Table 1-12   Prior Occupations of Democratic 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	0	1	1
Aeronautics										1	1	1	1
Agriculture	8	7	7	10	9	7	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Business or banking	11	10	14	14	12	12	13	12	12	13	13	11	12
Clergy				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congressional aide	3	3	4	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0
Education	9	9	13	12	10	9	7	7	6	8	6	6	5
Engineering			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Journalism	6	7	10	7	7	5	5	4	4	3	2	5	5
Labor/blue collar				1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law	32	33	43	48	48	42	40	42	45	46	44	33	30
Law enforcement						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Military										0	0	0	0
Professional sports										0	1	1	1
Public service/politics	48	48	62	67		56	48	56	59	9	10	6	6
Real estate										1	1	1	1
Veteran	35	35	45	47	44	41	43	45	50	49	43	33	32
New Occupations													
Artistic/Creative										1	2	7	7
Healthcare										0	0	0	0
Homemaker/Domestic										0	0	0	0
Science						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secretarial/Clerical										0	0	0	0
Technical/Trade										0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous										0	0	0	0

Table 1-12

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0
Aeronautics	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture	3	3	3	3	4	4	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Business or banking	10	10	11	12	12	10	8	6	8	9	14	9	16	12	10	9	8	7
Clergy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congressional aide	0	2	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	5	3	2	3	1	2	3	3	3
Education	4	5	5	8	7	5	5	5	8	7	6	8	12	9	11	10	11	12
Engineering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Journalism	6	6	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	1	2	4	3	4	4	2	1	0
Labor/blue collar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	0	0	1
Law	32	35	36	36	32	25	26	27	28	29	30	32	36	29	31	26	29	27
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Professional sports	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public service/politics	7	11	14	2	7	5	9	10	18	17	23	19	32	24	27	21	25	26
Real estate	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0
Veteran	35	37	38	38	33	25	21	19	17	17	14	14	16	13	9	6	7	6
New Occupations																		
Artistic/Creative	7	3	4	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	0
Healthcare	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homemaker/Domestic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	4	4	3
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	1	1	1
Technical/Trade	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 1-12

Occupation	117th[b] 2021	118th 2023
Acting/entertainer	0	1
Aeronautics	1	2
Agriculture	1	1
Business or banking	10	12
Clergy	1	1
Congressional aide	3	5
Education	12	13
Engineering	1	1
Journalism	0	1
Labor/blue collar	0	1
Law	25	25
Law enforcement	0	0
Medicine	0	0
Military	0	0
Professional sports	0	0
Public service/politics	27	30
Real estate	0	0
Veteran	7	7
New Occupations		
Artistic/Creative	1	2
Healthcare	0	0
Homemaker/Domestic	3	3
Science	1	1
Secretarial/Clerical	1	1
Technical/Trade	2	2
Miscellaneous	1	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.
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 Member Profiles