



CRC

138

182

Total Population: 97,365,000

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Child Population: 38,823,000

## TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

The Director of the National Education Council reported in August 1998 that 1.7 million school-aged children were not in school because their poverty obligated them to work.

For the year 2000, 1,022,859 children between 10-14 years were economically active.

For the year 2000, the ILO projected 517,000 economically active children, 182,000 girls and 336,000 boys between the ages of 10 and 14, representing 4.9% of this age group.

A 2000 report published by UNICEF and the National Action Commission in Favor of Children reported that approximately 3.5 million children between the ages of six and 18 work regularly. Approximately 1.2 million children work in agriculture, particularly in the northern states.

UNICEF and the DIF, in a 1999 study of working children in the 100 largest cities, estimated that 150,000 children work in those cities.

## CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data.

## CHILD TRAFFICKING

The United Nations now lists Mexico as the number one centre for the supply of young children to North America. Most are sold to rich, childless couples unwilling to wait for bona fide adoption agencies to provide them with a child. The majority are sent to international paedophile organisations. Often, the children are snatched while on errands for their parents. Many a times they are drugged and raped. Most of the children over 12 end up as prostitutes.

Honduran girls, 13 and 14 year olds, were trafficked by organised crime groups in Central America from the cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and El Progreso under false pretenses, such as job offerings and scholarships and sold to brothels in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico.

There have been isolated cases of organised trafficking of persons for the purpose of forced prostitution, sexual services and domestic servitude.

## CHILD PROSTITUTION

A report by the Center for Research and Advanced Study in Social Anthropology counted 5,000 minors, 90% of them female, working as prostitutes or subjects of pornography.

Nearly 100 children and teenagers a month fall into the hands of the child prostitution networks, which are mafias or organised crime syndicates.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

ILO, Yearbook of Labour Statistics, 2001

ILO, International Labour Office - Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population 1950-2010, STAT Working Paper, 1997

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2001, March 2002

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2001, March 2002

CATW Fact Book citing Allan Hall, The Scotsman, 25 August 1998

CATW Fact Book citing "More Honduran Girls Prostituted", Reuters, 28 February 1998, citing INTERPOL

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

CATW Fact Book citing Elena Azola and Diego Cevallos, "Sterile at Age 12, AIDS at 14", IPS, 10 February 1998

## CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data.

## CHILD SOLDIERS

Most of the fighters in the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) are said to be 18 to 20 years old, but according to Rädga Barnen, some fighters under 18 have also been reported.

There are indications of under-18s in the government armed forces as the minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the Armed Forces is only 16. There are also reports of under-18s being recruited by paramilitaries and armed groups.

It has been said that the paramilitary groups search for young people aged between 15 and 20 years.

In April 1994, local and international reporters were invited by the guerrillas to their jungle hideout, where they watched a procession of child rebels as young as six years old.

## CHILD SERVANTS

See child trafficking.

## OTHER HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

There are 115,000 children working in the streets, markets, tourist and other areas of 108 cities in Mexico. 70% are boys and 30% girls, and around 60% of them are found in just 20 cities.

Mexico City's central market employs approximately 11,000 minors between the ages of 7 and 18, who work as cart-pushers, kitchen help, and vendors.

Commercial Agriculture - A survey of 12 states in Mexico indicates that children in the age group of 7 to 14 make up 30% of day labourers in the agriculture sector.

Street Children - The National System for the Integral Development of the family asserted that more than 114,000 children worked on the streets of large cities.

CSUCS, Americas Report, July 1999 citing Rädga Barnen

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001

Rädga Barnen, Childwar database citing CSUCS, Use of children as soldiers in Latin America, May 1999

CSUCS, Americas Report, July 1999 citing Diego Cevallos, "Minors recruited by Army and Guerrillas", IPS, 2 July 1998

Pilar Franco, "Latin America: Millions of Minors in Virtual Slavery", IPS, 19 February 1999 citing UNICEF and the National System for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF)

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

US Dept of Labor, Sweat and Toil of Children: Efforts to Eliminate Child Labour, 1998

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1998, 26 February 1999