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# Presidential Calendar: A Time-Based Analysis



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# Executive Summary

The Government Accountability Institute conducted an analysis of how much time President Barack Obama has spent in economic meetings of any kind, Presidential Daily Briefs (PDBs), and personal recreation (vacations and golf outings). Our sources included: the White House official calendar; *Politico's* comprehensive calendar; and media reports. The study covered the president's 1,532 days in office up through March 31, 2013.

## Key Findings:

- President Obama has spent 3.6 % of his total work time in economic meetings or briefings of any kind (assuming a six day, 10-hour a-day workweek) throughout his presidency
- President Obama has spent a total of 474.4 hours (or 47.4 10-hour workdays) in economic meetings or briefings of any kind throughout his presidency
- In 2013, President Obama has spent 6 total hours in economic meetings of any kind
- The number of days with some sort of economic meeting have declined significantly throughout President Obama's time in office. Throughout 2009, President Obama had 140 days with economic meetings. By 2012, the number of days with a scheduled economic meeting decreased to 29 (an 79 % decrease)
- President Obama has attended a total of 645 PDBs (intelligence briefings) since taking office (42.1 % of the 1532 days we reviewed)
- Throughout his time in office, President Obama has played 115 total rounds of golf and spent 86 days on vacation, for an estimated combined total of 976 hours



# Methodology

## Assumptions

- As shown below under “Types of Economic Meetings that Counted,” generally wide parameters were used to include anything that may have constituted an “economic meeting” (see Appendix 1 for examples of economic meetings that counted)
- If the President’s schedule did not indicate an end time for an economic meeting, a generous two hour allotment was granted
- The “Percentage of Total Monthly Hours for Economic Meetings” calculation assumes a six day, 10-hour per day workweek
- Estimated golf hours based upon 4 hours to play a round of golf
- Estimated vacation hours based upon 6 hours of leisure time for each day of vacation



**Table 1: Time Spent in Meetings on the Economy**

		Monthly Hours for Economic Meetings	% of Total Monthly Hours for Economic Meetings	Days with Economic Meeting
2009	January	13.6	12.4%	9
	February	6.3	2.6%	10
	March	20.8	8.0%	18
	April	20.7	8.0%	13
	May	22.5	8.7%	16
	June	20.6	7.9%	15
	July	28.7	10.6%	16
	August	10.9	4.2%	10
	September	5.3	2.0%	5
	October	12.7	4.7%	13
	November	8.3	3.3%	6
	December	16.8	6.2%	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>187.2</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>140</b>
2010	January	18.7	7.2%	10
	February	14.2	5.9%	14
	March	9.3	3.4%	10
	April	10.8	4.2%	7
	May	6.2	2.4%	7
	June	11	4.2%	12
	July	12.6	4.7%	10
	August	4.6	1.8%	5
	September	9	3.5%	7
	October	12.6	4.8%	11
	November	8.5	3.3%	6
	December	10.3	3.8%	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>127.8</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>106</b>
2011	January	7.7	3.0%	4
	February	6.6	2.8%	3
	March	5.2	1.9%	4
	April	6.8	2.6%	4
	May	5.9	2.3%	3
	June	7.1	2.7%	5
	July	17.2	6.6%	8
	August	6.7	2.5%	5
	September	4.9	1.9%	3



		Monthly Hours for Economic Meetings	% of Total Monthly Hours for Economic Meetings	Days with Economic Meeting
	October	3	1.2%	3
	November	1.4	0.5%	1
	December	0.5	0.2%	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>2012</b>	January	4.4	1.7%	3
	February	4	1.6%	2
	March	3	1.1%	2
	April	6.5	2.6%	4
	May	6	2.2%	3
	June	10	3.1%	3
	July	4.5	1.7%	3
	August	7.5	2.8%	1
	September	0	0.0%	0
	October	0	0.0%	0
	November	18.5	7.1%	4
	December	16	6.2%	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>2013</b>	January	0	3.0%	0
	February	5.5	2.3%	3
	March	0.5	0.2%	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Sum Total</b>	<b>474.4</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>323</b>



**Table 2: Days with Presidential Daily Brief on the Calendar**

	Month	Days with PDB on Calendar	Percentages
2009	January	4	
	February	15	
	March	25	
	April	12	
	May	16	
	June	18	
	July	17	
	August	10	
	September	10	
	October	14	
	November	9	
	December	10	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>46.2%</b>
2010	January	16	
	February	17	
	March	18	
	April	10	
	May	14	
	June	15	
	July	16	
	August	8	
	September	14	
	October	19	
	November	10	
	December	21	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>48.8%</b>
2011	January	15	
	February	12	
	March	14	
	April	14	
	May	11	
	June	12	
	July	15	
	August	7	
	September	12	
	October	8	
	November	8	
	December	12	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>38.4%</b>



	Month	Days with PDB on Calendar	Percentages
2012	January	12	
	February	15	
	March	11	
	April	13	
	May	7	
	June	8	
	July	7	
	August	10	
	September	13	
	October	9	
	November	8	
	December	12	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>34.2%</b>
2013	January	14	
	February	13	
	March	15	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46.7%</b>
	<b>Total for Entire Period</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>42.1%</b>



**Table 3: Time Spent on Vacation and Golf Outings**

		<b>Golf Outings</b>	<b>Estimated Golf Hours</b>	<b>Vacation Days</b>	<b>Estimated Vacation Hours</b>	<b>Total Golf and Vacation Hours</b>
<b>2009</b>	January	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	0	0	0	0
	April	1	4	0	0	4
	May	3	12	0	0	12
	June	4	16	0	0	16
	July	3	12	0	0	12
	August	6	24	13	78	102
	September	4	16	0	0	16
	October	2	8	0	0	8
	November	1	4	0	0	4
	December	3	12	8	48	60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>2010</b>	January	1	4	3	18	22
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	0	0	0	0
	April	5	20	3	18	38
	May	4	16	4	24	40
	June	2	8	0	0	8
	July	4	16	3	18	34
	August	5	20	12	72	92
	September	2	8	0	0	8
	October	3	12	0	0	12
	November	0	0	0	0	0
	December	4	16	9	54	70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>324</b>
<b>2011</b>	January	1	4	3	18	22
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	2	8	0	0	8
	April	4	16	0	0	16
	May	5	20	0	0	20
	June	5	20	0	0	20
	July	0	0	0	0	0
	August	5	20	8	48	68
	September	2	8	0	0	8
	October	3	12	0	0	12
	November	3	12	0	0	12





		<b>Golf Outings</b>	<b>Estimated Golf Hours</b>	<b>Vacation Days</b>	<b>Estimated Vacation Hours</b>	<b>Total Golf and Vacation Hours</b>
	December	4	16	9	54	70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>2012</b>	January	0	0	2	12	12
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	0	0	0	0
	April	4	16	0	0	16
	May	2	8	0	0	8
	June	3	12	0	0	12
	July	2	8	0	0	8
	August	1	4	0	0	4
	September	0	0	0	0	0
	October	0	0	0	0	0
	November	2	8	0	0	8
	December	4	16	5	30	46
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>2013</b>	January	2	8	4	24	32
	February	3	12	0	0	12
	March	1	4	0	0	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>976</b>



## **Appendix 1 – Types of Economic Meetings that Counted**

- Obama attends Housing Refinance Roundtable
- Obama meets with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner
- Obama receives his daily economic briefing
- Obama meets with Cabinet secretaries
- Obama meets with his Cabinet, Biden is also in attendance
- Obama meets with Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee
- Obama attends a world trade discussion
- Obama delivers statement calling on congress to extend middle-class tax cuts
- Obama delivers remarks on middle class tax relief at a campaign event
- Obama delivers a statement about the action we need to take to keep our economy growing and reduce our deficit
- Obama and Biden attend a meeting with leaders from the labour community
- Obama and Biden attend a meeting with business leaders
- Obama and Biden meet with governors at the White House to discuss economic growing and deficit reduction
- Obama visits middle class families to discuss the importance of extending tax cuts
- Obama delivers remarks at the Business Council dinner and answers questions
- Obama meets with CEOs to discuss cyber security
- Obama delivers remarks to the White House to urge action to avoid the sequester
- Obama delivers remarks to members of the Business Roundtable.
- Obama attends a G-20 plenary session
- Obama attends Major Economies Forum discussion of the environment
- Obama has lunch with four CEOs: Ivan Seidenberg of Verizon, Mike Duke of Wal-Mart, Dan DiMicco of Nucor and Howard Schultz of Starbucks
- Obama delivers remarks at opening session of the Jobs and Economic Growth Forum
- Obama meets with Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairwoman Inez Tenenbaum



- Obama and Biden meet with Presidential Economic Recovery Advisory Board Chair Paul Volcker
- Obama and Biden meet with bipartisan leaders of the House and Senate to discuss the economy and jobs
- Obama and Biden meet with Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke
- Obama and Biden meet with Congressional Leadership to discuss on-going negotiations on a funding bill
- Obama and Biden meet with a bipartisan group of mayors to discuss the economy
- Obama hosts an education roundtable with business leaders, Secretary Duncan, Melody Barnes, and America's Promise Alliance Chair Alma Powell and Founding Chair General Colin Powell
- Obama and senior administration officials meet with heads of financial regulatory agencies to receive an update on implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

