

Industrial Electrician

Keep the motors, robots and control systems of factories, mines and mills running. A Red Seal apprenticeship with indoor, year-round work.

TYPICAL PAY

\$87,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$58k to \$112k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Factories, mines, mills, food plants, auto plants

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 with math and physics. Some provinces let you start through a high school apprenticeship program.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
 A manufacturer, mine, mill or industrial contractor that will register you. Pre-apprenticeship college programs and a construction electrician start both help.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
 With Skilled Trades Ontario (trade 442A), Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, or your province's trades body. In Alberta and Quebec the single Electrician trade covers industrial work.
- 4 Work and study** 4 to 5 years
 9,000 hours in Ontario: about 8,160 on the job plus 840 hours in class over three levels.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
 Pass the provincial exam. The Red Seal endorsement lets you work anywhere in Canada.

Pros and cons

- + Paid from day one, no student debt
- + Indoor, year-round work with a pension and benefits
- + Automation skills keep you in demand
- Rotating shifts, nights and weekends are normal
- High pressure when a line is down
- Real electrical and arc-flash danger

Good to know

About 35,600 of them in Canada

Job Bank counted roughly 35,600 industrial electricians working in Canada in 2023, and expects a moderate risk of shortage through 2033 as older workers retire.

One of the original Red Seal trades

Industrial Electrician was designated a Red Seal trade in 1966, only a few years after the program began. Every province from BC to Newfoundland recognizes the ticket.

Optional boosts

PLC (programmable logic controller) programming. Instrumentation ticket. Robotics and drives. High-voltage and arc-flash training.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Industrial electricians, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Industrial Electrician

Skilled Trades Ontario: Industrial Electrician (442A)

Government of Canada: Canada Apprentice Loan

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/industrial-electrician>



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