

TABLE 2-1 **Length of Service in House and Senate, 1789–2015**

Chamber and terms	Congress			
	1st–56th (1789–1901)	57th–103d (1901–1995)	104th–112th (1995–2013)	113th (2013–2015)
House				
One (up to 2 years)	44.0%	23.3%	13.8%	19.2%
Two to six (3–12 years)	53.4	49.7	52.6	33.7
Seven or more (12+ years)	2.6	27.0	33.6	47.1
Mean number of terms ¹	2.1	4.8	5.2	4.9
Senate				
One (up to 6 years)	65.6%	45.6%	33.4%	29.0%
Two (7–12 years)	23.4	22.4	26.8	25.0
Three or more (12+ years)	11.0	32.0	40.2	46.0
Mean number of terms ¹	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.9

Sources: Adapted from David C. Huckabee, *Length of Service for Representatives and Senators: 1st–103d Congresses*, Congressional Research Service Report No. 95-426GOV, March 27, 1995. Authors' calculations for the 104th through 113th Congresses. See also Mildred Amer, *Average Years of Service for Members of the Senate and House of Representatives, First–109th Congresses*, Congressional Research Service Report RL32648, November 9, 2005.

¹Figures are derived from the total number of terms claimed by members whether or not those terms were served out. For example, members in their initial year of service are counted as having one full term, and so on. Thus the figures cannot be equated precisely with years of service.