

Data Analyst

Pull the numbers, make the charts, answer the question. The most common first job in data.

TYPICAL PAY

\$85,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$52k to \$127k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Banks, retailers, government, hospitals, consulting, remote

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Math, especially Data Management or statistics if your school offers it. Get good at spreadsheets now.
- 2 Diploma or degree** 1 to 4 years
 A 2-year college diploma (the British Columbia Institute of Technology has a Predictive Analytics option), a 1-year post-grad analytics certificate after any degree, or a 4-year degree in statistics, math, business, economics or data science.
- 3 Learn the three tools** During school
 SQL (the language for querying databases), a dashboard tool (Power BI or Tableau) and Excel. Add Python if you want to move up.
- 4 Co-op or first job** During or after school
 Banks, insurers, retailers and government hire analysts in large numbers. Co-op at a bank often turns into an offer.
- 5 Certify and specialize** First 2 years on the job
 A Power BI (business intelligence) or Tableau certificate, then a specialty: marketing, finance, health or operations analytics.

Pros and cons

- + Fast route into a well-paid office job, often in 2 years
- + Every industry hires analysts, so you can follow your interests
- + Hybrid and remote work are normal
- Lots of repetitive reporting, especially early
- AI tools now write basic queries and charts, so the low end is shrinking
- You answer other people's questions, rarely your own

Optional boosts

Python or R. Analytics engineering. Cloud data warehouses. A domain.

Good to know

The census is the biggest analyst project in Canada

Every five years Statistics Canada counts everyone in the country, and analysts spend the following years turning those answers into the numbers that decide where hospitals, schools and transit get built.

Excel is still the most used data tool on Earth

Decades after its launch, more analysis is done in spreadsheets than in any other software. Analysts who master Excel before anything else are rarely short of work.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Data analyst, informatics and systems, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Microsoft: Power BI Data Analyst Associate certification

BCIT: Computer Systems Technology diploma (Predictive Analytics option)

University of Waterloo: Data Science program

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/data-analyst>



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