

THE NEW YEAR CALENDAR – A WHITE PAPER

The History of The [Gregorian Calendar](#) – And Its Problems

The Gregorian Calendar was created by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. It replaced the Julian Calendar, which had been in use for centuries, and had presumed, incorrectly, that the Earth took 365.25 days to revolve around the sun (it takes 365.24219 days). That slight discrepancy caused the calendar to drift ever so slightly each year. By 1582, the Vernal Equinox was occurring well before March 21st. Easter was supposed to be calculated from the Vernal Equinox, meaning it was slipping from its intended observed date. To rectify this error, the church decreed that the date after October 4th would be October 15th. The 10 days in between simply never happened.

Over the centuries since, countries around the world eventually adopted the Gregorian Calendar, and it has become the de facto calendar in use globally.

The problems that arise from a 365 (or 366) day calendar, when separated into seven-day weeks, are numerous, causing discrepancies and variability in areas from fiscal year calculation to school calendars to tourism. However, rather than attempting meaningful reform, society has become accustomed to dealing with these eccentricities and imperfections. Below are some examples, using US Federal Holidays, of how the Gregorian Calendar affects both Floating Date and Fixed Date Holidays, as well as other days and dates of note.

Floating Date Holidays (i.e. Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving)

These are holidays that fall on the same **day** of the week each year, but on different **dates** on the calendar, leading to various problems:

- In certain years, when Memorial Day (the last Monday in May) falls “late” and/or Labor Day (the first Monday in September) falls “early,” there are less days of “Summer” (at least as perceived and marketed), which affects tourism-heavy industries.
- The time between “Black Friday” (the day after Thanksgiving, a Floating Date Holiday) and Christmas (a Fixed Date Holiday) is variable, with massive impact on retail sales year-over-year.

Fixed Date Holidays (i.e. New Year’s Day, Halloween, Christmas)

These are holidays that fall on the same **date** on the calendar each year, but on different **days** of the week, leading to various problems:

- When a Fixed Date Holiday falls on a weekend, some people and companies choose to recognize an “Observed” holiday, while others don’t, which produces variability and unpredictability.
- Halloween on a Monday night hits schoolchildren (and their parents and teachers) very differently than Halloween on a Friday night.

Previous Calendar Modification Proposals and Their Shortcomings

Others have noticed these problems, and proposed modifications of varying degrees. Among the most notable:

The [International Fixed Calendar](#)

- Proposed 13 months with 28 days each. ($13 \times 28 = 364$).
- Gregorian month names remain the same, with the addition of a month ("Sol") that would fall between June and July.
- The 365th day, called "Year Day," would fall after December 28th and be a day that would exist without a corresponding **Day or Date** on the calendar.
- Leap Years would still exist, with the 366th day falling after June 28th but before Sol 1st, again without a corresponding **Day or Date**.
- The addition of a 13th month wreaks havoc with systems that rely on quarterly results (including publicly traded companies, government agencies, etc).
- People born on the 29th or after of every month would "lose" their birthdays.

The [Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar](#)

- Proposed four equal quarters of 91 days, each quarter's month lengths falling in a 30/30/31 pattern ($91 \times 4 = 364$)
 - o Jan 30, Feb 30, Mar 31
 - o Apr 30, May 30, June 31
 - o July 30, August 30, September 31
 - o October 30, November 30, December 31
- 365th (and 366th) days accommodated through insertion of a seven-day long "[mini-month](#)" (called Xtra) every five or six years
- People born on Jan 31, May 31, July 31, August 31, and October 31 would "lose" their birthdays.
- People born during Xtra would only have birthdays celebrated on the calendar every five or six years.

The [World Calendar](#)

- Proposed a 12-month calendar, with equal 91 day quarters
- Each quarter would begin on a Sunday and end on a Saturday
- January, April, July, and October would each have 31 days
- All other months would have 30 days
- Proposed the addition of an [intercalary](#) day, "Worldsday," a day to follow December 30th
- Worldsday would be neither a day of the week, nor a date on the calendar.
- Leap Days would be called "Leapyear Day." It would follow June 30th, and again be neither an existing day nor date on the calendar.
- While this calendar is an improvement over the Gregorian Calendar, it would require changes to the number of days in six of the 12 months.

Introducing: The New Year Calendar

The New Year Calendar builds upon the existing Gregorian Calendar. ***No new days, dates, or months are required.***

- Every month has the same number of days as the Gregorian Calendar (including Leap Day falling every four years on February 29th)
- The key innovation is the invention of a worldwide, [intercalary](#) day on New Year's Day, as illustrated below:
 - o Thursday, December 31st
 - o New Year's Day, January 1st
 - o Friday, January 2nd
- During Leap Years, February 29th remains "Leap Day" but becomes intercalary, as illustrated below:
 - o Saturday, Feb 28th
 - o Leap Day, Feb 29th
 - o Sunday, Mar 1st

New Year's Day and Leap Day

As New Year's Day and Leap Day would not be days of the week, and would always fall on a day between Thursday and Friday (Jan 1st) or between Saturday and Sunday (Feb 29th), these days would be treated as worldwide holidays.

The New Year Calendar Should Be Adopted on January 1, 2027

After examining all seven potential paths for The New Year Calendar, the recommendation is to start each year on the day between Thursday and Friday, for reasons explained below.

The next year that begins on a Thursday is 2026. Adopting The New Year Calendar to start worldwide on January 1st, 2027 will allow a window of preparation for the change. Each country will have its own unique set of issues to address in the interim.

Why the 2027 Calendar is Optimal (using US Holidays, in chronological order)

- New Year's Day falling annually before Friday, January 2nd may lead to Jan 2 being treated like the Day After Thanksgiving, allowing for a long weekend to start the year, and providing a natural bookend to the holiday season.
- MLK Day will fall on Monday, January 19th.
- Valentine's Day (February 14th) will fall on a Saturday.
- The Super Bowl (as currently scheduled) will fall on February 15th, ensuring the next day (Presidents' Day) is a holiday.
- Presidents' Day will fall on Monday, Feb 16th, combining with Valentine's Day on Saturday and Super Bowl Sunday for an annual 3-day weekend.
- Mother's Day will fall on Sunday, May 10th.
- Memorial Day (Monday, May 25th) will fall on the earliest possible date for the final Monday in May, allowing the "summer season" for tourism to begin.
- Juneteenth (June 19th) will fall on a Friday, allowing for an annual 3-day weekend.
- Father's Day will fall on Sunday, June 21st.
- Independence Day would fall on Saturday, July 4th.
- Labor Day (Monday, September 7th) would fall on the latest possible date for the first Monday in September, allowing the "summer season" for tourism to last as long as possible.
- Columbus Day will fall on Monday, October 12th.
- Halloween (October 31st) will fall on a Saturday.
- Veterans Day will fall on Monday, November 9th.
- Thanksgiving Day will fall on Thursday, November 26th.
- Christmas Day (December 25th) will fall on a Friday.
- New Year's Eve (December 31st) will fall on a Thursday.

Birthdays

- Everyone's birthday would fall on the same day of the week every year.

Religious Holidays

- Religious holidays are currently observed under many different calendar systems around the world.
- The New Year Calendar is intended as a civil and secular calendar. Individual faith traditions can decide how best to observe holidays, as they currently do.

Other American Dates of Note

- Inauguration Day (January 20th) would fall on a Tuesday.
- Groundhog Day (February 2nd) would fall on a Monday.
- Opening Thursday of the NFL Season would fall on September 10th. The final Sunday of the NFL season would fall on Sunday, January 11th.
- Election Day (the first Tuesday in November) would fall on Tuesday, November 3rd.

THE NEW YEAR CALENDAR – REGULAR YEARS

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	NEW YEAR	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8		9	10
11	12	13	14	15		16	17
18	19	20	21	22		23	24
25	26	27	28	29		30	31

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

THE NEW YEAR CALENDAR – LEAP YEARS

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	NEW YEAR	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8		9	10
11	12	13	14	15		16	17
18	19	20	21	22		23	24
25	26	27	28	29		30	31

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	LEAP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		