

Bricklayer

Lay brick, block and stone into walls that outlast the people who built them.

TYPICAL PAY

\$62,120

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$45k to \$100k

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

Construction sites, schools and hospitals, restoration work, indust...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma or an equivalency certificate** Grade 12
Shop and math classes help. You need to be 18 and physically able to lift and carry all day.
- 2 Find a program or a contractor** Weeks to months
Apply to a local union apprenticeship or get hired by a masonry contractor who will register you. Pre-apprenticeship courses help you get picked.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
The program is registered with the federal or your state apprenticeship agency, which sets the hours and the wage schedule.
- 4 Work plus classroom training** 3 to 4 years
Registered apprenticeships run on a minimum of about 2,000 hours of paid work plus roughly 144 hours of classroom instruction a year.
- 5 Journeyman mason** After the hours
Complete the hours and skills checks and you work at the full rate anywhere in the country.

Pros and cons

- + Paid from day one, essentially no debt
- + Fully qualified in three to four years
- + You can point at buildings you built
- Hard on knees, shoulders and back over decades
- Outdoor work that stops in bad weather and slows in winter
- Slow in a housing downturn

Good to know

The union is older than most states out West

The International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers says it has been representing masons for over 160 years, making it one of the oldest continuously operating unions in North America.

Masonry competitions are a real thing

National speed and quality contests judge how many brick a mason can lay in an hour while keeping the wall within tolerance. Top competitors lay well over a thousand.

Optional boosts

Refractory work. Stone masonry. Restoration and repointing. Foreman and layout.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Brickmasons and Blockmasons
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
International Masonry Institute
Apprenticeship.gov, the federal Registered Apprenticeship site

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/bricklayer>



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