



Organización
Internacional
del Trabajo



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

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

Country report for Colombia

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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 Colombia

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 2001 *SIMPOC* survey, the 2003 and 2005 *Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH)* and the 2007 *Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH)*, the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in Colombia. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling

*Trends in children's employment and child labour in the
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1. NATIONAL CONTEXT: FACTORS UNDERLYING THE CHILD LABOUR PHENOMENON IN COLOMBIA

1. Colombia is located in northern South America and borders Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela and Brazil. It is the only South American country with coastlines on both the North Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Colombia is the fourth-largest country in South America (after Brazil, Argentina and Peru) with an area of 1,138,914 km². In addition to its mainland territory, it possesses a number of small islands in both the



Source: CIA, *The World Factbook*

the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The country may be divided into four geographic regions: the Andean highlands, consisting of the three Andean ranges and intervening valley lowlands; the Caribbean lowlands coastal region; the Pacific lowlands coastal region, separated from the Caribbean lowlands by swamps at the base of the Isthmus of Panama and eastern Colombia,

the great plain that lies to the east of the Andes Mountains and that includes the Amazon portion of the country. The country is characterized by striking variety in temperature mainly related to differences in altitude. The capital city of Colombia is Bogotá, the largest and most populous city in the country, located at an elevation of around 2,650 m., on a high plateau in the Cordillera Oriental of the Andes Mountains.

2. Colombia has an estimated population of 45,644,023 people. Twenty-nine percent of the total population is under 15 years of age. The majority of the population (58 percent) is *mestizo*, 20 percent white, 14 percent mulatto, 4 percent black and 3 percent mixed black-Amerindian. Pure indigenous Amerindians comprise only 1 percent of the population. The overwhelming majority of Colombians speak Spanish; however, a significant proportion speak indigenous languages (e.g. the Quechua language). Most of the country's population and large cities (e.g. Bogotá) are in the Andean region, the centre of national political and economic power. The population density along the Pacific coast and in the Eastern

Plains and Amazon regions is extremely low. Migration to urban areas was very heavy in the mid-twentieth century and Colombia is currently one of the most urbanized countries in Latin America. The urban population represents 74 percent of the total population. Colombia has one of the world's largest populations of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Most of the displacement is related to the country's four-decade-long internal armed conflict, fought primarily between left-wing guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries and Colombian armed forces. The conflict also involves drug traffickers, landowners, and other legal and illegal interests¹.

3. In 2005, 22 percent of the Colombian workforce was employed in agriculture, 19 percent in industry and 59 percent in services. Colombia has significant natural resources. Its main exports include petroleum, coal, gold, emeralds, coffee, bananas, cut flowers. Chief manufactured products are beverages and processed foods, textiles, clothing and footwear, and chemicals. Tourism is also a sizable source of income. Main trading partners are the United States and Venezuela. Cocaine is the major illicit export, accounting for at least 8 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of Colombia. The drug trade (cocaine, heroin and cannabis) has seriously disrupted the Colombian society with its violence.

4. After a sharp contraction in 1999, Colombia has experienced accelerating growth since 2002, with expansion above 7 percent in 2007. The main factors behind growth were advancements in domestic security, resulting in greater foreign investment, prudent monetary policy, export growth, rising commodity prices and pro-market economic policies. Improvements in the security situation include considerable reductions in kidnappings, violent crime and in the number of displaced people. This combination of economic recovery, increased state presence and successful security measures have worked together in a virtuous cycle to significantly improve the quality of life of millions of Colombians. Since 2002 in Colombia poverty decreased by 20 percent and unemployment by 25 percent.

5. Despite the economic and political outlook is positive for Colombia, the Government still faces daunting challenges. It still continues to combat various armed Groups and faces the problem of reintegrating thousands of former combatants into civilian life. Extreme poverty and deep inequities continue to haunt the country. The country's infrastructure requires significant updating in order to sustain expansion. Other challenges are represented by high government debt, weak domestic and foreign demand and the funding of the country's pension system.².

¹ UNHCR (2006), "The State of the World's Refugees 2006", Chapter 7, Internally displaced persons

² CIA: The World Factbook.

The World Bank, 2008, "Country Partnership Strategy for the Republic of Colombia"

COUNTRY REPORT FOR COLOMBIA

Table 1. Colombia: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Human development index (HDI) ^(a)	0.753	..	..	..	..	0.772	..	..	..	..	0.791	..	..
Population growth (annual %)	1.83	1.913	1.81	1.72	1.63	1.55	1.66	1.57	1.49	1.43	1.37	1.27	1.25
Population, total (in thousands)	36,493	37,198	37,879	38,536	39,170	39,781	40,447	41,088	41,706	42,306	42,889	43,439	43,987
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	34.83	34.45	34.05	33.65	33.25	32.84	32.43	32.02	31.61	31.20	30.78	30.37	29.96
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	60.68	61.02	61.36	61.72	62.07	62.42	62.77	63.12	63.47	63.81	64.14	64.47	64.79
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	4.49	4.54	4.58	4.63	4.69	4.74	4.80	4.86	4.93	5.00	5.07	5.16	5.25
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	60.00	..	..	..	64.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	79.00	..	..	..	79.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	48.00	..	..	..	55.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population)	11.23	13.54	..	..	16.54	16.77	..	..	15.36	..	..	16.01	..
GINI index	57.22	56.06	..	..	57.92	57.50	..	..	58.83	..	..	58.49	..
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	71.00	..	..	..	..	74.00	..	..	..	..	..	78.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	45.00	..	..	..	..	51.00	..	..	..	..	..	58.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	82.00	..	..	..	..	83.00	..	..	..	..	..	85.00	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	90.00	..	..	..	..	91.00	..	..	..	..	..	93.00	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	71.00	..	..	..	..	73.00	..	..	..	..	..	77.00	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	98.00	..	..	..	..	98.00	..	..	..	..	..	99.00	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	31.10	..	..	..	..	26.10	..	..	..	..	21.80	21.10	20.30
GDP growth (annual %)	5.20	2.06	3.43	0.57	-4.20	2.93	2.18	2.46	4.61	4.66	5.72	6.94	7.55
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	2,4621	2,461	2,5043	2,4756	2,3332	2,364	2,376	2,396	2,470	2,548	2,658	2,806	2,980

COUNTRY REPORT FOR COLOMBIA

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	3.29	0.12	1.57	-1.15	-5.76	1.34	0.50	0.86	3.06	3.18	4.28	5.59	6.21
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	1.00	1.20	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.10	22.20	20.40	21.10	20.30	22.40	19.40	18.40
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	31.50	29.80	27.60	26.50	24.10	25.50	18.40	20.00	18.60	19.70	18.80	19.30	19.60
Employment in services (% of total employment)	67.40	68.90	71.10	72.30	74.50	73.30	59.30	59.60	60.20	60.10	58.80	61.00	61.90
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	8.70	11.87	12.05	15.00	20.05	20.52	14.50	15.65	14.10	13.65	11.46	12.72	10.86

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

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

Table 2. Child labour legislative framework: ratified conventions relating to child labour

CONVENTION	Ratification
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	02.02.2001
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	28.01.2005
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	28.01.1991

2. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

6. Data from the *Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH)* of October-December 2007 show that children's involvement in employment¹ is not uncommon in Colombia. An estimated four percent of children aged 7-14 years² (over 270,000 children in absolute terms) were engaged in employment in 2007. At the same time, school attendance was high – more than 95 percent of children from the 7-14 years age group attended school in 2007. Involvement in employment is higher among older children. 19 percent of 15-17 year-olds (some 500,000 children in absolute terms) were in employment. School attendance also appears to be lower for this age range: only 74 percent of children attended school in 2007.

7. 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 in 2007, 92 percent of 7-14 year-olds attended school unencumbered by work responsibilities, while three percent were combining employment and school. Only one percent of all 7-14 year-olds were in employment without also attending school. A small residual group of children (four percent of 7-14 year-olds) reportedly neither working nor attending school.

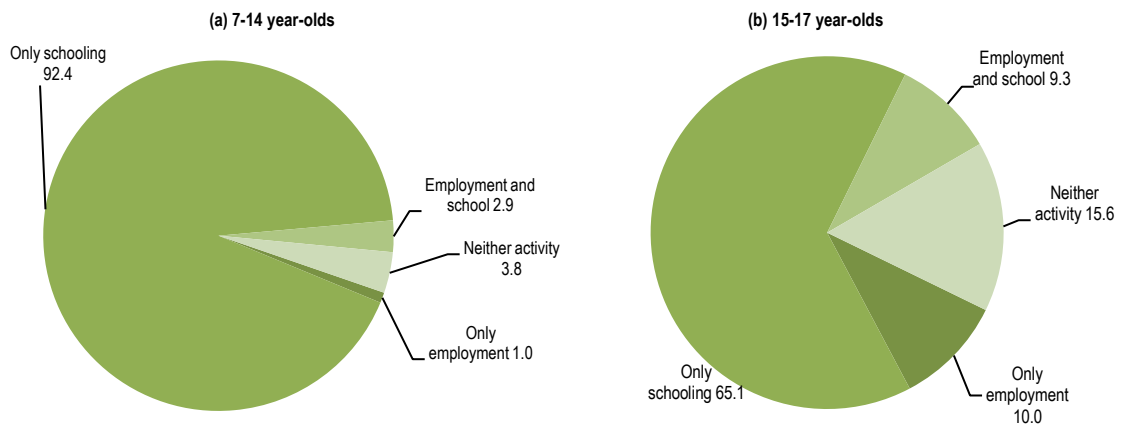
8. Activity patterns differed somewhat for older children³, aged 15 to 17, with a higher fraction exclusively in employment (10 percent), combining employment and school (nine percent) and in neither activity (16 percent), and a lower fraction only attending school (65 percent).

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

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

³ Additional statistics are provided in the Appendix.

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



Sources: UCW calculations based on Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

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

- Children's employment is overwhelmingly a rural phenomenon. Children 7-14 year-old residing in rural areas are three times more likely to be in employment than their urban peers. At the same time, children's school attendance rate is lower in rural areas than in urban areas.
- Gender considerations appear important in decisions relating to children's employment. Boys are more than twice as likely than girls to be in employment. Differences by sex in employment emerge, however, only from age 11 years onwards. Much of the difference might be accounted for by the different types of work boys and girls take on: while boys are much more likely to enter employment as they grow older, girls are more likely to take on responsibility for household chores. Girls are slightly more likely than boys to be attending school.
- Ethnicity strongly influences children's activity patterns. Indigenous children in the 7-14 years age group are almost four times as likely to be in employment, and considerably less likely to benefit from schooling, than their non-indigenous peers.
- There are large regional differences in children's employment, pointing to the importance of geographical targeting in efforts against child labour. Aggregate estimates show that children's employment is more common in the Pacífica region and the Oriental region than in the other regions. Children's involvement in employment appears low in the Bogotá, D.C. region (Figure 2).
- Children's involvement in employment rises sharply with age beyond the age of 11 years (Figure 3).

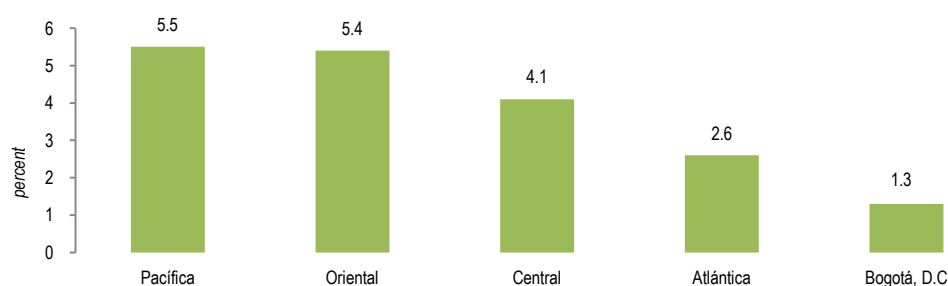
Table 3. Child activity status, by sex, residence and indigenous status, 7-14 age group

Background characteristics		Mutually exclusive activity categories				Total in employment ^(a)	Total in school ^(b)
		Only employment ⁽¹⁾	Only schooling	Employment and schooling	Neither activity		
Sex	Male	1.6	91.1	3.7	3.6	5.3	94.7
	Female	0.3	93.8	2.1	3.9	2.3	95.8
Residence	Urban	0.6	94.5	2.0	3.0	2.5	96.5
	Rural	2.0	87.0	5.3	5.8	7.2	92.2
Ethnicity	Indigenous	4.7	80.6	9.2	5.5	13.9	89.8
	Non-indigenous	0.9	92.7	2.8	3.7	3.6	95.4
Total 7-14		1.0	92.4	2.9	3.8	3.9	95.3

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

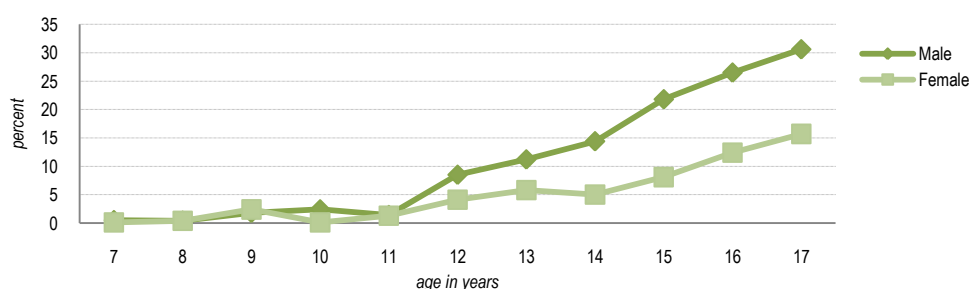
Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

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



Sources: UCW calculations based on Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

Figure 3. Children's involvement in employment, by age and sex



Sources: UCW calculations based on Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

10. The largest share of children in employment work as unpaid family workers (46 percent of 7-14 year-old children). A considerable fraction of children in employment also work for a wage (29 percent), while the remainder work in other non family activities, and particularly self employment (23 percent). Unpaid family work and wage work prevail in rural areas, while self employment is more common in urban areas. Girls work mainly as unpaid workers, while boys are considerably more likely to be in wage employment and in self employment (Table 4).

11. In term of the sector composition of children's employment, agriculture accounts for the largest proportion – 41 percent. The trade sector and the services sector absorb 26 percent and 20 percent, respectively, of child workers and the manufacturing accounts for 11 percent. Variations by residence, sex and indigenous status in the composition of children's employment are large. Agriculture not surprisingly predominates in rural areas, while work in trade, services and manufacturing predominates in urban areas. Boys are more likely than girls to work in agriculture and less likely to work in manufacturing, trade and services. Girls' work is mainly concentrated in the trade and services sectors.

Table 4. Sector and modality of children's employment, by sex, residence and indigenous status, 7-14 age group

Characteristics		Sector					Modality			
		Agriculture	Manufact.	Trade	Services	Other	Unpaid	Self	Wage	Other
Sex	Male	49.1	10.3	23.5	14.6	2.6	40.5	23.9	32.0	3.6
	Female	21.7	12.0	32.6	33.2	0.5	57.9	19.8	22.0	0.3
Residence	Urban	5.2	19.6	43.4	29.0	2.8	39.8	30.5	25.6	4.1
	Rural	72.9	2.9	10.9	12.0	1.3	50.7	15.8	32.2	1.3
Total 7-14		41.2	10.8	26.1	20.0	2.0	45.6	22.7	29.1	2.6

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

Table 5. Average weekly working hours, by sex, residence and indigenous status, 7-14 age group

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling
Sex	Male	25.3	37.1	20.2
	Female	19.5	34.4	17.7
Residence	Urban	21.7	32.8	18.5
	Rural	25.4	39.6	20.1
Total 7-14		23.7	36.8	19.3

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

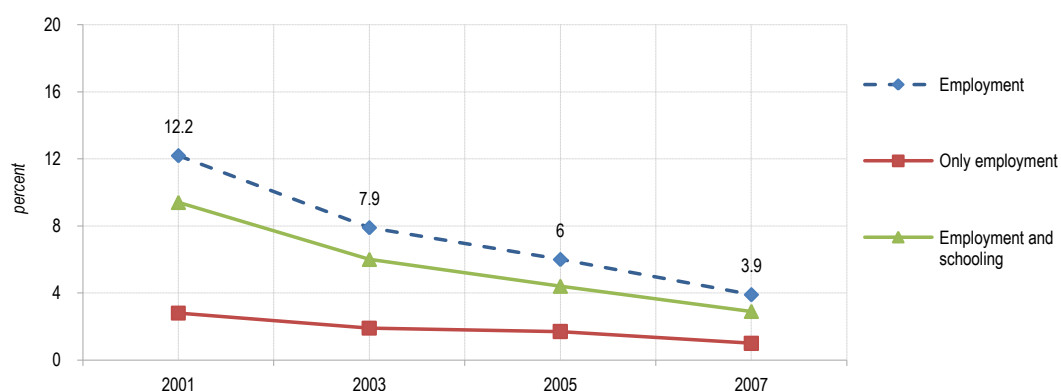
12. Employment is typically time intensive for working children in Colombia, especially for those who are in employment. Children aged 7-14 years in employment log an average of 24 working hours each week. Children only in employment put in almost 18 working hours more each week than children who combine employment and school. Differences in the time intensity of work are important between males and females; boys in employment work six more hours per week than girls. Time intensity varies across the place of residence; rural children work longer hours than their urban peers.

3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

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

13. A comparison of the results from household surveys over the period 2001-2007 indicates a decrease in the 7-14 years-old children employment rate, from 12 percent in 2001 to four percent in 2007 (Figure 4).⁴ During the same period the school attendance rate of 7-14 year-olds increased from 92 percent to 95 percent (Table 6).

Figure 4. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2007



Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

14. A closer look at changes over the reference period shows the overall decline in children's employment was the product of fewer children having to forsake school altogether in order to work, and of fewer children having to work while also trying to study. The proportion of children in "employment only" and in "employment and schooling" both declined, while the proportion in "schooling only" rose (Table 6 and Figure 5).

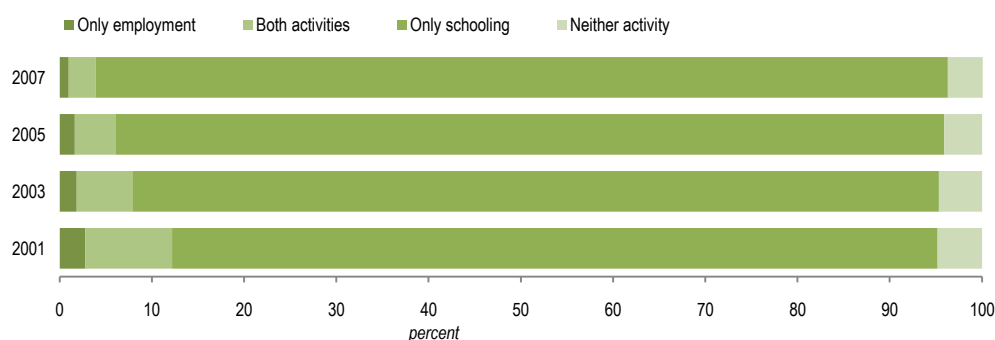
Table 6. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2007

Activity Status	2001	2003	2005	2007
Only employment	2.8	1.9	1.7	1
Only schooling	83.0	87.4	89.9	92.4
Employment and schooling	9.4	6.0	4.4	2.9
Neither activity	4.8	4.7	4.1	3.8
Total employment^(a)	12.2	7.9	6.0	3.9
Total school^(b)	92.4	93.4	94.3	95.3

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

⁴ The analysis of trends in children's employment presented in this section is based on a SIMPOC survey for the year 2001, the *Encuesta Continua de Hogares* (ECH) survey for the years 2003 and 2005 and the *Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares* (GEIH) for the year 2007.

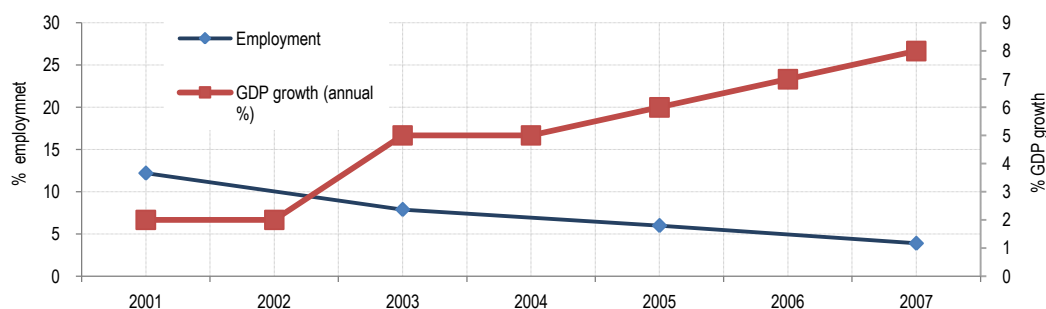
Figure 5. Changes in children's activity status, 7 years age group, 2001-2007



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

15. What might explain the sharp fall in children's employment over the 2001 to 2007 period? A detailed analysis of the causal factors underlying the trends is beyond the scope of this paper. It is nonetheless worth noting that the fall in children's employment over the 2001-2007 period coincided with a sharp rise in GDP growth (Figure 6), although caution should be exercised in reading too much into this correlation, as the factors affecting children's employment are numerous.

Figure 6. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007



Source: UCW, calculations based on Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

16. Tables 7 and 8 and Figure 7 look at changes in children's employment and schooling broken down by sex, residence and age.⁵ They suggest that the decrease in children's employment during the 2001-2007 period was broad-based, extending to both girls and boys, to children living in both rural and urban settings and to children across the 7-14 years age spectrum.

⁵ The analysis of changes in children's employment by indigenous status over the reference period is not possible as information on ethnicity is available only for the year 2007.

Table 7. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2001-2007, by sex

Activity status	Male				Female			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Only employment	4.0	2.7	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.3
Only schooling	78.6	85.7	88.0	91.1	87.6	89.3	91.8	93.8
Both activities	12.5	6.9	5.4	3.7	6.2	5.1	3.4	2.1
Neither activity	4.9	4.8	4.3	3.6	4.7	4.6	3.9	3.9
Total employment^(a)	16.5	9.6	7.7	5.3	7.7	6.1	4.3	2.3
Total schooling^(b)	91.1	92.6	93.4	94.7	93.8	94.4	95.2	95.8

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

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

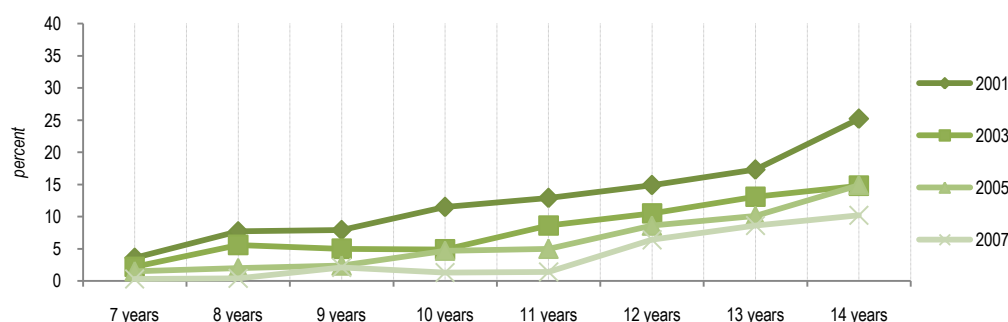
Table 8. Changes in children's activity status, 7-14 age group, 2001-2007, by residence

Activity status	Urban				Rural			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Only employment	-	1.0	0.8	0.6	-	3.8	3.6	2.0
Only schooling	-	90.9	92.8	94.5	-	79.6	83.0	87.0
Both activities	-	4.6	3.2	2.0	-	9.2	7.2	5.3
Neither activity	-	3.5	3.2	3.0	-	7.4	6.2	5.8
Total employment^(a)	-	5.6	4.1	2.5	-	13.0	10.8	7.2
Total schooling^(b)	-	95.5	96.0	96.5	-	88.8	90.2	92.2

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

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

Figure 7. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 2001-2007, by age



Source: UCW calculations based on Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001.

17. The data for the 7-14 years age group also show that the decrease in the children's employment rate between 2001 and 2007 extended to all regions (Table 9 and Figure 8), although important regional disparities remained in 2007. An in-depth analysis would be required to identify the factors behind the decrease in children's employment in each Region, and to establish the extent to which these changes reflect inequality between regions and relative economic performance or structural changes in children's employment over the reference period.

Table 9. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007, by region

Region	Employment				Schooling			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Pacífica	16.1	14.8	10.5	5.5	93.8	92.6	93.9	95.6
Oriental	13.1	9.1	6.4	5.4	93.2	91.5	94.6	94.3
Central	13.2	7.7	7.3	4.1	91.3	92.8	91.4	93.7
Atlántica	11.6	4.0	2.9	2.6	89.5	94.1	96.1	95.8
Bogotá, D.C	4.7	3.8	2.4	1.3	96.2	97.5	96.8	98.4

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Figure 8. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 7-14 year-olds, 2001-2007, by Region



Sources: UCW, calculations based on Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

18. A comparison of survey results for older 15-17 year-old children, also points to important progress in terms of reducing employment and increasing school attendance. The employment rate of 15-17 year-olds decreased between 2001 and 2007 by almost 10 percentage points, while the school attendance rate increased by four percentage points. The decrease in employment over the period 2001-2007 was the product of a decrease of both the share of children combining employment and school and of the share of children in employment only. The percentage of 15-17 year-old children in school only increased steadily over the period considered.

Table 10. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 2001-2007

Activity Status	2001	2003	2005	2007
Only employment	16.1	13.8	13.0	10.0
Only schooling	56.2	57.9	62.2	65.1
Both activities	13.8	11.9	9.9	9.3
Neither activity	14.0	16.3	14.9	15.6
Total employment^(a)	29.9	25.7	22.9	19.4
Total school^(b)	70.0	69.9	72.1	74.4

Notes: (a) Refers to all children in economic activity, regardless of school status; (b) Refers to all children attending school, regardless of work status.
Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

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

19. The 2001-2007 period also saw changes in the composition and time intensity of children's work. Compared to 2001, children aged 7-14 years in employment in 2007 were more likely to work in the agricultural sector and services sector and less likely to be found in the trade and manufacturing sectors (Table 11). During the period 2003-2007 there was sharp decrease in the proportion of children working as unpaid family workers while there was an increase in the share working as self-employed and in wage work.⁶

Table 11. Trends in child activity status during 2001-2007, 7-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2007
Agriculture	35.7	43.4	38.4	41.2
Manufacturing	12.6	11.3	14.4	10.8
Trade	32.3	25.8	29.8	26.1
Services	17.4	18.0	16.2	20.0
Other	2.0	1.6	1.1	2.0
Unpaid	-	62	54.3	45.6
Self	-	15.2	15.8	22.7
Wage	-	22.5	29.6	29.1
Other	-	0.4	0.4	2.6

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Table 12. Changes in average weekly working hours, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2007
Total	19.7	19.4	21.4	23.7
Agriculture	22.8	21.3	23.5	28.8
Manufacturing	15.5	14.6	18.1	21.9
Trade	16.5	16.8	18.1	18.4
Services	22.8	21.1	25.1	19.2
Other	15.2	26.7	25.0	41.1
Unpaid	-	15.8	16.8	21.5
Self	-	15.2	21.5	23.8
Wage	-	32.4	29.8	27.6
Other	-	20.1	30.6	16.1
Employment only	39.8	35.2	36.5	36.8
Employment and schooling	13.8	14.5	15.7	19.3

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

20. The time intensity of children's employment increased over the 2001-2007 period, meaning that the remaining children in employment spent more time each week actually working. The overall increase in working hours was mainly the result of an increase of time intensity of children

⁶ For modality of employment, comparison is restricted to the years 2003, 2005 and 2007, as in the SIMPOC survey the method used for identifying the employment modality categories is different.

combining employment and school; the time intensity of employment decreased for children only in employment. Nonetheless, the gap in terms of working hours between children in employment only and children combining employment and school remained wide in 2007.

ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

Children aged 7-14 years

Table 13. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male				Female			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Agriculture	45.7	48.5	48.2	49.1	13.4	35.1	20.4	21.7
Manufacturing	11.5	10.2	11.3	10.3	14.9	13.1	20.2	12.0
Trade	29.9	25.6	26.0	23.5	37.8	26.2	37.0	32.6
Services	10.5	13.4	13.2	14.6	33.0	25.4	21.8	33.2
Other	2.5	2.3	1.3	2.6	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.5
Unpaid	56.1	55.6	48.8	40.5	63.8	72.4	64.4	57.9
Self	9.3	19.5	16.8	23.9	9.4	8.1	14.0	19.8
Wage	33.5	24.3	34.0	32.0	25.1	19.4	21.4	22.0
Other	1.0	0.6	0.5	3.6	1.7	0.1	0.2	0.3

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Table 14. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 7-14 years age group, 2001-2007, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban				Rural			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Agriculture	-	7.7	8.3	5.2	-	78.3	65.8	72.9
Manufacturing	-	19.0	18.5	19.6	-	3.7	10.8	2.9
Trade	-	41.0	45.9	43.4	-	10.9	15.3	10.9
Services	-	31.3	26.5	29.0	-	5.0	6.9	12.0
Other	-	0.9	0.9	2.8	-	2.1	1.3	1.3
Unpaid	-	49.9	49.6	39.8	-	73.8	58.5	50.7
Self	-	21.5	19.9	30.5	-	9.0	12.1	15.8
Wage	-	27.8	29.7	25.6	-	17.2	29.4	32.2
Other	-	0.8	0.8	4.1	-	0.0	0.0	1.3

Source Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Children aged 15-17 years

Table A1. Child activity status, 15-17 years age group, by indigenous status

Activity status	Indigenous	Non indigenous
Only employment	17.9	9.9
Only schooling	56.1	65.3
Both activities	14.9	9.2
Neither activity	11.0	15.7
Total employment(a)	32.9	19.1
Total schooling(b)	71.0	74.5

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

Table A2. Sector and modality of children's employment, by ethnicity, 15-17 age group

Activity status	Indigenous	Non indigenous
Agriculture	48.0	33.3
Manufacturing	5.0	12.1
Trade	10.2	25.8
Services	35.5	23.8
Other	1.4	4.9
Unpaid	26.6	21.7
Self	25.0	24.5
Wage	48.5	50.8
Other	0.0	2.9

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007

Table A3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by sex

Activity status	2001	Male				Female			
		2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	
Only employment	23.2	18.6	17.8	14.5	8.0	8.8	7.9	5.1	
Only schooling	50.2	53.9	59.1	62.5	63.0	62.2	65.6	67.9	
Both activities	17.0	14.4	12.4	11.7	10.2	9.3	7.1	6.8	
Neither activity	9.6	13.1	10.7	11.4	18.8	19.7	19.4	20.3	
Total employment(a)	40.2	33.1	30.2	26.2	18.2	18.1	15.0	11.8	
Total schooling(b)	67.2	68.3	71.5	74.1	73.1	71.5	72.7	74.7	

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 Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Table A4. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by residence

Activity status	Urban				Rural			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Only employment	-	9.7	8.4	7.0	-	24.1	24.4	18.5
Only schooling	-	64.4	69.2	69.6	-	41.7	45.0	52.4
Both activities	-	11.0	8.6	9.0	-	14.2	13.0	10.4
Neither activity	-	14.8	13.9	14.5	-	20.1	17.6	18.7
Total employment(a)	-	20.8	17.0	15.9	-	38.2	37.4	28.9
Total schooling(b)	-	75.4	77.7	78.6	-	55.8	58.1	62.8

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

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Table A5. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by Region

Region	Employment				Schooling			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Pacífica	39.2	36.6	32.7	21.4	65.6	68.8	66.7	73.8
Oriental	34.0	34.9	26.6	26.5	71.8	59.5	67.0	73.4
Central	31.5	26.0	25.5	21.9	59.8	65.8	68.0	69.0
Atlántica	29.1	15.3	14.9	15	73.1	77.9	79.1	76.3
Bogotá, D.C	12.0	15.7	13.8	10.3	84.3	80.0	80.9	82.9

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Table A6. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 2001-2007, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2007
Agriculture	37.6	32.5	36.4	33.9
Manufacturing	12.3	11.1	10.1	11.9
Trade	24.6	23.2	22.5	25.3
Services	22.4	27.0	25.8	24.3
Other	3.2	6.3	5.2	4.8
Unpaid	38.6	30.3	27.3	21.9
Self	10.4	19.0	18.1	24.6
Wage	50.8	50.1	54.1	50.7
Other	0.3	0.6	0.5	2.8

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Table A7. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2001	2003	2005	2007
Total	31.6	33.4	34.1	35.1
Agriculture	35	34.5	34.7	37.1
Manufacturing	30.8	38.3	34.5	35.0
Trade	31.4	31.7	31.8	32.4
Services	28.2	31.5	34.2	33.8
Other	21.6	33.1	38.4	42.2
Unpaid	24.1	24.9	23.8	23.2
Self	25.1	32.3	33.8	32.9
Wage	38.7	38.9	39.2	41.8
Other	20.2	36.2	56.4	26.4
Employment only	42.1	43.1	41.6	42.6
Employment and schooling	19.5	22.2	24.1	27.0

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001.

Table A8. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male				Female			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Agriculture	45.0	40.5	46.3	42.6	19.0	17.5	14.7	12.4
Manufacturing	10.7	11.6	8.5	12.2	16.3	10.1	13.6	10.9
Trade	23.3	21.9	22.1	22.5	27.8	25.6	23.4	32.0
Services	16.6	16.7	15.6	16.1	36.9	46.4	47.7	44.3
Other	4.4	9.3	7.4	6.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.4
Unpaid	38.5	29.7	25.4	20.7	38.6	31.5	31.5	24.8
Self	9.2	20.7	20.2	24.9	13.4	15.8	13.7	23.7
Wage	52.0	48.9	53.9	52.1	47.7	52.4	54.4	47.2
Other	0.4	0.8	0.6	2.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	4.3

Source Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001

Table A9. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2001-2007, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban				Rural			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Agriculture	-	9.7	8.6	8.7	-	63.7	67.5	72.4
Manufacturing	-	14.0	15.6	18.4	-	7.1	3.9	1.8
Trade	-	33.6	33.5	34.9	-	8.9	10.3	10.5
Services	-	38.5	37.5	32.3	-	11.2	12.6	12.0
Other	-	4.2	4.8	5.7	-	9.1	5.7	3.3
Unpaid	-	24.8	22.0	19.6	-	37.8	33.2	25.5
Self	-	21.2	18.8	25.4	-	16.0	17.3	23.3
Wage	-	52.9	58.1	51.7	-	46.2	49.5	49.3
Other	-	1.1	1.0	3.4	-	0.0	0.0	2.0

Source: Colombia, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH), October-December 2007; Encuesta Continua de Hogares (ECH), October-December 2005, October-December 2003; SIMPOC, 2001