



## CAREER PROFILE

# Body Weld Pilot Project Manager

### SALARY RANGE <sup>2</sup>

- The median annual project manager salary across all industries in the United States is \$116,000. Most project managers earn between \$93,000 and \$140,000. Industries like consulting, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, and hospitality tend to offer the highest compensation.

### WHO ARE THEY?

A project manager is a professional who ensures that projects are completed on time, within a given budget, and according to all requirements or specifications. Project management is the practice of managing the development of a new product or service.

At Toyota, project managers oversee the introduction and launch of new vehicle models and other important projects. They do this by leading teams, defining goals, communicating with stakeholders, and seeing the full project through to its closure. Project managers track and evaluate new vehicle builds from start to finish, from the organizational perspective to the actual building process in the weld shops. They manage all new projects and implementations, including managing budget for projects, implementing cost initiatives during the project, and overseeing the training for and implementation of work standards to ensure shop equipment operators are qualified to do their jobs.

A project manager must not only understand the technical requirements of a project, but also have a comprehensive view of the entire process.

### WHAT DO THEY DO? <sup>1</sup>

Throughout the lifecycle of a project, the project manager oversees the set up and development of plans and strategies for the project. Project managers create both long- and short-term plans, including setting targets for milestones and adhering to deadlines by staying on schedule. Project managers need strong problem-solving and communication skills, excellent organizational and time-management skills, and keen attention to detail.

Project managers plan for a project's cost by making effective budgeting decisions. This can be done by adjusting schedules and targets as requirements or financing changes.

These skilled professionals develop and introduce recent technological advancements that apply to the new vehicle model and perform quality control on the project throughout the entire development to maintain the standards expected.

Project managers identify and develop team members with good critical-thinking skills to assist with activities down the production line. It is important for project managers to support professional development, safety training, and good morale among team members. They also serve as points of contact for teams when multiple units are assigned to the same project. Project managers must ensure that team actions stay coordinated while communicating with executives, or the board, to keep the project aligned with their goals for the project.

## **HOW DO I BECOME ONE? <sup>1</sup>**

New project managers should acquire the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) certification, administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI). Designed for those without formal project management experience, it can help open a path to entry-level project management positions. Whether you're just graduating from college or looking to move into project management, a professional certificate could enhance your resume.

If you already have experience working on projects in a professional setting, you can advance your career with the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential, also available from the PMI.

There are university courses available that fulfill the educational requirements for the PMP exam. These courses can prepare you to pass the exam and receive a university-issued credential.

## **JOB OUTLOOK <sup>2</sup>**

Industries like manufacturing, construction, management, and professional services are expected to see the biggest growth in project management roles according to the Project Management Institute report.

There will be a need for about 2.2 million new project management-oriented roles each year through 2027, and candidates with a combination of leadership and technical skills will find themselves in demand.

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING <sup>2</sup>**

Project managers generally have a bachelor's degree in business, computer science, or an industry-related field. Internships and on-the-job training are also useful to gain practical experience. Project management and other industry-specific certifications are a plus. Some businesses look for candidates with graduate degrees such as a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree or a Master of Science in management (MSM) degree.

<sup>1</sup> The Project Management Institute, Project Management Job Growth and Talent Gap 2017–2027, <https://www.pmi.org/learning/careers/job-growth>.

<sup>2</sup> The Project Management Institute, Earning Power: Project Management Salary Survey, <https://www.pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/learning/pmi-salary-survey-11th-edition-report.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> What Is a Project Manager? A Career Guide, <https://www.coursera.org/articles/what-is-project-manager>.