

APA Fact Sheet Series on Psychologist Supply and Demand Projections 2015-2030:

Geographic Patterns in Supply and Demand

Key Findings

- Research suggests there will be substantial **geographic differences** in the balance of supply and demand for psychologists in the U.S. by 2030.
- Between 2015 and 2030, demand for psychologists is expected to increase by **3,900 FTEs** in the **South**, **3,080 FTEs** in the **West**, and **5,460 FTEs** in **metropolitan areas** across the country.
- By 2030, there will be a projected **shortage** of **1,740 FTE** psychologists in the South.
- Across the country, states with the highest projected **shortages** for psychologists include **Texas** (a shortage of 2,690 FTEs), **California** (1,160 FTEs), **South Carolina** (790 FTEs), **Louisiana** (710 FTEs), and **Ohio** (700 FTEs).

Background

Workforce projections¹ examine current and future psychologist supply and demand in the United States from 2015 to 2030. Supply is determined on the basis of the number of licensed psychologists active in the workforce,² new entrants, and workforce participation patterns, whereas demand is determined on the basis of current patterns of service utilization and projected demographic changes in the U.S. population.

The projections are described in terms of full-time equivalent (FTE) psychologists. An FTE is defined as a licensed, doctoral-level psychologist who works 39 hours per week.

Findings

Between 2015 and 2030, the national demand for psychologists is projected to be 101,120 FTEs. That is an increase of 5,940 FTEs (6%) from the demand level in 2015.

Geographically, demand for psychologists is expected to increase by 3,900 FTEs in the South, 3,080 FTEs in the West, and 5,460 FTEs in metropolitan areas across the country.

- Between 2015 and 2030, states with the highest projected growth in demand include Texas (1,800 FTEs), California (1,450 FTEs), Florida (950 FTEs), Arizona (520 FTEs), and Georgia (370 FTEs).
- States with the highest projected *percentage* growth in demand include Arizona (26%), Texas (25%), Hawaii (21%), Utah (19%), and Colorado (18%).

Demand and supply projections suggest substantial geographic differences in the balance of supply and demand for psychologists by 2030.

- The South is expected to have a shortage of 1,740 FTEs by 2030, whereas the Northeast is expected to have a surplus of 6,930 FTEs.
- States with highest projected shortages in 2030 include Texas (a shortage of 2,690 FTEs), California (1,160 FTEs), South Carolina (790 FTEs), Louisiana (710 FTEs), and Ohio (700 FTEs).
- States with highest projected surpluses in 2030 include Massachusetts (a surplus of 2,530 FTEs), Maryland (1,600 FTEs), Virginia (1,490 FTEs), New York (1,470 FTEs), and Pennsylvania (1,320 FTEs).³

¹ IHS Markit. (2018). *Psychologist workforce projections for 2015-2030: Addressing supply and demand*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

² Includes licensed psychologists actively working in a position that requires a psychology license, or in a position that does not require a psychology license but uses clinical skills and/or training as a psychologist.

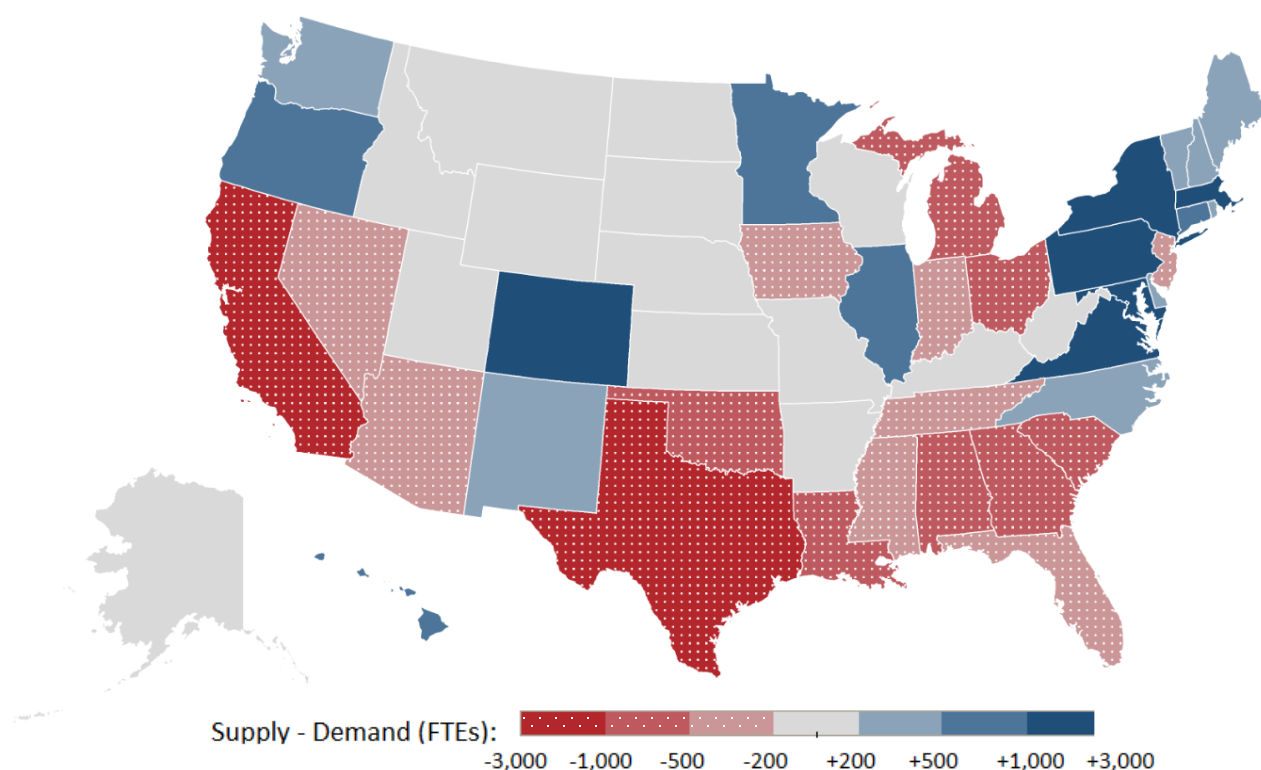
³ District of Columbia has a projected surplus of 1,560 FTE psychologists by 2030.

Projected Supply and Demand for Psychologists by Geographic Region, 2015-2030

Geographic Region	Supply			Demand			2030 Supply – 2030 Demand
	2015	2030	FTE Change	2015	2030	FTE Change	
Northeast	27,270	23,940	-3,330	17,230	17,010	-220	6,930
Midwest	18,690	20,120	1,430	21,170	20,330	-840	-210
South	27,250	37,120	9,870	34,960	38,860	3,900	-1,740
West	21,980	26,230	4,250	21,830	24,910	3,080	1,320
All	95,180	107,410	12,230	95,180	101,120	5,940	6,290

Note: This table summarizes projected demand for psychologists based on current utilization patterns and projected demographic changes. The projection model assumes overall equilibrium of supply and demand in 2015. Demand FTE Change = 2030 Demand – 2015 Demand; Supply FTE Change = 2030 Supply – 2015 Supply. Projected FTEs were rounded to nearest ten. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Source: IHS Markit, *Psychologist workforce projections for 2015-2030: Addressing supply and demand* (2018).

Projected Supply-Demand Patterns for Psychologists by State, 2030



Note: Red areas represent projected shortages. Blue areas represent projected surpluses.

Source: IHS Markit, *Psychologist workforce projections for 2015-2030: Addressing supply and demand* (2018).

Limitations

Workforce projections are based on available data that reflect current patterns. Several limitations are worth noting. Demand is based on service utilization rather than need. It is likely that the need for psychological services exceeds current utilization levels. While the projections include psychology specialties, available data do not enable separate projections by specialty. Workload definitions for psychologists in federal data sources emphasize mental health services, rather than health services more broadly. It is likely that the projections underestimate psychologists' provision of physical health-related services. Therefore, demand for health services may be higher than estimated here.