

18 September 2009

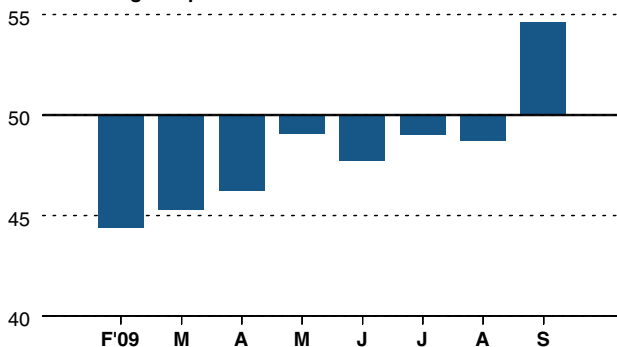
## Rise in activity at work supports income levels

- Increase in activity at work recorded for first time since survey began.
- Income from employment broadly unchanged.
- Future income expectations remain upbeat, despite concerns over job security.

September data from the Markit/YouGov Household Finance Index (HFI) highlighted a rise in activity at respondents' workplaces for the first time since the start of the survey in February 2009. The index posted 54.6, up from 48.7 in August.

### Activity at work

50 = no change on previous month



Higher levels of activity were reported in both the public and private sectors, with respondents in the latter indicating growth for the first time in the short series history.

Although the index is not seasonally adjusted, the improvement between August and September correlates with other business surveys, such as the PMIs, which have risen strongly in recent months.

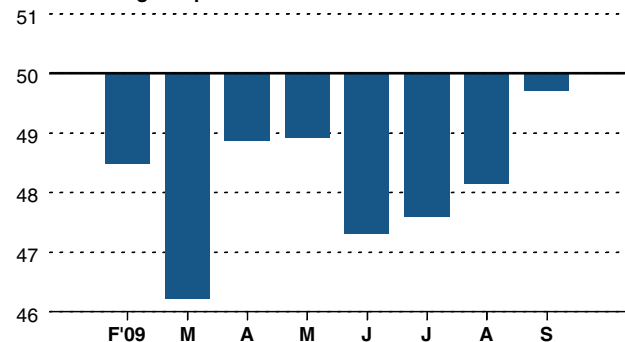
Employees in the Media/Culture/Entertainment sector noted the sharpest rise in workloads, whilst manufacturing was the only sector to see a decline. By region, Wales registered the strongest upturn, followed by the West Midlands and East of England.

The rise in workloads contributed to a broad stabilisation of income from employment during September – the rate of decline in take-home pay eased to only a marginal pace that was the weakest yet recorded by the survey.

There was a marked disparity between income groups, as higher-earning households (£57,751+) reported a solid increase in take-home pay whilst the lowest income brackets (less than £15,000 and £15,001 to £23,000) registered further reductions. By region, London households noted the largest rise in income and North East households the sharpest fall.

### Income from employment

50 = no change on previous month

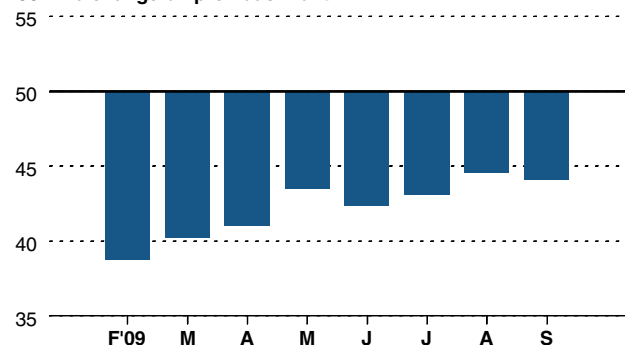


Expectations for future household income levels remained positive, with confidence only slightly below the series high posted in August. Mirroring the trend signalled for current incomes, higher earners were by far the most optimistic regarding future pay growth.

Concerns over job security remained widespread, in line with the trend seen throughout the short survey history. Jobs in both the public and private sectors were deemed to be less safe than one month ago. Respondents working in the retail sector perceived their job security to have deteriorated to the greatest extent.

### Job security

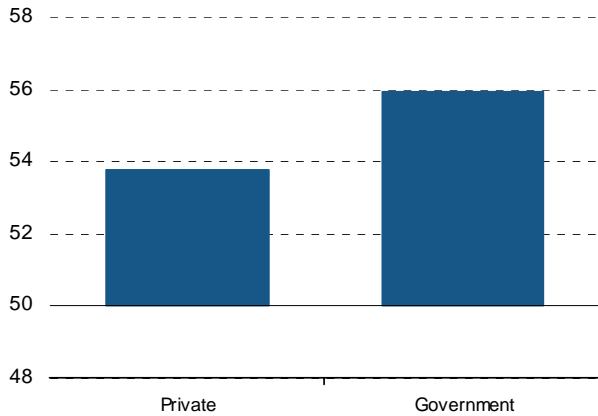
50 = no change on previous month



**September data: Compared to one month ago, how has the level of business activity at your place of work changed?**

**Public v Private**

50 = no change on previous month



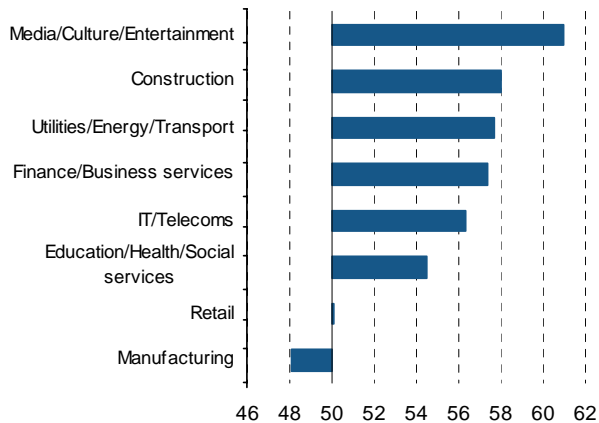
**By region**

50 = no change on previous month



**By sector**

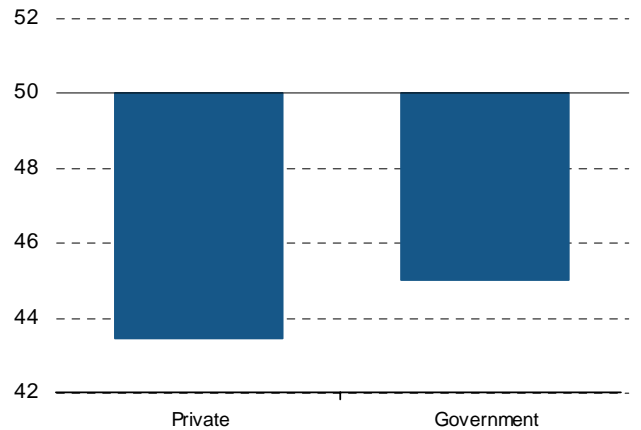
50 = no change on previous month



**September data: Compared to one month ago, how secure do you think your job is?**

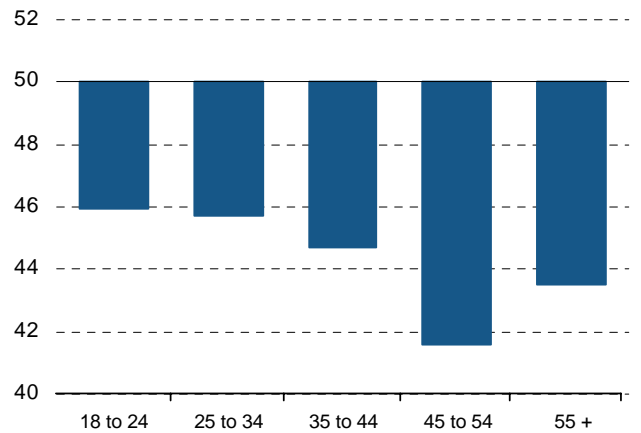
**Public v Private**

50 = no change on previous month



**By age**

50 = no change on previous month



**By sector**

50 = no change on previous month

