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

Country report for Peru

November 2010

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the Latin America and Caribbean region*

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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 1994. 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 Peru**

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**Abstract**

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

Building on data from the *Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil* survey from 2007 and the *Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medicion de Niveles de Vida* surveys from 1994 and 2004, the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in Peru. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling.

*Trends in children's employment and child labour in  
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**Country report for Peru**

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



1. Peru is located in western South America, bordering Ecuador and Colombia in the northern side, Bolivia in the southeastern region, Chile in the southern region and Brazil in the eastern side. It also extends for 2,414 km along the Pacific Ocean in the eastern side. The Peruvian territory covers a total of 1,285,216 km<sup>2</sup>. Peru is divided by the Andes Mountains into three sharply differentiated zones: The western coastal plain, high and rugged Andes in center, and the eastern lowland jungle of Amazon Basin.

2. The population of Peru is over 29 million, which makes it the fifth most populous country in Latin America (after Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina). It is characterized by: 45% of Amerindian, 37% mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white), 15% white people, and a minority of black, Japanese, Chinese, and other equivalent to the 3%. The major languages spoken are: Spanish (official), Quechua (official), Aymara, and a large number of minor Amazonian languages<sup>1</sup>.

3. Peru's economy is one of the most successful in Latin America due to a strong economic policy and a favorable external environment. The GDP growth rose from 7.7 percent in 2006 to 9.8 percent in 2008. The economic growth had an effect on employment and incomes. It resulted in significant reductions in poverty rates. The national poverty rate fell from 48.6 to 36.2 percent between 2004 and 2008. Over the same period, extreme poverty dropped from 17.1 percent to 12.6 percent.

4. Despite such significant progress, poverty rates are still high for a country with income levels like Peru's<sup>2</sup>. One in two Peruvians is poor, and poverty is declining more slowly than expected given the rate of growth.

<sup>1</sup> CIA World Factbook, 2009

<sup>2</sup> World Bank, 2008.

Poverty reaches 60% of young people between the age of 0 and 17 years old<sup>3</sup>. While for the general population there was not a dramatic improvement in tackling poverty in the past few years, as in 2001 it was 54 percent and in 2004 it decreased to only 53 percent. The population below the \$1 (PPP) per day poverty line in 2002 was 12.6 percent, while in 2006 it dropped to 7.9 percent. Poverty levels are significantly higher in rural areas, particularly the Sierra region (67.7 percent), while urban areas—most notably Metropolitan Lima—are the most unequal. Inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, stood at 0.43—below the Latin American average of 0.52, but still high by international standards.

5. Ethnicity forms another aspect of the reality of poverty in Peru. It is clear that they are much more likely to live in conditions of poverty than the rest of the population. On a national level, 64 percent of indigenous peoples live below the poverty line, while nearly 80 percent of the rural indigenous population is poor, compared to 40 percent and 66 percent to non-indigenous, respectively<sup>4</sup>.

6. On the other hand, Peru's fiscal indicators remained robust between 2006 and 2008. The non-financial government bottom line recorded a surplus between 2.1 and 3.1% of GDP over that period, comparing favorably with 2.5% GDP government deficit recorded at the beginning of such decade. The raise of revenues resulted from the mining exports, and the careful expenditure administration significantly improved the government accounts. Public debt fell quickly from 46% of GDP in 2001 to approximately 24 percent of GDP in 2008.

7. Now, Peru is challenged by the global financial recession and it is armed with strong macro-economic indicators and sound economic and social policy management. The international financial crisis is causing a significant slowdown on Peru's short-term growth. Lower commodity prices and slower global demand will have a negative effect on the government revenues, as one third of tax revenues are levied on commodities. Peru is strongly positioned to resume the path of growth once the global economy stabilizes. However, the current administration is concerned of the risks of the global financial crisis and is countering its effects through package to prevent losing whatever progress was accomplished in recent years in reducing poverty, including the Juntos conditional cash transfers program. The Peruvian government has asked some international financial institutions, including the World Bank, to supply with contingency loans in order to face potential future financing needs.

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<sup>3</sup> Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática

<sup>4</sup> International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 2006

Table 1. Peru: selected socio-economic indicators

Series Name	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Human Development Index (HDI) <sup>(a)</sup>	0.737					0.763					0.773	1.15	
Population growth (annual %)	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Population, total (thousands)	21,762	22,199	22,628	23,050	23,460	23,857	24,242	24,613	24,973	25,322	25,663	25,995	28,837
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	36.4	36.1	35.7	35.3	35.0	34.5	34.0	33.5	32.9	32.3	31.8	31.2	30.7
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	59.3	59.5	59.8	60.0	60.3	60.6	61.0	61.4	61.8	62.2	62.7	63.1	63.5
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.7
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	54.3	..	..	53.1	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	77.1	..	..	72.1	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	..	..	..	..	..	..	42.0	..	..	42.9	..	..	..
GINI index	..	46.2	..	..	..	49.8	53.0	54.7	52.0	..	..	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	57.0	..	..	..	..	61.0	..	..	..	63.0	..	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	22.0	..	..	..	..	29.0	..	..	..	32.0	..	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	71.0	..	..	..	..	73.0	..	..	..	74.0	..	..	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	78.0	..	..	..	..	81.0	..	..	..	83.0	..	..	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	51.0	..	..	..	..	61.0	..	..	..	65.0	..	..	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	89.0	..	..	..	..	89.0	..	..	..	89.0	..	..	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	62.5	..	..	..	..	41.3	..	..	..	..	27.3	25.2	..
GDP growth (annual %)	8.6	2.5	6.9	-0.7	0.9	3.0	0.2	5.2	3.9	5.2	6.4	7.7	9.8
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	1,976	1,993	2,098	2,054	2,044	2,077	2,054	2,135	2,190	2,277	2,396	2,552	2,923.0
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	6.8	0.9	5.3	-2.1	-0.5	1.6	-1.1	3.9	2.7	4.0	5.2	6.5	8.6
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	1.1	6.0	7.6	5.3	5.8	6.8	8.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	..	..
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	25.6	21.5	20.8	20.2	18.7	18.8	17.9	21.7	20.6	22.1	23.8	..	..
Employment in services (% of total employment)	73.3	72.5	71.6	74.5	75.5	74.4	73.3	77.3	78.6	77.1	75.5	..	..
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	7.1	7.1	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.3	7.9	9.7	10.3	10.5	11.4	..	..

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

<sup>(a)</sup> UNDP, [http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/data\\_sheets/cty\\_ds\\_PER.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_PER.html)

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

8. Children's employment<sup>1</sup> remains very common in Peru. An estimated 42 percent of children aged 7-14 years<sup>2</sup>, over 2,174,000 children in absolute terms, were in employment in 2007. At the same time, school attendance was high – 97 percent of children from the 7-14 years, age group attended school in 2007. Involvement in employment is higher among older children. 54 percent of 15-17 year-olds (some 950,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. School attendance also appears to be lower for this age range: only 77 percent of children attended school in 2007.

9. A comparison with estimates from earlier surveys from another survey programme (ENNIV-Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medicion de Niveles de Vida) points to a sharp rise in children's employment since 1994, when 18 percent of 7-14 year-olds (736,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. Children's employment trends are discussed in more details in section 3 of this report.

10. Disaggregating the child population into four non-overlapping activity groups – children only in employment, children only attending school, children combining school and employment, and children in neither – offers an initial view of how children's employment interacts with their schooling (Figure 1). This disaggregation shows that almost 57 percent of 7-14 year-olds children attended school exclusively, while 41 percent were combining employment and school in 2007. Only two percent of all 7-14 year-olds were in employment without also attending school. A small share of children (one percent of 7-14 year-olds) reported neither in employment nor attending school. Activity patterns differ for older<sup>3</sup>, 15-17 year-old children – a greater share was in employment exclusively and a smaller share was attending school exclusively.

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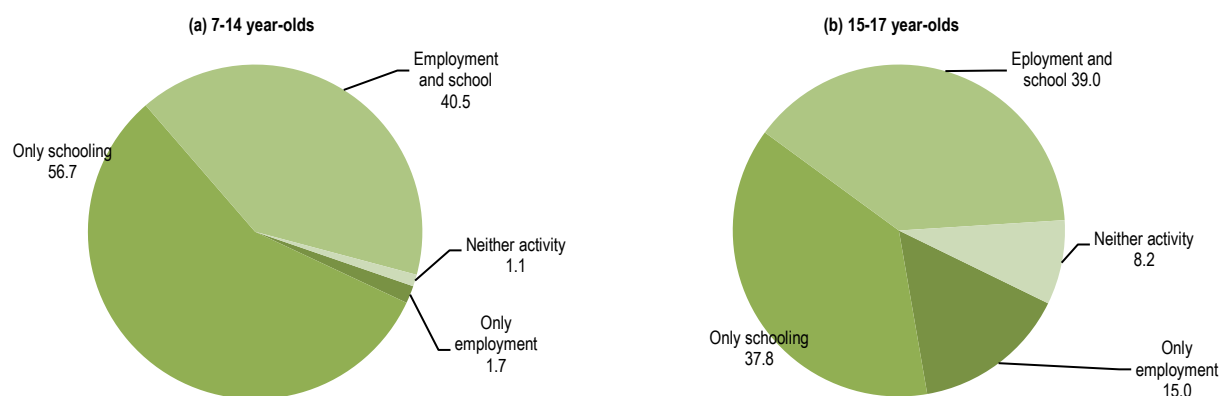
<sup>1</sup> *Children in employment*, or *children's employment*, is a broad concept covering all market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods for own use). It includes forms of work in both the formal and informal sectors, as well as forms of work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

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

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



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



Source: UCW calculation based on Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

11. Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by sex, residence, ethnicity (Table 2), region (Figure 2) and age (Figure 3). Children living in cities and towns are considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to be in employment (26 percent versus 72 percent). At the same time, urban children are slightly more likely to attend school (98 percent versus 96 percent) and much more likely to attend school exclusive of employment (73 percent versus 27 percent). Boys are more likely to be in employment than girls of the same age (45 percent versus 40 percent). Older children are more likely than their younger counterparts to be in employment. However, the percentage of even very young working children is far from negligible: almost 30 percent of seven year-olds is already in employment (Figure 3). Ethnicity also strongly influences children's activity patterns. Indigenous children in the 7-14 years age group are much more likely to be in employment compared to their non-indigenous peers (77 percent versus 34 percent). At the same time, indigenous children are less likely to attend school exclusively than non-indigenous children (23 percent versus 65 percent).

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

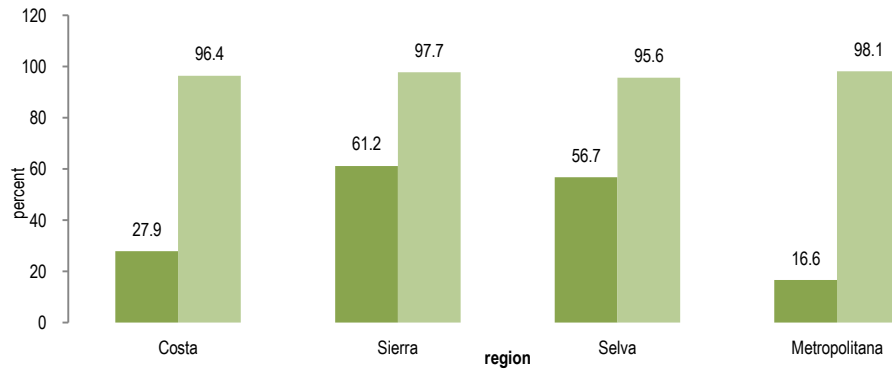
Background characteristics	Mutually exclusive activity categories				Total in employment <sup>(a)</sup>	Total in school <sup>(b)</sup>	
	Only employment	Only schooling	Employment and schooling	Neither activity			
Sex	Male	1.8	54.4	43.1	0.8	44.8	97.5
	Female	1.6	59.0	37.8	1.5	39.5	96.9
Residence	Urban	0.9	73.1	24.8	1.3	25.6	97.9
	Rural	3.2	27.2	68.7	0.9	71.9	95.9
Ethnicity	Indigenous	2.2	22.6	75.0	0.3	77.1	97.5
	Non Indigenous	1.6	64.6	32.5	1.3	34.1	97.1
<b>Total 7-14</b>		1.7	56.7	40.5	1.1	42.2	97.2

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

Source: UCW calculation based on Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

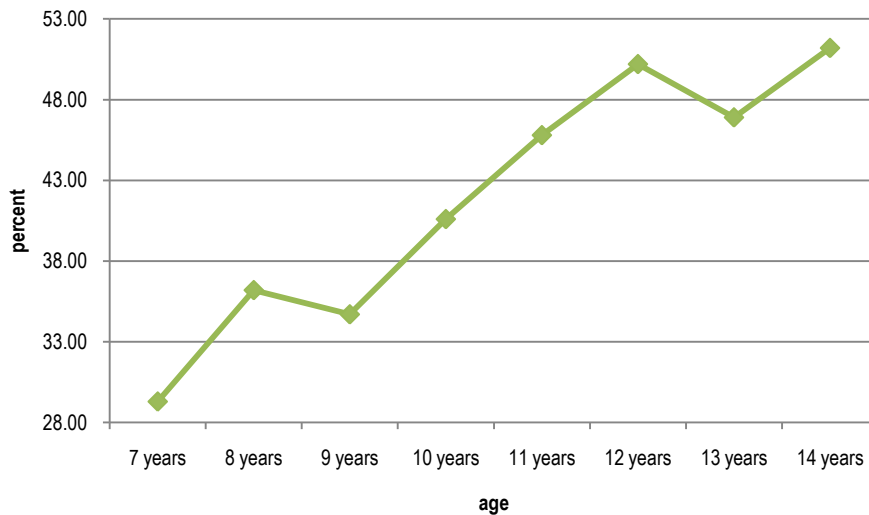
13. Data from the ETI 2007 also point to large regional differences in children's employment, underlining the importance of geographical targeting in child labour elimination efforts. Almost 62 percent of children are employed in Sierra, for instance, while the rate of children's employment is 28 percent in Costa and 17 percent in the Metropolitana region (Figure 2).

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



Source: UCW calculation based on Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

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



Source: UCW calculation based on Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

14. Children in employment vary in terms of industrial sector in which they are found and the specific modalities under which they work. Children's employment is concentrated mainly in the agricultural sector (Table 3). Almost 63 percent of 7-14 year-old children in employment work in agriculture, against 19 percent in the trade sector, 12 percent in services and five percent in manufacturing. There are large differences in the nature of children's employment by place of residence and ethnicity, whereas the differences by sex are negligible. While agricultural work predominates in rural areas (88 percent), work in the services and trade sectors is more important in urban areas, where 41 percent of working children are absorbed by the trade sector and 25 percent by services. Indigenous children are much more

likely than their non-indigenous peers to work in agriculture, and less likely to work in trade and services.

15. The overwhelming majority of children in employment work for their family as unpaid labourers (89 percent of 7-14 year olds children). About six percent of working children are in wage employment while the remaining five percent are found in self-employment or other work. Girls are more likely to perform unpaid work than boys. Unpaid family work is more common in rural areas (95 percent versus 79 percent) while children living in urban areas are much more likely than their rural counterparts to be found in wage employment (11 percent versus three percent). Wage labour is performed mainly by non indigenous children, while indigenous children are more likely to be involved in unpaid work.

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

Characteristics	Sector					Modality				
	Agriculture	Manufact.	Trade	Services	Other	Wage	Self	Unpaid	Others	
Sex	Male	63.6	4.5	18.8	11.0	2.1	6.8	4.4	87.1	1.7
	Female	61.3	5.5	20.0	12.9	0.4	5.1	3.2	90.3	1.5
Residence	Urban	22.7	9.1	40.7	25.3	2.3	11.0	7.6	78.8	2.7
	Rural	88.0	2.3	5.7	3.3	0.8	2.8	1.4	94.8	0.9
Ethnicity	Indigenous	83.7	2.7	7.8	4.5	1.3	2.8	1.3	95.4	0.6
	Non indigenous	51.4	6.1	25.4	15.7	1.4	7.7	5.2	85.0	2.2
<b>Total 7-14</b>		62.6	5.0	19.3	11.8	1.4	6.0	3.8	88.6	1.6

Source: UCW calculation based on Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

16. Children aged 7-14 years in employment log an average of over 13 working hours per week (Table 4). But the sub-group of children in employment not attending school work far more - an average of 31 hours per week. There is little variation in working hours by place of residence or by sex. However, employment appears slightly more time intensive for indigenous children than for non indigenous children. Non indigenous children put in an average of about two fewer hours each week as their indigenous peers. The gap by ethnicity is larger between indigenous and non indigenous who are in employment exclusively. Non-student indigenous children log 35 hours of work per week, while non indigenous children in the same category log an average of 30 hours per week (Table 4).

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

Characteristics	Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling	
<b>Sex</b>	Male	13.4	31.2	12.7
	Female	13.3	29.8	12.6
<b>Residence</b>	Urban	13.2	31.3	12.6
	Rural	13.5	30.2	12.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Indigenous	14.5	35.2	13.9
	Non indigenous	12.8	29.1	12.0
<b>Total 7-14</b>		13.4	30.6	12.7

Source: UCW calculation based on Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

17. Before concluding the discussion of children's employment in 2007, it is worth addressing one final question: the extent to which this work constitutes "child labour" for elimination in accordance with international legal standards ratified by Peru.<sup>4</sup> This question is critical for the purposes of prioritising and targeting policy responses to working children.

Table 5. Peru: ratified conventions relating to child labour

CONVENTION	Ratification
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	13-11-2002
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	10-01-2002
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	04-09-1990

18. 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 Peru upon ratification of ILO Convention No. 138. The child labour definition constructed on this basis consists of (i) children in employment below the age of 14 years; and (ii) children aged 14-17 years in hazardous forms of employment<sup>5</sup>. Hazardous forms, in turn, consist of work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, as set out in Article 3, subparagraph (1) of ILO Convention No. 138. As it is difficult to match national legislation with available statistical information, child labour is approximated as children in employment below the minimum working age, and children in hazardous work. Involvement in hazardous work is estimated on the basis of the hazardous industries<sup>6</sup>, occupations<sup>7</sup> and conditions<sup>8</sup> utilised in the ILO global child labour estimates.

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> Hazardous occupations consist of: (1) optical and elect equip operators; (2) health associated professional; (3) nursing midwife; (4) protective services; (5) forestry and related workers; (6) fishery, hunters and trappers; (7) miners, shot fires, stone cutters and carvers; (8) building frame and related workers; (9) building finishers; (10) metal moulders, welders, and related workers; (11) blacksmith, tool makers and related workers; (12) machinery mechanics and fitters; (13) electrical and electronic equip mechanics and fitters; (14) precision workers in metal; (15) potters, glass makers and related workers; (16) mining & mineral processing plant operators; (17) metal processing plant op.; (18) glass, ceramics and related plant op.; (19) wood processing & papermaking plant op.; (20) chemical processing plant op.; (21) power production and related 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>8</sup> Hazardous conditions consist of work exceeding 43 hours per week. It is worth mentioning that these estimates do not take into account different exposure to risks at the workplace.

19. 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 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Child Labour Statisticians leaves to the Governments the option of including them in the child labour estimates<sup>9</sup>, due to data limitations. Second, they do not include children in worst forms other than hazardous<sup>10</sup> again due to a lack of data. Third and most importantly, sector-specific provisions (if any) concerning minimum working age and hazardous work are not taken into account in the estimates. For these reasons, the estimates do not capture the entire population of child labourers in the country and nor do they strictly coincide with the legal definition of child labour in Peru. Nonetheless, they provide a useful benchmark for international comparative and monitoring purposes.

20. Child labour measured on this basis is common in Peru. Over 2,044,000 children below the age of 14 years are in employment and an additional 202,890 (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 2.2 million children aged 5-17 years in child labour, 28 percent of this age group (Table 6).

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

		Children in employment		Children in hazardous work		Children in Child Labour	
		Age 5-13		Age 14-17		Age 5-17	
		No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group
Sex	Male	1,084,138	39.3	120,476	9.3	1,204,614	29.6
	Female	960,277	34.6	82,414	7.0	1,042,691	26.3
Residence	Urban	732,459	20.6	125,024	7.3	857,483	16.3
	Rural	1,311,957	66.0	77,865	9.9	1,389,822	50.1
Total		2,044,415	36.9	202,890	8.2	2,247,305	28.0

Source: UCW calculation based on Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

21. Table 6 shows that children's involvement in child labour is largely a rural phenomenon. One-half of rural children aged 5-17 year-old are engaged in some form of child labour (versus 16 percent in urban areas). Differences by residence in child labour are largest among younger, 5-13 year-old children, and narrow considerably in the 14-17 year-old age group.

<sup>9</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>10</sup> Worst forms other than hazardous refer relate to Art. 3(a)-(c) in ILO Convention No. 182: (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; and (c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.

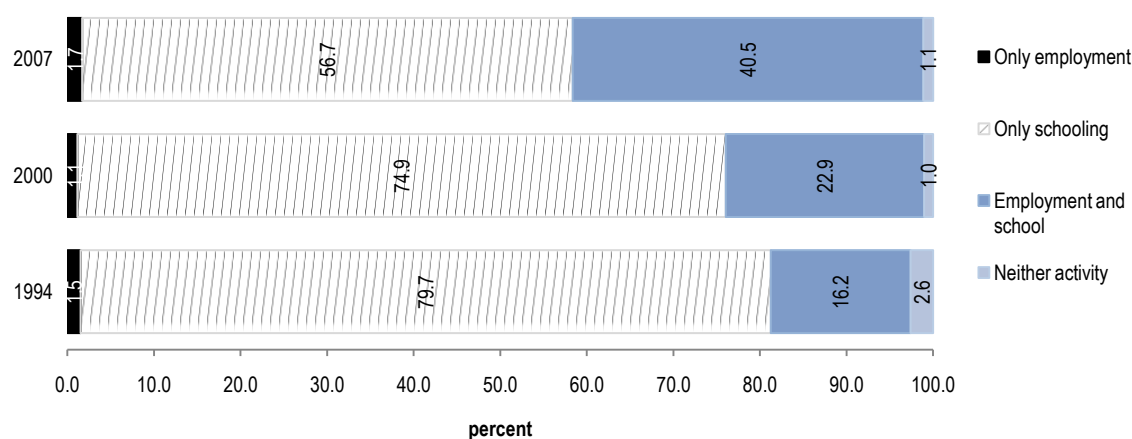
### 3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

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

22. A comparison of the results of the *Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil* survey (carried out in 2007) and the *Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medicion de Niveles de Vida* surveys (carried out in 1994 and 2004) indicates a sharp rise in employment among 7-14 year-olds of almost 24 percentage points over the 1994-2007 years period, from 18 percent to 42 percent (Figure 4). But this rise was not at the expense of children's school attendance – the proportion of 7-14 year-olds attending school, already high in 1994 at 96 percent, rose further to 97 percent over the same period.

23. Figure 4 and Table 7 illustrate in more detail how the composition of children's time between school and employment changed over this period. They highlight that the increase in children's employment was mainly due to a rise in the proportion of children combining employment and school, while the share of children *only* in school decreased. The proportion of children in employment but *not* in school, the group whose development prospects are most compromised by work, remained stable.

Figure 4. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 years age group, 1994-2007



Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medicion de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table 7. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 year-olds, 1994-2007

Activity Status	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	1.5	1.2	1.7
Only schooling	79.7	74.9	56.7
Both activities	16.2	22.9	40.5
Neither activity	2.6	1.0	1.1
<b>Total in employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>42.2</b>
<b>Total school<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>97.2</b>

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

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medicion de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

24. The largest apparent rise in children's employment occurred in the period between 2000 and 2007, when the proportion of children in employment increased by more than 18 percentage points. What might explain this sharp increase? An analysis of the factors behind these trends is beyond the scope of this paper. In fact, the factors affecting children's employment are numerous, and include macroeconomic, social and individual characteristics. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Peru's economy has been marked by a rapidly rising exports coupled with a deterioration in market conditions leading to a surge demand for unskilled labourers.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, Peru's economy has been suffering by the instability caused in food markets by the El Niño (2007) phenomena.

25. The observed rise in children's employment during the 1994-2007 period may also have simply been the product of measurement problems or methodological issues unrelated to actual levels of children's employment. While the ENNIV surveys (upon which the 1994 and 2004 estimates are based) are comparable, the ETI survey (upon which the 2007 survey is based) is a specialized child labour survey. It is possible that the magnitude of the change over the period may be in part product of the fact that they are different survey instruments. The measured increase occurred almost entirely in the sub-group of children combining employment and school, and it may be, for example, that the 1994 and 2000 surveys failed to fully capture this group of children.<sup>12</sup>

26. Tables 8 and 9 and Figure 5 look at changes in children's employment and schooling broken down by sex, residence and age. They suggest that the increase in children's employment during 1994-2007 was broad-based, extending to children living in both rural and urban settings, to male and female children, and to children across the entire 7-14 age spectrum. While the rise in involvement in employment was similar for male and female children, a different pattern is observed when looking at the area of residence. The proportion of urban children in employment increased more than five-fold between 1994 and 2007, while the proportion of rural children in employment almost doubled over the same period. The gaps in employment by sex ("favouring" male children) and by residence ("favouring" rural children) that were present in 1994 remained in 2007.

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<sup>11</sup> Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). 2007

<sup>12</sup> 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.



Table 8. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 1994-2007, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.6
Only schooling	77.6	73.3	54.4	81.8	76.6	59.0
Both activities	18.6	24.6	43.1	13.7	21.1	37.8
Neither activity	2.1	1.0	0.8	3.1	1.1	1.5
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>39.5</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>96.9</b>

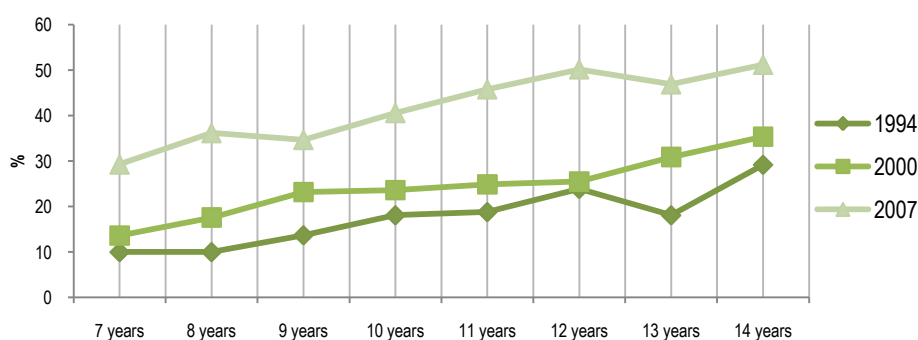
Notes:(a) Involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) Involvement in schooling regardless of employment status.  
Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table 9. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 1994-2007, by residence

Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.7	1.9	3.2
Only schooling	93	90.5	73.1	56	53.2	27.2
Both activities	4.7	8.1	24.8	36.5	43.5	68.7
Neither activity	2.0	0.7	1.3	3.8	1.5	0.9
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>71.9</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>95.9</b>

Notes:(a) Involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) Involvement in schooling regardless of employment status.  
Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Figure 5. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 1994-2007, by age



Sources: UCW calculation based on Peru. Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida, 1994 and 2000. Encuesta Nacional de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007

27. Peru has a large population of indigenous children, and their involvement in employment is of particular concern. In 1994, the proportion of indigenous children aged 7-14 years in employment was 40 percentage points higher than that of non-indigenous children. Table 10 indicates that this gap increased during the 1994-2007 period and stood at 43 percentage points in 2007. Employment among indigenous children rose by 25 percentage points over this period, outpacing the increase made by non-indigenous children over the same period. However, both indigenous and non indigenous children continued to make gains in school



attendance, and in 2007 the school attendance gap stood at only one percentage point.

Table 10. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 1994-2007, by ethnicity

Activity status	Indigenous			Non Indigenous		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	2.4	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.1	1.6
Only schooling	45.8	30.7	22.6	85.0	80.5	64.6
Both activities	49.8	66.8	75.0	11.0	17.3	32.5
Neither activity	2.0	0.9	0.3	2.7	1.0	1.3
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	52.2	68.4	77.1	12.4	18.4	34.1
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	95.6	97.5	97.5	95.9	97.9	97.1

Notes:(a) Involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) Involvement in schooling regardless of employment status.  
Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table 11. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 1994-2007

Activity Status	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	11.1	11.8	15.0
Only schooling	58.2	52.3	37.8
Both activities	18.7	24.7	39.0
Neither activity	12.0	11.2	8.2
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	29.8	36.5	54.0
<b>Total school<sup>(b)</sup></b>	76.9	77.0	76.7

Notes:(a) Involvement in employment regardless of schooling status; (b) Involvement in schooling regardless of employment status.  
Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

28. A comparison of the results of ENNIV and ETI surveys from 1994 to 2007 for older, 15-17 year-old, children indicates a large increase of the share of children combining employment and school (Table 11). Indeed, it increased by 20 percentage points from 1994 to 2007, while the proportion of 15-17 year-olds only in school dropped by 21 percentage points over the same period. As a result, the overall involvement in employment rose from 30 to 54 percent during the reference period, while the overall involvement in schooling remained unchanged. The rise in employment was also in part driven by a fall in the proportion of inactive children over the 1994 to 2007 period.

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

29. The 1994-2007 period also saw changes in the composition and time intensity of children's employment (Table 12 and Table 13). Compared to 1994, children aged 7-14 years in employment in 2007 were less likely to work in the agriculture sector and more likely to be found in manufacturing, trade and services. There was a sharp increase in children's work in the services sector between the years 2000 and 2007. These changes were undoubtedly in part driven by the export boom experienced by the economy over the period considered.

Table 12. Trends in child activity status during 1994-2007, 7-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	1994	2000	2007
Agriculture	77.8	72.6	62.6
Manufacturing	3.5	2.8	5.0
Trade	14.7	20.5	19.3
Services	4.0	4.0	11.8
Other	0.0	0.2	1.4
Self	2.8	1.9	3.8
Unpaid	88.9	91.4	88.6
Wage*	8.3	6.8	7.6

\* The variable wage regroups paid employment and others forms of employment as the ENNIV surveys from 1994 to 2000 do not allow us to make a distinction between these two modalities of employment.

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

30. The time intensity of children's employment fell over the 1994-2007 period, meaning that children in employment spent less time actually working (Table 13). Children combining employment and school spent three hours less in employment in 2007 compared to 1994, and the same pattern held for children who were in employment without attending school. The fall in working hours was broad-based, extending to all economic sectors and to all modalities of employment. In particular there was a steep decrease in working hours in the services sector; as illustrated above, such decrease was accompanied by a large increase in the relative importance of services for children's work.

Table 13. Changes in average weekly working hours, 7-14 years age group, 1994-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	1994	2000	2007
Total	17.2	15.0	13.4
Agriculture	15.8	14.0	13.1
Manufacturing	16.9	15.8	12.9
Trade	19.7	16.3	13.4
Services	36.6	25.7	14.6
Other	-	26.6	16.2
Self	20.0	19.9	13.7
Unpaid	15.8	14.1	12.9
Wage*	31.9	26.8	19.0
Employment only	33.6	36.3	30.6
Employment and schooling	15.7	14.0	12.7

\* The variable wage regroups paid employment and others forms of employment as the ENNIV surveys from 1994 to 2000 do not allow us to make a distinction between these two modalities of employment.

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

## ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

## Children aged 7-14 years

Table A 1. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 1994-2007, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Agriculture	78.9	75.4	63.6	76.3	69.1	61.3
Manufacturing	3.6	3.1	4.5	3.4	2.5	5.5
Trade	12.5	16.6	18.8	17.5	25.2	20.0
Services	5.0	4.6	11.0	2.8	3.2	12.9
Other	-	0.3	2.1	-	0.0	0.4
Self	3.9	2.6	4.4	1.3	1.0	3.2
Unpaid	84.6	87.4	87.1	94.5	96.3	90.3
Wage*	11.5	10.1	8.5	4.2	2.7	6.6

\* The variable *wage* regroups paid employment and others forms of employment as the ENNIV surveys from 1994 to 2000 do not allow us to make a distinction between these two modalities of employment.

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table A 2. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 1994-2007, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Agriculture	10.2	22.1	22.7	93.2	86.0	88.0
Manufacturing	14.8	8.2	9.1	1.0	1.3	2.3
Trade	60.7	54.4	40.7	4.2	11.4	5.7
Services	14.3	15.0	25.3	1.6	1.0	3.3
Other	-	0.2	2.3	-	0.2	0.8
Self	6.0	5.5	7.6	2.0	0.9	1.4
Unpaid	70.8	76.2	78.8	93.1	95.5	94.8
Wage*	23.2	18.3	13.7	4.9	3.7	3.7

\* The variable *wage* regroups paid employment and others forms of employment as the ENNIV surveys from 1994 to 2000 do not allow us to make a distinction between these two modalities of employment.

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

## Children aged 15-17 years

Table A 3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 1994-2007, by sex

Activity status	Male			Female		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	13.1	13.0	15.3	9.1	10.6	14.8
Only schooling	54.6	48.7	34.8	61.8	56.0	41.1
Both activities	25.3	29.7	42.9	12.2	19.7	34.6
Neither activity	7.0	8.6	7.0	16.9	13.8	9.5
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>49.4</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>75.7</b>

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

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table A 4. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 1994-2007, by residence

Activity status	Urban			Rural		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	6.8	6.4	10.7	21.7	20.8	24.9
Only schooling	70.1	66.2	47.5	28.6	29.4	15.8
Both activities	11.1	13.3	32.1	37.8	43.7	54.5
Neither activity	12.1	14.2	9.7	11.8	6.1	4.9
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>79.3</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>70.3</b>

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

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table A 5. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 1994-2007, by ethnicity

Activity status	Indigenous			Non indigenous		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Only employment	16.3	19.6	16.4	10.4	10.9	14.8
Only schooling	30.5	19.9	16.1	62	55.9	42.4
Both activities	47.9	58.4	63.6	14.7	21.0	33.8
Neither activity	5.3	2.1	3.9	12.9	12.2	9.1
<b>Total employment<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>48.5</b>
<b>Total schooling<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>76.1</b>

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

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table A 6. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 1994-2007, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	1994	2000	2007
Agriculture	50.9	57.9	45.9
Manufacturing	9.3	7.1	7.9
Trade	22.9	22.5	22.5
Services	14.4	10.5	20.3
Other	2.6	2.0	3.4
Self	9.1	9	8.1
Unpaid	65.6	66.9	64.4
Wage*	25.3	24.1	27.5

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table A 7. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 1994-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality

	1994	2000	2007
Total	29.3	26.3	22.8
Agriculture	24.9	24.0	19.9
Manufacturing	30.6	30.8	29.8
Trade	30.9	27.4	20.8
Services	41.0	32.4	27.6
Other	33.3	31.5	30.1
Self	32.1	33.5	23.9
Unpaid	23.4	20.3	17.9
Wage*	43.6	40.2	34.0
Employment only	43.1	39.9	37.9
Employment and schooling	21.2	19.9	16.9

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table A 8. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 1994-2007, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male			Female		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Agriculture	50.0	63.0	49.8	52.4	50.6	40.8
Manufacturing	10.0	6.8	9.5	8.0	7.5	5.9
Trade	22.3	18.6	19.2	23.9	28.0	26.7
Services	13.7	8.1	15.9	15.8	13.9	26.0
Other	4.1	3.4	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.5
Self	8.9	7.5	7.9	9.4	11.0	8.3
Unpaid	60.7	63.9	59.9	74.4	71.2	70.3
Wage*	30.4	28.6	32.1	16.2	17.8	21.4

\* The variable wage regroups paid employment and others forms of employment as the ENNIV surveys from 1994 to 2000 do not allow us to make a distinction between these two modalities of employment.

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

Table A 9. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 1994-2007, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban			Rural		
	1994	2000	2007	1994	2000	2007
Agriculture	7.9	12.6	17.0	82.9	80.8	81.1
Manufacturing	14.6	13.3	10.4	5.3	4.0	4.8
Trade	46.8	44.9	37.7	5.0	11.1	4.0
Services	25.8	25.4	30.6	5.9	2.9	7.8
Other	5.0	3.8	4.3	0.9	1.1	2.4
Self	12.7	12.6	10.4	6.4	7.1	5.3
Unpaid	41.4	47.7	54	83.7	76.6	77.2
Wage*	45.9	39.6	35.7	9.9	16.3	17.5

\* The variable *wage* regroups paid employment and others forms of employment as the ENNIV surveys from 1994 to 2000 do not allow us to make a distinction between these two modalities of employment.

Sources: Peru Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medición de Niveles de Vida (ENNIV), 1994 and 2000; Peru Encuesta de Trabajo Infantil (ETI), 2007.

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