



# House of Representatives and Senate Staff Levels in Member, Committee, Leadership, and Other Offices, 1977-2010

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## Summary

The manner in which staff are deployed within an organization may reflect the mission and priorities of that organization. In Congress, employing authorities hire staff to carry out duties in Member-office, committee, leadership, and other settings. The extent to which staff in those settings change may lend insight into the work of the two chambers over time. Some of the insights that might be taken from staff levels include an understanding of the division of congressional work between Members working individually through their personal offices, or collectively, through committee activities; the relationship between committee leaders and chamber leaders, which could have implications for the development and consideration of legislation or the use of congressional oversight; and the extent to which specialized chamber administrative operations have grown over time.

This report provides staffing levels in House and Senate Member, committee, leadership, and other offices since 1977. Data presented here are based on staff listed by chamber entity (offices of Members, committees, leaders, officers, officials, and other entities) in telephone directories published by the House and Senate. These directories were chosen because they are the only official, publicly available resource that provides a concise breakdown of House and Senate staff by internal organization.

In the past three decades, staff working for the House and Senate has grown. Between 1977 and 2009, the number of House staff grew from 8,831 to 9,808, or 11.06%. In the Senate, the number of staff has grown steadily, from 3,380 in 1977 to 6,099 in 2010, or 80.44%. There are differences in the scale of growth between the chambers, but there are similarities in the patterns of change in the distribution of staff among congressional entities. In each chamber, for example, there have been increases in the number of staff working in chamber leadership offices, and larger increases in the staffing of chamber officers and officials. In the House and Senate, staff working for Members have shifted from committee settings to the personal offices of Members. Some of these changes may be indicative of the growth of the House and Senate as institutions, or the value the chambers place on their activities.

This report will be updated annually.

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In Congress, employing authorities hire staff to carry out duties in Member-office, committee, leadership, and other settings. The extent to which staff in those settings change may lend insight into the work of the two chambers over time. Some of the insights that might be taken from staff levels include

- an understanding of the division of congressional work between Members working individually through their personal offices, or collectively, through committee activities;
- the relationship between committee leaders and chamber leaders, which could have implications for the development and consideration of legislation or the use of congressional oversight; and
- the extent to which specialized chamber administrative operations have grown over time.

This report provides staffing levels in House- and Senate-Member<sup>1</sup>, committee, leadership, and other offices since 1977. No House or Senate publication appears to track the actual number of staff working in the chambers by office or entity. Data presented here are based on staff listed by chamber entity (offices of Members, committees, leaders, officers, officials, and other entities) in telephone directories published by the House and Senate. **Figure 1** displays overall staffing levels in the House and Senate.

**Table 1** in the “Data Tables” section below, provides data for all staff listed in chamber directories in the House through 2009 (the latest data available) and in the Senate through 2010. House and Senate staffing data are provided in the “House of Representatives Data Tables” and “Senate Data Tables” sections, respectively, below. Joint committee staff data from both chambers for panels that met in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress (2009-2010) are provided in **Table 12**.<sup>2</sup>

Congressional staff may be counted in two ways. These include a full-time equivalent (FTE) count that focuses on job positions, and a “head count,” that provides the number of people carrying out the work. FTE counts focus on the work to be done, and how much staffing is required to accomplish that work. They are typically used to determine staffing and budgetary need for an organization, but do not reflect the actual number of people who carry out that work.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report, the terms “Member office,” “personal office,” and “House Member’s office or Senator’s office” refer to the office held by a Member of the House or a Senator as a consequence of their election or appointment to Congress. They do not refer to the number of facilities in which that work is carried out. Discussions of how many staff are based in Washington, DC, and district or state facilities distinguishes only between locations in Washington, DC, or in the state or district. It does not provide an office-by-office accounting of staff working in multiple district or state facilities.

<sup>2</sup> Joint committees that met in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress include the Joint Committees on Taxation, Printing, Library of Congress, and the Joint Economic Committee. The table excludes staff listed at various times since 1977 for the Joint committees on Inaugural Ceremonies, Atomic Energy, Defense Production, Internal Revenue Service, and Organization of Congress. Staff data for those panels are available from the authors upon request.

<sup>3</sup> According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), FTEs are determined by a formula that adds the total number of hours worked by all employees of agencies during a year and then divides that total by 2,080, which is the number of scheduled work hours in a work year. The 2,080 hours can be worked by one employee who works a full time schedule of 40 hours each week for 52 weeks, or two or more part-time employees who work a total of 2,080 hours between or among them. This method provides the means for an agency to determine its long term staffing (continued...)

Congress uses FTE figures in conjunction with developing appropriations for the legislative branch. The head count approach tabulates the actual number of people working, based on a number of potential data sources. These sources may include payroll records, organizational directories, or other records that capture most of the people working for an organization at any one time.<sup>4</sup> Payroll data are supplied by the House and Senate to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on a monthly basis and made available as a public document,<sup>5</sup> but they are not broken down by congressional office or entity.<sup>6</sup>

This report provides data based on a count of staff listed in chamber telephone directories published since 1977.<sup>7</sup> Like most sources of data, telephone directory listings have potential benefits and potential drawbacks. Telephone directories were chosen for a number of reasons, including the following:

- telephone directories published by the House and Senate are an official source of information about those institutions that are widely available;
- presumably, the number of directory listings closely approximates the number of staff working for the House and Senate;<sup>8</sup>
- while arguably not their intended purpose, the directories provide a consistent breakdown of House and Senate staff by internal organization at a particular moment in time; and
- the directories afford the opportunity to compare staff levels at similar moments across a period of decades.<sup>9</sup>

At the same time, however, data presented below should be interpreted with care for a number of reasons, including the following:

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(...continued)

expectations and the impact of those expectations on the agency's future budgets. See Office of Personnel Management, *Employment and Trends of Federal Civilian Workforce Statistics*, July 2008, available at <http://www.opm.gov/feddata/html/2008/july/intro.asp>. While OPM requires federal executive branch agencies to estimate their staffing needs in FTEs, no standard has been explicitly mandated by Congress for legislative entities to use for staff planning. Nevertheless, FTE estimates appear to be widely employed. Regular references to legislative branch staff in terms of FTEs were made by the House Committee on Appropriations beginning in the early 1990s, according to a survey of its hearings and reports.

<sup>4</sup> Payroll data might not identify individuals who work for the House or Senate in an uncompensated position, such as interns or staff who are paid by entities other than Congress.

<sup>5</sup> Office of Personnel Management, *Employment and Trends of Federal Civilian Workforce Statistics*, available at <http://www.opm.gov/feddata/html/empt.asp>.

<sup>6</sup> Legislative branch staffing levels, principally based on OPM payroll data, are available in CRS Report R40056, *Legislative Branch Staffing, 1954-2007*, by R. Eric Petersen.

<sup>7</sup> Senate directories listed some Washington, DC-based staff assigned to specific entities (e.g., Member, committee, and other offices) in 1958. The House first published a directory with detailed staff listings by entity in 1977.

<sup>8</sup> The actual moment is the deadline that was set for the final collection of listings prior to publication. The exact date for each year is not known, but publication dates for the House and Senate directories were generally in the spring of each year.

<sup>9</sup> Other congressional documents list staff by organizational unit, most notably the quarterly *Statement of Disbursements* issued by the House, and the semiannual *Report of the Secretary of the Senate*, issued by the Senate. At the same time, because they capture all paid staff activity for a three-month (House *Statements*) or six-month (Senate *Reports*) period, those documents do not provide as clear a picture of staffing at one point in time as the telephone directories do.

- There is no way to determine whether all staff working for the House or Senate are listed in the chambers' telephone directories.<sup>10</sup> If some staff are not listed, relying on telephone directories is likely to lead to an undercount of staff.
- It is not possible to determine if those staff who are listed were actually employed by the House or Senate at the time the directories were published. If the directories list individuals who are no longer employed by the House or Senate, then relying on them is likely to lead to an overcount of staff.
- The extent to which the criteria for inclusion in the directories for the House or Senate has changed over time cannot be fully determined. For example, staff working in Senators' state offices were not listed until 1987. Some editions of both chambers' directories do not always list staff in various entities the same way.<sup>11</sup> This may raise questions regarding the reliability of telephone directory data as a means for identifying congressional staff levels within each chamber over time.
- It cannot be determined whether the House and Senate used the same criteria for including staff in their respective directories. This may raise questions regarding the reliability of telephone directory data as a means for comparing staff levels and organizational structures between the chambers.
- Some House or Senate staff may have more than one telephone number, or be listed in the directory under more than one entity.<sup>12</sup> As a consequence, they might be counted more than once. This could lead to a more accurate count of staff in specific entities within the House or Senate, but multiple listings may also lead to an overcount of staff working in the chamber.
- Chamber directories may reflect different organizational arrangements over time for some entities. This could lead to counting staff doing similar work in both years in different categories,<sup>13</sup> or in different offices.<sup>14</sup>
- A random sample of House Member offices used to develop an estimate of Member office staff working in Washington, DC, and discussed in greater detail below, may or may not be representative of the entire population of House Member offices. The extent to which the sample is representative of the population from which it is drawn will determine the accuracy of the estimated data for House Member offices.

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<sup>10</sup> In the Senate telephone directories, for example, state-based staff in Senators' offices were not listed until 1987. This omission is likely to lead to an undercount of Senate staff prior to 1987.

<sup>11</sup> In some instances, a listing for a House or Senate entity would not list staff. In other instances, there were significant changes in the number of staff from year-to-year, and it could not be determined whether that was a consequence of changing organizational practices, or differences in the manner in which staff were included in the directory.

<sup>12</sup> For example, some staffers may work on a part-time basis for more than one Member, or for a Member and a committee. In limited instances (some commissions and joint committees), it is possible that some staff are listed in both House and Senate directories.

<sup>13</sup> For example, in 1977, House Information Systems (HIS) staff were listed with staff from the Committee on House Administration (CHA). In 2009, House Information Resources, the successor entity to HIS, was listed as a component of Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. In this instance, HIS staff listed under CHA are counted as Officer and Officials staff regardless of their initial listing.

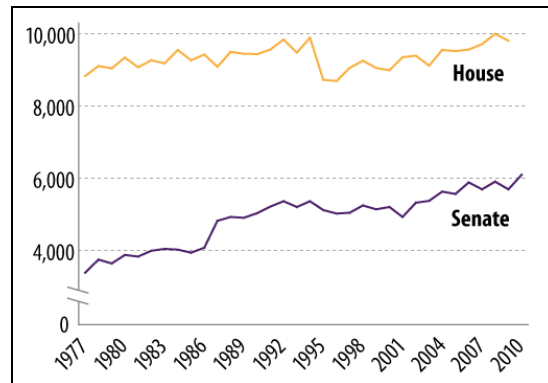
<sup>14</sup> For example, a number of administrative activities now carried out by staff of the Chief Administrative Officer were previously overseen by the Committee on House Administration, House Clerk, or Sergeant at Arms.

## Congressional Staffing Summary

Between 1977 and 2009, the number of House staff grew from 8,831 to 9,808, or 11.06%. Change in House staff has been characterized by slight but steady growth in two periods (1977-1994, 12.03%; and 1997-2009, 12.53%), separated by a brief period of sharp decline (1995-1996, -12.17%). In the Senate, the number of staff has grown steadily, from 3,380 in 1977 to 6,099 in 2010, or 80.44%.

In each chamber, there has been significant change in the distribution of staff among offices. In the House, the number of staff working in Member offices has grown by more than 12%, a slightly greater rate of growth than all House staff combined. Committee staff has declined nearly 28%. House staff working for leadership and chamber officers and officials<sup>15</sup> more than doubled. In the Senate, the number of staff working in Senators' offices has more than doubled. The number of staff working for Senate officers and officials has grown more than 75%. Senate committee staff levels have increased by nearly 15%. Staff levels in leadership offices have more than quadrupled, while the staff of Senate officers and officials has grown by more than 76%. A more detailed discussion and analysis of the changes in each chamber is provided in the "House Staffing" and "Senate Staffing" sections below.

**Figure 1. House and Senate Staff Levels Since 1977**



**Source:** House and Senate telephone directories, various years, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** House data through 2009. Senate data through 2010.

## House Staffing

Between 1977 and 2009, the number of House staff grew from 8,831 to 9,808, or 11.06%. Staffing levels have ranged from a low of 8,831 in 1977 to a peak of 10,004 in 2008. Each year, the number of House staff has grown by an average of 31 individuals,<sup>16</sup> or 0.39%. Change in House staff has been characterized by slight, but steady growth in two periods (1977-1994, 12.03%; and 1997-2009, 12.53%), separated by a brief period of sharp decline (1995-1996, -12.17%). **Figure 2** displays staff levels in five categories (House-Member offices, committees, leadership, officers and officials, and commissions) since 1977. **Figure 4** displays change in the distribution of staff among the categories at various intervals. **Table 2**, in the "Data Tables" section below, provides detailed staff levels in those categories.

<sup>15</sup> In 2009, House officers included the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer, and Chaplain. Officials included staff in the offices of Parliamentarian, Interparliamentary Affairs, Law Revision Counsel, Legislative Counsel, General Counsel, Inspector General, Emergency Preparedness and Planning Operations, and House Historian. The Senate elects two officers, the Secretary of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms. Officials include the Chaplain, Legislative Counsel, and Legal Counsel.

<sup>16</sup> Rounded to reflect a whole number.



## House Data Collection

House staff data were developed based on an estimate of staff working in Member offices, and a full count of staff listed in all non-Member congressional offices listed in each House telephone directory.<sup>17</sup> In some years, the House published two directories. When that happened, data were taken from the earlier publication.

A full count of House Member office staff was beyond the capacity of available resources, and unlikely to yield a significantly different result than that which would result from a full count of staff working in all Members' offices. Since 1975, the House has limited the number of full-time staff working in a Member's office to 18 permanent employees; in 1979 up to four FTEs who may work part time were authorized.<sup>18</sup> As a consequence, among all congressional entities, House Member office staffing is least likely to show a high degree of variability. For each year, a random sample of 45 Member offices was drawn in proportion to the distribution of Member offices in the Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn House office buildings in 2009. Staff telephone data from those offices were counted and assumed to be in Washington, DC, if they were listed as working in the Cannon, Longworth, or Rayburn buildings, and outside of Washington, DC, if they were not.<sup>19</sup> The average number of staff working in Washington, DC, and in district offices was computed. Those data were multiplied by the number of Member offices<sup>20</sup> to derive an estimate of the number of staff employed in personal offices who work in House Member offices. **Table 3** in the "Data Tables" section below provides the computed averages from the sample data and the estimated House Member staff working in Washington, DC, and district offices.

Committee data are based on a full count of all telephone directory listings for House standing, special, and select committees as described in individual directory listings. The data also include associate staff of the Committees on the Budget, Rules, and Ways and Means, and joint committee staff housed in House facilities. In the "Data Tables" section below, three tables provide staff levels in various House committees. **Table 4** provides House committee data for 1999-2009; data for 1988-1998 are available in **Table 5**; and **Table 6** provides data for 1977-1987. Joint committee data are available in **Table 12**.

Data for leadership offices include a full count of staff working for Members in leadership positions. In 2009, these listings included the following: Speaker, Majority Leader, Majority Whip, Senior Chief Deputy Majority Whip, Minority Leader, Minority Whip, Chief Deputy Minority Whip, and Democratic and Republican Cloakrooms.

Data for chamber officers and other House officials include a full count of staff working for House officers and officials. In 2009, House officers included the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer, and Chaplain. Officials included staff in the offices of Parliamentarian, Interparliamentary Affairs, Law Revision Counsel, Legislative Counsel, General Counsel, Inspector General, Emergency Preparedness and Planning Operations, and House Historian.

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<sup>17</sup> Entities and staff that are not a part of the House, but were listed in the directory (including the Senate, other legislative branch entities, executive branch agencies, and vendors) are excluded from these data.

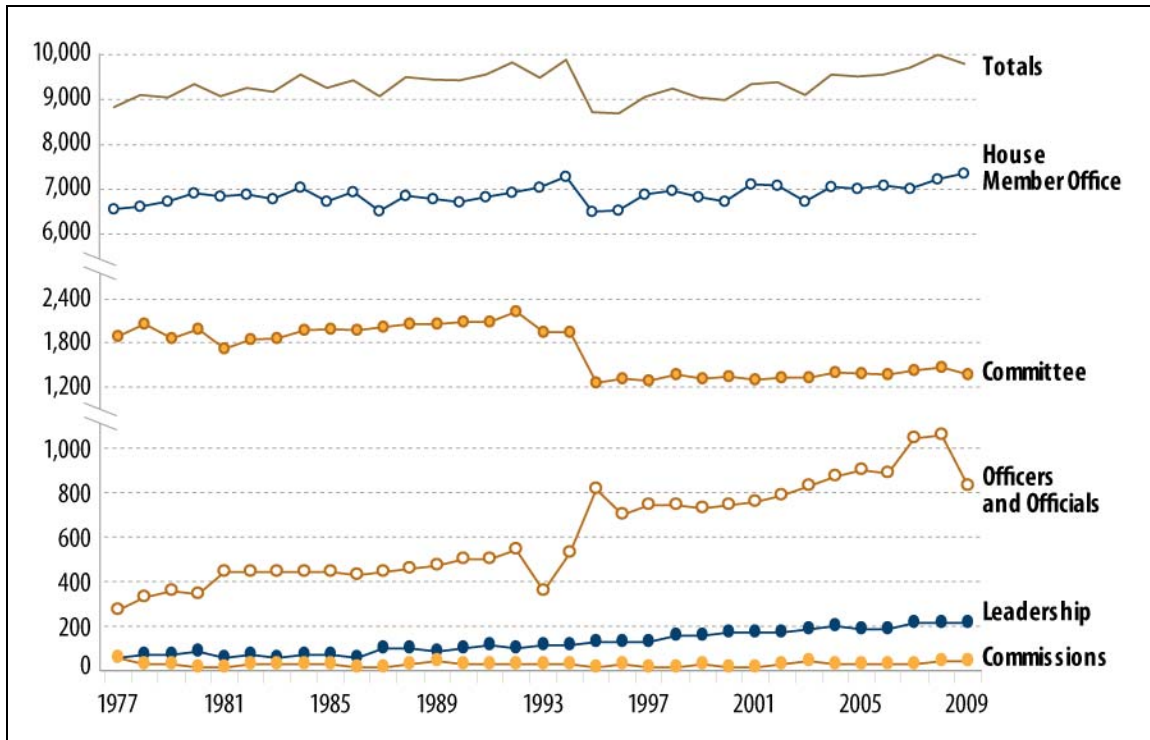
<sup>18</sup> See CRS Report RL30064, *Congressional Salaries and Allowances*, by Ida A. Brudnick for details.

<sup>19</sup> The House telephone directory provides consistent five-digit listings for all House staff who work in Washington, DC.

<sup>20</sup> House Member offices includes Representatives, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner. The number of House Member offices was 439 in 1977-1978, 440, 1979-2008, and 441 in 2009.

Commissions data comprise the smallest category of House data, and are based on a full count of those entities. In 2009, commissions data included staff working for the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards (commonly known as the Franking Commission); the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (typically referred to as the Helsinki Commission); and the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.

**Figure 2. House Staff Levels by Category, 1977-2009**



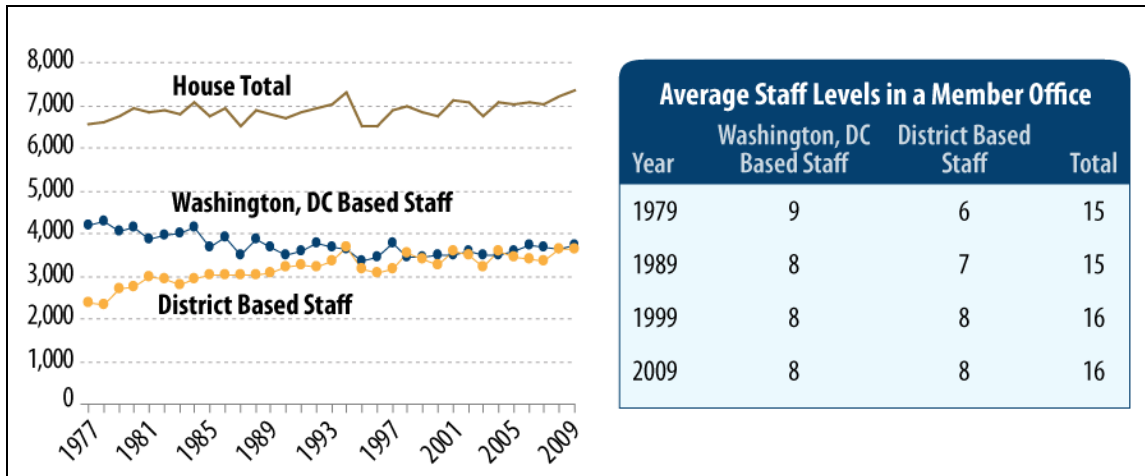
**Source:** House telephone directories, CRS estimates and calculations.

**Notes:** House Member office data is an estimate developed from a sample of 45 Member offices for each year, multiplied by the number of Member offices. All other categories are based on a full count of directory listings.

## House Member Offices

Staff levels in House Member offices have grown from 6,556 in 1977 to 7,360 in 2009, or 12.27%. The level of staffing grew steadily from 1977 until peaking at 7,284 in 1994, and falling 10.74%, to 6,502, in 1995. Member staff increased between 1997 and 2009 in an uneven, but generally upward pattern before reaching its current high of 7,360.

House Member staff comprise approximately three-quarters of all House staff. This proportion of overall staffing has been relatively steady since 1977. **Figure 4** provides staff levels and distributions among categories of offices for four years between 1977 and 2009.

**Figure 3. Distribution of House Member Office Staff Since 1977**

**Source:** House telephone directories, various years, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** Line graph charts change in estimated levels of staff working in House Member offices since 1997. Table provides the average number of staff in a Member's office, and their distribution between Washington, DC, and district facilities for the years noted. All estimates are based on a random sample of 45 House Member offices.

**Figure 3** displays the distribution of House Member staff between Washington, DC, and district offices since 1977, and the average number of staff working in a Member office at various times. From 1977 until 1994, more staff worked in Washington, DC, than in field offices. Throughout that period, however, the number of staff assigned to district offices steadily grew while Washington, DC-based staff declined in an uneven, but generally downward pattern. Since 1994, staff have been relatively evenly distributed between Washington, DC, facilities and district offices. The average number of staff working in an individual Member's office reflects both the relatively modest growth of Member staff since 1977, and the changing distribution of staff from Washington, DC, to district office settings. **Table 3** in the "Data Tables" section below provides the estimated House Member staff working in Washington, DC, and district offices since 1997.

## Committees

Committee staff levels have shown the greatest decline among House staff categories, decreasing 27.97% since 1977. Change among House committee staff was characterized by a moderate decline in 1977-1980 (-9.04%), steady growth from 1981 until 1992 (20.64%), a period of sharp decline in 1993-1996 (-43.66%), and a period of slow growth from 1997 to the present (6.67%). The 2009 level of 1,362 is 529 (-27.97%) fewer than 1977 levels, and 871 fewer than the 1992 peak of 2,233 (-39.01%) staff.

Since 1977, committee staff have comprised a decreasing proportion of House staff, falling from 20.58% of House staff in 1979 to 13.89% in 2009.

In the "Data Tables" section below, three tables provide staff levels in various House committees. **Table 4** provides data for 1999-2009; data for 1988-1998 are available in **Table 5**; and **Table 6** provides data for 1977-1987.

## Leadership Offices

Staff in House leadership offices showed the greatest percentage increase, rising 253.23% since 1977. While the relative increase is substantial, the actual number of staff is relatively small, and grew from 69 in 1977 to 219 in 2009. As a proportion of House staff, leadership employees comprised 0.72% in 1979, and 2.23% in 2009.

## Officers and Officials

Staff working in the offices of House officers and officials has grown 205.54% since 1977. Staff levels grew steadily from 1977 to 1991, when they showed a one-year drop of 33.15%, from 537 in 1992 to 359 in 1993. In 1994, staff levels returned to a level similar to 1992, and increased again in 1995 to 818, or 57.01%. After dropping to 704 in 1996, levels began a steady increase to 1,056 in 2008, an increase of 50.00%, before falling 21.59% to 828 in 2009.

As a proportion of House staff, officers and officials staff grew from 3.95% in 1979 to 8.44% in 2009.

## Commissions

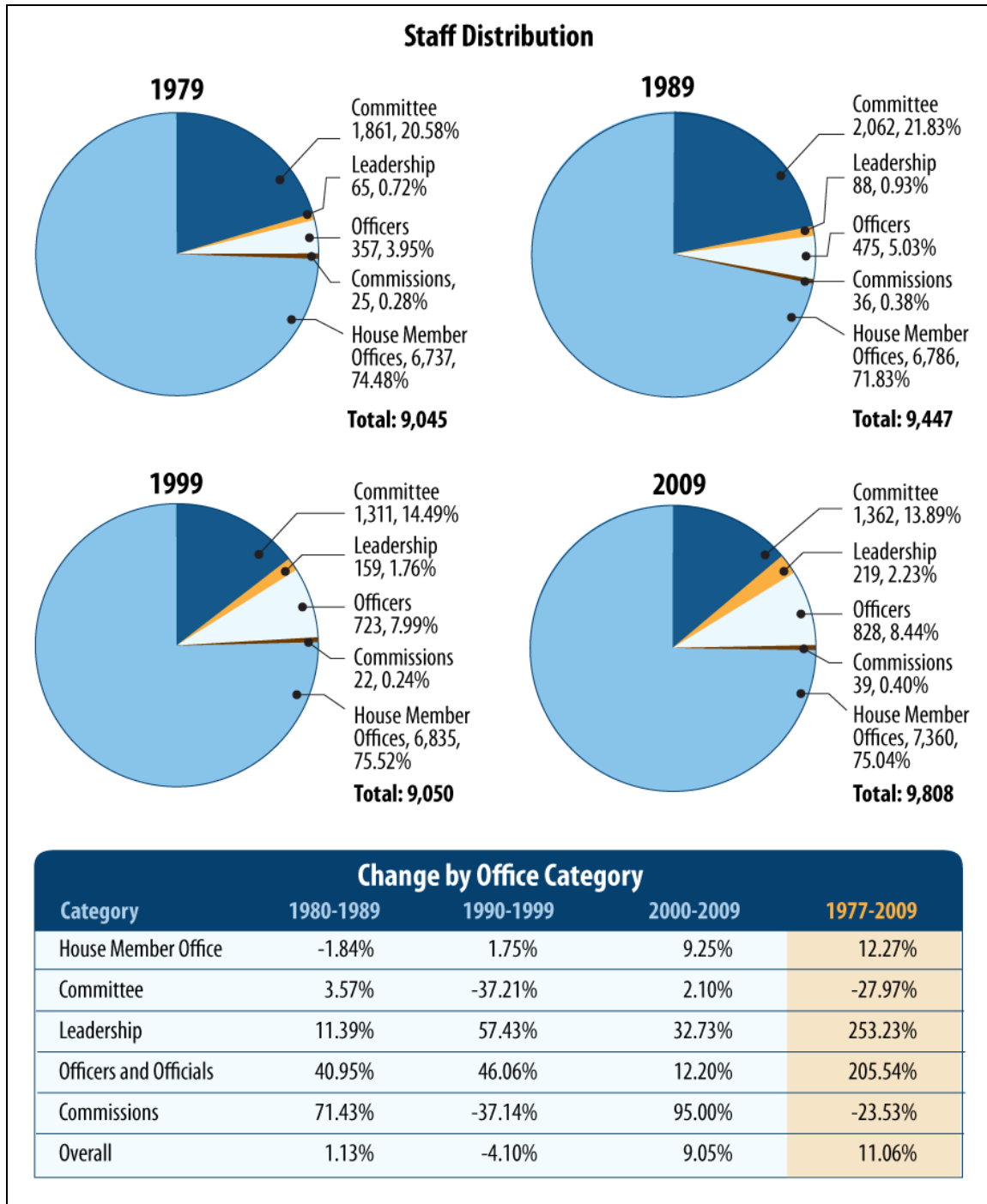
Congressional commission staff levels are essentially flat, and have ranged from a high of 51 in 1977 to a low of 19 in 2001. In 2009, 29 staff worked for congressional commissions.<sup>21</sup>

Congressional commissions have consistently comprised less than one-half of one percent of all House staff.

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<sup>21</sup> For more information on congressional commissions, see CRS Report R40076, *Congressional Commissions: Overview, Structure, and Legislative Considerations*, by Matthew Eric Glassman, and CRS Report RL33313, *Congressional Membership and Appointment Authority to Advisory Commissions, Boards, and Groups*, by Matthew Eric Glassman.

Figure 4. Change in Distribution of House Staff Since 1977



**Source:** House telephone directories, CRS estimates and calculations.

**Notes:** Pie charts provide the distribution of staff by category in the years listed. In the “Change by Office Category” table, the middle columns represent change by category for each 10-year period. The final column represent change since 1977. House Member office data based on an estimate developed from a random sample of 45 Member offices for each year, multiplied by the number of Member offices. All other categories are based on a full count of directory listings.

## Senate Staffing

In the Senate, the number of staff has grown steadily, from 3,380 in 1977 to 6,099 in 2010, or 80.44%. Each year, the number of Senate staff has grown by an average of 82 individuals,<sup>22</sup> or 1.91%. **Figure 5** displays staff levels in four categories (Senators' offices, committees, leadership, and officers and officials) since 1977. **Table 7** in the "Data Tables" section below, provides detailed staff levels in those categories. **Figure 7** displays change in the distribution of staff among the categories at various intervals.

## Senate Data Collection

All Senate staff data reported here are based on a full count of all telephone directory listings for Senators' offices, committees, leadership, and officers and officials.

Staff working in Senators' offices were counted as working in Washington, DC, if they were listed in an office in the Russell, Dirksen, or Hart Senate Office Buildings, and as working in a state office if they were not.

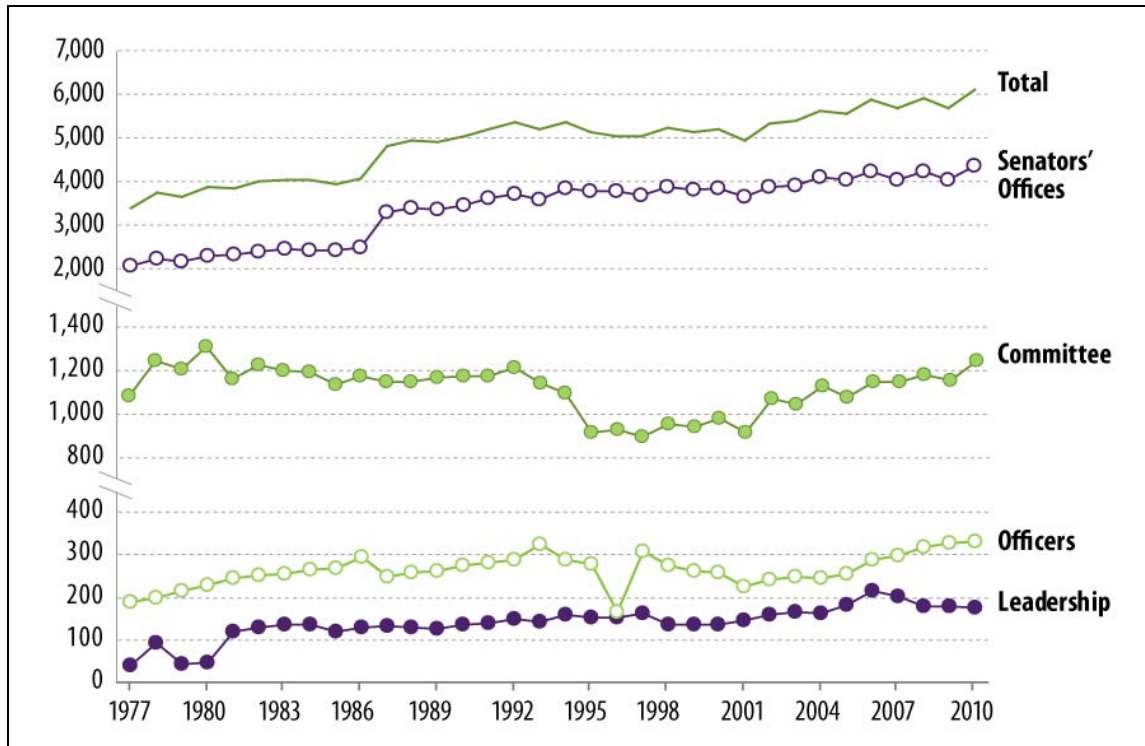
In 2010, leadership listings included the following: Majority Leader, Assistant Majority Leader, Republican Leader, Republican Whip, President of the Senate, President Pro Tempore, Democratic Policy Committee, Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, Senate Democratic Communications Center, Republican Conference, Republican Policy Committee, Democratic Cloakroom, Republican Cloakroom, Secretary for the Majority, and Secretary for the Minority.

Data for Senate officers and other chamber officials include a full count of staff in the following: Secretary of the Senate and Sergeant at Arms, the two officers elected by the Senate; Chaplain; Legislative Counsel; and Legal Counsel.

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<sup>22</sup> Rounded to reflect a whole number.

Figure 5. Senate Staff Levels by Category, 1977-2010



**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** All categories are based on a full count of directory listings.

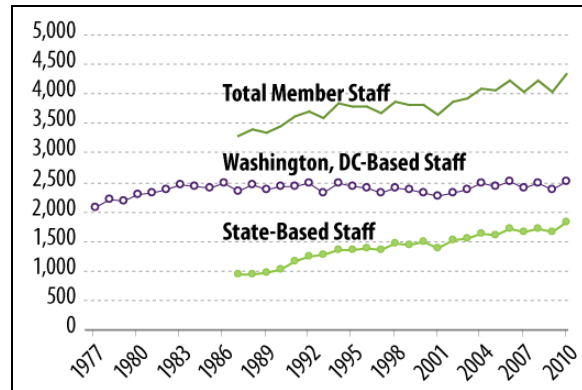
### Staff in Senators' Offices

Staff in Senators' offices have grown from 2,068 in 1977 to 4,346 in 2010, or 110.15%. The level of staffing appears to have grown steadily since 1977, but the full extent of change over time cannot be determined, because prior to 1987, Senate telephone directories did not include state-based staff working in Senators' offices. Between 1987 and 2010, the number of staff working in Senators' offices grew 32.26%, from 3,286 to 4,346. This may call into question the validity of identifying data for 1977-1987 as all Senators' office staff, or ascribing significance to the apparently sharp rise in staff levels between 1986 and 1987. Given the consistent upward trend among all categories of Senate staff, it may be that the lack of state office data results in an undercount of staff working in Senators' offices. This may be particularly acute in the Senators' office category, since, as described below, staff working in the state facilities of Senator's offices have grown at a faster rate than Washington, DC-based staff.

Senators' office staff have grown as a proportion of overall Senate staff over time. In 1980, Member office staff comprised 59.24% of Senate staff. The proportion grew to 68.49% in 1990, and 73.55% in 2000, before dropping slightly to 71.26% in 2010.

**Figure 6** displays the distribution of staff based in Senators' Washington, DC, and state offices. It shows that after a period of growth between 1977 and 1987, Washington, DC-based staff growth was essentially flat. Most of the growth in Senators' staffs since 1987 appear to have been among state-based staff, which nearly doubled in size from 935 in 1987 to 1,833 in 2010. More staff work in Washington, DC, offices than in state offices, but the proportion of Senators' staff based in states has grown steadily since 1987, when listings for state-based staff were first available, while the staffing levels in Washington, DC, offices has remained flat. In 2010, approximately 58% of staff working in Senators' offices did so in Washington, DC, down from a high of 71.55% in 1977. **Table 8** in the "Data Tables" section below provides the number of staff working in Senators' offices in Washington, DC, and state offices.

**Figure 6. Distribution of Staff Working In Senators' Offices, 1977-2010**



**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** All categories are based on a full count of directory listings. Staff telephone data from Senators' offices were counted and assumed to be in Washington, DC, if they were listed as working in the Russell, Dirksen, or Hart Senate Office Buildings, and outside of Washington, DC if they were not.

## Committees

Senate committee staff levels have shown the smallest increase among Senate staff categories, rising 14.94% since 1977. Change among Senate committee staff may be characterized in four stages: an increase during 1977-1980 (20.57%); minimal growth from 1981 until 1992 (1.29%); a period of decline in 1993-1998 (-16.30%); and a period of steady growth from 1999 to the present (32.27%). The 2010 level of 1,246 is 162 (14.94%) more than 1977 levels, and 61 (-4.67%) fewer than the 1980 peak of 1,307 staff.

Between 1977 and 2010, committee staff comprised a decreasing proportion of Senate staff, falling from 33.72% of Senate staff in 1980 to 18.83% in 2000. The proportion of Senate committee staff grew to 20.43% by 2010.

In the "Data Tables" section below, three tables provide staff levels in various Senate committees. **Table 9** provides data for 2001-2010; data for 1991-2000 are available in **Table 10**; and **Table 11** provides data for 1977-1990.

## Leadership Offices

Staff in Senate leadership offices showed the greatest percentage increase, rising 340% since 1977. While the relative increase is substantial, the actual number of staff is relatively small, and grew from 40 in 1977 to 176 in 2010. The number of leadership staff peaked in 2006 at 214. As a proportion of Senate staff, leadership employees were 1.19% in 1980 and 2.89% in 2010.

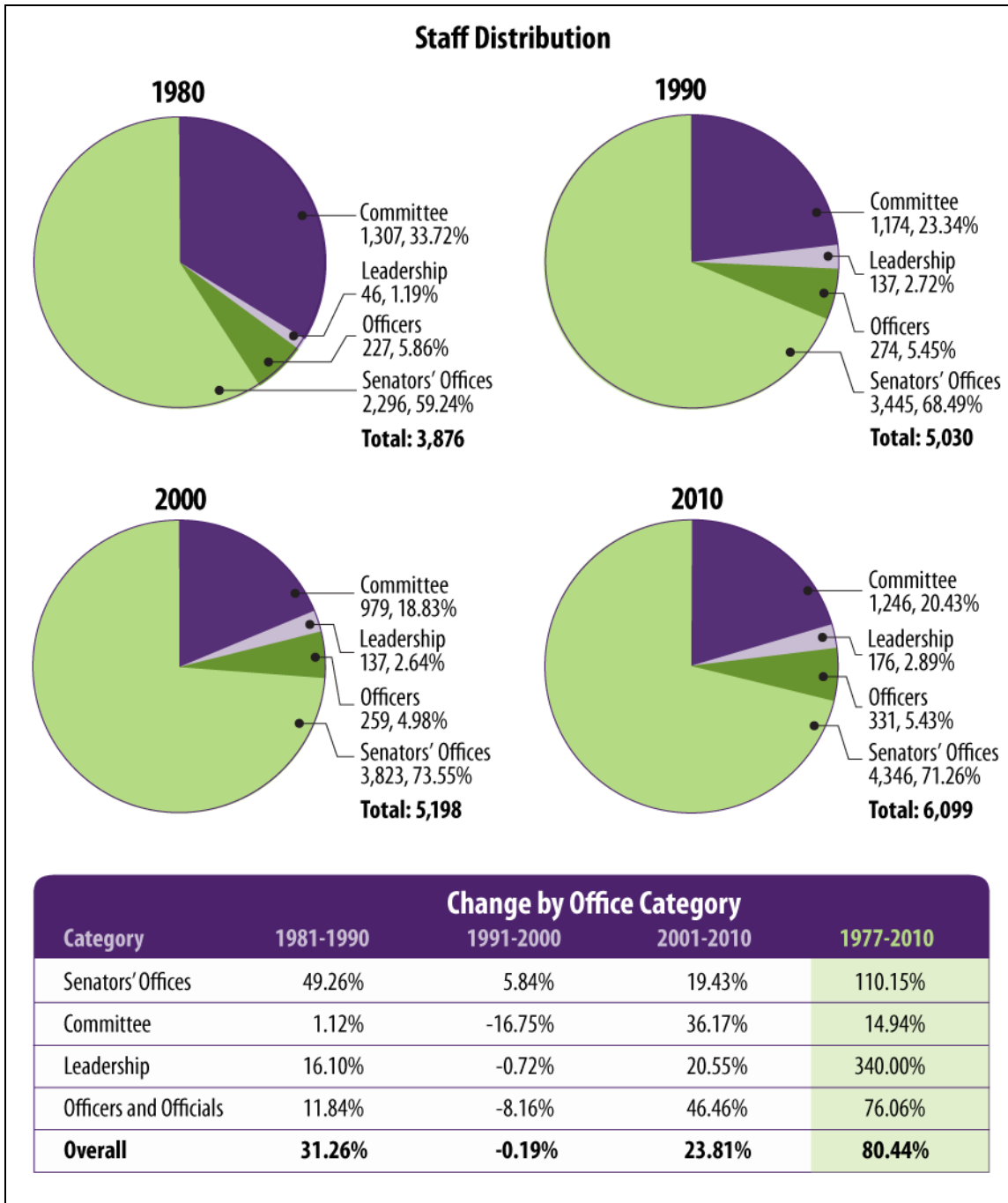


## **Officers and Officials**

Staff working in the offices of Senate officers and officials has grown 76.06% since 1977. Staff levels have grown from 199 in 1977 to 331 in 2010, but were characterized by sharp decreases in 1986, 1993-1996, and 1998-2001.

Despite the growth, Senate officers and officials staff decreased as a proportion of Senate staff, falling from 5.86% in 1980 to a low of 4.36% in 2004. In 2010, the proportion of officers and officials staff was 5.43%.

Figure 7. Change in Distribution of Senate Staff Since 1977



**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** Pie charts provide the distribution of staff by category in the years listed. In the Change by Office Category table, the middle columns represent change by category for each 10-year period. The final column represent change since 1977. All categories are based on a full count of directory listings.

## Discussion

In the past three decades, the number of staff working for the House and Senate has grown. There are differences in the scale of growth between the chambers, but there are similarities in the patterns of change in the distribution of staff among congressional entities. In each chamber, for example, there have been increases in the number of staff working in chamber leadership offices, and larger increases in the staffing of chamber officers and officials. In the House and Senate, staff working for Members have shifted from committee settings to leadership settings or the personal offices of Members. Some of these changes may be indicative of the growth of the House and Senate as institutions, or the value the chambers place on their activities.

One example that may be an indication of institutional development may be found in the growth in both chambers of the number of staff working in leadership and officers and officials' offices. A potential explanation for these changes may be found in what some might characterize as an ongoing professionalization and institutionalization of congressional management and administration. Some note that as organizations such as governing institutions develop, they identify needs for expertise and develop specialized practices and processes.<sup>23</sup> In Congress, some of those areas of specialization arguably include supporting the legislative process through the drafting of measures, oversight and support of floor activities, and the management of legislation in a bicameral, partisan environment. Another potential explanation related to a more institutionalized, professionalized Congress could be the demands for professional management and support. This could arise as a result of congressional use of communications technologies, and the deployment of systematic, professionalized human resources, business operations, and financial management. Consequently, increased specialized support of congressional legislative and administrative activities may explain increases among staff working for chamber leaders, and officers and officials.<sup>24</sup>

In another example, the distribution of staff working directly for Members has shifted from committee settings to personal office settings. Staff in Member offices of both chambers has grown; House committee staff has decreased; and the level of increase in Senate committee staff is substantially less than all other entities in that chamber. This may represent a shift from collective congressional activities typically carried out in committees (including legislative, oversight, and investigative work) to individualized activities typically carried out in Members' personal offices (including direct representational activities, constituent service and education, and political activity).<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> See, for example, Nelson W. Polsby, "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives," *The American Political Science Review*, vol. 62, no. 1 (March 1968), pp. 144-168.

<sup>24</sup> For background on leadership offices, see CRS Report RS20881, *Party Leaders in the House: Election, Duties, and Responsibilities*, by Valerie Heitshusen, and CRS Report 97-780, *The Speaker of the House: House Officer, Party Leader, and Representative*, by Valerie Heitshusen; for background on support offices, see CRS Report RL33220, *Support Offices in the House of Representatives: Roles and Authorities*, by Ida A. Brudnick.

<sup>25</sup> See CRS Report RL33686, *Roles and Duties of a Member of Congress*, by R. Eric Petersen.

## Data Tables

**Table I. House and Senate Staff Levels Since 1977**

<b>Year</b>		<b>1977</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>1980</b>					
House		8,831	9,102	9,045	9,341					
Senate		3,380	3,750	3,640	3,876					
<b>Year</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>
House	9,075	9,265	9,176	9,556	9,267	9,428	9,083	9,500	9,447	9,436
Senate	3,832	3,991	4,044	4,021	3,933	4,072	4,815	4,927	4,907	5,030
<b>Year</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
House	9,560	9,836	9,484	9,891	8,724	8,692	9,056	9,251	9,050	8,994
Senate	5,208	5,359	5,200	5,366	5,114	5,019	5,047	5,240	5,138	5,198
<b>Year</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
House	9,349	9,389	9,112	9,556	9,521	9,568	9,718	10,004	9,808	-
Senate	4,926	5,324	5,373	5,624	5,562	5,879	5,691	5,901	5,687	6,099

**Source:** House and Senate telephone directories, various years, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** House data through 2009. Senate data through 2010.

## House of Representatives Data Tables

**Table 2. House of Representatives Staff Levels by Category, 1977-2009**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>1980</b>
House Member Office	6,556	6,614	6,737	6,913
Committee	1,891	2,067	1,861	1,991
Leadership	62	69	65	79
Officers and Officials	271	329	357	337
Commissions	51	23	25	21
Totals	8,831	9,102	9,045	9,341

<b>Year</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>
House Member Office	6,844	6,884	6,786	7,050	6,737	6,942	6,512	6,864	6,786	6,717
Committee	1,720	1,851	1,867	1,974	1,997	1,980	2,025	2,062	2,062	2,088
Leadership	58	71	64	65	66	63	93	95	88	101
Officers and Officials	434	437	436	444	445	424	434	457	475	495
Commissions	19	22	23	23	22	19	19	22	36	35
Totals	9,075	9,265	9,176	9,556	9,267	9,428	9,083	9,500	9,447	9,436

<b>Year</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
House Member Office	6,825	6,932	7,040	7,284	6,502	6,532	6,893	6,972	6,835	6,737
Committee	2,098	2,233	1,950	1,947	1,258	1,306	1,277	1,361	1,311	1,334
Leadership	107	106	107	112	125	128	132	160	159	165
Officers and Officials	501	537	359	521	818	704	733	737	723	738
Commissions	29	28	28	27	21	22	21	21	22	20
Totals	9,560	9,836	9,484	9,891	8,724	8,692	9,056	9,251	9,050	8,994

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
House Member Office	7,108	7,079	6,737	7,060	7,020	7,089	7,011	7,226	7,360
Committee	1,295	1,321	1,328	1,399	1,379	1,370	1,426	1,472	1,362
Leadership	177	173	179	203	192	190	207	214	219
Officers and Officials	750	787	832	861	896	884	1,040	1,056	828
Commissions	19	29	36	33	34	35	34	36	39
Totals	9,349	9,389	9,112	9,556	9,521	9,568	9,718	10,004	9,808

**Source:** House telephone directories, CRS estimates and calculations.

**Notes:** House Member office data based on an estimate developed from a sample of 45 Member offices for each year, multiplied by the number of Member offices. All other categories are based on a full count of directory listings.

**Table 3. Estimated Staff Working in House Member Offices Since 1977**

Year	Sample Averages			Member Staff Estimates			
	Washington, DC Staff	District Staff	Member Staff	Member Offices	DC Staff	District Staff	Member Staff
1977	9.49	5.44	14.93	439	4,166	2,390	6,556
1978	9.80	5.27	15.07	439	4,302	2,312	6,614
1979	9.18	6.13	15.31	440	4,038	2,699	6,737
1980	9.42	6.29	15.71	440	4,146	2,767	6,913
1981	8.76	6.80	15.56	440	3,852	2,992	6,844
1982	9.02	6.62	15.64	440	3,970	2,914	6,884
1983	9.09	6.33	15.42	440	3,999	2,787	6,786
1984	9.36	6.67	16.02	440	4,116	2,933	7,050
1985	8.40	6.91	15.31	440	3,696	3,041	6,737
1986	8.87	6.91	15.78	440	3,901	3,041	6,942
1987	7.98	6.82	14.80	440	3,510	3,002	6,512
1988	8.73	6.87	15.60	440	3,843	3,021	6,864
1989	8.40	7.02	15.42	440	3,696	3,090	6,786

Year	Sample Averages			Member Staff Estimates			
	Washington, DC Staff	District Staff	Member Staff	Member Offices	DC Staff	District Staff	Member Staff
1990	7.96	7.31	15.27	440	3,500	3,217	6,717
1991	8.16	7.36	15.51	440	3,588	3,236	6,825
1992	8.51	7.24	15.76	440	3,745	3,188	6,932
1993	8.40	7.60	16.00	440	3,696	3,344	7,040
1994	8.24	8.31	16.56	440	3,628	3,657	7,284
1995	7.60	7.18	14.78	440	3,344	3,158	6,502
1996	7.82	7.02	14.84	440	3,442	3,090	6,532
1997	8.51	7.16	15.67	440	3,745	3,148	6,893
1998	7.84	8.00	15.84	440	3,452	3,520	6,972
1999	7.82	7.71	15.53	440	3,442	3,393	6,835
2000	7.93	7.38	15.31	440	3,491	3,246	6,737
2001	7.98	8.18	16.16	440	3,510	3,598	7,108
2002	8.11	7.98	16.09	440	3,569	3,510	7,079
2003	7.98	7.33	15.31	440	3,510	3,227	6,737
2004	7.93	8.11	16.04	440	3,491	3,569	7,060
2005	8.09	7.87	15.96	440	3,559	3,461	7,020
2006	8.42	7.69	16.11	440	3,706	3,383	7,089
2007	8.33	7.60	15.93	440	3,667	3,344	7,011
2008	8.20	8.22	16.42	440	3,608	3,618	7,226
2009	8.44	8.24	16.69	441	3,724	3,636	7,360

**Source:** House telephone directories, various years, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** Based on a random sample of 45 Member offices drawn in proportion to the distribution of Member offices in the Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn House Office Buildings. Staff telephone data from those offices were counted and assumed to be in Washington, DC if they were listed as working in the Cannon, Longworth, or Rayburn Buildings, and outside of Washington, DC if they were not. Averages data were multiplied by the number of Member offices to derive an estimate of the number of staff employed in personal offices.

**Table 4. House Committee Staff, 1999-2009**

Committee	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Agriculture	53	51	56	56	53	55	50	53	45	45	45
Appropriations	138	150	152	161	122	133	133	134	158	154	130
Armed Services	55	52	48	49	55	52	56	60	67	65	67
Budget	87	86	79	84	91	87	87	80	72	73	73
Education and Labor	76	70	67	66	69	72	75	64	72	78	76
Energy and Commerce	83	84	86	93	92	90	89	82	79	104	96
Financial Services	51	49	58	60	63	63	62	59	62	63	62
Foreign Affairs	64	63	67	67	69	73	76	80	81	78	80
Homeland Security	-	-	-	-	17	44	38	51	63	62	62
House Administration	28	32	37	35	38	41	38	38	38	43	41
Judiciary	61	70	68	70	77	73	73	73	70	75	70
Natural Resources	56	62	60	64	64	64	63	62	67	71	61
Oversight and Government Reform	116	105	107	101	94	110	100	96	106	100	71
Rules	34	36	31	33	36	36	36	37	34	35	37
Science and Technology	52	52	50	53	47	53	53	47	50	50	54
Small Business	27	28	23	23	29	30	33	30	28	25	26
Standards	12	11	13	13	11	11	9	13	16	16	14
Transportation and Infrastructure	119	124	73	73	73	75	76	78	76	77	82
Veterans' Affairs	20	28	28	26	30	29	27	28	33	32	32
Ways and Means	66	64	69	70	69	71	74	72	64	71	69
Intelligence	24	22	28	31	26	32	29	36	39	36	32
Select Energy Independence & Global Warming	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	20	23
Military and Commercial Concerns with China	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Source:** House telephone directories, CRS calculations

**Notes:** Committees are listed by names used in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, or most recent year in which the committee existed. “-” indicates that no staff were listed for that year. In some instances this was because the committee did not exist. In other instances, a directory listing for a panel was identified, but did not list any staff.



**Table 5. House Committee Staff, 1988-1998**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Agriculture	59	54	63	59	61	55	55	57	58	55	54
Appropriations	207	206	205	217	223	219	215	148	149	151	151
Armed Services	62	64	70	73	87	66	75	46	50	53	53
Budget	103	106	97	92	97	90	93	72	72	68	78
Education and Labor	113	111	110	100	112	97	100	67	70	72	92
Energy and Commerce	147	142	135	139	162	143	140	69	67	82	86
Financial Services	85	93	98	101	107	88	94	51	55	51	54
Foreign Affairs	97	99	98	102	102	104	100	60	64	63	65
House Administration	44	49	54	59	58	49	53	25	27	29	27
Judiciary	81	80	73	67	73	74	70	50	56	54	62
Natural Resources	100	100	100	107	121	101	89	75	84	57	62
Oversight and Government Reform	75	71	85	88	99	83	83	77	94	94	132
Rules	38	40	39	41	42	41	41	36	36	36	41
Science and Technology	79	77	92	93	102	93	92	51	54	55	53
Small Business	52	47	49	41	45	32	36	27	27	27	25
Standards	10	9	8	11	8	8	8	7	9	8	11
Transportation and Infrastructure	126	139	132	142	150	144	137	119	119	116	121
Veterans' Affairs	39	33	34	37	39	44	40	25	28	28	15
Ways and Means	86	85	87	94	96	92	92	61	65	64	60
Intelligence	31	34	36	21	25	24	25	20	24	23	24
Aging	35	36	34	36	38	-	-	-	-	-	-
Children, Youth and Families	17	15	18	16	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	38	38	39	38	34	23	34	-	-	-	-
Hunger	15	15	14	15	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	81	84	83	86	81	75	73	-	-	-	-
Narcotics	17	18	16	17	15	-	-	-	-	-	-

Committee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Organization of Congress	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13	-	-	-
Post Office and Civil Service	97	92	92	85	92	68	80	-	-	-	-

**Source:** House telephone directories, CRS calculations

**Notes:** Committees are listed by names used in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, or most recent year in which the committee existed. “-” indicates that no staff were listed for that year. In some instances this was because the committee did not exist. In other instances, a directory listing for a panel was identified, but did not list any staff.

**Table 6. House Committee Staff, 1977-1987**

Committee	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Agriculture	50	55	58	69	62	56	60	55	58	56	55
Appropriations	76	134	129	133	122	142	143	166	183	204	205
Armed Services	48	49	48	46	49	48	51	54	58	59	62
Budget	111	78	82	96	80	97	95	94	100	100	104
Education and Labor	103	106	102	119	105	112	109	113	102	106	110
Energy and Commerce	136	143	135	156	122	147	147	152	144	138	135
Financial Services	102	106	102	94	77	81	92	88	89	84	85
Foreign Affairs	85	99	84	81	81	85	84	85	91	93	93
House Administration	41	47	50	60	44	46	48	50	47	49	46
Judiciary	86	83	83	80	76	72	78	84	85	81	76
Natural Resources	103	107	103	105	91	103	110	107	95	98	103
Oversight and Government Reform	125	80	73	82	78	80	79	85	87	84	75
Rules	24	25	34	47	48	43	44	44	41	37	39
Science and Technology	77	85	86	87	58	73	77	73	84	76	76
Small Business	40	43	40	54	46	56	53	49	51	49	56
Standards	35	35	11	17	9	9	7	10	9	9	10
Transportation and Infrastructure	85	86	80	78	82	98	99	102	100	100	109
Veterans' Affairs	33	37	33	33	32	34	30	32	31	32	36
Ways and Means	87	90	90	89	82	84	84	85	91	85	79

Committee	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Intelligence	3	38	35	40	36	32	30	27	32	27	29
Aging	35	36	36	38	35	38	33	37	35	37	33
Assassinations	96	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Children, Youth and Families	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	17	18	16	17
Committees	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congressional Operations	34	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covert Arms Sales to Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
District of Columbia	44	45	33	50	38	38	39	42	39	39	40
Ethics	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hunger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	15	14
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	64	69	86	91	80	84	78	89	84	75	78
Narcotics	26	27	25	22	-	15	17	21	14	17	16
Outer Continental Shelf	20	-	17	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Office and Civil Service	55	70	66	65	67	57	55	89	89	92	92

**Source:** House telephone directories, CRS calculations

**Notes:** Committees are listed by names used in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, or most recent year in which the committee existed. “-” indicates that no staff were listed for that year. In some instances this was because the committee did not exist. In other instances, a directory listing for a panel was identified, but did not list any staff.

## Senate Data Tables

**Table 7. Senate Staff Levels by Category, 1977-2010**

<b>Year</b>					<b>1977</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>1980</b>
Senators' Offices					2,068	2,215	2,173	2,296
Committee					1,084	1,244	1,209	1,307
Leadership					40	91	44	46
Officers and Officials					188	200	214	227
Totals					3,380	3,750	3,640	3,876

<b>Year</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>
Senators' Offices	2,308	2,385	2,454	2,430	2,409	2,474	3,286	3,393	3,354	3,445
Committee	1,161	1,228	1,200	1,191	1,137	1,177	1,150	1,147	1,167	1,174
Leadership	118	128	134	136	118	128	131	129	126	137
Officers and Officials	245	250	256	264	269	293	248	258	260	274
Totals	3,832	3,991	4,044	4,021	3,933	4,072	4,815	4,927	4,907	5,030

<b>Year</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Senators' Offices	3,612	3,707	3,593	3,826	3,771	3,773	3,678	3,876	3,801	3,823
Committee	1,176	1,216	1,141	1,094	915	929	899	955	942	979
Leadership	138	150	143	158	151	151	163	135	135	137
Officers and Officials	282	286	323	288	277	166	307	274	260	259
Totals	5,208	5,359	5,200	5,366	5,114	5,019	5,047	5,240	5,138	5,198

<b>Year</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Senators' Offices	3,639	3,855	3,915	4,091	4,047	4,232	4,044	4,221	4,029	4,346
Committee	915	1,071	1,047	1,126	1,078	1,146	1,147	1,182	1,153	1,246
Leadership	146	158	164	162	182	214	203	179	178	176
Officers and Officials	226	240	247	245	255	287	297	319	327	331
Totals	4,926	5,324	5,373	5,624	5,562	5,879	5,691	5,901	5,687	6,099

**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** All categories are based on a full count of directory listings. Senate telephone directories published in 1981, 1996, and 2009 provided listings for 99 Senators' offices.

Table 8. Staff Working in Senators' Offices, 1977-2010

Year	DC-Based Staff	State-Based Staff	Total Member Staff	DC %	State %
1977	2,068				
1978	2,215				
1979	2,173				
1980	2,296				
1981	2,308				
1982	2,385				
1983	2,454				
1984	2,430				
1985	2,409				
1986	2,474				
1987	2,351	935	3,286	71.55%	28.45%
1988	2,449	944	3,393	72.18%	27.82%
1989	2,381	973	3,354	70.99%	29.01%
1990	2,430	1,015	3,445	70.54%	29.46%
1991	2,439	1,173	3,612	67.52%	32.48%
1992	2,473	1,234	3,707	66.71%	33.29%
1993	2,332	1,261	3,593	64.90%	35.10%
1994	2,474	1,352	3,826	64.66%	35.34%
1995	2,422	1,349	3,771	64.23%	35.77%
1996	2,397	1,376	3,773	63.53%	36.47%
1997	2,318	1,360	3,678	63.02%	36.98%
1998	2,407	1,469	3,876	62.10%	37.90%
1999	2,375	1,426	3,801	62.48%	37.52%
2000	2,329	1,494	3,823	60.92%	39.08%
2001	2,258	1,381	3,639	62.05%	37.95%
2002	2,334	1,521	3,855	60.54%	39.46%
2003	2,378	1,537	3,915	60.74%	39.26%
2004	2,474	1,617	4,091	60.47%	39.53%
2005	2,436	1,611	4,047	60.19%	39.81%
2006	2,521	1,711	4,232	59.57%	40.43%
2007	2,394	1,650	4,044	59.20%	40.80%
2008	2,496	1,725	4,221	59.13%	40.87%
2009	2,370	1,659	4,029	58.82%	41.18%
2010	2,513	1,833	4,346	57.82%	42.18%

**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations.

**Notes:** The Senate telephone directory did not provide listings for state-based staff prior to 1987. Senate telephone directories published in 1981, 1996, and 2009 provided listings for 99 Senators' offices.

**Table 9. Senate Committee Staff by Committee, 2001-2010**

Committee	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	22	32	27	33	22	29	30	35	32	43
Appropriations	102	90	101	118	120	118	124	121	116	114
Armed Services	44	51	47	48	46	48	51	53	49	50
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	38	60	41	46	47	46	41	46	48	60
Budget	46	52	50	49	47	49	50	49	45	54
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	48	59	72	69	64	68	69	69	69	65
Energy and Natural Resources	38	43	42	42	46	43	42	44	47	52
Environment and Public Works	33	49	53	56	51	50	41	40	45	44
Finance	52	56	60	62	53	63	82	83	84	84
Foreign Relations	55	54	49	56	57	53	52	46	47	66
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	76	72	74	90	95	92	77	90	89	91
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	74	92	82	86	71	109	89	100	112	127
Judiciary	82	112	115	129	127	137	143	121	106	120
Rules and Administration	16	18	16	16	19	18	22	22	20	23
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	22	29	21	22	24	28	25	32	31	29
Veterans Affairs	18	19	20	17	22	23	24	25	26	27
Select Ethics	11	11	9	9	10	10	11	11	15	15
Indian Affairs	18	21	19	18	16	11	16	20	20	21
Select Intelligence	31	32	30	34	28	42	37	43	39	42
Select Aging	10	25	20	19	12	15	23	23	13	20

**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations

**Notes:** Committees are listed by names used in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, or most recent year in which the committee existed. "-" indicates that no staff were listed for that year. In some instances this was because the committee did not exist. In other instances, a directory listing for a panel was identified, but did not list any staff.

**Table 10. Senate Committee Staff by Committee, 1991-2000**

Committee	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	40	36	36	35	31	31	26	27	23	27
Appropriations	79	81	78	72	71	61	63	61	87	89
Armed Services	50	48	47	49	43	43	45	45	43	47
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	50	51	49	48	40	42	41	41	44	42
Budget	58	55	56	52	46	39	44	45	44	48
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	70	72	73	67	59	61	54	58	51	56
Energy and Natural Resources	50	51	49	48	42	44	40	38	37	40
Environment and Public Works	47	47	37	39	37	37	34	36	36	43
Finance	58	57	49	49	47	53	45	52	52	46
Foreign Relations	69	67	66	58	47	51	48	51	49	54
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	106	102	93	108	81	79	76	85	98	86
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	93	96	96	86	61	63	78	76	65	85
Judiciary	105	119	106	106	86	93	85	93	84	98
Rules and Administration	27	28	27	25	18	18	21	19	15	16
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	21	21	19	22	19	20	19	17	18	20
Veterans Affairs	24	26	21	21	18	17	21	38	19	16
Select Ethics	11	10	11	12	11	9	8	11	10	11
Indian Affairs	22	28	20	20	14	16	18	15	16	20
Select Intelligence	40	41	32	36	24	30	27	34	33	29
Select Aging	33	32	26	23	16	20	18	20	18	17
Select POW/MIA Affairs	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Select Year 2000 Technology Problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-

**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations

**Notes:** Committees are listed by names used in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, or most recent year in which the committee existed. “-” indicates that no staff were listed for that year. In some instances this was because the committee did not exist. In other instances, a directory listing for a panel was identified, but did not list any staff.

**Table II. Senate Committee Staff by Committee, 1977-1990**

Committee	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	28	37	30	35	33	34	35	32	33	32	30	35	38	45
Appropriations	69	67	74	89	63	76	81	81	80	82	78	78	84	80
Armed Services	28	29	27	27	36	34	37	39	42	42	46	49	49	49
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	39	49	43	46	38	39	33	29	29	31	34	31	44	49
Budget	47	79	67	77	63	70	73	74	68	63	61	61	54	58
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	89	91	83	92	77	88	78	78	80	78	76	75	72	70
Energy and Natural Resources	40	51	52	55	49	52	49	51	48	48	44	46	48	50
Environment and Public Works	30	33	38	38	52	51	54	51	49	50	46	47	48	50
Finance	28	34	36	40	45	50	45	53	54	55	54	54	54	54
Foreign Relations	63	57	55	68	62	62	61	62	60	61	54	57	57	51
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	93	122	118	121	118	123	123	112	101	105	95	107	104	102
Homeland Security Governmental Affairs	108	153	140	156	113	121	120	117	94	99	88	92	97	92
Judiciary	119	144	139	153	120	135	116	119	121	126	101	100	98	111
Rules and Administration	27	30	30	31	30	32	29	28	29	28	29	27	27	28
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	22	21	23	23	22	23	24	21	22	21	22	20	21	22
Veterans Affairs	18	19	20	23	20	22	22	20	21	25	25	26	25	26
Select Ethics	2	9	15	12	17	13	12	10	8	8	9	7	9	11
Indian Affairs	0	25	26	15	13	14	19	20	19	23	23	41	26	23
Select Intelligence	40	46	43	46	41	41	41	36	32	47	38	40	41	40
Select Aging	19	19	19	21	28	28	25	34	25	27	24	26	30	32
Select Impeachment Trials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Select Investigations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Select Iran-Contra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	-	-	-
Select Nutrition and Human Needs	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Select Senate Committee Systems	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Select Transition Staff for Former Postal Workers	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Source:** Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations

**Notes:** Committees are listed by names used in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, or most recent year in which the committee existed. “-” indicates that no staff were listed for that year. In some instances this was because the committee did not exist. In other instances, a directory listing for a panel was identified, but did not list any staff.



## Joint Committee Staff Data

**Table 12. Staff of Active Joint Committees, 1977-2010**

<b>Joint Committee</b>	<b>Chamber</b>							<b>1977</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>1980</b>
Economic	House							4	50	55	62
	Senate							46	51	53	58
Library of Congress	House							1	2	2	2
	Senate							-	-	2	2
Printing	House							3	16	17	16
	Senate							15	15	16	16
Taxation	House							28	65	63	62
	Senate							-	63	60	63
<b>Joint Committee</b>	<b>Chamber</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>
Economic	House	44	44	42	44	40	36	34	44	46	42
	Senate	46	43	44	44	40	39	35	45	44	43
Library of Congress	House	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
	Senate	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Printing	House	14	15	16	17	17	17	18	18	14	16
	Senate	15	16	16	17	17	16	17	17	14	16
Taxation	House	60	60	60	60	66	66	60	64	63	67
	Senate	58	59	60	60	62	68	66	64	59	70
<b>Joint Committee</b>	<b>Chamber</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Economic	House	38	40	32	33	33	30	24	25	22	31
	Senate	41	44	45	29	35	32	23	25	23	31
Library of Congress	House	2	2	2	2	1	2	59	3	2	2
	Senate	2	2	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
Printing	House	15	18	18	16	7	7	8	8	2	2
	Senate	14	14	17	16	7	8	9	8	-	-
Taxation	House	66	73	72	71	61	59	-	59	61	60
	Senate	66	73	73	71	60	61	56	60	62	58

Joint Committee	Chamber	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Economic	House	34	29	34	36	31	33	29	32	7	-
	Senate	21	34	35	36	31	31	35	35	34	34
Library of Congress	House	1	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
	Senate	-	-	2	2	2	2	4	4	-	-
Printing	House	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	-	-
	Senate	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	-	-
Taxation	House	59	62	61	63	65	58	58	61	52	-
	Senate	57	58	60	65	64	57	55	66	66	65

**Source:** House and Senate telephone directories, CRS calculations

**Notes:** Excludes staff listed at various times since 1977 for the Joint committees on Taxation, Inaugural Ceremonies, Atomic Energy, Defense Production, Internal Revenue Service, and Organization of Congress. Staff data for those panels is available from the authors upon request. "-" indicates that no staff were listed in the relevant chamber for that year. In some instances, a directory listing for a panel was identified, but did not list any staff.

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