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

Country report for Guatemala

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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](http://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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the Latin America and Caribbean region*

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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 Nacional de Condiciones de Vida* surveys from 2000 to 2006, the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in Guatemala. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling.

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

1. Guatemala is a Central American country bordering the Gulf of Honduras (Caribbean Sea) and the North Pacific Ocean. Its neighbors are Mexico on the north and west, and Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador on the east.



Source: United Nations

Guatemala is a physically diverse country, with many isolated areas. The country consists of three main regions—the highlands with the heaviest population, the fertile lowland along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, and the tropical jungle in the northern lowlands (known as the Petén). Two-thirds of the country is mountainous and volcanic. Unfortunately, this natural resource diversity is being increasingly threatened by erosion, deforestation, hurricanes and population pressures on the land. The country is not physically united and many villages are fairly isolated, due to an inadequate road network.

2. Mirroring the physical diversity of the country, Guatemala's population is rich in cultural and linguistic diversity. In a population of over 12 million, about half the population is indigenous. The largest indigenous groups include the K'iche, the Kaqchikel, the Mam and the Q'eqchi.

Unfortunately, Guatemala's diversity has historically been accompanied by conflict, exclusion, and a dualistic social and economic structure. Inequality between ethnicities is a pervasive feature in Guatemala. Indigenous populations tend to have higher poverty rates, and to be poorer than the non-indigenous population. In contrast, economic and political resources remain concentrated among the economic elite of predominantly European descent and the Ladino population. The linkages between these groups have been weakened by decades of exclusion and conflict (World Bank, 2004).

3. During the second half of the 20th century, Guatemala experienced a variety of military and civilian governments as well as a 36-year guerrilla war, from 1960-1996. This armed conflict was the most deadly in Latin America, which had led to the death of more than 100 000 people. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the conflict. Socioeconomic development in Guatemala has been severely affected by the prolonged civil strife. The greatest consequences of the conflict were displacement of over one-twelfth of the country's population, extremely high poverty and inequality and low investment in human development, especially among rural and indigenous people. Moreover, the conflict imposed significant costs on the economy. Fuentes (2005) estimates that if the armed conflict had not occurred, GDP per capita in 2000 would have been about 40 percent higher and poverty would have been about 12 percentage points lower.

4. Since 1996, the Guatemalan economy has grown at the weak rate of 3.3 percent per annum on average, far short of the Peace Accords target of 6 percent annual growth. Growth

has been especially slow over the 2000-2004 period, reaching negative per-capita growth during this period. Real GDP growth recovered to 2.7 percent in 2004 and 3.2 percent in 2006, despite high international oil prices and the damage from tropical storm Stan. The World Bank (2009a) estimated that the GDP grew around 4.5 percent per year in 2006 and 2007, reflecting improvements in the domestic business climate, higher global economic growth, low interest rates and a rebound in coffee prices. With respect to production in the country, agriculture continues being important (22% of the GDP in 2008), despite the fact that the sector has lost importance in the national economy, being displaced by commercial activities.

5. From 2000 to 2006 Guatemala has made important progress reducing overall poverty and improving most social indicators. Wellbeing has improved for all Guatemalans (with the exception of the richest 10 percent) and overall poverty declined by 5 percentage points. The extreme poverty headcount did not change between 2000 and 2006 (World Bank, 2009). However, Guatemala exhibits very poor social indicators relative to other countries in the sub-region, despite a per capita income of \$1,740, placing it in the ranks of middle income countries. Over the recent past, Guatemalan social indicators in health and education outcomes have been well below Latin American averages. The distribution of income, resources and opportunities remain highly unequal in Guatemala, specifically in the "poverty belt" comprising the Norte and Noroccidente regions. In addition, indigenous and rural populations have also disproportionately affected by the extreme poverty and the lack of basic services (as, for example, access to water, electricity and basic sanitation).

6. In addition to Guatemala's high level of poverty and poor social indicators, the level of tax revenue and public expenditure could not make the necessary investments in physical and human capital. Many targets of the Peace Agenda have not yet been met, particularly those involving key outcomes or fundamental institutional reforms. Other ongoing challenges include increasing government revenues, negotiating further assistance from international donors, curtailing drug trafficking and rampant crime, and narrowing the trade deficit.

Table 1. Guatemala: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Human Development Index (HDI) <sup>(a)</sup>	0.626	..	..	..	..	0.667	..	..	..	..	0.689	..
Population growth (annual %)	2,31	2,29	2,28	2,29	2,32	2,37	2,43	2,47	2,49	2,50	2,49	2,48
Population, total	10,003	10,235	10,471	10,713	10,965	11,229	11,505	11,792	12,09	12,396	12,709	13,028
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	44,88	44,73	44,57	44,39	44,22	44,06	43,90	43,74	43,57	43,38	43,15	42,88
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	51,47	51,54	51,62	51,71	51,81	51,91	52,00	52,10	52,21	52,36	52,56	52,80
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	3,66	3,73	3,81	3,89	3,97	4,04	4,10	4,16	4,21	4,26	4,29	4,32
GINI index	..	..	..	55,65	..	54,97	..	55,34	..	49,39	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	..	..	..	..	..	56,2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	..	..	..	..	..	74,5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	..	..	..	..	..	27,1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	68,00	..	..	..	..	78,00	..	..	..	86,00	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	59,00	..	..	..	..	72,00	..	..	..	82,00	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	79,00	..	..	..	..	85,00	..	..	..	90,00	..	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	85,00	..	..	..	..	91,00	..	..	..	95,00	..	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	79,00	..	..	..	..	86,00	..	..	..	92,00	..	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	93,00	..	..	..	..	96,00	..	..	..	99,00	..	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	64,00	..	..	..	..	53,00	..	..	..	..	43,0	41,0
GDP growth (annual %)	4,95	2,96	4,36	4,99	3,85	3,61	2,33	2,25	2,13	2,67	3,24	4,50
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	1589	1599	1631	1673	1698	1718	1716	1712	1705	1707	1719	1753
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	2,55	0,63	2,01	2,62	1,46	1,18	-0,12	-0,24	-0,38	0,13	0,70	1,94
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	..	..	..	37,60	..	36,40	..	38,70	..	..	..	..
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	..	..	..	23,20	..	20,40	..	20	..	..	..	..
Employment in services (% of total employment)	..	..	..	39,00	..	42,80	..	37,5	..	..	..	..
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	..	..	..	..	2,10	1,40	1,30	3,10	3,40	..	..	..

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

<sup>(a)</sup> UNDP, 2009

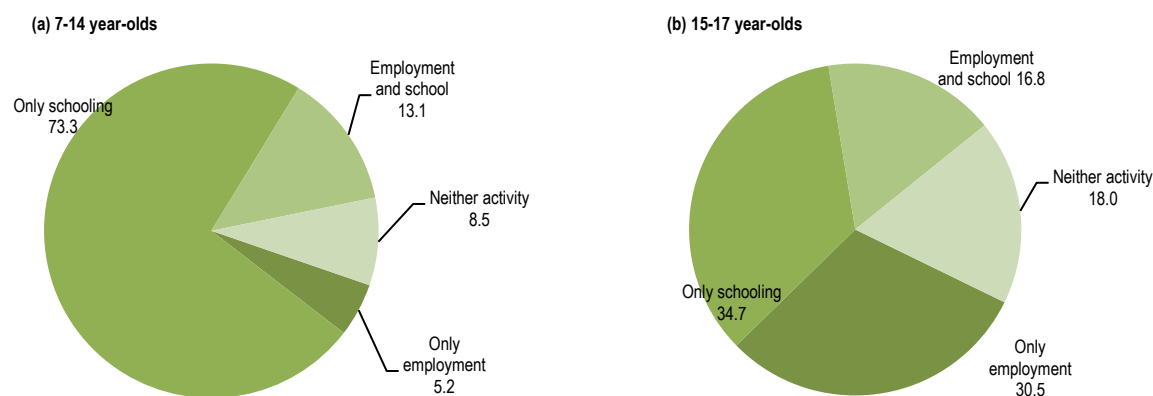
## 2. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

7. Children's employment<sup>1</sup> remains very common in Guatemala. An estimated 18 percent of children aged 7-14 years<sup>2</sup>, over 528,000 children in absolute terms, were in employment in 2006. At the same time, school attendance was far from universal– 86 percent of children from the 7-14 years age group attended school. Involvement in employment is higher among older children. 47 percent of 15-17 year-olds (some 450,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. School attendance also appears to be lower for this age range: only 52 percent of children attended school in 2006.

8. A comparison with estimates from earlier surveys from the same survey programme (ENCOVI-*Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida*) points to a fall in children's employment: an estimated 18 percent of 7-14 year olds were in employment in 2006 against 20 percent (507,000 children in absolute terms) in 2000. 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 almost 73 percent of 7-14 year-olds children attended school exclusively, while 13 percent were combining employment and school in 2006. Only five percent of all 7-14 year-olds were in employment without also attending school. A relevant share of children (nine percent of 7-14 year-olds) reported neither being in employment nor attending school. Activity patterns differ for older, 15-17 year-old children<sup>3</sup> – a greater share was in employment exclusively and a smaller share in school exclusively.

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



Source: UCW calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006

<sup>1</sup> *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).

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

<sup>3</sup> Additional statistics are provided in the Appendix.



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

- Children's employment is mainly a rural sector phenomenon. Children living in cities and towns are considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to be in employment. At the same time, urban children are more likely to attend school (91 percent versus 83 percent) and much more likely to attend school without also going to work (82 percent versus 67 percent).
- There are large regional differences in children's employment (Figure 3). In Suroccidente, Noroccidente and Petén regions almost 25 percent of children are in employment while children's employment rate is seven percent in Metropolitana and 11 percent in the Central region.
- Boys are more likely to be in employment than girls of the same age (25 percent versus 12 percent).
- Older children are more likely than their younger counterparts to be in employment. However, the percentage of even very young working children is far from negligible: 10 percent of nine year-olds is already in employment (Figure 2).
- Ethnicity strongly influences children's activity patterns. Indigenous children in the 7-14 years age group much more likely to be in employment compared to their non-indigenous peers (26 percent versus 13 percent). At the same time, indigenous children are less likely than non-indigenous children to attend school (83 percent versus 89 percent).

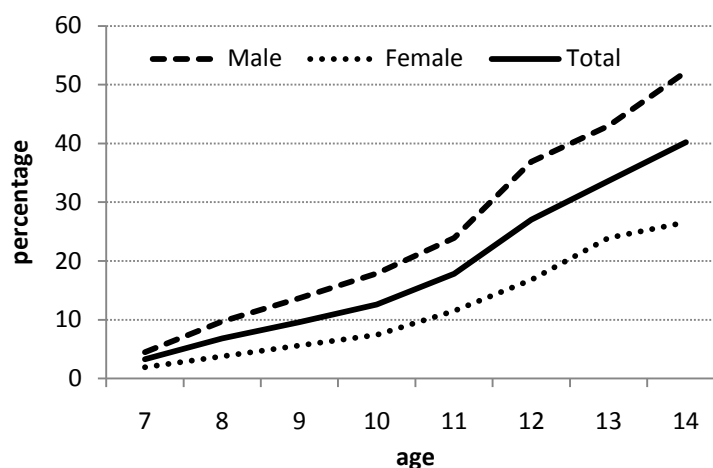
Table 2. Child activity status, by sex, residence and ethnicity, 7-14 age group

Background characteristics	Mutually exclusive activity categories				Total in employment <sup>(a)</sup>	Total in school <sup>(b)</sup>	
	Only employment	Only schooling	Employment and schooling	Neither activity			
Sex	Male	6.6	69.9	17.9	5.6	24.5	87,8
	Female	3.7	76.8	8.0	11.5	11.7	84,8
Residence	Urban	3.2	81.8	9.0	6.0	12.2	90,8
	Rural	6.6	67.1	16.0	10.3	22.7	83,1
Ethnicity	Indigenous	6.8	64.1	18.8	10.3	25.6	82,9
	Non Indigenous	4.0	79.7	9.1	7.2	13.1	88,8
<b>Total 7-14</b>		5,2	73.3	13.1	8.5	18.2	86.4

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

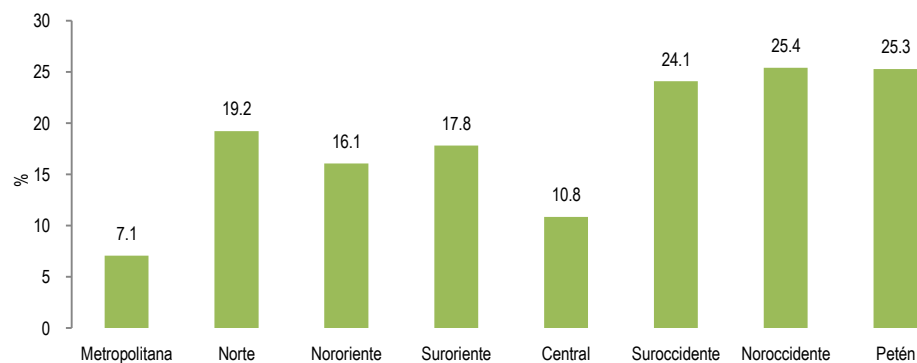
Source: UCW calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006

Figure 2. Children's involvement in employment by age and sex



Source: UCW calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006

Figure 3. Children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-old age group, by region



Source: UCW calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006

11. Children's employment appears to vary in terms of industrial sector in which they are found and the specific modalities under which they work. Children's employment is concentrated mainly in the agricultural sector (Table 3). Almost 64 percent of 7-14 year-old children in employment work in agriculture, against 19 percent in trade sector, 10 percent in manufacturing and six percent in services. There are large differences in the nature of children's employment by sex, place of residence and ethnicity. While agricultural work predominates in rural areas (75 percent), services and trade sector are more important in urban areas, employing more than 60 percent of the working children population. Girls are more likely than boys to work in services, trade and manufacturing and less likely to be employed in agriculture. Indigenous children are much more likely than their non-indigenous peers to work in agriculture, and less likely to work in trade and services.

12. The overwhelming majority of children in employment work for their families as unpaid labourers (79 percent of 7-14 year olds children). About 16 percent of working children are in wage employment while the remaining five percent are found in domestic services or

self-employment. Girls are much more likely to perform domestic services than boys. Unpaid family work is more common in rural areas while children living in urban areas are more likely than their rural counterparts to be found in wage employment. Wage labour is mainly performed by urban and non indigenous children. Indigenous children are more likely to be involved in unpaid work.

Table 3. **Sector and modality of children's employment, by sex, residence and ethnicity, 7-14 age group**

Characteristics		Sector					Modality			
		Agriculture	Manufact.	Trade	Services	Other	Unpaid	Self	Wage	Domestic
Sex	Male	76.0	7.3	11.2	2.7	2.8	79.7	1.3	18.9	0.1
	Female	36.6	15.0	34.7	13.7	0.0	78.0	3.5	10.2	8.3
Residence	Urban	34.9	15.0	33.5	12.9	3.7	66.7	3.8	24.2	5.2
	Rural	75.0	7.6	12.7	3.5	1.3	84.1	1.3	13.0	1.6
Ethnicity	Indigenous	71.1	10.6	15.2	2.5	0.7	84.5	1.8	12.7	1.0
	Non indigenous	53.7	8.5	23.2	11.1	3.6	72.0	2.2	20.9	4.9
<b>Total 7-14</b>		<b>63.7</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>

Source: UCW calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006

13. Employment is typically time intensive for Guatemalan children (Table 4). Children aged 7-14 years in employment log an average of over 24 working hours per week. Children in employment who do not attend school put in an average of 38 hours per week, while children of the same age group that combine school and employment log fewer hours (18 hours per week). The latter figure underscores the additional constraint that employment places on children's time for study. There is little variation in the time intensity of work by place of residence or ethnicity. However, employment appears more time intensive for boys than for girls. Female children put in an average of about three fewer hours each week as their male peers. The gap is larger between girls and boys who are in employment only: boys log 40 hours of work per week, while girls in the same category log an average of 32 hours per week.

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

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling
<b>Sex</b>	Male	24.6	40.4	18.7
	Female	22.2	31.9	17.7
<b>Residence</b>	Urban	23.4	36.1	18.9
	Rural	24.0	37.9	18.2
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Indigenous	23.3	37.6	18.2
	Non indigenous	24.5	37.3	18.7
<b>Total 7-14</b>		<b>23.8</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>18.4</b>

Source: UCW calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006

14. 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

Guatemala.<sup>4</sup> This question is critical for the purposes of prioritising and targeting policy responses to working children.

Table 5. Child labour legislative framework: Ratified conventions relating to child labour

CONVENTION	Ratification
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	27-04-1990
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	11-10-2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	06-06-1990

Source: ILO, 2008.

15. 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 Guatemala 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 employment<sup>5</sup>. 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. For the scope of this report, 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 industries<sup>6</sup>, occupations<sup>7</sup> and conditions<sup>8</sup> utilised in the ILO global child labour estimates.

16. 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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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).

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

<sup>7</sup> 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 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

chores neither occupations<sup>9</sup>, despite the fact that the Resolution II of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Child Labour Statisticians leaves to the Governments the option of including them in the child labour estimates,<sup>10</sup> due to data limitations. Second, they do not include children in worst forms other than hazardous,<sup>11</sup> 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 Guatemala. Nonetheless, they provide a useful benchmark for international comparative and monitoring purposes.

17. Child labour measured on this basis is common in Guatemala. Over 404,000 children below the age of 14 years are in employment and an additional 251,000 (14-17 year-old) children are in hazardous forms of work or are working excessive hours. Putting these groups together yields an estimate of 656,000 children aged 5-17 years in child labour, 14 percent of this age group (Table 6).

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<sup>9</sup> 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 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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).

<sup>11</sup> 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		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	277481	21.1	186258	30.4	463739	19.9
	Female	127059	10.0	65266	10.5	192325	8.4
Rural	Urban	112629	10.3	97575	17.1	210204	10.6
	Rural	291912	19.5	153949	23.1	445861	17.0
Total		404541	15.6	251524	20.3	656065	14.3

Source: UCW calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006

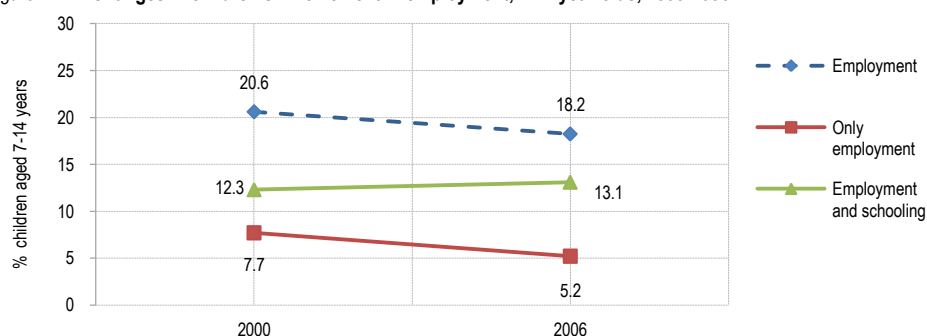
18. Table 6 shows that children's involvement in child labour is largely a rural phenomenon. Children living in cities and towns are less likely than their rural counterparts to engage in work which constitutes child labour. Gender plays an important role in the child labour phenomenon in Guatemala. About 20 percent of boys aged 5-17 years are child labourers against only eight percent of females. Even larger differences by sex emerge when considering only older, 14-17 year-old children.

### 3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

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

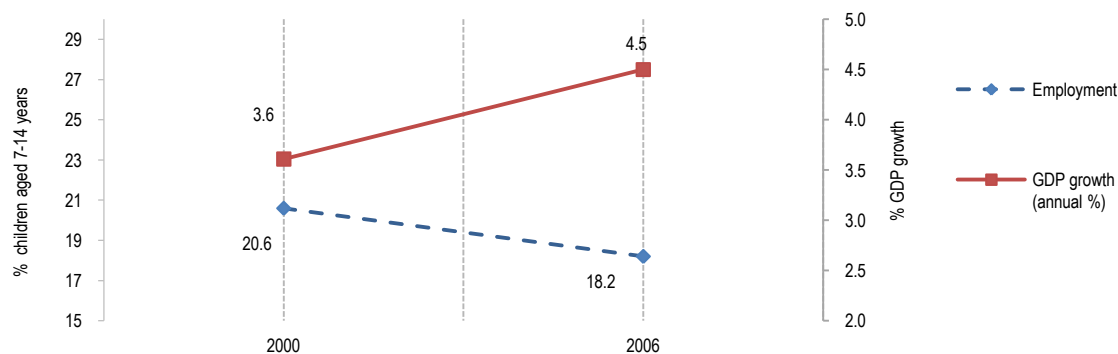
19. A comparison of the results of Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida surveys from 2000 to 2006 indicates a decline in employment among 7-14 year-olds of almost two percentage points over this period, from 20 percent to 18 percent (Figure 4). The school attendance of 7-14 year-olds rose from 75 percent to 86 percent over the same period. It is worth noting that the 2000-2006 period coincided with a sharp rise in GDP growth (Figure 5), although the factors affecting children's employment are numerous and caution should be exercised in reading too much into this correlation.

Figure 4. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-olds, 2000-2006



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVi), 2006 and 2000

Figure 5. Changes in children's involvement in employment and GDP growth, 7-14 years age group, 2000-2006



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVi), 2006 and 2000

Table 7 and Figure 6 illustrate in more detail how the composition of children's time between school and employment changed over this period. A closer look at changes over the period shows that the decrease of the proportion of children in employment was driven mainly by the decrease of the share of children in employment only. Indeed, the proportion of children in employment but *not* in school, the group whose development prospects are most compromised, fell steadily over the 2000-2006, from eight percent to five percent. The

measured decline occurred also in the sub-group of inactive children. The proportion of children in this group fell by half, from 18 to nine percent.

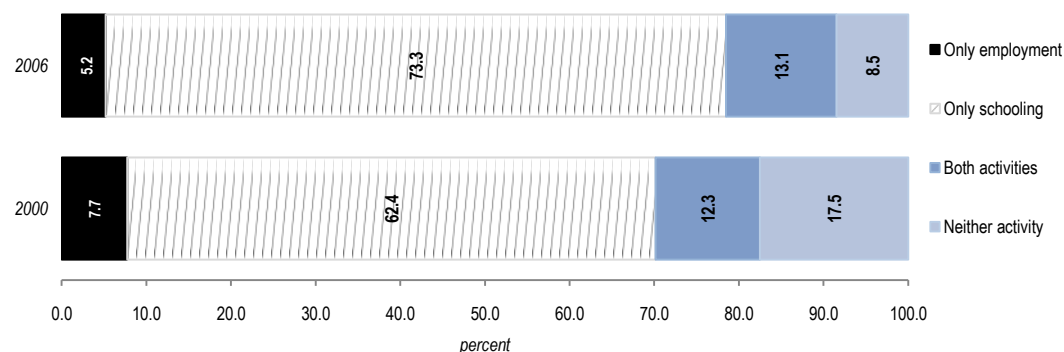
Table 7. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 year-olds, 2000-2006

Activity Status	2000	2006
Only employment	7.7	5.2
Only schooling	62.4	73.3
Both activities	12.3	13.1
Neither activity	17.5	8.5
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>
<b>Total school<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>86.4</b>

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

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Figure 6. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 years age group, 2000-2006



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

20. Tables 8 and 9 and Figure 7 look at changes in children's employment and schooling broken down by sex and residence. They suggest that the decline in children's employment during 2000-2006 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. The rural-urban and male-female gaps in terms of involvement in employment changed little over this period.

Table 8. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2000-2006, by sex

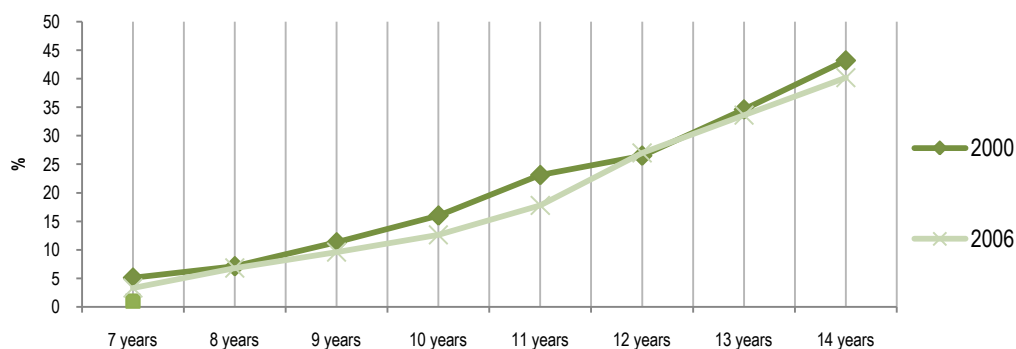
Activity status	Male		Female	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Only employment	9.5	6.6	5.9	3.7
Only schooling	60.8	69.9	64.1	76.8
Both activities	16.4	17.9	8.1	8.0
Neither activity	13.3	5.6	22.0	11.5
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>11.7</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>84.8</b>

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

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000.



Figure 7. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 2000-2006, by age



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVi), 2006 and 2000

Table 9. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2000-2006, by residence

Activity status	Urban		Rural	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Only employment	4.2	3.2	9.7	6.6
Only schooling	74.2	81.8	56.0	67.1
Both activities	8.8	9.0	14.2	16.0
Neither activity	12.8	6.0	20.1	10.3
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>83.1</b>

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVi), 2006 and 2000

21. Guatemala has a large population of indigenous children for whom reducing employment and raising school attendance has posed a particular challenge. In 2000, indigenous children aged 7-14 years were almost twice as likely to be in employment and twelve percentage points less likely to be in school compared to their non-indigenous peers. Table 10 indicates that progress was made in reducing the schooling gap during the 2000-2006 period, but that at the same time the employment gap changed little. School attendance rose by about fifteen percentage points among indigenous children, outpacing the progress made by non-indigenous children over the same period. But despite of the relative gains in school attendance made by indigenous children, the school attendance gap stood in 2006 at six percentage point.

Table 10. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2000-2006, by ethnicity

Activity status	Indigenous		Non-indigenous	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Only employment	10.5	6.8	5.7	4.0
Only schooling	51.1	64.1	70.5	79.7
Both activities	16.6	18.8	9.3	9.1
Neither activity	21.8	10.3	14.5	7.2
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>88.8</b>

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status  
Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

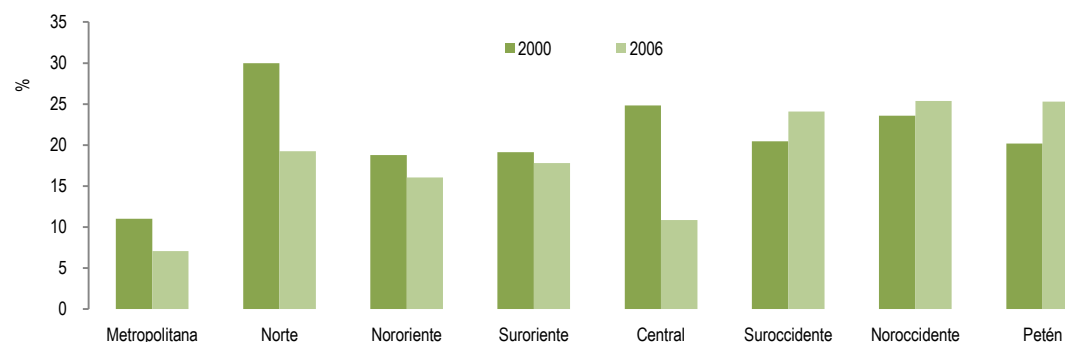
22. Data for the 7-14 years age group point to large variation in terms of children's employment trends across regions (Table 11 and Figure 8). Comparing the 2000 and 2006 reference years, children employment fell in five Departments (Metropolitana, Norte, Nororiente, Suroriente and Central), and rose in three (Suroccidente and Noroccidente and Petén). It is worth noting that this trend in Petén could reflect the increase in the total labour force experienced in the Department over the same period of reference (ILO, 2008). Data also point to geographic differences in educational trends, although gains in school attendance extended to all regions (Figure 9). The Norte region made the most progress in terms of education over the 2000-2006 period; school attendance rose by about 24 percentage points in this region, while Suroriente Region witnessed an increase in attendance of only seven percentage points. An in-depth analysis would be required to identify the reasons behind the differences among regions. Nonetheless, these changes are likely to reflect changes in inequality between regions: in fact the Suroriente region has experienced a significant poverty reduction during 200-2006 period, while Noroccidente region has suffered an equally dramatic increase in poverty (World Bank, 2009).

Table 11. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 2000-2006, by region

Region	Employment		Schooling	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Metropolitana	11.0	7.1	79.6	91.4
Norte	30.0	19.2	59.1	83.5
Nororiente	18.8	16.1	72.8	86.8
Suroriente	19.2	17.8	78.0	85.2
Central	24.8	10.8	77.0	88.6
Suroccidente	20.4	24.1	79.3	87.8
Noroccidente	23.6	25.4	65.0	78.3
Petén	20.2	25.3	75.0	87.9

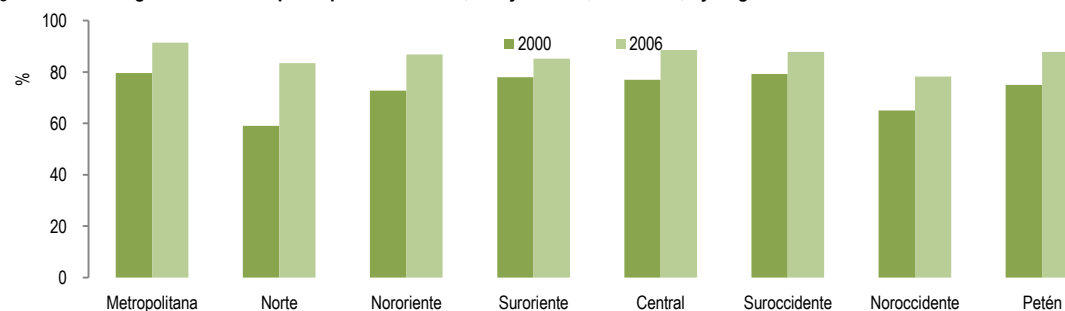
Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Figure 8. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14year-olds, 2000-2006, by Region



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVi), 2006 and 2000

Figure 9. Changes in children's participation in school, 7-14year-olds, 2000-2006, by Region



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVi), 2006 and 2000

23. A comparison of the surveys results from 2000 to 2006 for older children, between 15-17 year-old, indicates that a greater proportion are delaying entry into employment in order to further their studies (Table 12). The proportion of 15-17 years in employment only (i.e., not also attending school) fell by almost nine percentage points from 2000 to 2006, from 40 percent to 31 percent. At the same time, the proportion of 15-17 years in school only (i.e. not also in employment) rose from 24 to 35 percent. Children in the 15-17 years age group were somewhat more likely in 2006 than in 2000 to combine employment and school. They were also less likely to be involved in neither employment nor schooling.

Table 12. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 2000-2006

Activity Status	2000	2006
Only employment	39.6	30.5
Only schooling	24.1	34.7
Both activities	14.0	16.8
Neither activity	22.3	18.0
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>47.3</b>
<b>Total school<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>51.5</b>

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

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVi), 2006 and 2000

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

24. The 2000-2006 period also saw some change in the composition of children's employment (Table 13). Compared to 2000, children aged 7-14 years in employment in 2006 were more likely to work in the agricultural sector and trade and less likely to be found in manufacturing and services. Regarding the modality of employment, there was a shift away from paid to unpaid jobs. As shown in Table 13, the proportion of children working in a family setting without being paid rose by five percentage points, while the proportion of children working as paid employees fell by four percentage points over the six years period.

Table 13. Trends in child activity status during 2000-2006, 7-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	2000	2006
Agriculture	62.8	63.7
Manufacturing	10.7	9.7
Trade	16.1	18.6
Services	7.2	6.1
Other	3.3	2.0
Unpaid	74.1	79.2
Self	1.9	2.0
Wage	20.0	16.2
Domestic	4.0	2.7

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

25. The time intensity of children's employment fell over the 2000-2006 period by almost one third, meaning that the remaining children in employment spend less time each week actually working (Table 14). The fall in working hours was broad-based, extending to all economic sectors and to all modalities of employment, and to both children in employment only and children combining employment and school.

Table 14. Changes in average weekly working hours, 7-14 years age group, 2000-2006, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2000	2006
Total	33.1	23.8
Agriculture	31.4	22.8
Manufacturing	28.6	22.9
Trade	33.2	23.3
Services	47.6	30.9
Other	48.3	43.4
Unpaid	28.8	21.1
Self	35.2	24.9
Wage	43.7	35.2
Domestic	59.0	33.9
Employment only	42.6	37.5
Employment and schooling	27.3	18.4

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

## ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

## Children aged 7-14 years

Table A 1. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2000-2006, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban		Rural	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Agriculture	24.0	34.9	74.2	75.0
Manufacturing	18.2	15	8.4	7.6
Trade	32.0	33.5	11.4	12.7
Services	21.0	12.9	3.1	3.5
Other	4.8	3.7	2.9	1.3
Unpaid	55.1	66.7	79.6	84.1
Self	3.4	3.8	1.5	1.3
Wage	29.1	24.2	17.4	13.0
Domestic	12.4	5.2	1.5	1.6

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 2. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2000-2006, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male		Female	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Agriculture	74.5	76	39.8	36.6
Manufacturing	5.9	7.3	20.1	15.0
Trade	10.3	11.2	27.4	34.7
Services	4.4	2.7	12.6	13.7
Other	4.9	2.8	0.1	0.0
Unpaid	75.0	79.7	72.2	78.0
Self	1.8	1.3	2.1	3.5
Wage	22.8	18.9	14.7	10.2
Domestic	0.4	0.1	11	8.3

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

## Children aged 15-17 years

Table A 3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2006, by sex

Activity status	Male		Female	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Only employment	52.0	41.0	27.3	20.6
Only schooling	22.6	30.2	25.5	39.0
Both activities	18.8	24.6	9.2	9.5
Neither activity	6.6	4.2	38	30.9
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>30.1</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>48.5</b>

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

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 4. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2006, by residence

Activity status	Urban		Rural	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Only employment	28.0	21.9	46.2	38.2
Only schooling	39.7	49	15.2	21.9
Both activities	18.7	17.2	11.3	16.5
Neither activity	13.6	12	27.3	23.4
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>54.7</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>38.4</b>

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

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 5. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 age group, 2000-2006, by indigenous status

Activity status	Indigenous		Non-indigenous	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Only employment	45.7	25.0	35.4	39.4
Only schooling	14.2	42.8	30.9	21.7
Both activities	16.4	15.6	12.3	18.7
Neither activity	23.7	16.6	21.4	20.3
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>58.1</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>40.4</b>

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 6. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2006, by region

Region	Employment		Schooling	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Metropolitana	53.4	30.4	49.0	68.0
Norte	52.4	45.5	30.6	46.8
Nororiente	44.8	46.3	34.2	49.7
Suroriente	46.1	49.3	36.3	47.1
Central	58.2	41.4	39.4	55.2
Suroccidente	55.8	58.3	39.6	47.4
Noroccidente	57.1	54.6	26.3	34.9
Petén	51.8	57.3	40.9	64.3

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 7. Trends in child activity status during 2000-2006, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	2000	2006
Agriculture	47.2	45.8
Manufacturing	13.8	14.9
Trade	19.8	18.3
Services	11.6	12.5
Other	7.6	8.5
Unpaid	44.3	45.0
Self	5.3	6.0
Wage	46.0	44.2
Domestic	4.5	4.8

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 8. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2006, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2000	2006
Total	43.2	38.6
Agriculture	42.1	35.8
Manufacturing	40.7	36.3
Trade	41.7	39.4
Services	50.4	45.0
Other	47.7	47.1
Unpaid	36.8	30.4
Self	37.5	37.0
Wage	48.6	45.4
Domestic	59.3	55.3
Employment only	46.5	45.2
Employment and schooling	34.0	26.6

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 9. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2006, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban		Rural	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Agriculture	15.6	17.8	61.8	63.7
Manufacturing	17.8	24.2	11.9	9.0
Trade	33.5	26.4	13.5	13.2
Services	22.1	18.8	6.8	8.5
Other	11.1	12.9	6.0	5.7
Unpaid	28.9	35	51.3	51.4
Self	6.0	4.7	4.9	6.8
Wage	58.2	53.8	40.4	38.0
Domestic	6.9	6.4	3.3	3.8

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000

Table A 10. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2006, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male		Female	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
Agriculture	61.0	56.4	20.7	24.1
Manufacturing	9.4	11	22.1	23.0
Trade	11.6	14.7	35.5	25.8
Services	6.5	5.4	21.5	27
Other	11.5	12.6	0.2	0.2
Unpaid	42.0	41.7	48.5	51.8
Self	3.6	4.8	8.4	8.4
Wage	53.6	53.4	31.4	25.3
Domestic	0.7	0.1	11.6	14.5

Sources: UCW, calculations based on Guatemala, Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), 2006 and 2000



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