



International
Labour
Office

SRI LANKA CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF

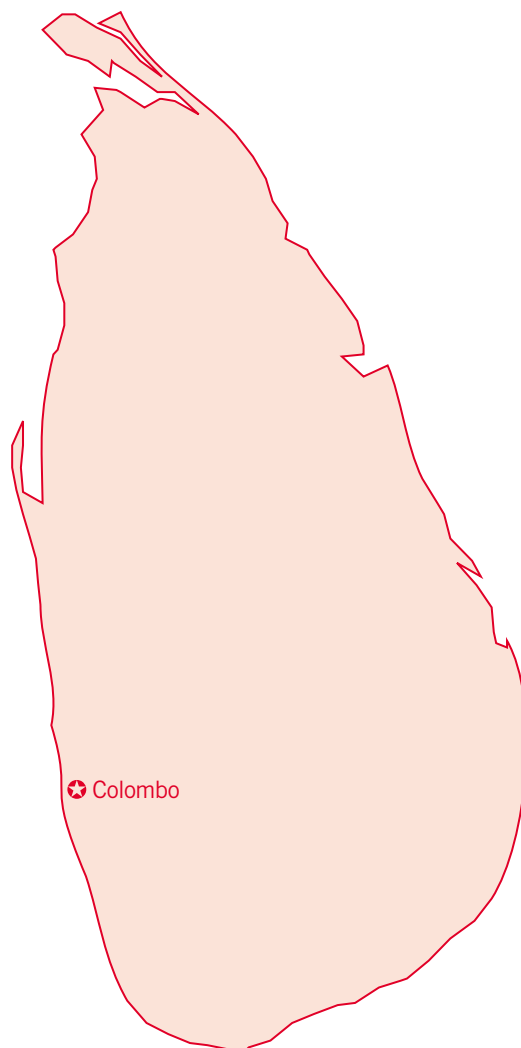


International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	20.6
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	24.5
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	90.7
Net primary school enrolment rate	97
GDP per capita, PPP	\$4,390
Human Development Index Value	0.755
HDI ranking	93/177

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)	11-02-2000	11-02-2001
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	01-03-2001	01-03-2002
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	12-07-1991	11-08-1991

RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, 1989;
- Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act No. 47 of 1956 (as amended 2003);
- Employment of Children Regulations, 1957 (as amended 2000);
- Shop and Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) Act No. 19 of 1954;
- Factories (Amendment) Act, No. 32 of 1984;
- Children's Charter, 1980;
- Employment of Young Persons at Night in Industrial Undertakings Regulations, 1957;
- Employment of Young Persons at Sea Regulations, 1957;
- Employment of Young Persons Regulations, 1957

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 7 (1) of the Employment of Women and Young Persons and Children Act
Admission to light work activities	No minimum age for light work specified	
Admission to hazardous work	No general minimum age for hazardous work specified	Section 13 and 19 of the Employment of Women and Young Persons and Children Act The list of types of hazardous work has not yet been determined

II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the Child Activity Survey (CAS), conducted by the Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics in 1999. 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 CAS collected information on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of boys and girls ages 5 to 17 years of age and their households.

Children's activities

Results from the Sri Lankan Child Activity Survey (SIMPOC, 1999) indicate that 17.8 per cent (0.30 million) of boys and 11.8 per cent (0.18 million) of girls ages 5-14 work, resulting in a combined total of 14.9 per cent (0.48 million) of all children in that age group working. 0.8 per cent (25,536) of children participate in the labour force without attending school. The percentage is approximately twice as high for boys (1.0 per cent) as for girls (0.5 per cent).

CHILDREN AGED 5-14, BY SEX AND TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Activity	Male		Female		Total	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Work only ^a	1.0	17,263	0.5	8,273	0.8	25,536
Study only ^b	80.1	1,327,022	86.2	1,317,840	83.0	2,644,862
Work and study ^c	16.8	277,794	11.3	172,226	14.1	450,020
Total work*	17.8	295,057	11.8	180,499	14.9	475,556
Total study**	96.8	1,604,816	97.4	1,490,066	97.1	3,094,882
Neither	2.1	35,283	2.0	31,341	2.1	66,624

* "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.

Almost 70 per cent of children, 5-14 years, carry out at least one hour of household chores a day. Girls are more likely to be involved in household chores than boys (74.5 per cent vs. 64.8 per cent).

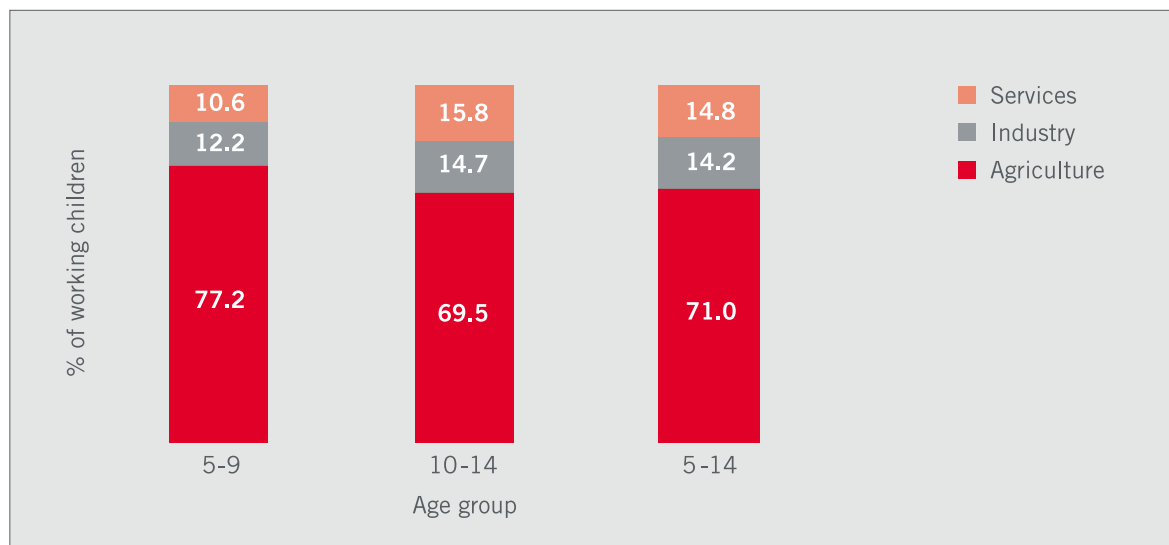
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	25.5	32.2	28.6
6	40.5	45.9	43.0
7	51.8	59.7	55.4
8	56.4	68.0	62.0
9	70.4	76.9	73.5
10	65.9	76.9	71.2
11	76.8	84.8	80.7
12	77.4	88.5	82.8
13	79.0	89.1	83.6
14	80.0	89.0	84.6
Total	64.8	74.5	69.5

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

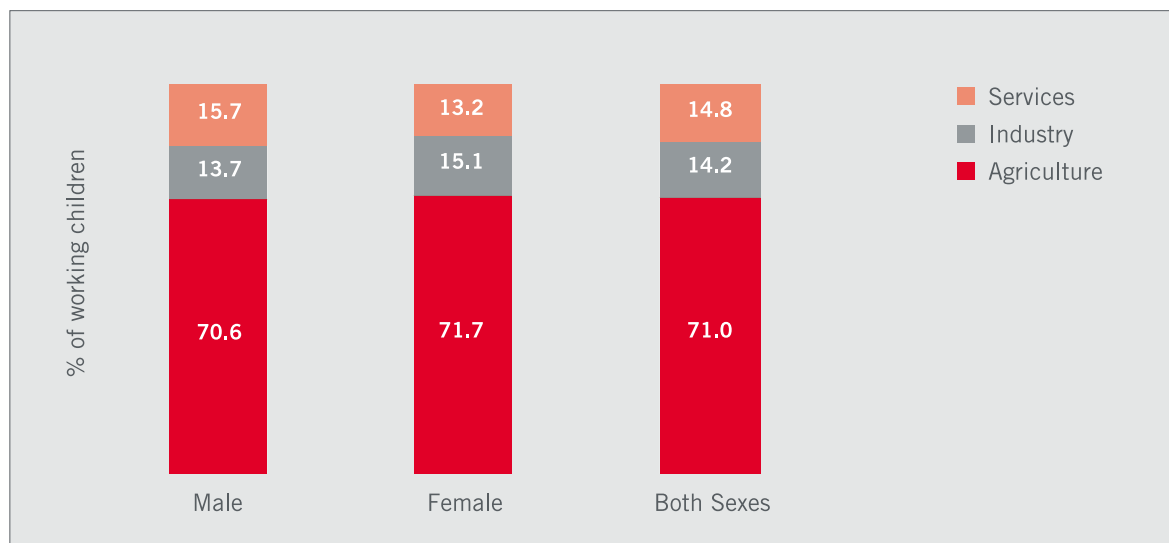
Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Among working children aged 5-14, approximately seven out of ten are employed in the agricultural sector, 14.2 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 14.8 per cent work in services. This pattern is consistent across the age sub-categories 5-9 and 10-14 and across both sexes.

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

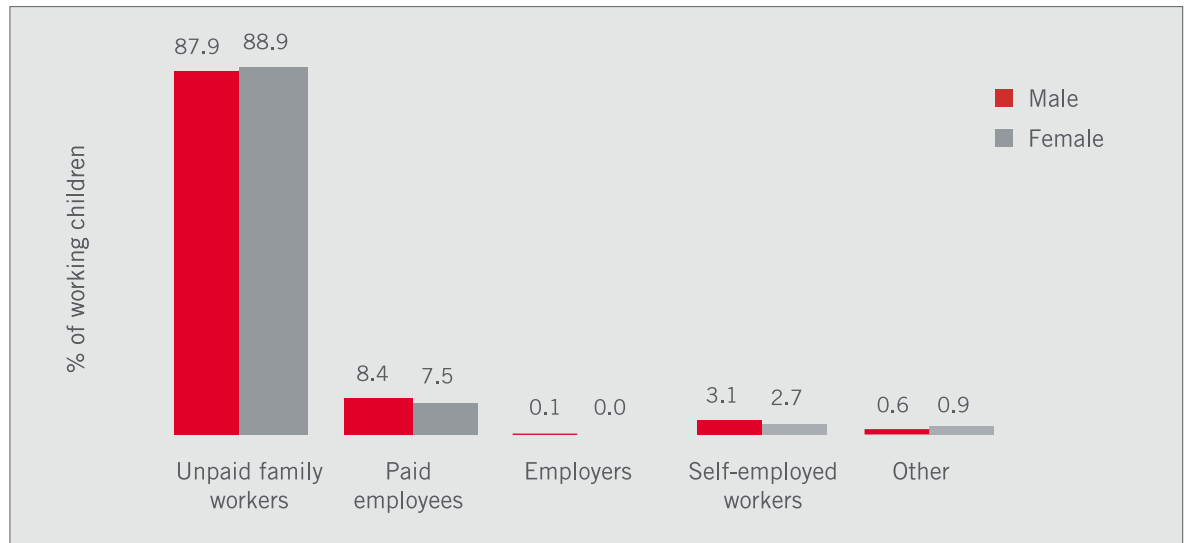


DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



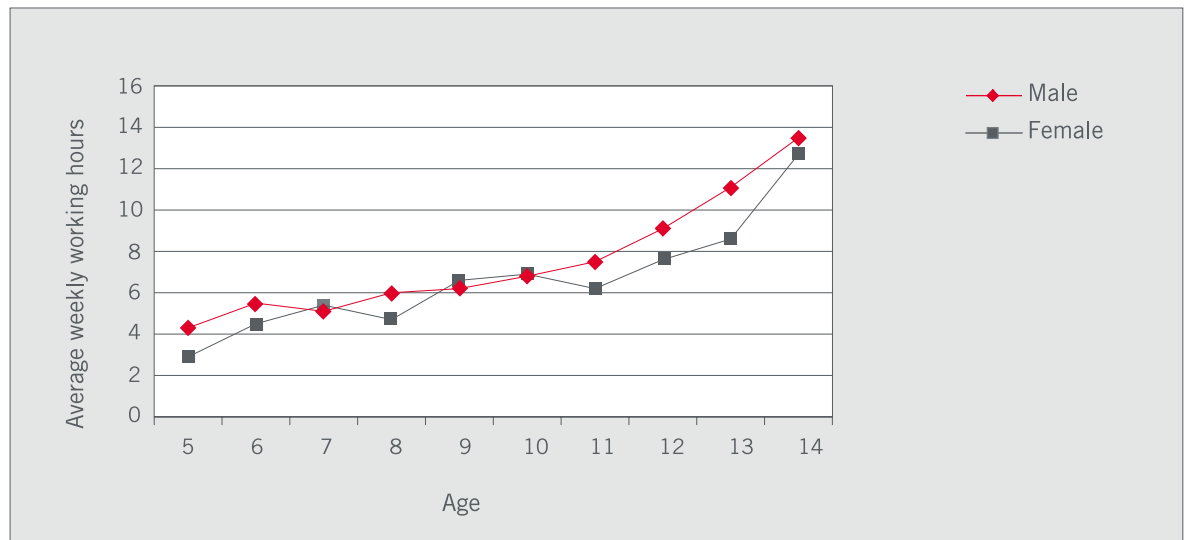
Most working children 5-14 years of age are employed as unpaid family workers (87.9 per cent in the case of boys and 88.9 per cent in the case of girls). More working boys (11.5 per cent) than girls (10.2 per cent) 5-14 years are salaried or self-employed.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT AND SEX



On average, boys tend to work approximately one hour more per week than girls (9.5 hours per week for boys vs. 8.1 per week for girls).

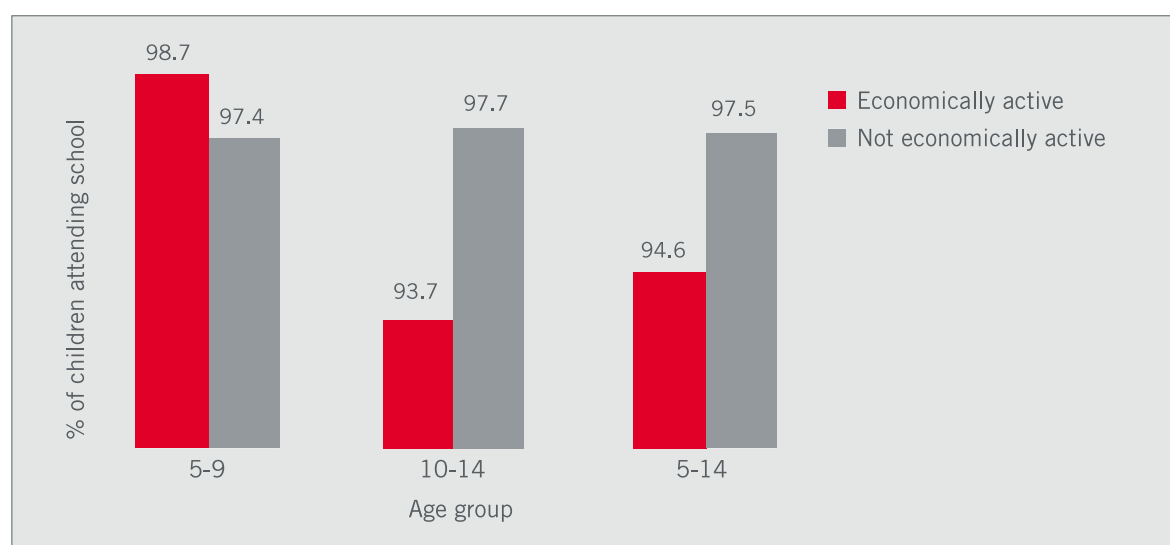
CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS BY AGE AND SEX



Child labour and children's education

Among children 5-14 years, those who are economically active are less likely to attend school than those who are not (94.6 per cent vs. 97.5 per cent). This relationship holds for children 10-14 years (93.7 per cent vs. 97.7 per cent). However, in the lower age bracket 5-9, those who are economically active are more likely to attend school than those who are not (98.7 per cent vs. 97.4 per cent).

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF 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 per capita expenditure (1.4 per cent vs. 0.4 per cent). These findings are consistent for boys (1.8 per cent vs. 0.4 per cent) and girls (1.1 per cent vs. 0.4 per cent). Only 75.2 per cent of children from the lowest-expenditure households attend school without participating in the labour force, as compared to 90.0 per cent of 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	Total
Male	Work only	1.8	1.4	1.3	0.6	0.4	1.0
	Study only	71.8	78.6	79.5	81.3	87.4	80.1
	Work and study	22.4	17.2	16.9	16.9	11.6	16.8
	Neither	4.1	2.8	2.3	1.2	0.6	2.1
Female	Work only	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5
	Study only	78.7	84.8	85.2	88.2	93.0	86.2
	Work and study	17.2	11.9	11.6	10.5	5.7	11.3
	Neither	3.0	2.8	2.7	1.0	0.9	2.0
Total	Work only	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.8
	Study only	75.2	81.5	82.2	84.7	90.0	83.0
	Work and study	19.8	14.7	14.3	13.7	8.9	14.1
	Neither	3.6	2.8	2.5	1.1	0.7	2.1

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

* The household expenditure is used as a proxy for income.

** "Quintile1" 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	08-09-2000	12-02-2002
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)	05-04-1950	05-04-1950

SIMPOC STUDIES

- Child Activity Survey Sri Lanka 1999 (Department of Census & Statistics, Ministry of Finance & Planning, Sri Lanka, October 1999).
- The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Rapid Assessment, ILO-IPEC, 2002.
- Rapid Assessment on Child Domestic Labour, 2003.

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