



What Does the Bureau of Labor Statistics Tell Us About Contingent and Alternative Work Arrangements in 2017?

Contingent Work Arrangement¹

Alternative Work Arrangement²

Population³

5.9 million **3.8%**
 of total employment

Population⁴

15.5 million **10.1%**
 of total employment

Median Weekly Earnings⁵

for full-time workers

\$592
 |
\$685 **\$886**
 Contingent Workers Non-contingent Workers

Median Weekly Earnings⁶

for full-time workers

\$521
 |
\$1,077 **\$884**
 Alternative Arrangement Workers Traditional Arrangement Workers

Less likely to be eligible for employer-provided retirement plans compared to non-contingent workers.⁷



Less likely to be eligible for employer-provided retirement plans compared to those in traditional arrangements.⁸



Participation in Employer-provided Plans⁹

18% **43%**
 Contingent Workers Non-contingent Workers

Participation in Employer-provided Plans¹⁰

13% **51%**
 Temporary Help Workers Workers with Traditional Arrangements
35%
 On-call Workers
48%
 Contract Workers

Sources:

1: Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Contingent and Alternative Employment Arrangements - May 2017." June 7, 2018. According to BLS, "contingent workers are those who do not have an explicit or implicit contract for continuing employment. Several questions are asked in the supplement to determine whether a worker's job is contingent."

2: Ibid., "Alternative employment arrangements are determined by the workers' relationship to their employer. To provide estimates of the number of workers in alternative employment arrangements, the supplement includes questions about whether individuals are paid by a temporary help agency or contract company, or whether they are on-call workers or independent contractors."

3: Ibid., p. 1.

4: Ibid.

5: Ibid., Table 13.

6: Ibid.

7: p. 5.

8: p. 8.

9: p. 5.

10: p. 8.