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# Presidential Economic Meetings: A Time-Based Analysis



Government Accountability Institute

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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, as recorded on the White House official calendar and *Politico's* comprehensive calendar. The study covered the President's first 1,257 days in office.

Key findings include:

- President Obama has spent less than 4 percent of his total time in economic meetings or briefings of any kind (assuming a six day, 10-hour workweek)
- President Obama has spent 412 hours (or forty-one 10-hour workdays) in economic meetings or briefings of any kind
- There were 773 days (72 percent), excluding Sundays, in which the President had no economic meetings
- Throughout his presidency, President Obama has spent an average of 138 minutes a week in economic meetings
- In 2012, President Obama has spent 24 total hours in economic meetings of any kind



# Methodology

## Assumptions

- As shown below under “Types of Economic Meetings that Counted,” wide parameters were used to tabulate what constituted an “economic meeting”
- If the schedule did not indicate an end time, it was assumed that the economic meeting lasted two hours
- Sundays were excluded in the calculation of the number of days without meetings on the economy
- The “Percentage of Total Monthly Hours for Economic Meetings” calculation assumes a six day, 10-hour workweek

## 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 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 ongoing 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



## Time Spent in Meetings on the Economy

	Month	Monthly Hours for Economic Meetings	Percentage of Total Monthly Hours Spent in Economic Meetings	Days Without Meeting on the Economy	Days Without Economic Meeting as a Percentage of Total Work Days
2009	January	13.6	12.4%	1	9.1%
	February	6.3	2.6%	14	58.3%
	March	20.8	8.0%	8	30.8%
	April	20.7	8.0%	13	50.0%
	May	22.5	8.7%	10	38.5%
	June	20.6	7.9%	11	42.3%
	July	28.7	10.6%	11	40.7%
	August	10.9	4.2%	16	61.5%
	September	5.3	2.0%	21	80.8%
	October	12.7	4.7%	14	51.9%
	November	8.3	3.3%	19	76.0%
	December	16.8	6.2%	18	66.7%
	Yearly Total	187.2	6.6%	156	50.5%
2010	January	18.7	7.2%	16	61.5%
	February	14.2	5.9%	10	41.7%
	March	9.3	3.4%	17	63.0%
	April	10.8	4.2%	19	73.1%



	May	6.2	2.4%	19	73.1%
	June	11	4.2%	14	53.8%
	July	12.6	4.7%	17	63.0%
	August	4.6	1.8%	21	80.8%
	September	9	3.5%	19	73.1%
	October	12.6	4.8%	15	57.7%
	November	8.5	3.3%	20	76.9%
	December	10.3	3.8%	20	74.1%
	Yearly Total	127.8	4.1%	207	66.0%
2011	January	7.7	3.0%	22	84.6%
	February	6.6	2.8%	21	87.5%
	March	5.2	1.9%	23	85.2%
	April	6.8	2.6%	22	84.6%
	May	5.9	2.3%	23	88.5%
	June	7.1	2.7%	21	80.8%
	July	17.2	6.6%	18	69.2%
	August	6.7	2.5%	22	81.5%
	September	4.9	1.9%	23	88.5%
	October	3	1.2%	23	88.5%
	November	1.4	0.5%	25	96.2%
	December	0.5	0.2%	26	96.3%
		Yearly Total	73	2.3%	269



2012	January	4.4	1.7%	23	88.5%
	February	4	1.6%	23	92.0%
	March	3	1.1%	25	92.6%
	April	6.5	2.6%	21	84.0%
	May	6	2.2%	24	88.9%
	June	0.5	0.2%	25	96.2%
	Yearly Total	24.4	1.6%	141	90.3%
	Sum Total	412.4	3.8%	773	71.6%

