



International  
Labour  
Office

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF



International  
Programme on  
the Elimination  
of Child Labour  
(IPEC)

## SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	8.8
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	33.1
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	87
Net primary school enrolment rate	86
GDP per capita, PPP	\$7,449
Human Development Index Value	0.751
HDI ranking	94/177

Source: 2004 data from UNDP Human Development Report 2006



# I. Legislative Framework

## RATIFIED CONVENTIONS RELATING TO CHILD LABOUR

Convention	Ratification	Entry into force
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (minimum age specified: 14 years)	15-06-1999	5-06-2000
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	15-11-2000	15-11-2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	11-06-1991	11-07-1991

## RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Constitución de la República Dominicana de 14 de Agosto de 1994;
- Ley No. 16-92 de 29 de Mayo de 1992, por la que se promulga el Código de Trabajo de la República Dominicana (reformada en 1998);
- Ley No. 136-03 de 7 de Agosto de 2003, por la que se dicta el Código de Protección de los Derechos de los Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes;
- Resolución No. 52-2004 de 13 de Agosto de 2004, sobre Trabajos Peligrosos e Insalubres para Personas Menores de 18 Años;
- Resolución No. 29-93, que define los trabajos ligeros de recolección en el campo.
- Minor's Act (1994), 8 years of compulsory education.

## REGULATION OF WORK FOR PERSONS BELOW 18 YEARS

Regulation of work for persons below 18 years	Age	Legislation
General minimum age for admission to employment or work	14 years	Section 245 (1) of the Labour Code; Section 40 of the Code on the protection of Children's and Adolescents' rights
Admission to light work activities	Not specified	(Resolution No. 29/93 of 9 November 1993 defines light harvesting work in the field, but the minimum age of 14 years applies.)
Admission to hazardous work	16 years under the Labour Code	Section 251 of the Labour Code (which prohibits hazardous work by under-16)
	18 years under Resolution No. 52-2004	Types of hazardous work determined Sections 2 of Resolution No. 52-2004

## II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the National Child Labour Survey (NCLS), conducted by the State Department of Labour in 2000. The survey was carried out within the framework of the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme (SIMPOC) of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The NCLS was an independent survey intended to collect information on school, domestic, economic, and recreational activities of boys and girls ages 5 to 17 years and their households.

### Children's activities

Results from the Dominican Republic National Child Labour Survey indicate that 14.5 per cent (280,213) of all children ages 5-14 work; this is 21.6 per cent (209,832) of boys and 7.4 per cent (70,381) of girls in that age group.

About 0.9 per cent (17,076) of children in the above age group participate in the labour force without attending school. The percentage is more than two times higher for boys than for girls (1.3 vs. 0.5 per cent). Children in urban and rural areas are found in similar proportions working without attending school (0.9 per cent in urban areas vs. 0.8 per cent in rural). The gender gap between working children who do not attend school is higher in rural areas (1.1 percentage points, i.e. boys: 1.4 vs. girls: 0.3 per cent) than in urban neighbourhoods (0.6 percentage points, i.e. boys: 1.2 vs. girls: 0.6 per cent).

### CHILDREN AGED 5–14, BY SEX, TYPE OF ACTIVITY AND RESIDENCE\*

Sex	Activity	Urban		Rural		Total	
		%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Male	Work only <sup>a</sup>	1.2	6,931	1.4	5,520	1.3	12,451
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	76.7	443,033	70.4	277,553	74.1	720,586
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	18.2	105,126	23.4	92,255	20.3	197,381
	Total work**	19.4	112,058	24.8	97,774	21.6	209,832
	Total study***	94.9	548,159	93.8	369,808	94.4	917,967
	Neither	4.0	23,105	4.8	18,924	4.3	42,029
Female	Work only <sup>a</sup>	0.6	3,497	0.3	1,129	0.5	4,625
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	89.4	521,026	87.0	327,266	88.4	848,292
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	6.7	39,048	7.1	26,708	6.9	65,756
	Total work**	7.3	42,545	7.4	27,836	7.4	70,381
	Total study***	96.1	560,074	94.1	353,974	95.3	914,048
	Neither	3.3	19,232	5.7	21,442	4.2	40,674
Total	Work only <sup>a</sup>	0.9	10,428	0.8	6,648	0.9	17,076
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	83.1	964,058	78.5	604,819	81.3	1,568,878
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	12.4	144,174	15.4	118,963	13.6	263,137
	Total work**	13.3	154,602	16.2	125,611	14.5	280,213
	Total study***	95.5	1,108,233	93.9	723,782	94.9	1,832,015
	Neither	3.6	42,337	5.2	40,366	4.3	82,703

\*Percentage values may slightly differ from absolute values because of imputation methods used.

\*\* "Total work" refers to children that work only and children that work and study, i.e. a+c.

\*\*\* "Total study" refers to children that study only and children that work and study, i.e. b+c.

Approximately 69 per cent of all children aged 5-14 are involved in household chores. Girls tend to be significantly more involved in household chores than boys (i.e. boys 59.0 vs. girls 78.6 per cent).

### PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN HOUSEHOLD CHORES\*, BY AGE AND SEX

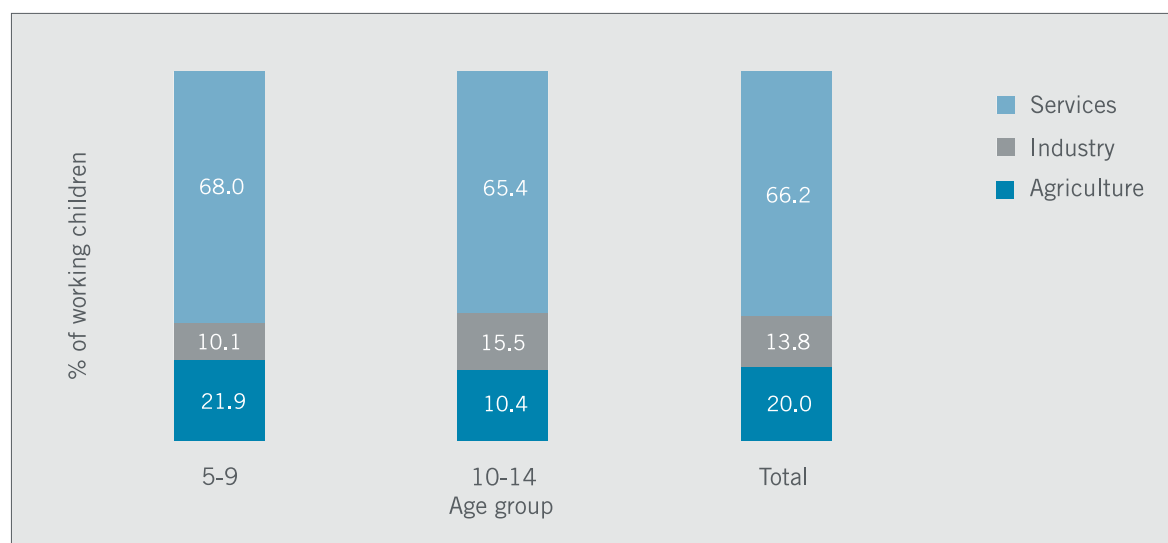
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	35.6	47.7	41.6
6	48.0	63.0	55.3
7	60.9	69.2	64.8
8	61.1	77.9	69.6
9	64.0	82.6	73.3
10	63.7	86.9	74.9
11	66.3	87.2	77.1
12	67.2	89.5	78.2
13	63.5	91.1	77.6
14	60.1	92.7	76.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>68.7</b>

\*Children performing household chores for at least one hour per day

### Characteristics and conditions of child labour

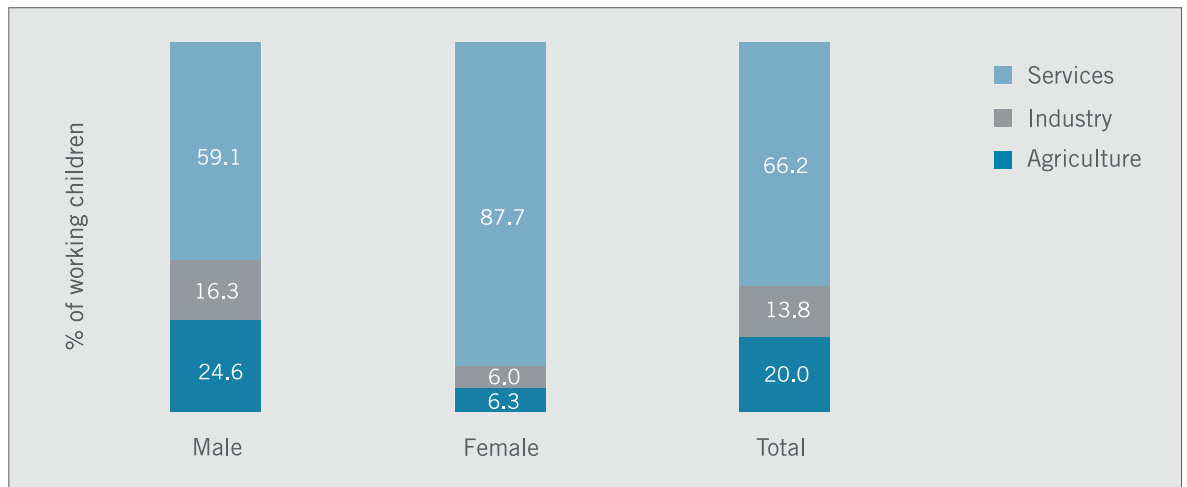
Among working children aged 5-14 years, approximately 66 per cent are employed in the services sector, 13.8 per cent in the industrial sector and the remaining 20.0 per cent in the agricultural sector. This breakdown is consistent by age group.

### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND AGE GROUP



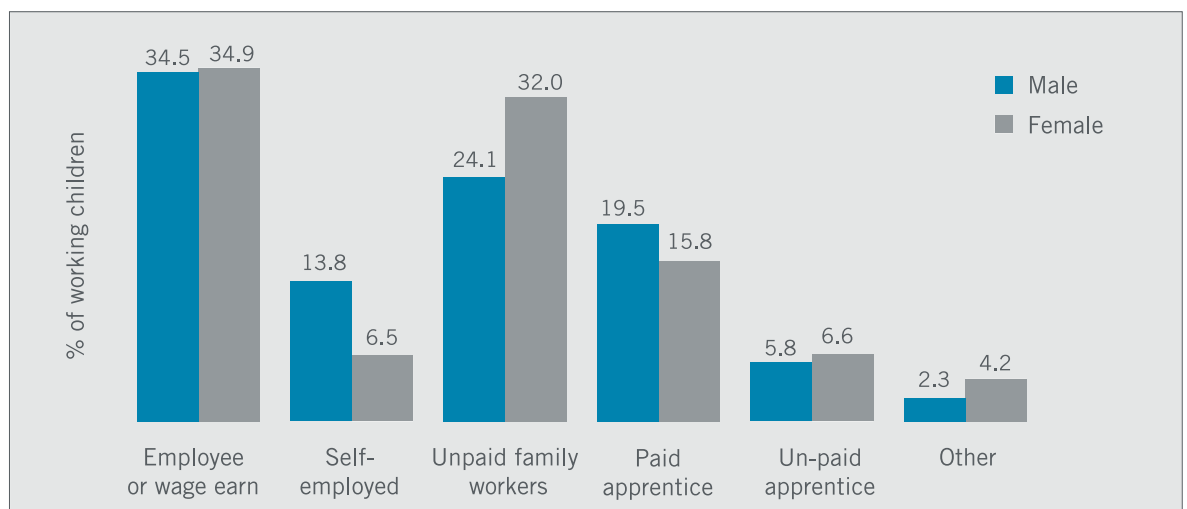
The largest proportion of working children is concentrated in the services sector. Girls have a much higher probability than boys to participate in this sector (87.7 per cent vs. 59.1 per cent), and are less likely to be involved in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



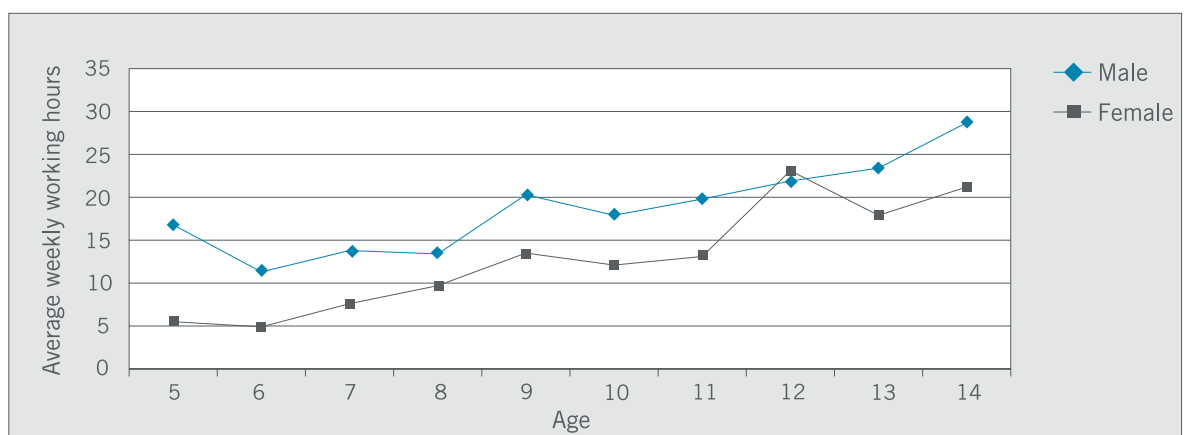
The highest percentage of working children aged 5-14 is working for wages with no discernible differences between boys and girls. An important percentage of boys and girls are working as unpaid family workers (24.1 per cent in the case of boys and 32.0 per cent in the case of girls), in paid apprenticeships (19.5 per cent in the case of boys and 15.8 per cent in the case of girls) or as self-employed (13.8 in the case of boys vs. 6.5 per cent in the case of girls).

#### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY MODALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND SEX



Working children ages 5-14 tend to work an average of 19.1 hours per week with boys working longer hours than girls (20.6 vs. 15.0 hours). It should be noted that the number of working hours increases with age.

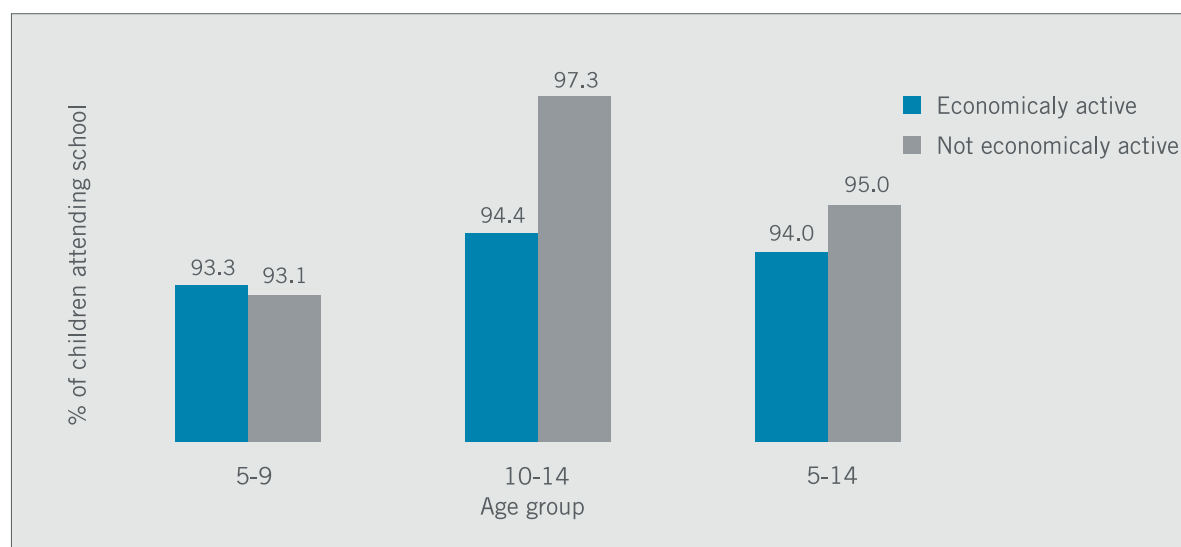
#### CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY WORKING HOURS BY AGE AND SEX



## Child labour and children's education

Economically active children are less likely to attend school than non-working children (94.0 vs. 95.0 per cent). This pattern is not apparent among children aged 5 to 9, however, it becomes marked among those aged 10 to 14. Here, working children are significantly less likely to attend school than non-working children (94.4 per cent vs. 97.3).

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: CHILDREN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY VERSUS CHILDREN NOT IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



## Children's activity status and household income level

Children coming from the poorest households are more likely to be engaged in the labour force without attending school than children in households with the highest levels of income per capita (1.1 per cent vs. 0.6 per cent). These findings are consistent among both boys (1.3 per cent vs. 0.9 per cent) and girls (0.8 per cent vs. 0.3 per cent). Only 75.1 per cent of children from the lowest-income households attend school without participating in the labour force, as compared to 87.2 per cent in the richest households.

### PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 5-14, BY PER CAPITA INCOME QUINTILES\*\*, SEX, AND TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sex	Type of activity	Quintile 1	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5
Male	Work only	1.3	2.6	1.1	0.8	0.9
	Study only	68.2	69.8	74.3	75.4	81.3
	Work and study	23.7	22.1	20.3	19.9	15.6
	Neither	6.8	5.5	4.3	3.8	2.2
Female	Work only	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3
	Study only	82.8	87.2	87.7	89.7	92.8
	Work and study	6.7	7.4	8.3	7.6	4.2
	Neither	9.7	4.7	3.6	2.4	2.6
Total	Work only	1.1	1.6	0.8	0.5	0.6
	Study only	75.1	78.6	80.9	82.7	87.2
	Work and study	15.7	14.7	14.4	13.7	9.8
	Neither	8.2	5.1	4.0	3.1	2.4

Note: Totals may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

\*\* "Quintile 1" represents lowest expenditure category and "Quintile 5" the highest

# III. Information on the worst forms of child labour

## RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC TREATIES

Convention	Ratification	Entry into force
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Not ratified	
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Not ratified	
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	Not ratified	
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	05-12-1956	05-12-1957

## SIMPOC studies

- Informe de los Resultados de la Encuesta Nacional de Trabajo Infantil, ILO-IPEC, 2004.
- Trabajo Infantil Urbano Peligroso de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes en República Dominicana. Diagnóstico y Análisis, ILO-IPEC, 2003.
- Trabajo Infantil Agrícola en República Dominicana: Síntesis de Estudios de Línea de Base, ILO-IPEC, 2003.

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