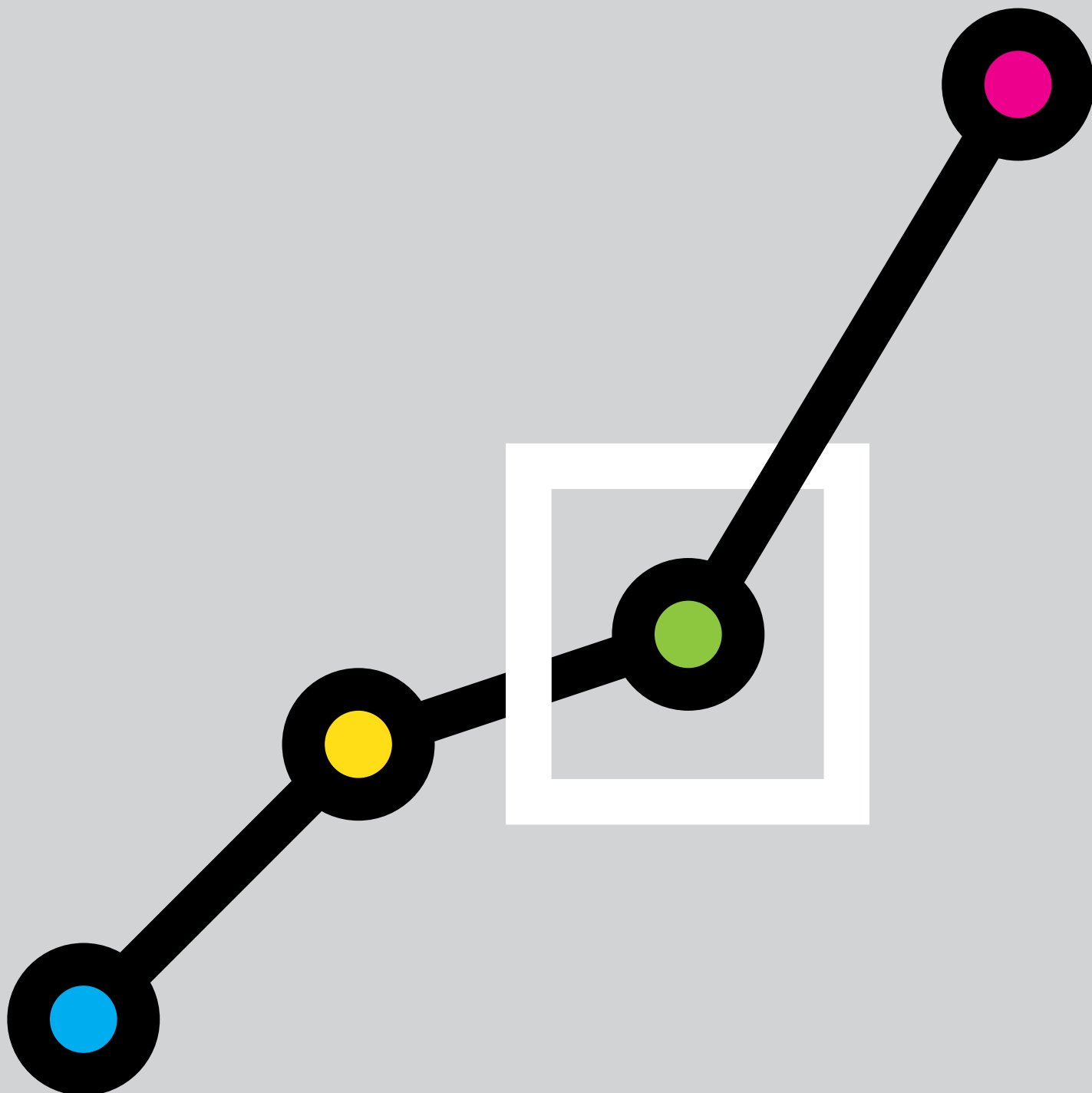


Future Trends Survey:

October 2015



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 October 2015 Survey returns.

Future workload (October 2015)

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	15
Stay the same	52
Increase	33
TOTAL	100
Balance	+18

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

The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index fell back a little further in October 2015, standing at +18 compared with +21 in September.

Our headline index remains firmly in positive territory, but the overall sentiment amongst our participating practices continues to be more cautious than it was during 2014 and the first part of 2015.

In terms of geographical analysis, all nations and regions in the UK returned positive balance figures. In October 2015, practices in Northern Ireland (balance figure +25) were most optimistic about medium term workload growth, whilst it is in the Midlands and East Anglia (balance figure +12) that there is the greatest sense of a temporary peak being reached.

Analysing this month's data in terms of practice size, large practices (51+ staff), with a balance figure of +57, are more positive about future prospects than medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff), with a balance figure of +17, and small practices (1 - 10 staff), with a balance figure of +16.

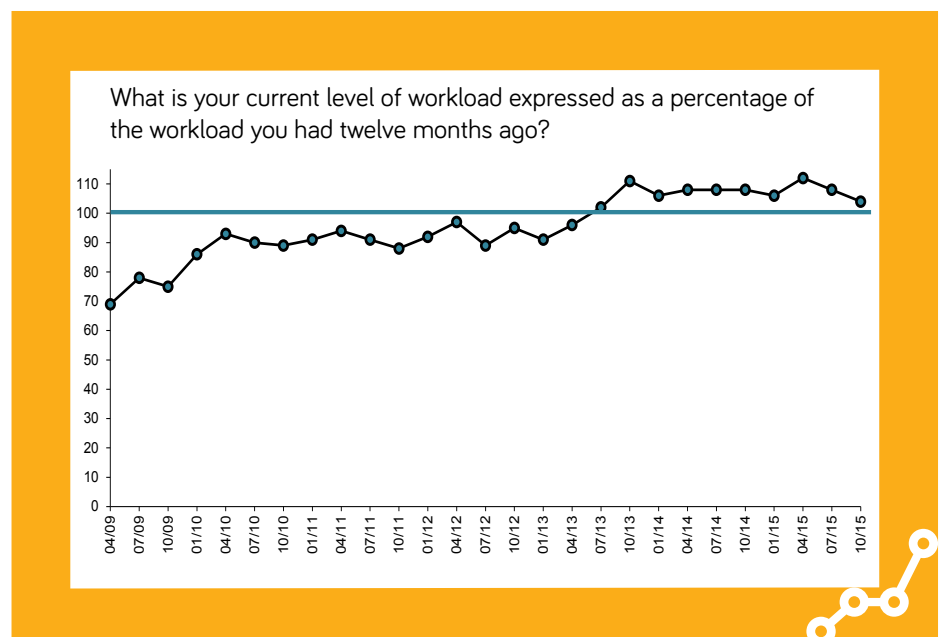
Each quarter we ask our practices about the levels of their current workload compared with 12 months ago. This quarter we report that the value of work in progress is 4% higher than in the same quarter in 2014.

This is a very healthy rate of annual growth, but is a step down from the rates of 8 - 10% that we have consistently seen throughout 2014 and early 2015, and is further confirmation of some cooling in the overall market for architectural services.

The following graph plots annual workload growth figures over time:

Notes

Levels of current workload are recorded by the RIBA Future Trends survey on a quarterly basis.



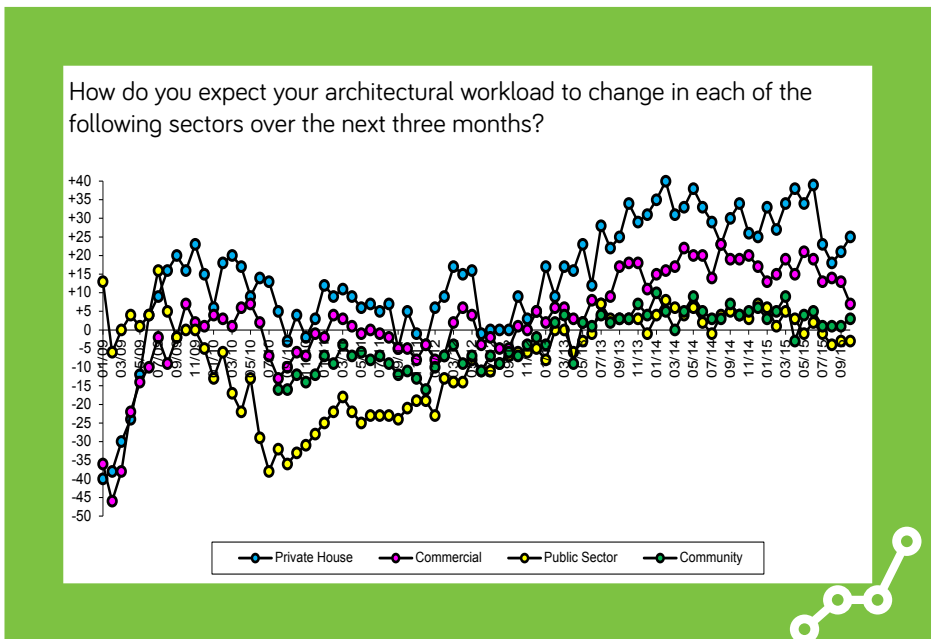
In terms of different work sectors, the private housing sector workload forecast rebounded further this month, rising to +25 in October 2015 from +21 in September 2015.

However, the commercial sector workload forecast was down, standing at +7 in October 2015 compared with +13 in September 2015.

The public sector workload forecast was unchanged at -3, with practices seeing little prospect of an overall improvement in the public sector workload flow.

Our community sector forecast saw a modest rise to +3 in October 2015, up from +1 in September 2015.

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



Future staffing levels (October 2015)

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

Permanent Staff	%
Decrease	5
Stay the same	81
Increase	14
TOTAL	100
Balance	+9

(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 somewhat this month, standing at +9 in October 2015, down from +12 in September 2015.

Mirroring the trend in the Workplace Index, our practices are sounding something of a note of caution as confidence about future staffing levels has declined in recent months. Nevertheless the Staffing Index remains in positive territory and there continues to be

quite a lot of anecdotal evidence sent in by practices that suggests many are now having difficulties recruiting staff with the levels of skills and experience that they are looking for.

Small practices (1 – 10 staff) returned a staffing index balance figure of +9 this month, medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) a balance figure of +4, and large practices (51+ staff) a balance figure of +29.

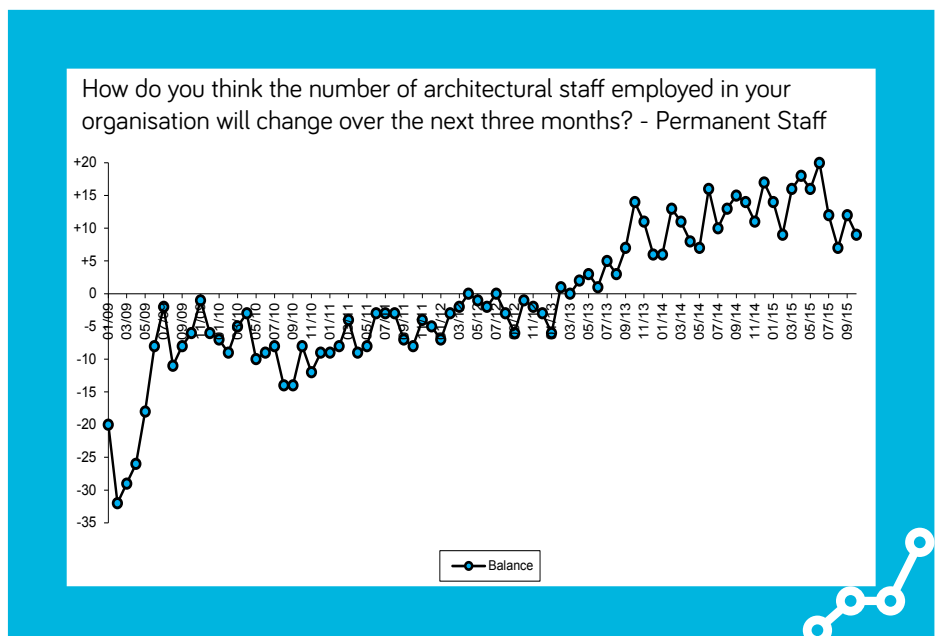
Our participating practices report that in terms of current staffing levels they are employing 3% more staff than this time last year.

Commentary received from our participating practices suggests that the market for architectural services remains buoyant, but with a clear sense that there has been something of a slowdown in the overall pace of growth in the last few months.

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

Notes

The balance figure is plotted here. 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 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 October 2015. 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@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.