

Project Manager

Get a building, a product or a system finished on time and on budget. A job you grow into, not start in.

TYPICAL PAY

\$101,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$65k to \$174k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

5 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Construction sites, corporate offices, tech companies, governm...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Math, English and any course where you organize a group: student council, a robotics team, a school play.
- 2 Post-secondary in a field** 2 to 4 years
Engineering, construction or architectural technology, computer science, business or health administration. The field decides what kind of projects you will run.
- 3 Work in that field** 2 to 4 years
Site engineer, technologist, developer, analyst. You learn how the work actually gets done.
- 4 Coordinator, then project manager** 1 to 3 years
Assisting a senior manager with schedules, budgets and contracts, then owning a project of your own.
- 5 Certification** After a few years of experience
The PMP (Project Management Professional) from the Project Management Institute needs about 3 years of experience leading projects plus 35 hours of training. Some take a 1-year college graduate certificate first.

Pros and cons

- + Strong pay by your early 30s
- + Every industry needs project managers
- + You see things get built and shipped
- Responsible for the result without full control of the people
- Deadlines mean long weeks near the end of every project
- Blamed first when something slips

Good to know

Job Bank expects a shortage

Job Bank projects a moderate risk of labour shortage for construction managers in Canada through 2033. About 35% are 50 or older, and their retirements will open jobs for the next generation.

The exam is written by volunteers

The Project Management Institute is a member association, and its standards and exam questions are developed largely by practising project managers who volunteer their time. Canada has chapters in...

Optional boosts

PMP (Project Management Professional). Agile and Scrum certifications. Gold Seal certification. Program or portfolio management.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Construction managers (project manager, construction), wages (updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Construction managers, job outlook

Conestoga College: Project Management graduate certificate

Seneca Polytechnic: Project Management, Information Technology graduate certificate

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/project-manager>



Scan for the full clicker