

The Incidence of Platform Work in Germany

Analysis of a survey commissioned by the
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

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BMAS-OECD-ISSA Workshop on the Future of Social Protection
Berlin, June 12 2017



The Issue

The White Paper Work 4.0 of the federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs pointed out that reliable statistics on the incidence of various types of platform work in Germany are yet missing.

Existing (online) surveys tend to suffer from self-selection problems and therefore rather overestimate the phenomenon.

The number of registered platform users can be misleading, as they may be inactive.

The Survey

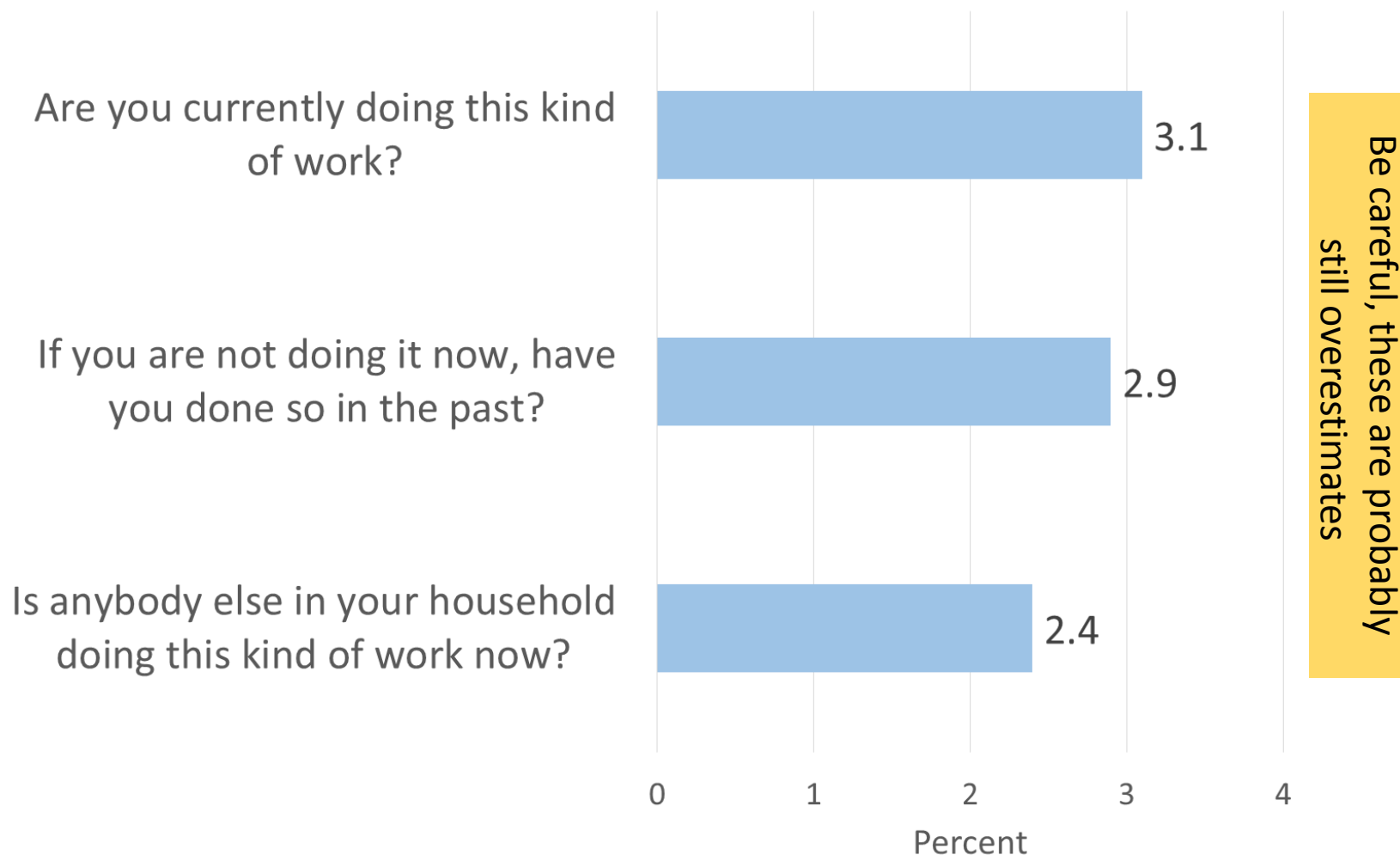
Conducted on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS)

Part of an omnibus telephone survey by Kantar Emnid, which is still ongoing to reach 10.000 interviews. Results today are based on 8.452 interviews.

Population aged 18 or older.

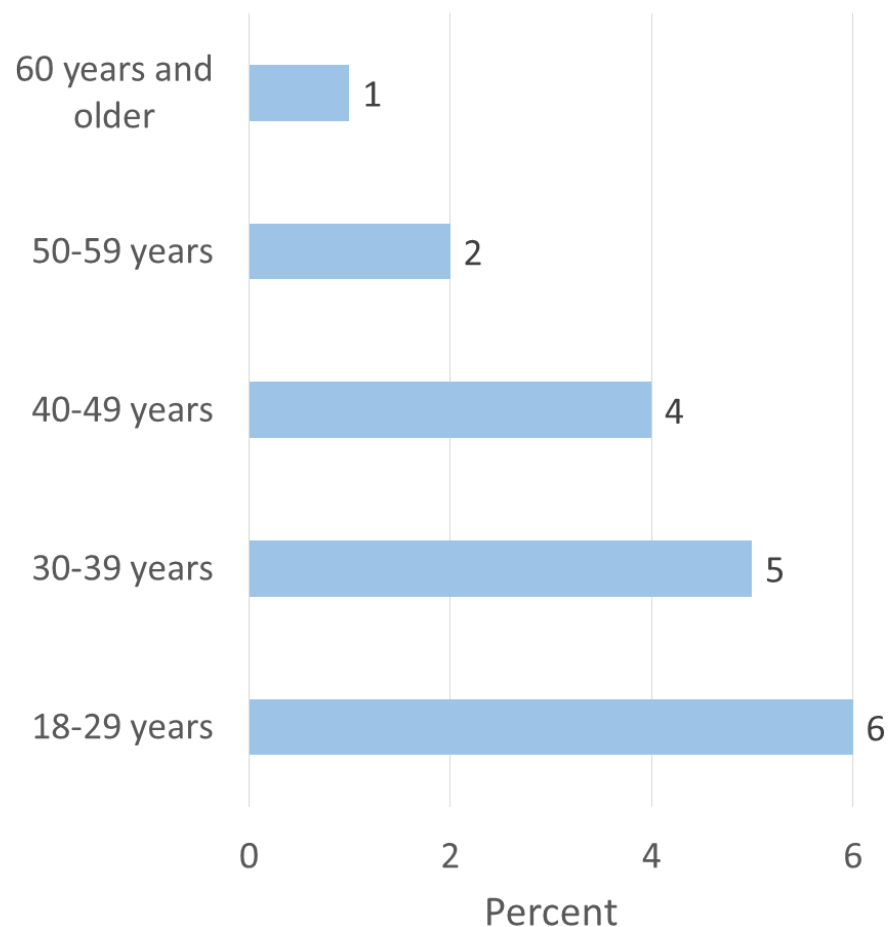
Survey period April 12 to June 20, 2017.

Incidence of Paid Work Assignments Obtained via Platforms or Apps



Data Source: BMAS Survey on new types of work.

Socio-Demographics of Workers



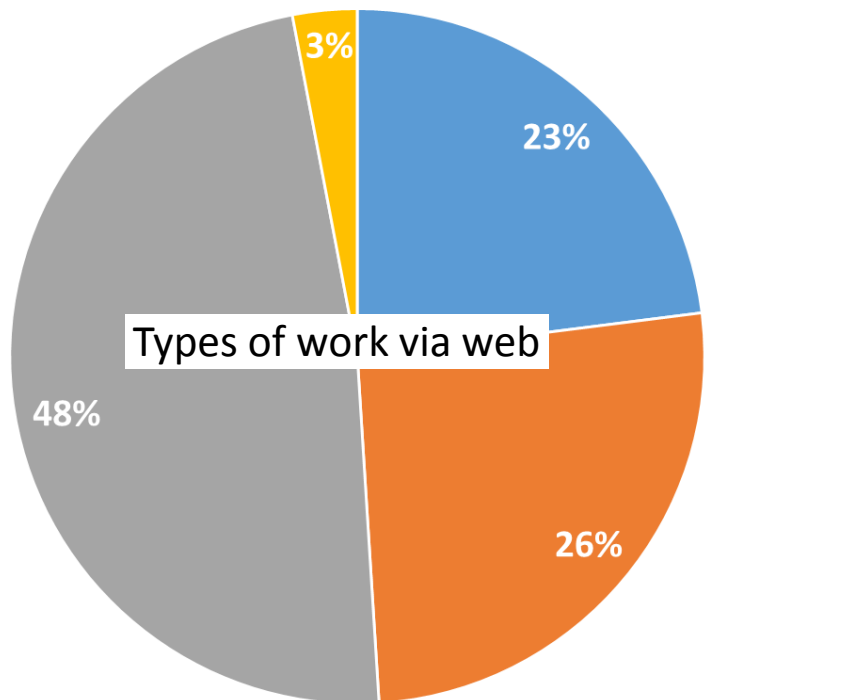
Further observations:

Incidence is systematically growing in level of education

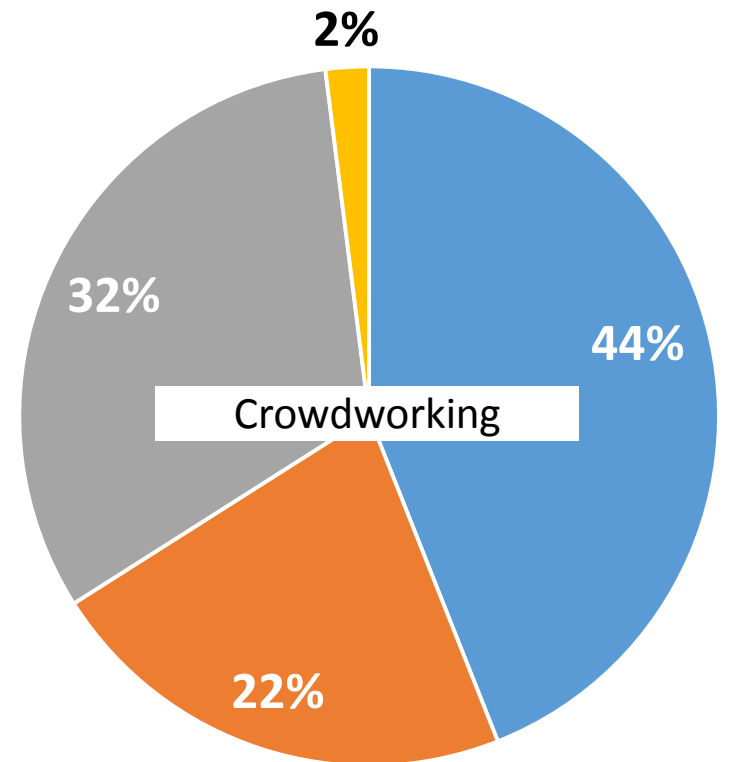
Only small gender differences

High incidence (6%) among pupils

Types of Paid Work Assignments Obtained via Platforms or Apps

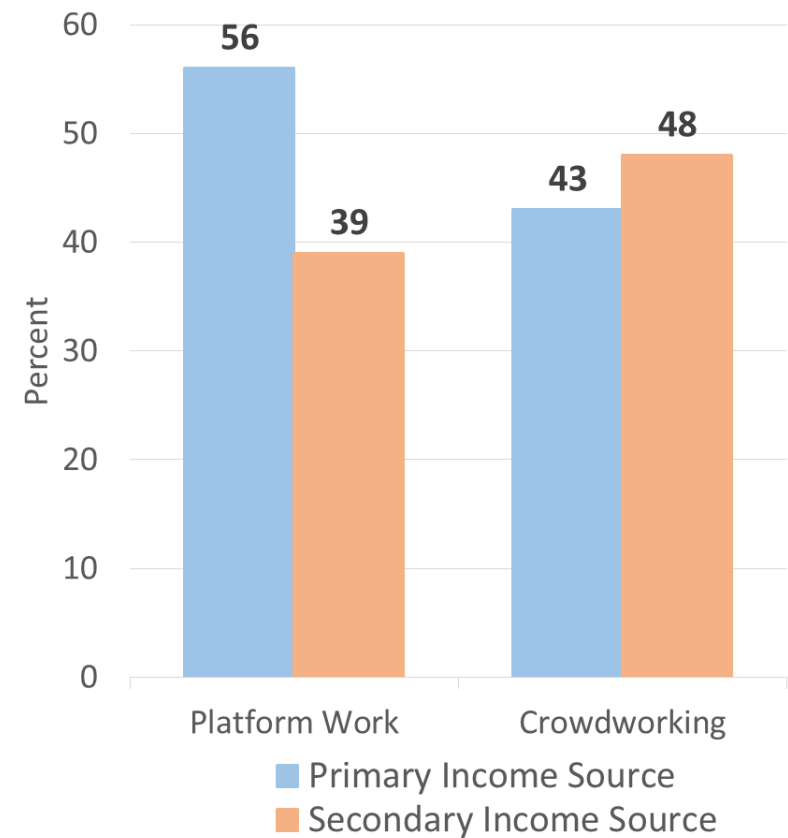
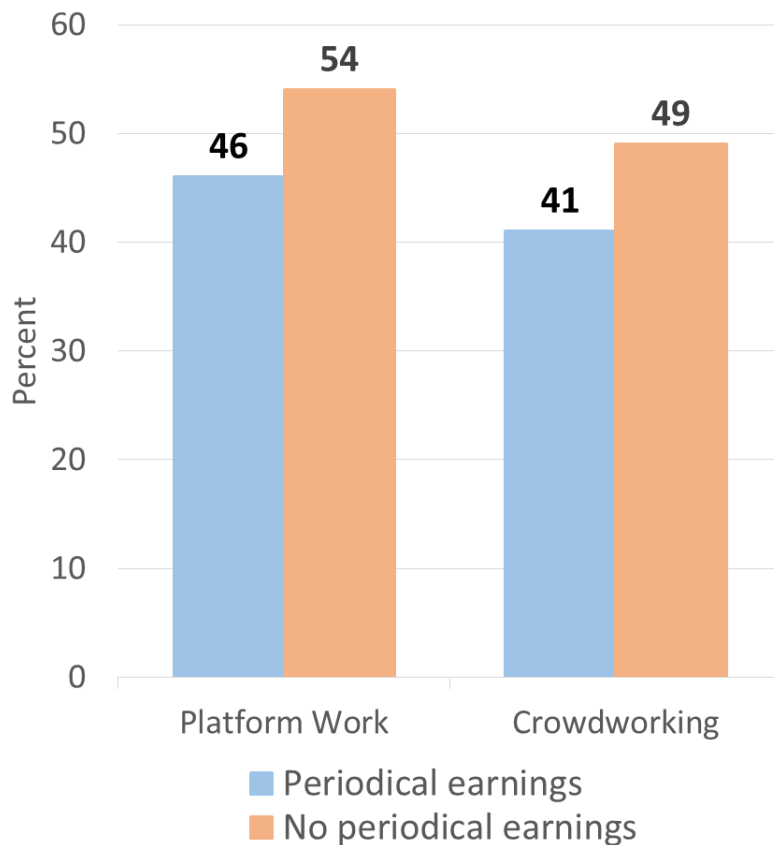


- Crowdfunding
- Both
- Platform work
- Don't know, no response



- Simple Tasks
- Both
- Complex tasks
- Don't know, no response

Platform Work and Crowdfunding as Sources of Earnings



Only workers with periodical earnings

Conclusions

In Germany, platform work and crowdworking, at present, are of only minor importance.

They may grow in the future, especially due to cohort effects.

Platform work appears to be somewhat more important than crowdworking, and seems more important as a source of income.

In a clear majority of cases, both types of work provide only secondary jobs.

Accordingly, for a vast majority of crowdworkers and platform workers the internet is only one among several options to obtain paid work assignments.

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