

Hairstylists

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working as a Hairstylist **[NOC 63210]**

Job Description

Hairstylists cut and style hair and perform related services.

You do the following tasks:

- discuss hairstyles with clients and make recommendations that suits a client's physical features or determine style from client's instructions and preferences
- shampoo, cut, trim, taper, curl, wave, perm and style hair
- apply bleach, tints, dyes or rinses to colour, frost or streak hair
- analyze hair and scalp condition and provide basic treatment or advice on beauty care treatments for scalp and hair
- clean and style wigs and hair pieces
- apply hair extensions

Sources:

- WorkBC Career Profile for Hairstylists
<https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/hairstylists-and-barbers>
- Career Cruising – Profile for 'Hairstylist'
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>
Available from the VPL Digital Library

Industry Overview

Many job openings due to retirement are predicted through 2027. The highest demand for hairstylists is in large urban areas such as Metro Vancouver and Victoria.

Job Outlook in BC – Hairstylists & Barbers



WorkBC provides employment outlook within BC regions for 2019-2029:



Cariboo		Kootenay	
Employment in 2019:	430	Employment in 2019:	710
Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	0.7%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	0.2%
Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	90	Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	130
Mainland / Southwest		North Coast & Nechako	
Employment in 2019:	8,820	Employment in 2019:	230
Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	0.6%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	0.3%
Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	1,970	Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	40
Northeast		Thompson-Okanagan	
Employment in 2019:	250	Employment in 2019:	1,690
Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	2.5%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	0.9%
Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	110	Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	470
Vancouver Island / Coast			
Employment in 2019:	2,730		
Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	2.1%		
Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	1,140		

Source: <https://www.workbc.ca/careers/6341>

You can learn more about working as a **hairstylist** in BC from:

- WorkBC Career Profile for Hairstylists
<https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/hairstylists-and-barbers>
- Career Cruising – Profile for 'Hairstylist'
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Types of Employers

Hairstylists work in a variety of settings:

- hairstyling salons
- vocational schools
- healthcare establishments
- theatre, film, and television establishments

You can move into other areas such as sales for beauty supply stores or demonstrating new techniques at hair shows or in salons for staff.

Salary

In BC, the median annual salary for hairstylists is \$32,077. Hairstylists can work in salons as employees. Or, they rent chairs or booths within salons as self-employed workers. They may also operate their own salons. Those who own their own barbershop or salon usually make more money.

If you have advanced training, offer specialized styling services, built up a large clientele, or work in salons in large cities, you typically earn a higher income.

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Job Bank Canada, Wages Report provides hourly wages for hairstylists in BC regions:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	15.20	15.38	24.98
Cariboo Region	15.20	15.38	24.98
Kootenay Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	15.20	15.20	24.04
Nechako Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Coast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northeast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thompson–Okanagan Region	15.20	15.38	24.98
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	15.20	15.20	25.00
Canada	11.55	15.00	25.00

Source: <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/wages-occupation/16452/BC>

Sources:

- WorkBC Career Profile for Hairstylists
<https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/hairstylists-and-barbers>
- Career Cruising – Profile for ‘Hairstylist’
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>
- JobBank Canada
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/summary-occupation/16452/39070>

Working Hours

You may work part-time or full-time. Evening and weekend work is common.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- friendly and outgoing; enjoy working with people
- excellent communication skills
- excellent customer service
- detail oriented

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- manual dexterity
- knowledge of business procedures

Education and Experience

- some secondary school education is required
- completion of a two- or three-year hairstyling apprenticeship program or completion of a college or other program in hairstyling combined with on-the-job training is usually required
- several years of experience may replace formal education and training
- employers may require applicants to provide a hairstyling demonstration before being hired

Qualifications

This occupation is not regulated in British Columbia.

Certification is currently not mandatory to work as a hairstylist in BC. However, you may choose to become certified as a hairstylist by completing the Hairstylist program approved through *SkilledTradesBC* <https://skilledtradesbc.ca/>.

There are 2 pathways to achieving a Hairstylist Certificate of Qualification: complete the apprenticeship training program, or, if you have significant work experience, apply to write the Interprovincial Red Seal written examination and take the practical assessment.

For more information see:

- ***SkilledTradesBC***
<https://skilledtradesbc.ca/hairstylist>

The BC Beauty Council is a voluntary professional trade association in BC. The BC Beauty Council administers a written hairdresser theory exam and practical examination to grant their *Certificate of Qualification*. *Note that this certification is not government-issued and is not recognized in other provinces.*

For more information see **BC Beauty Council Exams and Certification:**

- <https://beautycouncil.ca/certifications/>

3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, electronic sources, and through professional associations.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun & The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **Salon Magazine**
<https://www.salonmagazine.ca/jobs/>
- **Indeed.com**
<https://ca.indeed.com/>
Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards
- **WorkBC**
<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs#/>
- **Talent.com**
<https://ca.talent.com/>

Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **BeautyCouncil**
<https://beautycouncil.ca/>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a wide range of different job titles that are relevant.

- Hair colour technician
- Hairdresser
- Hairstylist apprentice
- Wig stylist
- Hair care specialist

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of companies in the Lower Mainland or BC. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **BeautyCouncil Salon/Spa Directory**

<https://beautycouncil.ca/membership-account/membership-levels/>

- **Reference Canada**

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "salons" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/>.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>
- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Associations for hairstylists in BC and Canada provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership.

- **Beauty Council**
<https://beautycouncil.ca>
- **Allied Beauty Association (ABA)**
<https://abacanada.com/>

Industry Journal

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. Examples include:

- **Canadian ProBeauty.com**
<http://www.canhair.com/>
- **Salon**
<https://www.salonmagazine.ca/>
- **Salon Magazine Contessa**
<https://www.salonmagazine.ca/contessa/>

**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Branch,
Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.**

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>