

Florist

Design bouquets, weddings and funeral flowers. Quick to start, low pay unless you own the shop or do events.

TYPICAL PAY

\$36,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$31k to \$60k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Flower shops, grocery floral counters, wedding and event stud...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Art and business courses help. Get a part-time job at a flower shop or grocery floral counter now, even just processing stems.
- 2 Learn the basics** 3 weeks to 10 months
Either on the job, or a short program: 3 weeks at the Canadian Institute of Floral Design in Toronto, 8 months at Seneca, or 10 months part time at the University of the Fraser Valley. Seneca includes about 200 hours of work placement.
- 3 Junior designer** 1 to 2 years
Conditioning flowers, wrapping bouquets, taking orders, deliveries. You learn the seasonal rush: Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Christmas, wedding season.
- 4 Designer, then senior designer or owner** 3 years and up
Weddings, funerals and corporate work. Some open a studio, some go into wholesale or event design.

Pros and cons

- + Creative work you can hold in your hands
- + Almost no cost or time to get started
- + Easy to run your own small business
- Low pay for most employees
- Holidays and weekends are your busiest days
- Standing all day, cold water, wet hands, thorns

Good to know

Valentine's Day is the Super Bowl

One day a year can make up a big share of a flower shop's annual sales. Shops hire temporary staff, work through the night and pre-sell roses weeks ahead. If you hate pressure, this is the week to find out.

Most flowers arrive by plane

Canadian shops sell a lot of imported roses and tropical flowers, especially in winter. A florist's day starts with what came in from the wholesaler and what survived the trip.

Optional boosts

Wedding and event design. Sympathy and funeral work. Wholesale and buying. Teaching workshops.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Florist (retail), wages (updated Nov 2025)
 alis (Alberta government career site): Floral designer
 Seneca Polytechnic: Floral Design (Ontario College Certificate)
 Canadian Institute of Floral Design: Program FAQ and tuition

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/florist>



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