



# Women in National Parliaments

Situation as of **28 March 2003**

COMPARATIVE  
DATA BY  
COUNTRY



The data in the tables below has been compiled by the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) on the basis of information provided by National Parliaments by 28 March 2003. The percentages do not take into account the case of parliaments for which no data was available at that date. Comparative data on the [percentage of women in each National Parliament](#) as well as data concerning the two [regional parliamentary assemblies](#) elected by direct suffrage can be found on separate pages. You can use the [PARLINE database](#) to view detailed results of parliamentary elections by country.



REGIONAL  
PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLIES

*New:* you can now consult an [archive of statistical data](#) on women in National Parliaments.

## WORLD AVERAGE

BOTH HOUSES COMBINED	
Total MPs	41'684
Gender breakdown known for	40'304
Men	34'235
Women	6'069
<b>Percentage of women</b>	<b>15.1%</b>



SINGLE HOUSE OR LOWER HOUSE	
Total MPs	35'595
Gender breakdown known for	34'514
Men	29'270
Women	5'244
<b>Percentage of women</b>	<b>15.2%</b>

UPPER HOUSE OR SENATE	
Total MPs	6'089
Gender breakdown known for	5'790
Men	4'965
Women	825
<b>Percentage of women</b>	<b>14.2%</b>

## REGIONAL AVERAGES

	Single House or lower House	Upper House or Senate	Both Houses combined
<b>Nordic countries</b>	<b>40.1%</b>	---	40.1%
<b>Americas</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	18.0%	17.7%
<b>Europe - OSCE member countries including Nordic countries</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	14.9%	17.0%
<b>Asia</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	13.8%	15.2%

<b>Europe - OSCE member countries</b> excluding Nordic countries	<b>15.4%</b>	14.9%	15.3%
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	13.7%	13.6%
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	25.9%	12.9%
<b>Arab States</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	3.4%	6.0%

*Regions are classified by descending order of the percentage of women in the lower or single House*

