



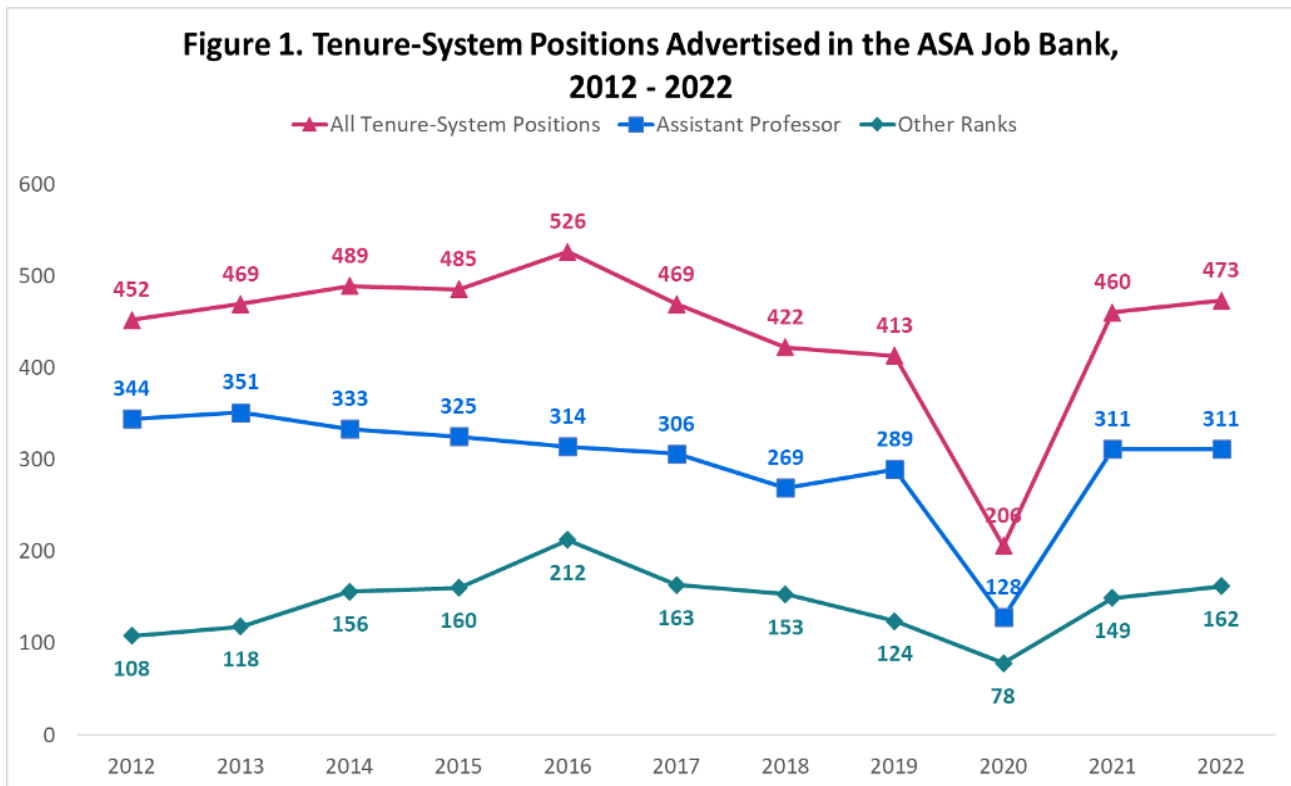
# Positions Advertised in the ASA Job Bank in 2022

This brief reports on the positions advertised in the 2022 American Sociological Association (ASA) Job Bank. We report on each year’s Job Bank listings to document the direction of sociology as a field, and to inform job seekers and hiring units about the larger context in which their activities take place.

The ASA Job Bank is a primary source for job advertisements that may be of interest to sociologists, particularly for tenure-line and full-time academic positions. There is no comprehensive source of job listings for sociologists with graduate degrees, but ASA is likely the best proxy available. We recognize that the ASA Job Bank does not represent the universe of jobs available to sociologists;

contingent and community college faculty positions and jobs outside of academia are likely underrepresented, for example, and most positions advertised are located in the United States. Thus, these data represent recent trends in the jobs advertised in the ASA Job Bank, not the jobs available for MA- and PhD-level sociologists more broadly.

Figure 1 presents trend lines for the number of tenure-system positions advertised in the ASA Job Bank from 2012 to 2022 (for detailed trend analysis and previous job bank reports, see [ASA Reports | American Sociological Association \(asanet.org\)](https://asanet.org)).



In 2022, the number of tenure-system positions continued to recover from the sudden drop in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and even surpassed some of the recent pre-pandemic numbers. There were 473 tenure-line positions advertised, more than in 2021 and more than double the positions in 2020. While the number of positions had gradually been declining since the 2016 peak, the 2022 numbers surpassed the 2017 level.

The ASA Job Bank generally includes more academic positions at the rank of assistant professor than other ranks, and a large proportion of job seekers are recent or upcoming graduates interested in these entry-level rank positions. Although the number of tenure-track assistant professor positions more than doubled in the 2021 rebound, it held steady from 2021 to 2022. The trend is similar for other ranks within the tenure system.

Table 1 reports the number and percent of all U.S.-based jobs advertised in the ASA Job Bank. In 2022, 916 positions in the U.S. were advertised, compared to 857 in 2021 and 439 positions in 2020.

While the overall number of jobs increased, the types of jobs advertised were proportionally similar to those in 2021. Nearly three-quarters (77.2 percent) of the 2022 positions were in the academic sector, up from 73.6 percent in 2021 and 64.9 percent in 2020. Of those, 51.6 percent were for tenure-track positions, 19.8 percent were for non-tenure-track academic positions, and 5.8 percent were for academic administrators. Among the tenure-track positions, 65.8 percent were for assistant professors with an additional 10.1 percent either the assistant or associate level. The open rank represented 12.9 percent of all tenure track positions. Among the non-tenure-track academic positions, 88.4 percent were advertised as full-time positions. This year, we began dividing non-tenure track positions into more categories to reflect the diversity of the positions. These categories include all ranks. Full-time instructor/lecturer positions were the most popular with 33.1 percent followed by

**Table 1: All Positions in the ASA Job Bank by Category, 2022**

<b>Academic: Tenure-Track Positions</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Assistant Professor	311	65.8%
Assistant/Associate Professor	48	10.1%
Associate Professor	29	6.1%
Full Professor	14	3.0%
Open Rank	61	12.9%
Teaching Professor	2	0.4%
Instructor/Lecturer	8	1.7%
Subtotal	473	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Positions Advertised</i>		51.6%
<b>Academic: Non-Tenure Track Positions</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Instructor/Lecturer FT	60	33.1%
Instructor/Lecturer PT	21	11.6%
Professor of Practice	2	1.1%
Research Professor	7	3.9%
Teaching Professor	28	15.5%
Visiting Professor	50	27.6%
Other Professor	13	7.2%
Subtotal	181	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Positions Advertised</i>		19.8%
<b>Academic: Administrators</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Chair/Head	25	47.2%
Other Administrator	28	52.8%
Subtotal	53	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Positions Advertised</i>		5.8%
<b>Fellowships</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Predocctoral	1	0.6%
Postdoctoral	117	70.5%
Other	48	28.9%
Subtotal	166	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Positions Advertised</i>		18.1%
<b>Sociological Practice</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Researcher/Statistician	18	41.9%
Director/Assistant Director	16	37.2%
Other	9	20.9%
Subtotal	43	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Positions Advertised</i>		4.7%
Total U.S. Positions Advertised	916	100.0%

visiting professor positions with 27.6 percent. Overall, there is a 3.6 percent increase in the non-tenure track positions from last year. Academic administrators were coded separately and not included in the tenure-track category. These positions include both department chairs/ heads (47.2 percent of this category) and other administrators (52.8 percent), which includes deans, program directors, and other administrative positions in the academic sector.

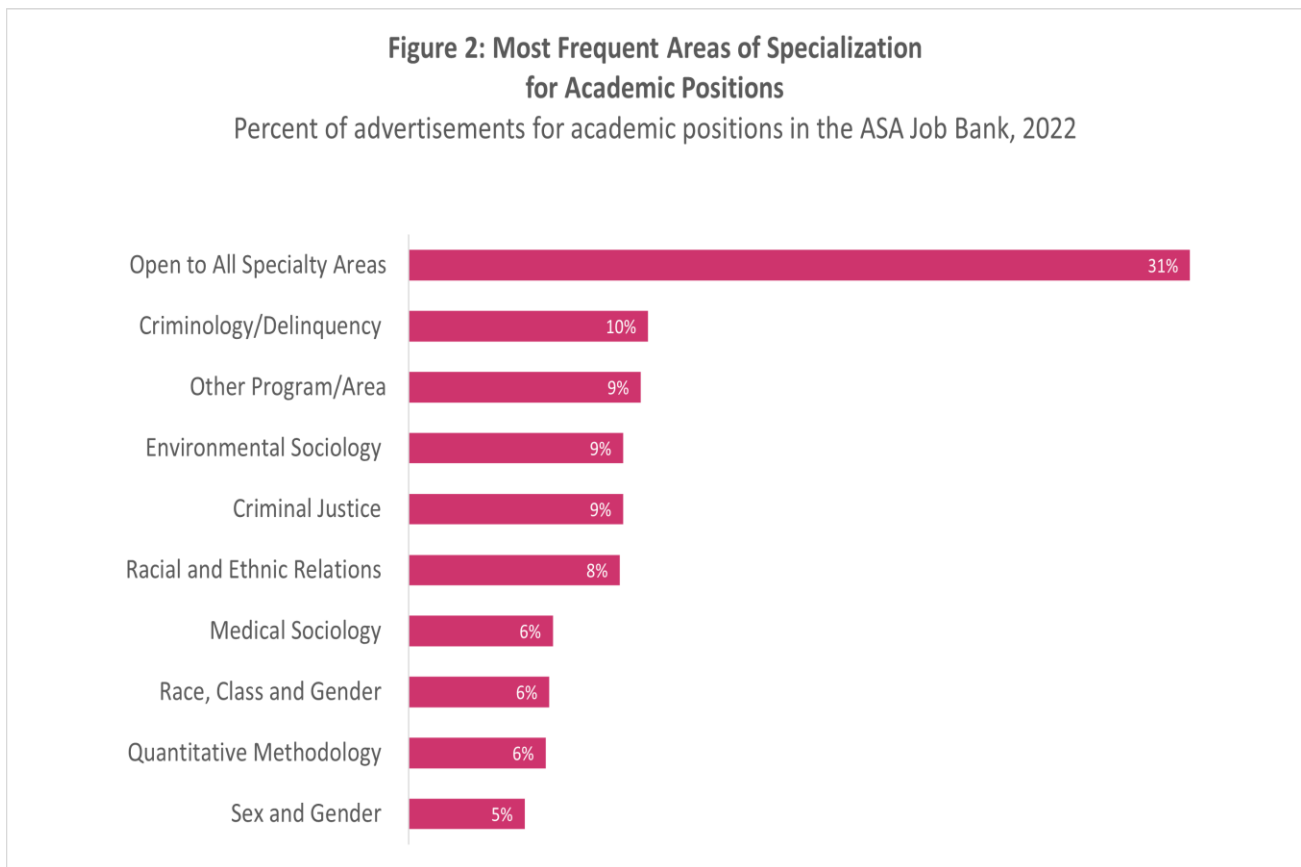
Fellowships advertised in 2022 were primarily postdoctoral fellowships, which is comparable to the proportion in 2021. Other fellowships ranged from teaching, research, and professional development fellowships.

Finally, 4.7 percent of the positions in the Job Bank in 2022 were for jobs in sociological practice. These positions include research scientists, policy analysts, statisticians, and center directors. This is likely an undercount of the number and kinds of positions available to PhD sociologists in the non-academic sector.

## Areas of Specialization

Figure 2 shows the areas of specialization sought most frequently in advertisements for academic positions, both tenure-track and non-tenure-track, in 2022. (For a complete list of the 64 areas that were sought in the advertisements, see Appendix A.) Top ten areas of expertise remained the same as last year, though the ranking of them changed slightly. Like in previous years, open area positions were mentioned most frequently. When employers listed a specialization, criminology, environmental sociology, and criminal justice was the most frequently sought, followed by racial and ethnic relations, medical sociology, race, class gender, quantitative methodology, and sex and gender. Together, 57 percent of the academic positions advertised in 2022 were seeking sociologists with expertise in at least one of these eight topical areas.

As noted in Table 1, fewer fellowships and sociological practice positions are advertised



in the ASA Job Bank than academic positions. Appendix B and Appendix C list the areas of specialization for these positions. The largest number of fellowships (94) were open to all areas, followed by specialized topics of racial and ethnic relations (11 positions), communications and information technologies (10 positions), public policy (9 positions), and science and technology (9 positions). Thirteen of the 43 positions in sociological practice were advertising open areas of specialization. Policy analysis was mentioned in six of the advertisements for practice positions, followed by demography, social change, and statistics.

Although we do not have measures for the areas of expertise of graduate student job seekers, the sociology interest areas identified by student members of ASA could be a proxy measure. Appendix D presents these data. In 2022, the top five areas of interest for student members of ASA were race, class, and gender; sex and gender; Cultural sociology; political sociology; and education. There seems to be a mismatch between the areas sought after by employers and the areas of interest for ASA students. With the exception of race, class, and gender, medical sociology, and sex and gender, the top specialties advertised, including criminal justice and quantitative methodology, environmental sociology are not among the top 10 interest areas among students. Similarly, the high proportion of student members in 2022 interested in cultural sociology, stratification/mobility, migration/immigration, qualitative methodology are also not reflected in job postings. A similar mismatch was evident in previous years.

## Regions

Table 2 shows the geographic distribution of the academic, fellowship, and practice positions advertised in the ASA Job Bank in 2022. The regions are based on U.S. Census Bureau definitions. Academic positions are pretty evenly spread throughout the country, with only a somewhat higher proportion in the Northeast (30.8 percent) and lower in the

West (21.4 percent). Fellowships advertised in the Job Bank were more heavily concentrated in the Northeast (47 percent). For positions in practice settings, 37.2 percent of the advertisements were for positions in the South, followed by others relatively equally.

**Table 2: All Listings in the ASA Job Bank by U.S. Region, 2021**

	N	Percent
<b>Academic Positions</b>		
Midwest	163	23.1%
Northeast	218	30.8%
South	175	24.8%
West	151	21.4%
All US Regions	0	0.0%
Total	707	100.0%
<b>Fellowships</b>		
Midwest	22	13.3%
Northeast	78	47.0%
South	22	13.3%
West	36	21.7%
All US Regions	8	4.8%
Total	166	100.0%
<b>Practice Positions</b>		
Midwest	7	16.3%
Northeast	7	16.3%
South	16	37.2%
West	6	14.0%
All US Regions	7	16.3%
Total	43	100.0%

## Summary

The number of jobs posted dipped significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The number of jobs available in 2021 rebounded and this positive job trend continued in 2022 as well. The types of jobs that were advertised resembled what was advertised before the pandemic signaling a

return to normal. While the overall number of job advertisements increased from 2021, the number of assistant professor positions remained the same. The areas of specialization of interest to employers do not fully align with the research interests specified by ASA student members, although the largest share of positions is open to any specialty. The top areas desired by employers seem to reflect current issues, including those related to race relations, criminal justice, and climate change.

The recovery we see in the Job Bank is promising in that the rebound we saw in 2021 continues with the strongest job market we've seen since 2016. The subsequent analysis of the 2023 Job Bank will reveal is the extent to which this is a new, positive trend.

(For details on the methods used to conduct this analysis, see Appendix E at the end of this document.)

**Appendix A. All Areas of Specialization or Expertise for Academic Positions Advertised in the ASA Job Bank, 2022**

Area	Count	Percent	Area	Count	Percent
Open to All Specialty Areas	222	31.4%	Peace, War, World Conflict, and Conflict Resolution	5	0.7%
Criminology/Delinquency	68	9.6%	Social Change	5	0.7%
Other Program/Area	66	9.3%	Policy Analysis	4	0.6%
Criminal Justice	61	8.6%	Political Economy	4	0.6%
Environmental Sociology	61	8.6%	Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research	3	0.4%
Racial and Ethnic Relations	60	8.5%	Collective Behavior/Social Movements	3	0.4%
Medical Sociology	41	5.8%	Communication and Information Technologies	3	0.4%
Race, Class and Gender	40	5.7%	Labor and Labor Movements	3	0.4%
Quantitative Methodology	39	5.5%	Occupations/Professions	3	0.4%
Sex and Gender	33	4.7%	Work and Labor Markets	3	0.4%
Law and Society	20	2.8%	Biosociology	2	0.3%
Public Policy	20	2.8%	Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization	2	0.3%
Aging/Social Gerontology	17	2.4%	Evolution and Society	2	0.3%
Education	16	2.3%	Rural Sociology	2	0.3%
Latina/o Sociology	15	2.1%	Social Networks	2	0.3%
Science and Technology	15	2.1%	Alcohol and Drugs	1	0.1%
Asians/Asian-Americans	13	1.8%	Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity	1	0.1%
Demography	13	1.8%	Comparative Sociology/Historical Sociology	1	0.1%
Global and Transnational Sociology	13	1.8%	Ethnography (Anthropology)	1	0.1%
Statistics	13	1.8%	History of Sociology/Social Thought	1	0.1%
Theory	13	1.8%	Human Rights	1	0.1%
Family	12	1.7%	Mass Communication/Public Opinion	1	0.1%
Migration/Immigration	12	1.7%	Mathematical Sociology	1	0.1%
Social Psychology	12	1.7%	Social Organization	1	0.1%
Urban Sociology	12	1.7%	Sociological Practice	1	0.1%
Economic Sociology	11	1.6%	Teaching and Learning in Sociology	1	0.1%
Qualitative Methodology	11	1.6%			
Organizations, Formal and Complex	10	1.4%			
Cultural Sociology	8	1.1%			
Political Sociology	8	1.1%			
Sexualities	8	1.1%			
Stratification/Mobility	8	1.1%			
Development	7	1.0%			
Mental Health	7	1.0%			
Social Welfare/Social Work	7	1.0%			
Religion	6	0.8%			
Children and Youth	5	0.7%			
Community	5	0.7%			

**Note:** Employers can select up to two areas of specialization. Counts indicate the number of times each area was selected. The percentage indicates the proportion of the 707 academic positions that list the area.

**Appendix B. All Areas of Specialization or Expertise for Fellowship Positions Posted in the ASA Job Bank, 2022**

Area	Count	Percent
Open to All Specialty Areas	94	56.6%
Other Program/Area	15	9.0%
Racial and Ethnic Relations	11	6.6%
Communication and Information Technologies	10	6.0%
Public Policy	9	5.4%
Science and Technology	9	5.4%
Economic Sociology	7	4.2%
Race, Class and Gender	7	4.2%
Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research	6	3.6%
Asians/Asian-Americans	6	3.6%
Demography	6	3.6%
Political Sociology	6	3.6%
Education	5	3.0%
Quantitative Methodology	5	3.0%
Aging/Social Gerontology	4	2.4%
Criminal Justice	4	2.4%
Family	3	1.8%
Global and Transnational Sociology	3	1.8%
Law and Society	3	1.8%
Policy Analysis	3	1.8%
Religion	3	1.8%
Sex and Gender	3	1.8%
Stratification/Mobility	3	1.8%
Urban Sociology	3	1.8%
Comparative Sociology/Historical Sociology	2	1.2%
Knowledge	2	1.2%
Medical Sociology	2	1.2%
Migration/Immigration	2	1.2%
Organizations, Formal and Complex	2	1.2%
Social Change	2	1.2%
Social Psychology	2	1.2%
Criminology/Delinquency	1	0.6%
Cultural Sociology	1	0.6%
Environmental Sociology	1	0.6%
Ethnography (Anthropology)	1	0.6%
Political Economy	1	0.6%
Qualitative Methodology	1	0.6%
Sexualities	1	0.6%
Social Networks	1	0.6%
Social Welfare/Social Work	1	0.6%
Statistics	1	0.6%

**Note:** Employers can select up to two areas of specialization. Counts indicate the number of times each area was selected. The percentage indicates the proportion of the 166 fellowship positions that list the area.

**Appendix C. All Areas of Specialization or Expertise for Practice Positions Posted in the ASA Job Bank, 2022**

Area	Count	Percent
Open to All Specialty Areas	13	30.2%
Policy Analysis	6	14.0%
Other Program/Area	5	11.6%
Demography	4	9.3%
Social Change	4	9.3%
Statistics	4	9.3%
Public Policy	3	7.0%
Economic Sociology	2	4.7%
Education	2	4.7%
Labor and Labor Movements	2	4.7%
Medical Sociology	2	4.7%
Quantitative Methodology	2	4.7%
Aging/Social Gerontology	1	2.3%
Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research	1	2.3%
Art/Music	1	2.3%
Law and Society	1	2.3%
Organizations, Formal and Complex	1	2.3%
Race, Class and Gender	1	2.3%
Racial and Ethnic Relations	1	2.3%
Urban Sociology	1	2.3%
Development	1	2.3%
Ethnography (Anthropology)	1	2.3%
Family	1	2.3%
Qualitative Methodology	1	2.3%
Work and Labor Markets	1	2.3%

**Note:** Employers can select up to two areas of specialization. Counts indicate the number of times each area was selected. The percentage indicates the proportion of the 43 positions in practice settings that list the area.

**Appendix D: ASA Student Member Interest Areas, 2022**

Interest areas	Count	Percent	Interest areas	Count	Percent
Race, Class and Gender	511	16.0%	Knowledge	73	2.3%
Sex and Gender	388	12.2%	Teaching and Learning in Sociology	66	2.1%
Cultural Sociology	346	10.8%	Statistics	58	1.8%
Political Sociology	317	9.9%	Community	57	1.8%
Education	294	9.2%	Body and Embodiment	54	1.7%
Racial and Ethnic Relations	287	9.0%	Human Rights	54	1.7%
Stratification/Mobility	281	8.8%	Rural Sociology	53	1.7%
Medical Sociology	270	8.5%	Emotions	53	1.7%
Migration/Immigration	262	8.2%	Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research	52	1.6%
Qualitative Methodology	230	7.2%	Communication and Information Technologies	48	1.5%
Urban Sociology	210	6.6%	Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization	48	1.5%
Family	200	6.3%	Occupations/Professions	48	1.5%
Collective Behavior/Social Movements	188	5.9%	Policy Analysis	41	1.3%
Social Psychology	183	5.7%	Disabilities	41	1.3%
Economic Sociology	182	5.7%	Social Control	40	1.3%
Theory	179	5.6%	Peace, War, World Conflict, and Conflict Resolution	36	1.1%
Quantitative Methodology	173	5.4%	Mass Communication/Public Opinion	36	1.1%
Environmental Sociology	168	5.3%	Alcohol and Drugs	35	1.1%
Comparative Sociology/Historical Sociology	155	4.9%	Consumers and Consumption	33	1.0%
Global and Transnational Sociology	153	4.8%	Other	30	0.9%
Sexualities	153	4.8%	Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity	29	0.9%
Criminology/Delinquency	152	4.8%	Social Welfare/Social Work	27	0.8%
Demography	151	4.7%	Art/Music	27	0.8%
Work and Labor Markets	138	4.3%	Social Organization	26	0.8%
Organizations, Formal and Complex	123	3.9%	Mathematical Sociology	25	0.8%
Political Economy	120	3.8%	Penology/Corrections	21	0.7%
Mental Health	118	3.7%	Language/Social Linguistics	21	0.7%
Law and Society	117	3.7%	Socialization	20	0.6%
Science and Technology	115	3.6%	Animals and Society	19	0.6%
Social Networks	114	3.6%	History of Sociology/Social Thought	18	0.6%
Religion	110	3.4%	Biosociology	16	0.5%
Public Policy	101	3.2%	Ethnomethodology/Conversational Analysis	16	0.5%
Criminal Justice	101	3.2%	Military Sociology	15	0.5%
Latina/o Sociology	97	3.0%	Leisure/Sports/Recreation	15	0.5%
Children and Youth	87	2.7%	Visual Sociology	12	0.4%
Marxist Sociology	85	2.7%	Clinical Sociology	9	0.3%
Asians/Asian-Americans	84	2.6%	Human Ecology	9	0.3%
Labor and Labor Movements	84	2.6%	Evolution and Society	8	0.3%
Development	83	2.6%	Small Groups	8	0.3%
Aging/Social Gerontology	83	2.6%	Sociological Practice	7	0.2%
Social Change	82	2.6%	Rational Choice	3	0.1%
Ethnography (Anthropology)	76	2.4%	Microcomputing	0	0.0%
			<b>Total Student Members</b>	<b>3191</b>	

**Source:** American Sociological Association Membership Database, 2022.

**Note:** Members may select up to four areas of "sociological interest" on their membership forms.



## Appendix E: Methodological Notes

The data used in this report come from all advertisements that appeared in the ASA Job Bank in 2022. Information for the Job Bank is entered by employers, including department chairs, human resource professionals, and administrative staff. From these administrative data, an analytical dataset with one record for each advertisement was created; each record included the job titles, descriptions, position ranks, areas of expertise, tenure status, and regions that were provided by the employers. Additional cases were added to the dataset for any job descriptions advertising more than one position to ensure each available position would be included in the analysis. Any positions based outside of the U.S. or that were identified as duplicate advertisements were removed from the dataset.

Employers were required to select a position-rank from a dropdown menu of 25 options: Academic Positions: All; Academic Positions: Instructor; Academic Positions: Lecturer; Academic Positions: Assistant Professor; Academic Positions: Associate Professor; Academic Positions: Full Professor; Academic Positions: Other; Academic Positions: Assistant/Associate Professor; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: All; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Researcher; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Director; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Assistant Director; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Training; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Program Manager; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Statistician; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Human Relations/Personnel; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Clinical Work; Sociological Practice/Applied/Other: Other; Fellowships/Post-docs: All; Fellowships/Post-docs: Predoctoral; Fellowships/Postdocs: Postdoctoral; Fellowships/Postdocs: Other; and Open. When the position-rank chosen by the employer from the dropdown was inconsistent with the job title as entered by the employer, the job description was used to determine the position-rank to include in the analysis. In addition to “Visiting Assistant Professor” position “Teaching Professor,” “Research Professor, and” Professor of Practice” was created using the job title and job description. Instructor and Lecturer positions were divided as “Full-time” and “Part-time” and all Adjunct faculty positions were coded as “Instructor/Lecturer PT.” Every position labeled “open” was also reviewed and recoded into one of the other categories as appropriate.

For job descriptions with two ranks indicated, a standard set of recategorization rules was applied. Jobs that were at the assistant or associate level are coded in their own category; and jobs at the associate or full level are included in the associate category.

Employers could describe the tenure status of the position by selecting one of the following categories from a dropdown menu: tenure-track, tenured, tenure-eligible, not tenure-track, and not applicable. For all academic positions, the tenure status item was reviewed. If the status chosen by the employer was inconsistent with the job title entered by the employer (e.g., a “Visiting Assistant Professor” position was listed as tenure-track), tenure status was coded to reflect the information in the job description. If the description was ambiguous, tenure status was left as the employer submitted it. The tenure-track category in the analysis includes both tenure-track and tenured positions.

The academic administrator category was created based on job title, position-rank, and job description. Administrators who are also professors (e.g., department chairs) are not included in the professor counts.

Employers are required to select one area of expertise from a dropdown list of 82 areas of specialization in sociology; they have the option to select a second area as well. The areas of “teaching and learning in sociology,” “education,” and “sociological practice” are sometimes chosen by employers to describe the sector or type of employment, rather than the area of sociological specialization for the position. Advertisements that had one of these three areas as an area of expertise were reviewed: when the job

description indicated an area of specialization that was inconsistent with the one chosen by the employer, it was recoded to be consistent with the description. Counts for areas of specialization are based on the number of times the area was selected as the first or second area of specialization. Percentages report the proportion of positions that mention that area.

When joining or renewing their ASA membership, sociologists are asked to identify their areas of interest from among the same list of 82 areas. The areas of interest selected by ASA student members was used as a proxy measure of interest area supply.

The geographic location of each position was recoded into Census categories based on the location of the employer. The “All U.S. Regions” category includes fully remote positions and positions that could be filled in one of several regional offices.