

Characteristics of freelancers vs other roles in the emerging gig economy	Freelancer	Independent consultant	Consult	Consultant in a consulting firm	Employee	Business owner*	Self employed	Worker in a temp agency	Gig economy app worker 1.0 *	Gig economy app worker 1.1
Controls their own schedule and who they work for	yes	yes	It depends on if you mean an independent consultant or a consultant in a consulting firm.	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	?
Project based	usually	usually		often	rarely	often*	often*	sometimes	yes	?
Time based	sometimes	sometimes		often	usually	rarely	rarely	usually	no	?
Has clients	yes	yes		no*	no	yes*	yes*	no	yes	no
Has customers	sometimes*	sometimes*		no	no	yes*	yes*	no	no	no
Receipts based	sometimes*	sometimes*		no	no	sometimes	sometimes	no	usually	usually
Has an employer	no	no		yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes
Invoice based	usually	usually		no	no	often*	often*	no	rarely	rarely
Paid wages or salaries	no	no		yes	yes	rarely**	rarely**	yes	no	yes
Recieves a 1099 (in U.S.)	yes	yes		no	no	usually	usually	no	yes	no
Recieves a W2 (in U.S.)	no	no		yes	yes	rarely	rarely	yes	no	yes
DBA (legal structure "doing business as" in U.S.)	sometimes	sometimes		no	no	sometimes	sometimes	no	usually	no
LLC (in U.S.)	often	often		no	no	usually	usually	no	rarely	no
<i>*Exceptions and variations</i>	<i>Some freelancers also sell products.</i>	<i>Some independent consultants also sell products.</i>			<i>The consultant may be assigned responsibility for the firms's clients, but the consultant's contract is with their employer.</i>		<i>This describes services based businesses. In reality, most businesses sell products to customers rather than selling projects or time to clients.</i>		<i>The original and most familiar gig economy apps treat workers as independent contractors and not employees. Some gig economy companies are developing alternatives that resemble temp agencies with employees.</i>	
						<i>Some business are structured in such a way that the owners are treated as employees on the payroll and are paid a salary like other employees in addition to profit distributions to the owner or owners.</i>				
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Full discussion of gig economy definitions at	<a href="#">What Is Freelancing (and Consulting)? Our Guide to Gig Economy Definitions</a>									