

Hairdressing, Beauty and Wellbeing

Would you enjoy helping people to look and feel good? Are you interested in developing your practical and creative skills? If so, this career area may be what you're looking for.

There are 250,000 people working in this industry in the UK, across some 43,000 businesses.

Fashion trends and the development of new cosmetic, beauty and hair care products are important factors for change in the industry. The use of barber shops is growing due to the trend for male grooming with beard grooming being very popular.

The NHF (National Hairdressing Federation) and NHB (National Beauty Federation) will now be under one name as The National Hair and Beauty Federation (NHBF).

What areas can I work in?

This career area includes: hairdressing, barbering, salon management, beauty therapy, nail therapy, spa therapy, aromatherapy, reflexology, make-up artistry and body art (tattooing and piercing).

Related work is also available in other areas such as: reception (although online booking is growing in popularity in larger salons and salon chains), sales, marketing, and hospitality and tourism (in health spas and holiday resorts).

What kind of companies can I work for?

Possible employers include:

- hairdressing salons (some also offer beauty treatments)
- barber shops
- beauty therapy salons
- nail bars
- health and beauty spas and centres
- tanning salons
- beauty therapy salons or related services in other businesses (such as large department stores, hotels, cruise ships, airlines, leisure centres, wedding consultants, film/TV studios and theatre companies)
- colleges and training centres (for well qualified tutors and lecturers)
- tattoo and piercing studios.

What's the job market like?

This industry is dependent on how much money people have to spend once they have paid for the 'essentials', such as food and fuel bills, however there are predicted to be some growth areas.

Summary statistics quoted by Business Gateway state that the spa, salon and in-store treatment sector has grown by 1.4% generating £7.8 billion. The number of barber shops is growing due to an increase in male grooming.

Self-employment is popular in this industry, with 54% of people in hairdressing and barbering and 57% in beauty.

Facts and figures

- The industry as a whole generates almost £7.5 billion for the UK economy.
- Over two-thirds of the hairdressing, barbering and beauty business employ fewer than 5 people and 94% employ fewer than 10 people.
- Almost half of people working in hairdressing and barbering are aged 16-34 with over 60% working in beauty.
- 83% of people working in hairdressing and barbering are female, with 94% in beauty.
- The number of barber shops over the last five years have increased by 64% since 2014.

Want to find out more?

You will find useful information on careers and qualifications in the industry on the [Hair and Beauty Industry Authority \(Habia\)](#) website. Habia is now part of the SkillsActive Group.

[SkillsActive](#) is the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure, Learning and Well-being.

Sources

- Industry Statistics for Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty, National Hairdressing and Beauty Federation (NHBF)(2019)
- Market Report: Beauty Therapy, Business Gateway (April 2020)
- Market Report: Hairdressing salons and Barber Shops, Business Gateway (August 2019)
- [Professional Hairdresser](#) (November 2019)