



Organización
Internacional
del Trabajo



Understanding Children's Work Programme Working Paper Series, November 2010

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

Country report for Honduras

November 2010

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

Country report for Honduras

November 2010

Understanding Children's Work (UCW) Project

Villa Aldobrandini
Via Panisperna 28
00184 Rome - Italy

Tel: +39 06.4341.2008

Fax: +39 06.2020.687

Email: info@ucw-project.org

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

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

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

Country report for Honduras

November 2010

Abstract

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

Country report for Honduras

November 2010

Abstract

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

Building on data from the 2002 *National Child Labour Survey* and the *Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (EPHPM)* surveys 2004 and 2007, the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in Honduras. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling.

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

Country report for Honduras

November 2010

CONTENTS

1. National context: factors underlying the child labour phenomenon in Honduras.....	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.....	16
Annex: additional statistical tables.....	19
Children aged 7-14 years.....	19
Children aged 15-17 years.....	20
References.....	23

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

1. Honduras is the second largest country in Central America after Nicaragua. Bordered by Guatemala and El Salvador to its west and Nicaragua to its east, the country has 644km of Caribbean coastline and 124km of Pacific coastline. Approximately 75% of the country is mountainous, with ranges extending from east to west. However, there are narrow plains along the coasts, a large undeveloped lowland jungle La Mosquitia region in the northeast, and the heavily populated lowland Sula valley in the northwest.



United Nations, 2009

These areas have suffered considerably from deforestation in recent years. The only substantial lowlands are found in coastal areas.

2. Honduras has a population of around 7.1 million inhabitants, 42 percent of whom are younger than 15 years of age and roughly half of the population resides in rural areas. The population's annual growth rate is relatively high at 2.5 percent and while Honduras' social indicators are among the lowest in Latin America and Caribbean region, they are comparable to other lower middle income countries. Honduras has a historical record of poor economic growth, but relatively high income stability and low inflation rates in comparison to other countries in the region (World Bank, 2006a).

3. From the devastation of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, a slump in prices of two major primary export goods in 1999 and 2000, a pronounced drought in 2001 and 2002, to recent hikes in oil prices, Honduras has had to face significant shocks that have stressed the country's economic capacity (World Bank, 2006a).

4. Honduras remains vulnerable to external shocks. The agricultural sector has lost about one third of its purchasing power in the past two decades, largely due to the decline in prices for export crops, particularly bananas and coffee. Honduras is susceptible to hurricanes and droughts. Measures to mitigate the impact of these shocks are primarily geared to strengthening households' capacity to adapt, extending market-based risk management mechanisms, and developing effective safety nets (World Bank 2009).

5. Over the past years, Honduras experienced higher growth than the Latin American average. This growth occurred against a backdrop of relative macroeconomic stability in a favorable international climate, combined with successive debt relief initiatives that benefited Honduras in the 2005-2007 period. However, the US recession is having a substantial negative impact on the Honduran economy. Remittances growth, maquila exports

and FDI - the key links between the two economies - are contracting. Real GDP growth is projected to fall to around 2% in 2009 (World Bank, 2009).

6. Although the high growth rates have triggered certain improvements in the social indicators, growth has not fully translated into substantive improvements in the living standards of the majority of the population. Honduras has one of the highest incidence of poverty and inequality in the western hemisphere. The situation of the poor, who usually live off small-scale agriculture in rural areas, was aggravated by the disaster caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

7. Honduras made progress toward reducing poverty between 1991 and 2009, with the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty falling from 61.5 percent to 42 percent. This large decrease in extreme poverty was almost entirely explained by progress in urban areas. The poverty gap in rural areas was in 2006 nearly four times higher than in urban areas, showing that the rural poor's consumption is much further below the poverty line than urban poor's consumption. In addition, indigenous people have also disproportionately affected by the extreme poverty than Mestizos/Ladinos (World Bank, 2006a).

8. Although the country is enjoying an expanding economic cycle, the country faces the dual challenge of consolidating the growth process while addressing pressing social needs. Thus, the principal development challenge for Honduras is to reduce poverty. Indeed, the country's development is linked to the consolidation of growth as a precondition for generating employment and effective and lasting poverty reduction. Because Honduras is highly sensitive to changes in the international climate, external shocks, hurricanes and droughts, a stable macro-economic environment, coupled with a flexible labor market, would help in softening the impact of an economic shock. Other ongoing challenges include improvements in governance and in access to economic and social services, improvements in the quality of education, increasing rural productivity and diversifying the sources of rural incomes (World Bank, 2006b).

Table 1. Honduras: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Human Development Index (HDI) ^(a)	0.653	..	..	..	..	0.668	..	..	..	..	0.7	..
Population growth (annual %)	2.40	2.29	2.18	2.10	2.05	2.02	1.99	1.97	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95
Population, total (thousands)	5570	5699	5825	5949	6072	6196	6320	6446	6573	6702	6834	6969
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	44.33	44.03	43.70	43.33	42.94	42.51	42.07	41.59	41.09	40.56	40.00	39.42
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	52.16	52.39	52.65	52.94	53.26	53.61	53.99	54.41	54.86	55.34	55.86	56.41
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	3.51	3.57	3.65	3.73	3.81	3.88	3.94	4.00	4.05	4.09	4.14	4.17
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	..	..	..	..	52.5	..	..	..	..	50.7	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	..	..	..	..	71.2	..	..	..	..	70.4	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	..	..	..	..	28.6	..	..	..	..	29.5	..	..
GINI index	..	..	53.05	..	51.5	..	..	..	53.84	..	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	57.00	..	..	..	..	65.00	..	..	..	69.00	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	40.00	..	..	..	..	49.00	..	..	..	54.00	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	81.00	..	..	..	..	85.00	..	..	..	87.00	..	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	85.00	..	..	..	..	87.00	..	..	..	87.00	..	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	80.00	..	..	..	..	81.00	..	..	..	81.00	..	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	93.00	..	..	..	..	94.00	..	..	..	95.00	..	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	49.30	..	..	..	..	39.60	..	..	..	..	28.7	26.95
GDP growth (annual %)	4.06	3.60	4.99	2.90	-1.89	5.75	2.61	2.72	3.48	5.02	4.07	6.03
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	921	932	958	965	928	961	967	974	988	1018	1039	1080
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	1.59	1.25	2.73	0.76	-3.88	3.64	0.58	0.72	1.48	3.00	2.07	3.98
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	37.20	38.30	37.00	34.60	35.10	..	35.70	38.40	37.40	34.90	39.20	..
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	24.20	22.30	22.00	23.00	22.00	..	22.60	20.50	21.40	22.40	20.90	..
Employment in services (% of total employment)	38.50	39.40	41.00	42.40	42.90	..	41.60	41.10	41.20	42.70	39.70	..
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	3.20	4.40	3.30	4.00	3.90	..	..	3.90	5.20	6.00	4.20	..

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

^(a) UNDP, 2009

2. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

9. Data from the Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007 show that children's employment¹ is not uncommon in Honduras. An estimated nine percent of children aged 7-14 years², around 150,000 children in absolute terms, were engaged in some form of employment activity in 2007. At the same time, school attendance was high but far from universal – 88 percent of children in the 7-14 years age group attended school. Involvement in employment is higher among older children. 33 percent of 15-17 year-olds (some 200,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. School attendance also appears to be lower for this age range: only 54 percent of children attended school in 2007.

10. A comparison with estimates from previous survey points to a fall in children's employment: an estimated nine percent of 7-14 year-olds were in employment in 2007 against 11 percent (around 169,000 children in absolute terms) in 2002. Children's employment trends are discussed in more detail in section 3 of this report.

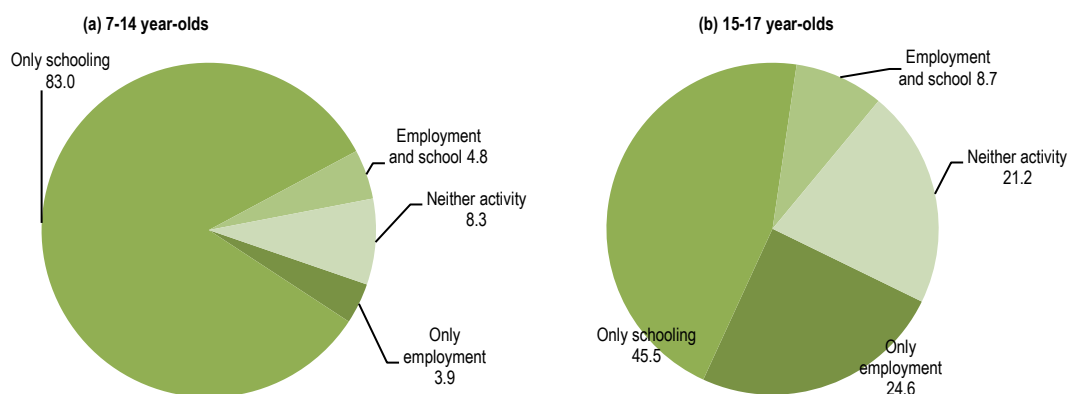
11. Disaggregating the child population into four non-overlapping activity groups – children only in employment, children only attending school, children combining school and employment, and children in neither – offers an initial view of how children's employment interacts with their schooling (Figure 1). This disaggregation shows that 83 percent of 7-14 year-olds attended school unencumbered by work responsibilities, while about five percent of children were combining employment and school in 2007. Only four percent of all 7-14 year-olds were in employment without simultaneously attending school. A large residual group of children (eight percent of 7-14 year-olds) reported neither being in employment nor attending school. Activity patterns differed somewhat for older children³, ages 15 to 17, with a higher fraction in employment and in inactivity and a lower fraction in school.

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

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

³ Additional statistics are provided in the Appendix.

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



Source: UCW calculations based on Honduras, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

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

- Children living in cities and towns are considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to be in employment (5 percent versus 11 percent). At the same time, urban children are more likely to attend school generally (92 percent versus 85 percent) and much more likely to attend school exclusive of employment (90 percent versus 79 percent). Rural children are much more likely than urban children to be “inactive”, i.e., not involved in economic activity or in schooling.
- Gender plays an important role in children's employment in Honduras (Table 2). Boys are three times more likely than girls to be in employment (13 percent versus four percent). At the same time, girls are slightly more likely to benefit from schooling (89 percent versus 87 percent).
- Older children are more likely than their younger counterparts to be in employment (Figure 2). However, the percentage of very young working children is far from negligible: 12 percent of twelve year-olds are already in employment. In addition, as the age of children increases, the percentage of children neither in employment nor studying increases, especially for rural children and for girls.
- There are large regional differences in children's employment (Figure 3). Almost 17 percent of children are employed in Valle Department and more than 13 percent in Copan and El Paraiso while the rate of children's employment is five percent in Colon and six percent in the Cortes region.

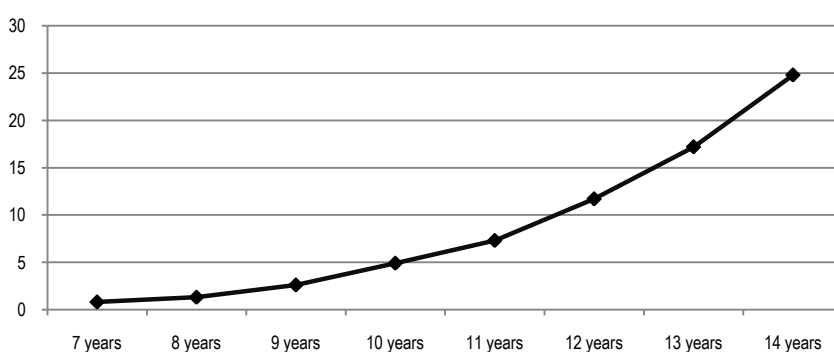
Table 2. Child activity status, by sex and residence, 7-14 age group

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	6.5	79.8	6.8	6.9	13.3	86.6
	Female	1.3	86.2	2.8	9.7	4.1	89.0
Residence	Urban	1.8	89.6	2.8	5.8	4.6	92.4
	Rural	5.3	78.8	6.1	9.9	11.4	84.8
Total 7-14		3.9	83.0	4.8	8.3	8.7	87.8

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

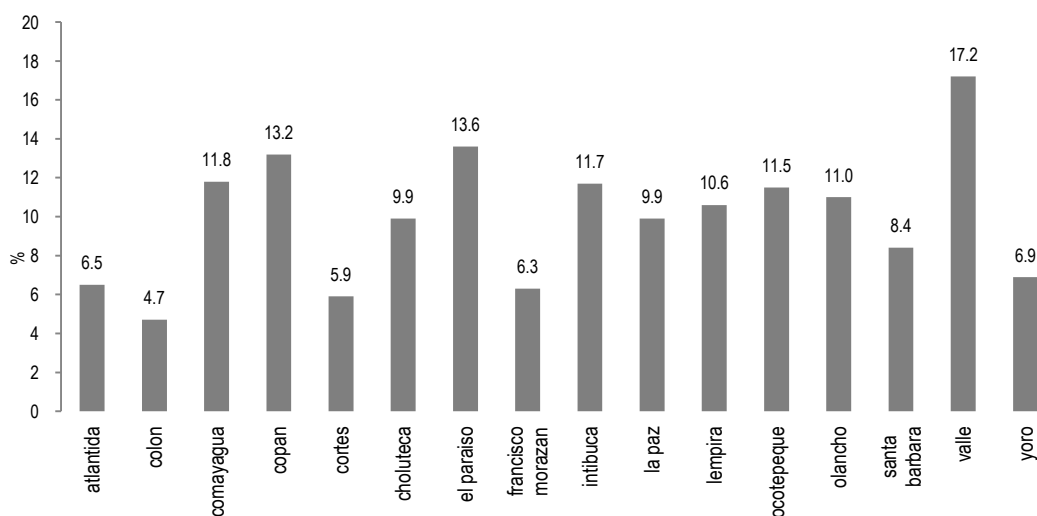
Source: UCW calculations based on Honduras, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

Figure 2. Children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-old age group, by age



Source: UCW calculations based on Honduras, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

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



Source: UCW calculations based on Honduras, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

13. Children's employment appears to vary in terms of the industrial sector in which they are found and the specific modalities under which they work.

(Table 3). Children's employment is concentrated mainly in agriculture. Almost 62 percent of 7-14 year-old children in employment work in agriculture, against 20 percent in trade, 10 percent in manufacturing and five percent in services. Variations by residence and sex in the composition of children's employment are large. Agriculture not surprisingly predominates in rural areas, while work in trade, manufacturing and services are important in urban areas. Girls are more likely than boys to work in services, manufacturing and trade, and less likely to be in agriculture.

14. The overwhelming majority of children in employment work for their family as unpaid labour (almost three quarters of 7-14 year-old children), 23 percent of working children are in wage employment in formal entities. The remainder is engaged in self-employment. Non wage labour is mainly performed by rural children, while children living in cities and towns are more likely to be involved in wage work than their rural counterparts.

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

Characteristics		Sector					Modality		
		Agriculture	Manufacture	Trade	Services	Other	Wage	Self	Unpaid
Sex	Male	74.3	6.7	12.7	2.5	3.7	23.1	3.1	73.8
	Female	19.1	22.9	44.1	13.9	0.0	22.7	4.9	72.4
Residence	Urban	16.1	18.9	46.1	11.4	7.5	33.5	6.2	60.4
	Rural	73.3	8.3	13.2	3.5	1.7	20.4	2.8	76.8
Total 7-14		61.6	10.4	19.9	5.1	2.9	23.0	3.5	73.5

Source: UCW calculations based on Honduras, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

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

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling
Sex	Male	25.6	34.7	17.1
	Female	23.6	35.4	18.0
Residence	Urban	28.4	41.8	20.1
	Rural	24.3	33.3	16.5
Total 7-14		25.2	34.8	17.3

Source: UCW calculations based on Honduras, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

15. Employment is typically time intensive for Hondurans children (Table 4). Children aged 7-14 years in employment log an average of 25 working hours each week. Working hours are strongly negatively correlated with school attendance – children in employment only put in twice as many hours each week as children combining employment and school. Differences in the time intensity of work are not large between male and female children in employment. Time intensity does, however, vary considerably across places of residence, regardless of the school attendance. Children in rural areas put in an average of about four fewer hours each week than their peers in urban areas. The gap in weekly working hours between rural and urban children is even wider for the sub-group in employment without attending school. Urban children from this sub-group

are clustered around 42 hours per week, while rural children in the same sub-group put in 33 weekly hours.

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

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

CONVENTION	Ratification
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	09-06-1980
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	25-10-2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	10-08-1990

Source: ILO/IPEC, 2008, <http://www.ilo.org/ipainfo/product/viewProduct.do?productid=7800>

17. 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 Honduras 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. 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 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

18. A number of qualifications should be kept in mind in interpreting the child labour estimates calculated in this manner. First, the estimates do not include hazardous household chores, despite the fact that the Resolution II of the 18th International Conference of Child Labour Statisticians leaves to the Governments the option of including them in the child labour 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 Honduras. Nonetheless, they provide a useful benchmark for international comparative and monitoring purposes.

19. Child labour based on these criteria is common in Honduras. Around 99,000 children below the minimum working age of 14 years are in employment, and an additional 200,000 (14-17 year-old) children in hazardous forms of work or working excessive hours.¹¹ Putting these groups together yields an estimate of 299,000 5-17 year-olds in child labour, 11 percent of this age group (Table 6).

vendors & related workers; (34) shoe cleaning other street services; (35) messengers, porters, doorkeepers, & related workers; (36) garbage collectors & related workers; (37) agric. fishery and related workers; (38) mining and construction labourers; and (39) transport and freight handlers.

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

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

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

¹¹ The definition of excessive hours used in the ILO/IPEC global estimates, i.e., work at or beyond a threshold of 43 hours per week, is used for this calculation.

20. Table 6 shows that children's involvement in child labour is a rural phenomenon. Over 14 percent of rural children aged 5-17 years are engaged in some forms of child labour (versus 6 percent in urban areas). Gender plays an important role in the child labour phenomenon in Honduras. Males aged 5-17 years are much more likely to be involved in hazardous forms of work than their female counterparts (18 percent versus 4 percent).

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	
		% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.
Sex	Male	7.9	75,702	41.6	170,996	18.0	246,698
	Female	2.5	23,188	7.2	28,955	3.9	52,143
Residence	Urban	2.8	20,650	13.1	45,684	6.1	66,334
	Rural	6.8	78,240	33.2	154,267	14.4	232,507
Total		5.3	98,890	24.6	199,951	11.1	298,841

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. Does not include the hazardous occupations (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.

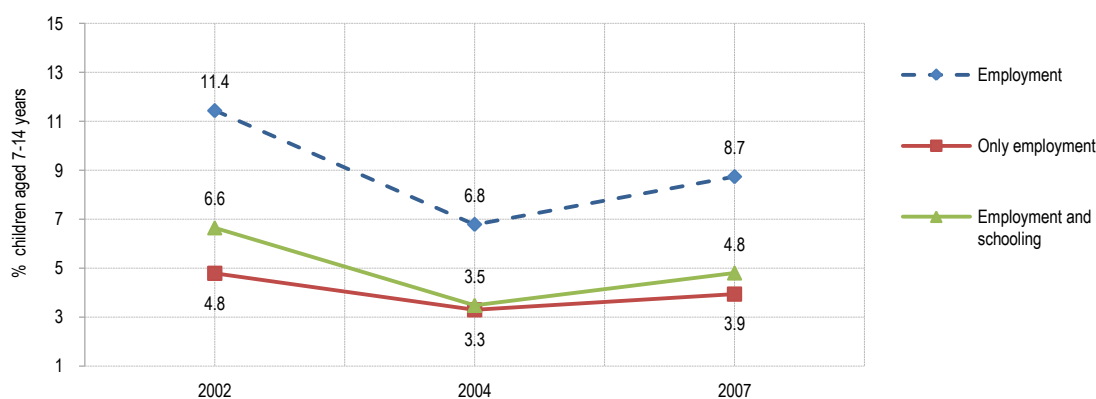
Source: UCW calculations based on Honduras, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, 2007

3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

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

21. A comparison of the results of the 2002 National Child Labour Survey and the EPHPM surveys 2004 and 2007 indicate a total decline in employment among 7-14 year-olds of over two percentage points over this period, from over 11 percent to just under nine percent. School attendance of 7-14 year-olds increased from 86 percent to 88 percent over the same period. A closer look at changes over the period indicates that progress against children's employment was not even. Rather, there was a sharp decline in children's employment from 2002 to 2004 followed by a smaller rise from 2004 to 2007 (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-olds, 2002-2007

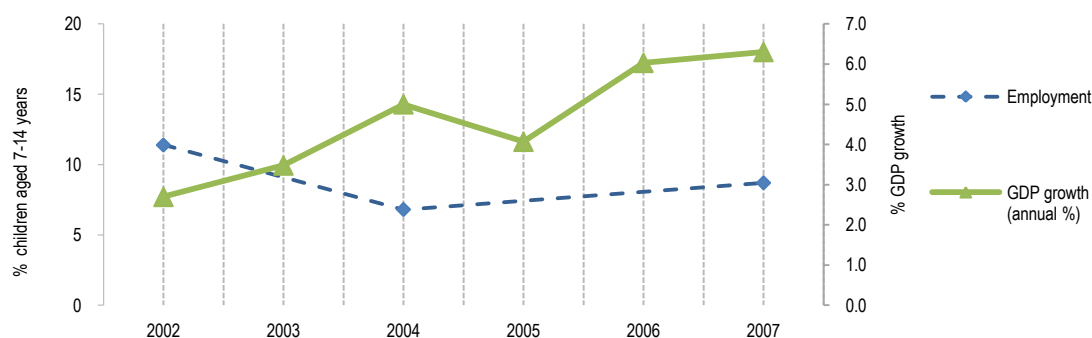


Sources: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007); GDP Growth based on World Development Indicators, (2008), World Bank

22. What might explain the trends in children's activity status? It is worth noting that the 2002-2004 period coincided with a sharp rise in GDP growth (Figure 5), although caution should be exercised in reading too much into this correlation. Indeed, the subsequent rise in economic growth during 2004-2007 did *not* have a similar impact on children's employment. The observed fall in children's employment during the 2002-2004 may also have been in part the product of methodological issues unrelated to actual levels of children's employment. While the Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples survey instrument (upon which the 2004 and 2007 estimates were based) is designed to capture a variety of social and demographic characteristics, the National Child Labour Survey (upon which the 2002 estimate was based) was a specialized child labour survey. It may be, therefore, that the latter survey was more effective in capturing the full range of children in employment.¹²

¹² See also 'Towards consistency in child labour measurement: assessing the comparability of estimates generated by different survey instruments'(UCW, 2009). The study addresses the comparability of child labour estimates produced by different common household surveys.

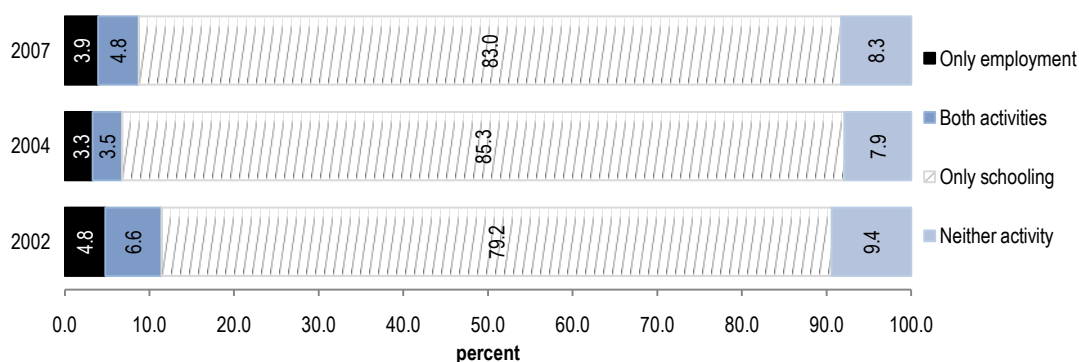
Figure 5. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 2002-2007



Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propositos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

23. Figure 6 and Table 7 illustrate in more detail how the composition of children's time between school and employment changed over the 2002 to 2007 period. They indicate that children's employment trends were driven by both by children combining school and employment and by children in employment but *not* in school. The proportion of children in both groups fell during 2002 to 2004 before rising again during 2004 to 2007. The proportion of "inactive" children, i.e., not involved in employment nor in school, followed a similar pattern.

Figure 6. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 years age group, 2002-2007



Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propositos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table 7. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 year-olds, 2002-2007

Activity Status	2002	2004	2007
Only employment	4.8	3.3	3.9
Only schooling	79.2	85.3	83.0
Both activities	6.6	3.5	4.8
Neither activity	9.4	7.9	8.3
Total employment^(a)	11.4	6.8	8.7
Total school^(b)	85.8	88.8	87.8

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

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propositos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

24. Tables 8 and 9 and Figure 7 look at changes in children's employment and school broken down by sex, residence and age. They suggest that the decline in children's employment during 2002-2007 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. The rural-urban and male-female gaps in terms of involvement in employment and schooling were not eliminated over the 2002-2007 period.

Table 8. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2002-2007, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Only employment	7.6	5.3	6.5	1.8	1.3	1.3
Only schooling	76.6	83.4	79.8	81.9	87.3	86.2
Both activities	8.9	5.0	6.8	4.3	1.9	2.8
Neither activity	7.0	6.2	6.9	11.9	9.5	9.7
Total employment^(a)	16.5	10.4	13.3	6.1	3.2	4.1
Total schooling^(b)	85.4	88.4	86.6	86.3	89.2	89.0

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

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

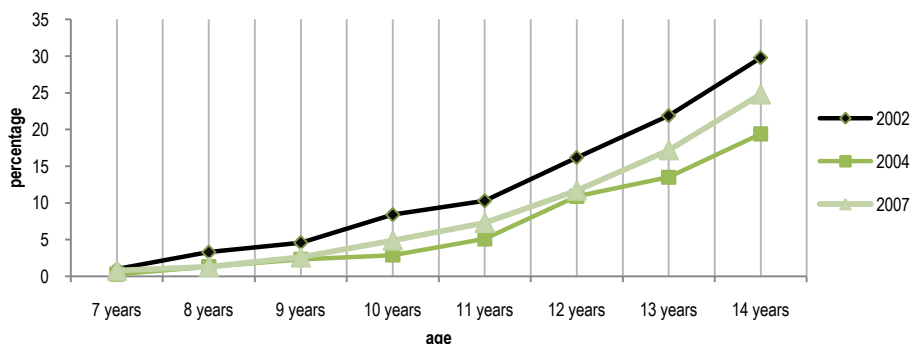
Table 9. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2002-2007, by residence

Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Only employment	1.8	1.5	1.8	6.9	4.5	5.3
Only schooling	87.1	91.8	89.6	73.4	81.0	78.8
Both activities	5.1	2.4	2.8	7.7	4.2	6.1
Neither activity	5.9	4.3	5.8	11.9	10.3	9.9
Total employment^(a)	6.9	3.9	4.6	14.7	8.7	11.4
Total schooling^(b)	92.3	94.2	92.4	81.2	85.2	84.8

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

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Figure 7. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 2002-2007, by age



Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

25. The EPHPM data for the 7-14 years age group point to large variation in terms of children's employment trends within individual Departments (Table 10 and Figure 8). Comparing the 2002 and 2007 reference years, children's employment fell in 12 Departments (Atlantida, Colon, Copan, Cortes, Francisco Morazan, Intibuca, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Olancho, Santa Barbara and Yoro), rose in three (Comayagua, Valle and Choluteca), and remained unchanged in one other (El Paraiso). The Intibuca and La Paz departments made the most progress in terms of employment over the 2002-2007 period (the children's employment decreased by 14 and 10 percentage points, respectively, over this period).

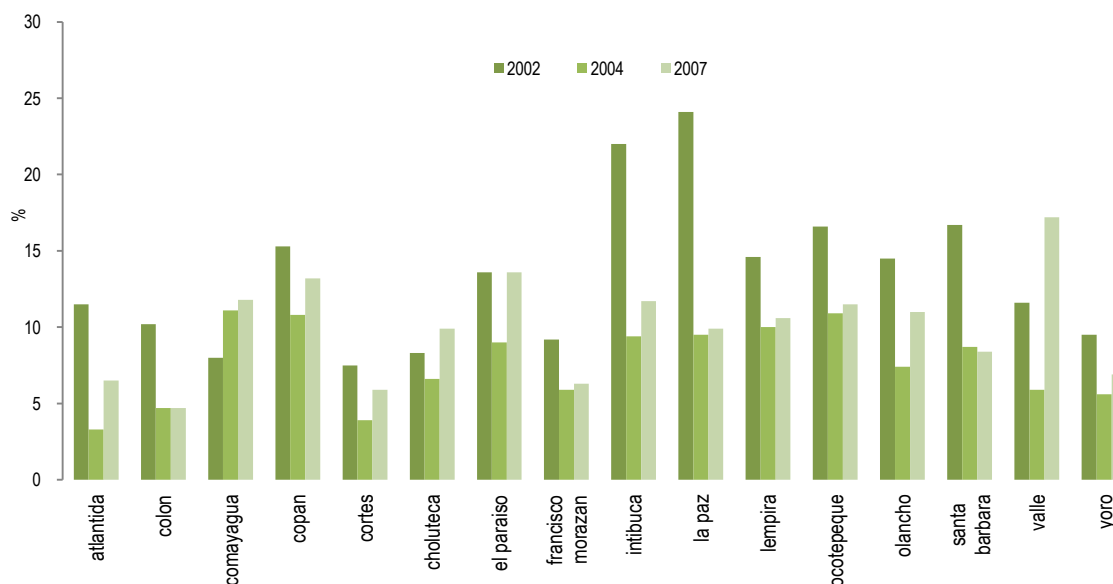
26. Data also point to geographic differences in educational trends (Table 10 and Figure 9). School attendance rose significantly in La Paz Department, while several Departments witnessed a decrease in attendance. An in-depth analysis would be required to identify the reasons behind the differences among Departments.

Table 10. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 2002-2007, by Department

Department	Employment			Schooling		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Atlantida	11.5	3.3	6.5	92.2	93.0	92.8
Colon	10.2	4.7	4.7	87.5	89.4	89.4
Comayagua	8.0	11.1	11.8	84.7	86.8	83.5
Copan	15.3	10.8	13.2	73.4	80.1	74.4
Cortes	7.5	3.9	5.9	90.8	92.6	91.4
Choluteca	8.3	6.6	9.9	83.2	86.8	85.7
El Paraiso	13.6	9.0	13.6	81.3	87.0	85.6
Francisco Morazan	9.2	5.9	6.3	90.9	92.4	92.7
Intibuca	22.0	9.4	11.7	81.6	84.4	84.3
La Paz	24.1	9.5	9.9	79.1	84.2	89.4
Lempira	14.6	10.0	10.6	71.3	83.0	82.6
Ocotepeque	16.6	10.9	11.5	80.5	85.8	80.8
Olancho	14.5	7.4	11.0	83.3	86.7	87.9
Santa barbara	16.7	8.7	8.4	81.2	87.8	83.9
Valle	11.6	5.9	17.2	86.4	84.8	87.3
Yoro	9.5	5.6	6.9	86.6	89.2	87.2

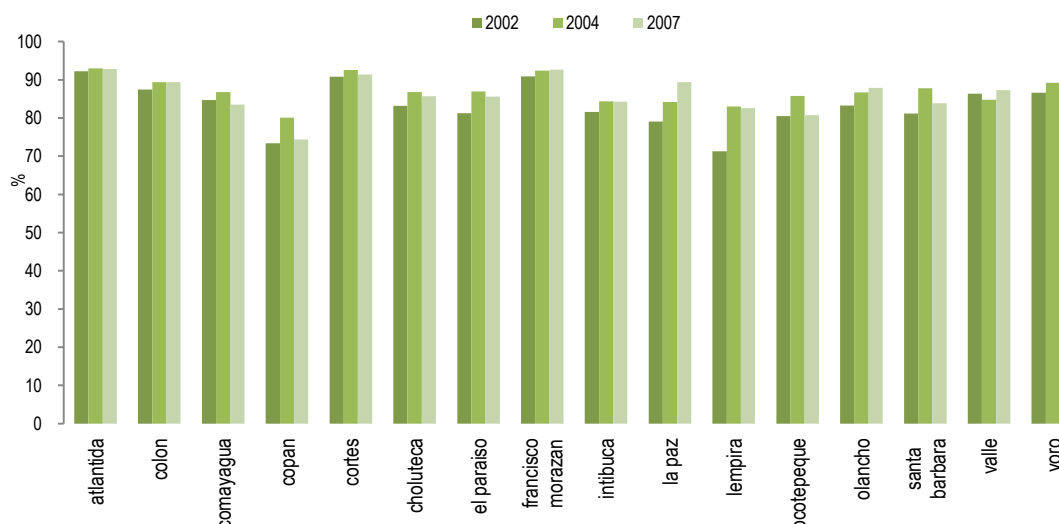
Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Figure 8. Changes in children's employment, 7-14year-olds, 2002-2007, by Department



Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Figure 9. Changes in children's participation in school, 7-14 year-olds, 2002-2007, by Department



Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propositos Multiples (2004 and 2007).

27. A comparison of the results of the surveys from 2002 to 2007 for older, 15-17 year-old, children indicates a growing tendency to among these children to delay entry into employment to continue in their studies (Table 11). The proportion of 15-17 years exclusively in employment (i.e., not also attending school) fell by almost one-fifth from 2002 to 2007, from 31 percent to 25 percent. At the same time, the proportion of 15-17 years exclusively in school (i.e. not also in employment) rose from 35 to 46 percent. Children in the 15-17 years age group were somewhat less likely in 2007 than in 2002 to combine employment and school. They also were less likely to be involved in neither employment nor schooling.

Table 11. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 2002-2007

Activity Status	2002	2004	2007
Only employment	31.1	24.7	24.6
Only schooling	35.3	42.3	45.5
Both activities	9.4	9.1	8.7
Neither activity	24.2	23.9	21.2
Total employment^(a)	40.5	33.8	33.3
Total school^(b)	44.8	51.5	54.2

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

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propositos Multiples (2004 and 2007).

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

28. The 2002-2007 period saw important changes in the modality of employment performed by Honduran children. As shown in Table 12, the

proportion of children working in families without being paid fell by six percentage points over the whole period considered, from 79 percent to 73 percent. In the meantime the proportion of children working as paid employees increased by one-quarter. Compared to 2002, children aged 7-14 years in employment in 2007 were more likely to work in the agriculture sector and less likely to be found in trade and services. This is consistent with the trends by area of residence, i.e., the sharper decrease of children's employment occurred in urban areas as compared to rural areas over the 2002-2007 period.

Table 12. Trends in child activity status during 2002-2007, 7-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	2002	2004	2007
Agriculture	59.5	63.4	61.6
Manufacturing	10.8	8.3	10.4
Trade	21.1	15.4	19.9
Services	7.2	10.9	5.1
Other	1.5	1.9	2.9
Wage	17.9	19.9	23.0
Self	2.7	3.6	3.5
Unpaid	79.4	76.5	73.4

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

29. The time intensity of children's employment fell from 28 hours per week to 25 hours per week over the 2002 to 2007 period (Table 13). The fall in working hours was broad-based, extending to all modalities and economic sectors of employment (except the services sector). Children in employment only spent five hours less in work in 2007 than in 2002 and children combining employment and school put in four hours less per week.

Table 13. Changes in average weekly working hours, 7-14 years age group, 2002-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2002	2004	2007
Total	28.4	28.0	25.2
Agriculture	30.4	28.4	24.8
Manufacturing	22.4	20.1	20.5
Trade	24.4	27.3	23.2
Services	33.1	33.2	38.8
Wage	43.0	36.3	38.0
Self	29.7	30.5	28.6
Unpaid	25.2	25.7	21.0
Employment only	38.9	37.6	34.8
Employment and schooling	21.2	19.0	17.3

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

Children aged 7-14 years

Table A1. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2002-2007, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Agriculture	10.9	8.7	16.1	76.0	79.9	73.3
Manufacturing	22.2	20.1	18.9	6.9	4.8	8.3
Trade	45.2	36	46.1	12.9	9.2	13.2
Services	17.2	30.6	11.4	3.8	5.0	3.5
Other	4.5	4.6	7.5	0.4	1.1	1.7
Wage	25.8	34.2	33.5	15.2	15.6	20.4
Self	3.1	4.4	6.2	2.6	3.3	2.8
Unpaid	71.1	61.4	60.4	82.3	81.1	76.8

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table A2. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2002-2007, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Agriculture	73.6	76.9	74.3	19.8	20.2	19.1
Manufacturing	5.9	5.3	6.7	24.4	17.9	22.9
Trade	15.6	11.7	12.7	36.7	27.5	44.1
Services	3.0	3.6	2.5	19.0	34.4	13.9
Other	1.9	2.5	3.7	0.1	0.0	0.0
Wage	16.7	17.4	23.1	21.0	27.9	22.7
Self	3.3	2.7	3.1	1.1	6.5	4.9
Unpaid	80.0	79.9	73.8	77.8	65.6	72.4

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Children aged 15-17 years

Table A3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2002-2007, by residence

Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Only employment	19.4	15.2	13.5	41.7	32.5	33.4
Only schooling	52.8	59.7	64.5	19.5	28.0	30.5
Both activities	11.1	9.9	7.9	8.0	8.4	9.4
Neither activity	16.8	15.2	14.2	30.8	31.1	26.7
Total employment^(a)	30.4	25.2	21.4	49.7	40.9	42.8
Total schooling^(b)	63.8	69.6	72.4	27.5	36.4	39.9

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

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table A4. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2002-2007, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Only employment	49.4	41.2	39.8	13.0	9.0	9.3
Only schooling	30.2	36.7	39.0	40.4	47.7	52.0
Both activities	10.7	11.5	11.3	8.2	6.8	6.1
Neither activity	9.7	10.6	10.0	38.4	36.5	32.6
Total employment^(a)	60.1	52.7	51.1	21.2	15.9	15.4
Total schooling^(b)	40.9	48.2	50.3	48.6	54.5	58.1

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

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table A5. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 15-17 years age group, 2002-2007, by Department

Province	Employment			Schooling		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Atlantida	37.5	30.5	26.1	58.1	59.5	65.2
Colon	40.7	33.8	30.8	51.4	54.6	52.7
Comayagua	33.9	46.2	40.3	46.8	41.3	49.4
Copan	53.1	53.9	41.8	27.1	32.0	32.9
Cortes	32.6	26.2	27.0	52.2	62.7	63.0
Choluteca	39.1	32.1	39.4	38.7	45.2	46.4
El Paraiso	50.0	29.5	42.2	32.6	40.6	48.7
Francisco Morazan	32.8	24.3	23.6	61.0	66.0	69.5
Intibuca	54.4	45.9	49.2	28.4	28.7	28.9
La Paz	57.0	40.9	40.7	30.4	44.9	39.1
Lempira	57.6	44.3	44.9	13.6	21.2	38.1
Ocotepeque	48.8	41.6	41.1	18.9	37.8	37.4
Olancho	39.6	44.7	39.1	39.9	49.6	51.6
Santa Barbara	53.1	46.1	34.4	30.8	35.3	50.0
Valle	51.0	32.8	37.2	22.1	53.8	46.2
Yoro	49.2	29.6	33.9	35.5	51.9	49.8

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table A6. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 2002-2007, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	2002	2004	2007
Agriculture	53.2	51.9	52.7
Manufacturing	11.4	10.1	9.6
Trade	16.0	13.9	17.3
Services	14.5	17.7	11.4
Other	4.9	6.4	9.1
Wage	45.2	46.2	50.8
Self	10.5	9.7	5.3
Unpaid	44.3	44.1	43.9

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table A7. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2002-2007, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Agriculture	12.9	11.2	9.5	75.6	72.5	69.6
Manufacturing	18.7	15.5	16.4	7.3	7.3	6.9
Trade	32.4	28.5	34.6	6.9	6.5	10.5
Services	26.4	34.7	22.1	7.9	9.1	7.2
Other	9.6	10	17.4	2.3	4.6	5.8
Wage	60.2	68.5	63.9	36.8	34.8	45.7
Self	7.9	5.3	8.7	12.0	12.0	4.0
Unpaid	31.9	26.3	27.4	51.2	53.2	50.3

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table A8. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2002-2007, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	2002	2004	2007	2002	2004	2007
Agriculture	68.1	64.3	64.2	11.7	12.7	14.0
Manufacturing	7.5	7.7	7.2	22.1	17.6	17.5
Trade	12.9	13.7	12.3	24.5	14.5	33.8
Services	4.8	6.0	4.6	41.6	54.6	34.2
Other	6.7	8.3	11.6	0.0	0.5	0.6
Wage	44.5	41.2	51.5	47.1	61.7	48.7
Self	11.7	10.5	4.5	7.2	7.3	7.8
Unpaid	43.8	48.3	44.0	45.7	31.0	43.5

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

Table A9. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 2002-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality

	2002	2004	2007
Total	41.9	41.2	36.8
Agriculture	42.4	38.7	34.7
Manufacturing	37.0	38.4	32.6
Trade	39.8	43.2	35.4
Services	45.6	47.9	47.5
Other	44.3	42.5	43.5
Wage	47.2	46.9	43.9
Self	44.5	39.1	34.9
Unpaid	36.1	35.6	29.0
Employment only	45.3	44.1	40.1
Employment and schooling	31.5	33.4	27.5

Source: UCW, calculations based on Honduras, National Child Labour Survey (2002) and Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (2004 and 2007).

REFERENCES

Central Intelligence Agency. 2009. [*World Factbook. Honduras.*](#)

IFAD. 2009. [*Rural poverty in Honduras.*](#)

International Labour Organization. 2009. [*List of ratification of International Labour Conventions. Honduras.*](#)

UNDP.2009. [*Human development index trends.*](#)

United Nations. 2009. [*Honduras.*](#)

World Bank. 2009. [*Honduras Country Brief.*](#) Available at:

World Bank. 2006a. *Honduras Poverty Assessment. Attaining Poverty Reduction Volume I: Main Report.* 2006. World Bank. Central America Department Latin America and the Caribbean Region

World Bank. 2006b. *Drivers of Sustainable Rural Growth and Poverty Reduction in Central America.*