



International
Labour
Office

GUATEMALA CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF



International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	12.3
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	43.5
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	69.1
Net primary school enrolment rate	93
GDP per capita, PPP	\$4,313
Human Development Index Value	0.673
HDI ranking	118/177

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)	27-04-1990	27-04-1991
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	11-10-2001	11-10-2002
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	06-06-1990	02-09-1990

RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Acuerdo Legislativo 18-93 por el que se reforma la Constitución Política de la República de Guatemala de 31 de Mayo de 1985 [Constitution];
- Decreto No. 1441 por el que se promulga el texto modificado del Código de Trabajo de la República de Guatemala de 5 de Mayo de 1961, (reformada en 2001) [Labour Code];
- Decreto No. 27-2003 por el que se dicta la Ley de Protección Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia (reformada en 2004) [Law on Childhood and Adolescence].
- Compulsory Education (education is compulsory for children ages 7-14)

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 102 of the Constitution; Section 148 of the Labour Code; and also Section 66 of the Law on Childhood and Adolescence
Admission to light work activities	13 years	Section 150 of the Labour Code allows the General Labour Inspectorate to authorize light work
Admission to hazardous work	16 years	Section 148 of the Labour Code (and general principle of protection from hazardous work for under-18 by Section 51 of the Law on Childhood and Adolescence). Types of hazardous work determined: Sections 106 to 108 of the Children's Act

II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the child labour module of the Living Standard Management Survey conducted by the Guatemalan National Statistics Institute in 2000. The module 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 child labour module of the Living Standard Measurement Survey was an independent survey intended to collect information on the school, domestic, economic, and recreational activities of persons 5 to 17 years of age.

Children's activities

Results from the child labour module of the Living Standard Management Study Survey (SIMPOC, 2000) indicate that 21.0 per cent (0.34 million) of boys and 11.0 per cent (0.18 million) of girls aged 5-14 work. Overall, 16.1 per cent (0.52 million) of children in that age group are engaged in economic activity. Approximately 6.3 per cent (0.20 million) of children participate in the labour force without attending school. The percentage is higher for boys (7.8 per cent) than for girls (4.7 per cent). Children in rural areas are more likely to work

without attending school than those in urban areas (7.8 per cent vs. 3.5 per cent). The gender gap between working children who do not attend school is much higher in rural areas (4.4 percentage points, i.e. boys: 9.9 per cent vs. girls: 5.5 per cent) than in urban areas (0.4 percentage points, i.e. boys: 3.7 per cent vs. girls: 3.3 per cent).

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

Sex	Activity	Urban		Rural		Total	
		%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Male	Work only ^a	3.7	20,630	9.9	107,461	7.8	128,091
	Study only ^b	68.6	382,609	46.9	507,234	54.3	889,843
	Work and study ^c	8.3	46,528	15.7	169,288	13.2	215,816
	Total work*	12.0	67,158	25.6	276,749	21.0	343,907
	Total study**	76.9	429,137	62.6	676,522	67.5	1,105,659
	Neither	19.4	108,349	27.4	296,429	24.7	404,778
Female	Work only ^a	3.3	18,125	5.5	56,985	4.7	75,110
	Study only ^b	69.1	381,627	50.7	524,166	57.1	905,793
	Work and study ^c	6.0	33,005	6.5	67,481	6.3	100,486
	Total work*	9.3	51,130	12.0	124,466	11.0	175,596
	Total study**	75.1	414,632	57.2	591,647	63.4	1,006,279
	Neither	21.6	119,265	37.3	386,200	31.9	505,465
Total	Work only ^a	3.5	38,755	7.8	164,446	6.3	203,201
	Study only ^b	68.8	764,236	48.8	1,031,400	55.7	1,795,636
	Work and study ^c	7.2	79,533	11.2	236,769	9.8	316,302
	Total work*	10.7	118,288	19.0	401,215	16.1	519,503
	Total study**	76.0	843,769	60.0	1,268,169	65.5	2,111,938
	Neither	20.5	227,614	32.3	682,629	28.2	910,243

* "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 80 per cent of all girls in the 7-14 years age bracket are involved in household chores compared to 56.0 per cent of boys.

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

Age	Male	Female	Total
7	46.5	65.9	55.5
8	54.4	73.4	64.3
9	54.3	78.9	66.3
10	61.8	78.6	69.7
11	60.2	88.5	73.5
12	60.1	91.7	74.7
13	58.5	88.9	74.3
14	53.5	85.3	69.3
Total	56.0	80.8	68.0

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

Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Among working children 5-14 years, approximately three out of every five are employed in the agricultural sector, 14.0 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 23.4 per cent work in services. This breakdown by industry is also consistent among working children 5-9 years and 10-14 years. Girls are more likely than boys to be employed in the services sector (39.9 vs. 15.0 per cent) and less likely to be employed in agriculture (40.2 vs. 74.1 per cent).

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

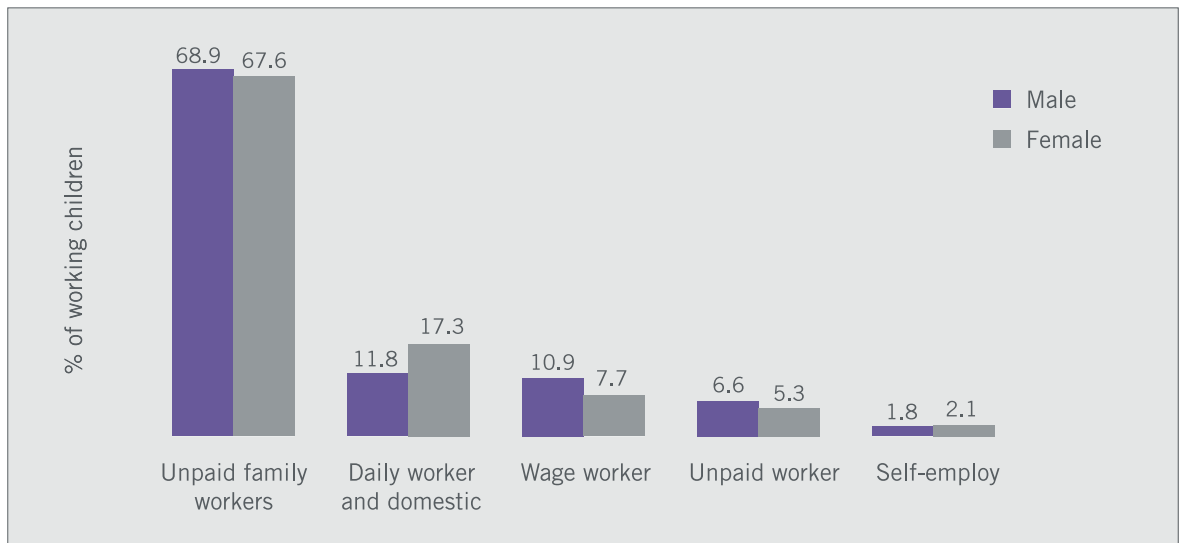


DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



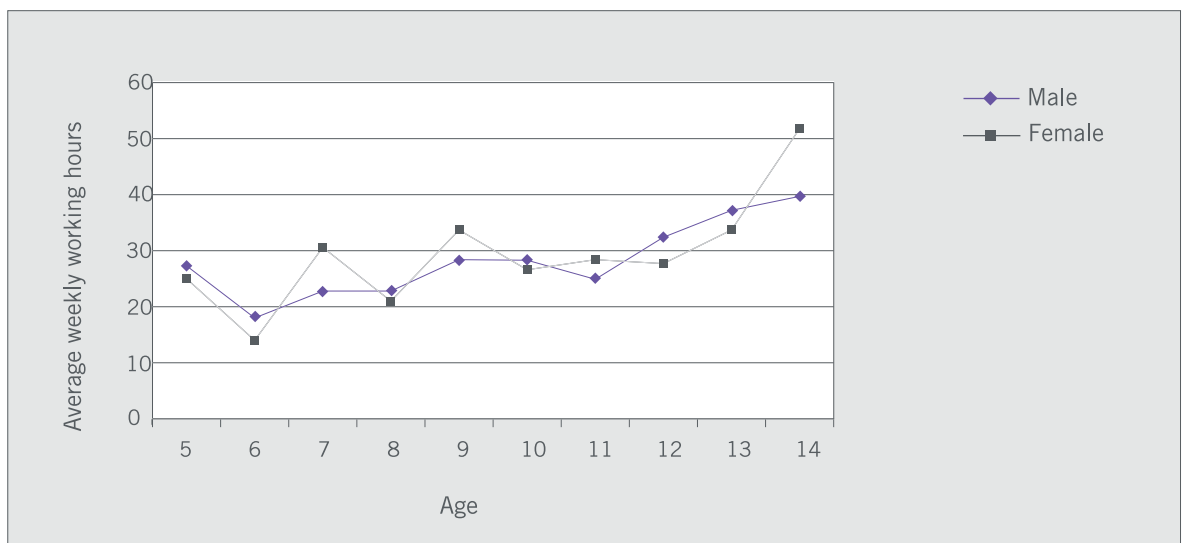
An overwhelming percentage of working children 5-14 years are employed as unpaid family workers (68.9 per cent in the case of boys and 67.6 per cent in the case of girls). Girls have a higher probability than boys to work as daily or domestic workers (17.3 per cent vs. 11.8 per cent), while boys are more likely to receive remuneration for their work than girls. Boys and girls are equally likely to work as self-employees.

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



Girls 5-14 tend to work more hours per week than boys of the same age category (35.0 hours per week vs. 32.5 hours per week). By the age of 14, girls work approximately 12.1 hours per week more than their male counterparts (51.8 hours per week vs. 39.7 hours per week).

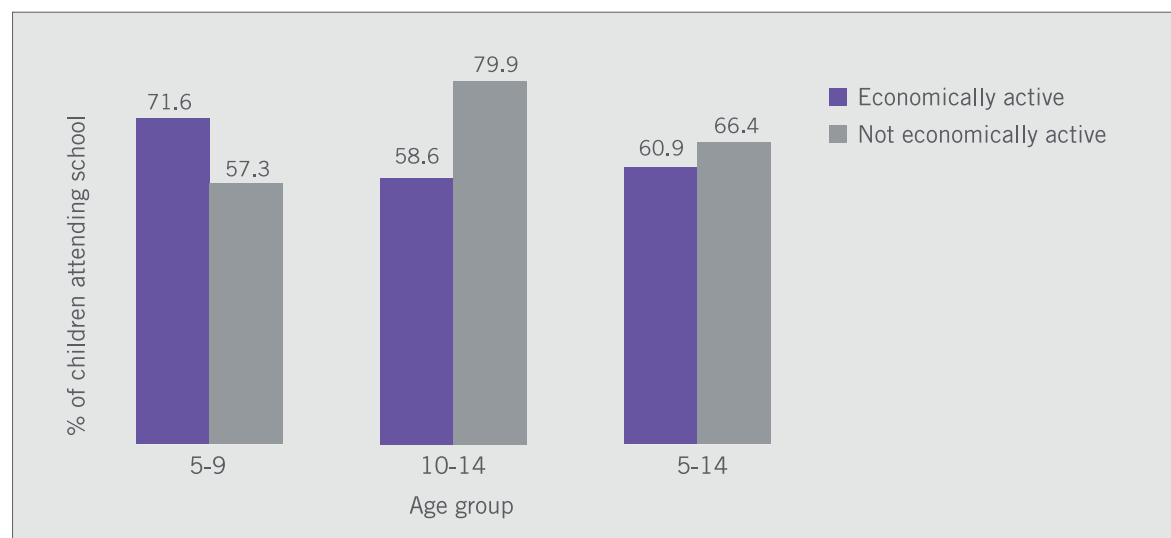
CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS BY AGE AND SEX



Child labour and children's education

Among children 5-14 years of age, those who are economically active are less likely to attend school than those who are not (60.6 vs. 66.4 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 (71.6 vs. 57.3)

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



Children's activity status and household income* level

Children from the poorest households are more likely to be engaged in the labour force without attending school than children from richer households (8.6 per cent vs. 3.8 per cent). These findings are consistent among both boys (10.7 per cent vs. 4.2 per cent) and girls (6.7 per cent vs. 3.4 per cent). Only 35.5 per cent of children from the poorest households attend school without participating in the labour force, as compared to 74.6 per cent of in the richest households.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME, SEX AND TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sex	Type of activity	Extreme Poor	Poor	Not Poor	Total
Male	Work only	10.7	9.6	4.2	7.8
	Study only	33.5	49.8	69.9	54.3
	Work and study	17.2	13.9	10.3	13.2
	Neither	38.5	26.7	15.6	24.7
Female	Work only	6.7	5	3.4	4.7
	Study only	37.3	52.1	74.2	57.1
	Work and study	6.0	7.2	5.5	6.3
	Neither	50.1	35.7	16.9	31.9
Total	Work only	8.6	7.4	3.8	6.3
	Study only	35.5	50.9	72.0	55.7
	Work and study	11.3	10.7	8.0	9.8
	Neither	44.6	31	16.3	28.2

Note: Totals may not add

* The household expenditure is used as a proxy for income

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	09-05-2002	09-06-2002
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	09-05-2002	09-06-2002
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	25-09-2003	25-10-2003
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	01-04-2004	01-05-2004
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	01-04-2004	01-05-2004
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	13-06-1989	13-06-1990

SIMPOC STUDIES

- Entendiendo el Trabajo Infantil en Guatemala, UCW-IPEC, 2003.
- Estudio Cualitativo sobre el Trabajo Infantil en Guatemala, ILO-IPEC, 2003.
- Rapid assessment on child labour in garbage dumps in Guatemala, 2002.

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