

## The gig economy: workers **on tap** (I)

The Archbishop of Canterbury sees it as “the **reincarnation** of an ancient evil”. Elizabeth Warren, a senator from Massachusetts, says that, for many workers, it is the “next step in a losing effort to build some economic security in **a world where all the benefits are floating to the top 10%**”. Luigi Di Maio, Italy’s deputy prime minister, is going after it as part of his “war on **precarious** work”.

on tap 可随时使用

reincarnation 再生；转世

archangel 大天使

archenemy 宿敌；撒旦

precarious 危险的；不稳定的

For many, the “**gig** economy”, in which short term jobs are assigned via online platforms, is a **potent** symbol of how modern capitalism has failed. Critics **rail** that it allows firms to rid themselves of well-paid employees, replacing them with cheap freelancers. Workers who once relied on an employer to pay into their pension, or to cover their health care when they fell ill, must instead save for the future themselves. On this reading, the gig economy turbocharges insecurity and the **erosion** of workers’ **hard-won** rights. There is **a grain of** truth to this. But it misses the bigger picture.

gig 临时工作

potent 有力的；有效的

rail 抱怨；责骂

erosion 侵蚀；腐蚀

hard-won 来之不易的；难得的

a grain of 一点儿

**For one thing**, despite city streets **clogged with** Uber drivers and Deliveroo cyclists, gigging is not about to take over the world. Across the OECD club of mostly rich countries, the share of workers in full-time positions, which dropped after the financial crisis of 2008-2009, has been rising. In America the average job **tenure** has **barely** changed in the past 30 years. Depending on whom you ask, 1-5% of Americans gig --- but many of those have salaried jobs as well.

for one thing 首先

clogged with 被...阻塞

tenure 任期

barely 几乎不; 仅仅