

Ask the Career Coach

Written by Lisa Guard,
Career Coach



If I haven't found a position by Thanksgiving should I wait until after the holidays to resume my search?

-Sandy

Sandy,

It's a common belief that the job market slows down during the period between Thanksgiving and January 1. There are many reasons, however, to keep your job search in high gear during this time. Since many job seekers let their search activities wind down during the holidays there are less resumes circulating creating less competition.

In many organizations budgets are based on the actual expenses of the previous year. If there's a vacancy, chances are it needs to be filled to ensure that money isn't lost in the following year's budget. Even if hiring budgets are spent, a new year is about to begin and many organizations will be interviewing in the fourth quarter to get a jump start on meeting next year's first quarter goals.

Contacting decision makers can be easier during this time too as travel schedules start to wind down and gatekeepers begin using up accrued time off.

Most professional organizations will be hosting holiday social and networking events. Job seekers should attend these events and take advantage of the opportunities to meet and network with great contacts in their fields in a social and relaxed setting. Additionally seasonal and volunteer work available during the holidays provides great opportunity to enhance your network of contacts.

By all means, if you're looking for a new position, keep that momentum during the holiday season and you just may find an offer letter among your greeting cards!



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