

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: November 18, 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 45, which in 2022 ended November 13.
- 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 45, there have been 3,168 jobs listed on JOE since the beginning of 2022, which is 12.3% higher than at the same time in 2021, 54.0% higher than this time in 2020 (the worst COVID year), and just -0.88% lower than 2019, the last pre-COVID year.

Subsequent graphs compare the number of job openings separately by sector. Figure 2 shows that 846 full-time academic positions in the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in 2022; this is 25.7% higher than at the same time in 2021, 181.1% higher than at the same time in 2020, and even 13.9% higher than the same time in 2019 - see p. 4.

Figure 4 shows that 923 full-time academic job openings in institutions outside the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in 2022; that is 2.6% higher than the same time in 2021, 31.1% higher than at the same time in 2020, but 9.2% lower than the same time in 2019 - see p. 6.

Figure 6 shows that 650 full-time non-academic positions have been listed on JOE so far in 2022; that is 1.1% higher than at the same time in 2021 and 17.8% higher than the same time in 2020 but remains 11.6% lower than the same time in 2019 - see p. 8.

On the whole, these numbers suggest that the U.S. academic job market for Ph.D. economists has fully recovered from the negative shock of COVID. In addition, the overall number of job listings on JOE is almost identical to the last pre-COVID year (2019). Full-time academic jobs outside the U.S. but listed on JOE remain 9.2% lower than pre-COVID. The number of listings for full-time nonacademic jobs remains 11.6% lower than pre-COVID, but this may be due at least in part to recent shocks and layoffs in the tech sector rather than lingering effects of COVID.

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

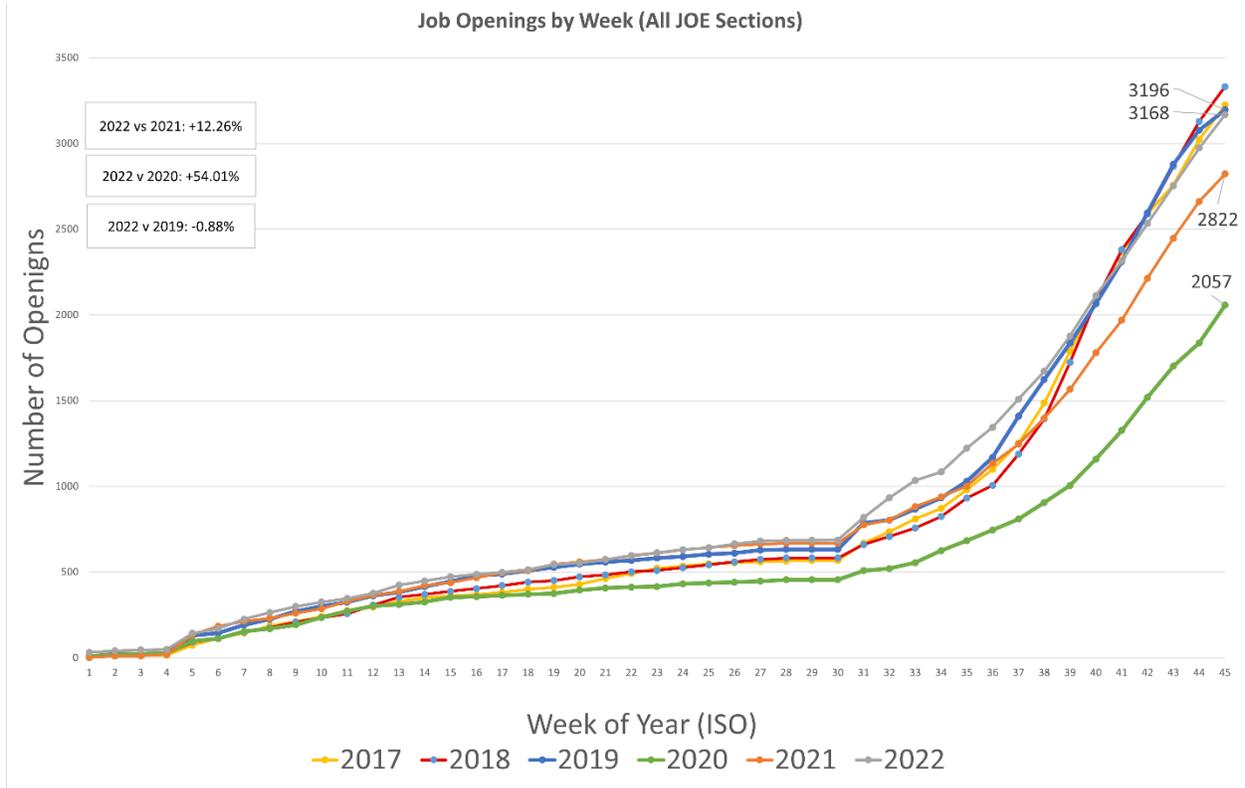


Figure 2: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Full-Time Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only

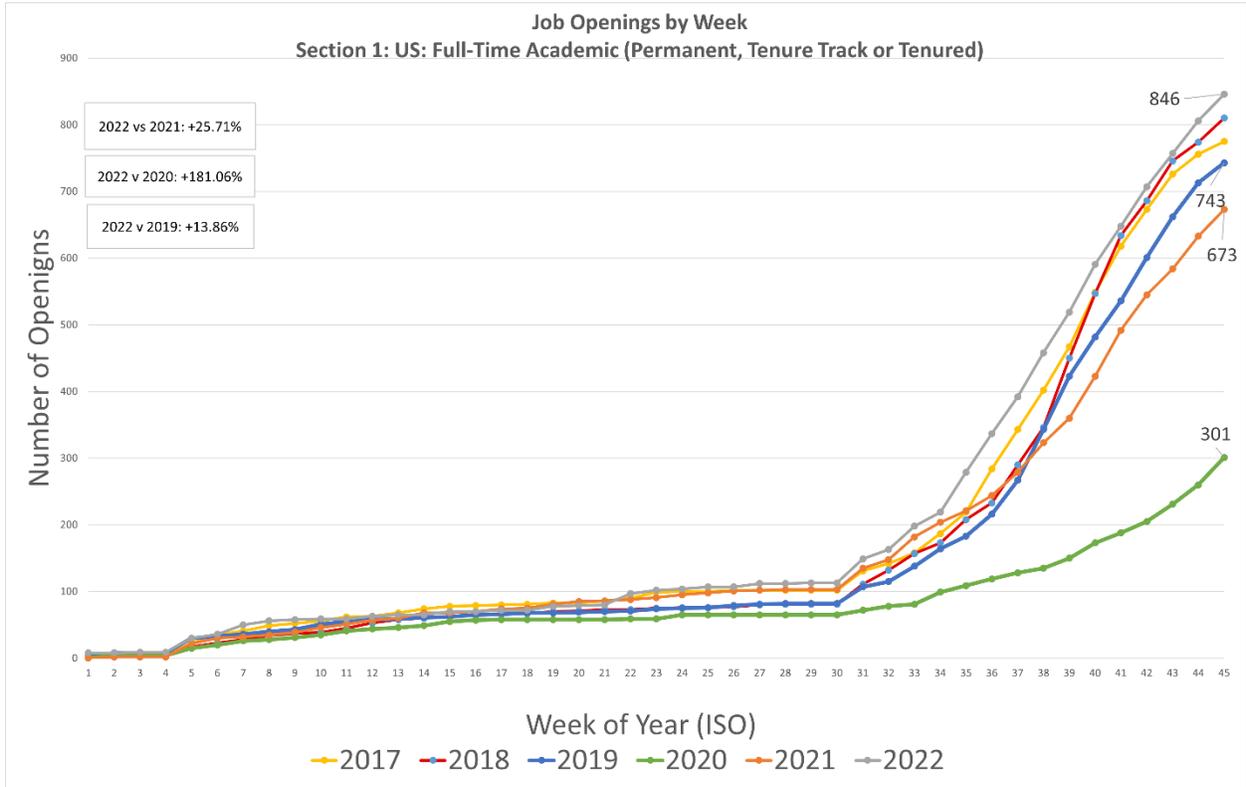
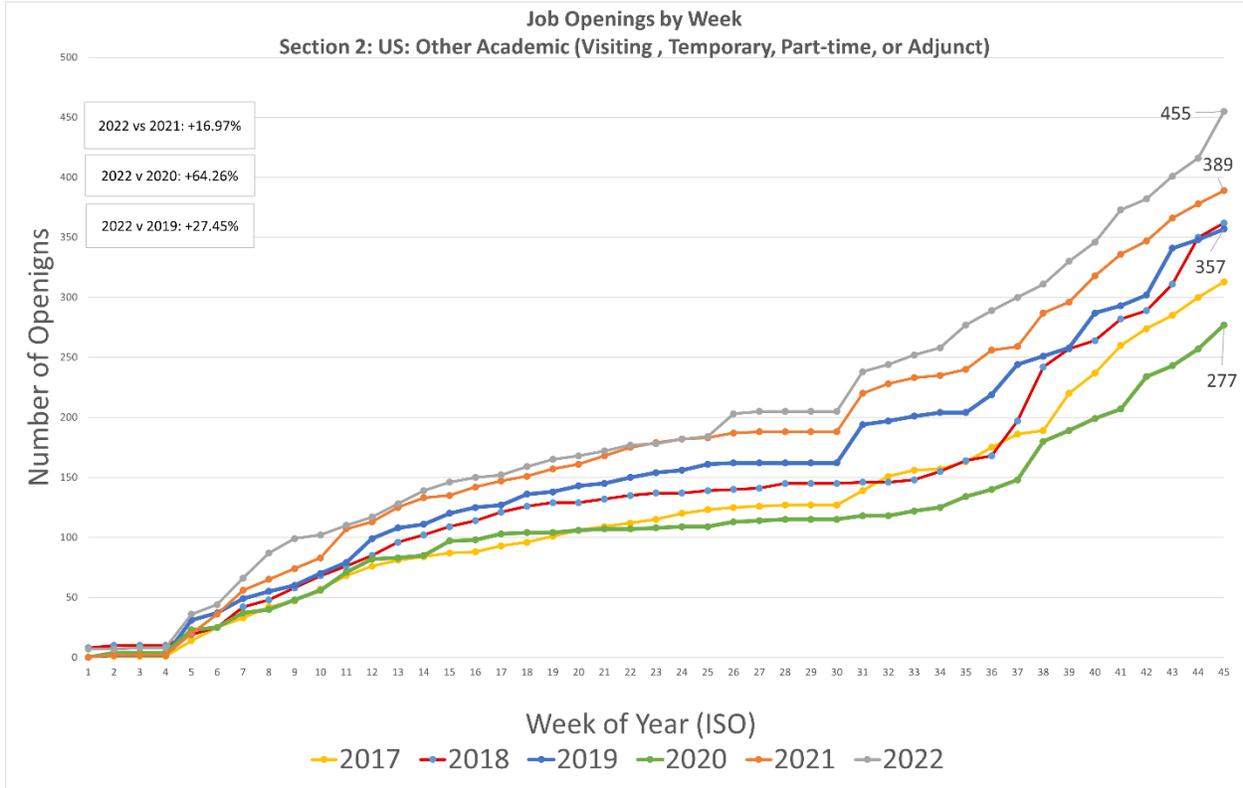


Figure 3: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only



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

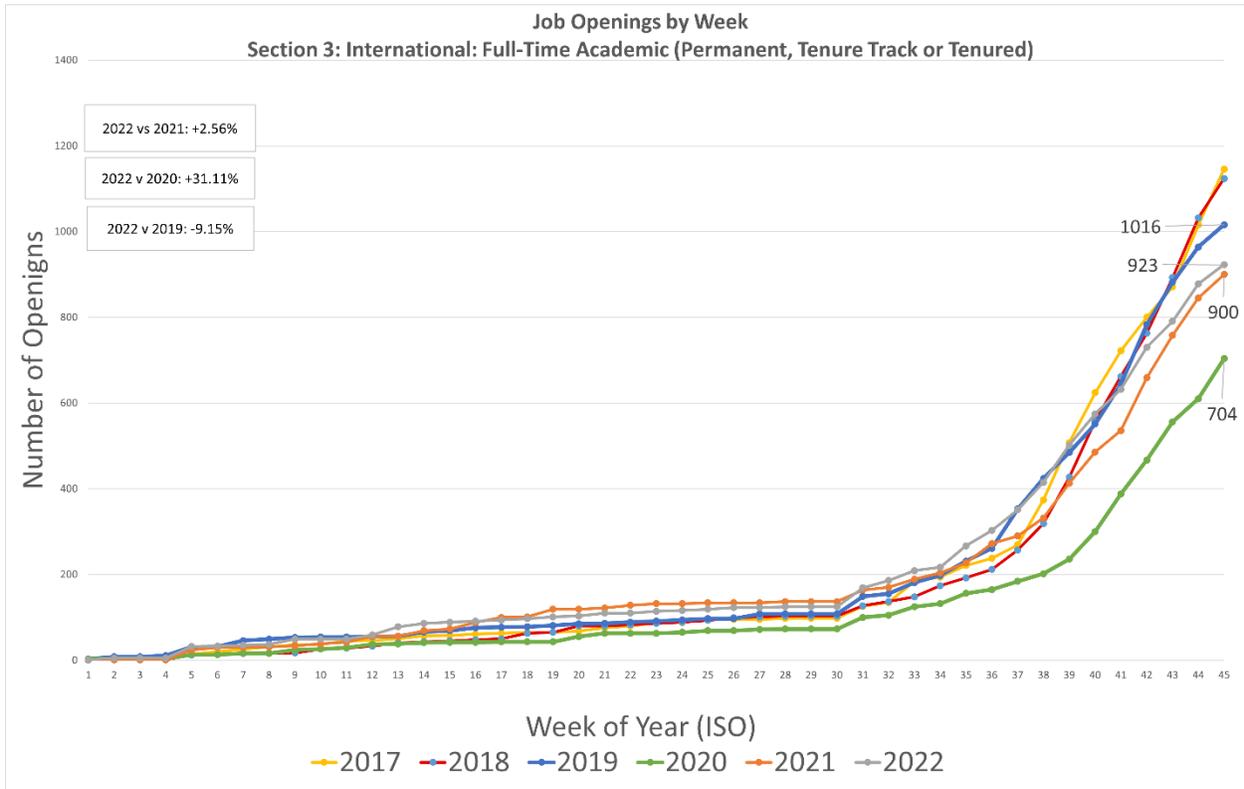
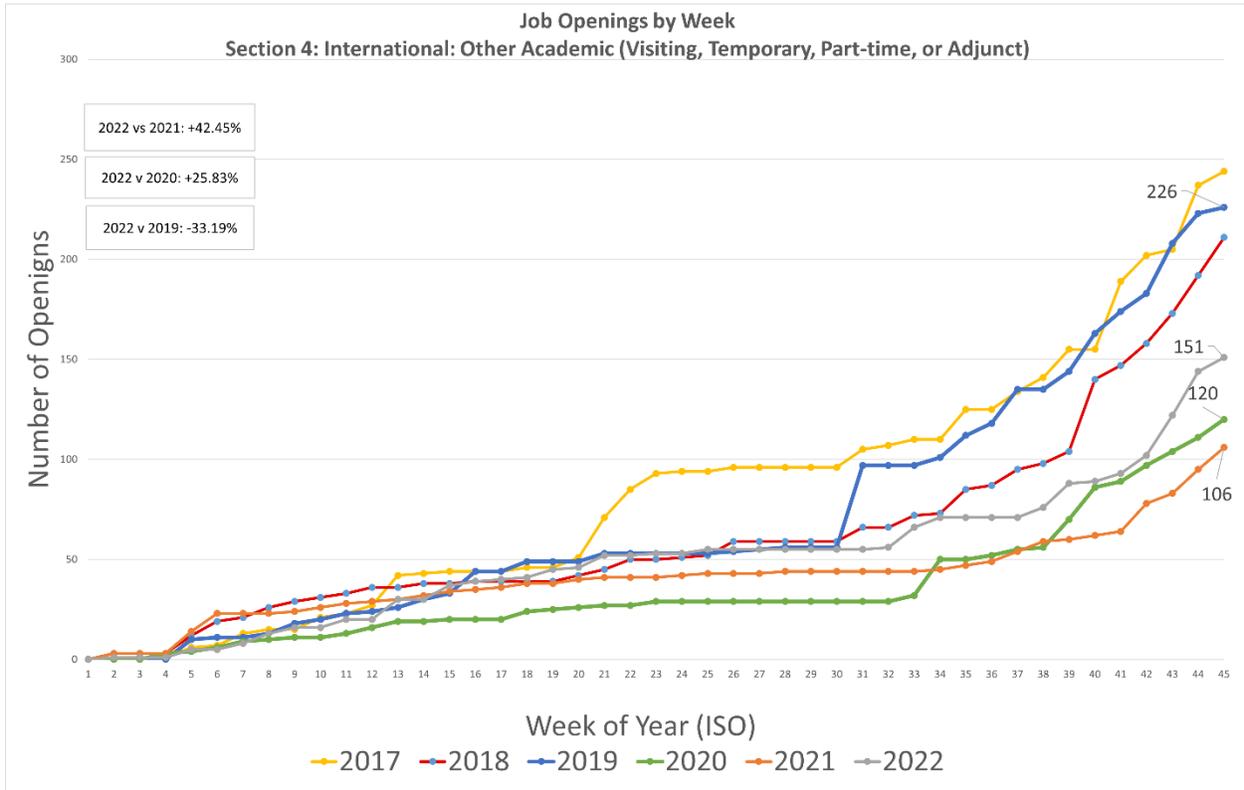


Figure 5: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs Outside the U.S. Only



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

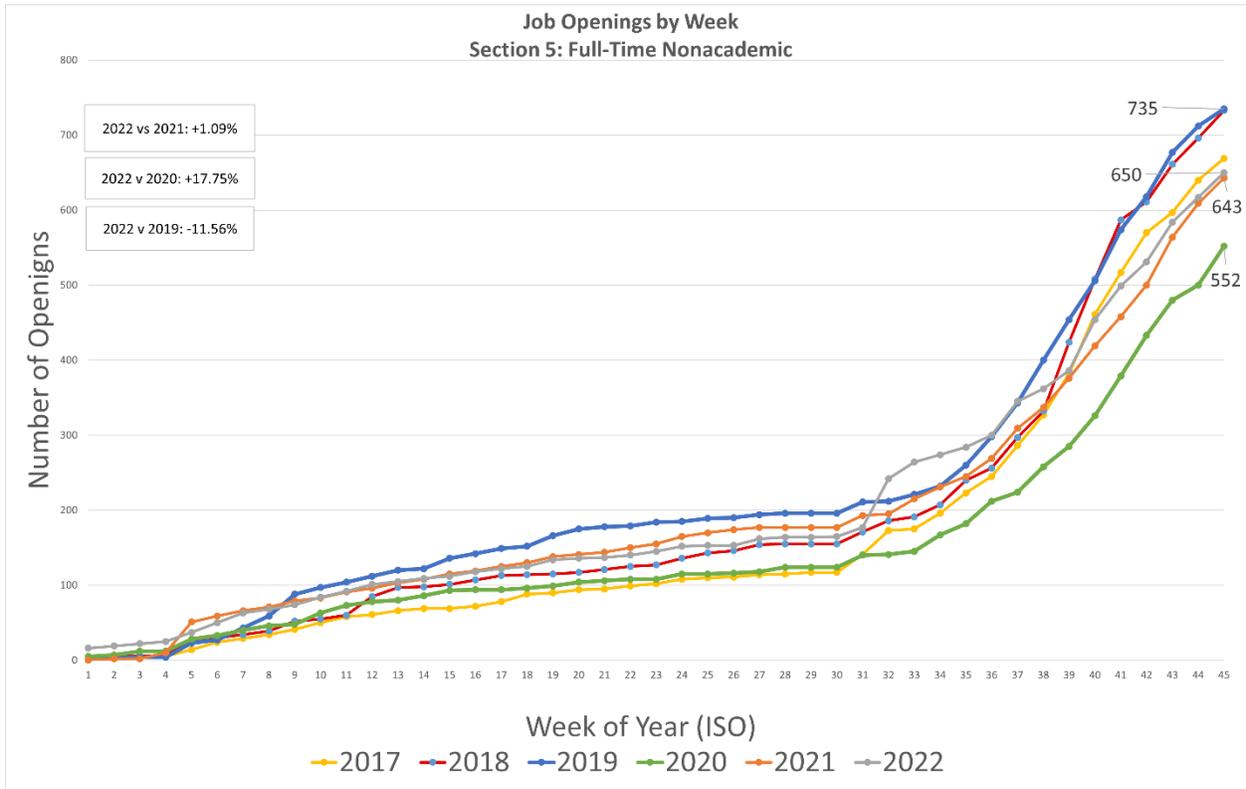
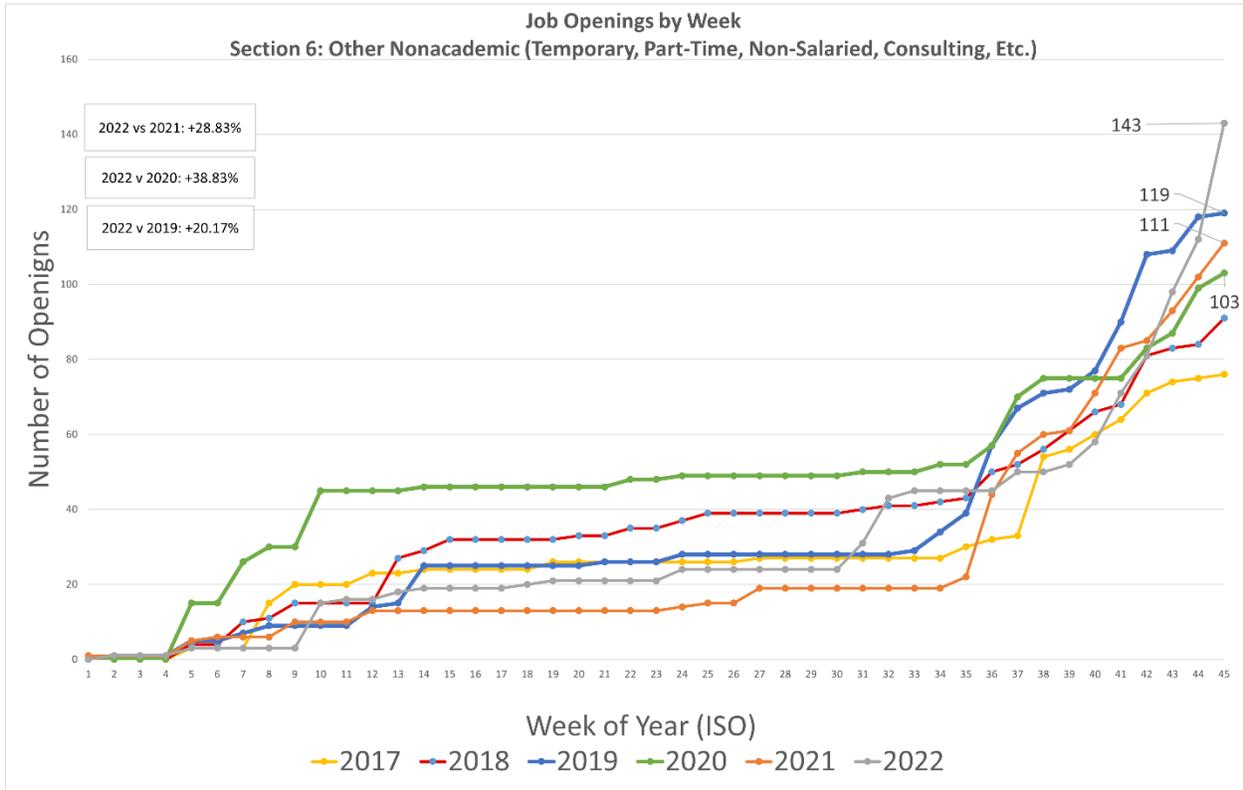


Figure 7: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Non-Academic Jobs Only



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