

Venture capitalist

Invest in young Canadian startups for a fund, knowing most will fail and a rare few pay for everything.

TYPICAL PAY

\$120,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$80k to \$300k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 12 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Venture capital funds, BDC (Business Development Bank of Canada), pension fund venture teams, accelerators

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
Math, economics and writing. Build something: a club, an app, a small business.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 to 5 years
Engineering, computer science, commerce or the sciences are common. Co-op terms at startups help a lot.
- 3 A first career** 2 to 5 years
Banking, consulting, a tech or science job, or working at a startup. This is what you get hired for.
- 4 Get into venture** 1 to 3 years of trying
As an associate after banking or consulting, after an MBA (Master of Business Administration), or as a former founder or operator.
- 5 Climb, or leave** 8 to 12 years
Associate to principal to partner takes about 8 to 12 years. Most associates leave first.

Pros and cons

- + Work with founders building new things
- + Small teams and a lot of responsibility
- + Partners can earn large sums from carry
- Very few jobs in Canada
- Pay is lower than in the US
- You say no to almost everyone

Good to know

The whole country, one year

Canadian startups raised \$8.0 billion from venture investors in 2025 across 571 deals, and just over half of the money went to Ontario companies.

No venture-backed company went public

In 2025 there were zero initial public offerings of venture-backed Canadian companies, and only 29 exits of any kind. Investors waited longer to get their money back.

Optional boosts

Deep knowledge of one sector. A network of founders. Public writing. Startup experience.

Where these numbers come from

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

Job Bank: Investment analyst outlook

Canadian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association: 2025 year-end market overview

BDC Capital: Venture capital

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/venture-capitalist>



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