Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Work

Illinois Future of Work Commission

Shelly Steward, PhD Aspen Institute Future of Work Initiative September 28, 2021 THE ASPEN)INSTITUTE FUTURE OF WORK INITIATIVE

What Is the "Future of Work?"



Will there be enough jobs?

Will there be enough *good* jobs?

How will technology change jobs? How does work intersect with other challenges?

Will there be enough jobs?

- Will we face significant displacement?
- Where is there job loss? Where is there job growth?
- Are training and education opportunities aligned with growth areas?



Will there be enough good jobs?



Productivity

Real hourly

13%

254%

- Decades of declining job quality
 - Stagnant wages
 - Declining worker power
 - Eroding benefits
 - Unfair scheduling practices

Labor productivity and pay, 1948-2011 Source: Economic Policy Institute



Will there be enough good jobs?



The gig economy and the fissuring of work

GIG WORK IN ANY CAPACITY Primary and supplementary work

> **GIG WORK AS MAIN JOB** Gig work is primary job

About 1 in 10

About 1 in 100

USES ONLINE PLATFORMS Uber, Lyft, Instacart, and others

Total U.S. workforce

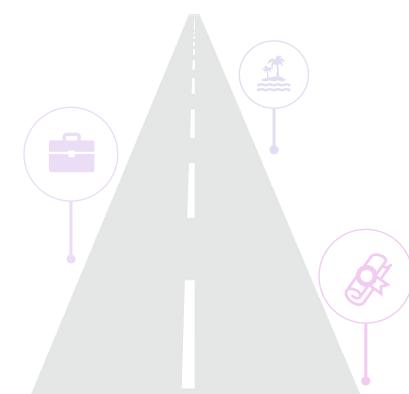
About 1 in 3

Part of a broader trend



and long-standing reality

Our system of workplace benefits and protections was built around a narrative of a stable, linear career



That narrative was only ever within reach for some, and is becoming less and less attainable for all.

How will technology change jobs?

- Automation and digitization
- Algorithmic hiring and management
- Digital monitoring and surveillance
- Remote work



How does work intersect with other challenges?



Racial Justice

Public Health

Climate Change

The Future of Work



Will there be
enough jobs?Will there be
enough good
jobs?

How will technology change jobs? How does work intersect with other challenges?

Thank You

shelly.steward@aspeninstitute.org aspeninstitute.org/future-of-work

> THE ASPEN INSTITUTE FUTURE OF WORK INITIATIVE