ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

13th Economic Trends Survey of the Architects' Council of Europe

January 2015

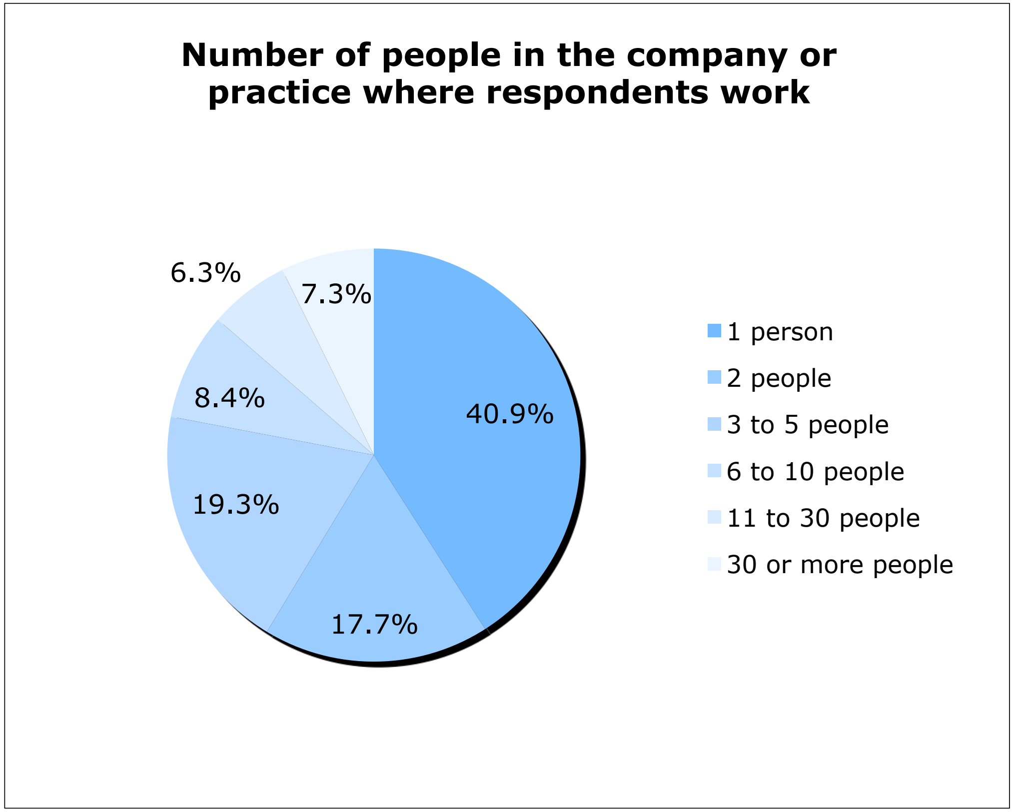
Breakdown of responses

COUNTRY	ANSWERS
France	1464
Belgium	399
Spain	365
Italy	192
Greece	169
Germany	127
Romania	112
Portugal	83
Slovenia	80
Sweden	68
Turkey	63
Ireland	36
United Kingdom	35
Denmark	29
Norway	21
Bulgaria	18
Switzerland	16
Austria	11
Finland	11
Slovakia	9
Luxembourg	8
Netherlands	7
Lithuania	5
Malta	5
Croatia	3
Czech Republic	2
Estonia	1
Latvia	1
Serbia	1

3341 architects responded to the questionnaire.

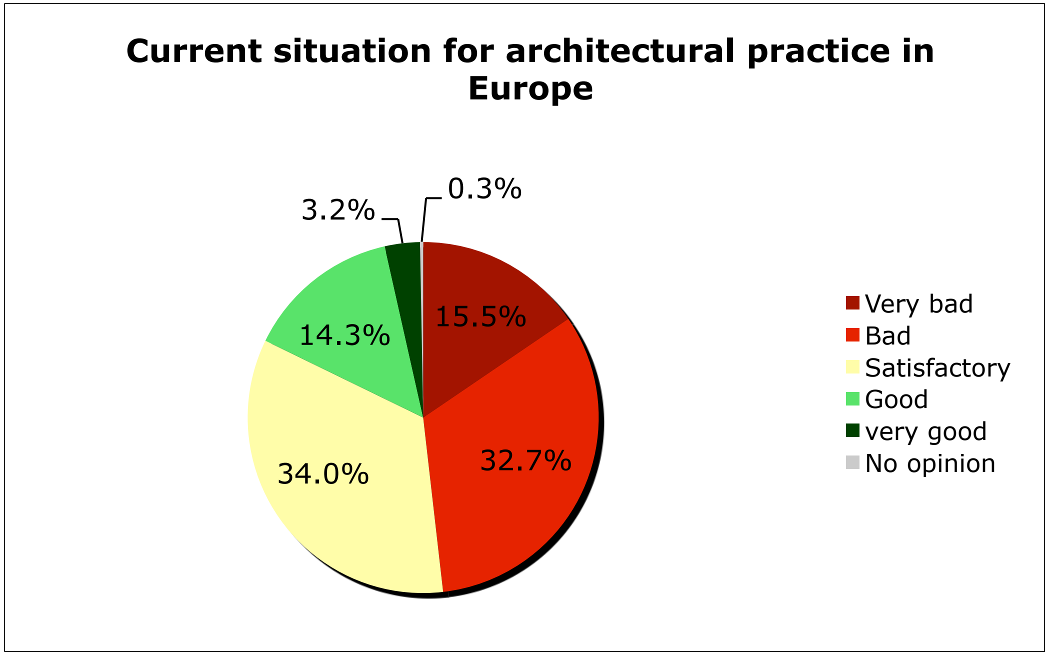
Warning: Some of these answers were not included in the overall results due to the fact that they were not sufficiently representative in relation to the number of architects (see countries highlighted in grey).

Profile of respondents



All sizes of architectural practice are well represented.

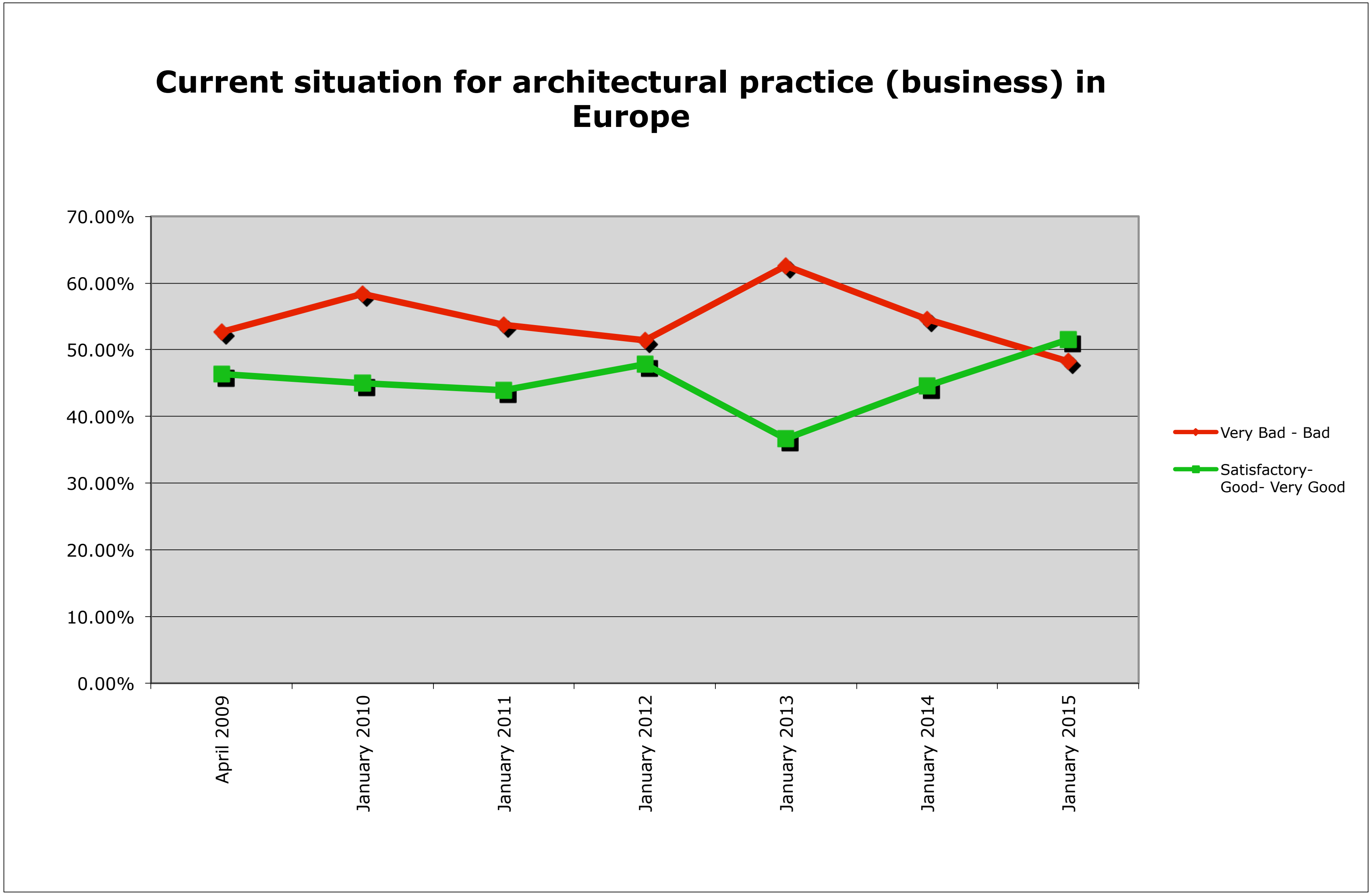
13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



For the first time since the survey was created, the number of respondents who judge the situation for architectural practice *satisfactory*, *good* or *very good* exceeds those judging the situation as *bad* or *very bad*.

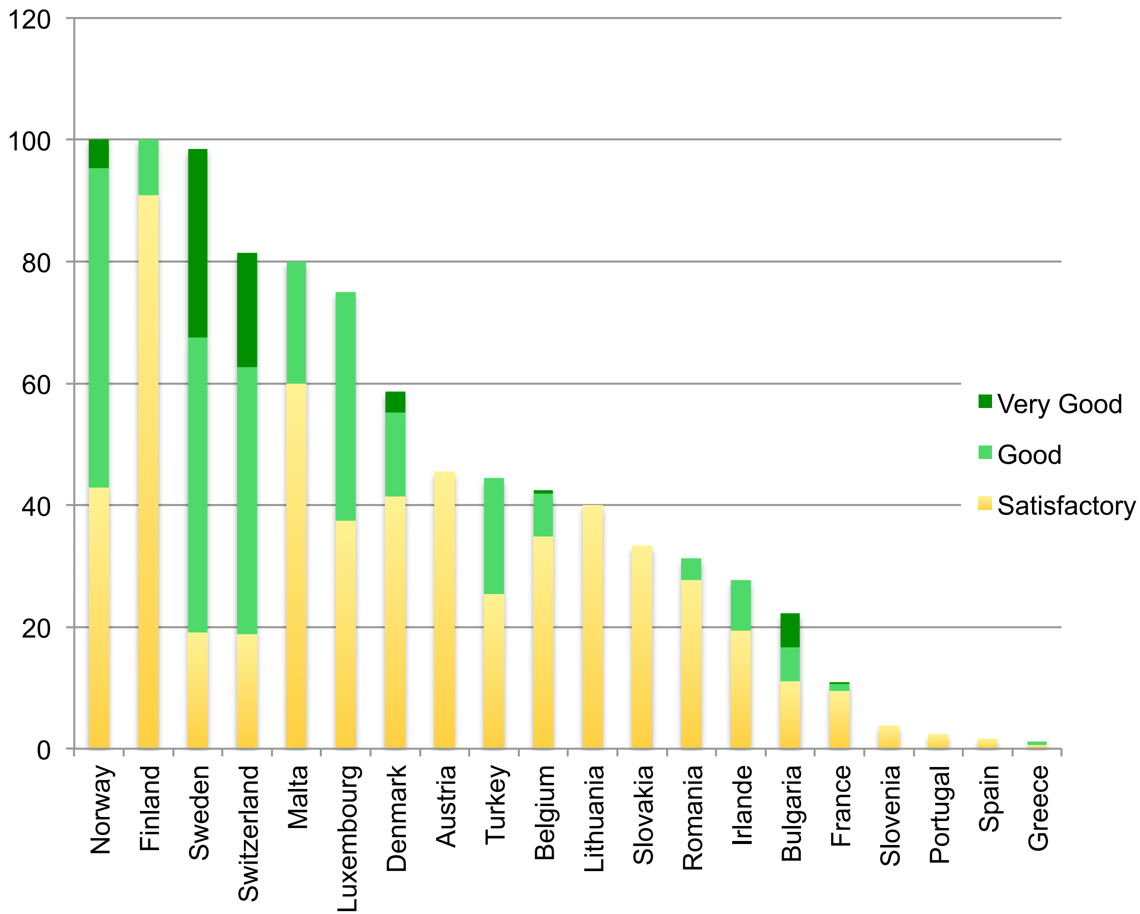
	Very Bad - Bad	Satisfactory- Good- Very Good
April 2009	52,70%	46,30%
January 2010	58,40%	45,00%
January 2011	53,70%	43,90%
January 2012	51,40%	47,80%
January 2013	62,60%	36,63%
January 2014	54,60%	44,60%
January 2015	48,20%	51,50%

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015

Persons judging the architectural market in their country to be satisfactory, good or very good

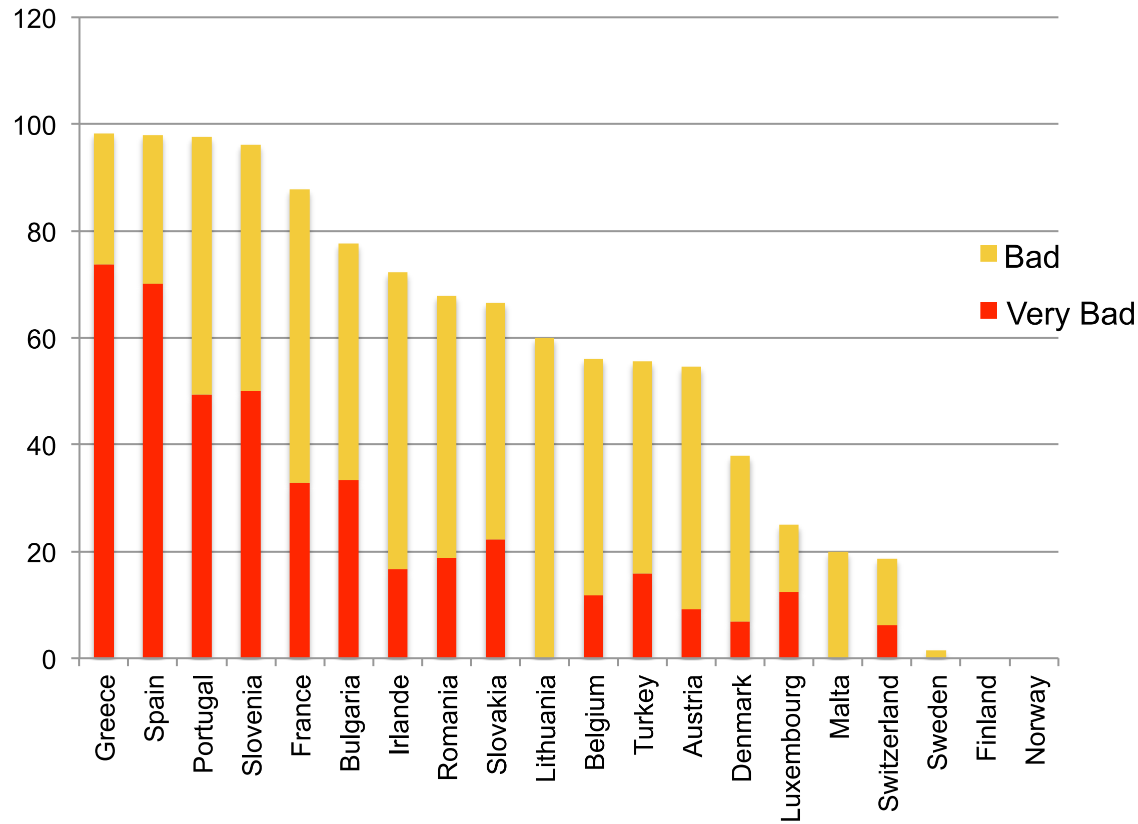


The breakdown by country reveals that the appraisal of the situation varies greatly from one country to another. The architectural market is all but homogeneous.

As in previous surveys, countries from Northern Europe, headed by Norway and Finland, are clearly more confident and satisfied than the rest of Europe.

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015

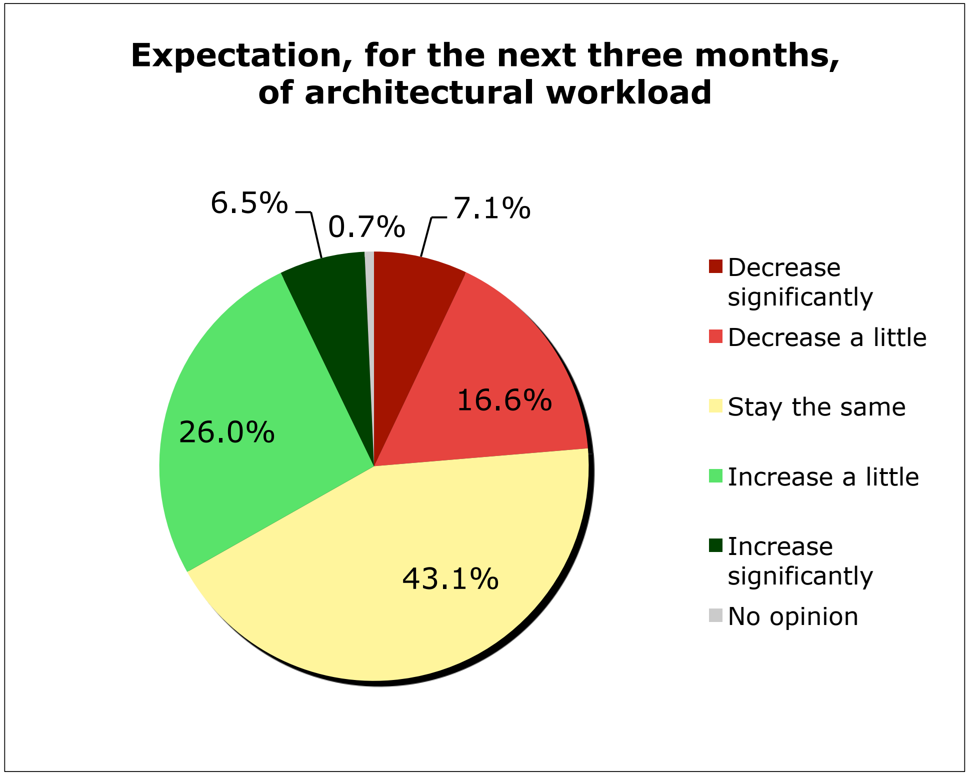
Persons judging the architectural market in their country to be bad or very bad



Difficulties persist in Southern and Central Europe, where a majority of respondents judged the situation bad or very bad in 13 countries.

The lowest satisfaction rates are observed in Greece, Spain and Portugal where almost 100% of respondents are dissatisfied with the state of the architectural market in their respective country.

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	48,47%	13,09%	38,90%
January 2010	32,80%	22,40%	42,10%
January 2011	32,80%	27,60%	39,00%
January 2012	35,20%	22,10%	42,00%
January 2013	34,10%	22,10%	41,50%
January 2014	31,30%	23,80%	43,60%
January 2015	23,70%	32,50%	43,10%

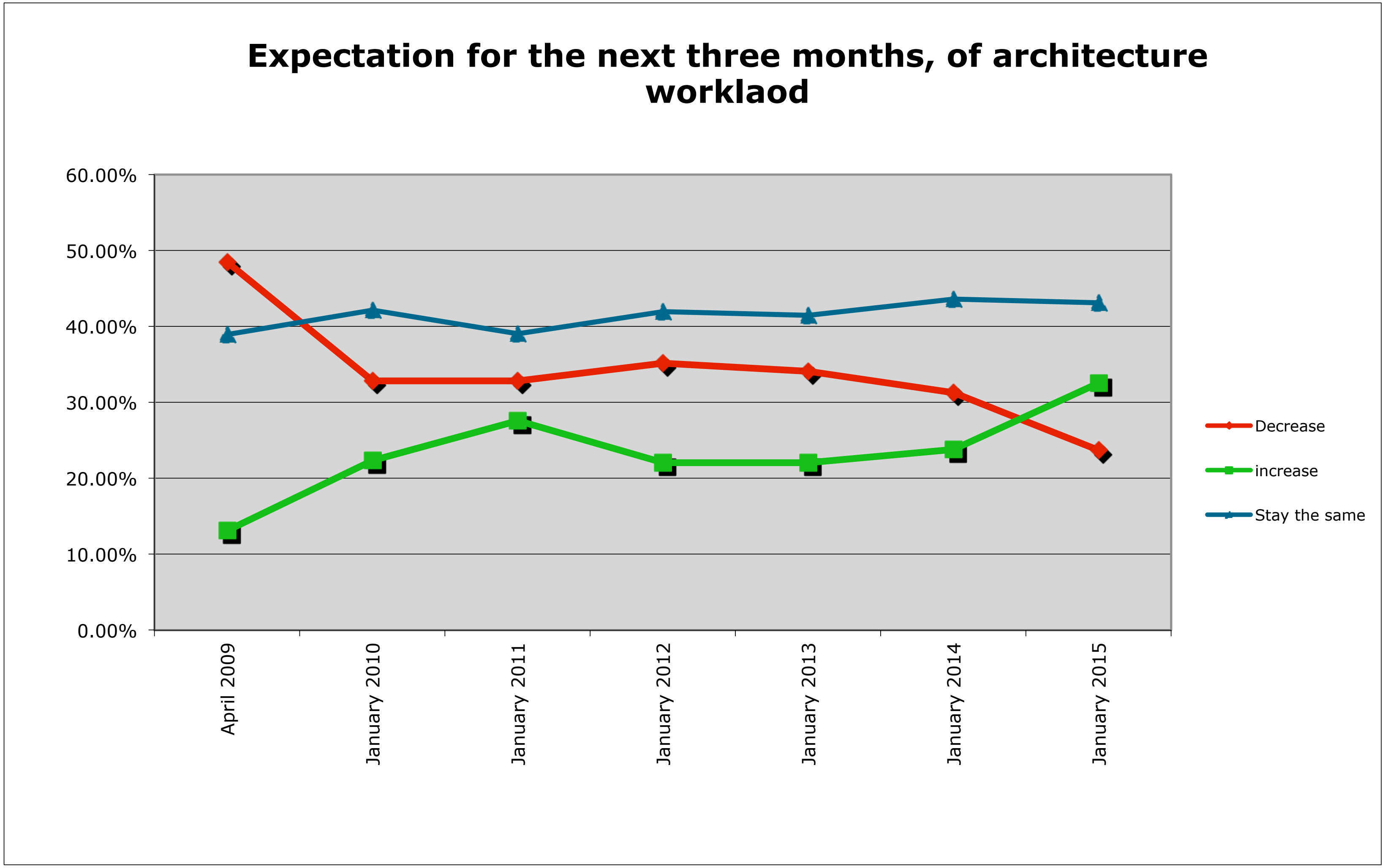
Workload forecasts for the next three months show encouraging trends: compared with the previous survey, the number of respondents expecting increased workloads rose from 23,8% to 32,5%.

At the same time, those expecting a decrease in their workload felt from 31,3% to 23,7%.

For the first time, more respondents are expecting an increase rather than an increase in their workload.

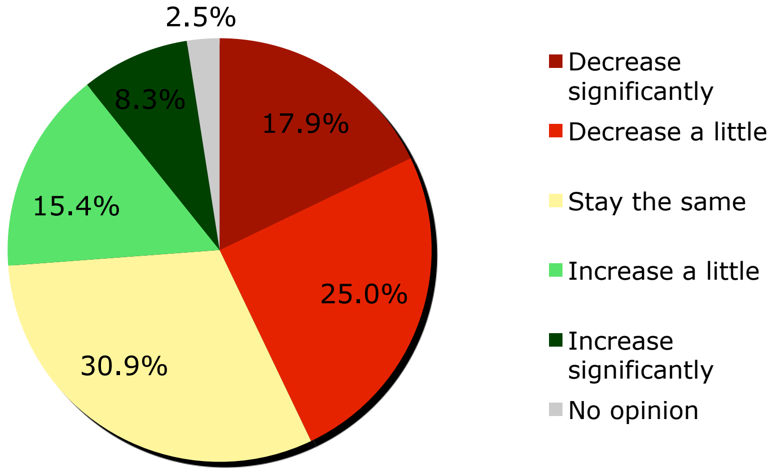
A majority still expect no change (43,1%).

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015

Change in staff numbers since September 2008

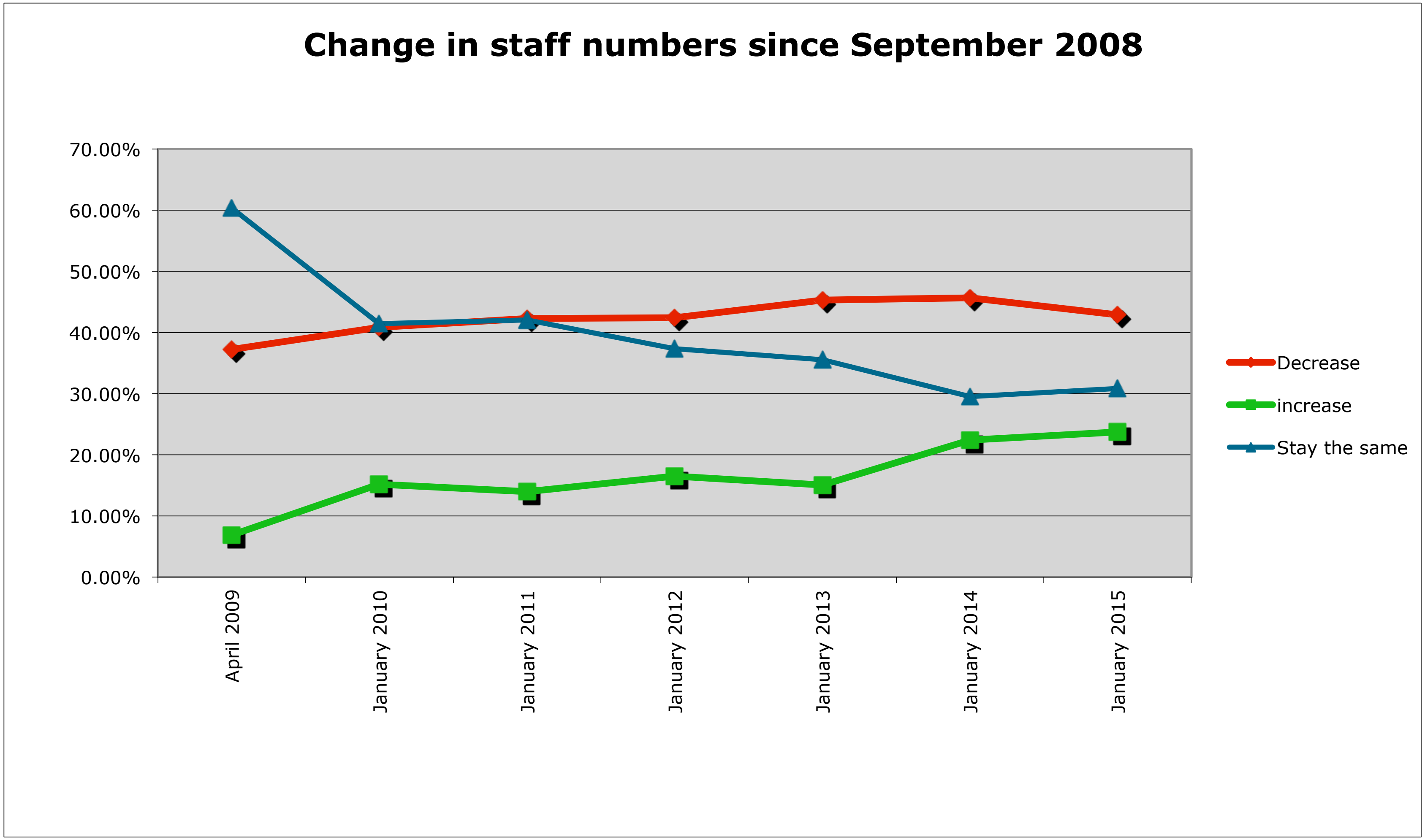


This result indicates that almost 1 in 2 offices has seen a decrease in staff numbers since the start of the downturn.

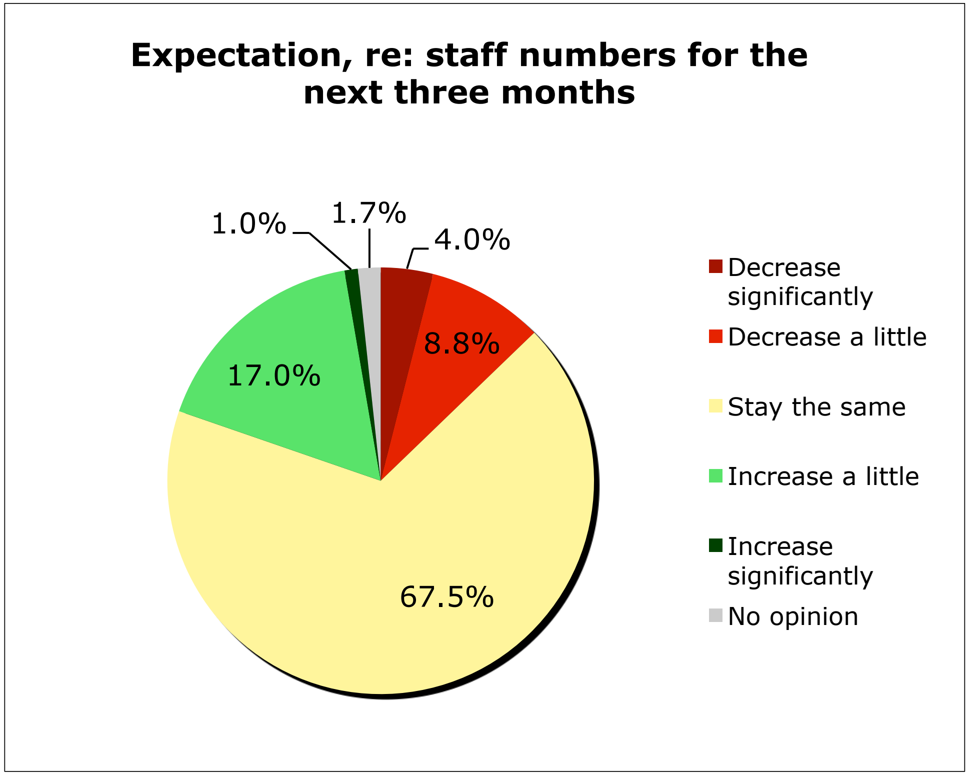
However, since January 2013, the number of respondents reporting an increase in staff number is slowly growing, rising from 15% in 2013 to 23,7% this year.

	Decrease	increase	Stay the same
April 2009	37,18%	6,85%	60,40%
January 2010	40,90%	15,20%	41,50%
January 2011	42,30%	14,00%	42,00%
January 2012	42,40%	16,50%	37,30%
January 2013	45,30%	15,10%	35,60%
January 2014	45,70%	22,40%	29,50%
January 2015	42,90%	23,70%	30,90%

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015

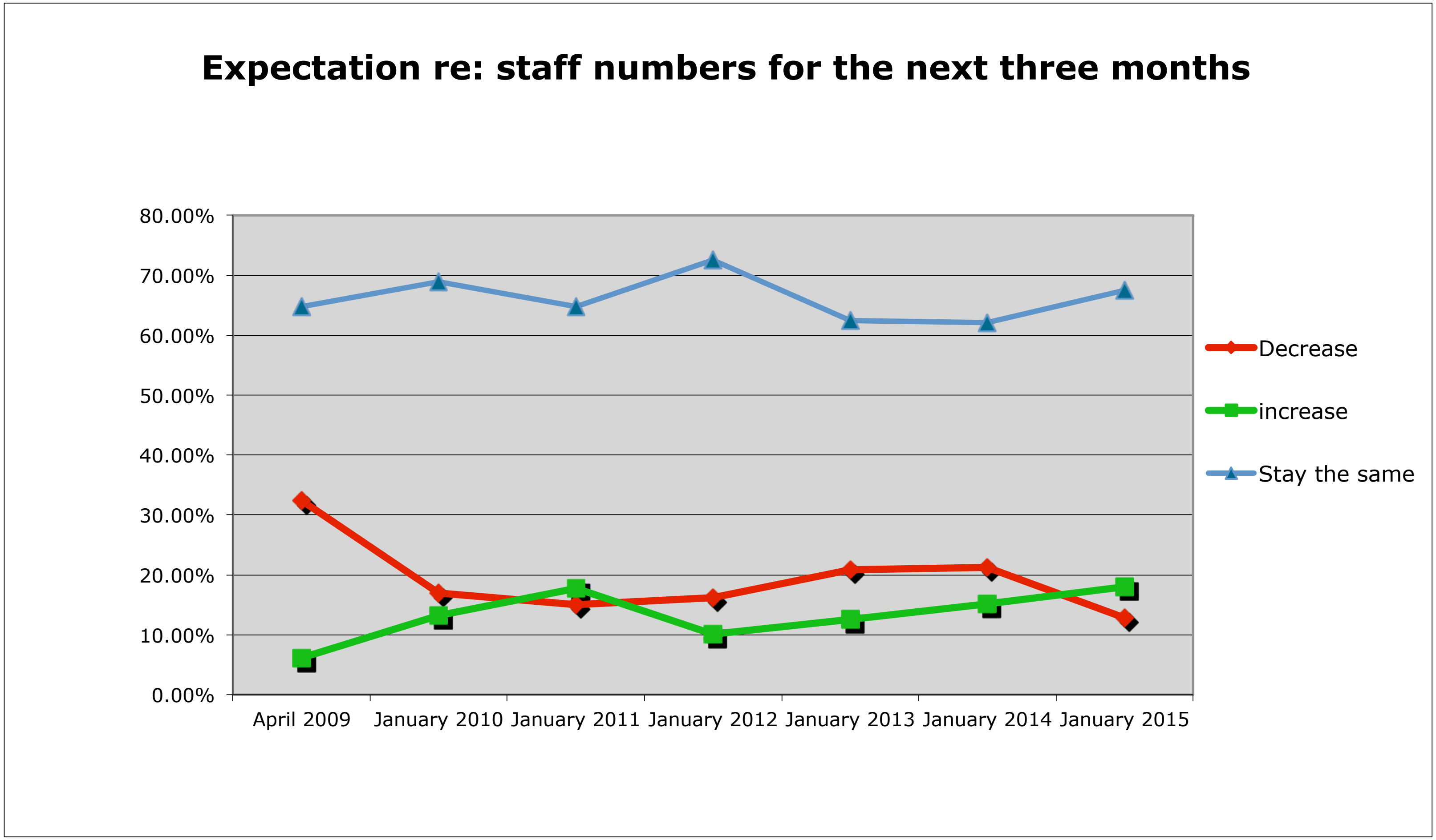


	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	32,35%	6,15%	64,80%
January 2010	17,00%	13,20%	68,90%
January 2011	15,00%	17,80%	64,80%
January 2012	16,20%	10,10%	72,50%
January 2013	20,80%	12,60%	62,50%
January 2014	21,30%	15,20%	62,10%
January 2015	12,80%	18,00%	67,50%

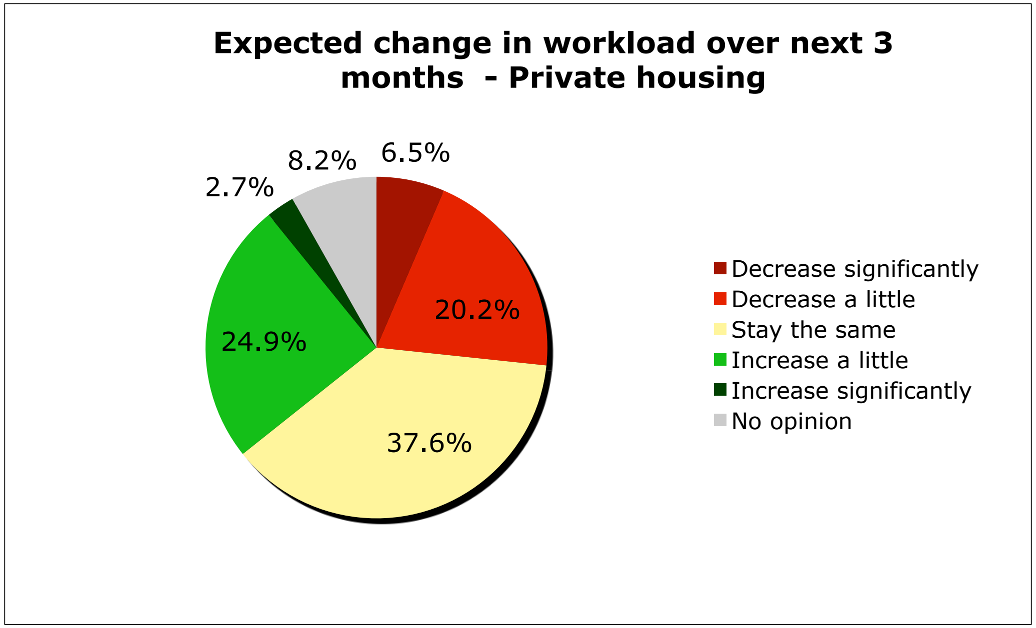
As in the previous surveys, a large majority of respondents did not expect any change in staff numbers for next three months (67,5%).

However, positive trends are observed: the number of respondents expecting an increase in staff number over the next three months has been progressively rising since 2012. They now exceed those expecting a decrease in their staff number (respectively 18% and 12,8%).

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



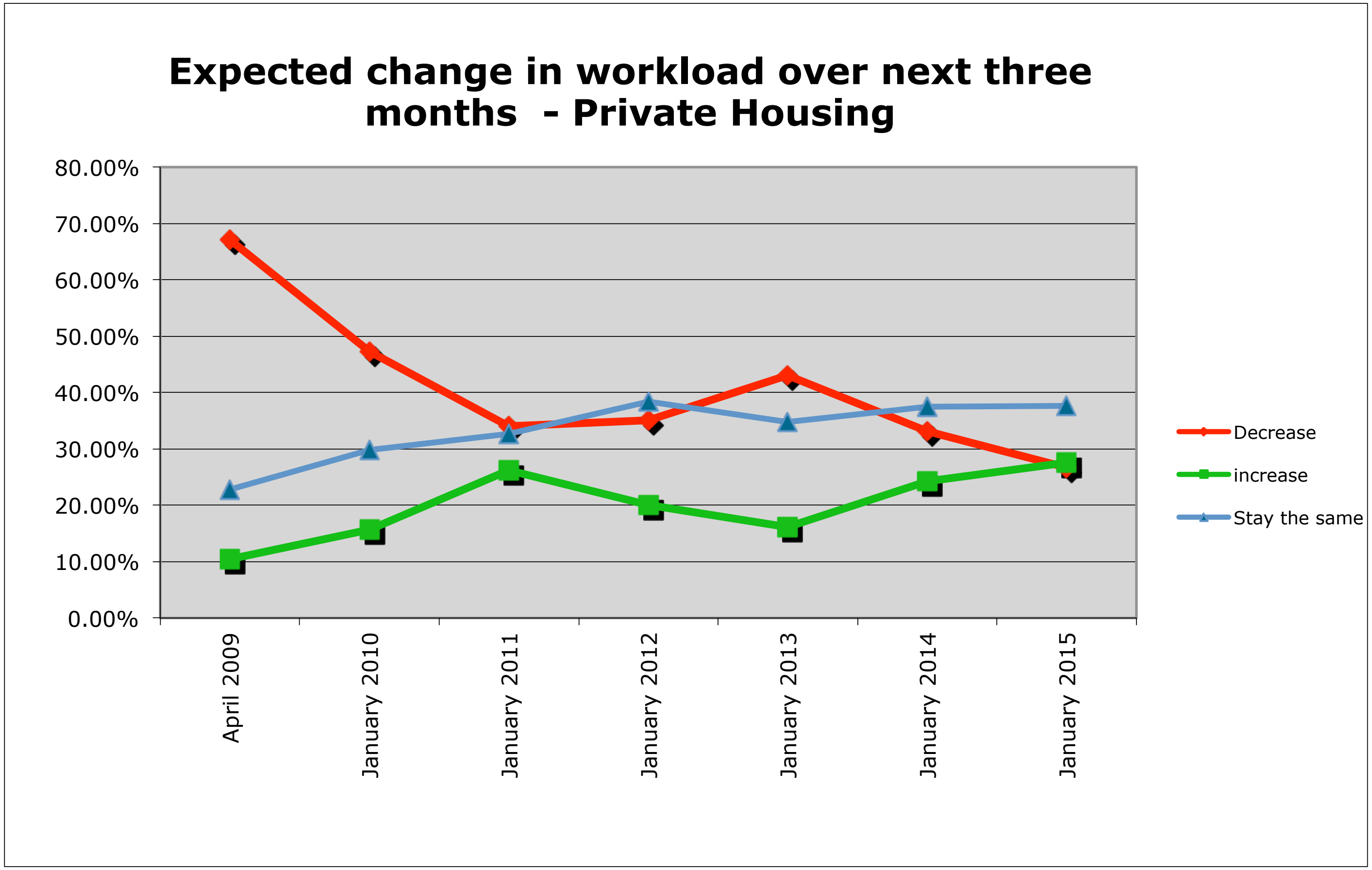
	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	67,04%	10,44%	22,80%
January 2010	47,30%	15,70%	29,80%
January 2011	34,00%	26,20%	32,60%
January 2012	35,10%	20,10%	38,40%
January 2013	43,00%	16,10%	34,80%
January 2014	33,10%	24,30%	37,50%
January 2015	26,70%	27,50%	37,60%

Compared with the previous surveys, the number of respondents expecting a decrease in workload for private housing continues to decline (26,7% in January 2015 as compared with 33% in January 2014).

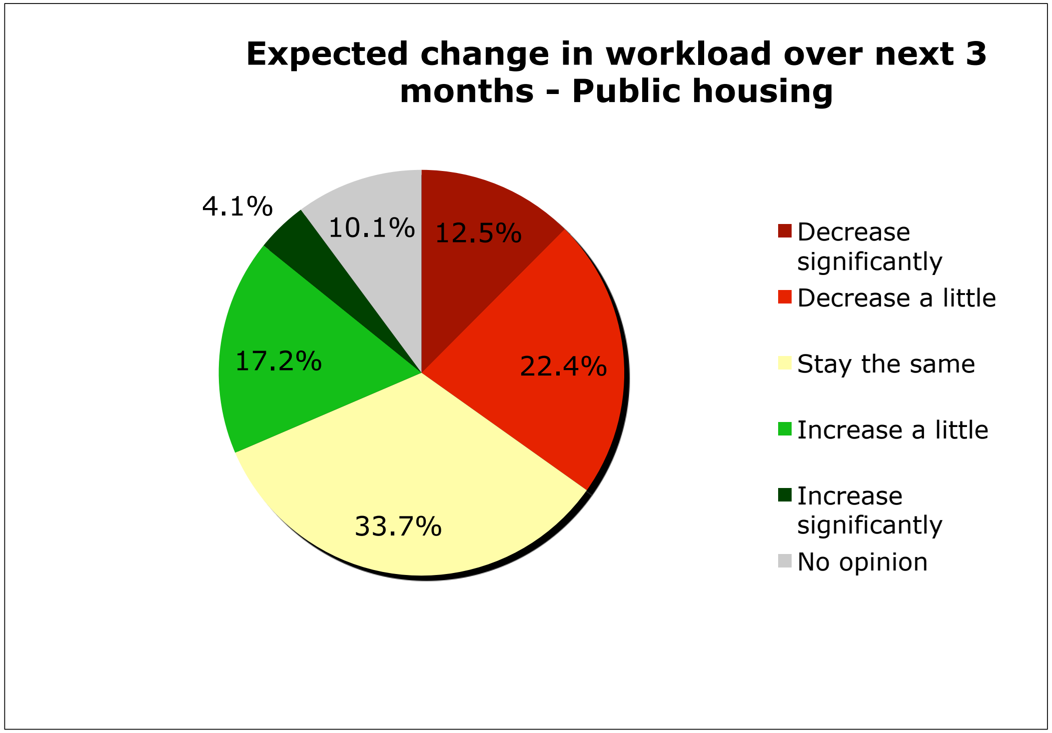
At the same time, those expecting an increase in this area continue to rise. They are now exceeding those expecting a decrease (27,5% compared with 26,7%).

Readers are reminded that private housing accounts for 44% of the market for architects in Europe.

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015

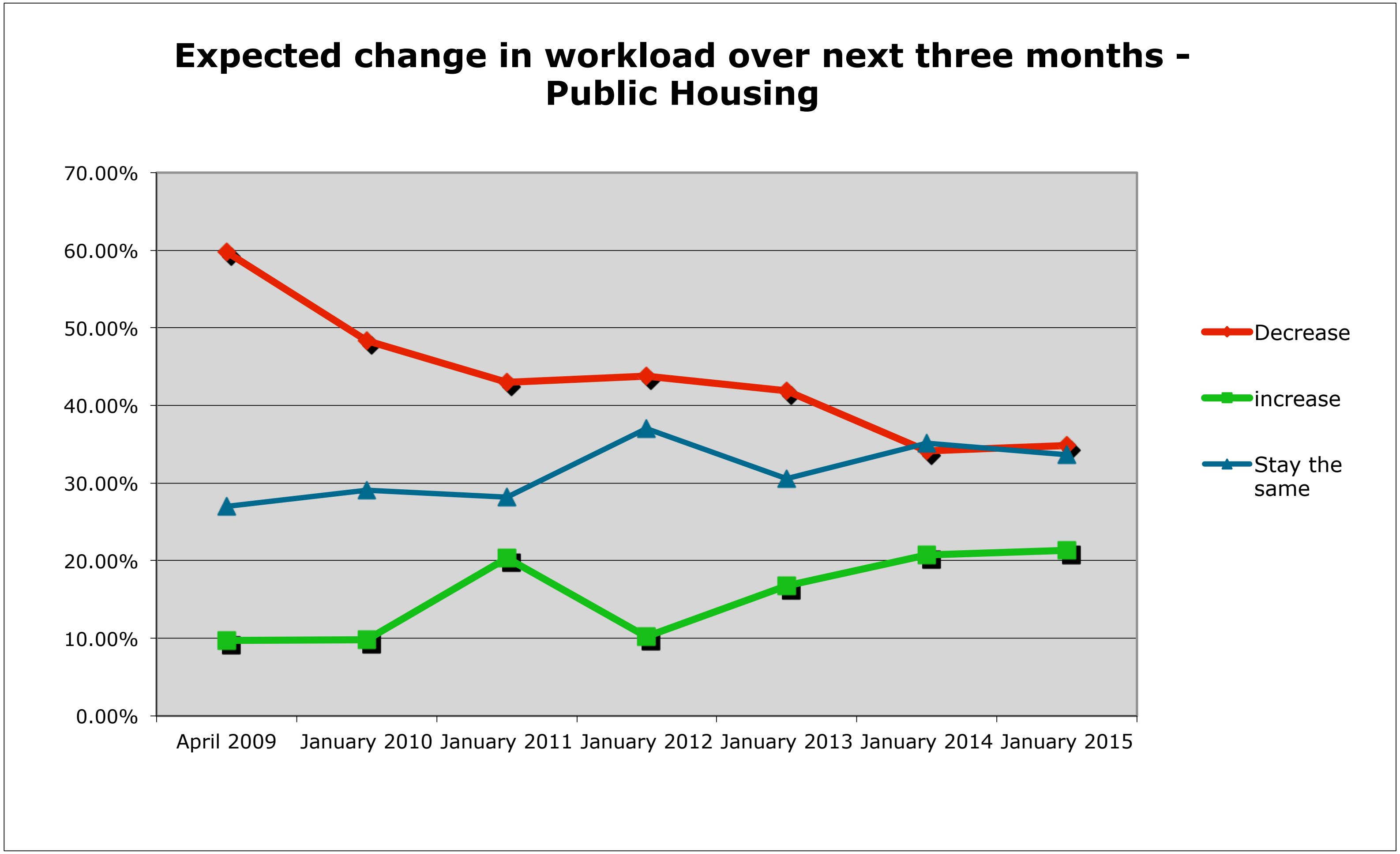


In the area of public housing, workload forecasts remain stable: around one third of respondents expects a decrease, whereas one fifth expects an increase, and one third no change.

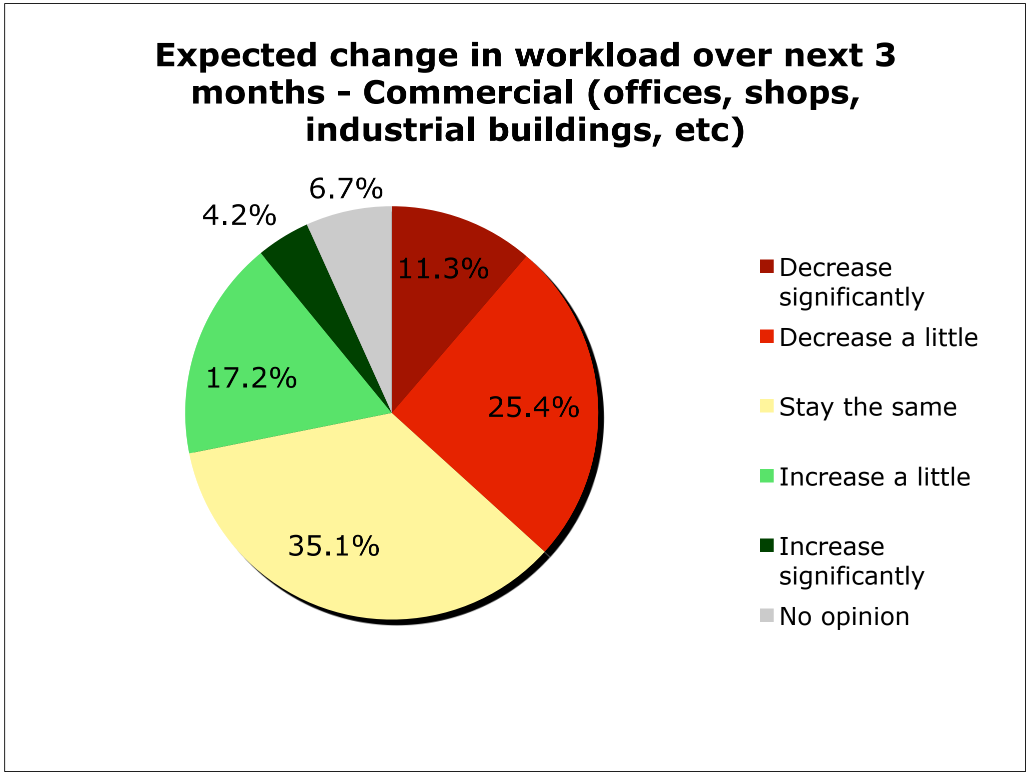
Readers are reminded that public housing accounts for 6% of the architects' market in Europe.

	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	59,78%	9,73%	27,00%
January 2010	48,30%	9,80%	29,10%
January 2011	43,00%	20,30%	28,20%
January 2012	43,80%	10,20%	37,00%
January 2013	41,90%	16,80%	30,60%
January 2014	34,10%	20,70%	35,10%
January 2015	34,80%	21,30%	33,70%

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



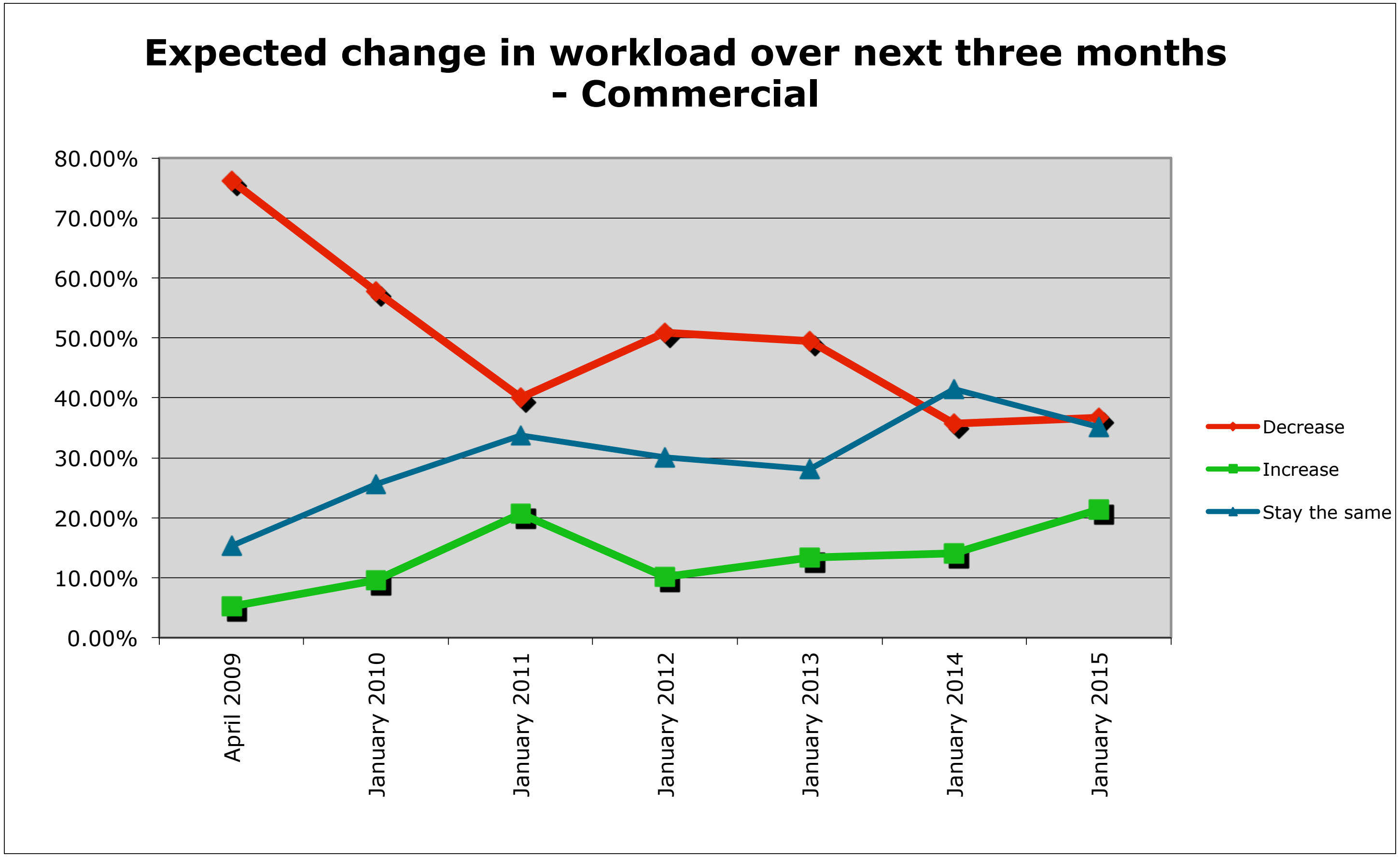
	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	76,19%	5,18%	15,30%
January 2010	57,80%	9,50%	25,60%
January 2011	40,10%	20,60%	33,70%
January 2012	50,80%	10,20%	30,10%
January 2013	49,40%	13,30%	28,10%
January 2014	35,70%	14,10%	41,40%
January 2015	36,70%	21,40%	35,10%

The number of respondents expecting a decrease of workload in this area seems to have stabilised around 36%.

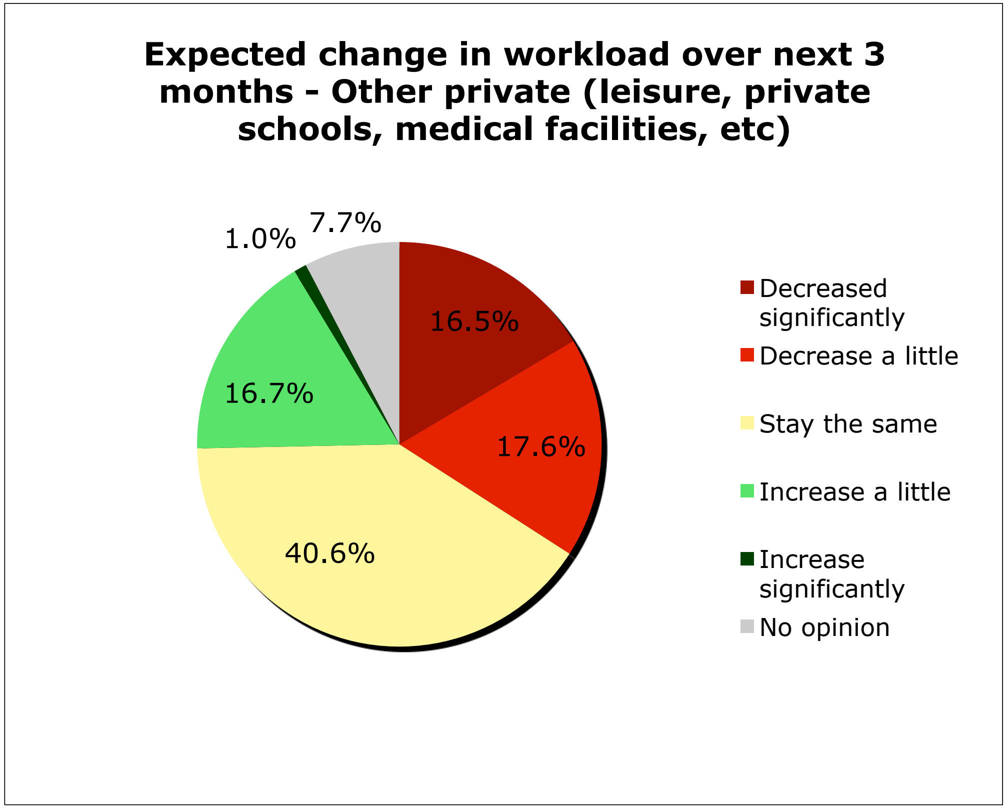
Those expecting workload to increase have been steadily growing since 2012, doubling to 21,4% in January 2015.

Readers are reminded that commercial projects account for 23% of the architects' market for in Europe.

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



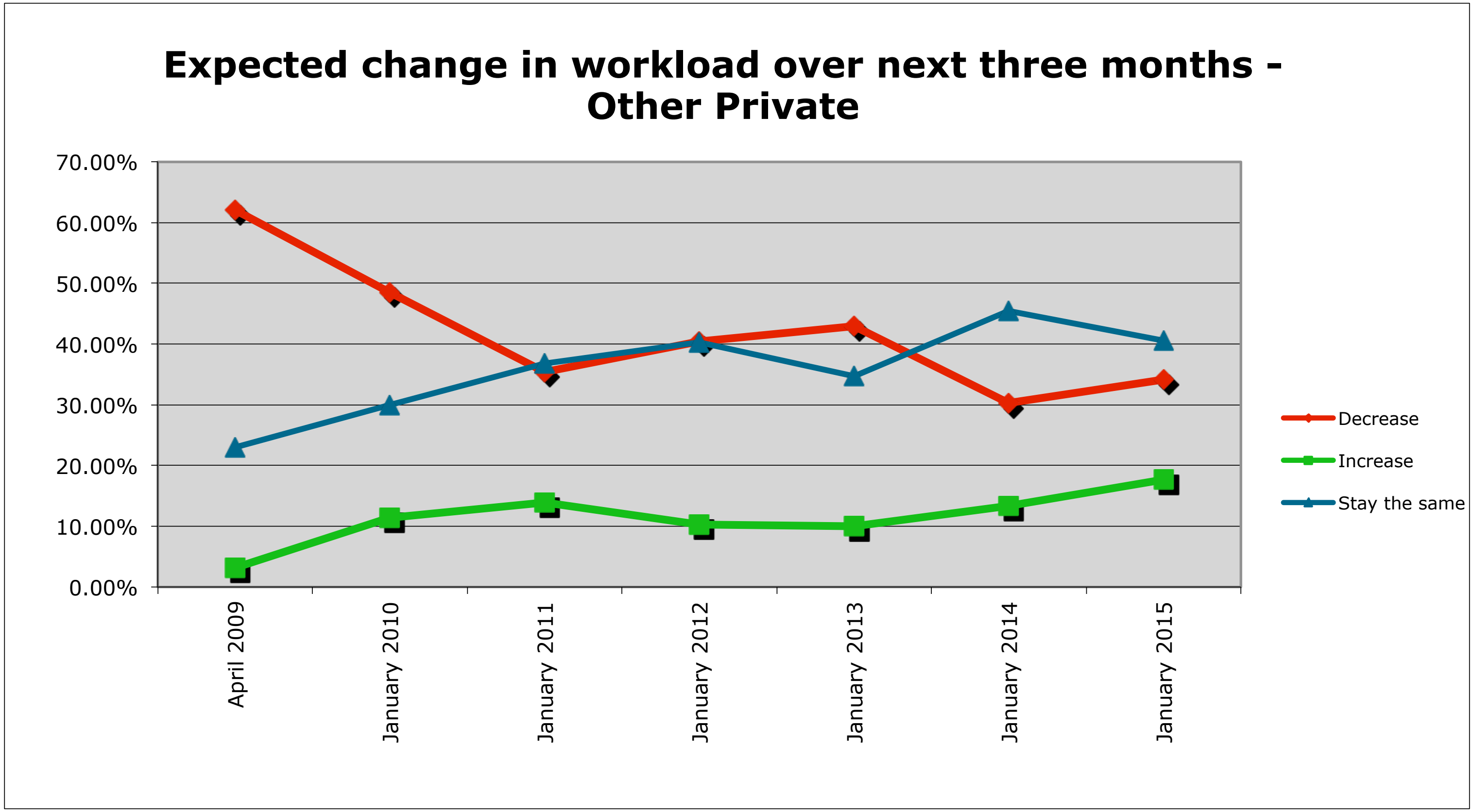
A majority of respondents still expects no change in workload forecasts for other private projects (40,6%).

Around twice as many respondents expect a decrease as an increase in their workload in this area (respectively 34,1% and 17,7%).

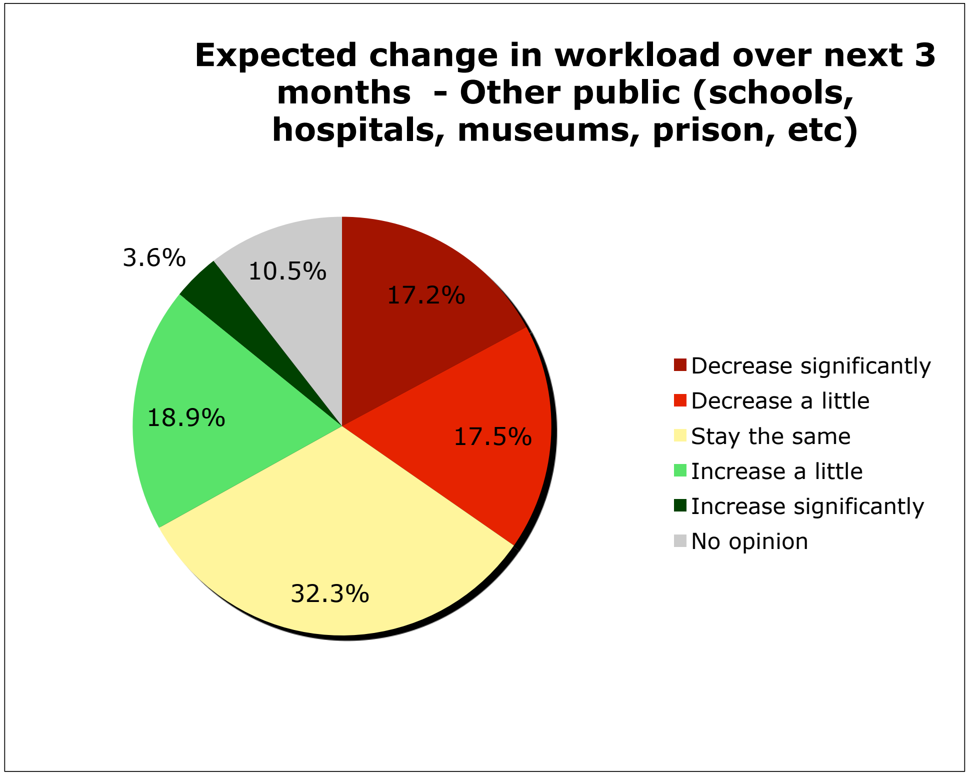
Readers are reminded that other private projects account for 7% of the architects' market in Europe

	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	62,07%	3,12%	23,00%
January 2010	48,50%	11,40%	30,00%
January 2011	35,40%	13,90%	36,80%
January 2012	40,50%	10,30%	40,30%
January 2013	42,90%	10,00%	34,70%
January 2014	30,30%	13,30%	45,50%
January 2015	34,10%	17,70%	40,60%

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015

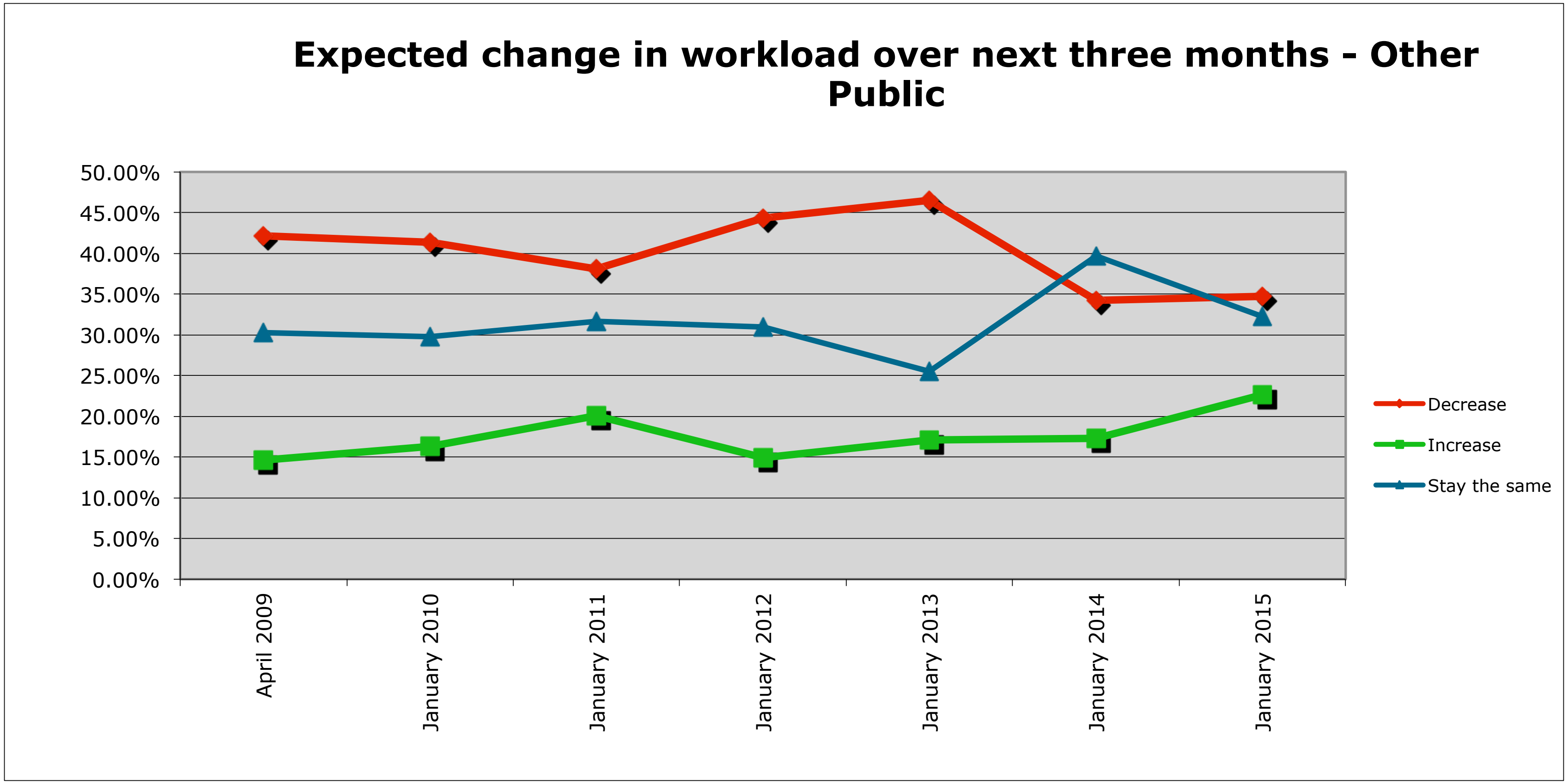


Even if the majority of respondents still expects a decrease in this area, the trend seems to have stabilised (around 35%).

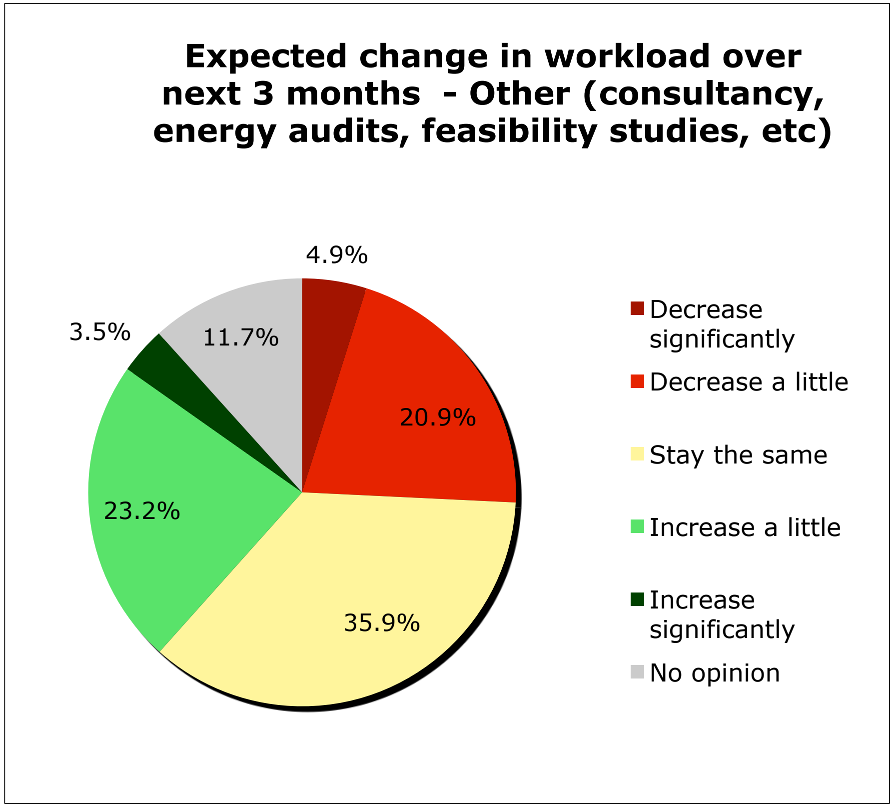
In parallel, the number of respondents expecting an increase in workload in this area has been steadily growing since 2012 – from 14,9% in January 2012 to 22,6% in January 2015.

	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	42,18%	14,58%	30,30%
January 2010	41,40%	16,30%	29,80%
January 2011	38,10%	20,10%	31,70%
January 2012	44,30%	14,90%	31,00%
January 2013	46,50%	17,10%	25,50%
January 2014	34,20%	17,30%	39,70%
January 2015	34,70%	22,60%	32,30%

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



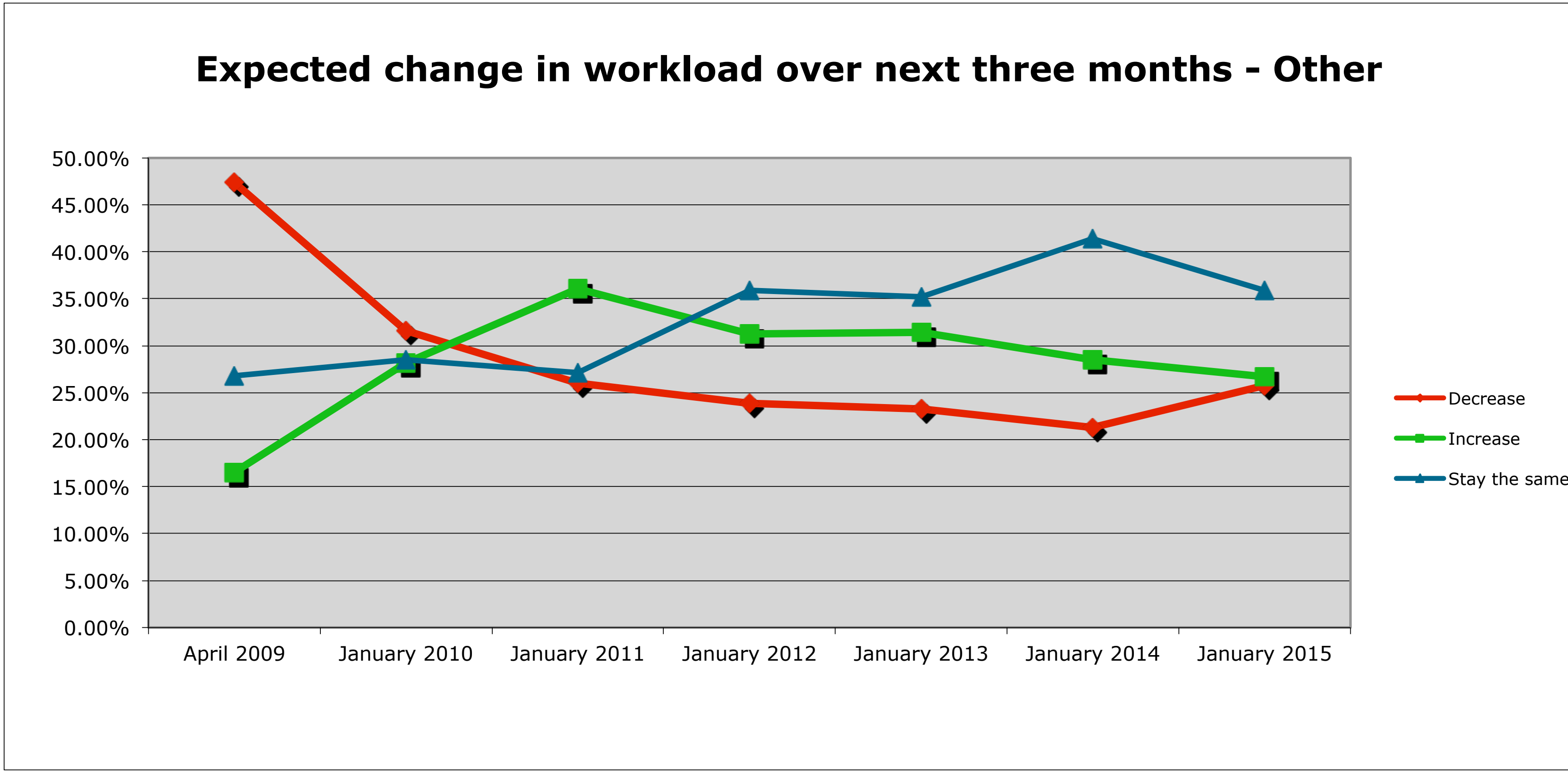
13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



While a majority expects a similar workload for these other tasks (35,9%), approximately the same number of respondents expects an increase as those expecting a decrease (around one quarter).

	Decrease	Increase	Stay the same
April 2009	47,38%	16,51%	26,80%
January 2010	31,60%	28,20%	28,50%
January 2011	26,00%	36,10%	27,10%
January 2012	23,90%	31,30%	35,90%
January 2013	23,30%	31,40%	35,20%
January 2014	21,30%	28,50%	41,40%
January 2015	25,80%	26,70%	35,90%

13th Economic Trends Survey – January 2015



CONCLUSIONS

- The results of the 13th economic trends survey confirm the positive trends observed in previous surveys: the architectural market is gradually recovering, and the general mood among the profession is improving.
- For the first time in the history of the survey, more respondents are expecting an increase than a decrease in their workload for the next three months. Upward trends in workloads are reported in all segments of the market.
- This reflects positively on short-term staffing forecasts. While the huge majority does not plan any change in the next three months, it is interesting to note that the number of respondents expecting an increase oin their staff now exceeds those expecting a decrease.
- However, the analysis by country reveals that the European architectural market is all but homogeneous. Countries from Northern Europe remain more confident and satisfied than the rest of Europe. Difficulties persist in particular in Southern and Central Europe.