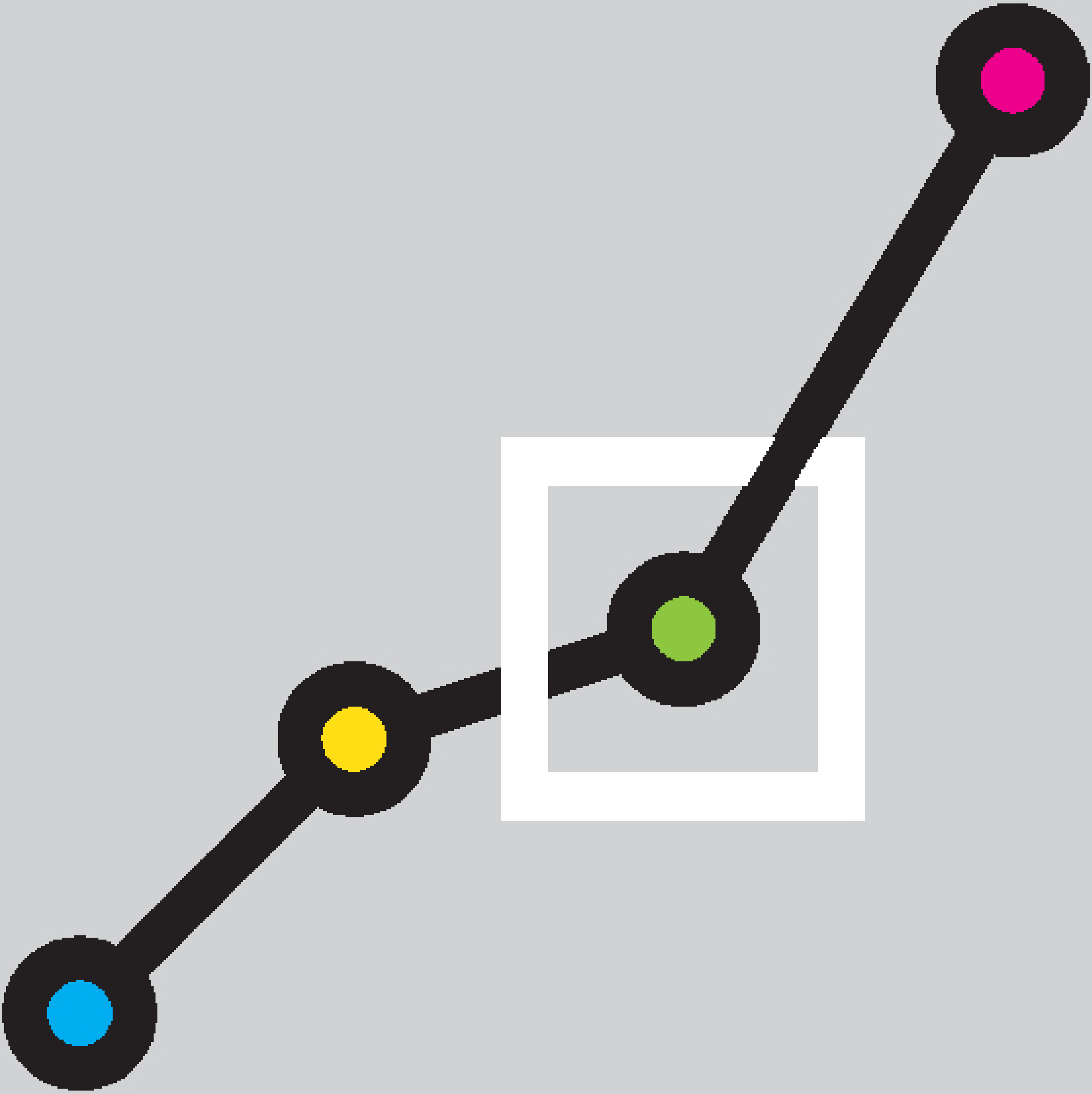
Future Trends Survey:

January 2018



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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 January 2018 Survey returns.

Future workload (January 2018)

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	19
Stay the same	50
Increase	31
TOTAL	100
Balance	+12

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

The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index continued to recover this month, rising further from +8 in December 2017 and rebounding back to +12 in January 2018.

In terms of geographical analysis the picture remains mixed. London continues to be the most pessimistic about medium term workloads, with a balance figure of -14. Scotland and Northern Ireland also remain quite circumspect with balance figures of zero. By contrast practices in the South East returned a balance figure of +39, the Midlands and East Anglia a balance figure of +25 and practices in the North of England +18. There was more nervousness in Wales and the West (balance figure +6).

Analysing the January 2018 data in terms of practice size, there was only limited variation this month. Large practices (51+ staff) returned a balance figure of +14, medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) also returned a balance figure of +14, and small practices (1 - 10 staff) a balance figure of +11.

Each quarter we ask our practices about the value of work in progress compared with 12 months ago. In January 2018 our practices reported a 4% drop in the value of work in progress compared with January 2017. This is the first annualised fall in the value of work in progress since April 2013.

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

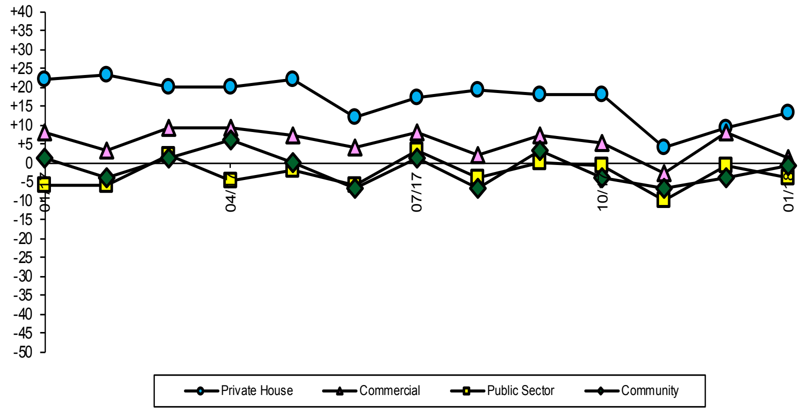
Notes
The balance figure is plotted here. The definition for the balance figure is the difference between those expecting more work and those expecting less.

In terms of different work sectors, it was a mixed picture this month. The private housing sector workload forecast remains the most positive of our sector forecasts and continued its upward momentum, rising to +13 in January 2018 up from +9 in December 2017. However, the commercial sector workload forecast moved in the opposite direction, with a balance figure of +1 in January 2018 down from +8 in December 2017.

The community sector workload forecast (balance figure -1) and the public sector workload forecast (balance figure -4) both remain the weaker, with no overall growth predicted in the medium term.

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

How do you expect your architectural workload to change in each of the following sectors over the next three months?



Future staffing levels (January 2018)

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	81
Increase	12
TOTAL	100
Balance	+5

(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.)

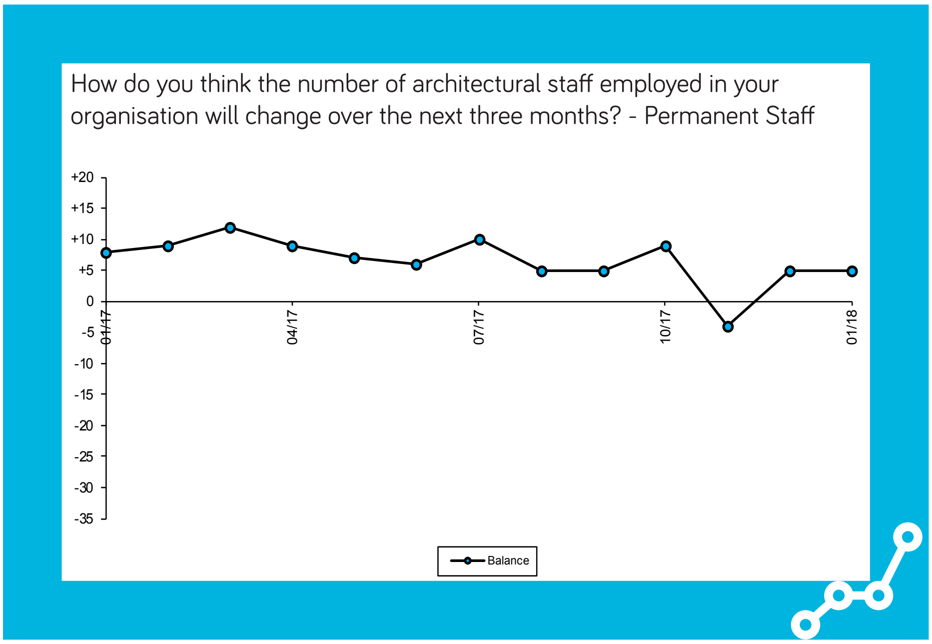
The RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index was unchanged this month, remaining at +5 in January 2018.

Large practices (51+ staff) with a staffing balance figure of +29 are more confident about their ability to increase staffing levels in the medium term than medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) with a balance figure of +9 and small practices (1 - 10 staff) with a balance figure of +4.

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



Commentary received from our participating practices continues to suggest a steady market despite the fall in our quarterly figure for the value of work in progress.

A number of practices have noted a reduction in the number of CVs received from job applicants, particularly from EU architects.

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 217 practices took part in the Survey in January 2018. 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.