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 June 2013 Survey returns.

Future workload (June 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	10
Stay the same	63
Increase	27
TOTAL	100
Balance	+17

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

Following a small fall last month, the RIBA Future Trends Workload Index bounced back in June 2013 to +17, up from +12 in May 2013. Our key monthly workload forecast indicator has now been in positive territory since October 2012, although this increased level of optimism has not yet fed through into an overall increase in actual workloads. Medium-sized practices (11 – 50 staff) and large practices (51+ staff) are currently most positive about the prospect of an improvement in workloads during the next quarter.

In terms of geographical analysis, all the nations and regions in the UK except for Northern Ireland continued to return positive workload forecast balance figures this month, with the South of England (balance figure +22) being the most optimistic.

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

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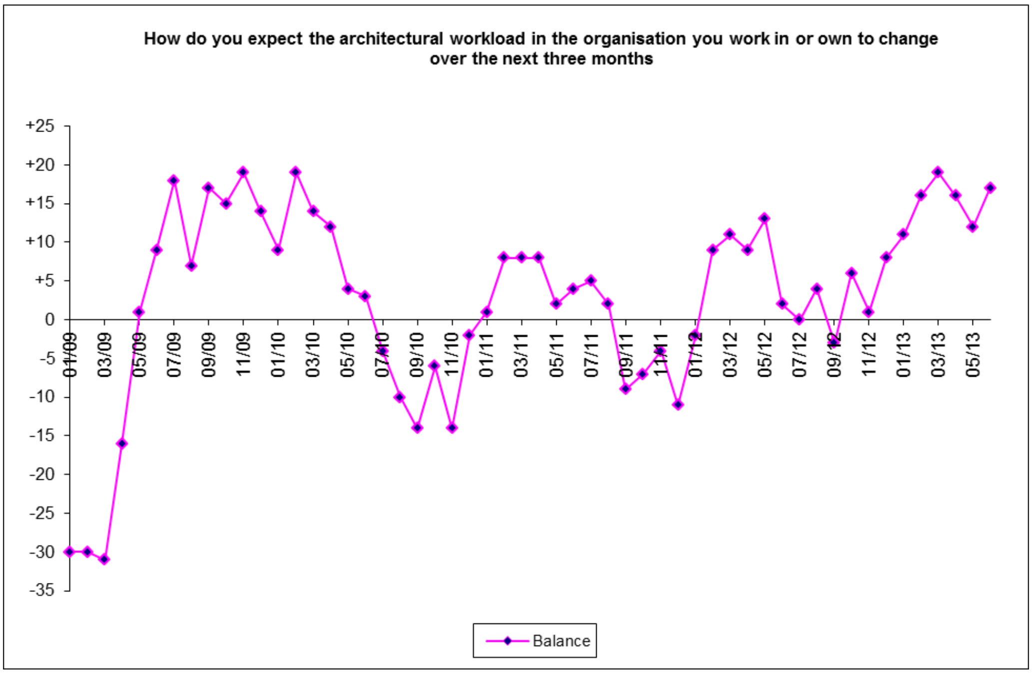

In terms of sector forecasts, the commercial sector forecast saw the most significant increase in June 2013 rising to a balance figure of +8 from its May 2013 level of +2, whilst somewhat surprisingly the private housing sector forecast fell back to +12 in June 2013 from +23 in May 2013, but remaining strongly in positive territory. Our practices currently predict little change for overall workloads in the public and community sectors.

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

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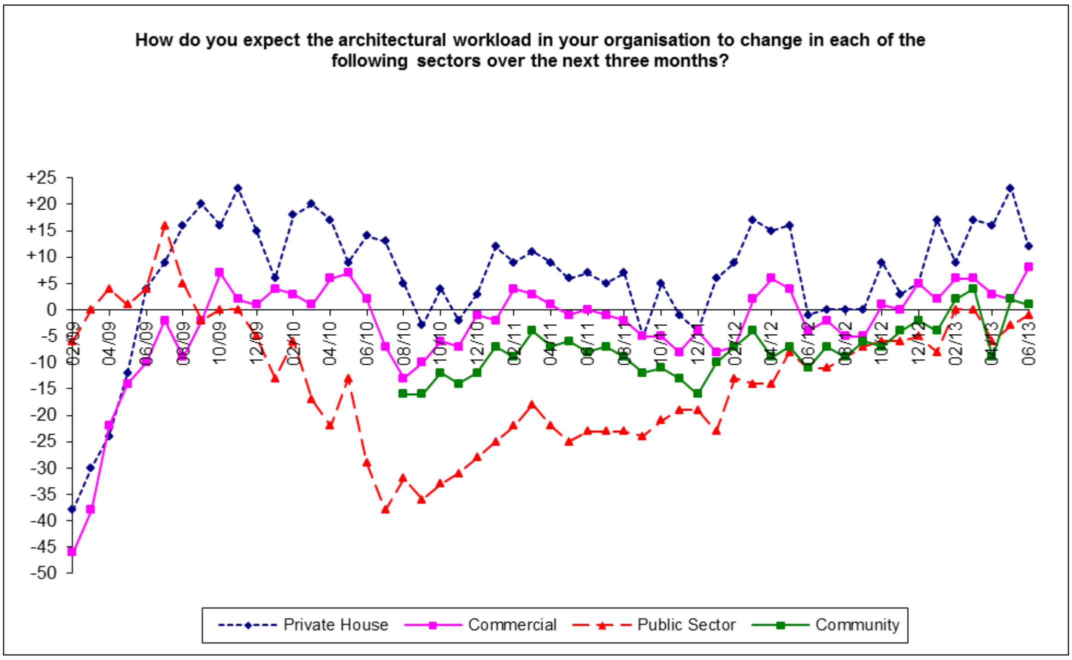

Future staffing levels (June 2013)

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

Permanent Staff	%
Decrease	9
Stay the same	81
Increase	10
TOTAL	100
Balance	+1

(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 marginally to +1 in June 2013 compared with +3 in May 2013 but remaining in positive. The index for temporary staffing also increased (up to +5 in June 2013 from +1 in May 2013).

Practices based in Scotland (balance figure +13) were the most optimistic about future staffing levels this month.

In June 2013, the percentage of our respondents reporting that they had personally been under-employed in the last month was 23%, improving from 25% last month.

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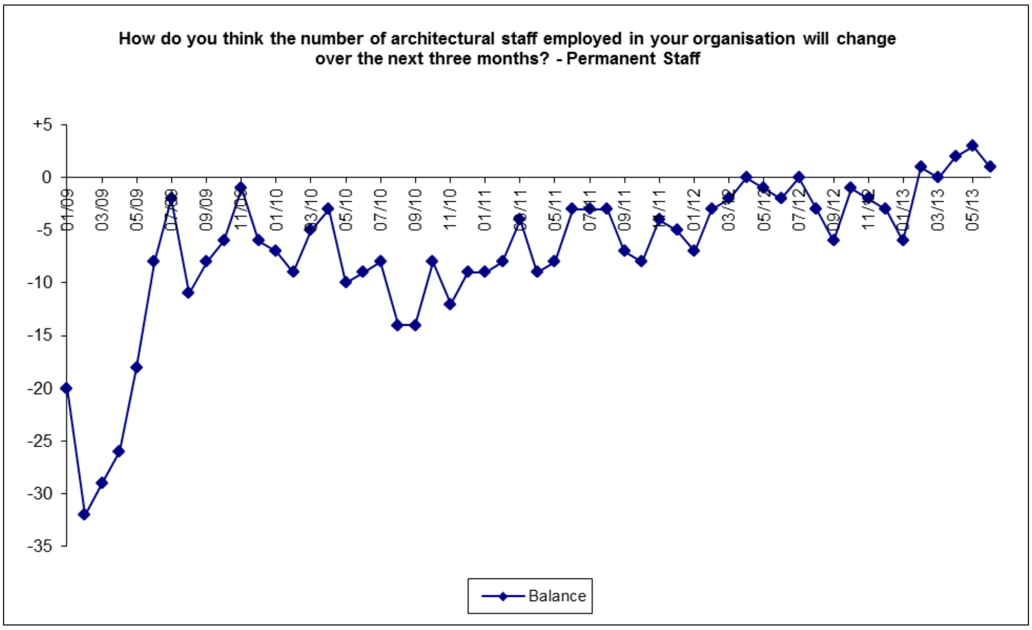
The following graph plots the RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index over time:



Anecdotal commentary continues to be very mixed, with experiences varying greatly depending upon location and sector expertise.

Common threads remain the difficulty of access to bank finance for commercial projects, intense fee competition for domestic work, and the complexity and costs of public procurement processes. However we are seeing an increase in the number of correspondents reporting an increase in inquiries and feasibility commissions.

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 236 practices took part in the Survey in June 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.