

Table 1-7 Seniority of Senators, 1953 - 2021

Congress		Number of Senators serving				Total	Mean years service	Median years service
		6 years or less	7 - 12 years	13 - 18 years	19 years or more			
83rd	(1953)	46 (16)	29	14	7	96	8.5	7
84th	(1955)	42 (14)	37	8	9	96	8.4	7
85th	(1957)	37 (10)	36	13	10	96	9.6	9
86th	(1959)	42 (20)	30	14	12	98	9.4	8
87th	(1961)	42 (7)	25	22	11	100	9.7	9
88th	(1963)	42 (12)	26	18	14	100	9.9	7
89th	(1965)	29 (8)	36	16	19	100	11.1	9
90th	(1967)	28 (7)	34	19	19	100	11.6	9
91st	(1969)	32 (14)	32	17	19	100	11.2	11
92nd	(1971)	25 (10)	24	29	22	100	11.5	11
93rd	(1973)	40 (13)	20	20	20	100	11.2	9
94th	(1975)	36 (12) <sup>a</sup>	22	23	19	100	11.5	9
95th	(1977)	42 (17)	25	13	20	100	10.6	9
96th	(1979)	48 (20)	24	10	18	100	9.6	7
97th	(1981)	55 (18)	20	10	15	100	8.5	5
98th	(1983)	43 (5)	28	16	13	100	9.6	7
99th	(1985)	32 (7)	38	18	12	100	10.1	9
100th	(1987)	26 (13)	44	16	14	100	9.6	8
101st	(1989)	31 (10)	26	29	14	100	9.8	10
102nd	(1991)	30 (5)	23	28	19	100	11.1	11
103rd	(1993)	30 (13)	17	32	21	100	11.3	12
104th	(1995)	29 (11)	26	20	25	100	12.3	11
105th	(1997)	40 (15)	24	13	23	100	11.2	9
106th	(1999)	35 (8)	24	16	25	100	11.2	10
107th	(2001)	37 (11)	21	19	23	100	11.5	8
108th	(2003)	30 (10)	29	16	25	100	12.7	9.5
109th	(2005)	29 (9)	27	15	29	100	12.5	10
110th	(2007)	29 (10)	26	14	31	100	13.1	10
111th	(2009)	32 (11)	19	20	29	100	14.0	11
112th	(2011)	42 (13)	17	14	27	100	12.3	9
113th	(2013)	43 (13)	23	15	19	100	10.2	6
114th	(2015)	45 (13)	24	11	20	100	9.4	6
115th	(2017)	36 (7)	34	11	19	100	10.2	7.5
116th	(2019)	32(9)	33	17	18	100	10.1	8
117th <sup>c</sup>	(2021)	26 (8)	37	18	19	100	12.0	10.5

Note: Figures in parentheses are the number of freshman senators. Senators who are currently in their first full term are listed under the "6 years or less" column. Figures represent the makeup of Congress on the first day of the session. Years are rounded to whole years for the mean and median calculations.

Some data from previous versions of Vital Statistics have been updated. See errata for more detail.

a. Total includes John Durkin (D-NH). After a contested election in 1974, the Senate declared the seat vacant as of August 8, 1975. He was then elected by special election, September 16, 1975, to fill the vacancy.

b. Total includes Al Franken (D-MN), who was declared elected after a challenge in court to the vote count by his Republican challenger on June 30, 2009; and Roland Burris (D-IL) who was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Barack Obama on December 31, 2008. Total also includes Joe Biden (D-DE), who resigned his seat on January 15, 2009 and so was present on the first day of the session.

c. Vital Statistics collects information on member demographics as of the first day of the Congress. For the 117th Congress, we include both Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, who were elected on January 5, 2021, and Kamala Harris, who did not resign from office until January 18th, 2021.

Source: Congressional Directory, various editions; Congressional Quarterly Almanac (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, various editions); Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; National Journal, various issues; US Senate, <http://www.senate.gov>; The Almanac of American Politics (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Group, various editions).