

# Crypto trader

Buy and sell bitcoin, other coins and memecoins, often with borrowed money, 24 hours a day. Most traders lose.

## TYPICAL INCOME

**\$0**

a year, varies widely

## INCOME RANGE

**\$0 to \$40k**

most to the successful few

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**1 to 5 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Limited**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**No**

anyone can do it

## WHERE YOU WORK

**Home, on a laptop or phone, at any hour**

## How you get there

- 1 Learn the basics** 1 to 2 months  
Wallets, exchanges, fees, stablecoins and how scams work, from free material.
- 2 Buy a small amount and move it** 1 month  
Practice sending to your own wallet with tiny sums so mistakes cost little.
- 3 Trade small, without leverage** 6 to 12 months  
Real money, small size, and a record of every trade for taxes and learning.
- 4 Test your record** 1 to 2 years  
Compare your results with just buying and holding bitcoin. If you are not beating that after fees, trading is costing you.
- 5 Scale only with proof** Years  
Most people who succeed kept a job for years and never risked money they needed.

## Pros and cons

- + Anyone can start with a few dollars
- + Open 24 hours a day, from anywhere
- + You learn a lot about technology and markets
- Most traders lose money, and memecoins are mostly traps
- Scams are everywhere and losses are rarely recovered
- Prices can fall by half in weeks

## Good to know

### \$11.4 billion in one year

Americans reported losing about \$11.4 billion to crypto-related fraud in 2025, according to the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). That was more than half of all internet crime losses it recorded.

### Scammers come back for more

The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) logged more than 10,500 complaints about fake crypto recovery services in 2025, people promising to get stolen coins back for a fee. Reported losses were ab...

## Optional boosts

Skip leverage, or use very little. Keep most coins in their own wallet. Keep tax records from day one. Ignore hype.

### Where these numbers come from

Bank for International Settlements: Bulletin 69, Crypto shocks and retail losses (2023)  
Federal Bureau of Investigation: Internet Crime Complaint Center 2025 annual report  
Internal Revenue Service: Digital assets  
Internal Revenue Service: About Form 1099-DA

Numbers checked October 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise.  
Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/crypto-trader>



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