very much” in offsetting negative shocks to their personal financial situation experienced in the recent recession. Individuals with a part-time (formal) job are both most likely to participate in informal work (compared with full-time employees, the unemployed, and those outside the labor force) and most likely to report that such work helped them “very much” in surviving the recession. The high prevalence of informal work participation among part-time employees and the economic significance of such work to this group following the Great Recession suggest that a substantial share of them may be willing to supply additional hours to formal jobs as labor demand improves. Yet, because most of those who engage in informal paid activities do so online and because the number of applications that facilitate informal work is likely to continue to increase, we expect participation in the peer-to-peer economy to grow even as labor market conditions improve.

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## 1. Introduction

### A. Overview and Summary of Findings

To adjust to adverse employment conditions, people may reduce their consumption and/or search for new sources of income. To supplement their income, some people may sell off valuable possessions, while others take on informal side-jobs such as handyman work, babysitting, and other services. In light of the weak labor market conditions that have prevailed in the United States since the Great Recession, it is important to determine the extent to which people turned to such activities to earn money and smooth their consumption during this economic downturn.<sup>1</sup>

To gain insight into recent participation in informal work—including Internet-mediated work in particular—we designed a survey aimed at identifying who participates in such activities and why, how much money participants earn from such activities, and to what extent did people use informal work to offset negative employment and/or income shocks in recent years. This survey, formally titled the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Survey of Informal Work Participation (SIWP), constitutes a special module that was fielded in December 2013 as an addendum to the monthly Federal Reserve Bank of New York Survey of Consumer Expectations (SCE), and draws on the same sample population as the latter survey.<sup>2</sup>

Key findings from the SIWP include the following:

- Roughly 44 percent of our respondents reported participating in some informal paid work activity during the past two years, not including paid survey work. Earning money was by far the most widely cited reason for participation in informal work, as opposed to other motivations such as having fun, meeting people, or developing or maintaining job-related skills.
- Among employment-status groups, the part-time employed are most likely to participate in informal work (59 percent). Among jobless individuals, those who report that they want a job are more likely to engage in informal work arrangements (40 percent) than those who report not wanting a job (27 percent). Imputing employment status among our respondents as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), we find that 26 percent of the people who get classified as not in the labor force are nevertheless working informally.
- Among informal work participants, 8 percent report that informal work helped “very much” to offset the negative effects of the recent recession and 27 percent said it had helped “somewhat.”

<sup>1</sup>We study all informal earnings opportunities, including activities that seek to monetize possessions (such as selling used goods or renting out one’s property) as well as activities that seek to monetize free time and skills (such as babysitting). Because there may be some differences between the types of people who engage in selling and leasing activities and those who take on more time-intensive side-jobs, in some instances of the empirical analysis we remove from the sample those people who engage only in the selling and leasing of property.

<sup>2</sup>All of our survey respondents also completed the regular SCE module at least once during 2013.

- Among employment-status groups, part-time employees appear to have benefitted the most from informal work in terms of offsetting negative effects of the recession—19 percent of informal work participants in this group said informal work had helped “very much” in this regard. In addition, considering all informal participants, we observe a positive correlation between monthly earnings from informal work activities and the self-reported extent to which informal work helped offset negative shocks.
- The high prevalence of informal work participation among part-time employees and the importance of such work to this group in offsetting negative economic shocks suggests that there may be a significant willingness among members of this group to supply additional hours to formal jobs as labor demand strengthens.
- More than half of those who report engaging in informal work are performing Internet-based tasks such as selling goods online, and many others performing informal tasks are likely to make use of the Internet in doing such work. (These statements do not include online survey-taking activity.) Recent trends such as rising Internet access, declining prices for mobile devices, and an increasing supply of web-based applications that facilitate finding or generating informal work are likely to persist, and therefore we expect participation in the peer-to-peer economy to continue to grow over time even in the face of an improving labor market.

### *1B. Motivation*

The Great Recession left many individuals unemployed and others with reduced working hours. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), between the official onset of the recession, in December 2007, and the official end date of June 2009, unemployment increased from 5 percent to 9.5 percent. Unemployment continued to rise even after the recession officially ended, reaching a peak of 10 percent in October 2009, and as of December 2014, seven years after the recession began, the unemployment rate of 5.6 percent was still significantly above the rates observed just before the Great Recession (5 percent or lower). In addition, a broader measure of labor market slack given by the U6 rate—which includes people working fewer hours than desired—remains at 11.2 percent as of December 2014 (seasonally adjusted), farther above its pre-recession levels than the traditional unemployment (U3) measure.

The weak labor market conditions that were present during and after the Great Recession contributed to significant income losses that were not fully replaced by unemployment insurance and other government programs (Rothstein and Valletta 2014). Accordingly, it is important to determine the extent

to which people turned to alternative income-generating activities, such as informal side-jobs,<sup>3</sup> and to what extent such activities helped individuals to compensate for negative income shocks sustained during the recession.

These are especially pertinent questions to answer in light of the recent emergence of new Internet platforms that have facilitated the so-called peer-to-peer economy—involving person-to-person rental or sale of goods and services.<sup>4</sup> For example, Uber is a taxicab-like business built around a mobile application that connects drivers with riders via mobile phones; unlike taxi drivers, Uber drivers may use their own cars and do not need to purchase a taxi medallion. Airbnb is a website that enables individuals to rent out all or part of their home for brief stays, Amazon Mechanical Turk is a website that offers the opportunity to do basic computing work from home on a fee-for-service basis, and on Taskrabbit.com people engage online in spot contracting for mundane services such as feeding a parking meter or queuing for tickets. Primarily by reducing transactions costs, these technologies and similar ones have greatly expanded the opportunity set for engaging in informal paid work, and arose during a period that overlapped with times of particular economic hardship for many U.S. households.

### *1C. Survey Description*

Our survey elicits information on the individual respondents' current employment status, the duration of that status, the average hours worked per week and the earnings from the primary job, or, for those not currently working, the hours and earnings in their most-recent formal employment. In addition to posing questions about their primary job, the survey asks about their awareness of and participation in Internet-based or Internet-mediated informal work opportunities, as well as other informal work activities, including current participation and participation at any time in the past two years. The survey also asks for the number of hours devoted to informal work on a weekly or monthly basis, and the average weekly, monthly, or annual earnings from performing such tasks. We ask subjects to list their reasons for participating in informal work by choosing one or more options from a provided list and/or writing in other reasons. We asked to what extent extra income from such activities had helped mitigate the negative impact of an unemployment spell, loss of work hours, or low/reduced earnings that they might have experienced in recent years.

<sup>3</sup>By informal work we refer to temporary or occasional side jobs from which earnings are presumably not reported in full to the Internal Revenue Service and which typically do not constitute a dominant or complete source of income. Numerous criteria have been used to define informal labor and the informal economy, with some overlap across researchers but no consistent definition. See Gerxhani (2004) for a literature review pertaining to definitions of the informal sector.

<sup>4</sup>These activities, or some subset of them, are also referred to as “the sharing economy,” and also include cases of “crowdsourcing,” in which actors (including firms) divide a large work task among many individuals operating independently of each other, often using online-based spot contracting.

The complete list of possible responses to the employment-status question can be found in the Appendix (question 11). For the purposes of comparison, we group the set of responses into four broad categories: (1) employed full-time (whether self-employed or not), (2) employed part-time (whether self-employed or not), (3) not employed formally but would like a job, and (4) not employed formally and not interested in finding a job. This last group, which we also refer to as “other not working,” also includes those respondents who are temporarily laid-off, on sick leave, or on some other leave from a formal job. Separately, those individuals who report being employed are asked whether they are self-employed or working for someone else.

In addition to the questions concerning employment status and informal work, we also asked background questions, including whether individuals own or rent their house, how much money they hold in savings, their reasons for being out of work (if not employed), whether they have health insurance, and if they do any volunteer work. Using our subjects’ responses to the monthly recurring survey completed at an earlier date, we observe individuals’ age, gender, race, marital status, geographic location (broadly defined), and education level, as well as their responses to questions that elicit expectations of aggregate economic variables such as inflation, unemployment, and stock-market returns. All the survey questions, including those in our special module and those in the recurring module, were subject to a systematic editorial process conducted by survey professionals at Nielsen, including cognitive interviews with test subjects who provided feedback that was used to revise survey contents.

## **2. Empirical Analysis, Part I: Sample Characteristics and Informal Work Patterns**

### *A. Selection of Analysis Sample*

The raw sample consists of 1,218 individuals. Within this sample, we focus on individuals 21 years-old and over who are not retired and who supply complete information for the following variables: informal work participation status, informal hours worked, informal earnings, formal employment status, formal earnings, formal hours, age, race, gender, educational attainment, homeownership status, and nonmissing responses to three questions about economic expectations. (For those who report not currently having a formal job, we elicit income and hours from the most recently held formal job; never-employed individuals may report zero for these entries.) In addition, we eliminated two subjects with apparently erroneous entries for informal income and five subjects who reported annual formal incomes of \$600,000 or greater.<sup>5</sup> Together, the restrictions result in an analysis sample of 778 individuals.<sup>6</sup> In section 3 we discuss the robustness of our regression results to the omission of the annual-income outliers.

<sup>5</sup>One person reported monthly informal income that was nearly identical to his annual formal income. Another reported informal income that amounted to 87 times the amount of her formal income.

<sup>6</sup>The nonretired restriction alone eliminates 257 people.

## *2B. Description of the Sample and the Summary of Survey Responses*

Of the 778 people included in the analysis sample, 387 (49.7 percent) are female and 391 are male. Table 1 gives the separate descriptive statistics for the women and men included in the analysis sample. For either sex, the average age is roughly 46 years. Relative to the entire U.S. population, the sample is well-educated: 11 percent of respondents have only a high school diploma or less and 60 percent hold a bachelor's degree or better; the corresponding figures for the U.S. populace are 42 percent and 32 percent, respectively.<sup>7</sup> For both sexes, a large majority of the respondents report having either full-time or part-time formal employment. Among both women and men, the nonemployed are split evenly between those who would like a job and those who are not interested in working. Considered over the entire sample, the average annual (individual) formal income of \$59,062 indicates that the sample is relatively well-paid compared with the U.S. as a whole. According to the BLS Occupational Employment Survey, as of May 2013 the average annual individual income across all occupations was \$46,440.<sup>8</sup>

We can map, albeit imperfectly, our employment groups into the BLS-defined categories of “employed,” “unemployed,” and “not in the labor force.” We classify part-time and full-time employees as “employed,” along with those who are on sick leave or other leave from a formal job. We classify as “not in the labor force” those individuals who are not employed and not interested in working. For those who are not working but would like a job, we look at their response to a job search question contained in the New York Fed's Survey of Consumer Expectations, also fielded in December 2013: those who report having looked for work during the past four weeks are classified as “unemployed,” those who report not having looked for work are classified as “not in the labor force,” and those with missing values for job search activity are also classified as unemployed.<sup>9,10</sup> Using this imputation method, 88.8 percent of the analysis sample are employed, 5.8 percent are unemployed (representing 92 percent of those whom we classify as not employed and wanting a job), and 5.4 percent are not in the labor force (representing 78 percent of those whom we classify as “other not working”). Among the 94.6 percent classified as in the

<sup>7</sup> These figures are U.S. Census estimates for 2013 and pertain to the civilian noninstitutionalized population aged 25 years and over.

<sup>8</sup> This income figure is in May 2013 dollars. The Occupational Employment Survey results can be found at [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm#00-0000](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000).

<sup>9</sup> We classify 18 people as unemployed because they have missing job search information. Re-classifying this group as not in the labor force would reduce the share classified as unemployed to 3.5 percent (from 5.8 percent) and raise the share not in the labor force to 7.7 percent (from 5.4 percent).

<sup>10</sup> Missing values for this question indicate either that our respondent did not complete the earlier survey, or that s/he took the survey but was not asked about job search because s/he marked an employment status that precluded job search, such as employed. Because we don't know how active the job search was, this approach may classify some people as unemployed who the BLS would classify as not in the labor force—for example, if the individual's job search was passive.

labor force, the unemployment rate is 6.1 percent; the small share of those not in the labor force partly reflects the fact that we drop retired people from the sample.

### *2C. Overall Participation in Informal Paid Activity*

We define participation in informal paid activity as having checked off at least one nonsurvey informal paid activity<sup>11</sup> from the list provided in the relevant survey question<sup>12</sup>, and having reported nonzero typical hours in informal work in response to a separate question<sup>13</sup>. We include both requirements because there is a discrepancy between the share of respondents who reported nonzero informal hours and the share that checked off at least one informal activity on the list, whether or not we eliminate survey-only subjects. These discrepancies suggest that differences between the two questions may have contributed to differences in how well people recalled their participation, and our definition of participation is therefore possibly conservative.

Based on how we define participation, the share of either sex indicating engagement in informal work is 44 percent, with slightly higher participation among women than men (as shown in Table 1). Roughly 26 percent of all respondents—or more than half of informal participants—report having earned money in the past two years specifically through Internet-based informal work activities, including selling goods online, performing online tasks, or posting content online. An awareness of online work opportunities was virtually complete in our sample, with all but five respondents recognizing at least one informal work website and the average respondent recognizing three informal work websites. The most commonly recognized sites are eBay, recognized by 766 people, and Craigslist, recognized by 769 people.

<sup>11</sup>If we define participation so that those who did only survey work are included, the true participation rate in our sample would be 100 percent and we would have no variation to explain in the extensive margin, other than that induced by the observed measurement error in reporting of survey participation. In responding to the discrete or “checklist” informal participation question described in footnote 12, only 64 percent of respondents actually checked off paid survey work, and only 75 percent checked off (or wrote in) at least one informal activity from the entire list. Similarly, in responding to the “informal hours” question described in footnote 13, all respondents could have included hours devoted to survey work, and yet only 89 percent of the sample report positive (nonzero) values for total informal hours. One possible explanation for these findings is that respondents took for granted that we knew about their participation in the current survey, and therefore did not consider survey participation to be a relevant activity.

<sup>12</sup>This question is worded as follows: “Which, if any, of the following informal paid activities or side jobs have you actually engaged in during the past two years?” The response field consists of a checklist of specific activities, as well as an option to write in other informal paid activity or side jobs, and an option to indicate “none of the above”. See the Appendix for the complete survey text.

<sup>13</sup>The question that elicits this information is worded as follows: “Please consider all informal paid activities or side jobs in which you participate, including this survey. On average, how much time do you typically spend per month on informal paid activities or side jobs?” This is followed by the response field, “\_\_\_\_\_ hours per month”. See the Appendix for the complete survey text.

## *2D. Why Do People Engage in Informal Work?*

To gain insight into people's motivations for working informally we asked all participants the following question: "What are the reasons why you have engaged in these informal paid activities or side jobs?" The possible responses were: (1) To earn money as a primary source of income, (2) To earn extra money on top of pay from a current job, retirement, pension, disability, or other regular source of income, (3) To maintain existing job-related skills, (4) To acquire new job-related skills, (5) To network/meet people, (6) Just for fun (as a hobby), and (7) Other (please specify). Figure 1 provides a snapshot of the frequency of the various reasons the respondents in our analysis sample gave for undertaking informal work. Overwhelmingly, the top motivating factor was earning money: a combined 84 percent do informal work to earn either primary income (11 percent) or supplemental income (73 percent). Fun (hobby) was another important factor, while motivations related to job skills—whether maintaining or acquiring new skills—were not widely cited. A nonnegligible share of respondents marked the "other" category, and the most common reasons given in this category were disposing of unwanted property and helping either friends or family.

## *2E. Participation in Informal Work and Hours Worked by Employment Status*

Figure 2A shows that for the 778 persons in the analysis sample, participation rates in informal work differ depending on an individual's employment status, not controlling for other differences. Differences in the mean participation status between any two groups based on the four categories of employment status will be considered statistically significant if the respective confidence intervals of the mean estimates do not overlap.<sup>14</sup> Part-time workers have the highest estimated informal participation rate among the four groups (59 percent), and this rate is significantly higher than the participation rate among either full-time employees or among the "other not working" group.

Conditioning on participation, we compare the average monthly hours of informal work across these same groups. As seen in Figure 2B, the group rankings are similar to those for participation rates. Significant differences are observed between informal hours among part-time employees (15 hours) and informal hours among the "other not working" group (3.4 hours), as well as between the latter group and full-time employees (9 hours).

These patterns conform to what we might expect: part-time workers presumably have more free time available for informal work activities than do full-time employees, all else equal between these groups, and some part-time employees may be involuntarily underemployed. While nonemployed individuals might be expected to have more free time than employed individuals, those not interested in finding a

<sup>14</sup>This test does not assume that the standard deviations are equal across samples and therefore it can give different results than would a standard t-test. However, this test will give the same result as would a t-test that relaxes the equal-variance assumption.



formal job may be occupied in home production and/or they may have other sources of income, and therefore be less interested in doing informal paid work.

Figures 2C and 2D show the participation rates and (conditional) mean hours, respectively, by the imputed BLS employment status for the analysis sample. The only significant difference that emerges from these two figures (shown in 2D) is that employed individuals who engage in informal work devote more hours to such work than do informal workers who are not in the labor force (NILF). This latter analysis reinforces the value of examining full-time workers separately from part-time workers.

#### *2F. Participation by Employment Status and Activity*

Figure 3 shows the participation rates by employment status in each of the four most popular types of informal work. Part-time workers, who have the highest overall participation rate, also have the highest participation rate within each of the four top types of informal work—selling items online, selling items offline, renting property, and performing personal services. Part-time workers are significantly more likely to engage in personal services than are full-time employees; again, this result is in line with the likely differences in free time between these two groups. Otherwise, the differences in participation rates by employment status for a given task are mostly not significant. Comparing across tasks within employment status, we find that full-time workers are much more likely to engage in online selling than in any of the other top tasks; these results are consistent with the presumption that selling items online is less time-intensive than the other tasks, while members of the “not employed and want a job” group appear comparatively indifferent among these four groups of informal work tasks.

#### *2G. Informal Hours, Earnings, and Wages Conditional on Participation*

We now examine patterns in informal hours and informal earnings among those participating in informal work.<sup>15</sup> Figure 4 shows average monthly informal hours, average monthly informal earnings, the average informal hourly wage, and the informal pseudo-wage, meaning the ratio of average informal earnings to average informal hours, for each of two groups: (1) the set of informal participants, as defined above, and (2) the set of informal participants who did not engage solely in renting out their own property and/or selling their own used goods (whether online or in consignment shops). Henceforth, we will refer to this latter set as “nonlessors/nonsellers” and we will refer to the remainder of informal participants as “lessors/sellers.”<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup>Table 1 provides descriptive statistics for informal hours, informal income (i.e., earnings) and informal wage calculated over the entire analysis sample, regardless of whether an individual actually engaged in informal work. Therefore, these statistics (such as mean informal hours) may embed a large number of zeroes. In contrast, the numbers appearing in Figure 5 are calculated only over the set of individuals who actually participated in informal work.

<sup>16</sup>We define the nonlessors/nonsellers group to consist of individuals who did not engage *exclusively* in these types of activities. Therefore the nonlessors/nonsellers group includes individuals who engaged in leasing and/or selling,

First, observe the outcomes for the full sample of informal participants (shown in the left bar of each panel). The average hourly informal wage of \$52.30 reflects the presence of some very large values in the upper tail of the distribution, including a maximum hourly informal wage of \$2,210. The median hourly informal wage is much more modest, at \$15.<sup>17</sup> Taking the ratio of the average earnings to the average hours worked, we obtain an hourly “pseudo-wage,” shown in Figure 4D, that is much lower than the average individual informal wage.

We make separate calculations of the above outcomes excluding the lessors/sellers group because the lessors/sellers group differs from the rest of the participant sample in a number of ways. They hold more savings in relation to living expenses and are more likely to own their home. When listing motivations for engaging in informal work, lessors/sellers were significantly less likely than others to include “earning extra money” on that list. Only 3 percent of this group (as opposed to 12 percent of nonlessors/nonsellers) reported that informal work had helped offset recession-related negative shocks “very much” and 46 percent of lessors/sellers said that the question about offsetting negative shocks “did not apply” to them, as opposed to 34 percent of nonlessors/nonsellers.<sup>18</sup> In addition, the leasing and selling activities are likely to be less labor-intensive than other informal activities such as housecleaning. These differences suggest that informal work may have been less critical to the lessors/sellers in terms of their weathering the recession, and that members of this group may be less likely than other informal participants to desire additional work hours in a formal job. Given our research objectives, then, it is important to examine the robustness of our findings to whether this group is included in the analysis or not.

As seen in figures 4A–4D, average monthly hours devoted to informal work are higher among the nonlessors/nonsellers group than over the entire sample of informal participants (although the difference is not statistically significant), and the average informal hourly wage is significantly lower among nonlessors/nonsellers. These facts imply that informal work participants who engage exclusively in leasing and/or selling activities earn a higher informal wage on average than other informal participants and dedicate fewer hours to informal earnings activities.

The distribution of informal work hours among all informal participants, like the informal wage distribution, is highly right-skewed. That is, there are several very large values for informal hours which well exceed the median value, including a maximum value of 120 hours per month (where the median is 4

provided the individual also engaged in at least one other informal activity, not including paid survey work. We might alternatively define nonlessors/nonsellers so as to exclude all lessors and sellers regardless of whether they participated in other informal earnings activities. However, under that definition the set of nonlessors/nonsellers is quite small and not amenable to separate analysis.

<sup>17</sup>As discussed below, our regression results are largely robust to excluding the top 5 percent of the informal wage distribution.

<sup>18</sup>The difference between the groups in the share saying “very much” is statistically significant but the difference in the share saying “does not apply” is not statistically significant.

hours per month). Given the skewness, it is worth describing informal hours (and other outcomes) both within the upper tail—the top 5 percent—and, separately, in the remaining 95 percent of the (nonzero) informal hours distribution. The top 5 percent of informal participants sorted by informal hours worked dedicate an average of roughly 64 hours per month to informal work, earning an average of \$567 per month or roughly \$9 per hour for such work. The remaining 95 percent of informal participants perform an average of just 6.7 hours per month of informal work and have much lower monthly informal earnings (\$182 on average), but earn a significantly greater average hourly informal wage (\$55 per hour). These data illustrate the negative correlation between informal hours and the informal wage that is observed among participants (-0.11).

## *2H. Informal Earnings in Relation to Formal Earnings*

Among the set of informal work participants, the average monthly earnings from informal activities amount to 8.5 percent of an individual’s monthly earnings (current or prior) from formal work activities, which is a nonnegligible share. However, the distribution of this “informal earnings ratio” is again highly right-skewed: among the top 5 percent of informal participants by hours worked, the ratio of informal to formal monthly earnings averages 39.2 percent, while among all participants the median ratio is just 2 percent. This ratio is larger among the top 5 percent of informal participants in part because their average formal income (in a current or previous job) is significantly lower than average formal income among the remaining 95 percent, and therefore a given dollar amount of informal earnings will represent a larger share of formal earnings among the former group.

To provide some point of comparison, Rothstein and Valletta (2014) find that the average unemployment benefits received during the last two recessions amounted to about 40 percent of an individual’s pre-job-separation income—similar to the informal earnings ratio among our top 5 percent for informal hours. Rothstein and Valletta also find that the value of benefits from government safety net programs (such as the SNAP and TANF<sup>19</sup>) represented roughly 3.5 percent of this same lost income, a figure that is close to our median informal earnings ratio. While Rothstein’s and Valletta’s numbers are not fully comparable with ours—for example, their sample consists only of individuals who had lost a formal job/s in the given recession—the comparison suggests that, for the most intensely engaged informal workers, informal earnings represent a substantial source of income on par with unemployment benefits. Even for the median participant, informal earnings appear to be economically meaningful in relation to other potential sources of support.

<sup>19</sup>The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are two of the largest social welfare programs in the United States. The SNAP (also known informally as food stamps) provides nutrition assistance to low-income families and individuals, while TANF is a cash assistance program designed to help needy families transition to employment.

Another caveat we should add is that earnings from informal activities are not necessarily equivalent to receiving government transfers or pay from a formal job, and may not represent net income gains in all cases. For example, an individual who sells a used watch on eBay for \$500 will in our survey report this income as informal earnings. However, if she initially paid \$1,000 for the watch, the revenue from selling it does not represent a net gain relative to her cost basis. Therefore, the value-added to the economy from informal activities does not correspond exactly to the informal earnings reported by our survey respondents.

## *2I. The Importance of Informal Work for Offsetting Negative Income and Employment Shocks*

In addition to establishing objective measurements of informal wages and earnings, it is important to gauge the participants' own estimate of the economic significance of informal work. To do this, we examine the informal participants' responses to our survey question: "To what extent did informal work help you to offset any negative effects of the recession such as job loss, loss of hours in a formal job, or stagnant wages?" Figure 5 shows that a small but nonnegligible (meaning significantly greater than zero) share of the participants indicated that informal work had helped "very much," and a substantial share reported that it had helped "somewhat." At the same time, the share reporting that informal work had helped "not at all" is roughly equal to the share who reported it had helped "somewhat," while the most common response was that the question did not apply to their situation. Most likely, the "not applicable" response means that the respondent did not experience adverse shocks during the recession, and therefore indicated that their participation in informal work was not motivated by the need to offset such shocks.

Comparing the responses by employment status (Figure 5, lower panel), those employed part-time appear to have benefitted more from informal work than did full-time workers. This conclusion is based on a few facts: part-time workers are significantly more likely to give the "helped somewhat" response than are full-time workers and more likely (with marginal statistical significance) to give the "helped very much" response. Part-time workers are also significantly less likely to give the "doesn't apply" response than are full-time workers. All these differences suggest that among informal participants, part-time employees were more subject to recessionary shocks than were full-time employees. In particular, those who are currently employed part-time are more likely to have lost hours during the recession than those who are currently employed full-time, although full-time workers might still have experienced wage reductions and/or benefit reductions tied to the recession. The differences in response rates to this question are generally not significant when comparing other pairs of employment-status categories.

It is instructive to observe the relationship between the extent to which informal work helped offset negative shocks to personal finances and the extent of participation in and income earned from such work. Taking the sample of informal participants, we first omit those who responded that the "recession offset"

question did not apply to them. Ordering the remaining responses from lowest (“not at all”=1) to highest (“very much”=3), we observe a significant positive correlation between the offset response and an individual’s monthly earnings from informal work (0.28), as well as a positive correlation between the offset response and monthly informal work hours (0.32). When we add back in the “does not apply” responses and assign these a value of one (together with the “not at all” response), the former correlation is roughly unchanged and the latter correlation falls to 0.23. These positive correlations suggest that people’s subjective assessments of the importance of informal work are consistent with the objective extent of their participation and earnings from such work. This finding lends credibility to the responses of our survey participants.

### 3. Empirical Analysis, Part II: Regressions

Next we turn to a more systematic analysis of informal work participation, conducted along both the extensive and intensive margins. In this context, the “extensive margin” refers to the decision of whether to participate at all in informal work, while the “intensive margin” refers to the choice of how many informal hours to work conditional on participating at all. Recognizing that the discrete participation decision and the decision of how many hours to supply to informal work are not independent, we conduct a Heckman two-step regression using the maximum likelihood method and robust standard errors. In this analysis, we jointly estimate a probit model that predicts participation in informal work based on various observed factors, and a log hours equation that predicts—among informal work participants—the number of informal hours (in logs) as a function of various observed factors and controlling for selection into participation. For the probit portion of the model, we use the participation definition described above, which designates participants as those who report having engaged in at least one nonsurvey informal work activity within the past two years *and* indicate a positive number of typical informal hours.<sup>20</sup>

We conduct the Heckman analysis separately for men and women, since the decision to work in general and to engage in informal work in particular may be quite different between these two groups. We refer the reader again to Table 1 for the summary statistics of key variables for the male and female regression samples. We define the reservation wage as the current formal hourly wage, in the case of an employed individual, or as the previous formal hourly wage, in the case of someone not currently employed. We observe that this reservation wage (in logs) is a significant factor in the discrete participation decision, and yet in most models the reservation wage does not significantly affect the

<sup>20</sup>The individuals who are assigned a zero in the participation equation must have zero hours. Therefore, in those cases when a respondent marked only survey work on the checklist and reported nonzero informal hours, we set their hours to zero. Because the survey asks only for the total hours devoted to informal work, rather than hours by activity, in some cases the reported hours could embed the time devoted to taking paid surveys in addition to time spent in other activities. However, based on our participation criteria, the total hours reported should in principle include at least some hours spent working on tasks other than taking surveys.

choice of informal hours conditional on participation.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, we omit the reservation wage from the log hours equation, a step which helps to identify the model. In the hours equation, we include the (log) hourly wage earned in informal work, which represents an obvious economic incentive affecting the supply of informal hours. There are numerous reasons why this wage is likely to be endogenous, and we address this issue below when interpreting the results.

### 3A. *Main Results of Heckman Analysis*

Table 2 shows the maximum likelihood estimates obtained from the Heckman models. Each pair of adjacent columns corresponds to a single (joint) Heckman estimation of a participation equation and a log hours equation. We perform two different versions of the Heckman analysis: a basic or parsimonious version that includes the first 11 variables listed in the table, and an extended version that adds indicators of the household's expectations for various economic conditions, along with indicators of marital status and homeownership status.<sup>22</sup> Our measures of goodness of fit, including AIC and BIC, indicate that for both men and women, the basic or parsimonious model provides a better fit than the extended model, so we will emphasize the results of the basic models.

In the participation equation, the positive coefficients indicate a higher probability of participation and the negative coefficients a lower probability. In the results for the basic participation equation for women (shown in Table 2's column 1), we observe that the reservation wage exerts a statistically significant and negative effect on female informal work participation, indicating that those who earn more in their formal jobs (current or former) are less likely to engage in informal work. For each additional log dollar of hourly earnings in a formal job, the probability that a woman engages in informal work declines by 11.6 percent. For example, this means that starting from the median female reservation wage of \$19.20, a one-dollar wage increase implies a decline of 0.6 percent in the informal participation probability. This marginal effect is greater when starting from an initially lower wage—for example an increase in the reservation wage from \$9 to \$10 reduces the participation probability by 1.2 percent—and declines as the initial wage increases.

This negative effect accords with the notion that the formal wage rate serves as a proxy for the opportunity cost of informal work—because engaging in informal work may require forgoing at least some formal work and associated wages—such that those facing a higher opportunity cost will be less

<sup>21</sup> “Most models” refers to the preferred (parsimonious) models for both men and women, and to the more extensive model for men. In the extended model for women, the reservation wage has a negative coefficient that is statistically significant at the 5 percent level, as seen in Table 10. However, adding the reservation wage to this model (or to any other model we estimate) does not improve the fit of the Heckman estimation and it does not significantly alter the remaining coefficient estimates in the hours equation.

<sup>22</sup> Of the first two variables listed in Table 2, the participation equation includes the log reservation wage but not the log informal wage, and vice versa for the hours equation. Otherwise, the participation and hours equations include the same list of covariates, whether in the basic or extended versions.

likely to engage in such work. However, alternative interpretations are possible. For example, the formal wage might be positively correlated with unobserved factors, such as spousal earnings, household wealth, and access to credit, any of which might predict a lower probability of participation in informal work. Our survey did ask the subjects how many months' worth of living expenses they held in liquid savings, but this factor is insignificant for predicting either informal participation or informal hours and it does not alter the effect of the reservation wage on participation, so it is excluded from the regressions.<sup>23</sup>

Perhaps surprisingly, when omitting "employed full-time," none of the three remaining employment-status indicators have statistically significant effects on female informal participation. However, educational attainment appears to play an important role in women's informal work decisions: women whose education extends beyond high school—whether having attended some college, earned a bachelor's degree, or earned a graduate degree—are substantially more likely to engage in informal work than women with a high school diploma or less (the omitted category), and the coefficients are highly statistically significant in each case. Being non-white, which includes the categories African-American, American Indian/Alaskan, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and other,<sup>24</sup> is associated with a lower probability of engaging in informal work, and the effect is both statistically and economically meaningful. The effects of age and age-squared on women's participation probability are, in both cases, negative and statistically insignificant.

In the log hours equation from the basic model for women (column 2 of Table 2), the informal wage is negatively associated with women's supply of informal work hours, controlling for the probability of participation. This negative association indicates that women who earn higher informal hourly wages are supplying fewer hours of informal work. We cannot confidently give a causal interpretation to this finding because the informal wage is likely to be endogenous in informal hours for a number of reasons. For example, those individuals who are most strapped for cash and who have fewer other options for making money are likely to be willing to spend more time doing informal labor and to accept a lower informal wage. In addition, some types of informal work may allow one to effectively choose the wage simultaneously with the choice of hours.<sup>25</sup> Nonetheless, the negative association between the informal

<sup>23</sup> In addition, we have a categorical measure of the household income, but not a separate measure of spousal earnings, for all but one member of the regression sample. When we include the household income measure, its coefficient is never significant and the goodness-of-fit measures deteriorate in all models, although in the models of male informal participation the effect of the reservation wage becomes insignificant. This change does not necessarily imply that the reservation wage has no causal effect on participation, but rather that it may simply reflect collinearity between household income and the male head of household's own reservation wage. The correlation coefficient between these two variables for men is 0.56.

<sup>24</sup> A separate question asks about Hispanic origin, and therefore Hispanics may be contained in any of the above racial categories. For example, an individual who indicates having Hispanic origin may also indicate being white, and gets classified as white.

<sup>25</sup> Depending on the type of informal work being performed, the nature of the hourly wage may be quite different. For example, working for Amazon Mechanical Turk pays a relatively constant wage per hour of work that is set by

wage and informal hours is consistent with the notion that the income effect of the informal wage dominates the substitution effect, and it may indicate that individuals target a monthly (or yearly) earnings level from informal work, supplying hours only up to the point the target is reached. Such behavior has been observed in previous research concerning cab drivers and bicycle messengers (respectively, Camerer et al. 1997 and Goette and Fehr 2007). It may be easier to target earnings in the context of informal work, because the supply of informal hours is subject to greater degree of individual choice than is supply of formal hours.

The effects of employment-status on women's informal hours are in most cases statistically insignificant, although "other not working" has a marginally significant (at the 10 percent level) negative effect on the supply of informal hours. Higher educational attainment is associated with supplying fewer informal hours, in contrast with higher education's positive effect on women's probability for informal work participation. Being non-white is associated with a significantly higher supply of informal hours, despite the fact that non-white women are less likely to engage in any amount of informal work. These findings indicate that women's informal work decisions along the extensive margin—the decision of whether to participate at all—operate differently than decisions along the intensive margin—the choice of how many hours to work if one decides to participate in the first place.

A quick inspection of Table 2's columns 3 and 4, which show the results for the extended-model Heckman analysis for women, indicates that the results of the basic model are robust to including the additional controls.

In Table 2, the second and third rows from the bottom (just above the entry for sample size) provide estimates for the coefficient on the selection term (the inverse Mills ratio) and its standard error. These results indicate that selection into participation on the basis of the factors that also influence the hours supplied is highly significant for women in the basic model but only marginally significant in the extended model.

In the results shown in column 5 for the equation on men's informal participation, the reservation wage again has a negative and statistically significant coefficient for participation. Contrary to the case for women, however, employment status matters for men's participation in informal work. Those employed part-time are 26 percent more likely to participate in informal work than men who have full-time employment, an effect that is both statistically and economically significant. In addition, men categorized as "other not working"—those not employed and not interested in working—are 38 percent less likely to

Amazon administrators. In contrast, there is no set wage for selling goods on eBay or renting property through Airbnb. In these cases, an individual can choose or target an hourly wage based on the choice of hours and the choice of how to price the goods.



engage in informal work than are full-time employees, consistent with their stated work preferences, and this effect is also highly statistically significant.

Having a bachelor's degree, as opposed to a high school diploma or less, exerts a positive and highly significant effect on men's informal participation—the coefficient estimate is very close to the one estimated for women. The effect of being non-white on men's participation is small and statistically insignificant. Most non-white men in our sample are of Asian descent, whereas most non-white women in our sample are African-American, a difference which may help to explain the different effects of non-white race on female versus male participation.

Column 6 shows the results from the hours equation for men. Again, the coefficient on the informal wage is negative and highly statistically significant. The coefficient on “not employed and wanting a job” is positive and marginally significant at the 10 percent level, indicating that men in this group supply more informal hours than those men who are employed full-time in a formal job; otherwise, men's employment status has no significant effects on the informal hours supplied. Each of the education indicators has negative coefficients, but only “bachelor's degree” is significant and only at the 10 percent level. The coefficient associated with non-white is positive and significant at the 5 percent level, a result which is qualitatively similar to what we observed in the hours equation for women. Most of the results from the extended model for men are qualitatively similar to those from the basic model, suggesting that the results from this model are robust to adding controls for the observed economic expectations. For men, the lambda coefficients indicate that selection into informal participation is insignificant within the context of either of the given model specifications.

### 3B. *Robustness Analysis*

Table 3 shows the results from the Heckman analysis that excludes the top 5 percent of the informal hourly wage distribution, an exercise performed to demonstrate that these large informal wage values are not driving our previous results. Comparing these results to those in Table 2, the coefficient estimates generally have the same signs, the same or similar significance levels, and are either quantitatively similar or greater in magnitude when we drop the outliers. All of this evidence indicates that the previous results are mostly robust and possibly even conservative.

Table 4 shows the results from Heckman models in which the samples are otherwise similar to those in Table 2, except that we do not omit five high-income individuals (based on their formal annual earnings), two women and three men (three additional high-income individuals are dropped from the results of the models shown in Table 4 due to missing values for other variables.) While many of the results are robust across both tables, there are also some important differences. Relative to Table 2, the most striking and consistent difference in Table 4 is that in all the models of informal participation, while remaining negative, the effect of the reservation wage becomes smaller in absolute value and loses

statistical significance. This difference reflects the fact that some of our subjects with very high annual incomes and very high reservation wages are also informal participants, including one woman with an annual income of \$2.5M and two men with annual incomes of \$600,000 and \$864,000, respectively.

Table 5 shows the results from the Heckman models in which members of the “lessors/sellers” group are treated as nonparticipants in informal work. Recall from above that “lessors/sellers” refers to individuals whose only informal work activity—other than survey work—involved either renting out their own property or selling their own used goods. We do this to ensure that the previously reported results are not driven mainly by decisions of whether (and how much) to engage in leasing and selling tasks, and because this group of people differs from the rest of the sample in important ways, as described above. In these new models, the negative effect of the reservation wage on informal participation becomes stronger in absolute value, particularly among men. The effect of part-time employment status on men’s informal participation remains positive and highly significant (the coefficients have similar magnitudes) and the effect of part-time status becomes positive and marginally significant for women. These findings indicate that the opportunity cost of time—reflected in the reservation wage and also in formal part-time status—plays a more significant role in the decision to participate in nonleasing/nonselling tasks, either because the types of people who only lease/sell are less sensitive to the opportunity cost of engaging in informal work, or because nonleasing/nonselling activities require more time than leasing/selling. The negative effects of the informal wage on informal hours (for men and women) are also robust. Some of the results shown in Table 2 that are not robust include the negative effect of “other not working” status on men’s participation, which becomes insignificant in Table 5. However, “other not working” becomes significant (and negative) in the mens’ hours equation, shifting the effect of this factor onto the intensive margin. As shown in Table 5, the effects of education for either women or men on participation or hours are never highly significant, suggesting that the effects of education on participation (and, where relevant, hours) shown in Table 2 reflect associations between educational attainment and engagement in selling/renting tasks in particular.

#### **4. Conclusion and Discussion**

We identify three important factors for determining the supply of informal labor: the reservation wage (measured as the hourly pay in an individual’s most recent formal job), the informal hourly wage, and part-time employment status. Specifically, we find that the higher the reservation wage the less likely that someone will participate in informal work, other factors being equal. Next, controlling for selection into informal work, we find that the supply of informal hours is negatively related to the hourly *informal* wage, indicating that the income effect of a higher informal wage dominates the substitution effect and

that people may target an earnings level to be attained from engaging in informal work. Based on this evidence, informal hours appear to be supplemental to formal employment, a result consistent with participation being highest among part-time workers, which we find to be true in the descriptive analysis and, among men specifically, in the regression analysis. These results are in keeping with our finding that a large majority of those who participate in informal work list earning extra money as a motivation for engaging in such work.

Informal work appears to have played a significant role in offsetting the negative effects of the Great Recession for some survey respondents, especially part-time workers: 19 percent of part-time workers who engaged in informal work report that it helped them offset recent negative shocks to their personal financial situation “very much” and an additional 43 percent said it helped “somewhat.” In addition, the most intensely engaged informal workers—those in the top 5 percent of the distribution of informal hours—had informal earnings that represented 40 percent of their formal earnings, on average. Perhaps surprisingly, unemployed individuals who report wanting a job—most of whom we classify as “unemployed” under the BLS classification system—do not appear to have reaped great benefits from informal work, although the small size of this group among our survey respondents resulted in imprecise estimates of their average behavior.

Our findings indicate that, as formal wages increase in an improving labor market, individuals may switch from informal to formal work. More important, our data suggest that at least some of this potential labor supply may not be showing up in official measures of labor market slack. One such measure is the BLS classification of “part time for economic reasons,” which refers to part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours if the opportunity were available. Our survey instrument does not allow us to determine directly whether individuals fit the criterion of being part time for economic reasons (PTER). However, we can estimate PTER in our sample as the share of part-time workers who participated in informal work and who indicated that such work had helped to offset recession-related shocks either “somewhat” or “not at all.” These workers’ responses indicate that they suffered from recessionary shocks to personal finances and that informal work had helped to offset such shocks. Our presumption is that they could not find the amount of formal work they desired (in terms of hours and/or pay) and compensated for this deficiency with informal work, as this behavior would be consistent with a response to being involuntarily underemployed. The analysis sample share of PTER estimated in this way amounts to 37 percent of all part-time workers, whereas the most recent BLS estimate (August 2014) places PTER at just 27 percent of part-time workers. However, working informally from home—possibly while taking care of children—does not necessarily indicate a willingness to spend more hours at the office, even if offsetting recessionary shocks was the main motivation for undertaking this work.

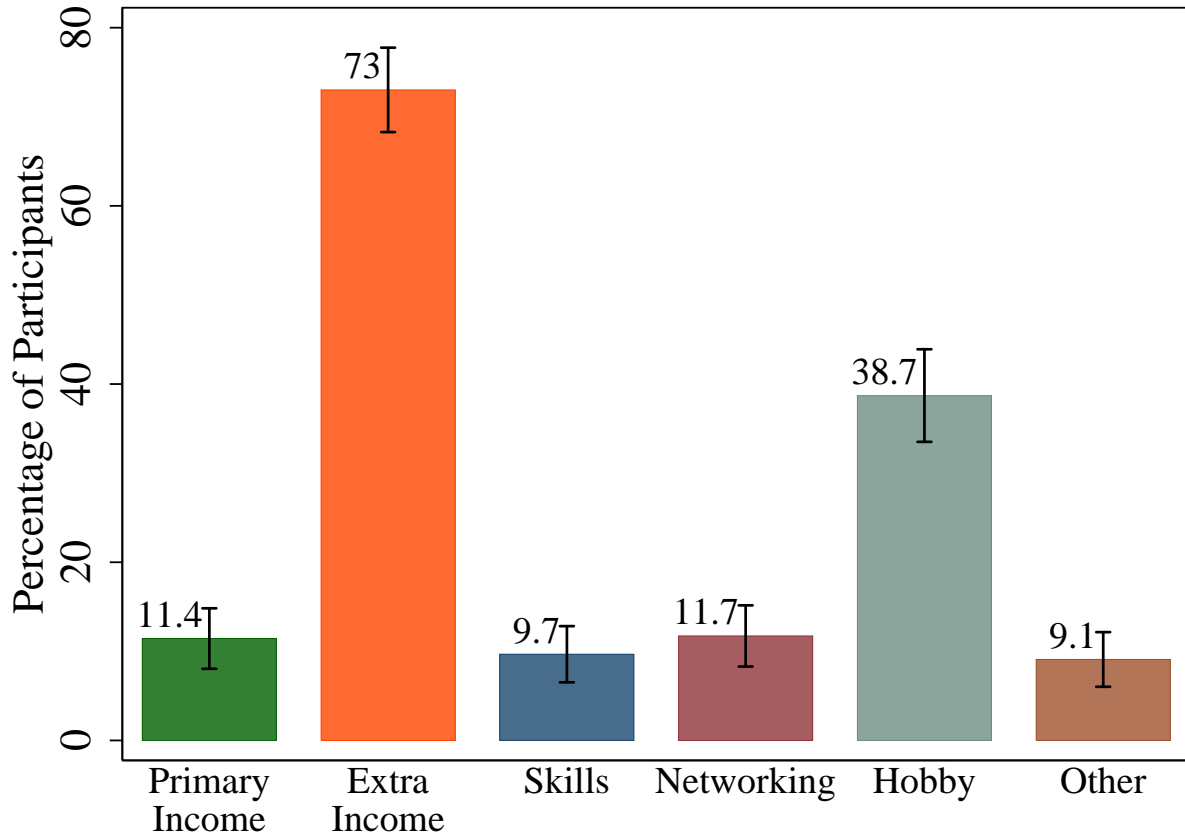
Our findings reveal additional potential slack based on the fact that 26 percent of those whom we classify as not in the labor force report engaging in some type of informal work during the past two years. Again, although 65 percent of this group reports doing informal work in order to earn money, we cannot definitively say that such individuals would, on this basis, be willing to supply labor to a formal job as the labor market improves.

Finally, regardless of labor market conditions, we believe that the new Internet and mobile platforms that make informal work more accessible and more profitable are worthy of serious examination. Averaging over our complete analysis sample, including nonparticipants, we find that aggregate income from informal work amounts to 4.4 percent of income from formal work. Excluding informal income earned by anyone who sold goods or rented property (not necessarily exclusively), this figure drops to 1.8 percent, a more conservative estimate. While we cannot directly translate either of these figures into measures of value-added, taken at face value either number represents a nonnegligible fraction of formal income that is probably not fully counted in official estimates of national income. In addition, the informal sector as facilitated by new technologies is likely to grow in terms of participation and economic value in coming years, possibly changing the labor market in some professions.

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Figure 1: Reasons for Participating in Informal Work



*Source:* Authors' calculations based on the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Survey of Informal Work Participation and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Survey of Consumer Expectations.

*Notes:* The numbers above the bars indicate the actual responses in terms of percentages. The black lines through each bar show a 95 percent confidence interval around each estimated mean. The upper limit of each vertical line gives the highest value in the 95 percent confidence interval of the estimated participation rate; the lower limit gives the lowest value in the 95 percent confidence interval.

Figure 2A: Informal Work Participation Rates by Employment Status

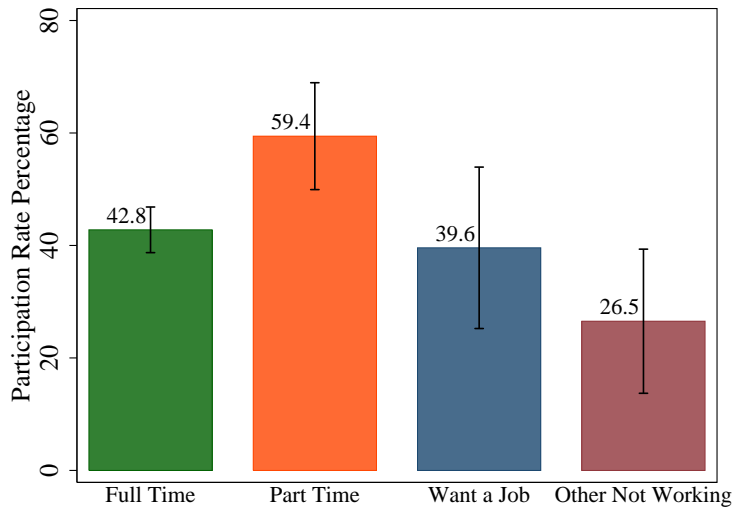


Figure 2B: Informal Work Hours by Employment Status  
(Among Informal Participants)

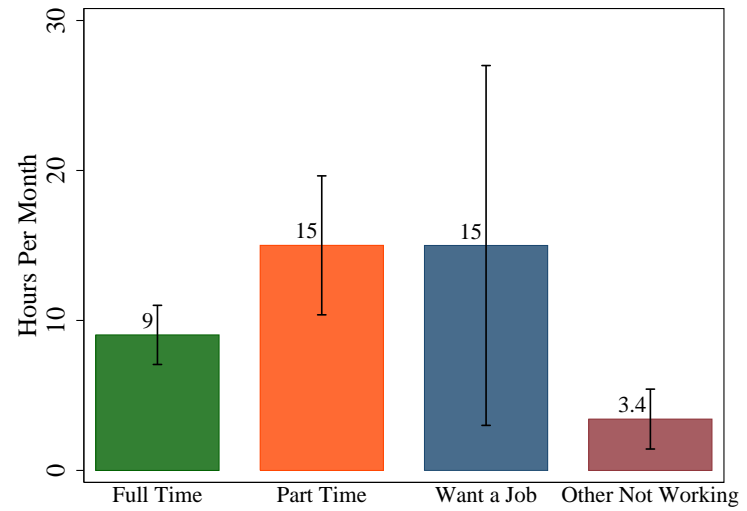


Figure 2C: Informal Work Participation Rates by BLS Employment Status

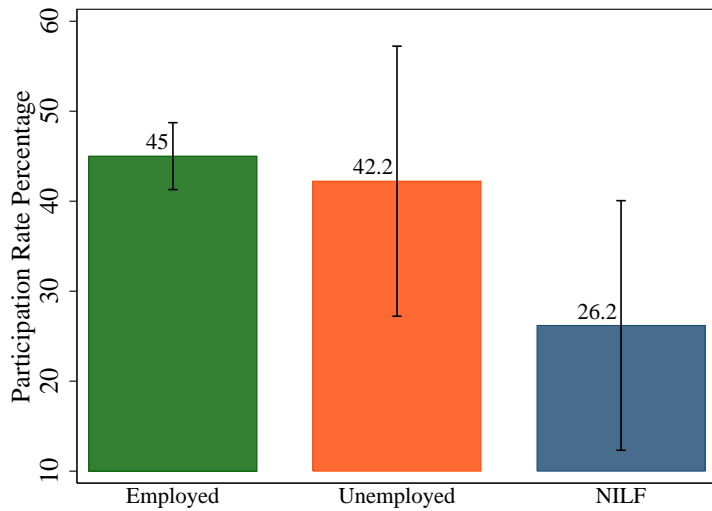
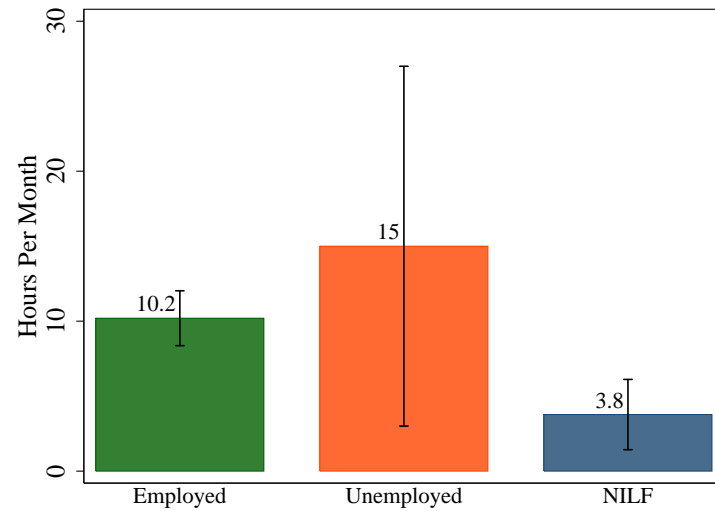


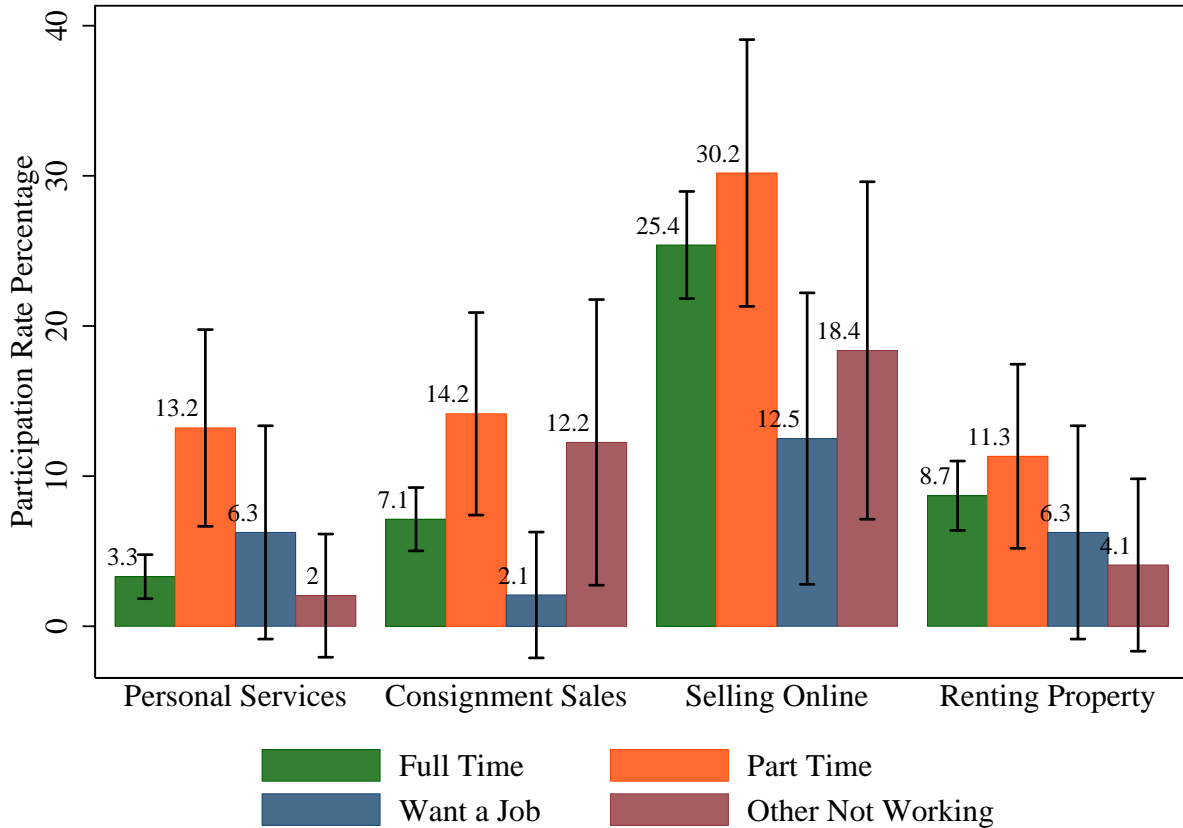
Figure 2D: Informal Work Hours by BLS Employment Status  
(Among Informal Participants)



Source: Authors' calculations based on the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Survey of Informal Work Participation and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Survey of Consumer Expectations.

Notes: The numbers above the bars indicate the actual responses in terms of percentages. The black lines through each bar show a 95 percent confidence interval around each estimated mean. The upper limit of each vertical line gives the highest value in the 95 percent confidence interval of the estimated participation rate; the lower limit gives the lowest value in the 95 percent confidence interval.

Figure 3: Informal Work Participation Across Tasks by Employment Status



Source: Authors' calculations based on the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Survey of Informal Work Participation and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Survey of Consumer Expectations.

Notes: The numbers above the bars indicate the actual percentages in terms of employment status. The black lines through each bar show a 95 percent confidence interval around each estimated mean. The upper limit of each vertical line gives the highest value in the 95 percent confidence interval of the estimated participation rate; the lower limit gives the lowest value in the 95 percent confidence interval.



Figure 4A: Average Informal Work Hours Per Month  
(Among Informal Participants)

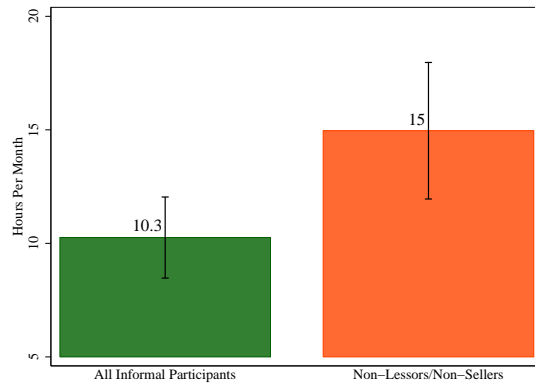


Figure 4B: Average Informal Income Per Month  
(Among Informal Participants)

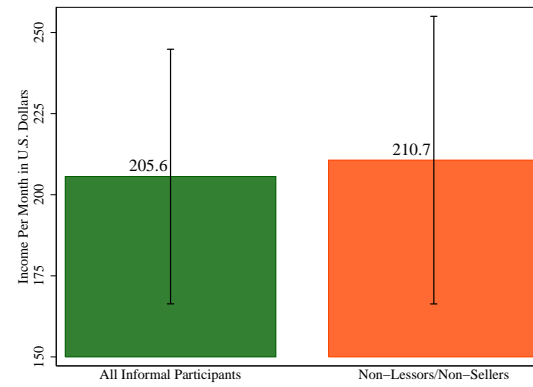


Figure 4C: Average Informal Hourly Wage  
(Among Informal Participants)

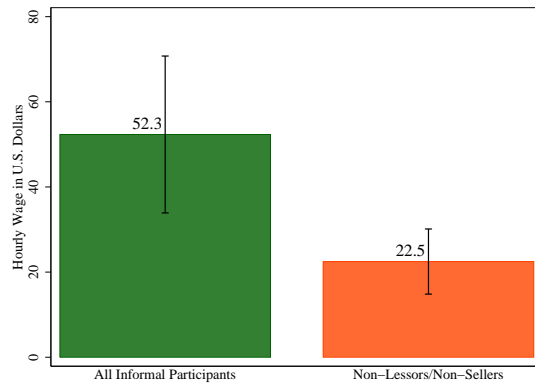
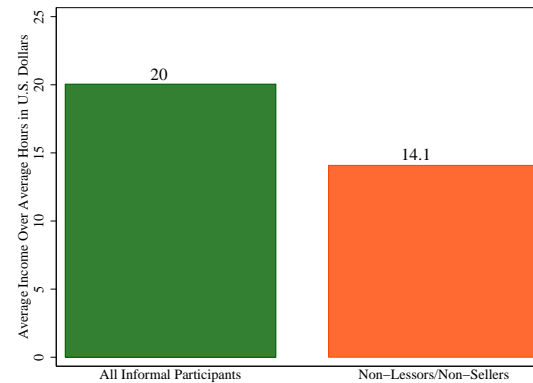


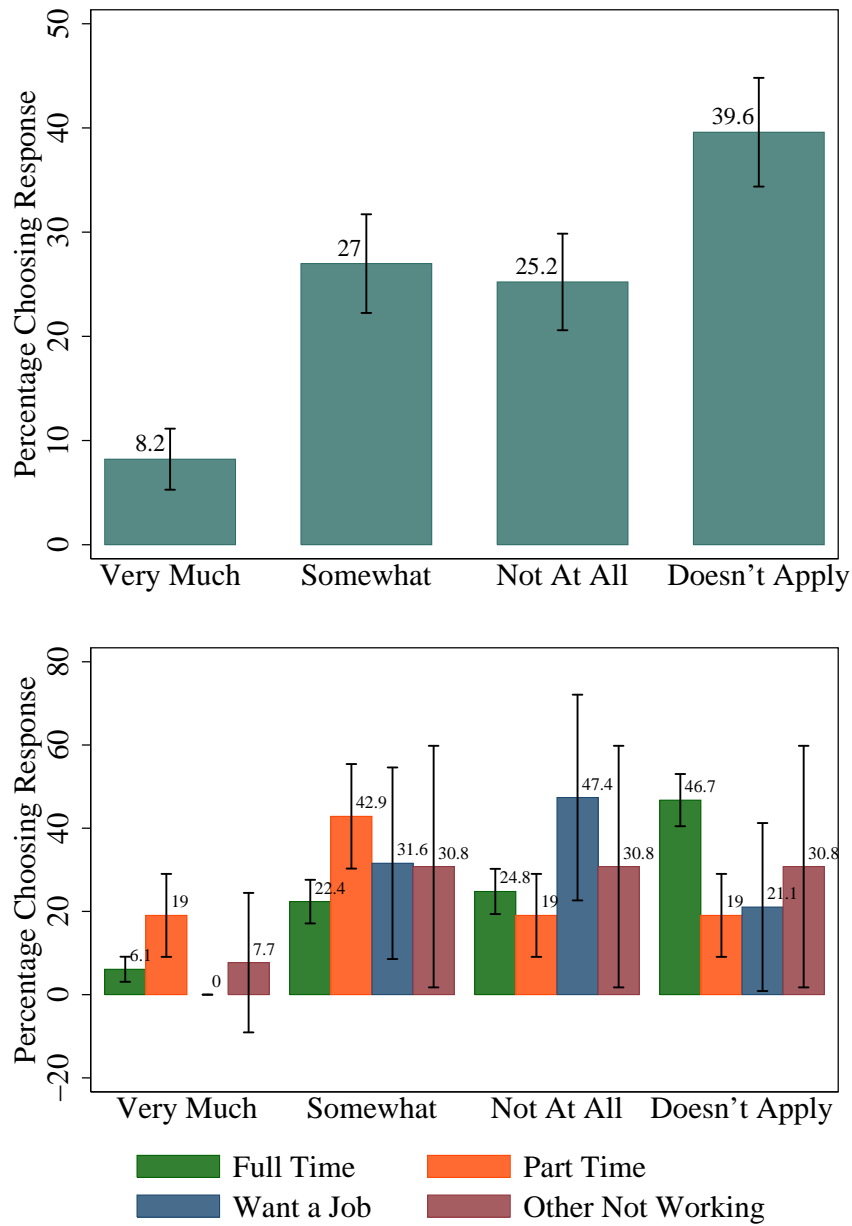
Figure 4D: Average Informal Hourly Pseudo-Wage  
(Among Informal Participants)



*Source:* Authors' calculations based on the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Survey of Informal Work Participation and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Survey of Consumer Expectations.

*Notes:* Values in green bars are calculated over the set of all informal work participants; values in orange bars are calculated over the set of informal work participants who did not engage exclusively in leasing of personal property and/or sale of own used goods. The numbers above the bars indicate the actual responses in terms of percentages. The black lines through each bar show a 95 percent confidence interval around each estimated mean. The upper limit of each vertical line gives the highest value in the 95 percent confidence interval of the estimated participation rate; the lower limit gives the lowest value in the 95 percent confidence interval.

Figure 5: How Much Did Informal Work Offset Effects of the Recession?  
 (Among Informal Participants)



Source: Authors' calculations based on the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Survey of Informal Work Participation and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Survey of Consumer Expectations.

Notes: The numbers above the bars indicate the actual responses in terms of percentages. The black lines through each bar show a 95 percent confidence interval around each estimated mean. The upper limit of each vertical line gives the highest value in the 95 percent confidence interval of the estimated participation rate; the lower limit gives the lowest value in the 95 percent confidence interval.

Table 1: Summary Statistics for the Analysis Sample

	Female Analysis Sample					Male Analysis Sample				
	Count	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Count	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Participation (excl. survey-only)	387	0.46	0.50	0	1	391	0.41	0.49	0	1
Participation (incl. survey-only)	387	0.92	0.28	0	1	391	0.86	0.34	0	1
Age	387	45.94	12.26	21	81	391	46.53	12.24	22	79
High School or Less	387	0.12	0.32	0	1	391	0.10	0.31	0	1
Some College	387	0.30	0.46	0	1	391	0.27	0.45	0	1
Bachelors or More	387	0.58	0.49	0	1	391	0.62	0.48	0	1
Employed Full Time	387	0.69	0.46	0	1	391	0.79	0.41	0	1
Employed Part Time	387	0.16	0.36	0	1	391	0.12	0.32	0	1
Not Employed, Want a Job	387	0.07	0.26	0	1	391	0.05	0.22	0	1
Other Not Working	387	0.07	0.26	0	1	391	0.05	0.22	0	1
BLS: Employed	387	0.86	0.35	0	1	391	0.92	0.28	0	1
BLS: Unemployed	387	0.07	0.26	0	1	391	0.05	0.21	0	1
BLS: Not In Labor Force	387	0.07	0.26	0	1	391	0.04	0.19	0	1
Formal Income, Annual	387	45,950.18	38,652.04	900	500,000	391	72,038.80	64,272.47	1,566	530,000
Formal Hours, Weekly	387	37.74	11.93	3	80	391	41.97	12.14	5	80
Reservation (Formal) Wage, Hourly	387	23.19	16.99	1	144	391	33.09	30.15	1	287
Number of Jobs	333	1.50	1.49	1	15	358	1.66	2.00	1	15
Household Income, Annual	386	60–75k	2.51	1	11	391	75–100k	2.65	1	11
Informal Income, Monthly	387	101.91	241.67	0	1,700	390	117.48	317.45	0	3,000
Informal Hours, Monthly	387	4.49	12.46	0	120	391	4.50	11.95	0	96
Informal Wage, Hourly	355	33.69	87.78	0	850	337	43.60	154.57	0	2,210
Self Employed	387	0.11	0.31	0	1	391	0.14	0.34	0	1
Non-White	387	0.14	0.35	0	1	391	0.13	0.34	0	1
Expect Family Worse Off 1-Yr Ahead	387	0.20	0.40	0	1	391	0.19	0.39	0	1
Expect Family Better Off 1-Yr Ahead	387	0.36	0.48	0	1	391	0.39	0.49	0	1
% Chance U-rate Increases 1-Yr Ahead	387	37.13	23.62	0	100	391	38.93	22.14	0	100
% Chance Stocks Higher 1-Yr Ahead	387	37.95	23.28	0	100	391	48.34	23.70	0	100
Expected Rate of Inflation/Def 1-Yr Ahead	387	6.23	14.17	-50	100	391	4.71	6.40	-50	50
Married or Living with Partner	387	0.56	0.50	0	1	391	0.73	0.44	0	1
Owens Home	387	0.69	0.46	0	1	391	0.76	0.43	0	1

\* Household income is coded in 11 discrete categories: <10k, 10–20k, 20–30k, 30–40k, 40–50k, 50–60k, 60–75k, 75–100k, 100–150k, 150–200k, 200k+. The

values reported under the mean column for this variable refer to the range corresponding to the median value. SD(standard deviation), Min(minimum) and Max(maximum) are all based on the discrete categories. For the female sample, the modal response for annual household income is \$75–\$100k. For the male sample, the modal response for annual household income is \$100–\$150k.

Table 2: Heckman Regression Analysis by Gender, Maximum Likelihood Estimates

	Women		Women		Men		Men	
	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours
Log Reservation (Formal) Wage, Hourly	-0.315** (0.13)		-0.324** (0.13)		-0.253** (0.10)		-0.264** (0.11)	
Log Informal Wage, Hourly		-0.395*** (0.06)		-0.401*** (0.07)		-0.375*** (0.08)		-0.398*** (0.08)
Employed Part Time	0.285 (0.21)	0.197 (0.26)	0.227 (0.21)	0.148 (0.23)	0.775*** (0.24)	0.274 (0.31)	0.759*** (0.25)	0.354 (0.33)
Not Employed, Want a Job	-0.081 (0.26)	0.251 (0.35)	-0.077 (0.26)	0.188 (0.32)	-0.256 (0.32)	0.547* (0.31)	-0.208 (0.32)	0.639* (0.39)
Other Not Working	-0.307 (0.26)	-0.472* (0.28)	-0.266 (0.27)	-0.476* (0.27)	-1.135** (0.44)	-0.671 (0.70)	-1.041** (0.45)	-0.955 (0.72)
Self Employed	0.210 (0.23)	-0.169 (0.33)	0.209 (0.22)	-0.039 (0.29)	-0.138 (0.21)	-0.020 (0.31)	-0.159 (0.21)	0.069 (0.33)
Some College	0.573** (0.23)	-0.700** (0.33)	0.571** (0.24)	-0.599* (0.32)	0.184 (0.25)	-0.669 (0.43)	0.141 (0.26)	-0.747** (0.37)
Bachelor's Degree	0.710*** (0.24)	-0.384 (0.33)	0.726*** (0.25)	-0.218 (0.32)	0.680*** (0.25)	-0.875* (0.46)	0.648*** (0.25)	-0.979** (0.39)
Graduate Degree	0.599** (0.25)	-0.886** (0.35)	0.571** (0.27)	-0.671** (0.33)	0.017 (0.27)	-0.482 (0.44)	-0.027 (0.27)	-0.671* (0.39)
Age	-0.006 (0.04)	0.055 (0.06)	-0.022 (0.04)	0.056 (0.06)	-0.019 (0.05)	0.094 (0.06)	-0.016 (0.05)	0.095 (0.06)
Age Squared	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)
Non-White	-0.522*** (0.19)	0.759*** (0.28)	-0.499** (0.20)	0.572** (0.28)	0.061 (0.19)	0.655** (0.27)	-0.021 (0.20)	0.761*** (0.27)
Expect Family Worse Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.154 (0.19)	-0.493* (0.26)			-0.319 (0.20)	-0.263 (0.32)
Expect Family Better Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.292* (0.16)	0.185 (0.20)			0.063 (0.16)	0.060 (0.23)
% Chance U-rate Increases 1-Yr Ahead			-0.001 (0.00)	0.001 (0.00)			0.007** (0.00)	-0.002 (0.01)
% Chance Stocks Higher 1-Yr Ahead			0.004 (0.00)	-0.007 (0.00)			0.003 (0.00)	-0.002 (0.00)
Expected Rate of Inflation/Def 1-Yr Ahead			0.002 (0.00)	0.018*** (0.01)			0.001 (0.01)	-0.039* (0.02)
Married or Living with Partner			0.003 (0.15)	0.066 (0.20)			0.065 (0.17)	0.055 (0.20)
Owns Home			0.202 (0.17)	-0.276 (0.20)			0.026 (0.19)	-0.142 (0.24)
Constant	0.962 (0.95)	1.932 (1.38)	0.993 (0.95)	1.730 (1.30)	1.282 (1.14)	1.244 (1.43)	0.869 (1.14)	1.615 (1.35)
AIC	1,091.72		1,095.43		1,007.77		1,021.40	
BIC	1,194.64		1,253.77		1,110.96		1,180.15	
Lambda	-0.69***		-0.40*		-0.77		-0.60	
Standard Error(Lambda)	0.23		0.22		0.48		0.49	
Sample Size	387		387		391		391	

Table 3: Heckman Regression Analysis by Gender, Maximum Likelihood Estimates Dropping Informal Wage Outliers

	Women		Women		Men		Men	
	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours
Log Reservation (Formal) Wage, Hourly	-0.332** (0.14)		-0.318** (0.14)		-0.304*** (0.11)		-0.302*** (0.11)	
Log Informal Wage, Hourly		-0.610*** (0.09)		-0.654*** (0.08)		-0.490*** (0.11)		-0.498*** (0.11)
Employed Part Time	0.367* (0.21)	0.240 (0.27)	0.321 (0.22)	0.247 (0.23)	0.865*** (0.25)	0.346 (0.30)	0.846*** (0.26)	0.402 (0.31)
Not Employed, Want a Job	-0.107 (0.26)	0.233 (0.36)	-0.079 (0.27)	0.205 (0.32)	-0.213 (0.32)	0.407 (0.29)	-0.191 (0.32)	0.489 (0.36)
Other Not Working	-0.332 (0.27)	-0.384 (0.27)	-0.275 (0.27)	-0.436* (0.26)	-1.045** (0.45)	-0.871 (0.59)	-0.956** (0.46)	-1.072* (0.63)
Self Employed	0.067 (0.24)	-0.116 (0.37)	0.084 (0.24)	0.017 (0.31)	-0.183 (0.21)	0.027 (0.30)	-0.204 (0.22)	0.103 (0.32)
Some College	0.526** (0.23)	-0.670** (0.33)	0.519** (0.25)	-0.565* (0.32)	0.232 (0.25)	-0.615 (0.44)	0.172 (0.26)	-0.747** (0.38)
Bachelor's Degree	0.675*** (0.24)	-0.354 (0.33)	0.682*** (0.25)	-0.220 (0.31)	0.786*** (0.25)	-0.739 (0.47)	0.747*** (0.25)	-0.899** (0.40)
Graduate Degree	0.556** (0.27)	-0.858** (0.36)	0.521* (0.28)	-0.612* (0.33)	0.037 (0.27)	-0.535 (0.46)	-0.017 (0.27)	-0.771* (0.42)
Age	-0.008 (0.04)	0.059 (0.06)	-0.021 (0.04)	0.067 (0.06)	0.014 (0.05)	0.084 (0.07)	0.015 (0.05)	0.077 (0.07)
Age Squared	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)
Non-White	-0.545*** (0.20)	0.824*** (0.28)	-0.540*** (0.21)	0.555* (0.28)	0.095 (0.20)	0.687** (0.28)	0.021 (0.20)	0.778*** (0.28)
Expect Family Worse Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.035 (0.20)	-0.602** (0.27)			-0.276 (0.21)	-0.293 (0.30)
Expect Family Better Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.284* (0.16)	0.216 (0.20)			0.100 (0.16)	0.093 (0.22)
% Chance U-rate Increases 1-Yr Ahead			-0.000 (0.00)	0.002 (0.00)			0.007* (0.00)	-0.000 (0.01)
% Chance Stocks Higher 1-Yr Ahead			0.002 (0.00)	-0.008** (0.00)			0.002 (0.00)	-0.002 (0.00)
Expected Rate of Inflation/Def 1-Yr Ahead			0.002 (0.00)	0.019*** (0.01)			0.000 (0.01)	-0.039* (0.02)
Married or Living with Partner			-0.032 (0.15)	-0.031 (0.20)			0.057 (0.17)	0.035 (0.20)
Owns Home			0.187 (0.17)	-0.331* (0.20)			-0.002 (0.20)	-0.096 (0.24)
Constant	1.068 (0.97)	2.323* (1.41)	1.032 (0.99)	2.285* (1.31)	0.655 (1.08)	1.578 (1.67)	0.298 (1.12)	2.098 (1.60)
AIC	1,026.61		1,025.21		948.55		963.83	
BIC	1,128.43		1,181.86		1,050.72		1,121.01	
Lambda	-0.62***		-0.39*		-0.59		-0.47	
Standard Error(Lambda)	0.20		0.20		0.37		0.35	
Sample Size	371		371		376		376	

Table 4: Heckman Regression Analysis by Gender, Maximum Likelihood Estimates Including Five High Income Individuals

	Women		Women		Men		Men	
	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours
Log Reservation (Formal) Wage, Hourly	-0.176 (0.14)		-0.173 (0.15)		-0.175 (0.11)		-0.134 (0.10)	
Log Informal Wage, Hourly		-0.405*** (0.06)		-0.408*** (0.07)		-0.348*** (0.08)		-0.361*** (0.08)
Employed Part Time	0.298 (0.20)	0.202 (0.26)	0.251 (0.21)	0.153 (0.23)	0.766*** (0.23)	0.337 (0.34)	0.740*** (0.24)	1.192*** (0.38)
Not Employed, Want a Job	-0.037 (0.26)	0.245 (0.34)	-0.029 (0.26)	0.185 (0.31)	-0.212 (0.32)	0.587** (0.30)	-0.191 (0.29)	0.588 (0.41)
Other Not Working	-0.259 (0.26)	-0.489* (0.27)	-0.211 (0.27)	-0.493* (0.26)	-1.119*** (0.43)	-0.910 (0.71)	-1.055** (0.42)	-2.360*** (0.71)
Self Employed	0.186 (0.22)	-0.135 (0.33)	0.188 (0.22)	-0.010 (0.29)	-0.083 (0.21)	-0.019 (0.30)	-0.125 (0.21)	-0.078 (0.36)
Some College	0.447* (0.23)	-0.683** (0.32)	0.438* (0.25)	-0.589* (0.31)	0.191 (0.25)	-0.643 (0.44)	0.163 (0.25)	-0.610 (0.45)
Bachelor's Degree	0.563** (0.24)	-0.372 (0.32)	0.566** (0.25)	-0.208 (0.31)	0.674*** (0.25)	-0.793 (0.48)	0.632** (0.25)	-0.334 (0.50)
Graduate Degree	0.420 (0.26)	-0.876*** (0.34)	0.383 (0.28)	-0.671** (0.32)	0.016 (0.27)	-0.461 (0.43)	-0.090 (0.27)	-0.798* (0.46)
Age	-0.007 (0.04)	0.053 (0.06)	-0.022 (0.04)	0.054 (0.06)	-0.026 (0.05)	0.085 (0.06)	-0.022 (0.05)	0.057 (0.07)
Age Squared	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)
Non-White	-0.417** (0.20)	0.736*** (0.27)	-0.398* (0.20)	0.560** (0.27)	0.104 (0.19)	0.730*** (0.27)	0.048 (0.20)	0.834*** (0.31)
Expect Family Worse Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.136 (0.19)	-0.476* (0.26)			-0.281 (0.19)	-0.518 (0.32)
Expect Family Better Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.283* (0.15)	0.214 (0.20)			0.071 (0.15)	0.271 (0.22)
% Chance U-rate Increases 1-Yr Ahead			-0.001 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)			0.007** (0.00)	0.007 (0.01)
% Chance Stocks Higher 1-Yr Ahead			0.003 (0.00)	-0.006* (0.00)			0.002 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)
Expected Rate of Inflation/Def 1-Yr Ahead			0.002 (0.00)	0.018*** (0.01)			-0.000 (0.01)	-0.040* (0.02)
Married or Living with Partner			-0.021 (0.14)	0.068 (0.20)			0.098 (0.17)	0.018 (0.24)
Owns Home			0.207 (0.16)	-0.259 (0.20)			-0.024 (0.19)	-0.103 (0.27)
Constant	0.695 (0.94)	1.919 (1.37)	0.706 (0.94)	1.695 (1.30)	1.146 (1.11)	1.181 (1.43)	0.648 (1.16)	0.532 (1.47)
AIC	1,103.04		1,107.10		1,023.37		1,035.06	
BIC	1,206.09		1,265.65		1,126.75		1,194.12	
Lambda	-0.54**		-0.26		-0.63		1.17**	
Standard Error(Lambda)	0.22		0.23		0.61		0.45	
Sample Size	389		389		394		394	

Table 5: Heckman Regression Analysis by Gender, Maximum Likelihood Estimates Without Exclusive Lessors/Sellers

	Women		Women		Men		Men	
	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours	Participation	Hours
Log Reservation (Formal) Wage, Hourly	-0.384*** (0.13)		-0.390*** (0.14)		-0.573*** (0.13)		-0.574*** (0.14)	
Log Informal Wage, Hourly		-0.500*** (0.09)		-0.463*** (0.10)		-0.450*** (0.12)		-0.442*** (0.12)
Employed Part Time	0.403* (0.21)	0.197 (0.39)	0.355* (0.21)	0.211 (0.31)	0.733*** (0.25)	1.020 (0.64)	0.627** (0.25)	0.963* (0.58)
Not Employed, Want a Job	0.036 (0.26)	0.156 (0.42)	0.064 (0.27)	0.047 (0.37)	0.103 (0.33)	-0.014 (0.43)	0.120 (0.33)	0.126 (0.49)
Other Not Working	-0.139 (0.27)	-0.619 (0.43)	-0.022 (0.29)	-0.776* (0.42)	-0.820 (0.57)	-2.074*** (0.72)	-0.836 (0.55)	-1.918** (0.79)
Self Employed	-0.048 (0.23)	0.029 (0.43)	-0.025 (0.23)	-0.067 (0.42)	-0.219 (0.25)	0.024 (0.71)	-0.273 (0.25)	-0.060 (0.65)
Some College	0.254 (0.24)	-0.556 (0.38)	0.242 (0.26)	-0.475 (0.38)	-0.036 (0.26)	-0.249 (0.54)	-0.124 (0.27)	-0.509 (0.51)
Bachelor's Degree	0.409* (0.25)	-0.134 (0.40)	0.390 (0.26)	0.089 (0.39)	0.221 (0.26)	0.010 (0.50)	0.097 (0.26)	-0.316 (0.48)
Graduate Degree	0.342 (0.27)	-0.651 (0.42)	0.281 (0.28)	-0.390 (0.40)	-0.024 (0.28)	-0.316 (0.56)	-0.106 (0.29)	-0.561 (0.54)
Age	-0.007 (0.04)	0.091 (0.07)	-0.005 (0.04)	0.092 (0.07)	-0.032 (0.05)	0.124 (0.09)	-0.019 (0.05)	0.131 (0.09)
Age Squared	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)	-0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)
Non-White	-0.144 (0.20)	0.328 (0.33)	-0.243 (0.21)	0.367 (0.30)	0.214 (0.22)	0.156 (0.37)	0.168 (0.23)	0.229 (0.38)
Expect Family Worse Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.221 (0.21)	-0.913** (0.40)			-0.188 (0.24)	-0.080 (0.44)
Expect Family Better Off 1-Yr Ahead			0.531*** (0.16)	-0.470 (0.36)			0.092 (0.17)	0.043 (0.32)
% Chance U-rate Increases 1-Yr Ahead			-0.003 (0.00)	0.005 (0.01)			0.004 (0.00)	0.001 (0.01)
% Chance Stocks Higher 1-Yr Ahead			0.002 (0.00)	-0.006 (0.00)			0.006* (0.00)	-0.000 (0.01)
Expected Rate of Inflation/Def 1-Yr Ahead			0.001 (0.00)	0.012 (0.01)			-0.009 (0.01)	-0.036 (0.03)
Married or Living with Partner			-0.202 (0.15)	0.323 (0.24)			0.015 (0.18)	0.292 (0.29)
Owns Home			0.008 (0.17)	-0.116 (0.25)			-0.241 (0.19)	-0.447 (0.33)
Constant	0.588 (0.96)	1.760 (1.62)	0.422 (0.98)	1.477 (1.59)	1.997* (1.13)	-0.225 (1.74)	1.488 (1.15)	0.021 (1.87)
AIC	792.67		795.02		642.35		657.69	
BIC	895.59		953.36		741.57		812.47	
Lambda	-0.68		-0.51		0.50		0.44	
Standard Error(Lambda)	0.44		0.40		0.75		0.71	
Sample Size	387		387		391		391	

**Survey Appendix:**

**QUARTERLY #3 EMPLOYMENT (PILOT)**

**qhIdInst**

Please select only one.

(1)

Please enter your answer in the box on the left or by clicking on the scale below.

(2)

Please enter a number in one of the boxes below. The number you enter can be greater than 0 or equal to 0.

(3)

(Please note: The numbers need to add up to 100.)

(4)

Please select only one.

(5)

Please enter a number in the box below.

(6)

Please select all that apply.

(7)

Please choose one.

(8)

Please enter a number greater than 0 or equal to 0.



(9)

Please enter a number greater than 0.

(10)

For each item, please enter a number in only one of the two boxes. You can enter any number greater than or equal to 0.

(11)

Please enter your answer by clicking on the scale below or entering your response in the box to the right of the scale.

(12)

Please enter a percentage in the box below.

(13)

Please choose one for each item listed.

(14)

Please enter a number for each item listed.

(15)

Please enter a number in each box.

(16)

Please type your answer in the box below. (17)

Rank each reason on a 1-5 scale, where 1 is not important at all; 5 is very important.

(18)

Please click on the arrow to select one response for month and one response for year.

(19)

Please provide an entry for each box.

(20)

Please select all that apply for each row listed.

(21)

Please select top 3 choices.

(22)

Please enter numbers in the box(es) below.

(23)

### **IntroText - Intro**

We would like to learn about your current work situation and related topics. This survey takes about 10 minutes. You will receive \$<sup>f('CAMNT')</sup> for completing the survey. Most of the questions in this survey have no right or wrong answers - we are interested in YOUR views and opinions. Your responses are completely confidential, and it helps us a great deal if you respond as carefully as possible. If you should come to any question that you can't or don't want to answer, just click on 'NEXT' and wait for the next question to appear.

Thank you for your participation!

### **Q1 - Q1**

How many people live in your home on a regular basis (including you)? "On a regular basis" simply means the majority of the time. <sup>f('qhIdInst')[6].label()</sup>

<sup>NumericOnly('Q1\_1')</sup>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Q2new - Q2new**

You reported that one other individual (besides you) lives in your home on a regular basis. Does this individual have a paying job, whether part-time or full-time?

Yes (1)

No (2)

**Q2 - Q2**

You reported that ^Q1()^ other individuals live in your home on a regular basis (not including yourself). Among these individuals, how many have a paying job, whether part-time or full-time?

^f('qhidInst')[6].label()^

^NumericOnly('Q2\_1')^

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q3 - Q3**

Do you own your current primary residence? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Yes, I own my current primary residence. (1)
- No, I don't own my current primary residence. (2)

**Q4 - Q4**

Do you pay rent on your current primary residence? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q5 - Q5**

Why don't you pay rent? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- My home is owned or rented by family or friends. (1)
- Other reason (please specify) (2)\_\_\_\_\_

**Q6 - Q6**

How much money do you have in savings that would be available to you on short notice (within 1-2 days)? Please include funds from all relevant sources such as a checking account, a savings account, cash stored at home, an easily accessible investment account, etc. Do not include money that you would need to borrow, for example, from friends, family, the bank, or a credit card. ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Nothing, I have no savings (1)
- Enough for less than 1 month of living expenses (2)
- Enough for approximately 1-3 months of living expenses. (3)
- Enough for approximately 4-6 months of living expenses. (4)
- Enough for approximately 7-12 months of living expenses. (5)
- Enough for over a year of living expenses. (6)

**Q7 - Q7**

Have you ever had a job at which you worked for two consecutive weeks or more?

^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q8 - Q8**

Consider the most recent job at which you worked for two consecutive weeks or more (including your current job, if that qualifies).

In what month and year did you begin working at that job? ^f('qhidInst')[19].label()^

	Q8m - Month	Q8y - Year
(1)	<input type="radio"/> January (1)	<input type="radio"/> 2013 (2013)
	<input type="radio"/> February (2)	<input type="radio"/> 2012 (2012)
	<input type="radio"/> March (3)	<input type="radio"/> 2011 (2011)
	<input type="radio"/> April (4)	<input type="radio"/> 2010 (2010)
	<input type="radio"/> May (5)	<input type="radio"/> 2009 (2009)
	<input type="radio"/> June (6)	<input type="radio"/> 2008 (2008)
	<input type="radio"/> July (7)	<input type="radio"/> 2007 (2007)
	<input type="radio"/> August (8)	<input type="radio"/> 2006 (2006)
	<input type="radio"/> September (9)	<input type="radio"/> 2005 (2005)
	<input type="radio"/> October (10)	<input type="radio"/> 2004 (2004)
	<input type="radio"/> November (11)	<input type="radio"/> 2003 (2003)
	<input type="radio"/> December (12)	<input type="radio"/> 2002 (2002)
		<input type="radio"/> 2001 (2001)
		<input type="radio"/> 2000 (2000)
		<input type="radio"/> 1999 (1999)
		<input type="radio"/> 1998 (1998)
		<input type="radio"/> 1997 (1997)
		<input type="radio"/> 1996 (1996)
		<input type="radio"/> 1995 (1995)
		<input type="radio"/> 1994 (1994)
		<input type="radio"/> 1993 (1993)
		<input type="radio"/> 1992 (1992)
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	Q8m - Month	Q8y - Year
		<input type="radio"/> 1972 (1972) <input type="radio"/> 1971 (1971) <input type="radio"/> 1970 (1970) <input type="radio"/> 1969 (1969) <input type="radio"/> 1968 (1968) <input type="radio"/> 1967 (1967) <input type="radio"/> 1966 (1966) <input type="radio"/> 1965 (1965) <input type="radio"/> 1964 (1964) <input type="radio"/> 1963 (1963) <input type="radio"/> 1962 (1962) <input type="radio"/> 1961 (1961) <input type="radio"/> 1960 (1960) <input type="radio"/> 1959 (1959) <input type="radio"/> 1958 (1958) <input type="radio"/> 1957 (1957) <input type="radio"/> 1956 (1956) <input type="radio"/> 1955 (1955) <input type="radio"/> 1954 (1954) <input type="radio"/> 1953 (1953) <input type="radio"/> 1952 (1952) <input type="radio"/> 1951 (1951) <input type="radio"/> 1950 (1950) <input type="radio"/> Before 1950 (1949)

**Q9 - Q9**

Are you still working there? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q10 - Q10**

In what month and year did you stop working at that job? ^f('qhidInst')[19].label()^

	Q10m - Month	Q10y - Year
(1)	<input type="radio"/> January (1) <input type="radio"/> February (2) <input type="radio"/> March (3) <input type="radio"/> April (4) <input type="radio"/> May (5) <input type="radio"/> June (6) <input type="radio"/> July (7) <input type="radio"/> August (8) <input type="radio"/> September (9) <input type="radio"/> October (10) <input type="radio"/> November (11)	<input type="radio"/> 2013 (2013) <input type="radio"/> 2012 (2012) <input type="radio"/> 2011 (2011) <input type="radio"/> 2010 (2010) <input type="radio"/> 2009 (2009) <input type="radio"/> 2008 (2008) <input type="radio"/> 2007 (2007) <input type="radio"/> 2006 (2006) <input type="radio"/> 2005 (2005) <input type="radio"/> 2004 (2004) <input type="radio"/> 2003 (2003)

Q10m - Month	Q10y - Year
<input type="radio"/> December (12)	<input type="radio"/> 2002 (2002) <input type="radio"/> 2001 (2001) <input type="radio"/> 2000 (2000) <input type="radio"/> 1999 (1999) <input type="radio"/> 1998 (1998) <input type="radio"/> 1997 (1997) <input type="radio"/> 1996 (1996) <input type="radio"/> 1995 (1995) <input type="radio"/> 1994 (1994) <input type="radio"/> 1993 (1993) <input type="radio"/> 1992 (1992) <input type="radio"/> 1991 (1991) <input type="radio"/> 1990 (1990) <input type="radio"/> 1989 (1989) <input type="radio"/> 1988 (1988) <input type="radio"/> 1987 (1987) <input type="radio"/> 1986 (1986) <input type="radio"/> 1985 (1985) <input type="radio"/> 1984 (1984) <input type="radio"/> 1983 (1983) <input type="radio"/> 1982 (1982) <input type="radio"/> 1981 (1981) <input type="radio"/> 1980 (1980) <input type="radio"/> 1979 (1979) <input type="radio"/> 1978 (1978) <input type="radio"/> 1977 (1977) <input type="radio"/> 1976 (1976) <input type="radio"/> 1975 (1975) <input type="radio"/> 1974 (1974) <input type="radio"/> 1973 (1973) <input type="radio"/> 1972 (1972) <input type="radio"/> 1971 (1971) <input type="radio"/> 1970 (1970) <input type="radio"/> 1969 (1969) <input type="radio"/> 1968 (1968) <input type="radio"/> 1967 (1967) <input type="radio"/> 1966 (1966) <input type="radio"/> 1965 (1965) <input type="radio"/> 1964 (1964) <input type="radio"/> 1963 (1963) <input type="radio"/> 1962 (1962) <input type="radio"/> 1961 (1961) <input type="radio"/> 1960 (1960) <input type="radio"/> 1959 (1959) <input type="radio"/> 1958 (1958) <input type="radio"/> 1957 (1957)

Q10m - Month	Q10y - Year
	<input type="radio"/> 1956 (1956) <input type="radio"/> 1955 (1955) <input type="radio"/> 1954 (1954) <input type="radio"/> 1953 (1953) <input type="radio"/> 1952 (1952) <input type="radio"/> 1951 (1951) <input type="radio"/> 1950 (1950) <input type="radio"/> Before 1950 (1949)

**Q11 - Q11**

What best describes your current employment situation? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Working full-time (whether you are self-employed or working for someone else) (1)
- Working part-time (whether you are self-employed or working for someone else) (2)
- Temporarily laid-off (this means that you expect to get back to your previous workplace) (3)
- On sick or other leave from a job (4)
- Have no job but would like to have a job (5)
- Have no job and not interested in having a job (6)

**Q11a - Q11a**

You reported that you currently do not have a job. What is the main reason for why you do not have a job? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Lost a job and have not been able to find new work since then (1)
- Unable to work due to disability or other medical reasons (2)
- Retiree or early retiree (3)
- Student, at school, or in training (4)
- Taking care of a child/children (not for pay) (5)
- Other (please specify) (6)\_\_\_\_\_

**Q11hidden - Q11hidden**

What best describes your current employment situation? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- working full-time (1)
- working part-time (2)
- temporarily laid-off (3)
- on sick or other leave from a job (4)
- do not have a job but would like to have a job (5)
- do not have a job and not interested in having a job (6)

**Q12 - Q12**

You reported that you ^f('Q11hidden').toNumber()<5 ? 'are' : ''^ ^f('Q11hidden')^. For how long (in years and/or months) have you been ^f('Q11hidden').toNumber()<5 ? f('Q11hidden') : 'without a job'^? ^f('qhidInst')[23].label()^

*^NumericOnly('Q12\_1')^*

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) (1)

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) (2)

### **Q13 - Q13**

*^f('Q11').inc(3) ? 'Altogether, how many jobs do you have (including the job from which you were temporarily laid off, but excluding volunteer or other unpaid work)?' : 'Altogether, how many jobs do you have, excluding volunteer or other unpaid work?'^ A job means any formal paying job, whether full-time or part-time, at which you have been employed for at least two consecutive weeks.*

*^f('qhidInst')[6].label()^*

*^NumericOnly('Q13\_1')^*

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Q17hidden**

The next questions ask about your main job. By main job we mean the one at which you usually work the most hours, including the job from which you were temporarily laid off. (1)

The next questions ask about your main job. By main job we mean the one at which you usually work the most hours. (2)

### **Q17 - Q17**

*^f('Q13')[1].toNumber() > 1 ? f('Q17hidden') : ''^*

In your *^f('Q13')[1].toNumber() > 1 ? 'main' : 'current'^* job, do you work for someone else or are you self-employed?

Work for someone else (1)

Self-employed (2)

### **Q18 - Q18**

On average, how many hours per week do you work at your *^f('Q13')[1].toNumber() > 1 ? 'main' : 'current'^* job? *^f('Q13')[1].toNumber() > 1 ? 'By main job we mean the one at which you usually work the most hours.' : ''^ ^f('qhidInst')[6].label()^*

*^NumericOnly('Q18\_1')^*

On average, I work (1) \_\_\_\_\_ hours per week. (1)

### **Q19 - Q19**

How much do you make before taxes and other deductions at your *^f('Q13')[1].toNumber() > 1 ? 'main' : 'current'^* job? Please select from the drop-down menu the time frame (that is, per hour, per week, etc.) that is most suitable for you to report your pay and include any bonuses, overtime pay, tips or



commissions. ^f('qhIdInst')[20].label()^

^NumericOnly('Q19a\_1')^ \$(document).ready(function(){ addSymbol("Q19a\_", 3, "dollars per"); }); function addSymbol( qq, limit, sym ) { for( var i=1;i

	Q19a -	Q19b -
(1)	_____	<input type="radio"/> hour <input type="radio"/> week <input type="radio"/> two weeks <input type="radio"/> month <input type="radio"/> year

### Q20 - Q20

Roughly speaking, what are your annual earnings, before taxes and other deductions, at your ^f('Q13')[1].toNumber() > 1 ? 'main ' : 'current'^ job? Please include any bonuses, overtime pay, tips or commissions. ^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^

- Less than \$10,000 (1)
- \$10,000 to \$19,999 (2)
- \$20,000 to \$29,999 (3)
- \$30,000 to \$39,999 (4)
- \$40,000 to \$49,999 (5)
- \$50,000 to \$59,999 (6)
- \$60,000 to \$74,999 (7)
- \$75,000 to \$99,999 (8)
- \$100,000 to \$149,999 (9)
- \$150,000 or more (10)

### Q21 - Q21

On average, how many hours per week did you work at your most recent job? ^f('qhIdInst')[6].label()^

^NumericOnly('Q21\_1')^

On average, I worked (1) \_\_\_\_\_ hours per week. (1)

### Q22 - Q22

How much did you make, before taxes and other deductions, at your most recent job? Please select from the drop-down menu the time frame (that is, per hour, per week, etc.) that is most suitable for you to report your pay and include any bonuses, overtime pay, tips or commissions. ^f('qhIdInst')[20].label()^

^NumericOnly('Q22a\_1')^ \$(document).ready(function(){ addSymbol("Q22a\_", 3, "dollars per"); }); function addSymbol( qq, limit, sym ) { for( var i=1;i

Q22a -	Q22b -
_____	_____

	Q22a -	Q22b -
(1)		<input type="radio"/> hour <input type="radio"/> week <input type="radio"/> two weeks <input type="radio"/> month <input type="radio"/> year

**Q23 - Q23**

Roughly speaking, what were your annual earnings, before taxes and other deductions, at your most recent job? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Less than \$10,000 (1)
- \$10,000 to \$19,999 (2)
- \$20,000 to \$29,999 (3)
- \$30,000 to \$39,999 (4)
- \$40,000 to \$49,999 (5)
- \$50,000 to \$59,999 (6)
- \$60,000 to \$74,999 (7)
- \$75,000 to \$99,999 (8)
- \$100,000 to \$149,999 (9)
- \$150,000 or more (10)

**Q24 - Q24**

In your most recent job, did you work for someone else or were you self-employed?

- Worked for someone else (1)
- Self-employed (2)

**Q25 - Q25**

Do you have health insurance? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q26 - Q26**

Which statement best describes your health insurance plan? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- The plan is offered by my employer. (1)
- The plan is offered by my spouse's (or domestic partner's) employer. (2)
- I am covered under the plan of my parent/s. (3)
- The plan is Medicare and/or Medicaid. (4)
- The plan is sponsored by the government of the state where I live, but it is not Medicare or Medicaid. (5)
- The plan is sponsored by the U.S. government (e.g., V.A., TRICARE, etc.), but is not Medicare or Medicaid. (6)
- I pay directly for a private (not state-sponsored and not employer-sponsored) health insurance plan. (7)
- Other (please specify) (8)\_\_\_\_\_

**Q27new - Q27new**

Please think about the next 12 months. What do you think is the percent chance that, within the next 12 months, you will find a job that you would be willing to take? ^f('qhIdInst')[12].label()^

**Q28 - Q28**

Have you heard of any of the following internet sites? ^f('qhIdInst')[7].label()^

- Amazon Mechanical Turk (www.mturk.com) (1)
- TaskRabbit (www.taskrabbit.com) (2)
- Fiverr (www.fiverr.com) (3)
- Craigslist (www.craigslist.com) (4)
- eBay (www.ebay.com) (5)
- Sittercity (www.sittercity.com) (6)
- Care.com (www.care.com) (7)
- Airbnb (www.airbnb.com) (8)
- Etsy (www.etsy.com) (9)
- Other websites which enable informal paid activities or side jobs (please specify) (10)\_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above (11)

**Q29 - Q29**

Which, if any, of the following informal paid activities or side jobs have you actually engaged in during the past two years? ^f('qhIdInst')[7].label()^

- Babysitting (1)
- House sitting (2)
- Dog walking (3)
- Yard or lawn care (i.e., mowing, weeding, etc.) (4)
- Housecleaning (5)
- House painting (6)
- Eldercare services (7)
- Providing services to other people (for example picking up their dry cleaning, helping people move houses, running errands, booking travel, or providing other personal assistance) (8)
- Selling goods at consignment shops (9)
- Selling goods on eBay, craigslist, or similar websites. (10)
- Renting out property such as your car, your place of residence, or other items you own. (11)
- Responding to surveys, including phone surveys, online surveys, and in-person surveys. (12)
- Getting paid to complete various tasks online through websites such as Amazon Mechanical Turk, Fiverr, or other similar sites (examples of such task includes, but are not limited to, editing documents, reviewing resumes, writing songs, creating graphic designs, rating pictures, etc.) (13)
- Posting videos, blog posts, or other media content online, such as on YouTube, and receiving pay (including ad revenues or commissions) as a result. (14)
- Other informal paid activity or side jobs (please specify) (98)\_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above (99)

**Q30 - Q30**

Which informal paid activities or side jobs are you still engaged in? ^f('qhIdInst')[7].label()^

- Babysitting (1)
- House sitting (2)

- Dog walking (3)
- Yard or lawn care (i.e., mowing, weeding, etc.) (4)
- Housecleaning (5)
- House painting (6)
- Eldercare services (7)
- Providing services to other people (for example picking up their dry cleaning, helping people move houses, running errands, booking travel, or providing other personal assistance) (8)
- Selling goods at consignment shops (9)
- Selling goods on eBay, craigslist, or similar websites. (10)
- Renting out property such as your car, your place of residence, or other items you own. (11)
- Responding to surveys, including phone surveys, online surveys, and in-person surveys. (12)
- Getting paid to complete various tasks online through websites such as Amazon Mechanical Turk, Fiverr, or other similar sites (examples of such task includes, but are not limited to, editing documents, reviewing resumes, writing songs, creating graphic designs, rating pictures, etc.) (13)
- Posting videos, blog posts, or other media content online, such as on YouTube, and receiving pay (including ad revenues or commissions) as a result. (14)
- ^f('Q29\_98\_other')^ (98)
- None of the above (99)

### Q31 - Q31

Did you engage in such informal paid activities or side jobs before 2011? ^f('qhidInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

### Q32 - Q32

What are the reasons why you have engaged in these informal paid activities or side jobs?

^f('qhidInst')[7].label()^

- To earn money as a primary source of income (1)
- To earn extra money on top of pay from a current job, retirement, pension, disability, or other regular source of income (2)
- To maintain existing job-related skills (3)
- To acquire new job-related skills (4)
- To network/meet people (5)
- Just for fun (as a hobby) (6)
- Other (please specify) (7)\_\_\_\_\_

### Q33 - Q33

Have you considered engaging in any of the following informal paid activities or side jobs?

^f('qhidInst')[7].label()^

- Babysitting (1)
- House sitting (2)
- Dog walking (3)
- Yard or lawn care (i.e., mowing, weeding, etc.) (4)
- Housecleaning (5)
- House painting (6)
- Eldercare services (7)

- Providing services to other people (for example picking up their dry cleaning, helping people move houses, running errands, booking travel, or providing other personal assistance) (8)
- Selling goods at consignment shops (9)
- Selling goods on eBay, craigslist, or similar websites. (10)
- Renting out property such as your car, your place of residence, or other items you own. (11)
- Responding to surveys, including phone surveys, online surveys, and in-person surveys. (12)
- Getting paid to complete various tasks online through websites such as Amazon Mechanical Turk, Fiverr, or other similar sites (examples of such task includes, but are not limited to, editing documents, reviewing resumes, writing songs, creating graphic designs, rating pictures, etc.) (13)
- Posting videos, blog posts, or other media content online, such as on YouTube, and receiving pay (including ad revenues or commissions) as a result. (14)
- Other informal paid activity or side jobs (please specify) (98) \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above (99)

**Q34 - Q34**

Did you consider engaging in such informal paid activities or side jobs before 2011?

^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not Sure/can't remember (3)

**Q35 - Q35**

Although you did not end up engaging in these informal paid activities or side jobs, what are the reasons why you considered engaging in them in the first place? ^f('qhIdInst')[7].label()^

- To earn money as a primary source of income (1)
- To earn extra money on top of pay from a current job, retirement, pension, disability, or other regular source of income (2)
- To maintain existing job-related skills (3)
- To acquire new job-related skills (4)
- To network/meet people (5)
- Just for fun (as a hobby) (6)
- Other (please specify) (7) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q36 - Q36**

Please consider all informal paid activities or side jobs in which you participate, including this survey. On average, how much time do you typically spend per month on informal paid activities or side jobs?

^f('qhIdInst')[6].label()^

^NumericOnly('Q36\_1')^

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ hours per month (1)

**Q38 - Q38**

Considering all informal paid activities or side jobs in which you participate. How much money in total do you earn on all such activities, on average, in a month? ^f('qhIdInst')[6].label()^

*^NumericOnly('Q38\_1')^*

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ dollars per month (1)

**Q39 - Q39**

How do you think the average pay you receive for informal paid activities or side jobs compares to what you would expect to earn (or do earn) in the same amount of time in a salaried job?

*^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^*

- Informal pay is higher (1)
- Informal pay is about the same (2)
- Informal pay is lower (3)

**Q39b - Q39b**

How much higher? *^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^*

- Up to 1.5 times as much as the pay in a salaried job (1)
- Between 1.5 and 2 times as much as the pay in a salaried job (2)
- More than 2 times as much as the pay in a salaried job (3)

**Q39c - Q39c**

How much lower? *^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^*

- Less than 1/2 as much as the pay in the salaried job (1)
- Between 1/2 as much and just below the pay in the salaried job (2)

**Q40 - Q40**

Twelve months from now, do you expect to devote more, less, or the same amount of time to informal paid activities or side jobs compared to today? *^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^*

- More (1)
- Less (2)
- The same (3)

**Q41 - Q41**

Do you currently list any of your informal paid activities or side jobs on your resume?

*^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^*

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q41b - Q41b**

Do you plan to list any of your informal paid activities or side jobs on your resume?

*^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^*

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q42 - Q42**

Have you ever hired individuals, through an internet website, to complete tasks for you such as running errands, buying/delivering groceries, doing yard work, or other odd jobs? This would include either hiring someone for a one-time task or for a regular, ongoing service. ^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q43 - Q43**

To what extent has paid informal work or side jobs helped you to offset the negative effects of unemployment spells, loss of working hours, loss of benefits, or stagnant wages in a formal job? If you have not experienced any of the negative events just described, simply choose “does not apply” below. ^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^

- Very much (1)
- Somewhat (2)
- Not at all (3)
- Does not apply (4)

**Q44 - Q44**

Are you currently participating in any unpaid volunteering activities? ^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q45 - Q45**

For how long have you been doing unpaid volunteering? ^f('qhIdInst')[23].label()^

^NumericOnly('Q45\_1')^ ^NumericOnly('Q45\_2')^ ^NumericOnly('Q45\_3')^

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) (1)
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) (2)
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ day(s) (3)

**Q46 - Q46**

How many hours, on average, do you volunteer in a typical month? ^f('qhIdInst')[6].label()^

^NumericOnly('Q46\_1')^

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ hour(s) (1)

**Q47 - Q47**

Do you currently list your volunteering activities on your resume? ^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q47b - Q47b**

Do you plan to list your volunteering activities on your resume? ^f('qhIdInst')[5].label()^

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Feedback - Feedback**

Do you have any other comments about the survey or the survey experience?

Please type these in the box below.