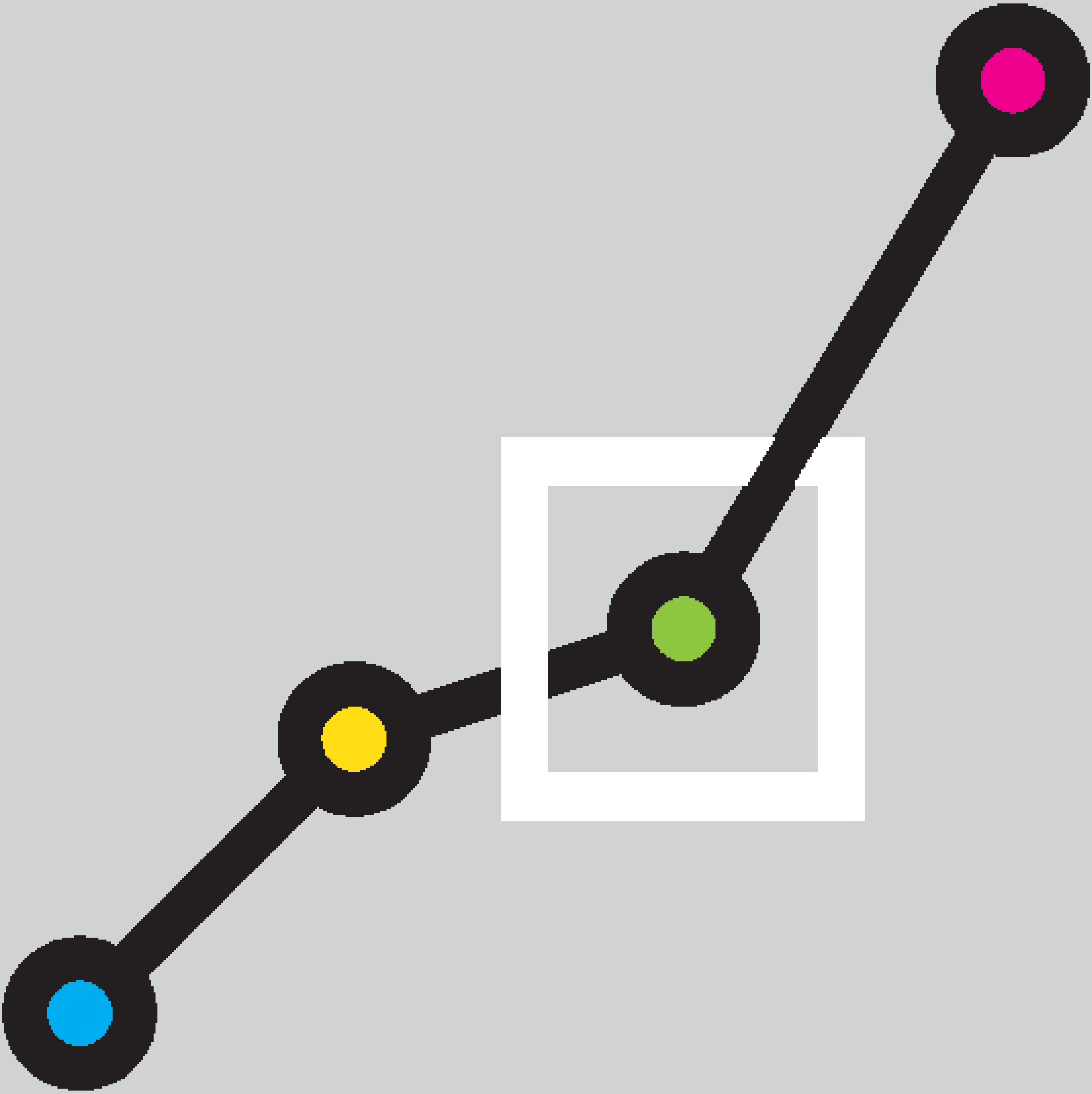
Future Trends Survey:

November 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 November 2018 Survey returns.

Future workload (November 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	16
Stay the same	58
Increase	26
TOTAL	100
Balance	+10

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

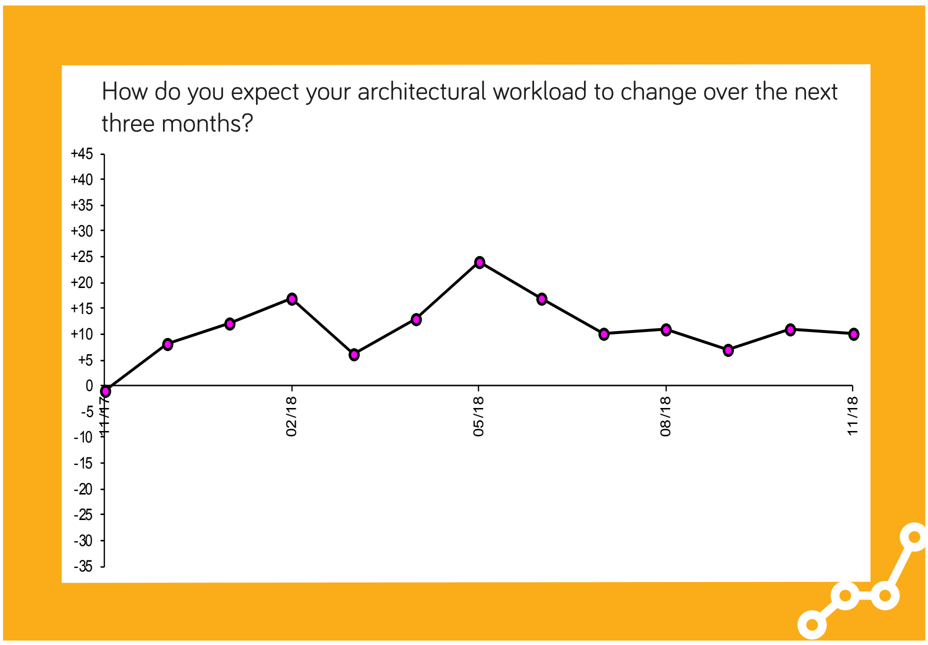
The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index was down marginally this month, standing at +10 in November 2018 compared with +11 in October.

In terms of geographical analysis, practices in Wales and the West are now the most pessimistic about future workloads, with a balance figure of -5. Practices in London (balance figure +5) and the South of England (balance figure +5) are also cautious about the medium term outlook.. The balance figure for practices in the Midlands and East Anglia was +12, and the North of England remains the most optimistic, with a balance figure in November 2018 of +40.

Analysing the November 2018 workload forecast data in terms of practice size, all our particpating large practices (51+ staff) were positive on future workloads, returning a workload balance figure of +100 For medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) the balance figure was a much more modest +10, whilst for small practices (1 - 10 staff) the balance figure was even more cauttious at just +8.

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 in November 2018.

The private housing sector workload forecast fell marginally to +8, down from +9 in September. The commercial sector forecast also saw a decline this month, down to a balance figure of zero in November from +4 last month.

By contrast both the public sector workload forecast (balance figure zero) and the community sector workload forecast (balance figure +3) experienced positive movement, but our practices continue to be cautious about growth prospects in these sectors.

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

Future staffing levels (November 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	9
Stay the same	78
Increase	13
TOTAL	100
Balance	+4

(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.)

There was an decrease in the RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index this month, falling to +4 in November 2018, down from +10 in October, and wiping out last month's increase.

The staffing forecast for large practices (51+ staff) was +75 in November 2018.

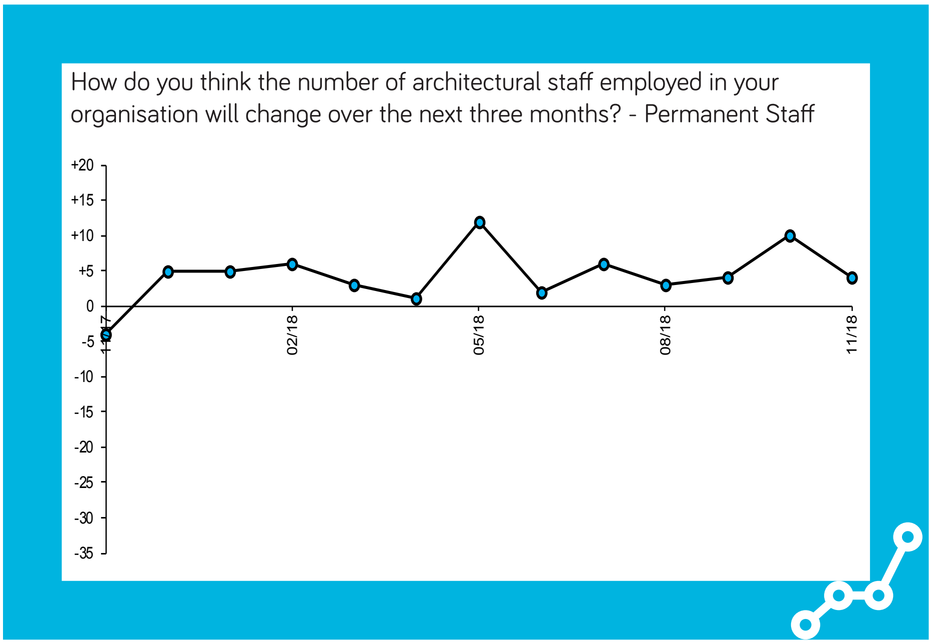
Medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) returned a balance figure of just +7, down considerably from +29 last month.

Small practices (1 - 10 staff), with a balance figure of +2, remain the least confident about taking on additional staff in the short to medium term.

Commentary received from our participating practices continues to suggest a fairly steady but increasingly nervous market.

Brexit anxiety continues to be a factor which is clouding overall sentiment and affecting the willingness of clients to commit to funding projects beyond planning stage.

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 243 practices took part in the Survey in November 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.