



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

7 September 2022

Cost of living crisis: shrinking income for platform workers

Thursday, 8 September 2022 | 10:00 - 11:00 | [Register](#)

In the context of the fourth industrial revolution, platform work has been heralded as a solution to the extremely high levels of unemployment and inequality in South Africa.

However, the fourth round of Fairwork ratings for South Africa to be launched on Thursday by the University of Cape Town's (UCT) School of Information Technology provides evidence that platform workers continue to face unfair work conditions and lack the benefits and protections afforded to employees.

The 2022 report assesses 13 of the country's most prominent platforms – Uber, UberEats, Bolt, inDriver, MrD, Droppa, PicUp, getTOD, SweepSouth, NoSweat, M4Jam, SecretAgent, Kandua – against five principles of fair work: Fair Pay, Fair Conditions, Fair Contracts, Fair Management, and Fair Representation. The report also charts the evolution of working conditions of the most popular companies in the sector over the past four years.

The report also highlights some examples of good practices implemented by platforms, showing that job creation and decent working conditions are not incompatible.

The report estimates at least 1% of the South African workforce takes part in the platform economy, a number growing by more than 10% annually. This year, the report focuses on the vulnerable situation of these workers in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. With fuel prices skyrocketing, platform workers from delivery to ride-hailing are seeing their already low incomes shrink even more. The report proposes some policies platforms can take to support workers during this crisis.

Report authors Pitso Tsibolane and Dr Sharon Geeling will give a brief presentation with key findings from the report. This will be followed by a discussion with experts Professor Ines Meyer (UCT - SARChI Chair in Creation of Decent Work and Sustainable Livelihood) and Professor Jean-Paul van Belle. Dr Murali Shanmugavelan will moderate the event.

There will also be an open Q&A session for all attendees.

The report will be available from the [Fairwork](#) website on Thursday, 8 September at 10:00.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Ridovhona Mbulaheni

Media Liaison Assistant
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 2333
Cell: (064) 905 3807
Email: ridovhona.mbulaheni@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za