

CareerBuilder Survey Finds the Most Unusual Holiday Gifts Exchanged in the Workplace

Higher percentages of employers planning to throw holiday parties for employees and give larger bonuses

CHICAGO and ATLANTA, Dec. 8, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Gift exchange events in the office can get really inappropriate, really fast – all it takes is one coworker to take the idea of a gag gift one step too far. CareerBuilder's annual holiday survey asked workers across the U.S. to share the most unusual gift they have received from a fellow employee during the holiday season.

Twenty-two percent of workers say they plan to buy holiday gifts for coworkers, and 21 percent plan to buy a gift for the boss, similar to last year.

Of those who plan to buy gifts for their coworkers or bosses, the majority (73 percent) expect to spend no more than \$25 on each gift, 33 percent will cap their spending at \$10 and 11 percent will spend \$5 or less.

Most Unusual Gifts

Traditional holiday gifts are still office regulars: ornaments, gift cards, books and candy, but some workers may not know where "the line" is when it comes to holiday gift-giving at work. The following are among the most unusual presents workers received from co-workers:

- Two left-handed gloves
- Coconut bra
- Jar of gravy
- A fake lottery ticket
- A real stuffed duck
- Toilet paper that looked like money
- Post-it Notes
- Dish detergent
- A pen holder that looks like a crime scene victim
- A comic book of an obscure movie
- A handmade ornament for a sports team the recipient had never heard of
- A singing chicken
- A whip

Employers Spreading the Holiday Cheer

While 46 percent of employers plan to give their employees gifts this year – on par with last year – they are also finding other ways to get into the holiday spirit.

- **Parties:** 69 percent of employers plan on throwing a holiday party for employees this year – up 3 percent from last year.
- **Bonuses:** 54 percent of employers plan to give employees holiday bonuses this year – the same as 2015 – but 15 percent say the bonus will be greater than last year.
- **Charity:** Nearly half of all employers (48 percent) plan to enrich the lives of others outside of the office by making charitable donations, on par with last year.

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the U.S. by Harris Poll on behalf of CareerBuilder among 2,379 hiring and human resource managers ages 18 and over (employed full-time, not self-employed, non-government) and 3,336 employees ages 18 and over (employed full-time, not self-employed; including 3,133 in the private sector) between August 11 and September 7, 2016. Percentages for some questions are based on a subset, based on their responses to certain questions. With pure probability samples of 2,379 and 3,336, one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have sampling errors of +/- 2.01 and +/- 1.70 percentage points, respectively. Sampling error for data from sub-samples is higher and varies.

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