

Barber

Barbers cut and style men's hair. They may also provide other grooming services, such as shaving, beard trimming or hair treatments.

The Work

You could be:

- helping your clients to decide how they want their hair
- cutting hair with scissors and comb, razors and clippers
- trimming beards and moustaches, or eyebrows and the hair in ears and nostrils
- shaving clients, perhaps giving an open razor shave (using hot or cold towels, lather and razor)
- applying styling products
- offering other services, such as facial massages, hair and scalp treatments or hair colouring
- ordering supplies and materials, selling hairstyling products to customers
- keeping up to date with new styles and techniques and hair products
- making appointments, answering the phone, taking payments and helping to keep the salon clean and tidy.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

The starting salary is often based on the National Minimum Wage (NMW).

As of 1 April 2019 the National Minimum Wage is £4.35 an hour for workers aged 16 to 17, £6.15 an hour for workers aged 18 to 20 and £7.70 an hour for workers aged 21 to 24. The National Living Wage is £8.21 for workers aged 25 and over.

At present the apprentice rate, for those aged under 19 or aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship, is £3.90 an hour (1 April 2019).

With experience this can rise to around £12.50 an hour. Tips from customers, and possibly commission from products you may sell in the shop, can increase your income.

Conditions

- You normally work indoors in a barber's shop.
- You would work around 40 hours a week.
- You spend most of your time standing and you may have to bend and stretch a lot.

- You usually work one or two late evenings each week as well as a Saturday.

Getting In

- You might be able to train through a Modern Apprenticeship. For entry, a good general education is useful.
- You might enter by way of a full time course. There are National Certificates (NCs), National Qualifications (NQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) in hairdressing or barbering, and a few courses that specialise in barbering. Some courses do not have any formal entry requirements; others may ask for subjects at National 4.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- a friendly and chatty manner with customers
- a natural creativity
- a steady hand when using scissors, clippers and razors
- good time management skills, for planning daily appointments.

You need to be:

- smart and well presented
- able to work quickly and accurately
- a good listener – to follow instructions from customers
- aware of new trends in styles and products
- able to work under pressure
- aware of health and safety issues.

Training

- If you train on the job with a barber, you may be able to attend college part time and work towards SVQ at SCQF Levels 5 and 6 in Barbering.
- If you take a full time course as the first step and then enter employment, you may be able to study part time for more advanced qualifications.
- If you have a relevant SVQ at SCQF Level 5 you can apply to the Hairdressing Council to become a State Registered Graduate Barber.

Getting On

- Most barbers work in fairly small barbers' shops which serve customers in their local areas.
- After gaining enough experience, you may be able to open your own shop, become self-employed and perhaps employ other barbers.
- With 3 years' experience, you can apply to the Hairdressing Council to become a State Registered Senior Barber.
- By taking qualifications in hairdressing, you may be able to progress to become a hair stylist, dealing with

both female and male customers.

Contacts

British Barbers' Association

Tel: 07553 826582

Email: educationteam@britishbarbers.com

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Twitter: @BritishBarbers

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BritishBarbers

Habia (Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority)

Tel: 08452 306080

Email: info@habia.org

Website: www.habia.org

Twitter: @Habia_SSB

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HabiaUK

Hairdressing Council

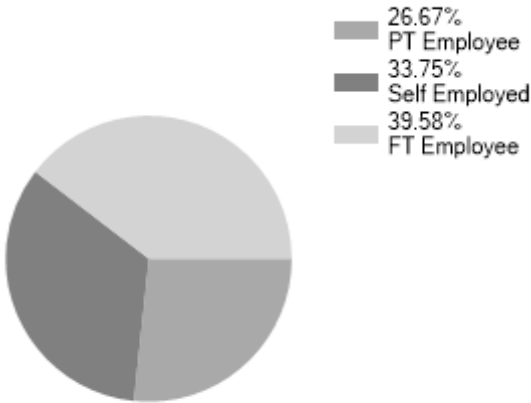
Tel: 020 8760 7010

Website: www.haircouncil.org.uk

Twitter: @hairbarbcouncil

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



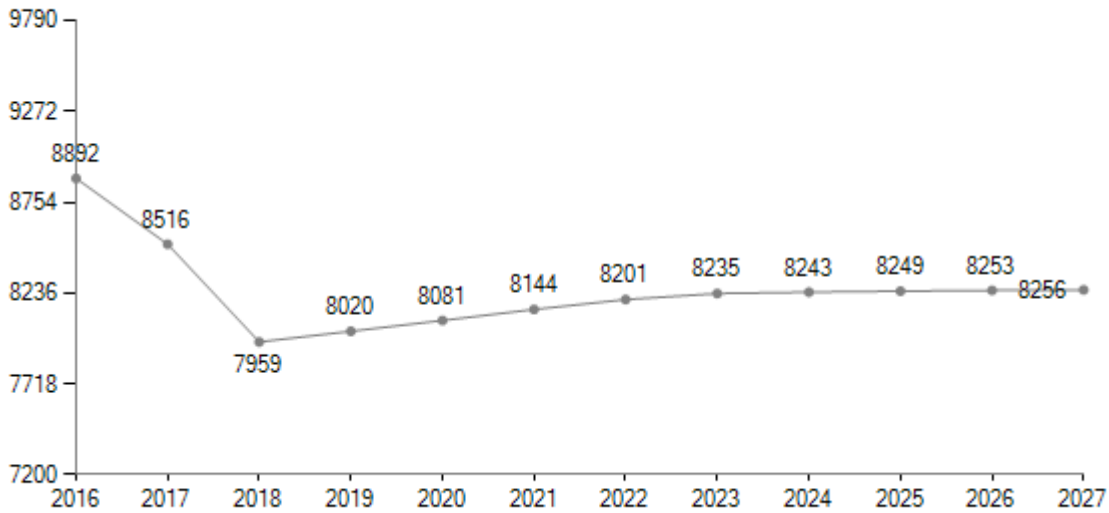
Past Unemployment - Scotland

Date	Unemployed
Dec 2016	0.5%
Sep 2018	0.26%
Dec 2018	0.19%
Mar 2019	0.19%

LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



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