



International
Labour
Office

SOUTH AFRICA CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF

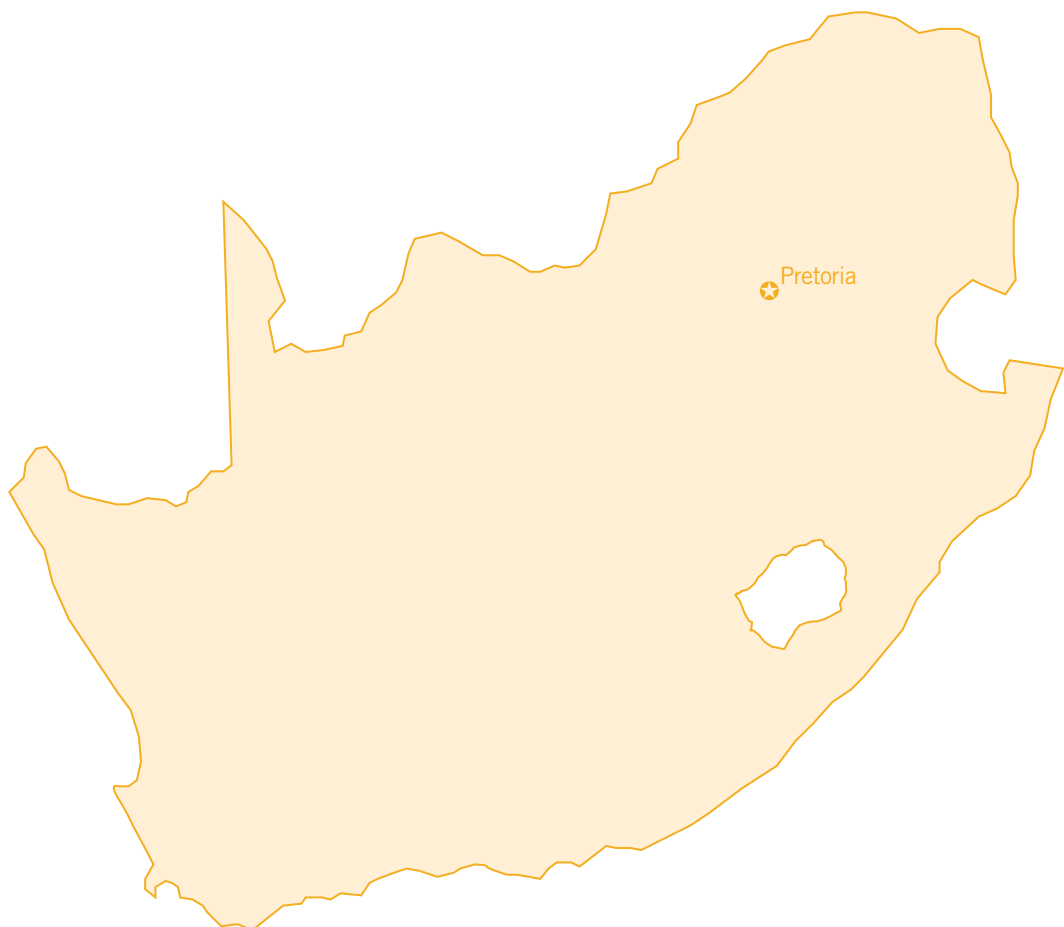


International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	47.2
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	32.8
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	82.4
Net primary school enrolment rate	89
GDP per capita, PPP	\$11,192
Human Development Index Value	0.653
HDI ranking	121/177

Source: 2004 data from UNDP Human Development Report 2006



I. Legislative Framework

RATIFIED CONVENTIONS RELATING TO CHILD LABOUR (as of 1 March 2005)

Convention	Ratification	Entry into force
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (minimum age specified: 15 years)	30-03-2000	30-03-2001
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	07-06-2000	07-06-2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	16-06-1995	16-07-1995

RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (as amended 2003);
- The Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997;
- The Child Care Act, 1983 (as amended 1996);
- Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996;
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (as amended 2003);
- South African Schools Act (1996), compulsory education for children ages 7-15.

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	15 years	Section 43 (1) of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act; Section 52 (A) of the Child Care Act
Admission to light work activities	Not applicable	No light work exception
Admission to hazardous work	18 years	Section 28 of the Constitution; Section 43 (2) of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act Types of hazardous work not yet determined

II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the Survey of Activities of Young People (SAYP), conducted by Statistics South Africa 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 SAYP was an independent survey intended to collect information on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of boys and girls aged 5 to 17 and their households.

Children's activities

Results from the Survey of Activities of Young People (SIMPOC, 1999) indicate that 26.1 per cent (1.4 million) of boys and 23.4 per cent (1.2 million) of girls ages 5-14 are in some form of economic activity, resulting in an overall total of 24.8 per cent (2.6 million) of all children working. Approximately 1.7 per cent (0.2 million) of children participate in the labour force without attending school. The percentage is consistent among both boys and girls. Children in rural areas are more likely than those in urban areas to work without attending school (2.1 per cent vs. 1.3 per cent). Whereas in rural areas boys are more likely than girls to work without attending school (2.4 per cent vs. 1.8 per cent), the opposite applies to urban areas (1.5 per cent compared to 1.1 per cent for boys).

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

Sex	Activity	Urban		Rural		Total	
		%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Male	Work only ^a	1.1	28,589	2.4	67,711	1.8	96,300
	Study only ^b	72.4	1,804,296	50.3	1,430,217	60.6	3,234,513
	Work and study ^c	10.9	271,279	36.1	1,026,600	24.3	1,297,879
	Total work*	12.0	299,868	38.5	1,094,311	26.1	1,394,179
	Total study**	83.3	2,075,575	86.3	2,456,817	84.9	4,532,392
	Neither	15.5	387,002	11.3	320,671	13.3	707,673
Female	Work only ^a	1.5	35,208	1.8	53,247	1.7	88,455
	Study only ^b	71.0	1,691,797	57.0	1,656,753	63.3	3,348,550
	Work and study ^c	11.6	275,129	30.1	875,290	21.7	1,150,419
	Total work*	13.0	310,337	31.9	928,537	23.4	1,238,874
	Total study**	82.6	1,966,926	87.1	2,532,043	85.1	4,498,969
	Neither	15.9	379,759	11.1	322,286	13.3	702,045
Total	Work only ^a	1.3	63,797	2.1	120,958	1.7	184,755
	Study only ^b	71.7	3,496,093	53.7	3,086,970	62.0	6,583,063
	Work and study ^c	11.2	546,408	33.1	1,901,890	23.0	2,448,298
	Total work*	12.5	610,205	35.2	2,022,848	24.8	2,633,053
	Total study**	83.0	4,042,501	86.7	4,988,860	85.0	9,031,361
	Neither	15.7	766,761	11.2	642,957	13.3	1,409,718

* "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.

The older the age of the children, the more likely they are to also carry out household chores. Girls 5-14 years of age are more likely than their male counterparts to be involved in household chores (69.9 per cent vs. 57.9 per cent).

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

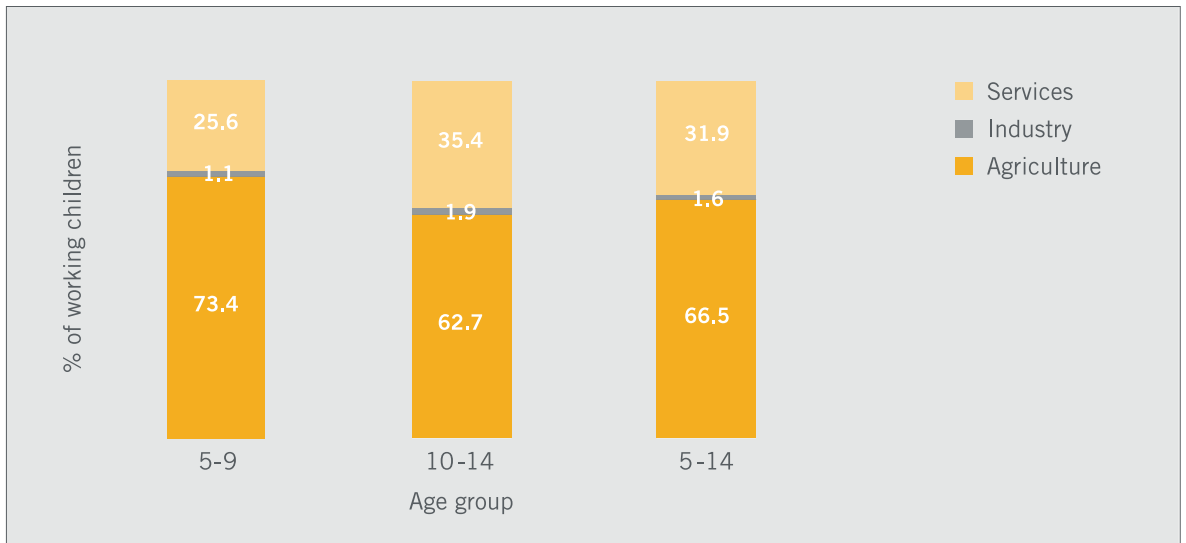
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	24.0	28.4	26.2
6	36.7	44.5	40.5
7	48.0	57.1	52.5
8	52.2	65.6	58.5
9	59.3	72.5	66.1
10	67.4	81.4	74.3
11	68.6	82.8	75.8
12	72.2	86.4	79.1
13	74.7	88.7	81.9
14	76.3	90.3	83.2
Total	57.9	69.9	63.8

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

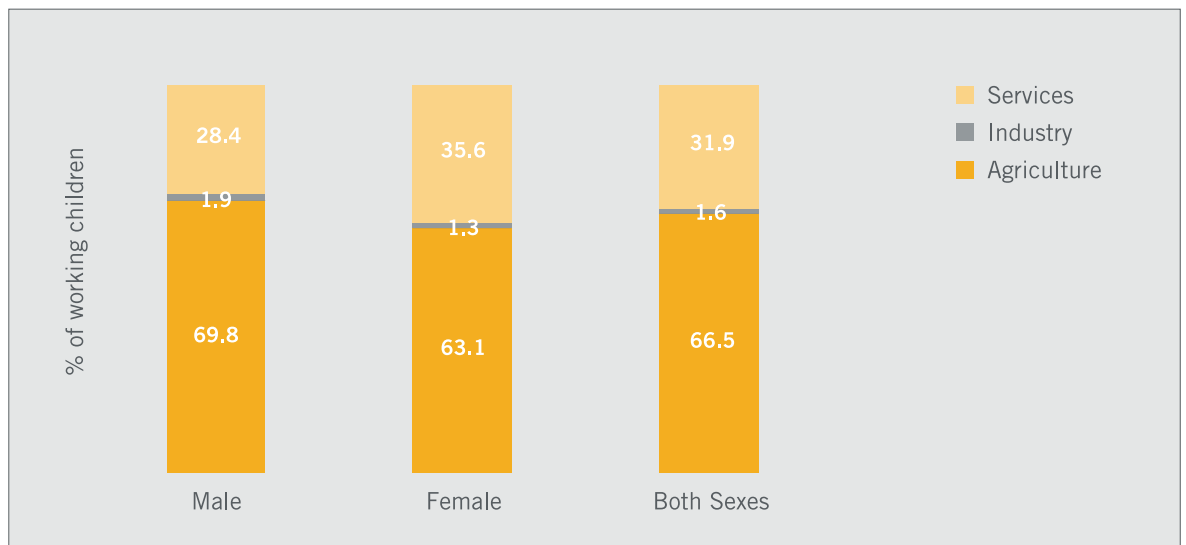
Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Among working children 5-14 years of age, over 65.0 per cent are employed in the agricultural sector, 1.6 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 31.9 per cent work in services. This pattern also applies to the age sub-categories 5-9 and 10-14. Girls are more likely than boys to be employed in the services sector (35.6 per cent vs. 28.4 per cent) and less likely to be found working in agriculture (63.1 per cent vs. 69.8 per cent).

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

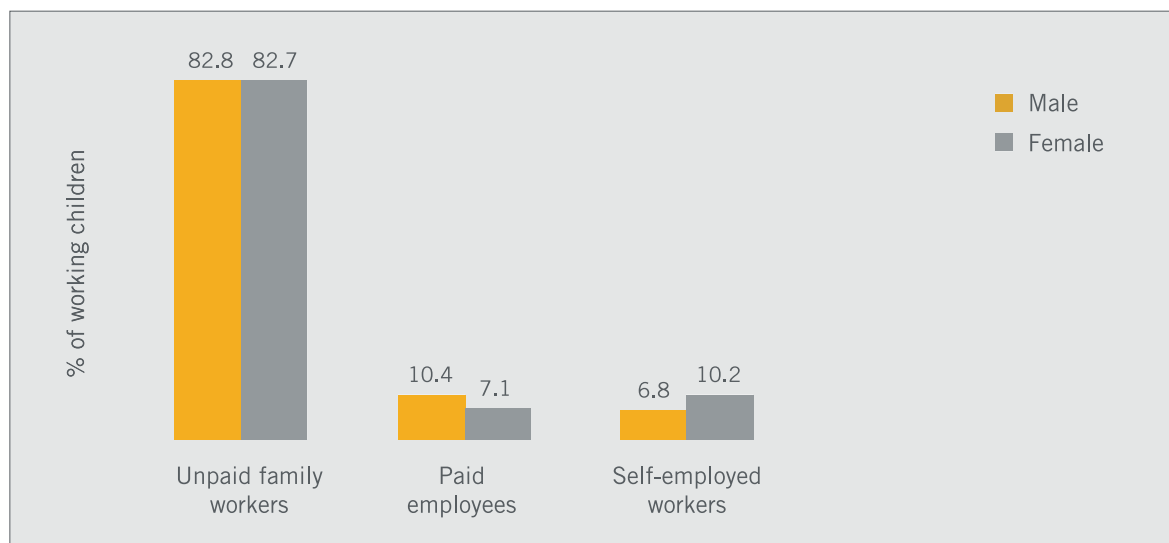


DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



Most working children aged 5-14 are employed as unpaid family workers (82.8 per cent in the case of boys and 82.7 per cent in the case of girls). More working boys (10.4 per cent) than girls (7.1 per cent) are salaried, while more working girls (10.2 per cent) than boys (6.8 per cent) are self-employed.

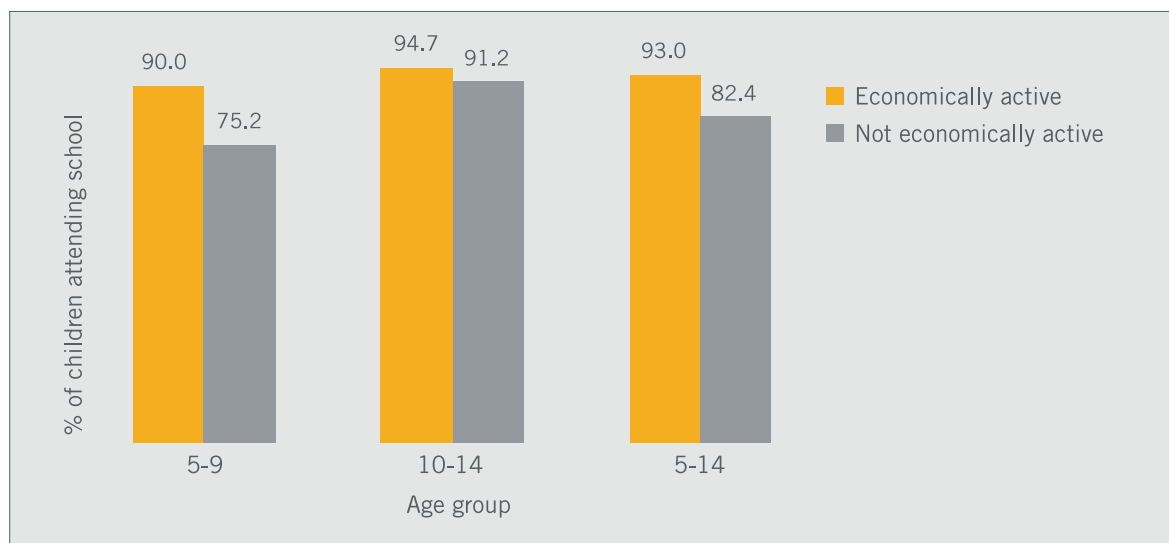
DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT AND SEX



Child labour and children's education

Among children 5-14 years of age, those who are economically active are more likely to attend school than those who are not (93.0 per cent vs. 82.4 per cent). This relationship holds for children in the 5-9 and 10-14 age sub-groups.

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	30-06-2003	30-07-2003
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Not ratified	
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	20-02-2004	21-03-2004
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	20-02-2004	21-03-2004
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	20-02-2004	21-03-2004
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	05-03-1997	05-03-1998

SIMPOC STUDIES

- Survey of Young People in South Africa (1999) (The revised report consists three volumes: the country report, the data material and the executive summary), ILO-IPEC, 2002.
- Child Domestic Workers: A National Report, ILO-IPEC, 2002.

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