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New Report: More Than 1.2 Million Californians Earned Over \$4.2 Billion in Income with App-Based Rideshare and Delivery Platforms During First Year of Pandemic

As more than 1.7 million Californians lost jobs during the pandemic, app-based work remained vital to the state's economy

Sacramento, CA – A new [report](#) compiled by the Protect App-Based Drivers & Services (PADS) Coalition (formerly the Yes on Proposition 22 Coalition) found that more than 1.2 million app-based drivers in California earned \$4.2 billion in income throughout the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The coalition aggregated figures using individual, California-specific data separately provided by Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, and Instacart.

As California's economy entered a deep recession resulting from the pandemic, more than 1.7 million Californians lost jobs [according to the Employment Development Department](#). During this period, 800,000 individuals turned to app-based rideshare and delivery services for the first time in order to earn income to help provide for themselves and their families; another 400,000 existing drivers continued earning with these app-based platforms.

In 2020, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 22, which [economic experts say](#) helped stave off the potential loss of hundreds of thousands of app-based jobs due to disastrous state legislation that threatened driver independence and the viability of app-based services.

The PADS coalition [aggregated data](#) from March 1, 2020, to February 28, 2021, the first full year of the pandemic. This new data shows the critical impact of app-based services on California's economy:

- 1,280,240 drivers in California utilized app-based platforms to earn income.
- Of that 1.28 million, 808,469 Californians started driving with app-based rideshare and delivery companies for the first time during the pandemic, demonstrating that app-based platforms were critical to help workers who lost jobs or income, or who needed a new way to earn.
- \$4,223,994,921 in total driver earnings was paid to drivers by app-based platforms during the pandemic. In addition to these earnings, Prop 22 will provide drivers new benefits, like health care, starting in 2021.

“As a single mom to two young boys I was terrified when I lost my job as the pandemic hit,” said Elizabeth Clews, a DoorDash Dasher from Oxnard. “Thankfully, I was able to turn to delivery

through DoorDash to replace that lost income. App-based work has been a lifesaver during the pandemic.”

“Doing rideshare and delivery was a great option for me during the pandemic,” said Al Porche, an app-based rideshare and delivery driver from the San Diego area. “Driving when, where, and for how long I wanted to, helped me stay afloat throughout the recession. As California starts to reopen, I plan to continue doing this type of work because of the flexibility and earning potential it offers.”

About Protect App-Based Drivers & Services (PADS) Coalition

The Protect App-Based Drivers & Services (PADS) coalition, formerly the Yes on Prop 22 coalition, is continuing to engage to ensure the will of California voters is upheld; to protect access to independent, app-based jobs; and to preserve the availability, affordability and reliability of on-demand app-based rideshare and delivery services that are essential to Californians and our economy.

Proposition 22 was supported by 59% of California voters, 120,000 drivers, and a diverse [coalition](#) of more than 140 groups including social justice, senior, community, business, veterans and many others.