The world of work is changing. Digital work platforms have accelerated a trend towards flexible, project-based employment, which presents both opportunities and risks to employers, recruiters and candidates.

**BY 2025**

The effect of digital work platforms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>UK</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>+$2.7 trillion</td>
<td>+£45 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>72 million</td>
<td>766,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 6% of British businesses currently recruit using digital work platforms.
- 29% say it is likely that digital work platforms will become more important to their business in the next five years.
- 6% of businesses surveyed said they feared candidates sourced from digital work platforms may lie about their qualifications and experience.
- 23% of businesses surveyed said candidates require an extra level of screening by the employer.
- 26% of businesses would be encouraged to increase their use of digital work platforms if UK government clarified the legal status and responsibilities of digital work platforms.
- 22% of businesses, when asked about the benefits of digital work platforms, say they can be quicker than traditional recruitment channels.
- 20% of businesses perceive the use of digital work platforms as being more risky than beneficial for their businesses.
- 13% of British people believe they will be working in traditional ‘9–5’ employment by 2025.
- 47% of all pieces of work on Freelancer.com are awarded to the average or higher bidder.

‘THE GIG ECONOMY IS PART OF HOW THE WORLD OF WORK IS SHIFTING. IT’S ECONOMICALLY INEVITABLE THAT IT WILL BE PART AND PARCEL OF HOW THE FUTURE ECONOMY FUNCTIONS.’

RT HON LIAM BYRNE MP


The REC’s latest report, Gig economy – The Uberisation of work, delivers insight to help ensure this new mode of working benefits British workers and the UK economy.

www.rec.uk.com/gigeconomy
#gigworking