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

Country report for the Dominican Republic

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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 the Dominican Republic

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 2000 *SIMPOC* survey, the 2003, 2004 and 2005 *Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT)* surveys, the country brief provides an overview of the child labour phenomenon in the Dominican Republic. Particular attention is given to the links between child labour and schooling.

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

1. The Dominican Republic is the second largest Caribbean nation (after Cuba) with an area of 48,670 km². It occupies the eastern two-thirds of the Island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the smaller Haiti to the west. It is also bordered by the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. The



Source: CIA, [The World Factbook](#)

Dominican coastline stretches for 1288 km. The geography of the Dominican Republic is extremely diverse. The mountains and valleys divide the country into the northern, the central and the southwestern regions. Mountain ranges occupy about 80 percent of the country; the highest mountain range is the Cordillera Central. Fertile valleys rest between the ranges; the rich Cibao valley is the largest agricultural valley in the country and is very densely

settled. The largest and most economically important lowland area in the country is the Coastal Plain of Santo Domingo. In the Dominican Republic tropical cyclones occur on average once every two years.

2. The Dominican Republic has an estimated population of 9,650,054 people. Demographically it is a young country; 31 percent of the total population is under 15 years of age. Sixty-nine percent of the population lives in urban areas; the southern coastal plains and the Cibao Valley are the most densely populated areas in the country.

3. The Dominican Republic is a middle-income country, with the largest economy of Central America and the Caribbean. The country has long been primarily an exporter of sugar, coffee, and tobacco but in recent years the service sector has overtaken agriculture as the economy's leading employer due to growth in tourism and free trade zones. Agriculture, industry and services account respectively for 11 percent, 23 percent and 66 percent of GDP. The economy is highly dependent upon the US, which absorbs about two-thirds of exports. The country experienced a decade of steady economic growth in the 1990s (5.9 percent on average), led by tourism, telecommunications and *maquiladora* manufacturing. Growth was

slower in 2001-2002 and in 2003 the country was hit by a massive banking crisis due to major bank frauds; the crisis produced a recession in the economy, with a GDP growth of -0.3 percent and over 27 percent inflation. Economic growth resurged since 2005, helped by the 2007 implementation of the Central America – Dominican Republic – United States Free Trade Agreement, which provides allied nations with the advantage of having permanent and totally free access to the United States. In 2008, GDP growth was 5.3 percent.

4. Although the economy is growing at a respectable rate, poverty rates are high; 31 percent in urban areas and 45 percent in rural areas. Large segments of the rural population have not participated in the benefits of growth. The consequences are particularly severe for youths in terms of high malnutrition rates, school drop outs, youth unemployment and risky behavior. The country suffers from marked income inequality; the poorest half of the population receives less than one-fifth of GNP, while the richest ten percent enjoys nearly 40 percent of national income. Entrenched pockets of poverty persist on the Haitian border and in the *bateyes*, the old sugar plantations.

5. The Dominican Republic faces also other challenges. The culture of patronage is still rooted in public institutions and clientelism led to large inefficiency in the public administration. Although the banking system returned to stability, it is still affected by weaknesses. The electricity sector continues to be afflicted by a major crisis resulting in frequent blackouts; at the root of the problem are large distribution losses and low bill collection rates. Inequitable access to schooling affects the long-term prospects for raising labor quality and productivity¹.

¹ CIA: The World Factbook.

The World Bank, 2005, "Country Assistance Strategy for the Dominican Republic"

Table 1. Dominican Republic: selected socio-economic indicators

Indicators	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Human Development Index (HDI) ^(a)	0.723	..	..	..	..	0.757	..	..	..	..	0.779
Population growth (annual %)	1.83	1.80	1.78	1.75	1.72	1.68	1.65	1.62	1.59	1.57	1.54
Population, total (thousands)	8,013	8,159	8,305	8,452	8,598	8,744	8,890	9,035	9,180	9,325	9,470
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	36.01	35.71	35.43	35.16	34.90	34.66	34.43	34.20	33.98	33.75	33.50
Population ages 15-64 (% of total)	59.61	59.78	59.94	60.08	60.21	60.34	60.45	60.57	60.68	60.81	60.95
Population ages 65 and above (% of total)	4.38	4.51	4.63	4.76	4.88	5.01	5.12	5.23	5.34	5.44	5.55
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	..	..	..	..	..	27.70	..	..	..	42.20	..
Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population)	..	..	..	..	..	45.30	..	..	..	55.70	..
Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)	..	..	..	..	..	18.20	..	..	..	34.70	..
Population below \$1 (PPP) per day (% of population) ^(b)	..	5.9	..	..	..	4.4	..	..	6.1	..	5.0
GINI index	..	48.71	49.58	..	..	52.11	..	..	51.88	51.64	49.90
Poorest quintile's share in national income or consumption (%) ^(b)	..	4.1	..	..	..	3.5	..	..	3.8	..	4.0
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	62.00	..	..	..	..	71.00	..	..	..	78.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)	54.00	..	..	..	..	65.00	..	..	..	73.00	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	68.00	..	..	..	..	75.00	..	..	..	81.00	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	87.00	..	..	..	..	92.00	..	..	..	95.00	..
Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)	75.00	..	..	..	..	84.00	..	..	..	91.00	..
Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)	97.00	..	..	..	..	97.00	..	..	..	97.00	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	53.00	..	..	..	..	40.00	..	..	..	..	31.00
GDP growth (annual %)	4.67	7.16	8.16	7.43	8.15	8.13	3.63	4.43	-1.87	1.95	9.29
GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	1,694.	1,783.	1,894.	2,000.	2,126.	2,261.	2,305.	2,368.	2,287.	2,295.	2,470.
GDP per capita growth (annual %)	2.77	5.25	6.25	5.57	6.31	6.33	1.94	2.75	-3.42	0.37	7.61
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	14.60	19.80	19.70	17.10	17.50	15.90	14.90	15.90	13.70	14.80	14.60
Employment in industry (% of total employment)	24.00	26.10	25.80	26.10	25.30	23.80	23.00	21.10	22.90	23.00	22.30
Employment in services (% of total employment)	61.30	54.00	54.40	56.80	57.20	60.20	62.10	63.00	63.30	62.10	63.10
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	15.00	16.70	16.00	14.40	13.80	13.90	15.60	16.10	16.70	18.40	17.90

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

(a) UNDP, http://hdrstats.unep.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_DOM.html

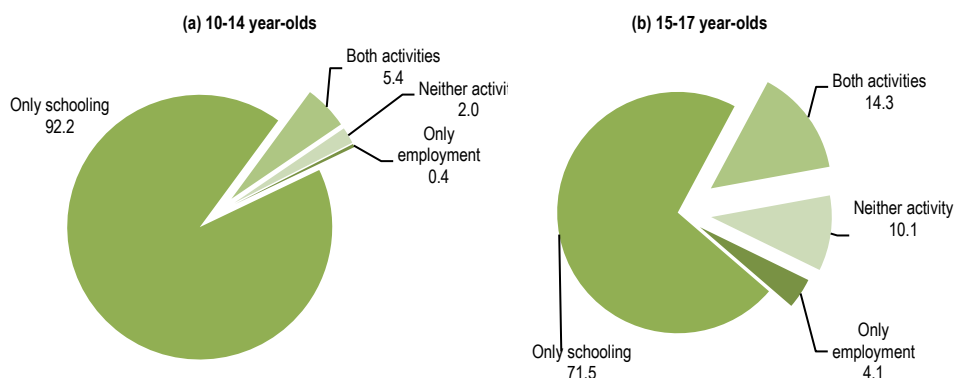
(b) UNSTATS, <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>

2. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT

6. Data from the *Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT)* of October 2005 show that children's involvement in employment² is not uncommon in the Dominican Republic. An estimated six percent of children aged 10-14 years, more than 59,800 in absolute terms, were engaged in some form of employment in 2005. At the same time, school attendance was high – almost 98 percent of children from the 10-14 years age group attended school in 2005. Children's employment rises with age. More than 18 percent of children aged 15-17 years, about 115,000 children in absolute terms, were in employment.

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 2005, 92 percent of 10-14 year-olds attended school unencumbered by work responsibilities, while 5.4 percent were combining employment and school. Only 0.4 percent of all 10-14 year-olds worked without also attending school. A small residual group of children (two percent of 10-14 year-olds) reportedly neither worked nor attended school.

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



Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005

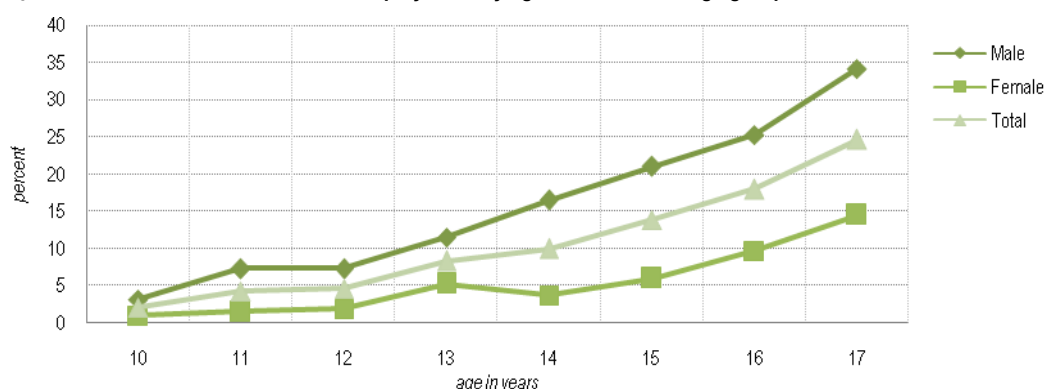
8. Activity patterns differed somewhat for older 15-17 years old children, with a higher fraction in employment, in both activities and in neither activity and a lower fraction in school.³

² *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).

³ Additional descriptive statistics are provided in the Appendix

9. Aggregate estimates of children's activities mask important differences by age, sex and residence. Older children are much more likely than their younger counterparts to be in employment (Figure 2). Boys are more than three times as likely than girls to be in employment (Table 2), and the gender gap widens as age increases (Figure 2). Urban children are slightly more likely to be in employment than rural children, although the difference is very small.

Figure 2. Children's involvement in employment, by age and sex, 10-17 age group



Sources: UCW calculations based on Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005

Table 2. Child activity status, by sex and residence, 10-14 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	0.7	88.9	8.3	2.1	9.0	97.2
	Female	0.0	95.4	2.7	1.9	2.7	98.1
Residence	Urban	0.4	92.0	5.5	2.1	5.9	97.5
	Rural	0.3	92.5	5.3	1.9	5.6	97.8
Total 10-14		0.4	92.2	5.4	2.0	5.8	97.6

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

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005

10. The largest share of children in employment work as unpaid family labour (56 percent of 10-14 year-old children). A further 24 percent of children in employment are in self-employment, and the remainder 20 percent work for a wage. By sector of employment, trade accounts for the largest proportion of children in employment – 46 percent – while agriculture accounts for 19 percent of total children's employment. A further 25 percent of children in employment are in services and about 10 percent in manufacturing (Table 3).

Table 3. Sector and modality of children's employment, by sex and residence, 10-14 age group

Characteristics		Sector					Modality		
		Agriculture	Manufact.	Trade	Services	Other	Unpaid	Self	Wage
Sex	Male	23.3	9.8	43.7	22.5	0.7	50.4	27.6	22.1
	Female	2.8	9.9	54.5	32.8	0.0	74.9	11.7	13.4
Residence	Urban	3.8	11.7	55.9	27.9	0.8	49.9	22.7	27.4
	Rural	45.4	6.4	28.8	19.5	0.0	67.5	25.9	6.6
Total 10-14		18.5	9.8	46.3	24.9	0.5	56.2	23.8	20.0

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005

11. Variations by residence and sex in the composition of children's employment are large (Table 3). Agriculture not surprisingly predominates in rural areas, while work in services, trade and manufacturing predominates in urban areas. Wage work strongly prevails in urban areas, while unpaid work is more common in rural areas. Girls work mainly as unpaid workers, while boys are much more likely than girls to be in self-employment and wage employment.

12. Children aged 10-14 years in employment log an average of 18 working hours each week (Table 4). Working hours are negatively correlated with school attendance – children only in employment put in almost seven working hours more each week than children combining employment and school.

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

Characteristics		Employment	Only employment	Employment and schooling
Sex	Male	19.9	24.9	19.5
	Female	13.6	-	13.6
Residence	Urban	20.6	27.2	20.1
	Rural	14.5	19.5	14.2
Total 10-14		18.4	24.9	18.0

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005

13. Differences in the time intensity of work are large between male and female; boys in employment work six more hours per week on average than girls. Time intensity also varies considerably across the place of residence; urban children work longer hours than rural child workers.

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 Dominican Republic.⁴ This question is critical for the purposes of prioritising and targeting policy responses to working children.

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

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

CONVENTION	Ratification
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (Minimum age specified: 14 years)	15-06-1999
The worst forms of child labour Convention (No. 182)	15-11-2000
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	11-06-1991

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 Dominican Republic upon ratification of ILO Convention No. 138. The child labour definition constructed on this basis consists of (i) children in employment below the age of 14 years; and (ii) children aged 14-17 years in hazardous forms of employment⁵. Hazardous forms, in turn, consist of work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, as set out in Article 3, subparagraph (1) of ILO Convention No. 138. 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 industries⁶, occupations⁷ and conditions⁸ 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

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

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

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

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

the 18th International Conference of Child Labour Statisticians leaves to the Governments the option of including them in the child labour estimates,⁹ due to data limitations. Second, they do not include children in worst forms other than hazardous,¹⁰ 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 Dominican Republic. Nonetheless, they provide a useful benchmark for international comparative and monitoring purposes.

17. Child labour measured on this basis is not uncommon in Dominican Republic. Over 40,500 children aged 10 to 13 years are in employment, and an additional 69,000 (14-17 year-old) children are in hazardous forms of work or are working excessive hours. Putting these groups together yields an estimate of over 109,500 children aged 10-17 years in child labour, 7 percent of this age group (Table 6).

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

		Children in employment		Children in hazardous work		Children in Child Labour	
		Age 10-13		Age 14-17		Age 10-17	
		No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group	No.	% of total age group
Sex	Male	30,147	7.2	61,731	14.7	91,878	11.0
	Female	10,427	2.4	7,365	1.9	17,792	2.2
Rural	Urban	25,608	4.8	44,053	8.4	69,661	6.6
	Rural	14,966	4.8	25,043	8.9	40,009	6.7
Total		40,574	4.8	69,096	8.5	109,670	6.6

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005

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

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

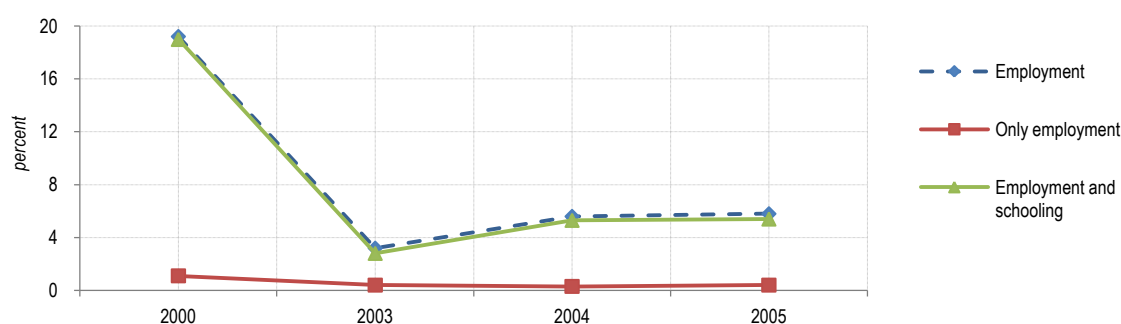
18. Table 6 shows that gender plays a very important role in the child labour phenomenon in the Dominican Republic. Differences by sex in children's involvement in child labour are very large: 14-17 year-old boys are five times more likely than their female counterparts to be involved in hazardous forms of work. Differences by area of residence in children's involvement in work which constitute child labour are small, with a slight prevalence in rural areas.

3. TRENDS IN CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOLING

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

19. A comparison of survey results for the 2000-2005 paints a picture of uneven progress against children's employment. A sharp fall in the proportion of children in employment in the period from 2000 to 2003 was followed by a rise in children's employment from 2003 to 2005 (Figure 3).¹¹ The fall in employment in the former period outstripped the rise in the latter period, resulting in a net decrease in children's employment of 13 percentage points over the whole 2000-2005 period. School attendance varied little. Already high in 2000 at 97 percent, it remained at around 98 percent during the whole 2000-2005 years period.

Figure 3. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 10-14 year-olds, 2000-2005



Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

20. A closer look at changes in employment shows that it was driven almost entirely by the group of children combining employment and school (Table 7 and Figure 4). The proportion of children combining employment and school decreased sharply during the 2000-2003 period, followed by a reversal during the 2003 to 2005 years period. The proportion of children in employment but *not* in school, the group whose development prospects are most compromised, decreased very slightly between 2000 and 2003 and remained stable during the period from 2003 to 2005.

Table 7. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 10-14 year-olds, 2000-2005

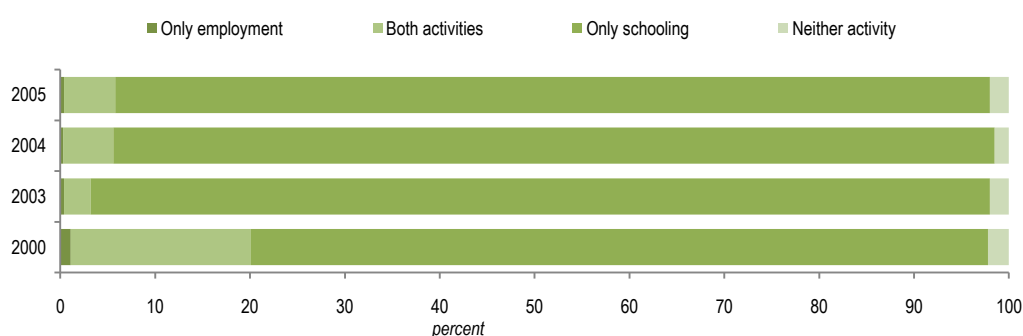
Activity Status	2000	2003	2004	2005
Only employment	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.4
Only schooling	77.7	94.8	92.9	92.2
Both activities	19.0	2.8	5.3	5.4
Neither activity	2.2	2	1.5	2
Total employment^(a)	19.2	3.2	5.6	5.8
Total school^(b)	96.6	97.6	98.2	97.6

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: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

¹¹ The analysis of trends in children's employment illustrated in this section is based on a SIMPOC survey for the year 2000 and on the EFT survey for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Figure 4. Changes in children's activity status, 10-14 years age group, 2000-2005



Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

21. Table 8, Table 9 and Figure 5 look at changes in children's employment and schooling broken down by sex, residence and age. They suggest that the decrease in children's employment during the 2000-2003 period was broad-based, extending to both girls and boys, to children living in both rural and urban settings and to children across the 10-14 years age spectrum. The following increase in children's employment during 2003-2005 concerned mainly urban rather than rural areas, but extended to both girls and boys and to all ages in the 10-14 age range.

Table 8. Changes in children's activity status, 10-14 age group, 2000-2005, by sex

Activity status	Male				Female			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Only employment	1.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Only schooling	67.3	92.2	89.9	88.9	87.9	97.5	96.2	95.4
Both activities	29.1	4.8	8.2	8.3	9.0	0.7	2.2	2.7
Neither activity	1.9	2.2	1.4	2.1	2.6	1.8	1.6	1.9
Total employment^(a)	29.2	5.6	8.7	9.0	9.1	0.7	2.2	2.7
Total schooling^(b)	96.4	97.0	98.1	97.2	96.9	98.3	98.4	98.1

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

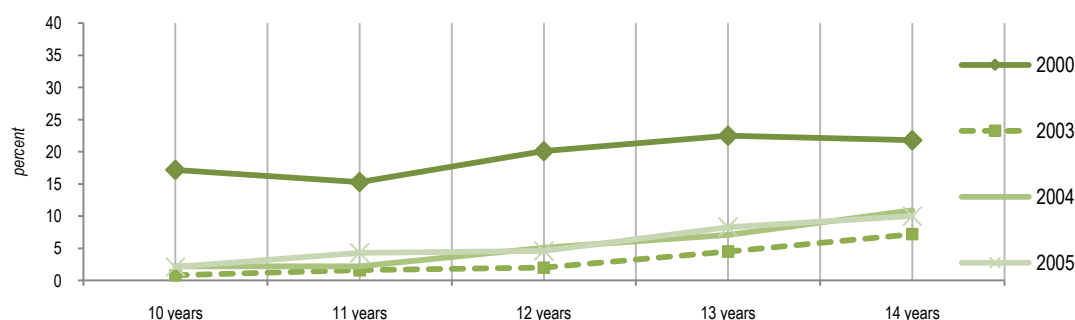
Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Table 9. Changes in children's activity status, 10-14 age group, 2000-2005, by residence

Activity status	Urban				Rural			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Only employment	1.0	-	0.3	0.4	1.4	-	0.4	0.3
Only schooling	79.5	-	93.2	92.0	74.7	-	92.3	92.5
Both activities	17.4	-	5.0	5.5	21.4	-	5.9	5.3
Neither activity	2.1	-	1.5	2.1	2.5	-	1.4	1.9
Total employment^(a)	17.6	-	5.2	5.9	21.7	-	6.3	5.6
Total schooling^(b)	96.9	-	98.2	97.5	96.2	-	98.2	97.8

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Figure 5. Changes in children's involvement in employment, 2000-2005, by age



Source: UCW calculations based on Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

22. Employment and schooling trends for older, 15-17 year-old, children mirrored those for younger children. A sharp reduction in employment during 2000 to 2003 was followed by a smaller increase during the period from 2003 to 2005, resulting in a net decline in employment of 12 percentage points for the overall 2000 to 2005 period. The reduction of employment over the period 2000-2003 was the result primarily of a decline in the proportion of children combining school and employment. The subsequent reversal was again a product of a rise in the proportion of children combining school and employment. The school attendance rate for 15-17 year-olds remained almost stable in the reference period at around 86 percent.

Table 10. Changes in the composition of children's time use, 15-17 year-olds, 2000-2005

Activity Status	2000	2003	2004	2005
Only employment	5.9	4.2	4.1	4.1
Only schooling	59.9	76.1	72.6	71.5
Both activities	26.2	9.6	12.2	14.3
Neither activity	7.9	10.1	11.1	10.1
Total eco. activity^(a)	29.9	13.8	16.3	18.4
Total school^(b)	86.2	85.7	84.8	85.8

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: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

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

23. The 2000-2005 period also saw changes in the composition and time intensity of children's employment. Compared to 2000, children aged 10-14 years in employment in 2005 were more likely to work in the trade sector and less likely to be found in the agriculture and services sectors. This tendency was accompanied by a sharp increase in the proportion of children working as unpaid family workers and a large decrease in the share of children working as wage workers, which leads to the conclusion that the increase in the trade sector may have occurred within the informal economy.

Table 11. Trends in the composition of children's employment, 2000-2005, 10-14 years age group

Sector/Modality	2000	2003	2004	2005
Agriculture	19.2	18.1	16.3	18.5
Manufacturing	11.2	13.3	17.2	9.8
Trade	19.8	41.8	35.7	46.3
Services	44.1	23.5	29.9	24.9
Other	5.8	3.3	0.9	0.5
Unpaid	28.5	32.6	28.3	56.2
Self	11.7	34.9	29.0	23.8
Wage	59.8	32.5	42.7	20

Source Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Table 12. Changes in average weekly working hours, 10-14 years age group, 2000-2005, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2000	2003	2004	2005
Total	20.5	22.8	23.2	18.4
Agriculture	20.1	21.3	24.1	16.0
Manufacturing	29.7	29.2	23.2	14.9
Trade	24.1	22.2	23.7	21.4
Services	16.9	23.3	21.8	16.0
Other	18.8	11.4	--	--
Unpaid	19.5	20	19.9	14.7
Self	14.5	20.2	20.5	19.6
Wage	22.4	28.6	27.2	27.6
Employment only	37.6	31.0	39.7	24.9
Employment and schooling	19.5	21.7	22.2	18.0

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

24. The time intensity of children's employment decreased over the 2000-2005 period; this result is primarily a reflection of a decrease in the time intensity in all sectors. Working hours decreased especially 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 2005.

ANNEX: ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

Children aged 10-14 years

Table A1. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 10-14 years age group, 2000-2005, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban				Rural			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Agriculture	4.8	-	4.0	3.8	37.7	-	33.6	45.4
Manufacturing	15.9	-	18.0	11.7	5.0	-	16.2	6.4
Trade	22.1	-	42.1	55.9	17.0	-	26.8	28.8
Services	50.0	-	34.4	27.9	36.5	-	23.5	19.5
Other	7.3	-	1.6	0.8	3.8	-	0.0	0.0
Unpaid	24.6	-	23.4	49.9	33.5	-	35.2	67.5
Self	11.6	-	26.7	22.7	11.8	-	32.1	25.9
Wage	63.8	-	49.8	27.4	54.7	-	32.8	6.6

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Table A2. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 10-14 years age group, 2000-2005, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male				Female			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Agriculture	23.7	18.5	19.2	23.3	4.6	14.3	3.6	2.8
Manufacturing	13.7	15.0	18.2	9.8	3.1	0.0	12.9	9.9
Trade	18.7	41.1	37.7	43.7	23.4	48.0	27.3	54.5
Services	38.0	21.7	23.8	22.5	63.7	37.7	56.1	32.8
Other	5.9	3.7	1.1	0.7	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unpaid	26.6	29.2	27.7	50.4	34.7	59.9	30.9	74.9
Self	13.4	35.9	30.2	27.6	6.3	27.1	23.7	11.7
Wage	60.0	34.9	42.1	22.1	59.0	13.0	45.5	13.4

Source Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Children aged 15-17 years

Table A3. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2005, by sex

Activity status	Male				Female			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Only employment	8.8	7.1	6.5	5.4	3.0	1.2	1.6	2.7
Only schooling	48.6	71.8	68.6	65.7	71.6	80.8	76.9	77.8
Both activities	38.4	13.7	17.2	20.9	13.7	5.2	6.9	7.1
Neither activity	4.2	7.5	7.7	8.0	11.7	12.9	14.7	12.4
Total employment(a)	43.6	20.7	23.7	26.3	15.7	6.4	8.4	9.8
Total schooling(b)	87.0	85.4	86.6	86.5	85.3	86.0	83.8	84.9

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

Source Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Table A4. Changes in children's activity status, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2005, by residence

Activity status	Urban				Rural			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Only employment	5.1	-	3.5	3.3	7.4	-	5.3	5.6
Only schooling	63.7	-	74.0	72.4	53.6	-	70.0	69.8
Both activities	24.9	-	12.1	15.4	28.6	-	12.4	12.4
Neither activity	6.4	-	10.4	8.9	10.5	-	12.3	12.3
Total employment(a)	28.1	-	15.6	18.7	33.0	-	17.8	18.0
Total schooling(b)	88.5	-	86.1	87.9	82.1	-	82.4	82.2

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

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Table A5. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 2000-2005, 15-17 years age group

Sector/Modality	2000	2003	2004	2005
Agriculture	15.6	16.4	18.7	20.0
Manufacturing	14.2	17.1	17.3	14.2
Trade	19.3	33.8	29.7	36.1
Services	41.9	24.3	28.6	24.9
Other	9.0	8.4	5.7	4.8
Unpaid	17.9	14.6	16.7	23.6
Self	10.0	30.8	31.2	29.9
Wage	72.1	54.5	52.1	46.5

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Table A6. Changes in average weekly working hours, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2005, by sector, schooling status and modality

Sector/Schooling status/Modality	2000	2003	2004	2005
Total	29.7	33.1	33.1	30.0
Agriculture	23.8	29.9	28	26.3
Manufacturing	34.3	33.3	39.8	34.1
Trade	34.3	33.9	35	29.4
Services	27.6	31.9	29.5	29.5
Other	32.8	38.8	36.9	41.1
Unpaid	23	23.1	22.8	16.2
Self	30.1	31.8	30.5	33.2
Wage	31.2	36.5	37.9	35.1
Employment only	39.2	39.1	39.1	38.1
Employment and schooling	27.5	30.5	31.0	27.7

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000.

Table A7. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2005, by sex

Work sector/modality	Male				Female			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Agriculture	18.8	20.0	25.0	24.1	6.3	4.2	0.0	8.1
Manufacturing	16.3	20.4	20.1	15.8	8.5	5.7	9.0	9.5
Trade	18.6	35.0	33.5	38.0	21.5	29.5	18.4	30.4
Services	35.3	13.8	14.4	15.7	60.8	60.6	71.0	52.0
Other	11.1	10.9	7.0	6.4	3.0	0.0	1.6	0.0
Unpaid	15.9	15.0	16.6	19.4	23.6	13.6	16.9	36.2
Self	11.6	35.7	34.9	36.0	5.6	14.0	20.3	11.8
Wage	72.5	49.4	48.5	44.6	70.8	72.4	62.8	51.9

Source Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000

Table A8. Changes in the composition of children's employment, 15-17 years age group, 2000-2005, by residence

Work sector/modality	Urban				Rural			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
Agriculture	3.3	-	7.3	4.1	33.2	-	37.6	50.0
Manufacturing	19.7	-	18.6	17.4	6.4	-	15.1	8.3
Trade	21.9	-	36.7	44.2	15.7	-	18.2	20.9
Services	47.0	-	31.6	30.3	34.5	-	23.7	14.8
Other	8.1	-	5.8	4.1	10.2	-	5.5	6.1
Unpaid	12.4	-	13.9	22.5	25.9	-	21.3	25.8
Self	10.3	-	28.8	22.4	9.6	-	35.3	43.9
Wage	77.4	-	57.3	55.1	64.5	-	43.5	30.2

Source: Dominican Republic, Encuesta de Fuerza de Trabajo (EFT), October 2005, October 2004, October 2003; SIMPOC, 2000