



2.6

Children at work

	Survey year	Children in employment					Employment by economic activity ^a			Status in employment ^a		
		% of children ages 7–14		% of children ages 7–14 in employment			% of children ages 7–14 in employment			% of children ages 7–14 in employment		
		Total	Male	Female	Work only	Study and work	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Self-employed	Wage	Unpaid family
Afghanistan		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Albania	2000	36.6	41.1	31.8	43.1	56.9	..	..	..	..	1.4	93.1
Algeria		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Angola ^b	2001	30.1	30.0	30.1	26.6	73.4	..	..	..	..	6.2	80.1
Argentina	2004	12.9	15.7	9.8	4.8	95.2	..	..	..	34.2	8.1	56.2
Armenia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Austria		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Azerbaijan	2000	9.7	12.0	7.3	4.2	95.8	..	..	..	..	2.1	88.9
Bangladesh	2006	16.2	25.7	6.4	37.8	62.2	..	..	..	–	17.0	77.8
Belarus	2005	11.7	12.1	11.2	0.0	100.0	..	..	..	..	9.2	78.8
Belgium		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Benin	2006	74.4	72.8	76.1	36.1	63.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bolivia	2005	22.0	23.9	20.1	8.1	91.9	84.4	4.3	10.1	1.2	4.4	92.9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2006	10.6	11.7	9.5	0.1	99.9	..	..	..	..	1.6	92.1
Botswana		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	2004	7.0	9.4	4.6	7.2	92.8	60.8	6.6	30.9	6.8	21.5	58.0
Bulgaria		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Burkina Faso	2004	50.0	49.0	51.0	98.1	1.9	97.2	0.4	2.2	1.3	0.4	98.3
Burundi	2000	37.0	38.4	35.7	48.3	51.7	..	..	..	3.9	85.3	..
Cambodia	2001	52.3	52.4	52.1	16.5	83.5	76.1	5.0	18.0	1.5	4.7	90.2
Cameroon ^c	2001	15.9	14.5	17.4	52.5	47.5	88.2	2.1	7.1	..	..	..
Canada		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	2000	67.0	66.5	67.6	54.9	45.1	..	..	..	..	2.0	56.4
Chad	2004	60.4	64.4	56.2	49.1	50.9	..	..	..	..	1.8	77.2
Chile	2003	4.1	5.1	3.1	3.2	96.8	24.1	6.9	66.9	..	..	..
China		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hong Kong, China		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Colombia	2005	4.0	6.2	1.8	32.8	67.2	..	..	..	12.6	39.1	48.3
Congo, Dem. Rep. ^c	2000	39.8	39.9	39.8	35.7	64.3	..	..	..	..	6.6	76.7
Congo, Rep	2005	30.1	29.9	30.2	9.9	90.1	..	..	..	..	4.2	84.5
Costa Rica ^c	2004	5.7	8.1	3.5	44.6	55.4	40.3	9.5	49.0	15.8	57.7	26.6
Côte d'Ivoire	2006	45.7	47.7	43.6	46.8	53.2	..	..	..	..	2.4	88.0
Croatia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cuba		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dominican Republic ^c	2005	5.8	9.0	2.7	6.2	93.8	18.5	9.8	57.5	23.8	19.5	56.2 ^d
Ecuador	2004	12.0	14.6	9.3	27.0	73.0	70.0	4.7	23.7	6.0	15.8	75.5
Egypt, Arab Rep.	2005	7.9	11.5	4.3	21.0	79.0	..	..	..	..	11.4	87.4
El Salvador	2003	12.7	17.1	8.1	19.5	80.5	51.0	12.5	35.4	1.5	15.3	78.4
Eritrea		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estonia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	2005	56.0	64.3	47.1	69.4	30.6	94.6	1.5	3.7	1.7	2.4	95.8
Finland		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
France		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gabon		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gambia, The	2005	43.5	33.9	52.3	32.1	67.9	..	..	..	..	1.1	87.3
Georgia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Germany		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ghana	2003	6.0	6.0	5.9	71.2	28.8	78.8	2.8	15.2	10.8	5.5	78.4
Greece		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guatemala	2004	16.8	23.1	10.5	31.3	68.7	66.1	9.1	23.5	3.4	17.8	78.9
Guinea	1994	48.3	47.2	49.5	98.6	1.4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	2000	67.5	67.4	67.5	63.7	36.3	0.9	81.1
Haiti	2005	33.4	37.3	29.6	17.7	82.3	1.8	79.4

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PEOPLE

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		Total	% of children ages 7–14		% of children ages 7–14 in employment		% of children ages 7–14 in employment			% of children ages 7–14 in employment		
			Male	Female	Work only	Study and work	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Self-employed	Wage	Unpaid family
Honduras	2004	6.8	10.4	3.2	48.6	51.4	63.4	8.3	24.7	2.7	19.9	73.8
Hungary		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	2004–05	4.2	4.2	4.2	84.9	15.2	69.4	16.0	12.4	7.1	6.8	59.3
Indonesia	2000	8.9	8.8	9.1	24.9	75.1	..	..	..	..	17.8	75.8 ^d
Iran, Islamic Rep.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iraq	2006	14.7	17.9	11.3	32.4	67.6	..	..	..	..	7.0	85.3
Ireland		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Israel		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italy		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jamaica	2002	1.1	1.5	0.6	17.1	82.9	31.3	7.7	51.4	21.6	35.1	43.3
Japan		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jordan		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kazakhstan	2006	3.6	4.4	2.8	1.6	98.4	..	..	..	..	4.0	75.0
Kenya	2000	37.7	40.1	35.2	14.1	85.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Dem. Rep.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kuwait		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kyrgyz Republic	2006	5.2	5.8	4.6	7.9	92.1	..	..	..	..	3.7	81.9
Lao PDR		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Latvia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lebanon		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	2000	30.8	34.2	27.5	17.6	82.4	..	..	..	..	3.6	83.3
Liberia	2007	37.4	37.8	37.1	45.0	55.0	..	..	..	..	1.7	79.3
Libya		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lithuania		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Macedonia, FYR	2005	11.8	14.8	8.6	2.8	97.2	..	..	..	..	3.9	89.5
Madagascar	2001	25.6	26.1	25.1	85.1	14.9	94.0	1.0	2.4	6.8	1.5	91.4
Malawi	2006	40.3	41.3	39.4	10.5	89.5	..	..	..	..	6.7	75.5
Malaysia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mali	2006	49.5	55.0	44.1	59.5	40.5	..	..	..	..	1.6	80.4
Mauritania		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mauritius		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico ^e	2004	8.9	12.2	5.6	34.1	65.9	38.1	12.3	48.0	3.7	52.0	44.2
Moldova	2000	33.5	34.1	32.8	3.8	96.2	..	..	..	..	2.9	82.0
Mongolia	2005	12.4	14.1	10.7	8.7	91.3	..	..	..	..	3.9	91.3
Morocco	1998–99	13.2	13.5	12.8	93.2	6.8	60.6	8.3	10.1	2.1	10.0	81.7
Mozambique ^c	1996	1.8	1.9	1.7	100.0	0.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myanmar		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Namibia	1999	15.4	16.2	14.7	9.5	90.5	91.5	0.4	8.0	0.1	4.5	95.0
Nepal	1999	47.2	42.2	52.4	35.6	64.4	87.0	1.4	11.1	4.2	3.3	92.4
Netherlands		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Zealand		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nicaragua	2005	10.1	16.2	3.9	30.8	69.2	70.5	9.7	19.3	1.2	13.8	85.0 ^f
Niger	2006	47.1	49.2	45.0	66.5	33.5	..	..	..	4.8	74.5	..
Nigeria		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norway		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oman		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pakistan		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama ^c	2003	5.1	7.7	2.2	38.4	61.6	57.6	3.1	38.1	12.4	24.9	50.3 ^f
Papua New Guinea		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paraguay ^c	2005	15.3	22.6	7.7	24.2	75.7	60.8	6.2	32.1	9.3	24.8	65.8
Peru	2000	24.1	25.7	22.3	4.8	95.2	72.6	2.8	24.5	1.9	6.8	91.4
Philippines	2001	13.3	16.3	10.0	14.8	85.2	64.3	4.1	30.6	4.1	22.8	73.1
Poland	
Portugal	2001	3.6	4.6	2.6	3.6	96.4	48.5	11.2	33.3
Puerto Rico	



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		% of children ages 7–14		% of children ages 7–14 in employment			% of children ages 7–14 in employment			% of children ages 7–14 in employment		
		Total	Male	Female	Work only	Study and work	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Self-employed	Wage	Unpaid family
Romania	2000	1.4	1.7	1.1	20.7	79.3	97.1	0.0	2.3	4.5	..	92.9 ^d
Russian Federation		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rwanda	2000	33.1	36.1	30.3	27.5	72.5	..	..	..	..	2.9	85.7
Saudi Arabia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	2005	18.5	24.4	12.6	61.9	38.1	79.1	5.0	14.0	6.3	4.4	84.1
Serbia	2005	6.9	7.2	6.6	2.1	97.9	..	..	..	..	5.2	89.4
Sierra Leone	2005	62.7	63.6	61.8	29.9	70.1	..	..	..	..	1.0	71.1
Singapore		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovak Republic		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Somalia	2006	43.5	45.5	41.5	53.5	46.5	..	..	..	..	1.6	94.8
South Africa	1999	27.7	29.0	26.4	5.1	94.9	..	..	..	7.1	7.1	85.8
Spain		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sri Lanka	1999	17.0	20.4	13.4	5.4	94.6	71.2	13.1	15.0	2.9	8.3	88.0
Sudan ^e	2000	19.1	21.5	16.8	55.9	44.1	..	..	..	..	7.3	81.3
Swaziland	2000	11.2	11.4	10.9	14.0	86.0	..	..	..	..	10.4	85.9
Sweden		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Switzerland		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syrian Arab Republic	2006	6.6	8.8	4.3	34.6	65.4	..	..	..	..	21.5	68.8
Tajikistan	2005	8.9	8.7	9.1	9.0	91.0	..	..	..	..	24.2	71.3
Tanzania	2001	40.4	41.5	39.2	40.0	60.0	78.5	0.2	21.3	0.9	1.0	98.2 ^d
Thailand	2005	15.1	15.7	14.4	4.2	95.8	..	..	..	..	13.5	80.0
Timor-Leste		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Togo	2006	38.7	39.8	37.4	29.8	70.2	82.9	1.3	15.1	5.0	1.6	93.4
Trinidad and Tobago	2000	3.9	5.2	2.8	12.8	87.2	..	..	..	..	29.8	64.9
Tunisia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey	1999	4.5	5.2	3.8	66.8	33.2	65.4	15.9	18.7	3.7	34.9	61.4
Turkmenistan		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uganda	2005–06	38.2	39.8	36.5	7.7	92.3	95.5	1.4	3.0	1.4	1.5	97.1
Ukraine	2005	17.3	18.0	16.6	0.1	99.9	..	..	..	..	3.1	79.3
United Arab Emirates		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United States		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uruguay		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uzbekistan	2005	5.1	5.3	4.9	1.0	99.0	..	..	..	..	3.8	78.6
Venezuela, RB ^c	2005	5.4	7.1	3.6	24.7	75.3	28.3	8.0	61.1	18.9	25.3	54.0
Vietnam	2006	21.3	21.0	21.6	11.9	88.1	..	..	..	..	5.9	91.2
West Bank and Gaza		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	1999	13.1	12.4	14.0	64.3	35.7	92.0	1.0	6.2	4.1	5.4	86.8
Zambia	2005	47.9	48.9	46.8	25.9	74.1	95.9	0.6	3.5	2.6	0.7	96.5
Zimbabwe	1999	14.3	15.3	13.3	12.0	88.0	..	..	..	3.4	28.4	68.2

a. Shares may not sum to 100 percent because of a residual category not included in the table. b. Covers only Angola-secured territory. c. Covers children ages 10–14. d. Refers to family workers, regardless of whether they are paid. e. Covers children ages 12–14. f. Refers to unpaid workers, regardless of whether they are family workers. g. Covers northern Sudan only.

About the data

The data in the table refer to children's work in the sense of "economic activity"—that is, children in employment, which is a broader concept than child labor (see ILO forthcoming for details on this distinction).

In line with the definition of economic activity adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the threshold for classifying a person as employed is to have been engaged at least one hour in any activity during the reference period relating to the production of goods and services set by the 1993 United Nations System of National Accounts. Children seeking work are thus not included in employment. Economic activity covers all market production and certain types of nonmarket production, including production of goods for own use. It excludes unpaid household services (commonly called "household chores")—that is, the production of domestic and personal services by household members for consumption within their own household.

The data are from household surveys conducted by the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, and national statistical offices. These surveys yield a variety of data on education, employment, health, expenditure, and consumption indicators that relate to children's work.

Household survey data generally include information on work type—for example, whether a child is

working for payment in cash or in kind or is involved in unpaid work, whether a child is working for someone who is not a member of the household, whether a child is involved in any type of family work (on the farm or in a business), and the like. The ages used in country surveys to define child labor range from 5 to 17 years. The data in the table have been recalculated to present statistics for children ages 7–14.

Although efforts are made to harmonize the definition of employment and the questions on employment used in survey questionnaires, significant differences remain in the survey instruments used to collect data on children in employment and in the sampling design underlying these surveys. Differences exist not only across different household surveys in the same country, but also across the same type of survey carried out in different countries.

Because of the differences in the underlying survey instruments and dates, estimates of working children are not fully comparable across countries. Caution should be used in drawing conclusions concerning relative levels of child economic activity across countries or regions based on the data.

The table aggregates the distribution of children in employment by the industrial categories of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC): agriculture, manufacturing, and services. A residual category—which includes mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, and water; construction; extraterritorial organization and other inadequately defined activities—is not presented. Both ISIC revision 2 and revision 3 are used, depending solely on the codification applied by each country in describing the economic activity. The use of two different classifications does not affect the definition of the groups presented in the table.

The table aggregates the distribution of children in employment by status in employment. Status in employment is based on the International Classification of Status in Employment (1993), which shows the distribution of children in employment by three major categories: self-employed workers, wage workers (also known as employees), and unpaid family workers. A residual category—which includes those not classifiable by status—is not presented.

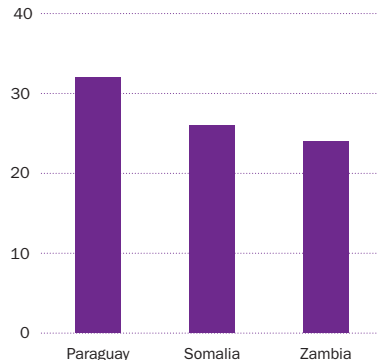
Definitions

- **Survey year** is the year in which the underlying data were collected.
- **Children in employment** are children involved in any economic activity for at least one hour in the reference week of the survey.
- **Work only** refers to children who are employed and not attending school.
- **Study and work** refer to children attending school in combination with employment.
- **Employment by economic activity** is the distribution of children in employment by the major industrial categories (ISIC revision 2 or revision 3).
- **Agriculture** corresponds to division 1 (ISIC revision 2) or categories A and B (ISIC revision 3) and includes agriculture and hunting, forestry and logging, and fishing.
- **Manufacturing** corresponds to division 3 (ISIC revision 2) or category D (ISIC revision 3).
- **Services** correspond to divisions 6–9 (ISIC revision 2) or categories G–P (ISIC revision 3) and include wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, financial intermediation, real estate, public administration, education, health and social work, other community services, and private household activity.
- **Self-employed workers** are people whose remuneration depends directly on the profits derived from the goods and services they produce, with or without other employees, and include employers, own-account workers, and members of producers cooperatives.
- **Wage workers** (also known as employees) are people who hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts that provide basic remuneration that does not depend directly on the revenue of the unit for which they work.
- **Unpaid family workers** are people who work without pay in a market-oriented establishment operated by a related person living in the same household.

Children work long hours

2.6a

Average work time among children ages 7–14 who study and work, 2005 (hours per week)



Children in many countries work long hours, often combining studying with working. In Paraguay children work more than 30 hours a week, leaving very little time for studying or any other activities.

Source: Understanding Children's Work Project.

Data sources

Data on children at work are estimates produced by the Understanding Children's Work project based on household survey data sets made available by the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour under its Statistical Monitoring Programme on Child Labour, UNICEF under its Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey program, the World Bank under its Living Standards Measurement Study program, and national statistical offices. Information on how the data were collected and some indication of their reliability can be found at www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/simpc/, www.childinfo.org, and www.worldbank.org/lsm. Detailed country statistics can be found at www.ucw-project.org.