

Imagining a Future of Work that Fosters Mobility for All

Webinar

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Strategies



The Fading American Dream

Percent of Children Earning More than Their Parents, by Year of Birth



Fading "American Dream" linked to Labor Market Issues

(1) Slow (almost stagnant) Median Real Wage Growth

(2) Polarization of the Labor Market, Growing Education Divide and Rising Inequality in Labor Market, Rising Importance of "Soft" Skills and In-Person Services (Care Sector key example)

(3) Fissuring of the Labor Market and Decline in Traditional Employment Relationships and Unions; Rising employer market power

(4) Decline in prime age (25-54 year old) male LFPR especially for less educated; stagnation in female LFPR with rising care burden of aging society

Real Hourly Wage by Education, 1973-2016



Source: CPS ORG Hourly Wages from Economic Policy Institute 2017

Declining Employment Concentrated Among Non-College Men

Figure 5: Labor Force Participation Rate for Men Ages 25-54 by Educational Attainment

Percent (Annual Average)



data from January through May. Shading denotes recession.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; National Bureau of Economic Research; author's calculations.



Fissuring of the U.S. Workplace

- (1) Decline in traditional employment relationships and rapid growth in share of U.S. workforce in **alternative work arrangements** (independent contractors and freelancers, contracted out workers, temporary help agency workers, and on-call workers)
- (2)Increasing segregation of U.S. workforce across employers by wages and education with a rising correlation of worker and firm wage effects

These two patterns represent a **"fissuring" of the U.S. workforce** and are closely related to rising inequality

Growth in Alternative Work Arrangements Accelerated Over the Last Decade

Alternative Employment Arrangements

Percent of Total Employed



Note: Alternative weights were estimated for 2015 data to match the share of self-employed workers in the October 2015 Current Population Survey.

Source: BLS CPS CWS Feb 1995 & Feb 2005; 2015 Katz and Krueger Rand-Princeton Contingent Worker Survey (RPCWS).

Fissuring of the Workplace and Rising Wage Inequality Contributions to Rising Wage Inequality from 1980 to 2013:

Person Effects: 73% (rising education and skill returns)

Sorting: 34% (rising correlation of person & firm effects)

Firm Effects: -7%

Source: Song et al., "Firming Up Inequality" (2016)

Jobs: The challenge

DECLINES	INCREASES	SHIFTS
Employment that provides good wages, benefits, & protections	Alternative work arrangements	In ways people get jobs
Unionization	People working for multiple employers in "gig economy" jobs	Displacement of jobs by automation & artificial intelligence
Likelihood of working for a single long-term employer	Fissuring of workforce across employers by wages & education	

Strategy 1 Facilitate Access to Work That Pays Well

State and Local Wage, Scheduling, and Leave Initiatives Proposals to Enhance the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit Employer Codes of Conduct

Strategy 2 Create Portable Benefits for Workers in Alternative Employment Arrangements

JURE

Strategy 3 Strengthen Workers' Roles in Shaping Their Future



Strategy 4 Leverage Wage Subsidies and Job Guarantees for America's Most Vulnerable Workers

Wage Subsidies

Job Guarantees

Strategy 5 Invest in a Multifaceted Strategy to Improve Specific Growth Sectors, Such as Care

Strategy 6 Build Human Capital over a Lifetime

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Q&A



For further information



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