

Labour Market Exploration:
Hair and BeautyINDUSTRY
HEADLINES

The hairdressing & beauty therapy industries are rewarding industries to work in – **beauty therapists enjoy their careers more than anyone else**, awarding their jobs 9.2 out of 10 on the **happiness scale**. Contributing to their happiness in the workplace is the ability to meet lots of new people (95%) and being made to feel appreciated (90%). Beauty therapists knocked hairdressers off the top spot from the previous year – source: *Happiness Index, City & Guilds, 2006*)

INTRODUCTION

- There are over 31,000 salons in the UK employing around 180,000 people. Hairdressers can also work in hotels, hospitals, care homes, cruise liners, film and photographic studios/sets, and Armed Forces bases
- The industries represented in this sector are:-
 - hairdressing
 - beauty therapy
 - nail services
 - spa therapy
 - barbering
 - African Caribbean hairdressing and barbering
- Once considered to be a luxury, the services offered by spa therapists are enjoyed by an ever-increasing number of people – spa facilities range from day spas, to spas in hotels and holiday resorts

TRENDS

- There is an increasing overlap between hairdressing and barbering and other industries such as beauty therapy, nails services and spa, with 39% of hairdressing salons offering beauty therapy and 10% of barbers offering natural nail treatments
- The spa industry is currently one of the fastest growing industries in the UK – reflected through the Spa Business Association's listing of 400 spas on its database
- The growth in nail salons can be witnessed with businesses now appearing on almost every high street



SKILLS

- Good communication skills are important, including effective listening skills to understand clients' needs properly – **this industry is dependent on regular repeat business from satisfied customers**, so interpersonal skills are very important
- Able to work quickly and accurately with their hands
- Having some creative and artistic sense
- Physical stamina is important as much of the work involves standing

WEBLINKS – including SSC's (Sector Skills)

Main sources:

- SSC gateway site – www.sectorecareersinfo.co.uk – includes labour market intelligence, curriculum resources, inspirational case studies, role models that challenge stereotypes
- Jobs4u – www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u – extensive careers database and a good site for young people
- Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk – official site for all apprenticeships across over 80 industry sectors
- National Guidance Research Forum (NGRF) – www.guidance-research.org – site developed by the Institute for Employment Research (IER) including labour market trends data & an on-line learning module for LMI
- Careersbox – www.careersbox.co.uk – a free national careers film library showing films of real people doing real jobs



Specialist sources:

Key: **C** – careers information **J** – job hunting
L – learning & training **T** – tutor resource

- Hairdressing & Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) – www.habia.org – a standards setting body which acts as a central point of contact for careers and pathway information – **C, L**
- The Hairdressing Council – www.haircouncil.org.uk – the statutory body for hairdressers, who maintain the official register of qualified hairdressers – **C, L**
- www.hairandbeautyjobs.com – job search site, including vacancy information and help with cv's – **J, L**