

Investment banker

Help companies raise money, buy other companies or sell themselves, for very high pay and very long weeks.

TYPICAL PAY

\$300,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$140k to \$800k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Bay Street bank capital markets arms, independent dealers, advisory boutiques

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 High marks in Grade 12 math and English to get into a competitive commerce program.
- 2 University, first two years** Years 1 and 2
 Join the finance or investment club, learn accounting and spreadsheet modelling, and meet alumni at banks.
- 3 Recruit for the summer internship** Year 2 or 3
 Bay Street fills the internship for the summer before your final year about a year or more ahead, and it keeps moving earlier. Watch for postings from your second year.
- 4 Summer internship** Summer before your last year
 About 4 months at a bank. Most full-time analyst offers come out of it.
- 5 Analyst, then associate** 2 to 3 years
 Two to three years as an analyst. Many then leave for private equity or pension funds.

Pros and cons

- + Some of the highest starting pay for new graduates in Canada
- + You learn how companies are valued and sold very fast
- + Opens doors to private equity and pension fund investing
- 70 to 90 hour weeks are common for analysts
- Few seats, mostly filled from a short list of schools
- Recruiting starts a year or more before the internship

Optional boosts

Spreadsheet modelling. Case competitions and investment clubs. An earlier internship. Alumni coffee chats.

Good to know

69 hours a week, on average

A first-year analyst at a big Canadian bank tracked his hours for 60 weeks and posted them online. He averaged 69 hours a week, with plenty of 80-hour weeks and one week of 105.

A song about finance went viral

In 2024, a 19-second TikTok clip about looking for "a man in finance" with a trust fund passed 40 million views and became a real single. The real job is far less glamorous than the clips.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Investment banking analyst, wages (NOC 11101, updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Investment banking analyst, outlook in Ontario 2025 to 2027

PrepLounge: investment banking salaries in Canada, 2026

Ivey Business School: HBA tuition and fees

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/investment-banker>



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