

Laborer and Freight, Stock, and Material Mover, Hand

WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

New York City

2006 Entry-level hourly wage	\$7.55
2006 Median hourly wage	\$11.17

New York State

Job growth outlook 2004–2014 (from 102,030 in 2004)	0%
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JOB CHARACTERISTICS

What do laborers and movers do?

- Attach identifying tags to containers, or mark them with identifying information.
- Read work orders or receive oral instructions to determine work assignments and material and equipment needs.
- Record numbers of units handled and moved, using daily production sheets or work tickets.
- Move freight, stock, and other materials to and from storage and production areas, loading docks, delivery vehicles, ships, and containers, by hand or using trucks, tractors, and other equipment.
- Sort cargo before loading and unloading.
- Assemble product containers and crates, using hand tools and pre-cut lumber.
- Load and unload ship cargo, using winches and other hoisting devices.
- Connect hoses and operate equipment to move liquid materials into and out of storage tanks on vessels.
- Pack containers and re-pack damaged containers.

- Carry needed tools and supplies from storage or trucks, and return them after use.

In what type of *conditions* do laborers and movers work?

- **Contact with others.** Requires contact with others (face-to-face, by telephone, or otherwise).
- **Time pressure.** Requires meeting strict deadlines and remaining on schedule.
- **Face-to-face discussions.** Frequent face-to-face discussions with individuals or teams.
- **Standing.** Spend time standing.
- **Using hands to handle, control, or feel objects, tools, or controls.** Requires using hands to handle, control, or feel objects, tools or controls.

EMPLOYEE CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALIFICATIONS

How much *education* must a laborer or mover have?

A high school diploma or GED is usually required; some employers may require vocational training or job-related course work too.

What kind of *licensing* must a laborer or mover have?

Laborers and freight, stock, or material movers do not require licensing.

How much *work experience* should a laborer or mover have?

Some work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is helpful but is usually not required.

What type of *job training* does a laborer or mover need?

Anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees.

What are the most important *abilities* a laborer or mover should have?

- **Static strength.** The ability to exert maximum muscle force to lift, push, pull, or carry objects.
- **Extent flexibility.** The ability to bend, stretch, twist, or reach with your body, arms, and/or legs.
- **Trunk strength.** The ability to use your abdominal and lower back muscles to support part of the body repeatedly or continuously over time without 'giving out' or fatiguing.
- **Manual dexterity.** The ability to quickly move your hand or hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- **Visualization.** The ability to imagine how something will look after it is moved around or when its parts are moved or rearranged.

What are the most important *skills* for a laborer or mover to have?

- **Active listening.** Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Reading comprehension.** Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Instructing.** Teaching others how to do something.
- **Coordination.** Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

- **Learning strategies.** Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Landscaping and Grounds keeping Workers
- Helpers — Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters
- Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment
- Packers and Packagers, Hand
- Wellhead Pumpers

SOURCE O*NET Summary reports and occupational databases. Retrieved May 2008, from <http://online.onetcenter.org/>.