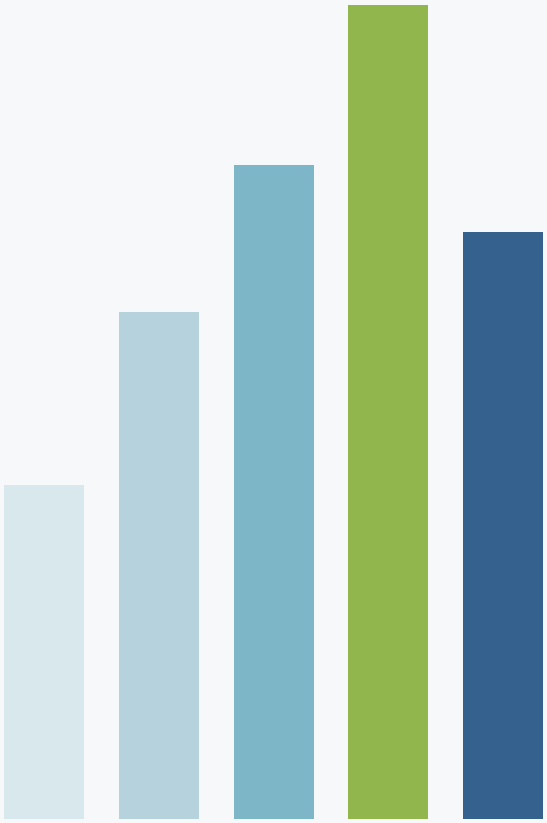
RUMC

JOB NETWORKING REALITY REPORT

Job Seeker Intelligence

Real data. Real people. Understanding the job search experience in our community.



OCTOBER 2026

MONTHLY REPORT

RUMC Job Networking is a faith-based ministry connecting job seekers with volunteers, employers and a community of support.

RUMC Job Networking Reality Report

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THE OCTOBER REALITY

What RUMC Job Networking survey respondents are experiencing in their job searches.

39

survey respondents

46%

named employer responses as biggest obstacle

5.8 / 10

average 90-day employment confidence

Employer responses remain the leading challenge.

Among 39 October respondents, 18 identified getting responses from recruiters or employers as their biggest job-search obstacle. Twenty reported no hiring-manager interviews with different companies during the prior 30 days. Eleven selected networking and asking for referrals as the area where they most valued additional help.

October 12 to October 26, 2026 | Roswell, Georgia

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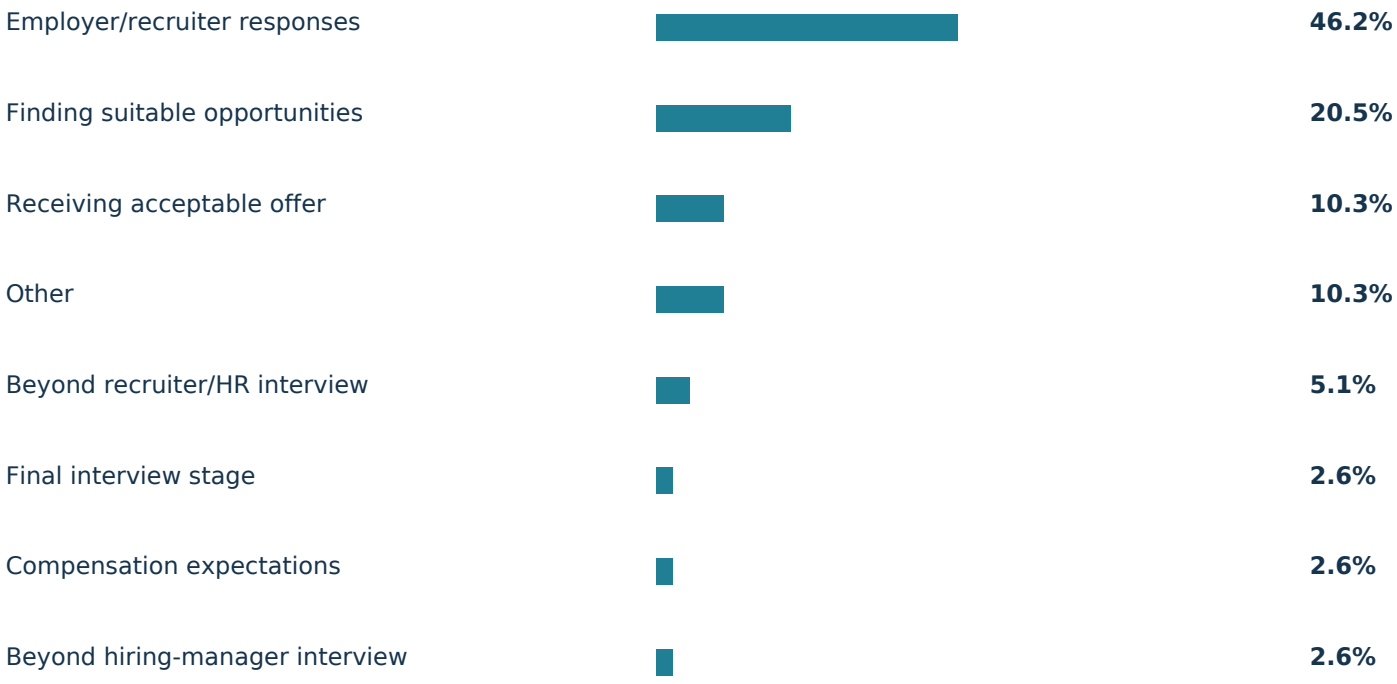
The story behind the numbers

Getting an employer response remains the most frequently reported obstacle.

Eighteen of 39 respondents (46.2%) named getting responses from recruiters or employers as their single biggest obstacle. Eight (20.5%) selected finding suitable opportunities. These responses describe survey participants, not the broader job market.

The biggest obstacle in the job search



Why this matters: Difficulty getting a response occurs before many candidates can advance through a hiring process. Each respondent selected one biggest obstacle.

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Reality Check 1: Interview progress is limited

Furthest stage reached at any company in the past 30 days

Fourteen respondents selected “No interviews” as their furthest stage. Seven reached a final interview and none selected a job offer. In separate interview-count questions, 17 reported zero recruiter/HR interviews and 20 reported zero hiring-manager interviews with different companies.

44%

zero recruiter/HR interviews

51%

zero hiring-manager interviews

18%

final interview as furthest stage

Survey note: 1 respondents selected “No interviews” as their furthest stage but reported an interview in a separate count question. Question totals are shown independently.

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Reality Check 2: The search lasts months

Time actively seeking a position

The median active search was 4 months and the average was 8.7 months. 6 respondents (15.4%) reported searching for 12 months or longer. Longer searches increase the average.

Reality Check 3: Confidence is restrained

Confidence in meaningful employment within 90 days

Average confidence was 5.8 out of 10; the median was 5.

Reality Check 4: Where help is most valued

In which one area would you most value additional help right now?

Networking and referrals led the requests for additional assistance (28.2%), followed by identifying suitable positions and employers (23.1%) and getting responses to applications (17.9%). Respondents chose one area.

This is October’s featured question.

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Who responded

The October sample is a snapshot of RUMC Job Networking survey participants, not a statistically representative sample of all metro Atlanta job seekers.

61.5%

were unemployed

74.4%

were age 50 or older

48.7%

targeted manager through C-level roles

17.9%

targeted technology/software/cybersecurity/IT services

About RUMC Job Networking

RUMC Job Networking is an in-person job-search ministry based at Roswell United Methodist Church in Roswell, Georgia. It brings job seekers together with experienced volunteers, employers, speakers and other job seekers for practical education, networking, encouragement and individual support. Founded in 1988, it has served more than 90,000 attendees. www.RUMCjobnetworking.com

Methodology

The October 2026 report reflects 39 voluntary responses submitted from October 12 through October 26. The age question was optional; one respondent selected “Prefer not to answer.” Percentages use 39 unless otherwise noted and may differ slightly from totals because of rounding. The Featured Question appeared in two columns with mutually exclusive responses, combined for analysis. Responses are self-reported.

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Overall October Summary

October respondents most frequently identified getting responses from recruiters or employers as their biggest obstacle. Eighteen of 39 respondents (46.2%) selected this challenge, while eight (20.5%) cited difficulty finding suitable opportunities.

Interview activity was mixed. Fifty-one percent reported no hiring-manager interviews with different companies in the previous 30 days, while 18% reported reaching a final interview as their furthest stage. No respondents selected receiving a job offer as their furthest stage.

The median active search was four months and average confidence in obtaining meaningful employment within 90 days was 5.8 out of 10. October’s featured question identified networking and asking for referrals as the most requested area of additional help.

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