



International  
Labour  
Office

# HONDURAS CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF



International  
Programme on  
the Elimination  
of Child Labour  
(IPEC)

## SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	7
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	39.7
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	80
Net primary school enrolment rate	91
GDP per capita, PPP	\$2,873
Human Development Index Value	0.683
HDI ranking	117/177

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)	09-06-1980	09-06-1981
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	25-10-2001	25-10-2002
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	10-08-1990	09-09-1990

## RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Decreto No. 131-82 por el cual se aprueba la Constitución Política de la República de Honduras, 11 de enero de 1982 (reformada en 2003);
- Decreto No. 189-59 que promulga el Código del Trabajo, 15 de julio de 1959 (reformada en 2003);
- Decreto No. 73-96 por el que se dicta el Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, 5 de septiembre de 1996;
- Acuerdo Ejecutivo No. STSS-211-01 por el que se aprueba el Reglamento sobre Trabajo Infantil en Honduras, 10 de octubre de 2001 (“Executive Agreement”)
- Article 171 of the Constitution Of The Republic Of Honduras (11 January 1982, As Amended On 30 January 1991) - Free and compulsory basic education.

## 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 124 of the Constitution; Section 32 of the Labour Code
Admission to light work activities	Not specified	
Admission to hazardous work	18 years	Section 124 of the Constitution; Section 32 of the Children and Adolescents' Code Types of hazardous work determined: Sections 122 of the Children and Adolescents' Code; Executive Agreement STSS-211-01 of 10 October 2001

# II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the National Child Labour Survey (NCLS), conducted in 2002. 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 embedded as a module in the Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey. It collected data on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of boys and girls ages 5 to 17 years and their households.

## Children's activities

Results from the Honduras National Child Labour Survey indicate that 9.2 per cent (170,849) of all children ages 5-14 work; this is 13.3 per cent (125,703) of boys and 5.0 per cent (45,146) of girls in that age group.

3.8 per cent (70,898) of children participate in the labour force and do not attend school. The percentage is approximately four times higher for boys (6.1 per cent) than for girls (1.5 per cent). Children in rural areas are more likely to work without attending school than those in

urban areas (5.5 vs. 1.5 per cent). The gender gap between working children who do not attend school is significantly higher in rural areas (7.3 percentage points, i.e. boys: 9.1 per cent vs. girls: 1.8 per cent) than in urban areas (0.9 percentage points, i.e. boys: 1.9 per cent vs. girls: 1.0 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>	1.9	7,557	9.1	50,105	6.1	57,662
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	83.3	327,957	64.9	359,284	72.6	687,241
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	4.5	17,777	9.1	50,264	7.2	68,041
	Total work*	6.4	25,334	18.1	100,369	13.3	125,703
	Total study**	87.8	345,734	74.0	409,548	79.7	755,282
	Neither	10.3	40,383	16.9	93,768	14.2	134,151
Female	Work only <sup>a</sup>	1.0	3,691	1.8	9,544	1.5	13,235
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	84.0	318,371	72.0	383,422	77.0	701,793
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	3.8	14,413	3.3	17,497	3.5	31,910
	Total work*	4.8	18,105	5.1	27,041	5.0	45,146
	Total study**	87.8	332,784	75.3	400,918	80.5	733,702
	Neither	11.3	42,655	22.9	121,842	18.0	164,497
Total	Work only <sup>a</sup>	1.5	11,249	5.5	59,649	3.8	70,898
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	83.6	646,328	68.4	742,705	74.7	1,389,033
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	4.2	32,190	6.2	67,761	5.4	99,951
	Total work*	5.6	43,439	11.7	127,410	9.2	170,849
	Total study**	87.8	678,518	74.6	810,466	80.1	1,488,984
	Neither	10.7	83,037	19.9	215,610	16.1	298,647

\* "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.

About 80 per cent of children are involved in at least one hour of household chores per day. Girls are more likely to be engaged in household chores than boys (83.3 per cent vs. 76.5 per cent).

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

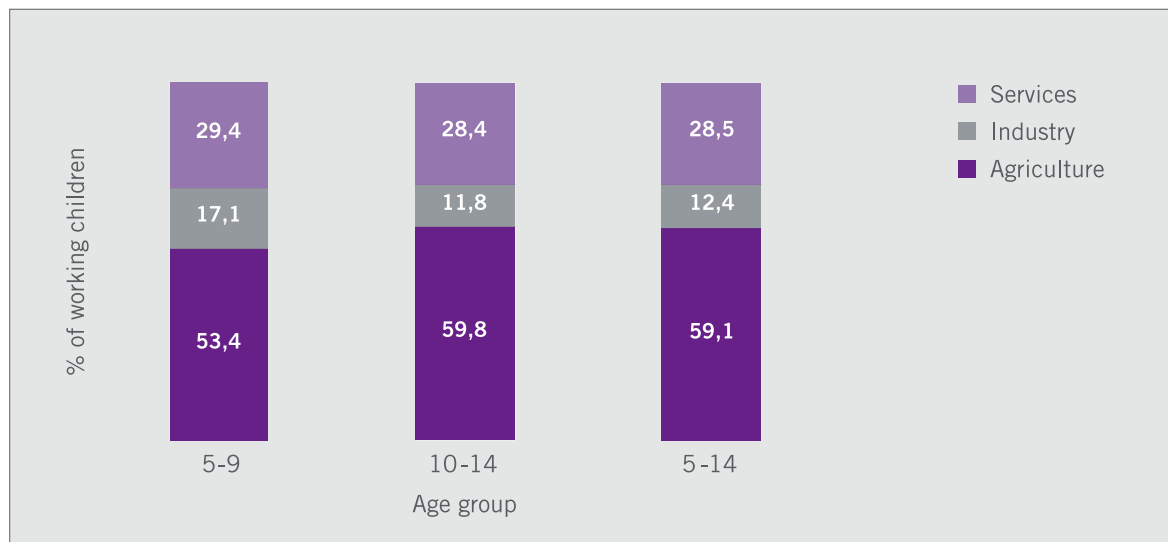
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	50.1	49.0	49.5
6	63.1	68.8	65.9
7	72.8	77.3	74.9
8	79.4	86.1	82.7
9	84.0	90.7	87.4
10	84.2	93.0	88.4
11	85.9	91.3	88.5
12	84.0	93.5	88.7
13	83.1	96.1	89.5
14	80.3	91.3	85.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>79.8</b>

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

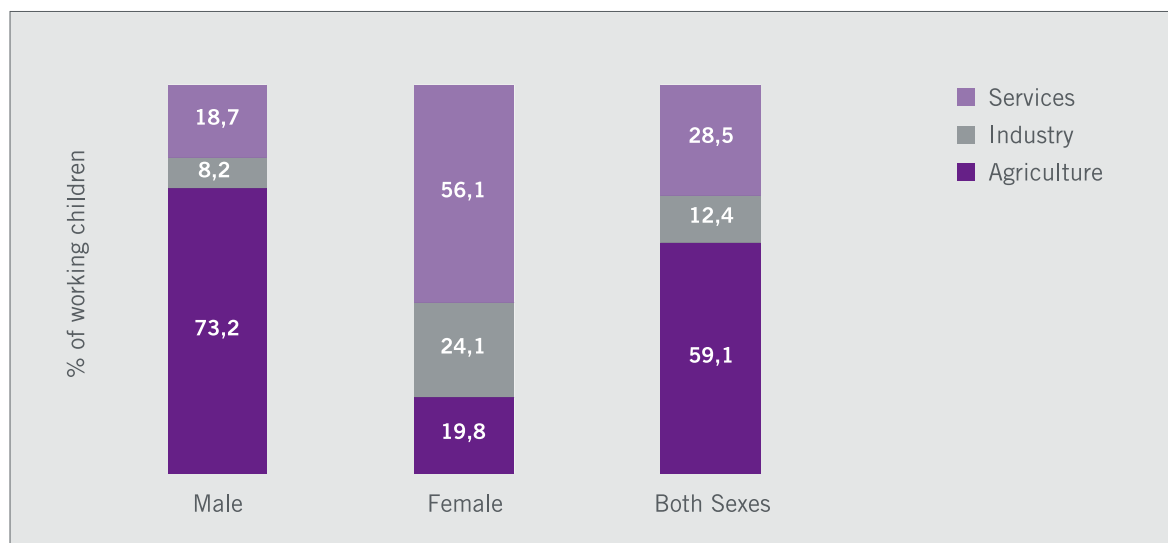
## Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Among working children approximately three out of every five are employed in the agricultural sector, 12.4 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 28.5 per cent work in services. This breakdown by industry is also consistent among working children 5-9 and 10-14 years. Girls are more likely than boys to be employed in the services sector (56.1 per cent vs. 18.7 per cent) and less likely to be employed in agricultural activities (19.8 per cent vs. 73.2 per cent).

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

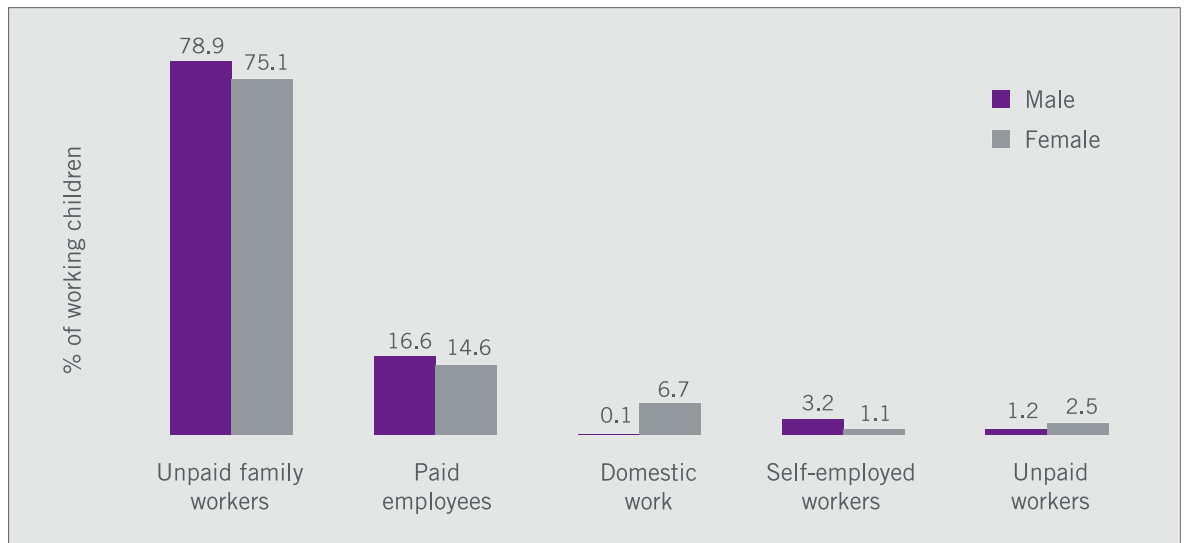


### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



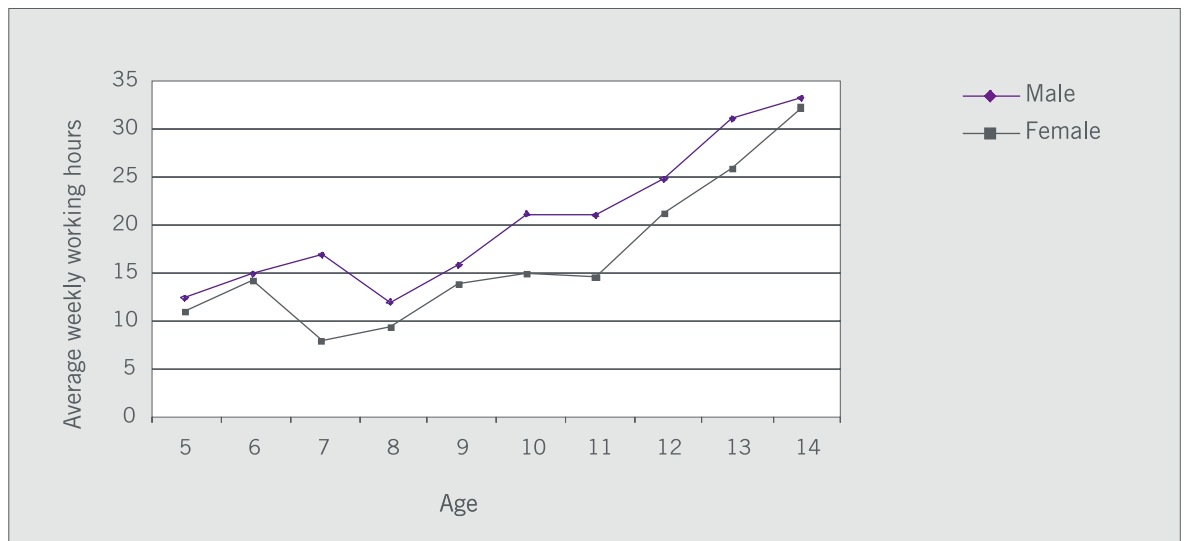
A high percentage of working children are employed as unpaid family workers (78.9 per cent in the case of boys and 75.1 per cent in the case of girls). Boys are more likely than girls to work for remuneration (16.6 per cent vs. 14.6 per cent), while domestic workers are almost exclusively girls (6.7 per cent vs. 0.1 per cent).

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



On average, boys tend to work more than girls regardless of age. In the age bracket 6 to 14 there is a difference of 2 to 8 hours per week. When reaching the age of 14, working hours among both sexes are almost on par.

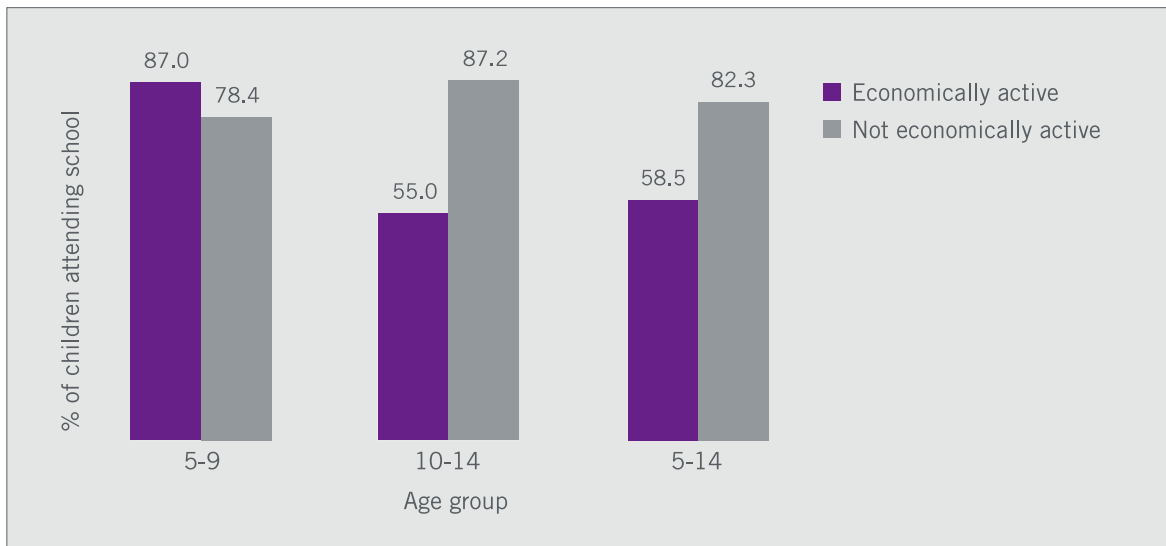
#### CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS BY AGE AND SEX



## Child labour and children's education

Economically active children ages 5 to 14 are less likely to attend school than non-working children (58.5 per cent vs. 82.3 per cent). The opposite is true for the lower and more restricted age group 5 to 9.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF 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	08-05-2002	08-06-2002
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	14-08-2002	14-09-2002
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	02-12--2003	01-01-2004
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	21-02-1957	21-02-1958

## SIMPOC STUDIES

- Trabajo infantil en Honduras: Síntesis de Estudios de Línea de Base, ILO-IPEC, 2004.
- Informe Nacional de los Resultados de la Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil en Honduras, ILO-IPEC, 2003.
- Estudio Cualitativo de la Situación del Trabajo Infantil en Honduras, ILO-IPEC, 2003.
- Estudio a Profundidad del Trabajo Infantil y Pobreza en Honduras, ILO-IPEC, 2003.

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