

Armenia

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹⁶⁷

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:	14
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	94
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	79
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), Year:	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), Year:	-
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Armenia 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.¹⁶⁸ 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.¹⁶⁹ In rural areas, children work in fishing and as shepherds.¹⁷⁰ Children work in trade and construction in urban areas. There have also been a few cases of children working in mining.¹⁷¹ Reports indicate that children are trafficked to Russia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation.¹⁷²

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.¹⁷³ Children 14 to 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.¹⁷⁴ Employers must require proof of a medical examination from any employee under 18 years.¹⁷⁵ Children under 18 years are also prohibited from working overtime, at night, or in hazardous conditions and cannot be required to work on holidays.¹⁷⁶ 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.¹⁷⁷

The Armenian Constitution prohibits forced and compulsory labor.¹⁷⁸ Trafficking in persons is prohibited by law, and penalties for trafficking have recently been strengthened to include child trafficking as an aggravated circumstance, which is punishable by 3 to 15 years imprisonment.¹⁷⁹ Legislation implemented in 2006 distinguished the crime of trafficking from that of organized prostitution and pimping.¹⁸⁰ Sexual intercourse with a minor under 16 years is punishable by up to 2 years imprisonment, and involving underage children in prostitution or pornography can result in 6 years imprisonment.¹⁸¹ The law gives responsibility to the Government to protect children from criminal activities, prostitution, and begging.¹⁸² The minimum age for mandatory military service is 18 years.¹⁸³

The Armenian State Labor Inspectorate (SLI) is responsible for ensuring compliance with child labor laws.¹⁸⁴ 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 been trained on child exploitation issues.¹⁸⁵

Local community councils, unemployment offices, and courts likewise have jurisdiction to enforce the laws on the minimum working age.¹⁸⁶

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2007, the Armenian Association of Social Workers, with funding from UNICEF, conducted a survey to gauge underage employment in Armenia.¹⁸⁷ The Government is collaborating with international organizations and NGOs on a variety of counter-trafficking efforts, including mass-media public awareness campaigns and victim hotlines.¹⁸⁸ With the assistance of the Russian Migration Agency in Armenia, the Armenian Migration Agency conducts awareness campaigns to prevent the illegal migration and labor trafficking of boys to Russia.¹⁸⁹ The UNDP is also working with the Government to develop anti-trafficking legislation and strengthen victim assistance efforts.¹⁹⁰ The OSCE likewise assists the Government with anti-trafficking legislation.¹⁹¹ With the help of international organizations, the Government published a field manual for its consular offices abroad to use in interviewing and repatriating Armenian trafficking victims.¹⁹² UNICEF collaborates with appropriate ministries and NGOs to prevent trafficking in children, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees assists victims seeking asylum.¹⁹³

¹⁶⁷ 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 Armenia, *Labor Code of the Republic of Armenia*, (November 9, 2004), article 17. See also U.S. Department of State, "Armenia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100546.htm>.

¹⁶⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 6d.

¹⁶⁹ 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/a>

rmenia_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>.

¹⁷⁰ Vostan Ethno-Cultural Research Center official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 6, 2006.

¹⁷¹ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, *reporting*, December 12, 2007.

¹⁷² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Armenia (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 23, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>.

¹⁷³ Government of Armenia, *Labor Code of the Republic of Armenia*, article 17.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, article 140.

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, article 249.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.* articles 144, 148, 257. U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 21, 2008.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ Government of Armenia, *Constitution of the Republic of Armenia*, (July 7, 1995); available from http://www.gov.am/enversion/legal_1/legal_sahman_all.html#09. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 6c.

¹⁷⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 5.,

¹⁸⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Armenia."

¹⁸¹ Government of Armenia, *Criminal Code*, article 141 and 166; available from <http://www.legislationline.org/upload/legislations/db/3a/bb9bb21f5c6170dad5efdf70578c.htm>. 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 413; 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).

¹⁸² U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication, July 21, 2008. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties: Armenia (2003)*, para 414.

¹⁸³ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan official, E-mail communication, July 21, 2008.

¹⁸⁴ Government of Armenia, *Law on the State Labor Inspectorate of the Republic of Armenia of 2005*, article 10.

¹⁸⁵ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, *reporting*, December 12, 2007.

¹⁸⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007:

Armenia," section 5, 6d.

¹⁸⁷ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, *reporting, December 12, 2007.*

¹⁸⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 5.

¹⁸⁹ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, *reporting, December 12, 2007.*

¹⁹⁰ UNDP, *UNDP in Armenia: Latest News and Press Releases*, [online] 2006 [cited December 10, 2007]; available from <http://www.undp.am/?page=LatestNews&id+309>.

¹⁹¹ OSCE, *Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Armenia: An Assessment of Current Responses*, Yerevan, 2007; available from http://www.osce.org/documents/oy/2007/04/24090_en.pdf.

¹⁹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 5.

¹⁹³ OSCE, *Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Armenia.*

Bahrain

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹⁹⁴

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:	14
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	111
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	98
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	99
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Small numbers of children in Bahrain perform non-hazardous work in the Manama Central Market, and although not common, some children work in family businesses.¹⁹⁵

The Ministry of Labor (MOL) 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.¹⁹⁶ There have been isolated incidents of the use of false documents to gain entry into the country for workers under age 18.¹⁹⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law forbids the employment of children younger than 14 years.¹⁹⁸ Minors 14 to 16 years may work no more than 6 hours per day, with one hour of rest during daytime hours; minors may not work overtime or be paid on a piece-rate basis.¹⁹⁹ The law also establishes a list of 25 occupations in which no person younger than 16 years may work.²⁰⁰ Working minors 14 to 16 years must obtain authorization to work from the MOL, must undergo a medical examination prior to being employed, and must be granted annual leave of not less than one full month.²⁰¹ However, these provisions do not apply to children working in family enterprises. Those under the supervision of a family member are exempt from the Labour Law.²⁰²

The MOL is responsible for enforcing child labor laws and regulations.²⁰³ There are currently 43 labor investigators who are given training to monitor and enforce the laws regarding child labor.²⁰⁴ 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