

Cybersecurity Analyst

Watch for attacks and stop them. High pay, real shortage, and the government is one of the biggest employers.

TYPICAL PAY

\$103,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$62k to \$150k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Banks, government, telecoms,
consulting firms, security operati...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Computer science and math. Play capture-the-flag challenges online. Learn Linux and how networks work. Do not hack anything you do not own.
- 2 Diploma or degree** 2 to 5 years
 A 2 to 3 year college diploma in cybersecurity or networking (many Ontario colleges, BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology), NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology)), or a 4-year computer science degree. Pick co-op.
- 3 First certificate** During school
 CompTIA Security+ is the standard entry certificate: 90 questions, 90 minutes. Network+ before it helps.
- 4 First job** After graduation
 Junior analyst in a SOC (security operations centre), IT (information technology) support, or a student job at the Communications Security Establishment or a bank.
- 5 Specialize** Years 2 to 6
 Incident response, threat intelligence, cloud security, or penetration testing. After 5 years, the CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) opens senior roles.

Pros and cons

- + High pay and a real shortage: Job Bank sees a moderate risk of shortage through 2033
- + Every industry and every level of government needs you
- + Government jobs bring a pension and a clearance
- Shift work in a security operations centre, including nights
- Constant alerts, most of them false, then sudden crises
- Certifications and clearances take years to build up

Good to know

About 31,800 people do this job in Canada

That is Job Bank's count of cybersecurity specialists as of 2023, and it projects a moderate risk of shortage through 2033. Nova Scotia and Quebec are rated good for prospects right now.

Canada's spy agency hires students

The Communications Security Establishment, Canada's signals intelligence agency, runs a student program and hires new graduates for cyber defence roles in Ottawa. Its Canadian Centre for Cyber Sec...

Optional boosts

Incident response. Cloud security. Penetration testing. Governance and compliance.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Cybersecurity analyst, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Canadian Centre for Cyber Security
 Communications Security Establishment: careers
 CompTIA Security+ certification

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/cybersecurity-analyst>



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