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 January 2013 Survey returns.

Future workload (January 2013)

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	18
Stay the same	53
Increase	29
TOTAL	100
Balance	+11

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

The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index was up this month, increasing to +11 in January 2013 from +8 in December 2012. The Workload Index has remained in positive territory since October 2012, and continues to suggest a stable market for architects' services with signs of some increasing confidence about the prospects for a little medium term growth.

This month Large practices (51+ staff) continued to be the most optimistic about future workloads, but all size categories of practices returned positive workload forecast balance figures.

In terms of geographical analysis, all the nations and regions in the UK returned positive balance figures except for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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

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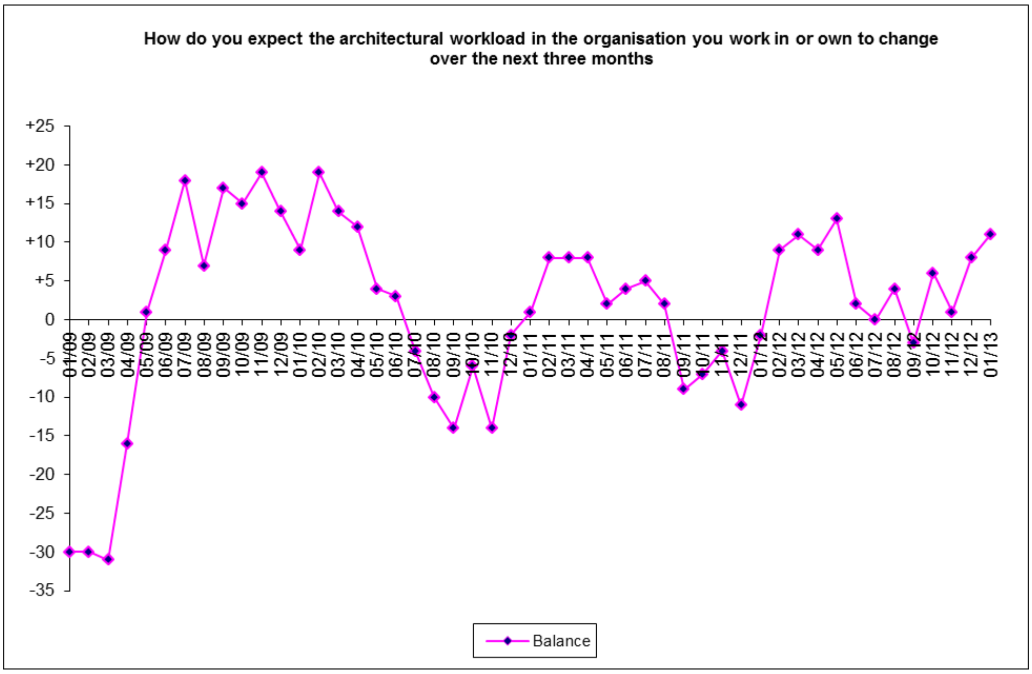

Increased optimism about future workloads was driven primarily by greater confidence about the private housing sector, where the balance figure for January 2013 was +17, up significantly from +5 in December 2012. The commercial sector forecast (balance figure +2), public sector forecast (balance figure -8) and community sector forecast (balance figure -4) were all down marginally this month. The public and community sectors continue to be challenging areas for architects at the moment.

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

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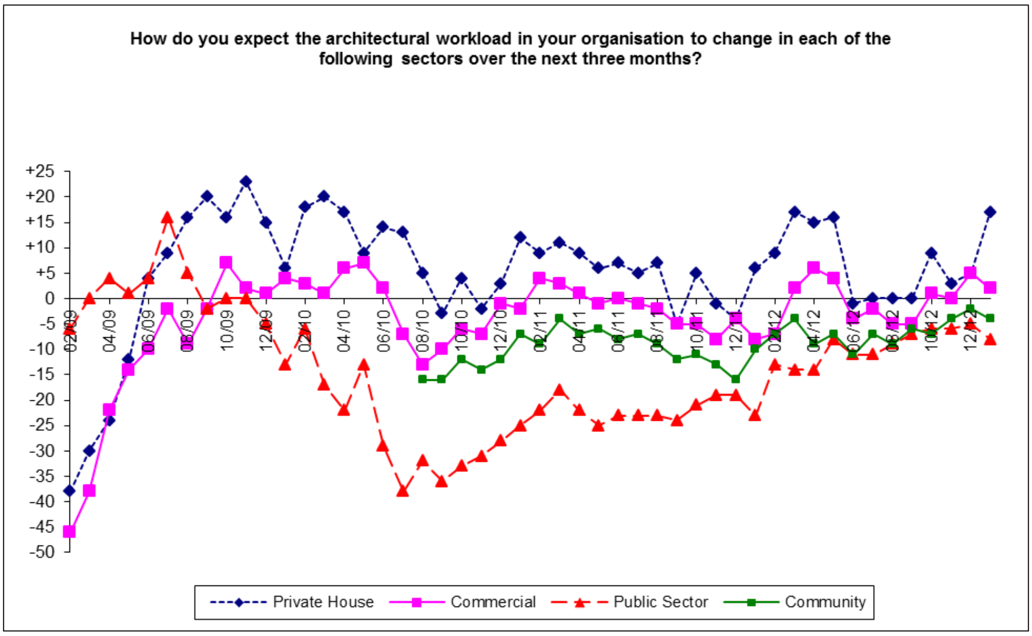

Future staffing levels (January 2013)

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

Permanent Staff	%
Decrease	12
Stay the same	82
Increase	6
TOTAL	100
Balance	-6

(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 fell back a little to -6 in January 2013, down from -3 in December 2012, suggesting that on balance practices still remain nervous about taking on additional permanent staff. However, when asked about whether they are likely to employ more temporary staff in the next quarter they were somewhat more confident, returning an overall balance figure of +8. We are also beginning to see evidence of practices being able to take on Part 1 and Part 2 students in greater numbers than during the last few years.

Practices in London are the most likely to be taking on additional staff during the next quarter, whilst practices in Scotland and Northern Ireland remain the most cautious.

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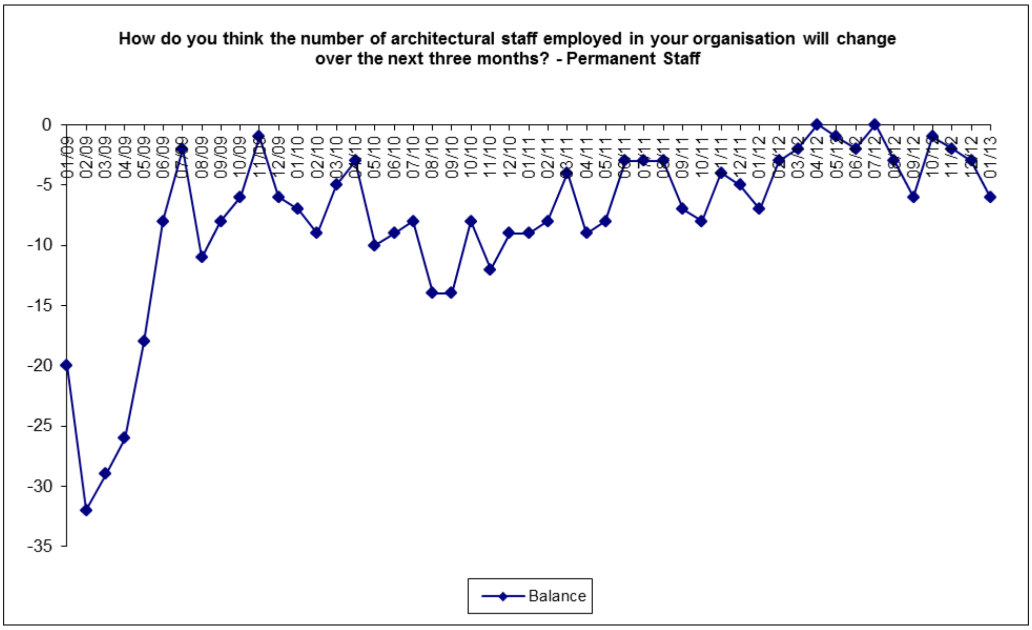
In December 2012, the percentage of our respondents reporting that they had personally been under-employed in the last month was 29%.

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



Anecdotal comments received continue to paint a very mixed picture. Overall workloads appear to be stable, but many practices state that it is difficult to forecast beyond the very short term. Where growth is reported it tends to be focussed in the small project field, and public sector work clearly remains in short supply.

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 205 practices took part in the Survey in January 2013. 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.