

Table 1-11

Prior Occupations of Senators, 83rd - 118th Congresses, 1953 - 2023

Occupation	83rd 1953	84th^a 1955	86th 1959	89th 1965	90th 1967	91st 1969	92nd^a 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983
Acting/entertainer										0	1	5	3
Aeronautics										1	3	3	2
Agriculture	21	19	17	18	18	16	11	11	10	8	8	11	10
Business or banking	29	27	28	25	23	25	24	22	22	23	26	28	32
Clergy				0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Congressional aide	5	5	6	4	5	4	3	4	4	2	1	1	1
Education	14	14	16	16	15	14	13	10	8	13	10	17	13
Engineering			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Journalism	10	11	13	10	10	8	5	5	5	4	4	8	7
Labor/blue collar				1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law	56	57	61	67	68	68	67	68	67	68	66	61	59
Law enforcement						0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Military										0	0	1	1
Professional sports										0	1	1	1
Public service/politics	89	87	95	98		97	85	96	94	17	15	12	13
Real estate										1	1	1	1
Veteran	71	71	70	71	72	75	80	79	81	78	76	77	78
New Occupations													
Artistic/Creative										2	3	13	11
Healthcare										0	0	0	0
Homemaker/Domestic										0	0	0	0
Science						1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Secretarial/Clerical										0	0	0	0
Technical/Trade										0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous										0	0	0	0

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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	3	3	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	2	2	2	1
Aeronautics	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture	10	8	8	8	10	9	8	6	6	5	5	6	4	5	5	5	5	6
Business or banking	26	22	22	23	23	24	33	24	24	25	40	27	36	29	25	31	29	30
Clergy	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Congressional aide	2	4	5	5	7	5	13	13	13	10	9	9	9	8	9	14	13	13
Education	13	9	8	13	12	10	13	13	16	12	13	14	20	15	17	18	18	21
Engineering	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Journalism	9	7	6	5	6	6	9	8	7	6	7	8	5	6	5	4	3	2
Labor/blue collar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	3
Law	61	63	63	61	57	55	53	55	53	60	64	59	63	54	54	51	52	49
Law enforcement	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	4
Military	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3
Professional sports	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	0
Public service/politics	14	17	18	2	8	7	26	18	28	30	45	32	48	38	43	44	47	49
Real estate	1	2	2	4	2	3	5	4	4	3	3	3	7	7	7	6	6	5
Veteran	77	71	72	70	63	55	50	43	37	35	30	30	27	24	18	20	20	18
New Occupations																		
Artistic/Creative	10	4	5	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	3	3	2
Healthcare	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Homemaker/Domestic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	5	5	4
Science	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secretarial/Clerical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2
Technical/Trade	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	4
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

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Occupation	117th^b 2021	118th 2023
Acting/entertainer	1	1
Aeronautics	1	2
Agriculture	7	8
Business or banking	31	33
Clergy	2	2
Congressional aide	10	12
Education	20	19
Engineering	1	1
Journalism	2	2
Labor/blue collar	2	2
Law	46	46
Law enforcement	0	0
Medicine	5	5
Military	2	2
Professional sports	0	0
Public service/politics	49	49
Real estate	4	3
Veteran	16	16
New Occupations		
Artistic/Creative	3	4
Healthcare	2	2
Homemaker/Domestic	4	4
Science	1	1
Secretarial/Clerical	2	2
Technical/Trade	3	3
Miscellaneous	1	1

Note: Blanks 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 - 114th congress, these numbers reflect those reported by Congressional Quarterly, whose methodology has changed over time. CQ has since changed how this data is reported, 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.
- b. 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.

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 Roll Call, "Guide to the New Congress," 114th Congress; CQ Member Profiles