

Make your Home an Office

Modern technology has paved the way for people to run a business from their living rooms. According to data from the United States Census Bureau, 5.2 percent of Americans made this their reality in 2017.

There are many advantages to working at home, including a sense of control, fuel savings and flexible hours. If you're considering making the leap from a typical nine-to-five into the world of freelance, here are some strategies to consider.

SERIOUS COMMITMENT

Working at home requires dedication so distractions won't cause you to procrastinate. A way to avoid falling into the comfort of home when there is work to be done is to use a space as a dedicated office. Creating a workplace environment away from your favorite recliner, televisions and curious children helps you stay focused on the job.

POSSIBLE AT-HOME OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for a career change that allows you to work from home? Here are a couple professions that are on the rise. Many of these emerging careers don't require extensive education and can usually be mastered with hard work and hands-on training.

Social media manager:



Successful companies use social media to their advantage. This strategic form of advertising allows them to get their message to large groups of people, instantly. To be effective, they typically hire a manager to navigate their vision. If you're a creative professional with great writing chops and a good handle

on communicating tactics, you can help take a company's social media presence to the next level. **Graphic designer:** Graphic design is another niche that businesses rely on for logos and impressive ads that help them stand apart from their competition. If you have a degree in design and some business networking skills,

you can easily make a home-based career out of graphic design.

START SMALL

Don't expect to plan your retirement during the first year of working from your home office. Just like in a typical work environment, you will face ups

and downs throughout your career.

As you get started working from home, consider filling down time with smaller jobs. While they may not make a big impact financially, these jobs offer exposure and networking advantages that can pay off down the road.