

Baker

Bread, pastry and cakes before dawn. Start tomorrow with no schooling, or earn a Red Seal in 3 years.

TYPICAL PAY

\$40,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$32k to \$58k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Grocery bakeries, artisan bakeries,
hotels, wholesale plants**

How you get there

- 1 Food handler certificate** 1 day
A short online course, required before you touch food commercially.
- 2 Start in a bakery** Any time
Helper, then baker's assistant. Grocery bakeries hire teenagers. This is the real school.
- 3 College or apprenticeship (optional)** 1 to 3 years
A 1-year baking and pastry program at George Brown in Toronto, Niagara College, Vancouver Community College, SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) or NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology), or a 3-year apprenticeship registered with your provincial trad...
- 4 Red Seal Baker (optional)** After 3 years
Ontario requires 6,000 apprenticeship hours: 5,280 on the job plus 720 in school. Pass the interprovincial exam for a ticket that works across Canada.
- 5 Move up** Years
Baker, then head baker, production manager or pastry chef. Or open your own place.

Pros and cons

- + Start tomorrow, no schooling required
- + Done by early afternoon
- + Grocery chains offer union benefits
- 3 or 4am starts, six days a week in busy seasons
- Low pay for years, especially artisan
- Hot, heavy flour sacks, repetitive

Optional boosts

Pastry chef. Cake decorating and wedding cakes. Artisan bread and sourdough. Red Seal Cook (a second trade).

Good to know

Canada is a wheat country

Canada grows some of the world's best bread wheat, mostly in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, and exports most of it. Bakers here get strong flour cheaply.

Baker is a Red Seal trade

Same national program as electricians and plumbers. A Red Seal baker can work in any province.

Where these numbers come from

Skilled Trades Ontario: Baker

Red Seal: Baker

Job Bank: Bakers, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/baker>



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