



# HOW MUCH DOES THE AVERAGE WEDDING COST IN CANADA?



## HOW MUCH DOES THE AVERAGE WEDDING COST IN CANADA?

Is that the sound of wedding bells, or the cha-ching of your mounting bills?

The wedding industry has grown to about **\$5 billion in Canada**, with over 160,000 weddings taking place every year. How much money exactly are couples spending on their big day?

Across the nation, most couples grossly underestimate the real cost of a wedding. **Canadians expect to spend \$15,000** on their wedding day. The reality? Most pay double this number.

When planning a wedding, people are often shocked at how fast the little things add up. It can be tough to keep costs down when getting married in a major city like Toronto. But if you do your research, create a proper budget, and keep track of your spending, you won't be caught off guard.

No matter how much you're comfortable spending, creating a wedding budget is a crucial step in the planning process. Separating your wedding must-haves from the nice-to-haves will help you and your partner make smart decisions.

While it can seem overwhelming, there's no need to fear this task. Your budget should guide your decisions throughout the entire planning process, not stress you out. Armed with the right resources and knowledge, you'll be on your way to planning the wedding you've always wanted.

Say "I don't" to wedding debt and take control over how much your wedding will really cost. There are plenty of ways to save money without making major sacrifices for your big day. But like anything important in life, careful planning is required.



## WHAT TYPE OF WEDDING DO YOU WANT?

### STYLE

What wedding style is right for you? How much are you willing and able to spend? Your total wedding cost will largely depend on the type of event you're aiming for. If you want a formal event, everything from the venue to the wedding favours will need to be more upscale.

A grand wedding in a downtown hotel will have a drastically different décor—and price—than a cozy wedding in your parents' backyard.

Decide early on what style of wedding you want since so many details need to reflect the overall tone.

### SIZE

Your guest list has a major influence on the cost of your wedding. The fewer people you invite, the more you'll save on food, stationary, wedding favours, and pretty much everything else. In fact, the number of invited guests impacts **80 percent of the wedding costs!**

Your wedding is an important day for your family and close friends who want to celebrate with you. But you and your partner need to think carefully about who you really want to be there. You'll also need to decide on **who gets a plus one.**

Only once you've settled the guest list can you narrow down your list of potential venues. If you have a big guest list, make sure your venue can fit everyone comfortably. And if you're planning an intimate wedding, you want the space to feel cozy, not empty.





## BUDGET & PRIORITIZE

Setting your budget is the most important wedding planning task. You don't want to rush this important step: your budget needs to be realistic. Start by breaking down your budget as early as a year before your wedding. Do your research and consult with experts to determine how much vendors charge in your specific area. Consider your location and the time of year to get the most accurate prices. Otherwise, your budget won't be of much use.

Make a list of what's truly important to you and your partner, and allocate extra money to these areas. From there, determine your lowest priorities. What will you

splurge on? Where can you save? If you can't give up your dream wedding dress, maybe you don't need to send out fancy invitations. Fantasizing about a five-course meal? Perhaps an off-season wedding will work for you.

This may sound counterintuitive, but once you establish your budget, plan to go over it by about five percent. You won't feel as bad when unforeseen costs add up. And if you don't end up with any budget overages, you have even more to celebrate!

While making a budget may seem tedious, it will ultimately help you relax on your wedding day.

**"Make a list of what's truly important to you and your partner, and allocate extra money to these areas."**





“June and September are popular wedding months because of the comfortably warm weather.”

## SAVE THE DATE!

Are you dreaming of a tropical wedding? Or do you want to tie the knot in a winter wonderland? The season you choose for your wedding will affect the location, style, and overall mood of the day. It'll also affect the price.

June and September are popular wedding months because of the comfortably warm weather. January, March, April, and November are a lot less common, so venue prices drop substantially. Since vendors want business during these off-peak months, you'll find more opportunities to negotiate. Saturdays are, of course, the most popular day to get married, while Sundays and weekdays will be less expensive.

---

## BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

We've broken down the cost of the average wedding in Canada—we even have some tips on how to stretch your dollar.

### Invitations and Print Material: \$300-\$400

The costs for save the dates, invitations, programs, and other print materials add up quickly. First determine how many invitations you'll be sending, and remember to factor in the postage costs if you need to **ship them out**.

The total cost of invitations will depend on the design, paper, and layout, but the printing method will affect it the most. While thermography, letterpress, and engraving will give you beautiful results, choosing these methods will rack up the price. Digital printing is the most budget-friendly choice.

Email invites are also an affordable—and eco-friendly—option. Some websites allow you to design your own paperless invitation or use one of their templates for free. You could also create a wedding website with an RSVP page.



## Ceremony: \$400-\$600

Determine whether your ceremony will be at the same place as your reception. Choosing a site that works for both is one of the biggest ways to cut costs. If you do have them in separate locations, plan how much time you and your guests will need in between.

Are you planning a church wedding? There's usually a set fee, or you'll be strongly encouraged to give a donation. Whether you'll be married by a civil or religious wedding officiant, a standard fee also applies. Typically, the longer or more elaborate the ceremony is, the more expensive the officiant. Wedding musicians could cost you extra, too.

## Reception (Venue and Catering): \$10,000-\$15,000

The reception is likely to account for about half of your wedding budget. Since this is one of your biggest expenses, you'll want to choose your venue and caterers wisely.

Different wedding venues offer different packages, including caterers, decorations, and sound equipment. Consider how much extra work you're willing to put into making your venue align with your vision. Confirm what's included in the booking fee so you can plan accordingly.

If there's one thing that should be your priority for the reception, it's the food. Your guests made the effort to be there with you—without them, your wedding wouldn't be much of a celebration. Show your guests how much they mean to you and make sure no one is left hungry. Take the time to find highly trained professionals to cater your wedding. The right caterers will do more than plan your menu—they'll play a major role in the planning process and take much of the burden off your shoulders.





## Attire: \$2,500

Your wedding dress is the biggest cost in this category, but there are other factors you might not immediately consider. Remember to factor in your veil, handbag, shoes, and other accessories. Will you need to alter your dress? The more intricate your dress, the pricier it will be to alter. Brides spend an average of **\$1,716 on their dress**, while the groom's wedding suit generally comes with a smaller price tag—between \$300 and \$800.

Who pays for your wedding party's attire? There are no strict rules here, but most likely expect to pay their part.

While it's your decision whether to involve your bridesmaids in choosing their dresses, it's a good idea to get their input. After all, they'll be the ones wearing the dress, and you want them to feel comfortable. You can have your bridesmaids wear the same colour, but let them pick the dress style. If you do pick one specific dress, try to choose one that works with your bridesmaids' budgets. You can also talk to your bridesmaids individually to address any financial concerns.



## Flowers and Décor: \$1,000-\$2,000

If you don't keep track of your expenses here, small details can add up quickly and make for an unpleasant surprise. Flowers alone can make up a substantial part of your budget. You'll likely need a bridal bouquet, bridal party flowers, corsages, boutonnieres, flower girl baskets, centerpieces, and other floral arrangements. Opt for real flowers, as convincing artificial ones can cost double the price of real ones.

To cut costs, choose local, in-season flowers rather than flowers that demand long-distance shipping. Stick to relatively simple, elegant arrangements. You can even use your bridal party bouquets as decorations for your head table.

Your wedding décor will tie your theme together, but this comes at a cost, too. Details like linens, napkins, candles, and even restroom amenities all need to be considered. Make sure your venue takes care of these items if you don't want to worry about it.

**"To cut costs,  
choose local,  
in-season flowers  
rather than flow-  
ers that demand  
long-distance  
shipping."**

## Music and Entertainment: \$2,000

Music is key for a lively wedding celebration and to keep the dance floor busy all night. Are you planning to have a DJ or a live band? Both have their perks, so you'll have to consider the pros and cons of each to make the best decision.

Live bands can really energize a crowd, but are more limited to one style of music. Begin your search well in advance to find the musicians that best fit the tone and atmosphere of your wedding.

Live bands are also significantly more expensive than DJs.

DJs can play a wide range of songs by the original artists, and the music can be played non-stop all night long. However, they don't offer as much entertainment for guests who choose not to dance. Carefully consider your priorities before making your final decision.



## Wedding Rings: \$2,500

You're overjoyed with your beautiful engagement ring. Now you just need the perfect wedding ring to go with it.

The average price of an engagement ring is **approximately \$4,000**—higher than wedding bands, which generally cost about \$1,000 each. Start your search for the right ring at least two to three months before your wedding. Remember that engraving can take up to a month to complete, and will be an added cost. Think long term and choose a ring that's comfortable to wear, as you'll be wearing this every day—in sickness and in health!

Consider your lifestyle when choosing your ring, as some metals will work better than others if you're especially active or regularly work with your hands. Platinum is a more durable metal that you'll rarely have to maintain. While white gold is a beautiful choice, it's high maintenance. You'll have to get it rhodium plated regularly to maintain the white colour.

**"Start your search for the right ring at least two to three months before your wedding."**





**“Hotels and restaurants often have valet parking available, so make sure to check whether it’s an extra cost or included in the rental fee.”**

## **Parking and Transportation: \$300-500**

Though figuring out parking costs isn’t the most enjoyable part of wedding planning, it’s still important to consider. Find out whether the site manager at your venue will take care of parking arrangements.

Hotels and restaurants often have valet parking available, so make sure to check whether it’s an extra cost or included in the rental fee.

Though not strictly required, you might want to arrange transportation for your wedding party from the ceremony to the reception. Consider arranging transportation for your VIP guests, including both sets of parents. It might also be a good idea for your out-of-town guests. Vintage cars and stretch limos will be pricier to get around in, so set your priorities in this area, too.

## **Photographer: \$2,500**

Many couples prioritize finding the right professional photographer and consider it a long-term investment. Photos have the ability to transcend time—imagine your great-grandchildren looking back on your wedding album!

There’s no shortage of photographers to choose from, so do your research to determine what style of photos you’re hoping for. Do you want a free-spirited look? A dramatic vibe? Friends and acquaintances can give you great recommendations so don’t hesitate to ask about their experiences.

You want to find someone who can really capture the essence of your big day. Meet your photographer face to face in advance to set out expectations and see how well you connect. Establish a contract to ensure no unexpected costs come up on your wedding day, even if your wedding goes overtime. This relationship is important, as you’ll be spending several hours or days with them. The more relaxed you are, the better the photos will turn out.



## Wedding Favours: \$400

Don't forget to factor these into your budget. You can get creative to surprise your guests and cut costs. You don't want to overspend on something your guests will just leave at the table.

Save money and table space by choosing centerpieces that double as favours. Display succulents, potted flowers, candles in mason jars, tree seedlings, or lavender sachets. Add a sign to make it clear that your guests can take a piece of the celebration home with them. Remember to consider the costs of personalization and packing materials like ribbons, tags, and printer ink.

## Honeymoon: \$5,000

Where should you go on your honeymoon? It's your first holiday as a married couple, so make it count. Do you want an adventurous honeymoon, or are you ready for total relaxation? If pampering is your priority, book some time at a spa resort. Plan a romantic getaway and wander through a new city hand in hand. Are you both kids at heart? Make it a theme park honeymoon and head to Disney World.

To grasp the real cost of your wedding, factor your honeymoon into your budget. Shop around and plan ahead to score the best discounts. You can also ask your guests to contribute to your honeymoon fund rather than have a wedding registry. Keep a jar on the welcome table for a straightforward way to collect cash, or create an online registry.



## Miscellaneous Costs

With everything that goes into planning a wedding, you'll no doubt run into some unexpected costs.

TO AVOID UNWANTED  
SURPRISES ON YOUR BILLS,  
HERE'S A BRIEF LIST OF  
SOME HIDDEN COSTS TO  
KEEP IN MIND:

- » Marriage license
- » Overtime fees
- » Cleanup costs
- » Beauty treatments
- » Brunch for family and friends the next day
- » Rehearsal dinner
- » Videography
- » Stamps for the invitations
- » Tips for vendors

# GRAND TOTAL

# \$30,717



“Full-service wedding caterers can manage a range of key services and ensure your wedding day is a complete success.”

## STICK TO YOUR BUDGET

You’ve made your budget, now you just have to stick to it. In the months leading up to your wedding, you need to keep a detailed record of where your money goes. There’s no other way to stay on top of your spending. You can create a spreadsheet, or use a budgeting app. Consider having a separate wedding account to easily manage your money without getting it mixed up with your daily expenses.

## GET THE HELP YOU NEED

Some parts of planning your wedding are more fun than others. Sure, you’ll be all in when it comes to sampling wedding cakes! But when you factor in all the details, it can easily be too much to take on.

That’s why you should carefully decide on your venue and caterers—working with the right people can take the pressure off. Full-service wedding caterers can manage a range of key services and ensure your wedding day is a complete success.





## A WEDDING PLANNING DREAM TEAM

Seventh Heaven is a one-stop shop catering company committed to bringing your vision of the perfect wedding to life. We'll help you bring together all the details. Don't worry, the professionals will deliver a flawless execution of your dream wedding.

Our full service caterers will not only provide you with a perfect menu for your special day, but also supply and manage all rentals and labour for the big event. In fact, we offer our expertise to manage any of the other key services you will need to make your day a success. For example, we can oversee all areas of customized menu creation, full event design, venue selection, décor, floral, rentals of every nature, entertainment, and staffing. Whatever you're dreaming of, Seventh Heaven can make it happen.

[LEARN MORE](#)