Employment data for auto service or repair personnel is not published; nor is a regular wage series maintained. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has carried out community wage surveys covering auto repair personnel.[19] Table 25 collects data for all the cities and years that are available for auto mechanics. The average rate was computed by weighting the cities according to estimated number of mechanics employed.

TABLE 25.—*Average hourly earnings, auto mechanics, selected years, 1947–58*

	1947	1948	1951	1953	1958
Atlanta	1.35	1.34	1.60	1.98	2.21
Baltimore	1.41	1.42	1.64	1.92	2.40
Boston	1.44	1.50	1.63	1.93	2.37
Cincinnati	1.35	1.55	1.70	(1)	2.42
Chicago	1.67	1.83	2.06	2.51	3.16
Cleveland	1.89	2.15	2.25	2.86	3.12
Detroit	2.05	2.09	2.26	2.78	2.97
Los Angeles	1.87	1.85	2.06	2.48	2.86
Kansas City	1.64	1.70	1.98	(1)	(1)
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1.50	1.59	1.78	(1)	2.71
New York	1.53	1.64	1.87	2.21	2.67
Philadelphia	1.45	1.61	1.69	2.11	2.71
Pittsburgh	1.40	1.56	1.94	1.98	2.72
Portland	1.60	1.73	2.01	2.19	2.52
San Francisco	1.81	2.00	2.03	2.24	2.71
Seattle	1.63	1.80	2.01	(1)	2.54
Washington	1.46	1.48	1.81	(1)	(1)
St. Louis	(1)	2.08	1.93	(1)	2.83
Average wage	1.479	1.745	1.955	2.328	2.761

[1] Not available.

Source: BLS "Community Wage Surveys."

Mechanics received a higher hourly wage than the average for all manufacturing employees in the cities surveyed. There is, however, a significant rank correlation[20] between the manufacturing wage rate and mechanics pay. Those cities with high manufacturing wages also had high mechanics wages. There is also a significant rank correlation[21] between the percentage increase in manufacturing and mechanic wages from 1951–58.

III. Other Nonprofessional Service Industries

Much of the employment in the conglomeration called the service industries is unskilled or at most requires little formal education. Often what training is needed is supplied on the job or through apprenticeship programs. Entry and exit of firms in this industry is relatively easy and small firms abound. This group of service suppliers includes laundry, drycleaning, barber and beauty shops, shoe repair shops, and other establishments which specialize in the care of persons and their belongings. Domestic servants and helpers can also be included as well as appliance and radio-TV repairmen, hotel workers, and similar groups.

A. PRICES

The price changes measured by the Consumer Price Index for items in this group have, on the whole, increased about as much as the average for all services or a little less. However, there are exceptions. The price of men's haircuts and television repairs rose considerably faster than the average of all service prices while beauty shop service, drycleaning, and domestic service rose less than the service index.[22] Laundry prices rose almost exactly as much as the average. See table 26.

[19] These data are published through the regional offices of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the National Automobile Dealers Association has begun a program of sampling their membership in order to ascertain data on wages, and pay plans. The first survey was published in the association magazine, NADA, in the June and July 1959 issues.

[20] At the 0.03 level: 11 cities had both types of wage data for both years.

[21] At the 0.01 level: correlation is for 1958, using 16 cities.

[22] Preliminary analysis of the level of dry cleaning prices in a cross section of large cities showed strong association (at 1-percent level) with the level of unskilled wages in those cities. Surprisingly, no such relation appeared with laundry prices, but the partial correlation coefficients of personal care price and the unskilled wages were significantly associated at 5-percent level. For description of data, analysis, and results, see pt. 3.