

Stonemason

Cut, shape and set natural stone on walls, monuments and century-old buildings. A craft trade with a 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

Heritage sites, custom homes, landscapes, monument shops

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with math and a shop or art class. Some provinces let you start through a high school apprenticeship program.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
A masonry or restoration contractor, a landscaping company that builds stone walls, or the union hiring hall. Starting as a labourer is the usual way in.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
In Ontario the trade is called Brick and Stone Mason (401A). Elsewhere it is Bricklayer. Register with your provincial trades body.
- 4 Work and study** 3 years
About 5,600 hours in Ontario: roughly 4,880 on site plus three in-school levels totalling 720 hours. Ask for a sponsor that does stone, not just brick.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam and add the Red Seal endorsement to work anywhere in Canada.

Pros and cons

- + Paid apprenticeship, certified in 3 years
- + Your work lasts for centuries and people notice it
- + Heritage restoration is steady and almost impossible to automate
- Heavier and harder on the body than almost any other trade
- Outdoor work slows in winter, so yearly income depends on the season
- A small market: fewer jobs than bricklaying or carpentry

Optional boosts

Heritage restoration. Stone carving and lettering. Dry stone walling. Red Seal endorsement.

Good to know

Parliament has an official sculptor

Canada employs a Dominion Sculptor whose job is to carve and restore the stone of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The Centre Block rehabilitation is one of the largest heritage stone projects in th...

Dry stone walls use no mortar

A properly built dry stone wall stands on friction, gravity and careful stone choice alone. Some in Britain are hundreds of years old. Canada has its own dry stone walling community that runs workshops and fe...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Stonemason, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Red Seal Program: Bricklayer (covers stone masonry)
Skilled Trades Ontario: Brick and Stone Mason (401A)
Willowbank School of Restoration Arts

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/stonemason>



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