The future of official statistics:
implications for statistical workforces

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Overview

1. Some assumptions on future trends
2. Anticipated skills and training needs
3. Some thoughts on statistical and data education
4. Transition to more professional behaviour

Some assumptions (and a disclaimer)

Assumptions

- NSOs and NSSs will continue to exist
- Budget reductions will not reverse but likely will continue
- Trend towards data stewardship will continue
- NSOs and NSSs will increase use of AI over time
- NSSs will rely on an increasingly broader suite of data sources
- Statistics and data science will merge/blur into a single profession

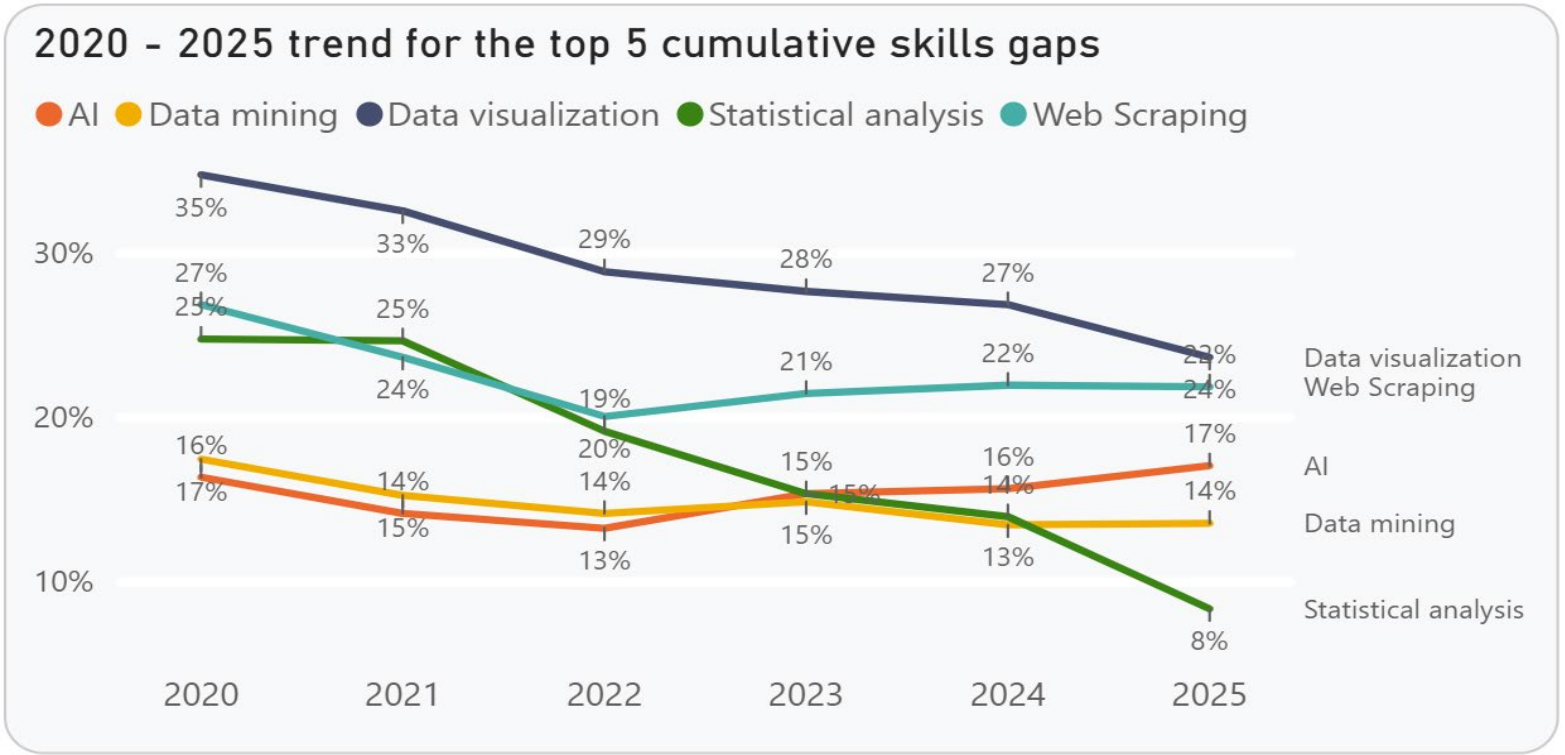
Disclaimer

- All assumptions about the future are almost certainly wrong

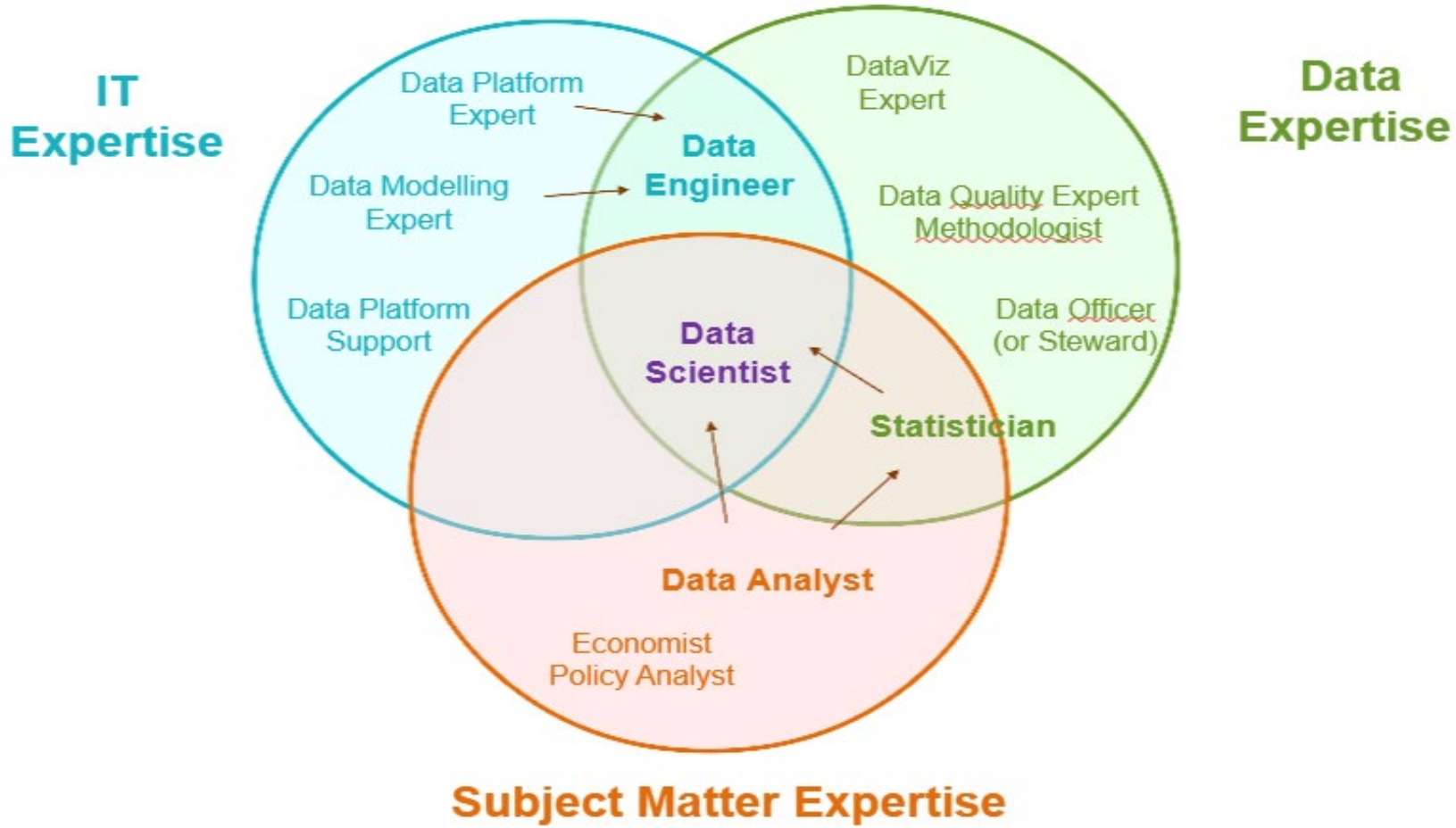
Today's Training Needs

Top 5 skills gaps (OECD 2025)

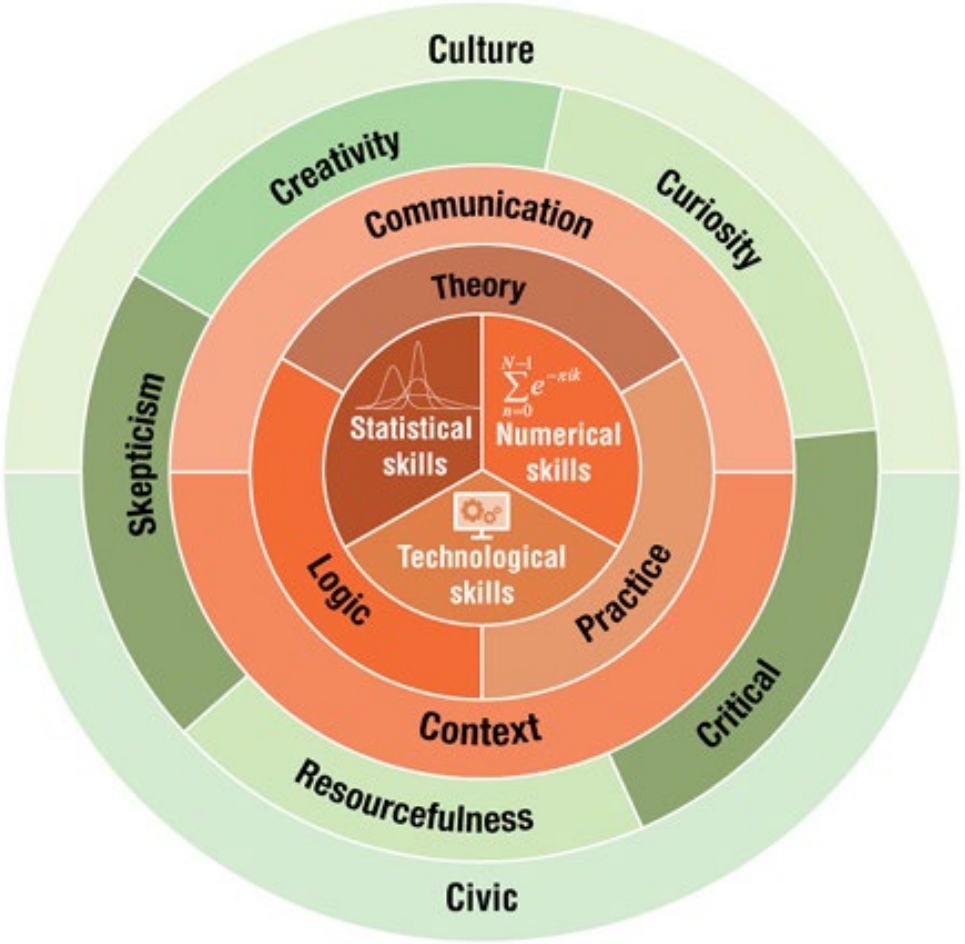
- Data visualisation
- Web scraping
- AI
- Data mining
- Statistical analyses
  (*using R/Python*)



Changing Skills Map

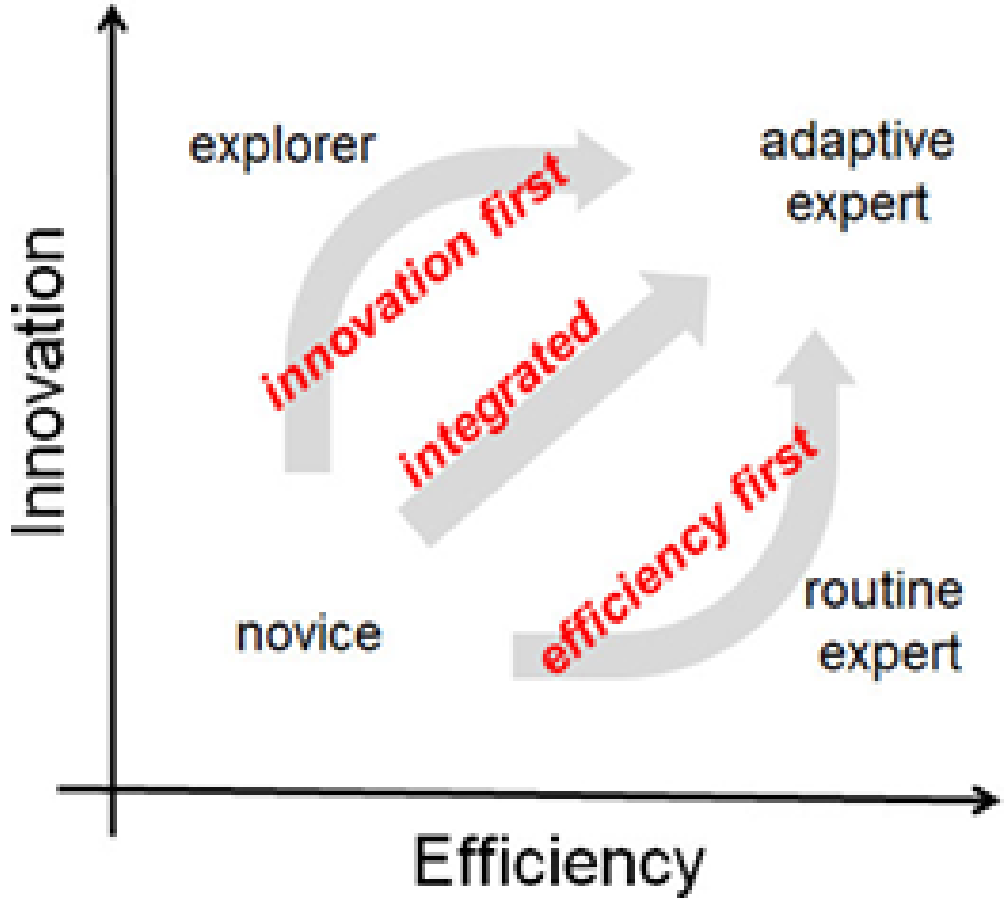


Skills and competencies required



Source: Damouras S, Gibbs A and MacFeely (2021). Training official statisticians for adaptive statistical practice. *Statistical Journal of the IAOS,* Vol 37, pp. 887–898

Trajectories to adaptive expertise



Source: Damouras S, Gibbs A and MacFeely (2021). Training official statisticians for adaptive statistical practice. *Statistical Journal of the IAOS,* Vol 37, pp. 887–898

Transition to more Professional behaviour

- Incentivise lifelong learning
- Continuous Professional Development

THANK YOU!

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