Table 1-8   Prior Occupations of Representatives, 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										6	6	11	8
Aeronautics										1	0	3	3
Agriculture	63	60	45	44	39	35	36	39	30	15	23	36	31
Business or banking	149	141	130	156	161	158	149	153	141	112	109	120	114
Clergy				3	3	2	2	4	5	6	5	2	2
Congressional aide	23	22	25	28	26	27	24	24	24	23	30	31	34
Education	65	60	41	68	57	60	69	59	64	71	67	65	43
Engineering			3	9	6	5	4	2	3	2	3	6	5
Journalism	39	36	35	43	39	40	30	24	23	20	18	23	17
Labor/blue collar				3	2	3	5	3	3	6	4	2	2
Law	248	247	242	247	246	240	237	222	221	219	200	200	202
Law enforcement						2		2	2	8	6	7	6
Medicine	6	6	4	3	3	5	6	5	5	3	6	5	5
Military										0	0	0	1
Professional sports										3	3	3	3
Public service/politics	361	349	384	371	372	361	316	352	345	48	29	39	32
Real estate										11	15	21	19
Veteran	268	277	281	316	327	327	318	322	307	299	282	264	249
New Occupations													
Artistic/Creative										4	5	19	11
Healthcare										0	1	3	2
Homemaker/Domestic										2	1	0	0
Science						1	1	2	2	3	3	2	2
Secreterial/clerical										1	2	1	2
Technical/Trade										3	4	9	7
Miscellaneous										5	5	1	5

Table 1-8

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	117th 2021
Acting/entertainer	11	9	9	10	12	8	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	0
Aeronautics	4	2	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2		2	1	2	3	2	3
Agriculture	28	24	23	21	21	23	22	22	25	26	29	23	27	25	27	27	23	22	24
Business or banking	126	122	120	115	115	145	181	159	159	165	205	166	225	187	184	173	168	165	168
Clergy	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	3	1	3	6	7	7	7	6
Congressional aide	38	40	38	38	38	43	40	41	37	37	40	39	33	29	32	62	62	58	50
Education	41	47	54	61	64	70	74	84	92	88	91	88	84	73	79	78	77	64	60
Engineering	6	7	5	5	5	5	8	9	9	8	4	3	7	6	7	8	9	12	10
Journalism	17	20	17	16	17	6	12	9	9	11	11	7	9	9	11	13	15	11	13
Labor/blue collar	2	3	3	4	3	1	1	1	2	7	9	13	14	14	19	23	24	21	20
Law	191	187	185	178	178	166	172	163	156	161	178	162	179	151	157	145	154	144	129
Law enforcement	8	5	7	8	10	14	10	10	10	9	9	10	11	9	5	5	8	8	9
Medicine	3	3	2	1	4	9	12	15	14	16	16	13	17	19	21	20	18	21	21
Military	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	4	7	8	8	11	12	14	14
Professional sports	3	6	5	4	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	6
Public service/politics	43	40	36	37	60	62	100	106	126	145	209	174	247	176	182	171	177	171	171
Real estate	23	25	26	27	26	27	23	20	24	30	39	36	37	39	34	34	31	27	27
Veteran	231	217	210	208	177	158	140	132	116	101	92	88	82	78	76	78	81	77	74
New Occupations																			
Artistic/Creative	8	2	2	5	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	5	4
Healthcare	1	1	2	10	3	2	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	10	14	16	16	14	16
Homemaker/Domestic	1	2	1	1	1	1			2	4	4	7	12	13	16	16	14	9	8
Science	2	2	3	4	2	4					6	6	6	4	5	5	6	7	6
Secreterial/clerical	1	0	0	0	2	0			2	2	4	9	11	10	15	13	13	10	8
Technical/Trade	3	8	7	8	5	3	1	3	3	4	3	2	4	4	6	8	9	6	7
Miscellaneous	5	4	6	15	10	3	5	6	6	4	3	2	1	2	1	5	4	3	3

Table 1-8

Occupation	118th 2023
Acting/entertainer	1
Aeronautics	3
Agriculture	22
Business or banking	168
Clergy	4
Congressional aide	51
Education	62
Engineering	8
Journalism	15
Labor/blue collar	22
Law	117
Law enforcement	9
Medicine	23
Military	21
Professional sports	4
Public service/politics	176
Real estate	25
Veteran	79
New Occupations	
Artistic/Creative	4
Healthcare	16
Homemaker/Domestic	7
Science	6
Secreterial/clerical	9
Technical/Trade	7
Miscellaneous	3

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.

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