

To: Members of the American Economic Association

From: AEA Committee on the Job Market: John Cawley (chair), Elisabeth “Bitsy” Perlman, Al Roth, Peter Rousseau, Wendy Stock, and Stephen Wu

Date: October 30, 2024

Re: JOE job openings by sector, 2024 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 background information 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, in 2024, week 30 ran from July 22 to July 28, whereas the year before (2023) it ran from July 24 to July 30. This minor difference between years should not generate meaningful differences.
- There is no clear begin and end date for the job market cycle. Given that it begins in Fall, we present data starting with ISO week 30, which is roughly the end of July. Few job openings are posted in late summer, so the exact start date will make little difference.
- 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. These data come from Job Openings for Economists (JOE).
- For all years, if an employer contacts JOE to say that the search is cancelled, the associated 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 current year (2024) and the previous five years separately: 2019-2023. For previous years, the number of job openings by week is posted through the end of the year. However, the calculation of the difference between 2024 and past years is based on just the most recent week available for 2024; that is, we compare the number of openings posted to date to the same point in recent years.
- This memo provides data through ISO week 43 (in 2024, through October 27).

The graphs of job openings are shown below, overall and by sector. Figure 1 (on p. 3) shows the total number of job openings to date during the 2024 job market cycle, compared to recent ones. From late summer (week 30) until now (week 43 - Oct 27, 2024), there have been 1,570 jobs listed on JOE. This is less than at the same time in recent years: 9.3% less than in 2023, 23.3% less than in 2022, and 11.2% less than in 2021. It is considerably (26.2%) higher than in the worst COVID year (2020), but 30.1% lower than the last pre-COVID year (2019).

Subsequent graphs compare the number of job openings separately by sector. Figure 2 (on p. 4) shows that 440 full-time academic positions in the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in this 2024 job market season; this is 11.7% lower than at the same point in 2023, 31.7% lower than in 2022, 7.4% lower than in 2021. It is massively (169.9%) higher than the worst COVID year (2020) but is 23.9% lower than the last pre-COVID year (2019).

The decrease in the number of openings for full-time academic jobs in the U.S. has been partially offset by an increase in openings for part-time, visiting or adjunct positions in U.S. academic institutions. Figure 3 (on p. 5) shows that the number of openings for such temporary academic jobs in the U.S. is the highest (for this stage of the job market) in the past six years. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) reports that within the U.S. academic workforce (as a whole, not specific to Economics) [there has been a decrease in full-time tenure track appointments and an increase in non-tenure-track or contingent appointments.](#)

JOE also contains listings for academic positions outside the U.S. Figure 4 (on p. 6) shows that 471 full-time academic job openings in institutions outside the U.S. have been listed on JOE so far in the 2024 job market season; that is 22.3% lower than at the same time last year (2023), 28.1% lower than in 2022, and 23.8% lower than in 2021. It is even 2.5% lower than the worst COVID year (2020), and 39.2% lower than the last pre-COVID year (2019).

Figure 6 (on p. 8) shows that 330 full-time non-academic positions have been listed on JOE so far in the 2024 job market season; that is 7.1% higher than at this time last year (2023), 20.7% lower than in 2022, and 13.4% lower than in 2021. It is even 8.8% lower than in the worst COVID year (2020) and 31.4% lower than the last pre-COVID year (2019). These figures include all non-academic positions, whether inside or outside the U.S.

The decrease in the number of jobs listed on JOE may raise the question of whether it is partly explained by employers switching their postings away from JOE and toward some other electronic clearinghouse (for example, EconJobMarket.org). However, [EJM's posted data also show a decrease in the number of job openings](#) listed at this point in the cycle, from 2022 to 2023 to 2024.

As is evident from the graphs for previous years, there tend to be a lot of additional jobs listed in November and early December. By mid-December we'll have a more complete sense of how this job cycle compares to recent ones.

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

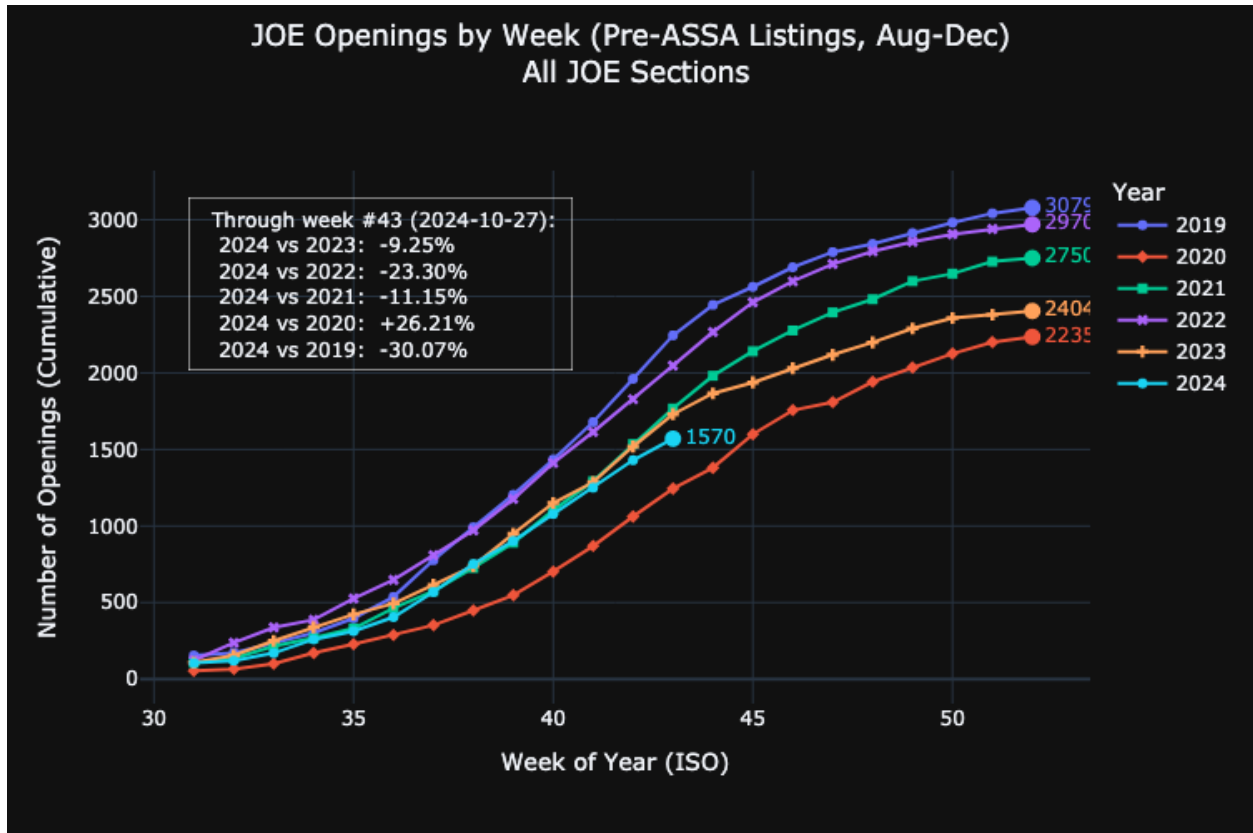


Figure 2: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Full-Time Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only

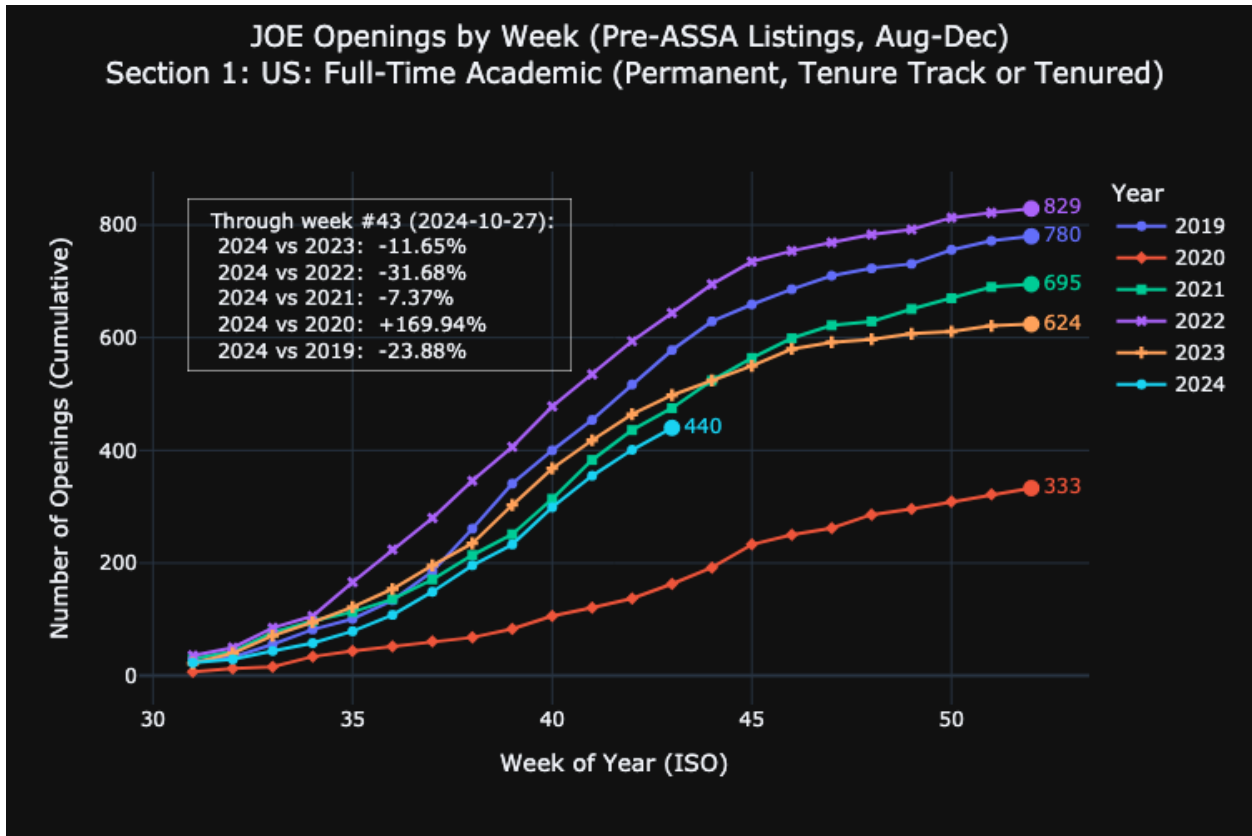
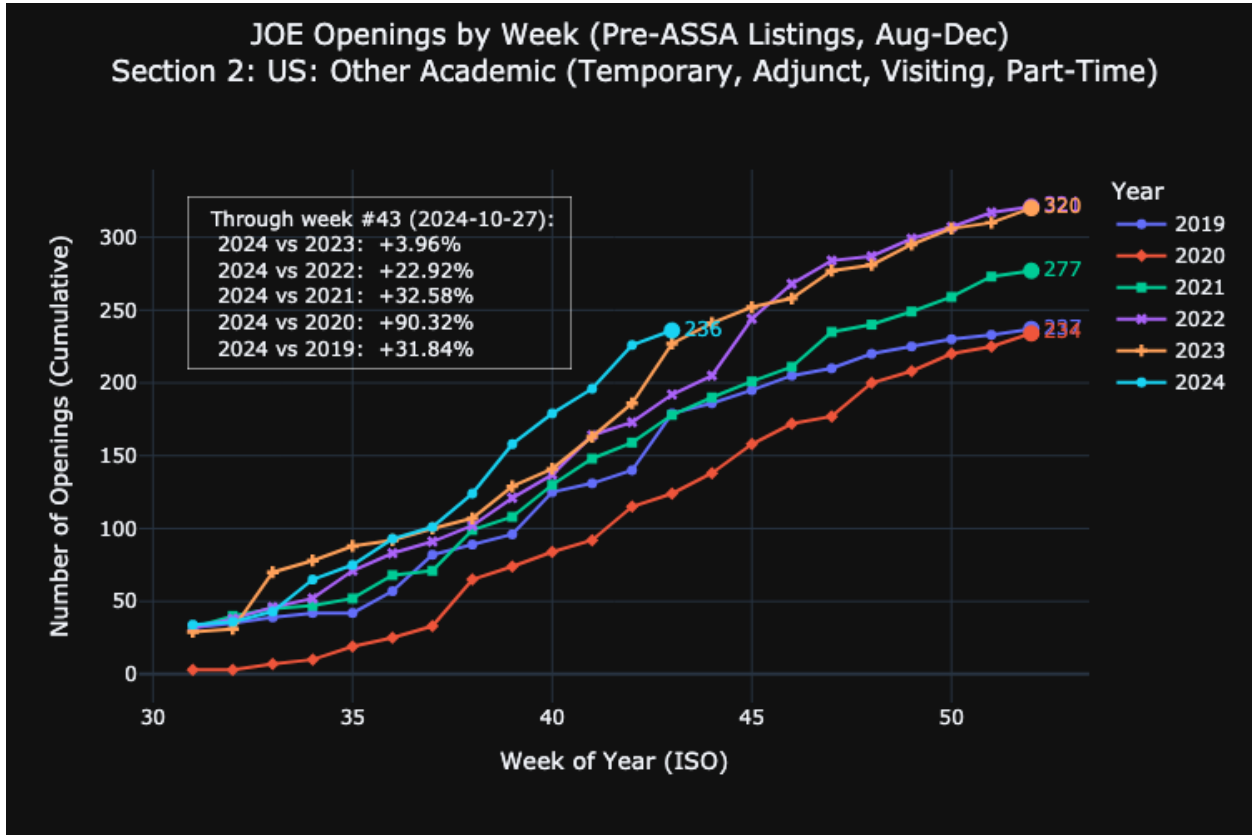


Figure 3: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs in the U.S. Only



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

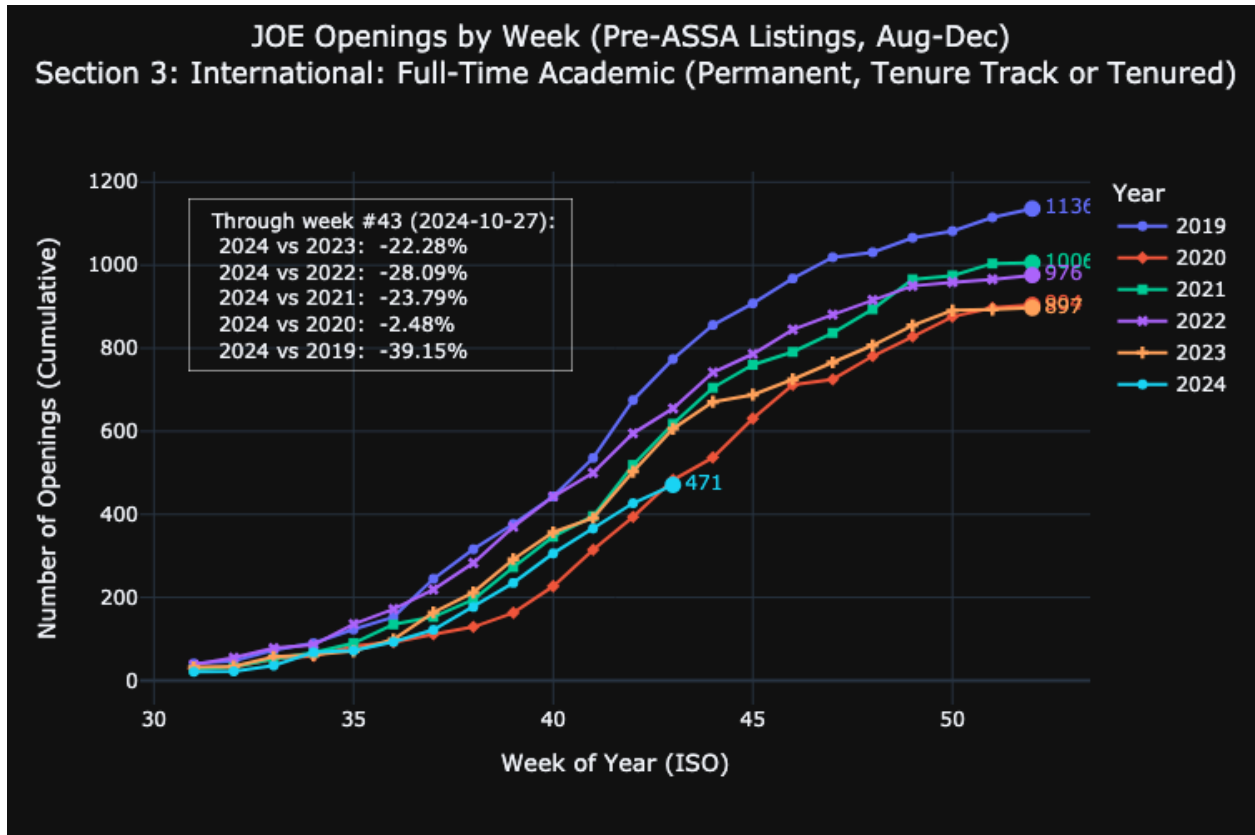
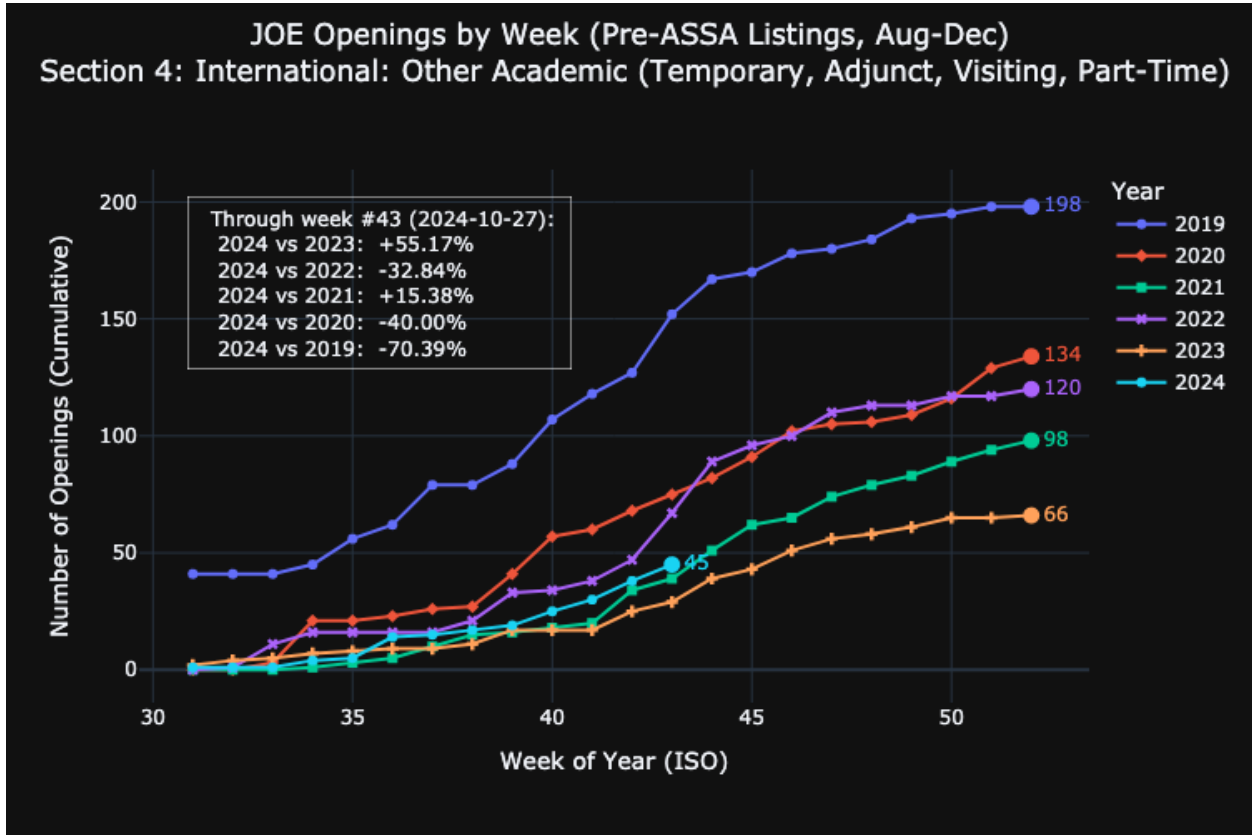


Figure 5: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Academic Jobs Outside the U.S. Only



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

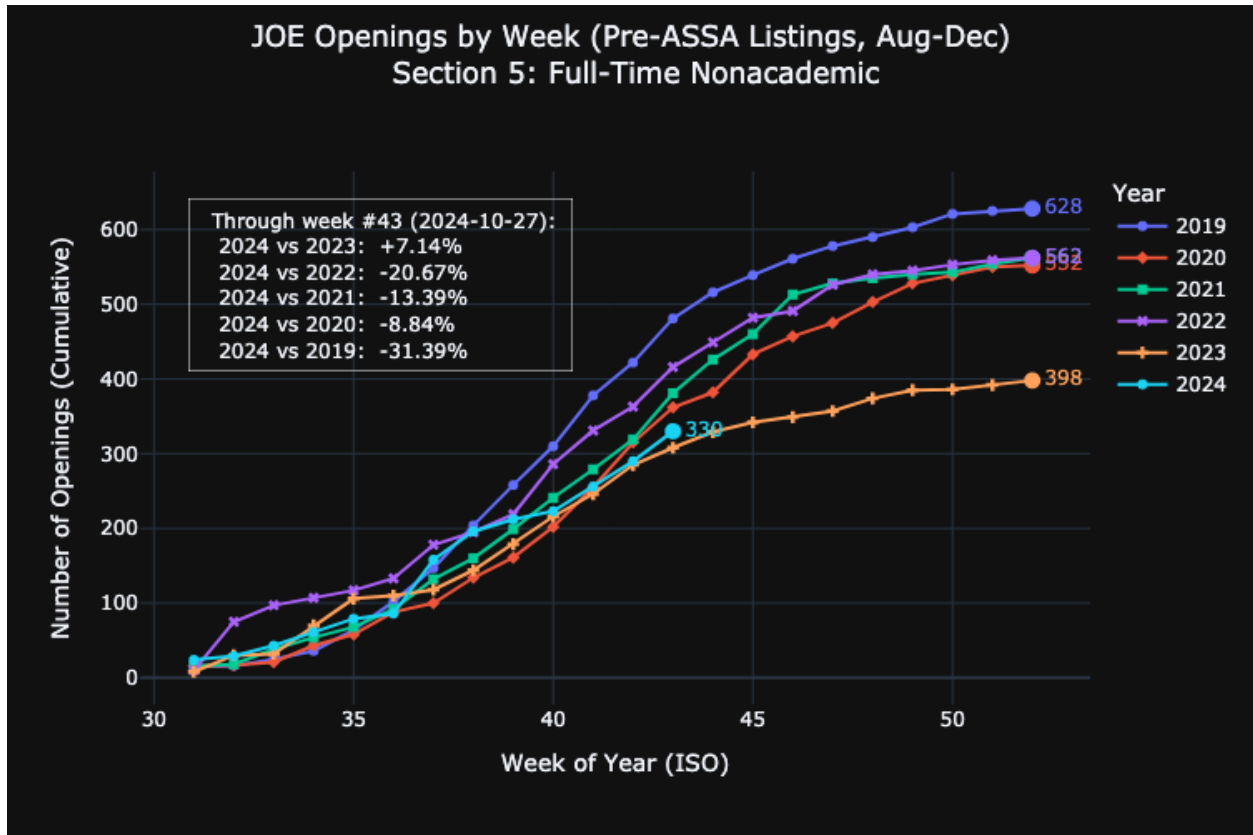
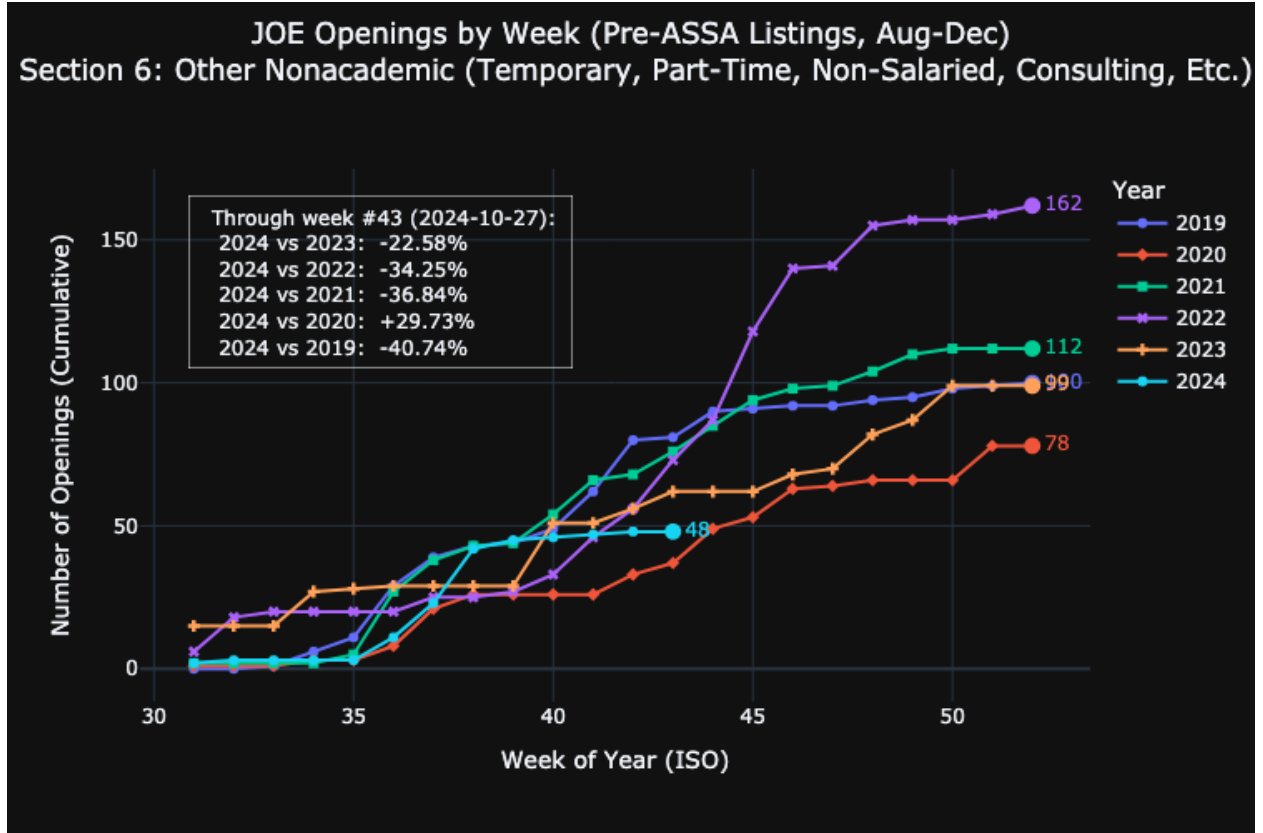


Figure 7: Number of Job Openings on JOE, Other Non-Academic Jobs Only



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