

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025

A GUIDE FOR THE WORKPLACE

All Jewish holidays start and end at sundown. The first date listed for each holiday is the evening that it begins. Before certain holidays, including Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, and Passover, employees may need to leave work early to prepare for the holiday.



ROSH HASHANA:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 -
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

- Jewish New Year

CUSTOMS:

- Celebratory meal on Friday evening
- Holiday is spent in services at synagogue (Jewish Place of Worship)

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- Proper greetings is "Shana Tovah" (Happy New Year)
- No work permitted



YOM KIPPUR:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 -
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

- Day of Atonement

CUSTOMS:

- Fast begins at sundown on Sunday and concludes at sundown Monday
- Holiday is spent in services at synagogue

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- Proper greeting is "Have A Meaningful Day"
- Yom Kippur is a solemn and reflective holiday
- No work permitted



SUKKOT:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 -
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024

- Harvest festival commemorating the sheltering of the Jewish people in the wilderness

CUSTOMS:

- Requirement to build a Sukkah (outdoor dwelling). All meals are eaten in the Sukkah

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- For those observing more religiously, no work is permitted on October 17-18.



SHEMINI ATZERET AND SIMCHAT TORAH:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 -
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

- Celebration of the conclusion of Sukkot and beginning of the new Torah (Hebrew Bible) reading cycle

CUSTOMS:

- Festive celebrations with the community

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- For those observing more religiously, no work permitted



HANUKKAH:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024 -
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025

- Eight day festival that celebrates the reconciliation of the second Temple, one of Judaism's holiest sites

CUSTOMS:

- Families will light a menorah every night and gather for celebratory meals and parties
- Traditional Hanukkah foods are oily to symbolize the miracle of oil that Hanukkah commemorates. These include latkes (potato pancakes) and jelly donuts
- Many families will exchange gifts. This is now a traditional Jewish custom. It developed because of Hanukkah's proximity to Christmas. However, it is now a tradition in many Jewish American households

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- Hanukkah can be spelled different ways. The most common spellings are "Hanukkah" and "Chanukah"
- While Hanukkah falls around the time of Christmas, it is not related to Christmas. Comparisons to Christmas should be avoided
- The proper greeting is "Happy Hanukkah"
- Work is permitted

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PURIM:

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 –

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

- Commemorates the defeat of an evil king who planned to massacre the Jewish people

CUSTOMS:

- Children and some adults observing will dress up in costume to replicate Esther (the Purim heroine) hiding her identity from the evil king
- Some may attend synagogue to hear the reading of the Purim story

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- For those observing more religiously, work is discouraged
- Proper greeting is Chag Sameach (Happy Holiday)—pronounced hog sah-may-ah



PASSOVER:

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 –

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

- Celebrates the Jewish exodus from Egypt out of slavery into freedom

CUSTOMS:

- Jewish people avoid anything that contains grain that has risen or fermented. This includes breads, pastas, beers, and more
- Jewish families hold Seders, long meals where the story of Passover (and its accompanying symbolism) is recited
- Seders will take place the first two evenings of Passover

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- For those observing more religiously, no work is permitted April 13-14 and April 19-20
- Proper greeting is Chag Sameach



SHAVUOT:

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 –

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025

- Celebrates the giving of the Torah

CUSTOMS:

- Jewish people eat dairy-based food to celebrate Israel as the land of milk and honey
- Traditional foods include cheesecake and quiches
- Some may attend services in synagogue

TO KNOW FOR THE WORKPLACE:

- For those observing more religiously, no work is permitted
- Proper greeting is Chag Sameach

Interested in hosting a training about the Jewish people or antisemitism?

Contact AJC Dallas at dallas@ajc.org