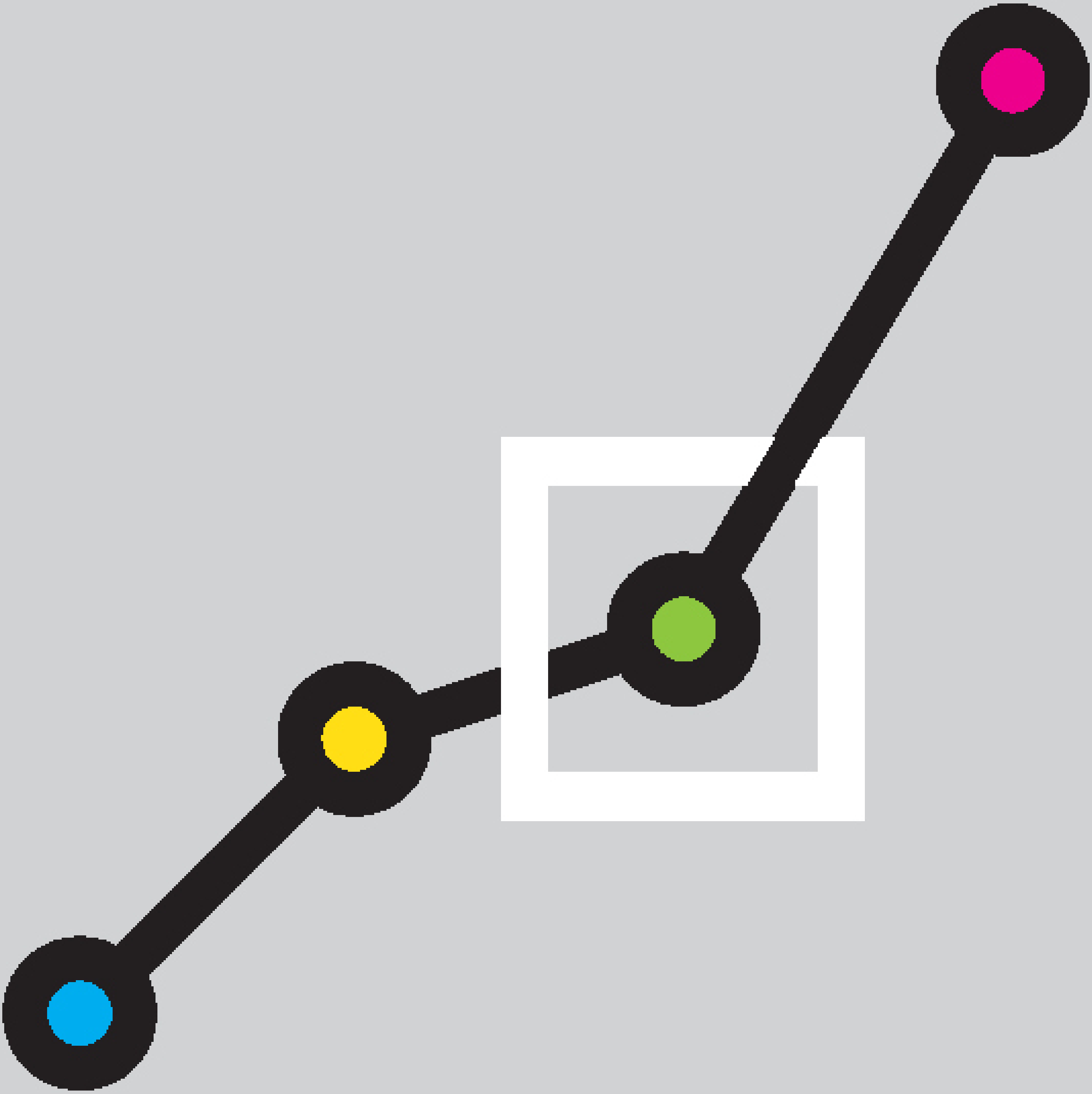
Future Trends Survey:

August 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 August 2018 Survey returns.

Future workload (August 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	17
Stay the same	55
Increase	28
TOTAL	100
Balance	+11

(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 virtually unchanged this month, standing at +11 in August 2018, compared with +10 in July.

In terms of geographical analysis, practices in the North of England, remained by a large margin the most positive about future workloads with a balance figure of +41, up from +30 last month. Practices in the Midlands and East Anglia, also remained upbeat with a balance figure of +19.

Practices in the South of England (balance figure +5) and London (balance figure zero) are still much more cautious.

Analysing the August 2018 workload forecast data in terms of practice size, large practices (51+ staff) returned a workload balance figure of +83, for medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff) the balance figure was +24, but for small practices (1 - 10 staff) the balance figure was significantly lower at +8. This reflects the pattern we have seen in recent months.

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

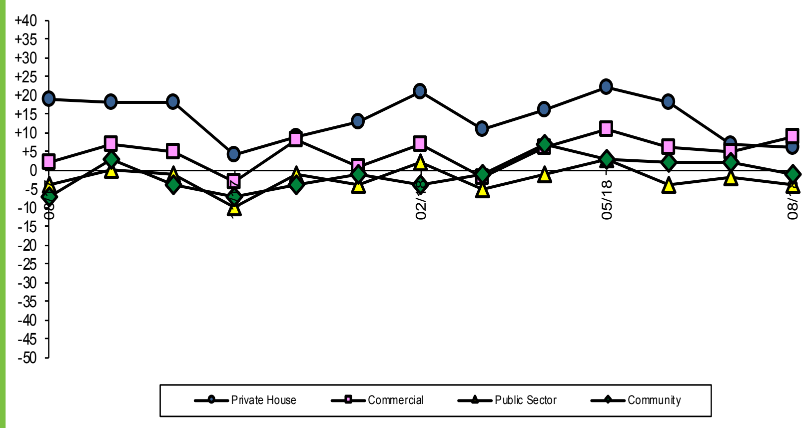
Notes
The balance figure is plotted here. The definition for the balance figure is the difference between those expecting more work and those expecting less.

In terms of different work sectors, the private housing sector workload forecast was vitrually unchanged, standing at +6 in August 2018, but still down from its recent higher trend level. The commerical sector forecast saw a small rise to +9.

However, both the public sector workload forecast (balance figure -4) and the community sector workload forecast (balance figure -1) were down this month, and our participating practices predict a marginal fall in workload in these sectors.

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 (August 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	79
Increase	12
TOTAL	100
Balance	+3

(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.)

In contrast to the RIBA Future Trends Workload Forecast, the RIBA Future Trends Staffing Index saw a small dip this month, standing at +3 in August 2018, down from +6 in July.

The staffing forecast for large practices (51+ staff) was +67 in August However, medium-sized practices (11 - 50 staff), with a balance figure of zero (down sharply from +16 last month), and small practices (1 - 10 staff), with a balance figure of +1, remain much less confident about taking on additional staff in the short to medium term.

Mirroring the Workload Index, practices in the North of England (balance figure +11) and the Midlands and East Anglia (balance figure +12) are the most optimistic about being able to take on more staff over the next quarter.

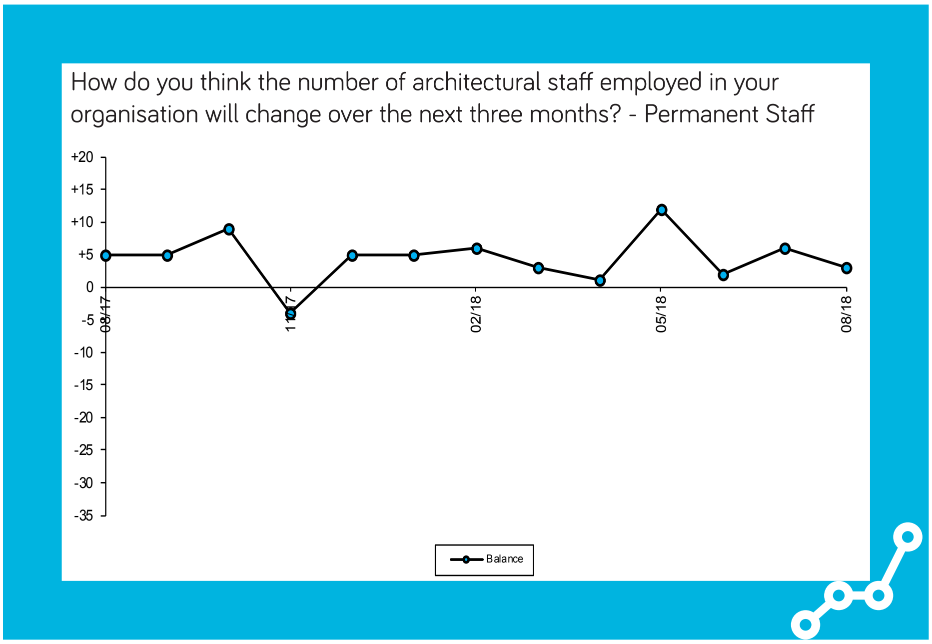
London practices (balance figure -3) and the South of England (balance figure -8) are significantly more cautious on future staffing levels, indicatiing a tightening employment market for salaried architects in London and the South.

Commentary received from our participating practices continues to portray a fairly steady if not growing market..

A significant number of our practices do highlight a growing hesitancy on the part of clients to allow projects to proceed to construction with many citing uncertain conditions created by Brexit as a an important factor which is clouding overall sentiment.

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 241 practices took part in the Survey in August 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.