



Supporting the hair, beauty
and barbering industries

2017 Industry Statistics

FOR HAIRDRESSING, BARBERING & BEAUTY



Hair and beauty industry statistics

NOVEMBER 2017:

Please acknowledge the NHF and the data sources when using these statistics.

Official definitions of the hair and beauty industry include:

Hair washing, trimming and cutting, setting, dyeing, tinting, waving, straightening and similar activities for men and women, barbering, shaving and beard trimming, trichology, facial massage, manicure and pedicure, make-up, electrolysis and other beauty treatments, but not the manufacture of wigs.

Numbers do not always add up due to rounding. Please note that data is drawn from different sources which means comparisons are not always valid.

Business Information

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NUMBER OF HAIRDRESSING, BARBERING AND BEAUTY BUSINESSES*

BY REGION/NATION AND UK (NOVEMBER 2017)

Key finding: there are around 41,000 hair and beauty businesses in the UK, with the highest numbers in London, the South East and the North West.

UNITED KINGDOM	NUMBER	%
England	34,300	83%
North East	1,905	5%
North West	5,040	12%
Yorkshire and Humberside	3,415	8%
East Midlands	2,785	7%
West Midlands	3,550	9%
East of England	3,580	9%
London	6,100	15%
South East	4,945	12%
South West	2,980	7%
Wales	2,035	5%
Scotland	3,635	9%
Northern Ireland	1,475	4%
TOTAL BUSINESSES	41,450	

Notes: *Businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE.

Source: nomis official labour market statistics (Office for National Statistics)

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NUMBER OF HAIRDRESSING, BARBERING AND BEAUTY BUSINESSES*

BY TURNOVER (NOVEMBER 2017)

Key finding: Two thirds of hair and beauty businesses have annual turnover of less than £99k, while one quarter have turnover between £100k and £250k.

TURNOVER	NUMBER	%
Up to £49,000	12,775	31%
£50,000 to £99,000	15,000	36%
£100,000 to £249,000	11,105	27%
£250,000 to £499,000	1,790	4%
£500,000 to £999,000	540	1%
£1m to £2m	150	0.3%
£2m to £5m	60	Negligible
£5m to £10m	15	Negligible
£10m to £50m	10	Negligible
£50m+	0	Negligible
TOTAL BUSINESSES	41,450	

Notes: *Businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE.

Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

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NUMBER OF HAIRDRESSING, BARBERING AND BEAUTY BUSINESSES*

BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (NOVEMBER 2017)

Key finding: Two thirds of hair and beauty businesses employ fewer than 5 people. 93% employ fewer than 10 people.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	NUMBER	%
0-4	28,840	69%
5-9	9,780	24%
10-19	2,250	5%
20-49	495	1%
50-99	55	negligible
100-249	25	negligible
250-499	5	negligible
TOTAL BUSINESSES	41,450	

Notes: *Businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE.

Source: nomis official labour market statistics (Office for National Statistics)

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TURNOVER* FOR HAIRDRESSING, BARBERING AND BEAUTY BUSINESSES FOR THE UK BY REGION 2014

Key finding: The hair and beauty industry generates almost £7bn in turnover each year.

	TURNOVER £	%
England	£5,824,191	85%
North West	£693,364	10%
North East	£159,744	2%
Yorkshire and Humberside	£419,613	6%
East Midlands	£287,635	4%
West Midlands	£709,379	10%
East of England	£792,738	12%
London	£1,214,330	18%
South East	£1,105,060	16%
South West	£442,327	6%
Wales	£235,572	3%
Scotland	£690,800	10%
Northern Ireland	£114,642	2%
TOTAL BUSINESSES	£6,865,205	

Notes: *excludes VAT

Source: Annual Business Survey 2014 (NB updated figures will be available in 2018)



Business Start-ups

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HAIR AND BEAUTY MOST POPULAR START-UPS (2016)

Key finding: Barbershops, beauty salons, nail bars and hair and beauty salons are all in the 10 most popular new businesses opening in Great Britain.

TYPE OF START-UP BUSINESSES	
1	Vaping shops
2	Barbers
3	Beauty salons
4	Take-away food
5	Cafés and tearooms
6	Coffee shops
7	Nail salons
8	Mobile phones
9	Hair and beauty salons
10	Restaurants and bars

Source: Local Data Company, Leisure and Retail Report 2016

Employment

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PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT IN HAIRDRESSING, BARBERING AND BEAUTY BY AGE AND GENDER (JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016, UK)

Key finding: Around 287,000 people work in hairdressing, barbering and beauty. Over half are aged between 16 and 34. Females aged 25-34 are the largest group.

UK	Total in employment	%	Female	%	Male	%
16-24	65,628	23%	60,874	21%	4,754	2%
25-34	91,459	32%	84,197	29%	7,262	3%
35-44	49,354	17%	42,979	15%	6,375	2%
45-54	52,108	18%	44,709	16%	7,399	3%
55-64	22,424	8%	17,995	6%	4,429	2%
65+	5,916	2%	3,439	1%	2,477	1%
TOTAL	286,889		254,193		32,696	

Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

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HAIRDRESSING/BARBERING AND BEAUTY BY EMPLOYEES OR SELF-EMPLOYED (AUGUST 2017)

Key finding: 57% of people working in hairdressing and barbering are self-employed and in beauty 54% are self-employed.

	HAIRDRESSING AND BARBERING	%	BEAUTY	%
Total employees	70,000	43%	53,000	46%
Total self-employed	94,000	57%	62,000	54%
TOTAL	164,000		115,000	

Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

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FULL-TIME WORKING AND PART-TIME WORKING (AUGUST 2017)

Key finding: Less than half of people work part-time across the hair and beauty industry.

	HAIRDRESSING AND BARBERING	%	BEAUTY	%
Total full-time	89,000	55%	65,000	57%
Total part-time	74,000	45%	50,000	43%
TOTAL	163,000		115,000	

Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0





Apprenticeships



HAIR AND BEAUTY APPRENTICESHIP STARTS BY FRAMEWORK AND LEVEL 2015/16

Key finding: Almost 20,000 people started hairdressing, barbering or beauty therapy apprenticeships across the UK in 2015/16

ENGLAND	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	ALL
Hairdressing	8,120	4,010	12,140
Barbering	1,790	780	2,570
Beauty therapy	870	690	1,560
WALES	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	ALL
Hairdressing	865	470	1,350
Barbering	345	85	430
Beauty therapy	140	65	205
SCOTLAND			ALL
Hairdressing & barbering			1,247
Beauty therapy			None
NORTHERN IRELAND	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	ALL
Hairdressing	90	147	237
Barbering	5	17	23
Beauty therapy	21	25	46
UK			ALL
Hairdressing*			14,974*
Barbering			3,023
Beauty therapy			1,811

*includes barbering in Scotland

Source: England: FE data tables, SFA & BIS; Welsh Government; Skills Development Scotland; Northern Ireland Government, 2017

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MOST POPULAR APPRENTICESHIPS BY STARTS 2015/16 - ENGLAND ONLY

Key finding: Hairdressing apprenticeships are in the top 10 for apprenticeship starts.

	FRAMEWORK	STARTS IN 2015/16
1	Health and social care	85,000
2	Business administration	50,000
3	Management	46,000
4	Hospitality & catering	32,000
5	Customer service	26,000
6	Children's care learning & development	24,000
7	Construction skills	20,000
8	Industrial applications	18,000
9	Engineering	16,000
10	Hairdressing (does not include barbering)	13,000

Source: Apprenticeship statistics - England, House of Commons Library, November 2016

Health and Wellbeing

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OCCUPATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF WORK-RELATED SKIN DISEASE IN GREAT BRITAIN 2016

Key finding: Although the number of new cases has fallen over the past four years, the hairdressing, barbering and beauty industry has one of the highest incidence rates in Great Britain.

OCCUPATION	INCIDENCE (cases per 100,000 workers per year, 2007-2016)
Florists	96
Hairdressers and barbers	73
Beauty therapists	70
Cooks	59
Metal working machine	52

Source: Source: HSE, Work-related skin disease in Great Britain, 2017



FURTHER INFORMATION

The NHF is the UK's largest trade body for hairdressing, barbering and beauty salons, representing over 5,000 business owners. We're here to help members run successful and profitable businesses.

Established in 1942, our members can rely on us to act in their best interests and to speak confidently on their behalf on industry issues. Membership is open to salons, the self-employed and to non-salon businesses eg suppliers of salon products, equipment, advice or services, colleges or training providers.

www.nhf.info/join



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