Granite State Newsletter – August 2025

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We hope you are having a great summer.

The Granite State newsletter is back from its summer break. The big news is that the Pine Tree section in Maine is dissolved and its members will transfer to the Granite State section. This will add about 70 new members to our section starting in mid-August.

The Granite State SLT is planning the transition. The expanded geography will mean more in-person membership meetings for the section. In addition to meetings in New Hampshire we will also be holding meetings in Maine. The details are not worked out, but we have tentative meetings planned for the rest of this year.

We plan to continue to work with nearby sections to provide opportunities for members to attend meetings and gain RUs. Since some of the nearby section meetings are on-line, our members can attend without travel.

The Vermont section is holding a conference on September 15th-16th, 2025. See the details below.

The section held a one-day workshop on May 20. Laura Halleck presented Structured Problem Solving. It was a very interesting workshop that provided a case study allowing participants to apply the quality tools learned.

We would like to know about members who have recently earned a new certification. Please contact Dan O'Leary, the Section Chair, at doleary@memberleader.asq.org so we can announce your achievement in the Newsletter.

There are many opportunities to get involved. We need people to join the SLT, to speak at Membership Meetings, and to write Professional Development articles for this newsletter. To become involved for 2025 please contact Dan O'Leary, the Section Chair, at doleary@memberleader.asq.org

Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, CSSBB

GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS

Tuesday September 23, 2025
Speaker: Sai Ranjith Ramakrishnan Kumar – Navigating SaMD: The Critical Role of QA in Software-Based Healthcare
Venue: Puritan Restaurant – Back Room – Manchester, NH
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

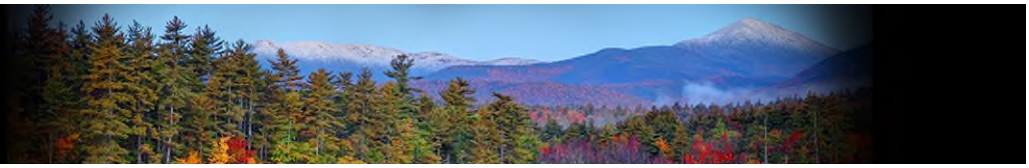
Software is no longer just a support function in healthcare—it is now a medical device. Known as Software as a Medical Device (SaMD), these are software-only products that perform medical functions without being part of a traditional hardware device. Examples include mobile apps that monitor vital signs, software that interprets imaging scans, or AI tools that assist in clinical decision-making.
This session introduces the concept of SaMD from both a regulatory and quality perspective, tailored for professionals in manufacturing and quality engineering roles. Attendees will learn how SaMD is defined by global regulatory bodies (FDA, IMDRF), how it differs from traditional hardware-based devices, and why its growth is transforming the way quality must be approached.
We'll explore the critical role of Quality Assurance (QA) in ensuring SaMD is safe, effective, and compliant throughout its lifecycle. Key topics include:

- Understanding the SaMD lifecycle and applicable standards (IEC 62304, ISO 13485, ISO 14971)
- Verification and validation approaches for software products
- Risk management and cybersecurity as integral quality concerns

The session will also highlight best practices quality engineers can apply when working with or supporting software-based medical products. Whether you're reviewing requirements, performing audits, or supporting product release, this session will equip you to engage confidently with SaMD programs.

Thursday October 16, 2025
Speaker: Dan O'Leary – Predictive Supplier Evaluation
Venue: TBD This is a tentative meeting in Maine
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Tuesday October 21, 2025
Topic: Joint Meeting with NH chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers
Venue: Puritan Restaurant – Back Room – Manchester, N.H.
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm



Thursday November 13, 2025
Speaker: TBD
Venue: TBD This is a tentative meeting in Maine
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Tuesday November 18, 2025
Speaker: TBD
Venue: Puritan Restaurant – Back Room – Manchester, NH
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

NEARBY SECTION EVENTS

Merrimack Valley Section
Information not available

Vermont Section
The ASQ Vermont Section invites you to our inaugural Vermont Quality Conference, VQ2025. The conference will be held at the Hotel Champlain in Burlington, Vermont, on September 15–16, 2025 to celebrate quality in Vermont's most scenic season: Fall Foliage. This exciting event will bring together quality professionals, industry leaders, and businesses from across the country to showcase the best of Vermont's products, services, and commitment to quality. VQ2025 will be a dynamic platform to share and learn from Vermont's industry leaders who exemplify the innovation and excellence that defines Vermont to the rest of the world.

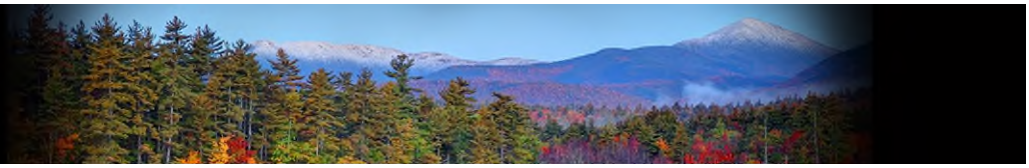
The two-day event will have 4 keynote speakers and 16 speakers. There will also be exhibitors of various Vermont products and services.

Monday evening, September 15, 2025, we would also like to invite you to join us for a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain on the Spirit of Ethan Allen and experience the amazing panoramic views of the fall foliage season. Tickets for this event are also available through the registration form.

Early bird registration for VQ2025, the Vermont Quality Conference, is open until August 15th!

See the program matrix and register at
https://app.memberplanet.com/#/event/asqvermontsection/vq2025vermontqualityconference

Worcester Section
Navigating Industry 4.0 with the Smart Industry Readiness Index (SIRI) by Mr. Nital Zaveri



Date/Time: September 18, 2025 at 12 PM
Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/my/qpsinc Meeting ID 7906904984
Registration: Not Required, 0.2 RU Certificate Will Be Provided
For More Info: Contact Jay P. Patel jayp@qpsinc.com

Industry 4.0 represents a significant transformation in manufacturing, driven by digitalization, automation, and connectivity. For quality professionals and organizations committed to excellence, understanding and strategically embracing this shift is crucial. This webinar will introduce the Smart Industry Readiness Index (SIRI), a globally recognized framework and suite of tools designed to help manufacturers assess their current digital maturity and build a clear roadmap for their Industry 4.0 journey. We will explore how SIRI provides a structured approach to identify opportunities for enhanced quality, efficiency, and competitiveness in the evolving industrial landscape.

Mr. Nital Zaveri is a Certified Smart Industry Readiness Index Assessor and founder of DigiMex. He has led consulting projects in more than 1500 manufacturing industries in India and abroad for improving manufacturing efficiency using Digital Technology and Operational Excellence.

ASQ ON-LINE COURSES

Risk Management for Medical Devices
September 2, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST
Designed for engineers, technicians, and professionals focusing on product and process risk, this course teaches common risk-management methods used in product design and manufacturing and focuses on recently enacted standards.

Continuous Improvement Techniques
September 8, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CST
This course demonstrates how continuous improvement techniques, process improvement techniques, and audits impact ROI.

AS9100:2016 Internal Auditor Training
September 8 - 10, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST
This course provides a uniform interpretation of the standard requirements related to auditing of aerospace management systems, and the examination evaluates participants as potential auditors.

Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt
September 29 - 30, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST

Put your best foot forward with this premier instructor-led training course from ASQ. Covers the full Yellow Belt Body of Knowledge, as well as lean tools using the Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control (DMAIC) methodology.

For more information go to:
https://asq.org/training/catalog?utm_source=250805_education_livevirtual_sept&utm_medium=email&utm_content=register_textlink&utm_campaign=2025_education#f:@refcourseformat=[Live%20Virtual]

ASQ IN-PERSON COURSES

AS9100:2016 Lead Auditor Training (REV D) (Probitas)
September 8 – 11, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and September 12, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ASQ's Quality 101
September 8 – 9, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Auditing for Improved Supplier Performance
September 10, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Corrective and Preventive Action
September 12, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Introduction to Quality Management
September 8 – 11, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and September 12, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

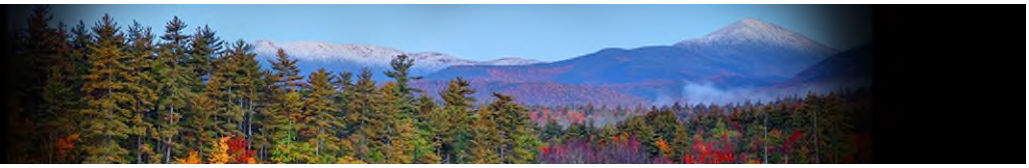
Introduction to Supplier Management
September 8 - 9, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ISO 9001:2015 Certified Internal Auditor (Quality Management System Training)
September 8 – 10, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor (Quality Management System Training)
September 8 – 11, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and September 12, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt
September 8 – 9, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Quality/Engineering Tools for Supplier Management
September 11 – 12, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Quality Improvement Fundamentals Workshop
September 10, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Root Cause Analysis
September 10 – 11, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Supplier Quality Professional: An Introduction
September 8 – 12, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All courses are held in Milwaukee, WI.
For more information go to https://members.asq.org/milwaukee-courses-fall-2025?utm_source=250810_insider_new&utm_medium=email&utm_content=septmbermkecourses_cta&utm_campaign=2025_insider

ASQ CONFERENCES

Audit Division Conference
September 10 – 11, 2025
Reno, NV – In Person

Women in Quality Symposium
December 4, 2025 – Virtual

Lean and Six Sigma Conference
February 22 - 24, 2026
Phoenix, AZ – In Person

World Conference on Quality & Improvement
May 17 - 20, 2026
Orlando, FL – In Person

For more information on these events go to https://asq.org/events

GRANITE STATE CERTIFICATIONS

If you recently received a new ASQ certification, please let us know. The Section would like to congratulate you in the newsletter. Send your name, the new certification, and your current certifications to Dan O'Leary doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

ASQ CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE

Certification: CQT, CQI, CRE, CFSQA, CMDA, CMQ/OE, CSSBB, CSSYB, CSQP
Application Deadline: August 11, 2025 Testing Window: September 1 - 30, 2025
Application Deadline: October 13, 2025 Testing Window: November 1 – 30, 2025
Application Deadline: December 8, 2025 Testing Window: January 1 - 31, 2026

Certification: CQA, CQE, CQIA, CSQE, CSSGB, CQPA, CCT, CPGP, CCQM
Application Deadline: September 8, 2025 Testing Window: October 1 - 31, 2025
Application Deadline: November 10, 2025 Testing Window: December 1 - 31, 2025

To apply, go to https://www.asq.org/cert/dates

Download the *ASQE Candidate Handbook and Application Process* from
https://p.widencdn.net/j5hi1o/Certification-Candidate-Handbook

THE SEPTEMBER 2025 SLT MEETING

Granite State members are welcome to participate in SLT meetings and to join the SLT. Contact Dan O'Leary doleary@memberleader.asq.org.
The Granite State SLT met on August 12, 2025.

- The section's account balance is $13,282.18
- We have the speakers lined up for some of the fall membership meetings
- We are planning a joint meeting with the NH Society of Manufacturing Engineers in October
- With the transfer of Pine Tree members to Granite State we are working on membership meetings in Maine as well as New Hampshire
- The August membership is 173 members; the Pine Tree transfers are not in this number.

THE 2025 SLT

Bharat Arora: Nominating
Chris Carr: Newsletter, Membership
Charlie Killam: Treasurer
Sarah Matloff: Secretary
Dan O'Leary: Chair, Arrangements, Education
Sai Ranjith Ramakrishnan: Programs

CALL FOR SLT MEMBERS

Granite State is always on the lookout for members who want to volunteer for the Section Leadership Team, SLT. It is a volunteer position to help manage the section. SLT members are involved in the planning and operation that make the section a success. If you are interested in joining the SLT, please contact the Chair by e-mail at doleary@memberleader.asq.org. Volunteers can earn recertification units, RUs, for membership on the SLT.

SECTION METRICS

The Section metrics help measure success against the plans for the 2025 program year. The results are in a Red/Yellow/Green format scorecard.

Membership Change – The number of members for 2024 and 2025. Calculate the slope of the linear regression line. The target is a slope greater than zero and the improvement direction is up.

Account Balance – The balance in the Granite State account. Calculate the slope of the linear regression line. The target is a slope greater than zero and the improvement direction is up.

Meetings Held – The ratio of the number of membership meetings held YTD to the number planned YTD expressed as a percentage. The target is 100% and the improvement direction is up.

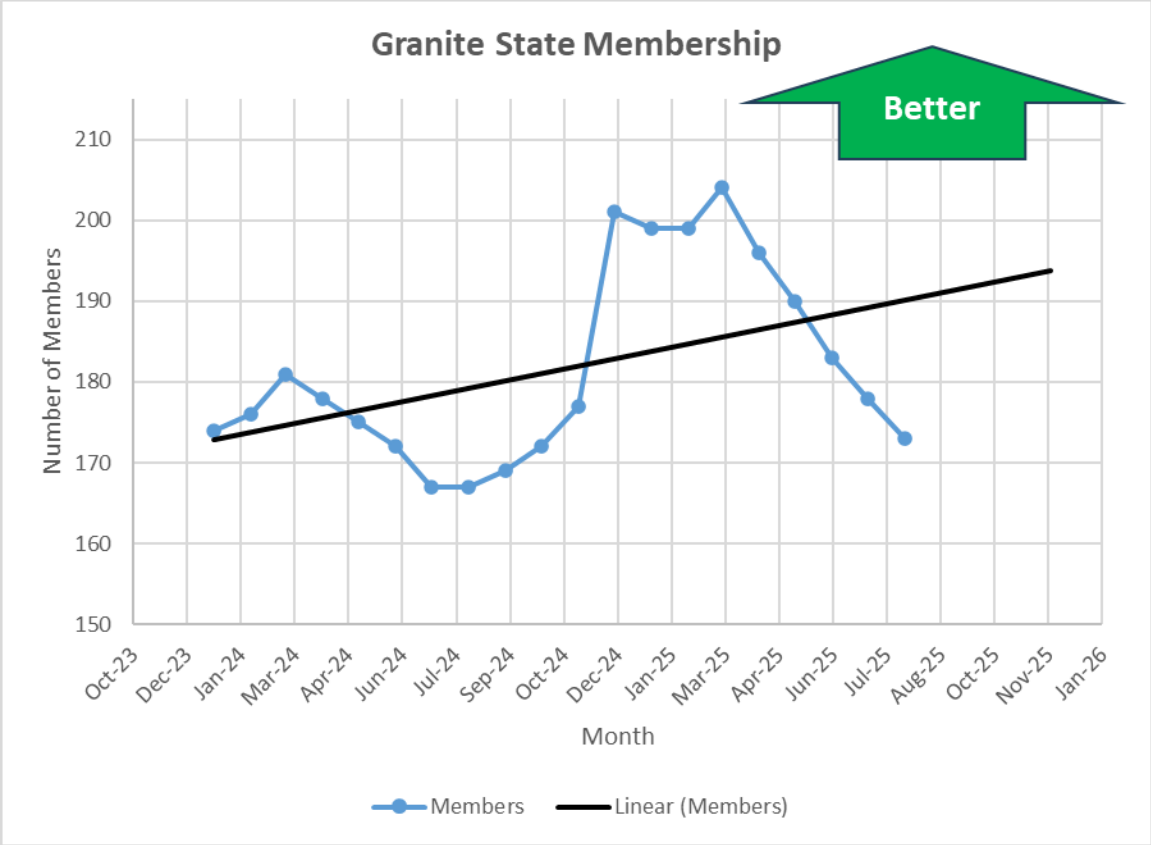
Educational Events – The ratio of the number of educational events held YTD to the number planned YTD expressed as a percentage. The target is 100% and the improvement direction is up.

Newsletters Published – The ratio of the number of newsletters published YTD to the number planned YTD expressed as a percentage. The target is 100% and the improvement direction is up.

Member Surveys Conducted – The ratio of the number of member surveys conducted YTD to the number planned YTD expressed as a percentage. The target is 100% and the improvement direction is up.

The scorecard cells are white until the first scheduled activity. The scorecard now includes sparklines which were described in the February 2025 Newsletter.

Metric	Target	Sparklines	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Membership Change	Regression Slope ≥ 0		0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.03				
Account Balance	Regression Slope ≥ 0		-3.30	-1.31	-0.46	-0.18	-0.22	-1.47	-2.96	-3.98				
Meetings Held	Percentage ≥ 100%				100%	100%	100%	100%	100%					
Educational Events Held	Percentage ≥ 100%						100%	100%	100%					
Newsletters Published	Percentage ≥ 100%			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%				
Member Surveys Conducted	Percentage ≥ 100%													



SECTION DEMOGRAPHICS

For August 2025, the section has 190 members with a wide geographical distribution and varied member types.

State	Count	Percent
NH	149	86.1%
MA	16	9.2%
VT	2	1.2%
ME	1	0.6%
WI	2	1.2%
AZ	0	0.0%
FL	1	0.6%
PA	1	0.6%
VA	1	0.6%
CT	0	0.0%
Total	173	100.0%

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	134	77%
Senior Membership	28	16%
Retired Senior Membership	9	5%
Student Membership	1	1%
Retired Professional Membership	1	1%
Total	173	100%

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

The section needs speakers who can make a presentation at an upcoming membership meeting. The presentations are about one hour long following dinner. The topic should provide information about skills or knowledge useful in a quality professional's work. Contact doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

CALL FOR AUTHORS

Granite State members are invited to write a Professional Development article for our newsletter. Submit your draft article to doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

In addition to recognition by other section members, writing an article can refine your skills and may support your ASQ certification. Become a recognized subject matter expert and showcase your knowledge.

QUALITY QUESTION

This area of the newsletter responds to quality questions from Granite State members. The question could be about best practices, implementing a method, using a statistical technique, *etc*. Submit your quality question to Dan O'Leary, doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

Question: My company does incoming inspection using sampling plans on most of the lots we receive from suppliers. Sometimes there is a bottle neck so we would like to eliminate it by a dock-to-stock program. What are some things we need to consider?

Answer: Dock-to-stock programs can improve the flow of material and increase efficiency without losing the effectiveness of incoming inspection.

The basic idea is that if a part has a good history at incoming inspection, then subsequent inspections don't add value because the inspection doesn't find nonconforming parts. A traditional dock-to-stock program is all or nothing. A part either goes through incoming inspection or it does not. There are alternates if your company is risk averse.

I expect you use the c=0 sampling plans in the 6th edition of the book. These sampling plans can reduce the sample size compared to Z1.4, but are more likely to reject certain lots. The book has provisions for switching rules which dynamically change the sample size based on the quality history of the part.

Another method uses skip lot sampling. Send the lots to incoming inspection but don't inspect all of them. Select the lots to inspect at random so you inspect one of two, one of three, one of four, *etc*.

In dock-to-stock a part number needs to qualify based on some rule you set. A common approach is the part from the same supplier must have been accepted 5 times in a row, but you can use another number if you like.

Most MRP systems have a flag to determine whether a part goes to inspection. For a qualifying part, set it to bypass incoming inspection.

A part becomes disqualified if it presents a problem in production. A good rule is two or three parts from the same lot. If you set it to only one part, you might get some false alarms. With sampling inspection there could be a nonconforming part in the lot that gets to stock because it wasn't in the sample.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Time Series Analysis

Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, CSSBB

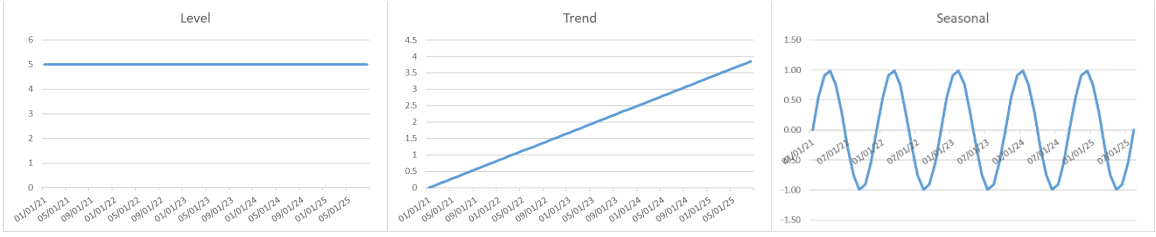
CQE BoK:
VI. Quantitative Methods and Tools
E. Relationships Between Variables
3. Time-series analysis
Define, describe, and use time-series analysis, including moving average to identify trends and seasonal or cyclical variation.

A time series is a set of observations of a variable ordered in time. They are usually measured in equal time intervals. A time series is made up of five components described below. In a given time series some or all may be present. The explanation below describes each component and illustrates it with a graph.

Level – The level component is the central tendency of the data and indicates its magnitude.

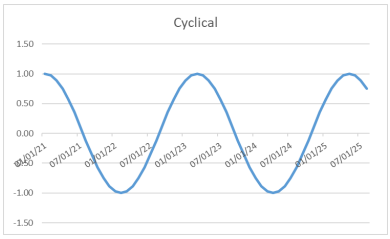
Trend – The trend component is the rate of growth or decline of the data and shows the general movement of the data.

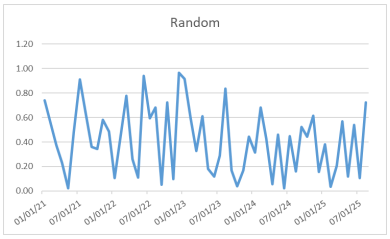
Seasonal – The seasonal component is annually occurring changes above and below the trend line. The seasonal component may be associated with factors such as summer/winter or vacation schedules.



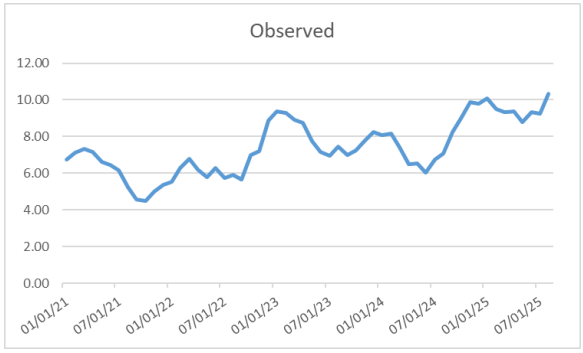
Cyclical – Longer term variations above and below the trend line.

Random – No discernable patterns and usually don't have any assignable causes.





Observed Data – The observed data is the information measured. It is the combination of the five factors when present. The five factors may not be discernable in the graph.



The level component can be found from the mean of the observed data. The trend component can be found from the linear regression line of the data. The seasonal and cyclical components are more difficult to determine and are beyond the scope of this article.

One common application is to estimate the next value, prediction. There are a few straight forward ways.

Last period demand – Simply estimates that the next value is the same as the last value observed. This works well if there is little variation in the observed data.

$$\hat{Y}_t = Y_{t-1}$$

Arithmetic mean – This is the mean value of all the data. It smooths out fluctuations, and does not respond to the trend, seasonality, or cyclical components. In the equation below *n* is all the data.

$$\hat{Y}_t = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}^{n} Y_i$$

Moving average – This is the mean value of the observed data for the last *n* time periods. Choosing the right value for *n* requires some experimentation; common values are between 3 and 8. In the equation below *n* is the number of periods chosen.

$$\hat{Y}_t = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}^{n} Y_{t-i}$$

Excel makes the moving average easy.

Put the cursor in the chart to make the Chart Elements tool (the + sign) visible.
Click the Chart Elements tool.
In the pop-up menu select Trendline | More Options.
In the Format Trendline panel select moving Average and the period.

In the example below, the choice is 5 periods, but it is easy to pick other periods. To get the value of the moving average with this method, do the calculation.

Notice that in the graph below the moving average line smooths out the fluctuations in the data. More periods increases the smoothing.