



Department
for Education

International comparison of courses in hairdressing and barbering

Ad-hoc notice

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Introduction

This ad-hoc statistical release presents analysis by the Department for Education on further education learning started in courses related to hairdressing and barbering. The purpose of the analysis is to describe the number of people who start hairdressing training courses in England and Germany.

The analysis combines published data on apprenticeships starts in England, Individualised Learner Record data to show learners starting classroom based courses in England, and published data showing the number of formal vocational training starters in Germany.

Main findings

In England, there were 15,500 apprenticeship starts in hairdressing and barbering frameworks and standards in the 2016/17 academic year. In the same year, 23,800 learners started a classroom based further education course at level 2 and above related to hairdressing or barbering (see Tables 1 and 2).

There is a small overlap between the apprenticeship and classroom based numbers. Accounting for this overlap, a total of 38,600 learners of all ages started hairdressing apprenticeships or classroom courses in 2016/17.

Apprenticeships and classroom courses will involve learners undertaking training for different reasons, including those starting training in hairdressing for the first time, as well as those already working as a hairdresser and learning new skills for their occupation.

In Germany, there were 10,500 “Friseur” (hair stylist) new starters in 2017¹. This figure includes all individuals starting their formal training in the hairdressing occupation.

¹Hairdressing is one of around 330 occupations requiring formal vocational training in Germany. The number of new starts on occupations requiring formal vocational training is available at the following link: https://www.bibb.de/dokumente/pdf/naa309_2017_tab67_0bund.pdf. The full list of occupations that require formal training in Germany is published at: https://www.bibb.de/dokumente/pdf/liste_der_deutschen_ausbildungsberufe_de.pdf

Table 1: Apprenticeships: starts in hairdressing and barbering, England, 2016/17

Framework/ standard	Apprenticeship starts
Hairdressing	12,200
Barbering	2,600
Hair Professional	600
Total	15,500

Source: FE data library:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661049/201617_apprenticeships_by_framework_and_sector_subject_area.xlsx

Notes:

- 1) Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
- 2) See the FE data library for more information about apprenticeship starts: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>

Table 2: Classroom learning: learners starting Level 2+ courses in hairdressing and barbering, England, 2016/17

Learning aim	Learner starts
Hairdressing and barbering	23,800

Source: DfE analysis of the Individualised learner record

Notes:

- 1) Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.
- 2) Classroom based hairdressing and barbering includes government funded learning aims at level 2 and above in the retail and commercial enterprise sector subject area that include the phrases "hair" or "barber" in the title.
- 3) The table only includes learners who started their learning aim in 2016/17.

Methodology and data limitations

There are a range of classroom-based learning aims related to hairdressing that can be undertaken in England. A categorisation that will identify each learning aim in scope for this analysis does not exist. To estimate the number of learners we followed the approach described below.

Step 1: we restrict classroom based learning aims in the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) based on the following criteria:

- Government funded
- Level 2 and above
- Retail and commercial enterprise sector subject area
- Include the phrases “hair” or “barber” in the learning aim title

Step 2: we count the number of learners who started these aims in the 2016/17 academic year.

There are differences between the further education training systems in England and Germany and comparisons should be interpreted with caution. In England, the figures include both apprenticeship programmes and hairdressing training courses undertaken in the classroom. Apprenticeships and classroom courses will comprise people undertaking training for different reasons, including those starting training in hairdressing for the first time, as well as those already working as a hairdresser and learning new skills for their occupation. The figures for Germany include only new starters on a formal vocational training route.



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