Future Trends Survey:

May 2016

RIBA
Architecture.com

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 May 2016 Survey returns.

Future workload (May 2016)

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	7
Stay the same	56
Increase	37
TOTAL	100
Balance	+30

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

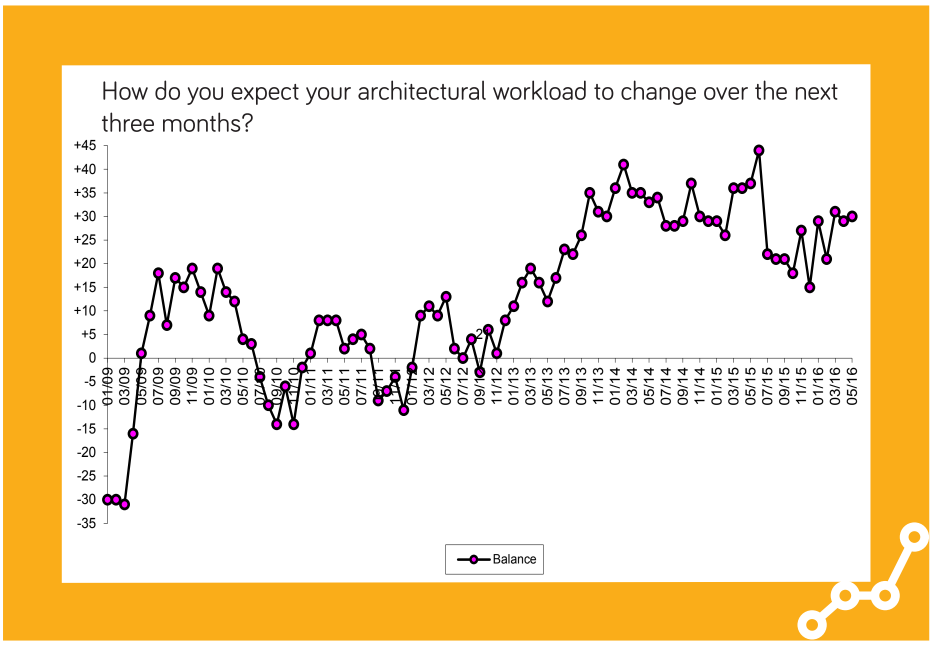
This month the RIBA Future Trends Workload Index saw a mariginal increase, rising to +30 in May 2016, up from +29 in April 2016.

In terms of geographical analysis, as has consistently been the case in recent months, it was the North of England that was the most positive with a balance figure of +48. Conversely, sentiment in London, where the balance figure in May 2016 was +20, has become more circumspect.

Analysing this months' data in terms of practice size, large practices (51+ staff), with a balance figure of +83, continue to be the most positive about future workload prospects by a significant margin, but small practices (1 – 10 staff), with a balance figure of +29, and medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff), with a balance figure of +27 also remain positive in outlook.

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.

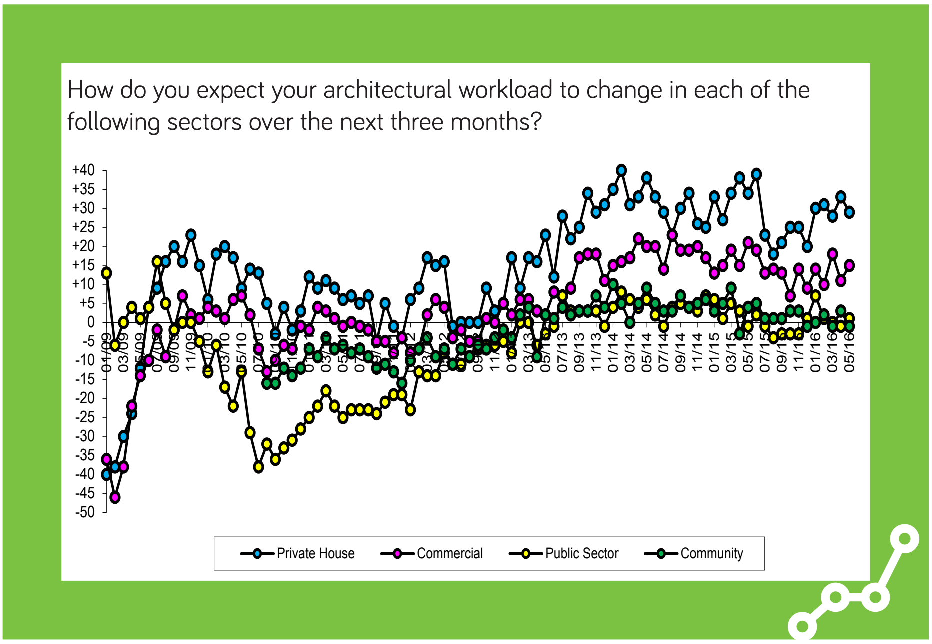


In terms of different work sectors, the private housing sector workload forecast fell back a little this month, standing at +29 in May 2016 compared with +33 in April 2016, but remaining very firmly in positive territory.

This decline in the private housing forecast was offfset by a pick-up in the commercial sector workload forecast, which increased to +15 in May 2016, up from +11 in April 2016.

The public sector workload forecast saw little this change this month, moving up from -1 in April to stand at +1 in May. The community sector forecast saw a modest drop, down to -1 from +3.

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



Future staffing levels (May 2016)
How do you think the number of permanent architectural staff employed in your organisation will change over the next three months?

Permanent Staff	%
Decrease	4
Stay the same	81
Increase	15
TOTAL	100
Balance	+11

(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 also saw little change his month, standing at +11 in May 2016, up from +10 in April.

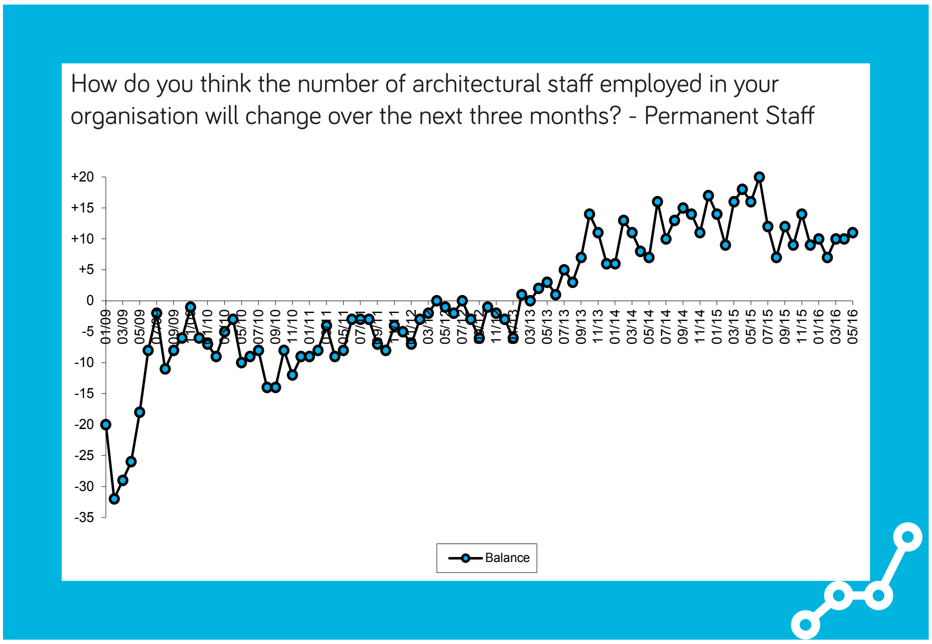
Small practices (1 – 10 staff) returned a Staffing Index balance figure of +11 this month, whilst medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff), with a balance figure of +14, where slightly more upbeat about taking on more staff.

Confidence amongst our large practices (51+ staff) about increasing staffing levels was in shorter supply, with a balance of zero this month., despite the fact that large practices were by far the most upbeat about the future workload pipeline.

Anecdotal commentary received from our participating practices continues to be generally positive. It is clearly the private housing sector that remains the strongest driver of growth in architectural services. Public sector work remains important to many of our practices, but overall workload levels in the public sector appear to remain fairly static, with our practices still anticipating little growth in this type of work.

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 221 practices took part in the Survey in May 2016. 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.