

State of the Profession 2023

Appendix 2: Data tables and technical documentation

- 1 This appendix serves to provide detailed data tables and technical documentation to the RTPI's 2023 State of the Profession report. It mirrors the structure of the original report. Wherever possible, we included the original data source, any auxiliary transformations on the data, and our 2023 estimates for the Model of the Profession (MOP), with a description of how we arrived at these.
- 2 This document is distinguished from the Methodology section of the primary State of the Profession report. The Methodology describes the main principles of data collection, data manipulation, estimation and model building that took place. This document publishes raw numbers and details of calculation that were deemed to be either too lengthy or too marginal to include in the main document. In this sense, the Technical report should be viewed as a specialised appendix of the Methodology section. Where possible we will therefore omit restating anything found in Methodology.
- 3 The paragraphs in this document are numbered for easier reference in the primary text of the report and any further discussion. To the largest possible extent, the structure of this document follows that of the primary report. The **Number of planners** was estimated from the **Annual Population Survey** data. Because of the low certainty of data pertaining to any one year, we took **a five-year moving average** for each available year, we **rounded to the nearest 100**, and finally, for the missing years **we extrapolated using Exponential Smoothing**. More information on exponential smoothing can be found in the official Excel documentation.¹

¹ <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/forecast-ets-function-15389b8b-677e-4fbd-bd95-21d464333f41>

Number of Town Planning Officers (SOC2010 2432) according to ONS data and RTPI estimates.

Year	APS estimate (Town Planning Officers)	5-year moving average	Forecast (ETS)	Forecast (lower confidence bound)	Forecast (upper confidence bound)	Rounded to 1000
2005	15700					
2006	20400					
2007	21300					
2008	22600					
2009	22100	20420				
2010	22000	21680				
2011	19700	21540				
2012	14600	20200				
2013	22400	20160				
2014	21300	20000				
2015	21300	19860				
2016	17500	19420				
2017	24600	21420				
2018	25000	21940				
2019	20400	21760				
2020	25500	22600	22600	22600	22600	
2021			21720	19944	23496	
2022			21828	20052	23604	
2023			21936	20160	23712	22000

- 4 For the **Percentage of women** within the built environment professions (BEPs), we relied on APS estimates 2005-2020. Taking an average of percentages is not a good practice in cases where the population is variable, so in lack of a better alternative we kept the 2020 value as the most up-to-date (taking into account the known data problems that arose in 2021 and the change of occupational coding affecting 2022).

Gender balance of Town Planning Officers, Architects and Chartered surveyors according to ONS estimates

Year	Percentage women, Town Planning Officers	Percentage women, Architects	Percentage women, Chartered surveyors
2009	41%	10%	9%
2010	40%	18%	9%
2011	34%	23%	5%
2012	27%	22%	6%
2013	31%	26%	10%
2014	42%	22%	13%
2015	39%	22%	11%
2016	40%	25%	12%
2017	40%	28%	14%
2018	42%	29%	14%
2019	31%	24%	15%
2020	43%	25%	20%

- 5 For **Age breakdown**, we used the available APS data, established a *five-year average* for 2016-2020, and then *extrapolated* the resulting age bands proportionally to our 2023 estimate of the total profession.

Age distribution of Town Planning Officers according to ONS estimates.

	Age									
	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64	65 and over
2005	1581	2063	2175	3006	1607	1192	1247	1927	715	*
2006	1837	3691	2029	2104	1746	1152	2023	3648	1053	*
2007	1876	2722	3032	1817	2828	3290	2206	1873	711	515
2008	935	5170	1946	3682	4166	1402	1490	2918	1066	*
2009	*	6276	2107	2407	2202	2535	1412	2816	*	571
2010	1162	6847	3349	2316	1742	1239	1215	2658	1183	443
2011	*	2757	2242	3088	642	1487	1183	1982	722	*
2012	*	1454	3333	2374	1117	1449	778	2787	1026	237
2013	*	2750	3584	2211	2607	3694	1195	3496	1221	988
2014	*	2417	4190	3247	1847	2746	2450	2536	964	*
2015	1371	2645	2969	4460	3167	2217	1403	1905	935	*
2016	1160	928	2410	2876	2559	3649	1799	*	444	1240
2017	2993	4138	3584	5504	1495	1356	2315	1101	1004	1284
2018	1006	1971	3600	5728	4188	3627	1393	1711	1624	334
2019	*	1771	3286	4726	4184	1993	1570	1296	715	*
2020	*	3941	2227	3114	4690	2990	1061	2612	2705	*
5-year average	1719.666667	2549.8	3021.4	4389.6	3423.2	2723	1627.6	1680	1298.4	952.666667
Percentage of total	7%	11%	13%	19%	15%	12%	7%	7%	6%	4%
Rounded	1700	2500	3000	4400	3400	2700	1600	1700	1300	1000
2023 estimates**	1600	2400	2800	4200	3200	2500	1500	1600	1200	900

*Missing data.

**Based on a total of 22,000 planners

- 6 This then also allowed us to estimate the RTPI’s membership coverage in different age bands. First we filtered RTPI members to the Town Planning Officer (TPO) sub-group (more on this in 15 and Methodology). For chartered, affiliate, associate and licentiate members with no known job data, we assumed that the same proportion of them would fall into TPO as for those with known job data. Adding these two numbers together by age band gives us the estimated number of TPO members in each age band. This is then compared to the national estimates, giving us the coverage of the RTPI per age band. If the estimate for RTPI members in a given age band was higher than the total estimated number of planners, we assumed 100% coverage.

The estimated number of planners in each age band in 2023 and the estimated number of RTPI members who would fit the Town Planning Officer criterion in 2023.

Cohort	Profession (estimate)	RTPI members (estimate)	Coverage
20 to 24	1600	500	31%
25 to 29	2400	1800	75%
30 to 34	2800	1900	68%
35 to 39	4200	2300	55%
40 to 44	3200	2900	91%
45 to 49	2500	2000	80%
50 to 54	1500	1500	100%
55 to 59	1600	1600	100%
60 to 64	1200	900	75%
65 and over	900	900	100%

- 7 For **Ethnicity**, we used the APS data, took the rounded five-year average (2016-2020) and extrapolated onto total estimated numbers to obtain our 2023 projection.

Year	White	Racialised minorities and other	Percentage racialised minority and other
2016	16391	1109.00	6%
2017	24034	566.00	2%
2018	24434	566.00	2%
2019	18850	1550.00	8%
2020	23265	2235.00	9%
Five-year average	21400	1200	5%
2023 estimate	20900	1100	5%

- 8 For **Nationality**, consistent estimates were only available for the period 2014-2018, for the categories UK, EU, Non-EU. We projected the proportions of the average of this period to the 2023 estimate of the total number of planners to yield the numbers proposed in the report.

	UK	EU	Non-EU
2014	20349	659	*
2015	20214	762	*
2016	16946	554	*
2017	23058	1716	*
2018	24154	603	425
Rounded average	20900	900	400
Percentage	94%	4%	2%
2023 estimate	20700	900	400

- 9 For numbers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the same methodology (average and extrapolation) was used. For Scotland, however, we decided to use the numbers collected by RTPI Scotland, as these were deemed more recent and reliable.

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
2008	18600	1900	1000	1000
2009	18300	2200	1100	~
2010	17700	2100	800	1300
2011	15200	1900	1400	1100
2012	9700	2700	1000	1100
2013	17400	2500	1500	1000
2014	17500	1500	~	1900
2015	16200	2300	900	1900
2016	15500	600	~	900
2017	21800	900	1200	700
2018	21000	900	2000	1100
2019	16900	1200	1800	500
2020	21400	2300	1500	~
5-year rounded average	19300	1200	1600	800
RTPI Scotland estimate		1600		
Estimated distribution (E., W., N.I.)	89%	-	7%	4%
2023 rounded estimate	18100	1600	1500	800

10 Regional distribution in England was produced in a similar way, using the estimate for England above. For comparison, we provided the percentage distribution of RTPI membership (Town Planning Officer sub-group) and the working population.

	East of England	East Midlands	London	North East	North West	South East	South West	West Midlands	Yorkshire and The Humber
2009	2,100	1,100	2,700	1,800	2,100	3,200	1,500	1,600	2,200
2010	3,500	~	3,300	600	1,900	3,200	1,700	~	3,000
2011	1,800	~	5,200	~	2,000	3,100	1,100	800	700
2012	~	800	2,200	600	1,400	1,800	1,200	1,100	~
2013	3,000	1,800	2,700	900	900	2,900	3,100	1,700	~
2014	1,600	1,400	4,100	900	1,100	4,400	1,800	1,000	1,200
2015	1,000	1,200	2,700	800	1,100	4,900	1,400	2,200	1,000
2016	1,900	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,200	3,400	1,700	1,400	~
2017	2,600	2,000	5,100	1,400	2,600	4,600	1,800	1,000	500
2018	3,100	1,600	4,200	1,500	2,500	1,600	2,400	2,200	1,900
2019	3,200	500	3,500	800	1,600	3,600	1,800	~	1,500
2020	1,100	1,100	3,900	1,500	700	3,500	4,000	4,000	900
5-year rounded average	2,400	1,300	3,600	1,300	1,900	3,300	2,300	2,200	1,200
2023 estimate	2200	1200	3300	1200	1700	3000	2100	2000	1100
Distribution	12%	7%	18%	7%	10%	17%	12%	11%	6%
Distribution (working population)	11%	9%	16%	5%	13%	16%	10%	11%	10%
Distribution (RTPI membership, estimate)	11%	8%	17%	4%	11%	20%	13%	9%	7%

11 For the national split between public and private sectors, we used the same method on the APS data (averaging and extrapolation). The third sector is too small to show up in the national data.

	Public sector	Private sector	%public
2005	10830	4761	69%
2006	13519	5859	70%
2007	14655	6215	70%
2008	16363	6528	71%
2009	16447	4447	79%
2010	14379	7775	65%
2011	9142	5358	63%
2012	9117	5438	63%
2013	14620	7779	65%
2014	13211	8008	62%
2015	11567	9740	54%
2016	10260	7144	59%
2017	12876	11898	52%
2018	13509	11673	54%
2019	12759	7652	63%
2020	10685	13683	44%
5-year average	12000	10400	54%
2023 estimate	11800	10200	54%

12 For the RTPI membership, we were able to use the most recent live data, filtered for the Town Planning Officer group.

Sector	Proportion
Public sector	50.93%
Private sector	47.55%
Third sector	1.51%

13 Membership data also allowed us to see the breakdown between types of organisations.

Employer organisation type of RTPI members, Town Planning Officer group (2023)

Organisation type	Proportion
Local government	44.80%
Consultancy	41.96%
Other	13.24%

- 14 Salaries of town planners could be estimated from the Labour Force Survey. They were adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index.

Yearly estimates of annual salary of Town Planning Officers based on the LFS, and the same adjusted for inflation.

	Median salary (annual)	Mean salary (annual)	Median salary (men)	Median salary (women)	CPI index (pp)	Median salary (inflation-adjusted)
2005	£31,942	£31,795	£36,035	£22,370	72.91%	£43,810
2006	£32,587	£31,876	£35,695	£22,253	74.75%	£43,596
2007	£33,589	£33,065	£31,681	£35,010	76.49%	£43,912
2008	£33,087	£36,180	£33,337	£29,224	79.16%	£41,800
2009	£33,166	£34,626	£33,252	£31,467	80.72%	£41,090
2010	£33,032	£35,061	£36,673	£30,097	82.74%	£39,924
2011	£29,976	£30,502	£31,209	£27,673	85.95%	£34,876
2012	£30,444	£30,361	£32,846		88.15%	£34,535
2013	£30,886	£30,195	£33,420	£26,192	90.17%	£34,251
2014	£31,337	£29,879	£32,927	£24,990	91.46%	£34,263
2015	£33,263*			£29,485	91.83%	£36,223
2016	£35,188	£37,349	£37,574	£26,252	92.75%	£37,940
2017	£35,478	£38,390		£22,687	95.13%	£37,293
2018	£34,192	£36,556		£26,954	97.34%	£35,127
2019	£33,314	£39,124		£26,248	98.99%	£33,654
2020	£30,937	£32,878	£35,316	£28,537	100.00%	£30,937

*Missing data, interpolated from adjacent years.

- 15** The total active RTPI membership (rounded to the nearest 100) is 27,300 based on the RTPI membership database. Of them, 2,400 are internationals and 24,900 are based in the UK.
- 16** To find out how many RTPI members would fit into the SOC10 'Town Planning Officer' group, we first created a lookup table for all unique job titles in our system, consulting the ONS's occupational coding tool. This lookup table can be found [here](#). However, we also have over 2,000 members with no known job titles. Most of them have an organisation type provided. Knowing that most planners work either at a consultancy or a local authority, we assumed that those without a job title but with employment at these organisations (and with an Affiliate, Associate, Licenciate, Chartered or Fellow membership status) would be Town Planning Officers. The table below gives an idea of the breakdowns.

How many RPTI members are Town Planning Officers?

Rounded figures from the RTPI membership database, c.a. Q2 2023. Country inferred from primary address where provided.

Active RTPI members in the UK	24,900
Affiliate, Associate, Licenciate, Chartered, Fellow	18,400
Known job title - TPO	14,800
Unknown job title - consultancy or LA	1,200
Total TPO estimate	16,000

- 17** The number of RPTI international members was estimated based on the RTPI membership database. We used the country field of the main address provided by members, and the International status of their membership. Two caveats here is that not all members provide up-to-date or accurate address data, and that for some members (especially international students) their primary address can either match their origin country or the place of their study. Below is a breakdown of the international membership based on country of primary address for countries with at least 10 members.

Country	Number of RTPI members
Hong Kong, SAR	752
Ireland	488
China	304
Australia	121
Canada	88
New Zealand	78
United States of America	59
UK dependencies	48
India	37
United Arab Emirates	32

South Africa	28
Singapore	26
Botswana	25
France	22
Barbados	17
Malaysia	15
Cyprus	13
Germany	13
Brunei	11
Japan	10

- 18** The RTPI Education department collects data from accredited planning schools on their student numbers. However, in accordance with the principles with which this data is managed, we are unable to publish exact numbers of students at affiliated planning schools.

- 19 The number of professionals in other built environment professions and the proportion of women in these professions was derived from the same ONS data as the principal estimates for the number of planners.

Year of estimate	Number of architects	Number of chartered surveyors	Proportion of women (architects)	Proportion of women (chartered surveyors)
2009	46,500	62,600	10%	9%
2010	53,000	66,300	18%	9%
2011	51,100	61,700	23%	5%
2012	41,300	61,000	22%	6%
2013	55,200	59,100	26%	10%
2014	58,600	58,800	22%	13%
2015	50,300	56,300	22%	11%
2016	49,600	71,200	25%	12%
2017	49,300	63,200	28%	14%
2018	58,200	51,800	29%	14%
2019	56,600	56,200	24%	15%
2020	53,200	63,400	25%	20%

- 20 The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, under which local authorities belong, publishes tables on revenue outturn. **Planning Services** in this document refers to the aggregate of **Development Control, Conservation and listed buildings planning policy, and Other planning policy lines** found in the Revenue Outturn (RO) for Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning Services (RO5) table. These values are adjusted using a UK GDP Deflator to adjust for inflation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp>. All values are in millions of pounds.

Sales, fees and charges can be taken as a close proxy for planning fees. Net current expenditure can be taken as the level of investment in planning services (the logic here is that net expenditure is the part of the budget that is not covered by the income generated by planning services). We contacted DLUHC to receive more information about what income sources constitute Other Income for local authority planning departments, but were told that it is a diverse group without a clear definition, and gaining a more granular understanding is on the DLUHC's agenda.

Year	Employees	Running Expenses	Total Expenditure	Sales, Fees and Charges	Other Income	Total Income	Net current expenditure
2009-10	691.74	707.19	1398.93	368.64	137.98	506.62	892.31
2010-11	671.87	637.64	1309.52	380.15	107.49	487.64	821.88
2011-12	614.83	567.69	1182.52	323.44	105.56	429.00	753.52
2012-13	585.93	543.74	1129.66	355.06	86.76	441.82	687.85
2013-14	560.90	542.88	1103.78	418.77	90.04	508.81	594.97
2014-15	561.19	545.89	1107.08	473.64	94.99	568.63	538.44
2015-16	571.02	560.81	1131.84	474.01	119.27	593.28	538.55
2016-17	574.68	588.50	1163.18	515.24	114.19	629.44	533.74
2017-18	595.97	525.27	1121.24	498.21	111.65	609.86	511.38
2018-19	611.23	505.38	1116.61	524.63	114.15	638.78	477.83
2019-20	611.50	505.62	1117.12	506.18	111.51	617.69	499.42
2020-21	572.48	381.50	953.99	526.75	84.90	611.64	342.35
2021-22	657.57	516.98	1174.56	521.38	124.81	646.20	528.36

Welsh Planning Expenditure - Revenue Outturn Summary - Net Current Expenditure

£ Thousands - Reported Figures (Adjusted for inflation)				
	Building control	Development control	Planning policy	Grand Total
2008-09	6,920	21,830	23,767	52,517
2009-10	7,571	24,452	20,489	52,512
2010-11	6,391	22,889	19,909	49,189
2011-12	5,724	21,082	17,942	44,748
2012-13	5,137	19,488	18,071	42,696
2013-14	5,157	21,232	16,262	42,651
2014-15	3,617	13,831	13,587	31,034
2015-16	2,596	9,944	13,105	25,645
2016-17	3,306	10,121	13,121	26,548
2017-18	3,941	8,986	13,676	26,603
2018-19	3,858	9,277	12,466	25,601
2019-20	3,413	10,410	12,602	26,426
2020-21	3,574	9,870	11,696	25,140
2021-22	3,477	7,687	12,719	23,883
2022-23	3,725	11,315	13,544	28,584