"Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments" (PPEG)

Codebook: Combined Data

Version 2025v1

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General Remarks

The database *Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments (PPEG)* combines data on election results and governments in 73 democracies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe. The current version covers the period between 1942 and 2025 (Oct 31) and contains information on 3301 political parties, 1100 parliamentary elections, 402 presidential elections, and 2044 governments.

The data is separated in four different files:

- data on parliamentary elections to the national lower chambers
- data on presidential elections
- data on national governments
- combined data on national governments and corresponding parliamentary elections

You can download each of these datasets on https://www.ppeg.wzb.eu.

The Combined Data includes information on prime ministers, cabinets, and cabinet parties. The data also documents the distribution of ministerial posts across cabinet parties, the type of government, and reasons for termination for the single cabinets. In addition, this data is combined with the election results of all relevant political parties contesting the corresponding elections to the nationl lower houses.

In case of questions or comments, please contact ppeg@wzb.eu.

Coverage

Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Cabinets	Unique Observ.
Albania	1991-2025	23	11	20	217
Armenia	1995-2021	37	8	22	262
Australia	1943-2025	27	32	42	390
Austria	1945-2025	23	24	37	294
Azerbaijan	1995-2024	24	7	15	180
Barbados	1986-2022	3	9	12	41
Belgium	1946-2025	46	24	50	641
Bolivia	1989-2020	51	9	15	161
Brazil	1990-2023	46	9	19	494
Bulgaria	1990-2025	50	17	27	309
Canada	1945-2025	24	26	32	321
Chile	1989-2022	38	9	10	187
Colombia	1990-2022	101	10	11	254
Costa Rica	1990-2022	44	9	10	156
Croatia	1990-2024	63	11	17	289
Cyprus	1976-2024	14	10	27	228

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Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Cabinets	Unique Observ.
Czech Republic	1990-2024	24	10	23	237
Denmark	1945-2022	25	29	41	452
Dominican Republic	1990-2024	30	9	11	138
El Salvador	1988-2024	29	13	18	156
Estonia	1992-2025	23	9	23	210
Finland	1945-2023	22	22	59	626
France	1945-2025	56	22	79	970
Georgia	1992-2024	78	10	26	407
Germany	1949-2025	27	21	34	322
Ghana	1992-2025	18	9	10	89
Greece	1974-2023	43	20	27	316
Guatemala	1985-2024	83	11	13	227
Honduras	1981-2022	11	11	12	76
Hungary	1990-2022	27	9	13	167
Iceland	1942-2024	32	26	38	266
India	1951-2024	135	18	37	1295
Ireland	1944-2025	29	23	33	335
Israel	1949-2025	89	25	81	1374
Italy	1946-2022	92	20	73	1173
Jamaica	1989-2020	2	8	11	39
Japan	1946-2025	43	29	65	595
Latvia	1993-2023	43	10	28	287
Lithuania	1992-2025	42	9	22	333
Luxembourg	1945-2023	21	18	23	152
Malta	1947-2022	13	19	22	97
Mauritius	1987-2024	24	9	18	153
Mexico	1946-2024	27	27	27	205
Moldova	1994-2025	32	11	28	257
Montenegro	1990-2024	55	12	18	203
Netherlands	1946-2025	40	24	36	480
New Zealand	1943-2023	25	28	37	289
Nicaragua	1990-2022	20	7	7	44
North Macedonia	1994-2024	46	10	19	353
Norway	1945-2025	17	21	38	413
Panama	1994-2024	23	7	7	67
Paraguay	1989-2023	33	8	10	93
Peru	1980-2025	70	12	60	943
Poland	1991-2023	68	10	30	505
Portugal	1976-2025	38	18	29	442
Romania	1990-2025	45	10	37	478
Russia	1993-2024	48	8	20	368
Serbia	1990-2025	113	14	18	354
Slovakia	1990-2023	38	11	23	296
Slovenia	1990-2022	28	10	21	263

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Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Cabinets	Unique Observ.
South Africa	1994-2024	33	7	11	167
South Korea	1988-2025	36	10	39	310
Spain	1977-2023	74	16	18	377
Sweden	1944-2022	14	24	35	295
Switzerland	1943-2023	33	21	80	1154
The Bahamas	1987-2021	2	8	8	27
Trinidad and Tobago	1986-2025	7	11	12	53
Turkey	1950-2023	37	20	45	385
USA	1948-2025	8	39	41	192
Ukraine	1994-2025	58	8	28	470
United Kingdom	1945-2024	34	22	32	444
Uruguay	1989-2025	16	8	8	56
Venezuela	1988-2025	43	9	17	208

Sources

Election results were collected from the following sources in hierarchical order:

- National election commissions and authorities
- European Journal of Political Research: Political Data Yearbook
- Election Reports in Electoral Studies & West European Politics
- Nohlen, Grotz and Hartmann (2001); Nohlen and Grotz (2004); Nohlen (2005*a*); Nohlen (2005*b*); Nohlen and Stöver (2010)
- Mackie and Rose (1991)
- Political Database of the Americas (Georgetown University) http://pdba.georgetown.edu/
- Interparliamentary Union PARLINE database: http://www.ipu.org/parline-e
- International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES): http://www.electionguide.org/
- Adam Carr's Election Archive: http://psephos.adam-carr.net/
- Wikipedia: http://wikipedia.org/

Government data and cabinet compositions were collected from Keesing's Record of World Events, Blondel and Müller-Rommel (2001) and Woldendorp, Keman and Budge (2000).

After 2017, different additional sources were considered. These include government homepages, the European Journal of Political Research (Political Data Yearbook), and Wikipedia.

Notes on included governments

A government is defined as any administration that is formed after an election and continues in the absence of:

- a change of Prime Minister; or
- a change in the party composition of the cabinet; or
- resignation in an inter-election period followed by re-formation of the government with the same Prime Minister and party composition; or
- an election to the national lower chamber on a different date than the presidential election in presidential systems.

This definition is based on Woldendorp, Keman and Budge (2000, 10).

Notes on political parties

Political parties were included following three criteria:

1. The party has won a seat in at least one election covered by the dataset.
2. The party has put a candidate in a presidential election. In presidential elections with many candidates (> 10), however, those contestants gaining less than 0.5% of the vote were subsumed in the residual category "Others".
3. The party has been part of or supported a cabinet during the time covered by the dataset.

If political parties contested elections as part of an electoral pact, the votes and seats of the single parties were documented as far as possible. If this information is missing, only the election results of the corresponding electoral pact is documented. See also the variable *estimate* for more information.

Notes on vote and seat shares

If necessary, single government parties were aggregated as electoral alliances in order to facilitate an optimal match with the corresponding parliamentary election results. Due to this, an electoral alliance can be a government party and a supporting party at the same time.

See the Codebook “Parliamentary Data” for detailed information on the collection and calculation of political parties’ vote shares in the lower house elections.

Notes on presidential systems

In presidential systems (e.g. Mexico, Peru, or South Korea) and semi-presidential systems with strong presidents (e.g., Russia or Georgia), the data does not document the total number of ministers, the distribution of ministerial posts, the number of government parties, or the government seat share in the national parliament. Here, the type of government is automatically set to "Presidential Cabinet" (see variable *tog*). Exceptions are Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and the United States. For these countries, all variables are given.

Notes on expert and caretaker governments

In the case of expert and caretaker governments (see variable *tog*), the data does not document the distribution of ministerial posts or the government seat share in the parliament.

Variable Information

iso3c

ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 codes

Three-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.

iso2c

ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code

Two-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.

cname_en

Country name (English)

edate

Date of national lower house election

If the election lasted for several days, the last date was coded. By-elections for single seats or districts are unconsidered.

idate

Date of inauguration of the Prime Minister/head of state

The inauguration was coded as the date ...

- the Prime Minister and the Government Programme was confirmed in a formal vote of confidence; or
- on which the Prime Minister was sworn in by the King/Queen; or
- on which the Prime Minister was appointed by the President of the Republic; or
- on which the Ministers were sworn in.

If the swearing-in of the Prime Minister and the approval of the Government Programme took place on two different days, the swearing-in was considered to be the date of inauguration. If only the approval date of the Government Programme is known, this date was taken as the date of inauguration.

pm

Name of Prime Minister (Surname, First Name)

tog

Type of government

Coding:
- SPMa: Single Party Majority
- MWC: Minimum Winning Coalition
- OC: Oversized Coalition
- SPMi: Single Party Minority
- MPMi: Multi Party Minority
- EC: Expert or Caretaker Government
- Pres: Presidential Cabinet
- Other: Other

rft

Reason for termination of government

Coding:
- ElecParl: Election of parliament
- ResPM: Resignation of PM
- ResPMHealth: Resignation of PM due to ill health/death
- Diss: Dissension
- LoPS: Lack of parliamentary support
- IoHS: Intervention of head of state
- ElecPres: Election of president
- Other: Other
- Notappl: Not applicable

The code *Notappl* was used for governments that were still in office at the time of the data release.

party_id

Alphanumeric party code

Code consists of the iso2c country code and the database-specific party code (see coding below). E.g., the code FR9 denotes the French Communist Party (PCF).

Coding:
- 1-599: Political parties
- 600-799: Electoral pacts and electoral pacts that transformed into political parties
- 800-879: Regional/Local electoral pacts
- 880-989: Other parties that are part of an electoral pact
- 993: Special coding, e.g. "Initiative Committee"
- 994: Spoilt votes
- 995: Against all candidates
- 996: Minorities
- 997: Others/Independent candidates
- 998: Independent/Non-partisan candidates
- 998.5: Independent candidates in the cabinet
- 999: Other parties
- 999.5: Members of "other parties" in the cabinet

cmp

Manifesto Project party code

See https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.

Use the variables *cname_en*, *edate*, and *cmp* to join this data with the Manifesto Project data. Currently linked to version 2025a of the Manifesto Project Dataset.

cmp_parfam

Manifesto Project party family coding

See *https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.*

Coding:
- 10: Ecological party
- 20: Socialist party
- 30: Social democratic party
- 40: Liberal party
- 50: Christian democratic party
- 60: Conservative party
- 70: Nationalist party
- 80: Agrarian party
- 90: Ethnic and regional party
- 95: Special issue party
- 98: Electoral Alliances without a dominant party
- 999/NA: Missing information.

pinitials

Party name abbreviation

pname_en

English translation of party name

pname_or

Original party name

pm_party

Party of Prime Minister

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is the party of the head of state.

gov_party

Government party

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is a government party.

support_party

Supporting party

Binary variable indicating whether the respective party is a supporting party that has not officialy signed a coalition agreement.

The coding of supporting parties is based on formal support agreements if mentioned in the sources. This information is probably incomplete in some countries.

nmin

Total of number of ministers per government

A minister is defined here as a person who acts as the head of a ministry. In principle, all cases are coded as ministerial posts that refer in some way to the fact that the person heads a ministry. If formulations such as "to act as minister of..." were used in the sources, it was also assumed that this is a ministerial function in the sense of the definition.

Our priority lies with identifying the number of ministerial posts for governments immediately after elections to the national lower chambers took place. The data quality of all other cabinets varies across countries and needs to be inspected individually by the user.

nminpp

Number of ministers per party

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments (tog = EC) and Presidential Cabinets (tog = Pres).

Our priority lies with identifying the distribution of ministerial posts for governments immediately after elections to the national lower chambers took place. The data quality of all other cabinets varies across countries and needs to be inspected individually by the user.

If, in the case of single-party governments (tog = SPMa or tog = SPMi), the total number of ministers was documented in the source but the exact party affiliation of the ministers was missing, all posts were assigned to the party of the prime minister.

v_share_wgt

Weighted share of votes gained by each party in the national lower chamber

Weighted share of votes gained by each party calculated as follows:

$$\text{v_share} * \text{prop} + \text{v_share_2ndtier} * \text{maj},$$

where *v_share* is the vote share gained by proportional vote and *v_share_2ndtier* is the vote share gained by majority vote. *prop* and *maj* denote the corresponding weights defined as the sizes of the corresponding tiers in relation to the absolute number of seats in the national lower house.

$$\text{prop} = \text{seats/total_seats}$$

$$\text{maj} = \text{seats_2ndtier/total_seats}$$

Always set to missing for independent ministers and those who are members of "other parties" (*party_id*: 998.5 and 999.5).

See the Codebook "Parliamentary Data" for detailed information on the collection and calculation of political parties' vote and seat shares in the corresponding lower house elections.

estimate

Estimated election results

Binary variable indicating whether the number of votes gained by the respective party and the corresponding vote share has been estimated based on the votes gained by an electoral alliance.

Calculated if political parties have been part of an electoral alliance and the seat share of the single parties were known, but not their vote shares. In this case, the vote shares were estimated as follows:

$$(\text{seat_}p/\text{seat_}a) * \text{vote_}a,$$

where seat_p denotes the seats won by the party in question, seat_a the seats won by the corresponding electoral alliance, and vote_a the votes won by the electoral alliance.

In some cases, two or more political parties presented joint lists in single districts (e.g., Belgium 1946-58 or Norway 1949-1981). Here, the votes of the joint lists were distributed to the individual parties according to their total vote share in the respective election.

s_share

Share of seats gained by each party in the national lower chamber

Variable includes seats won in all tiers in the case of segmented electoral systems. Always set to missing for independent ministers and those who are members of "other parties" (*party_id*: 998.5 and 999.5).

share_remark

Remark on missing vote and seat shares

Gives a brief explanation for missing vote and seat shares of governing parties. Reasons include memberships in electoral alliances, combined lists, the founding of new parties or insufficient information in the sources.

gov_seat

Total seat share of government parties

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments (*tog* = EC) and Presidential Cabinets (*tog* = Pres).

gov_seat_remark

Remark on gov_seat

In some cases, *gov_seat* does not equal the sum of the seat shares of the single governing parties. For example, the variable was adjusted in the event of splits or mergers of existing government parties and resulting changes in the distribution of seats. In addition, in a few cases *gov_seat* contradicts the documented *type of government* (tog) because our sources do not provide sufficient information on the composition of the government.

The variable *gov_seat_remark* comments such special cases and the corresponding adjustments.

ngovparties

Number of government parties

This variable is always set to missing for Expert or Caretaker Governments (*tog* = EC) and Presidential Cabinets (*tog* = Pres).

ngovparties_remark

Remark on number of government parties

In some cases, the documented number of parties that form a government does not correspond to the listed *type of government*. The reasons for these discrepancies are briefly explicated.

In most cases, such discrepancies result from the circumstance that an electoral alliance is listed as a government party that consists of multiple single parties actually forming the government.

region	*Region of country* Regions as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators.
continent	*Continent of country* Continents as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators
eu_member	*Membership European Union*
eu_east	*East European member of the European Union*
eu_since	*Year of entry in European Union*
eu_exit	*Year of withdrawal from the European Union*
oecd	*Membership OECD*
oecd23	*Membership OECD-23*
oecd_since	*Year of entry in OECD*

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