

PARTY

Iceland I: Party membership, 1982-2009

Year	LM	PA	WA	UF	SDA	SDP	PP	LP	IP
1982		3 000				5 000	6-9 000		
1983		3 500*	500*		300*	3 200*	5 000		23 000
1984									15-20 000
1985									27 000
1986		3 000				5 000			25-26 000
1987		4 300*	1 700*			3 600*	4 000		24 000
1989									23 000
1991									22 000
1993									22 000
1995							7 038		-
1996							7 064		33 000
1997							7 093		
1998							7 357		
1999	400						8 346	~700	33 000
2000							8 545	~700	
2001	600						8 603	~700	33 000
2002							8 841	~700	
2003	1 000			14 171			9 233		35 000
2004	1 200			13 995			9 234		
2005	1 634			13 528			9 778	<2 000	40 000
2006	2 000			19 225			9 550		-50 000
2007	3 000			19 850			11 250		-50 000
2008	5 350			19 313			11 350		-50 000
2009				18 962			12 870	1 673	

Sources

Information from party head offices except * indicate estimates from survey data by Hardarson (1995). The reliability of the official numbers is questionable. Hardarson (1995) estimated, e.g., that the IP's membership was 16100 in 1984 and 14100 in 1987.

Parties

SP	Socialist Party (Sósíalístaflokkurinn)
LM	Left Movement - Greens (Vinstri-hreyfing - grænt framboð)
PA	People's Alliance [1995 PA and independents] (Alþýðubandalagið)
WA	Women's Party (Kvennalistinn)
NPP	National Preservation Party (Þjóðvarnarflokkurinn)
ULL	Union of Liberals and Leftists (Samtök frjálslyndra og vinstri manna)
ÞPM	Thjodvaki - People's movement (Þjóðvaki - Fylking fólksins)
UF	United Front-Social Democratic Alliance (Samfylkingin)
SDA	Social Democratic Alliance (Bandalag jafnaðarmanna)
SDP	Social Democratic Party [includes Jafnaðarmannaflokkur Íslands in 1995] (Alþýðuflokkurinn)
AESJ	Association for Equality and Social Justice (Samtök um jafnræði og félagshyggju)
PP	People's Party [includes BB-list in 1995] (Framsóknarflokkurinn)
LP	Liberal Party (Frjálslyndi flokkurinn)
CP	Citizen's Party (Borgaraflokkurinn)
IP	Independence Party (Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn)

PARLIAMENT

Iceland II: Left-right placement, party strength (in seats) and cabinet composition, 1944-2007

Cabinet number	Prime minister	Based on election year	SP	LM	PA	WA	NPP	ULL	ÞPM	UF	SDA	SDP	AESJ	PP	LP	CP	IP	Other	Effective number of legislative parties	Cabinet strength	Total number of seats
1	Thors II	1942	10									7		15			20		3.49	37	52
2	Thors III	1946	10									9		13			20		3.61	39	52
3	Stefánsson	1946	10									9		13			20		3.61	42	52
4	Thors IV	1949	9									7		17			19		3.47	19	52
5	Steinþórsson	1949	9									7		17			19		3.47	36	52
6	Thors V	1953	7				2					6		16			21		3.44	37	52
7	Jónasson III	1956			8							8		17			19		3.48	33	52
8	Jónsson I	1956			8							8		17			19		3.48	8	52
9	Jónsson II	1959 ¹			7							6		19			20		3.20	6	52
10	Thors VI	1959 ²			10							9		17			24		3.44	33	60
11	Thors VII	1963			9							8		19			24		3.32	32	60
12	Benediktsson I	1963			9							8		19			24		3.32	32	60
13	Benediktsson II	1967			10							9		18			23		3.48	32	60
14	Hafstein	1967			10							9		18			23		3.48	32	60
15	Jóhannesson I	1971			10		5					6		17			22		3.85	32	60
16	Hallgrímsson	1974			11			2				5		17			25		3.38	42	60
17	Jóhannesson II	1978			14							14		12			20		3.85	40	60
18	Gröndal	1978			14							14		12			20		3.85	14	60
19	Thoroddsen	1979			11							10		17			21 ³	1	3.78	49 ¹	60
20	Hermannsson I	1983			10	3					4	6		14			23		4.06	37	60
21	Pálsson	1987			8	6						10	1	13		7	18		5.34	41	63
22	Hermannsson II	1987			8	6						10	1	13		7	18		5.34	32	63
23	Hermannsson III	1987			8	6						10	1	13		7	18		5.34	38	63
24	Oddsson I	1991			9	5						10		13			26		3.78	36	63
25	Oddsson II	1995			9	3			4			7		15			25		3.94	40	63
26	Oddsson III	1999		7						17				11	2		26		3.48	37	63
27	Oddsson IV ⁴	2003		5						20				12	4		22		3.71	34	63

28	Ásgrímsson ⁴	2003	5	20	12 *	4	22	3.71	34	63
29	Haarde I ⁵	2003	5	20	12 *	4	22	3.71	34	63
30	Haarde II	2007	9	18	7 *	4	25	3.62	43	63

Sources

Indridason (2005)
 Statistics Iceland.

Notes

1. See Table Iceland I for party labels
2. *Effective number of legislative parties*: This index developed by Markku Laakso and Rein Taagepera and is a measure of party system size. Both the number of parties and their relative size is taken into account. For an accessible introduction, see Lijphart, Arend (1984). *Democracies*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
3. Parties in **bold** formed cabinets.

* Party with median legislator (under the assumed left-right party alignment).

Iceland III: Motions of no confidence and confidence directed at the cabinet, 1944-2006

Cabinet number	Cabinet	Tenure	Number of motions of no confidence	Resigned after vote of no confidence	Number of Motions of Confidence
1	Thors II	1944-1946	2	NO	
2	Thors III	1946-1947	0		
3	Stefánsson	1947-1949	0		
4	Thors IV	1949-1950	1	YES	
5	Steinþórsson	1950-1953	0		
6	Thors V	1953-1956	1 ¹	NO	
7	Jónasson III	1956-1958	0		
8	Jónsson I	1958-1959	0		
9	Jónsson II	1959	0		
10	Thors VI	1959-1963	2	NO	
11	Thors VII	1963	1	NO	
12	Benediktsson I	1963-1967	1	NO	
13	Benediktsson II	1967-1970	2	NO	
14	Hafstein	1970-1971	0		
15	Jóhannesson I	1971-1974	2	NO	
16	Hallgrímsson	1974-1978	1	NO	
17	Jóhannesson II	1978-1979	0		
18	Gröndal	1979-1980	0		
19	Thoroddsen	1980-1983	1	NO	
20	Hermannsson I	1983-1987	0		
21	Pálsson	1987-1988	1	NO	
22	Hermannsson II	1988-1989	0		
23	Hermannsson III	1989-1991	1	NO	
24	Oddsson I	1991-1995	1 ²	NO VOTE	
25	Oddsson II	1995-1999	0		
26	Oddsson III	1999-2003	0		
27	Oddsson IV	2003-2004	0		
28	Ásgrímsson	2004-2006	0		

Sources

Kristjánsson, Svanur (2003) "Iceland: A Parliamentary Democracy with a Semi-presidential Constitution", in Kaare Strøm, Wolfgang C. Müller and Torbjörn Bergman, eds., *Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary democracies*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Updated from 1999 by Indridi Indridason

Morgunblaðið

Alþingi's website: www.althingi.is

General notes

As votes of *No Confidence* we have recorded only those votes that have been directed at the PM and the cabinet as a whole, not those directed at an individual minister only.

In previous work, D&A 2003, we applied a very strict cross-national counting rule. However, in this table the definition of a *motion of confidence* is based on a country specific counting rule.

Specific notes

- 1) A second motion during the same period was a motion of no confidence in the Minister of Education, Bjarni Benediktsson.
- 2) The motion was dismissed on the grounds that it violated parliamentary procedures. Instead of being a motion of no confidence in the government it was a motion of no confidence in all of the cabinet ministers individually.

CABINETS

Iceland IV: Cabinet formation, 1944-2004

Cabinet number	Prime minister	Cabinet composition	Number of parties in parliament	Number of failed formation attempts	Parties involved in incomplete bargaining rounds	Number of days required for cabinet formation
1	Thors II	IP, SP, SDP 1944	4	2	(1) IP, SDP, PP, SP ¹ (2) IP, PP	36
2	Thors III	IP, SP, SDP 1946	4	0		1
3	Stefánsson	SDP, PP, IP 1947	4	4	(1) IP, SDP, SP (2) IP, SDP, PP, SP (3) PP, SP, SDP (4) IP, SDP, SP	117
4	Thors IV	IP 1949	4	3	(1) PP, SDP (2) PP, SDP, IP (2) IP, SDP, PP ²	44
5	Steinþórsson	PP, IP 1950	4	3	(1) PP, IP (2) N (3) N ³	13
6	Thors V	IP, PP 1953	5	0		76
7	Jónasson III	PP, PA, SP 1956	4	0		31
8	Jónsson I	SDP 1958	4	1	(1) IP, SDP, PA, PP (2) SDP, IP, PP, PA ⁴	20
9	Jónsson II	SDP 1959	4	0		1
10	Thors VI	IP, SDP 1959	4	0		26
11	Thors VII	IP, SDP 1963	4	0		1
12	Benediktsson I	IP, SDP 1963	4	0		1
13	Benediktsson II	IP, SDP 1967	4	0		1
14	Hafstein	IP, SDP 1970	4	0		1
15	Jóhannesson I	PP, PA, ULL 1971	5	0		32
16	Hallgrímsson	IP, PP 1974	5	2	(1) IP, SDP, PP (2) PP, SDP, PA, ULL	3
17	Jóhannesson II	PP, PA, SDP 1978	4	6	(1) SDP, PA(-?) (2) SDP, IP, PA (3) SDP, PP, PA (4) IP, SDP, PP, PA (5) IP, SDP, PP (6) PA, PP, SDP	69
18	Gröndal	SDP 1979	4	0		4
19	Thoroddsen	IP, PA, PP 1980	4	5	(1) PP, PA, SDP (2) IP, PA, SDP, PP (3) PA, PP, SDP (4) SDP, IP, PP	68

					(5) SDP, IP, PP	
20	Hermannsson I	PP, IP 1983	6	6	(1) IP , PP, SDP (2) IP , PP (3) PP , IP (4) PA , PP, SDP, WA, SDA (5) IP, SDP, SDA (6) PP, IP, SDP ⁵	34
21	Pálsson	IP, SDP, PP 1987	7	5	(1) PP ² (2) IP , SDP, WA (3) SDP, PA, WA (4) PP, CP ⁶ (5) SDP , IP, PP	75
22	Hermannsson II	PP, PA, SDP 1988	7	3	(1) PP , SDP, PA (2) PP , SDP, PA, CP (3) IP ²	12
23	Hermannsson III	PP, PA, SDP, CP 1989	7	0		1
24	Oddsson I	IP, SDP 1991	5	0		11
25	Oddsson II	IP, PP 1995	6	1	(1) IP , SDP	16
26	Oddsson III	IP, PP 1999	5	0		1
27	Oddsson IV*	IP, PP 2003	5	0		12
28	Ásgrímsson*	PP, IP 2004	5	0		1
29	Haarde I	IP, PP 2006	5	n/d		n/d
30	Haarde II	IP, UF 2007	5	n/d		n/d

Sources

Indridason, Indridi (2005) "A Theory of Coalitions and Clientelism: Coalition Politics in Iceland 1945-2000", in European Journal of Political Research 44(3): 439-464, Updated from 1999 by Indridi Indridason

General notes

The formateur's party is indicated in bold when a formateur had been appointed by the president. In some instances bargaining took place with out a formal appointment of a formateur and in those cases the party perceived to have initiated the negotiations is listed first.

Party labels: See table Iceland I.

Specific notes

- 1) The president asked each party to appoint three members to "The committee of twelve".
- 2) No specific information is available about which parties were approached. In 1949, the bargaining duration may not reflect the actual length of the bargaining since Thors' illness delayed the formation for about a week.
- 3) The president initially asked Þór, member of the 1942 non-parliamentary cabinet, to form a "semi-partisan" cabinet.
- 4) In both cases the formateur had informal, or preliminary, discussions with the leaders of the other parties.
- 5) Rounds (5) and (6) took place while Gestsson (PA) was the formateur.

Iceland V: Number of ministries and cabinet members, 1944-2004

Cabinet number	Prime minister	Number of ministries	Number of cabinet ministers
1	Thors II 1944	13	6
2	Thors III 1946	13	6
3	Stefánsson 1947	15	6
4	Thors IV 1949	13	5
5	Steinþórsson 1950	14	6
6	Thors V 1953	15	6
7	Jónasson III 1956	13	6
8	Jónsson I 1958	13	4
9	Jónsson II 1959	13	4
10	Thors VI 1959	13	7
11	Thors VII 1963	13	7
12	Benediktsson I 1963	13	7
13	Benediktsson II 1967	13	7
14	Hafstein 1970 ¹	13	7
15	Jóhannesson I 1971	13	7
16	Hallgrímsson 1974	13	8
17	Jóhannesson II 1978	13	9
18	Gröndal 1979	13	6
19	Thoroddsen 1980	13	10
20	Hermannsson I 1983	13	10
21	Pálsson 1987	13	11
22	Hermannsson II 1988	14	9
23	Hermannsson III 1989	15	11
24	Oddsson I 1991	15	10
25	Oddsson II 1995	15	10
26	Oddsson III 1999	15	12
27	Oddsson IV 2003 ²	15	12
28	Ásgrímsson 2004 ²	15	12

Sources

Alþingi's website: www.althingi.is

Specific notes

1) Hafstein became the PM when Benediktsson died, July 10th 1970.

2) The IP and the PP renewed their coalition after the 2003 election but agreed that the Prime Ministership would be transferred to the PP in September 2004.

Iceland VI: Cabinet member background, 1944-2007

Cabinet number	Portfolio within cabinet	Name	Age	Male 0 / Female 1	Party	Prior cabinet position	Parliamentary experience (years)	Prior party high rank position	Prior youth party high rank position	Major prior appointment within parliament	Major prior elected offices at local/regional level	Formal education level	Any prior employment within the public sector	Any prior employment within the private sector	Any prior salary employment in party	Member of parliament at the time of minister appointment	Prior employment before MP or minister
1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11	Prime minister	Thors	46	0	IP	Yes	16	Yes	No	Yes	No	3	No	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (private)
3	Prime minister	Stefánsson	54	0	SDP	Yes	8	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (public)
5	Prime minister	Steinþórsson	57	0	PP	No	11	No	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (public)
7	Prime minister	Jónasson	37	0	PP	No	0	No	No	No	Yes	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Chief of Police
8,9	Prime minister	Jónsson	56	0	SDP	Yes	24	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (public)
12, 13	Prime minister	Benediktsson	55	0	IP	Yes	21	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Professor
14	Prime minister	Hafstein	54	0	IP	Yes	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Bank director (public)
15,17	Prime minister	Jóhannesson	57	0	PP	No	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Professor
16	Prime minister	Hallgrímsson	48	0	IP	No	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor
18	Prime minister	Gröndal	55	0	SDP	Yes	13	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Editor
19	Prime minister	Thoroddsen	67	0	IP	Yes	40	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Student
20,22,23	Prime minister	Hermannsson	54	0	PP	Yes	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (public)
21	Prime minister	Pálsson	39	0	IP	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	No	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (private)
24-27	Prime minister	Oddsson	43	0	IP	No	0	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor
28	Prime minister	Ásgrímsson	57	0	PP	Yes	29	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Lecturer
29,30	Prime minister	Haarde	55	0	IP	Yes	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	5	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Assistant to gov't minister
1,2	Finance minister	Magnússon	56	0	IP	No	14	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Lawyer

3	Finance minister	Jósefsson	60	0	IP	No	24	No	No	Yes	Yes	1	No	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (private)
4	Finance minister	Ólafsson	54	0	IP	Yes	1	No	No	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (private)
5-7	Finance minister	Jónsson	27	0	PP	No	3	Yes	No	Yes	No	3	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Executive (public)
8,9	Finance minister	Guðmundsson	49	0	SDP	Yes	13	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	District magistrate
10-12	Finance minister	Thoroddsen	48	0	IP	No	25	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mayor
13-14	Finance minister	Jónsson	45	0	IP	No	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Bank director (public)
15	Finance minister	Sigurðsson	55	0	PP	No	15	Yes	No	No	No	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Village manager
16	Finance minister	Mathiesen	43	0	IP	No	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Director (private)
17	Finance minister	Árnason	55	0	PP	No	4	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Director (public)
18	Finance minister	Björgvinsson	37	0	SDP	No	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Editor
19	Finance minister	Arnalds	41	0	PA	Yes	13	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Student
20	Finance minister	Guðmundsson	59	0	IP	No	9	Yes	No	No	Yes	3	No	Yes	No	Yes	Merchant
20	Finance minister	Palsson	37	0	IP	No	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	No	Yes	No	Yes	Director (private)
21	Finance minister	Hannibalsson	48	0	SDP	No	5	Yes	No	No	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Editor
22,23	Finance minister	Grímsson	45	0	PA	No	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	5	Yes	No	Yes	No	Professor
24,25	Finance minister	Sophusson	47	0	IP	Yes	13	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Director (private)
26-28	Finance minister	Haarde	48	0	IP	No	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	5	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Assistant to gov't minister
29-30	Finance minister	Mathiesen	46	0	IP	Yes	14	No	Yes	Yes	No	5	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Veterinarian
1,2	Foreign minister	Thors	46	0	IP	Yes	16	Yes	No	Yes	No	3	No	Yes	No	Yes	Director (private)
3,4,5	Foreign minister	Benediktsson	38	0	IP	No	5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Professor
6	Foreign minister	Guðmundsson	55	0	PP	No	0	No	No	No	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	No	No	Director (public)
7-12	Foreign minister	Guðmundsson	47	0	SDP	No	11	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	District magistrate
13-14	Foreign minister	Jónsson	62	0	SDP	Yes	31	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Director (public)
15,16	Foreign	Ágústsson	48	0	PP	No	8	Yes	No	No	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Director (private)

	minister																	
17,18	Foreign minister	Gröndal	54	0	SDP	No	12	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Editor
19	Foreign minister	Jóhannesson	66	0	PP	Yes	21	No	Yes	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Professor
20	Foreign minister	Hallgrímsson	57	0	IP	Yes	13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Mayor
21	Foreign minister	Hermannsson	59	0	PP	Yes	16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Director (public)
22-24	Foreign minister	Hannibalsson	49	0	SDP	Yes	6	Yes	No	No	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Editor
25-27	Foreign minister	Ásgrímsson	47	0	PP	Yes	20	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Lecturer
28	Foreign minister	Oddsson	56	0	IP	Yes	13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Mayor
29	Foreign minister	Sverrisdottir	56	1	PP	Yes	19	Yes		Yes	No	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Farmer
30	Foreign minister	Gísladottir	53	1	UF	No	5	Yes		No	Yes	4	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Journalist
1,2	Justice minister	Jónsson	50	0	SDP	No	11	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Director (private)
3-6,10,11	Justice minister	Benediktsson	38	0	IP	No	5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Professor
7	Justice minister	Jónasson	37	0	PP	No	0	No	No	No	Yes	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Chief of police
8,9	Justice minister	Skarphéðinsson	49	0	SDP	No	2	No	No	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	District magistrate
12,13	Justice minister	Hafstein	48	0	IP	No	17	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bank director (public)
14	Justice minister	Auðuns	59	1	IP	No	11	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Lawyer
15,16	Justice minister	Jóhannesson	57	0	PP	No	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Professor
17	Justice minister	Hermannsson	50	0	PP	No	7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Director (public)
18	Justice minister	Gylfason	31	0	SDP	No	1	No	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Teacher
19	Justice minister	Þórðarson	57	0	IP	No	16	No	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	District magistrate
20	Justice minister	Helgason	51	0	PP	No	13	No	No	Yes	Yes	2	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Farmer
21	Justice minister	Sigurðsson	46	0	SDP	No	0	No	No	No	No	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Director (public)
22	Justice minister	Ásgrímsson	41	0	PP	No	13	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Lecturer
23	Justice minister	Guðbjartsson	54	0	CP	No	1	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	School principal

24,25	Justice minister	Pálsson	43	0	IP	Yes	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	No	Yes	No	Yes	Director (private)
26	Justice minister	Pétursdóttir	47	1	IP	No	8	No	No	Yes	No	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Lawyer
27-30	Justice minister	Bjarnason	58	0	IP	Yes	12	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Editor

Source

Indridason, Indridi (2005) "A Theory of Coalitions and Clientelism: Coalition Politics in Iceland 1945-2000", in *European Journal of Political Research* 44(3): 439-464, Updated from 1999 by Indridi Indridason

General notes

All of the calculations presented in this section are based on a dataset which contains data on ministers that get their portfolios at the beginning of a new cabinet only. A new cabinet is here defined as a cabinet that fulfill at least one of three conditions; any change in the set of parties holding cabinet membership, any change in the identity of the prime minister or any general election (see Müller and Strøm 2003:12).

The table shows the number of cabinets in which the minister served in that position.

Prior parliamentary experience (in full years) does not include the years that a person has been in cabinet. That is, for systems that allow for the holding of simultaneous cabinet and parliamentary positions, we only count "parliamentary experience" for the years that the MP does not also has a cabinet position. (The latter is coded as prior cabinet experience: Yes or No). If the total parliamentary experience (service as MP) sums to less than six months, we count that as zero (0) years of experience.

Prior party high rank position = Any of the following: party leader, party secretary, member of the party national board or head of local or regional board.

Prior youth party high rank position = The corresponding merits as in Prior party high rank position (youth organization).

Major prior appointment within parliament = Any of the following: Speaker (President of Parliament or chamber/sub-division), group leader, vice group leader, committee chairman or vice committee chairman.

Major prior elected offices at local/regional level = Any of the following: head of municipality, head of region, member of local or regional elected assembly.

Formal education level: 1 = Primary (or less), 2 = Secondary (high school, Swedish gymnasium), 3 = any enrollment in post-secondary education (such as technical college, nurse school, college, university) but no degree, 4 = Any undergraduate degree at technical college, nurse school, college or university (2-4 years in length) that is post-high school or gymnasium, 5 = Post graduate degree (licensiat, huvudfag, Ph.D)

Prior employment refers to the employer, that is to say the one paying the salary. Salary by the party does not include elected offices, only jobs (such as a party ombudsman). The three categories (public, private, party) are not mutually excluding categories (as they in combination speak to a minister's general career pattern). "Private" employment includes people employed in trade-unions and other non-governmental organizations.

The coding, "Member of Parliament at the time of minister appointment" only has one possible answer (yes or no).

The category (column): "Prior employment before Member of Parliament (MP) or minister" is an open coding. It describes the job that the minister had when he/she first became a minister or an MP (whichever came first), in English.

Finance minister is defined as the minister heading the ministry in control of the state budget.

Justice minister is defined as the minister heading the ministry in control of the police force.

Party labels: See table Iceland I.

Iceland VII: Cabinet minister background, summary for first appointment, four core portfolios, Iceland 1945-2007

	1945-1975	1976-2007	1945-2007	1991-2007
N (unique number of ministers)	31	36	67	14
Age, mean	49.5	50.2	49.9	49,6
Female ministers, %	3	8	6	21
Prior cabinet position, %	29	50	40	71
Parliamentary experience (years)	12.0	11.2	11.5	12.5
Prior party high rank position, %	74	75	75	79
Prior youth party high rank position, %	29	56	43	75
Major prior appointment within parliament, %	84	83	84	86
Major prior elected offices at local/regional level, %	65	42	52	36
Formal education level, mean	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.1
Any prior employment within the public sector, %	90	83	87	79
Any prior employment within the private sector, %	74	72	73	86
Any prior salaried employment in party, %	13	22	18	0
Member of parliament at the time of minister appointment, %	97	94	96	100

Source

Þingmannatal Alþingis. <www.althingi.is>

Iceland VIII: Budget accommodations

No table

Iceland IX: Cabinet termination, 1944-2004

Cabinet number	Cabinet Prime minister Year of termination		Mechanism of cabinet termination										Terminal events			Policy areas	Comments		
			Technical			Discretionary													
			1. Regular parliamentary election	2. Other constitutional reason	3. Death of Prime Minister	4. Early parliamentary election	5. Voluntary enlargement	6. Cabinet defeat in parliament	7. Conflict between coalition parties Policy Personal	8. Intra-party conflict	9. Elections (non-parliamentary)	10. Popular opinion shock						11. International or national security event	12. Economic event
1	Thors II	1946	x																
2	Thors III	1947						SP, SDP, IP					x				3	U.S Air Base	
3	Stefánsson	1949				x		PP, SDP, IP		PP							2		
4	Thors IV	1950				x			x										
5	Steinþórsson	1953	x																
6	Thors V	1956				x		PP, IP									3		
7	Jónasson III	1958				x		PP, PA, SDP					x				2	ASÍ	
8	Jónsson I	1959				x													
9	Jónsson II	1959				x													
10	Thors VI	1963	x																
11	Thors VII	1963		x ¹															
12	Benediktsson I	1967	x																
13	Benediktsson II	1970				x													
14	Hafstein	1971	x																
15	Jóhannesson I	1974				x		ULL, PP, PA									2	3 ULL withdraw support	
16	Hallgrímsson	1978	x																
17	Jóhannesson II	1979				x		SDP									2		
18	Gröndal	1980				x													Formed only to call

Iceland X: Duration of Cabinets, 1945-2007

Cabinet number	Prime minister	Date in	Duration in days	Maximum possible duration in days	Relative duration, per cent
1	Thors II	441021	598	729	82,0
2	Thors III	460630	102	1 461	7,0
3	Stefánsson	470204	974	1 244	78,3
4	Thors IV	491206	86	1 333	6,5
5	Steinþórsson	500314	1 278	1 321	96,7
6	Thors V	530911	929	1 387	67,0
7	Jónasson III	560724	864	1 432	60,3
8	Jónsson I	581223	188	550	34,1
9	Jónsson II	590628	145	1 461	9,9
10	Thors VI	591120	1 437	1 437	100,0
11	Thors VII	630609	158	1 461	10,8
12	Benediktsson I	631114	1 303	1 303	100,0
13	Benediktsson II	670611	1 125	1 462	77,0
14	Hafstein	700710	337	337	100,0
15	Jóhannesson I	710714	1 085	1 431	75,8
16	Hallgrímsson	740828	1 400	1 403	99,8
17	Jóhannesson II	780901	407	1 394	29,2
18	Gröndal	791015	51	985	5,2
19	Thoroddsen	800208	1 176	1 395	84,3
20	Hermannsson I	830526	1 429	1 429	100,0
21	Pálsson	870708	438	1 388	31,6
22	Hermannsson II	880928	348	940	37,0
23	Hermannsson III	890910	591	593	99,7
24	Oddsson I	910430	1 447	1 447	100,0
25	Oddsson II	950423	1 497	1 497	100,0
26	Oddsson III	990528	1 443	1 443	100,0
27	Oddsson IV ²	030523	481	1 450	33,2
28	Ásgrímsson ²	040915	638	969	65,8
29	Haarde I	060615	331	331	100,0
30	Haarde II	070523	N/D	1 452	-
1945-1975, mean	-	-	-	-	62,8
1991-2007, mean	-	-	-	-	83,2

Sources

Indridason (2005),

Newspapers (Morgunblaðið, Þjóðviljinn)

Alþingi's website: www.althingi.is.

Hardarson, Ólafur & Kristinsson, Gunnar Helgi, (2007) "Iceland" i *Political Data Yearbook, European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 46 Issue 7-8, p. 975

Keesing's Record of World Events, p. 47 332, p. 47 946

COALITION CABINETS

Iceland XI: Coalition governance, 1944-2004

Cabinet number	Coalition	Coalition agreement	Agreement public	Election rule	Conflict management mechanisms	The most common conflict management mechanism	The conflict management mechanism used for the most serious conflicts	Coalition discipline in legislation	Coalition discipline in other parliamentary behaviour	Freedom of appointment	Policy agreement	Non-cabinet positions
1	IP, SP, SDP 1944	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	2	N
2	IP, SP, SDP 1946	N ¹	n/d	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	2	N
3	SDP, PP, IP 1947	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	2	N
5	PP, IP 1950	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	1	N
6	IP, PP 1953	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	1	N
7	PP, PA, SDP 1956	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	1	N
10	IP, SDP 1959	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	1 ²	N
11	IP, SDP 1963	N ¹	n/d	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	1	N
12	IP, SDP 1963	N	N	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	1	N
13	IP, SDP 1967	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	2	N
14	IP, SDP 1970	N ¹	n/d	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	2	N
15	PP, PA, ULL 1971	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
16	IP, PP 1974	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	2	N
17	PP, PA, SDP 1978	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
19	IP, PA, PP 1980	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
20	PP, IP 1983	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
21	IP, SDP, PP 1987	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
22	PP, PA, SDP 1988	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
23	PP, PA, SDP, CP 1989	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
24	IP, SDP 1991	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
25	IP, PP 1995	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N

26	IP, PP 1999	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
27	IP, PP' 2003	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
28	IP, PP' 2004	POST	Y	N	IC	IC	IC	2	2	Y	3	N
29	IP, PP 2006	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d
30	IP, UF 2007	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d

Sources

Indridason, Indridi (2005) "A Theory of Coalitions and Clientelism: Coalition Politics in Iceland 1945-2000", in *European Journal of Political Research* 44(3): 439-464, Updated from 1999 by Indridi Indridason

General notes

PRE	Pre electoral written coalition agreement
POST	Post electoral written coalition agreement
IE	Written coalition agreement in the case of coalitions formed during the parliamentary term (not immediately following elections)
IC	Inner cabinet: a subset of cabinet ministers which is not issue-specific and which is stable over time
CaC	Cabinet committee(s): typically issue-specific; they may include cabinet ministers, junior ministers, and/or civil servants
PCa	Combination of cabinet members and parliamentarians
N	No
Y	Yes
n/d	no data

There are no junior ministers in Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

Coalition discipline in legislation: Not stated in agreement but one can claim there is an implicit agreement. Answer to the question: Is the coalition based on the understanding that there will be coalition discipline in parliamentary votes on legislative proposals?

- 1 Yes, always
- 2 Yes, on all policies except those explicitly exempted
- 3 No, except those policies explicitly specified
- 4 No

Coalition discipline in other parliamentary behaviour: Answer to the question: Is the coalition based on the understanding that there will be coalition discipline in other parliamentary behaviour (e.g. questioning of ministers, investigative committees and appointments)?

- 1 Yes, always
- 2 Yes, on all matters except those explicitly exempted
- 3 No, except those matters explicitly specified
- 4 No

Policy agreement: Answer to the question: Is the coalition based on a substantial and explicit policy agreement?

- 0 No explicit agreement
- 1 On few selected policies
- 2 On a variety of issues, but not comprehensive

3 Comprehensive policy platform

Party labels: See table Iceland I.

Specific notes

- 1) The parties did not write a new coalition agreement but the cabinet continues on the basis of the previous agreement.
- 2) A couple of months later the coalition published a comprehensive policy agreement.

Iceland XII: Size and content of coalition agreements, 1944-2004

Cabinet number	Coalition	Size of agreement (approx. words)	General procedural rules (in %)	Policy specific procedural rules (in %)	Distribution of offices (in %)	Distribution of competences (in %)	Policies (in %)
1	IP, SP, SDP 1944	1 145		2%			98%
2	IP, SP, SDP 1946						
3	SDP, PP, IP 1947	950		2%			98%
5	PP, IP 1950	600		3%			97%
6	IP, PP 1953	571		6%			94%
7	PP, PA, SP 1956	697		4%			96%
10	IP, SDP 1959	319 ¹					100%
11	IP, SDP 1963						
12	IP, SDP II 1963						
13	IP, SDP 1967	2 200					100%
14	IP, SDP 1970						
15	PP, PA, ULL 1971	2 300					100%
16	IP, PP 1974	942					100%
17	PP, PA, SDP 1978	1 750		2%			98%
19	IP, PA, PP 1980	2 750		1%			99%
20	PP, IP 1983	1 700					100%
21	IP, SDP, PP 1987	4 900					100%
22	PP, PA, SDP 1988	3 850					100%
23	PP, PA, SDP, CP 1989	2 700			1% ²		99%
24	IP, SDP 1991	750 ³					98.9%
25	IP, PP 1995	1 800					100%
26	IP, PP 1999	2 100		1%	3%		96%
27	IP, PP 2003	1 787					100%
28	PP, IP 2004	1 787 ⁴					100%

Sources

Same sources as for table Iceland XI.

General notes

Party labels: See table Iceland I.

Specific notes

- 1) About two months later the cabinet published a 14500 words program.
- 2) The coalition agreement stated that a ministry of the environment should be formed. The new member of the cabinet, the CP, was given the ministry once established.
- 3) A little later the coalition published a 13500 words statement. About 0.5% addressed specific procedural rules and 1% distribution of offices.
- 4) The 2004 PP-IP coalition was a continuation of the 2003 IP-PP coalition that was negotiated during the formation of the latter coalition.

Iceland XIII: Distribution of cabinet ministers, coalition cabinets only, 1944-2004

Cabinet number	Cabinet	1 Prime minister	2 Finance	3 Foreign	4 Industry	5 Commerce	6 Fisheries	7 Social affairs	8 Education	9 Environment	10 Agriculture	11 Health and social security	12 Justice	13 Ecclesiastical affairs	14 Transportation	15 Statistics	16 Aviation	17 Energy
1	Thors II	IP ₁	IP ₂	IP ₁	SDP ₁	IP ₂	SP ₁	SDP ₂	SP		IP ₂		SDP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₁		SP ₁	
2	Thors III	IP ₁	IP ₂	IP ₁	SDP ₁	IP ₂	SP ₁	SDP ₂	SP		IP ₂		SDP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₁		SP ₁	
3	Stefánsson	SDP ₁	IP ₂	IP ₁	SDP ₂	SDP ₂	IP ₂	SDP ₁	PP ₁		PP ₂	PP ₁	IP ₁	PP ₁	SDP ₂		PP ₁	PP ₂
5	Steinþórsson	PP ₁	PP	IP ₁	IP ₃	IP ₂	IP ₃	PP ₁	IP ₂		PP ₂		IP ₁	PP ₂	PP ₂		IP ₂	PP ₂
6	Thors V	IP ₁	PP	PP ₁	IP ₃	IP ₃	IP ₁	PP ₂	IP ₂		PP ₂	IP ₃	IP ₂	PP ₂	PP ₁		IP ₃	PP ₂
7	Jónasson III	PP ₁ ¹	PP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₂	PA ₁	PA ₁	PA ²	SDP ₂		PP ₁	SDP ₁ ³	PP ₁		PP ₂			PP ₁
10	Thors VI	IP	IP	SDP	IP ₁	SDP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₁	SDP ₂		IP ₂	IP ₁ ³	IP ₁		IP ₂			IP ₂
11	Thors VII	IP	IP	SDP	IP ₁	SDP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₁	SDP ₂		IP ₂	IP ₁ ³	IP ₁		IP ₂			IP ₂
12	Benediktsson I	IP	IP	SDP	IP ₂	SDP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₁	SDP ₂		IP ₁	IP ₂	IP ₂		IP ₁	IP ₂		
13	Benediktsson II	IP	IP	SDP	IP ₂	SDP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₁	SDP ₂		IP ₁	IP ₂	IP ₂		IP ₁	IP ₂		
14	Hafstein	IP ₁	IP ₃	SDP ₁	IP ₁	SDP ₃	SDP ₂	SDP ₁	SDP ₃		IP ₂	SDP ₂	IP		IP ₂	IP ₃		
15	Jóhannesson I	PP ₁	PP ₂	PP	PA ₂	PA ₁	PA ₁	ULL ₁	ULL ₂		PP ₂	PA ₂	PP ₁		ULL ₁	ULL ₂		
16	Hallgrímsson	IP ₃	IP	PP	IP ₁	PP ₂	IP ₂	IP ₁	PP		PP ₁	IP ₂	PP ₂		PP ₁	IP ₃		
17	Jóhannesson II	PP ₂	PP	SDP	PA	PA	SDP	SDP ₁	PA ₁		PP ₁	SDP ₁	PP ₁		PA ₁	PP ₂		
19	Thoroddsen	IP ₁	PA	PP	PA	PP	PP ₁	PA ₁	PP		IP	PA ₁	IP		PP ₁	IP ₁		
20	Hermannsson I ⁴	PP	IP	IP	IP	IP ₂	PP	PP	IP		PP ₁	IP ₁	PP ₁		IP ₁	IP ₂		
21	Pálsson	IP	SDP	PP	IP	SDP ₁	PP	SDP	IP		PP	PP	SDP ₁		IP	SDP ₁		
22	Hermannsson II	PP ₂	PA	SDP	SDP ₁	SDP ₁	PP ₁	SDP	PA		PA ₁	PP	PP ₁	PP ₁	PA ₁	PP ₂		
23	Hermannsson III ⁵	PP ₁	PA	SDP	SDP ₁	SDP ₁	PP	SDP	PA	CP	PA ₁	PP	CP	CP	PA ₁	CP/PP ₁		
24	Oddsson I	IP ₃	IP	SDP	SDP ₁	SDP ₁	IP ₁	SDP	IP	SDP	IP ₂	SDP	IP ₁	IP ₁	IP ₂	IP ₃		
25	Oddsson II	IP ₂	IP	PP	PP ₂	PP ₂	IP ₁	PP	IP	PP ₁	PP ₁	PP	IP ₁	IP ₁	IP	IP ₂		
26	Oddsson III	IP ₁	IP	PP	PP ₁	PP ₁	IP	PP	IP	PP	PP	PP	IP	IP	IP	IP ₁		
27	Oddsson IV	IP ₁	IP	PP	PP ₂	PP ₂	IP	PP	IP	PP	PP	PP	IP ₂	IP ₂	IP	IP ₁		
28	Ásgrímsson	PP	IP	IP ₁	PP ₁	PP ₁	IP	PP	IP	IP	PP	PP	IP ₂	IP ₂	IP	IP ₁		

Sources

Indridason, Indridi (2005) "A Theory of Coalitions and Clientelism: Coalition Politics in Iceland 1945-2000", in European Journal of Political Research 44(3): 439-464,

Updated from 1999 by Indridi Indridason

General notes

There are no junior ministers in Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

Subscripts indicate that a minister held more than one portfolio. For example, in Oddsson's first cabinet the IP and the SDP each held five min

Party labels: See table Iceland I.

Specific notes

- 1) Also Ground Transportation.
- 2) Also Price Controls.
- 3) Indicates that the Minister only held parts of the portfolio of Health and Social Security
- 4) Statistics later moved over to the Minister of Finance.
- 5) The Ministry of the Environment was created on February 23rd 1990. In the first five and half months of the Cabinet, and until the Ministry's creation, a member of the Citizens' Party acted as the Minister of the Institute of Statistics. After the Ministry's creation, the Institute of Statistics became a part of the Prime Minister's portfolio.

CIVIL SERVANTS, MEDIA AND INTEREST GROUP DATA

Iceland XIV: Government commissions that include interest group representatives

No table

Iceland XV

No table

Iceland XVI: Union membership in Iceland, 1942-2004

Year	Total union membership	ASÍ	BSRB	BHM	KÍ
1942		32.2%	2.8%		
1943					
1944		35.5%	4.0%		
1945			4.1%		
1946		36.5%	4.1%		
1947			4.3%		
1948		37.3%	4.5%		
1949			4.8%		
1950		39.5%	4.9%		
1951			4.9%		
1952		39.0%			
1953			5.3%		
1954		39.8%			
1955					
1956		42.9%			
1957					
1958		43.5%		1.7%	
1959					
1960		44.0%	6.7%		
1961			7.2%		
1962		45.9%			
1963				1.8%	
1964		48.3%	7.1%	1.7%	
1965		0.0%	7.6%	1.8%	
1966		44.3%	7.4%	1.7%	
1967			7.8%	1.8%	
1968		45.4%		1.9%	
1969			8.7%	2.0%	
1970			8.7%		
1971				2.1%	
1972		47.0%	9.6%	2.1%	
1973			10.0%	2.2%	
1974			11.9%	2.7%	
1975			12.7%	2.7%	
1976		48.0%	13.0%	2.9%	
1977			13.8%		
1978			14.3%	3.7%	
1979	68.1%		15.1%		
1980		55.0%	14.9%	4.1%	
1981			14.6%		
1982			14.8%		
1983	75.3%		15.3%	4.1%	
1984		53.1%	15.4%		
1985	78.3%				

1986					2.5%
1987					2.3%
1988	48.8%				2.5%
1989			5.6%		2.4%
1990	96.4%				2.7%
1991	78.9%	47.6%	11.3%	4.0%	2.8%
1992	80.2%	47.2%	11.8%	4.1%	2.8%
1993	80.4%	46.9%	12.0%	4.3%	2.8%
1994	81.3%	47.3%	12.3%	5.4%	2.9%
1995	80.9%	46.9%	12.1%	5.7%	2.9%
1996	81.8%	47.7%	12.3%	5.5%	3.0%
1997	82.6%	47.8%	12.1%	5.8%	3.2%
1998	82.3%	47.9%	12.0%	5.5%	3.1%
1999	81.6%	47.8%	11.7%	5.1%	3.1%
2000	81.7%	48.4%	11.2%	4.2%	3.9%
2001	80.9%	48.0%	11.1%	4.4%	3.9%
2002	85.0%	51.9%	11.4%	4.5%	5.2%
2003	90.6%	56.7%	11.9%	4.7%	5.3%
2004		59.9%	11.9%	5.2%	5.5%

Sources

Data for total union membership: OECD Labor Market Statistics: 1979-1990 and Statistics Iceland 1991-2003. OECD data is based on administrative data

Data for individual union membership: BHM tíðindi (various issues), BHM blaðið (various issues), BHM bréf (various issues), Fréttabréf (Bandalag háskólamanna) (various issues), Ásgarður (various issues), Þingtíðindi Bandalags starfsmanna ríkis og bæja, Skýrsla stjórnar BSRB (various issues), BSRB fréttir (various issues), BSRB-tíðindi (various issues), BSRB blaðið, Þingtíðindi Alþýðusambands Íslands (various issues), KÍ – skýrsla stjórnar (various issues), Félagsblað KÍ (various issues), data from the office KÍ, www.hagstofan.is (all data since 1991).

Data for total labour force (to calculate percentages): Hagstofa Íslands (1997): for 1942-1990, www.hagstofa.is: for 1991-2004

Note: The data for total labor force for 1963-1990 represents total labour usage (man-years) rather than total labor force.

General notes

ASÍ – Icelandic Confederation of Labour

BSRB – Confederation of State and Municipal Employees

BHM – Association of Academics

KÍ – Icelandic Teachers Union.

