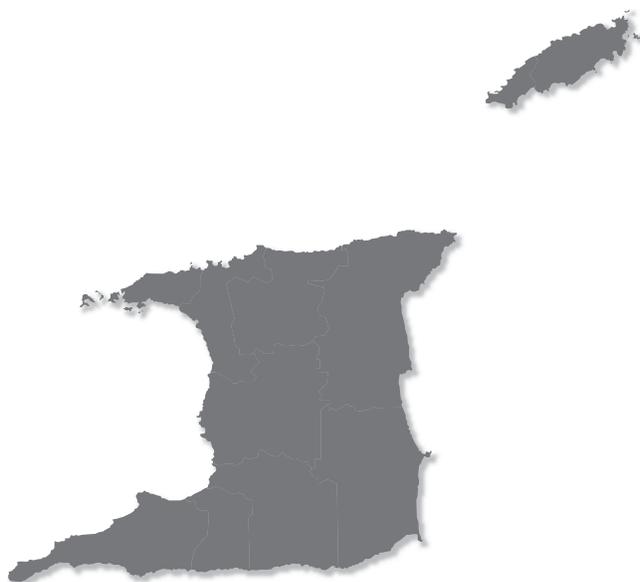


Trinidad and Tobago

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has participated in some programs to assist child trafficking victims. Even though it appears that the worst forms of child labor are not a widespread problem in Trinidad and Tobago, some children engage in agricultural and domestic service work. There are significant gaps in legislation to protect children from the worst forms of child labor.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	3.5%
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	97.0%
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	3.4%



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor⁵⁰⁰⁹

Available information indicates that the worst forms of child labor are not a large problem in Trinidad and Tobago. However, some children are found in the worst forms of child labor, particularly in the small-scale agricultural sector, which commonly involves activities such as the use of potentially dangerous machines, tools, pesticides, and carrying heavy loads. Children also perform domestic service, which may involve long hours, and the risk of physical and sexual exploitation.⁵⁰¹⁰

Trinidad and Tobago is a destination, source, and transit country for trafficked children, including children forced into prostitution.⁵⁰¹¹

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Trinidad and Tobago's Miscellaneous Provisions (Minimum Age for Admission to Employment) Act, 2007 sets the minimum age for employment at private and public enterprises at 16.⁵⁰¹² It also prohibits children under age 18 from working between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., except in family enterprises.⁵⁰¹³ Current law sets no minimum age for hazardous work.⁵⁰¹⁴

School is only compulsory through age 12, 4 years before children are legally permitted to work. Children who are not in school, and cannot work legally may be vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	None
	Compulsory Education Age	12
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Constitution prohibits forced or compulsory labor of children.⁵⁰¹⁵ The Sexual Offences Act and the Children Act prohibit child prostitution and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.⁵⁰¹⁶ Traffickers can be prosecuted under laws that pertain to kidnapping, procurement of sex, prostitution, slavery, and indentured servitude. Trinidad and Tobago has no compulsory military service. The minimum age for recruitment to the armed forces is 18; however, children between the ages of 16 and 18 willing to join the armed forces may do so with written approval from a parent or guardian.⁵⁰¹⁷

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor, although the Children's Authority is responsible for ensuring the well-being of the children, including those engaged in child labor.⁵⁰¹⁸ The Ministry of Labor and Small and Micro-Enterprise (MLSME), the Ministry of the People and Social Development, the police, and the family courts are responsible for monitoring and enforcing child labor laws.⁵⁰¹⁹

The Labor Inspectorate Unit of the MLSME investigates child labor violations in the workplace. It enforces hazardous child labor laws through the Occupational Safety and Health Authority, and forced child labor laws together with the Ministry of the People and Social Development.⁵⁰²⁰ During the reporting period it employed 19 inspectors.⁵⁰²¹ The inspectors received training on forced child labor and on the prosecutorial process from the Cipriani Labor College and the International Organization for Migration. The Labor Inspectorate Unit conducted 1,236 labor-related inspections during the reporting period and found no cases of child labor.⁵⁰²²

The police services handle crimes, such as trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation and selling drugs.⁵⁰²³ No criminal cases were filed and no one was tried or convicted of trafficking offenses during the reporting period.⁵⁰²⁴

If cases of child labor are found, they are referred to family courts, which are responsible for hearing cases related to violations of child labor laws.⁵⁰²⁵

During the reporting period, the Government also established a multi-agency task force to enact legislation criminalizing human trafficking and to educate and train key stakeholders. For example, hotel workers have been trained to recognize victims and law enforcement officials have received training on identifying victims and providing them with legal and social services.⁵⁰²⁶

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Ministry of the People and Social Development continued implementing a 4-year (2006-2010) National Plan of Action for Children, which includes specific goals for combating commercial sexual exploitation of children and exploitative child labor.⁵⁰²⁷

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Until 2008, Trinidad and Tobago participated in a regional project to combat the worst forms of child labor in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean.⁵⁰²⁸ During the reporting period, the Government contracted with an NGO to remove and rehabilitate child laborers from landfill sites.⁵⁰²⁹

The Public Sector Investment Program received funding for 2010 to create a comprehensive public awareness campaign focusing on child labor and using data from a survey of children.⁵⁰³⁰

The Government also worked with IOM to increase awareness of human trafficking, formulate legislation to criminalize it, and to develop a coalition with local NGOs to confront it.⁵⁰³¹ The Ministry of the People and Social Development, UNICEF, private enterprises, and the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition Against Domestic Violence, ran Childline Services, a program that can be accessed by young persons at risk of or victims of exploitation or trafficking.⁵⁰³²

Research found no evidence of social programs to combat child labor in the two sectors which it most commonly occurs: agriculture and domestic work.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Trinidad and Tobago:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Legally specify a minimum age for hazardous employment.
- Raise the age of compulsory education to 16, the established minimum age for work.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Collect data on the nature and incidence of the worst forms of child labor to guide policy and enforcement.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Implement programs to address the worst forms of child labor, including in agriculture and domestic service.
- Expand programs to combat child trafficking.

⁵⁰⁰⁹ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates*, 2005-2010. Data provided are from 2000. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

⁵⁰¹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010. See also U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, April 9, 2010.

⁵⁰¹¹ U.S. Department of State, "Trinidad and Tobago," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/>.

⁵⁰¹² Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Miscellaneous Provisions (Minimum Age for Admission to Employment) Act, 2007*, No.3 of 2007, Fifth session, Eighth Parliament (February 26, 2007); available from <http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2007-03.pdf>.

⁵⁰¹³ U.S. Department of State, "Trinidad and Tobago," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, March 11, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/>

[hrrpt/2009/wha/136128.htm](http://www.hrrpt/2009/wha/136128.htm). See also U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010.

⁵⁰¹⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Trinidad and Tobago (ratification: 2003)*, [online] 2009 [cited March 4, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloen&document=23559&chapter=9&query=Trinidad+and+Tobago%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also ILO, *National Legislation on Hazardous Work*, [online] 2009 [cited July 15, 2010]; available from <http://www.cinterfor.org.uy/public/spanish/region/ampro/cinterfor/temas/youth/legisl/oit/tabla/index.htm>.

⁵⁰¹⁵ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with Reforms through 2000*, (August 1, 1976); available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Trinidad/trinidad76.html>.

⁵⁰¹⁶ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Sexual Offences Act (with amendments)*, (November 11, 1986); available from http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws2/Chs_10-13/11.28/11.28.htm. See also U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010.

⁵⁰¹⁷ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Trinidad and Tobago," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/content/trinidad-and-tobago>.

⁵⁰¹⁸ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Act No. 14 of 2008: An Act to amend the Children's Authority Act, 2000*, (September 26, 2008); available from <http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2008-14.pdf>.

⁵⁰¹⁹ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010.

⁵⁰²⁰ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010. See also U.S. Department of State, “Trinidad and Tobago,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices-2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/wha/119175.htm>.

⁵⁰²¹ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports-2009: Trinidad and Tobago.”

⁵⁰²² Ibid.

⁵⁰²³ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010.

⁵⁰²⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁰²⁵ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 18, 2009.

⁵⁰²⁶ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, April 9, 2010. See also U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010.

⁵⁰²⁷ Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Social Development, “Caribbean Sub-Regional Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

(ICPD) - 15 Years after its Adoption” (St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda, 2009); available from http://www.cepal.org/celade/noticias/paginas/6/37126/ICPD15_CR_TrinTob.pdf. See also U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010.

⁵⁰²⁸ ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour 2008-2009: IPEC Progress and Future Priorities*, 2010; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=12813>.

⁵⁰²⁹ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 17, 2010.

⁵⁰³⁰ Ibid.

⁵⁰³¹ Camille Bethel, “Group Holds Human Trafficking Awareness Workshops,” *Trinidad and Tobago Express*, June 3, 2008; available from http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article_news?id=161332536.

⁵⁰³² Broken Child, *ChildLine- Trinidad and Tobago*, [online] 2008 [cited July 6, 2010]; available from <http://www.brokenchild.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=77&t=318>. See also Ministry of Social Development and UNICEF, *Greetings by the Honourable Anthony Roberts Minister of Social Development at the Official Launch of Childline-Trinidad and Tobago Services Hosted by UNICEF*, 2008.