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 September 2013 Survey returns.

*Future workload (September 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 | 12 |
| Stay the same | 50 |
| Increase | 38 |
| TOTAL | 100 |
| Balance | +26 |

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

The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index increased to +26 in September 2013, rising by four balance points from +22 in August 2013. Our key workload forecast index therefore remains firmly in positive territory, building upon the steadily increasing positive trend we have seen since the beginning of 2013.

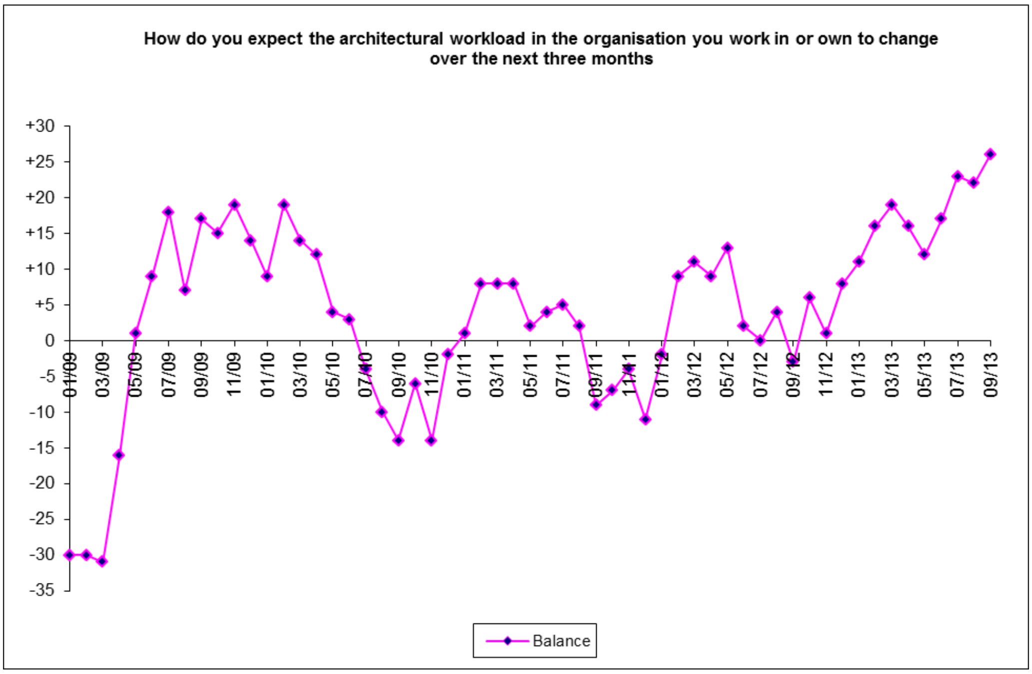
Actual workload levels continue to be stable in the aggregate on a year-on-year comparison basis, as they have been throughout the current calendar year. Overall workloads for architects fell back sharply in late 2008 and throughout 2009, and continued to decline, albeit much less dramatically, until the end of 2012, but have now been stable for some time.

All categories of practices by size, and all the nations and regions in the UK, returned positive workload forecast balance figures in September 2013, suggesting that the growing optimism about an upturn in overall workloads is now widespread throughout the UK and across the difference scales of practice.

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

RIBA

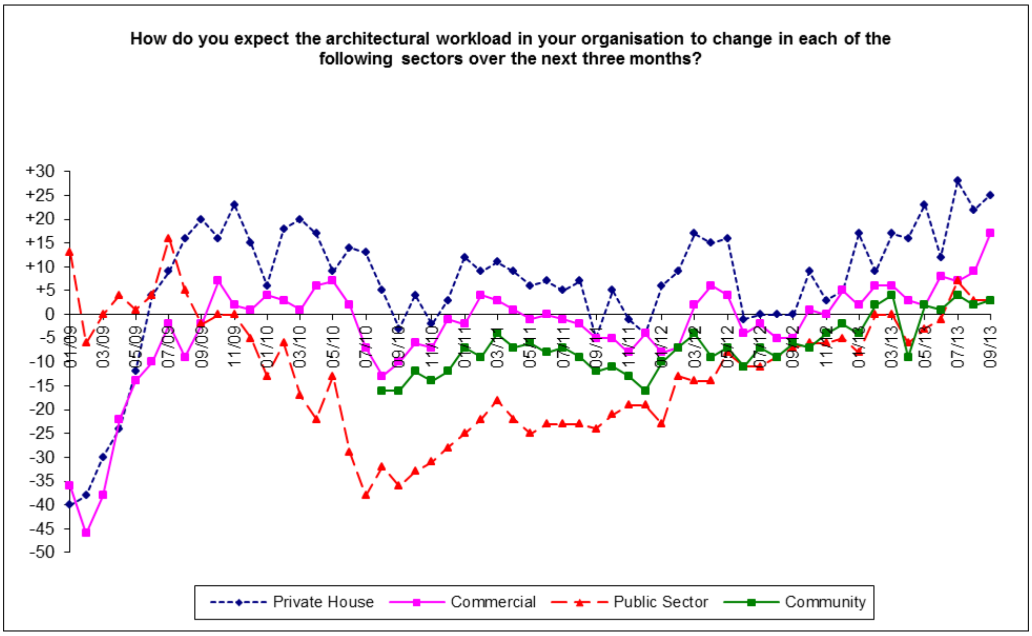
# Memorandum




All our sector forecasts remained in positive territory this month, with the private housing sector workload balance figure rising to +25 in September 2013, up from +22 in August, and the commercial sector workload balance figure seeing a significant increase to +17 in September 2013, a rise of eight balance points from +9 in August. The public sector and community sector workload forecasts both stand at +3 in September 2013.

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

# Memorandum




*Future staffing levels (September 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 | 6 |
| Stay the same | 81 |
| Increase | 13 |
| TOTAL | 100 |
| Balance | +7 |

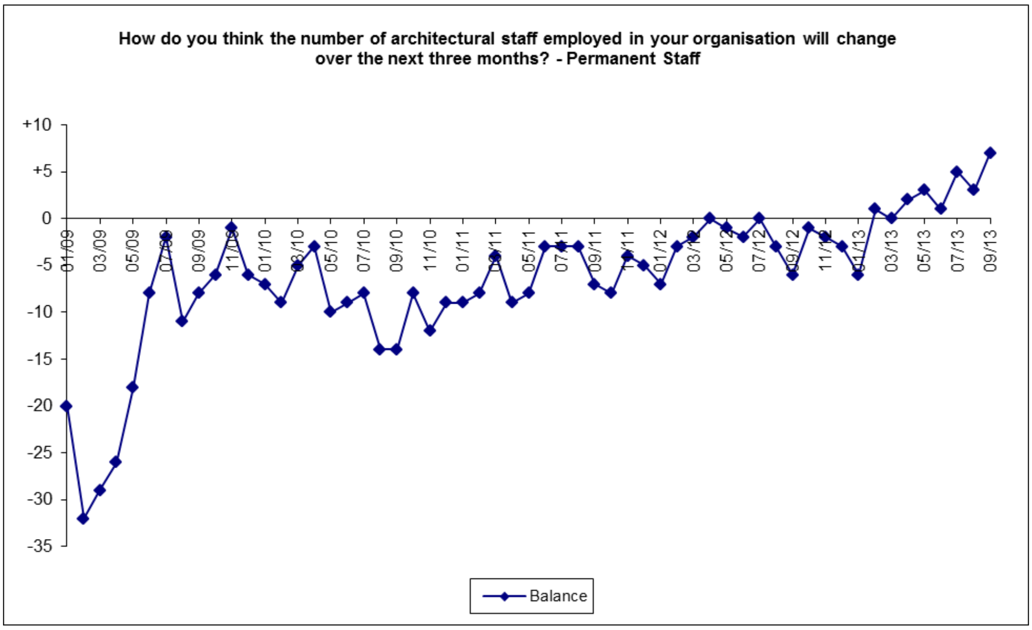
(The definition for the balance figure is the difference between those expecting to employ more permanent staff in the next three months and those expecting to employ fewer.)

The RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index increased to +7 in September 2013, compared with +3 in August 2013, and remaining in positive territory for a sixth consecutive month. The index for temporary staffing increased this month to +12. Overall practices, particularly large practices (50+ staff), continue to become more confident about their ability to sustain higher staffing levels. Practices are even more optimistic about the prospects for taking on more temporary staff; the balance figure for temporary staffing in September 2013 is +12.

Grounds for increased optimism about staffing levels are reinforced by the fact that in September 2013 the percentage of our respondents reporting that they had personally been under-employed in the last month was 20%; the lowest figure since we began the

RIBA Future Trends survey in January 2009. Although there clearly remains over-capacity in the architects' profession at present the situation appears to be gradually improving, suggesting that employment prospects for salaried architects may improve in 2014.

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




Anecdotal commentary received suggests that many practices are continuing to see an overall pick-up in the level of project enquiries and commissions for feasibility studies. However, our respondents continue to report that projects often remain very stop-start, as funding remains difficult to secure, and there is little evidence of any easing in fee competition.

*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 196 practices took part in the Survey in September 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.*