

News Release
For immediate release

£200 an hour: Garage labour rates spiral ‘out of control’

The cost of maintaining a car could ‘spiral out of control’ as garages start to charge up to £200 an hour*.

According to data released by insurer, Warranty Direct, labour rates for mechanics nationwide have increased 11.3 percent since the summer of 2006 to £75.17 an hour on average. At the same time, prices at independent garages have risen the sharpest to narrow the gap with the traditionally more expensive franchised dealer networks.

The average franchise dealer is charging £94.70 an hour today compared to £87.91 in 2006 – up 7.7 percent. In comparison, the average rate for a mechanic at an independent garage has leaped by 14.9 percent over the same period – from £48.43 to £55.63.

Warranty Direct analysed labour rates at nearly 2,000 garages to highlight the dramatic price differences that occur across the country.

Greater London is the most expensive region at £94.26 an hour (average of franchised and independent), which falls to £68.70 for the City of Edinburgh, £78.81 across Merseyside and a similar figure of £78.01 for Cornwall.

The Capital was also home to the most expensive dealer, charging £198.86 an hour.

Duncan McClure Fisher, managing director of Warranty Direct, warns that labour rates are likely to continue to rise in the current climate.

“This is not great news for motorists who are already feeling the pinch at the pumps.

“Car sales are falling, used car residuals are falling, and people are putting off that annual service. As economic conditions worsen, prices could rise further to compensate the general downward trend.”

ENDS

* Most expensive hourly rate found by Warranty Direct was £198.86

For further information please contact:

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Editors Notes:

Launched in 1997, Warranty Direct was the first direct consumer Warranty Company to operate in the UK. It is owned by Cardif Pinnacle, a trading style of Pinnacle Insurance plc and subsidiary of global banking house, BNP Paribas.

Table showing Top 5 Most Expensive regions for Franchised Dealer Labour Rates

County	Dealer Type	Average cost
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per hour		
Bedfordshire	Franchised	£120.05
Greater London	Franchised	£120.03
Middlesex	Franchised	£116.72
Buckinghamshire	Franchised	£108.55
Hampshire	Franchised	£108.35

Table showing Top 5 Least Expensive regions for Franchised Dealer Labour Rates

County	Dealer Type	Average
Northumberland	Franchised	£67.06
Stirlingshire	Franchised	£69.80
Highland	Franchised	£72.39
Fife	Franchised	£72.50
Lincolnshire	Franchised	£81.13

Table showing franchised, independent and combined average for each county

County	Dealer Type	Average	County Average
Aberdeenshire	Franchised	£89.35	£71.11
	Non Franchised	£52.88	
Avon	Franchised	£95.91	£76.01
	Non Franchised	£56.11	
Bedfordshire	Franchised	£120.05	£92.30
	Non Franchised	£64.55	
Berkshire	Franchised	£103.90	£81.21
	Non Franchised	£58.52	
Buckinghamshire	Franchised	£108.55	£82.74
	Non Franchised	£56.93	
Cambridgeshire	Franchised	£85.59	£73.80
	Non Franchised	£62.00	
Cheshire	Franchised	£101.07	£74.68
	Non Franchised	£48.29	
Cornwall	Franchised	£90.81	£78.01
	Non Franchised	£65.21	
County Durham	Franchised	£88.39	£65.23
	Non Franchised	£42.07	
Cumbria	Franchised	£90.26	£74.50
	Non Franchised	£58.75	
Derbyshire	Franchised	£85.52	£69.93
	Non Franchised	£54.34	
Devon	Franchised	£106.61	£89.54
	Non Franchised	£72.46	
Dorset	Franchised	£93.56	£76.70
	Non Franchised	£59.83	
East Riding of Yorks	Franchised	£96.79	£71.57
	Non Franchised	£46.35	
East Sussex	Franchised	£108.01	£88.59
	Non Franchised	£69.17	
Edinburgh City	Franchised	£81.24	£68.70
	Non Franchised	£56.17	

Essex	Franchised	£99.99	£80.55
	Non Franchised	£61.12	
Fife	Franchised	£72.50	£63.01
	Non Franchised	£53.52	
Glamorgan	Franchised	£91.65	£70.42
	Non Franchised	£49.20	
Glasgow City	Franchised	£90.46	£69.56
	Non Franchised	£48.66	
Gloucestershire	Franchised	£103.64	£77.72
	Non Franchised	£51.80	
Greater London	Franchised	£120.03	£94.26
	Non Franchised	£68.49	
Greater Manchester	Franchised	£102.08	£73.04
	Non Franchised	£44.00	
Gwent	Franchised	£98.00	£77.95
	Non Franchised	£57.91	
Hampshire	Franchised	£108.35	£83.03
	Non Franchised	£57.71	
Herefordshire	Franchised	£83.62	£63.22
	Non Franchised	£42.82	
Hertfordshire	Franchised	£107.60	£85.55
	Non Franchised	£63.51	
Highland	Franchised	£72.39	£55.78
	Non Franchised	£39.17	
Kent	Franchised	£95.37	£76.25
	Non Franchised	£57.12	
Lanarkshire	Franchised	£83.00	£60.75
	Non Franchised	£38.50	
Lancashire	Franchised	£99.93	£77.56
	Non Franchised	£55.19	
Leicestershire	Franchised	£106.79	£81.30
	Non Franchised	£55.82	
Lincolnshire	Franchised	£81.13	£63.00
	Non Franchised	£44.86	
Merseyside	Franchised	£100.04	£78.81
	Non Franchised	£57.58	
Middlesex	Franchised	£116.72	£90.38
	Non Franchised	£64.03	
Midlothian	Franchised	£84.67	£68.19
	Non Franchised	£51.71	
Norfolk	Franchised	£92.94	£71.40
	Non Franchised	£49.85	
North Yorkshire	Franchised	£91.78	£74.93
	Non Franchised	£58.09	
Northamptonshire	Franchised	£85.45	£71.63
	Non Franchised	£57.34	
Northumberland	Franchised	£67.06	£57.97
	Non Franchised	£48.88	
Nottinghamshire	Franchised	£82.01	£75.38
	Non Franchised	£68.74	
Oxfordshire	Franchised	£93.22	£74.45
	Non Franchised	£55.67	

Somerset	Franchised	£88.59	£71.42
	Non Franchised	£54.25	
South Yorkshire	Franchised	£96.53	£71.18
	Non Franchised	£45.83	
Staffordshire	Franchised	£87.95	£72.15
	Non Franchised	£56.35	
Stirlingshire	Franchised	£69.80	£65.55
	Non Franchised	£61.30	
Suffolk	Franchised	£95.19	£80.60
	Non Franchised	£66.00	
Surrey	Franchised	£106.26	£85.14
	Non Franchised	£64.03	
Tyne and Wear	Franchised	£103.11	£71.70
	Non Franchised	£40.30	
Warwickshire	Franchised	£97.40	£73.57
	Non Franchised	£49.74	
West Midlands	Franchised	£105.61	£82.18
	Non Franchised	£58.75	
West Sussex	Franchised	£97.99	£89.78
	Non Franchised	£81.57	
West Yorkshire	Franchised	£90.52	£71.11
	Non Franchised	£51.70	
Wiltshire	Franchised	£87.02	£71.56
	Non Franchised	£56.11	
Worcestershire	Franchised	£106.32	£77.59
	Non Franchised	£48.85	

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