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*Trends in children's employment and child labour in the
Latin America and Caribbean region*

Country report for Ecuador

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As part of broader efforts towards durable solutions to child labor, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank initiated the interagency Understanding Children's Work (UCW) project in December 2000. The project is guided by the Oslo Agenda for Action, which laid out the priorities for the international community in the fight against child labor. Through a variety of data collection, research, and assessment activities, the UCW project is broadly directed toward improving understanding of child labor, its causes and effects, how it can be measured, and effective policies for addressing it. For further information, see the project website at www.ucw-project.org.

This paper is part of the research carried out within UCW (Understanding Children's Work), a joint ILO, World Bank and UNICEF project. The views expressed here are those of the authors' and should not be attributed to the ILO, the World Bank, UNICEF or any of these agencies' member countries.

*Trends in children's employment and child labour in
the Latin America and Caribbean region*

Country report for Ecuador

November 2010

Abstract

The current country brief is part of a broader effort to improve understanding of how child labour is changing in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region over recent years, and to ensure that policies relating to child labour adequately reflect these changes.

Building on data from the *Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo y Empleo Infantil* surveys from 2001 to 2006, the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in Ecuador. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling.

*Trends in children's employment and child labour in
the Latin America and Caribbean region*

Country report for Ecuador

November 2010

CONTENTS

1. National context: factors underlying the child labour phenomenon in Ecuador	1
2. Extent and nature of Children's employment.....	5
3. Trends in children employment and schooling	13
3.1 Changes in the levels of children's employment and schooling	13
3.2 Changes in the characteristics and time intensity of children's employment	16
Annex: additional statistical tables	18
Children aged 7-14 years.....	18
Children aged 15-17 years.....	19
References.....	22

1. NATIONAL CONTEXT: FACTORS UNDERLYING THE CHILD LABOUR PHENOMENON IN ECUADOR

1. The Republic of Ecuador is located on the northwestern corner of South America, bordering Colombia to the north, Peru to the southeast and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South



America and is divided into three continental regions - the Costa, Sierra, and Oriente - and one insular region-the Galápagos Islands. The continental regions extend the length of the country from north to south and are separated by the Andes Mountains, topped by tall volcanic peaks. Ecuador encompasses a wide range of natural formations and climates, from the desert like southern coast to the snowcapped peaks of the Andes Mountains to the plains of the Amazon River Basin.

Source: United Nations

2. Ecuador is a comparatively small country, but has a rich cultural diversity. Roughly 32 Indigenous cultures exist in Ecuador, comprising 14 distinct Indigenous groups. This rich and complex ethnic and linguistic spectrum has not always been widely appreciated within Ecuador itself. It is widely acknowledged that certain ethnic groups have been disadvantaged in terms of their access to social services and employment opportunities. The World Bank estimated that for the year 2001, 9.2 percent of the population belonged to a household in which either at least one member of the family self-identifies as indigenous or speaks an indigenous language. Moreover, Ecuador has observed a rapid process of urbanisation. The consequences of extensive urban growth are related to an increase in indicators of urban poverty, unemployment, access to services, informality, and lack of housing, insecurity and conflict, social segregation of space, pollution, and so forth (Boria-Vega, et al. 2007)

3. Instability has characterised Ecuador's political landscape for the last decade. Changes of government, constant turnover of civil servants, and lack of consensus on reforms have placed major constraints on the design and implementation of a medium and long-term economic and social development strategy. A succession of external shocks and natural disasters, combined with poor economic management, led to a severe macroeconomic crisis at the end of 1999. This crisis had devastating and lasting effects particularly among those in rural areas in the Costa. This was also due to El Niño climate phenomenon, and to the collapse of the banking and financial systems that affected the urban middle class (World Bank, 2000; Vos, 2002, and Schmukler, 2003). As part of the response to the crisis, the country approved structural reforms and adopted the US dollar as the national currency. The crisis of 1998-99 also had a notable effect on the real labour income, which dropped dramatically during this period and on poverty that increased significantly. Ecuador defaulted on its external debt later in 1999.

4. In comparison with the region as a whole, Ecuador shows a low per capita gross domestic product (GDP). Dollarisation in 2000 stabilised the economy, and positive growth returned in the years that followed. Indeed, Ecuador's GDP growth improved substantially from -6.3 percent in 1999 to 3.2 percent in 2005, and inflation fell from 29.2 percent to 4 percent in the same period. However, the post-dollarization recovery was fueled in part by a hike in oil prices -an important export product of the country- remittances, and increased non-traditional exports. Indeed, Ecuador's economic performance has been characterized by high volatility and dependence on the external sector. Agricultural export commodities—cocoa, coffee, and especially banana—were gradually replaced by oil in the early 1970s. Since then, the oil sector, with a 20% share of total gross domestic product and 25% of fiscal revenues, continues to be the engine of economic growth and the source of economic fluctuations.

5. Ecuador is an extremely poor country. Thirty-eight percent of its population was living in poverty in 2006 (CIA, 2009). In addition, rural poverty is undoubtedly more severe than urban poverty. Also poverty and social indicators varies considerably across and even within regions. Notwithstanding the relatively low value in the present, Ecuador has made slow but solid progress with respect to human development in the last decades. The Human Development Index (2007) for Ecuador was 0.806, which gives the country a rank of 80th out of 182 countries. Ecuador was classified with a high human development (within the developing countries). Unemployment rate remains close to 5 percent in the last years, after increasing in the second half of the nineties, especially during the crisis of 1998-99. Nevertheless, hidden unemployment had an upward tendency, causing total unemployment not having fallen below 9 percent in the last years. Disparities exist in terms of the labour market access and in terms of wages received by women, Afro-Ecuadorians, and indigenous groups.

6. Sustainable growth and macroeconomic stability are necessary conditions for the country's social development. Poverty reduction remains Ecuador's main development challenge. Political instability continues to hinder Ecuador's progress on institutional reforms. Investment in education and health doubtlessly has a positive effect on children's life circumstances. Notwithstanding in Ecuador while public expenditure directed towards the payment of the international debt has diminished, military expenditure has increased. Notably instead the expenditure on education and health has decreased.

Table 1. Ecuador: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Human Development Index (HDI) ^(a)	0.734	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.772	..
Population growth (annual %)	1,86	1,74	1,62	1,52	1,43	1,36	1,30	1,23	1,18	1,14	1,11	1,07
Population, total (thousands)	11,396	11,596	11,786	11,966	12,139	12,305	12,466	12,62	12,77	12,917	13,06	13,201
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	36,39	35,95	35,55	35,17	34,81	34,44	34,08	33,72	33,35	32,98	32,61	32,24
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	59,13	59,46	59,74	59,99	60,22	60,44	60,66	60,87	61,08	61,29	61,50	61,71
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	4,48	4,59	4,71	4,84	4,97	5,11	5,26	5,42	5,57	5,73	5,89	6,05
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	34	..	..	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	56	..	..	69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	19	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GINI index	..	..	..	53,55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	72	..	..	..	..	82	..	..	..	89	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	58	..	..	..	..	72	..	..	..	82	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	83	..	..	..	..	89	..	..	..	94	..	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	80	..	..	..	..	88	..	..	..	94	..	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	71	..	..	..	..	81	..	..	..	89	..	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	87	..	..	..	..	92	..	..	..	97	..	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	43	..	..	..	..	32	..	..	..	..	25	23,6
GDP growth (annual %)	1,75	2,40	4,05	2,11	-6,30	2,80	5,34	4,25	3,58	8,00	6,00	3,90
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	1335	1343	1375	1383	1277	1295	1347	1387	1420	1516	1589	1634
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	-0,13	0,64	2,38	0,57	-7,63	1,41	3,98	2,97	2,36	6,78	4,84	2,79
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	6,20	6,60	6,80	7,30	7,50	8,50	7,70	8,60	9,10	9,30	8,30	..
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	21,90	21,60	22,30	21,40	23,40	23,90	24,30	22,50	21,70	21,40	21,20	..
Employment in services (% of total employment)	71,90	71,80	70,80	71,20	69,10	67,60	67,50	68,90	69,20	69,30	70,40	..
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	6,80	10,40	9,20	11,50	14,20	..	10,70	9,10	11,40	8,50	7,70	..

Source: where not otherwise specified, the primary source is World Development Indicators, (2008), The World Bank

^(a) UNDP (2009) Available at: http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_ECU.html (15 Sep 2009).

2. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

7. Children's employment¹ is common in Ecuador. An estimated 14 percent of children aged 7-14 years², over 352,000 children in absolute terms, were engaged in employment in 2006. At the same time, school attendance was very high – 93 percent of children from the 7-14 years age group attended school in 2006. Involvement in employment is higher among older children. 34 percent of 15-17 year-olds (some 300,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. School attendance also appears to be lower for this age range: 72 percent of children attended school in 2006.

8. A comparison with estimates based on earlier rounds (2001 and 2004) from the same survey programme (*Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil*) points to a fall in children's employment since 2001, when 18 percent of 7-14 year-olds (431,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. Children's employment trends are discussed in section 3 of this report.

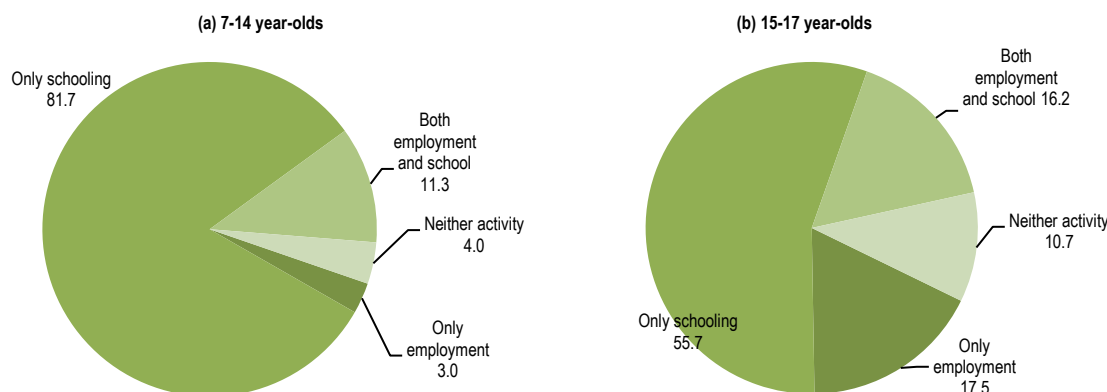
9. Disaggregating the child population into four non-overlapping activity groups – children only in employment, children only attending school, children combining school and employment, and children in neither – offers an initial view of how children's employment interacts with their schooling (Figure 1). This disaggregation shows that more than 80 percent of children aged 7-14 years attended school unencumbered by work responsibilities, while about 11 percent were combining employment and school in 2006. Only three percent of all 7-14 year-olds were in employment without also attending school. A residual group of children (four percent of 7-14 year-olds) were reportedly neither employed nor attending school. Activity patterns differed somewhat for older children aged 15-17.³ More children from this age group were only in employment (eighteen percent) and fewer were only in school (less than 56 percent).

¹ *Children in employment, or children's employment*, is a broad concept covering all market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods for own use). It includes forms of work in both the formal and informal sectors, as well as forms of work both inside and outside family settings. Involvement in employment for at least one hour during the reference period (usually the week preceding the survey) is sufficient for a child to be classified as employed. This definition does not, however, include unpaid domestic and personal services performed in a child's own household (e.g., cleaning, preparing meals, care of other household members and other household chores).

² The lower bound of seven years coincides with the age at which children are expected to attend school regularly.

³ Additional statistics are provided in the Appendix.

Figure 1. Distribution of children by activity category, 7-14 years and 15-17 years age groups



Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2006.

10. Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by residence, age, sex and ethnicity (Table 3, Table 4 and Figure 2).

- Children's employment is largely a rural phenomenon. Children living in cities and towns are considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to be employed, at every age and for both sexes. There is less variation in school attendance by place of residence, even if school attendance remains higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Children living in rural areas are also less likely to study only and much more likely to combine employment and school than their urban counterparts.
- Boys are more likely than girls to be in employment (17 percent versus 12 percent), and the gender gap widens with age. Gender plays relatively a minor role in children's school attendance in Ecuador: the share of boys and girls in school is almost the same.
- Children's employment also rises sharply with age. Older children are almost five times more likely than their younger counterparts to be in employment. However, the number of very young working children is far from negligible. Some 17,000 (five percent) of seven year-olds are already engaged in employment.
- There are large differences by ethnicity in children's employment. Indigenous children in the 7-14 years age group are about four times more likely to be in employment compared to their non-indigenous peers. At the same time, they are less likely to benefit from schooling (Table 2).

Table 2. Child activity status, by sex, residence, and ethnicity, 7-14 years-olds

Background characteristics		Mutually exclusive activity categories				Total in employment ^(a)	Total in school ^(b)
		Only employment	Only schooling	Employment and schooling	Neither activity		
Sex	Male	3.7	79.6	13.2	3.5	16.9	92.9
	Female	2.3	83.9	9.3	4.6	11.6	93.1
Residence	Urban	1.1	90.5	4.7	3.7	5.9	95.2
	Rural	6.0	67.6	21.8	4.6	27.8	89.4
Ethnicity	Indigenous	7.2	49.0	41.4	2.3	48.7	90.5
	Non indigenous	2.6	84.9	8.3	4.2	10.9	93.2
Total 7-14		3.0	81.7	11.3	4.0	14.3	93.0

Notes: (a) Involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) Involvement in schooling regardless of employment status.

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2006.

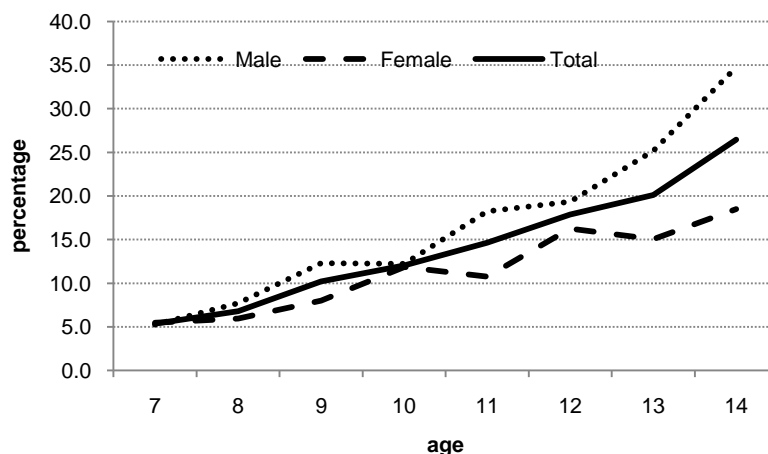
Table 3. Child activity status, by sex, residence, 15-17 years-olds

Background characteristics		Mutually exclusive activity categories				Total in employment ^(a)	Total in school ^(b)
		Only employment	Only schooling	Employment and schooling	Neither activity		
Sex	Male	22.1	50.3	21.3	6.3	43.4	71.6
	Female	12.5	61.5	10.6	15.4	23.1	72.1
Residence	Urban	10.7	67.9	12.0	9.4	22.7	79.9
	Rural	30.1	33.0	23.8	13.1	53.9	56.8
Ethnicity	Indigenous	41.7	21.2	32.0	5.1	73.7	53.2
	Non indigenous	15.6	58.4	14.9	11.1	30.5	73.3
Total 15-17		17.5	55.7	16.2	10.7	33.7	71.8

Notes: (a) Involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) Involvement in schooling regardless of employment status.

Source: UCW, calculation based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2006.

Figure 2. Children's employment by age and sex



Source: UCW, calculation based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2006.

11. Children's employment also appears to vary in terms of industrial sector in which children are found and according to the specific modalities under which they work (Table 4). Children's employment is concentrated overwhelmingly in the agricultural sector. Sixty-nine percent of 7-14 year-old children are employed in agriculture, against 15 percent in trade, seven percent in services and six percent in manufacturing. The majority of children in employment work for their families as unpaid labourers (81 percent of 7-14 year olds children). A lower share of working children (14 percent) is involved in wage employment. The remaining children are engaged in other non-family activities, such as domestic workers or self-employed. There are some differences by sex and place of residence concerning the modality of employment. Non wage labour is mainly performed by female and rural children. By contrast, boys and children living in cities and towns are more likely to be involved in wage employment.

12. Variations by ethnicity in the composition of children's employment are large. Indigenous children, who are primarily rural residents, are much more likely than their non-indigenous peers to work in agriculture. Moreover, the majority of indigenous children in employment work for their family as unpaid workers (Table 4).

Table 4. Sector and modality of child economic activity, by sex, residence and ethnicity, 7-14 age group

Characteristics	Sector					Modality				
	Agriculture	Manufact.	Trade	Services	Other	Unpaid	Self	Wage	Domestic	
Sex	Male	68.1	7.0	16.0	6.3	2.7	76.4	4.1	19.3	0.2
	Female	71.0	5.3	14.8	8.9	0.1	88.3	2.9	6.2	2.6
Residence	Urban	13.7	13.1	47.5	21.8	3.9	61.5	9.7	26.9	1.9
	Rural	88.1	4.0	4.6	2.4	0.9	87.9	1.6	9.7	0.9
Ethnicity	Indigenous	88.8	2.8	6.4	1.8	0.2	92.6	2.3	4.3	0.8
	Non indigenous	60.8	7.8	19.4	9.7	2.3	76.2	4.2	18.2	1.3
Total 7-14		69.3	6.3	15.5	7.3	1.6	81.2	3.6	14.0	1.2

Source: UCW, calculation based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2006.

13. Employment is time intensive for Ecuadorian children. Children aged 7-14 years in employment log an average of over 18 working hours per week. Working hours are strongly negatively correlated with school attendance – children in employment only put in more than twice as many hours each week as children combining employment and school (Table 5).

14. Differences in the time intensity of work are not large between indigenous and non indigenous children in employment. Time intensity varies only slightly by place of residence and sex. The gap in weekly working hours between boys and girls is wider among children in employment only. Boys are clustered around 34 hours per week, while girls put in an average of 29 hours per week. Of particular note is the relatively large number of children only in employment living in urban areas putting in exceptionally long working hours. They log an average of 39 hours per week (41,400 children in absolute terms) compared with 30 hours per week put in by their rural counterparts.

Table 5. Average weekly working hours, by sex, residence and ethnicity, 7-14 age group

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling
Sex	Male	19.3	34.1	15.2
	Female	16.8	29.3	13.6
Residence	Urban	19.4	39.0	14.7
	Rural	17.9	30.2	14.5
Ethnicity	Indigenous	18.0	31.7	15.6
	Non indigenous	18.4	32.4	14.1
Total 7-14		18.3	32.3	14.6

Source: UCW calculations based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2006.

15. Before concluding the discussion of children's employment in the 2006 reference year, it is worth addressing one final question: the extent to which this work constitutes "child labour" for elimination in accordance with

international legal standards ratified by Ecuador.⁴ This question is critical for the purposes of prioritising and targeting policy responses to working children.

Table 6. Child labour legislative framework: ratified conventions relating to child labour

CONVENTION	Ratification
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	19-09-2000
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	19-09-2000
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	23-03-1990

Source: ILO, 2009

16. Estimates of child labour are presented below based on the international legal standards and the new global guidelines for child labour measurement, and applying the general minimum working age specified by Ecuador upon ratification of ILO Convention No. 138. The child labour definition constructed on this basis consists of (i) children in employment below the age of 14 years; and (ii) children aged 14-17 years in hazardous forms of employment⁵. Hazardous forms, in turn, consist of work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, as set out in Article 3, subparagraph (1) of ILO Convention No. 138. As it is difficult to match national legislation to available statistical information, child labour is approximated as children in employment below the minimum working age, and children in hazardous work. Involvement in hazardous work is estimated on the basis of the hazardous industries⁶, occupations⁷ and conditions⁸ utilised in the ILO global child labour estimates.

⁴ Child labour is a narrower concept than children in employment. Implicit in this distinction is the recognition that work by children *per se* is not necessarily injurious to children or a violation of their rights. Three main international conventions – the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ILO Convention No. 182 (Worst Forms) and ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age) – define child labour and provide a framework for efforts against it.

⁵ The two categories derive specifically from ILO Convention No. 138, which stipulates that the minimum age for admission to employment or work should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, not less than 15 years (Art. 2), and that children in the age group 15 (or the national minimum age for employment, if different) to 17 years are, in principle, allowed to work, unless they are in “any type of work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons” (Article 3).

⁶ Hazardous industries consist of: (1) mining; (2) quarrying; and (3) construction.

⁷ Hazardous occupations consist of: (1) optical and elect equip operators; (2) health associated professional; (3) nursing midwife; (4) protective services; (5) forestry and related workers; (6) fishery, hunters and trappers; (7) miners, shot fires, stone cutters and carvers; (8) building frame and related workers; (9) building finishers; (10) metal moulders, welders, and related workers; (11) blacksmith, tool makers and related workers; (12) machinery mechanics and fitters; (13) electrical and electronic equip mechanics and fitters; (14) precision workers in metal; (15) potters, glass makers and related workers; (16) mining & mineral processing plant operators; (17) metal processing plant op.; (18) glass, ceramics and related plant op.; (19) wood processing & papermaking plant op.; (20) chemical processing plant op.; (21) power production and related plant operators; (22) metal & mineral machine operators; (23) chemical machine operators; (24) rubber mach. op.; (25) wood products mach. op.; (26) textile, fur, leather mach. op.; (27) food mach. op.; (28) assemblers; (29) other mach. op.; (30) motor vehicle

17. A number of qualifications should be kept in mind in interpreting the child labour estimates calculated in this manner. First, the estimates do not include hazardous household chores, despite the fact that the Resolution II of the 18th International Conference of Child Labour Statisticians leaves to the Governments the option of including them in the child labour estimates,⁹ due to data limitations. Second, they do not include children in worst forms other than hazardous,¹⁰ again due to a lack of data. Third and most importantly, Ecuadorian legislation contains a number of sector-specific provisions concerning minimum working age and hazardous work that are not taken into account in the estimates. For these reasons, the estimates do not capture the entire population of child labourers in the country and nor do they strictly coincide with the legal definition of child labour in Ecuador. Nonetheless, they provide a useful benchmark for international comparative and monitoring purposes.

18. Child labour measured on this basis is common in Ecuador. Over 284,000 children below the age of 14 years are in employment, and an additional 276,000 (14-17 year-old) children are in hazardous forms of work or are working excessive hours. Putting these groups together yields an estimate of 561,000 children aged 5-17 years in child labour, 14 percent of this age group (Table 7).

driver; (31) agric and other mobile plant op.; (32) ships' deck crew and related workers; (33) street vendors & related workers; (34) shoe cleaning other street services; (35) messengers, porters, doorkeepers, & related workers; (36) garbage collectors & related workers; (37) agric. fishery and related workers; (38) mining and construction labourers; and (39) transport and freight handlers.

⁸ Hazardous conditions consist of work exceeding 43 hours per week. It is worth mentioning that these estimates do not take into account different exposure to risks at the workplace.

⁹ Global guidelines for child labour statistics are set out in Resolution II (2008) of the Eighteenth International Conference of Child Labour Statisticians (ICLS). The resolution states that child labour may be measured in terms of the engagement of children in productive activities either on the basis of the general production boundary or on the basis of the SNA production boundary. The former includes unpaid household services (i.e., household chores) while the latter excludes it. When the general production boundary is used as the basis for measuring child labour, the resolution recommends classifying those performing hazardous unpaid household services as part of the group of child labourers for measurement purposes. (For further details, see: Resolution II, Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labour, as cited in: International Labour Organization, *Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 24 November–5 December 2008. Resolution II*. Rpt. ICLS/18/2008/IV/FINAL, International Labour Office, Geneva, 2009).

¹⁰ Worst forms other than hazardous refer relate to Art. 3(a)-(c) in ILO Convention No. 182: (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; and (c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.

Table 7. Child labour indicators, by age group, sex and residence, 5-17 age group

		Children in employment		Children in hazardous work		Children in Child Labour	
		Age 5-13		Age 14-17		Age 5-17	
		No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group
Sex	Male	165149	11.9	196457	32.3	361606	18.1
	Female	119765	9.0	80333	13.8	200097	10.5
Rural	Urban	62697	3.7	87379	11.5	150076	6.1
	Rural	222217	21.4	189410	44.5	411626	28.2
Total		284914	10.5	276789	23.3	561703	14.4

Source: UCW calculations based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2006.

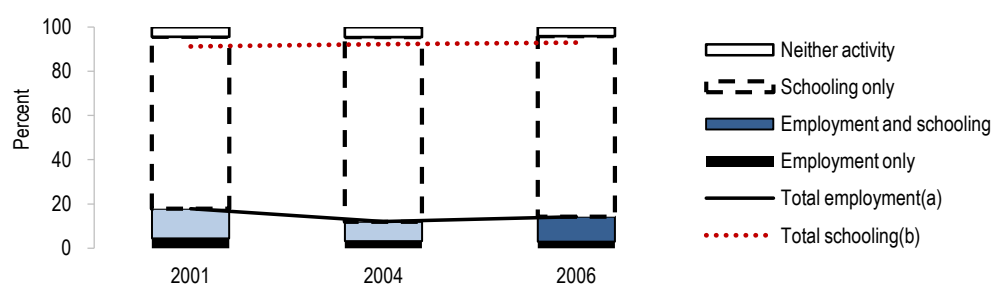
19. Table 7 shows that children's involvement in child labour is largely a rural phenomenon. Children living in cities and towns are considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to engage in work which constitutes child labour. Gender plays a role in the child labour phenomenon in Ecuador. Differences by sex in children involvement are small among 5-13 year-olds, but emerge more clearly among 14-17 year-olds. Indeed, boys in the latter age group are almost two times more likely than their female counterparts to be involved in hazardous forms of work (18 percent versus 11 percent).

3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

3.1 Changes in the levels of children's employment and schooling

20. A comparison of the results of Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo y Empleo Infantil surveys from 2001 to 2006 indicates a total decrease in employment among 7-14 year-olds children of about four percentage points over this period, from 18 percent to 14 percent (Figure 3). The school attendance of 7-14 year-olds, already high in 2001 at 91 percent, rose further to 93 percent over the same period (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Changes in children's activity status , 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2006



Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status. (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of work status.

Source: UCW, calculations based on Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

21. A closer look at changes over the period reveals that between 2001 and 2004, the share of children in employment decreased from 18 percent to 12 percent. This decline was mainly due fewer children working in addition to attending school (Table 8).

Table 8. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2006

Activity Status	2001	2004	2006
Only employment	4.5	3.2	3.0
Only schooling	77.8	83.5	81.7
Both activities	13.4	8.8	11.3
Neither activity	4.3	4.5	4.0
Total employment^(a)	17.9	12.0	14.3
Total school^(b)	91.2	92.3	93.0

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in economic activity, regardless of school status; (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: UCW, calculations based on Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006

22. The period from 2004 to 2006 then saw a slight rise in children's employment of about two percentage points. But this rise was not at the expense of children's school attendance. Rather, it was driven by the increase of children combining employment and school. The proportion of children in employment but not in school, the group whose development prospects is the most compromised, fell steadily over the 2001-2006, by a total of about one-third (Table 8).

23. Tables 9 and 10 look at changes in children's employment and schooling broken down by sex and residence. They suggest that overall progress was broad-based, extending to both girls and boys and to children living in both rural and urban settings. Progress in reducing employment was greatest for boys (from 22 percent in 2001 to 17 percent in 2006) and for children living in rural areas (from 32 percent in 2001 to 28 percent in 2006). But rural-urban gaps in both school attendance and employment remained wide in 2006 (Table 10).

Table 9. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2001-2006, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Only employment	5.4	4.2	3.7	3.5	2.3	2.3
Only schooling	74.4	81.6	79.6	81.3	85.6	83.9
Both activities	16.7	10.5	13.2	10.0	7.0	9.3
Neither activity	3.5	3.8	3.5	5.1	5.2	4.6
Total employment^(a)	22.1	14.6	16.9	13.6	9.3	11.6
Total schooling^(c)	91.1	92.0	92.9	91.4	92.6	93.1

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006

Table 10. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2001-2006, by residence

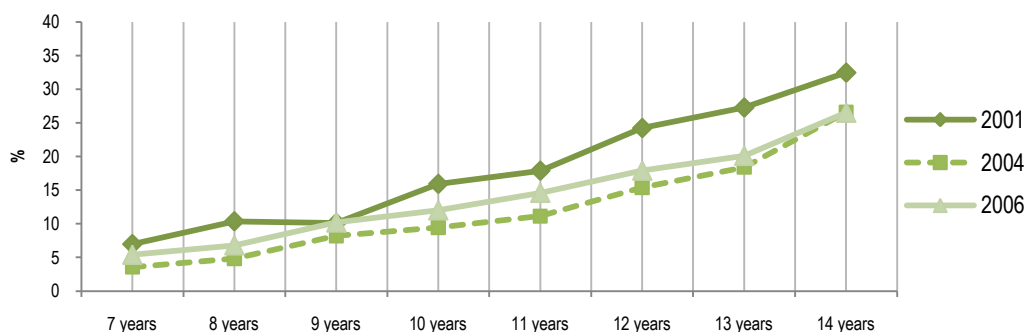
Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Only employment	1.8	1.1	1.1	8.6	6.8	6.0
Only schooling	88.3	91.8	90.5	61.9	69.9	67.6
Both activities	6.6	3.8	4.7	23.7	16.8	21.8
Neither activity	3.3	3.2	3.7	5.8	6.6	4.6
Total employment^(a)	8.3	5.0	5.9	32.3	23.6	27.8
Total schooling^(b)	94.9	95.7	95.2	85.6	86.7	89.4

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

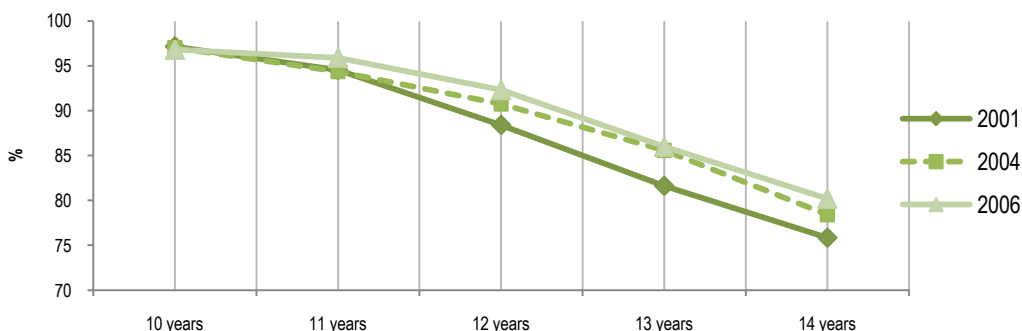
24. Changes in children's employment also extended to the entire 7-14 years age range. Figure 4 illustrates how the distribution of children involved in employment by age has changed across the three reference years period. The figures highlight that while in 2001 the percentage of children in employment increased sharply from the age of nine years, in 2006, children's employment increased relatively steadily until the age of 14 years. What is most striking is that during the reversal of 2004-2006, children's employment increased at every age. As Figure 5 indicates, the percentage of children attending school increased from the age of 10 years, highlighting that children tend to stay longer in school.

Figure 4. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 2001-2006, by age



Source: UCW, Calculation based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006

Figure 5. Changes in children's school attendance, 2001-2006, by age



Source: UCW calculation based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

25. A comparison of the results of Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo y Empleo Infantil surveys from 2001 to 2006 for older, 15-17 year-old, children indicate that a greater proportion are delaying entry into employment to further their studies (Table 11). The proportion of 15-17 year-olds in employment only fell by almost one-third from 2001 to 2006,

from 24 percent to 18 percent. At the same time, the proportion of 15-17 year-olds only attending school rose from 48 to 56 percent. As shown in Table 11, the slight increase in the proportion of the 15-17 years old children in employment in the 2004-2006 period was mainly guided by the increase of children combining employment and school (from 12 percent to 16 percent).

Table 11. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 2001-2006

Activity Status	2001	2004	2006
Only employment	24.2	19.6	17.5
Only schooling	47.6	55.5	55.7
Both activities	16.3	12.3	16.2
Neither activity	12.0	12.5	10.7
Total employment^(a)	40.5	32.0	33.7
Total school^(b)	63.8	67.8	71.8

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: UCW calculation based on Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

3.2 Changes in the characteristics and time intensity of children's employment

26. The 2001-2006 period also saw changes in the composition and time intensity of children's employment. Compared to 2001, children aged 7-14 years in employment in 2006 were more likely to work in the agriculture and trade sector. This was coupled with a decrease in the fraction employed in the manufacturing and services sector (Table 12). The proportion of children involved in unpaid family work increased by almost five percentage points over the whole period considered, from 75 percent to 80 percent. At the same time, the proportion of children in employment working for a wage fell from 20 percent to 15 percent.

Table 12. Trends in child activity status during 2001-2006, 7-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	2001	2004	2006
Agriculture	66.6	70.0	69.3
Manufacturing	9.9	4.7	6.3
Trade	12.8	16.7	15.5
Services	8.7	5.2	7.3
Other	2.0	3.5	1.6
Unpaid	74.8	75.5	81.2
Self	4.9	6.9	3.6
Wage	20.2	17.6	15.2

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Table 13. Changes in average weekly working hours, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2006, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2001	2004	2006
Total	26.2	21.7	18.3
Agriculture	24.8	20.6	17.0
Manufacturing	30.5	25.9	25.2
Trade	24.1	22.1	19.9
Services	30.9	18.4	18.5
Other	43.1	41.4	28.3
Unpaid	23.1	18.5	16
Self	22.2	24.1	17.9
Wage	38.4	34.5	30.8
Employment only	37.6	33.9	32.3
Employment and schooling	22.3	17.2	14.6

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

27. The time intensity of children's employment fell by about eight hours per week over the 2001-2006 period (Table 13). The reduction in working hours extended to all work sectors and work modalities, and to both Children in employment only and children combining employment and school.

ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

Children aged 7-14 years

Table A1. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2006, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Agriculture	22.1	12.8	13.7	84.0	89.8	88.3
Manufacturing	21.3	10.6	13.8	5.4	2.6	3.9
Trade	33.5	50.8	46.8	4.7	4.9	4.5
Services	20.1	16.5	21.1	4.3	1.3	2.4
Other	3.0	9.3	4.5	1.6	1.5	0.9
Unpaid	50.9	52.4	57.9	84.2	83.5	87.4
Self	10.9	16.8	10.2	2.6	3.5	1.6
Wage	38.3	30.8	32.0	13.3	13.0	10.9

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Table A2. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2006, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Agriculture	65.1	71.2	67.3	69.2	68.0	68.8
Manufacturing	10.7	5.0	7.4	8.6	4.1	6.5
Trade	14.1	16.0	16.23	10.6	17.8	15.6
Services	7.1	5.0	6.1	11.5	5.5	7.3
Other	3.1	2.8	3.0	0.2	4.6	1.9
Unpaid	71.4	72.4	74.3	80.45	80.6	79.7
Self	5.7	7.1	4.3	3.6	6.6	3.8
Wage	22.9	20.5	21.3	16.0	12.8	16.5

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Children aged 15-17 years

Table A3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2006, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Only employment	29.6	25.5	22.1	18.8	13.0	12.5
Only schooling	44.5	52.0	50.3	50.7	59.5	61.5
Both activities	19.4	14.4	21.3	13.1	10.0	10.6
Neither activity	6.6	8.1	6.3	17.4	17.5	15.4
Total employment^(a)	48.9	39.9	43.4	31.9	23.0	23.1
Total schooling^(b)	63.9	66.4	71.6	63.8	69.5	72.1

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Table A4. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2006, by residence

Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Only employment	13.9	10.5	10.7	40.9	35.6	30.1
Only schooling	61.4	69.6	67.9	25.3	31.0	33.0
Both activities	14.0	8.5	12.0	20.0	19.1	23.8
Neither activity	10.8	11.5	9.4	13.8	14.3	13.1
Total employment^(a)	27.8	18.9	22.7	60.9	54.7	53.9
Total schooling^(b)	75.3	78.0	79.9	45.3	50.1	56.8

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Table A5. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 2001-2006, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	2001	2004	2006
Agriculture	49.0	55.2	47.5
Manufacturing	13.1	10.6	9.2
Trade	16.9	15.4	20.8
Services	14.8	9.2	14.2
Other	6.2	9.6	8.4
Unpaid	46.8	46.2	43.6
Self	6.0	8.8	6.0
Wage	41.7	40.2	46.3
Domestic	5.6	4.8	4.2

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Table A6. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2006, by sector, schooling status and modality

	2000	2004	2006
Total	37.8	33.9	31,2
Agriculture	36.6	31.4	28,8
Manufacturing	39.2	37.3	39,4
Trade	33.0	36.1	28,4
Services	43.4	30.7	34,7
Other	44.8	44.2	37,3
Unpaid	31.6	27.5	23,6
Self	37.7	31.6	30
Wage	43.0	40.3	38
Domestic	49.8	46.3	45
Employment only	43.1	39.0	39
Employment and schooling	29,7	25.8	22.7

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Table A7. **Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2006, by residence**

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Agriculture	15.6	18.7	11.1	73.4	75.0	77.5
Manufacturing	17.7	16.3	13.4	9.8	6.8	5.7
Trade	31.9	29.8	39.5	6.0	5.2	5.3
Services	25.5	19.4	23.8	7.0	3.4	6.3
Other	9.4	15.9	12.3	3.9	9.7	5.2
Unpaid	28.5	25.5	28.5	60.2	54.7	56.0
Self	9.2	13.5	8.1	3.6	5.4	4.3
Wage	53.0	51.2	57.6	33.4	35.3	36.9
Domestic	9.3	9.7	5.8	2.8	4.6	2.8

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

Table A8. **Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2006, by sex**

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Agriculture	51.6	55.5	48.9	44.9	46.6	44.5
Manufacturing	13.2	10.5	9.5	13.1	10.7	8.6
Trade	17.1	15.1	20.4	16.7	14.7	21.5
Services	8.9	9.8	8.6	23.9	9.9	25.3
Other	9.3	9.1	12.6	1.4	18.1	0.1
Unpaid	40.7	38.8	37.6	56.3	51.2	55.3
Self	5.9	8.6	6.9	6.13	8.8	4.1
Wage	53.1	51.7	55.3	23.8	22.1	28.4
Domestic	0.4	0.9	0.1	13.7	17.9	12.2

Source: Ecuador, Encuesta de Empleo, Desempleo, Subempleo y Empleo Infantil, 2001, 2004 and 2006.

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