

Table 1-9

Prior Occupations of Democratic 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 | | | | | | | | | | 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/blue collar | | | | 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 |
| New Occupations Included | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Secreterial/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 |
| 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/blue collar | 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 |
| New Occupations Included | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Secreterial/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

| Occupation | 117th 2021 | 118th 2023 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Acting/entertainer | 0 | 0 |
| Aeronautics | 1 | 0 |
| Agriculture | 4 | 3 |
| Business or banking | 67 | 56 |
| Clergy | 4 | 3 |
| Congressional aide | 23 | 23 |
| Education | 42 | 42 |
| Engineering | 4 | 3 |
| Journalism | 5 | 6 |
| Labor/blue collar | 13 | 14 |
| Law | 84 | 73 |
| Law enforcement | 4 | 2 |
| Medicine | 4 | 4 |
| Military | 3 | 3 |
| Professional sports | 3 | 2 |
| Public service/politics | 104 | 102 |
| Real estate | 4 | 5 |
| Veteran | 21 | 18 |
| New Occupations Included | | |
| Artistic/Creative | 2 | 2 |
| Healthcare | 10 | 8 |
| Homemaker/Domestic | 6 | 6 |
| Science | 4 | 4 |
| Secreterial/Clerical | 6 | 7 |
| Technical/Trade | 3 | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 | 1 |

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