

Database Administrator

Guard the data every company runs on. Steady, well paid, and nobody notices until it breaks.

TYPICAL PAY

\$85,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$52k to \$127k

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, hospitals, telecoms, software companies, re...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Math and computer science. Install a free database like PostgreSQL at home and learn SQL (the language for querying databases).
- 2 Diploma or degree** 2 to 5 years
 A 2 to 3 year college diploma (the British Columbia Institute of Technology runs a Computer Systems Technology diploma with a Database Systems option, and Ontario colleges have similar) or a 4-year computer science degree.
- 3 First job** 1 to 2 years
 Junior database analyst, IT (information technology) support, or developer. You learn how the business uses its data.
- 4 Certify** Alongside work
 Microsoft's Azure Database Administrator exam, an Oracle certification, or an AWS (Amazon Web Services) database certificate, depending on what your employer runs.
- 5 DBA (database administrator)** 2 to 6 years after high school
 Owning backups, security, performance and upgrades for the systems everyone depends on.

Pros and cons

- + Steady, secure work in every industry
- + Job Bank rates prospects good in Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and PEI, moderate in most of the rest
- + Pensions and hybrid work are common
- On-call and off-hours maintenance windows
- Cloud services now automate parts of the classic job, so you must keep moving toward cloud and data engineering
- Invisible when everything works, blamed when it does not

Optional boosts

Cloud databases. Data engineering. Security and compliance. Performance tuning.

Good to know

The free database is over 35 years old

PostgreSQL, the open source database many Canadian companies and governments run on, has been in active development for more than 35 years and costs nothing. A DBA (database administrator) ca...

Your health records live in a database someone tends

Every provincial health system runs on databases holding millions of patient records. The DBAs (database administrators) who keep them backed up, encrypted and fast are among the most trusted people in...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Database administrator (DBA), wages (updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Database administrator, job outlook

Microsoft: Azure Database Administrator Associate certification

BCIT: Computer Systems Technology diploma (Database Systems option)

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/database-administrator>



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