

Summary of changes for 2026 Contingent Worker Supplement

BLS is proposing changes to the digital labor platform work portion of the July 2026 supplement. Separate sections that asked about platform work on an employed person’s main job (17 questions in old section 3) and the second job of multiple jobholders (15 questions in old section 6) will be streamlined into a single digital platform work section (24 questions, about half of which are new).

The revised platform work section will include new items about work over the prior 4 weeks. The expanded time reference for this portion of the supplement, and inclusion of people not employed at the time of the survey, will provide more information about digital platform work that might be of short duration or intermittent. The new questions include how many days per week and hours per day were typically spent on work obtained through an app or website and what type of work was done.

Outside of digital platform work, the questions have almost no changes. However, the sequence of sections of the supplement will change, as shown below. Questions about second jobs are moved earlier in the supplement, and questions about earnings are moved later.

OLD LAYOUT used in CWS 2023 and 2025:	CHANGES for 2026
Main job	
1. Contingent and alternative arrangements	(now A) Very minor changes to some question wording fills
2. Worker satisfaction with their current employment arrangement	(now B) No question changes; work schedule items P13CK, P13, and P14 from section 3 are now part of this section
3. Task-based and platform work (also preference, reason, work schedule items)	Items P13CK, P13, and P14 move to end of earlier section; all other items deleted
4. Earnings (only workers not provided in basic)	(now E) Earnings will come AFTER second job section and AFTER new digital platform work section. No change to earnings questions
Second job (less detail than main - no preference or reason, no earnings)	
5. Contingent and alternative arrangements (including ind/occ of second job)	(now C) Whole section will move BEFORE earnings. Within the section, change sequence of item MJ1VER, very minor changes to fills in some questions
6. Task-based and platform work (no work schedule items)	Now only ONE set of new digital platform work questions (new section D) that comes AFTER second job and BEFORE earnings
7. Employee health insurance	(now F) No changes to these questions

NEW LAYOUT for CWS 2026:	CHANGES for 2026
A. Main job - Contingent and alternative arrangements	(old section 1) Very minor changes to some question fills
B. Main job - Preference and reason for current employment arrangement, work schedule items	(new name for old section 2) No question changes, work schedule items P13CK, P13, and P14 from old section 3 are now part of this section
C. Second job - Contingent and alternative arrangements (including ind/occ of second job)	(formerly 5) Whole section about second jobs moved BEFORE earnings and BEFORE new digital platform work section. Within the section, change sequence of item MJ1VER, very minor changes to fills in some questions
D. Digital platform work (NEW)	NEW (replaces separate first and second job task/platform work in former sections 3 and 6) The universe for this new section includes people who are not employed. This new section comes before the section on earnings to capture main job earnings of employed digital labor platform workers.
E. Earnings (only for workers not collected in basic)	(formerly 4) Moved later in sequence to come AFTER second job section and AFTER new digital platform work section. No change to earnings questions
F. Employee health insurance	(old 7) No changes to these questions