

# Report of the Director

## Job Openings for Economists

The total number of new jobs listed increased from last year's record of 2,218 to a new record of 2,389 this year, an 8-percent increase. Academic jobs increased by 170, from 1,370 to 1,540; nonacademic ones increased by one, from 848 to 849. Table 1 shows total listings (employers), total jobs, new listings, and new jobs by type for each issue of *JOE* in 1999. Since the October 1999 issue marked the 25th anniversary of *JOE*, I note that the first issue in 1974 listed 249 jobs (189 academic and 60 nonacademic). The October 1999 issue listed 749 jobs (483 academic, 266 nonacademic), a three-fold increase over the period.

Table 2 shows the number of employers by category (four-year colleges, universities with graduate programs, federal government, etc.) for each of the ten issues. Academic institutions continue to be the major advertisers—about two-thirds of the total number of employers listing vacancies.

The *JEL* category (C), Mathematical and Quantitative Methods, led in popularity. International (F) and Microeconomics (D) were essentially tied, finishing second and third, respectively. Industrial Organization (L) finished fourth. Money and Macro (E) dropped from second to fifth. These five categories have consistently dominated the lists for several years. Below is a breakdown of the fields advertised in the October 1974 issue by the old *JEL* classification codes:

Code and classification	Percentage
000 General Economics; Theory; History; Systems	21
100 Economic Growth; Development; Planning; Fluctuations	7
200 Economic Statistics	12
300 Domestic Monetary and Fiscal Theory and Institutions	9
400 International Economics	8
500 Administration; Business Finance; Marketing; Accounting	12
600 Industrial Organization; Technological Change; Industry Studies	8
700 Agriculture; Natural Resources	3
800 Manpower; Labor; Population	7
900 Welfare Programs; Consumer Economics; Urban and Regional	12
B00 Administrative Openings	1

TABLE 1—JOB LISTINGS FOR 1999

Issue	Total listings	Total jobs	New listings	New jobs
<i>Academic:</i>				
February	79	125	76	106
March	21	29	21	29
April	50	85	50	85
May	23	33	23	33
June	20	27	20	27
August	67	130	67	130
September	47	99	47	99
October	214	525	192	483
November	185	377	170	350
December	125	288	91	198
Subtotal	831	1,718	757	1,540
<i>Nonacademic:</i>				
February	41	87	35	67
March	9	16	8	16
April	27	69	19	44
May	18	38	18	38
June	29	62	25	48
August	33	76	32	73
September	30	98	26	86
October	78	281	71	266
November	63	140	54	115
December	67	188	43	96
Subtotal	395	1,055	331	849
Total:	1,226	2,773	1,088	2,389

*JOE* is available online through the Internet. There is no charge. Anyone can search its database by keyword or the classification system of the *Journal of Economic Literature*. The online *JOE* is available soon after the publication of each new issue. Since going on the Internet three years ago, *JOE* has lost about 75 percent of its subscribers. In December 1994, there were about 3,100; in 1997, 1,114; last year, 760; and this year, 536.

To increase the flow of job information, we began publishing 10 issues of *JOE* annually. An issue appeared each month except January and July. Given the demands of organizing and managing the annual meeting, publishing a January issue would be extremely difficult; an issue in July would carry very little new information.

TABLE 2—NUMBER AND TYPES OF EMPLOYERS LISTING POSITIONS IN JOE DURING 1999

Issue	Universities					Banking or finance	Business or industry	Consulting or research	Other	Total
	Four-year colleges	with graduate programs	Federal government	State/local government						
February	29	50	10	2		4	6	18	1	120
March	5	16	2	—		1	1	4	—	29
April	18	32	6	—		3	1	15	2	77
May	7	16	4	—		—	4	7	3	41
June	5	15	3	—		3	4	16	3	49
August	8	59	7	2		2	4	18	—	100
September	8	39	4	—		5	3	16	2	77
October	49	165	18	2		14	7	32	5	292
November	57	128	14	4		12	11	21	1	248
December	41	84	15	6		7	10	27	2	192
Totals:	227	604	83	16		51	51	174	19	1,225

TABLE 3—FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION CITED: 1999

Code	Fields	February	March	April	May	June	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
A	General economics and teaching	9	2	5	2	6	9	5	23	23	18	102
B	Methodology and history of economic thought	1	—	5	—	1	1	—	5	8	4	25
C	Mathematical and quantitative methods	35	8	27	9	27	25	26	126	83	59	425
D	Microeconomics	26	8	15	10	16	31	13	126	63	62	370
E	Macroeconomics and monetary economics	18	6	15	8	8	22	18	100	76	51	322
F	International economics	21	5	12	4	4	18	16	97	76	49	302
G	Financial economics	29	3	14	6	11	14	15	75	67	49	283
H	Public economics	17	6	8	7	4	22	15	94	29	56	258
I	Health, education, and welfare	17	6	12	13	8	15	5	56	29	38	199
J	Labor and demographic economics	9	1	8	7	7	15	14	59	38	45	203
K	Law and economics	5	1	2	—	2	3	5	23	14	7	62
L	Industrial organization	22	4	13	4	16	20	23	90	80	58	330
M	Business administration; business economics; marketing, accounting	8	1	7	3	—	10	9	21	16	19	94
N	Economic history	1	—	4	—	1	2	3	8	8	6	33
O	Economic development, technological change	8	2	6	3	1	11	10	44	33	31	149
P	Economic systems	4	1	5	—	1	3	2	9	4	8	37
Q	Agricultural and natural-resource economics	18	7	17	4	8	22	14	54	33	29	206
R	Urban, rural, and regional economics	6	—	7	5	—	6	7	43	12	16	102
Z	Other special topics	2	2	2	—	—	7	4	12	7	8	44
AF	Any field	15	6	15	4	4	17	12	64	43	43	223
ZZ	Administrative positions	7	1	6	3	3	4	4	14	12	9	63
Totals:		278	70	205	92	128	277	220	1,143	754	665	3,832

Note: Fields of specialization codes are from the *Journal of Economic Literature*.

The additional three issues seemed to help alleviate some of the anxiety about missing deadlines and the possible delay of two months before a job is advertised.

This year is the *JOE*'s 25th year of publication and my last report as Director. Violet Sikes does (and has done since the first issue) everything necessary to get *JOE* published: maintaining the subscriber mailing list; reading, editing (when appropriate), typing, and formatting each ad; dealing with hostile callers about deadlines and AEA policies regarding content of ads; arranging for the printing; and seeing that it is

mailed on time. She has been responsible for *JOE* from its inception. The Association, employers, and applicants little realize how much they owe her. I owe her more than anyone. All I have had to do is keep her informed of policies established by the Executive Committee, occasionally come to her aid when someone insists on dealing with her "boss," and write an annual report which is based on the data she collects. On behalf of us all, I thank her.

C. ELTON HINSHAW, *Director*