

Hedge fund manager

Run investors' money, betting on markets rising or falling, and keep the job only while you make money.

TYPICAL PAY

\$250,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$100k to \$750k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

10 to 14 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Hedge funds, asset managers, pension fund trading teams, mostly in Toronto and Montreal

How you get there

- 1 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Commerce, economics, math, computer science or engineering.
- 2 First job** 2 to 3 years
Investment banking, equity research, a pension fund or a junior analyst seat at a fund.
- 3 CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) charter** 3 to 4 years
Three exams written while you work. In Canada it is the usual way to qualify to manage client money.
- 4 Analyst, then senior analyst** 4 to 8 years
You research companies or markets and pitch trades. Your track record builds.
- 5 Portfolio manager** Ongoing, as long as you perform
You get your own money to run and your own risk limits, usually in your 30s.

Pros and cons

- + Some of the highest pay in finance for those who succeed
- + Your results are measured clearly, every day
- + Intellectually demanding work
- Very few seats in Canada
- One bad stretch can end your job quickly
- Pay swings hard from year to year

Good to know

Lose 5%, lose half

At Millennium, one of the largest multi-manager funds, a manager who loses 5% of their money usually has it cut in half. Lose 7.5% and they are usually let go, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The famous charter is close to required

In most provinces, the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) charter plus a year of experience is the standard way to qualify to manage other people's money. In the US, no such personal exam is required.

Optional boosts

CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) charter. Python and data skills. A sector specialty. A personal track record.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Portfolio manager, wages (NOC 11101, updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Portfolio manager, outlook in Ontario 2025 to 2027

Ontario Securities Commission: National Instrument 31-103, registration requirements

Mergers and Inquisitions: hedge fund career path and pay by level

Numbers checked October 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/hedge-fund-manager>



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