

Today's Washington Press Corps More Digital, Specialized

Topline – Database and Directories

December 2015

Pew Research Center

Full Congressional Directory

Number of journalists and percent of total

	2009		2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
U.S. Senate Press Gallery	1,658	25	1,782	26	124	7
U.S. Senate Periodicals Gallery	1,282	20	1,221	18	-61	-5
U.S. Senate Radio & TV Gallery	3,355	51	3,559	52	204	6
U.S. Senate Photographers Gallery	249	4	254	4	5	2
Total	6,544	100	6,816	100	272	4

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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U.S. Senate Press Gallery Categories

Number of journalists and percent of total

	2009		2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Daily newspaper	608	37	576	32	-32	-5
Niche outlet	500	30	589	33	89	18
Mainstream newswires	214	13	216	12	2	1
Foreign outlet	334	20	328	18	-6	-2
Broad-interest websites	2	0	73	4	71	3,550
Total	1,658	100	1,782	100	124	7

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Digital-native outlet staff accredited to cover Congress

Number of journalists and percent of total

	2009		2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Broad-interest websites	2	6	73	55	71	3,550
Niche (digital-native)	29	94	60	45	31	107
All digital	31	100	133	100	102	329

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Niche outlets staff accredited to cover Congress

Number of journalists and percent of total

	2009		2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Niche (legacy)	471	94	529	90	58	12
Niche (digital-native)	29	6	60	10	31	107
All niche	500	100	589	100	89	18

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Regional reporters

Number of Regional Reporters Association members and change over time

	2008		2015		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Members	73		59		-14	-19

Source: Regional Reporters Association

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Foreign magazines in DC

Number of foreign magazines and periodicals with a bureau in DC and change over time

	2008		2015		Change	
	#		#		#	%
Magazines and periodicals	24		19		-5	-21

Source: Hudson's Washington News Media Contacts Directory, 2008, 2015.

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Newspaper journalists accredited to Press Gallery, by paper type

Number of journalists and percent of total

	2009		2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Corporate bureau	81	13	80	14	-1	-1
Daily national paper	131	22	170	30	39	30
Daily national paper with local coverage	263	43	204	35	-59	-22
Local daily paper	126	21	112	19	-14	-11
Freelance/syndicate	7	1	10	2	3	43
Total newspaper	608	100	576	100	-32	-5

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Newspaper staff & states covered by their publications in Press Gallery

Number of journalists

	2009	2014	Change	
	#	#	#	%
Local daily paper	125	111	-14	-11
<i>States covered</i>	33	29	-4	-12
Daily national paper with local coverage	263	204	-59	-22
<i>States covered</i>	2	2	0	0

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

Note: For this table, one reporter covering Puerto Rico's Nuevo Dia was excluded from analysis of both 2009 and 2014.

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Local newspapers & states (Press Gallery)

Number of journalists and change over time

	2009		2014		Change	
	#	# lost	#	# added	#	%
Local newspapers	61	19	49	8	-12	-20
States covered (unique # of states covered by newspapers in each list – e.g., unique states covered by 16 newspapers lost in 2009)	33	16	29	7	-4	-12

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

Note: Includes local daily papers as well as national papers that also cover local issues.

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Newspaper bureaus

Number of individual bureaus and papers served by corporate bureau

	2008		2015		Change	
	#		#		#	
Newspaper bureaus	39		27		-12	
States covered	27		20		-7	
Newspapers served by corporate bureau	262		198		-64	

Source: Hudson's Washington News Media Contacts Directory, 2008, 2015.

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Core TV news staff in D.C.

Year and number of news executives, correspondents and anchors for ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox News

	#	# Change from previous year
1985	127	n/a
2000	103	-24
2004	100	-3
2008	84	-16
2015	64	-20

Source: Hudson's Washington News Media Contacts Directory, multiple editions.

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Major broadcasters in Press Gallery

Number and percent of total

	2009		2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total (ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN and Fox News)	1,082	32	974	27	-108	-10
Total Radio TV Gallery	3,355	100	3,559	100	204	6

Source: Congressional Directory. 113th Congress (February 2014), 111th Congress (December 2009).

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TV stations served by corporate bureau*Number and change*

	2008	2015	Change	
	#	#	#	%
Stations	92	93	1	1

Source: Hudson's News Media Contacts Directory, 2008, 2015.

Note: Data include AM radio stations and broadcast TV stations, as well as two local cable channels.

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A historical view: Washington press corps in the mid-1980s

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Sector	# outlets	# staff	# states	Year	Source
Newspapers with their own bureaus in D.C.*	71	n/a	35	1985	Hudson's
Newsletters with D.C. bureaus or staff	138	n/a	n/a	1986	Capital Source
Trade publications and magazines with D.C. bureaus or staff	172	n/a	n/a	1986	Capital Source
Daily newspaper staff accredited to the Senate Press Gallery	n/a	734	n/a	1985-1986	Senate Press Gallery
Wire services staff accredited to the Senate Press Gallery	n/a	201	n/a	1985-1986	Senate Press Gallery
Local TV and radio stations with access to feeds from corporate news bureaus	146	n/a	42	1985	Hudson's
Core TV news staff in D.C.**	n/a	127	n/a	1985	Hudson's

Source: Hudson's Washington News Media Contacts Directory, 1985; The Capital Source Directories, 1986; Congressional Directory, 99th Congress (1985-1986).

* The Pew Research Center's 2015 report on the Washington press corps uses a slightly broader metric than was used for the 1985 data shown here in order to tabulate the number of newspapers with their own bureau for the years 2008 and 2015. The broader trend of decline in newspaper bureaus still holds over this 30-year time period.

** These numbers were also reported above in the table titled "Core TV news staff in D.C."

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Today's Washington Press Corps More Digital, Specialized**Content Analysis Topline – All Papers Combined****December 2015****Pew Research Center**

Number of Stories Per Paper

Albuquerque Journal	332
The Buffalo News	336
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel	383
The Oklahoman	253
The Providence Journal	336
San Jose Mercury News	410
The Toledo Blade	341
The Virginian-Pilot	403
Total	2,794

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

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Story Placement

Number and percent of stories on the front page/not on the front page, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Front page	34	33	105	20	108	7	80	14	327	12
Other	70	67	423	80	1,487	93	487	86	2,467	88
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Story Dateline

Number and percent of stories with each dateline, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Home city	12	12	338	64	194	12	78	14	622	22
Washington, D.C.	92	88	85	16	939	59	302	53	1,418	51
New York City	0	0	3	1	40	3	27	5	70	3
All other U.S. cities	0	0	83	16	261	16	87	15	431	15
Outside of U.S.	0	0	19	4	161	10	73	13	253	9
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Geographic Focus

Number and percent of stories with each geographic focus, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Entirely national (90%+)	12	12	147	28	1,012	63	320	56	1,491	53
Entirely local or regional (90%+)	4	4	50	9	14	1	8	1	76	3
Entirely about another region of the country outside of the paper's home area	0	0	5	1	101	6	27	5	133	5
Entirely about U.S. foreign affairs	12	12	34	6	404	25	177	31	627	22
Non-U.S. International	0	0	2	<1	9	1	1	<1	12	<1
Combination local/regional/national	76	73	290	55	55	3	34	6	455	16
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Big Stories (Top 9)

Number and percent of stories addressing each big story, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Same-sex marriage court cases/laws	3	3	7	1	39	2	13	2	62	2
Obamacare/Medicare – Medicaid/health care legislation	8	8	41	8	66	4	32	6	147	5
Tax laws/IRS	2	2	7	1	35	2	4	1	48	2
Ferguson/Police/Racial tensions	1	1	6	1	27	2	16	3	50	2
TPP Legislation/trade	4	4	7	1	30	2	9	2	50	2
Budget/deficits (includes government shutdown)	9	9	10	2	98	6	15	3	132	5
Combating ISIS/Islamic St/international terrorism	3	3	17	3	109	7	56	10	185	7
H. Clinton scandals (Benghazi and emails)	0	0	3	1	38	2	10	2	51	2
Iran deal and U.S./Israel relations combined	8	8	23	4	152	10	43	8	226	8

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

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Topics Covered

Number and percent of stories addressing each topic, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Government	19	18	75	14	284	18	87	15	465	17
Campaign/politics/elections	4	4	11	2	25	2	3	1	43	2
Defense (domestic)	8	8	35	7	62	4	18	3	123	4
Crime	1	1	39	7	61	4	15	3	116	4
Domestic terrorism	0	0	4	1	39	2	19	3	62	2
Business and economics	10	10	70	13	208	13	36	6	324	12
Environment and energy	12	12	57	11	73	5	30	5	172	6
Transportation	6	6	13	2	59	4	13	2	91	3
Education	1	1	17	3	21	1	13	2	52	2
Immigration	2	2	14	3	21	1	7	1	44	2
Other domestic affairs	6	6	40	8	49	3	23	4	118	4
Religion	2	2	4	1	12	1	0	0	18	1
Health and medicine	8	8	58	11	109	7	52	9	227	8
Science and tech	0	0	15	3	44	3	22	4	81	3
Social minority and gender issues	3	3	14	3	72	5	34	6	123	4
Disasters/accidents	1	1	13	2	30	2	5	1	49	2
U.S. foreign-affairs	21	20	49	9	426	27	190	34	686	25
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Main Area of Government Covered

Number and percent of stories covering each area of government, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White House/Obama Administration	8	8	61	12	402	25	151	27	622	22
Congress	54	52	119	23	389	24	94	17	656	23
Federal Agency	21	20	241	46	625	39	256	45	1,143	41
Local government	6	6	81	15	46	3	20	4	153	5
International Government	4	4	2	<1	49	3	19	3	74	3
Supreme Court	11	11	21	4	74	5	27	5	133	5
Other	0	0	3	1	10	1	0	0	13	<1
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Primary Impact

Number and percent of stories that primarily address the impact on each group, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Citizens	35	34	209	40	373	23	150	26	767	27
Politicians + Government	47	45	141	27	574	36	204	36	966	35
Interest groups/business	8	8	129	24	238	15	47	8	422	15
U.S. relations with other countries	13	13	36	7	350	22	139	25	538	19
Non-U.S. citizens	1	1	7	1	48	3	23	4	79	3
Other	0	0	6	1	12	1	4	1	22	1
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Impact on the Local Community

Number and percent of stories that primarily address the impact on the local community, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Inclusion of local impact	42	40	214	41	29	2	21	4	306	11
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Story Trigger

Number and percent of stories that were triggered by the action of each group, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Government	87	84	442	84	1,302	82	434	77	2,265	81
Business	0	0	15	3	28	2	6	1	49	2
Outside observer	7	7	27	5	59	4	24	4	117	4
Unelected political figures/parties	1	1	1	<1	13	1	3	1	18	1
Press driven	9	9	37	7	98	6	70	12	214	8
Foreign government	0	0	6	1	95	6	30	5	131	5
Total	104	100	528	100	1,595	100	567	100	2,794	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Sources Cited At Least Once

Number and percent of stories citing each source at least once, by staff type

	All Papers Combined									
	Includes D.C. correspondent (registered)		Includes other staff (but no DC staff)		Wire (any owner)		Other national media outlet (non-wire)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Federal Government Agency	18	17	196	37	555	35	223	39	992	36
Obama or Obama Administration	31	30	34	6	476	30	152	27	693	25
At least one member of Congress	74	71	119	23	470	29	129	23	792	28
Any city or state government source	20	19	132	25	73	5	18	3	243	9
Any other local source	10	10	108	20	15	1	16	3	149	5
No sources	7	7	100	19	326	20	111	20	544	19

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Today's Washington Press Corps More Digital, Specialized

Content Analysis Topline – By Paper Type

December 2015

Pew Research Center

Number of stories per paper

Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
Albuquerque Journal	332	The Providence Journal	336
The Buffalo News	336	San Jose Mercury News	410
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel	383	The Toledo Blade	341
The Oklahoman	253	The Virginian-Pilot	403
Total	1,304	Total	1,490

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

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Story Placement

Number and percent of stories on the front page/not on the front page, by staff type and paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent										Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent							
	Includes D.C. staff		Staff not in D.C.		Wire (any ownership group)		Other national media outlet		Total		Staff (any location)		Wire (any ownership group)		Other national media outlet		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Front page	34	33	40	17	17	3	32	11	123	9	65	22	91	10	48	17	204	14
Other	70	67	194	83	661	97	256	89	1,181	91	229	78	826	90	231	83	1,286	86
Total	104	100	234	100	678	100	288	100	1,304	100	294	100	917	100	279	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Story Dateline

Number and percent of stories with each dateline, by staff type and paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent										Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent							
	Includes D.C. staff		Staff not in D.C.		Wire (any ownership group)		Other national media outlet		Total		Staff (any location)		Wire (any ownership group)		Other national media outlet		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Home city	12	12	148	63	84	12	28	10	272	21	190	65	110	12	50	18	350	23
Washington, D.C.	92	88	49	21	434	64	171	59	746	57	36	12	505	55	131	47	672	45
New York City	0	0	3	1	14	2	10	3	27	2	0	0	26	3	17	6	43	3
All other U.S. cities	0	0	29	12	86	13	46	16	161	12	54	18	175	19	41	15	270	18
Outside of U.S.	0	0	5	2	60	9	33	11	98	8	14	5	101	11	40	14	155	10
Total	104	100	234	100	678	100	288	100	1,304	100	294	100	917	100	279	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Geographic Focus

Number and percent of stories with each geographic focus, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	#	%	#	%
Entirely national (90%+)	689	53	802	54
Entirely local (90%+)	31	2	45	3
Entirely about another region outside of the paper's home area	58	4	75	5
U.S. foreign affairs	269	21	358	24
Non-U.S. International	9	1	3	<1
Combination Local/Regional/National	248	19	207	14
Total	1,304	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Big Stories (Top 9)

Number and percent of stories addressing each big story, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	#	%	#	%
Same-sex marriage court cases/laws	28	2	34	2
Obamacare/Medicare -Medicaid/health care legislation	77	6	70	5
Tax laws/IRS	19	1	29	2
Ferguson/Police/Racial tensions	23	2	27	2
TPP Legislation/trade	23	2	27	2
Budget/deficits (includes government shutdown)	74	6	58	4
Combating ISIS/Islamic St/international terrorism	69	5	116	8
H. Clinton scandals (Benghazi and emails)	23	2	28	2
Iran deal and U.S./Israel relations combined	109	8	117	8

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

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Topics Covered

Number and percent of stories addressing each topic, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	#	%	#	%
Government (internal workings)	227	17	238	16
Campaigns/politics	21	2	22	1
Defense (domestic)	50	4	73	5
Crime	47	4	69	5
Domestic terrorism	22	2	40	3
Business and economics	154	12	170	11
Environment and energy	89	7	83	6
Transportation	43	3	48	3
Education	28	2	24	2
Immigration	24	2	20	1
Other domestic affairs	55	4	63	4
Religion	8	1	10	1
Health and medicine	114	9	113	8
Science and technology	42	3	39	3
Social minority and gender issues	53	4	70	5
Disasters/accidents	20	2	29	2
U.S. foreign affairs	307	24	379	25
Total	1,304	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Main Area of Government Covered

Number and percent of stories covering each area of government, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	#	%	#	%
White House/Obama Administration	306	23	316	21
Congress	339	26	317	21
Federal Agency	487	37	656	44
Local government	68	5	85	6
International government	23	2	51	3
Supreme Court	78	6	55	4
Other	3	<1	10	1
Total	1,304	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Primary Impact

Number and percent of stories that primarily address the impact on each group, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	#	%	#	%
	Total		Total	
Citizens	328	25	439	29
Politicians + Government	512	39	454	30
Interest groups/business	190	15	232	16
U.S. relations with other countries	236	18	302	20
Other	38	3	63	4
Total	1,304	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Impact on the Local Community

Number and percent of stories that primarily address the impact on the local community, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	#	%	#	%
Mention local impact	149	11	157	11
Total	1,304	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Story Trigger

Number and percent of stories that were triggered by the action of each group, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	Total		Total	
	#	%	#	%
Government	1,038	80	1,227	82
Business	24	2	25	2
Outside observer	68	5	49	3
Unelected political figures/parties	7	1	11	1
Press driven	121	9	93	6
Foreign government	46	4	85	6
Total	1,304	100	1,490	100

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding

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Sources Cited At Least Once

Number and percent of stories citing each source at least once, by paper type

	Newspapers with a D.C. correspondent		Newspapers without a D.C. correspondent	
	#	%	#	%
Federal Government Agency	463	36	529	36
Obama or Obama Administration	363	28	330	22
At least one member of Congress	398	31	394	26
Any city or state government source	117	9	126	8
Any other local source	76	6	73	5
No Sources	222	17	322	22

Source: Content analysis conducted on the 78 days that Congress was in session during February-May 2015.

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