

Bricklayer

Lay brick, block and stone on new buildings and restore old ones. A 3-year paid apprenticeship.

TYPICAL PAY

\$83,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$54k to \$101k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**House builds, commercial sites,
heritage restorations**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with math and a shop class. Some provinces let you start through a high school apprenticeship program.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
A masonry contractor or the union hiring hall. Starting as a labourer on a masonry crew is the usual way in.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
With Skilled Trades Ontario, Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, or your province's trades body.
- 4 Work and study** 3 years
About 5,600 hours in Ontario: roughly 4,900 on site plus three in-school levels of about 8 weeks at a college.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam. Add the Red Seal endorsement to work anywhere in Canada.

Pros and cons

- + Paid from day one, certified in 3 years
- + Your work is visible and lasts a century
- + Restoration is skilled, steady and hard to automate
- One of the most physically punishing trades: lifting all day, hard on the back and shoulders
- Seasonal: outdoor work slows or stops in deep winter
- Cold, heat, dust and wet mortar every day

Good to know

Parliament is being rebuilt by masons

The Centre Block on Parliament Hill in Ottawa is in the middle of a years-long rehabilitation. Restoring its stone is some of the most demanding masonry work in the country.

A mason lifts tonnes a day

A standard concrete block weighs around 15 kilograms. Lay a couple of hundred in a shift and you have lifted several tonnes before the day is out. That is why fitness matters more than in almost any other trad...

Optional boosts

Red Seal endorsement. Heritage restoration. Stone masonry. Refractory work.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Bricklayers, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Bricklayer

Skilled Trades Ontario

Alberta Apprenticeship (Tradesecrets)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/bricklayer>



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