

Journalist

You find out what happened, check it, and tell people clearly and fast.

TYPICAL PAY

\$77,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$130k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Newsrooms, radio and television stations, online outlets, freelance

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 10 to 12
English, history and any media class. Write for the school paper or start a newsletter. Learn to record clean audio.
- 2 Journalism program** 2 to 4 years
A 4-year Bachelor of Journalism, a 2 to 3 year college diploma, or a degree in something else plus a 1 to 2 year Master of Journalism.
- 3 Student media and internships** During school
The campus paper, campus radio and summer internships are where your first real clips come from. Take them seriously.
- 4 First job, usually small** 1 to 3 years
A local paper, a regional radio newsroom, a trade publication or an online outlet. You cover everything: council, court, weather, sports.
- 5 Beat reporter** 3 to 8 years in
You move to a bigger newsroom and own a subject: health, city hall, business, courts. Sources start calling you.

Pros and cons

- + Work that genuinely matters when it is done well
- + You learn something new every week and meet people you never would otherwise
- + Most staff jobs are unionized with benefits
- The industry is shrinking and layoffs are frequent
- Job Bank rates the 3-year outlook as limited in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and other large provinces
- Irregular hours, evenings, weekends and breaking news at bad times

Optional boosts

Data journalism. Video and audio. A second language. A specialist beat.

Good to know

It is a small profession

Job Bank counted about 10,900 journalists working in Canada in 2023. That is fewer people than fill a mid-sized arena.

You have a right to ask the government

Anyone in Canada can file an access to information request to a federal department for \$5. Journalists use this constantly, and so can you.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Journalist in Canada, wages (updated November 2025)

Job Bank: Journalist in Canada, job outlook

Canadian Association of Journalists

Toronto Metropolitan University: School of Journalism

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/journalist>



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