

Securities trader

Buy and sell stocks, bonds and currencies for a bank or investment dealer, using its money and its rules.

TYPICAL PAY

\$150,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$100k to \$300k

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

Bank capital markets arms, investment dealers, pension funds, trading firms

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
Math, data management and economics. Practise mental arithmetic.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 to 5 years
Commerce, economics, math, computer science or engineering.
- 3 Co-op or internship** 1 to 4 work terms
Bank capital markets arms hire most graduates from their interns.
- 4 CIRO (Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization) approval** First few months
Your dealer sponsors you as a trader and you pass the required exams.
- 5 Trading on your own book** 1 to 3 years
After training and supervision, you get your own risk limits.

Pros and cons

- + Salary and bonus, using the firm's money
- + Fast, intense days that end near the close
- + Licence exams paid by the employer
- Few desks, most of them in Toronto
- Software keeps replacing traders
- Bonuses swing with the market

Good to know

Toronto closed its floor early

The Toronto Stock Exchange closed its trading floor on April 23, 1997 and went fully electronic, years before New York's exchanges cut back their floors.

600 traders became 2

In 2000, Goldman Sachs had 600 cash equity traders at its New York headquarters. By 2017 it had 2, backed by about 200 engineers running automated trading.

Optional boosts

Fast mental math. Probability and betting games. Coding. A bank co-op term.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Securities trader wages, NOC 11103 (updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Securities trader outlook

Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization: proficiency

Blind: Toronto quantitative finance and trading pay thread

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/securities-trader>



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