STAFFING SULCCESS

SPECIAL ISSUE I 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN STAFFING ASSOCIATION

ASA Annual Economic Analysis

RSTAFFING INDUSTRY PLAYBOOK

Whether you're an economist, analyst, investor, or staffing professional, the data-driven information and insights delivered in this book are critical to strategic planning and business development. Here's what you need to know about the U.S. staffing and recruiting industry, where it's headed, and how you can make the most of this business intelligence.

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HERE IS YOUR

ANNUAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

This special issue of *Staffing Success* delivers important economic and industry data you can use to hone operational strategies for your business.



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STAFFING SUCCESS

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN STAFFING ASSOCIATION

RSTAFFING INDUSTRY PLAYBOOK



Welcome to your ASA annual economic analysis. This playbook is designed to maximize utility and value to staffing and recruiting professionals, analysts, economists, and all those who track the industry. There are dedicated spaces throughout this playbook for your own notes as well as a chart index, making it easy to find specific data points. For even more playbook analysis and discussion, register for the 2018 Staffing Industry Playbook webinar. Go to americanstaffing.net/webinars for details.



Contributors

This 2018 Staffing Industry Playbook is based on surveys and analysis conducted by the ASA research team, which throughout the year manages more than 30 research projects, including the ASA Staffing Index, ASA Staffing Employment & Sales, ASA Staffing Operations Benchmarking, and ASA Staffing Compensation & Benefits surveys. Learn more at *americanstaffing.net/research*.

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ASA President and CEO Richard Wahlquist

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American Staffing Association

The American Staffing Association is the voice of the U.S. staffing, recruiting, and workforce solutions industry. ASA advances the interests of staffing and recruiting firms of all sizes and across all sectors through legal and legislative advocacy, public relations, education, and the promotion of high standards of legal, ethical, and professional practices. ASA members provide the full range of employment and workforce services and solutions, including temporary and contract staffing, recruiting and permanent placement, outplacement and outsourcing, training, and human resource consulting.

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By Richard Wahlquist, President and CEO

CEOS' TOP CONCERN: TALENT

ine years after the end of the Great Recession, the U.S. economy seems to be firing on all cylinders—and the prospects for continued growth continue to be favorable for 2018.

According to the Conference Board's annual C-Suite Challenge survey of more than 1,000 business leaders, fears of a global recession receded considerably from 2017, when chief executive officers globally ranked it as their No. 1 concern. This year, it came in at 19 out of 28 "hot-button" issues.

For 2018, the top concern was "the failure to attract and retain top talent." It was also the top hot-button issue for the rest of the c-suite, including chief human resource officers and chief financial officers.

The unanimity of views expressed by survey participants is not surprising. They are all looking at the same data.

The 2018 Staffing Industry Playbook distills decades of data and information focused on relevant industry and economic trends into a resource to use internally and in consultations with clients about the development of new workforce optimization strategies.

With tightening labor markets and increased global competitive pressures, helping businesses source, screen, and deploy both flexible and permanent talent is becoming even more important to businesses

everywhere. And the data point toward increasing demand in the years ahead.

"To cope with worker and skill shortages down the road, this year's survey results tell us that organizations are fundamentally rethinking the composition of their future workforces," said Rebecca L. Ray, co-author of the C-Suite Challenge survey report and executive vice president, knowledge organization at the Conference Board. "Nearly 80% of CHRO respondents foresee greater use of contingent nontraditional employees."

The report also found that fewer than half (41%) of CHROs think their workforces in the next three to five years will be comprised predominantly of traditional, full-time employees.

Given those predictions, and with continued economic growth, the future looks bright for staffing and recruiting firms that can continue to raise the bar on delivering innovative workforce services and solutions.

But that assumes an adequate supply of qualified talent. Looking ahead, staffing firms and their clients will have to be even more talent-centric.

Talent development—including training, retraining, and upskilling—will become an even more important strategic component of every organization's human capital playbook.



his playbook is packed with data about the U.S. staffing and recruiting industry, where it's headed, and how you can make the most of this business intelligence.

Savvy staffing professionals, economists, analysts, investors, business development strategists, and other followers of the industry are in a constant state of reconnaissance. They use this playbook as part of their information-gathering and analysis activities to become more agile in their business decisions, stay ahead of employment trends, and capitalize on areas of opportunity.

Given the persistent skills gap and ongoing talent shortage, recruiters must continuously refine their strategies to ensure that the pipeline is filled with qualified candidates to meet demand.

Economic growth is expected to accelerate over the next two years, but there are a few signs and shifts in familiar patterns

Get important industry data real-time and stay ahead of trends—follow the ASA research team on Twitter @StaffingData.

that seem to suggest a transformation in the cycle. Gradually slowing population growth, continually decreasing labor force participation, and a historically low unemployment rate will likely result in stagnant employment growth over the next 10 to 20 years.

All indicators point to steady demand and continued growth for the staffing and recruiting industry. Staffing employment is projected to continue to outpace the growth of the economy and is expected to add more jobs than most other industry sectors. There will be an abundance of temporary, contract, and permanent employment opportunities for job seekers in the coming years, even with anticipated shifts in population demographics and the occupational mix, as health care expands and the use of technology increases.

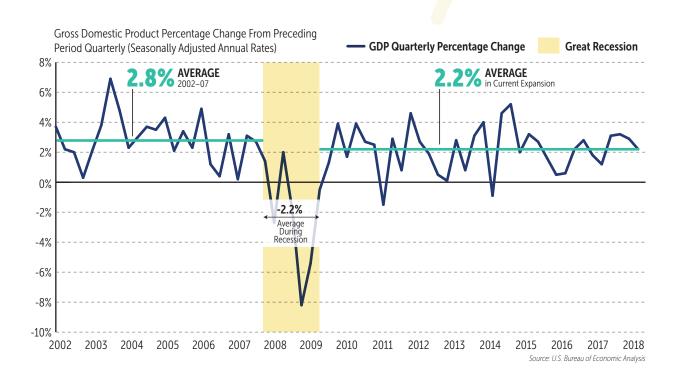
Further explore these trends and more in this overview of the size, scope, and dynamics of the U.S. staffing and recruiting industry. Each page of this playbook includes a brief analysis of trends and key take-aways.





GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

GDP WAS SLOW TO RECOVER—GROWTH IN CURRENT EXPANSION ERRATIC



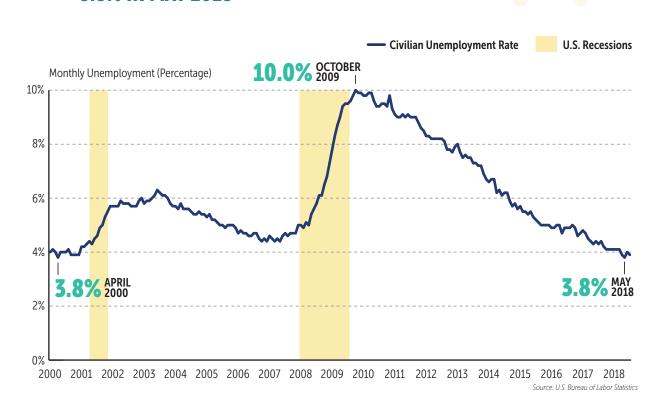
TRENDS: During the recession, average quarterly gross domestic product dropped 2.2%. Recovery from the recession was slow and weak. Real GDP did not recover losses and return to its prerecession peak until 2013, three and a half years after the recession ended. Since the current expansion began in July 2009, quarterly GDP has grown at an average annualized rate of 2.2%, well below the 2.8% rate of the 2002-07 expansion. The pace of GDP growth picked up considerably in the second through fourth quarters of 2017—averaging 3.1%. In June, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis revised GDP growth in the first quarter of 2018 to 2.2%, equaling the average since the Great Recession.

> TAKE-AWAYS: In re-examining historical government data, ASA has confirmed that gross domestic product and staffing employment are coincident economic indicators. In other words, staffing employment rises and falls along with the overall economy as measured by quarterly changes in GDP. Because government estimates for GDP are released months after the fact and subject to frequent revision, staffing employment can be used as a reliable, near real-time indicator of the health of the economy. Follow the ASA Staffing Index (see page 20) to track staffing employment and economic trends.

NOTES		

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

UNEMPLOYMENT DIPPED TO 17-YEAR LOW—3.8% IN MAY 2018



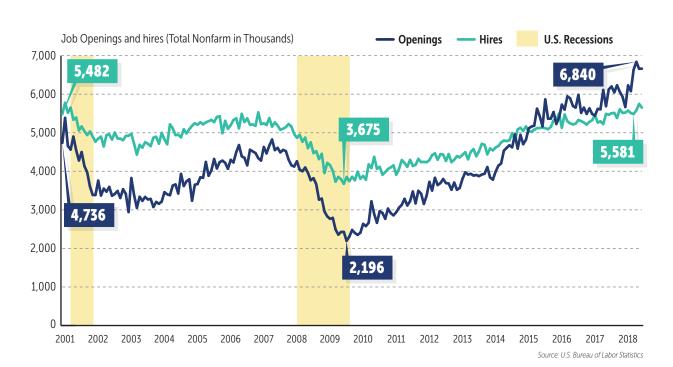
TRENDS: Since spiking during the Great Recession, the rate of unemployment has not only returned to its prerecession levels; it also hit a 17-year low. After reaching a 26-year high of 10.0% in 2009, the unemployment rate began a downward trend. By the end of 2015, it descended to 5.0%—equivalent to its level at the start of the recession. In 2016, the unemployment rate began fluctuating between 4% and 5%, leveling at 4.1% for six months from October 2017 to March 2018 before dropping to 3.9% in April and to 3.8% in May.

> TAKE-AWAYS: On the surface, a low unemployment rate would seem to be good news for the economy, but not if it's declining because fewer people want to work—disengaged and sitting on the labor force sidelines.

NOTES	

JOB OPENINGS AND HIRES

JOB OPENINGS CONTINUE TO EXCEED HIRES—GAP WIDENS



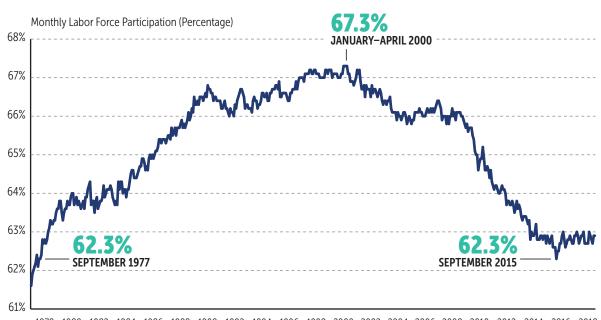
TRENDS: Historically, the number of job openings and hires have moved in the same direction, with hires outpacing openings. Divergence from this trend began in early 2015 as the two measures stopped moving in tandem and the number of job openings started to exceed the number of hires. In April 2018, the number of job openings totaled 6.8 million—the highest number since reporting of the metric by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics began in 2000—while hires amounted to 5.6 million. The past three years have seen the greatest number of job openings since the inception of the metric.

> TAKE-AWAYS: Job openings are considered a lagging indicator of the economy given that businesses usually wait on reassurances of economic well-being before they choose to hire. Hires, on the other hand, are an indicator of the robustness of the economy and the labor force. The fact that there continue to be more unfilled jobs than there are hires speaks to a large and growing skills gap and need for qualified talent in the U.S.

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LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

ONLY SIX IN 10 WORKING-AGE INDIVIDUALS ARE EMPLOYED OR SEEKING A JOB



1978 1980 1982 1984 1986 1988 1990 1992 1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

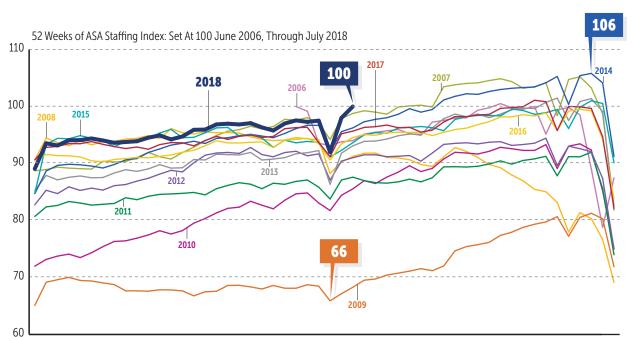
TRENDS: After increasing for more than six decades, the labor force participation rate—the share of the working-age population either employed or seeking a job—peaked at 67.3% from January through April 2000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. During the next decade and a half, the participation rate gradually declined, reaching 62.3% in September 2015—the lowest since September 1977. The rate has fluctuated between 62.5% and 63.0% for nearly three years, reported at 62.9% in July 2018. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the labor force participation rate will remain at 62.9% through the end of 2018.

TAKE-AWAYS: Some factors contributing to the decline in labor force participation include an aging workforce, an increase in the number of retirees, and people simply dropping out of the labor pool—perhaps discouraged, unable to find work, becoming disabled, deciding they can make do on government benefits, or pursing further education. As the supply of candidates dwindles, employers—including staffing companies—will need to continue to improve efficiency, increase productivity, develop more effective recruiting and retention strategies, and create training programs to reskill and upskill talent.

NOTES	

ASA STAFFING INDEX

ASA STAFFING INDEX SEES HISTORICAL HIGHS FOR FIRST HALF OF 2018



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52

Source: American Staffing Association, Staffing Index

TRENDS: The weekly ASA Staffing Index tracks trends in temporary and contract employment. The index was set at 100 when it was publicly launched June 12, 2006. It troughed at 66 in midsummer 2009, as the Great Recession ended, and rose to a record high of 106 in December 2014. In week 29 of 2018, the index rose to 100, marking the first time since its inception that the index value reached 100 during the first seven months of the year.

The index averaged 94 in the first quarter of 2018—little changed from the previous year. True to the annual cycle of staffing employment, the index climbed steadily in the second quarter, then showed the usual midsummer dip—it is expected to rebound in the third and fourth quarters.

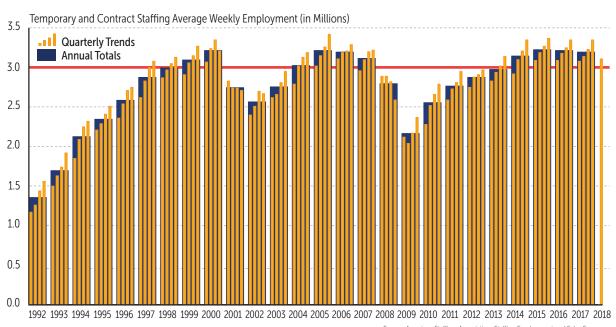


TAKE-AWAYS: Many experts agree—and ASA research confirms—that temporary and contract staffing employment serves as a coincident economic indicator. Because the ASA Staffing Index measures weekly changes in staffing employment, it bears watching as a near real-time indicator of current economic conditions. Follow the weekly trends at *americanstaffing.net/index*.

NOTES	

AVERAGE WEEKLY STAFFING EMPLOYMENT

U.S. STAFFING JOBS EXCEED THREE MILLION FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR



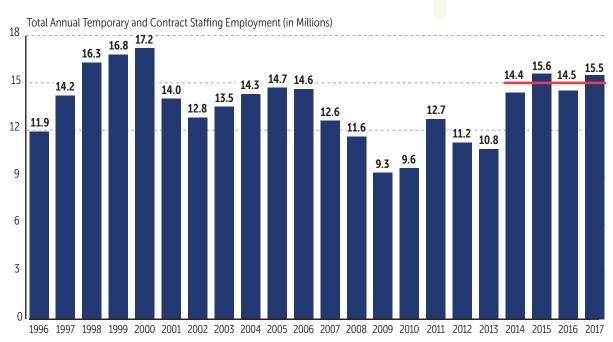
TRENDS: U.S. staffing employment during an average week in 2017 totaled 3.2 million. That was down slightly (-0.6%) from 2016, but it was the third-highest number of temporary and contract employees since 2006, just before the Great Recession. After the recession low of 2.2 million employees per week in 2009, it took six years for the staffing industry to fully recover the one million jobs lost during the 18-month 2008–09 Great Recession.

TAKE-AWAYS: The quarterly survey provides staffing data covering approximately 10,000 establishments, including changes in sales, payroll, and employment, broken down by five broad industry sectors and four sales categories. Use the quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey data to monitor quarterly and annual industry trends, and as benchmarks for temporary and contract staffing statistics as well as search and placement metrics. Learn more at *americanstaffing.net/quarterly-survey*.

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ANNUAL STAFFING EMPLOYMENT

U.S. STAFFING COMPANIES HIRED 15.5 MILLION TEMPORARY AND CONTRACT EMPLOYEES DURING 2017



Source: American Staffing Association, Staffing Employment and Sales Survey

TRENDS: ASA estimates the total number of temporary and contract employees who have worked in the staffing industry for any period of time during the calendar year, using data from the quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey.

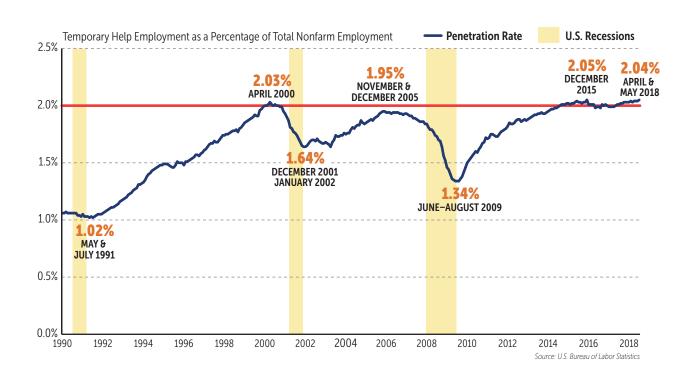
Over the course of 2017, U.S. staffing companies hired a total of 15.5 million temporary and contract employees. This is a 7% increase from 14.5 million in 2016 and higher than the average of 15 million staffing employees annually over the past four years.

TAKE-AWAYS: How could the staffing industry employ about the same number of people per week in 2017 as in 2016 while paying more per year in 2017? Turnover. The industry generally saw shorter assignments and redeployed more workers on new ones. Staffing employment remains above prerecession levels, but competition for talent is stiff. With tight labor markets nationwide, now is the time for staffing companies to take stock of their recruiting strategies and ensure they are building a pipeline to meet client demand with qualified talent.

NOTES	

STAFFING PENETRATION RATE

STAFFING PENETRATION RATE LEVELS OFF AT 2%



TRENDS: Until 2015, the staffing industry's longstanding peak penetration rate—temporary help services employment as a percentage of the total nonfarm workforce—had been 2.03%, set in April 2000. The rate plunged during the recession that followed, dropping to 1.64% in December 2001. Though it rebounded to 1.95% in November 2005, it fell again during the Great Recession to a low of 1.34% in June 2009.

Since that low, the staffing penetration rate has been on an upward trend, setting a new record high of 2.05% in December 2015 and leveling at about 2% since, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data reported in August 2018.

TAKE-AWAYS: The role the staffing industry plays in the U.S. economy has continued to expand since the Great Recession. Many staffing industry observers assert that the recession paved the way for a structured shift in workforce management, with employers leveraging flexibility in fine-tuning their talent acquisitions. As more employers confront the challenges of filling job openings in today's tight labor market, staffing companies have even more opportunities to partner with business to strategically source and deploy talent.

NOTES

STAFFING AND RECRUITING INDUSTRY SALES

STAFFING AND RECRUITING SALES INCREASED 4.4% TO \$161 BILLION IN 2017



TRENDS: Temporary and contract staffing sales totaled \$133.9 billion in 2017, an increase of 4.2% from 2016, according to the latest annual data from the ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey. Search and placement sales grew 6.1%, according to Staffing Industry Analysts, totaling \$26.8 billion in 2017.

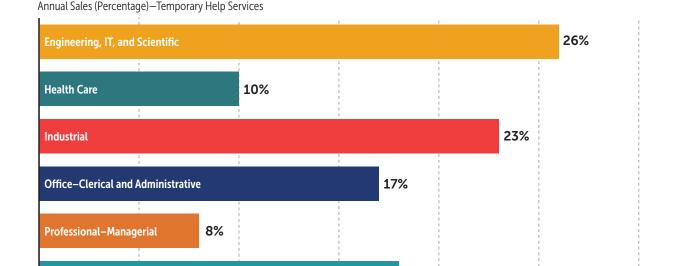
Considering temporary and contract staffing combined with search and placement services, U.S. staffing and recruiting industry sales totaled \$160.6 billion in 2017, 4.4% more than in 2016.

TAKE-AWAYS: As with the economy overall, staffing industry sales continue to increase—and at an accelerated rate over the past year, despite the tightening of the labor supply. Nonetheless, when the economy is growing, staffing industry sales growth outpaces GDP growth. That trend is almost certain to continue, and industry sales could further improve as staffing firms enhance their performance in talent acquisition and retention. Near-term investments in training, developing candidates' soft skills, and adapting new technologies in the industry are imperative for continued growth.

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STAFFING SALES BY SECTOR

STAFFING COMPANIES SERVE ALL INDUSTRY SECTORS



10%

18%

Uncategorized Sectors

0%

TRENDS: In the U.S., there are about 20,000 staffing and recruiting companies, which altogether operate around 39,000 offices. Approximately 55% of companies and 74% of offices are in the temporary and contract staffing sector of the industry. ASA relies on periodic benchmarks from the U.S. Census Bureau for its economic surveys and sector-level data.

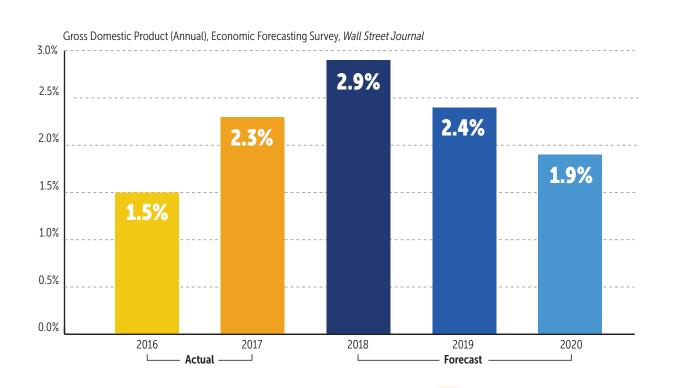
About half of temporary staffing sales are in the engineering, information technology, and scientific sector (26%) and industrial sector (23%) of the industry, according to the latest Census data. The remaining sales come from office-clerical and administrative, health care, professional-managerial, and other staffing services.

> **TAKE-AWAYS:** The staffing, recruiting, and workforce solutions industry makes a vital contribution to the U.S. economy, and provides job and career opportunities for more than 15 million employees per year, while servicing businesses across virtually all industries.

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FORECASTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

ACCELERATED GDP GROWTH RATE EXPECTED TO MODERATE

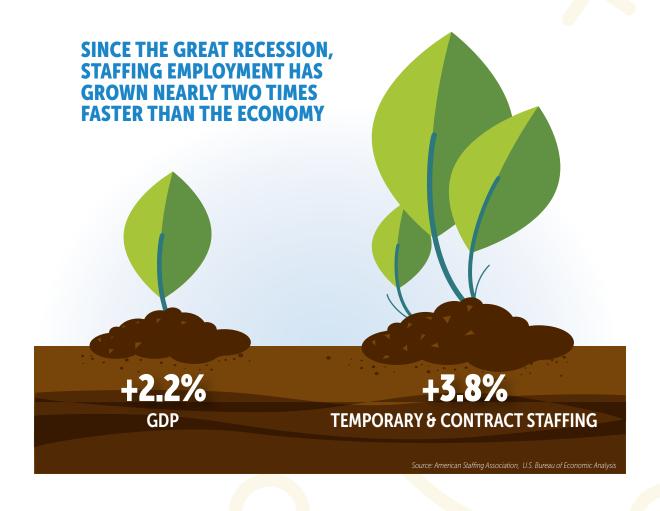


TRENDS: Economic activity has been volatile over the past two years—which is historically the case during the first year or two of a new president's administration. Prior to Election Day 2016, in the October Wall Street Journal monthly survey of nearly 80 economists, the average annual gross domestic product growth rate forecast for the year was a paltry 1.8% and was reduced to 1.5% postelection. GDP growth accelerated in 2017 at a rate of 2.3%. Those same economists surveyed by the Journal are even more optimistic about 2018, with consensus projections for full-year GDP growth at 2.9% and growth forecast to moderate to 2.4% in 2019 and 1.9% in 2020.

> **TAKE-AWAYS:** Forecasting and measuring GDP is a precarious endeavor. When the economy is advancing, staffing industry growth outpaces GDP. Research proves that temporary and contract staffing employment is a coincident economic indicator of GDP. Rather than rely on uncertain forecasts, and delayed and seemingly endlessly revised government estimates, follow the weekly ASA Staffing Index for a near real-time barometer of current economic conditions. Visit americanstaffing.net/index.

NOTES	

STAFFING GROWTH SURPASSES GDP



TRENDS: The staffing industry has been growing nearly two times faster than the economy, on average, since the end of the Great Recession, according to ASA research and analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Quarterly temporary and contract staffing employment growth decelerated at the end of 2016 and through 2017, consistent with concurrent weak gross domestic product growth—however, weekly staffing employment is on the rise in 2018, following typical seasonal trends.

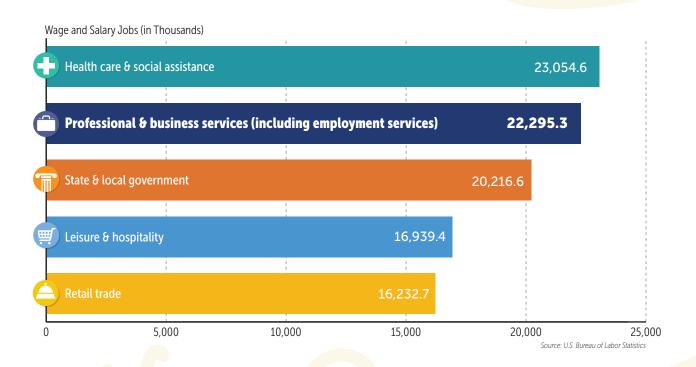
TAKE-AWAYS: ASA research and economic trends point to continued growth for the staffing and recruiting industry. Projections for more robust GDP growth and a structural shift toward more flexible workforce management bode well for the staffing industry. But the skills gap and candidate supply shortages continue to constrain the rate of industry expansion. To weather this macroeconomic cycle, progressive staffing company leaders are already focusing on filling the talent pipeline, bolstering retention, and improving operational efficiency.

NOTES



EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

TOP FIVE JOB-GROWTH SECTORS THROUGH 2026



TRENDS: Service-providing sectors are projected to add more than 10.5 million jobs—reaching more than 135.8 million—by 2026, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This increase represents about 91% of all new jobs anticipated to be created between 2016 and 2026. The health care sector will drive more than a third of the additional jobs, and the professional and business services sector (including employment services) is expected to expand, with steady demand for staffing services.

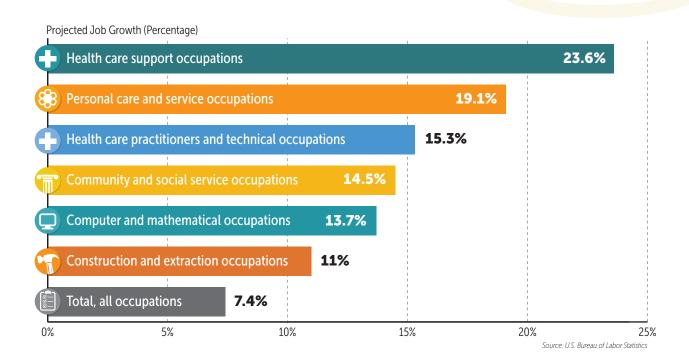
> TAKE-AWAYS: The BLS employment projections do not account for any unanticipated effects on the economy—such as a recession, political conflicts, or changes in laws—but the agency sees steady growth ahead for employment services and the staffing industry. Learn more about BLS employment projections in the article "How Will Employment Trends Affect Your Staffing Business?" in the March-April 2018 issue of Staffing Success.

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FASTEST-GROWING OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

TOP JOB CATEGORIES WITH THE HIGHEST GROWTH RATES 2016–26



TRENDS: Health care, computer, and construction are expected to top the list of growing occupational groups between 2016 and 2026, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Health care and related jobs account for 16 of the 30 fastest-growing occupations from 2016 to 2026 and are projected to increase 23.6%. Increased use of mobile devices, and the addition of software in home appliances and medical devices, will create demand for software developers and related computer jobs (+13.7%), and the expected increase in energy prices will drive employment growth for associated occupations in construction and extraction (+11.0%).

TAKE-AWAYS: There will be an abundance of temporary, contract, and permanent employment opportunities for job seekers in the coming years, even with anticipated shifts in population demographics and the occupational mix of staffing employment, as health care expands and the use of technology increases. Get more details on BLS employment projections in the article "How Will Employment Trends Affect Your Staffing Business?" in the March–April 2018 issue of *Staffing Success*.

NC	OTES

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF STAFFING EMPLOYEES

TEMPORARY AND CONTRACT STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS SPAN VIRTUALLY ALL OCCUPATIONS

Staffing Employees by Sector (Percentage)



35%
OF STAFFING EMPLOYEES
WORK IN HIGHER
SKILLED
OCCUPATIONS

Source: American Staffing Association, Staffing Employee Survey

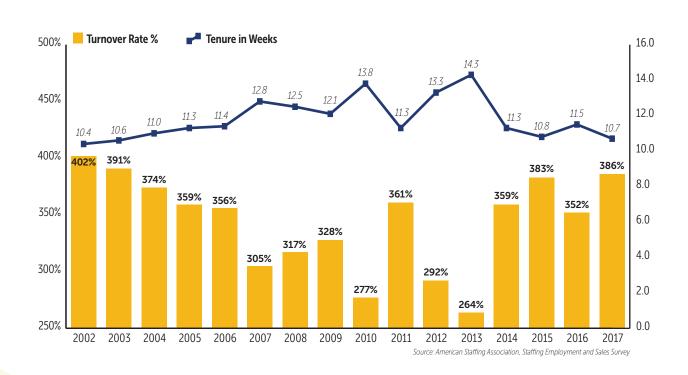
TRENDS: Temporary and contract staffing employees work in a broad array of jobs, from industrial laborer to chief executive. And their individual characteristics, as well as how they view their work, vary just as widely as their occupational distribution, according to results from the latest ASA Staffing Employee Survey among nearly 12,000 temporary and contract workers. More than one-third (35%) work on assignments that require higher education and skills in the professional—managerial; engineering, information technology, and scientific; and health care sectors. About two-thirds work in the industrial and office—clerical and administrative sectors.

TAKE-AWAYS: Staffing employees are quite diverse, but they share a common belief—temporary and contract work is a means to fulfilling their employment goals. To better engage candidates and retain staffing employees, gain a better understanding of their distinct characteristics by looking at profiles by sector—see "The Faces of Staffing" (americanstaffing.net/sector-profiles) or the New Language of Staffing Handbook.

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STAFFING EMPLOYEE TURNOVER AND TENURE

STAFFING EMPLOYEE TURNOVER INCREASED TO 386% WHILE TENURE DECREASED TO 2.5 MONTHS



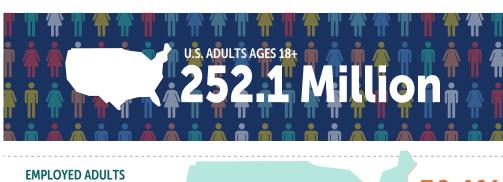
TRENDS: The turnover rate for temporary and contract employees was 386% in 2017—up from 352% in 2016. This increase in turnover translated to a decrease in tenure for staffing employment to an average of 10.7 weeks in 2017. The average tenure for temporary and contract employees in 2017 remained below 12 weeks for the fourth consecutive year and was more in line with typical tenure before the Great Recession that began in 2007. Tenure—the duration of employment—is based on turnover. These two metrics are inversely related: the higher the turnover, the shorter the tenure, and vice versa.

TAKE-AWAYS: Employee turnover is an important statistic for staffing firms—it reflects how often staffing companies need to hire new employees. A high turnover rate means that employees average a shorter tenure; when the turnover rate decreases, it means that average employee tenure is longer. The lower the turnover rate, the lower the cost of recruiting, new-hire administrative expenses, training, and any other costs associated with replacing employees. See examples and use the interactive calculator at *americanstaffing.net/turnover*.

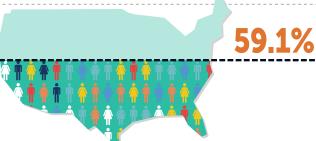
NOTES

STAFFING MARKET SIZE

ON AN AVERAGE DAY, STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS ENGAGE 1.9 MILLION TEMPORARY AND 1.2 MILLION CONTRACT EMPLOYEES



148.9 Million





EMPLOYED BY A STAFFING COMPANY

3.1 Million

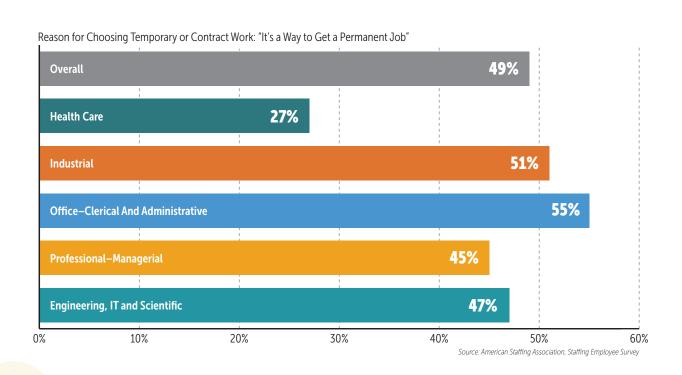
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, American Staffing Association Market Sizing Survey by Harris Poll **TRENDS:** Confusion persists regarding how many temporary and contract employees are working for staffing companies in the U.S. ASA research continues to show a larger and less often revised number than the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Until recently, no one has had a solid estimate of how many Americans have ever used a staffing company to help them find employment. In a landmark study, ASA determined that there are approximately 3.1 million temporary and contract employees working in the staffing industry on any given business day—that is 2.1% of employed adults.

TAKE-AWAYS: ASA has now established two complementary and reliable approaches for estimating staffing employment, both of which result in a consistent number of temporary and contract employees—just over three million per day. ASA has also established that 1.9 million (63%) of those are temporary employees and 1.2 million (37%) are contract workers. Temporary employees tend to work in lower-skilled jobs that do not require a college degree; contract workers typically are assigned to higher-skilled jobs that require a college education. See "The Faces of Staffing" (americanstaffing.net/sector-profiles) for more information on the similarities and differences in staffing employee characteristics.

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KEY STAFFING DRIVER BY SECTOR

GETTING A PERMANENT JOB IS A KEY DRIVER FOR CHOOSING STAFFING EMPLOYMENT



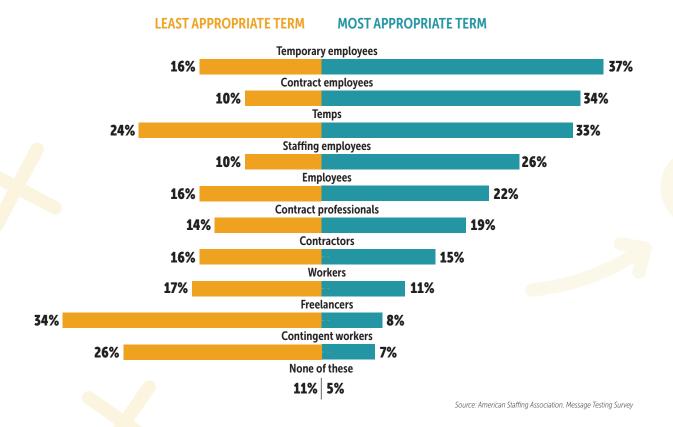
TRENDS: One of the top reasons motivating workers to become staffing employees is to find a permanent job, according to the results of the latest ASA Staffing Employee Survey. Almost all staffing employees surveyed say gaining permanent employment is important to them, and nearly half (49%) say this was a reason for choosing temporary or contract work. There is some variation by sector—workers in the office-clerical and administrative (55%); industrial (51%); engineering, IT, and scientific (47%); and professional-managerial (45%) sectors were all more likely than health care workers (27%) to cite "It's a way to get a permanent job" as a reason for choosing temporary or contract work.

> **TAKE-AWAYS:** The staffing industry is a bridge to permanent talent and you'll be tapping into one of the main factors motivating Staffing Handbook for details on how to effectively communicate with job seekers.

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SUITABLE TERMS FOR STAFFING EMPLOYEES

'TEMPORARY' AND 'CONTRACT' ARE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TERMS FOR STAFFING EMPLOYEES



TRENDS: When asked what the least and most appropriate terms are to refer to people who are employed by a staffing company to work at another business, "temporary employees" and "contract employees" rose to the top among more than 4,100 U.S. adults in a recent ASA message testing survey. It is not a surprise that "contingent workers" and "freelancers" fell to the bottom of

> **TAKE-AWAYS:** To help fill the talent pipeline, staffing Visit americanstaffing.net/new-language for ideas on how to

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METHODOLOGY OF ASA ECONOMIC SURVEYS

ASA STAFFING EMPLOYMENT AND SALES SURVEY

The American Staffing Association provides the only survey-based quarterly estimate of U.S. temporary and contract staffing sales. The quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey—which covers approximately 10,000 establishments (about a third of the industry)—also tracks employment and payroll, with results that parallel the establishment surveys of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey is used to estimate total industry employment, sales, and payroll, based on a model developed for ASA by Standard & Poor's DRI / McGraw—Hill in 1992. DRI conducted a census of ASA members and a survey of selected nonmember firms. Using this and related government data, DRI prepared annual estimates for 1990 and 1991 and a

stratified-panel, survey-based estimation model to be used quarterly from 1992 forward. To preserve the confidentiality of individual company responses, a market research firm collects and tabulates the data and reports only aggregate results to ASA. Survey participants include more than 100 small, medium, and large staffing companies that together provide services in virtually all sectors of the industry. The participants enter data for employment, sales, and payroll for the most recent quarter and, to ensure validity and continuity, the relevant previous quarters. Responses are stratified by company size and used to derive growth rates for each stratum. Strata for each metric are weighted based on the proportionate market share of similarly sized companies. These growth rates are applied quarter by quarter to aggregate benchmark estimates for temporary and contract staffing employment, sales, and payroll.



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For more than 30 years, Barrow Group, LLC has specialized in insurance solutions for the Staffing Industry. We understand the challenges of managing a temporary workforce housed at dozens or even hundreds of different host sites. We take care to assess the risks associated with each client's business and tailor insurance programs to meet their specific needs.

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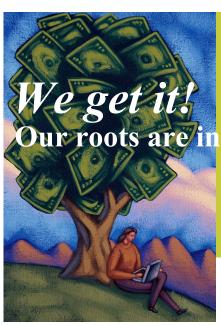
ASA STAFFING INDEX

The ASA Staffing Index tracks temporary and contract employment trends. The index survey methodology essentially mirrors that of the quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey. ASA Staffing Index values, based on survey results, are typically posted nine days after the close of a given workweek, providing a near real-time gauge of staffing industry employment and overall economic activity. Participants include a stratified panel of small, medium, and large staffing companies that together provide services in virtually all sectors of the industry. Similar to the quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey, percentage changes in employment are derived by weighting responses according to company size categories. Three metrics are published each week. The first is the index value itself, which depicts staffing employment trends over time. The second and third are the weekly and yearto-year percentage changes in staffing employment. All three numbers are posted throughout the ASA website, americanstaffing.net. The index is calculated by applying the weekly percentage change in

employment to a reference value set at 100 for the week of June 12, 2006. The index reflects the percentage change in employment since that reference week-so when the index reaches 200, staffing employment would have doubled since June 2006. The index does not estimate total industry employment; the quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey provides that data. ASA developed the index with the expertise of the Lewin Group, an economic research firm.

BENCHMARKS

Both the quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey and the weekly ASA Staffing Index rely on periodic benchmarks from the U.S. Census Bureau. When developing the quarterly survey methodology in 1992, DRI used the 1987 Economic Census of service industries as well as several other sources in estimating industry size and market share weights—long before the introduction of the North American Industry Classification System. Data from the 1997 census, the first to use NAICS, more clearly





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services" than the Standard Industrial Classification it replaced. Using the 1997 NAICS-based census also provided better comparability and continuity of data for the 1990 to 2002 period than the original DRI estimates, particularly given that the principal interest in the results of the quarterly survey has been changes over time rather than absolute levels of employment, sales, and payroll. Data from the 2002 census were used as benchmarks for the quarterly survey results from 2002 through 2006, while the 2007 census data were used to benchmark quarterly survey results from 2007 through 2011. The 2007 census data were also used as benchmarks for the index back to 2006; 2006 and 2007 were peak—and similar—years for the staffing industry, and the index covered only the last six and a half months of 2006, which were much more like 2007 than 2002, the previous census year

(and hence the next available benchmark). In 2011.

delineated "temporary help

given newly released benchmark data from the 2007 Economic Census, ASA revised historical figures for staffing employment, sales, and payroll back to 1990 and ASA Staffing Index values to the index's inception in 2006. The 2012 Economic Census Core Business Statistics Series, released in March 2016. was used to revise quarterly survey results from 2012 through 2015, and the index values were revised from its inception in 2006 through 2015.

COMPARISON WITH BLS

ASA and BLS have similar—but different—survey methodologies. The ASA quarterly survey and weekly index generally track with BLS monthly employment trends. However, because ASA benchmarks to the U.S. Economic Census and BLS uses its own benchmarks, each organization draws different conclusions on total staffing employment. Moreover, BLS seasonally adjusts its data—and makes numerous revisions—while ASA does not seasonally adjust and makes revisions only every five years, when benchmark census data become available. Further complicating comparison, BLS counts corporate employees



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of staffing firms along with temporary employees, and it is unclear if or where contract employees are captured. ASA counts only temporary and contract staffing employees. As a point of comparison, BLS reported nonseasonally adjusted temporary help employment averaging 3.10 million per week in December 2017 prior to annual revisions; ASA counted an average of 3.34 million per week in the fourth quarter of 2017—a difference of approximately 8%, not taking into account the inclusion of corporate employees and possible exclusion of contract employees in the BLS number.

The quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey and the weekly ASA Staffing Index are administered by ASA corporate partner Inavero.









How Does Your Staffing Company Get Reliable Industry Data?

The American Staffing Association provides the nation's leading companies in the staffing, recruiting, and workforce solutions industry with the data they need to make strategic business decisions, stay ahead of change, and hone their operations.

Here are just two of the many research and data resources ASA offers:



ASA STAFFING

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Data are based on peer input to support fiscally sound operations decisions specific to the staffing industry.

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- Statistics for temporary and contract staffing, and direct hire
- New platform including custom filters and dynamic data downloads
- Free reports for survey participants



ASA STAFFING

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS SURVEY

This valuable report allows you to compare your corporate employee compensation to industry peers.

- Comprehensive view of corporate employee salaries and benefits
- Benchmarks for 27 positions, including executives
- New platform with custom filters and dynamic data downloads
- Free reports for survey participants

Learn more at americanstaffing.net/compensation.

Learn more at americanstaffing.net/operations.



UPDATES AND INSIGHTS FROM ASA CORPORATE PARTNERS



By Emily Clark

SUCCESS STARTS HERE Candidate Experience With JobDiva

ith JobDiva, candidate and user experience are paramount. The development of staffing software isn't only about candidate sourcing, matching, and tracking. Increasingly, we find that vendor management systems, managed service providers, and talent acquisition leaders seek suppliers that have established strong employer brands—and that pride themselves on providing exemplary candidate experience.

Connecting with candidates on their preferred grounds has become more important as communication has grown more rapid. The immediacy of texting allows for more direct candidate engagement, ensures speed to market, and helps deliver a homogenous candidate experience.

Introducing DivaBuzz

As such, DivaBuzz, JobDiva's native texting solution, was recently introduced to JobDiva's user community. We think our users deserve

candidate-texting tools that are native to JobDiva—delivered at an affordable price point.

For several months now, JobDiva's users have been leveraging DivaBuzz on both their desktops and mobile devices. They've found, as a rule, that candidates appreciate being able to respond at their convenience. DivaBuzz is user-friendly for candidates and easy-to-use for recruiters. Best of all: DivaBuzz is enmeshed in JobDiva's system architecture, guaranteeing an uninterrupted user experience. With DivaBuzz, you will not encounter those blips or gaps in quality so typical of add-ons or integrated business texting solutions.

Of course, JobDiva still integrates with several external texting services: Clickatell, TextUs, and Icetrak. Nonetheless, DivaBuzz has been designed by JobDiva to meld with JobDiva's suite of solutions. With the introduction of DivaBuzz, JobDiva's texting module has evolved into a truly dynamic workspace for today's recruiting professional. >>>

JobDiva's users have found, as a rule, that candidates appreciate being able to respond at their convenience. DivaBuzz is user-friendly for candidates and easy-to-use for recruiters.

Clients Are Buzzing

The excitement among JobDiva's client base is palpable. "JobDiva users are immensely excited about DivaBuzz," said Yana Nigen, JobDiva's chief marketing officer. "Having an in-house texting service gives our clients a leg up on the competition. This is fast, reliable, seamless texting from a central location."

The point here is larger than business texting. JobDiva was recently named a "Pace-setter" for applicant tracking systems in the 2018 "FrontRunners" report from Software Advice, a consulting service. This report, powered by data-based Gartner methodology, catalogs and maps the positions of the most future-forward ATS. Thus, it is notable that JobDiva was named a "pacesetter"—that is, JobDiva's technology sets the standards by

which other talent acquisition optimization systems will be measured.

DivaBuzz plainly demonstrates why that's the case. JobDiva changes the conversation around all that staffing platforms can and ought to offer their users.

JobDiva is a pacesetter in the staffing space—as Software Advice recognized in the FrontRunners report. Hiring professionals without access to JobDiva risk being left behind. Left behind rather quickly, in fact. DivaBuzz is the latest chapter in that story.

Successful, smart staffing firms are already riding the JobDiva wave. Are you ready to be impressed?

Emily Clark is executive vice president of Product Management for JobDiva, an ASA corporate partner.

ASA does not necessarily endorse the content of this column. Learn more about ASA corporate partners at americanstaffing.net/partners.









In 2007, the American Staffing Association introduced a comprehensive corporate partnership program. ASA now has multiyear corporate partnerships with seven companies: Bullhorn, CareerBuilder, Essential StaffCARE, Inavero, JobDiva, Monster, and World Wide Specialty Programs Inc.

The ASA corporate partnerships go beyond traditional sponsorships. They involve mutual commitments to long-term working relationships focused on benefiting both ASA and the partners as organizations dedicated to advancing the interests and meeting the needs of ASA members and the staffing industry.

For the partnerships to truly succeed, however, members must do their part: Please join the ASA board of directors and staff in thanking these corporate partners for their support of the association, its members, and the staffing industry.





Bullhorn, a proud corporate partner and longtime supporter of ASA, is a global leader in customer relationship management (CRM) and operations software for the recruitment industry. More than 8,000 recruitment companies rely on Bullhorn's cloud-based platform to drive sales, build relationships, and power their recruitment processes from end to end.

Headquartered in Boston, with offices around the world, Bullhorn is founder-led and employs more than 700 people globally. To learn more, visit *bullhorn. com* or follow @Bullhorn on Twitter.

CareerBuilder is a proud corporate partner of the American Staffing Association, and it shares the association's commitment to promoting best practices for the staffing and recruiting industry.

As an end-to-end human capital solutions company, CareerBuilder helps employers all over the world find, hire, and manage great talent. We combine industry-leading human capital management technology and 20 years of workforce insight to flexibly and efficiently meet our customers' unique needs.

ASA members can take advantage of dedicated industry research, data, and

educational opportunities provided by CareerBuilder to help grow and differentiate their firms.

CareerBuilder also is the sponsor of the National Staffing Employee of the Year program.

Questions? Contact CareerBuilder's Staffing and Recruiting Group at staffing@careerbuilder.com.



Essential StaffCARE has been a sponsor of Staffing World, the ASA annual convention and expo, for more than 15 years; is actively involved with ASA-affiliated chapters across the country; and is proud to be an ASA corporate partner.

Essential StaffCARE is a leading provider of ACA-compliant health insurance and supplemental employee benefit plans to the staffing industry. Serving more than 1,800 clients, Essential Staff-CARE offers ACA-compliant minimum essential coverage plans, fully insured major medical plans, supplemental fixed indemnity plans, and electronic enrollment technology.

Essential StaffCARE built its business from the ground up by developing innovative insurance products, benefits administration, and enrollment methods designed specifically for staffing companies. On the forefront of health care reform, Essential StaffCARE developed a new generation of health insurance benefits not subject to reform mandates.

Essential StaffCARE provides ASA members with new insurance products that deliver improved coverage, superior administration, and high enrollment results.



Inavero, the association's satisfaction survey partner, has worked with ASA since early 2007 to conduct surveys that gather information on trends in the staffing industry as well as feedback from ASA members on their membership experience.

Inavero is a leading provider of client and talent online feedback systems for the staffing industry.

Inavero's online surveying software helps you easily measure client and talent satisfaction, build online reputation, and differentiate on service quality. Qualifying firms earn the Best of Staffing award for exceptional service quality.

Inavero also conducts the weekly ASA Staffing Index survey, the quarterly ASA Staffing Employment and Sales Survey, and the annual ASA member survey.

For more information about Inavero, visit *inavero.com*.



JobDiva, a global applicant tracking system and front-to-back talent management solution, is a proud ASA corporate partner. A pioneer in software staffing solutions, JobDiva works hand in hand with ASA to advance best practices for growth-oriented staffing companies. In recognition of this fact, Software Advice recently—in its annual "FrontRunners" report—named JobDiva a "pacesetter" for applicant tracking systems in 2018

JobDiva is redefining the standard for cutting-edge technology and innovation, and serving more than 27,000 global staffing professionals who support the Fortune 500 and more. A powerful cloud solution, JobDiva combines a CRM, synchronization with all major job boards and VMS providers, business intelligence analytics, a mobile app, and the largest résumé databases that employers can possibly hold to deliver staffing solutions with unmatched speed and precision. JobDiva offers patent-protected features including robotics and semantic resumé searches for "skills by years of experience." Continually recognized by both industry experts and clients, JobDiva is the recipient of numerous technology and staffing industry awards.

MONSTER

FIND BETTER

ASA corporate partner Monster—a global leader in connecting people to job opportunities—is the flagship brand of Monster Worldwide Inc.

Monster has working relationships with staffing firms all over the world and is dedicated to its alliance with ASA in order to provide better recruiting tools and knowledgeable support to Monster's customers and the entire staffing industry.

With technology at the center of Monster's award-winning innovations and market-leading solutions, Monster for Staffing empowers companies to recruit more efficiently and effectively than ever before. By delivering a comprehensive set of managing, matching, and advertising solutions for the staffing industry,

Monster for Staffing offers custom solutions for companies of all sizes. It also gives companies access to Monster's extensive database of candidates and the full support of a dedicated staffing sales team.



World Wide Specialty Programs Inc. offers a full range of insurance solutions for the staffing industry, from the simplest coverage needs to the most challenging risks. As an ASA partner with 40 years of experience, World Wide remains dedicated to the staffing industry's safety, growth, and everchanging challenges.

World Wide was the first company to offer an insurance policy designed specifically for the staffing industry. Protecting staffing firms has been World Wide's sole focus since its origin over 50 years ago. As the first ASA corporate partner, it is World Wide's dedication, expertise, and consultative approach that will help you win and retain business.

World Wide Specialty Programs' innovative custom insurance products and programs include staffing services liability, errors and omissions, general liability, property coverage, employment practices liability, directors' and officers' liability, commercial umbrella or excess liability, broad form fidelity bond, and workers' compensation.

World Wide Specialty Programs is the exclusive sponsor of the opening keynote presentation at the ASA annual convention and expo.

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