Election indices 3  
countries quite time-consuming and sometimes impossible for those who are able to  
read only Roman script.  
An issue that arises occasionally under mixed systems (those where some candidates  
are elected from small constituencies and others from a national or regional list) is  
that some constituency seats are won by independent candidates or small parties that  
do not run in the list element of the election. (Examples include Egypt, Morocco,  
Nepal, Palestine.) When only list vote totals are available, or when list votes alone are  
the basis for allocating seats to parties, this creates a situation where it appears,  
comparing national votes with seats, that somehow a party that won no votes  
nonetheless won a seat. Anomalous as this is, it seems preferable to simply ignoring  
these candidates / parties and basing the calculations on the other seats, which would  
distort every other party’s percentage of the seats. In cases where the number of seats  
won by parties or candidates that did not run in the list element is large (for example,  
Ukraine’s election of 2012, where 49 of the 225 constituency seats were won by  
small parties or independents that won no list votes and for which there is no data on  
constituency votes), the election is not included in the dataset.  
The countries included here include the standard set that tend to feature in  
comparative politics analyses and, relatedly of course, are covered in the historical  
sources listed above. As many other countries as possible are also included for  
particular elections, dependent on the availability of reliable and adequately  
disaggregated results. The elections included are confined to those that could  
plausibly be deemed occasions of choice for the voting population, which is not to  
imply that every single election included here can be regarded as meeting the highest  
democratic standards.  
A complication that affects the calculation of Eff Ns in a few cases is that groups of  
parties may contest an election as a coalition in order to reap the benefits of size and  
then disaggregate after the election. For example, in Greece’s 1958 election only five  
groupings contested the election and have recorded vote totals, but because two of  
these groupings were umbrellas, seat totals are recorded for nine different parties  
(Mackie and Rose, International Almanac, pp. 198–200). In the figures below, Eff Ns  
is based on seat totals for the same groups as are used for the calculation of Eff Nv,  
disregarding any post-election splitting of the groupings that contested the election  
together. In a number of elections in some other countries such as Italy, Malaysia and  
San Marino, figures are available both for individual parties and for the broader  
alliances into which some of them group; in most cases, the figures in the tables are  
based on treating individual parties as the units, with figures using alliances given in  
the Notes.  
Conditions of use: there aren’t any, but citations are always appreciated ...  
Suggested citation format:  
Gallagher, Michael, 2021. Election indices dataset at  
http://www.tcd.ie/Political\_Science/people/michael\_gallagher/ElSystems/index.php,  
accessed [date].