

International Job Opportunities: Working as a Freelancer Surveyor

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Some facts about our profession

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP | EN ESPAÑOL


OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Architecture and Engineering > Surveyors

Summary | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook | Similar Occupations | More Info

Summary

Quick Facts: Surveyors	
2012 Median Pay	\$56,230 per year \$27.04 per hour
Entry-Level Education	Bachelor's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	Less than 5 years
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2012	42,400
Job Outlook, 2012-22	10% (As fast as average)
Employment Change, 2012-22	4,400



Surveyors map out boundaries for construction.

What Surveyors Do
 Surveyors make precise measurements to determine property boundaries. They provide data relevant to the shape and contour of the Earth's surface for engineering, mapmaking, and construction projects.

Work Environment
 Surveying involves both field work and indoor work. When working outside, surveyors must stand for long periods and often walk long distances, sometimes in bad weather. Most work full time.

How to Become a Surveyor
 Surveyors typically need a bachelor's degree. They must be licensed before they can certify legal documents and provide surveying services to the public.

Pay
 The median annual wage for surveyors was \$56,230 in May 2012.

Job Outlook
 Employment of surveyors is projected to grow 10 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Employment growth will result from increased construction related to improving the nation's infrastructure. Job opportunities are expected to be excellent.

What does a "freelance" surveyor work with today?



What does a surveyor work with today?

Surveyor



What my friends think I do.



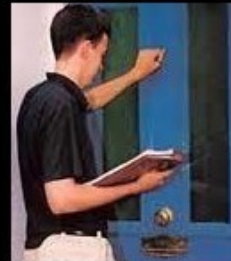
What my boss thinks I do.



What my wife thinks I do.



What I think I do.



What society thinks I do.



What I actually do.

What does a surveyor work with today?

- [Commission 1 – Professional Standards and Practice](#)
- [Commission 2 – Professional Education](#)
- [Commission 3 – Spatial Information Management](#)
- [Commission 4 – Hydrography](#)
- [Commission 5 – Positioning and Measurement](#)
- [Commission 6 – Engineering Surveys](#)
- [Commission 7 – Cadastre and Land Management](#)
- [Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development](#)
- [Commission 9 – Valuation and the Management of Real Estate](#)
- [Commission 10 - Construction Economics and Management](#)

What does a “freelance” surveyor work with today?

Data Acquisition Methods

- Traditional Surveying
- Image acquisition
- Remote Sensing
- GPS
- Laser scanning
- Lidar
- Radar
- UAV
- etc

Data Processing

- 3D modeling
- Photogrammetry
- GIS
- Image analysis
- Analytical Calculations
- Data processing
- Adjustments
- Cartography
- BIM
- etc

Users

- Civilians
- Government agencies
- Architects
- Construction
- Archaeologists
- Industry
- Environmental research
- Conservationists
- Restorers
- Banks
- Disaster management teams
- Researchers
- Urban planners
- Entertainment industry

"freelancer" or employee



My own country or abroad?



Think globally - act locally?

- **Most of our work is done on some computer** and only a small part of it requires our physical presence in the field
- **Work might not be available in your country, but plenty in some other country**
- **Most companies seek to contract work instead of hiring people.** Is it possible for them to find you?
- **Most projects that come up for a freelancer come from people you have worked with, people who have recommended you and people who have singled you out for a certain skill.**



So, what does it take to succeed as a freelancer?

- Be knowledgeable and up to date
- Be enthusiastic about what you do
- Manage your own brand
- Build your network of contacts

://www.linkedin.com/profile/preview?locale=en_US&trk=prof-0-sb-preview-primary-button

in Search for people, jobs, companies, and more...

This is what your profile looks like to [Connections](#)

Artemis Valanis 1st
 3D modeling/ Photogrammetry Specialist
 Greece | Research

Current **Freelance Professional**
 Previous **Acropolis Restoration Service, Laboratory of Photogrammetry of NTUA Athens, NTUA - Zongolopoulos Foundation**
 Education **National Technical University of Athens**

[Send a message](#) 500+ connections

<https://gr.linkedin.com/in/artvalanis> [Contact Info](#)

Background

Summary

- ★ 15 years of programming
- ★ 12 years photogrammetric engineering and surveying
- ★ 11 laser scanning and 3D modeling
- ★ 6 years researcher and educator

With 12 years of experience in photogrammetric engineering and surveying and 11 years in laser scanning and 3D modeling I have had the opportunity to work on a great variety of projects including photogrammetric documentation and survey of cultural heritage, two international level mapping projects, 3D scanning and modeling of historic artefacts, sites, industrial facilities, roads, boats, buildings, dams etc and recently I have been working on various demanding BIM modeling projects. My background as a surveying engineer allows me to follow closely technological developments in geomatics and my experience in research allows me to effectively integrate methods of data acquisition and processing in order to develop and implement workflows for highly demanding projects. Also, my background as an educator provides me with the skills to train and lead large teams. Last but not least, my long experience in programming allows me to design and implement custom software applications and develop versatile solutions for demanding projects.

My goal is to work all over the world on 3D documentation/ modeling projects

Specialties: Workflow design, process integration, system integration, software development, photogrammetric engineering (aerial, close-range), 3D scanning, 3D modeling, CAD design, BIM, surveying, mobile mapping, 3D city modeling, 3D visualization, GIS, GPS, research, training, reporting, leadership, soft skills.



Be knowledgeable and up to date

- A great deal of responsibility falls on us for every project we work with
 - Results fit for purpose and in line with related standards
 - Don't be afraid to seek advice, help or even to hire someone to share the work or complete the desired skill set.
 - Remain relevant and competitive by being up to date

Be enthusiastic about what you do

- Chose some of your best work and build on it
- Share your experience with others and find ways to improve
- Get inspired from other people in your professional field

Manage your own brand

- Create an online professional profile
- Present yourself, your studies, your professional experience and interests
- Highlight your strongest skills
- Single out and present your best projects
- Find out your weaknesses and try to improve
- Check out your “competition”

Build your network of contacts

- Former classmates
- Former and present colleagues
- Professors
- Clients
- Colleagues
- Friends
- Target contacts?

“We live in an age of unprecedented opportunity: with ambition, drive, and talent, you can rise to the top of your chosen profession regardless of where you started out. But with opportunity comes responsibility. Companies today aren't managing their knowledge workers careers. Instead, you must be your own chief executive officer. That means it's up to you to carve out your place in the world and know when to change course. And it's up to you to keep yourself engaged and productive during a career that may span some 50 years.”

[1999, Peter Drucker, Harvard Business Review]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

