

**To:** Members of the American Economic Association

**From:** AEA Committee on the Job Market: John Cawley (chair), Matt Gentzkow, Brooke Helppie-McFall, Peter Rousseau, and Wendy Stock

**Date:** October 12, 2022

**Re:** JOE job openings by sector, 2022 versus the past 5 years

This memo reports the cumulative number of unique job openings on Job Openings for Economists (JOE), by sector and week, compared to the same week in recent years.

Some clarifications on the data and graphs in this memo:

- Week of the year is defined according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), so the exact days contained in a given numbered week differ slightly across years. For example, week 1 in 2021 ran from January 4, 2021 to January 10, 2021, whereas week 1 in 2020 ran from December 30, 2019 to January 5, 2020. This minor difference in the specific days included in each numbered week should not generate meaningful differences a few months into the calendar year.
- The data described in this memo cover ISO weeks 1 through 40, which in 2022 ended October 9.
- The counts that are graphed are the number of job *openings*. To clarify, it is not the number of job listings; a listing may include multiple openings.
- For all years, if the employer contacts JOE to say that the search is cancelled, those openings are removed from the count. They are kept in the count if the employer states that the position has been filled. Note that employers may not always contact JOE after a search has been cancelled.
- On each graph, the year-to-date cumulative number of job openings is listed for 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019. (For the sake of legibility numbers are not printed for 2018 or 2017, even though those data are graphed.)

The graphs are shown below, overall and by sector. Figure 1 (on p. 3) shows the total number of job openings in 2022, compared to recent years. As of the end of week 40, there have been 2,114 jobs listed on JOE since the beginning of 2022, which is 18.83% higher than at the same time in 2021, 82.4% higher than this time in 2020 (the worst COVID year), and even 2.32% higher than 2019, the last pre-COVID year.

Subsequent graphs compare the number of job openings separately by sector. Figure 2 shows that 592 full-time academic positions in the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in 2022; this is 39.95% higher than at the same time in 2021, 242.2% higher than at the same time in 2020, and even 22.82% higher than the same time in 2019 - see p. 4.

Figure 4 shows that 575 full-time academic job openings in institutions outside the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in 2022; that is 18.31% higher than the same time in 2021, 91.67% higher than at the same time in 2020, and even 4.36% higher than the same time in 2019 - see p. 6.

Figure 6 shows that 454 full-time non-academic positions have been listed on JOE so far in 2022; that is 8.35% higher than at the same time in 2021 and 39.26% higher than the same time in 2020 but remains 10.28% lower than the same time in 2019 - see p. 8.

On the whole, these numbers suggest that the economics Ph.D. academic job market has fully recovered from the negative shock of COVID. To use U.S. full-time academic positions that were listed as of ISO week 40 as an example, the number of jobs listed in JOE fell sharply from 482 in 2019 (the last pre-COVID year) to 173 in 2020 (the worst COVID year). There was then a substantial rebound to 423 jobs listed in 2021, but the recovery was incomplete, as this was still below the 2019 number (482). So far in 2022, there are 592 jobs in this category listed in JOE, which is a larger number than at the same time of year pre-COVID, suggesting that the recovery is complete. Our committee cautions, however, that the largest number of listings in JOE occur in October and November, so only by early December will we know for sure the full extent of the recovery in the job market for Ph.D. economists.

Please also note that **the AEA Executive Committee and the Committee on the Job Market suggest the following timing for the job market**, to ensure common expectations, fairness, and a thick job market:

- That employers wait to extend interview invitations until December 2, 2022. AEA signals will be sent to employers on December 1, and we ask that employers incorporate the information in those signals into their decision-making about whom to interview.
- That employers wait to conduct initial interviews until January 2, 2023 and that interviews not take place during the ASSA meetings (January 6-8, 2023).

For more details, please see [the AEA's email of July 1, 2022](#).

The AEA also recommends that first-round interviews be conducted virtually rather than in-person.

Figure 1: Number of Job Openings on JOE, All Types

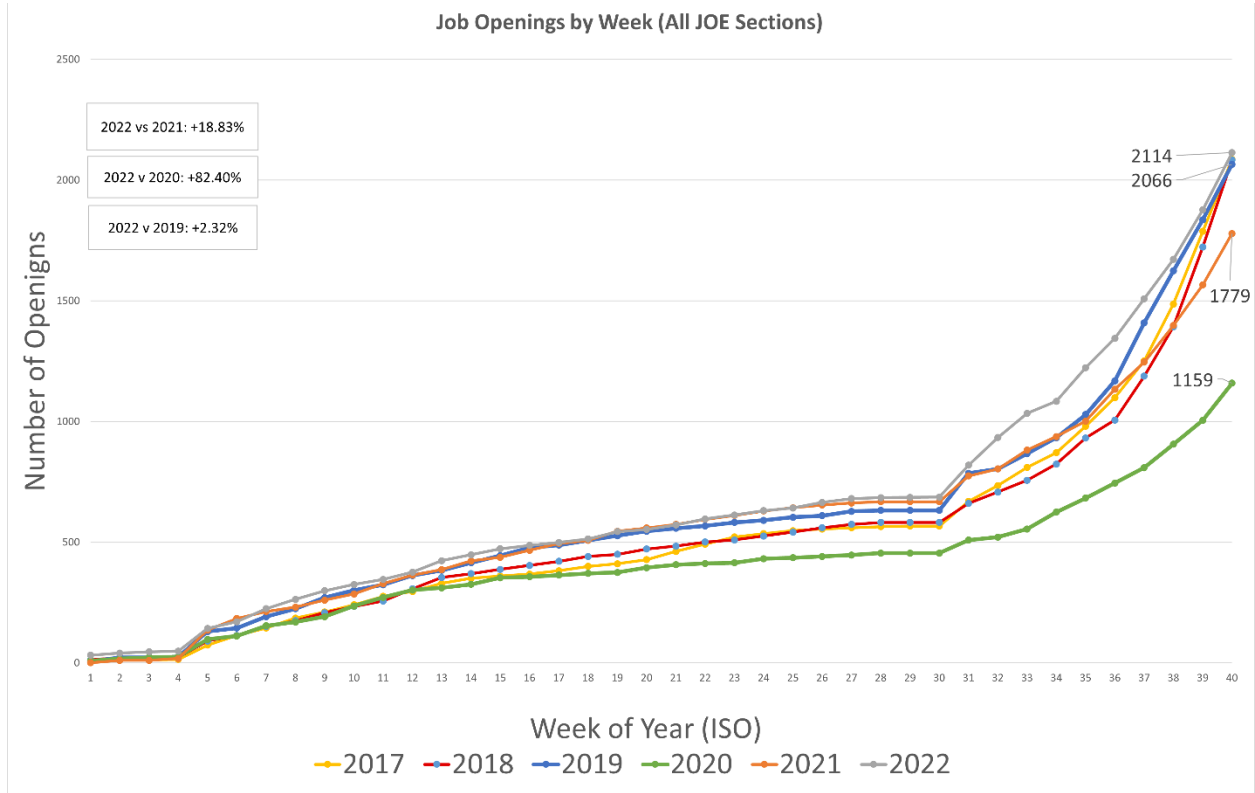


Figure 2: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Full-Time Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only

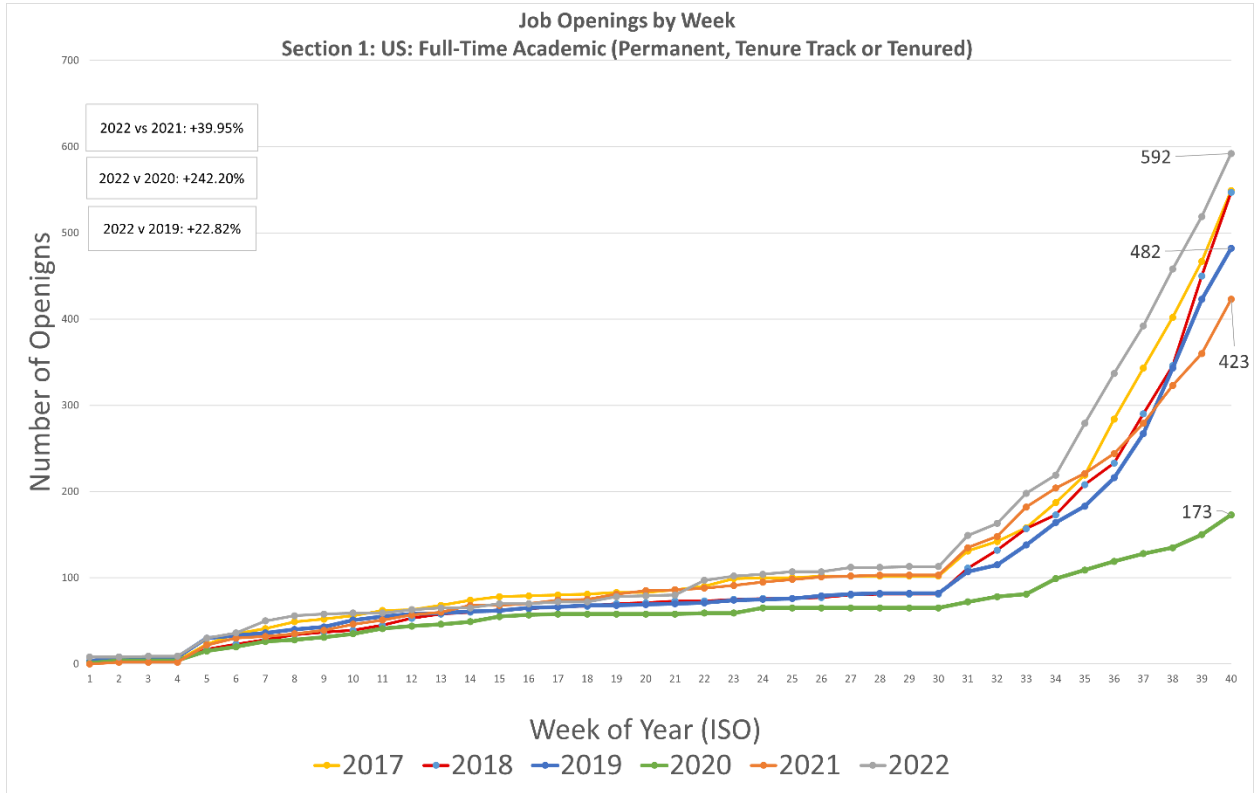
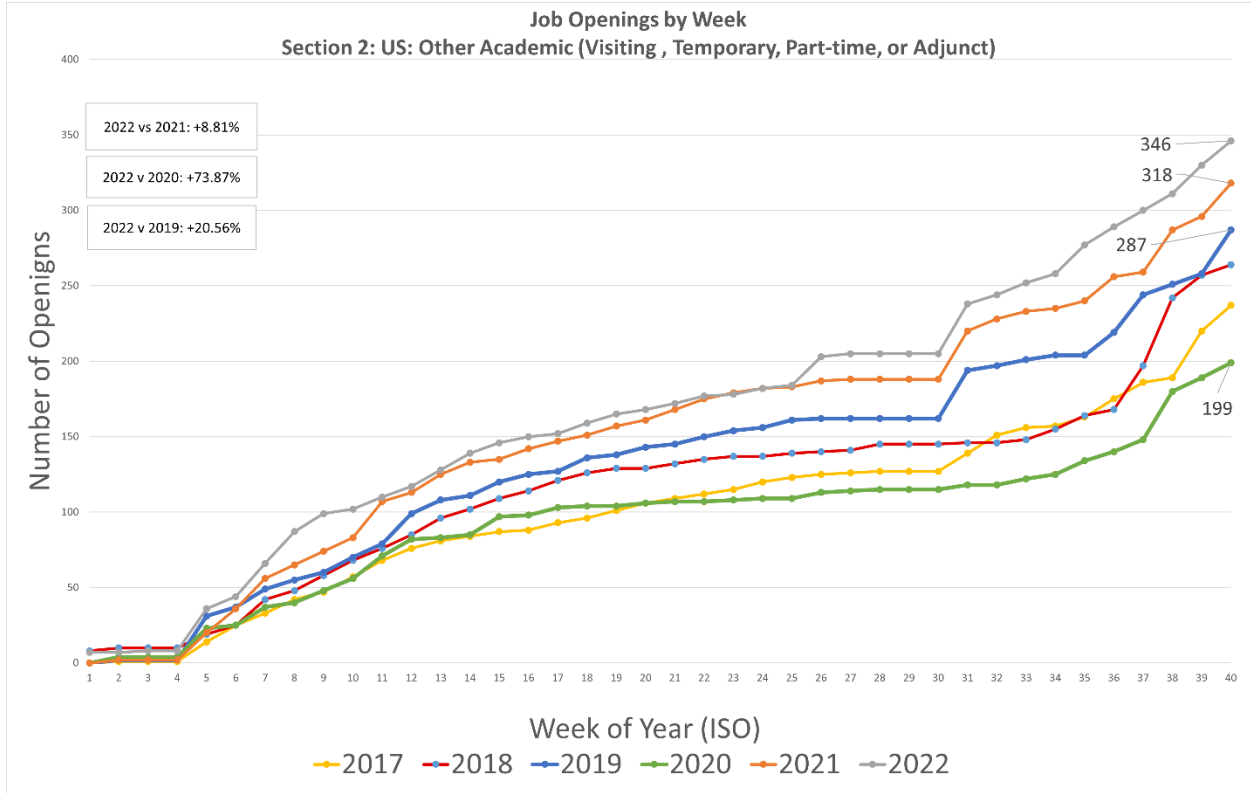


Figure 3: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only



Note: “Other” academic jobs includes visiting, temporary, part-time, or adjunct positions; that is, everything other than full-time positions.

Figure 4: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Full-Time Academic Jobs Outside the U.S. Only

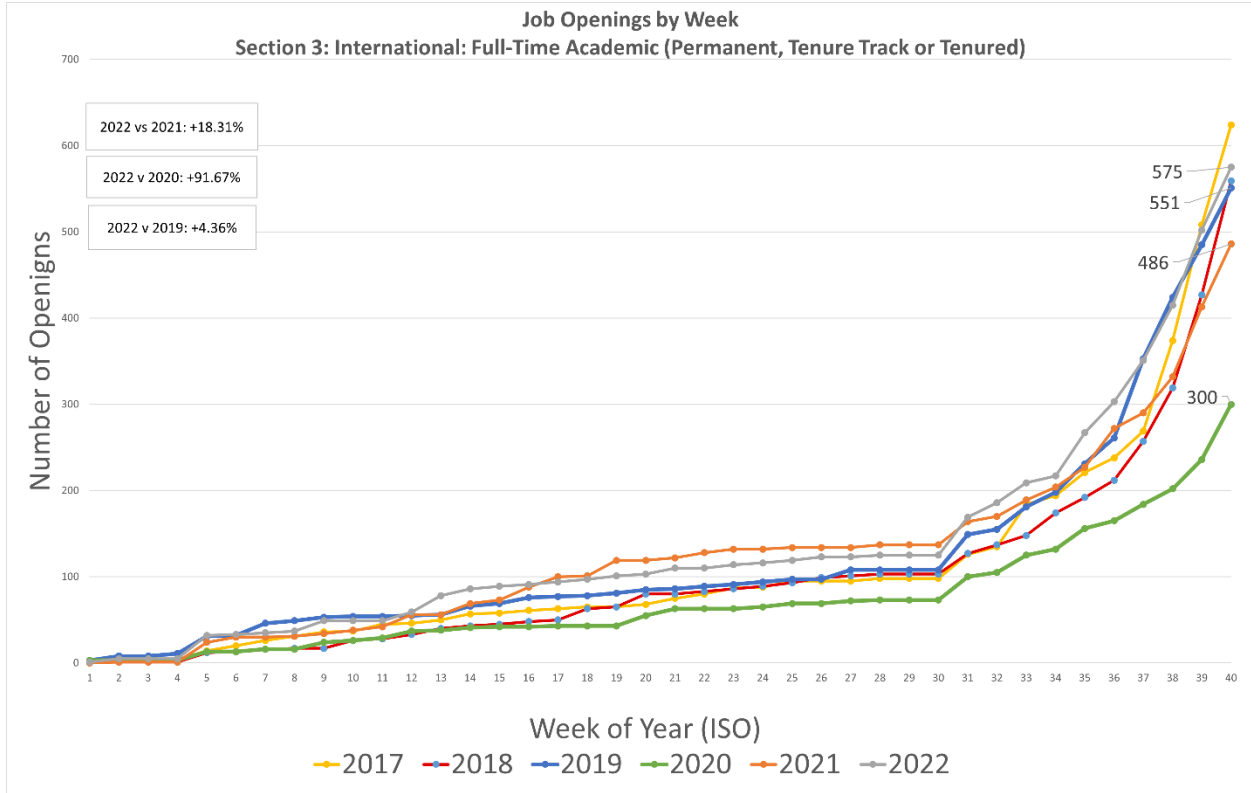
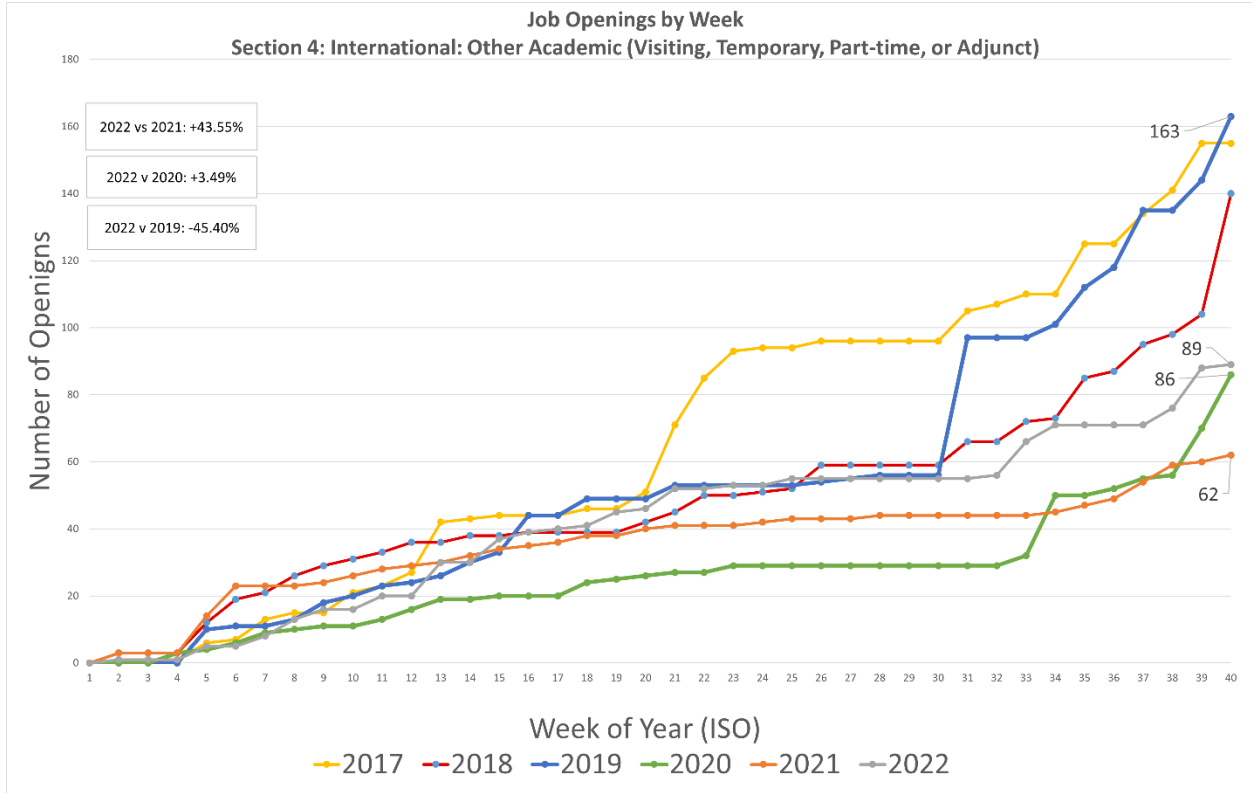


Figure 5: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs Outside the U.S. Only



Note: “Other” academic jobs includes visiting, temporary, part-time, or adjunct positions; that is, everything other than full-time positions.

Figure 6: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Full-Time Non-Academic Jobs Only

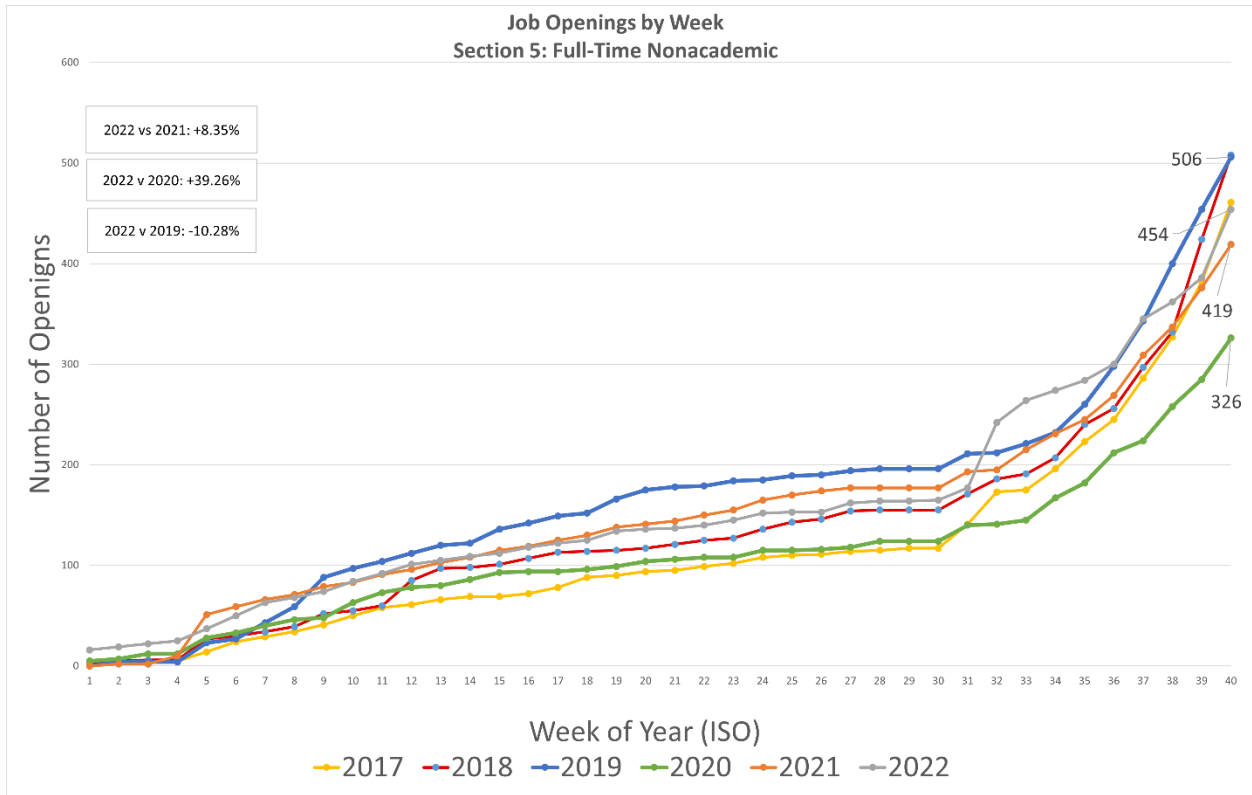
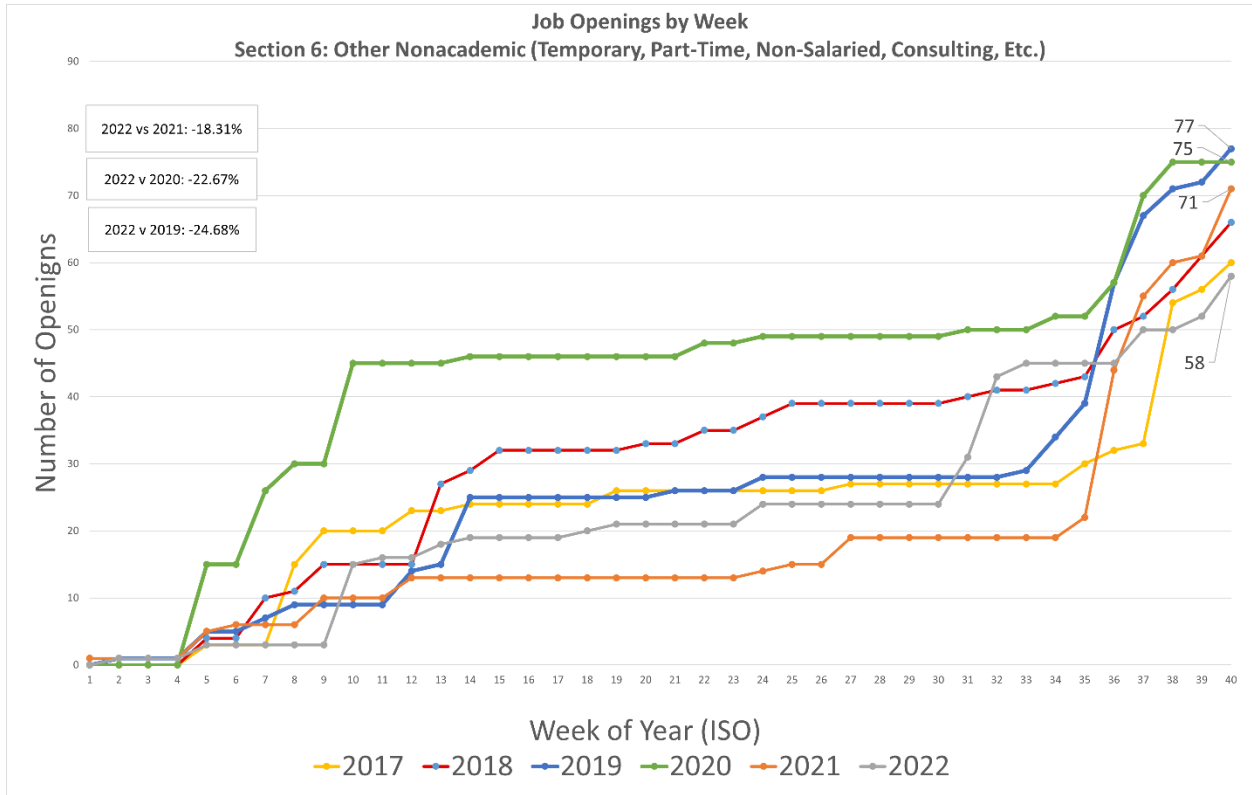




Figure 7: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Non-Academic Jobs Only



Note: “Other” non-academic jobs includes temporary, part-time, non-salaried, or consulting positions; that is, everything other than full-time positions.