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

Country report for Bolivia

November 2010

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America and Caribbean region*

COUNTRY REPORT FOR BOLIVIA

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

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

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

COUNTRY REPORT FOR BOLIVIA

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 *Encuesta de Hogares* from 1999 to 2005 the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in Bolivia. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling.

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COUNTRY REPORT FOR BOLIVIA

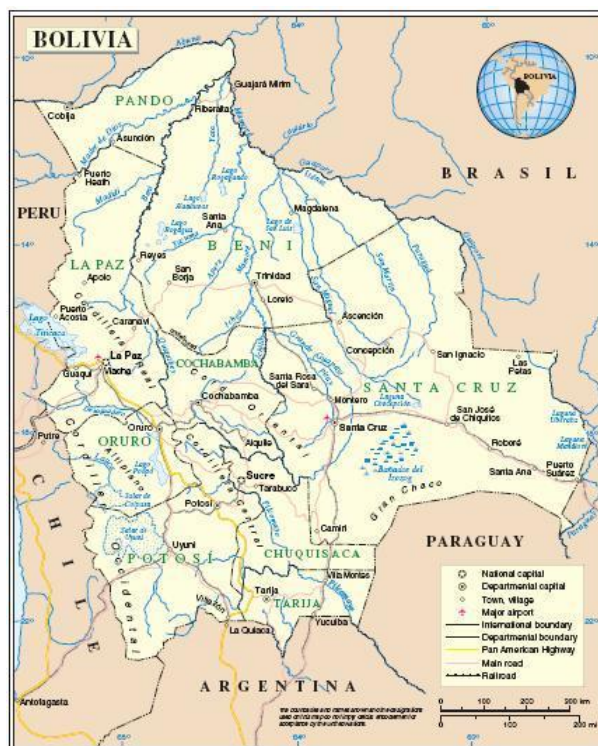
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1. NATIONAL CONTEXT: FACTORS UNDERLYING THE CHILD LABOUR PHENOMENON IN BOLIVIA

1. Bolivia is traversed by three massive Andean ranges, which include four



Source: United Nations

of the world's highest permanently snow-topped mountains, towering to heights up to 6,550 meters (Sajama). Although the country is landlocked, it has Lake Titicaca, lying half in Bolivia and half in Peru, the world's second largest inland sea and highest navigable lake (3,810 meters above sea level), as well as one of the deepest (370 meters). Significant but unevenly distributed resources (especially mining and hydrocarbons) have driven wealth and power throughout history.

2. Bolivia's society is characterized by a high proportion of indigenous people, the highest to total

population in the Americas. An estimated 5.1 million Bolivians are indigenous, counting for 62 percent of the population. They are grouped into 36 distinct indigenous or original peoples. The rights of the indigenous people have been proclaimed by the Bolivia's Constitution only in 1994: previously excluded indigenous have had for the first time an opportunity to be associated with the preparation of a new constitution.

3. Bolivia's economy is in a long-term slump. During the second half of the twentieth century, there was intermittent growth spurts – driven by commodity booms and capital inflow surges – followed by collapses and crises (World Bank, 2005). Bolivia's economy has also experienced a gradual shift in the composition from agriculture towards manufacturing and services. The share of agriculture in GDP has decreased by 20 percent since the last two decade, and represents in 2007 only 14 percent of GDP. Services now constitute over 50 percent of GDP. In spite of these trends, the agriculture sector remains the single largest employer in Bolivia, especially for children.

4. Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in Latin America and has one of its highest levels of inequality. The reduction in poverty rates experienced

in the 1990s when Bolivia had modest but consistent growth rates was reversed by external and internal shocks at the end of the millennium. These results are strongly associated with the country's meagre long-term economic performance. In addition, uneven distribution and poor quality of social services—particularly health and education—have disproportionately harmed indigenous and rural populations (World Bank website).

5. In addition to persistent poverty and inequality, the overriding economic issues are rising unemployment, growing informality, declining productivity, and narrowly-based, sluggish growth. The business environment has worsened, and private investment fell from 18.3 percent of GDP in 1998 to 6.4 percent in 2003. Investors - foreign and domestic alike - are deterred by policy reversals of recent years, including the new Hydrocarbons Law and demands for nationalization of the oil industry, the renunciation of the contract with Aguas del Zllimani, and ongoing social disruption.

Table 1. Bolivia: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Human Development Index (HDI) ^(a)	0.639	..	..	..	..	0.677	..	..	..	..	0.695
Population growth (annual %)	2.25	2.19	2.14	2.10	2.08	2.06	2.04	2.02	1.99	1.95	1.90
Population, total (thousands)	7,482	7,648	7,813	7,980	8,147	8,317	8,488	8,661	8,835	9,009	9,182
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	40.56	40.43	40.25	40.05	39.83	39.59	39.34	39.08	38.79	38.47	38.09
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	55.39	55.47	55.59	55.75	55.92	56.11	56.31	56.53	56.77	57.05	57.37
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	4.05	4.10	4.15	4.20	4.25	4.30	4.35	4.39	4.44	4.49	4.53
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	..	..	63.20	..	62.70	..	..	65.20	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	..	..	77.30	..	81.70	..	..	83.50	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	..	..	53.80	..	50.55	..	..	..	..	..	..
GINI index	..	..	58.46	..	57.79	..	..	60.05	..	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	38.00	..	..	..	..	43.00	..	..	..	46.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	17.00	..	..	..	..	20.00	..	..	..	22.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	53.00	..	..	..	..	57.00	..	..	..	60.00	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	78.00	..	..	..	..	82.00	..	..	..	85.00	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	56.00	..	..	..	..	62.00	..	..	..	68.00	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	93.00	..	..	..	..	94.00	..	..	..	95.00	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	105.00	..	..	..	..	84.00	..	..	..	..	65.00
GDP growth (annual %)	4.68	4.36	4.95	5.03	0.43	2.51	1.68	2.49	2.71	4.17	4.04
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	948	968	994	1,022	1,005	1,009	1,006	1,010	1,017	1,039	1,061
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	2.35	2.10	2.73	2.84	-1.64	0.42	-0.37	0.44	0.69	2.16	2.08
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	2.20	5.30	5.70	..	37.10	36.80	41.50	39.60	..	..	..
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	28.70	28.30	29.70	..	19.90	19.50	16.60	18.80	..	..	..
Employment in services (% of total employment)	68.70	66.40	64.50	..	43.00	43.60	41.80	41.50	..	..	..
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	3.70	5.20	2.10	..	4.30	4.50	5.40	5.40	..	..	..

Notes: (a) UNDP, http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_BOL.html

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

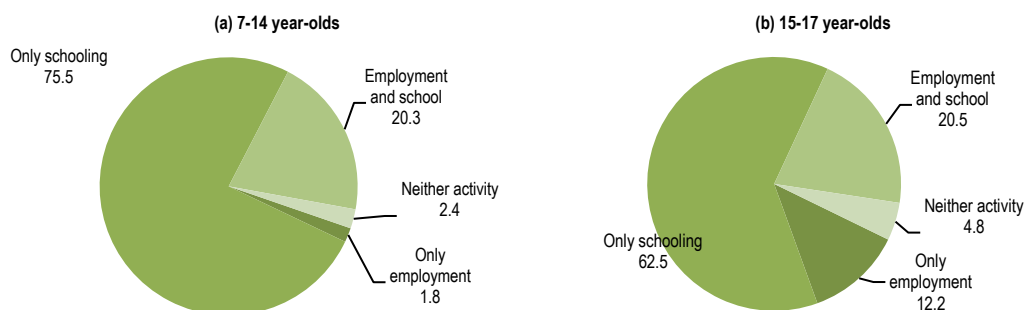
2. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

6. Data from the *Encuesta de Hogares 2005* show that children's involvement in employment¹ remains very common in Bolivia. An estimated 22 percent of children aged 7-14 years, over 426,000 children in absolute terms, were engaged in some form of employment in 2005. At the same time, school attendance was very high – 96 percent of children in the 7-14 years age group attended school in 2005. Children's employment rises with age. About 33 percent of children aged 15-17 years, some 220,000 children in absolute terms, were in employment.

7. A comparison with estimates from earlier waves of the same survey points to fall in children's employment since 1999, when 26 percent of 7-14 year-olds (439,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. Children's employment trends are discussed in section 3 of this report.

8. Disaggregating the child population into four non-overlapping activity groups – children only in employment, children only attending school, children combining school and employment, and children in neither – offers an initial view of how children's employment interacts with their schooling (Figure 1). This disaggregation shows that 75 percent of 7-14 year-olds attended school unencumbered by work responsibilities, while 20 percent were combining employment and school in 2005. Less than two percent of all 7-14 year-olds were in employment without attending school. A small residual group of children (less than two percent of 7-14 year-olds) reported neither being in employment nor attending school. Activity patterns differ somewhat for older, 15-17 years-old children: a higher share was in employment without attending school and a smaller share was in school only. Overall school involvement, however, remains high among 15-17 year-olds.

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



Source: Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 2005

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 work in both the formal and informal sectors, as well work both inside and outside the 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. It does not, however, include unpaid domestic work and personal services performed in a child's own household (e.g., cleaning, preparing meals, care of other household members and other household chores).

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

- Children's employment is overwhelmingly a rural sector phenomenon, at every age and for both sexes. The percentage of children in employment in rural areas is about 9 times higher than what found for children in urban areas. Although children's rates of school attendance differ little between rural and urban areas, urban children are much more likely to attend school only (92 percent versus 53 percent).
- Gender plays relatively a minor role in children's school attendance and employment in Bolivia: the share of boys and girls in school and in employment differs little.
- Older children are more likely than their younger counterparts to be in employment. However, around 27,000 (12 percent of) seven year-olds are already in employment. These young children are especially at risk of work-related damage to their health and development.
- There large differences between departments in children's employment, pointing to the importance of geographic targeting in efforts against child labour. In Chuquisaca and Potosi Departments, more than 40 percent of children are found in employment. There is less geographic variation in school attendance; at least 93 percent of 7-14 year-olds attend school in all departments (Figure 2).

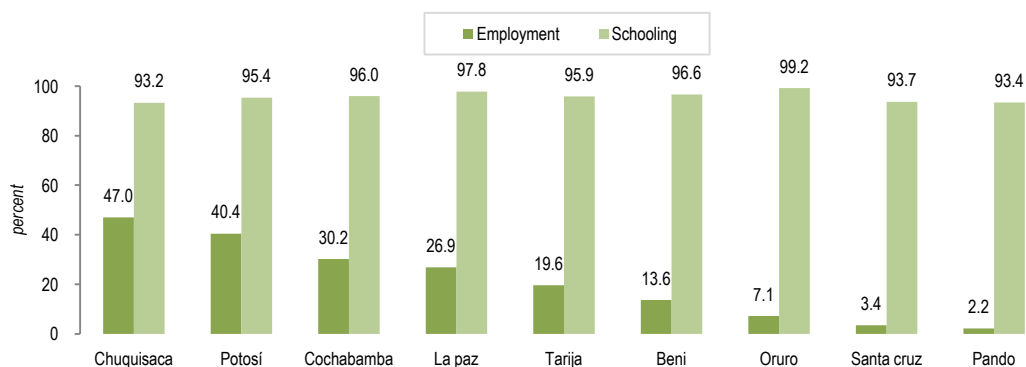
Table 2. Child activity status, by sex and residence, 7-14 age group

Background characteristics		Mutually exclusive activity categories				Total in employment ^(a)	Total in school ^(b)
		Only employment	Only school	Employment and school	Neither activity		
Sex	Male	1.6	74.1	22.3	2.0	23.9	96.4
	Female	2.0	77.1	18.2	2.8	20.1	95.2
Residence	Urban	0.5	91.7	5.4	2.4	5.9	97.1
	Rural	3.6	53.3	40.6	2.4	44.2	93.9
Total 7-14		1.8	75.5	20.3	2.4	22.0	95.8

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

Sources: UCW calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 2005

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



Sources: UCW calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 2005

10. Children's employment also appears to vary in terms of industrial sector in which children are found and the specific modalities under which they work (Table 3). Children's employment is concentrated overwhelmingly in the agricultural sector. Agriculture accounts for 84 percent of children in employment, against 6 percent in services and 4 percent in trade and manufacturing. Variations by residence in the composition of children's employment are also large. Agriculture, not surprisingly, dominates in rural areas, while services, trade and manufacturing dominate in urban areas. Gender plays a minor role in the composition of children's employment by sector. Girls are nevertheless slightly more likely than boys to work in services and trade, and less likely to be in agriculture and manufacturing.

11. Almost all children in employment work for their families as unpaid labourers, with some variation by sex and place of residence (Table 3). Unpaid family labour is mainly performed by female and rural children. Boys living in cities and towns are more likely to be involved in wage employment.

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

Characteristics	Sector					Modality			
	Agriculture	Manufact.	Trade	Services	Other	Unpaid	Self	Wage	
Sex	Male	85.7	5.4	3.1	3.5	2.4	91.7	1.4	6.9
	Female	82.7	3.0	4.6	9.7	0.0	94.4	0.9	4.7
Residence	Urban	20.0	21.0	19.7	32.9	6.4	71.0	4.4	24.6
	Rural	96.1	1.2	0.9	1.4	0.4	96.9	0.6	2.5
Total 7-14	84.4	4.3	3.8	6.3	1.3	92.9	1.2	5.9	

Sources: UCW calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 2005

12. Employment is typically time intensive for Bolivian children (Table 4). Children aged 7-14 years in employment log an average of 20 working hours each week. Children in employment who do not attend school put in an average of 44 hours per week, while children of the same age group that combine school and employment log fewer hours (18 hours per week). The

latter figure underscores the additional constraint that employment places on children's time for study.

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

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and school
Sex	Male	20.0	46.3	18.1
	Female	20.4	42.5	17.9
Residence	Urban	33.5	55.3	31.7
	Rural	17.7	42.4	15.5
Total 7-14		20.2	44.2	18.0

Sources: UCW calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 2005

13. Time intensity does not appear to vary by gender. Time intensity does, however, vary considerably across places of residence regardless of the school attendance. Children living in urban areas put in an average of 16 additional hours per week than their peers in rural areas. The gap in weekly working hours between rural and urban children remains wider even for the sub-group of children who combine employment and school: urban children log 32 hours of work per week, while rural children in the same category log an average of 15 hours per week.

14. 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 Bolivia.² This question is critical for the purposes of prioritising and targeting policy responses to children in employment.

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

Convention	Ratification	Entry into force
Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	06-11-1997	
Worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	06-06-2003	
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	26-06-1990	

Source: ILO, 2009.

15. Estimates of child labour are presented below based on the international legal standards and the new global guidelines for child labour measurement, and applying the general minimum working age specified by Bolivia upon ratification of ILO Convention No. 138 (Table 5). 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

² 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.

in hazardous forms of employment.³ Hazardous forms, in turn, consist of work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, as set out in Article 3, subparagraph (1) of ILO Convention No. 138. As it is difficult to match national legislation to available statistical information, child labour is approximated as children in employment below the minimum working age, and children in hazardous work. Involvement in hazardous work is estimated on the basis of the hazardous industries⁴, occupations⁵ and conditions⁶ utilised in the ILO global child labour estimates.

16. A number of qualifications should be kept in mind in interpreting the child labour estimates calculated in this manner. First, the estimates do not include hazardous household 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 estimates,⁷ due to data limitations. Second, they do not include children in worst forms other than hazardous,⁸ again due to a lack of data. Third and

³ 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).

⁴ Hazardous industries consist of: (1) mining; (2) quarrying; and (3) construction.

⁵ Hazardous occupations consist of: (1) optical and elect equip operators; (2) health associated professional; (3) nursing midwife; (4) protective services; (5) forestry and related workers; (6) fishery, hunters and trappers; (7) miners, shot fires, stone cutters and carvers; (8) building frame and related workers; (9) building finishers; (10) metal moulders, welders, and related workers; (11) blacksmith, tool makers and related workers; (12) machinery mechanics and fitters; (13) electrical and electronic equip mechanics and fitters; (14) precision workers in metal; (15) potters, glass makers and related workers; (16) mining & mineral processing plant operators; (17) metal processing plant op.; (18) glass, ceramics and related plant op.; (19) wood processing & papermaking plant op.; (20) chemical processing plant op.; (21) power production and related plant operators; (22) metal & mineral machine operators; (23) chemical machine operators; (24) rubber mach. op.; (25) wood products mach. op.; (26) textile, fur, leather mach. op.; (27) food mach. op.; (28) assemblers; (29) other mach. op.; (30) motor vehicle driver; (31) agric and other mobile plant op.; (32) ships' deck crew and related workers; (33) street vendors & related workers; (34) shoe cleaning other street services; (35) messengers, porters, doorkeepers, & related workers; (36) garbage collectors & related workers; (37) agric. fishery and related workers; (38) mining and construction labourers; and (39) transport and freight handlers.

⁶ 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

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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.

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

17. Child labour measured on this basis is common in Bolivia. Over 350,000 children below the age of 14 years are in employment, and an additional 105,000 (14-17 year-old) children are in hazardous forms of work or are working excessive hours. Putting these groups together yields an estimate of 455,000 children aged 7-17 years in child labour, 17 percent of this age group (Table 6).

Table 6. Child labour indicators, by age group, sex and residence, 7-17 years age group

Sex and residence		Children in employment		Children in hazardous work		Children in child labour	
		Age 7-13 years		Age 14-17 years		Age 7-17 years	
		No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group
Sex	Male	190,497	21.9	56,362	12.5	246,859	18.7
	Female	160,116	19.1	48,055	10.8	208,171	16.2
Rural	Urban	42,030	4.3	58,322	9.9	100,352	6.4
	Rural	308,583	42.5	46,095	14.9	354,678	34.3
Total		350,613	20.5	104,417	11.7	455,030	17.5

Sources: UCW calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 2005

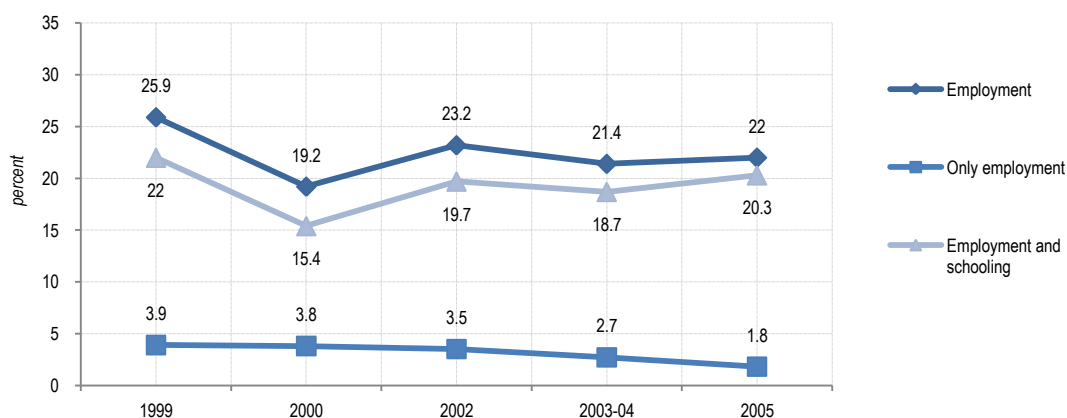
18. Table 6 shows that children's involvement in child labour is largely a rural phenomenon. Children living in cities and towns are considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to engage in work which constitutes child labour. Differences by sex in children involvement are small among the entire age range. However, boys are slightly more likely to be involved in work which constitutes child labour than girls.

3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

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

19. A comparison of the results of the Encuesta de Hogares from 1999 to 2005⁹ indicates a total decline in employment among 7-14 year-olds of 4 percentage points over this period, from 26 percent to 22 percent. At the same time, the proportion of 7-14 year-olds attending school, already high in 1999 at 94 percent, rose further to 96 percent over the same period. As shown in Figure 3, the decline in children's employment over the 1999 to 2005 period was uneven, with periods of progress followed by subsequent reversals. A closer look at changes over the period shows that the reversals were entirely the product of changes of the proportion of children combining employment and school – the proportion of children in employment but *not* in school, the group whose development prospects are most compromised by child labour, fell steadily over the 1999-2005, from 3.9 percent in 1999 to 1.8 percent in 2005.

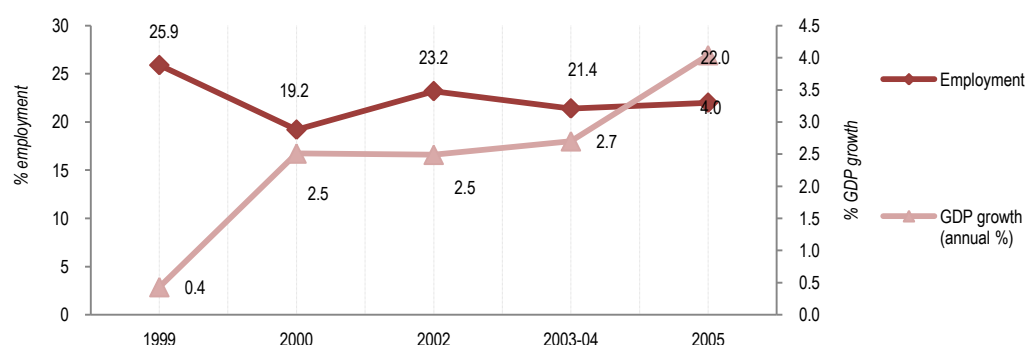
Figure 3. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-olds, 1999-2005



Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

⁹ The indicators for the period 2003-2004 are drawn from the Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) carried out between November 2003 and October 2004.

Figure 5. GDP growth rate and changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 1999-2005



Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

GDP Growth based on World Development Indicators, (2008), World Bank , and <http://ddp-ext.worldbank.org/ext/DDPQQ/showReport.do?method=showReport>

20. A large apparent decline in children's employment occurred in the period between the 1999 and 2000, when the proportion of children in employment fell by more than one-fifth. What might explain this sharp fall? A detailed analysis of the causal factors underlying the trends is beyond the scope of this paper. It is nonetheless worth noting that the 1999-2000 period coincided with a sharp rise in GDP growth (Figure 4), although caution should be exercised in reading too much into this correlation. Indeed, a subsequent rise in economic growth during 2003-2005 did *not* have a similar impact on children's employment.

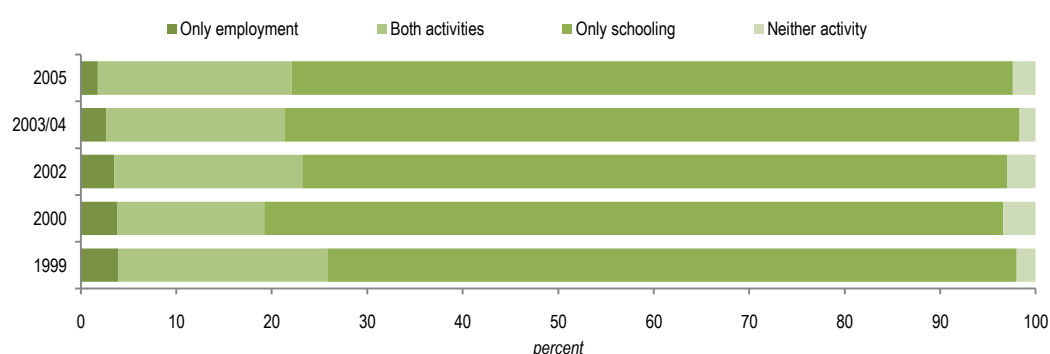
21. The observed fall in children's employment during the 1999-2000 period may also have simply been the product of measurement problems or methodological issues unrelated to actual levels of children's employment. The measured decline occurred almost entirely in the sub-group of children combining employment and school, and it may be, for example, that the 2000 survey failed to fully capture this group of children combining school and employment. The results from a separate (and not strictly comparable) 2000 survey, conducted as part of the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey programme, showed a *rise* in children's employment from the 1999 to 2000 reference periods, from 26 to 28 percent.

22. Leaving the estimates from 2000 aside, the pattern of children's employment was one of gradual decline from 1999 to 2005. Figure 5 and Table 7 illustrate that the progress in reducing children's employment from 1999 to 2005 was a product of a reduction in both children in employment only and in children combining school and work.

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

Activity Status	1999	2000*	2000	2002	2003-2004	2005
Only employment	3.9	2.6	3.8	3.5	2.7	1.8
Only schooling	72.1	70	77.4	73.8	76.9	75.5
Both activities	22.0	25.1	15.4	19.7	18.7	20.3
Neither activity	2.0	2.3	3.4	3.0	1.7	2.4
Total employment^(a)	25.9	27.7	19.2	23.2	21.4	22.0
Total school^(b)	94	95	92.8	93.5	95.6	95.8

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of work status.
Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.
*Source: Bolivia, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2 (MICS) 2000.

Figure 7. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 years age group, 1999-2005

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

23. 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 the decline in children's employment during 1999-2005¹⁰ was broad-based, extending to children living in both rural and urban settings, to male and female children, and to children across the 7-14 age spectrum.

Table 8. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 1999-2005, by sex

Activity status	Male						Female					
	1999	2000 ^(a)	2000	2002	2003-4	2005	1999	2000 ^(a)	2000	2002	2003-4	2005
Only employment	3.1	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.2	1.6	4.9	2.7	4.6	4.3	3.2	2.0
Only schooling	72.2	67.9	77.0	73.3	75.6	74.1	71.9	72.0	77.8	74.2	78.1	77.1
Both activities	22.8	27.7	17.4	21.1	20.6	22.3	21.2	22.5	13.4	18.2	16.9	18.2
Neither activity	2.0	1.8	2.6	2.7	1.6	2.0	2.1	2.9	4.2	3.3	1.8	2.8
Total employment^(b)	25.8	30.2	20.4	23.9	22.7	23.9	26.0	25.2	18.0	22.5	20.1	20.1
Total schooling^(c)	95.0	95.6	94.4	94.5	96.2	96.4	93.0	94.4	91.2	92.4	95.0	95.2

Notes: (a) Estimate based on Bolivia, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2 (MICS2), 2000; (b) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (c) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

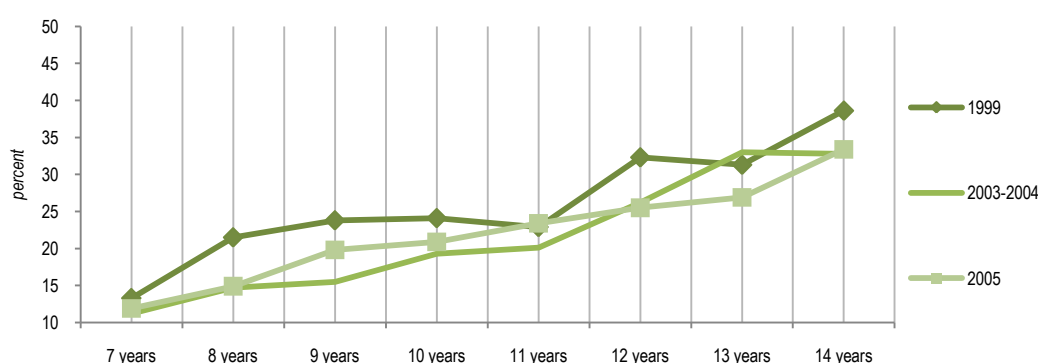
¹⁰ We are ignoring the year 2000 in this discussion.

Table 9. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 1999-2005, by residence

Activity status	Urban						Rural					
	1999	2000 ^(a)	2000	2002	2003-4	2005	1999	2000 ^(a)	2000	2002	2003-4	2005
Only employment	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.6	0.9	0.5	8.2	5.4	8.1	6.4	5.2	3.6
Only schooling	89.2	87.4	89.1	88.0	90.5	91.7	47.5	44.8	59.5	52.8	57.8	53.3
Both activities	8.6	10.8	6.1	7.5	6.9	5.4	41.1	45.7	29.7	37.7	35.3	40.6
Neither activity	1.2	1.2	3.8	2.9	1.7	2.4	3.3	4.1	2.7	3.2	1.8	2.4
Total employment^(b)	9.6	11.5	7.0	9.1	7.8	5.9	49.3	51.1	37.8	44.1	40.4	44.2
Total schooling^(c)	97.8	98.2	95.2	95.5	97.4	97.1	88.6	90.5	89.2	90.5	93.0	93.9

Notes: (a) Estimate based on Bolivia, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2 (MICS2), 2000; (b) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (c) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

Figure 8. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 1999-2005, by age

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

24. Bolivia has a large population of indigenous children for whom reducing employment and raising school attendance has posed a particular challenge. In 1999, the proportion of indigenous children aged 12-14 years¹¹ in employment was than 25 percentage points higher than for non-indigenous children, while their school attendance was eight percentage points lower than their non-indigenous peers. Table 10 indicates that progress was made in reducing both of these gaps during the 1999-2003/04 period. Employment among indigenous children fell by seven percentage points over this period while at the same time the school attendance of indigenous children rose by about five percentage points, outpacing the progress made by non-indigenous children over the same period.

25. The 2003/04-2005 period saw a reversal of this progress, at least in terms of employment – the employment of indigenous children rose sharply while employment among non-indigenous children declined by about one-fourth. Indigenous children nonetheless continued to make gains in school attendance, and in 2005 the school attendance gap stood at only one percentage point.

¹¹ The Encuesta de Hogares 1999 provides information about ethnicity but this is not available for children below 12 years of age.

Table 10. Changes in children's activity status, 12-14 age group,^(a) 1999-2005, by indigenous status

Activity status	Indigenous					Non-indigenous				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-4	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-4	2005
Only employment	12.9	15.0	8.4	7.6	4.6	4.0	3.3	4.9	3.2	2.6
Only schooling	51.7	53.0	54.9	58.7	52.4	76.2	77.8	74.9	77.3	82.1
Both activities	34.2	29.9	34.2	32.1	40.9	17.8	12.2	15.8	17.3	12.3
Neither activity	1.1	2.1	2.5	1.6	2.1	2.0	6.7	4.4	2.3	3.0
Total employment^(b)	47.2	44.9	42.6	39.7	45.5	21.8	15.5	20.7	20.4	14.9
Total schooling^(c)	86.0	82.9	89.1	90.8	93.3	94.0	90.0	90.7	94.6	94.4

Notes: (a) Applies to the 12-14 year age group only; information on ethnicity not available for children below 12 years of age; (b) Refers to all children in employment, regardless of school status; and (c) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of employment status.

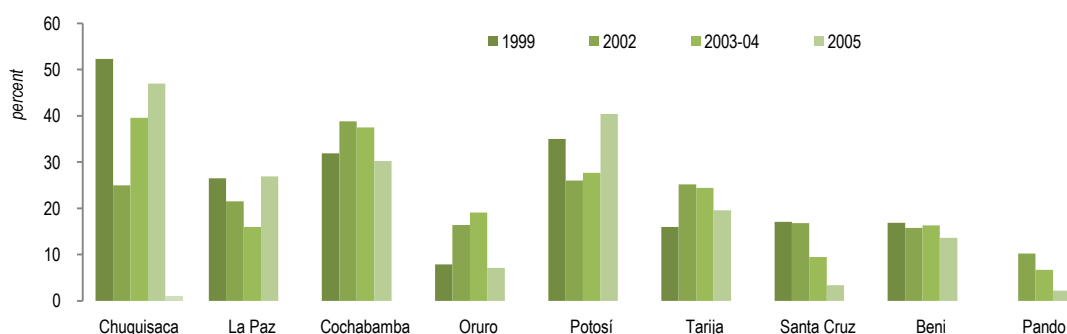
Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

26. The decline in children's employment during the 1999-2005 years varied across the Departments. The proportion of children involved in employment decreased in five Departments, (Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, Oruro, Beni and Santa Cruz), increased in Tarija and Potosi, and remained almost unchanged in La Paz. On the other hand, school attendance during the same period tended to converge and the gap among departments was reduced, with lagging districts reducing their attendance gap.

Table 11. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 1999-2005, by department

Department	Employment					Schooling				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005
Chuquisaca	52.3	12.4	25.0	39.6	47.0	86.0	86.5	90.5	93.5	93.2
La Paz	26.5	14.3	21.5	16	26.9	98.4	97.9	96.2	97.6	97.8
Cochabamba	31.9	25.6	38.8	37.5	30.2	90.8	92.3	92.6	92.8	96.0
Oruro	7.9	16.8	16.4	19.1	7.1	98.3	96.7	96.7	99.2	99.2
Potosí	35	33	26	27.7	40.4	88.9	88.6	90.8	94.7	95.4
Tarija	16	33.9	25.2	24.4	19.6	94.8	91.6	88.6	93.7	95.9
Santa Cruz	17.1	13.1	16.8	9.5	3.4	95.5	90.8	93.6	95.8	93.7
Beni	16.9	13.2	15.8	16.3	13.6	92.8	93.2	91.3	96.3	96.6
Pando	0.0	15.9	10.2	6.7	2.2	69.0	94.6	85.7	92.3	93.4

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

Figure 9. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-olds, 1999-2008, by department

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

27. A comparison of the results of the considered household surveys from 1999 to 2005 for older, 15-17 year-old, children indicates that the proportion of 15-17 years exclusively in employment (i.e., not also attending school) fell by almost one-third from 1999 to 2005, from 17 percent to 12 percent (Table 12). At the same time, the proportion of 15-17 years exclusively in school (i.e. not also working) increased from 54 percent to 63 percent. Children in the 15-17 years age group were somewhat less likely to combine employment and school in 2005 than in 1999. The proportion of children aged 15-17 years old combining school and employment decreased from 23 percent in 1999 to 20 percent in 2005. They also were less likely to be inactive, i.e., neither employed nor attending school.

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

Activity Status	1999	2000	2002	2003-2004	2005
Only employment	17.4	19.7	17.2	14.2	12.2
Only schooling	53.7	56.8	52.7	56.4	62.5
Both activities	22.8	14.8	23.9	23.2	20.5
Neither activity	6.1	8.8	6.3	6.2	4.8
Total employment^(b)	40.2	34.5	41.1	37.4	32.7
Total schooling^(a)	76.5	71.5	76.6	79.6	82.9

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

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

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

28. The 1999-2005 period also saw some fluctuation in terms of the composition of children's employment. Compared to 1999 working children in 2005 were more likely to work in agriculture and less likely to work in manufacturing, trade and services (Table 13). This tendency was accompanied by an increase in the proportion of children working as unpaid family workers and a decrease in the proportion of children working for a wage.

Table 13. Trends in child activity status during 1999-2008, 7-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	1999	2000	2002	2003-2004	2005
Agriculture	75.4	75.2	76.3	73.7	84.4
Manufacturing	5.5	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.3
Trade	10	12.3	9	10.7	3.8
Services	7.8	7	9.8	9.9	6.3
Other	1.3	1.6	0.7	1.6	1.3
Unpaid	88.7	89	89.1	89.6	92.9
Self	3	3	3	2.6	1.2
Wage	8.3	8	7.9	7.8	5.9

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

Table 14. Changes in average weekly working hours, 7-14 years age group, 1999-2008, by sector, modality and schooling status

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	1999	2000	2002	2003-2004	2005
Total	20.6	25.3	22.6	25.2	17.7
Agriculture	27.2	24.5	32.3	18.6	24
Manufacturing	28.2	32.2	26.4	24.2	33.7
Trade	37.2	40.6	35.7	26.3	37.2
Services	23.7	37.6	28.9	18	44
Other	20.6	25.3	22.6	25.2	17.7
Unpaid	21	25.6	22.7	23.8	18.6
Self	17	20.9	38.1	25.7	30.8
Wage	47.6	49.5	38.3	35.6	42
Employment only	37.8	43.7	39.5	43.5	44.2
Employment and schooling	20.5	23.3	22	22.1	18

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

29. The time intensity of children's employment appears to have fallen over the 1999-2005 period, meaning that children in employment spent less time actually working (Table 14). But again, this result is primarily a reflection of changes occurring during the most recent years. Indeed, up to 2003/04, there was an overall rising trend in average working hours of 7-14 year-olds in employment. There were large fluctuations in terms of average working hours in many sectors. It is likely that at least some of this variation was due to differences in the measurement of working hours across surveys, and the results should therefore be interpreted with caution.

ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

Children aged 7-14 years

Table A1. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 1999-2005, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban					Rural				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005
Agriculture	5.6	5.6	15.3	21.1	20.0	94.9	95.0	94.9	87.9	96.1
Manufacturing	22.3	14.2	12.6	10.0	21.0	0.8	1.0	1.6	2.5	1.2
Trade	38.6	47.4	33.8	37.0	19.7	2.0	2.3	1.4	3.6	0.9
Services	32.1	27.1	36.7	28.8	32.9	1.0	1.3	1.6	4.8	1.4
Other	1.3	5.7	1.6	3.2	6.4	1.3	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.4
Unpaid	56.7	56.1	63.7	65.4	71.0	97.6	98.3	96.8	96.1	96.9
Self	11.3	11.2	11.2	8.1	4.4	0.7	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.6
Wage	32.0	32.8	25.2	26.4	24.6	1.7	1.0	2.7	2.8	2.5

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

Table A2. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 1999-2005, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male					Female				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005
Agriculture	76.9	77.1	78.8	77.1	85.7	73.8	72.9	73.4	69.9	82.7
Manufacturing	6.5	4.3	4.5	3.3	5.4	4.5	3.5	3.8	5.0	3.0
Trade	9.1	10.9	8.6	9.6	3.1	10.9	14.0	9.3	12.0	4.6
Services	5.1	4.8	6.9	7.5	3.5	10.8	9.6	13.2	12.6	9.7
Other	2.5	2.9	1.2	2.6	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0
Unpaid	89.5	86.1	88.5	87.7	91.7	87.9	92.4	89.8	91.7	94.4
Self	2.8	3.1	4.1	4.4	1.4	3.1	2.9	1.6	0.6	0.9
Wage	7.7	10.8	7.4	7.9	6.9	9.0	4.7	8.6	7.8	4.7

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

Children aged 15-17 years

Table A3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2008, by sex

Activity status	Male					Female				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005
Only employment	18.7	21.7	20.3	13.8	12.5	16.0	17.8	13.9	14.7	12.0
Only schooling	50.5	54.8	49.4	55.2	63.4	57.1	58.6	56.1	57.5	61.5
Both activities	26.9	17.0	27.8	27.3	21.4	18.5	12.6	20.0	19.1	19.5
Neither activity	4.0	6.5	2.5	3.7	2.7	8.4	10.9	10.1	8.7	7.0
Total employment^(a)	45.5	38.7	48.1	41.1	33.9	34.5	30.4	33.9	33.8	31.5
Total schooling^(b)	77.4	71.8	77.1	82.6	84.8	75.6	71.3	76.0	76.7	81.0

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 Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

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

Activity status	Urban					Rural				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005
Only employment	2.6	6.9	9.3	10.5	10.7	89.7	91.9	92.1	78.8	86.7
Only schooling	25.8	18.9	16.0	19.7	22.6	2.7	2.4	2	3.8	2.9
Both activities	31.6	31.1	27	25	22.2	2.5	2	2.7	6	3.9
Neither activity	28.3	32.7	44.1	36.6	38.9	1.6	1.9	2.3	7.9	4.9
Total employment^(a)	11.7	10.5	3.6	8.3	5.7	3.5	1.7	0.9	3.6	1.7
Total schooling^(b)	46.3	27.6	33.8	33.4	29.3	85.5	91.1	89.7	74.9	86.5

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 Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

Table A5. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 1999-2005, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	1999	2000	2002	2003-2004	2005
Agriculture	59.2	54.3	62.4	47.4	57.7
Manufacturing	10.8	9.7	7	11.1	10.4
Trade	12.7	14.9	11.4	14.7	10.9
Services	10.9	15.5	17.3	21.1	17.9
Other	6.3	5.6	1.9	5.8	3.2
Unpaid	71.7	63	69.7	55.8	64.7
Self	7.4	5.9	8.4	7.6	5.7
Wage	20.9	31.1	22	36.6	29.7

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004.

Table A6. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by sector, schooling status and modality

Total	1999	2000	2002	2003-2004	2005
	32.2	40.2	32.6	35.7	33.8
Agriculture	31.5	37.3	30.5	32.8	29.4
Manufacturing	29.3	41.8	37.6	36	37.3
Trade	27.4	34.7	32	34.5	40.6
Services	38.8	50.9	37.8	41.3	38.3
Other	40.4	51.5	40.2	41.2	52.1
Unpaid	29.1	36.2	29.2	29.9	28.8
Self	28.9	35.7	27	30.9	26.6
Wage	44.1	49.2	45.4	45.5	46
Employment only	41	48	42	47.5	45.9
Employment and schooling	25.6	29.8	25.9	28.5	26.5

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

Table A7. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 1999-2005, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban					Rural				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005
Agriculture	2.6	6.9	9.3	10.5	10.7	89.7	91.9	92.1	78.8	86.7
Manufacturing	25.8	18.9	16.0	19.7	22.6	2.7	2.4	2.0	3.8	2.9
Trade	31.6	31.1	27.0	25.0	22.2	2.5	2.0	2.7	6.0	3.9
Services	28.3	32.7	44.1	36.6	38.9	1.6	1.9	2.3	7.9	4.9
Other	11.7	10.5	3.6	8.3	5.7	3.5	1.7	0.9	3.6	1.7
Unpaid	46.3	27.6	33.8	33.4	29.3	85.5	91.1	89.7	74.9	86.5
Self	11.6	9.7	18.7	9.2	10.7	5.1	2.9	2.6	6.2	2.5
Wage	42.0	62.7	47.5	57.5	60.0	9.4	6.0	7.8	18.9	11.0

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

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

Work sector/modality	Male					Female				
	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005	1999	2000	2002	2003-04	2005
Agriculture	59.3	56.8	70.3	52.5	62.2	59	51.4	51.1	41.4	52.8
Manufacturing	11.1	10.1	7.5	12.4	11.2	10.4	9.3	6.3	9.5	9.5
Trade	9.7	14.9	7.2	13.3	10	17	14.8	17.5	16.4	11.8
Services	9.6	8.1	11.8	11.5	10.9	12.8	24.4	25.2	32.4	25.5
Other	10.3	10.1	3.2	10.3	5.8	0.9	0.2	0	0.3	0.4
Unpaid	69	58.6	72.3	53.4	64.3	75.4	68.4	65.8	58.7	65.2
Self	7.9	5.7	7.1	5.4	3.5	6.8	6.2	10.2	10.1	8
Wage	23.1	35.7	20.6	41.2	32.2	17.8	25.4	23.9	31.2	26.9

Source: UCW, calculations based on Bolivia, Encuesta de Hogares, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH) 2003-2004

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