

Russia

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³¹⁸⁴

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
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:	16
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	96.0
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	90.9
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO Convention 138:	5/3/1979
ILO Convention 182:	3/25/2003
CRC:	8/16/1990
CRCOPAC:	3/25/2003
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	5/26/2004
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Russia, large numbers of children are found working in the streets of major cities, where they are engaged in begging and work in the informal economy.³¹⁸⁵ This includes work in retail services, street vending, washing or repairing cars, shining shoes, making deliveries, carrying heavy loads, cleaning, and collecting trash.³¹⁸⁶ In rural areas, children primarily work in agriculture.³¹⁸⁷ Children from the rural areas and provincial towns also migrate or are trafficked to work in urban areas or other regions of the country.³¹⁸⁸ Children from neighboring countries, as well as Russian children, are engaged in exploitive work in the country.³¹⁸⁹

Working street children may be involved in illegal activities such as prostitution, pornography, selling drugs, or selling stolen goods.³¹⁹⁰

Homeless and orphaned children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation or becoming engaged in criminal activities.³¹⁹¹ Commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially in the large cities, remains a concern.³¹⁹² Moscow and St. Petersburg are hubs of child trafficking and child commercial sexual exploitation. Children are trafficked to these cities internally, and from Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and forced into begging or prostitution.³¹⁹³ Both girls and boys are trafficked for prostitution, child sex tourism, and pornography.³¹⁹⁴ St. Petersburg and the northwestern border areas of Russia are popular destinations for sex tourists from wealthier Western European nations, particularly neighboring Scandinavian countries.³¹⁹⁵ Russia is a major producer and distributor of child pornography on the Internet.³¹⁹⁶

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age of employment at 16 years, with some exceptions.³¹⁹⁷ Children who have either completed their basic general education or have left the general educational system may work at age 15. With parental consent, children at least 14 years may perform light work that is not harmful to their health or education, and children younger than 14 may participate in the creation and/or performance of art works that are not harmful to their health and moral development.³¹⁹⁸ The working time for employees younger than 16 years should not exceed 24 hours per week, or exceed 36 hours per week for employees between 16 and 18 years.³¹⁹⁹ Employers may not request overtime from workers under age 18.³²⁰⁰ Workers younger than 16 years may not work longer than 5 hours per shift, and for workers between 16 and 18 years, a shift may not exceed 7 hours.³²⁰¹ Children under 18 years are prohibited from engaging in night work, unhealthy or dangerous work, underground work, or work that may be harmful to their moral development.³²⁰² Employers must provide medical screenings to any prospective employees younger than 18 years. Once hired, these employees must also pass annual medical

surveys provided at the expense of the employer.³²⁰³

Forced labor is prohibited by law.³²⁰⁴ Slave labor of a known minor is punishable by imprisonment from 3-10 years; if by an organized group or causing damage to the victim's health, the term is 8-15 years.³²⁰⁵ Acts directed towards organizing prostitution that involve minors are punishable by imprisonment of up to 6 years with no minimum sentence. If the minor is under 14 years, the term of imprisonment is 3 to 10 years.³²⁰⁶ Involving a minor in prostitution, or compelling a minor to continue to engage in prostitution is punishable by 3 to 8 years of imprisonment.³²⁰⁷ In addition, the creation and circulation of pornography that knowingly depicts minors is punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 6 years. The term of imprisonment is 3 to 8 years if the minor is under 14.³²⁰⁸ Trafficking of a known minor is punishable by a sentence of 3 to 10 years of imprisonment if committed by a single individual. The sentence for an organized group that engages in any form of trafficking is 8 to 15 years.³²⁰⁹ In December 2008, President Medvedev signed into law an amendment to the criminal code that eliminated the element of "exploitation" from the statutory definition of trafficking.³²¹⁰

The minimum age for both voluntary and compulsory military recruitment is 18 years.³²¹¹ However, the law on Military Obligations and Military Service provides for state-run military schools for boys as young as 7, where students aged 16 and older are considered to be on military service that counts toward conscription requirements.³²¹² In September 2008, the Government of Russia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on Prohibiting the Involvement and Recruitment of Children in Armed Conflicts.³²¹³

The Federal Labor and Employment Service (FLES) is responsible for monitoring child labor violations.³²¹⁴ The Public Security Police Service is authorized to investigate sex crimes against children, including prostitution and pornography.³²¹⁵ Research has not identified statistics on enforcement and prosecution by these agencies in 2008. Russia does not track the

number of trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and sentences.³²¹⁶

According to USDOS, the Government of Russia took modest steps toward better protection of children's labor rights, but lacked a national strategy to this end. Russia has not adopted specific measures in its Labor Code to eliminate child labor violations.³²¹⁷ USDOS reported that Russian prosecutors believe the child labor problem is getting worse.³²¹⁸ According to USDOS, the Government did not enforce child labor laws effectively. CEACR has repeatedly expressed concern at the increasing number of street children in Russia, who are vulnerable to exploitation.³²¹⁹ CEACR has called upon the Russian government to pursue, "as a matter of urgency," measures to ensure that those who traffic children for labor or sexual exploitation are prosecuted.³²²⁰

There have been reports that Government officials have been complicit in trafficking.³²²¹ According to USDOS, in 2008 the Ministry of Internal Affairs arrested and prosecuted such individuals when their actions were discovered.³²²²

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

In July 2008, the Government of Russia established a Fund for Children's Support, to which approximately USD 190 million was allocated by the end of 2008. Among other goals, the Fund is intended to support social programs to assist orphans and to provide for the social rehabilitation of disadvantaged children, including homeless children.³²²³ Regional ombudsmen protect children's rights in 23 of Russia's 87 provinces. Since 2006, appointments to these offices were made by regional legislatures, which expanded their authority and gave them parliamentary status.³²²⁴

In 2008, the ILO completed the third phase of a project providing technical assistance to the city of St. Petersburg, which sought to develop time-bound measures to combat the worst forms of child labor, and scale up existing interventions.³²²⁵ The Government of Finland is supporting this project (USD 450,000), as well as the first phase of

a similar project covering the Leningrad Region (USD 689,000). Both projects target working street children.³²²⁶ The St. Petersburg Government Commission on Issues of Minors and Protection of Their Rights has a working group that meets regularly to address trafficking and child sexual exploitation, and has established shelters for minors across the city.³²²⁷ UNICEF is working with the Government to assist children living and working in the streets.³²²⁸ In 2007 and 2008, the City of Moscow and various federal agencies cooperated with an IOM-implemented project to provide information and consultation services to trafficking victims, including the placement of specialists to advise minors under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior. This project was jointly funded by the European Commission, USDOS and the Government of Switzerland.³²²⁹

³¹⁸⁴ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Russia, *Labor Code of the Russian Federation*, 197-FZ, (February 1, 2002), article 63; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WBTEXT/60535/65252/E01RUS01.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see UNESCO, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*, Geneva, 2008.

³¹⁸⁵ "Eradication of Child Labor Progresses Significantly - ILO", Interfax News Agency, [online], May 11, 2006. See also Elena Tjurjukanova, Maja Rusakova, and Viktoria Sakina, *Analysis of the Situation and Institutions in the Field of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Counter-CSEC Activities in Russia: Final Report*, Moscow, 2003, 12; available from www.fondationscelles.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=787 - See also Elena Tjurjukanova and Institute for Urban Economics, *Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation: Inventory and Analysis of the Current Situation and Responses*, UN/IOM Working Group on "Trafficking in Human Beings", Moscow, 2006.

³¹⁸⁶ Tjurjukanova, Rusakova, and Sakina, *Analysis of CSEC in Russia*, 12. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Russia*, accessed February 6, 2009; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>. See also Tjurjukanova and Institute for Urban Economics, *Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation*, 45. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Russian Federation*, Geneva, November 23, 2005;

available from <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/category/COI,CRC,,RUS,45377eb50,0.html>. See also ILO, *Russia: A "vector" of hope for street children in St. Petersburg*, July 27, 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/global/About_the_ILO/Media_and_public_information/Feature_stories/lang--en/WCMS_071238/index.htm.

³¹⁸⁷ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting*, January 12, 2009.

³¹⁸⁸ Tjurjukanova, Rusakova, and Sakina, *Analysis of CSEC in Russia*, 12,153. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Russia*. See also Muireann O'Briain, Anke van den Born, and Theo Noten, *Joint East West Research on Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes in Europe: The Sending Countries*, ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group, Amsterdam, 2004, 30. See also Angel Coalition, *Repatriation and Rehabilitation Protocol For Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings of the Russian Federation*, July 2005; available from http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/angelcoalitio n05repatrehabprtcl_020107.pdf. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting*, January 12, 2009. See also U.S. Department of State, "Russia," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008.

³¹⁸⁹ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting*, January 12, 2009.

³¹⁹⁰ Ibid. See also Tjurjukanova and Institute for Urban Economics, *Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation*. See also ILO, *Russia: A "vector" of hope for street children in St. Petersburg*.

³¹⁹¹ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting*, January 12, 2009. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *UNCRC Concluding Observations: Russian Federation*, 16. See also Tjurjukanova, Rusakova, and Sakina, *Analysis of CSEC in Russia*, 12.

³¹⁹² UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *UNCRC Concluding Observations: Russian Federation*, 16-17. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 182 Russian Federation*, [2008 [cited February 11, 2009]. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting*, January 12, 2009. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Russia."

³¹⁹³ O'Briain, van den Born, and Noten, *Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes in Europe*, 39, 43, 47. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Russia." See also Tjurjukanova, Rusakova, and Sakina, *Analysis of CSEC in Russia*, 153. See also Lisa McAdams, "New Program Aims to Fight Child Trafficking in Russia", May 25, 2005; available from <http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2005-05/New-Program-aims-to-Fight-Child-Trafficking-in-Russia.cfm>.

³¹⁹⁴ O'Briain, van den Born, and Noten, *Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes in Europe*, 40-41. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Russia*.

³¹⁹⁵ ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Russia*. See also Tjurjukanova, Rusakova, and Sakina, *Analysis of*

CSEC in Russia, 153. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Russia."

³¹⁹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*. See also Tjurjukanova and Institute for Urban Economics, *Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation*.

³¹⁹⁷ Government of Russia, *Russian Labor Code*, article 63.

³¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

³¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, articles 91, 92.

³²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, article 99.

³²⁰¹ *Ibid.*, article 94.

³²⁰² *Ibid.*, articles 96, 265.

³²⁰³ *Ibid.*, article 266.

³²⁰⁴ *Constitution of the Russian Federation*, (December 25, 1993); available from <http://www.legislationline.org/documents/section/constitutions/country/7>.

³²⁰⁵ Government of Russia, *Criminal Code of the Russian Federation*, 63-FZ, (June 13, 1996), article 127.2; available from <http://www.legislationline.org/documents/section/criminal-codes/country/7>.

³²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, article 241.

³²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, article 240.

³²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, article 242.1.

³²⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, article 127.1.

³²¹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*.

³²¹¹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=177>.

³²¹² *Ibid.*

³²¹³ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*.

³²¹⁴ Government of Russia, *Labor Code*, (February 1, 2002), article 353; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WBTEXT/60535/65252/E01RUS01.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*.

³²¹⁵ ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Russia*.

³²¹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*.

³²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

³²¹⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Russia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eur/119101.htm>.

³²¹⁹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 182 Russian Federation*, [online] 2008 [cited February 11, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=21903&chapter=9&query=%28C182%29+%40ref+%2B+%28%28Russian+Federation%29%29+%40ref+%2B+%23YEAR%3E2005&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Concluding Observations, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Russia*, [online] 2005 [cited February 11, 2009]; available from <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/>

[publisher,CRC,CONCOBSERVATIONS,RUS,45377eb50,0.html](http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,CRC,CONCOBSERVATIONS,RUS,45377eb50,0.html).

³²²⁰ ILO Committee of Experts, *Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour, Russia 2008*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 182 Russian Federation*, [2007 [cited April 7, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=9598&chapter=6&query=%28C182%29+%40ref+%2B+%28%28Russian+Federation%29%29+%40ref+%2B+%23YEAR%3E2005&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

³²²¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Russia." See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting June 9, 2004*. See also U. S. Embassy-Moscow, *reporting, March 3, 2008*.

³²²² U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Russia."

³²²³ U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*. See also "All-Russian Contest of Children Support Social Projects to Be Held in Russian Regions," *Vladivostok Times* (Vladivostok), February 1, 2009; available from <http://www.vladivostoktimes.ru/show/?id=34603&p=2>.

³²²⁴ Peter Roudik, *Russian Federation: Children's Rights: International and National Laws and Practice*, Law Library of Congress, August 2007; available from <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/pdfs/childrensrights-russia.pdf>. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting, January 12, 2009*. See also US Embassy official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, April 13, 2009.

³²²⁵ ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, *Project: Working Street Children of St. Petersburg: From Exploitation to Education, Phase III*, [online] March 3, 2008 [cited February 10, 2009]; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/moscow/projects/street_children.htm [hard copy on file].

³²²⁶ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

³²²⁷ U. S. Embassy-Moscow, *reporting, March 3, 2008*. See also US Embassy official, E-mail communication, April 13, 2009.

³²²⁸ Maria Gorbachova, *For Homeless Children, Hope and Help to Get Off the Streets*, [online] [cited April 16, 2009]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/russia_41947.html. See also US Embassy official, E-mail communication, April 13, 2009.

³²²⁹ International Organization for Migration, *Information and Consultative Centers in the Cities of Astrakhan, Moscow, and Petrozavodsk on the Project "Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation": Results of the Work for the Period of May*

Rwanda

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³²³⁰

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2000:	2,497,644
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	27.3
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	29.9
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	24.8
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%)	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	16
Compulsory education age:	13
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	147.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	93.6
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	55.3
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2003:	45.8
ILO Convention 138:	4/15/1981
ILO Convention 182:	5/23/2000
CRC:	1/24/1991
CRCOPAC:	4/23/2002**
CRCOPSC:	3/14/2002**
Palermo:	9/26/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Rwanda, children work in subsistence agriculture.³²³¹ Children also work on tea, sugar cane, and rice plantations, and harvest coffee. They engage in vending and microenterprises, and make bricks, crush stones, extract sand, and burn and carry charcoal.³²³² They also work at waste disposal sites.³²³³ Girls engage in domestic service for third-party households.³²³⁴

The 1994 genocide, war and, more recently, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, have left many of Rwanda's children orphaned, resulting in an increase in child-headed households and children living on the streets in urban areas.³²³⁵ Children living on the streets work as porters, car guards, garbage collectors, and vendors, selling items such as cigarettes and candy. Street children are also known to engage in prostitution.³²³⁶

Children, including some who lived in child-headed households, engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, including forced prostitution.³²³⁷ Girls are trafficked within Rwanda for domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation.³²³⁸ Older girls living in child-headed households sometimes provide sexual services in exchange for cash, in-kind goods, protection, and for school fees.³²³⁹ A limited number of girls in Rwanda's Eastern Province may be trafficked to Uganda for commercial sexual exploitation and work on tea plantations.³²⁴⁰

Recruiters for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)-based militia group National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) conscripted a number of Congolese and Rwandan children living in refugee camps and towns in Rwanda, for forced labor and forced soldiering in the DRC.³²⁴¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age of employment at 16 years, but does not apply to children working in subsistence agriculture.³²⁴² Children under the age of 16 years are prohibited from working between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. or from performing any work deemed hazardous or difficult as determined by the Ministry of Labor, and must have at least 12 hours of rest between work shifts.³²⁴³ Subject to the aforementioned