

## CEMENT MASONS & PLASTERERS

Cement Masons use concrete on many types of construction projects. Whether small jobs, such as patios and floors, or huge dams and miles of roadway, cement masons place and finish concrete. They may also color concrete surfaces, expose aggregate (small stones) in walls and sidewalks, or fabricate concrete beams, columns and panels. In preparing a site for placing concrete, masons set the forms for holding the concrete to the desired pitch and depth and properly align them. Masons guide a straightedge back and forth across the top of the forms to “screed,” or level, the freshly placed concrete.

Plasterers apply plaster to interior walls and ceilings to form fire-resistant and relatively soundproof surfaces. They also apply plaster to veneer over drywall to create smooth or textured abrasion-resistant finishes. They apply durable plasters such as polymer-based acrylic finishes and stucco to exterior surfaces, and they install prefabricated exterior insulation systems over existing walls for good insulation and interesting architectural effects. In addition, they cast ornamental designs in plaster.

**APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM & REQUIREMENTS:** The apprentice program is three years for Cement Masons and four years for Plasterers. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and reside within the territorial jurisdiction of Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, or St. Clair Counties. Applicant must provide a Birth Certificate and a High School Diploma or GED.

**WAGE INFORMATION:** Cement Mason apprentices start at 50% of wage scale. Journeyman wages are \$35.55 hourly plus health care and pension benefits. Plasterer apprentices start at 40% of wage scale. Journeyman wages are \$34.00 plus health care and pension benefits.

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATORY CLASSES:** English, mathematics, mechanical drawing, and industrial technology classes.

**WORKING CONDITIONS:** Cement Masons work inside and out. Work may be somewhat seasonal. Because most finishing is done at floor level workers must bend and kneel a lot. Plasterers work inside and out. Work may be somewhat seasonal. Workers must bend and kneel a lot.

**ABILITIES:** Must be able to lift heavy objects; must be able to work at high levels from ladders and scaffolds; and must be able to handle a large amount of bending and stretching.

TRADE	WAGE + BENEFITS	1 <sup>ST</sup> YR APPR.
Cement Masons	\$35.55 + \$25.35	50% of wage
Plasterers	\$34.00 + \$20.50	40% of wage

**Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 90**  
820 Lions Drive  
Troy, IL 62294  
(618) 667-2562  
[www.opcmia.org](http://www.opcmia.org)