



The Project Manager: Career Snapshot

May 2022

PROJECT MANAGER OVERVIEW

The **PMBOK – Seventh Edition** defines the project manager as a person:¹

- Assigned by an organization.
- Responsible for achieving project objectives.
- Leading the project team.
- Facilitating project teamwork.
- Managing project processes and people toward intended outcomes.

PRODUCT MANAGER CONNECTION

The project and product managers share similarities in their roles. And in some environments, both managers will work on the same project but at different stages of the product’s march from concept to development to delivery. Please read this [article](#) outlining the similarities and differences between both manager types.



Guide Behaviors, PMBOK 7th Ed, Page 5

ECOSYSTEM

Hrishikesh Karekar identifies critical ecosystem components helping Project Managers balance the Triple Constraints, which I've adapted based on experience:²

PMO: The availability and maturity of a Project Management Office to support project execution.

ORGANIZATION: Identified stakeholder expectations, the commitment of resources, and alignment on work goals.

TALENT: Right project team talent, cohesion, continuous improvement, and success orientation.

TECHNOLOGY & TOOLS: To support various Project Manager responsibilities, project planning & management software, tools, and templates help drive efficiency and effectiveness with:

- Governance weaved into technology and tool usage as guidance
- Documentation stored and accessible by stakeholders and team members
- Two Budget and Labor Management data seamlessly integrated with the organization's FI/Accounting systems
- Schedule building capability
- Task and Change Management
- Issues tracking and reporting
- Rich data analysis and reporting for meaningful updates, issues resolution, and business results for communication.
- Lessons learned



People Network (CoachTrains)

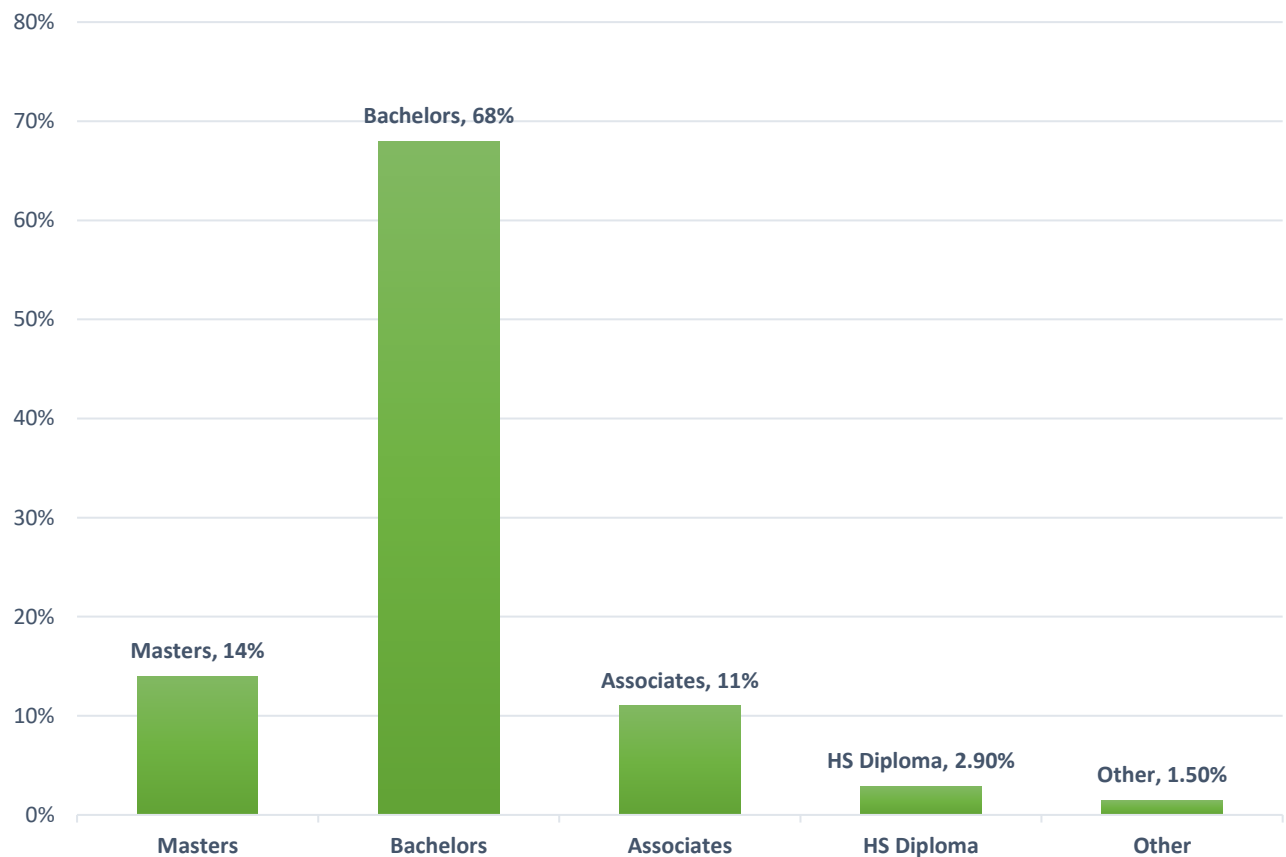
ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

Villanova University cites the following about project management's efficacy, which flows through project managers and becomes organizational value: ³

Effective project management can also benefit a company by helping increase organizational prosperity. When businesses can anticipate problems, adjust tasks, and improve interdepartmental communication, the entire organization can benefit:

- Reduced costs and greater efficiency
- Predictable project outcomes
- Reduced problem response time
- Improved communication with clients and stakeholders
- Improved initial product quality
- Greater control of budgets and finances
- Improved decision making
- More excellent morale and focus on team members

EDUCATION LEVEL



Education & Degree data was obtained from Zippia.com⁴.

TOP DEGREE TYPES

- 55% - Other Majors
- 29% - Business
- 6% - Computer Science
- 5% - Mechanical Engineering
- 5% - Electrical Engineering

Education & Degree data was obtained from Zippia.com⁴.



TOP CERTIFICATIONS

| Rank | Certification | Organization |
|------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Project Management Professional (PMP) | PMI |
| 2 | Certified Scrum Master (CSM) | Scrum Alliance |
| 3 | Master Project Manager (MPM) | AAPM |
| 4 | Six Sigma Green Belt | IASSC |
| 5 | Certified Construction Manager (CCM) | CMCI |
| 6 | Certified Manager Certification (CM) | ICPM |
| 7 | Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) | PMI |
| 8 | PMI Risk Management Professional (PMI) | PMI |
| 9 | Certified Management Accountant (CMA) | IMA |
| 10 | Program Management Professional (PgMP) | PMI |

Certification data was obtained from Zippia.com⁵.

SALARIES

Top: \$163,273
Median: \$133,364
Bottom: \$106,187

Salary ranges can vary widely depending on many important factors, including education, certifications, additional skills, and years you have spent in your profession. Minimum requirements for the above salaries generally require five years of Project Management experience, 1-3 years of supervisory experience (may be required), and extensive knowledge of the function and department's processes⁶. With more online, real-time compensation data than any other website, Salary.com helps you determine your exact pay target.

TOP 5 INDUSTRIES

There are five hot sectors for project management jobs according to Elizabeth Harrins with "The Balance Careers"⁷:

- **Construction and Engineering**
- **Financial Services**
- **Information Technology**
- **Healthcare**
- **Law**

Conclusion

Remember, project management isn't for everyone, no matter how well you do the work. The work must be fulfilling, tie into your big "Why," and help you thrive, not just survive!

After noodling your big "Why" and choosing a project management career desired state or path to develop your unique journey and decidedly fulfilling career path.

Call to Action

The world needs us – get equipped for a world of projects producing exponential value! Finally, [Global demand for Agile/Scrum/Product Management expertise](#) is heating up for PMs with this experience and maybe the key to you prospering in the new remote economy.

It's only a matter of time before it intersects with your work or influences your opportunities.

About PMI Central Illinois Chapter

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About the Author

[John St. John](#) is a Seasoned HR Project Manager currently working in the Healthcare and Technology space.

He has led Human Resources Operations and Talent Projects for over 20 years and is a PMI Central Illinois Chapter member who blogs and posts about HR and Project Management topics.



Author: John St. John, MBA,
PHR, PMP, RBLP-T

CITATION

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3. Villanova University, *Making an Impact As a Project Manager* (2020)
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4. Zippia: The Career Expert, Project Manager Education Requirements (2022),
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5. Ibid.
6. Salary.com, Project Management Manager – U.S. (2022),
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