GIS SURVEYING TRENDS

GIS began to take off in the early 1980s when software-makers integrated mapping into computer-aided design. Today's GIS tools allow users to create searches, analyze spatial information and edit data to reveal spatial relationships, patterns and trends in an easily understood manner.

BNP Media's market research division worked with *POB* to conduct a study to provide information on trends involving GIS tools. The results show that the demand for GIS services is rising with the majority of respondents including GIS in their survey workflow or offering it as a service. Go to pobonline.com to see the full results of the survey.

DEMAND

The demand for GIS services is going up with 73 percent of respondents noting a growth in demand.

- **25%** Growing rapidly
- **48%** Growing slightly
- **23%** No change
- **4%** Declining slightly

GIS USAGE

Most respondents use GIS in workflow and/or as a client service offering. Only 28 percent do not, which is down from 45 percent in last year's survey.
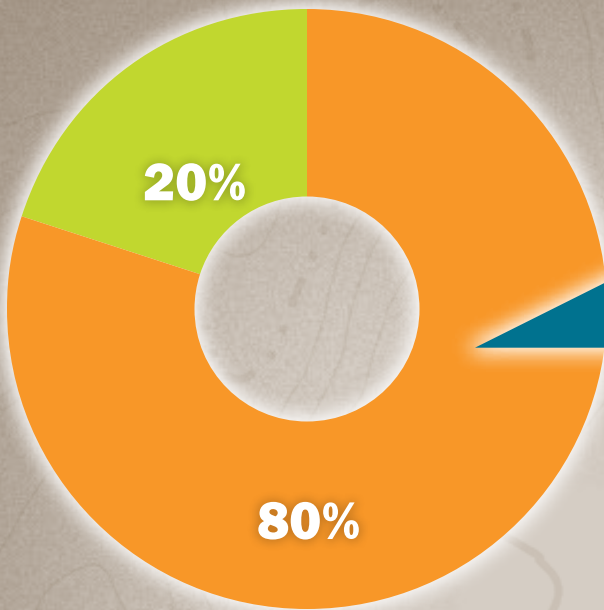
- **11%** Offer GIS as a service to clients only
- **21%** Use GIS in survey workflow only
- **40%** Use GIS in both survey workflow and as a client service
- **28%** Do not use GIS

4% 25% 23% 48%

11% 28% 21% 40%
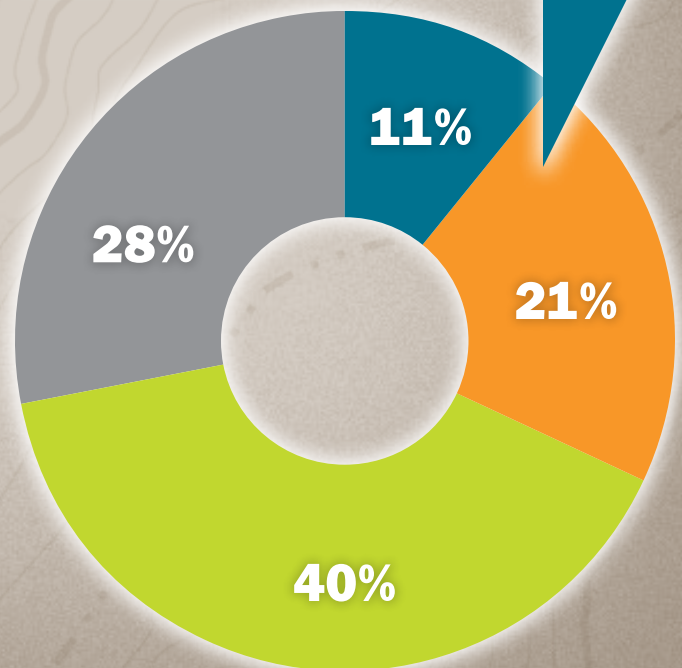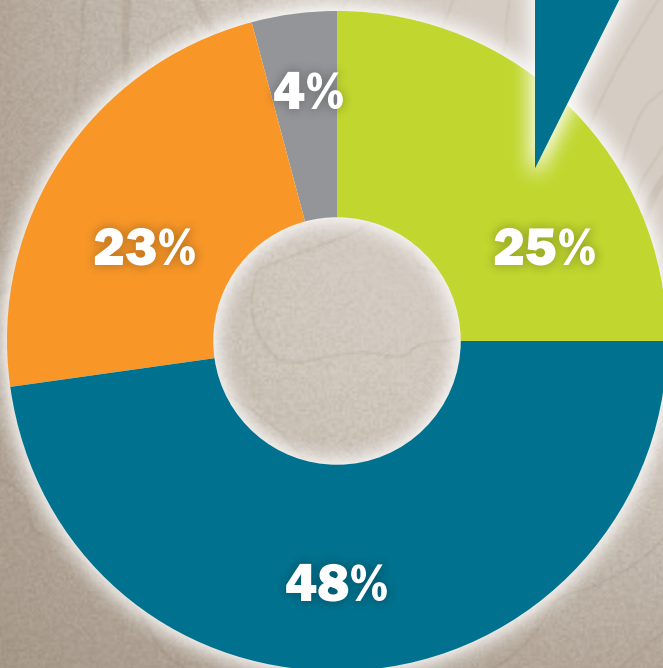
CLOSED-MINDED

The GIS software most often used by respondents in their workflow is closed-source (proprietary), including Microsoft, Esri, Intergraph and Oracle.

80% Closed-source
20% Open-source

20%
80%

MOBILE FUTURE

When asked which GIS tools have the most potential, respondents tabbed mobile applications as having the brightest future.

42% Mobile GIS applications
27% Cloud-based GIS applications/web portals
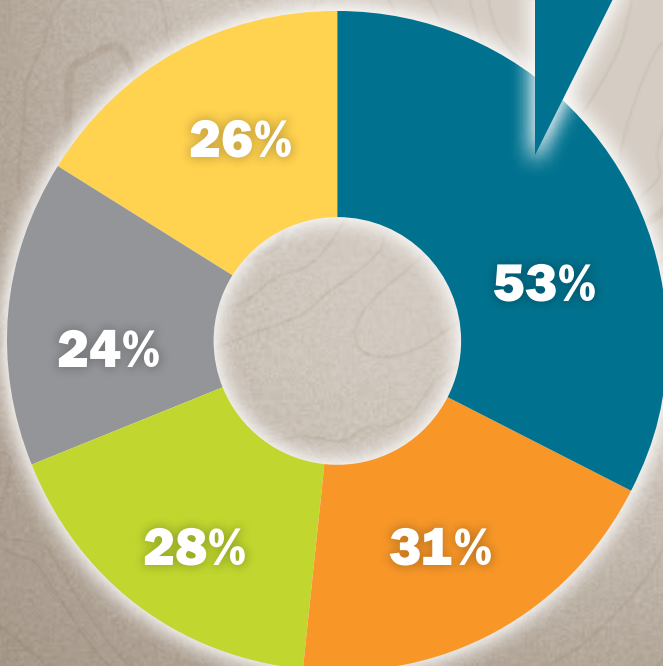12% Desktop GIS software
12% GIS data collectors

NEW TOOLS

What new GIS tools are respondents using in the past two years?

53% Desktop GIS software
31% Mobile GIS applications
28% Cloud-based GIS applications/web portals
24% GIS data collectors
26% None

26%
24%
28%
31%
53%

42%
27%
12% **12%**

PURCHASE PLANS

Software is the GIS tool most likely to be purchased by respondents in the next year.

21% GIS software
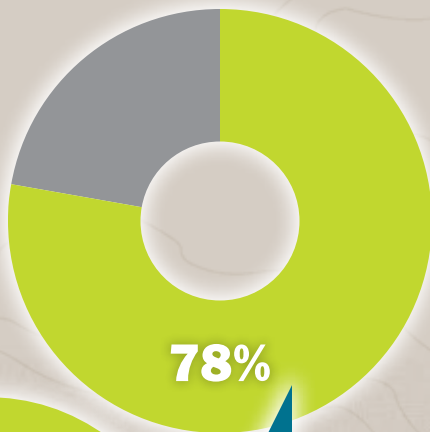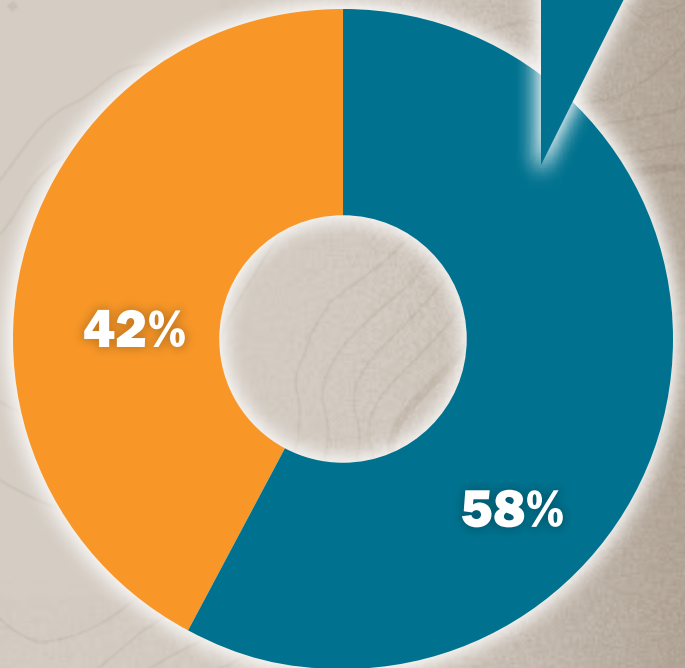**10%** GIS cloud/web services
14% GIS data collectors
65% No purchases planned

21% **10%** **14%** **65%**

TRAINING

Of those respondents who already use GIS, most plan on taking training in the next year.

58% Yes
42% No

42%
58%

78%

10%

SURVEYORS CAN LEAD

78% GIS users who say that the surveying profession has the opportunity to lead in GIS but isn't moving quickly enough
10% Non-users who say that GIS is not necessary for most surveying tasks