

Occupational Profile: Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers

GENERAL OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION

Smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; use saws to cut expansion joints.

Source: O*NET online. <http://online.onetcenter.org>

REQUIRED EDUCATION

As shown in the table to right, over 47% of interviewed employers reportedly require a High School diploma or less, while an additional 53% require a two-year degree or the equivalent.

Required Education	
Percent of Employers Requiring HS Diploma or Less	47.24%
Percent of Employers Requiring 2-Year Degree or Equiv	52.76%
Percent of Employers Requiring BS Diploma or More	0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

WAGES

Cement Mason and Concrete Finisher is considered a low to medium-wage occupation, with moderate possibility for wage advancement with experience. Employers in the State of Arizona generally pay comparably as compared with the overall United States.

Location	Pay Period	2005				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$9.68	\$11.97	\$15.40	\$20.30	\$26.05
	Yearly	\$20,100	\$24,900	\$32,000	\$42,200	\$54,200
Greater Phoenix	Hourly	\$11.34	\$13.43	\$16.09	\$19.39	\$24.19
	Yearly	\$23,599	\$27,948	\$33,483	\$40,351	\$50,339
Arizona	Hourly	\$9.61	\$12.21	\$15.21	\$18.12	\$21.05
	Yearly	\$20,000	\$25,400	\$31,600	\$37,700	\$43,800

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison of wages for this occupation reveals Arizona ranks 27th in terms of median wages.

RANK	Location	Median Wage 2005	
		Hourly	Annual
1	Alaska	\$28.61	\$59,500
2	Hawaii	\$25.79	\$53,600
3	New Jersey	\$23.54	\$49,000
4	Illinois	\$21.60	\$44,900
5	Connecticut	\$21.58	\$44,900
27	ARIZONA	\$15.21	\$31,600

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The table below provides a comparison of wages by sub-industry for the Greater Phoenix region (2005). As shown, the main employment sector, "Specialty Trade Contractors" pays slightly less than the other main employment sectors.

Wages by Industry: Greater Phoenix MSA (2005)	Rounded Employment	Mean Wage	10th Percentile Wage	25th Percentile Wage	Median Wage	75th Percentile Wage	90th Percentile Wage
Specialty Trade Contractors	5,410	\$14.83	\$9.09	\$11.65	\$15.06	\$18.05	\$20.68
Construction of Buildings	820	\$18.15	\$12.04	\$13.88	\$16.33	\$19.86	\$28.90
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	460	\$17.38	\$12.88	\$14.76	\$16.88	\$20.25	\$22.99

EMPLOYMENT

As shown in the table below, this occupation has a projected 50% growth rate over 10 years (between 2003 and 2013) for the Greater Phoenix region. There are an average projected 332 job openings each year, comprised of 230 new jobs and 102 positions vacated by individuals leaving the field (due to retirement, death, career changes, or other reasons).

	10-YEAR CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL		
	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
United States	2004	2014				
Cement masons and concrete finishers	200,900	232,800	16%	7,240	n/a	n/a
Arizona	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
	2004	2014				
Cement masons and concrete finishers	8,870	13,250	49%	620	n/a	n/a
Greater Phoenix	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
	2003	2013				
Cement masons and concrete finishers	5,074	7,377	50%	332	230	102

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**N/A is displayed in cases where data is not available or cannot be published because of federal data privacy standards.

An additional source of information regarding this occupation can be provided by analysis of employer survey data collected for the Maricopa County Community Colleges by the ERISS Corporation in 2004. As shown, the ERISS survey data shows a projected 1-year growth rate of 12%, which is higher than the average of 5% per year reflected by the BLS data above.

Additionally, the ERISS data provides an indicator of yearly turnover for this occupation, which is reported to be high at 25%.

ERISS Occupational Survey Data (2004)			
Greater Phoenix	Growth	Turnover	Demand
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	12%	25%	37%

Comparison of employment projections for top five regions for Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison reveals the State of Arizona ranks 2nd in terms of projected 10-year growth for this occupation (49%).

RANK	Location	Employment		Percent
		2004	2014	Change
1	Colorado	5,420	8,410	55%
2	ARIZONA	8,870	13,250	49%
3	Wyoming	590	850	46%
4	Nevada	3,360	4,870	45%
5	Idaho	1,360	1,890	39%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment by Industry

The table below shows the industries that most commonly employ Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers, and the proportion of employment accounted for at the national level. As shown, "Poured concrete foundation and structure contractors" is the largest employer for this occupation (31.5%).

Percent of Employment Nationally by Industry	
Percent	Industry
31.5%	Poured concrete foundation and structure contractors
21.6%	Other specialty trade contractors
10.1%	Nonresidential building construction
6.1%	Highway, street, and bridge construction
5.2%	Residential building construction

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Geo-Location Overlay of Employers with 20 or More Employees that Potentially Employ Occupation (n = 179)

