



How Gen Z Are Disrupting the Definition of 'Prestigious' Jobs

Z 世代正在颠覆所谓“体面”的工作

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Even before Molly Johnson-Jones graduated from Oxford University in 2015, she felt professional pressure to **land** a 'prestigious' job in a **high-powered** industry. She says she and her university friends felt there were sectors that carried **cachet** – particularly the **rigorous** fields of finance, consulting, medicine and law. That's why Johnson-Jones ended up in investment banking for two years once she graduated, even though didn't feel like quite the right fit.

莫莉·约翰逊-琼斯在 2015 年从牛津大学毕业之前，迫于压力想在高影响力行业找到一份“体面”的工作。她说，她和她的大学朋友们都觉得，有些行业声望较高，尤其是金融、咨询、医药和法律等严谨的领域。这就是为什么尽管她觉得自己不太适合，但一毕业后还是在投资银行工作了两年。

These kinds of “very traditional industries” have indeed carried prestige, says Jonah Stillman, co-founder of GenGuru, a consulting firm that focuses on different generations in the workplace. Stillman, a Gen Zer, says this **sentiment** is present in higher-education **settings**, but he adds many people across generations have felt pressure well before university to pursue these paths, including from family members or high-school counsellors.

咨询公司 GenGuru 聚焦职场中不同年龄段的人，其联合创始人乔纳·斯蒂尔曼表示，这些“非常传统的行业”确实具有声望。斯蒂尔曼也是 Z 世代的一员，他指出这种看法确实存在于高等教育环境中，但他补充说，很多不同年龄段的人在上大学之前就感受到了追求这些职业道路的压力，包括来自家人或高中辅导员的压力。

582 Words

land [lænd] v. 得到，获得（自己想要的某物，尤指工作或机会）| He landed a job with a law firm. 他在律师事务所谋得一份工作。

prestigious [pre'stɪdʒəs] adj. 有威望的，有声望的

high-powered adj. 重要的，身居要职的，肩负重任的；（机器、设备等）大功率的，高效的 | a high-powered job 位高权重的工作

cachet [kæ'ʃeɪ] n. 声望，威望，威信 | It's a good college, but lacks the cachet of Harvard. 这是一所很好的大学，但缺乏哈佛那样的声望。

rigorous ['rɪɡərəs] adj. 严格的，谨慎的；严厉的 | The work failed to meet their rigorous standards. 工作没有达到他们的严格标准。

sentiment ['sentɪmənt] n. 观点，看法，情绪 | Similar sentiments were expressed by many politicians. 许多政治家都表达了相同的观点。

setting ['setɪŋ] n. 环境，背景；情节背景 | I've worked with children in various settings, mainly in secondary school. 我在许多地方教过孩子，主要是在中学。

skyrocket ['skaɪrəʊkɪt] v. 飞涨，猛涨 | Production has dropped while

As Gen Z joins the workforce, however, experts and younger workers say what's considered a high-status job may be expanding – and even becoming less relevant overall. Some younger workers do still report making money is prestigious, especially as cost of living **skyrockets**; and working for certain firms or in specific industries can make a career. But many are also emphasising other elements, such as corporate values, **flexibility**, **autonomy** and freedom from the long-hours, **high-octane grind**.

然而，随着 Z 世代踏入职场，专家和年轻员工表示，高社会地位工作的范畴可能会扩大，甚至变得不那么重要。一些年轻的员工仍然认为赚钱是一件光荣的事，尤其是在生活成本飞涨的情况下；他们还认为在特定的公司或特定的行业工作可以成就一番事业。但许多年轻员工也很看重其他因素，比如企业价值观、灵活性、自主权，以及摆脱长时间、高强度的工作。

2020 graduate Danielle Farage, 24, says she also felt there was a narrow definition of a prestige job while she was at the University of Southern California, and **pronounced** pressure to land an elite job, especially from her peers. “It’s so **intense** because everyone posts about their jobs,” says Farage.

2020 届毕业生、24 岁的丹妮尔·法拉奇说，她在南加州大学读书时，也觉得人们对体面工作的定义很狭隘，而且她也明显感受到找一份体面工作的压力，尤其是来自同龄人的压力。她说：“这种压力很大，因为每个人都在网上晒自己的工作。”

Plenty of Gen Zers – especially those who attend elite universities – still **opt for high-profile** industries. Farage agrees that many new grads still “want to go the **straight-and narrow** path”: she knows several **contemporaries** who are still “very much into the prestige, because everyone around you is like, oh, I need to get a big-five consulting job ... I’m going to go **intern** for this big bank next summer”.

很多 Z 世代的人——尤其是那些上过精英大学的人——仍然选择进入

prices and unemployment have skyrocketed. 物价和失业率猛涨的同时，生产却下降了。

flexibility [ˌfleksəˈbɪləti] *n.* 可变性，灵活性 | Being self-employed allowed him the flexibility to work unusual hours. 自己为自己工作使他可以灵活掌握时间，可以在通常不上班的时间工作。

autonomy [ɔːˈtɑːnəmi] *n.* 自主；自治，自治权 | Teachers are given considerable individual autonomy. 教师被赋予相当大的个人自主权。

high-octane *adj.* 充满活力的，强有力的 | a high-octane athlete 体力充沛的运动员

grind [graɪnd] *n.* 令人疲劳（或厌倦）的工作，苦差事 *v.* 磨碎，碾碎 | I find the journey to work a real grind. 我觉得上班路上很辛苦。

pronounced [prəˈnaʊnst] *adj.* 显著的，明显的

intense [ɪnˈtens] *adj.* 强烈的，剧烈的；专注的，认真的 | Young people today are under intense pressure to succeed. 如今的年轻人面临要出人头地的巨大压力。

opt for 选择 | After graduating she opted for a career in music. 毕业后她选择了从事音乐工作。

high-profile *adj.* 引人注目的，备受关注的，高调的

straight and narrow 正路，循规蹈矩，中规中矩 | After his release from prison he followed the straight

光鲜亮丽的行业。法拉奇认为，许多应届毕业生仍然“想要走一条中规中矩的道路”，她认识的几个同龄人仍然“非常看重职业的声望，因为你周围的每个人都在说，嗯，我要在五大咨询公司找一份工作……明年夏天我要去这家大银行实习”。

But Farage has also seen many Gen Zers re-define a prestige job as one that enhances their own life. This may include a position that enables a worker to live the lifestyle they want – whether that’s being an entrepreneur, working in an industry that **aligns** with their values and passion or securing a job that enables them to build their personal brand **on the side**.

但法拉奇也观察到许多 Z 世代将“体面的工作”重新定义为能改善自己生活的工作。这可能包括一个能让员工按照他们想要的方式生活的职位——无论是成为一名企业家，在一个符合他们价值观和激情的行业里工作，或是从事一份能让他们在业余时间打造个人品牌的工作。

Some data indicates that Gen Z are indeed shifting towards more meaningful work. April 2023 data from LinkedIn of more than 7,000 global workers, reviewed by BBC Worklife, shows 64% of Gen Zers in the UK, France, Germany and Ireland now consider it important to work for companies that are aligned with their values. The data also shows these young workers highlight work-life balance and career growth as top **draws** for potential workplaces.

一些数据表明，Z 世代确实正在转向更有意义的工作。BBC Worklife 频道查询了领英对全球 7000 多名员工的调查数据，结果显示，在英国、法国、德国和爱尔兰，64% 的 Z 世代现在认为，就职于符合自己价值观的公司很重要。数据还显示，这些年轻员工强调，工作与生活的平衡和职业发展是他们挑选公司时最关注的地方。

Along with Gen Z’s shifting attitudes, **embrace** of entrepreneurship and emphasis on values, this mindset shift may be in part because mechanisms behind finding jobs and seeing potential **alternative** career paths are changing, says Josh Graff, managing director of **EMEA** and **LATAM** at LinkedIn. With a

and narrow. 他从监狱获释后走上了正道。

contemporary [kən'tempərəri] *n.* 同代人，同辈人，同龄人 *adj.* 当代的，现代的 | Shelley and Keats were contemporaries. 雪莱和济慈是同代人。

intern ['ɪntɜːrn] *n.* 实习生 *v.* 拘留，禁闭，关押

align [ə'laɪn] *v.* 使一致；排列整齐，使对齐，成一条直线 | We have closely aligned our research and development work with our business needs. 我们仔细调整了我们的研发工作，以适应商业需求。

on the side 作为副业，兼职，在正事之外；秘密地，偷偷摸摸地 | Most consultants do private work on the side. 大多数顾问医生都另外干私活。

draw [drɔː] *n.* 有吸引力的人（或事物） | She is currently one of the biggest draws on the Irish music scene. 她是目前爱尔兰音乐界最受欢迎的人物之一。

embrace [ɪm'breɪs] *n./v.* 接受；拥抱 | Most countries have enthusiastically embraced the concept of high-speed railways. 大多数国家都已经欣然接受了高速铁路的概念。

alternative [ɔːl'tɜːnətɪv] *n.* 可供选择的事物 *adj.* 可供替代的，可供选择的 | Do you have an alternative solution? 你有没有别的解决办法？

greater number of jobs being posted online, “people have so much more access to information today than we did when we were applying for a job 20-plus years ago ... This allows you to have much better **visibility** into **a wealth of** roles”, he says. “That shift in the workplace, in the workforce ... is leading people to understand there’s a broader **array** of options out there.”

领英欧洲、中东、非洲和拉美地区总裁乔希·格拉夫表示，随着 Z 世代态度的转变，以及他们对创业精神的接受和对价值观的重视，这种心态转变的部分原因可能是找工作 and 发现其他潜在职业道路背后的机制正在发生变化。他表示，随着越来越多的职位在网上发布，“与 20 多年前我们求职时相比，如今人们获得信息的渠道要多得多……这让你能够更好地了解大量职位。”“职场和劳动力的这种转变……让人们意识到，他们还有更广泛的选择。”

EMEA Europe, the Middle East and Africa 的缩写，为欧洲、中东、非洲三地区的合称，通常是用作政府行政或商业上的区域划分方式

LATAM Latin America 的缩写，表示拉丁美洲

visibility [ˌvɪzəˈbɪləti] *n.* 可见度，能见度；明显性 | The exhibition helped increase the visibility of women artists. 这个展览帮助提高了女性艺术家的知名度。

a wealth of 很多的，大量的 | a wealth of information 大量的信息

array [əˈreɪ] *n.* 大堆，大群，大量
v. 排列，布置 | There was a vast array of colours to choose from. 有各种各样的颜色可供选择。

➤ 脉络梳理

Para. 1-2 指出人们普遍迫于压力想要找一份体面的工作

Para. 3-7 指出如今 Z 世代虽然仍看重职业的声望，但他们对体面工作的定义正在发生转变，更重视价值观和工作与生活的平衡等方面

Para. 8 分析原因，指出 Z 世代态度的转变是因为越来越多的职位在网上发布，让他们可以看到更多选择

➤ 长难句拆解

时间状语从句 | 插入语 | 主语+谓语
As Gen Z joins the workforce, however, experts and younger workers say

主语从句，作从句主语 | 宾语从句，作 say 的宾语
what’s considered a high-status job may be expanding – and even becoming less relevant overall.