

# U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Manicurists and Pedicurists

### Summary

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Manicurists and pedicurists clean, shape, and beautify fingernails and toenails.

#### Quick Facts: Manicurists and Pedicurists

<b>2019 Median Pay</b>	\$25,770 per year \$12.39 per hour
<b>Typical Entry-Level Education</b>	Postsecondary nondegree award
<b>Work Experience in a Related Occupation</b>	None
<b>On-the-job Training</b>	None
<b>Number of Jobs, 2018</b>	156,300
<b>Job Outlook, 2018-28</b>	10% (Faster than average)
<b>Employment Change, 2018-28</b>	15,700

#### [What Manicurists and Pedicurists Do](#)

Manicurists and pedicurists clean, shape, and beautify fingernails and toenails.

#### [Work Environment](#)

Manicurists and pedicurists usually work in a nail salon, spa, or hair salon. The job involves a lot of sitting. Those who own a mobile grooming company travel to their clients' locations.

#### [How to Become a Manicurist or Pedicurist](#)

Manicurists and pedicurists must complete a state-approved cosmetology or nail technician program and then pass a state exam for licensure, which all states except Connecticut require.

#### [Pay](#)

The median hourly wage for manicurists and pedicurists was \$12.39 in May 2019.

#### [Job Outlook](#)

Employment of manicurists and pedicurists is projected to grow 10 percent from 2018 to 2028, faster than the average for all occupations. New types of nail services, such as mini-sessions and mobile manicures and pedicures, may drive employment growth.

### [State & Area Data](#)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for manicurists and pedicurists.

### [Similar Occupations](#)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of manicurists and pedicurists with similar occupations.

### [More Information, Including Links to O\\*NET](#)

Learn more about manicurists and pedicurists by visiting additional resources, including O\*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

## **What Manicurists and Pedicurists Do**

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Manicurists and pedicurists polish or buff nails.

Manicurists and pedicurists clean, shape, and beautify fingernails and toenails.

## **Duties**

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Manicurists and pedicurists typically do the following:

- Discuss nail treatments and services available
- Remove nail polish
- Clean, trim, and file nails
- Reduce calluses and rough skin
- Massage and moisturize hands (for a manicure) and feet (for a pedicure)
- Polish or buff nails
- Advise clients about nail and skin care for hands and feet
- Promote and sell nail and skin care products
- Clean and disinfect their work area and tools

Manicurists and pedicurists work exclusively on the hands and feet, providing treatments to groom fingernails and toenails. A typical treatment involves soaking the clients' hands or feet to soften the skin in order to remove dead skin cells.

Manicurists and pedicurists apply lotion to the hands and feet to moisturize the skin. They also may shape and apply polish to artificial fingernails.

Manicurists and pedicurists use a variety of tools, including nail clippers, nail files, and specialized cuticle tools. They must be focused while they perform their duties, because most of the tools they use are sharp. Keeping their tools clean and sanitary is important.

Some manicurists and pedicurists operate their own nail salon, which requires performing business tasks such as keeping inventory records and ordering supplies. They also hire and supervise workers and sell nail care products, such as nail polish and hand or foot cream. A small but growing number of workers make house calls. Mobile manicure and pedicure services are popular because clients consider them convenient.

## Work Environment

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Manicurists and pedicurists work in spas or nail salons, and often sit for long periods.

Manicurists and pedicurists held about 156,300 jobs in 2018. The largest employers of manicurists and pedicurists were as follows:

Personal care services 69%

Self-employed workers 28

Manicurists and pedicurists usually work in a nail salon, spa, or hair salon. The job involves a lot of sitting. Manicurists and pedicurists who provide mobile services may travel to their clients' locations.

Manicurists and pedicurists use chemicals when working on fingernails and toenails, so they often wear protective clothing, including protective gloves and masks.

## Work Schedules

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Although most manicurists and pedicurists work full time, many have variable schedules and work part time. Schedules may vary according to the type of establishment. For example, a full-service salon may require manicurists and pedicurists to work an 8-hour day. However, a boutique hair salon may require fewer work hours on a part-time basis. Longer work days are not unusual for self-employed workers. Weekends and evenings tend to be the busiest times for manicurists and pedicurists.

## How to Become a Manicurist or Pedicurist

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Manicurists and pedicurists must pass a state-approved cosmetology program before licensure.

Manicurists and pedicurists must complete a state-approved cosmetology or nail technician program and then pass a state exam for licensure, which all states except Connecticut require.

### Education

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Manicurists and pedicurists must complete a state-approved cosmetology or nail technician program. Currently, there are hundreds of programs nationwide.

### Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations

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State licensing requirements vary. However, applicants need to be at least 16 years old and have a high school diploma or the equivalent. After completing a state-approved cosmetology or nail technician program, manicurists and pedicurists must take a written exam and a practical exam to get a license through their state board. Mobile manicure and pedicure services require a separate license.

The [National–Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology](#) provides information on state examinations for licensing, with sample questions. The [Professional Beauty Association](#) and the [American Association of Cosmetology Schools](#) also provide information on state examinations, as well as offering other professional links.

### Important Qualities

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**Business skills.** Manicurists and pedicurist who run their own nail salon must understand general business principles. For example, they should be skilled at administrative tasks, such as accounting and personnel management, and be able to manage a salon efficiently and profitably.

**Creativity.** The ability to neatly finish small, intricate designs is important, as is the ability to suggest nail designs and match them to individual tastes.

**Customer-service skills.** Good listening and interpersonal skills are important in working with clients. Also, meeting the needs of clients, including interacting with them while doing a manicure or pedicure, encourages repeat business.

**Dexterity.** A steady hand is essential in achieving a creative and precise nail design. In addition, because manicurists and pedicurists often use sharp tools, they must have good finger dexterity.

## Pay

### Manicurists and Pedicurists

Median hourly wages, May 2019

Total, all occupations

\$19.14

Personal appearance workers

\$12.71

Manicurists and pedicurists

\$12.39

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics

The median hourly wage for manicurists and pedicurists was \$12.39 in May 2019. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$9.73, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$17.66.

In May 2019, the median hourly wages for manicurists and pedicurists in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:

#### Personal care services \$12.40

Although most manicurists and pedicurists work full time, some have variable schedules and work part time. Schedules may vary according to the type of establishment. For example, a full-service salon may require manicurists and pedicurists to work an 8-hour day. However, a boutique hair salon may require fewer work hours on a part-time basis. Longer work days are not unusual for self-employed workers. Weekends and evenings tend to be the busiest times for manicurists and pedicurists.

## Job Outlook

### Manicurists and Pedicurists

Percent change in employment, projected 2018-28

Manicurists and pedicurists

10%

Personal appearance workers

9%

Total, all occupations

5%

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Employment of manicurists and pedicurists is projected to grow 10 percent from 2018 to 2028, faster than the average for all occupations.

The projected increase in employment reflects demand for new types of nail services, such as mini-sessions (quick manicures at a low cost) and mobile manicures and pedicures (nail services offered outside of the salon).

The desire among many women and a growing number of men to lead a healthier lifestyle through better grooming and wellness also should result in higher employment for manicurists and pedicurists.

Considered a low-cost luxury service, manicures and pedicures will continue to be in demand by individuals at all income levels.

## Job Prospects

Job opportunities should be very good overall. The growing number of nail salons and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation each year will result in many job openings.

### Employment projections data for manicurists and pedicurists, 2018-28

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2018	Projected Employment, 2028	Change, 2018-28		Employment by Industry
				Percent	Numeric	

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

**Employment projections data for manicurists and pedicurists, 2018-28**

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2018	Projected Employment, 2028	Change, 2018-28		Employment by Industry
				Percent	Numeric	
Manicurists and pedicurists	39-5092	156,300	172,000	10	15,700	<a href="#">Get data</a>

## State & Area Data

### Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

The [Occupational Employment Statistics](#) (OES) program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for individual states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The link(s) below go to OES data maps for employment and wages by state and area.

- [Manicurists and pedicurists](#)

### Projections Central

Occupational employment projections are developed for all states by Labor Market Information (LMI) or individual state Employment Projections offices. All state projections data are available at [www.projectionscentral.com](http://www.projectionscentral.com). Information on this site allows projected employment growth for an occupation to be compared among states or to be compared within one state. In addition, states may produce projections for areas; there are links to each state's websites where these data may be retrieved.

### CareerOneStop

	OCCUPATION	JOB DUTIES	ENTRY-LEVEL EDUCATION	2019 MEDIAN PAY
	<a href="#"><u>Barbers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists</u></a>	Barbers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists provide haircutting, hairstyling, and a range of other beauty services.	Postsecondary nondegree award	\$26,270
	<a href="#"><u>Skincare Specialists</u></a>	Skincare specialists cleanse and beautify the face and body to enhance a person's appearance.	Postsecondary nondegree award	\$34,090

CareerOneStop includes hundreds of [occupational profiles](#) with data available by state and metro area. There are links in the left-hand side menu to compare occupational employment by state and occupational wages by local area or metro area. There is also a [salary info tool](#) to search for wages by zip code.

## Similar Occupations

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This table shows a list of occupations with job duties that are similar to those of manicurists and pedicurists.

## Contacts for More Information

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For information about training and cosmetology schools, visit

[American Association of Cosmetology Schools](#)

[Beauty Schools Directory](#)

[International Pedicure Association](#)

For information about state licensing, practice exams, and other professional links, visit

[National–Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology](#)

[Professional Beauty Association](#)

## O\*NET

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[Manicurists and Pedicurists](#)

### Suggested citation:

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