

Hotel Manager

Run a building full of strangers, staff and beds. The pay is real, the phone never stops.

TYPICAL PAY

\$79,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$45k to \$148k

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

Hotels, resorts, motels, hostels, campgrounds, small inns

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Get a part-time job in a hotel, restaurant or anywhere that serves the public. Experience counts more here than marks.
- 2 Hospitality program, optional but useful** 2 to 4 years
A 2-year college diploma in hotel and resort management, or a 4-year degree. Most include a paid work term.
- 3 Front line work** 1 to 3 years
Front desk agent, reservations, housekeeping supervisor, food and beverage. You need to have done the jobs you will one day schedule.
- 4 Supervisor or assistant manager** 2 to 4 years
Front office manager, night manager, operations manager. This is where you learn budgets, payroll and angry guests.
- 5 General manager** Usually 5+ years in
Running the whole property, its profit and its staff. Smaller hotels first, bigger ones later.

Pros and cons

- + Good pay without a degree, if you start early
- + The skills work in every city and most countries
- + No two days the same, and you see results fast
- You are on call, including nights, weekends and holidays
- Guests take their worst day out on you
- High staff turnover means you are always hiring and training

Good to know

Railways built Canada's grand hotels

The Banff Springs, the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City and the Empress in Victoria were all built by CP as stops along its line. CN answered with the Hotel Macdonald in Edmonton and Jasper Park Lo...

The whole hotel is judged on two numbers

Occupancy, the share of rooms sold, and average daily rate, what a sold room went for. Multiply them and you get revenue per available room, the number a manager is measured on every single day.

Optional boosts

Revenue management. Property management system skills. Food and beverage experience. Sales and events.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Hotel Manager in Canada, wages (updated Nov 19, 2025)
Hotels Canada (formerly the Hotel Association of Canada)
Tourism HR Canada: national tourism workforce body
Smart Serve Ontario: responsible alcohol service training

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/hotel-manager>



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