

In 2024, the UK roofing and cladding industries were relatively stable despite seasonal shifts and broader economic uncertainty. Most contractors reported net increases in both workload and enquiries, though growth varied by quarter. Persistent challenges included skills shortages and rising material and labour costs. Of concern, was that confidence heading into 2025 was lower than it had been mid-year.

ENQUIRIES

42% saw higher volumes compared to 15% reporting a drop.

PERFORMANCE

Workload surged, with 25% net reporting an increase.

SENTIMENT

Confidence dipped after the government's budget introduced higher employer National Insurance and changes to inheritance tax.

STAFFING

17% net saw direct headcounts rise.

STAFFING

7% net saw direct headcounts rise.

Q1

Q2

ENQUIRIES

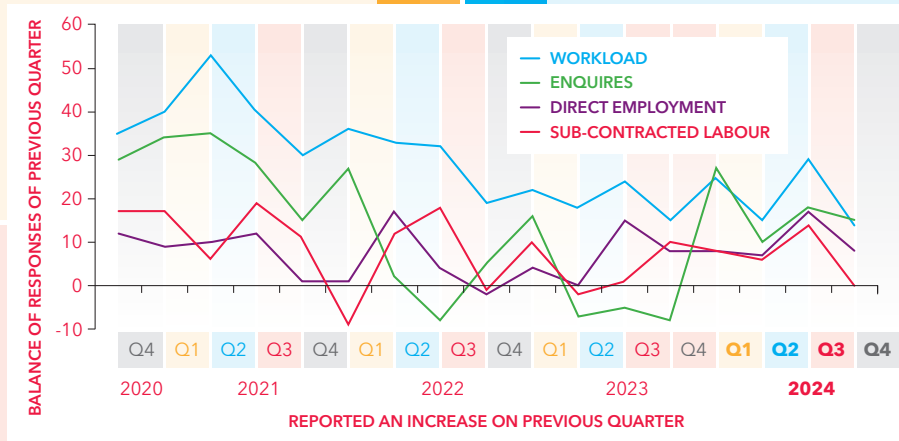
10% net reported an increase in enquiries.

PERFORMANCE

Growth slowed, with only 15% net seeing their workloads increase due to uncertainty in the lead up to the election.

SENTIMENT

32% net expected workload growth over the next year.



SENTIMENT

20% net expect workload growth in 2025.

STAFFING

Direct headcounts rose by 8% net, while subcontracted labour stayed flat due to skill shortages and rising costs.

PERFORMANCE

A rebound, with 29% net reporting workload growth. Public non-residential work performed especially well.

Q3

Q4

PERFORMANCE

Seasonal factors and reduced construction output led to only 14% net reporting higher workloads than Q3.

SURVEY DATA PROVIDES EVIDENCE FOR NFRC TO DRIVE PROGRESS

RETENTIONS & LATE PAYMENT

Over 2024, late payments dropped substantially. In Q1, only 6% of Members reported being paid within 30 days, but by Q4, this had improved to 52%.



NFRC has campaigned hard in this area, and 2024 saw numerous wins:

Increased requirements for reporting on retentions

The introduction of the 'Fair Payment Code'

Confirmation to NFRC from Sarah Jones, Minister of State for the Department for Business and Trade, that retentions will be included in an upcoming consultation.

THE SKILLS CRISIS

Q3 and Q4 saw marginal improvements in Members' ability to hire skilled workers, but the problem persists across the entire construction industry.



Thanks in part to advocacy from NFRC's Head of Careers, Ruth Scarrott:

The Government announced £600 million to train 60,000 skilled construction workers in the Spring Statement, despite tightening spending across the board

NFRC's England Construction Opportunities programme has seen 33% of current roofing apprentices receive mentoring support, leading to significantly higher retention

New National Five Qualifications in 'Creative Industries Roof Slating' roll out across five Scottish high schools, with expansion expected.

BUILDING SAFETY ACT

In Q4, 36% of Members reported they were 'somewhat clear' on the building safety act, with 44% reporting even less knowledge.



As the wider construction industry responds to this generational regulatory shift, NFRC is supporting Members:

NFRC's technical team has created seven guidance notes explaining the changes

A new centralised "Building Safety Act" section of the content provides support and updates

NFRC is directing Members towards free BSA content and is working on plans to run its own webinar.