ASA Staffing Index Reporting Enhancement: Spotlighting the Four-Week Moving Average

The ASA Staffing Index tracks trends in weekly changes in temporary and contract staffing employment. Since its inception in June 2006, the ASA Staffing Index has been a reliable measure of changes in industry employment, serving as a coincident economic indicator and a leading indicator of overall employment.

It is natural for a weekly measure to contain some variability in the data, especially when looking at week-to-week and year-to-year changes for a particular week. For example, a year-to-year decline could be misleading when a holiday in the current year occurred in a different week in the prior year.

To help smooth out the variability, the ASA Staffing Index reporting now focuses on the four-week rolling average. The chart above illustrates how the four-week moving average smooths out the jaggedness seen in the weekly data, providing an enhanced view of an already reliable indicator, while still capturing near-real time staffing employment changes.

To learn more about the ASA Staffing Index, visit americanstaffing.net/index.