



Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada



MECHANICAL CONTRACTING CAREERS

PROJECT MANAGER

Do you have extensive construction experience in management or supervisory roles? Have you completed post secondary training in construction management, building science, civil engineering or architectural technology, or, do you hold a trade ticket relevant to the construction industry? Do you enjoy dealing with a diverse group of individuals? If your answer to these questions is yes, then you could become a Project Manager/Project Coordinator.

Also known as

- Commercial Construction Manager
- Construction Manager
- Construction Superintendent
- General Contractor
- Housing Construction Manager
- Industrial Construction Manager
- Pipeline Construction Manager
- Project Manager, Construction
- Residential Construction Manager

What the work is like

Project managers and project coordinators plan, schedule, organize, direct, control and evaluate the activities of construction projects, normally under the direction of a construction manager, general manager or other senior manager. They play a key role on construction projects and may have on-site staff, junior project managers and contract administrators reporting to them. Depending on the company and the sector, senior project managers may hold overall responsibility for billion dollar projects. They are employed by companies in all four construction sectors: New Home Building and Renovation, Heavy Industrial, Institutional and Commercial, and Civil Engineering. To learn more about the construction sectors, check out [Inside the industry](#).

Your duties

Project managers and project coordinators perform some or all of the following duties:

- plan, schedule, organize, direct, control and evaluate construction projects from start to finish according to schedule, specifications and budget
- handle project administration, including cost control, schedule control and change order administration
- prepare and submit construction project budget estimates
- plan and prepare construction schedules and milestones, and monitor progress against established schedules
- prepare contracts and negotiate revisions, changes and additions to contractual agreements with architects, consultants, clients, suppliers and subcontractors
- develop and implement quality control programs
- prepare progress reports and issue progress schedules to clients
- hire and supervise the activities of subcontractors and subordinate staff

Work conditions

Project managers and project coordinators normally work in offices, but spend a lot of time on construction sites working with site managers and subcontractors.

As with all careers in the construction industry, safety is the top priority. While on construction or other job sites, project managers and project coordinators must be aware of and comply with all relevant safety policy and procedures.

Essential Skills

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has identified nine Essential Skills that are necessary to succeed in the workplace. These skills provide the foundation for learning all other skills and apply to most construction careers. Best of all, you can learn and improve on these skills in school, on the job and during your everyday life. The nine essential skills are Reading Text, Document Use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with Others, Thinking Skills, Computer Use and Continuous Learning

The specific Essential Skills most important to this occupation have not been defined. [Click here](#) to learn more about Essential Skills.

Typical background requirements

A university degree in civil engineering or a college diploma in construction technology is usually required. In addition, several years of experience in the construction industry, including experience as a Construction Supervisor or Field Superintendent may be required.

Depending on the size of the project and project manager experience levels, a master's degree in project management may be required.

Extensive experience in the construction industry may substitute for post secondary education requirements.

Professional engineering status or construction trade certification may be required by some employers.

Training and certification

The Project Management Institute (PMI) is a good source of information on courses and training providers for this occupation. The PMI also awards the Project Management Professional (PMP) and Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) designations to project managers and project coordinators who meet their certification requirements. For more information, visit www.pmi.org.

A good source of information on technician and or technologist training and certification is the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT). For more information, visit www.cctt.ca.

The Canadian Construction Association awards qualified people with Gold Seal Certificates for several construction occupations, including the Gold Seal Certificate – Project Manager designation. For more information, visit www.goldsealcertification.com.

Salary ranges

Project Manager hourly wages vary depending on the company, and local and national economic conditions. Typical hourly wage ranges for project managers (based on national or regional averages) are as follows:

Inexperienced, newly graduated project managers

Region	Typical hourly rate
National average	\$16-\$19
Atlantic Canada	\$13-\$16
Ontario and Quebec	\$16-\$18
Western Canada	\$17-\$20

Based on national averages, inexperienced workers can earn annual salaries ranging from \$33,000 to \$40,000 per year, not including overtime.

Experienced project managers

Region	Typical hourly rate
National average	\$24-\$30
Atlantic Canada	\$20-\$25
Ontario and Quebec	\$24-\$27
Western Canada	\$28-\$34

Based on national averages, experienced workers can earn annual salaries ranging from \$50,000 to \$62,000 per year, not including overtime.

Highly experienced project managers

Region	Typical hourly rate
National average	\$38-\$44
Atlantic Canada	\$33-\$40
Ontario and Quebec	\$34-\$40
Western Canada	\$40-\$50

Based on national averages, highly experienced workers can earn annual salaries ranging from \$79,000 to \$92,000 per year, not including overtime.

Construction work can involve overtime, so your total annual salary will vary depending on the number of overtime hours you work. In addition to the hourly rate, many construction industry workers receive statutory holiday and vacation pay. Depending on the contract, you may also receive benefits such as group insurance for health, dental, and vision care, retirement packages and training benefits up to 30% of your hourly rate. If you are self employed, it is up to you to arrange your own benefits.

Building your career

Successful project managers are often given responsibility for larger projects, and depending on the construction company, can in time be given responsibility for billion dollar projects.