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

Country report for Paraguay

November 2010

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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.

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

**Country report for Paraguay**

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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 Permanente de Hogares (EPH)* from 1999 to 2005 the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in Paraguay. 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 PARAGUAY

1. Paraguay is a landlocked country located in central South America, lying between Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil. It has an area of 406,750 km<sup>2</sup>. Although landlocked it is drained by three large navigable rivers; the



Source: United Nations

Parana, Paraguay and Pilcomayo. Río Paraguay divides the country into the eastern region (Paraguay Oriental), known as the Paraná region, consisting mainly of grassy plains and wooded hills and the western region (Paraguay Occidental), also known as the Chaco, which features mostly low, marshy plain near the river, and dry forest and thorny scrub elsewhere. The Paraná River forms the southeastern border of the country and contains the Itaipú dam shared with Brazil, the world's largest hydroelectric power plant. Paraguay possesses abundant hydropower generation capacity and is among the world's largest exporter of hydroelectric power.

2. Demographically, Paraguay is a young country; two thirds of the total population is under 30 years of age and 36 percent under 15. 95 percent of the population is represented by *mestizos*, while 5 percent is indigenous. Paraguay's population is distributed unevenly throughout the country. The vast majority of the people live in the eastern region, mostly near Asunción, the capital and largest city. The Gran Chaco, which accounts for about 60 percent of the territory, is home to less than 2 percent of the population. Paraguay is a bilingual country; Spanish and Guaraní are both official languages.

3. Paraguay has a predominantly agricultural economy which comprises a highly productive, mechanized sector focused on exports (mainly of soybeans and beef), a large subsistence sector represented by smallholders with little access to education, effective agricultural extension services, land and capital and an emerging middle class of small landholders with better

access to basic services. In general, Paraguay has the highest concentration of land ownership in the world. About 24 percent of the rural population lives in extreme poverty. The rural poor moving to urban areas, face a lack of minimum-standard housing, public services and employment opportunities. The economy of Paraguay is also marked by a large informal sector featuring both re-export of imported consumer goods to neighboring countries as well as the activities of thousands of microenterprises and urban street vendors<sup>1</sup>.

4. Paraguay went through a period of economic stagnation in the late 1990s and early 2000s, as a result of terms of trade shocks, a domestic banking crisis and the economic turbulence in the Southern Cone. Between 2003 and 2005, supported by a successful stabilization program, the macroeconomic situation turned around with growth averaging 3.6 percent during this period.<sup>2</sup> Between 2003 and 2007 Paraguay experienced its largest economic expansion since the 1970s. Growth was driven by agriculture and the recovery in domestic demand and benefited from prudent fiscal management. Agricultural production grew seven percent per year on average, due mainly to the upsurge in commodity prices but also to productivity gains. During this period there was a fall in public debt and Paraguay's external position strengthened. The year 2008 started off buoyantly, but the global crisis hit in October through a sharp reduction in trade and workers' remittances.

5. Despite recent progress, poverty and inequality remain high compared to other Latin American countries. Poverty which used to be primarily a rural phenomenon spread substantially to urban areas.

6. Paraguay faces other important developmental challenges. The perception of corruption is high in all governmental institutions. Provision of public health is inadequate and has deteriorated over the last decade. School participation rates are low, especially in secondary education where desertion rates are high<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> CIA: The World Factbook. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/nu.html>  
The World Bank, 2009, "Country Partnership Strategy for the Republic of Paraguay"

<sup>2</sup> The World Bank, Country Partnership Strategy for the Republic of Paraguay 2009-2013, March 2009

<sup>3</sup> CIA: The World Factbook. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/nu.html>  
The World Bank, 2009, "Country Partnership Strategy for the Republic of Paraguay"

Table 1. Paraguay: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Human Development Index (HDI) <sup>(a)</sup>	0.737	..	..	..	..	0.749	..	..	..	..	0.755
Population growth (annual %)	2.32	2.26	2.20	2.15	2.11	2.07	2.04	2.00	1.97	1.93	1.89
Population, total (thousands)	4,799	4,909	5,018	5,127	5,237	5,346	5,456	5,567	5,677	5,788	5,899
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	40.39	40.02	39.59	39.13	38.66	38.18	37.71	37.23	36.76	36.29	35.82
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	55.37	55.71	56.11	56.54	56.99	57.42	57.84	58.24	58.63	59.01	59.41
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	4.25	4.28	4.30	4.32	4.35	4.40	4.46	4.53	4.61	4.69	4.77
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	12.7	..	..	19.6	14.3	..	..	17.2	..	..	9.3
Population below \$ 1 per day (% of total) <sup>(b)</sup>	12.7	..	..	19.6	14.3	..	..	17.2	..	..	9.3
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GINI index	59.13	..	..	56.52	56.85	..	..	57.98	58.36	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	66.00	..	..	..	..	74.00	..	..	..	80.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	51.00	..	..	..	..	57.00	..	..	..	61.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	80.00	..	..	..	..	88.00	..	..	..	94.00	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	71.00	..	..	..	..	80.00	..	..	..	86.00	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	53.00	..	..	..	..	62.00	..	..	..	68.00	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	88.00	..	..	..	..	94.00	..	..	..	99.00	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	33.00	..	..	..	..	27.00	..	..	..	..	23.00
GDP growth (annual %)	5.45	0.40	2.99	0.58	-1.48	-3.35	2.06	-0.05	3.84	4.14	2.94
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	1487.8	1460.4	1471.3	1448.3	1397.1	1322.6	1322.7	1295.8	1319.3	1347.6	1361.3
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	3.03	-1.84	0.75	-1.56	-3.54	-5.33	0.00	-2.03	1.82	2.14	1.01
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	40.10	5.10	27.80	28.70	30.40	30.80	31.90	33.10	31.50	..	..
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	16.70	22.00	18.60	18.20	18.10	17.40	16.90	15.70	15.80	..	..
Employment in services (% of total employment)	43.20	72.90	53.60	53.10	51.40	51.80	51.20	51.00	52.70	..	..
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	3.40	7.40	5.30	5.30	6.60	7.60	7.60	10.70	7.90	..	..

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

(a) UNDP, [http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data\\_sheets/cty\\_ds\\_PRY.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_PRY.html)

(b) United Nations Statistics Division (UNSTATS) <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>

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

7. Data from the *Encuesta Permanente de Hogares* (EPH) 2005 show that children's involvement in employment<sup>4</sup> is common in Paraguay. An estimated 15 percent of children aged 10-14 years, more than 113,000 children in absolute terms, were in employment in 2005. At the same time, 93 percent of children from the 10-14 years age group attended school. Involvement in employment is higher among older children. 38 percent of 15-17 year-olds (some 15,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. School attendance also appears to be lower for this age range: only 72 percent of children attended school in 2005.

8. A comparison with estimates from earlier waves of the same survey points to a significant rise in the children's involvement in employment during the period 1999-2004, from 13 percent to 19 percent, followed by a relevant decline between 2004 and 2005, when it fell to 15 percent. Children's employment trends are discussed in more detail 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). The disaggregation shows that in 2005, 81 percent of 10-14 year-olds attended school unencumbered by work responsibilities, while 12.1 percent were combining employment and school. Only three percent of all 10-14 year-olds were in employment without also attending school. A small residual group of children (around four percent of 10-14 year-olds) reported neither being in employment nor attending school. Activity patterns differed somewhat for older<sup>5</sup>, 15-17 year-old, children, with a higher fraction in only employment, in both employment and school and in neither activity, and a lower fraction in school only (Figure 1).

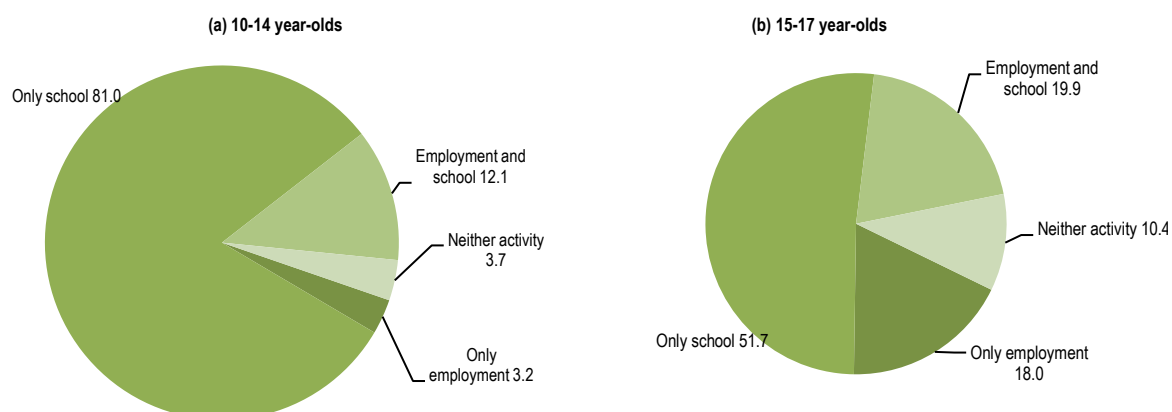
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<sup>4</sup> *Children in employment*, or *children's employment*, is a broad concept covering all market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods for own use). It includes forms of work in both the 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>5</sup> Additional statistics are provided in the Appendix.



Figure 1. Distribution of children by activity category, 10-14 years and 15-17 years age groups



Source: UCW calculations based on Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 2005

10. Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by residence, region and sex (Table 2 and Figure 2). Children's employment is overwhelmingly a rural sector phenomenon and is much more common in some Departments (e.g., Caazapá, Canindeyú, Concepción) than in others (e.g., Asunción, Central, Alto Paraná). Boys are almost three times more likely than girls to be in employment, but the gender gap diminishes as age increases. There is no gender gap in terms of school attendance. Children's school attendance rate is considerably higher in urban areas than in rural areas. The rural-urban gap in terms of the proportion of children attending school without also working is especially large.

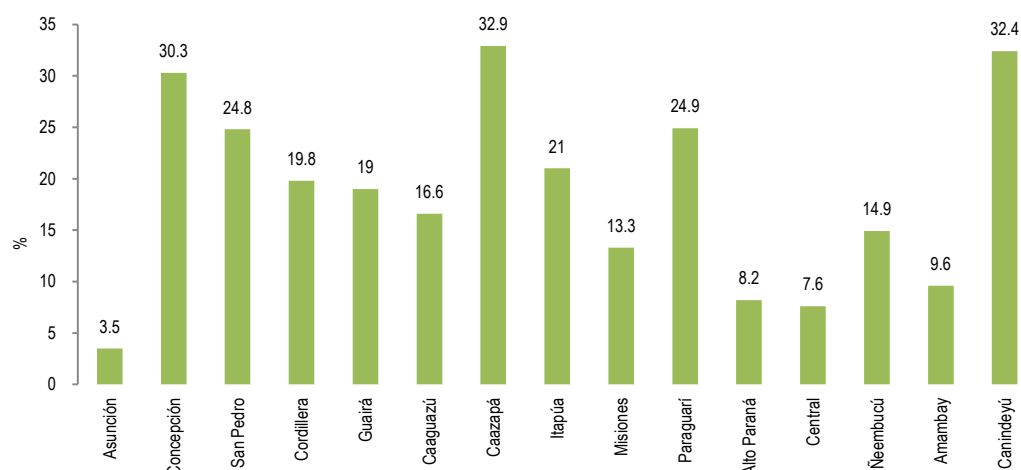
Table 2. Child activity status, by sex and residence, 10-14 age group

Background characteristics		Mutually exclusive activity categories				Total in Employment <sup>(a)</sup>	Total in School <sup>(b)</sup>
		Only Employment	Only School	Employment and school	Neither activity		
Sex	Male	4.4	74.9	18.2	2.5	22.6	93.1
	Female	1.9	87.3	5.8	5.0	7.7	93.1
Residence	Urban	1.5	90.6	6.5	1.4	8.0	97.1
	Rural	5.1	70.2	18.4	6.3	23.5	88.6
Total		3.2	81.0	12.1	3.7	15.3	93.1

Note : (a) involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) involvement in school regardless of employment status

Source: UCW calculations based on Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 2005

Figure 2. Children's involvement in employment, 10-14 year-old age group, by Department (a)



Note: (a) The department Presidente Hayes was not included because of too few observations in the sample.

Sources: UCW calculations based on Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 2005

11. The majority of children in employment work as unpaid family workers (66 percent of 10-14 years old children). A further one-quarter of working children are in wage employment in formal entities (25 percent), while nine percent are in self-employment (Table 3). By sector, agriculture accounts for the largest proportion of children in employment (61 percent), followed by trade and services (16 percent each) and manufacturing (six percent). Variations by residence and sex in the composition of children's employment are large. Agriculture not surprisingly predominates in rural areas, while work in services, trade and manufacturing predominates in urban areas. Girls are seven times more likely to work in services and slightly more likely to work in trade than boys, while boys are twice as likely to be engaged in agriculture than girls.

Table 3. Sector and modality of child economic activity, by sex and residence, 10-14 age group

Characteristics		Sector					Modality		
		Agriculture	Manufact.	Trade	Services	Other	Unpaid	Self	Wage
Sex	Male	69.8	6.0	16.8	6.3	1.3	70.1	9.7	20.3
	Female	33.9	6.8	13.6	45.7	0.0	53.8	8.2	38.6
Residence	Urban	11.0	16.2	36.4	36.4	0.0	34.7	16.7	48.6
	Rural	80.1	2.3	8.1	8.2	1.3	77.9	6.5	15.6
<b>Total 10-14</b>		<b>60.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>24.8</b>

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 2005

Table 4. Average weekly working hours, by sex and residence, 10-14 age group

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling
Sex	Male	32.7	39.5	31
	Female	37.1	40.5	35.9
Residence	Urban	35.2	44.1	33.3
	Rural	33.2	38.4	31.7
<b>Total 10-14</b>		<b>33.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>32.2</b>

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 2005

12. Employment is typically very time intensive for children in Paraguay (Table 4). Children aged 10-14 years in employment log an average of 34 working hours each week. Children in employment only put in seven working hours more each week than children combining employment and school, but even the latter group of children log about 32 hours a week. Such heavy work load for the latter group clearly has negative consequences on the school performance by reducing the time available for homework and by leaving children too tired to concentrate on their studies. Girls in employment, especially the sub-group combining employment and school, work longer hours than boys. Time intensity does not vary considerably across the place of residence for children in employment overall, although children in employment only in urban areas appear to work longer hours than their counterparts in rural areas.

13. Before concluding the discussion of children's employment in 2005, 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 Paraguay.<sup>6</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)	03.03.2004
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	07.03.2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	25.09.1990

SOURCE: ILO LEX

14. Estimates of child labour are presented below based on the international legal standards and the new global guidelines for child labour measurement, and applying the general minimum working age specified by Paraguay upon ratification of ILO Convention No. 138. The child labour definition

<sup>6</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.

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>7</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>8</sup> occupations<sup>9</sup> and conditions<sup>10</sup> utilised in the ILO global child labour estimates.

15. 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 Eighteen International Conference of Child Labour Statisticians leaves to the Governments the option of including them in the child labour estimates,<sup>11</sup> due to data limitations. Second, they do not include children in worst forms other than hazardous,<sup>12</sup> again due to a lack of data. Third and

<sup>7</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>8</sup> Hazardous industries consist of: (1) mining; (2) quarrying; and (3) construction.

<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> 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.

<sup>11</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>12</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

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 Paraguay. Nonetheless, they provide a useful benchmark for international comparative and monitoring purposes.

16. Child labour measured on this basis is common in Paraguay. Over 76,900 children aged 10 to 13 years are in employment, and an additional 107,700 (14-17 year-old) children are in hazardous forms of work or are working excessive hours. Putting these groups together yields an estimate of over 184,600 children aged 10-17 years in child labour, 16 percent of this age group (Table 6).

Table 6. Child labour indicators, by age group, sex and residence, 10-17 age group

		Children in employment		Children in hazardous work		Children in Child Labour	
		Age 10-13		Age 14-17		Age 10-17	
		No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group
Sex	Male	58,098	19.0	82,695	28.8	140,793	23.7
	Female	18,847	6.5	25,059	9.2	43,906	7.8
Residence	Urban	20,182	6.5	49,537	15.9	69,719	11.2
	Rural	56,763	19.9	58,217	23.5	114,980	21.6
Total		76,945	12.9	107,754	19.2	184,699	16.0

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 2005

17. Table 6 shows that children's involvement in child labour is largely a rural phenomenon. Children living in cities and towns are considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to engage in work which constitutes child labour. Gender also plays an important role in the child labour phenomenon in Paraguay. Differences by sex in children's involvement in child labour are large both among 10-13 year-olds and 14-17 year-olds. Indeed, boys in both the age groups are approximately three times more likely than their female counterparts to be involved in hazardous forms of work.

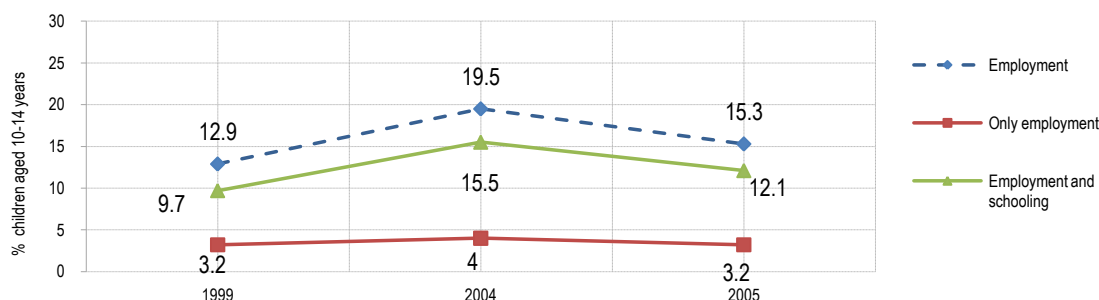
activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.

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

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

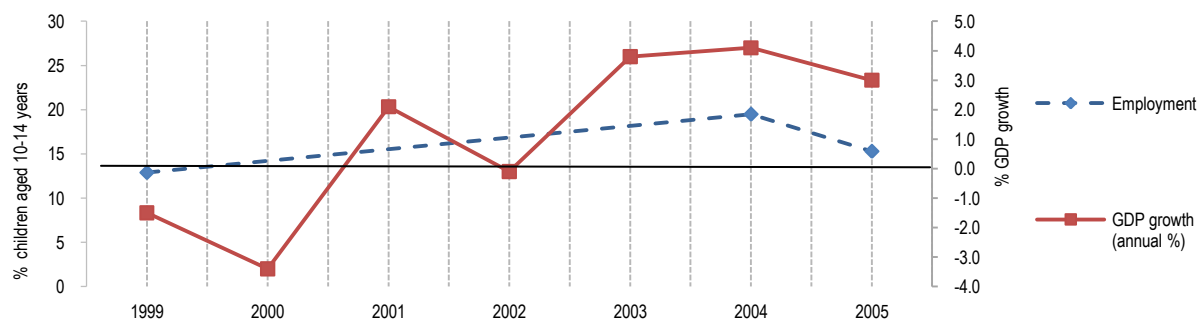
18. A comparison of the results of EPH surveys from 1999 to 2005 shows a significant increase in employment among 10-14 year-olds during the period 1999-2004, from 13 percent in 1999 to almost 20 percent in 2004 (Figure 3). This increase was followed by a sharp decrease in children's employment during the period 2004-2005, from 20 to 15 percent. School attendance of 10-14 year-olds changed little over the 1999-2005 period. A closer look at changes over the period shows that they were driven primarily by the sub-group of children combining employment and school (Table 7 and Figure 5).

Figure 3. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 10-14 year-olds, 1999-2005



Sources: UCW calculations based on Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Figure 4. Changes in children's involvement in employment and GDP growth, 10-14 years age group, 1999-2005



Source: UCW calculations based on Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005 and World Development Indicators, (2008), The World Bank

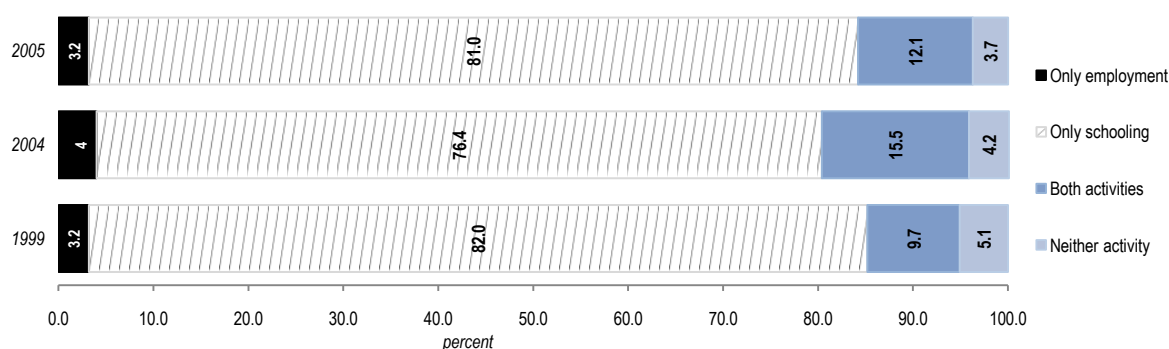
19. An analysis of the reasons behind the rise during 1999-2004 is beyond the scope of this paper, but it is reasonable to speculate that it was related to the stagnation experienced in the late 1990s and early 2000s (Figure 4). The sharp decrease in children's employment during 2004-2005, on the other hand, coincided with a period during which the economy had returned to positive growth. But the factors affecting children's employment are numerous and caution should be exercised in reading too much into these simple correlations.

Table 7. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 10-14 year-olds, 1999-2005

Activity Status	1999	2004	2005
Only employment	3.2	4.0	3.2
Only schooling	82.0	76.4	81.0
Both activities	9.7	15.5	12.1
Neither activity	5.1	4.2	3.7
<b>Total in employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>15.3</b>
<b>Total school<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>93.1</b>

Notes: (a) Involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) Involvement in schooling regardless of employment status.  
Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Figure 5. Changes in children's activity status, 10-14 years age group, 1999-2005



Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

20. Tables 8 and 9 and Figure 6 look at changes in children's employment and schooling broken down by sex, residence and age. They suggest that both the increase in children's employment during 1999-2004 and its decrease during 2004-2005 were broad-based, extending to both girls and boys, to children living in both rural and urban settings and to children across the 10-14 years age spectrum. The rise in children's employment during 1999-2004 particularly affected boys and children living in rural areas, while the decrease during 2004-2005 was larger in urban areas compared to rural areas.

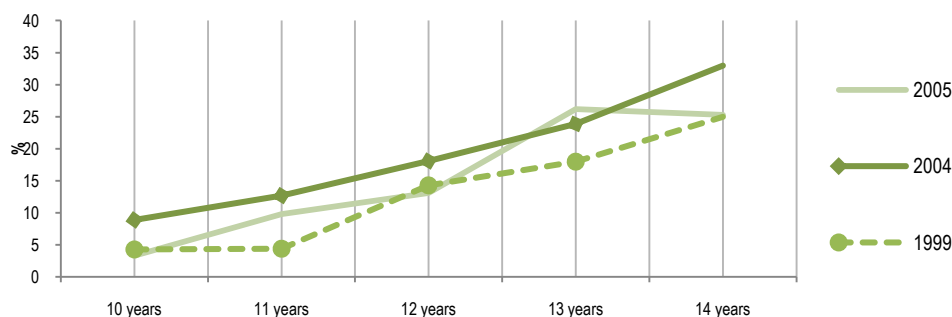
Table 8. Changes in children's activity status, 10-14 age group, 1999-2005, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Only employment	4.6	5.5	4.4	1.8	2.5	1.9
Only schooling	78.2	69.9	74.9	85.8	83.1	87.3
Both activities	14.2	22.0	18.2	5.3	8.6	5.8
Neither activity	3.1	2.6	2.5	7.1	5.8	5.0
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>93.1</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.

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Figure 6. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 1999-2005, by age



Source: UCW calculations based on Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Table 9. Changes in children's activity status, 10-14 age group, 1999-2005, by residence

Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Only employment	1.3	1.8	1.5	5.0	6.4	5.1
Only schooling	89.3	85.0	90.6	75.2	67.3	70.2
Both activities	7.1	11.2	6.5	12.3	19.9	18.4
Neither activity	2.4	2.0	1.4	7.6	6.4	6.3
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>23.5</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>96.2</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>88.6</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.

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

21. There was large variation in terms of children's employment trends within individual Departments (Table 10 and Figure 7). These differences are likely to reflect inequality between regions and relative economic performance. Further, they point to structural changes in children's work



over the reference period. An in-depth analysis would be required to identify the reasons behind the differences among Departments.

22. Comparing the 1999, 2004 and 2005 reference years, in several Departments children's employment increased considerably between 1999 and 2004 and then fell to levels approximating the 1999 ones, between the period 2004-2005 (Guairá, Caaguazú, Caazapá, Central, Amambay). In three Departments, children's employment saw a consistent decrease during 1999-2005 (Asunción, Alto Paraná, Ñeembucú). In the others, children's employment increased consistently during 1999-2005, especially in the Departments of Concepción, Cordillera, Misiones, Paraguairí and Canindeyú. Data also point to geographic differences in educational trends. The majority of the Departments showed progress in terms of education over the 1999-2005 period. Progress was particularly relevant in the Departments Concepción, Alto Paraná, Amambay and Caazapá. But some Departments, such as Cordillera, Guairá, and especially Canindeyú, instead saw a notable decrease in school attendance.

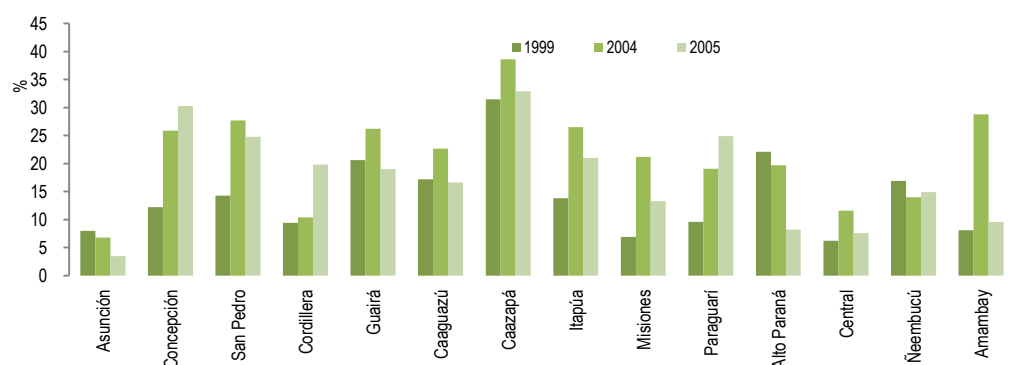
Table 10. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 10-14 years age group, 1999-2005, by Department

State/ Department	Employment			Schooling		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Asunción	8.0	6.8	3.5	95.9	96.8	97.8
Concepción	12.2	25.9	30.3	94.8	94.7	100
San Pedro	14.3	27.7	24.8	89.9	90.9	91.5
Cordillera	9.4	10.4	19.8	91.4	92.4	87.4
Guairá	20.6	26.2	19.0	91.5	91.8	76.6
Caaguazú	17.2	22.7	16.6	91.8	87	92.8
Caazapá	31.5	38.6	32.9	84.9	88.8	91.8
Itapúa	13.8	26.5	21.0	88.3	82.9	89.2
Misiones	6.9	21.2	13.3	96.2	95.5	95.7
Paraguairí	9.6	19.1	24.9	92.9	92.6	91.3
Alto Paraná	22.1	19.7	8.2	80.7	88.5	92.3
Central	6.2	11.6	7.6	97	97.6	97.7
Ñeembucú	16.9	14.0	14.9	94.9	95.8	96.7
Amambay	8.1	28.8	9.6	84.9	93.6	100
Canindeyú	10.5	32.0	32.4	94.5	83.2	75.9
Presidente Hayes	13.5	22.1	-	98.1	91.2	-

Note: (a) The department Presidente Hayes was not included in the analysis for the year 2005 because of too few observations in the sample.

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Figure 7. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 10-14 year-olds, 1999-2005, by Department



Sources: UCW calculations based on Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

23. A comparison of the results of the EPH survey for 1999, 2004 and 2005 for older, 15-17 year-old children, indicate that their employment rate increased during the period 1999-2004 from 35 percent to 42 percent and decreased to 38 percent from 2004 to 2005, thus following the same broad pattern as the employment rate of their younger counterparts (Table 12). The school attendance rate for 15-17 year olds increased consistently over the reference period, from 61 percent in 1999 to 72 percent in 2005. The changes in school attendance and employment were in part driven by changes in the proportion of children combining employment and school over the 1999 to 2005 period.

Table 12. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 1999-2005

Activity Status	1999	2004	2005
Only employment	21	17.7	18.0
Only schooling	47.1	46.1	51.7
Employment and school	14.2	24.3	19.9
Neither activity	17.7	11.9	10.4
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>37.9</b>
<b>Total school<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>71.6</b>

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: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

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

24. The 1999-2005 period also saw changes in the composition and time intensity of children's work (Table 13). Compared to 1999, working children in 2005 were also slightly more likely to work in the manufacturing and trade sectors. These changes were primarily a reflection of an increase in the relative importance of children's rural employment during the reference period (where agriculture is concentrated). This

tendency was accompanied by an increase in the proportion of children working as unpaid family workers.

Table 13. Trends in child activity status during 1999-2005, 10-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	1999	2004	2005
Agriculture	52.9	55.2	60.8
Manufacturing	4.0	9.8	6.2
Trade	15.0	18.7	16.0
Services	26.7	15.8	16.1
Other	1.4	0.5	0.9
Unpaid	61.4	63.4	65.8
Self	9.9	13.2	9.3
Wage	28.8	23.5	24.8

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Table 14. Changes in average weekly working hours, 10-14 years age group, 1999-2005, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	1999	2004	2005
Total	32.0	29.1	33.8
Agriculture	29.9	28.5	31.3
Manufacturing	39.7	26.1	36.5
Trade	38.2	33.4	36.1
Services	30.8	27.8	39.4
Other	46	34.2	34.4
Unpaid	30.4	28.6	32.5
Self	33.9	27.3	28.5
Wage	34.6	31.6	39.1
Employment only	43.5	38.0	39.8
Employment and schooling	28.2	26.8	32.2

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005.

25. The time intensity of children's employment increased slightly over the 1999-2005 period, driven primarily by an increase in the working hours logged by children combining employment and school. Children in employment only, by contrast, logged in fewer hours in 2005 compared to 1999, even if they had still to work longer hours than children combining employment and school. Average working hours increased in the agricultural and in the services sectors during the 1999-2005 period, while average working time spent in the manufacturing and trade sectors decreased (Table 14).

## ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

## Children aged 10-14 years

Table A1. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 10-14 years age group, 1999-2005, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Agriculture	2.6	10.8	11.0	75.8	78.2	80.1
Manufacturing	6.9	19.6	16.2	2.7	4.8	2.3
Trade	25.5	39.8	36.4	10.2	7.7	8.1
Services	63.0	28.9	36.4	10.2	9.0	8.2
Other	1.9	0.9	0.0	1.1	0.4	1.3
Unpaid	28.2	38.7	34.7	77.0	76.2	77.9
Self	20.6	20.6	16.7	4.8	9.3	6.5
Wage	51.2	40.7	48.6	18.3	14.5	15.6

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Table A2. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 10-14 years age group, 1999-2005, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Agriculture	61.2	61.1	69.8	30.9	40.1	33.9
Manufacturing	3.8	10.0	6.0	4.6	9.4	6.9
Trade	12.2	17.4	16.8	22.3	22.1	13.6
Services	20.9	10.8	6.3	42.2	28.4	45.7
Other	1.9	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unpaid	64.0	64.3	70.1	54.7	60.9	53.2
Self	10.9	13.2	9.7	7.2	13.0	8.2
Wage	25.2	22.5	20.3	38.1	26.1	38.6

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

## Children aged 15-17 years

Table A3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Only employment	31.3	22.3	24.0	11.2	12.8	11.4
Only schooling	39.7	37.2	43.5	54.1	55.5	60.7
Both activities	19.0	34.5	25.8	9.6	13.3	13.6
Neither activity	10.0	6.0	6.8	25.0	18.3	14.4
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	50.3	56.8	49.7	20.8	26.1	25.0
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	58.7	71.7	69.3	63.7	68.9	74.2

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: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Table A4. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by residence

Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Only employment	12.9	10.8	9.2	29.3	26.6	28.7
Only schooling	58.2	59.1	64.7	35.7	29.4	35.7
Both activities	14.5	22.1	18.5	13.8	27.1	21.7
Neither activity	14.3	8.0	7.6	21.2	16.9	13.9
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	27.5	32.9	27.7	43.0	53.7	50.4
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	72.7	81.2	83.2	49.5	56.5	57.4

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

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Table A5. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by Department

Department	Employment			Schooling		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
<b>Asunción</b>	20.5	27.8	17.7	81.6	84.4	87.3
<b>Concepción</b>	40.2	41.8	51.3	51.7	71.8	79.6
<b>San Pedro</b>	45.6	52.8	45.3	43.2	61.8	56.8
<b>Cordillera</b>	34.9	35.4	44.9	57.2	71.9	69.3
<b>Guairá</b>	33.6	60.9	46.1	61.8	73.7	57.8
<b>Caaguazú</b>	43.3	50	39.8	58.3	56.3	64.3
<b>Caazapá</b>	57.7	66.6	84.4	35.4	59.5	31.6
<b>Itapúa</b>	41.5	47.6	44.1	49.7	56.7	54.8
<b>Misiones</b>	25	36.2	31.2	82.8	78.3	83
<b>Paraguarí</b>	39.8	49.7	46.1	71	69.6	75.4
<b>Alto Paraná</b>	48.5	46.7	36.4	46.7	65.1	68.7
<b>Central</b>	22.7	31.2	25.1	73	81.8	87
<b>Ñeembucú</b>	44.1	34.2	53.8	73.5	71.3	86.9
<b>Amambay</b>	25.1	45.5	50	54	66.8	65.2
<b>Canindeyú</b>	27.4	57.7	55.2	68	51.6	49.9
<b>Presidente</b>	40.6	29.4	41.7	68.2	73	37.9

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Table A6. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 1999-2005, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	1999	2004	2005
Agriculture	43.0	45.3	49.6
Manufacturing	9.2	10.0	7.1
Trade	13.2	19.3	19.8
Services	29.0	21.6	19.4
Other	5.7	3.8	4.3
Unpaid	44.5	44.4	44.7
Self	6.6	12.4	9.7
Wage	48.9	43.2	45.6

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005.

**Table A7. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by sector, schooling status and modality**

	1999	2004	2005
Total	38.8	36.0	40.5
Agriculture	35.3	33.9	36.5
Manufacturing	41.5	36.6	45
Trade	44	37.6	45.9
Services	39.3	38.5	43.7
Other	44	37.7	40.7
Unpaid	37.3	34.4	37.2
Self	27.6	28.6	33.2
Wage	41.7	39.8	45.4
Employment only	44.0	41.1	42.9
Employment and schooling	31.3	32.3	38.4

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

**Table A8. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by residence**

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Agriculture	3.5	8.9	4.9	68.8	73.8	79.7
Manufacturing	13.7	14.7	10.7	6.2	6.4	4.6
Trade	20.5	34.4	42.3	8.4	7.5	4.5
Services	55.3	35.0	35.2	11.9	11.2	8.7
Other	7.0	7.2	6.9	4.8	1.1	2.5
Unpaid	17.4	21.6	14.3	63.4	62.1	65.2
Self	8.1	12.1	8.7	5.5	12.7	10.4
Wage	74.5	66.3	77.0	31.0	25.3	24.4

Source: Paraguay, Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 1999, 2004, 2005

Table A9. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	1999	2004	2005	1999	2004	2005
Agriculture	54.8	52.3	57.5	16.1	29.3	32.2
Manufacturing	11.2	11.7	8.0	4.5	6.1	5.1
Trade	9.3	20.0	20.0	22.1	17.5	19.2
Services	16.8	10.7	8.2	57.0	47.1	43.5
Other	8.0	5.4	6.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
Unpaid	50.9	46.4	47.3	30.0	39.5	39.0
Self	5.6	13.4	10.2	8.8	10.2	8.7
Wage	43.5	40.2	42.6	61.2	50.3	52.3

Source: Paraguay Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH)



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