

Table 1-9

Prior Occupations of Democratic Representatives, 83rd - 117th Congresses, 1953 - 2021

Occupation	83rd 1953	84th <sup>a</sup> 1955	86th 1959	89th 1965	90th 1967	91st 1969	92nd <sup>a</sup> 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983
Acting/entertainer										5	5	6	5
Aeronautics										1	0	0	0
Agriculture	25	26	28	26	17	15	16	15	13	7	10	14	14
Business or banking	60	62	71	98	82	77	71	72	84	65	58	51	58
Clergy				2	1	1	1	2	4	4	3	2	2
Congressional aide	12	12	17	19	15	17	15	16	19	15	21	20	22
Education	30	31	30	54	43	40	46	41	51	56	51	43	28
Engineering			2	6	4	3	3	1	1	0	1	2	2
Journalism	17	17	21	27	22	23	18	17	18	12	10	10	10
Labor leader				3	2	3	5	3	3	5	3	2	2
Law	126	138	168	171	150	150	148	136	158	151	133	124	134
Law enforcement						1		1	2	7	6	4	3
Medicine	2	3	2	1	1	2	4	3	3	1	2	2	3
Military										0	0	0	0
Professional sports										2	2	2	2
Public service/politics	183	193	245	251	219	217	193	201	234	25	20	20	25
Real estate										10	10	8	7
Veteran	133	146	191	215	190	185	186	176	197	193	173	142	147
<b>New Occupations Included</b>													
Artistic/Creative										3	4	13	8
Healthcare										0	0	1	0
Homemaker/Domestic										1	0	0	0
Science						0	1	2	2	3	3	2	2
Secretarial/Clerical										1	2	1	2
Technical/Trade										3	3	4	4
Miscellaneous										4	4	0	4

Table 1-9

Occupation	99th 1985	100th 1987	101st 1989	102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013	114th 2015	115th 2017	116th 2019
Acting/entertainer	7	6	6	8	7	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
Aeronautics	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture	12	10	9	11	8	5	8	8	8	8	9	8	12	6	5	4	4	4
Business or banking	60	61	60	55	47	45	55	53	56	56	65	70	112	65	65	56	57	71
Clergy	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	3	3
Congressional aide	25	24	23	24	22	20	19	18	18	18	21	22	20	16	15	25	25	30
Education	26	29	33	42	46	39	40	49	53	50	52	55	59	46	50	48	46	47
Engineering	2	4	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	3	4	2	3	6
Journalism	9	11	8	8	7	2	4	2	1	3	3	3	5	3	5	6	5	6
Labor leader	2	3	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	5	4	7	9	7	10	11	13	14
Law	122	123	123	122	118	90	87	87	84	86	90	94	115	76	80	71	76	89
Law enforcement	6	5	5	6	8	7	8	8	7	6	6	7	8	3	0	1	3	4
Medicine	2	2	1	1	3	1	3	5	6	5	4	3	5	2	4	4	3	5
Military	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	1	0	4
Professional sports	2	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	3
Public service/politics	30	27	26	25	36	33	54	57	70	77	116	106	167	101	106	88	92	111
Real estate	8	9	10	8	10	6	3	3	2	3	3	4	10	4	4	6	6	6
Veteran	130	123	119	119	99	68	59	51	46	41	34	38	41	20	18	19	18	24
<b>New Occupations Included</b>																		
Artistic/Creative	5	1	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Healthcare	0	0	1	5	1	1	1	2	3	4	4	6	7	4	9	8	8	9
Homemaker/Domestic	0	1	0	0	0	0			1	2	2	3	8	7	12	11	9	7
Science	2	2	2	2	1	1					2	3	3	2	4	4	5	4
Secretarial/Clerical	1	0	0	0	2	0			0	0	0	4	7	5	11	10	10	8
Technical/Trade	3	7	6	6	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	3
Miscellaneous	3	3	4	12	6	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	3	2

Table 1-9

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>117th 2021</b>
Acting/entertainer	0
Aeronautics	1
Agriculture	4
Business or banking	67
Clergy	4
Congressional aide	23
Education	42
Engineering	4
Journalism	5
Labor leader	13
Law	84
Law enforcement	4
Medicine	4
Military	3
Professional sports	3
Public service/politics	104
Real estate	4
Veteran	21
<b>New Occupations Included</b>	
Artistic/Creative	2
Healthcare	10
Homemaker/Domestic	6
Science	4
Secretarial/Clerical	6
Technical/Trade	3
Miscellaneous	2

Note: Blanks in the historical data indicate years and occupations for which Congressional Quarterly did not compile data. Some members say they have more than one occupation. Data counted as of the end of the first session of each congress. For the 83rd - 113th congress, these numbers reflect those reported by Congressional Quarterly, whose methodology has changed over time. CQ has since stopped publishing these data by party, so for the 115th congress occupations were coded based on information provided in member profiles published by CQ. Fluctuations in totals between congresses that are larger than the seats lost/gained between congresses represent these methodological changes.

Data from earlier years/previous versions of this table have been changed. Please see the errata document for more details.

a. For these congresses, CQ Almanac did not provide occupation data. Instead, data for each representative was taken from an earlier or later congress of which they were also a member. One-term members in these congresses were individually coded based on their biographical data.

Previous Source: In previous updates, this data was compiled from multiple sources, including: Congressional Quarterly Almanac (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, various editions); Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, <http://clerk.house.gov>; Military Officers Association of America; Veterans in Congress, The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service, "Representatives with Military Service, 108th Congress;" Veterans' Information: Veterans in Congress, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Most Recent Update Source: Congressional Quarterly Almanac; Congressional Quarterly Congress Collection; CQ Member Profiles