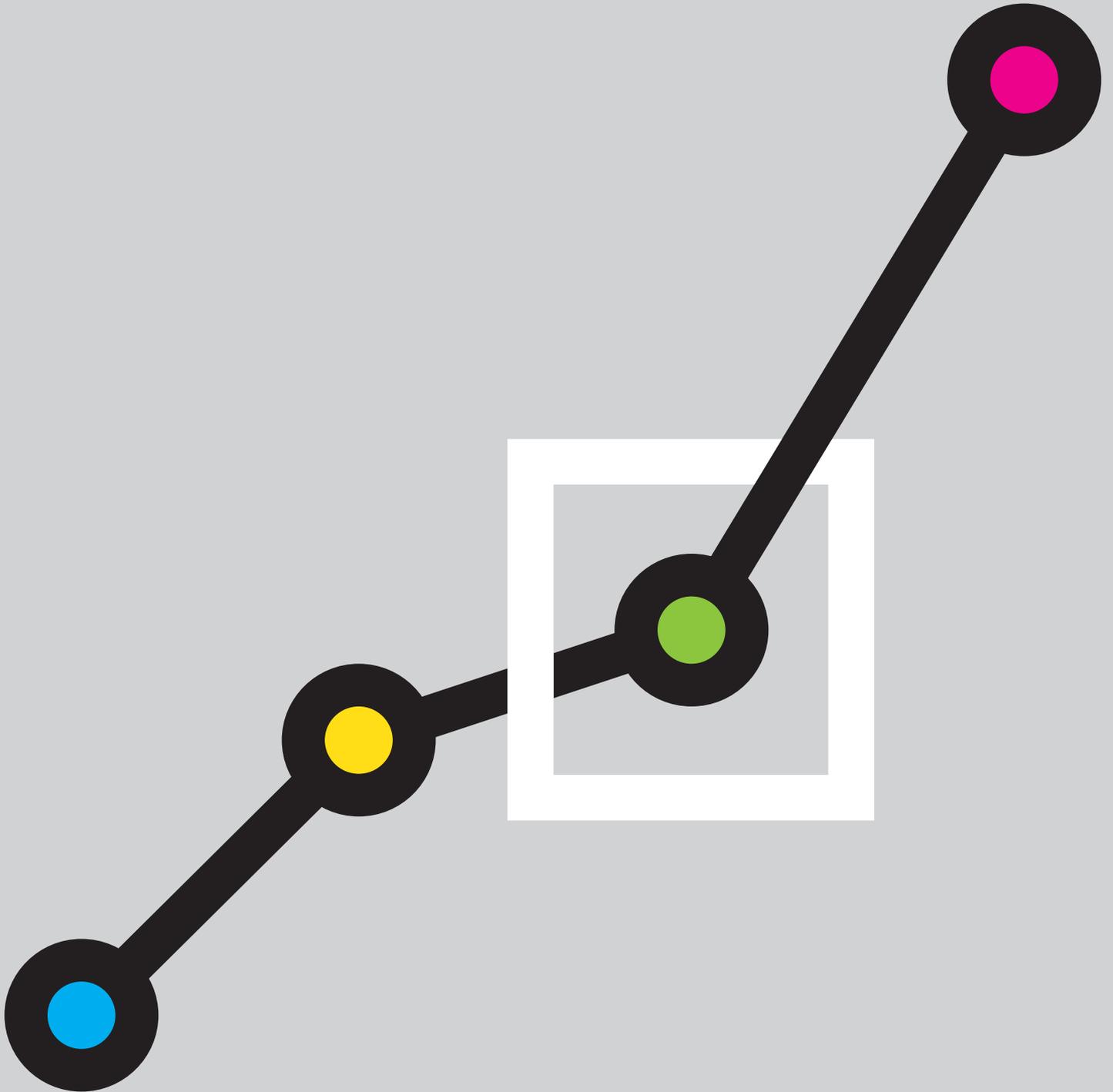


Future Trends Survey:

July 2017



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 July 2017 Survey returns.

Future workload (July 2017)

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	16
Stay the same	54
Increase	30
TOTAL	100
Balance	+14

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

The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index bounced back a little this month, recovering some of its 13 point fall last month to stand at +14 in July 2017 up from +10 in June.

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 geographical analysis, practices in the North of England (balance figure +26) and the Midlands and East Anglia (balance figure +32) were more optimistic about medium term workload prospects this month than practices in the South of England (balance figure +17). Practices in London remained by far the most cautious about future workloads, with a balance figure of -2.

Analysing the June 2017 data in terms of practice size, large practices (51+ staff) returned a balance figure of +63 in June 2017, the highest number for this practice segment for some time. Small practices (1 - 10 staff), with a balance figure of +11, and medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff), with a balance figure of +15 continued to be less positive than large practices.

The value of actual work in progress reported by our participating practices is continuing to grow at a modest annualised rate of 1%.

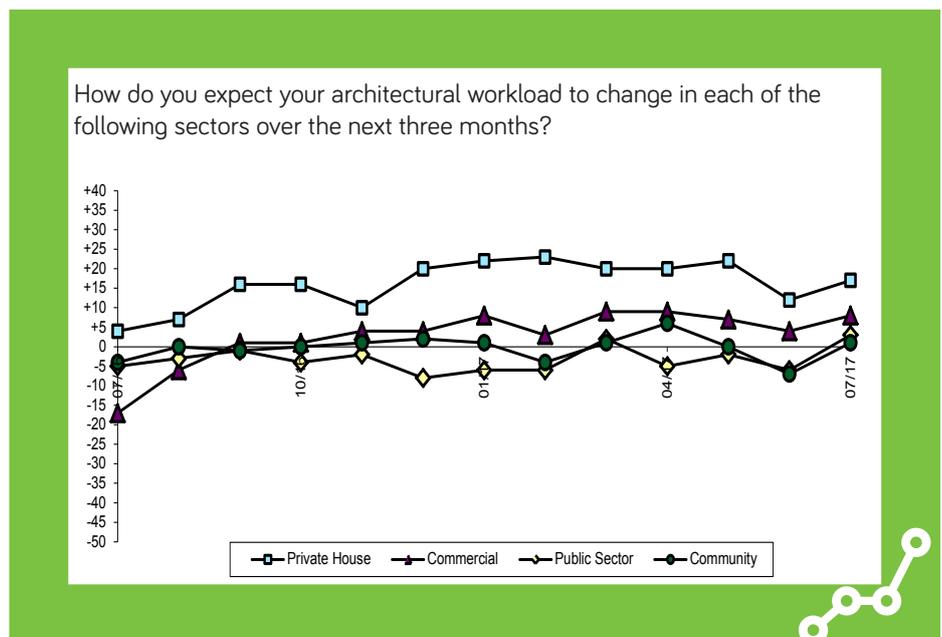
The following graph plots the RIBA Future Workload index over time:



In terms of different work sectors, all our sector forecasts saw upward motion this month. The private housing sector workload forecast (balance figure +17) staged a good recovery from its big dip last month. The commercial sector workload forecast (balance figure +8) was also back on the up.

The community sector forecast also crept back into positive territory this month (balance figure +1). It was the public sector workload forecast that showed the biggest net increase, jumping up to +3, its highest figure for twelve months, but not yet forecasting any dramatic growth in overall public sector work.

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



Future staffing levels (July 2017)

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

Permanent Staff	%
Decrease	7
Stay the same	76
Increase	17
TOTAL	100
Balance	+10

(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.)

Mirroring our Workload Index, the RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index was also up a little this month, rising to +10 in July 2017 from +6 in June. The vast majority of practices expect their permanent staffing levels to either remain the same or increase over the coming quarter.

Large practices (51+ staff), with a balance figure of +63 and medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff), with a balance figure of +16,

were more confident about future staffing levels than small practices (1 - 10 staff) with a balance figure of +6.

Commentary received from our participating practices suggests a steady outlook in the medium term but a sense of a more unpredictable longer term outlook. Some of last month's pessimism seems to have lifted but signals remain mixed.

Some practices have detected nervousness on the part of developers of larger residential schemes. At the same time we have had the first reports for some time of practices struggling to recruit staff with the skills they need.

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



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 197 practices took part in the Survey in July 2017. 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.