Why Are Workers Engaging in Enterprising and Informal Work?*

By Income

What is the main reason for engaging in paid or side work activities?

- To earn extra money as a primary source of income (27%)
- To earn extra money on top of pay from a current employment, retirement, pension, disability, or other regular source of income (31%)
- To earn extra money to help family members (8%)
- To maintain existing employment-related skills/to acquire new employment-related skills/to network/meet people (3%)
- Just for fun (as a hobby) (21%)

By Education

What is the main reason for engaging in paid or side work activities?

- To earn money as a primary source of income (30%)
- To earn extra money on top of pay from current employment, retirement, pension, disability, or other regular source of income (27%)
- To maintain existing employment-related skills/to acquire new employment-related skills/to network/meet people (4%)
- Just for fun (as a hobby) (19%)

By Race

What is the main reason for engaging in paid or side work activities?

- To earn money as a primary source of income (28%)
- To earn extra money on top of pay from current employment, retirement, pension, disability, or other regular source of income (26%)
- To maintain existing employment-related skills/to acquire new employment-related skills/to network/meet people (2%)
- Just for fun (as a hobby) (21%)

By Region

What is the main reason for engaging in paid or side work activities?

- To earn money as a primary source of income (29%)
- To earn extra money on top of pay from current employment, retirement, pension, disability, or other regular source of income (28%)
- To maintain existing employment-related skills/to acquire new employment-related skills/to network/meet people (9%)
- Just for fun (as a hobby) (18%)

*The following summary statistics are based on qualified respondents to the Enterprising and Informal Work Activity Survey (n=2,483).

Data for this infographic come from the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Enterprising and Informal Work Activities 2016. For more information on the study, methodology, and chart book results, as well as access to the public survey data, please see the Board’s website at www.federalreserve.gov/consumerscommunities/eiwa.htm.