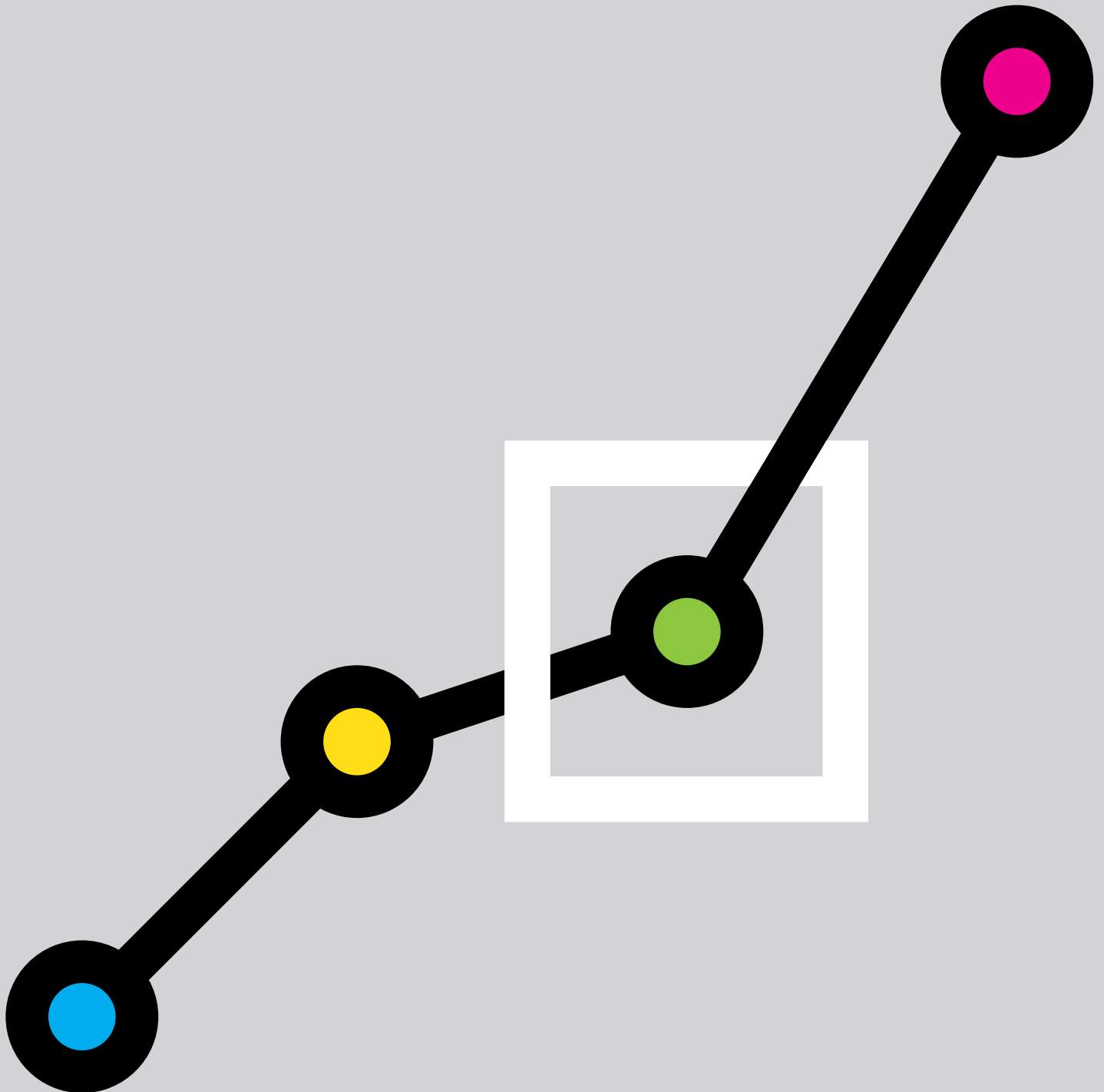


Future Trends Survey:

June 2019



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 June 2019 Survey returns.

Future workload (June 2019)

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	21
Stay the same	50
Increase	29
TOTAL	100
Balance	+9*

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

**'Increase' minus 'Decrease' does not equal the 'Balance' figure due to rounding.*

The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index rose four points in June, to a balance figure of +9. This comes after three consecutive months of a balance figure of +5.

In terms of different regions, the attitude towards future workload differs markedly between London practices, and those in other areas.

London practices are more pessimistic than other areas, having again returned a negative balance figure. The London balance figure is down 6 points from last month's figure of -2. In June, London practices returned a balance figure of -8.

The North of England remains notably positive, continuing its run of returning the highest balance figure of any region. In June, practices in the North of England returned a balance figure of +39.

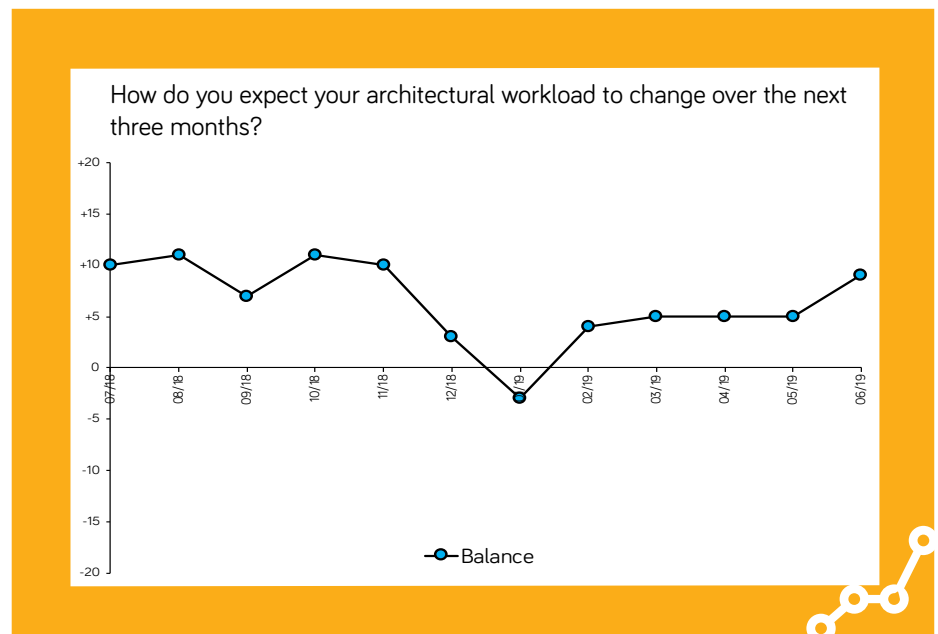
The South of England showed signs of increased optimism with a balance figure of +19 in June 2019, up 16 points.

Wales & The West (+13) again strengthened its outlook this month. Midlands & East Anglia has remained at the same level, again returning a zero balance.

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.



Analysing the June 2019 workload forecast data in terms of practice size, we can see the following:

Small practices (1 - 10 staff) record a three point rise in their index score, with a positive balance of +5 in June 2019, up from +2 in May 2019.

Medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) continue to be positive, returning a balance figure of +30, up two balance points from +28 in May 2019.

Large practices (51+ staff) continue their trend of increasingly positive sentiment, recording a balance figure of +33 in June, up from +20 in May.

In terms of different work sectors, the **private housing** sector workload slipped from a balance figure of +8 in May to +1 in June 2019. Whilst private housing remains the most resilient of the work sectors we report upon, this month's figure suggests a potential fragility. Only positive figures from the North of England, and Wales & the West, prevented housing falling into negative territory.

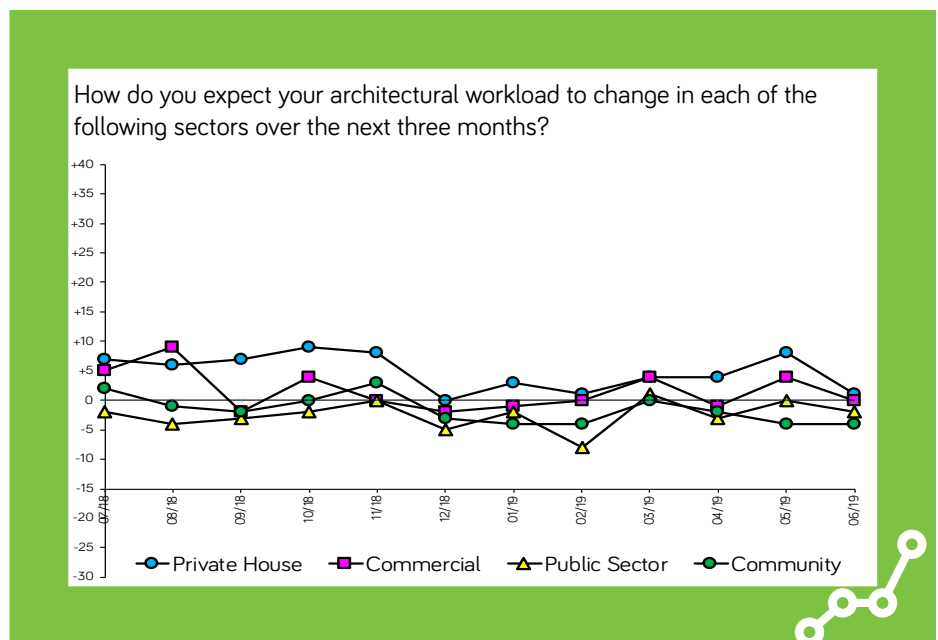
The **commercial sector** fell from +4 in May, down to zero in June 2019. The drop in sentiment was most acute among small practices, who fell from a positive balance in May, to -4 in June 2019.

The workload predictions for the **community sector** continue to be negative. In June 2019 the community sector returned a balance figure of -4, the same as May.

The **public sector** slipped back into negative territory, recording a balance of -2 in June 2019, down from zero in May. Small practices (1 - 10 staff) are the most negative about future workloads, recording a balance of -5, whilst larger practices are strongly positive.

For the four work sectors, the London region recorded a negative balance in every one. This is in contrast to the North of England, which was positive about all sectors.

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



Future staffing levels (June 2019)

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

Permanent Staff	%
Decrease	9
Stay the same	80
Increase	11
TOTAL	100
Balance	+2

(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 rose very slightly this month, up from +1 in May 2019, to +2 in June 2019.

Medium sized practices (11 - 50 staff) remained upbeat about future staffing levels, recording a balance figure of +23, up two from last month.

Small practices (1 - 10 staff), with a balance figure of -1, were less confident, as were large practices (51+) with a balance figure of zero. For both these groups, the RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index has remained the same.

Despite a modest rise in the RIBA Future Trends Workload Index this month, the *commentary* we received from practices largely focuses on the fragility of the current architectural market.

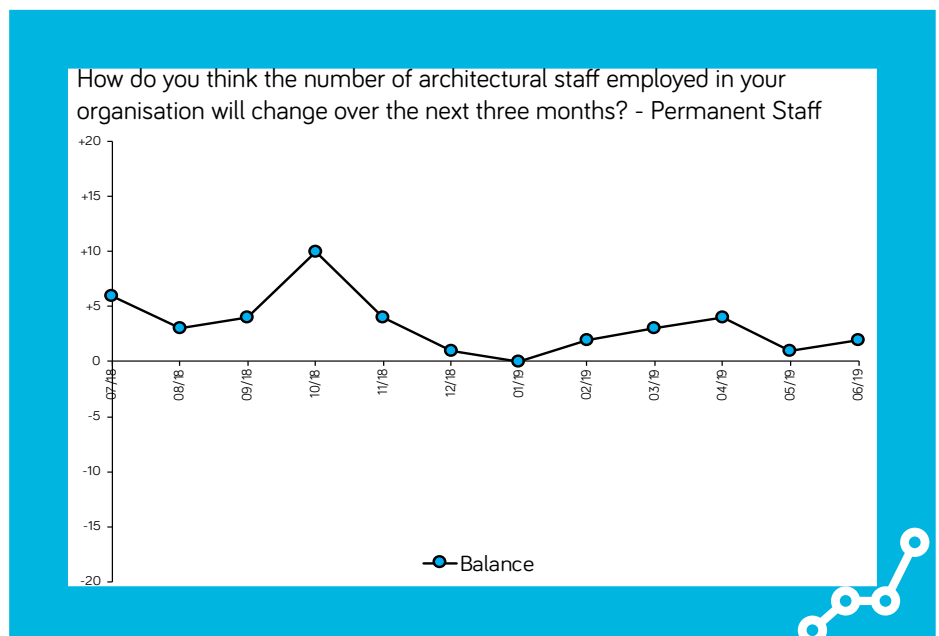
Many drew attention to Brexit creating an unpredictable market, one in which it is increasingly difficult for both clients and architects to make, and commit to, business plans.

Some practices, however, draw attention to value of international work, and others to the robust market for high quality 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 257 practices took part in the Survey in June 2019. 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.