

# Bricklayer and stonemason

Average salary: \$75,000

Career trend: growing slightly

## Job description

Bricklayers and stonemasons are responsible for such iconic structures such as Big Ben, the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China and are intrinsic to the construction industry.

## What bricklayers and stonemasons do

Bricklayers and stonemasons are highly skilled craftspeople who can transform simple pieces of rock and clay into majestic structures. These roles require physical, intense and repetitive work yet there's great satisfaction in seeing the finished product.

Bricklayers use specialist tools to cut bricks to size, spread mortar and lay bricks, tiles and concrete in a uniform fashion to build structures. Bricklaying is a methodical practice. It requires meticulous preparation before active work can be carried out.

A stonemason shapes rough chunks of rock into precise, geometrical shapes that are set in mortar and used for construction. Masons must be very exact, following blueprints and taking accurate measurements.

Many stonemasons specialise in one area. Banker masons operate in workshops, slicing and dicing rocks into simple and complex shapes. Carvers use their artistic flair to carve intricate designs and shapes into stone. Fixer masons fix the cut stones onto and into buildings. They need a head for heights and specialist skills in manipulating mortar and cement.

## You'll like these jobs if...

You're able to work independently. You're a problem solver. You're creative. You can also read plans and follow instructions. You have strong attention to detail. You're physically fit and like performing outdoor work. You're good with your hands. You like to focus on the facts and details.

### Will I get a job?

- Slight growth in this occupation is predicted, with 600 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 24,700.

### What will I earn?

- \$1,101 to \$1,350 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

### Roles to look for

- Bricklayer
- Blocklayer
- Stonemason

## A day in the life...

Work as a bricklayer or stonemason may involve these tasks:

- study plans and specifications to determine materials required, dimensions and installation procedures
- erect and dismantle restricted height scaffolding
- seal foundations with damp-resistant materials and spread layers of mortar to serve as base and binder for blocks using trowels
- lay bricks in rows, designs and shapes, then spread mortar between joints
- embed blocks in mortar and removing excess mortar
- check vertical and horizontal alignment
- cut, shape and polish stones and bricks using machines and hand tools, and shape bricks to fit irregular spaces
- repair and maintain bricks, cement blocks and related structures
- design and cut monumental masonry and lettering
- construct walls using stone slabs and large masonry slab blocks.

## VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

### Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying (CPC30111)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 94%\*

### Certificate III in Stonemasonry (Monumental/Installation) (CPC32313)

- Up to 3 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%\*

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### Main employing industries

- Construction

### Other jobs you may like...

- Carpenter and joiner
- Glazier
- Plasterer
- Plumber
- Roof tiler
- Wall and floor tiler
- Bricklayer's assistant
- Builder
- Construction worker
- Concreter

**Information sources** Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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