



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster: Construction



Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers

Standard Occupational Code 47-2051

What They Do

Build and align forms for sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Once the concrete is poured for projects such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads or curbs, they smooth the surface and use a variety of hand and power tools to apply special finishes. They may patch voids in existing cement or concrete structures, or they may use saws to cut expansion joints.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Conventional (Organizers) - detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Work Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Attention to Detail — A tendency to be detail-oriented, organized, and thorough in completing work.

Dependability — A tendency to be reliable, responsible, and consistent in meeting work-related obligations.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Manual Dexterity
- Trunk Strength
- Multi-limb Coordination
- Near Vision
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Control Precision
- Extent Flexibility
- Deductive Reasoning
- Dynamic Strength
- Information Ordering
- Problem Sensitivity

Work Activities

- Handling and Moving Objects
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials
- Getting Information
- Performing General Physical Activities
- Scheduling Work and Activities

Education & Training

The minimum of a high school diploma is recommended for cement masons. However, those with demonstrated skill in concrete work and/or some postsecondary education in a building trades program are given preference over job candidates without those credentials.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	5
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of cement masons and concrete finishers are:

- Specialty Trade Contractors
- Construction of Buildings
- Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
- Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods
- Self Employment

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Workers	2034 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,208	2,424	216	9.8%	176	\$47,160	\$48,800

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

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Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

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