

Freelancer.com reports record numbers turn to freelancing during COVID-19 pandemic

SAN FRANCISCO, California, 2 July 2020 - [Freelancer.com](https://www.freelancer.com) (ASX: FLN), the world's largest freelancing and crowdsourcing marketplace by number of users and jobs posted, today released the [Freelancer.com Fast 50 Report for Q2 2020](#). The quarterly index which measures the most sought-after employment skills showed a continued positive growth trajectory for the freelancing industry, despite the current health and economic crisis gripping the world due to COVID-19.

As the skilled labor pool around the world has significantly increased over the past three months, many workers who found themselves jobless turned to freelancing to supplement their income. The figures from Freelancer.com in comparison to the same time last year, revealed a massive 41% boost in jobs posted in Q2 2020 versus Q2 2019, with the total number rising to 605,000 from 429,000 respectively. In 2020 alone, the jump between Q1 and Q2 was over 25% with the total number of jobs posted rising from 482,000 to 605,000 respectively.

Key takeaways from the Q2 2020 Fast 50 Report compared to the Q1 2020 Fast 50 Report:

COVID-19 leads to a huge demand in number crunchers

The biggest increase in demand in the second quarter was for work related to mathematical modeling. **Mathematics, Matlab, Mathematica, Algorithm** projects (up 99.6%, to 16,501 jobs).

Similarly **Statistics** and **Statistical Analysis** jobs were up 75% to 7,397 jobs.

While this is generally due to the increasing volume of digital and electronic data, with the COVID-19 outbreak, the amount of data has dramatically risen due to tracking and tracing of coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, mortality rates, tests conducted and more, as well as the impacts of the pandemic.

Healthcare, government, business and media are among the majority of employers hiring number crunchers to interpret, analyze and report this data, especially relating to COVID-19.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for mathematicians and statisticians is projected to grow 30% from 2018 to 2028, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.¹

¹ [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Mathematicians and Statisticians](#)

Daytrading revolution spurs algorithmic trading projects

Additionally maths has been in demand in the stock market. With the rise of Robinhood, competitive platforms matching \$0 trading commissions, stimulus from the Federal Reserve blowing the wind into the sales of the stock market, and punters being unable to bet on sports during lockdown, consumer day trading has become a cultural phenomenon. Led by the likes of Barstool Sports blogger Dave Portnoy and amassing on Reddit's /r/wallstreetbets and FinTwit (Financial Twitter), this has led to a large rise in automated trading algorithm projects such as **Metatrader** (up 63%, to 2,655 jobs) and projects related to **Mathematics** described above.

Example of such projects include:

Working with stock-trading time series data for calculating statistical indicators
<https://www.freelancer.com/projects/data-processing/build-simple-Google-Sheets-like>

Ingesting and analyzing internal financial datasets for a 10 year old, \$6B private equity firm
<https://www.freelancer.com/projects/python/Python-Data-Engineer/>

Entrepreneurs make the most of the lockdowns by starting eCommerce businesses

The bright side of being locked down is that some budding entrepreneurs made the best of it in Q2 2020 by starting new eCommerce businesses. More people at home has sparked a major increase in online shopping and along with Shopify's tearing stock price, projects related to **Shopify**, **Shopify Templates**, **Shopping Carts**, **eCommerce** and **WooCommerce** took off in the quarter (up 54%, to 27,343 jobs).

If not starting eCommerce businesses, entrepreneurs are developing computer games

More people at home has also seen a rise in video gaming, from gaming enthusiasts taking advantage of isolation to kids being kept entertained during lockdowns - Verizon U.S. reported in March 2020 that video game usage during peak hours went up 75% since quarantine first went into effect earlier in the month.²

Game Design projects were up 68% to 2,602 jobs, **Game Development** was up 64% to 3,878 jobs, and **2D Animation** jobs were up 59% to 2,497 jobs. Remarkably, **Adobe Flash** projects were up 76% to 2,058 jobs.

An example includes ranking players in a leaderboard system by skill:
<https://www.freelancer.com/projects/statistics/need-statistician-26361775>

² [Verizon U.S. - How Americans are spending their time in the temporary new normal](#)

PRESS RELEASE



Lockdowns see demand for local services collapse

With lockdowns in full swing, it is not unexpected that one might not want someone to come over to clean your house or assemble your IKEA furniture. The second quarter saw **Local Jobs** fall 36% to 1,174 jobs.

Matt Barrie, CEO and Chairman of Freelancer.com, said, "The freelance online job market continues to flourish in spite of global challenges. Towards the very end of Q1 2020 was the start of a deluge of demand and in Q2 2020, the number of users that joined our platform, including freelancers and employers looking for freelancers, surged enormously.

"While COVID-19 has been the trigger of the already upward trending freelancer movement, this exponential growth can also be attributed to the strong desire for individuals to finally start their own freelance enterprise, work on their own terms and supplement their income. These are promising times and positive signs for the gig economy," Barrie added.

Chief Executive Matt Barrie explained that the shift in requested skill sets from Q1 2020 to Q2 2020 is reflective of:

- Companies reassessing skill utilization and shifting or hiring freelance resources accordingly.
- Changing demands of employers and business model modifications due to COVID-19 business practices and workforce efficiencies.
- Shifts in market demands based on economic conditions due to COVID-19, from the back end of Q1 2020 and throughout Q2 2020, with a renewed focus on planning and budgeting.
- A huge boost in the skilled labor pool around the world and the need for more flexible freelancers to work on project bases.

The Freelancer.com Fast 50 Report tracks the quarterly movement of the top 50 fastest growing and declining jobs on the site's global online marketplace that spans 247 countries, regions, and territories. The Fast 50 Report is the leading indicator of trends in online jobs related to industries, technologies, products, and companies.

Freelancer.com is the largest freelancing and crowdsourcing platform in the world by number of users and jobs posted, connecting users with skilled jobs tapping into the best talent and ideas. With headquarters in Sydney, Freelancer.com operates six global offices in San Francisco, London, Vancouver, Manila and Buenos Aires. The company employees 500 people globally.

-ENDS-

PRESS RELEASE



About Freelancer ®

Twelve-time Webby award-winning Freelancer.com (ASX: FLN) is the world's largest freelancing and crowdsourcing marketplace by total number of users and projects posted. More than 45 million registered users have posted over 18 million projects and contests to date in over 1,600 areas as diverse as website development, logo design, marketing, copywriting, astrophysics, aerospace engineering and manufacturing. Freelancer owns [Escrow.com](https://www.escrow.com), the leading provider of secure online payments and online transaction management for consumers and businesses on the Internet with over US\$4.5 billion in transactions secured. Freelancer also owns Freightlancer, a global enterprise freight marketplace.

For more information, contact:

Sebastián Siseles

Vice President, International
+1 415 801 2271
sebastian@freelancer.com

Christine Kardashian

Communications Manager
US +1 650 300 3811 | Australia +61 416 005 703
ckardashian@freelancer.com

Helma Kusuma

Communications Manager, Asia
+62 812 104 9853
helma@freelancer.com

<http://www.freelancer.com>

PRESS RELEASE



WINNERS ↑

Q1 2020 Versus Q2 2020				
Rank	Job	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	% Increase
1	Mathematics Matlab and Mathematica Algorithm	8269	16501	99.6%
2	API	1139	2176	91.0%
3	XML	1226	2328	89.9%
4	Project Management	1810	3370	86.2%
5	Engineering Mechanical Engineering Electrical Engineering Civil Engineering	12442	22481	80.7%
6	Adobe Flash	1168	2058	76.2%
7	Statistics Statistical Analysis	4241	7397	74.4%
8	Legal Legal Research	2887	4852	68.1%
9	Game Design	1549	2602	68.0%
10	Game Development	2365	3878	64.0%
11	Metatrader	1632	2655	62.7%
12	Computer Security	1108	1796	62.1%
13	2D Animation	1573	2497	58.7%
14	YouTube	1596	2532	58.7%
15	Objective C C Programming	11832	18599	57.2%
16	Shopify Templates Shopping Carts	17711	27343	54.4%

PRESS RELEASE



	eCommerce Shopify WooCommerce			
17	Circuit Design	1062	1631	53.6%
18	Electronics	3703	5628	52.0%
19	Java React Native	16086	24209	50.5%
20	Photography	3081	4550	47.7%
21	Python Django	16454	24073	46.3%
22	iOS Development Flutter Swift iPad App Developer Mobile App Development iPhone	54536	79635	46.0%
23	Finance Accounting Financial Research	8117	11763	45.0%
24	Banner Design	7888	11404	44.6%
25	Academic Writing	3762	5422	44.1%

PRESS RELEASE



DOWN ↓

Q1 2020 Versus Q2 2020				
Rank	Job Name	Job Count Q1 2020	Job Count Q2 2020	% Decrease
1	Local Job	1824	1174	-35.6%
2	Writing	1036	810	-21.8%
3	Excel VBA	1125	891	-20.8%
4	General Office Typing Virtual Assistant	10990	9202	-16.4%
5	Resumes	1653	1389	-16.0%
6	Email Handling	2756	2349	-14.8%
7	Bookkeeping	1809	1569	-13.3%
8	Call Center Customer Service CRM	5841	5197	-11.0%
9	Internet Research Web Search	14910	13652	-8.4%
10	Microsoft Office	3768	3452	-8.4%
11	Communications	1087	996	-8.4%
12	Data Scraping Data Extraction	3101	2875	-7.3%
13	Video Upload	1314	1259	-4.2%
14	Business Cards	2969	2883	-3.0%
15	JSON	1009	982	-2.7%
16	Leads Telemarketing	5845	5725	-2.1%

PRESS RELEASE



17	Hindi Russian English Spelling English (UK) French English (US) Transcription Spanish German English Grammar	42463	41889	-1.4%
18	Data Analytics Data Mining	6039	5967	-1.2%
19	Adobe InDesign	3201	3167	-1.1%
20	Testing / QA	1273	1286	1.0%
21	Icon Design	1589	1619	1.9%
22	Photo Editing	7549	7771	2.9%
23	PSD to HTML	1889	1952	3.3%
24	Article Submission	1064	1104	3.8%
25	Editing	7518	7832	4.2%