

Uruguay

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor³⁵⁶²

Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2004:	113
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2004:	94
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2003:	91
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes
* Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Working children in Uruguay can frequently be found in the informal sector. Children work in agriculture, in domestic service, as street vendors, and in construction. They also work cleaning cars, begging, running errands, and as garbage sorters.³⁵⁶³

Commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs in Uruguay, generally in tourist areas, such as Punta del Este and Maldonado, and near the borders with Argentina and Brazil. The Government's Institute for Adolescents and Children (INAU) found that many minors who resorted to prostitution did so to assist their families, who frequently promoted their involvement.³⁵⁶⁴ Poor families reportedly have turned their children over to forced domestic service and agricultural labor.³⁵⁶⁵

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years. Adolescents between 15 and 18 years require Government permission to work.³⁵⁶⁶ Adolescents must undergo physical exams prior to beginning work and must renew these exams yearly. The Government only grants work permission to minors who either have finished 9 years of compulsory education or who are enrolled in school and are completing compulsory education.³⁵⁶⁷ Work permits are not granted for hazardous, fatiguing, or night work.³⁵⁶⁸ According to the U.S. Department of State, the Government of Uruguay's National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor compiled and maintains a list of 50 hazardous jobs for children.³⁵⁶⁹ Presently, minors are not allowed to work for more than 6 hours per day within a 36-hour work week. Further, minors must rest 1 day a week, preferably Sunday, and cannot work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Minors between the ages of 16 and 18 years may work up to 8 hours per day with permission from authorities.³⁵⁷⁰ The Adolescent Labor Division of the INAU may grant permission to minors ages 13 through 15 years to engage in light work. However, the ILO's CEACR noted that Uruguay has not yet defined "light labor."³⁵⁷¹ Violations of child labor laws are punishable by fines.³⁵⁷² Parents or adults responsible for working children may be subject to imprisonment of 3 months to 4 years.³⁵⁷³

Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited by law.³⁵⁷⁴ The law prohibits child pornography, imposing prison terms of 2 to 6 years for its production; 1 to 4 years for its commercialization; and 6 months to 2 years for its distribution.³⁵⁷⁵ The penalty for using or facilitating the prostitution of a minor is 2 to 12 years in prison. This penalty is increased for those who are in a position of authority.³⁵⁷⁶ Trafficking of children into or out of the country for the purpose of sexual exploitation is penalized with 2 to 12 years in prison.³⁵⁷⁷ The minimum age for voluntary or compulsory military conscription is 18 years.³⁵⁷⁸

The INAU has six inspectors who specialize in child labor. In conjunction with the Ministry of Labor, they conduct approximately 2,400 child labor inspections per year, imposing sanctions in 5 percent of the cases.³⁵⁷⁹ However, USDOS reports that a lack of resources and the concentration of child work in the informal sector make enforcement difficult.³⁵⁸⁰ The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for investigating trafficking in persons. The Ministry of Work and Social Security is responsible for investigating trafficking in persons for labor exploitation.³⁵⁸¹

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Interdepartmental Commission for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation, in conjunction with the INAU, has a national plan of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children. The goals of this plan are to strengthen the victim rights, to reinsert children back into school, to develop alternative means of income for families, and to improve protection measure for victims and witnesses.³⁵⁸² However, according to the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Government needs to dedicate more resources to understanding the nature of the problem of child labor and sexual exploitation of children, and its prevention.³⁵⁸³

The Government of Uruguay funds NGOs that assist victims of trafficking, but resources were limited and coverage across the country was uneven.³⁵⁸⁴ The Government worked with the IOM to raise awareness and increase local, state, and federal authorities' capacity to combat trafficking. The Ministry of Education has produced anti-trafficking public service announcements on national television.³⁵⁸⁵

The Government is also participating in an IDB-financed program that includes initiatives to address child labor, reduce school attrition, and improve children's performance in school. The program has provided services to 1,400 children, 40 percent of whom have enrolled in education services and no longer live or work in the streets.³⁵⁸⁶ UNICEF is implementing a project to raise awareness of children's and adolescents' rights that includes a component on child labor.³⁵⁸⁷ The Government of Uruguay also participated in an

ILO-IPEC Phase II USD 2.6 million regional project and a Phase III USD 3 million regional project to eradicate child labor in Latin America, funded by the Government of Spain.³⁵⁸⁸

The Government of Uruguay and other associate and member governments of MERCOSUR conducted the *Niño Sur* (Southern Child) initiative to defend the rights of children and adolescents in the region. The initiative includes unified public campaigns against commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, and child labor; mutual technical assistance in adjusting legal frameworks to international standards on those issues; and the exchange of best practices related to victim protection and assistance.³⁵⁸⁹

³⁵⁶² For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Uruguay, *Código de la niñez y la adolescencia*, (August 2, 2004), article 162; available from www.parlamento.gub.uy/leyes/ AccesoTextoLey.asp?Ley=17823&Anchor=. See also Pan American Health Organization, *Uruguay*, [online] [cited November 28, 2007]; available from <http://www.paho.org/spanish/sha/prfluru.htm>. See also UNESCO, *Education for All 2008 Assessment: Country Reports- Uruguay*, 2007; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001547/154743e.pdf>. See also Government of Uruguay, *Constitución de la República*, (2004), article 71; available from <http://www.parlamento.gub.uy/constituciones/const004.htm>. See also UNESCO, *Education for All 2006 Assessment: Country Reports-Uruguay*, 2005; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001547/154743e.pdf>.

³⁵⁶³ U.S. Department of State, "Uruguay," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/index.htm>. See also Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas, UN Development Program, UN Population Fund, Rodrigo Arim, and Gonzalo Salas, *Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Ampliada 2006, Módulo de trabajo infantil y adolescente*, 2006, 13; available from http://www.ine.gub.uy/enha2006/INFORME_Trabajo_infantil.pdf.

³⁵⁶⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Uruguay," section 5. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Uruguay*, accessed November 28, 2007; available from <http://www.ecpat.net/>.

³⁵⁶⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Uruguay (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/ip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82806.htm>.

³⁵⁶⁶ Government of Uruguay, *Código de la niñez y la adolescencia*, article 162.

³⁵⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, articles 167, 168.

³⁵⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, articles 163, 172.

³⁵⁶⁹ U.S. Embassy- Montevideo, *reporting*, December 7, 2007.

³⁵⁷⁰ Government of Uruguay, *Código de la niñez y la adolescencia*, article 169.

³⁵⁷¹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request*, C138: *Uruguay*.

³⁵⁷² Government of Uruguay, *Código de la niñez y la adolescencia*, article 173.

³⁵⁷³ *Ibid.*, article 176. See also Government of Uruguay, *Código penal de la República oriental del Uruguay*, (1986), article 279B; available from http://www.unifr.ch/erechopenal/legislacion/uy/cp_uruguay.htm.

³⁵⁷⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Uruguay," section 6d. See also Government of Uruguay, *Código penal de la República oriental del Uruguay*, article 280.

³⁵⁷⁵ Government of Uruguay, *Poder Legislativo, República Oriental del Uruguay: Violencia Sexual Comercial o No Comercial Cometida Contra Niños, Adolescentes o Incapaces, Ley No. 17.815*, (August 18, 2004), articles 1-3; available from <http://www.parlamento.gub.uy/Leyes/Ley17815.htm>.

³⁵⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, articles 4, 5.

³⁵⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, article 6.

³⁵⁷⁸ U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook-Uruguay*, [online] November 15, 2007 [cited November 28, 2007]; available from <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/uy.html>.

³⁵⁷⁹ U.S. Embassy- Montevideo, *reporting*, December 7, 2007.

³⁵⁸⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Uruguay," section 6d.

³⁵⁸¹ IOM, *Trata de personas: Apuntes desde Uruguay sobre un desafío global*, Montevideo, 2007; available from <http://www.oimuruguay.org/Documentos/Trata%20Uruguay.pdf>.

³⁵⁸² U.S. Embassy- Montevideo, *reporting*, December 7, 2007, section d.

³⁵⁸³ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Periodic Reports of States Parties due in 2007: Uruguay*, July 5, 2007, paras 62, 66; available from <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=country&docid=469b351d2&skip=&coi=URY>.

³⁵⁸⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Uruguay (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 13, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82806.htm>.

³⁵⁸⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Uruguay," section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Uruguay."

³⁵⁸⁶ IDB, *Uruguay: Comprehensive Program for At-risk Children, Adolescents and Families*, UR-134, 2002; available from <http://www.iadb.org/exr/doc98/apr/ur1434e.pdf>. See also U.S. Embassy- Montevideo, *reporting*, December 7, 2007. See also IDB, *Approved Projects- Uruguay*, [online] [cited November 28, 2007]; available from <http://www.iadb.org/exr/doc98/apr/lcuru.htm>.

³⁵⁸⁷ UNICEF, *At a Glance: Uruguay*, [online] [cited November 28, 2007]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/uruguay.html>.

³⁵⁸⁸ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 4, 2008.

³⁵⁸⁹ Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina, *Iniciativa Niñ@ Sur*, [online] [cited March 16, 2008]; available from <http://www.derhuman.jus.gov.ar/direcciones/asistencia/ninosur.htm>. See also Child Rights Information Network, *MERCOSUR*, [online] 2007 [cited December 26, 2007]; available from <http://www.crin.org/espanol/RM/mercosur.asp>.

Uzbekistan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Numerous credible sources report the widespread, compulsory mobilization of child labor in Uzbekistan during the annual cotton harvest. There are no reliable figures on the number of

children involved in the cotton harvest, which is thought to vary considerably from region to region and year to year.³⁵⁹⁰ During the latest harvest in the fall of 2007, schools closed for approximately one month in some rural regions to allow children to pick cotton.³⁵⁹¹ There have been reports indicating