

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

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ABSTRACT

The Association of Consulting Surveyors National (CSN) has been keeping a watchful eye on the demand for surveyors across Australia since 2012, providing a future look over the next 10 years into the requirements for the profession. CSN commissioned BIS Oxford Economics to provide an updated workforce capability study utilising the 2021 census data and the most recent developments across educational completions and labour market indicators. Demand drivers for our profession include the property, construction and mining sector. Supply drivers include education enrolments and qualification completions (including registration and licensing), demographic ageing of the existing workforce and its impact on retirement within the surveying profession, and productivity growth driven by new technologies, practices and systems. Where measures of workforce demand exceed currently available supply, it is referred to as a workforce gap. The 2022 report highlights where and when workforce gaps are likely to be observed over the coming decade for each state and territory. Where gaps are unlikely to be filled by new supply at a national level from the education system, a capability deficit arises. This presentation highlights the key findings of the research and report, including (a) the current total workforce for surveying and geospatial professions is now 19,000 persons with 10,800 employed as surveyors, a 22% increase since 2017/18 although the number of licensed/registered surveyors decreased by 7.7% to just under 2,400, and (b) the increase nationally in infrastructure projects and a backlog in residential development will drive the demand for surveyors over the next two years, with a peak in demand in 2023/24 requiring 20,200 professionals. In the same year, the capability gap will reach 1,500 professionals as new supply from graduates falls short of the increased demand. This presentation also identifies the focus areas for the profession in the coming few years to ensure a sustainable and increased output from the workforce is achieved, particularly within New South Wales. In addition, two new aspects to the report feature in the presentation, i.e. the value surveying adds to the broader property and construction sector, and the impact of natural disasters on the workforce capability. The full report will be available at <https://www.consultingsurveyors.com.au/our-industry/industry-research/>.

KEYWORDS: Demand for surveyors, education, skills, registration, value of surveying.