

Notes on data on parliaments for the Global Parliamentary Report

2 April 2012

Access to the data

The Global Parliamentary Report was published by the IPU and UNDP in April 2012. The Report and accompanying datasets can be downloaded from www.ipu.org/gpr.

Data from the Annex is also accessible via an interactive visualization tool at <http://www.ipu.org/dem-e/gpr/data/index.htm>.

The dataset can be reused freely with appropriate acknowledgement of the source (Global Parliamentary Report, IPU and UNDP, 2012). Users are requested to inform the IPU at postbox@mail.ipu.org.

Sources

The Annex contains data from the IPU's PARLINE database on national parliaments (www.ipu.org/parline) and data received from parliaments in response to an IPU questionnaire. The table below identifies the source of each data element and the sample size.

Data element	Source	Sample size
Types of parliament	PARLINE	190 parliaments (100%)
Number of parliamentarians	PARLINE	190 parliaments (100%)
Percentage of women parliamentarians	PARLINE	190 parliaments (100%)
Parliament's budget	Parliaments	110 parliaments (58%)
Parliamentary staff	Parliaments	112 parliaments (59%)
Parliamentary sessions	Parliaments	163 parliamentary chambers (61%)
Sitting days	Parliaments	163 parliamentary chambers (61%)
Parliamentary Standing Committees	Parliaments	168 parliamentary chambers (63%)
Age of parliamentarians	PARLINE; parliaments; parliamentary web sites	19,872 parliamentarians
Professional background of parliamentarians	PARLINE; parliaments; parliamentary web sites	15,455 parliamentarians
Survey of parliamentarians on relations between parliaments and citizens	Survey	663 parliamentarians

Reference dates

All data in the Annex is at 30 September 2011, unless otherwise indicated. Data for parliamentary budgets refers to 2011 unless otherwise indicated. Data for sitting days refers to 2010 unless otherwise indicated.

Data on the percentage of women parliamentarians in the online data visualization tool is as 1 January 2012. For the latest data on the percentage of women parliamentarians, see <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

Organization of the dataset

Data was collected at the level of parliamentary chamber. Certain data elements are presented in the Annex at chamber level. Others are presented for the whole parliament. In the latter case, for bicameral parliaments, data for the lower and upper chambers was added together to make a single total for the parliament. Where data was missing for one of the chambers, the parliament was excluded from the analysis.

Notes

Statutory number of members

Data on the statutory number of members is different in the Annex and the data visualization tool for the following parliaments, due to changes in the composition of parliament.

Country	Chamber	Figure in the Annex	Figure in the online visualization tool
Bangladesh		345	350
Croatia		153	151
Egypt	Lower	508	498
Egypt	Upper	264	290
Germany	Lower	622	620
Liberia	Lower	64	73
Madagascar	Lower	256	417
Madagascar	Upper	90	189
Morocco	Lower	325	395
Oman	Upper	72	83
Philippines	Lower	280	287
Uganda		375	386
United Kingdom	Upper	733	827

For the latest data on the statutory and current number of members, see PARLINE www.ipu.org/parline.

Parliament's budget

Parliaments provided figures for the parliamentary budget in national currency. To allow international comparison, parliament's budget was converted from the national currency to Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) dollars using the World Bank conversion tables for the year 2010 (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.PPP>). For more information on purchasing power parities, see <http://go.worldbank.org/A3R6KFYSR0>.

When the PPP conversion factor for 2010 was not available, the conversion factor for 2009 was used (Barbados, Djibouti, Suriname and United Arab Emirates). The PPP conversion factor of Spain was applied to Andorra as a proxy and that of Switzerland was applied to Liechtenstein.

The Annex of the Global Parliamentary Report analyzed only the parliamentary budgets that included the salary of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. The countries where the budget figure does not include the salary are Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom. The budget of the UK House of Commons includes staff salaries but not MPs' salaries. The Lords' budget includes both salaries).

The budget of the following countries included the salary of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff but they were excluded from the analysis since no conversion factors were available. The figures in US dollars are given in brackets: Kuwait (149,425,407), Marshall Islands (1,870,010), Monaco (4,370,861), Nauru (502,866), Tuvalu (404,891) and Zimbabwe (15,397,000).

In countries with a bicameral parliament, the budget of both chambers was added together to make a single figure for the whole parliament. In some bicameral parliaments, the total budget of parliament is higher than the sum of the budgets of each chamber (for example: Australia). The countries for which data was received for only one chamber of a bicameral parliament are excluded from the analysis in the Annex.

Parliamentary staff

The number of staff refers to currently filled full-time equivalent (FTE) posts in the parliamentary administration.

The figures do not include the personal staff of parliamentarians. Vacant posts and staff on leave were excluded from the figures for these countries: Andorra, Bangladesh, Namibia, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe.

Due to the presence of part-time staff, the number of staff may differ to the number of persons employed (for example: Luxembourg, Nicaragua and Sao Tome and Principe).

The figures do not include staff employed by the parliamentary ombudsman, or the parliamentary library when that library also serves the public (for example: Finland, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States).

In some parliaments, some parliamentary staff (for example: committee staff) work for both chambers. In these cases, the figure for such staff has been included only in the total number of staff by country. The number of staff per country may therefore be larger than the total of the staff of the lower and upper chambers added together.

Parliamentary Standing Committees

Data on committees was requested at the chamber level. Certain bicameral parliaments also provided the number of joint committees, which were excluded from the numbers of committees at chamber level.

Sitting days

The figures refer to the number of plenary sitting days in 2010. They do not include days when parliament does not sit in plenary session, but committee meetings do take place.

The number under '(b) 2000 - 2010' refers to the average number of plenary sitting days between 2000 and 2010. The number in the 'Increase/decrease' shows the difference between the number of sitting days in 2010 and the average number.

Population

Population data was used to calculate the

- number of inhabitants per parliamentarian
- number of staff per parliamentarian
- cost of parliament per inhabitant.

Population figures were taken from World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision. Highlights. New York: United Nations. Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

2009, http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2008/wpp2008_text_tables.pdf

Disclaimer: population figures for Sudan and South Sudan. Preliminary non-official data that has not been published and/or endorsed by the United Nations was used for these two countries.

Contact

For further information, suggestions and corrections, please contact the IPU Secretariat (postbox@mail.ipu.org; tel: +41 22 919 41 50, for the attention of Ms. Hiroko Yamaguchi.