









CREATOR SECONOMY









OCTOBER 2022







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MONETIZATION IN THE

CREATOR ECONOMY

STUDY OVERVIEW

Adobe conducted a study to understand how creativity is changing around the world, speaking directly with those at the forefront of online creativity—creators in the creator economy.

EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF CREATORS AND THEIR IMPACT ON BUSINESS

- What does inclusivity and equality mean for creators across gender and ethnicity?
- How will the future of business be impacted by the creator economy?
- What does the future of monetization look like for creators around the world?
- Will the metaverse offer monetization opportunities for creators?

KEYAUDIENCES

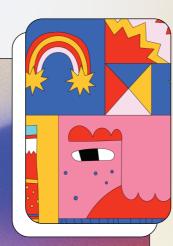
SURVEYED



CREATORS

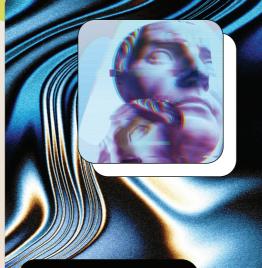
Includes nonprofessionals 18+ years old who either:

- on participate in creative activities (like photography, creative writing, NFT creation, etc.) and post, share, or promote their work from these activities online, or
- o2 are dedicated to creating social content at least monthly with the goal of growing their social presence



GEN Z CREATORS

Creators between the ages of 16-25



MONETIZERS

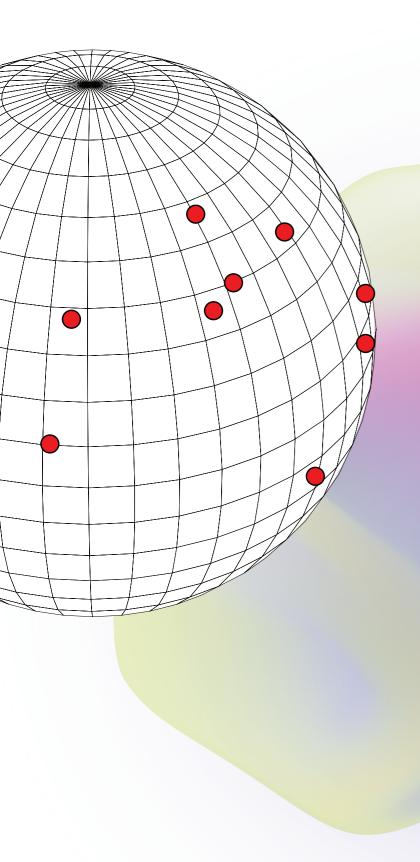
Earn income through their creative activities by selling via websites or marketplaces or via promotional revenue from partnerships, affiliate links, and ad revenue



GEN Z MONETIZORS

Monetizers between the ages of 16-25





SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

Edelman Data & Intelligence conducted a 15-minute survey among non-professional online creators in nine global markets, fielded May 4th – May 20th, 2022. While sample was managed to create a representative Gen Pop sample, this is not a market-sizing exercise, therefore market share stated within this report is estimated.

AUDIENCES

Creators

(n~600 per market)

Gen Z Creators

(n~550 per market)

SAMPLE SIZE

n=5,350Margin of error:

±1.3% at the 95% level of confidence.

n=5,222 oversample; natural fallout

Margin of error: ±1.4% at the 95% level of confidence.

AUDIENCE DEFINITIONS

Ages 18+

Recruitment managed to reflect Gen Pop based on age, gender.

Ages 16-25

Recruitment managed to reflect Gen Pop based on gender.

METHOD

15-minute online survey,

Fielded May 2022 (5/4-5/20)

MARKETS

US, UK, France, Germany, Spain, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Brazil

*Note: audiences exclude any Creative Professionals (defined as 100% of income come from monetized content, AND work full / part time, or are self-employed full / part time.)

CREATORS ARE CAPITALIZATION MONETIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

Monetization has grown significantly in the past year, and has become a goal for Gen Z.



of content creators
earn money from their
creative activities, and
over three-fourths
(77%) of those who
do began monetizing
within the past year.



half of Gen Z monetizers ages 16-18 years old say they would prefer to start their own creative business than go to college.



And it's
paying off – though
spending similar
amounts of time on
their creative activities,
Gen Z monetizers
are earning higher
hourly rates.

GEN Z IS WORKING SMARTER,

NOT

HARDER.

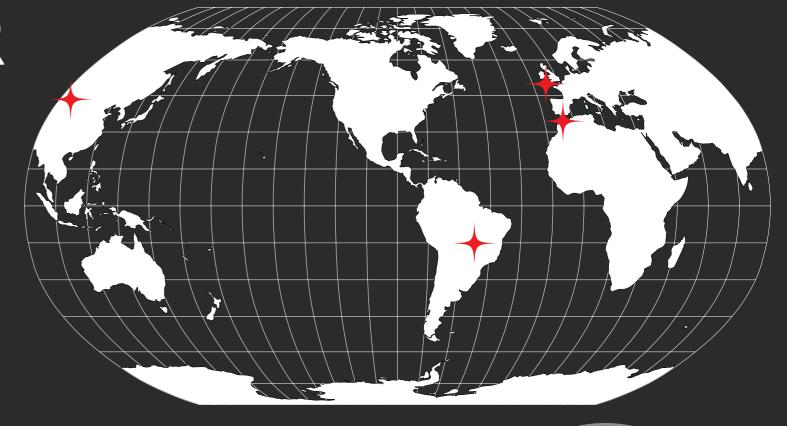
THE MONEY IS RIGHT

With **monetizers** earning **~6x more** than the US minimum wage across all activities measured, almost **half of monetizers** indicate that this income represents **half of their total monthly income**.





THE CREATOR ECONOMY IS POISED TO OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS



The creator economy shows no signs of slowing down and will thrive in the next two years in global hot spots including Brazil, US, Spain and UK.

are making more money now than they were two years ago, and of those, 8 in 10 anticipate earning even more in the next two years.

Over half
of Gen Z monetizers

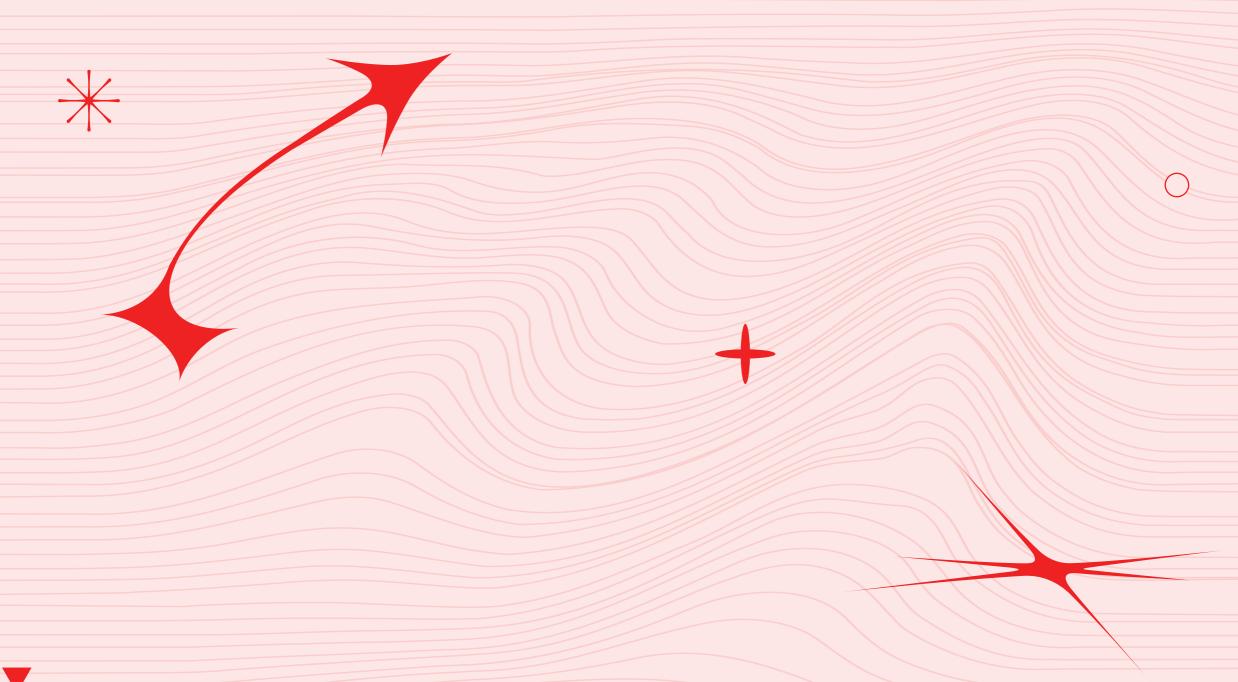
anticipate earning more in the next two years than they did in the past two years.

They're **setting trends** and are reaping the rewards by creating **more / new different things** in which consumers are increasingly interested.

Gen Z

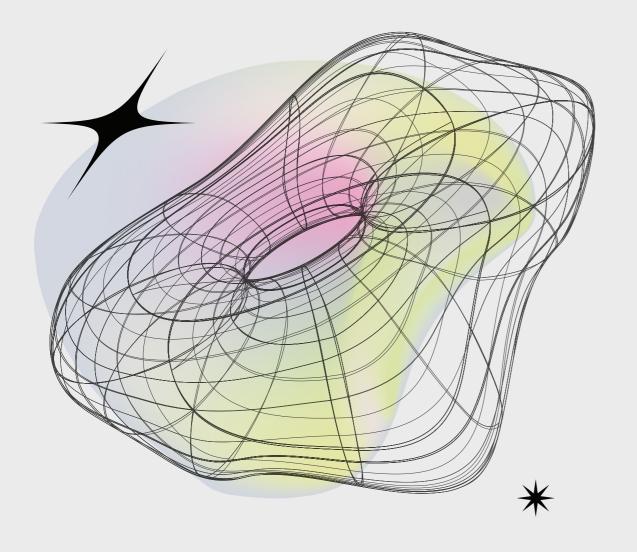
is betting on the industry growing in gaming, photography and general social media content.





CREATORS ARE CAPITALIZING ON MONETIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS * A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS * A CREATIVE PERSON IS





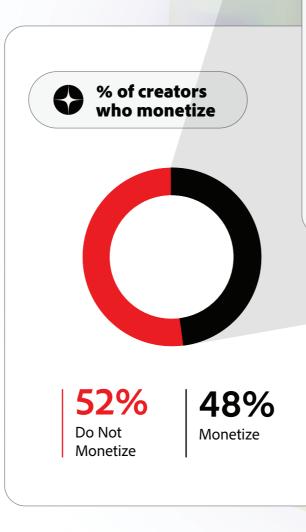
It may be surprising, but in fact, they are thinking more about business (how to make money) than creativity and artistry.

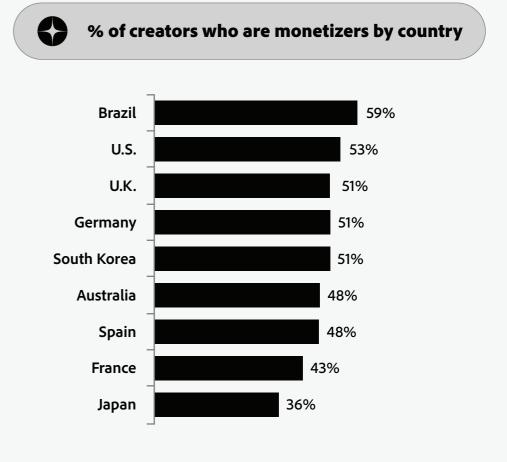
— CREATOR, JAPAN

A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS * A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS

ABOUT MALF OF CREATORS EARN MONEY FROM THEIR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES OR SOCIAL POSTINGS. THIS GROUP OF CREATORS WE CALL MONETIZERS.

Brazilian creators are most likely to monetize, while only a third of those in Japan do.



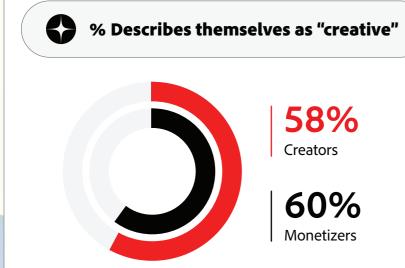


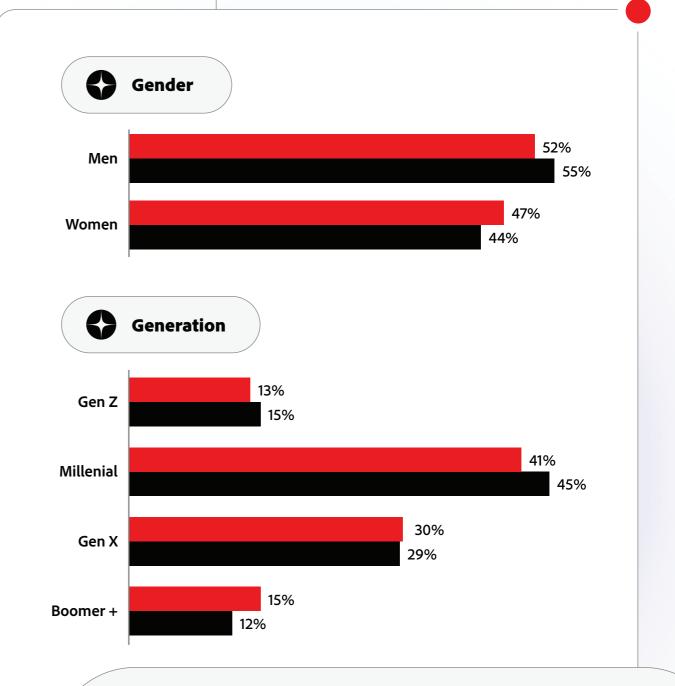


MONETIZERS SKEW

TOWARDS MEN
AND MILLENNIALS.

6 IN 10 HAVE FULL-TIME JOBS AND IDENTIFY AS BEING CREATIVE.





	Creators	Monetizers
Top 3 Box Income Brackets	26%	28%
Employed Full-time	58%	61%

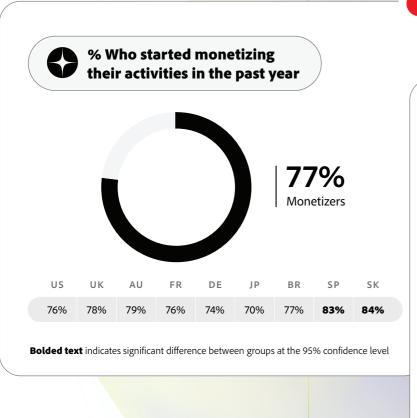
? Income, Employment

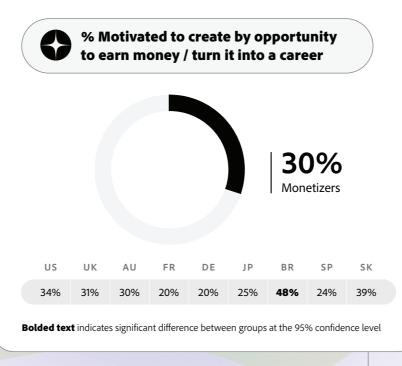
Bolded text indicates significant difference between groups at the 95% confidence level

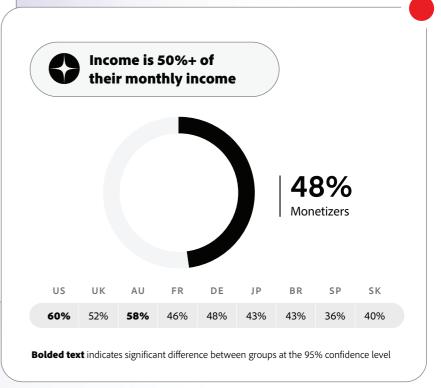
MONETIZING THEIR WORK IS NEW TO MOST CREATORS WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, AND LIKELY SOMETHING THEY DIDN'T PLAN FOR, HOWEVER

NOW IT REPRESENTS OVER HALF THEIR INCOME.

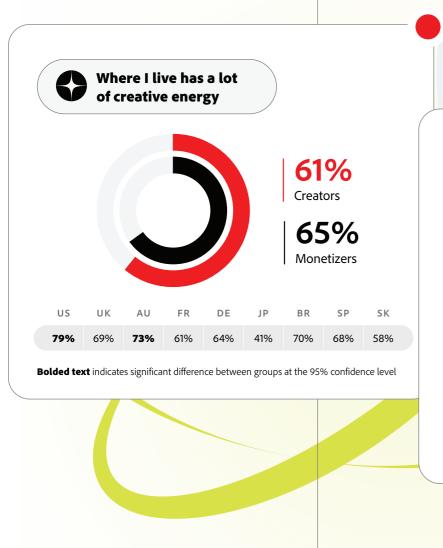
Three-quarters of monetizers just started to earn income from their efforts within the past year, but only 3 in 10 were initially driven to start creating by the opportunity to make money from it in the first place.

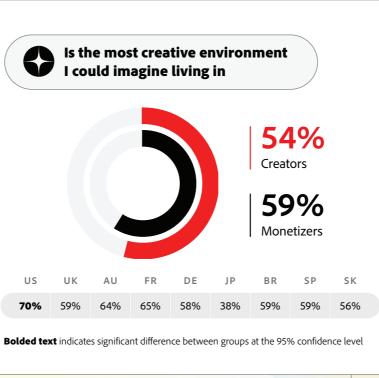


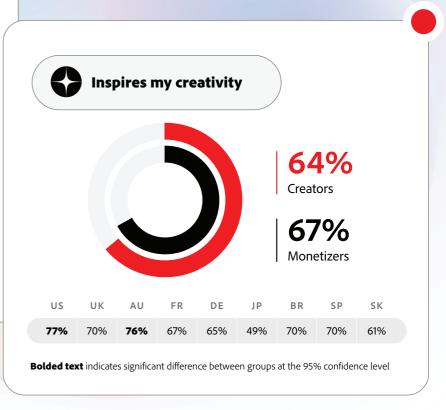




LIVING IN CREATIVE ENVIRONMENTS INSPIRES MONETIZERS— THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE FOR US AND AUSTRALIAN MONETIZERS.



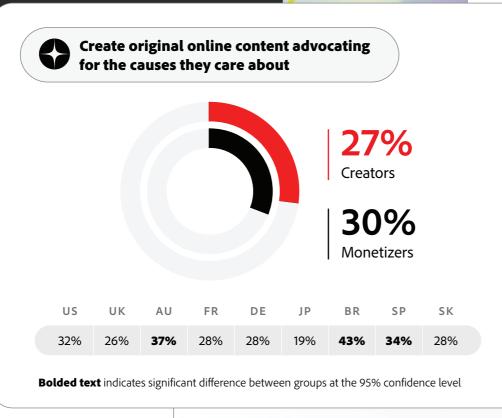




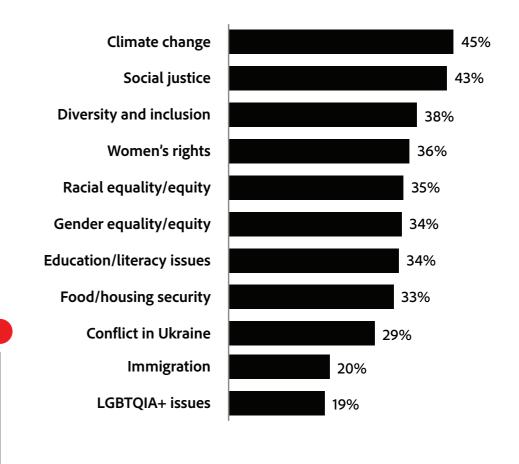
THEY ALSO TURN TO THE ISSUES AND CAUSES THEY

CARE ABOUT FOR INSPIRATION.

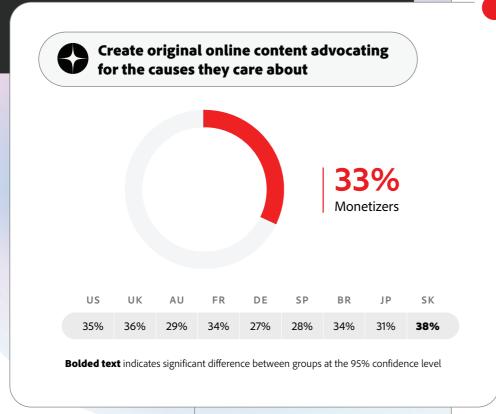
1 in 3 monetizers are creating original content advocating for the causes they care about. Among this group, issues of top importance include climate change, followed by equity and equality issues.

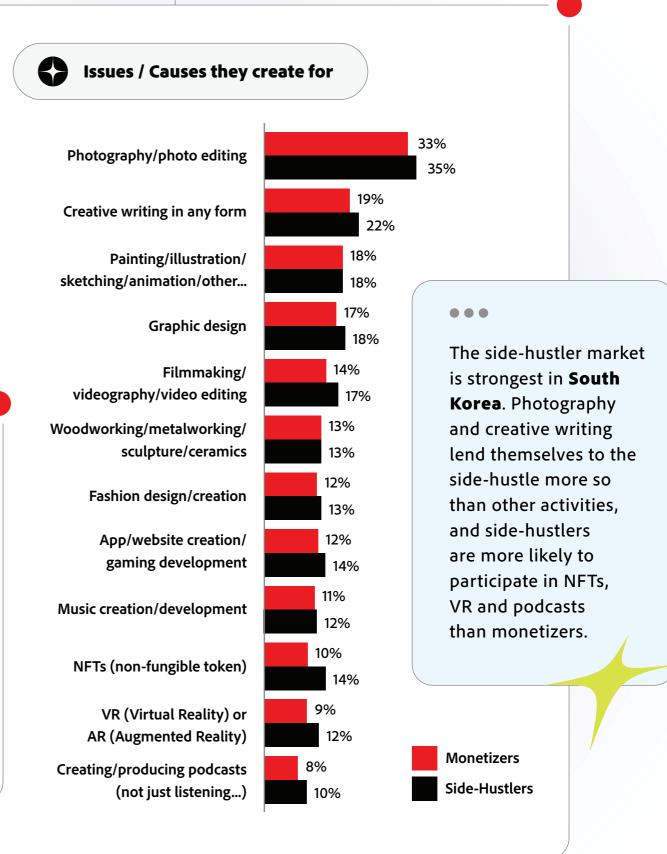






ATHIRD OF MONETIZERS ARE SIDE-MUSTLERS— THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED FULL-TIME AND EARN 50% OR LESS OF THEIR INCOME FROM THEIR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES.





ACROSS ALL MARKETS, CREATORS ARE MONETIZING PHOTOGRAPHY, CREATIVE WRITING AND VISUAL ARTS MOST OFTEN.

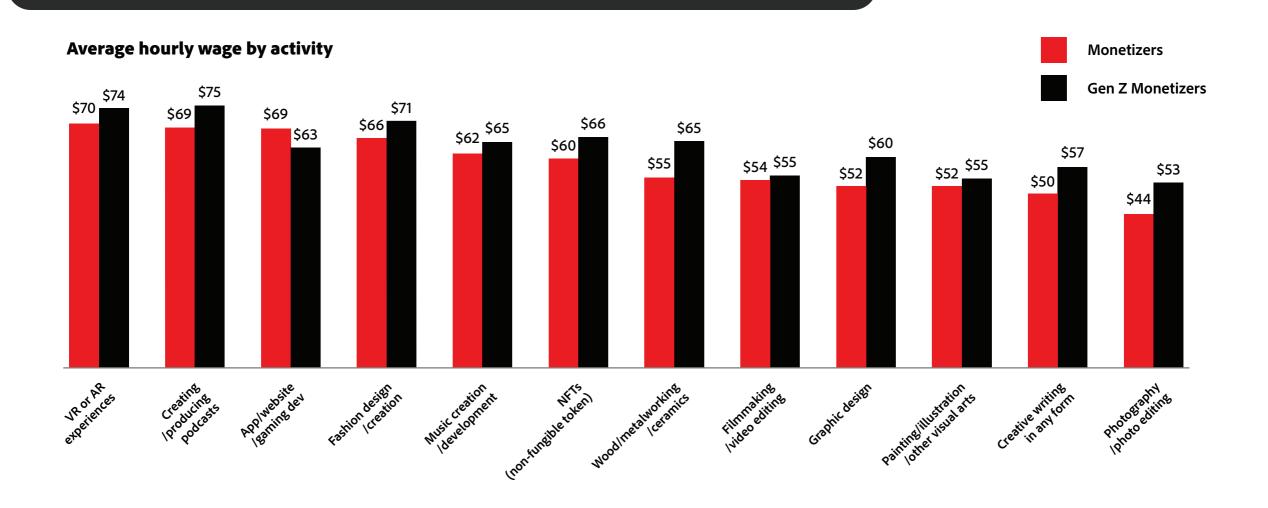
Monetization of NFTs is highest in the US, where as many monetizers earn income through NFTs as they do creative writing or graphic design.

Creators—Activites Monetized	Global Total	US	UK	AU	FR	DE	JP	BR	SP	SK
Photography/photo editing	26%	23%	23%	24%	22%	24%	33%	31%	25%	30%
Creative writing in any form	16%	15%	17%	19%	14%	18%	8%	15%	13%	22%
Painting/illustration/sketching/ animation/other visual arts	15%	18%	17%	14%	13%	11%	20%	14%	14%	9%
Graphic design	13%	15%	16%	14%	12%	12%	10%	17%	16%	10%
Filmmaking/videography/video editing	11%	10%	9%	11%	13%	10%	8%	21%	10%	11%
Woodworking/metalworking/ sculpture/ceramics	10%	9%	13%	11%	13%	14%	8%	10%	10%	5%
Fashion design/creation	10%	11%	11%	15%	11%	7%	6%	9%	9%	8%
App/website creation/gaming development	10%	12%	14%	11%	10%	9%	7%	10%	6%	9%
Music creation/production	9%	17%	10%	11%	9%	10%	7%	5%	6%	6%
NFTs (non-fungible token)	8%	15%	9%	7%	4%	6%	3%	9%	5%	10%
VR (Virtual Reality) or AR (Augmented Reality) experiences	7%	11%	11%	8%	7%	7%	5%	5%	4%	8%
Creating/producing podcasts (not just listening to them)	6%	7%	9%	7%	7%	5%	3%	5%	6%	6%

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MONETIZERS ACROSS ALL ACTIVITIES ARE EARNING AT LEAST 6X THE US MINIMUM WAGE*, WITH THOSE IN APP / WEBSITE DEV AND VR/AR EXPERIENCES EARNING 10X MORE.

Across almost all mediums, Gen Z is earning higher incomes than their peers.



SOURCES OF FINANCIAL COMPENSATION ARE EVENLY SPLIT BETWEEN

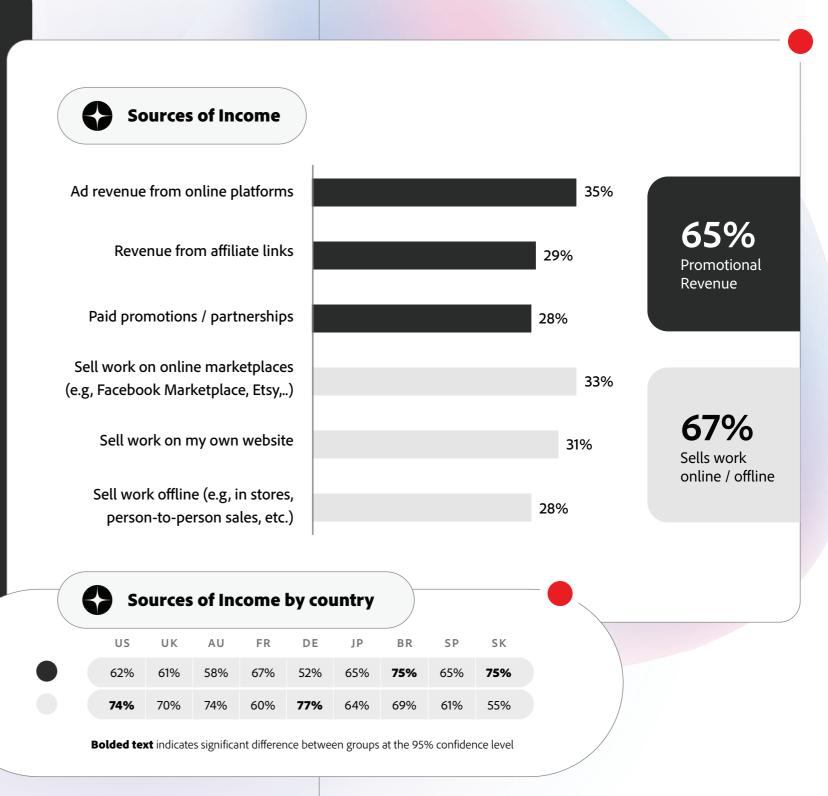
PROMOTIONAL REVENUE

(E.G., AD REVENUE, AFFILIATE LINKS, PARTNERSHIPS) AND

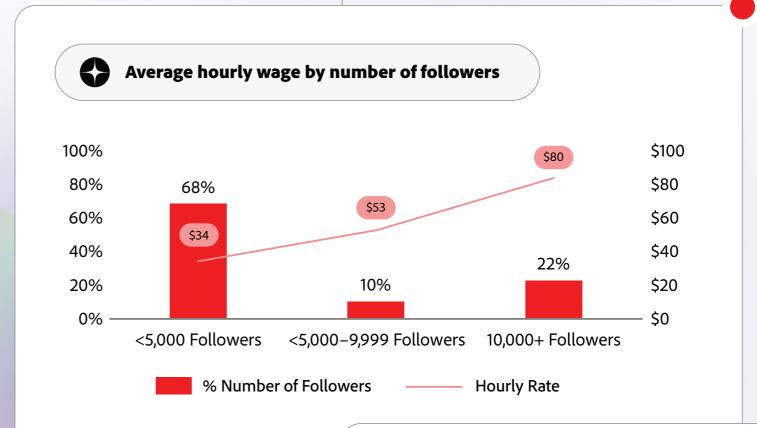
SELLING DIRECTLY TO

CONSUMER VIA ONLINE
/ OFFLINE CHANNELS.

Brazilian and South Korean monetizers are more likely to be earning promotional revenue, while monetizers in the US and Germany are earning via direct sales through online / offline channels.



HOURLY RATES
INCREASE WITH
INFLUENCER
STATUS, BUSINESS
OWNERSHIP
AND NUMBER OF
FOLLOWERS.





Average hourly wage by audience

Influencers

\$76/hr

~\$152k annually, if done full-time

Business owners

\$75/hr

~\$150k annually, if done full-time



FOR WOMEN AND BIPOC CREATORS, THE PAY EQUITY

GAP PERSISTS AS
THEY ARE EARNING
20%-25% LESS PER
HOUR THAN THEIR
COUNTERPARTS.



Average hourly wage by gender

Men monetizers

\$55/hr

~\$110k annually, if done full-time

Women monetizers

\$44/hr

~\$88k annually, if done full-time



Average hourly wage by ethnicity

White monetizers

\$62/hr

~\$124k annually, if done full-time

BIPOC monetizers

\$49/hr

~\$98k annually, if done full-time





GENZIS WORKING SMARTER, **NOT HARDER, AND IT'S PAYING OFF—THOUGH SPENDING** SIMILAR AMOUNT OF TIME ON THEIR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, GEN **Z MONETIZERS ARE EARNING HIGHER HOURLY RATES.**



Average hourly wage



Average hours per week spent on creative activities

Monetizers

hrs/week

Gen Z monetizers

hrs/week



Monetizers

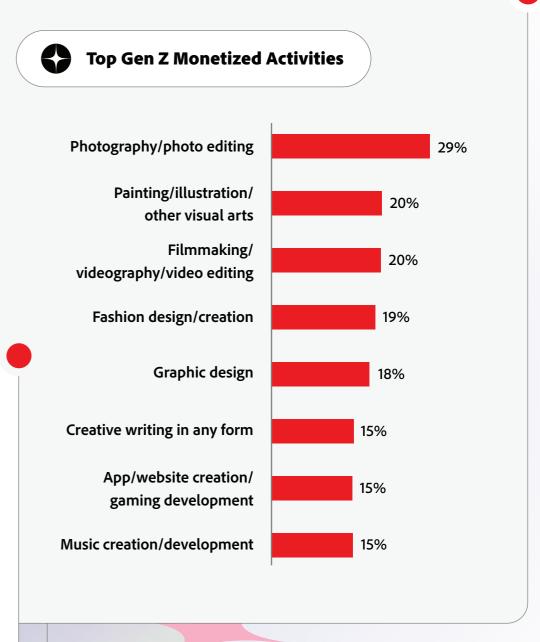
\$51/hr

~\$104k annually, if done full-time

Gen Z monetizers

\$58/hr

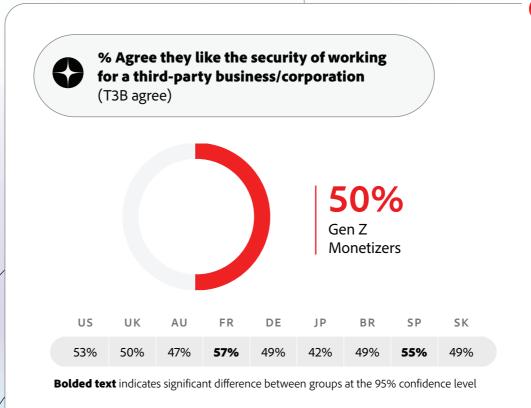
~\$116k annually, if done full-time





SO MUCH SO THAT GEN Z MONETIZERS MAY CONSIDER GIVING UP THE STABILITY OF

TRADITIONAL
EMPLOYMENT, AND
THE YOUNGEST
FORGOING COLLEGE.





% Agree they'd rather start their own creative business than go to college (T3B among those 16-18 years old agree)





WHY ARE GEN Z, MEN AND WHITE MONETIZERS EARNING MIGHER RATES?

They already have substantial followings and are capitalizing on business ownership and influencer status.

? Aspirations	Monetizers	Gen Z Monetizers	Men Monetizers	Women Monetizers	White Monetizers	BIPOC Monetizers
Own their own business	25%	33%	27%	24%	33%	34%
Currently working towards owning their own business	50%	51%	49%	50%	45%	50%
Currently an influencer	27%	42%	29%	25%	29%	26%
Current goal of becoming an influencer	34%	34%	35%	31%	42%	50%
Actively growing their number of followers	50%	48%	51%	47%	60%	57%
? Number of followers						
10k+	22%	33%	24%	20%	24%	17%

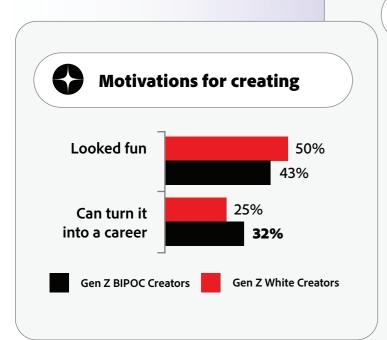
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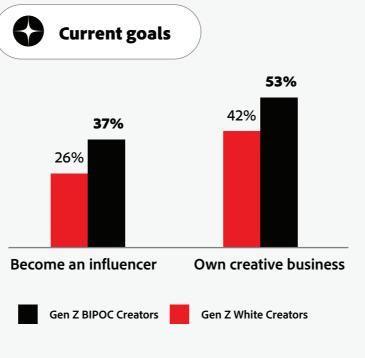


BIPOC GEN Z CREATORS ARE

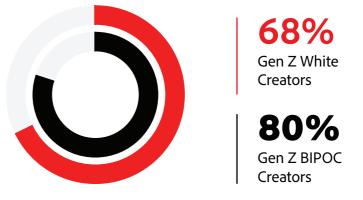
PARTICULARLY AMBITIOUS IN THEIR DESIRE TO MONETIZE THEIR CREATIVE ACTIVITES.

A third started creating with the hopes of turning it into a career, and over half are actively working towards owning their own business. Successful in their efforts, 8 in 10 currently monetize their creative activities while 4 in 10 monetize original social content.

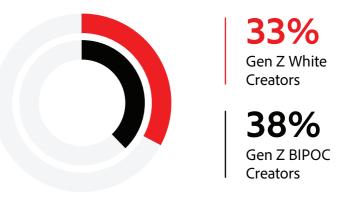






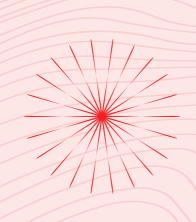






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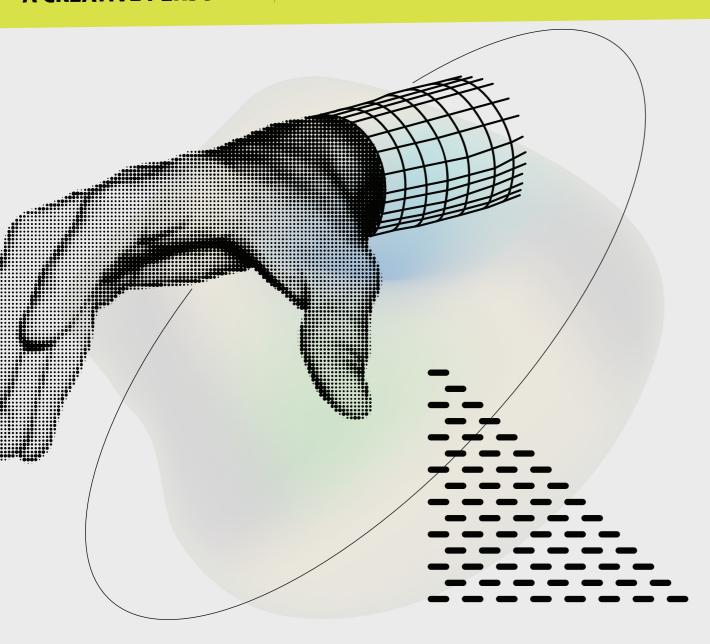




THE CREATOR ECONOMY IS POISED TO THE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS



A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS * A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS





He knows how to get the best out of himself, and make that a job

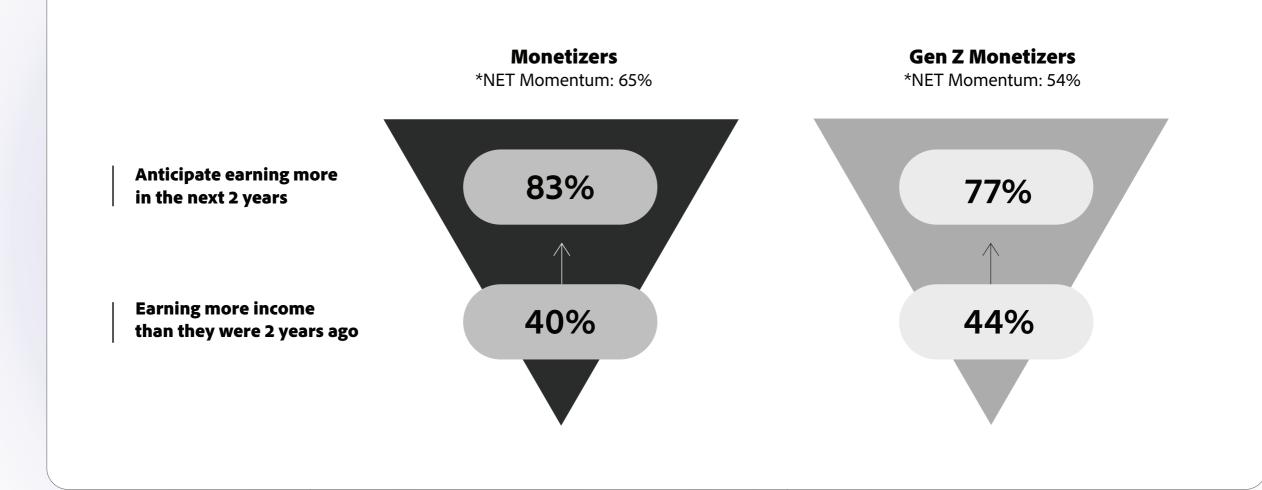
- CREATOR, SPAIN

A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS * A CREATIVE PERSON IS + A CREATIVE PERSON IS

THE CREATOR ECONOMY SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

• • •

4 in 10 monetizers are making more money now than they were 2 years ago, and of those, 8 in 10 anticipate earning even more in the next 2 years.



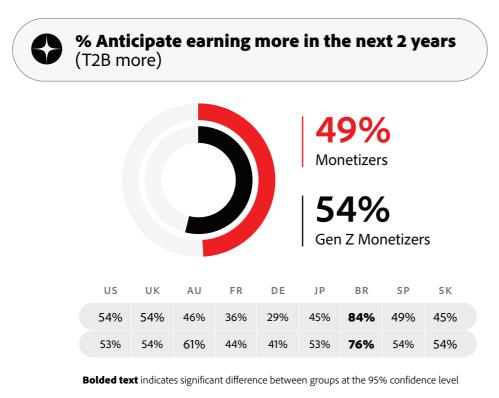
AND IT WILL THRIVE IN THE NEXT 2 YEARS IN GLOBAL HOT SPOTS BRAZIL, US, SPAIN AND UK.

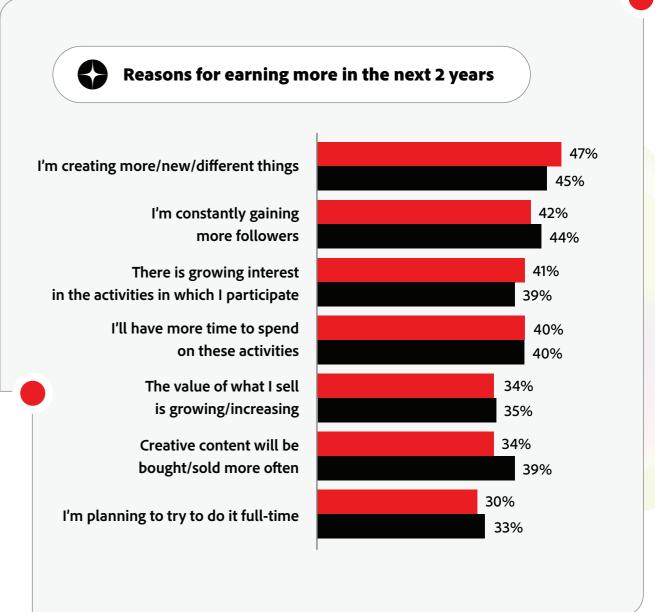
Net Momentum



OVER HALF OF GEN Z MONETIZERS ANTICIPATE EARNING MORE IN THE NEXT 2 YEARS THAN THEY DID IN THE PAST 2 YEARS.

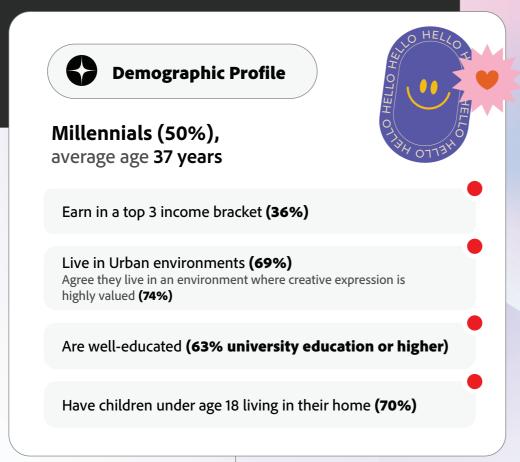
They're setting trends and are reaping the rewards by creating more / new different things in which consumers are increasingly interested and in turn, consistently gaining more followers.

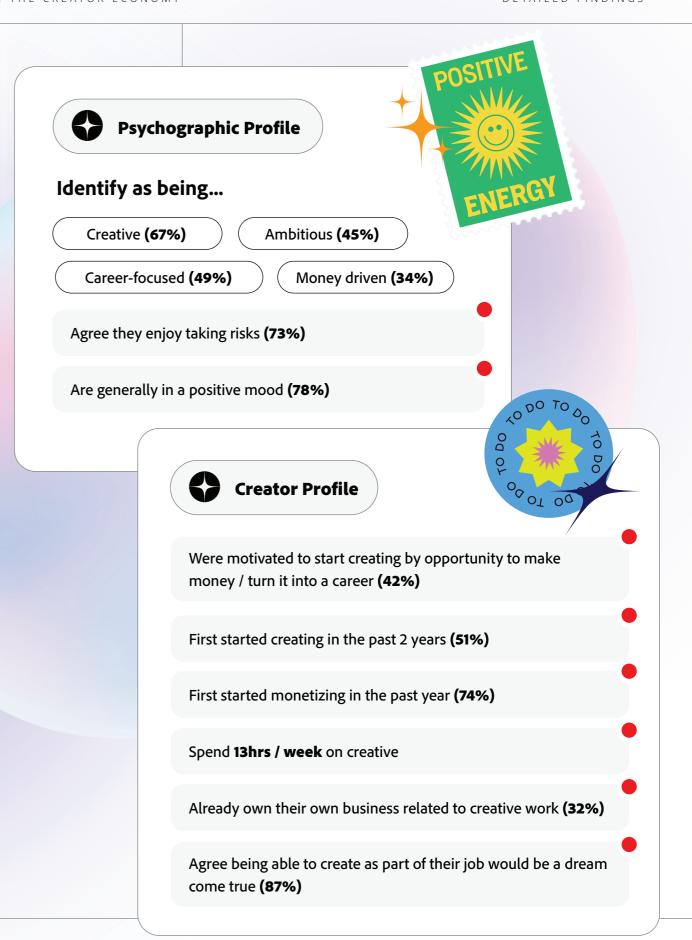




WHO ARE THE MONETIZERS WITH A POSITIVE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK?

They're urban, millennial, affluent risktakers, motivated to start creating by the opportunity to earn income, and the dream of being able to create as part of their job.

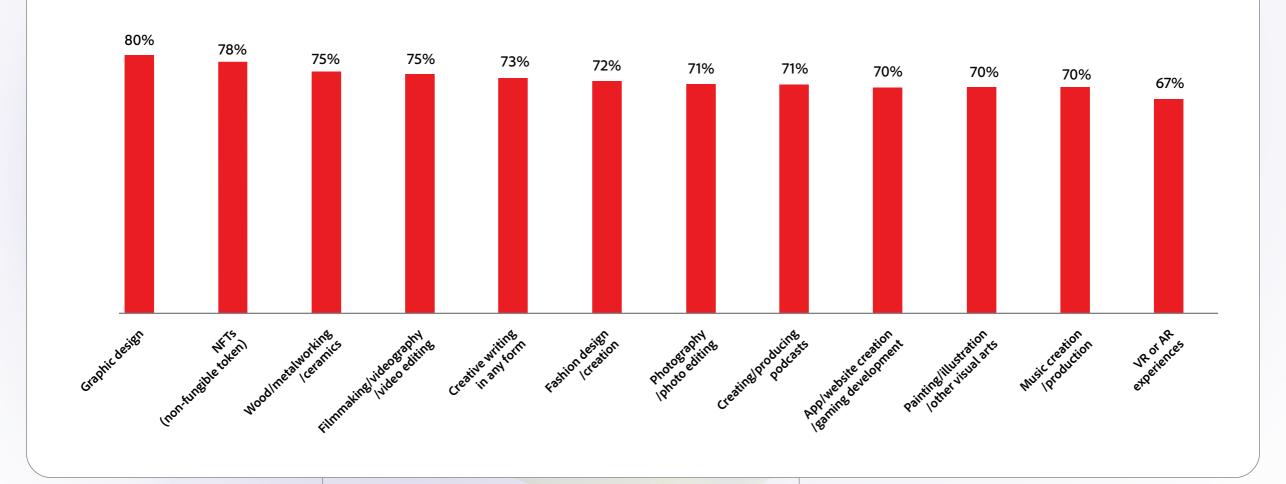




THOSE CURRENTLY MONETIZING GRAPHIC DESIGN AND NFTS SHOW THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH.



NET Momentum* by Activity Currently Monetize

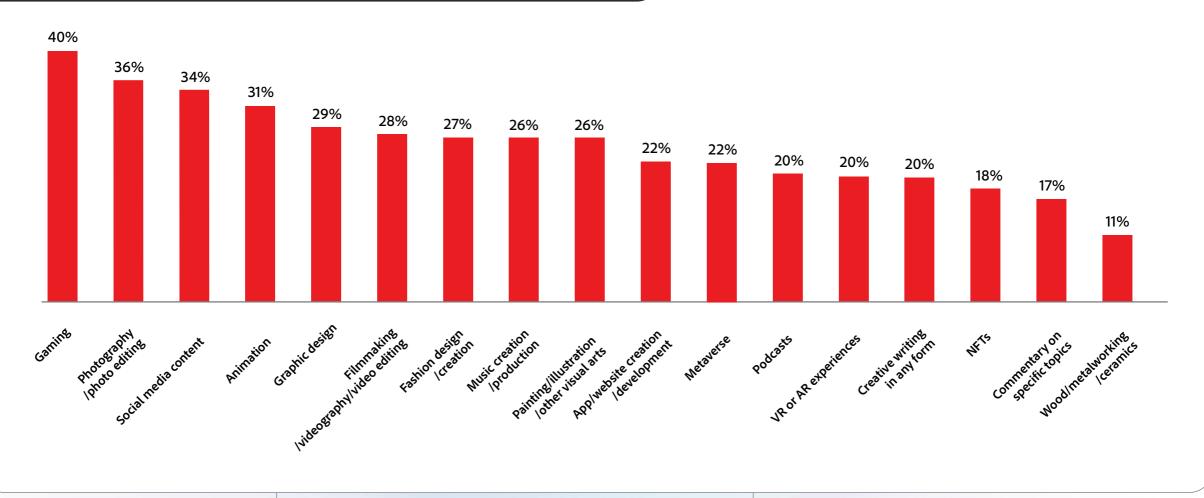




HOWEVER, GEN Z IS BETTING ON THE INDUSTRY GROWING IN

GAMING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND
GENERAL SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT.







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