All Positions Advertised in the ASA Job Bank in 2018

In 2018, 745 positions in the U.S. were advertised in the ASA Job Bank. This is 2.2 percent less than the 762 positions advertised in 2017 and 8.9 percent less than the 815 positions in 2016. More than three-quarters of the 2018 positions were for jobs in the academic sector: 56.6 percent were for tenure-track positions, 16.4 percent were for non-tenure track academic positions, and 4.3 percent were for academic administrator positions. Among the tenure track positions, 63.7 percent were for assistant professors and 16.1 percent were open rank. For the non-tenure track academic positions, about half (50.8 percent) were at the visiting assistant professor level, and 41 percent were instructors or lecturers. Academic administrators include both department chairs and heads (46.9 percent of the category) and other administrators (53.1 percent), which includes deans, program directors, and other administrative positions in the academic sector.

Fellowships, primarily post-doctoral fellowships, make up 17.7 percent of the positions advertised. Finally, five percent of the positions in the Job Bank in 2018 were for jobs in sociological practice, including 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. According to the Survey of Earned Doctorates, about 12 percent of new sociology PhD recipients in 2017 had jobs in practice settings, making up a fifth of new PhDs with definite employment.

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 visiting academic positions. However, it does not represent the universe of jobs available to sociologists; contingent faculty positions and jobs outside of academia are underrepresented. Thus, these data represent the jobs advertised in the ASA Job Bank in 2018, not the jobs available for MA-level and PhD-level sociologists more broadly.