

IT Project Manager

Get a software or systems project delivered on time and on budget, with a team you do not directly control. Experience first, then the title.

TYPICAL PAY

\$139,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$91k to \$215k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 10 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Banks, government, consulting firms, telecoms, tech companies

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 English, math, business and computer science. Run something: a club event, a fundraiser, a team. Notice what goes wrong.
- 2 Degree or diploma** 2 to 4 years
 Computer science, business, engineering or a college computer systems program. Co-op terms at a large organization show you how projects really run.
- 3 Technical or coordinator job** 3 to 6 years
 Developer, business analyst, systems administrator, or project coordinator supporting a senior project manager. This is where you learn what can go wrong.
- 4 Certify** 6 to 12 months of study
 The PMP (Project Management Professional) is the credential most ads ask for. It needs roughly 3 years of project experience with a degree, about 5 without, plus 35 hours of training. An 8-month graduate certificate, such as Seneca's, is a common way to prepare while w...
- 5 Project manager, then program manager** Year 6 to 10 onward
 Small projects first, then bigger budgets and several projects at once.

Pros and cons

- + One of the best-paid jobs on this site without a licence or a graduate degree
- + Every big organization runs IT projects; work in any city
- + Skills transfer between industries and countries
- Years in a technical role before you get the title
- You carry the blame for delays you did not cause
- Meetings, reports and politics fill most of the day

Optional boosts

PMP (Project Management Professional). Agile and Scrum credentials. Program management. Cloud or security literacy.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Computer projects manager (NOC 20012), wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Seneca Polytechnic: Project Management, Information Technology graduate certificate
 BCIT: Computer Systems Technology diploma
 Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

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/it-project-manager>

Good to know

Canada's most famous failed IT project

The federal Phoenix pay system, launched in 2016 to pay public servants, underpaid, overpaid or failed to pay hundreds of thousands of employees and cost billions to fix. It is now a case study in project...

Job Bank calls you a computer projects manager

Canada's job statistics use the old-fashioned title 'computer projects manager' (NOC 20012) for this role, and group it with managers of IT departments. That is part of why the official pay figures are high.



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