

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

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

**Date:** October 26, 2023

**Re:** JOE job openings by sector, 2023 versus the past 4 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 41, which in 2023 ended October 15.
- The counts that are graphed and discussed 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 the past five years separately: 2019-2023.

The graphs are shown below, overall and by sector. Figure 1 (on p. 3) shows the total number of job openings in 2023, compared to recent years. As of the end of week 41, there have been 2,006 jobs listed on JOE since the beginning of 2023, which is 13.2% lower than at the same time in 2022, roughly the same (-0.10% lower) as in 2021, 51.3% higher than this time in 2020 (the worst COVID year), and 13.2% lower than 2019, the last pre-COVID year.

Subsequent graphs compare the number of job openings separately by sector. Figure 2 shows that 561 full-time academic positions in the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in 2023; this is 13.4% lower than at the same time in 2022, 12.4% higher than at the same time in 2021, 198.4% higher than at the same time in 2020, and 4.7% higher than the same time in 2019 - see p. 4.

Figure 4 shows that 534 full-time academic job openings in institutions outside the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in 2023; that is 15.5% lower than at the same time in 2022, 2.9% lower than the same time in 2021, 37.6% higher than at the same time in 2020, and 17.1% lower than the same time in 2019 - see p. 6.

Figure 6 shows that 375 full-time non-academic positions have been listed on JOE so far in 2023; that is 24.7% lower than at the same time in 2022, 19.5% lower than at the same time in

2021, 1.1% lower than the same time in 2020 and 34.7% lower than the same time in 2019 - see p. 8.

Our committee cautions that the largest number of listings in JOE occur in October and November, so by early December we'll have a much better sense of the job market for Ph.D. economists.

The AEA Executive Committee and the Committee on the Job Market provide the following [guidance for the job market](#), to ensure common expectations, fairness, and a thick job market. This guidance concerns the timing of interview invitations, the interviews themselves, and exploding job offers.

Further updates regarding the job market for Ph.D. economists will be posted to the [Committee's webpage](#).

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

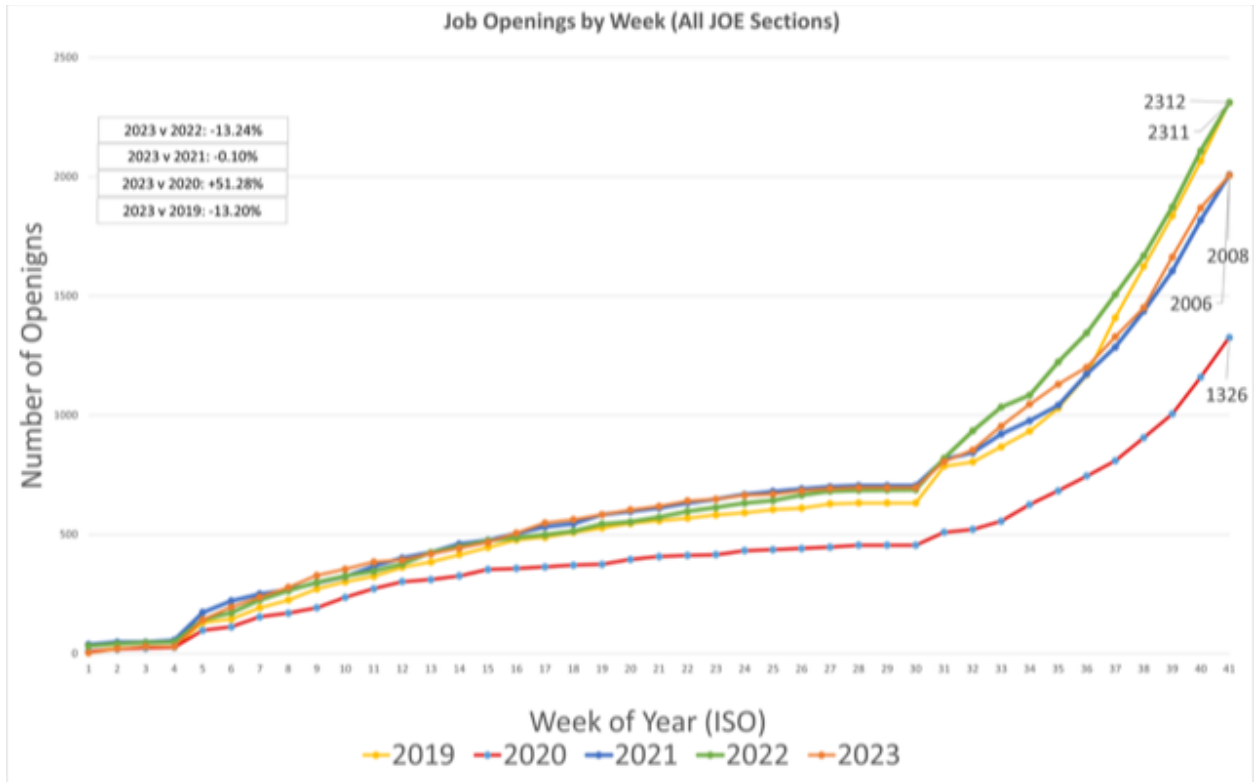


Figure 2: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Full-Time Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only

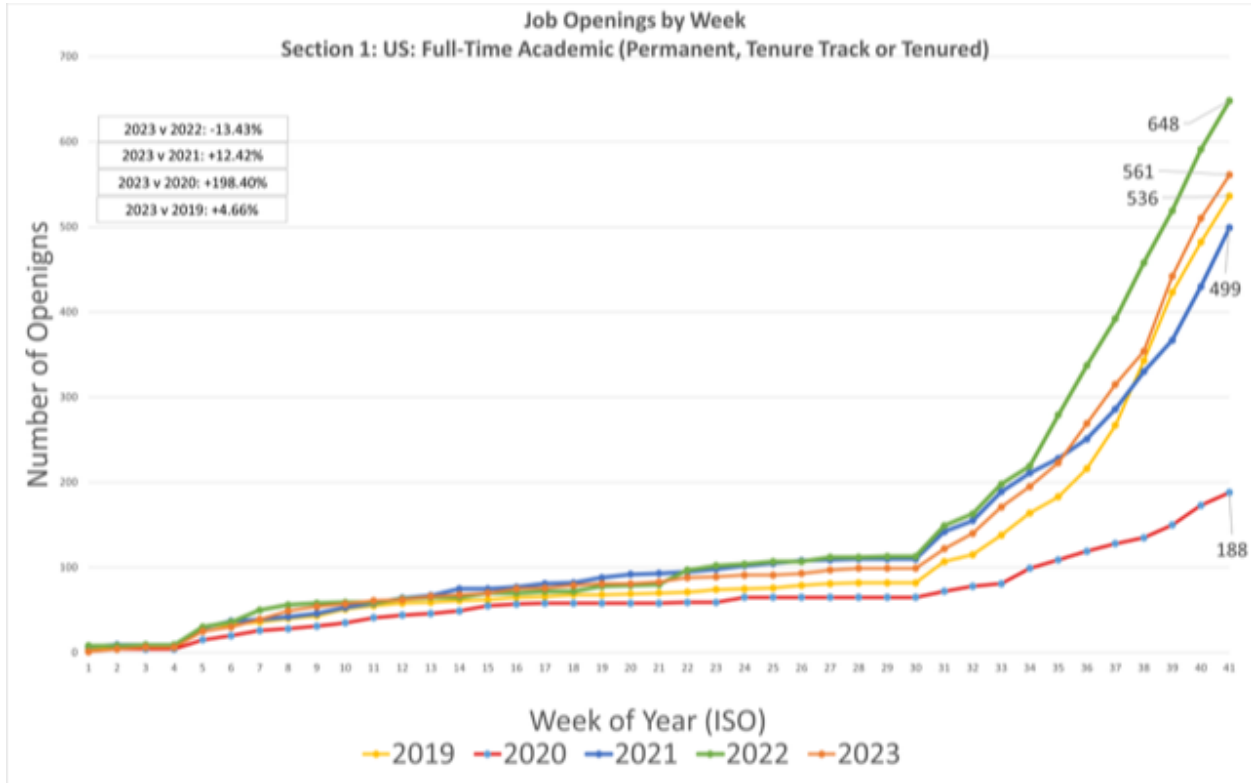
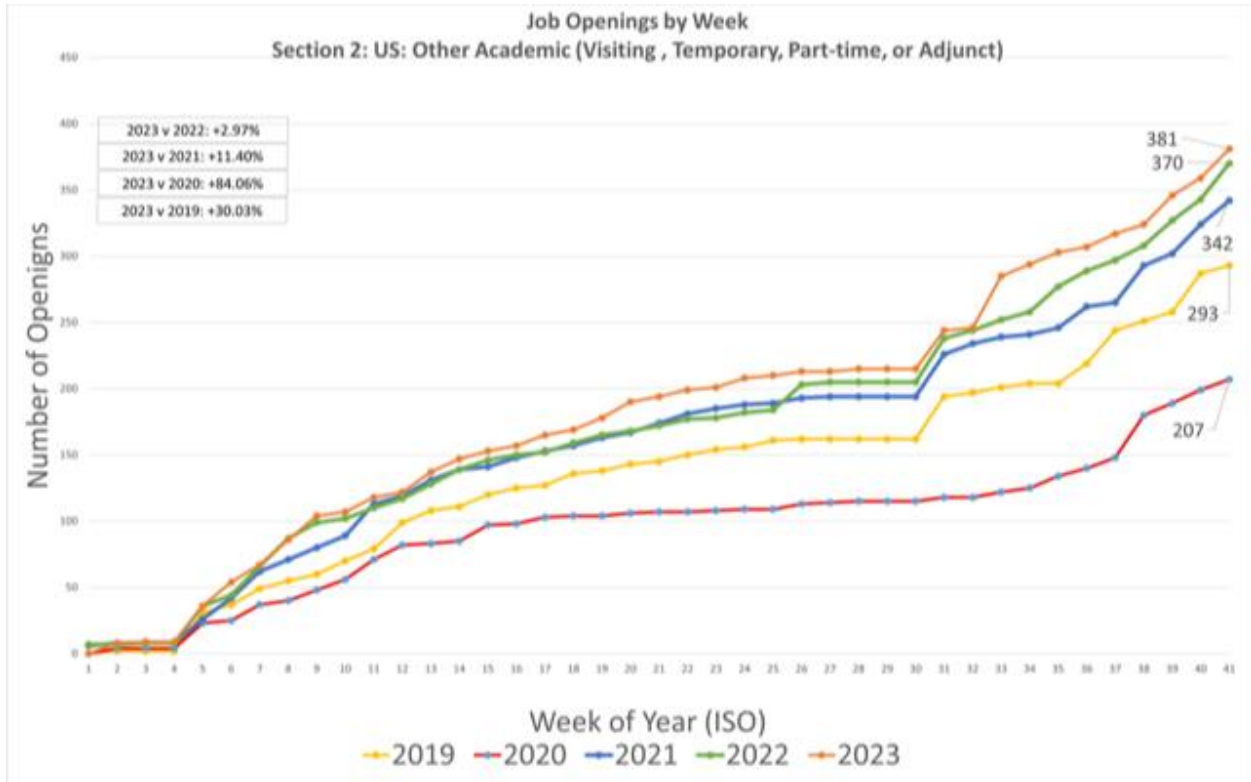


Figure 3: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only



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

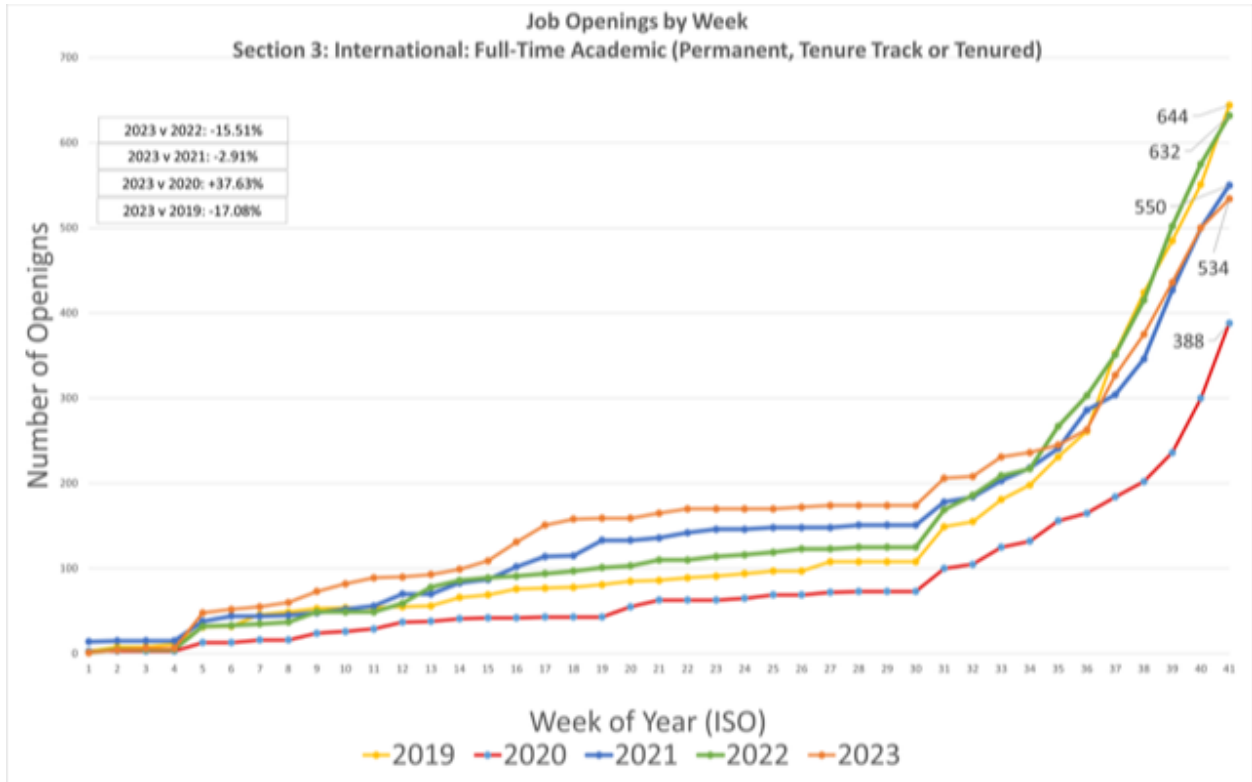
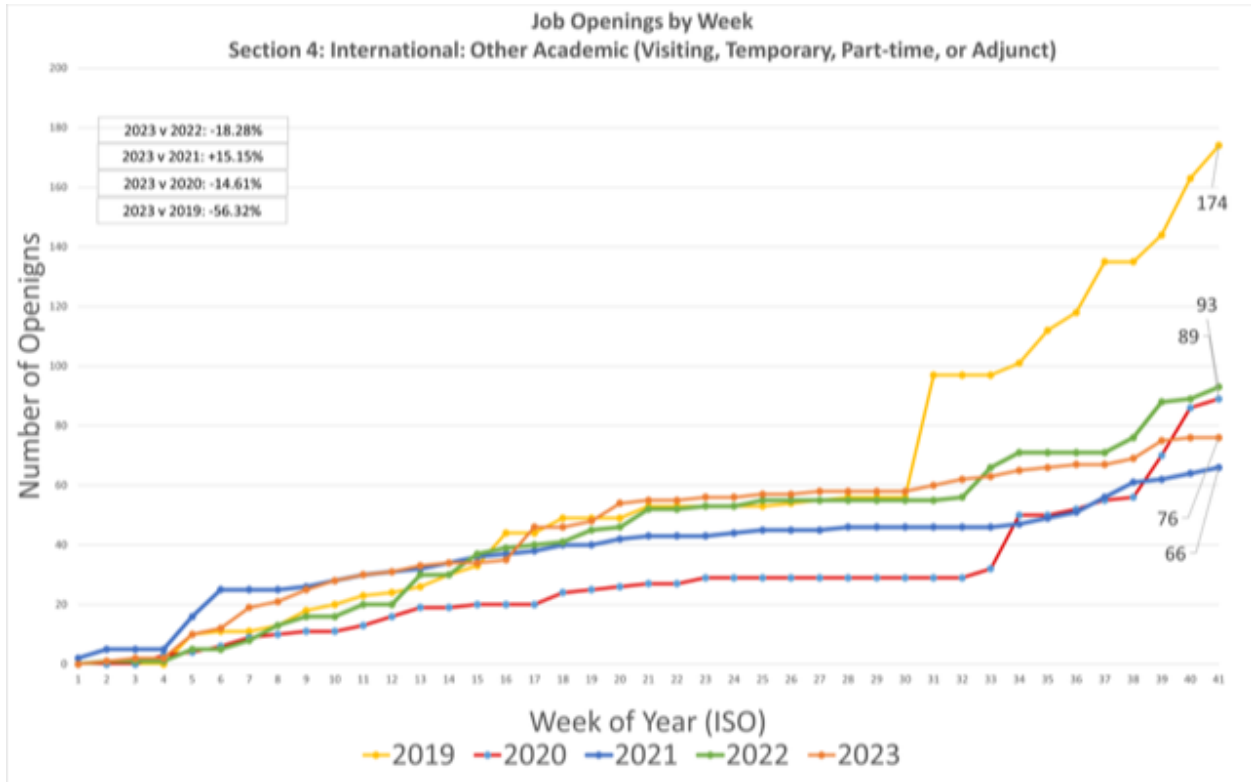


Figure 5: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs Outside the U.S. Only



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

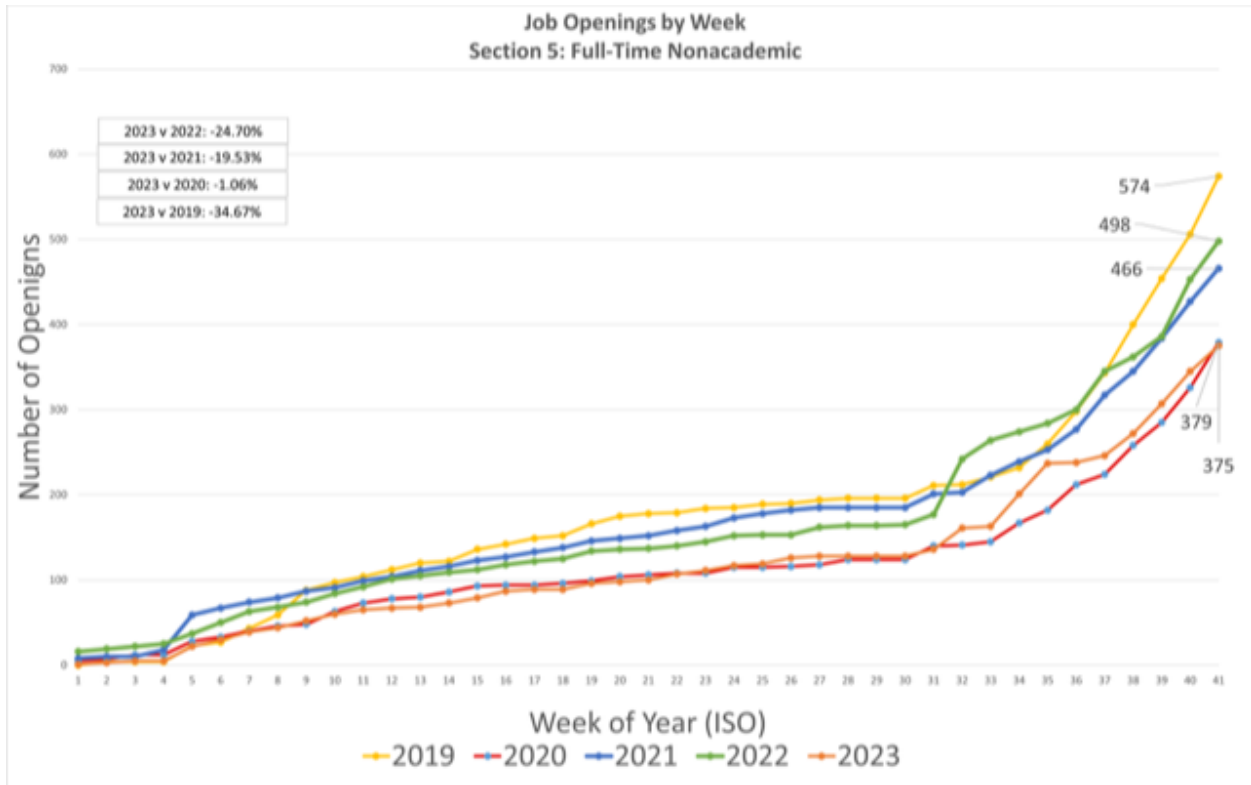
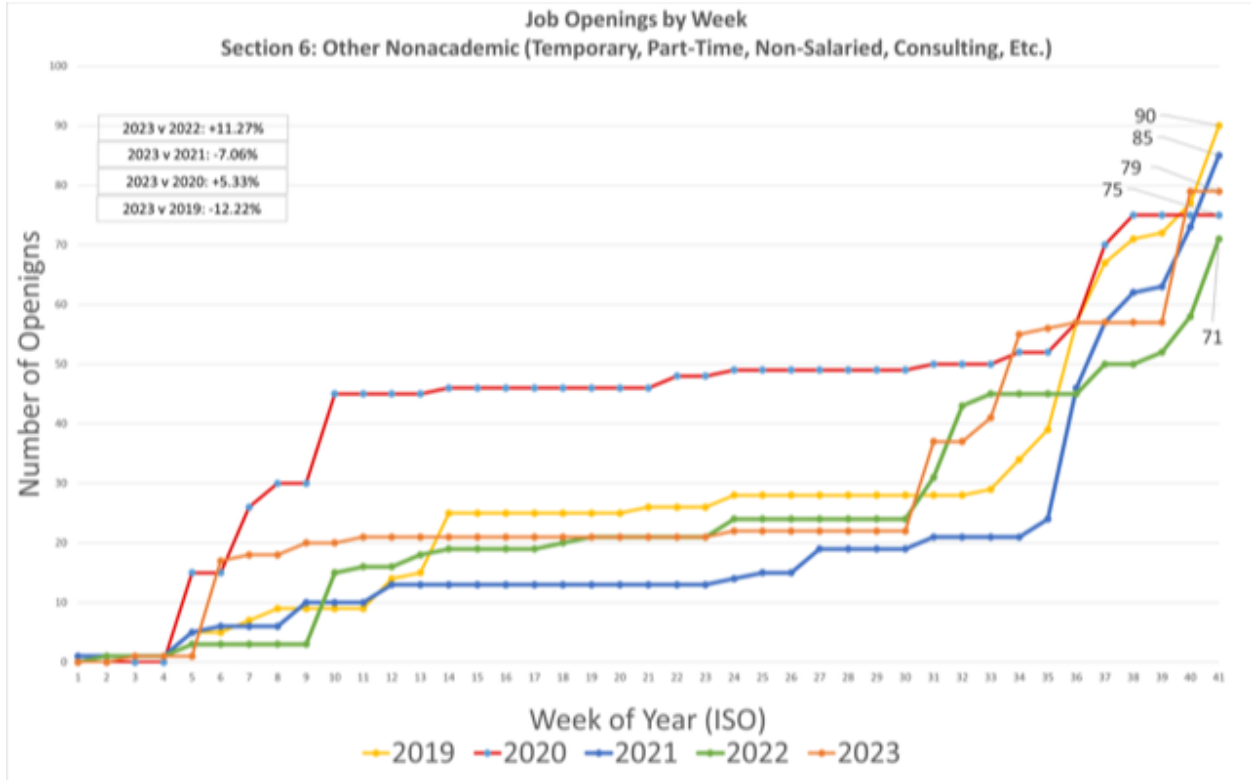




Figure 7: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Non-Academic Jobs Only



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