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

Country report for El Salvador

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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.

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Country report for El Salvador

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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 Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples* surveys from 2001 to 2007, the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in El Salvador. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling.

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CONTENTS

1. National context: factors underlying the child labour phenomenon in El Salvador	1
2. Extent and nature of children's employment.....	4
3. Trends in children's employment and schooling.....	11
3.1 Changes in the levels of children's employment and schooling	11
3.2 Changes in the characteristics and time intensity of children's employment	15
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 EL SALVADOR

1. El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America. El Salvador has an area about 21,000 km² and a population of 6 million of inhabitants. It borders the Pacific Ocean between Guatemala and Honduras.



El Salvador is separated from Nicaragua by the Gulf of Fonseca. San Salvador is the capital of El Salvador and the most important metropolis of the republic.

2. Almost 90% of El Salvador's population is of mixed Indian and Spanish extraction. About 1% is indigenous; very few

Indians have retained their customs and traditions (US Department of State website).

3. El Salvador is a Lower Middle Income Country with a distinguished record of first generation structural reforms (World Bank 2009). Coming out of a costly decade-long civil war in the 1980s, El Salvador strong record of economic reforms since the early 1990s has resulted in major benefits in terms of improved social conditions, diversification of its export sector, and access to international financial markets at investment grade levels. The introduction of the dollar in the monetary regime resulted in macroeconomic stability, low inflation, reduced business uncertainty, and low interest rates (World Bank, 2005).

4. The economy grew by an impressive 6 percent per year from 1990-1995 and, then by an average rate of 2.8 percent from 1998-2002 (World Bank 2005). During the last two years, the economy has been showing signs of recovery with growth reaching 4.2 percent in 2006 and 4.7 in 2007, the highest growth rate since 1999. Indicators reveal a pickup in broad economic activity since the end of 2005, driven by a strong performance of the agricultural and construction sectors, as well as private sector services. In addition, the constant growth of remittances is providing an added boost to consumption (remittances were 18 percent of GDP in 2007). The pickup in economic activity has occurred despite the sharp spike in oil prices, while tax revenues improved near expectations and public sector deficit tends to decline (World Bank, 2009). El Salvador has posted important gains toward meeting most of the Millennium Development Growth targets since 1990. The extreme poverty target had been

met by 2002 and the child mortality target is likely to be achieved before 2015 (The World Bank, 2009). Impressive progress was also made in social areas—including basic education enrolment, infant and maternal mortality, access to reproductive health services and access to safe water. However, progress in the fight against poverty slowed after 2002—mostly due to the coffee crisis, the 2001 earthquakes, and the slowdowns in the global and domestic economies (World Bank, 2009).

5. Notwithstanding its achievements, El Salvador faces important challenges as it looks toward consolidating and extending these gains. For example, despite important gains, a number of key social indicators – especially in education and access to safe water – are still poorer than the average for the Latin America region and for Lower Middle Income Countries (IBRD and IFC, 2005). The persistently high levels of crime and violence have negatively affected the image of the country and the investment climate. Crime and violence in El Salvador also undermines social capital and erodes the assets and incomes of the poor, impedes safe access to education and reduces employment opportunities (IBRD and IFC, 2005).

Table 1. El Salvador: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Human Development Index (HDI) ^(a)	..	..	..	..	0.72	..	..	..	..	0.74	..	0.74
Population growth (annual %)	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Population, total (thousands)	5,787	5,837	5,878	5,914	5,945	5,972	5,995	6,016	6,037	6,058	6,081	6,106
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	38.2	38.0	37.8	37.6	37.3	37.0	36.6	36.2	35.7	35.1	34.5	33.8
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	56.5	56.6	56.7	56.8	56.9	57.1	57.3	57.6	57.9	58.3	58.8	59.3
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.9
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	37.2	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	49.8	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.5	..	..	..	..	..
GINI index	52.2	..	52.2	..	51.9	..	52.3	49.4	..	49.7	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	..	..	..	..	82.0	..	..	..	..	..	86.0	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	..	..	..	..	72.0	..	..	..	..	..	80.0	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	..	..	..	..	89.0	..	..	..	..	..	90.0	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	..	..	..	..	79.0	..	..	..	..	..	84.0	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	..	..	..	..	60.0	..	..	..	..	..	68.0	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	..	..	..	..	92.0	..	..	..	..	..	94.0	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	..	..	..	..	35.0	..	..	..	..	27.0	25.4	23.8
GDP growth (annual %)	1.7	4.2	3.7	3.4	2.2	1.7	2.3	2.3	1.9	3.1	4.2	4.7
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	1,985	2,052	2,114	2,174	2,209	2,236	2,280	2,324	2,359	2,423	2,515	2,621
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	0.7	3.4	3.0	2.8	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.5	2.7	3.8	4.2
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	28.1	25.0	25.1	22.1	21.6	21.8	19.7	18.2	19.1	20.0	18.9	..
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	24.9	23.9	24.6	25.0	24.2	23.6	24.2	24.6	23.7	22.2	23.0	..
Employment in services (% of total employment)	47.0	50.7	50.3	52.9	54.1	54.5	55.7	57.2	57.2	57.8	58.2	..
Unemployment, total (% of total labour force)	7.7	8.0	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.2	6.9	6.8	..	6.6	..

Source: where not otherwise specified, the primary source is World Development Indicators (2009), The World Bank

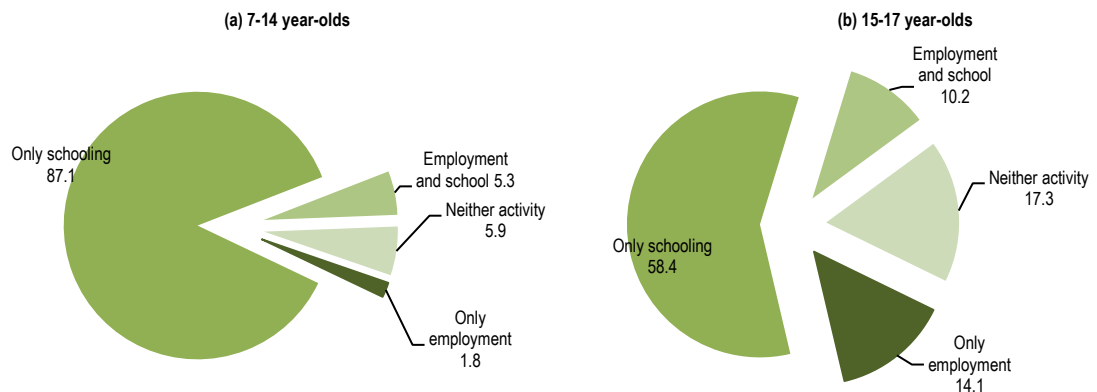
^(a)UNDP, 2009 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>

2. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

6. Data from the Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (EHPM) of 2007 show that children's involvement in employment¹ is not uncommon in El Salvador. An estimated seven percent of children aged 7-14² years, over 80,000 children in absolute terms, were in employment in 2007. At the same time, school attendance was high – 92 percent of children from the 7-14 years age group attended school in 2007. Involvement in employment is higher among older children. 24 percent of 15-17 year-olds (some 91,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. School attendance also appears to be lower for this age range: only 69 percent of children attended school in 2007.

7. A comparison with previous survey data points to a slight decrease in children's employment: an estimated nine percent of 7-14 year-olds (107,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment in 2001 against seven percent in 2007. Children's employment trends are discussed in more detail in section 3 of this report.

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



Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2007

8. 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 activity– offers an initial view of how children's employment interacts with their schooling (Figure 1). This disaggregation shows that 87 percent of 7-14 year-olds attended school unencumbered by work responsibilities, while about five

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.

percent combined employment and school in 2007. Only two percent of all 7-14 year-olds worked without also attending school, while the remaining six percent of 7-14 year-olds were “inactive”, i.e., not involved in employment or in schooling. Activity patterns differed somewhat for older children, 15-17 year-old children³, with a greater share in employment and a smaller share in school (Figure 1).

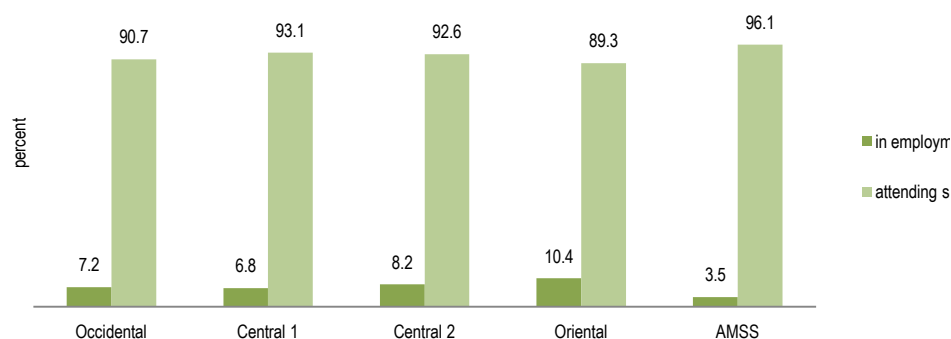
Table 2. Children's activity status, by sex and residence, 7-14 age group

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	2.6	84.2	7.5	5.7	10.1	91.7
	Female	0.8	90.1	3.0	6.1	3.8	93.1
Residence	Urban	0.9	91.4	3.4	4.2	4.3	94.8
	Rural	2.8	81.5	7.7	8.0	10.5	89.2
Total		1.8	87.1	5.3	5.9	7.1	92.4

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

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

Figure 2. Children's employment and school attendance rates, 7-14 year-old age group, by region



Note: Occidental region: Santa Ana, Ahuachapán and Sonsonate; Central 1 region: Libertad and San Salvador, excluding the metropolitan area of San Salvador (AMSS), Chalatenango and Cuscatlán; Central 2 region: San Vicente, La Paz and Cabañas; Oriental: Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión; AMSS region: Metropolitan area of San Salvador (San Salvador, Mejicanos, San Marcos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, Delgado, Ilopango, Soyapango, Antiguo Cuscatlán, Nueva San Salvador, San Martín, Nejapa y Apopa).

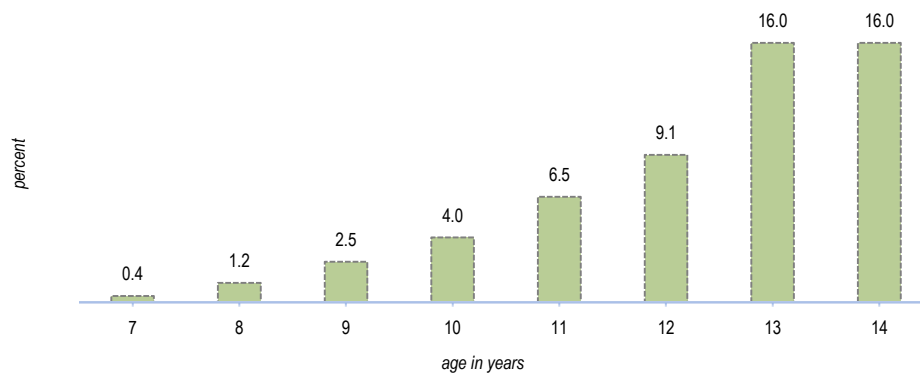
Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

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

³ Additional statistics are provided in the Appendix.

- Boys in the 7-14 years age group are more likely to be in employment than girls of the same age (10 percent versus four percent) and less likely to attend school only (84 percent versus 90 percent).
- Children's employment is mainly a rural phenomenon. Children living in cities and towns are less likely to be in employment than their rural counterparts (4 percent versus 11 percent). At the same time, urban children are more likely to attend school generally (95 percent versus 89 percent), and much more likely to attend school only (91 percent versus 82 percent).
- The Oriental region features the highest level of employment (10 percent) and lowest level of school attendance (89 percent). In the metropolitan area of San Salvador (AMSS), by contrast, less than 4 percent of 7-14 year-olds are in employment and 96 percent of children attend school.
- Child employment rises with age. Around 2,000 (one percent of) eight year-olds, 6,000 (four percent of) ten year-olds, 14,000 (nine percent of) twelve year-olds and 23,000 (16 percent of) fourteen year-olds are in employment.

Figure 3. Children's involvement in employment, by age



Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

10. Table 3 shows that the overwhelming majority of children in employment work for their families as unpaid labour (74 percent of 7-14 year-olds). Most of remaining working children are in paid employment (24 percent). Very few working children are self-employed (around two percent). Work modality appears to be conditioned to a considerable extent by children's sex and residence. Girls aged 7-14 years are more likely than boys to work for their families (79 percent versus 73 percent), while boys are relatively more likely to be involved in waged work (25 percent versus 18 percent). Children living in cities and towns are less likely than their rural counterparts to work for their

families (67 percent versus 78 percent), and more likely to be involved in paid employment (31 percent versus 20 percent).

11. By sector, agriculture accounts for the largest proportion of children aged 7-14 years in employment – 50 percent – against 25 percent in trade, 10 percent in services and 13 percent in manufacturing (Table 3). There are large differences in the nature of children's employment by sex and place of residence. Agriculture not surprisingly predominates in rural areas while work in services and manufacturing are more important in urban areas. Girls are much more likely than boys to work in services (67 percent versus 24 percent) and in manufacturing (21 percent versus 11 percent), and less likely to be found in agriculture (12 percent versus 64 percent).

Table 3. Sector and modality of child employment by sex and residence, 7-14 age group

Characteristics		Sector					Modality		
		Agriculture	Manuf.	Trade	Service	Other	Paid	Self	Unpaid
Sex	Male	63.7	10.7	18.1	5.6	1.9	25.4	2.1	72.5
	Female	12.0	20.6	43.7	23.7	0.0	18.4	2.6	78.9
Residence	Urban	15.5	19.1	44.4	18.6	2.4	30.8	2.4	66.8
	Rural	68.4	10.2	14.5	6.0	0.9	19.7	2.1	78.1
Total 7-14		50.1	13.3	24.9	10.4	1.4	23.6	2.2	74.2

Note: category "Other" includes construction, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2007

12. Employment is typically time intensive for the Salvadorian children (Table 4). Children aged 7-14 years in employment log an average of over 25 hours each week. Working hours are strongly negatively correlated with school attendance – children only in employment put in 13 hours more each week than children who combine employment and school. Time intensity varies few by sex and place of residence.

Table 4. Average weekly working hours by sex and residence, 7-14 age group

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling
Sex	Male	25.1	34.3	21.8
	Female	26.4	38.6	23.0
Residence	Urban	28.3	36.7	26.0
	Rural	23.9	34.7	19.9
Total 7-14		25.4	35.3	22.1

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2007

13. Before concluding the discussion of children's employment in 2007, 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 El Salvador.⁴ This question is critical for the purposes of prioritising and targeting policy responses to working children.

Table 5. El Salvador: Ratified conventions relating to child labour

CONVENTION	Ratification
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	23.01.1996
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	12.10.2000
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	10.07.1990

Sources: (a) ILO, 2009

(b) Office of the High Commission for the Human Rights (OHCHR), 2009

14. 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 El Salvador 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 plan 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 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

15. A number of qualifications should be kept in mind in interpreting the child labour estimates calculated in this manner. First, these 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 estimates⁹, due to data limitations. Second, they do not include children in worst forms other than hazardous¹⁰ again due to a lack of data. Third and most importantly, sector-specific provisions (if any) concerning minimum working age and hazardous work 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 El Salvador. Nonetheless, they provide a useful benchmark for international comparative and monitoring purposes.

16. Child labour measured on this basis is not uncommon in El Salvador. Over 58,000 children below the age of 14 years are in employment and an additional 86,000 (14-17 year-old) children are in hazardous forms of work or are working excessive hours. Putting these groups together yields an estimate of 144,000 children aged 5-17 years in child labour, eight percent of this age group (Table 6).

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

		Children in employment		Children in hazardous work (a)		Children in Child Labour (b)	
		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	42,274	6.6	69,394	26.0	111,668	12.4
	Female	15,788	2.6	16,321	6.4	32,109	3.7
Residence area	Urban	20,287	2.9	30,011	10.0	50,298	5.1
	Rural	37,775	6.9	55,704	25.2	93,479	12.2
Total		58,062	4.7	85,715	16.5	143,777	8.2

Notes: (a) The term hazardous forms refers to Art. 3(d) in ILO Convention No. 182, i.e., "...any activity or occupation which, by its nature or type has, or leads to, adverse effects on the child's safety, health, or moral development." ILO Convention No. 182 states that the "types of work referred to under Article 3(d) shall be determined by national laws or regulations or by the competent authority, after consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned, taking into consideration relevant international standards, in particular Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999." The definition of excessive hours used in the the ILO/IPEC global estimates, i.e., work at or beyond a threshold of 43 hours per week, is used for this calculation. (b) Does not include children in so-called "unconditional worst forms" of child labour, a group that is beyond the scope of standard household surveys

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

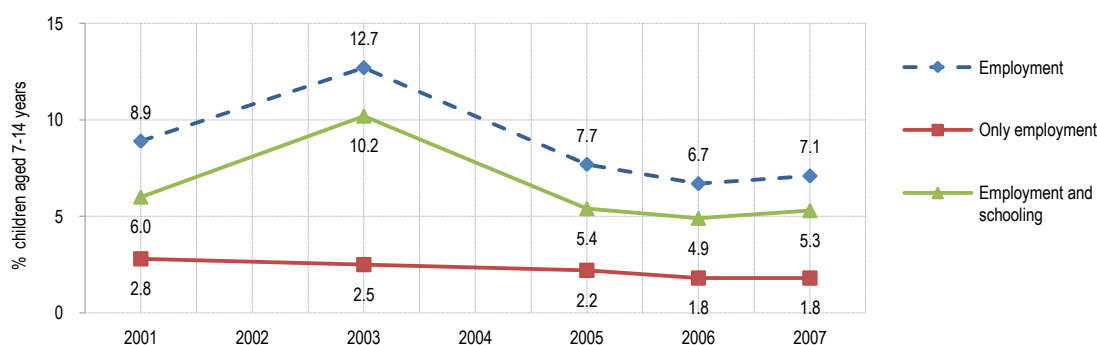
17. Table 6 shows that children's involvement in child labour is largely a rural phenomenon. More than 12 percent of rural children aged 5-17 years are engaged in some forms of child labour (versus 5 percent in urban areas). Gender plays an important role in the child labour phenomenon in El Salvador. Males aged 5-17 years are three times more likely to be involved in hazardous forms of work than their female counterparts (12 percent versus 4 percent).

3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

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

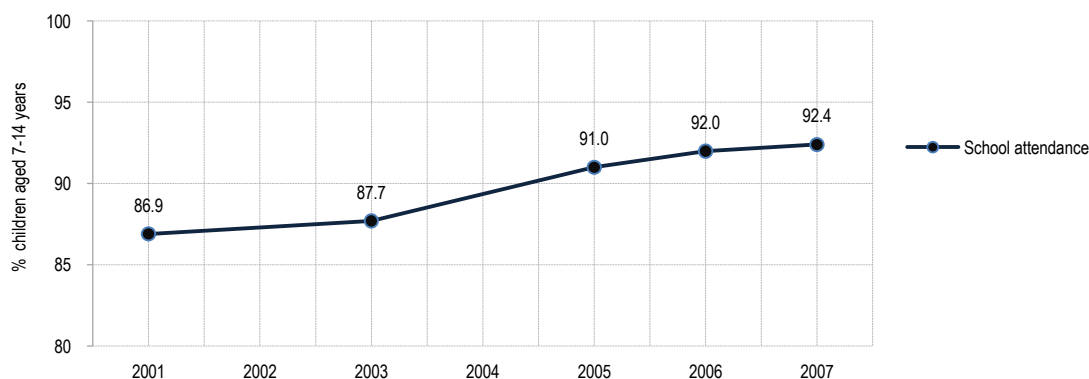
18. A comparison of the results of the El Salvador EHPM surveys from 2001 to 2007¹¹ indicates a total decline in employment among 7-14 year-olds of almost two percentage points over this period, from nine percent to seven percent (Figure 4). But progress against children's employment was not even – there was a sharp reversal during 2001-2003 and another slight rise after 2006. A closer look at changes over the period shows that these reversals were almost entirely the product of a slight increase of the proportion of children combining employment and school. The proportion of children in employment without going to school falls steadily from 2001 to 2006. School attendance of 7-14 year-olds rose gradually from 87 to 92 percent over the same period (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2007



Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Figure 5. Changes in children's school attendance , 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2007



Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

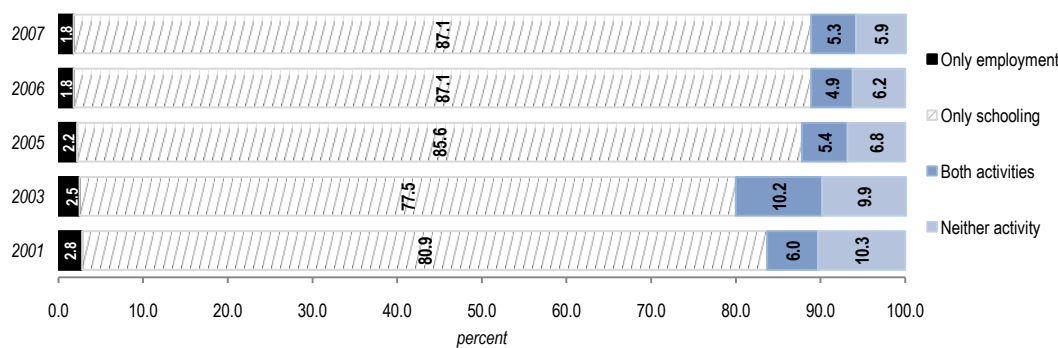
¹¹ EHPM 2001 and 2003 were conducted in July-December and October-December respectively. EHPM 2005, 2006 and 2007 are annual survey.

19. The largest increase in children's employment occurred in the period between the 2001 and 2003 EHPM surveys, when the proportion of children in employment rose by almost four percent. An analysis of the reasons behind the rise during 2001-2003 is beyond the scope of this paper, but it possible to speculate that it was related to the coffee crisis and earthquakes that had a devastating impact on families and children in the country. The EHPM survey for the year 2005 showed a return to a downward trend in children's employment.

20. Figure 6 and Table 7 illustrate in more detail how the composition of children's activities changed over the 2001 to 2007 period. They show that the measured decrease in children's employment was the product of a decrease of the proportion of children in employment only and the consequent increase of the proportion of children in school only. During the period from 2001 to 2007, there was also a pronounced decrease of the proportion of children in neither activity, from 10 percent to six percent.

21. The two reversals during 2001-2003 and 2006-2007 were the product again of the increase of the proportion of children combining employment and school. The proportion of children in employment but *not* in school, the group whose development prospects are most compromised, fell steadily over the 2001 to 2007 period, from three percent to two percent.

Figure 6. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007



Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table 7. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2007

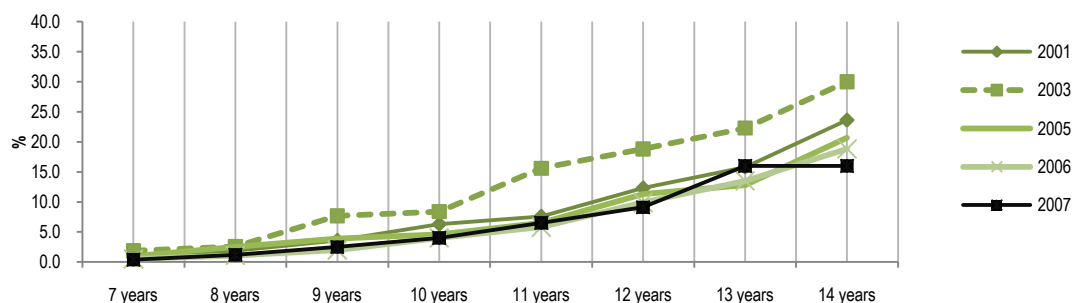
Activity Status	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Only employment	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.8
Only schooling	80.9	77.5	85.6	87.1	87.1
Both activities	6.0	10.2	5.4	4.9	5.3
Neither activity	10.3	9.9	6.8	6.2	5.9
Total employment^(a)	8.8	12.7	7.6	6.7	7.1
Total school^(b)	86.9	87.7	91.0	92.0	92.4

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

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

22. Table 8 and 9 and Figure 7 look at changes in children's employment and schooling broken down by age, sex, residence area. They suggest that the overall decline in children's employment during 2001-2007 was broad-based, extending to both girls and boys, to children living in both rural and urban settings, and to children across the 7-14 years age spectrum. Progress in increasing school attendance was greatest in rural areas (from 82 percent in 2001 to 89 percent in 2007).

Figure 7. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 2001-2007, by age



Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table 8. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 age group, 2001-2007, by sex

Activity status	MALE					FEMALE				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Only employment	4.0	4.2	3.3	2.7	2.6	1.7	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.8
Only schooling	78.6	73.7	83.7	84.8	84.2	83.2	81.4	87.5	89.6	90.1
Both activities	8.3	12.9	6.9	6.8	7.5	3.7	7.4	3.9	3.0	3.0
Neither activity	9.1	9.2	6.1	5.8	5.7	11.5	10.5	7.5	6.6	6.1
Total employment^(a)	12.3	17.1	10.2	9.5	10.1	5.4	8.1	5.0	3.9	3.8
Total schooling^(b)	86.9	86.6	90.6	91.6	91.7	86.9	88.8	91.4	92.6	93.1

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of work status.
Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table 9. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 age group, 2001-2007, by residence

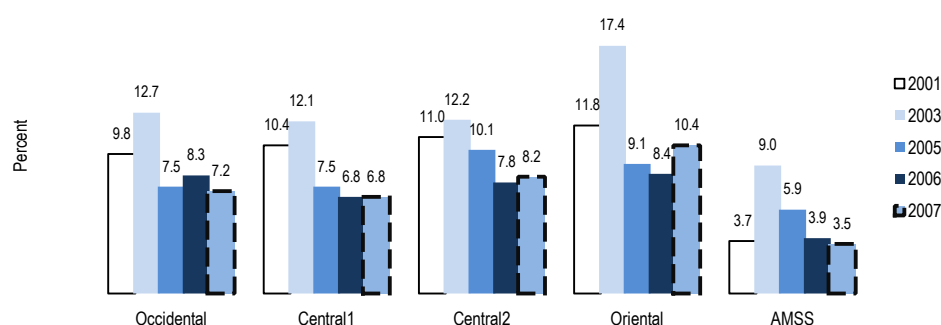
Activity status	URBAN					RURAL				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Only employment	1.3	0.8	1.3	0.8	0.9	4.5	4.4	3.3	3.0	2.8
Only schooling	87.4	84.0	90.0	92.2	91.4	73.9	70.0	80.3	80.8	81.5
Both activities	4.4	7.8	4.1	3.4	3.4	7.8	12.9	7.0	6.9	7.7
Neither activity	7.0	7.4	4.6	3.6	4.2	13.8	12.7	9.4	9.3	8.0
Total employment^(a)	5.7	8.6	5.4	4.2	4.3	12.3	17.3	10.3	9.9	10.5
Total schooling^(b)	91.8	91.8	94.1	95.6	94.8	81.7	82.9	87.3	87.7	89.2

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

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

23. The El Salvador EHPM data for the 7-14 year-olds point to large regional differences in terms of children's employment trends (Figure 8 and Table 10). Comparing data from 2001 and 2007, children's employment fell by 2-3 percent in Occidental, Central 1 and Central 2 and Oriental regions¹², while in the metropolitan area of San Salvador (AMSS) children's employment remained almost unchanged. The Oriental and AMSS regions were most affected by the reversal in progress during 2001 to 2003. The Occidental region, where school attendance rose by eight percent, made the most progress in terms of education over the 2001 to 2007 period (Table 10).

Figure 8. Children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, by region



Note: Occidental region: Santa Ana, Ahuachapán and Sonsonate; Central 1 region: Libertad and San Salvador, excluding the metropolitan area of San Salvador (AMSS), Chalatenango and Cuscatlán; Central 2 region: San Vicente, La Paz and Cabañas; Oriental: Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión; AMSS region: Metropolitan area of San Salvador (San Salvador, Mejicanos, San Marcos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, Delgado, Ilopango, Soyapango, Antiguo Cuscatlán, Nueva San Salvador, San Martín, Nejapa y Apopa).

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table 10. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007, by region

region	Employment					Schooling				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Occidental	9.8	12.7	7.5	8.3	7.2	82.9	84.8	89.5	89.8	90.7
Central 1	10.4	12.1	7.5	6.8	6.8	87.0	87.7	90.7	93.1	93.1
Central 2	11.0	12.2	10.1	7.8	8.2	86.5	87.8	90.1	92.8	92.6
Oriental	11.8	17.4	9.1	8.4	10.4	84.2	84.4	87.3	87.1	89.3
AMSS	3.7	9.0	5.9	3.9	3.5	92.5	93.3	95.3	96.3	96.1

Note: Occidental region: Santa Ana, Ahuachapán and Sonsonate; Central 1 region: Libertad and San Salvador, excluding the metropolitan area of San Salvador (AMSS), Chalatenango and Cuscatlán; Central 2 region: San Vicente, La Paz and Cabañas; Oriental: Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión; AMSS region: Metropolitan area of San Salvador (San Salvador, Mejicanos, San Marcos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, Delgado, Ilopango, Soyapango, Antiguo Cuscatlán, Nueva San Salvador, San Martín, Nejapa y Apopa).

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

¹² Occidental region: Santa Ana, Ahuachapán and Sonsonate; Central 1 region: Libertad and San Salvador, excluding the metropolitan area of San Salvador (AMSS), Chalatenango and Cuscatlán; Central 2 region: San Vicente, La Paz and Cabañas; Oriental: Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión; AMSS region: Metropolitan area of San Salvador (San Salvador, Mejicanos, San Marcos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, Delgado, Ilopango, Soyapango, Antiguo Cuscatlán, Nueva San Salvador, San Martín, Nejapa y Apopa).

24. A comparison of the results from the 2001 and 2007 surveys for older children indicates a growing tendency among 15-17 year-olds to delay entry into employment to continue with their studies (Table 11). Overall involvement in employment among 15-17 year-olds decreased from 28 to 24 percent during 2001-2007. The proportion of 15-17 year-olds in employment exclusively fell from 17 percent to 14 percent over the 2001 to 2007 period. At the same time, the proportion of 15-17 year-olds attending school exclusively rose from 55 to 58 percent. Children aged 15-17 were somewhat less likely in 2007 than in 2001 to combine schooling and employment and to do neither.

Table 11. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 2001-2007

Activity Status	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Only employment	16.8	17.1	14.3	14.3	14.1
Only schooling	54.5	50.8	59.6	57.0	58.4
Both activities	10.8	15.3	8.7	9.8	10.2
Neither activity	17.8	16.8	17.5	18.9	17.3
Total employment^(a)	27.6	32.4	23.0	24.1	24.3
Total school^(b)	65.3	66.1	68.3	66.8	68.6

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

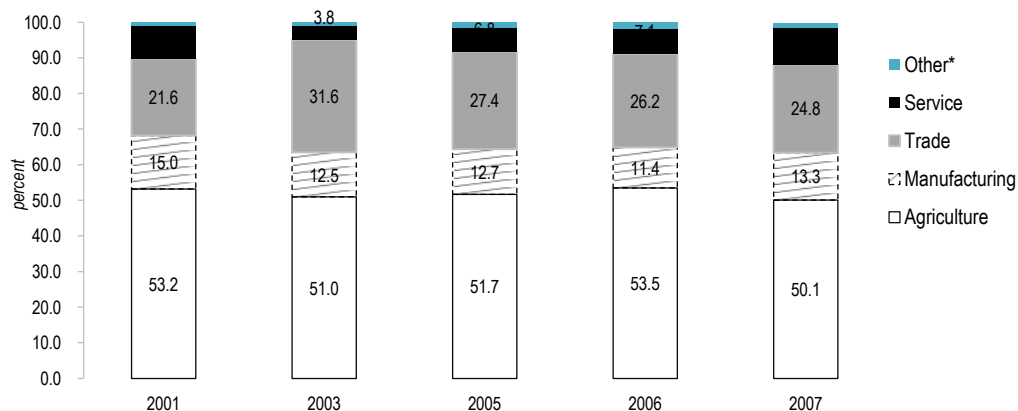
Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

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

25. The 2001-2007 period also saw changes in the composition and time intensity of children's work. Compared to 2001, children aged 7-14 years in employment in 2007 were more likely to work in trade and services and less likely to be found in agriculture and manufacturing (Figure 9 and Table 12).

26. Comparing the 2001 and 2007 reference years, children aged 7-14 years are less likely to work for their families and more likely to be involved in waged work (Figure 10 and Table 12).

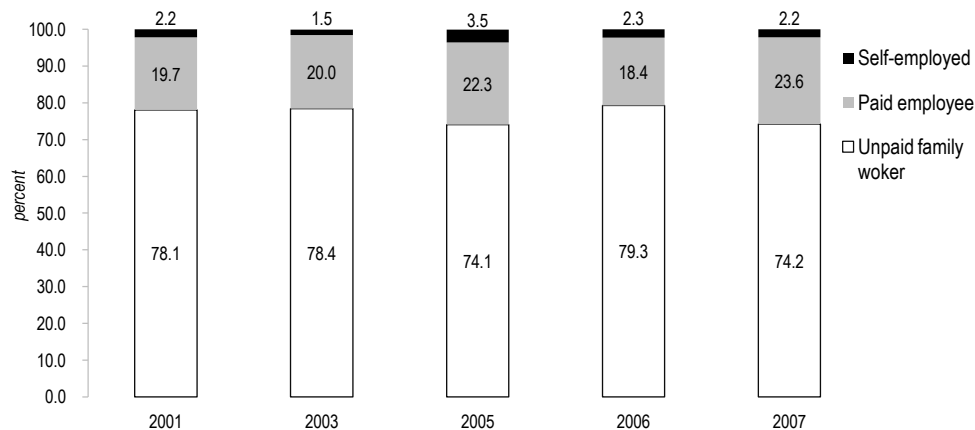
Figure 9. Changes in sector of employment , 7-14 years age group



Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Figure 10. Changes in modality of employment, 7-14 years age group



Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table 12. Trends in sector and modality of employment during 2001-2007, 7-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Agriculture	53.2	51.0	51.7	53.5	50.1
Manufacturing	15.0	12.5	12.7	11.4	13.3
Trade	21.6	31.6	27.4	26.2	24.8
Services	9.2	3.8	6.8	7.1	10.3
Other	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.9	1.4
Paid employee	19.7	20.0	22.3	18.4	23.6
Self-employed	2.2	1.5	3.5	2.3	2.2
Unpaid family	78.1	78.4	74.1	79.3	74.2

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

27. The average time intensity of children's employment fell slightly during the 2001-2007, except for 2003 (Table 13). The decrease in weekly working hours was mainly driven by work intensity of children in employment only.

28. The changes of time intensity vary across work sectors and work modalities over the 2001-2007 period. Comparing the 2001 and 2007 reference years, the overall fall in working hours was a result of a fall in the time intensity of agricultural and trade sectors. Children in unpaid family and in paid employment worked two hours less in 2007 compared to 2001. Children in self-employment worked four hours less in 2007 than in 2001.

Table 13. Changes in average weekly working hours, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Total	26.6	30.1	27.2	26.7	25.4
Agriculture	26.4	31.3	29.1	26.7	23.9
Manufacturing	22.3	28.7	22.2	23.7	22.6
Trade	27.3	28.8	25.7	26.8	29.1
Services	32.1	32.1	27.6	27.9	26.6
Paid employee	33.6	31.2	33.5	35.7	31.7
Self-employed	28.2	25.0	27.0	28.7	24.4
Unpaid family	24.9	29.9	25.5	24.5	23.4
Employment only	36.0	38.8	37.7	33.8	35.3
Employment and schooling	22.3	28.0	22.9	24.1	22.1

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

Children aged 7-14 years

Table A 1. Trends in child sector and modality of employment during 2001-2007, 7-14 years age group, by sex

Activity status	MALE					FEMALE				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Agriculture	69.0	66.4	67.3	67.0	63.7	15.3	17.6	18.1	18.2	12.0
Manufacturing	11.1	10.8	10.2	9.6	10.7	24.2	16.1	18.0	16.2	20.6
Trade	14.3	18.3	17.0	18.7	18.1	39.2	60.7	49.7	45.6	43.7
Services	4.1	2.9	3.6	2.1	5.6	21.4	5.6	13.6	20.0	23.7
Other	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Paid employee	19.5	19.1	26.2	19.8	25.4	20.2	22.2	14.0	15.0	18.4
Self-employed	1.6	1.7	2.9	1.9	2.1	3.6	1.2	4.9	3.3	2.6
Unpaid family	78.9	79.3	70.9	78.3	72.5	76.2	76.6	81.1	81.7	78.9

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table A 2. Trends in child sector and modality of employment during 2001-2007, 7-14 years age group, by residence

Activity status	URBAN					RURAL				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Agriculture	13.0	21.6	16.2	15.9	15.5	73.0	67.9	73.8	72.9	68.4
Manufacturing	27.2	17.5	22.7	20.3	19.1	8.9	9.6	6.4	6.8	10.2
Trade	42.2	54.7	47.5	48.9	44.4	11.5	18.4	14.8	14.4	14.5
Services	15.0	5.5	11.7	10.6	18.6	6.3	2.7	3.7	5.2	6.0
Other	2.5	0.7	2.0	4.3	2.4	0.3	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.9
Paid employee	27.5	21.7	27.7	25.3	30.8	15.8	19.1	19.0	14.9	19.7
Self-employed	2.0	2.1	2.9	1.9	2.4	2.3	1.2	3.9	2.5	2.1
Unpaid family	70.5	76.2	69.3	72.8	66.8	81.8	79.7	77.1	82.6	78.1

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Children aged 15-17 years

Table A 3. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 age group, 2001-2007, by sex

Activity status	MALE					FEMALE				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Only employment	24.2	24.0	21.1	20.9	20.8	9.7	10.3	7.3	7.8	7.4
Only schooling	52.1	45.3	57.0	57.0	55.2	56.9	56.2	62.2	56.9	61.6
Both activities	14.4	19.8	11.9	12.2	13.3	7.3	10.9	5.4	7.5	7.0
Neither activity	9.3	10.8	9.9	9.9	10.7	26.1	22.6	25.2	27.8	23.9
Total employment^(a)	38.6	43.8	33.0	33.1	34.1	17.0	21.2	12.7	15.3	14.4
Total schooling^(b)	66.5	65.1	68.9	69.2	68.5	64.2	67.1	67.6	64.4	68.6

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of work status.
Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table A 4. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 age group, 2001-2007, by residence

Activity status	URBAN					RURAL				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Only employment	9.0	9.0	8.8	7.0	9.2	26.4	27.0	21.3	23.7	20.8
Only schooling	67.7	64.7	72.1	69.9	70.0	38.5	33.5	43.3	40.3	42.8
Both activities	9.8	15.2	7.5	8.9	8.6	12.1	15.4	10.3	10.9	12.4
Neither activity	13.5	11.0	11.6	14.2	12.2	23.1	24.0	25.1	25.1	24.1
Total employment^(a)	18.8	24.2	16.3	15.9	17.8	38.5	42.4	31.6	34.6	33.2
Total schooling^(b)	77.5	79.9	79.6	78.8	78.6	50.6	48.9	53.6	51.2	55.2

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

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table A 5. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by region

	Employment					Schooling				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Occidental	31.7	39.3	26.9	28.4	26.6	54.1	54.1	58.9	61.3	63.9
Central 1	29.5	28.8	25.4	23.7	22.3	65.4	68.5	67.4	70.3	72.5
Central 2	34.8	36.4	27.9	29.4	26.4	60.1	58.7	66.8	61.7	66.6
Oriental	34.9	43.9	28.0	29.3	31.5	60.0	58.0	57.6	55.5	56.5
AMSS	15.4	16.5	13.7	15.7	16.1	79.5	86.2	83.2	78.2	82.4

Note: Occidental: Santa Ana, Ahuachapán and Sonsonate; Central 1: Libertad and San Salvador, excluding the metropolitan area of San Salvador (AMSS), Chalatenango and Cuscatlán; Central 2: San Vicente, La Paz and Cabañas; Oriental: Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión; AMSS: Metropolitan area of San Salvador (San Salvador, Mejicanos, San Marcos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, Delgado, Ilopango, Soyapango, Antiguo Cuscatlán, Nueva San Salvador, San Martín, Nejapa y Apopa).

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table A 6. Trends in sector and modality of employment during 2001-2007, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Agriculture	45.1	40.9	41.0	43.7	41.8
Manufacturing	16.9	15.1	12.2	12.7	13.6
Trade	17.5	26.5	23.3	21.7	23.0
Services	16.1	12.4	18.0	17.4	16.6
Other	4.4	5.1	5.5	4.4	5.0
Paid employee	47.3	42.0	48.3	54.2	52.1
Self-employed	4.1	5.7	6.4	6.1	6.0
Unpaid family	48.6	52.3	45.3	39.7	41.9

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table A 7. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality of employment

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Total	34.5	36.5	35.1	35.4	36.0
Agriculture	32.4	34.6	33.1	34.2	32.6
Manufacturing	29.5	27.8	33.0	33.6	32.0
Trade	33.3	37.1	35.8	35.3	39.0
Services	45.1	51.2	40.8	39.5	43.6
Other*	41.1	40.0	33.7	37.0	36.9
Paid employee	40.8	44.1	41.3	40.6	41.2
Self-employed	29.3	31.9	27.3	31.7	32.9
Unpaid family	29.0	31.0	29.6	28.8	30.1
Employment only	41.1	42.3	40.0	39.7	41.0
Employment and schooling	24.4	30.2	27.2	29.1	29.2

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table A 8. Trends in child sector and modality of employment during 2001-2007, 15-17 years age group, by sex

Activity status	MALE					FEMALE				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Agriculture	59.5	54.6	53.2	56.8	55.8	13.3	13.4	8.6	15.7	8.3
Manufacturing	12.5	14.3	11.2	11.5	11.7	26.8	16.8	14.8	15.4	18.1
Trade	13.5	18.3	18.6	18.5	19.8	26.3	42.7	35.6	28.8	30.8
Services	8.3	5.5	9.4	6.7	5.7	33.5	26.2	41.0	40.1	42.7
Other	6.3	7.2	7.5	6.5	7.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Paid employee	48.8	40.4	50.7	59.0	53.6	43.8	45.2	41.9	43.9	48.4
Self-employed	4.2	6.1	5.5	5.2	5.3	4.0	4.9	9.0	8.0	7.7
Unpaid family	47.0	53.5	43.8	35.8	41.1	52.1	49.9	49.1	48.1	43.9

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.
Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table A 9. Trends in child sector and modality of employment during 2001-2007, 15-17 years age group, by residence

Activity status	URBAN					RURAL				
	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
Agriculture	10.4	13.9	18.7	13.9	13.8	65.7	60.1	55.8	61.4	62.0
Manufacturing	30.1	27.4	19.2	22.9	18.2	9.1	6.4	7.6	6.7	10.4
Trade	42.2	54.7	47.5	48.9	44.4	11.5	18.4	14.8	14.4	14.5
Services	15.0	5.5	11.7	10.6	18.6	6.3	2.7	3.7	5.2	6.0
Other	5.7	5.4	4.9	6.0	7.2	3.5	4.9	5.8	3.5	3.4
Paid employee	54.3	47.7	49.1	57.6	63.4	43.1	38.0	47.8	52.1	44.0
Self-employed	2.7	4.2	5.5	6.3	4.4	4.9	6.8	7.0	6.0	7.1
Unpaid family	42.9	48.1	45.4	36.1	32.2	51.9	55.3	45.2	41.9	48.9

Note: category other includes construction, mining, electricity, gas and water industries.

Source: El Salvador Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

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