



## The Daily Dish

# The Unified Agenda

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As everyone knows, September 6 was National Fight Procrastination Day, so perhaps it was the impending embarrassment that prompted the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue its **Spring** (a tiny bit of emphasis added) Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Activities this past week. (OMB also issued the Mid-Session Review of the Budget on September 5. Its due date was July 15, so rushing it out probably made them feel even better. See Jordan Haring's review [here](#).)

Back to the Unified Agenda, which Dan Goldbeck [explores](#) in detail. The basic data are summarized in the table (below), which is reproduced from Goldeck's insight. As he puts it:

*The most interesting dynamic in these Spring 2025 totals is the divergence in trends between "active" and "long-term" actions. The figures from the former, across all associated categories, are relatively middle-of-the-road compared to the past decade's worth of Spring UA data. The latter category (long-term actions), however, reaches the highest levels seen over this period. It is difficult to immediately discern what caused this "long-term" action spike.*

**Trends in Rulemaking Volume Across Spring Unified Agendas**

<i>Year</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>
Active Items	2,239	1,731	2,224	2,597	2,697	2,551	2,673	2,617	2,361	2,102
Long-Term Items	502	696	647	610	575	623	574	582	648	807
<u>Total Prospective Items</u>	<u>2,741</u>	<u>2,427</u>	<u>2,871</u>	<u>3,207</u>	<u>3,272</u>	<u>3,174</u>	<u>3,247</u>	<u>3,199</u>	<u>3,009</u>	<u>2,909</u>
“Major” Active Items	125	49	88	123	155	170	217	236	193	111
“Major” Long-Term Items	43	51	34	30	40	47	38	44	42	79
<u>Total “Major” Items</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>190</u>
“Significant” Active Items	800	429	707	919	974	945	1,055	1,042	892	753
“Significant” Long-Term Items	208	299	222	218	218	262	263	284	275	306
<u>Total “Significant” Items</u>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>728</u>	<u>929</u>	<u>1,137</u>	<u>1,192</u>	<u>1,207</u>	<u>1,318</u>	<u>1,326</u>	<u>1,167</u>	<u>1,059</u>

The other interesting feature of the data is the mix of regulatory and deregulatory activities. As readers will recall, the president employed a “1 in, 2 out” strategy during his first term in office. This time around, he promised “1 in, 10 out.” As Goldbeck summarizes the data:

*As somewhat expected, the trends in the data included point to a focus on deregulatory*

*actions during the first couple of years with most of the “regulatory” items coming down the pike later in the term. Such a dynamic seems to align with the results seen during the [first Trump term](#). This UA also suggests that, despite this near-term prioritization of deregulatory efforts, agencies will struggle to meet President Trump’s vaunted “10-to-1” goal – at least within the realm of fully realized, substantive rulemakings.*

Eakinomics has been baffled by the slow start to the Trump 2.0 deregulatory agenda. Perhaps the arrival of the Unified Agenda indicates the administration’s intention to pick up the pace