



International  
Labour  
Office

# EL SALVADOR CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF



International  
Programme on  
the Elimination  
of Child Labour  
(IPEC)

## SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	6.8
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	34.3
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	88.9
Net primary school enrolment rate	92
GDP per capita, PPP	\$5,041
Human Development Index Value	0.729
HDI ranking	101/177

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)	23-01-1996	23-01-1997
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	12-10-2000	12-10-2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	10-07-1990	02-09-1990

## RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Constitución Política de la República de El Salvador de 1983, actualizada hasta reforma introducida (reformada en 2003);
- Decreto Ley No. 15 de 23 junio de 1972, Código de Trabajo (reformada en 2004);
- Decreto Ley No. 677 de 11 de octubre de 1993, Código de Familia;
- Compulsory Education (till the age of 14)

## 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 38 (10) of the Constitution
Admission to light work activities	12 years	Section 114 of the Labour Code
Admission to hazardous work	18 years	Section 38 (10) of the Constitution; Section 351 of the Family Code; and also Section 105 of the Labour Code  Types of hazardous work determined: Sections 106 to 108 of the Labour Code

# II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the Multiple Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) conducted by the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses in 2001. 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 academic, domestic, economic and recreational activities of boys and girls ages 5 to 17.

## Children's activities

Results from the Multiple Purpose Household Survey (SIMPOC, 2001) indicate that 7.2 per cent (109,834) of all children aged 5-14 work; this is 10.1 per cent of boys (77,611) and 4.3 per cent of girls (32,223) in that age group.

About 2.3 per cent (35,085) of children in the above age group participate in the labour force and do not attend school. The percentage is higher for boys (3.3 per cent) than for girls (1.3 per cent). Children in rural areas are more likely to work without attending school than those in urban areas (3.7 per cent vs. 1.0 per cent). The gender gap between working children who do not attend school is slightly higher in rural areas (3.6 percentage points, i.e. boys: 5.4 per cent vs. girls: 1.8 per cent) than in urban areas (0.3 percentage points, i.e. boys: 1.2 per cent vs. girls: 0.9 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	4,884	5.4	20,192	3.3	25,076
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	82.1	327,023	63.7	236,541	73.2	563,564
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	4.1	16,156	9.8	36,379	6.8	52,535
	Total work*	5.3	21,040	15.2	56,571	10.1	77,611
	Total study**	86.1	343,179	73.5	272,920	80.0	616,099
	Neither	12.6	50,290	21.1	78,448	16.7	128,738
Female	Work only <sup>a</sup>	0.9	3,403	1.8	6,606	1.3	10,009
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	82.6	328,084	71.7	257,436	77.4	585,520
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	3.2	12,624	2.7	9,590	2.9	22,214
	Total work*	4.0	16,027	4.5	16,196	4.3	32,223
	Total study**	85.8	340,708	74.4	267,026	80.3	607,734
	Neither	13.4	53,215	23.8	85,472	18.3	138,687
Total	Work only <sup>a</sup>	1.0	8,287	3.7	26,798	2.3	35,085
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	82.3	655,107	67.6	493,977	75.3	1,149,084
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	3.6	28,780	6.3	45,969	4.9	74,749
	Total work*	4.7	37,067	10.0	72,767	7.2	109,834
	Total study**	86.0	683,887	73.9	539,946	80.2	1,223,833
	Neither	13.0	103,505	22.4	163,920	17.5	267,425

\* "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 60 per cent of children aged 5-14 are involved in household chores. Girls are much more likely than boys to carry out at least one hour of household chores per day. Children between 10-14 years are more likely than those 5-9 years to be involved in this type of activity.

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

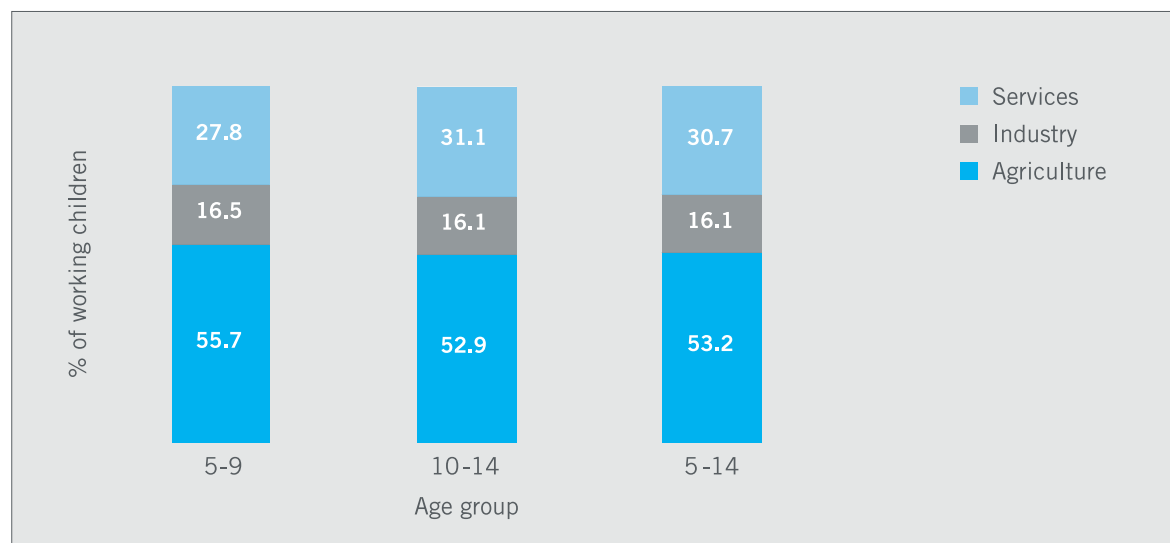
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	20.2	20.3	20.2
6	30.1	32.5	31.3
7	44.9	51.3	47.9
8	56.0	64.9	60.4
9	65.5	73.8	69.6
10	67.0	84.4	75.7
11	74.8	86.4	80.6
12	72.1	92.5	81.9
13	69.7	93.0	81.5
14	70.5	90.5	80.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>62.3</b>

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

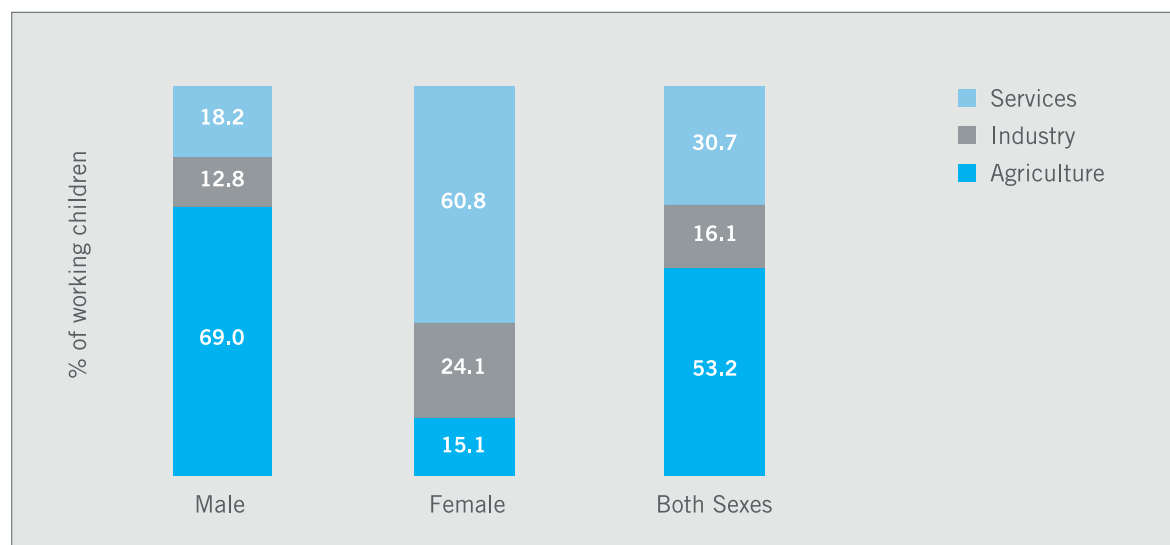
## Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Among working children ages 5-14, approximately half are employed in the agricultural sector, 16.1 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 30.7 per cent work in services. A similar distribution pattern can be observed in the age sub-categories 5-9 and 10-14. Girls are more likely than boys to be employed in the services sector (60.8 vs. 18.2 per cent) and less likely to be employed in the agricultural sector (15.1 vs. 69 per cent).

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

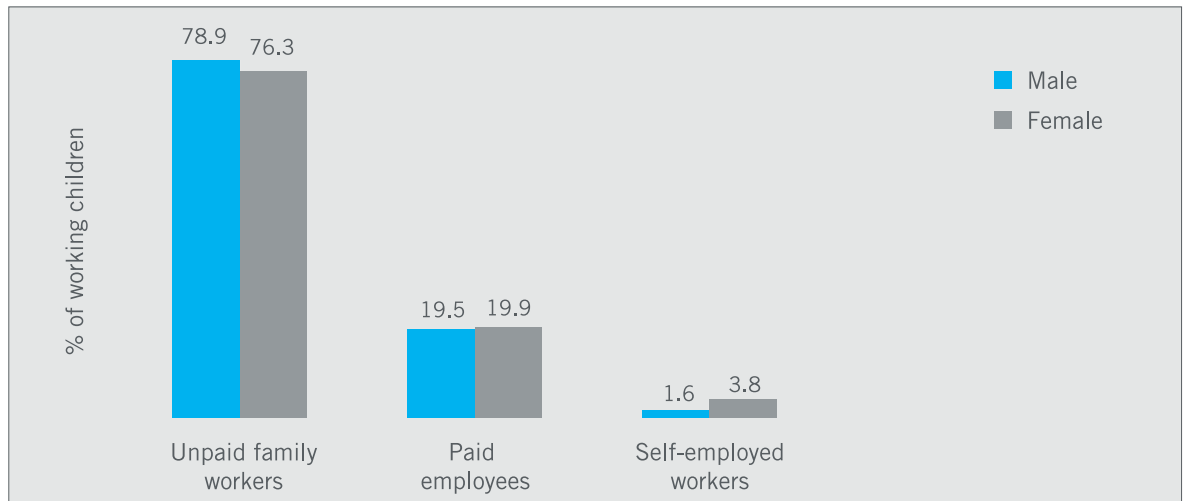


### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



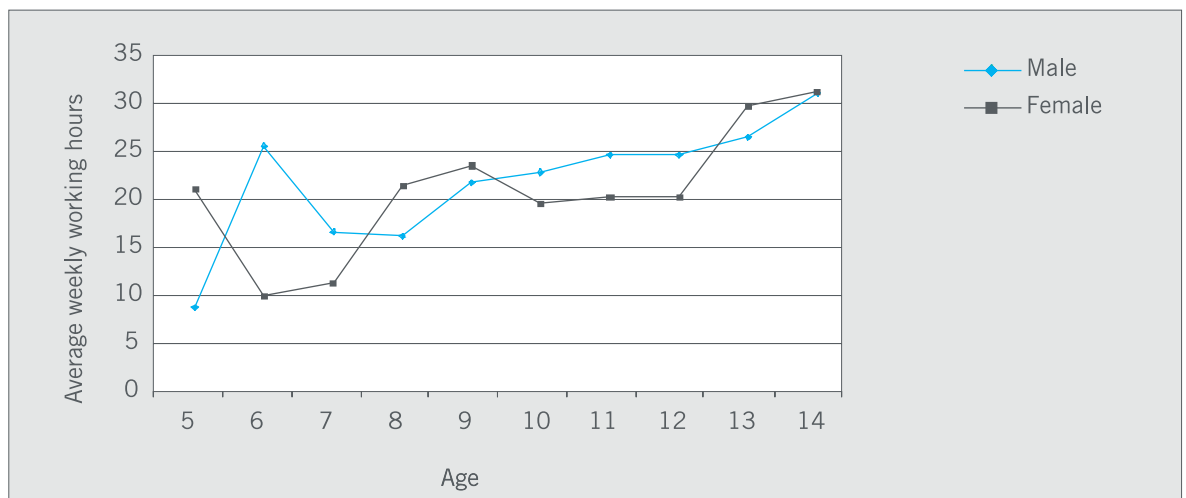
A high percentage of working children are employed as unpaid family workers (78.9 per cent in the case of boys and 76.3 per cent in the case of girls). More working boys (21.1 per cent) than girls (23.7 per cent) are either salaried or self-employed.

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



In general, boys tend to work more than girls regardless of the age group concerned. Average weekly working hours fluctuate for both sexes and reach more than 30 at the age of 14.

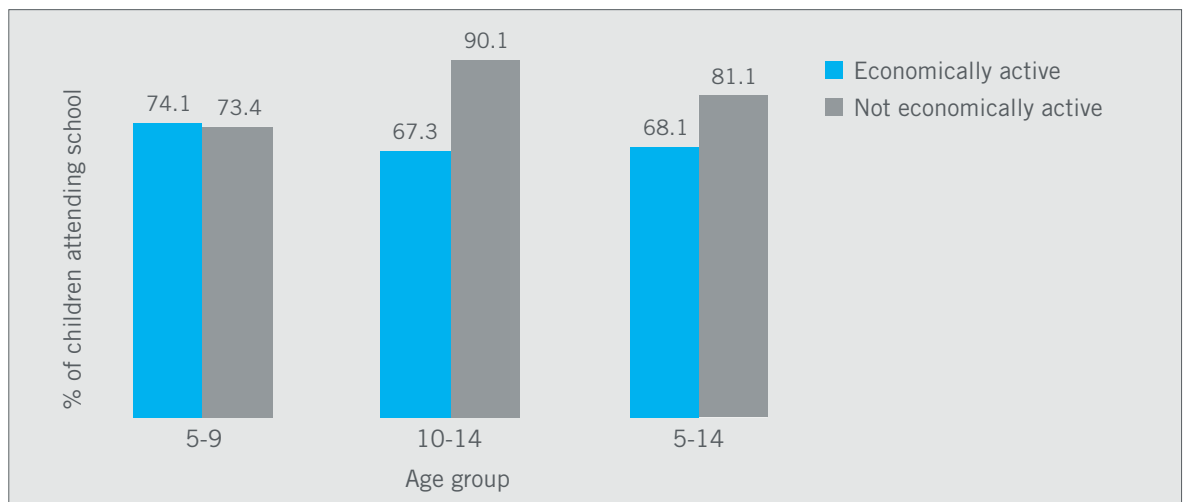
## CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS BY AGE AND SEX



## Child labour and children's education

Working children are generally less likely to attend school than non-working children (68.1 per cent vs. 81.1 per cent). While this holds true for the 10-14 age group (67.3 vs. 90.1 per cent respectively), in the age bracket 5-9, those who are economically active are slightly more likely to attend school than those who are not (74.1 per cent vs. 73.4 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 and not attend school than children in households with the highest levels of per capita expenditure (4.4 per cent vs. 0.5 per cent). These findings are consistent for boys (6.6 per cent vs. 0.5 per cent) and girls (2.1 per cent vs. 0.6 per cent). Only 60.7 per cent of children coming from the lowest-expenditure households attend school without working compared to 93.6 per cent of those 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	6.6	2.4	1.5	0.6	0.5	3.3
	Study only	56.9	73.3	82.7	86.3	94.2	73.2
	Work and study	8.9	7.6	4.6	5.3	3.9	6.8
	Neither	27.6	16.6	11.2	7.7	1.4	16.7
Female	Work only	2.1	1.3	1.1	0.4	0.6	1.3
	Study only	64.7	77.2	84.4	88.1	93.0	77.4
	Work and study	2.4	3.5	2.7	3.6	3.0	2.9
	Neither	30.9	17.9	11.8	8.0	3.4	18.3
Total	Work only	4.4	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.5	2.3
	Study only	60.7	75.2	83.5	87.2	93.6	75.3
	Work and study	5.7	5.6	3.6	4.4	3.4	4.9
	Neither	29.2	17.3	11.5	7.9	2.4	17.5

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

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

\*\* "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	17-05-2004	17-06-2004
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	18-04-2002	18-05-2002
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	18-03-2004	17-04-2004
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	18-03-2004	17-04-2004
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	18-03-2004	17-04-2004
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	15-06-1995	15-06-1996

## SIMPOC STUDIES

- Condiciones y Medio Ambiente del Trabajo Infantil en el Cultivo de la Caña de Azúcar en El Salvador, (ILO-IPEC, 2007)
- Condiciones y Medio Ambiente del Trabajo Infantil en la Pesca en El Salvador, (ILO-IPEC, 2007)
- Módulo: Prevención de las actividades peligrosas en la pesca, (ILO-IPEC, 2007)
- Entendiendo el Trabajo Infantil en El Salvador 2003-2005, (ILO-IPEC, 2006)
- Línea de Base sobre Explotación Sexual Comercial de niños, niñas y adolescentes en el municipio de San Salvador 2004, (ILO-IPEC, 2006)
- Principales Resultados de las Líneas de Base del Trabajo Infantil en Botaderos de Basura, Caña de Azúcar y Pesca 2003, (ILO-IPEC, 2006)
- Estudio de Línea de Base sobre el Trabajo Infantil en la Producción de Caña de Azúcar, (ILO-IPEC, 2005)
- Trabajo Infantil en El Salvador: Síntesis de Estudios de Línea de Base, (ILO-IPEC, 2005)
- Entendiendo el Trabajo Infantil en El Salvador, (UCW-IPEC, 2003)
- La Explotación Sexual Comercial Infantil y Adolescente: Una Evaluación Rápida, (ILO-IPEC, 2002)
- Trabajo Infantil en los Basureros: Una Evaluación Rápida, (ILO-IPEC, 2002)
- Trabajo Infantil en la Caña de Azúcar: Una Evaluación Rápida, (ILO-IPEC, 2002)
- Trabajo Infantil Doméstico: Una Evaluación Rápida, (ILO-IPEC, 2002)
- Trabajo Infantil en la Pesca: Una Evaluación Rápida, (ILO-IPEC, 2002)
- Trabajo Infantil Urbano: Una Evaluación Rápida, (ILO-IPEC, 2002)

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