Working in the platform economy

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Working in the platform economy

In 2018, a 7-year-old boy earned US$22 million dollars from his YouTube videos demonstrating that influencer can be a profitable career. Increasingly, more people are earning incomes through other digital platforms like sharing their home on Airbnb, or vehicle on Uber. Yet is work in this platform economy just a side hustle to earn extra money? Or does it indicate a more permanent trajectory of work that is not salaried and fulltime? Given that one-in-five Canadians work in the platform economy, it is necessary to uncover any potential impacts, challenges and consequences that stem from working in this economy. Even more, this industry is operating in a grey area not entirely covered by current regulations and policies. The findings from this research can be used to inform the construction of evidence-based policies that can better regulate the platform economy and provide protections for workers.