



International
Labour
Office

NICARAGUA CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF



International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	5.4
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	39.5
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	76.7
Net primary school enrolment rate	88
GDP per capita, PPP	\$3,634
Human Development Index Value	0.698
HDI ranking	112/177

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)	02-11-1981	02-11-1982
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	06-11-2000	6-11-2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	05-10-1990	04-11-1990

RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Constitución Política de la República de Nicaragua de 19 de Noviembre de 1986 (reformada en 2000);
- Ley No. 287 por la que se dicta el Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia de 27 de mayo de 1988 (Childhood and Adolescence Code);
- Ley No. 185 de 1996, por la que se dicta el Código del Trabajo (reformada en 2003) (Labour Code);
- Resolución Ministerial sobre Higiene Industrial en los Lugares de Trabajo, de 28 de julio de 2000 (Ministerial Resolution 2000)
- Education is free and compulsory through age 12 (grade 6).

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 131 of the Labour Code; Section 73 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code
Admission to light work activities	No minimum age for light work specified	
Admission to hazardous work	18 years	Section 84 of the Constitution; Section 74 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Sections 133 and 136 of the Labour Code Some general types of prohibited hazardous work mentioned: Section 74 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Section 133 of the Labour Code; Section 78 of the Ministerial Resolution 2000

II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the National Survey on Child and Adolescent Work (ENTIA), conducted by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Labour in 2000. 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 Child Labour Module was one of two components of the ENTIA. It focused on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of boys and girls aged 5-17 and their households.

Children's activities

Results from the Child Labour Module (IPEC/SIMPOC, 2000) indicate that 9.9 per cent (141,614) of all children ages 5-14 work; this is 14.4 per cent (103,895) of boys and 5.4 per cent (37,719) of girls in that age group.

Four per cent (56,626) of children participate in the labour force and do not attend school. The percentage is approximately four times as high for boys (6.1 per cent) as for girls (1.8 per cent). Children in rural areas are more likely than those in urban areas to work and not attend school (6.6 vs. 1.7 per cent). The gender gap between working children who do not attend school is much higher in rural areas (7.2 percentage points, i.e. boys: 10.1 per cent vs. girls: 2.9 per cent) than in urban areas (1.8 percentage points, i.e. boys: 2.6 per cent vs. girls: 0.8 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	2.6	9,991	10.1	34,283	6.1	44,274
	Study only ^b	79.1	303,816	54.8	185,999	67.7	489,815
	Work and study ^c	5.4	20,667	11.5	38,954	8.2	59,621
	Total work*	8.0	30,658	21.6	73,237	14.4	103,895
	Total study**	84.5	324,483	66.3	224,953	76.0	549,436
	Neither	12.9	49,631	23.6	79,997	17.9	129,628
Female	Work only ^a	0.8	3,076	2.9	9,276	1.8	12,352
	Study only ^b	82.6	314,154	69.6	225,171	76.6	539,325
	Work and study ^c	3.1	11,621	4.2	13,746	3.6	25,367
	Total work*	3.9	14,697	7.1	23,022	5.4	37,719
	Total study**	85.7	325,775	73.8	238,917	80.2	564,692
	Neither	13.5	51,273	23.3	75,508	18.0	126,781
Total	Work only ^a	1.7	13,067	6.6	43,559	4.0	56,626
	Study only ^b	80.9	617,970	62.0	411,170	72.1	1,029,140
	Work and study ^c	4.2	32,288	7.9	52,700	6.0	84,988
	Total work*	5.9	45,355	14.5	96,259	9.9	141,614
	Total study**	85.1	650,258	70.0	463,870	78.1	1,114,128
	Neither	13.2	100,904	23.5	155,505	18.0	256,409

* "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.

Nearly 60 per cent of children are involved in household chores. Girls are more likely to perform household chores than boys (64.7 per cent vs. 52.9 per cent).

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

Age	Male	Female	Total
5	20.4	23.5	21.9
6	35.6	37.4	36.5
7	47.1	50.7	48.8
8	51.5	63.2	57.4
9	61.1	71.3	66.2
10	60.1	76.9	68.4
11	68.6	79.9	74.4
12	64.8	82.6	73.3
13	62.7	86.1	73.8
14	62.8	85.9	74.5
Total	52.9	64.7	58.7

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

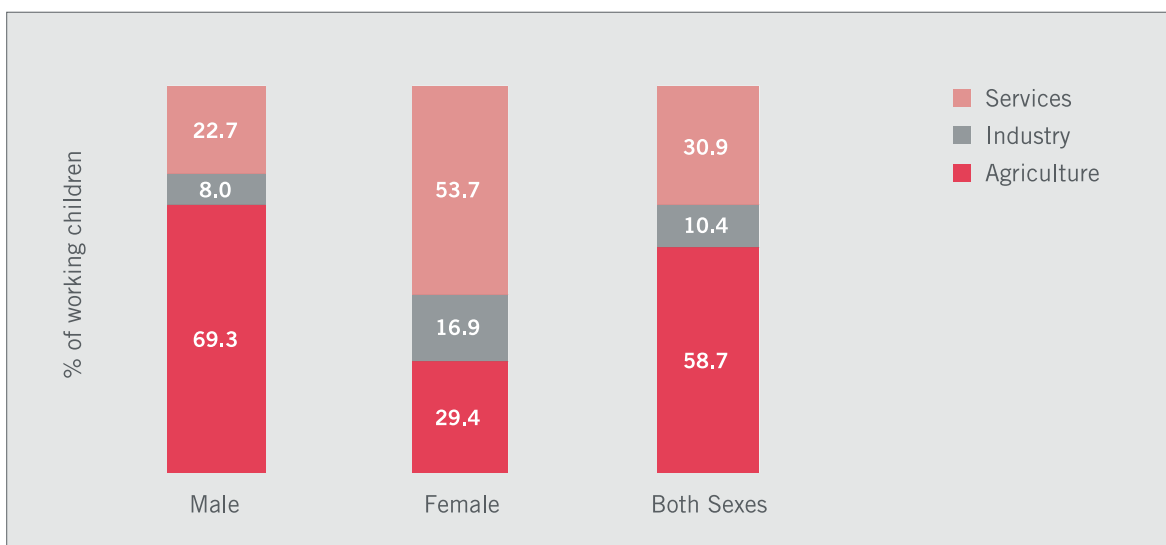
Characteristics and conditions of child labour

About three in five working children are employed in the agricultural sector, 10.4 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 30.9 per cent work in services. A similar pattern can be observed among the age subcategories 5-9 and 10-14. Girls are more likely than boys to be employed in the services sector (53.7 per cent vs. 22.7 per cent) and less likely to be employed in the agricultural sector (29.4 per cent vs. 69.3 per cent).

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

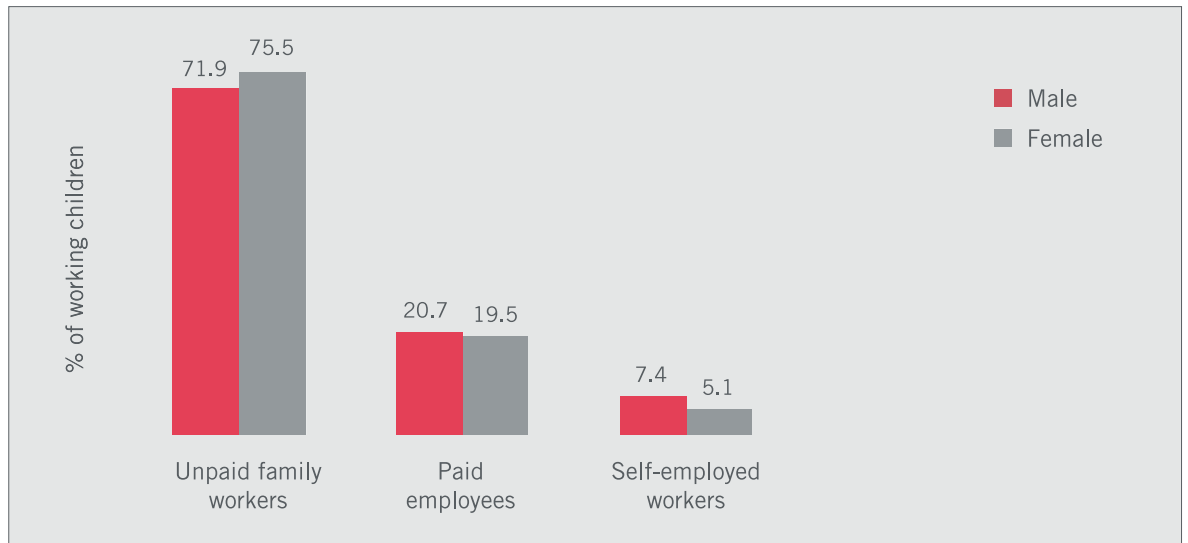


DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



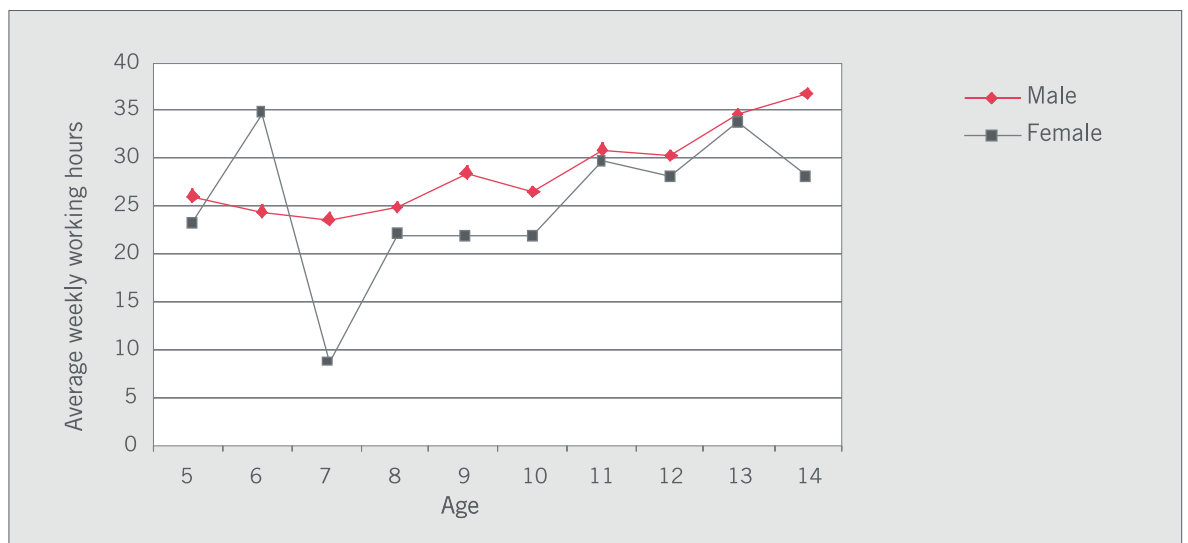
A high percentage of economically active children are employed as unpaid family workers (71.9 per cent in the case of boys and 75.5 per cent in the case of girls). More working boys (28.1 per cent) than girls (24.6 per cent) are salaried or self-employed.

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



On average, boys as of the age of 14 tend to work two hours more per week than girls.

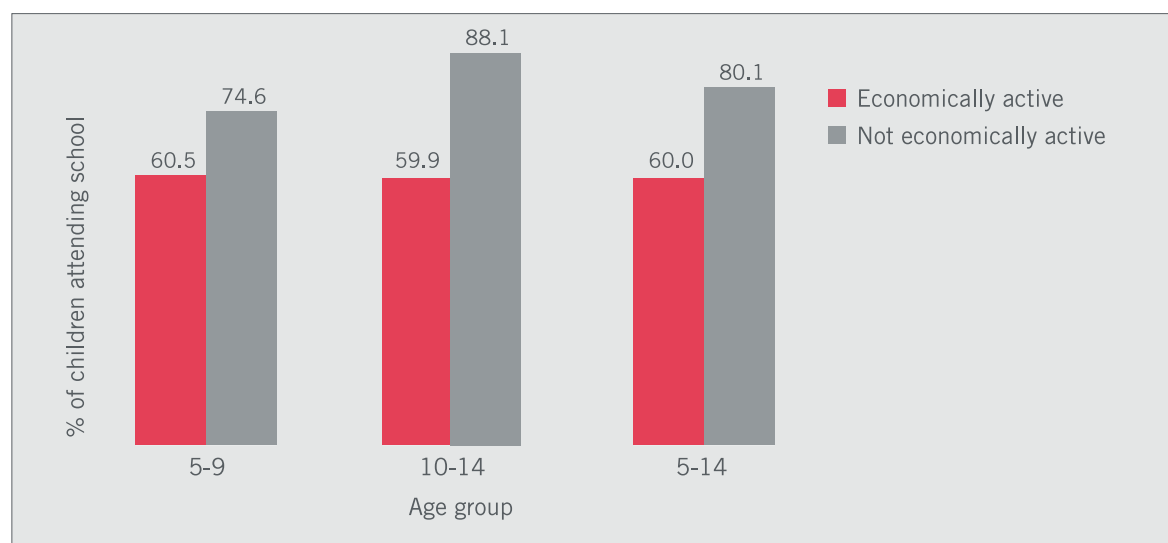
CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS BY AGE AND SEX



Child labour and children's education

Children who are economically active are less likely to attend school than their non-working peers (60.0 per cent vs. 80.1 per cent). The pattern is consistent across all age sub-categories.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 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 compared to children in households with the highest levels of per capita expenditure (8.0 per cent vs. 0.6 per cent). These findings are consistent among both boys (13.0 per cent vs. 1.0 per cent) and girls (2.9 per cent vs. 0.1 per cent). Only 55.3 per cent of children coming from the lowest-expenditure households attend school without participating in the labour force, as compared to 90.8 per cent of in the richest households.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 5-14, BY PER CAPITA INCOME QUINTILES**, SEX, AND TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sex	Type of activity	Unspecified	Quintile 1	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5	Total
Male	Work only	0.0	13.0	6.3	4.3	1.7	1.0	6.1
	Study only	90.9	48.6	60.5	72.5	82.8	89.3	67.7
	Work and study	9.1	10.6	11.5	7.5	4.9	3.9	8.2
	Neither	0.0	27.8	21.7	15.7	10.5	5.8	17.9
Female	Work only	0.0	2.9	2.6	1.5	0.6	0.1	1.8
	Study only	86.0	62.1	72.3	78.6	89.1	92.4	76.6
	Work and study	0.0	4.5	4.4	3.0	3.2	2.0	3.6
	Neither	14.0	30.4	20.7	16.9	7.2	5.5	18.0
Total	Work only	0.0	8.0	4.5	2.8	1.2	0.6	4.0
	Study only	88.1	55.3	66.2	75.6	85.8	90.8	72.1
	Work and study	3.9	7.6	8.1	5.2	4.1	2.9	6.0
	Neither	8.1	29.1	21.2	16.3	8.9	5.7	18.0

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

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

** Figures should be interpreted with caution as estimates are based on a small sample size

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	02-12-2004	02-01-2005
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	17-03-2005	17-04-2005
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	09-09-2002	09-09-2003
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	12-10-2004	11-11-2004
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	12-04-1934	12-04-1935

SIMPOC STUDIES

- Encuesta Nacional de Trabajo Infantil y Adolescente en Nicaragua, ENTIA 2000, ILO-IPEC, 2003.
- Análisis Cualitativo de la Situación del Trabajo Infantil en Nicaragua, ILO-IPEC, 2003.
- Estudio a Profundidad del Trabajo Infantil y Adolescente en Nicaragua, ILO-IPEC, 2003.

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