

Determining the Future Demand, Supply and Skills Gap for Surveying and Geospatial professionals: 2022-2032

KEY FINDINGS

Research conducted by BIS Oxford Economics and commissioned by Consulting Surveyors National - Released February 2023

Across Australia

The current total workforce in Australia of the surveying and geospatial profession is estimated to be around 19,000 persons in 2021/22.

Economic analysis reveals that market demand for surveying and geospatial services will continue over the next ten years, which will require on average 21,000 professionals per year to meet these demands.

Taking into consideration demand, those leaving the profession through retirement and those entering the professional through university or vocational training, the research reveals severe national shortages in the number of total skilled surveying and geospatial professionals from 2022/23 onwards over the next ten year period.

The skills shortfall will reach nearly 1,400 professionals by 2024, eventually reaching over 2,000 in 2029 - which is an average of 1,400 extra surveyors and geospatial professionals required each year to meet national demands.

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Surveyors & spatial scientists	Deficit					Deficit				
	470	752	485	356	645	924	1014	1011	954	925
Surveying & spatial science technicians	Deficit					Deficit				
	403	656	446	359	620	883	1013	1040	977	911

Figure 1.1
National Workforce
Capability Position

In Queensland

The current total surveying and geospatial professional workforce in Queensland is estimated to be nearly 4,000 persons, and represents approximately 21% of the total Australian profession.

Economic analysis reveals that market demand for surveying and geospatial services in Queensland will be particularly strong over the next ten years, as the state is set for elevated levels of construction activity due to a recovery in mining investment, elevated residential construction and historically high levels of public funding for infrastructure projects, especially given the associated infrastructure required for the 2032 Olympics.

Given this, it is estimated that that the state will require over 5,000 professionals to meet demands in 2029, with similar figures reported over the next ten year period. However, it's predicted that there will only be 3,660 professionals in Queensland in 2029 if action is not taken in the short term to increase numbers.

QLD and WA face elevated pressure to increase new supply.

Increased construction activity will drive demand over the next decade.



Recommendations by BIS Oxford Economics

To meet the demands of future construction needs across the country by overcoming the current and projected workforce shortages, priority must go to the following recommendations:

- Substantially increase the number of enrolments in surveying and geospatial related university and vocational courses;
- Improve the educational progression across a surveyor's career;
- Focus efforts on improving flexibility in internal labour mobility;
- Utilise technologies and systems to improve productivity.