The dynamics of the other countries in our sample are similarly diverse as can be seen in Figure 2. The USA and Sweden experienced a steady decline in high and low skilled manufacturing as well as low skilled service wage shares, while high skilled service wage shares appear to be relatively stable – a sector dominated by high wages in the financial sector.

In Italy all sector groups experienced a steady decline since the early 1980s, a trend which has been slightly reversed in the early 2000s for high and low skilled manufacturing and low skilled services but not for high skilled services.

In Spain wage shares look fairly stable over the whole period, but this hides a persistent decline since the early 2000s. One exception is low skilled service industries which experienced a decline of the wage share by 27 percentage-points between 1970 and 2010.