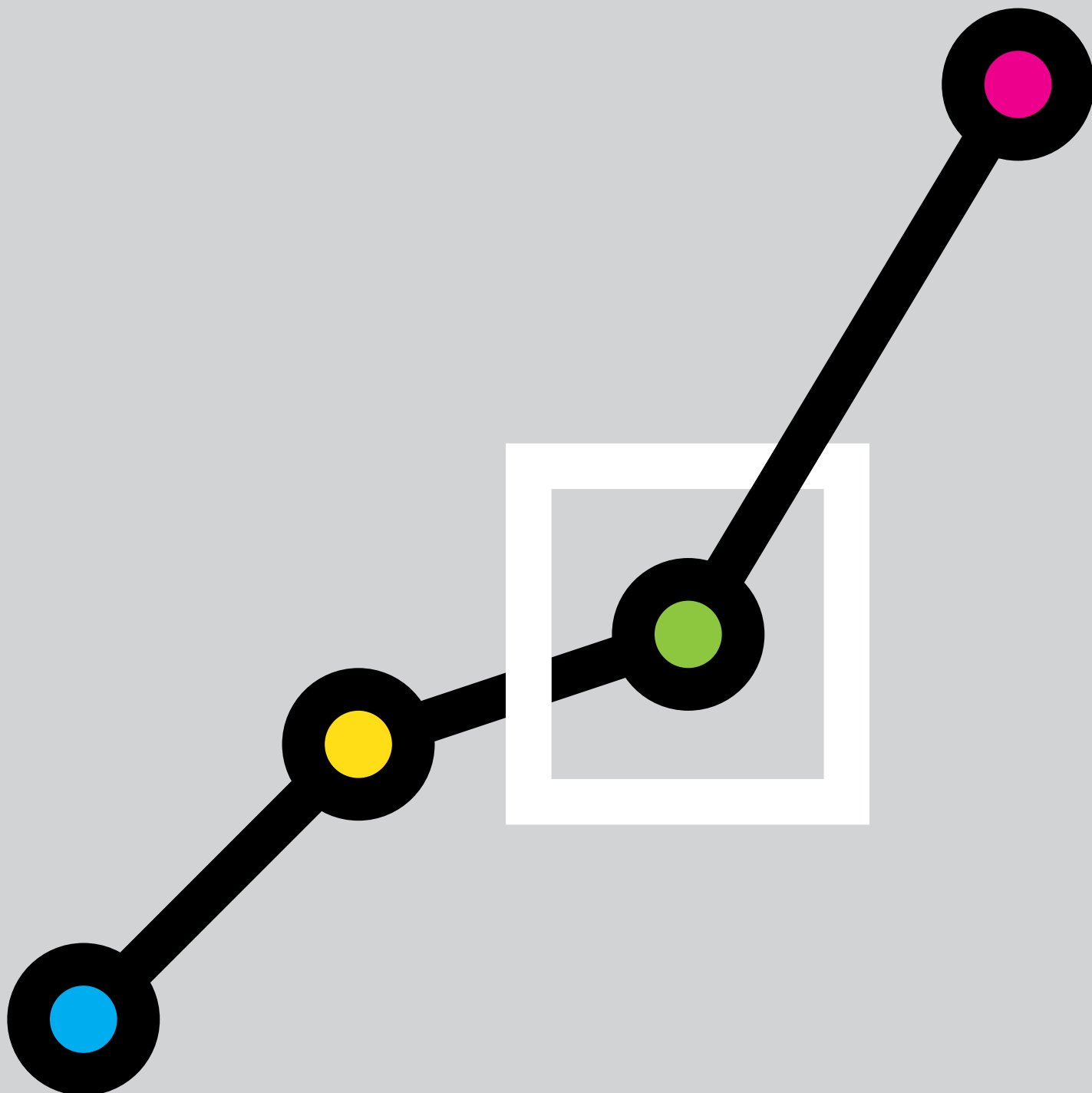


Future Trends Survey:

September 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 September 2015 Survey returns.

Future workload (September 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	12
Stay the same	55
Increase	33
TOTAL	100
Balance	+21

(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 unchanged in September 2015, with the headline balance figure remaining +21.

The figures this month therefore appear to confirm a levelling off in the rate of growth, but with practices staying firmly positive about overall workload prospects in the medium term.

In terms of geographical analysis, all nations and regions in the UK returned positive balance figures. Continuing the trend of recent months, it is in London (balance figure +16), the South of England (balance figure +21) and the Midlands and East Anglia (balance figure +17), that our practices seem to be sensing a slowdown in the rate of growth. Confidence levels are higher in the North of England, Northern Ireland and Wales and the West, whilst Scotland emerges as the most positive with a balance figure of +50.

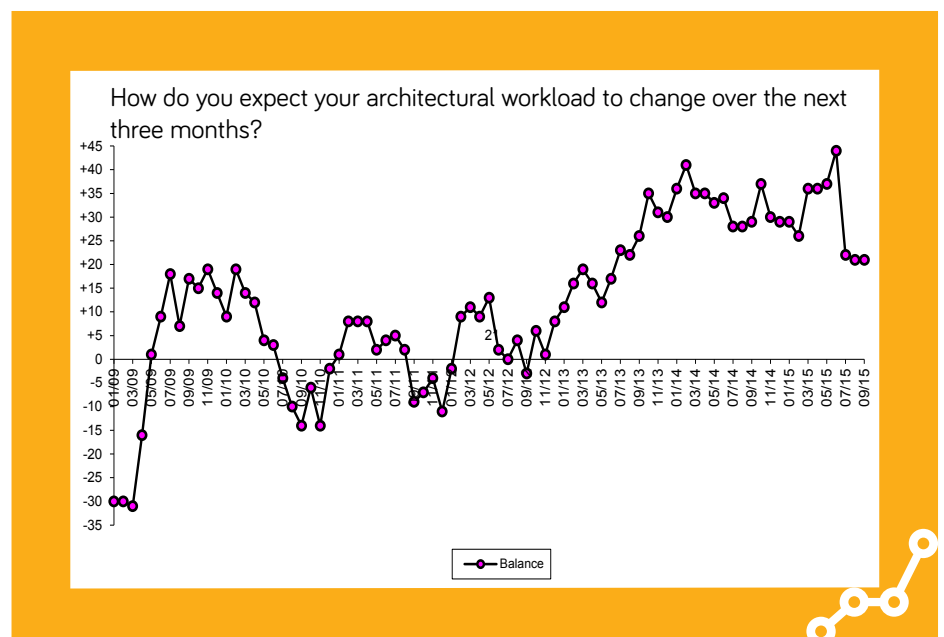
Analysing this months' data in terms of practice size, large practices (51+ staff), with a balance figure of +25, and small practices (1 - 10 staff), with a balance figure of +15, remain in positive territory, but it is

medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff), with a balance figure of +56, that are most optimistic.

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

Notes

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



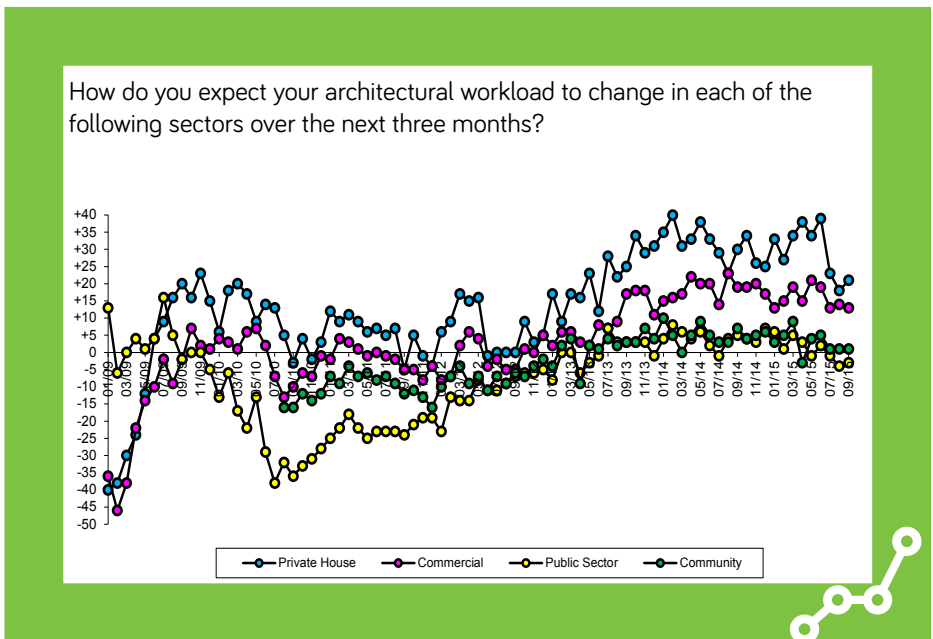
In terms of different work sectors, the private housing sector workload forecast rebounded a little this month, rising to +21 in September 2015 from +18 in August 2015.

The commercial sector workload forecast was very slightly down, standing at +13 in September 2015 compared with +14 in August 2015.

Our public sector workload forecast increased marginally, up to -3 in August 2015 from -4 in August 2015, but overall architects remain pretty cautious about prospects for growth in the public sector work pipeline.

The community sector forecast was unchanged, remaining at +1 in September 2015.

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



Future staffing levels (September 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	78
Increase	17
TOTAL	100
Balance	+12

(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 regained ground this month, standing at +12 in September 2015, up from +7 in August 2015.

95% of our practices expect their permanent staffing levels to either increase or stay the same over the next few months, and the employment market for salaried architects remains buoyant.

Small practices (1 – 10 staff) returned a staffing index balance figure of +7 this month, medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) a balance figure of +48, and large practices (51+ staff) a balance figure of +25.

We also witnessed an increase in the proportion of practices expecting to increase their temporary staffing levels over the next quarter.

Consistent with the overall shifts occurring in the workload indices, it is interesting to note that a number of practices have opened offices and/or increased recruitment in Manchester and other northern cities in recent months, offering further evidence that the North of England is now seeing an increase in opportunities and development activity.

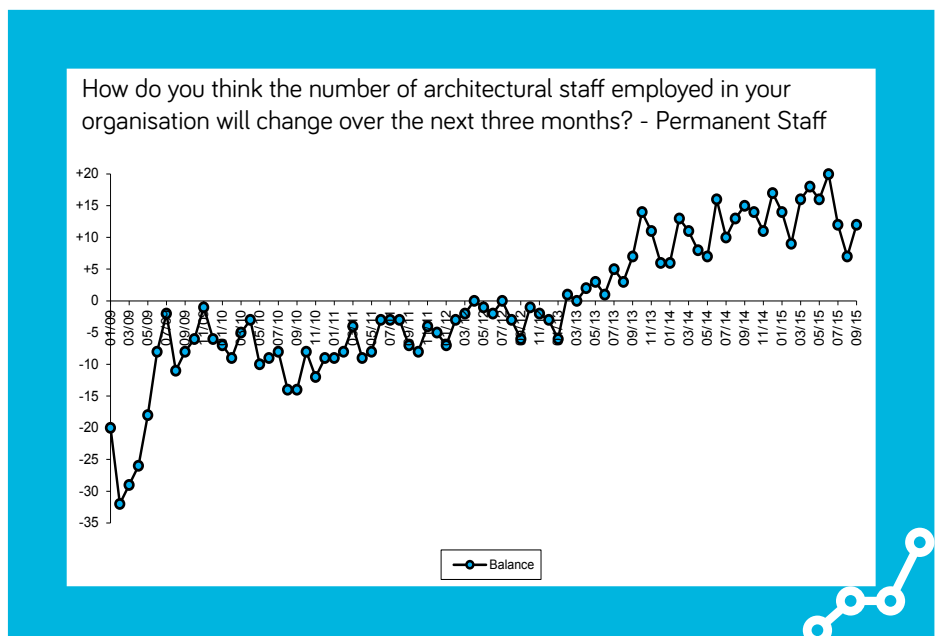
Commentary received from our participating practices continues to paint a picture of a healthy market for architectural services, with more opportunities to negotiate better fee levels and profit margins on projects beginning to rise.

One note of caution on the horizon is that we have received reports that the changes to Housing Association rent criteria seems to be having a significant impact on sustainable delivery of affordable housing, particularly affordable rented housing, suggesting that there may be significant challenges ahead in the Housing Association sector.

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 September 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@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.