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House of Representatives Staff Levels in Member, Committee, Leadership, and Other Offices, 1977-2021

Updated September 2, 2021

Congressional Research Service
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R43947

CRS REPORT
Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress

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SUMMARY

R43947

September 2, 2021

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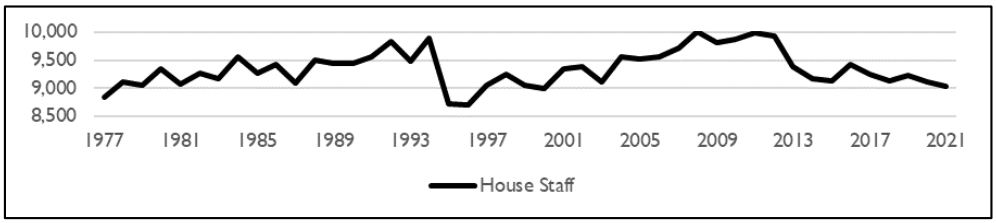
House of Representatives Staff Levels in Member, Committee, Leadership, and Other Offices, 1977-2021

The manner in which staff are deployed within an organization may reflect the mission and priorities of that organization. This report provides staffing levels in House Member, committee, leadership, and other offices since 1977. Between 1977 and 2021, the number of House staff grew from 8,831 to 9,034, or 2.30%. Since 2009, however, the number of staff working in the House has decreased 14.00%.



These changes were characterized in part by increases in the number of staff working in chamber leadership offices, and larger increases in the staffing of chamber officers and officials. House staff working for Members have shifted from committee settings to the personal offices of Members. Some of these changes may be indicative of the change and evolution of the House as an institution.

This report is one of several CRS products focusing on congressional staff. Links to others may be found in CRS Report R44688, *Congressional Staff: CRS Products on Size, Pay, Job Tenure, and Duties*.

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The manner in which staff are deployed within an organization may reflect the mission and priorities of that organization.

In the House of Representatives, 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 House 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, the use of congressional oversight, or deployment of staff; and the extent to which specialized chamber administrative operations have grown over time.

This report provides staffing levels in House Member,[1] committee, leadership, and other offices since 1977. No House source appears to officially and authoritatively track the actual number of staff working in the chambers by office or entity. Data presented here between 1977 and 2019 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. Data for 2020-2021 are taken from the House Telephone Directory website available to Members of the House and their staff.

Table 1 in the "Data Tables" section below provides data for staff listed in House directories through 2021. Data for House staff listed as joint committee employees on panels that organized in the 117th Congress (2021-2022) are provided in **Table 8**.[2]

This report provides data based on a count of staff listed in House telephone directories published since 1977. 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 are an official source of information about that institution, and are widely available;
- presumably, the number of directory listings closely approximates the number of staff working for the House;[3]

[1] Throughout this report, the terms "Member office," "personal office," and "House Member's office" refer to the office held by a Member of the House upon election 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 facilities distinguishes only between locations in Washington, DC, or in the district. It does not provide an office-by-office accounting of staff working in multiple district facilities.

[2] Joint committees that organized in the 117th Congress include the Joint Committees on Taxation, Printing, and Library, 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 to congressional clients upon request.

[3] The actual moment printed telephone directories capture 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 directories were generally in the spring of each year. Data taken from the online House Telephone Directory were collected on September 15, 2020, and June 15, 2021.

- while arguably not their intended purpose, the directories provide a consistent breakdown of House 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.[4]

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

- There is no way to determine whether all staff working for the House were listed in the chamber's telephone directories or are included in the online House Telephone Directory. 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 at the time the directories were published or data were collected from the House Telephone Directory. If the directories list individuals who are no longer employed by the House, 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 have changed over time cannot be fully determined. Some editions of the House's directories do not always list staff in various entities the same way.[5] This may raise questions regarding the reliability of telephone directory data as a means for identifying congressional staff levels within the House over time.
- Some House staff may have more than one telephone number, or be listed in the directory under more than one entity.[6] 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, 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,[7] or in different offices.[8]
- Random samples of House Member offices used to develop an estimate of Member office staff working in Washington, DC, and district offices in 1977-2019, and discussed in greater detail below, may or may not be representative of

[4] Other congressional documents list staff by organizational unit, most notably the quarterly *Statement of Disbursements* issued by the House. At the same time, because they capture all paid staff activity for a three-month period, those documents do not provide as clear a picture of staffing at one point in time as the telephone directories do.

[5] In some instances, a listing for a House 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.

[6] For example, some staff may work on a part-time basis for more than one Member, or for a Member and a committee. In the online version of the House Telephone Directory, some are listed as staff for a committee and one or more joint committees.

[7] 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 the 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.

[8] 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.

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. While it is unlikely that a full count would yield significantly different results for those years, it is a possibility.

House Staffing

House Data Collection

House staff data covering the period 1977-2019 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.[9] In some years, the House published two directories. When that happened, data were taken from the earlier publication.

A full count of House Member offices would have exceeded available resources, and would have been unlikely to yield a significantly different result than that which would result from a count of staff working in a random sampling of 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.[10] As a consequence, among all congressional entities, House Member office staffing is the least likely to show a high degree of variability. For each year, 1977-2019, 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 2014.[11] 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.[12] 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[13] to derive an estimate of the number of staff employed in personal offices who work in House Member offices. **Table 2** 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.

Member office data for 2020-2021 are based on a full count of all offices listed in the online House Telephone Directory.

Committee data are based on a full count of all printed telephone directory listings for House standing, special, and select committees as described in individual directory listings for 1977-2019, and in the online House Telephone Directory for 2020-2021. The data also include associate staff of the Committees on the Budget, Rules, and Ways and Means where applicable, and joint committee staff housed in House facilities. In the "Data Tables" section below, four

[9] 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.

[10] See CRS Report RL30064, *Congressional Salaries and Allowances: In Brief*, by Ida A. Brudnick for details.

[11] Personal offices are not typically assigned in the Ford or O'Neill House Office Buildings. Since 2014, the Cannon House Office Building has been undergoing a substantial renewal project that has displaced some Member offices. Due to these dislocations, the proportion of Member offices sampled 2015-2019 may not be directly comparable to samples collected 1977-2014.

[12] The House telephone directory provides consistent five-digit listings for all House staff who work in Washington, DC.

[13] 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, 2009-present.

tables provide staff levels in various House committees. Joint committee staff data from the House for panels that convened in the 117th Congress (2021-2022) are available in **Table 8**.

Data for leadership offices include a full count of staff working for Members in leadership positions. In 2021, these listings included the following: Speaker, Majority Leader, Majority Whip, Chief Deputy Majority Whip, Senior Chief Deputy Majority Whip, Assistant Speaker, Minority Leader, Minority Whip, and Democratic and Republican Cloakrooms. Other leadership positions included House Republican Conference, House Republican Policy Committee, House Republican Study Committee, National Republican Congressional Committee, House Democratic Caucus, House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, and House Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Data for chamber officers and other House officials include a full count of staff working for House officers and officials. In 2021, 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, and House Historian.

Commissions data comprise the smallest category of House data, and are based on a full count of those entities. In 2021, commissions data included staff working for the House Communications Standards Commission (HCSC; listed in the House Telephone Directory as the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards and commonly known as the Franking Commission; the entity was renamed HCSC in 2020); the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (typically referred to as the Helsinki Commission); the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China; and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

House Staff Data

Between 1977 and 2021, the number of House staff overall grew from 8,831 to 9,034, or 2.30%. Since 2009, however, the number of staff working in the House has decreased 14.00%. Staffing levels have ranged from a low of 8,831 in 1977 to a peak of 10,004 in 2008. The number of House staff across all categories has grown by an average of 5 individuals annually,[14] or 0.06%. Change in House staff has been characterized by slight, but steady growth in two periods (1977-1994, 12.01%; and 1996-2011, 14.89%), separated by a brief period of sharp decline (1994-1996, -12.13%), and ending with another decrease (2011-2021, -9.53%).

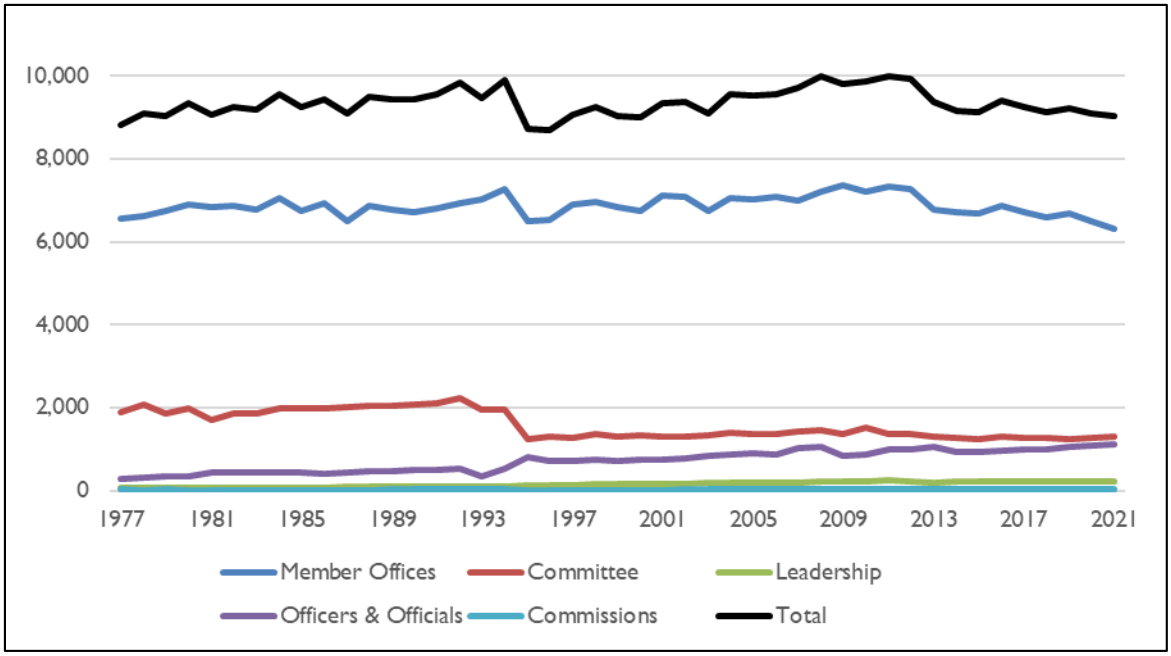
Figure 1 displays staff levels in five categories since 1977. These categories include staff working in the offices of

- Members,
- committees,
- leadership,
- officers and officials, and
- commissions.

Table 1, in the "Data Tables" section below, provides detailed staff levels in those categories.

[14] Rounded to reflect a whole number.

Figure 1. House Staff Levels by Category, 1977-2021



Source: Annual House telephone directories, online House Telephone Directory, CRS estimates and calculations.

Notes: House Member office data are estimates developed from a sample of 45 Member offices for each year, 1977-2019, multiplied by the number of Member offices. Member office data for 2020-2021, and all other categories, 1977-2021, are based on a full count of directory listings.

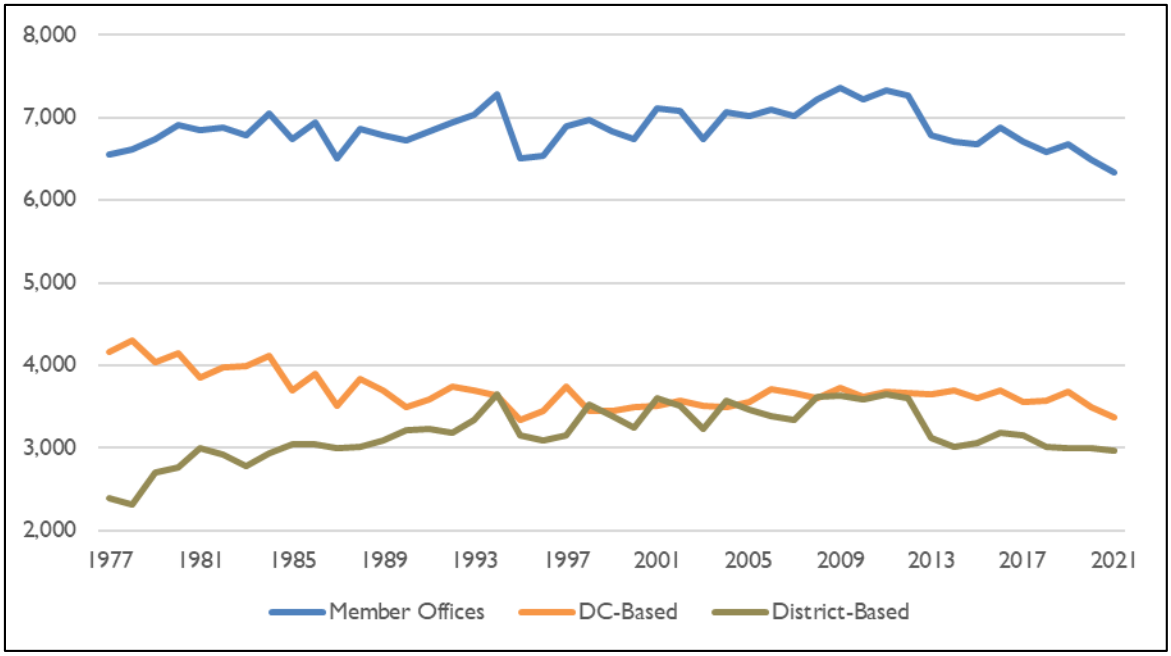
House Member Offices

Staff levels in House Member offices have fallen slightly from 6,556 in 1977 to 6,329 in 2021, or 3.46%. 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 2011 in an uneven, but generally upward pattern before reaching its highest level, 7,360, in 2009. Since 2009, Member staff have decreased to 6,329, a 14.0% decline.

Figure 2 displays the distribution of House Member staff between Washington, DC, and district offices since 1977. 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 moved in an uneven, but generally downward pattern. Between 1994 and 2008, staff distribution between Washington, DC, facilities and district offices varied narrowly, but staff were relatively evenly distributed in 2009-2011. Since 2011, Washington-based staff growth has been relatively flat, while the number of district staff has fallen, and the average number of staff per Member office has declined from 17 to 14.[15] **Table 2** in the "Data Tables" section below provides the estimated House Member staff working in Washington, DC, and district offices since 1977-2019, the actual number for 2020-2021, and the average number of staffers in a Member office.

[15] Staff data are rounded to whole numbers.

Figure 2. Distribution of House Member Office Staff Since 1977



Source: Annual House telephone directories, online House Telephone Directory, CRS estimates and calculations.

Notes: House Member office data are estimates developed from a sample of 45 Member offices for each year, 1977-2019, multiplied by the number of Member offices. Member office data for 2020-2021 are based on a full count of directory listings. House Member staff comprise approximately three-quarters of all House staff. This proportion of overall staffing has been relatively steady since 1977.

Committees

Committee staff levels have shown the greatest decline among House staff categories, decreasing 30.20% since 1977. Change among House committee staff was characterized by a moderate decline in 1977-1981 (-9.04%), steady growth from 1981 until 1992 (29.83%), a period of sharp decline in 1992-1997 (-42.81%), a period of slow, unsteady growth from 1997 to 2010 (18.09%), and another decline from 2011 to present (-4.35%). The 2021 level of 1,320 is 571 (-30.20%) fewer than 1977 levels, and 913 (-40.89%) fewer than the 1992 peak of 2,233 staff.

Since 1977, committee staff have comprised a decreasing proportion of House staff, falling from 21.41% of House staff in 1977 to 14.61% in 2021.

In the "Data Tables" section below, four tables provide staff levels in various House committees. **Table 3** provides House committee data for 2007-2016; data for 1997-2006 are available in **Table 5**. **Table 6** provides data for 1987-1996, and data for 1977-1986 are available in **Table 7**. Totals for each year, which include joint committee staff listed in the House directory found in **Table 8**, are presented in **Table 1**.

Leadership Offices

The actual number of staff in House leadership offices grew from 62 in 1977 to 238 in 2021, peaking in 2011 at 241. This growth was relatively steady over time. As a proportion of House staff, leadership employees comprised 0.70% in 1977, and 2.63% in 2021.

Officers and Officials

Staff working in the offices of House officers and officials has grown 314.02% since 1977. Staff levels grew steadily from 1977 to 1991, and then 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, a one-year increase of 57.01%. After dropping to 704 in 1996, levels began a steady increase to a peak of 1,056 in 2008, an increase of 50.00%, before falling 8.96% to 946 in 2015. Since 2016, growth has been steady and peaked in 2021 at 1,122.

As a proportion of House staff, officers and officials staff grew from 3.07% in 1977 to 12.42% in 2021.

Commissions

Congressional commission staff levels are essentially flat, and have ranged from a high of 51 in 1977 to a low of 19 in a number of years, most recently in 2001. In 2021, 25 staff worked for congressional commissions.[16]

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

Discussion

Since 1977, the number of staff working for the House has grown, though there has been a decrease in recent years. Overall, 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. Staff 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 as an institution, increased reliance on centrally provided technical services (including information technology, legislative drafting, and physical and digital security), or the value the chamber places on its various activities.

One example that may be an indication of institutional development arguably is found in the growth of the number and percentage of staff working in leadership and officers and officials offices, even though that growth has slowed recently. 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.[17] 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; the management of legislation in a bicameral, partisan environment; and increased demand to secure information and physical infrastructures that support legislative activities.

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

[16] For more information on congressional commissions, see CRS Report R40076, *Congressional Commissions: Overview and Considerations for Congress*, by Jacob R. Straus; and CRS Report RL33313, *Congressional Membership and Appointment Authority to Advisory Commissions, Boards, and Groups*, by Jacob R. Straus.

[17] 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.

congressional use of communications technologies, and the deployment of systematic, centralized professional human resources processes, 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.[18]

In another example, the distribution of staff working directly for Members has shifted from committee settings to personal office settings. House committee staff has decreased. 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).[19]

[18] 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.

[19] See CRS Report RL33686, *Roles and Duties of a Member of Congress: Brief Overview*, by R. Eric Petersen; CRS Report RL34035, *Grants Work in a Congressional Office*, by Maria Kreiser; and CRS Report RL33209, *Casework in a Congressional Office: Background, Rules, Laws, and Resources*, by R. Eric Petersen and Sarah J. Eckman.

Data Tables

Table 1. House of Representatives Staff Levels by Category, 1977-2021

Year	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
House Member Office	6,556	6,614	6,737	6,913	6,844	6,884	6,786	7,050	6,737	6,942
Committee	1,891	2,067	1,861	1,991	1,720	1,851	1,867	1,974	1,997	1,980
Leadership	62	69	65	79	58	71	64	65	66	63
Officers and Officials	271	329	357	337	434	437	436	444	445	424
Commissions	51	23	25	21	19	22	23	23	22	19
Totals	8,831	9,102	9,045	9,341	9,075	9,265	9,176	9,556	9,267	9,428
Year	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**	**1990**	**1991**	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**
House Member Office	6,512	6,864	6,786	6,717	6,825	6,932	7,040	7,284	6,502	6,532
Committee	2,025	2,062	2,062	2,088	2,098	2,233	1,950	1,947	1,258	1,306
Leadership	93	95	88	101	107	106	107	112	125	128
Officers and Officials	434	457	475	495	501	537	359	521	818	704
Commissions	19	22	36	35	29	28	28	27	21	22
Totals	9,083	9,500	9,447	9,436	9,560	9,836	9,484	9,891	8,724	8,692
Year	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**
House Member Office	6,893	6,972	6,835	6,737	7,108	7,079	6,737	7,060	7,020	7,089
Committee	1,277	1,361	1,311	1,334	1,295	1,321	1,328	1,399	1,379	1,370
Leadership	132	160	159	165	177	173	179	203	192	190
Officers and Officials	733	737	723	738	750	787	832	861	896	884
Commissions	21	21	22	20	19	29	36	33	34	35
Totals	9,056	9,251	9,050	8,994	9,349	9,389	9,112	9,556	9,521	9,568

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
House Member Office	7,011	7,226	7,360	7,213	7,330	7,272	6,782	6,713	6,674	6,880
Committee	1,426	1,472	1,362	1,508	1,380	1,381	1,309	1,262	1,255	1,298
Leadership	207	214	219	228	241	236	205	214	212	239
Officers and Officials	1,040	1,056	828	878	993	1,002	1,052	949	946	962
Commissions	34	36	39	40	41	41	38	37	40	41
Totals	9,718	10,004	9,808	9,867	9,985	9,932	9,386	9,175	9,127	9,420
Year	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**					
House Member Office	6,713	6,586	6,675	6,491	6,329					
Committee	1,263	1,269	1,229	1,290	1,320					
Leadership	224	236	230	223	238					
Officers and Officials	1,007	997	1,057	1,085	1,122					
Commissions	40	38	38	24	25					
Totals	9,247	9,126	9,229	9,113	9,034					

Source: House telephone directories, CRS estimates and calculations.

Notes: House Member office data, 1977-2019, are estimates developed from a sample of 45 Member offices for each year, multiplied by the number of Member offices. Member office data for 2020-2021, and all other categories, 1977-2021, are based on a full count of directory listings.

Table 2. Staff Working in House Member Offices Since 1977

Estimated, 1977-2019, Full Count, 2020-2021

	Averages Per Office				Member Staff		
Year	DC Staff	District Staff	Member Staff	Member Offices	DC Staff	District Staff	All 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
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

	Averages Per Office				Member Staff		
Year	DC Staff	District Staff	Member Staff	Member Offices	DC Staff	District Staff	All Member Staff
2010	8.22	8.13	16.36	441	3,626	3,587	7,213
2011	8.33	8.29	16.62	441	3,675	3,655	7,330
2012	8.31	8.18	16.49	441	3,655	3,606	7,272
2013	8.29	7.09	15.38	441	3,655	3,126	6,782
2014	8.38	6.84	15.22	441	3,695	3,018	6,713
2015	8.18	6.96	15.13	441	3,606	3,067	6,674
2016	8.38	7.22	15.60	441	3,695	3,185	6,880
2017	8.07	7.16	15.22	441	3,557	3,156	6,713
2018	8.09	6.84	14.93	441	3,567	3,018	6,586
2019	8.34	6.80	15.14	441	3,678	2,997	6,675
2020	7.93	6.79	14.72	441	3,495	2,996	6,491
2021	7.64	6.71	14.35	441	3,368	2,961	6,329

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

Notes: Data for 1977-2019 are 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. Data for 2020-2021 are based on a full count of the online House Telephone Directory. Due to rounding, rows might not sum.

Table 3. House Committee Staff, 2017-2021

Committee	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Agriculture	37	40	39	44	40
Appropriations	123	115	132	136	139
Armed Services	43	34	37	63	63
Budget	59	62	55	33	35
Education and Labor	60	62	66	66	65
Energy and Commerce	93	103	58	93	100
Ethics	24	27	27	27	21
Financial Services	72	65	55	60	63
Foreign Affairs	29	35	42	71	78
Homeland Security	60	57	50	50	61
House Administration	36	37	35	37	44
Judiciary	57	60	63	67	62
Natural Resources	57	61	58	67	60
Oversight and Reform	82	82	58	82	93
Rules	22	22	24	25	24
Science and Technology	51	35	54	43	44
Small Business	23	24	23	25	23
Transportation and Infrastructure	72	65	51	66	67
Veterans' Affairs	26	34	33	39	33
Ways and Means	68	64	77	77	80
Intelligence	29	35	42	39	32
Select Energy Independence & Global Warming	51	-	35	-	-
Climate Crisis	-	-	11	11	13
Select Modernization	-	-	-	-	7

Source: House telephone directories.

Notes: Committees are listed by names used in the 117th 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 4. House Committee Staff, 2007-2016

Committee	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Agriculture	45	45	45	46	43	43	22	34	37	37
Appropriations	158	154	130	157	117	117	114	118	125	119
Armed Services	67	65	67	65	64	64	62	58	61	59
Budget	72	73	73	73	81	81	75	43	36	44
Education and Labor	72	78	76	74	55	55	61	58	58	63
Energy and Commerce	79	104	96	111	104	103	97	96	92	109
Ethics	16	16	14	20	16	16	24	24	25	27
Financial Services	62	63	62	74	64	64	59	55	54	57
Foreign Affairs	81	78	80	83	80	80	75	67	72	72
Homeland Security	63	62	62	67	64	64	63	62	56	59
House Administration	38	43	41	41	44	44	34	32	37	37
Judiciary	70	75	70	71	70	70	63	65	65	59
Natural Resources	67	71	61	57	53	53	58	57	60	60
Oversight and Reform	106	100	71	100	110	113	93	98	83	88
Rules	34	35	37	39	33	33	33	32	34	22
Science and Technology	50	50	54	52	50	50	55	48	52	51
Small Business	28	25	26	30	26	26	24	24	21	21
Transportation and Infrastructure	76	77	82	85	67	67	67	64	69	71
Veterans' Affairs	33	32	32	30	26	26	25	26	27	33
Ways and Means	64	71	69	71	77	76	70	69	68	60
Intelligence	39	36	32	35	27	27	30	31	24	26
Select Energy	13	20	23	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Select Benghazi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18

Source: House telephone directories.

Notes: Committees are listed by names used in the 117th Congress, or the 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, 1997-2006

Committee	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Agriculture	55	54	53	51	56	56	53	55	50	53
Appropriations	151	151	138	150	152	161	122	133	133	134
Armed Services	53	53	55	52	48	49	55	52	56	60
Budget	68	78	87	86	79	84	91	87	87	80
Education and Labor	72	92	76	70	67	66	69	72	75	64
Energy and Commerce	82	86	83	84	86	93	92	90	89	82
Ethics	8	11	12	11	13	13	11	11	9	13
Financial Services	51	54	51	49	58	60	63	63	62	59
Foreign Affairs	63	65	64	63	67	67	69	73	76	80
Homeland Security	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	44	38	51
House Administration	29	27	28	32	37	35	38	41	38	38
Judiciary	54	62	61	70	68	70	77	73	73	73
Natural Resources	57	62	56	62	60	64	64	64	63	62
Oversight and Reform	94	132	116	105	107	101	94	110	100	96
Rules	36	41	34	36	31	33	36	36	36	37
Science and Technology	55	53	52	52	50	53	47	53	53	47
Small Business	27	25	27	28	23	23	29	30	33	30
Transportation and Infrastructure	116	121	119	124	73	73	73	75	76	78
Veterans' Affairs	28	15	20	28	28	26	30	29	27	28
Ways and Means	64	60	66	64	69	70	69	71	74	72
Intelligence	23	24	24	22	28	31	26	32	29	36
Military and Commercial Concerns with China	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: House telephone directories.

Notes: Committees are listed by names used in the 117th Congress, or the 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, 1987-1996

Committee	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Agriculture	55	59	54	63	59	61	55	55	57	58
Appropriations	205	207	206	205	217	223	219	215	148	149
Armed Services	62	62	64	70	73	87	66	75	46	50
Budget	104	103	106	97	92	97	90	93	72	72
Education and Labor	110	113	111	110	100	112	97	100	67	70
Energy and Commerce	135	147	142	135	139	162	143	140	69	67
Ethics	10	10	9	8	11	8	8	8	7	9
Financial Services	85	85	93	98	101	107	88	94	51	55
Foreign Affairs	93	97	99	98	102	102	104	100	60	64
House Administration	46	44	49	54	59	58	49	53	-	-
Judiciary	76	81	80	73	67	73	74	70	25	27
Natural Resources	103	100	100	100	107	121	101	89	50	56
Oversight and Reform	75	75	71	85	88	99	83	83	75	84
Rules	39	38	40	39	41	42	41	41	77	94
Science and Technology	76	79	77	92	93	102	93	92	36	36
Small Business	56	52	47	49	41	45	32	36	51	54
Transportation and Infrastructure	109	126	139	132	142	150	144	137	27	27
Veterans' Affairs	36	39	33	34	37	39	44	40	119	119
Ways and Means	79	86	85	87	94	96	92	92	25	28
Intelligence	29	31	34	36	21	25	24	25	61	65
Aging	33	35	36	34	36	38	-	-	20	24
Children, Youth and Families	17	17	15	18	16	15	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	39	38	38	39	38	34	23	34	13	-
Hunger	14	15	15	14	15	16	-	-	-	-
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	78	81	84	83	86	81	75	73	-	-
Narcotics	16	17	18	16	17	15	-	-	-	-
Organization of Congress	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-
Post Office and Civil Service	92	97	92	92	85	92	68	80	-	-

Source: House telephone directories.

Notes: Committees are listed by names used in the 117th Congress, or the 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 7. House Committee Staff, 1977-1986

Committee	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Agriculture	50	55	58	69	62	56	60	55	58	56
Appropriations	76	134	129	133	122	142	143	166	183	204
Armed Services	48	49	48	46	49	48	51	54	58	59
Budget	111	78	82	96	80	97	95	94	100	100
Education and Labor	103	106	102	119	105	112	109	113	102	106
Energy and Commerce	136	143	135	156	122	147	147	152	144	138
Ethics	35	35	11	17	9	9	7	10	9	9
Financial Services	102	106	102	94	77	81	92	88	89	84
Foreign Affairs	85	99	84	81	81	85	84	85	91	93
House Administration	41	47	50	60	44	46	48	50	47	49
Judiciary	86	83	83	80	76	72	78	84	85	81
Natural Resources	103	107	103	105	91	103	110	107	95	98
Oversight and Reform	125	80	73	82	78	80	79	85	87	84
Rules	24	25	34	47	48	43	44	44	41	37
Science and Technology	77	85	86	87	58	73	77	73	84	76
Small Business	40	43	40	54	46	56	53	49	51	49
Transportation and Infrastructure	85	86	80	78	82	98	99	102	100	100
Veterans' Affairs	33	37	33	33	32	34	30	32	31	32
Ways and Means	87	90	90	89	82	84	84	85	91	85
Intelligence	3	38	35	40	36	32	30	27	32	27
Aging	35	36	36	38	35	38	33	37	35	37
Assassinations	96	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	16
Children, Youth and Families	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	17	42	39

Committee	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Committees	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	14	15
Congressional Operations	34	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	75
Covert Arms Sales to Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	17
District of Columbia	44	45	33	50	38	38	39	42	-	-
Ethics	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	92
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	64	69	86	91	80	84	78	89	-	-
Narcotics	26	27	25	22	-	15	17	21	-	-
Outer Continental Shelf	20	-	17	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Office and Civil Service	55	70	66	65	67	57	55	89	-	-

Source: House telephone directories.

Notes: Committees are listed by names used in the 117th Congress, or the 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 8. Staff of Active Joint Committees Listed in House Directories, 1977-2021

Joint Committee	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Economic	4	50	55	62	44	44	42	44	40	36
Library	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Printing	3	16	17	16	14	15	16	17	17	17
Taxation	28	65	63	62	60	60	60	60	66	66
Joint Committee	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**	**1990**	**1991**	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**
Economic	34	44	46	42	38	40	32	33	33	30
Library	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Printing	18	18	14	16	15	18	18	16	7	7
Taxation	60	64	63	67	66	73	72	71	61	59
Joint Committee	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**
Economic	24	25	22	31	34	29	34	36	31	33
Library	59	3	2	2	1	1	4	2	2	2
Printing	8	8	2	2	1	1	4	4	4	4
Taxation	-	59	61	60	59	62	61	63	65	58
Joint Committee	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Economic	29	32	7	35	34	34	29	32	30	33
Library	2	2	-	2	6	6	5	5	2	5
Printing	4	4	-	5	6	6	6	5	3	5
Taxation	58	61	52	65	63	63	65	69	64	63
Joint Committee	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**					
Economic	39	33	25	5	2					
Library	3	-	-	-	2					
Printing	3	2	4	-	-					
Taxation	67	62	60	65	67					

Source: House telephone directories.

Notes: Individual staff members for the joint committees may appear in both House and Senate directories, as they are considered neither solely House nor Senate staff. They are included where they appear in the directory. 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 to congressional clients from the author 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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Acknowledgments

Amber Hope Wilhelm, Visual Information Specialist, created the visualizations in a prior version of this report. Lara Chausow, former Research Assistant, was a coauthor of this report and collected some of the data provided.

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