



International
Labour
Office

COLOMBIA CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF



International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	44.9
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	31.4
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	92.8
Net primary school enrolment rate	83
GDP per capita, PPP	\$7,256
Human Development Index Value	0.79
HDI ranking	70/177

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)	02-02-2001	02-02-2002
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	28-01-2005	28-01-2006
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	28-01-1991	27-02-1991

RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Constitución Política de Colombia de 1991 (reformada en 2004);
- Código del Menor (Decreto No. 2737, Diario Oficial (DO), 27 de noviembre de 1989 (Minors Code);
- Código Sustantivo del Trabajo, Ley 141 de 1961, DO, 1 de enero de 1961 (reformada en 2000), Decretos No. 2663 y 3743 de 1950, adoptados como legislación permanente, por la Ley de 1961 (Labour Code)

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 30 of the Labour Code; Section 238 of the Minors Code
Admission to light work activities	12 years	Section 30 of the Labour Code; Section 238 of the Minors Code
Admission to hazardous work	18 years	Section 44 of the Constitution; Section 242 of the Labour Code Types of hazardous work determined Sections 245 and 246 of the Minors Code

II. Child Labour Indicators

The information is drawn from the 2001 Colombia Child Labour Survey, a nationally representative survey conducted with the assistance of the ILO's Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC).

Children's activities

Data from the Colombia National Child Labour Survey (IPEC/SIMPOC, 2001) indicate that 14.1 per cent (0.61 million) of boys and 6.6 per cent (0.28 million) of girls in the age range 5-14 are economically active, resulting in a total of 0.89 million or 10.4 per cent of children in that age group working. Approximately 0.2 million or 2.3 per cent of children participate in the labour force without attending school. The percentage is more than twice as high for boys (3.4%) than for girls (1.3%).

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

Activity	Male		Female		Total	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Work only ^a	3.4	147,630	1.3	53,760	2.3	201,390
Study only ^b	78.3	3,411,710	86.4	3,650,371	82.3	7,062,081
Work and study ^c	10.7	467,278	5.4	226,128	8.1	693,406
Total work*	14.1	614,908	6.6	279,888	10.4	894,796
Total study**	89.0	3,878,988	91.8	3,876,499	90.4	7,755,487
Neither	7.6	331,389	6.9	292,677	7.3	624,066

* "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

More than 70.0 per cent of children aged 5-14, both male and female, are involved in household chores.

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

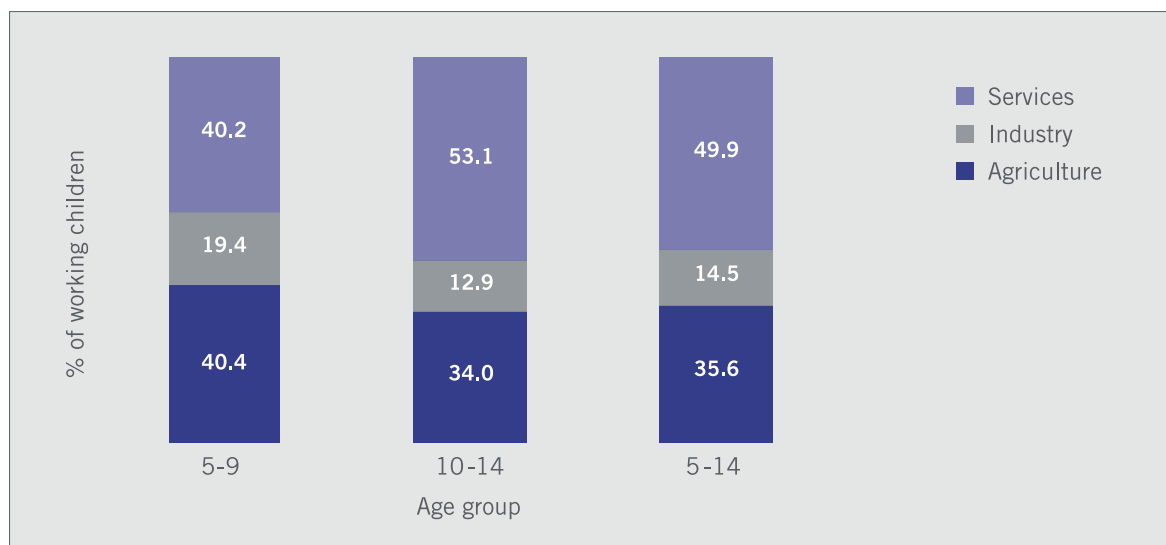
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	37.6	48.1	42.5
6	54.6	52.0	53.2
7	66.3	61.7	64.0
8	69.0	72.5	70.6
9	72.1	83.1	77.3
10	75.4	80.0	77.4
11	74.0	89.5	81.3
12	75.5	89.6	82.4
13	81.6	89.8	85.7
14	78.7	92.8	86.0
Total	68.8	75.5	72.1

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

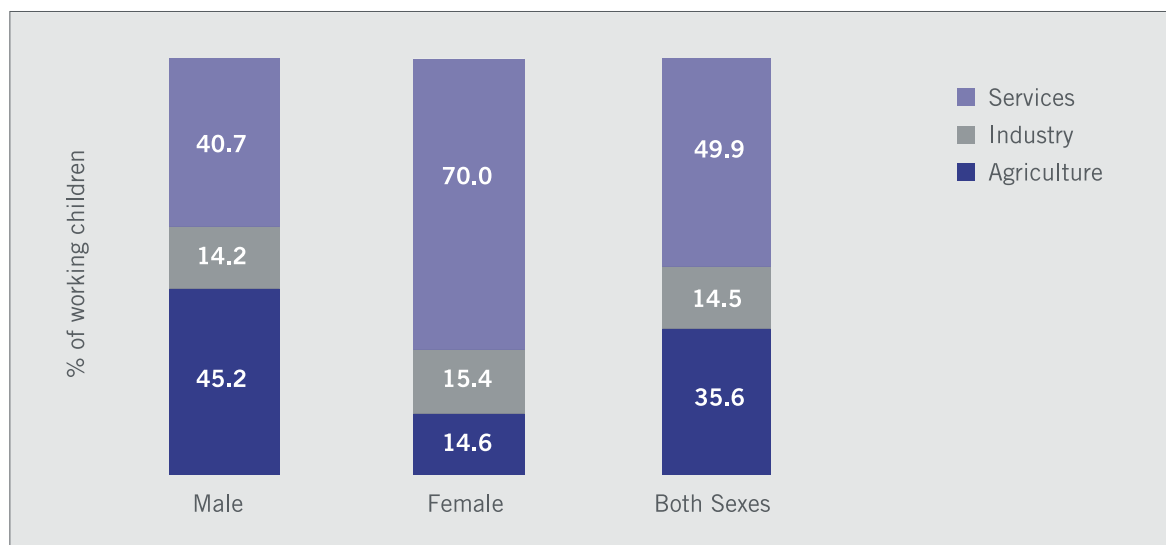
Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Among working children ages 5-14, almost 50 per cent are employed in the services sector, 35.6 per cent work in agriculture and the remaining 14.5 per cent are employed in the industrial sector. This distribution pattern is also reflected in the two age sub-categories 5-9 and 10-14. Girls are much more likely than boys to be employed in the services sector (70.0 vs. 40.7 per cent) and less likely to be employed in agriculture (14.6 vs. 45.2 per cent).

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN BY INDUSTRY AND AGE

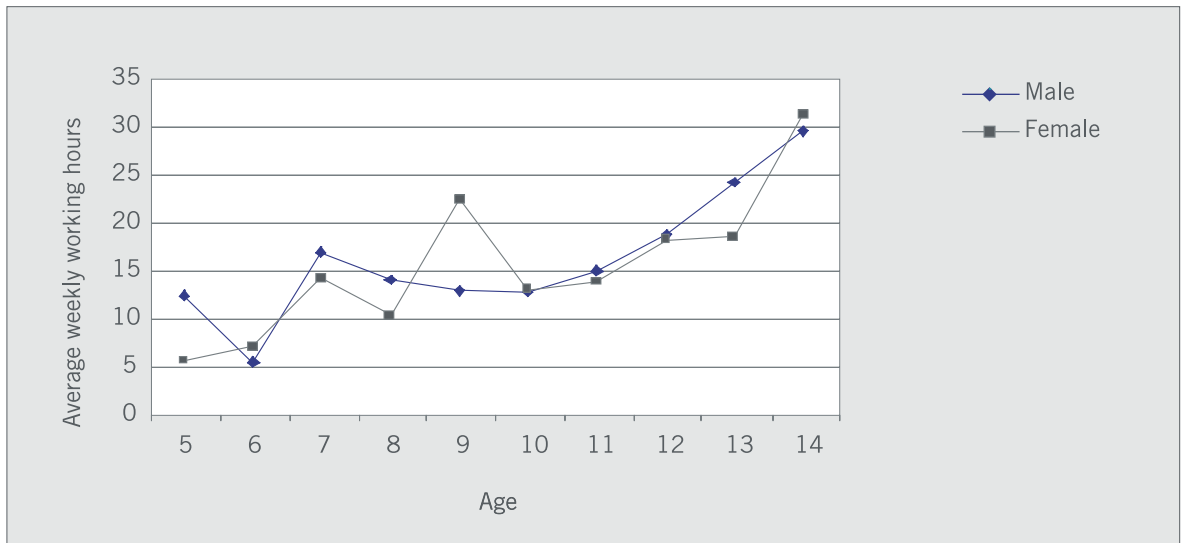


DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



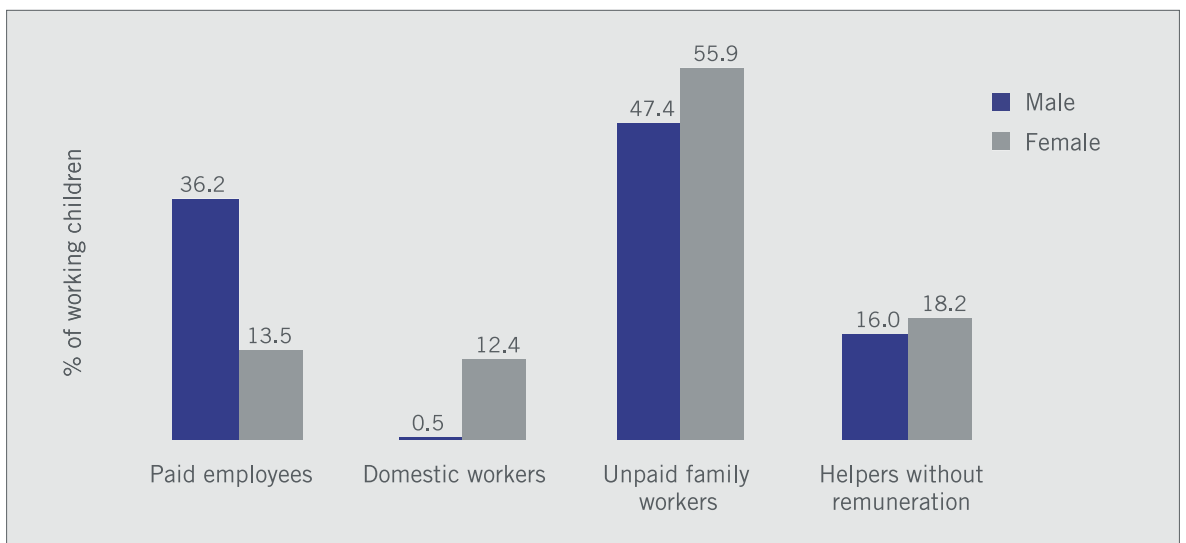
Working hours increase with age and are roughly on par for both boys and girls. At age 14, children work on average more than 30 hours per week.

CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS BY AGE AND SEX



A large percentage of working children ages 5-14 are employed as unpaid family workers or receive no remuneration (63.4 per cent in the case of boys and 74.1 per cent in the case of girls). More working boys (36.7 per cent) than girls (25.9 per cent) are either paid or employed as domestic workers.

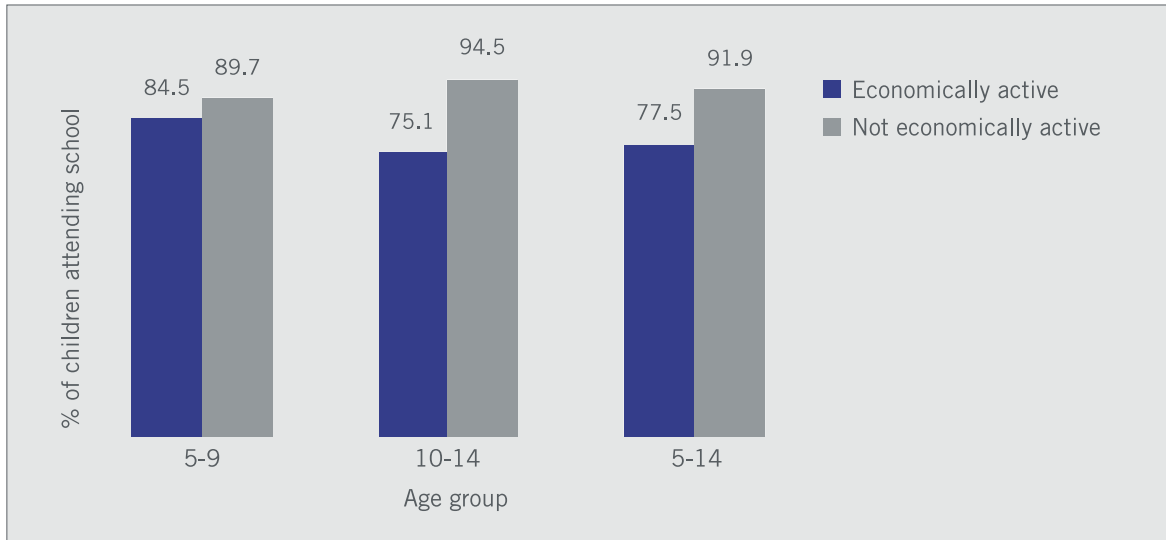
DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT AND SEX



Child labour and children's education

Among children ages 5-14, those who are economically active are less likely to attend school than those who are not (77.5 vs. 91.9 per cent). This relationship holds also for children in the 5-9 and 10-14 age sub-groups. Among children ages 10-14, only 75.1 per cent of economically active children attend school as opposed to 94.5 per cent of non-working children.

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



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	11-11--2003	11-12--2003
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Not ratified	
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	04-08-2004	03-09-2004
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	04-08-2004	03-09-2004
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	04-03-1969	04-03-1970

SIMPOC STUDIES

- Encuesta Nacional de Trabajo Infantil: Análisis de los Resultados de la Encuesta sobre Caracterización de la Población entre 5 y 17 años en Colombia, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística y OIT-IPEC, 2001.

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