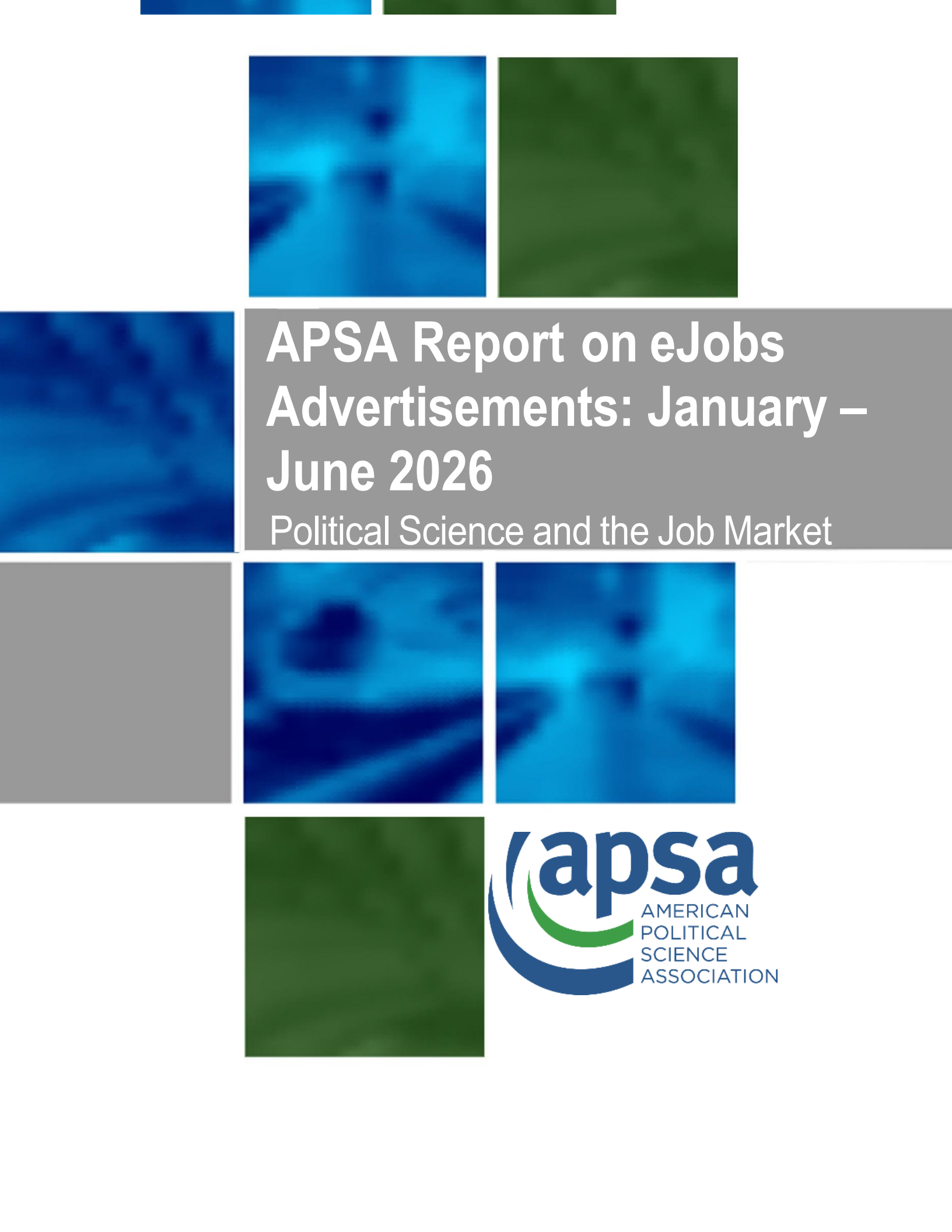


A decorative background consisting of a grid of colored squares. The top row has a blue square on the left and a green square on the right. The middle row has a blue square on the left and a grey square on the right. The bottom row has a grey square on the left and a green square on the right. The text is centered in the grey square of the middle row.

APSA Report on eJobs Advertisements: January – June 2026

Political Science and the Job Market



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About the Report

In the first half of 2026, large-scale structural changes, both implemented and proposed, took place at the National Science Foundation^{1,2} and the Office of Management and Budget^{3,4}. Ranging from extensive changes to the NSF's organizational structure to changes regarding visa programs, funding availability, and funding approval processes, it continued to be a tumultuous time for the academic climate.

While the job market in the first half of 2026 largely resembles the same period from 2025, its continuation of 2025 trends, most notably fewer job postings driven largely by a drop in non-tenure-track postings, indicates a still-contracting market. Jobs in American Government and Politics continue to dominate the job market, with postings in Comparative Politics, International Relations, and "Other" also making up large proportions of postings. At 24%, international postings make up a larger share of the January-June market than in recent years. While job postings decreased compared to 2025 overall, the proportion of tenure-track and non-tenure-track job postings remains largely similar, with non-tenure-track jobs dominating the spring market.

We encourage you to read the report carefully, and welcome your questions, suggestions, or ideas. Please contact us with any specific questions about the findings at surveys@apsanet.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Allison Macdonald
Research

American Political Science Association
Washington, D.C.

July 7, 2026

¹ "NSF Taking Steps to Diminish, if not Dismantle, SBE Directorate". 9 April, 2026. *Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. <https://fabbs.org/news/2026/04/nsf-taking-steps-to-dismantle-sbe-directorate/>

² "President Trump Dismisses Members of the National Science Board". April 2026. *American Educational Research Association*. <https://www.aera.net/Newsroom/AERA-Highlights-E-newsletter/AERA-Highlights-April-2026/President-Trump-Dismisses-Members-of-the-National-Science-Board>

³ Kihumba, Barbara. "Big changes to F-1, J-1, I visa programs are under consideration". 14 May, 2026. *JD Supra*. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/big-changes-to-f-1-j-1-i-visa-programs-8037831/>

⁴ "Proposed Rule: Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance". 29 May, 2026. *Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States Government*. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/29/2026-10817/regulation-for-federal-financial-assistance>

Key Findings for the First Half of 2026

I. Volume and Timing of Position Openings/Advertisements in Political Science

Market Continues to Shrink. The first four months of the year saw lower numbers of job postings than in 2025, continuing the drop in postings observed from 2024 to 2025: on average, 3 fewer jobs were posted per month during the first six months of 2026 than the same period in 2025, and 11 fewer than in 2024. In May and June, however, postings exceeded 2025 numbers.

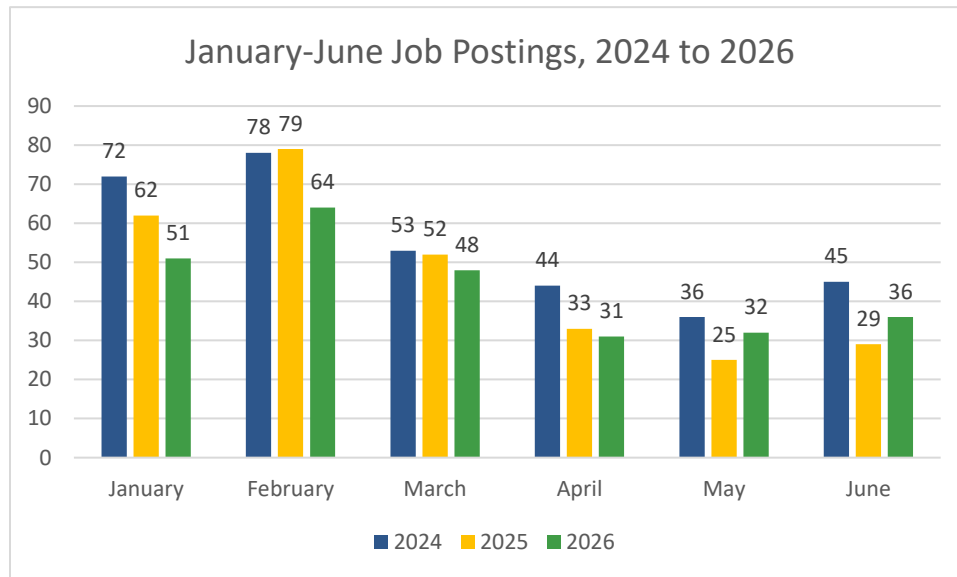


Figure 1. Job postings by month, January-June, 2024 to 2026.

Winter-Spring Slump, but Quicker Rebound. Consistent with previous years, job postings generally decreased throughout the spring before picking back up again as the summer began. Within this typical spring slump, the overall lower number of jobs in 2026 compared to 2025 was driven primarily by fewer postings of non-tenure-track jobs, a continuation of the pattern observed in 2025. The drop in postings was concentrated within the first three months of the year, January-March, with 10 fewer jobs posted per month on average. While not enough to compensate for the overall decline, May and June actually saw a relatively strong increase in postings, with an average of 7 more jobs posted per month than in 2025. Concurrent with this, the summer uptick in postings appears to have begun earlier in 2026 than in 2025, with tenure-track postings more than doubling between April and May.

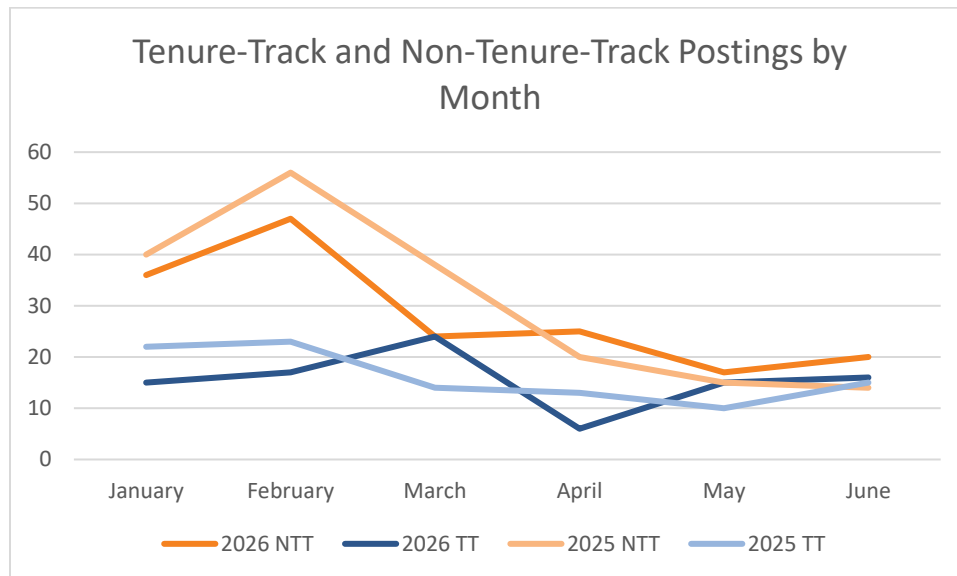


Figure 2. Tenure-track (TT) and non-tenure-track (NTT) eJobs advertisements, January-June 2025 compared to January-June 2026.

II. Geography of Political Science Positions

At 24%, postings for international positions made up a larger proportion of job advertisements than in 2025 (20%). Within the US, the Northeast, Midwest, and Southeast remained the most common regions, making up more than half of job postings. The Northeast alone accounted for more than a quarter of US postings. Postings in the West decreased by about 4% compared to 2025. Europe and Asia continued to make up the bulk of international advertisements, and in similar proportions to 2025 (Europe made up 48% of international postings in 2026 and Asia 27%, compared to 50% and 27% in 2025).

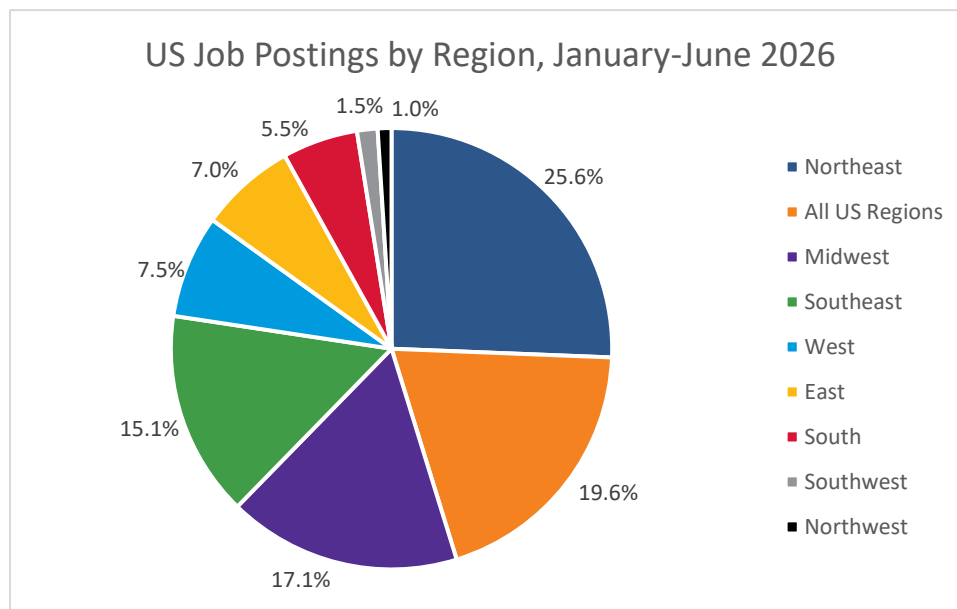


Figure 4. Percentage of eJobs advertisements by U.S. geographical region. Percentages calculated based on US postings only (n=199).



Figure 5. Percentage of eJobs advertisements by international region. Percentages calculated based on international postings only (n=63).

III. Job Postings by Political Science Subfield

Job postings in American Government and Politics made up almost a quarter of all job postings in the first six months of 2026 (23.7%), a similar though slightly higher proportion than in 2025. Indeed, despite lower numbers of postings overall, nearly as many American Government jobs were advertised in 2026 as 2025 (62 compared to 64). Comparative Politics replaced “Other” as the second most commonly listed subfield (13%), while postings in International Relations and “Other” each made up 12.6% of postings.

Comparative Politics and Public Policy both saw posting increases compared to 2025 (3.4% for Comparative Politics, 5% for Public Policy), larger gains than those seen by any other subfield. As in 2025, the top four subfields made up more than 60% of all job postings.

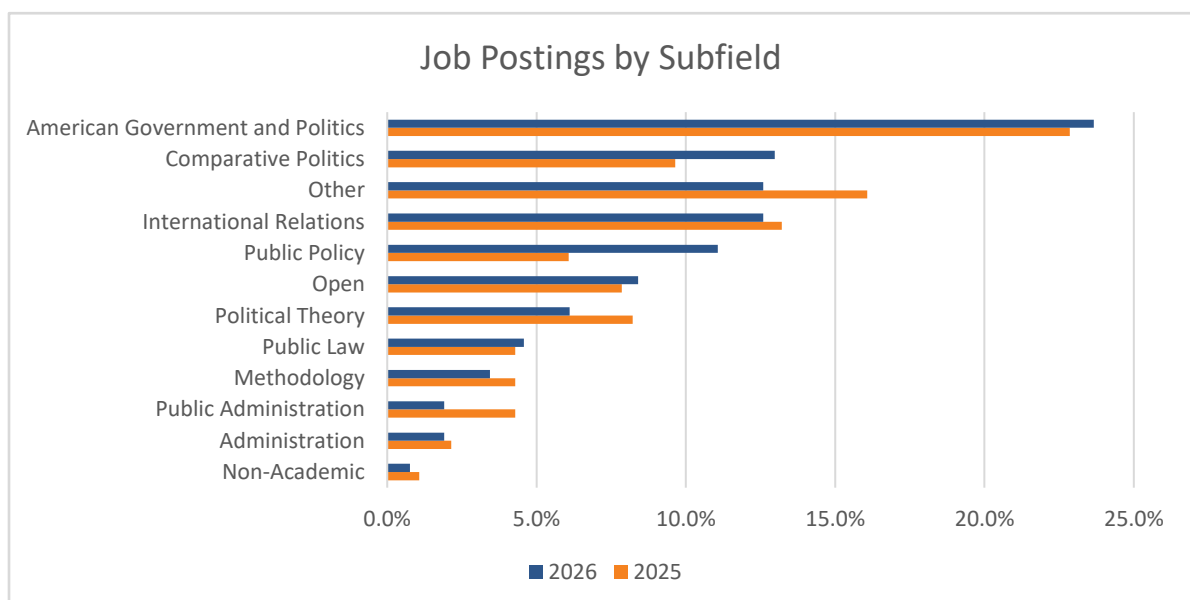
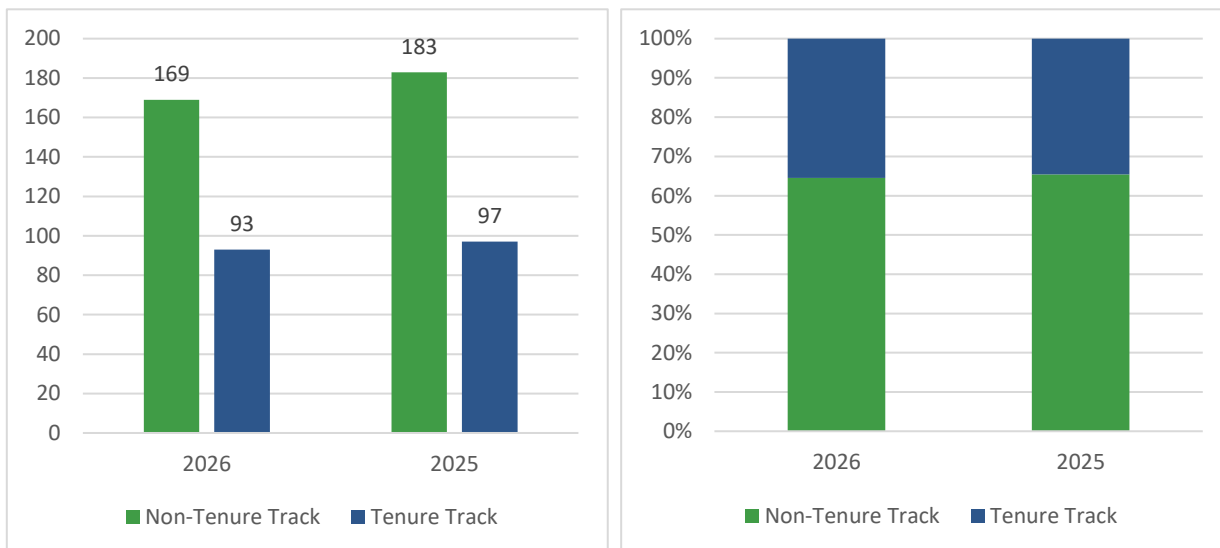


Figure 7. Job postings by subfield, January-June 2025 versus January-June 2026.

IV. Rank and Duration of Positions Posted

The ratio of tenure-track to non-tenure-track jobs in the first six months of 2026, at 35.5%, was similar to the proportions observed in previous years in spite of a lower number of postings overall. This is consistent with the observed pattern of previous years, in which non-tenure-track postings dominate the market during the spring, when generally fewer job advertisements are posted overall, while tenure-track postings increase throughout the summer and early fall.



Figures 8 and 9. Tenure-track and non-tenure-track job advertisements posted to eJobs, number (left) and percentage (right), January-June 2025 and January-June 2026.

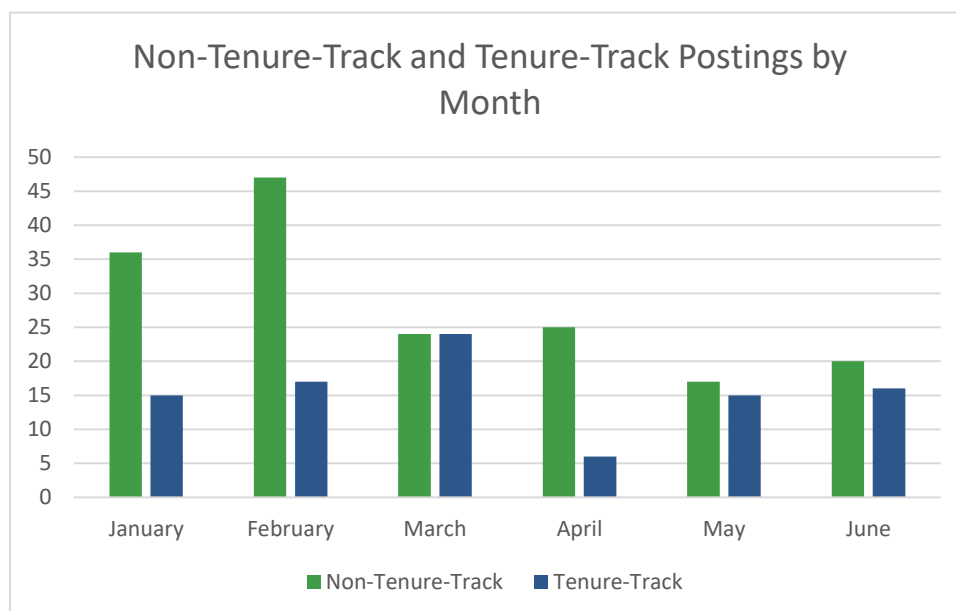


Figure 10. Tenure-track and non-tenure-track eJobs advertisements by month, January-June 2026.

V. Conclusion

The first six months of the 2026 political science job market are broadly similar to the first six months of the 2025 market. While fewer jobs were posted overall and the distribution of jobs by subfield shifted

slightly, the market was still characterized by a large number of non-tenure-track postings and a decline in postings throughout the spring that began to tick upwards again as summer began. The drop in postings from 2025 to 2026 was driven largely by fewer numbers of postings for non-tenure-track jobs, as was the case for the drop between 2024 and 2025. In contrast to 2025, job postings hit their lowest mark in April rather than May. A higher proportion of international postings, continuing the trend from 2025, may reflect US-specific job market pressures related to uncertainty regarding government funding and new program structures and approval processes. Overall, the first six months of 2026 indicate a still-tight job market that nevertheless maintains the general patterns observed in previous years.