

available from <http://www.derhuman.jus.gov.ar/mercosur/>. See also Argentine Committee of Pursuit and Application of the International Convention on the Rights of Child, *La Iniciativa Nin@Sur, una Instancia Regional que se Afirma*, April 2008; available from http://www.casacidn.org.ar/news_abril/nota1.html.

¹⁸² Brazilian Ministry of Tourism, *Equador Assume Direção de Grupo Latino-Americano para a Proteção Infante-Juvenil*, November 26, 2008; available from

<http://www.jornaldeturismo.com.br/noticias/7-governo/20432-equador-assume-direcao-de-grupo-latino-americano-para-a-protecao-infante-juvenil.html>. See also Ministry of Tourism, *Ecuador Asume Liderazgo en Suramérica para la Protección de Menores Jóvenes*, 2008; available from http://www.turismo.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=885&Itemid=43.

Armenia

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹⁸³

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:	14
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	98
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	82
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO Convention 138:	1/27/2006
ILO Convention 182:	1/2/2006
CRC:	6/23/1993*
CRCOPAC:	9/30/2005
CRCOPSC:	6/30/2005
Palermo:	7/1/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Armenia work primarily in agriculture but also in small enterprises performing work such as car service, the operation of vehicles, construction, and the

gathering of waste metal and bottles.¹⁸⁴ Children in Armenia also work in family-run businesses. Children can be observed selling flowers and drawings on the streets of Yerevan and working in local marketplaces, usually after school.¹⁸⁵ There have been reports of increasing numbers of children begging on the streets and dropping out of school to work in the informal sector, especially in agriculture.¹⁸⁶ In rural areas, children work in fishing and as shepherds.¹⁸⁷ Children work in trade and construction in urban areas. Some children work in heavy manual labor as laborers and loaders.¹⁸⁸

Reports indicate that children are trafficked internally for labor and sexual exploitation. There were two reports of minors being trafficked internally for forced begging and one report of an individual pimping a minor.¹⁸⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age of employment is 16 years, but the law allows children 14 to 16 years to work with written permission from a parent or guardian. Children under 14 years are prohibited from working.¹⁹⁰ Children under 16 years may work up to 24 hours per week, and children 16 to 18 years may work a maximum of 36 hours per week.¹⁹¹ Employers should require proof of a medical examination from any employee under 18 years.¹⁹² Children under 18 years are also prohibited from working overtime, at night, or in hazardous conditions and cannot be required to work on holidays.¹⁹³ Armenian law prohibits engaging children in the production, use, or sale of alcoholic drinks, narcotics and psychotropic

substances, tobacco products, literature and videos with erotic or horror content, or activities that may compromise children's health, physical or mental development, or interfere with their education.¹⁹⁴

The Armenian Constitution prohibits forced and compulsory labor.¹⁹⁵ Trafficking in persons is prohibited by law, and penalties range from 3 to 15 years imprisonment, depending on aggravating circumstances, such as if the victim is a child.¹⁹⁶ The law distinguishes the crime of trafficking from that of organized prostitution and pimping.¹⁹⁷ Sexual intercourse with a minor under 16 years is punishable by up to 2 years imprisonment or fines, and involving underage children in prostitution or pornography can result in fines, detention, or up to 6 years imprisonment, depending on aggravating circumstances.¹⁹⁸ The law gives responsibility to the Government to protect children from criminal activities, prostitution, and begging.¹⁹⁹ The minimum age for mandatory military service is 18 years.²⁰⁰

The Armenian State Labor Inspectorate (SLI) is responsible for ensuring compliance with labor laws, including child labor, and employs 140 labor inspectors.²⁰¹ However, the SLI reports that it has not received any complaints of child exploitation since its establishment in March 2005 and therefore has not conducted any investigations. The SLI has also not yet been trained on child exploitation issues.²⁰² Local community councils, unemployment offices, and the courts likewise have jurisdiction to enforce compliance with child labor legislation.²⁰³

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2008, UNICEF, with the participation of the Armenian Association of Social Workers and the Government of Armenia, published results from a survey to assess the rate of underage employment in Armenia.²⁰⁴

In Armenia's 2009 national budget, the Government allocated funding for anti-trafficking activities for the first time, including more than USD 50,000 to assist in the operation of an NGO-run shelter for trafficking victims.²⁰⁵ In November 2008, the Government also implemented its first-

ever "National Referral Mechanisms," which acts as a system for public officials to refer trafficking victims for assistance and assist law enforcement agencies in finding and punishing suspected traffickers. The Government performed various trafficking prevention activities, including mass-media public awareness and educational campaigns.²⁰⁶ The OSCE assisted the Government in developing the "National Referral Mechanisms" and developed anti-trafficking training for Armenian law enforcement.²⁰⁷ The U.S. Government also continues to provide resources for anti-trafficking training to Armenian law enforcement.²⁰⁸

¹⁸³ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Armenia, *Labor Code of the Republic of Armenia*, (November 9, 2004), article 17. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see UNESCO, *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2008: Education for All by 2015- Will we make it?*, 2008, 276.

¹⁸⁴ UNICEF, *Child Labour in the Republic of Armenia*, Yerevan, 2008, 7, 8; available from http://www.unicef.org/armenia/Child_Labour_ENG_FINAL.doc.

¹⁸⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Armenia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eur/119066.htm>.

¹⁸⁶ UNICEF, *Link between student absenteeism, dropout rates and child labour in Armenia*, [online] October 30, 2008 [cited January 13, 2009]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_42600.html. See also National Center for Democracy and Human Rights, *NGO Report: Supplementary Report to Armenia's Second Periodic Report on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Yerevan, January 30, 2004, 17; available from http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/armenia_ngo_report.pdf. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Armenia*, Geneva, January 30, 2004, para 60; available from <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/doc/co/Armenia%20-%20CO2.pdf>.

¹⁸⁷ Vostan Ethno-Cultural Research Center official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 6, 2006. See also National Statistical Service of the Republic of

Armenia official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 22, 2006.

¹⁸⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Armenia," section 6d.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid., section 5, 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 14, 2009.

¹⁹⁰ Government of Armenia, *Labor Code of the Republic of Armenia*, article 17.

¹⁹¹ Ibid., article 140.

¹⁹² Ibid., article 249.

¹⁹³ Ibid., articles 144, 148, 156, 257.

¹⁹⁴ Government of Armenia, *Law on Child's Rights of the Republic of Armenia*, article 19..

¹⁹⁵ Government of Armenia, *Constitution of the Republic of Armenia*, (July 7, 1995), article 32; available from http://www.gov.am/enversion/legal_1/legal_sahman_all.html#09. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Armenia," section 6c.

¹⁹⁶ Government of Armenia, *Criminal Code*, (April 18, 2003), articles 132 and 132'; available from <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/category,LEGAL,,,ARM,3f46119c4,0.html>. See also U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication, July 14, 2009.

¹⁹⁷ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication, July 14, 2009. U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication, July 14, 2009.

¹⁹⁸ Government of Armenia, *Criminal Code*, articles 141 and 166.

¹⁹⁹ Government of Armenia, *Law on Child's Rights of the Republic of Armenia*, article 9. See also UN Committee

on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Armenia*, July 17, 2003, para 414; available from

[http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/693ad0fbc22529cbc1256dc70027de86/\\$FILE/G0343131.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/693ad0fbc22529cbc1256dc70027de86/$FILE/G0343131.pdf).

²⁰⁰ Government of Armenia, *Law on Military Service of the Republic of Armenia*, article 11.

²⁰¹ Government of Armenia, *Law on the State Labor Inspectorate of the Republic of Armenia*, (2005), article 8. See also U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, reporting, January 22, 2009.

²⁰² U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, reporting, January 22, 2009.

²⁰³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Armenia," section 6d.

²⁰⁴ UNICEF, *Link between student absenteeism, dropout rates and child labour in Armenia*. See also UNICEF, *Child Labour in the Republic of Armenia*, 2, 5.

²⁰⁵ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, reporting, January 22, 2009.

²⁰⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Armenia," section 5.

²⁰⁷ OSCE Office in Yerevan, *Anti-trafficking and migration*, [online] [cited April 7, 2009]; available from <http://www.osce.org/yerevan/13519.html>, U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication, July 14, 2009.

²⁰⁸ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication, July 14, 2009.

Bahrain

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Bahrain work in family businesses. Children have also been reported to work in the Manama Central Market.²⁰⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law forbids the employment of children younger than 14 years.²¹⁰ Working minors 14 to 16 years must obtain permission from their guardian, receive authorization to work from the Ministry of Labor (MOL), and have a medical examination prior to employment.²¹¹ These children then may work no more than 6 hours per day and may not work overtime or at night.²¹² The law also establishes a list of 25 hazardous

occupations in which no person younger than 16 years may work.²¹³ However, none of these provisions apply to children working in family enterprises or under the supervision of a family member.²¹⁴ Violations of child labor laws are punishable by fines. In addition to levying punishment against employers and supervisors, the law holds responsible any person acting as a guardian who permits the employment of a minor in violation of the law's provisions.²¹⁵ The MOL enforces child labor laws and regulations and had 43 labor inspectors as of January 2009.²¹⁶ The MOL also grants permits to Bahraini companies to employ foreign workers, and immigration officials ensure that foreign workers entering Bahrain are 18 years of age or older.²¹⁷