RIBA

Memorandum

The RIBA's monthly Future Trends Survey was launched in January 2009 to monitor business and employment trends affecting the architects' profession. Participants give monthly predictions for overall workload and staffing levels over the next three months, and are also asked about their workload predictions in key sectors: private housing, commercial, community and public sector. In addition practices are asked on a quarterly basis about their current workload and staffing levels. The Survey is carried out by the RIBA in partnership with the Fees Bureau. Results of the Survey, including a full graphical analysis, are published each month on www.architecture.com.

The following is a summary analysis of the results from the August 2012 Survey returns.

Future workload (August 2012)

How do you expect the architectural workload in the organisation you work in or own to change over the next three months

Overall

Expect	%
Decrease	21
Stay the same	54
Increase	25
TOTAL	100
Balance	+4

(The definition for the balance figure is the difference between those expecting more work and those expecting less.)

The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index for August 2012 stands at +4, a modest increase from zero in July 2012, but continuing to indicate that overall workloads are expected to remain broadly stable in the short term rather than predicting any significant growth.

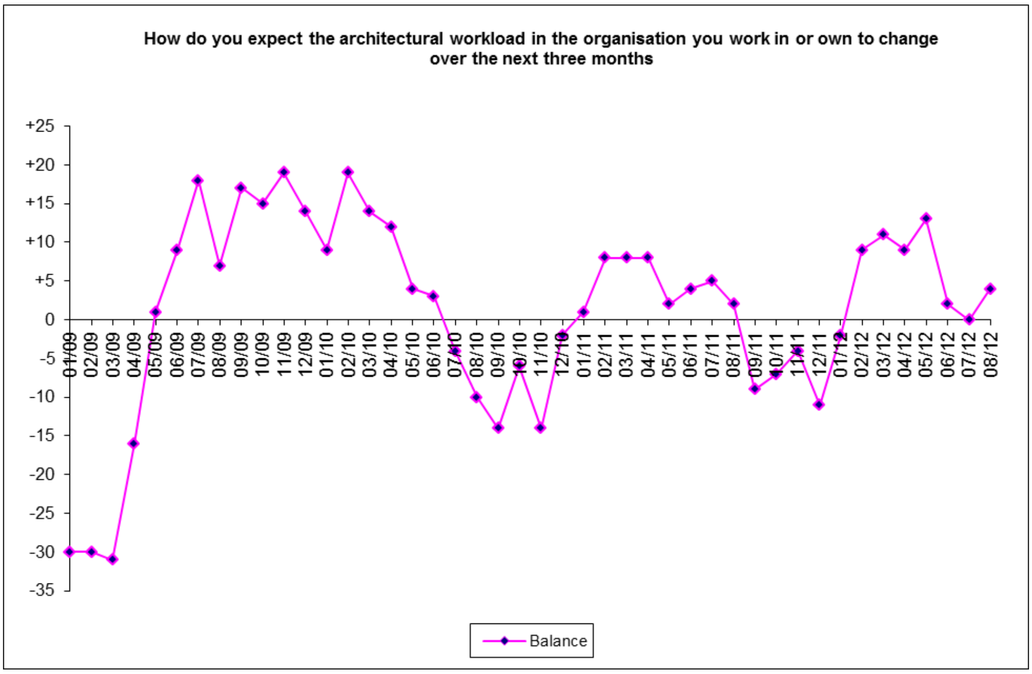
Large practices (51+ staff) and medium sized practices (11 – 50 staff) continue to be more optimistic about future workloads forecasts than our small practices (1 – 10 staff) at the present time.

In terms of geographical analysis, London (balance figure +9) and the South of England (balance figure +14) continue to be the most optimistic locations, but there appears to be increasing stability of workloads across the United Kingdom, even in those nations and regions which have previously been returning the most pessimistic forecasts.

The following graph plots the RIBA Future Workload Index over time:

RIBA

Memorandum

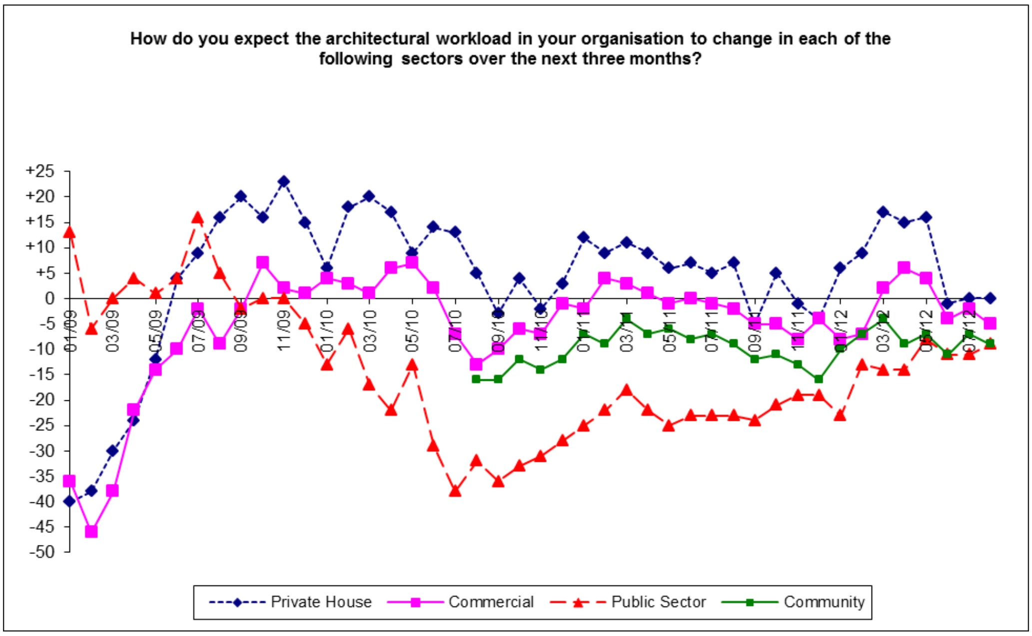


Our sector forecasts are relatively unchanged this month.

The commercial sector forecast declined slightly from -2 in July 2012 to -5 in August 2012, and the community sector forecast also fell a little from -7 in July 2012 to -9 in August 2012. The private housing sector forecast was unchanged with a balance figure of zero. The public sector forecast was marginally improved, standing at -9 in August 2012 compared with -11 in July 2012.

The following graph tracks the sector predictions in the RIBA Future Trends Survey over time:

Memorandum



Future staffing levels (August 2012)

How do you think the number of permanent architectural staff employed in your organisation will change over the next three months?

Permanent Staff	%
Decrease	11
Stay the same	81
Increase	8
TOTAL	100
Balance	-3

(The definition for the balance figure is the difference between those expecting to employ more permanent staff in the next three months and those expecting to employ fewer.)

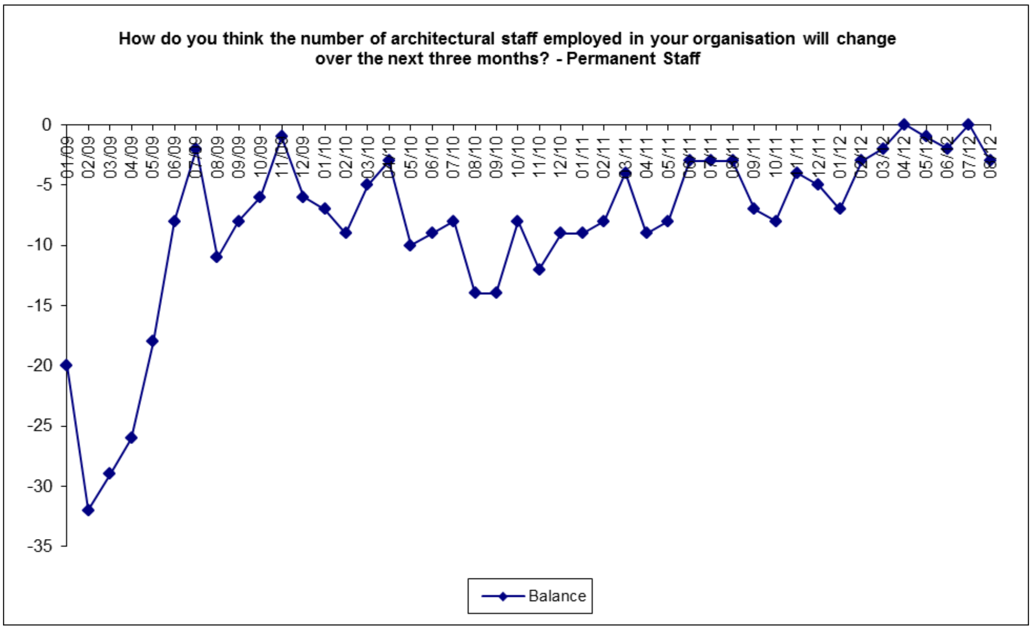
The RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index decreased slightly to -3 in August 2012, falling from a balance figure of zero in July 2012. This continues to reflect a situation in which practices are generally retaining current staff but remain very cautious about recruitment of additional employees.

In July 2012, the percentage of our respondents reporting that they had personally been under-employed in the last month was 31%.

The following graph plots the RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index over time:

RIBA

Memorandum



Anecdotal comments received continue to suggest that while workloads have stabilised conditions remain very challenging. Fee competition, delays in project funding and an increasing prevalence of commissions for partial services only remain the most common themes.

The RIBA Future Trends Survey is based on a representative sample of the range of different practice sizes and geographical locations which enables analysis of the trends in sectors, size groups and by nation and region. A total of 200 practices took part in the Survey in August 2012. The development of a larger database of respondents will increase the statistical accuracy of the survey, and if your practice would like to participate in future months, please contact the RIBA Practice Department on 020 7307 3749 or email practice@inst.riba.org. The survey takes approximately five minutes to complete each month, and all returns are independently processed in strict confidence by our partners the Fees Bureau.