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MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

# ► Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2018

Key findings





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# Preface

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The Party and the State of Viet Nam maintain consistent views and policies for assuring the rights of the child, which are clearly stated in the Party's documents and the Constitution of Viet Nam. Notably, Viet Nam was the first country in Asia and the second nation in the world to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In order to protect children from labour exploitation, the Government of Viet Nam has ratified two ILO Fundamental Conventions related to child labour, including Convention No. 138. (1973) concerning the minimum age for admission to employment, and Convention No.182. (1999) concerning immediate action for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Moreover, the Government has amended, supplemented and enacted a number of national laws and policies to create a foundation for a sound legal framework relevant to the national context and responsive to international regulations. One such law is the 2016 Law on Children, which specifies regulations aimed to protect children from labour exploitation, especially with regard to Convention No. 182.

In 2012, Viet Nam, conducted its first national survey on child labour. The results of this survey provided an overall picture of the child labour situation in Viet Nam, revealing an estimated 1.75 million children in child labour, accounting for 9.6 per cent of 5-17 year olds across the country.<sup>1</sup> The results were used for policy development and the design of interventions and programmes for the prevention and reduction of child labour.

These efforts have had a positive impact on the effective resolution of child labour issues in Viet Nam over the past few years. Nonetheless, child labour still exists in many forms and remains difficult to detect, control and manage. The elimination of child labour in all its forms, particularly in the context of global integration, remains a major challenge for Viet Nam as well as many other countries. It is of crucial importance that this challenge is overcome, particularly as the country strives to realize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, 'to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and, by 2025, end child labour in all its forms'. Driving progress towards this target is the National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To provide an up to date picture of the child labour situation in Viet Nam, and a sound evidence base for policy development and the design of appropriate and effective interventions to prevent and reduce child labour, Viet Nam conducted its second National Child Labour Survey in 2018. The survey was conducted by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) in collaboration with the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam (GSO), with technical and financial assistance from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

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1 ILSSA: *The 2012 Child Labour Survey Report in Viet Nam*, Hanoi, 2014.

This report was developed by the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA), the research bureau of MoLISA, following the processing and analysis of data and information gathered from the 2018 National Child Labour Survey.

The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the ILO Viet Nam would like to express special thanks to all relevant agencies, organizations and individuals for their valuable inputs which contributed to the completion of this report.



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## Key findings

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1. As of 2018, the child population in Viet Nam aged 5-17 years<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred as “children”) was estimated at 19,254,271, accounting for 20.3 per cent of the total population. Of these, 52.1 per cent were boys and 47.9 per cent were girls, with 66.0 per cent belonging to the 5-12 age group, 13.9 per cent to the 13-14 age group and 20.1 per cent to the 15-17 age group. Nearly 32 per cent of children aged 5-17 years lived in urban areas.
2. Altogether, 94.4 per cent of the children attended pre-school, general education or vocational schools. Compared to 2012, the school attendance rate of children in 2018 was more than 4 percentage higher.
3. In terms of domestic work, 42.3 per cent of children were involved in domestic chores and almost all of them (98.3 per cent) did so for less than 20 hours per week.
4. The Viet Nam NCLS 2018<sup>3</sup> estimated that in 2018, there were 1,754,066 children participating in economic activities (hereinafter referred to as working children), accounting for 9.1 per cent of the national child population. Among the children who were economically active, 1,031,944 were classified as ‘children in child labour’, accounting for 5.4 per cent of the 5-17 year old population and 58.8 per cent of working children. Among these, 519,805 children worked in heavy, dangerous and hazardous work (hereinafter referred to as ‘children in hazardous work’) with a rate of 2.7 per cent of the 5-17 year old population, 29.6 per cent of working children, and nearly 50.4 per cent of the total number of children in child labour.
5. Among the working children, those in child labour, and those in hazardous work, a higher rate was observed for boys. The share of boys in the total number of working children was 54.5 per cent and constituted 59.0 per cent of children in child labour, and 67.2 per cent of children in hazardous work. By age group, the survey findings indicated that the shares of these categories of children were higher within older age groups. In particular, the rates of working children, children in child labour, and children in hazardous work amounted to 56.4 per cent, 51.2 per cent, and 71 per cent, respectively.
6. The intensity of participation in economic activities seemed to have a negative impact on children’s involvement in education. The share of working children who did not go to school was around 37 per cent. For children in child labour, the rate was higher, standing at over 50 per cent. The rate was still greater at 61.4 per cent among children in hazardous work.
7. Of the working children, one in every three participated in economic activities because of the desire to be involved in their family production and business process, while one in every four children participated in economic activities for income generation purposes (for themselves and/ or for their families). The proportion of children participating in economic activities because of income generation increased sharply with regard to working children, children in child labour, and children in hazardous work (24.1 per cent vs. 30 per cent vs. 39.6 per cent).

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2 For the Viet Nam NCLS 2018, the child population aged 5-17 years for the purpose of the analysis is the total of children in the age group 5-15 years and minors aged 16-under 18 years.

3 The Viet Nam NCLS 2018 was implemented as a module to the Viet Nam Labour Force Survey 2018. The concept of ‘work’ (economic activity) in both surveys follows the statistical measurement guidelines by the Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, as adopted at the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (October 1982). Regarding child labour statistics, it is important to note that ‘child labour’ is a sub-set of the number of ‘economically active (working) children’ and is explained by Figure 1 and figure 3 in this report.

8. According to the survey, working children were engaged in all three main economic sectors of the national economy, namely agriculture (forestry and fisheries); industry (construction); and services. In particular, more than one-half of the children were working in the agriculture sector (forestry and fisheries).
9. Working children were engaged in 97 specific industries. Two-thirds of them were mainly involved in 21 types of work (including eight types of work in the agriculture - forestry - fisheries sector; six in the industry - construction sector; and seven in the services sector).
10. Nearly 20.1 per cent of working children worked long hours, often 40 hours per week or more. The share of children in child labour, and of children in hazardous work, who worked over 40 hours per week was 34.2 per cent and 40.6 per cent, respectively. Working over 40 hours per week was likely to have an adverse impact on children's health, school attendance, and recreation for most of the children.
11. The environment and work conditions of children in child labour in terms of safety and health were not assured. There were many potential risks that could affect children's physical development, especially in the work places where conditions such as working at heights, working under water, contact with toxic chemicals, lifting heavy objects, operating machines and working with equipment were not suitable for the children's relative ages.
12. The survey revealed that over one-half of child workers who were household family workers were unpaid. The remaining economically active children worked as paid workers and own-account workers. For those who worked as paid workers, they could earn a wage ranging from 2.5 to 3.5 million VND per month (US\$108 - US\$151),<sup>4</sup> which was equivalent to three-fourths of the average income of an employee in the labour market.
13. Compared to the results of the 2012 National Child Labour Survey, the 2018 Survey has evidence pointing to a positive change in the situation of working children in Viet Nam.<sup>5</sup> The size and trend of working children has sharply decreased, while working children's school attendance has significantly improved. In 2018, the proportion of working children aged 5-17 years decreased to 9.1 per cent from 15.5 per cent in 2012; the proportion of working children attending school in 2012 was 43.6 per cent, increasing to more than 63 per cent in 2018. Results also indicate that the child labour rate of Viet Nam is at a low average compared to the regional and global rate.<sup>6</sup>

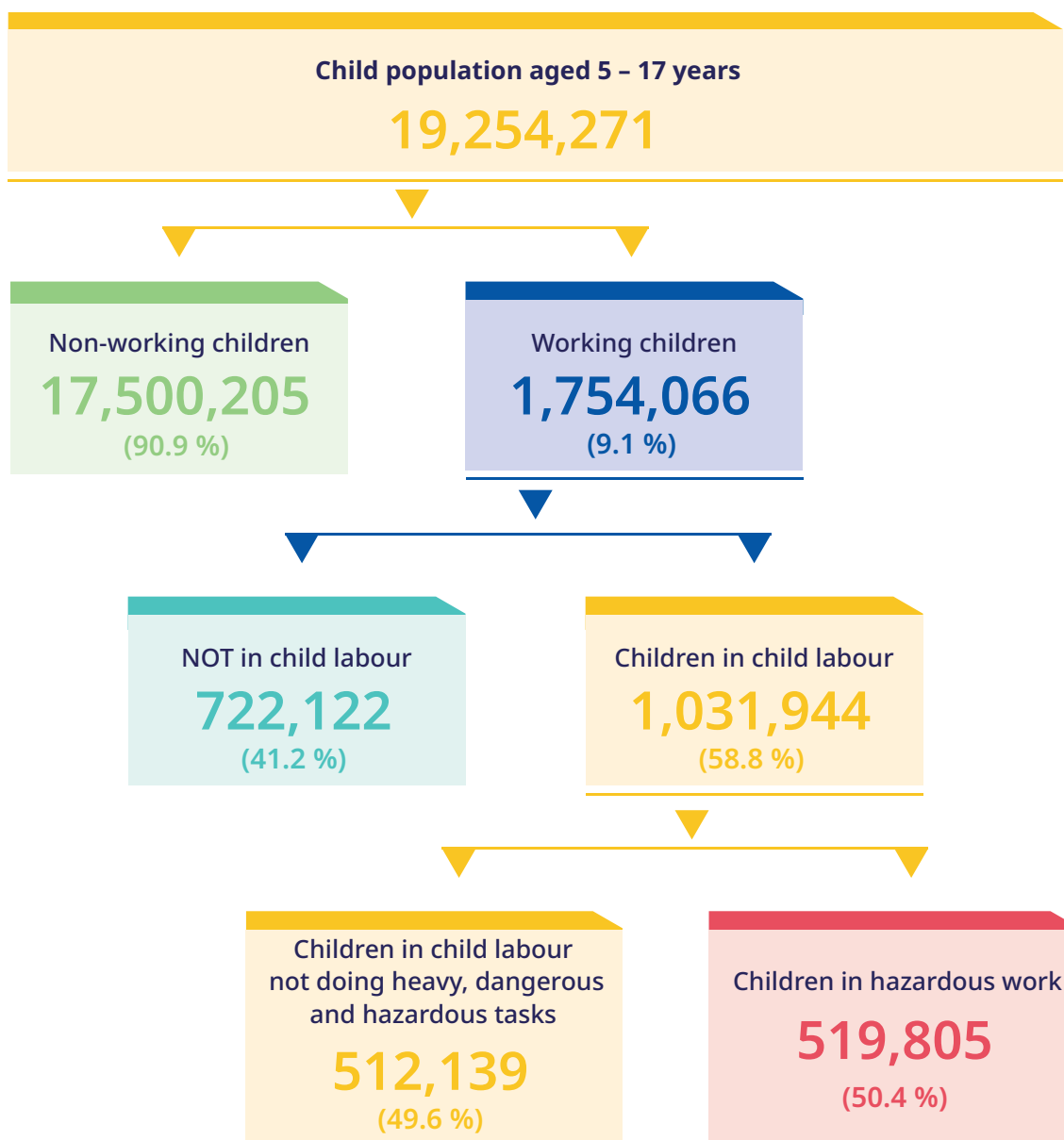
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4 This average income was estimated based on the income of the paid children.

5 The 2012 National Child Labour Survey and the 2018 National Child Labour Survey use uniform concepts and criteria to identify working children (children engaged in economic activities).

6 As reported in the *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and trends, 2012-2016* (ILO, 2017), in 2016 the global child labour rate was 9.6 per cent; meanwhile, the regional rate of Asia - Pacific was 7.4 per cent.

► Figure 1. Distribution of the children aged from 5 to 17 years old by their engagement in economic activities





# ▶ Abbreviations

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**FTA** ▶ Free trade agreement

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**ILO** ▶ International Labour Organization

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**ILSSA** ▶ Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs

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**MoLISA** ▶ Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

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**VND** ▶ Vietnamese dong

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# ► Introduction to the 2018 National Child Labour Survey

## ► Part 1. Laws and policies on child labour

### 1.1. International labour standards related to child labour

► Figure 2. International principles and rights



Source: [www.ilo.org/childlabour](http://www.ilo.org/childlabour)

#### ► The Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 32 of the Convention regulates that children must be protected from “*economic exploitation*” and that States Parties should have “*regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments*”, for instance, ILO Conventions concerning fundamental labour principles.

The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was adopted at the 86th International Labour Conference in Geneva in June 1998. The Declaration stipulates that the abolition of child labour is one of the four fundamental principles that State Members

of the Convention on the Rights of the Child must comply with as well as other international documents such as the ILO Conventions concerning fundamental principles at work.

However, it is not easy to determine what types of *economic exploitation* or *child labour* need to be eliminated since children often participate in economic activities in various forms and working conditions. Moreover, not all jobs that children engage in are always harmful to them. Therefore, there is a need for international standards to be applied according to national regulations on child labour.

► ILO Convention No. 138 and Recommendation No. 146

The ILO Convention concerning minimum age for admission to employment, 1973 (No. 138) (supplemented by Recommendation No. 146) requires that the regulated minimum working age of each nation is not under the age of completion of compulsory education, and in principle, not under 15 years old. However, children aged 13 or 14 years may be allowed to do light work and hazardous jobs must be strictly prohibited for children under 18 years of age. The specific categories of hazardous work must be determined by each country after consulting the tripartite parties (Government, employer and trade union representatives).

► ILO Convention No. 182 and Recommendation No. 190

The ILO Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, 1999 (No.182) (supplemented by Recommendation No. 190) requires that the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour be the main priority of national and international actions. The Convention was adopted at the 87<sup>th</sup> Session of the ILO in Geneva in June 1999 and its scope of application covers all areas of economic activity, without exception.

The Convention requests each State Member which ratifies the Convention to not only prohibit the worst forms of child labour but also to take immediate measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency. The Convention further stipulates that each State Member must establish or designate appropriate

mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Convention. The State Member must take effective preventive measures within a specific timeframe and provide support to remove children from the worst forms of child labour and to rehabilitate them, ensuring free basic access to education or vocational training for all children who have been removed from the worst forms of child labour; identifying the children at high risk of child labour; and taking into account the special circumstances of girls.

► ILO Convention No. 29

The ILO Convention concerning forced labour, 1930 was ratified by Vietnam in 2007.

Clause 1, Article 2 of the Convention states “forced or compulsory labour” shall mean all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.

Thus, forced labour can exist in any form of labour, which can be imposed on both adults and children, both in the public sector, in the private sector, and on individuals.

► ILO Resolution concerning statistics of child labour (18<sup>th</sup> ICLS, 2008)

The Resolution concerning statistics of child labour was adopted at the Eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians organized by the ILO in Geneva in December 2008, and established globally accepted guidelines on the statistical measurement standards of child labour. This was a very important development in child labour analysis since any statistic that has to be measured, must have an operational and unique definition.

► **Table 1.1**

**The minimum working age**

Working age	Minimum age applies to all countries	Exceptional minimum age applicable to developing countries
Fundamental minimum age (Article 2)	Not under 15 years of age	Not under 14 years of age
Minimum age applicable for heavy, dangerous and hazardous work (Article 3)	Not under 18 years of age	Not under 16 years of age and assurance of safety and dignity
Minimum age applicable for light work (Article 7)	13 - 15 years of age	12 - 14 years of age

Source: [www.ilo.org/childlabour](http://www.ilo.org/childlabour)

The Resolution clarifies that working children (or children in employment) refers to children engaged in any activity falling within the general production boundary in the System of National Accounts (SNA) for at least one hour during the reference period, of which only a subset is child labour targeted for elimination.

Conceptually, child labour is defined by its consequences and includes work that:

- ▶ is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
- ▶ interferes with their school attendance: (i) by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; (ii) by obliging them to leave school prematurely; or, (iii) by requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

More precisely, three categories of work (economic activities) carried out by children fall under the concept of child labour, and are therefore slated for abolition:

- i. work that is performed by a child who is under the minimum age specified for that kind of work (as defined by national laws, in accordance with accepted international standards), and that is thus likely to impede the child's education and full development, and follows guidelines of ILO Convention No. 138;
- ii. work that is a danger to the physical, mental or moral well-being of a child, because of its nature or due to the conditions in which it is carried out, known as hazardous work, and is set out by ILO Convention No. 182 Article 3 (d) and accompanying Recommendation No. 190 (paragraphs 3 and 4); and
- iii. the unconditional worst forms of child labour as defined by Article 3 (a) – (c) of ILO Convention No. 182.

The Viet Nam NCLS 2018 is a household based survey, and therefore provides estimates only for working children and minors, child labour and child labour in hazardous work. Child labour found in the unconditional worst forms of child labour (also called 'child labour in other than hazardous work') required special types of surveys that included work places.

## 1.2. National legislation on child labour

Viet Nam was the first country in Asia and the second country in the world to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on February 20th 1990. The country has also ratified two ILO Conventions concerning child labour, namely the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138 )<sup>7</sup> and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182 ). After the ratification, Viet Nam actively incorporated the provisions of the international Treaties and Conventions into the national legal system. Thus far, the national legal system for child protection and care has been relatively comprehensive, ensuring consistency, synchronization and harmony with international legislation, while creating a comprehensive legal basis on which to address child-related issues, including the exploitation of child labour.

### ▶ Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

The first Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in 1946 recognized the guarantee of the rights of the child: "*children are cared for in terms of education*" (Article 14). Thereafter, views on child protection and care were consistently affirmed throughout the next generations of Constitutions in 1959, 1980 and 1992. Article 37 of the 2010 Amended Constitution states: "*Children enjoy protection, care and education by the State, family and society and are allowed to participate in children's affairs. Infringement, persecution, maltreatment, abandonment, abuse and exploitation of labour and other forms of violating children's rights are strictly prohibited*".

### ▶ Children Law

The Children Law (2016) stipulates that "a child is a human being below the age of 16" (Article 1). Specifically, Article 26 of the Law clearly states: "*Children have the right to be protected, in any form, from labour exploitation. They must not work when they are under the working age and they must not work overtime or do heavy, dangerous and hazardous work as regulated by the law. They are protected from being forced to do jobs or being involved in working places which cause adverse*

<sup>7</sup> Viet Nam applies Article 5 of Convention No. 138: The Government has restricted the scope of application of the Convention to the "mining industry; manufacturing industry; construction industry and public works, electricity, gas and water; health and hygiene services; services for transportation and warehouse; communication; plantations and other agricultural production establishment whose products are for commercial purposes".

*influence on their personality and comprehensive development”.*

Labour exploitation is classified as an act of forcing children to work in contravention of the labour law; showing or producing pornography; organizing and supporting tourism activities for the purpose of child sexual abuse; giving, receiving or providing children for prostitution and other acts that use children for self-seeking purposes. The exploitation of child labour is strictly prohibited.

#### ► Labour Code

The 2012 Labour Code is the most comprehensive legal document that regulates issues related to child labour and minor workers. The Labour Code stipulates: *“the employee is a person aged full 15 years or older”* (Article 3) and *“the minor employee is an employee under 18 years old”* (Article 161).<sup>8,9</sup> The Labour Code strictly prohibits the employment of unlawful, underage, forced labour of children and other acts of abuse such as using vocational training and apprenticeships to exploit the child labour force for personal profits or enticing or forcing child apprentices to engage in illegal activities.

*For minor employees aged 15 to 17 years and employment of minors under the age of 15 years,* the 2012 Labour Code (Article 162 to Article 165) specifies the employment of minors; principles of employing minor employees (including regulations on the working time per day and per week, working overtime, working at night); employment of minors under the age of 15 years; and the types of work and work places that are prohibited for the employment of minors.

#### ► Other legal documents

### **Circular No. 10/2013/TT-BLDTBXH**

Circular No. 10/2013/TT-BLDTBXH of the Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs was issued on June 10th 2013 and regulates a list of jobs and work places prohibited from employing minors. The scope of application

covers all enterprises, agencies, organizations, cooperatives, households and individuals that hire or employ persons under labour contracts.

The list prescribes 91 jobs and workplaces banned from employing minors. (See more at: <http://vietnamlawmagazine.vn/circular-no-10-2013-tt-bldtbxh-of-june-10-2013-promulgating-the-lists-of-jobs-and-workplaces-in-which-the-employment-of-minor-persons-is-prohibited-4731.html>)

### **Circular No. 11/2013/TT-BLDTBXH**

Circular No. 11/2013/TT-BLDTBXH of the Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs was issued on June 11th 2013 and regulates a list of light types of work which are allowed to engage persons under the age of 15 years. The list includes (i) the jobs that can be done by persons under 13 years of age and (ii) the jobs that can be done by the persons from 13 to under 15 years old. (See more at: <https://vanbanphapluat.co/circular-no-11-2013-tt-bldtbxh-light-works-allowed-using-persons-under-15-years-old>).

## **1.3. Programmes on child labour prevention and reduction in the 2016-2020 period**

The 2012 National Child labour Survey pointed out a number of key causes of child labour in Viet Nam, including poverty and school dropout among children. In the period from 2016 to 2020, Viet Nam developed and implemented a number of national programmes to address child labour issues through supporting children and their families in reducing poverty and accessing education. Key national programmes can be listed as follows:

- The National Programme on Child Protection for the period 2016 to 2020 (Decision No. 2361/QĐ-TTg dated December 22th 2015) sets the goal that all children be prevented from falling into extremely disadvantaged circumstances.

<sup>8</sup> The 2015 Civil Code and the 2015 Penal Code stipulate that minors are those under the age of 18, but mainly refer to persons belonging to the age group between 15 and under 18.

<sup>9</sup> The Viet Nam Children Law 2016 of Viet Nam stipulates: “the child is a person below the age of 16”. And the Viet Nam Labour Code 2012 stipulates: “the minor employee is an employee under 18 years of age”. This survey covered children aged 5 to 17 years old. Therefore, this survey applies both laws to provide criteria for identifying child labour.

Children living in extremely disadvantaged circumstances are cared and supported for rehabilitation, community integration and access to development opportunities.

- ▶ The Programme on child labour prevention and reduction for the period 2016 to 2020 (Decision No. 1023/ QD-TTg dated June 7th 2016) sets the goal to effectively implement the prevention and reduction of child labour. Children at risk of participating in child labour, and children involved in child labour who are employed against the legal regulations are detected and supported in a timely fashion to reintegrate into community life and to have opportunities for full development.
- ▶ The Scheme to support children with disabilities to access community-based protection, care and education for the period 2018 to 2025 (Decision No. 1438/ QD-TTg dated October 29th 2018) sets the goal that by 2025, children with disabilities will have access to community-based child protection, care, and educational services for community integration and opportunities to fully exercise the rights of a child with disabilities.
- ▶ The Scheme to develop preschool education for the period 2018 to 2025 (Decision No. 1677/ QD-TTg dated December 3rd 2018) aims to support and develop appropriate preschools and classes in line with the practical socio-economic conditions of localities, meeting the children's needs for going to school toward standardization, modernization, socialization and global integration; diversifying methods and improving the quality of nurturing, caring for and educating children to meet regional and international preschool quality standards; consolidating, maintaining and improving the quality of preschool education for 5-year-old children; assisting children to enroll in the first grade; developing preschool education for children under 5 years old.
- ▶ The Scheme on mobilizing social resources to support children in extremely disadvantaged communes in ethnic minority areas for the period 2019 to 2025 (Decision No. 588/ QD-TTg dated May 17th 2019) aims to improve the health of children through medical examination and treatment, provision of nutritious meals for preschool and elementary children; provision of children's participation in cultural activities, entertainment and recreation; and through

supporting the distribution of warm clothes for children.

## 1.4. Global integration, trade liberalization and child labour issues in Viet Nam

Globalization, global economic integration and trade liberalization have been a trend of the contemporary world economy. In order to catch up with that trend, since 1986, Viet Nam has been carrying out its "renovation" plan towards renovation and accelerating its global economic integration. Thus far, Viet Nam has established trade relations with over 200 countries and territories, making Viet Nam an important "knot" in the global economic network as well as with the world's leading economies.

As of December 2018, Viet Nam had joined 12 free trade agreements (FTAs) and was in the process of negotiating three others. The 12 FTAs that have been signed include: (i) seven FTAs signed as an ASEAN member (CEPT/ AFTA and FTA with partners including China, Korea, Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand, Hong Kong); (ii) five FTAs signed as an independent party (with partners including Chile, Japan, Korea, Eurasian Economic Union), and a Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The three FTAs under negotiation include the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the FTA with the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), and the Vietnam - Israel Free Trade Agreement. Another FTA with the European Union (EU) has completed the legal review process and is due to be signed (EVFTA).

Of the signed and negotiated FTAs, the CPTPP and the EVFTA are two new-generation FTAs that emphasize the need for the elimination of child labour in trade. Particularly, the CPTPP highlights "its commitment to effectively eliminating child labour" and "prohibition for the worst forms of child labour" (Point c, Article 19.3, Chapter 19 on Labour). Similarly, the EVFTA states its commitment to effectively eradicate child labour (Section 13.4, Chapter 13 on Trade and Sustainable Development). The CPTPP came into effect on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 and the EVFTA was signed on 30 June 2019 and approved by Europarl on 12 February 2020. In the light of these commitments, the Government of Viet Nam needs to work hard to resolve the current child labour issues.



## ► Part 2. Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2018

### 2.1. Introduction to the Survey

The 2018 National Child Labour Survey was conducted in conjunction with the 2018 Labour Force Survey by the General Statistics Office (GSO) in November and December 2018 with a sample size of 38,280 households nationwide in 2,552 enumeration areas. The analysis of labour and employment statistics in the reports on findings from this survey applies the statistical standards of population statistics on economic activity, employment, unemployment and underemployment recommended by the ILO at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS 13).

The survey collected information of 29,192 children aged 5-17 years. All the information collected from the survey was checked, cleaned, coded and entered into software for data analysis by the GSO. The filled-in questionnaires of each province/ city were entered into the software by two independent staff. Then the data were cross-checked to ensure accuracy and consistency by the two staff. Once the entered data were cleaned on computers to ensure the completeness, accuracy and logic among the data fields, GSO handed over all the clean survey data to MoLISA who assigned the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA) to conduct data analysis and report writing.

The research target group consists of households comprising children aged 5-17 years. The survey includes the gathering of information about household members, household characteristics and housing conditions. The informants are the heads of households and the children aged 5-17 years with the consent of their parents or guardians.

The main information gathered from the survey includes:

- i. information about the household;
- ii. key characteristics of household children aged 5-17 years;
- iii. educational attainment of household children aged 5-17 years;
- iv. participation in economic activities of household children aged 5-17 years;

- v. health and safety related issues of working children aged 5-17 years; and
- vi. assigned household chores of children aged 5-17 years at their own home.

### 2.2. The concept of children and child labour used in the survey and data analysis

#### a) Children

The children surveyed are aged 5-17 years (hereinafter referred as 'children'). Thus, the concept of children used in the survey will include children, minors, and minor employees as prescribed in Viet Nam's laws.

#### b) Working children (Children participate in economic activities)<sup>10</sup>

Working children include children aged 5-17 years old who participate in production - business - service activities for at least one hour in any time in the reference week regardless whether for consumption or for sale, for remuneration or for no remuneration, working full time or part time, regularly or irregularly, legally or illegally.

Children who perform only domestic chores (for instance cooking, cleaning, washing) and/or small duties at school are excluded from the working children group.

#### c) Children in child labour

Not all working children are considered to be in child labour. A child involved in child labour is a child working in contravention of legal regulations and whose labour activities hinder or negatively affect their physical and mental health as well as their personality and comprehensive development. The child labour category excludes children involved in domestic chores and/or chores at school or those not involved in heavy, dangerous and hazardous agricultural work in small-scaled home-based businesses that do not often employ paid workers or engage in production for local consumption.

In the survey, children in hazardous work are identified as those doing heavy, hazardous and

<sup>10</sup> The terms working children, children participate in work, children participated in economic activities in this report are used in different contexts and without any difference.

dangerous work, which is prohibited under the provisions of national laws, and categorized as the worst forms of child labour according to ILO Convention No. 182. The age of the child and the duration of working hours is used to determine whether a child is in child labour or not and whether a child in this situation is able to perform other types of work. The criteria used in the survey for identifying child labour is as follows:

- ▶ Children from 5 to under 13 years old who engage in economic activities for a full one hour or more on any day of the reference week or for a full five hours or more during the reference week for any work and economic activity other than those relevant to art performance and talented athletes as regulated in the list of jobs allowing the employment of children under the age of 13 as specified in Circular No. 11/2013/TT-BLDTBXH dated June 11th 2013 of MoLISA.
- ▶ Children from 13 to under 15 years old who engage in economic activities for a full four hours or more on any day of the reference week or for a full 20 hours or more during the reference week.

- ▶ Children from 15-17 years old who engage in economic activities for a full eight hours or more on any day of the reference week or for a full 40 hours or more during the reference week.

#### d) Children in hazardous work (doing heavy, dangerous and hazardous tasks)

According to, ILO Convention No. 182, Article 3 (d), heavy, hazardous and dangerous work is defined as the work, by its nature or the circumstance in which it is carried out, to be likely to harm the health, safety and morals of children.

Children aged 5-17 years involved in any work specified in the list of jobs and workplaces prohibited from employing minors as prescribed in Clause 4 of Article 163, Clause 2 of Article 165 of the 2012 Labour Code and Circular No. 10/2013/TT-BLDTBXH dated June 10th 2013 of MoLISA which stipulates the list of jobs prohibited from using minors, also classifying them as child labour in hazardous work.

▶ **Table 1.2**

Framework for statistical identification of child labour and child labour in hazardous work among children aged 5-17 years

Age group	SNA production boundary					
	(1) Children in permissible work (economic activity)	(2a) Children in child labour working five to under 20 hours per week in non-hazardous work (economic activity)	(2b) Children in child labour working 20 to under 40 hours per week in non-hazardous work (economic activity)	(2c) Children in child labour working 40 hours and more per week in non-hazardous work (economic activity)	(3) Children in child labour working in hazardous industries and hazardous occupation/ professions/ work conditions	(4) Children in child labour working in "the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work"
5-12 years	53,894	189,341	55,651	12,161	60,260	
13-14 years	207,242	0	59,570	34,636	91,440	*
15-17 years	460,986	0	0	160,780	368,105	

A Children (aged 5-17 years) in permissible work = **722,122**

B Children in child labour (aged 5-17 years) not in hazardous work = **512,139**

C Children in child labour (aged 5-17 years) in hazardous work = **519,805**

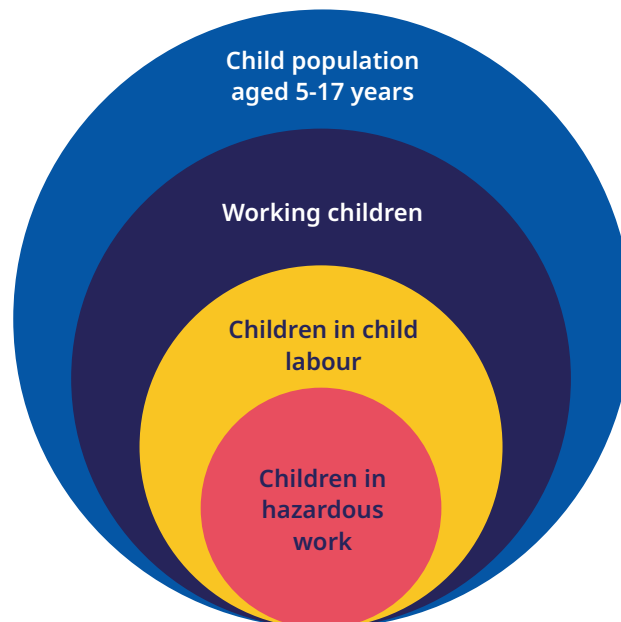
Note: \* Not covered by this survey.

### **e) The worst forms of child labour**

According to Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182, the worst forms of child labour include:

- a.** all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- b.** the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- c.** the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- d.** work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

► **Figure 3. Child population, working children, children in child labour, children in hazardous work**









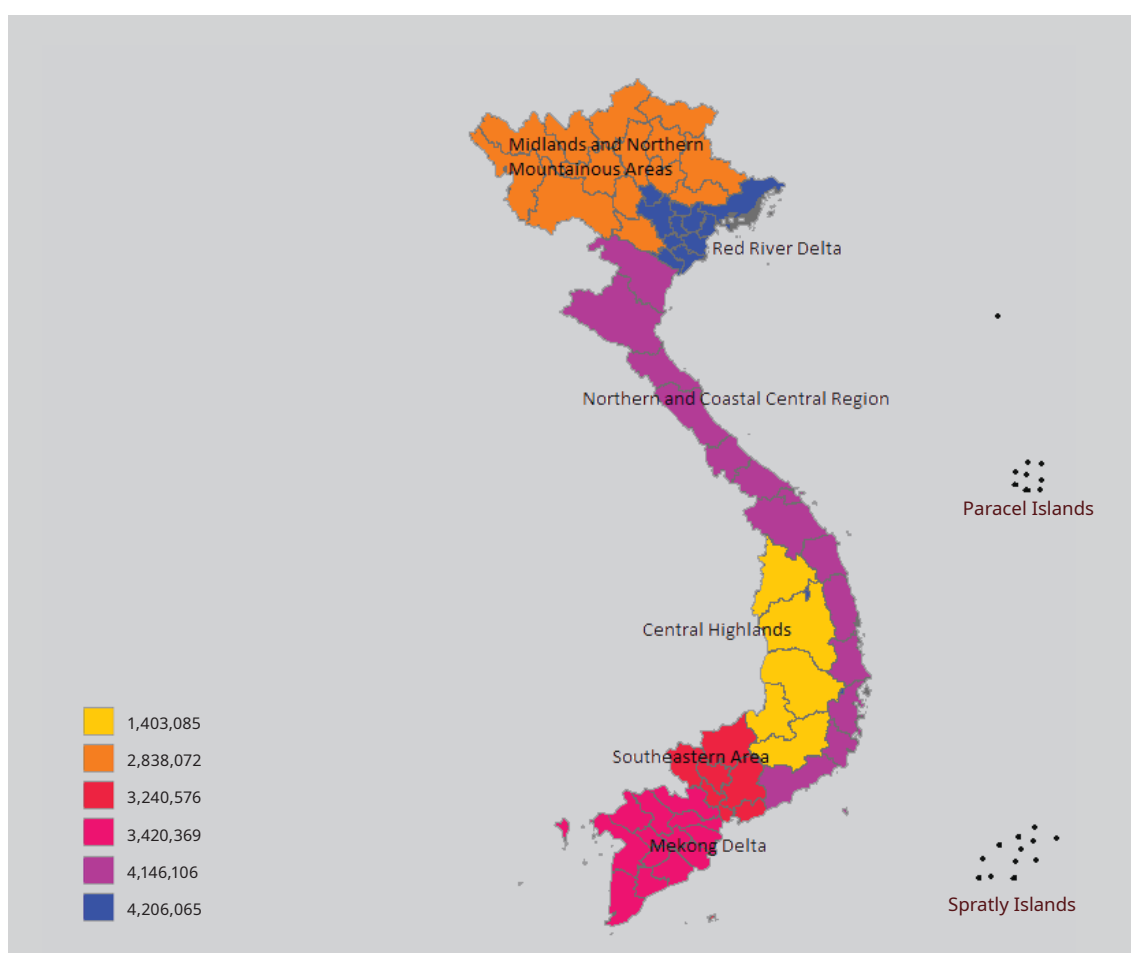
## ► Profile of the child population aged 5-17 years

### 2.1. The child population aged 5-17 years

Estimates from the survey data results show that the country's population in 2018 consisted of 94,665,973 persons, of which, the proportion of urban population was 35.7 per cent and the proportion of women and girls in the population 50.4 per cent. In terms of age, the 0-4 year old

population accounted for 7.2 per cent; the 5-12 year old population, 13.4 per cent; the 13-14 year old population, 2.8 per cent; the 15-17 year old population, 4.1 per cent; the population aged 18-64 years, 63.0 per cent; and the population over 65 years old accounted for 9.5 per cent.

► Figure 4. Number of child population aged 5-17 years by region



► **Table 2.1**

Viet Nam's population structure in 2018

Age group	Number	%	Sex	
			Male	Female
			%	%
Nationwide				
Total	94,665,973	100.0	49.6	50.4
0-4 years	6,847,094	7.2	53.2	46.8
5-12 years	12,701,247	13.4	52.2	47.8
13-14 years	2,682,179	2.8	51.9	48.1
15-17 years	3,870,845	4.1	52.2	47.8
18-64 years	59,610,703	63.0	49.9	50.1
65+ years	8,953,905	9.5	39.9	60.1
Urban				
Total	33,829,988	100.0	48.7	51.3
0-4 years	2,243,259	6.6	53.1	46.9
5-12 years	4,063,313	12.0	50.9	49.1
13-14 years	823,332	2.4	54.7	45.3
15-17 years	1,241,255	3.7	50.2	49.8
18-64 years	22,307,947	65.9	48.7	51.3
65+ years	3,150,882	9.3	40.4	59.6
Rural				
Total	60,835,985	100.0	50.1	49.9
0-4 years	4,603,835	7.6	53.2	46.8
5-12 years	8,637,934	14.2	52.7	47.3
13-14 years	1,858,847	3.1	50.6	49.4
15-17 years	2,629,590	4.3	53.1	46.9
18-64 years	37,302,756	61.3	50.5	49.5
65+ years	5,803,023	9.5	39.7	60.3

As of 2018, the total number of children aged 5-17 years amounted to 19,254,271, accounting for 20.3 per cent of the total population, of which 52.1 per cent were boys and 47.9 per cent were girls. The 5-12 age group accounted for 66.0 per cent, the 13-14 age group for 13.9 per cent and the 15-17 age group for 20.1 per cent. Nearly 32 per cent of the population aged 5-17 years lived in urban areas.

Compared to 2012, Viet Nam's population had increased by 5,978,163 persons by 2018, an average annual increase of over 1 million persons. In this six year period, the gender structure of the population remained almost unchanged; however,

both the urban - rural population structure and the age-group structure have changed significantly. In 2018, the proportion of the urban population was 35.7 per cent, an increase of over 3 per cent as compared to that of 2012, while the proportion of the elderly population aged 65 years and more was 9.5 per cent, an increase of nearly 2 per cent as compared to that of 2012.

The changes in the size of urban - rural population breakdown, and the increase in the share of elderly persons in the countrys total population between 2012 and 2018 show that the urbanization process in Viet Nam is taking place robustly, and that Viet

Nams population has entered an early stage of ageing.

## 2.2. Participation in education of children aged 5-17 years

### 2.2.1. School attendance of children aged 5-17 years

The Party and State of Viet Nam consistently affirm that: *"Education is a top national policy"* and Article 39 of the 2013 Constitution states: *"Citizens have the right and the duty to study"*. Since 2014, the Government has issued many policies to promote the universalization of education and literacy; it has also enhanced teaching of the Vietnamese language for preschool children and elementary school students in ethnic minority areas. In particular, the Government has implemented a number of policies to promote equal access to education for ethnic minority children, children living in disadvantaged areas, children with disabilities, and has created favourable conditions for children with extremely disadvantaged circumstances to go to school.

An estimate from the survey results indicates that as of 2018, 94.4 per cent of children aged 5-17 years were attending preschools, general education and vocational schools. The rate of 5-year-old children attending preschools reached 97.5 per cent, while the percentage of children aged 6-17 attending general schools was nearly 92 per cent.<sup>11</sup> The percentage of children aged 5-17 attending school in urban areas was about 3 per cent higher than the corresponding rate of rural children in that group.

Compared to 2012, the school attendance rate of children aged 5-17 years in 2018 increased by nearly 4 percentage points. The proportion of the child population aged 5-17 attending school has risen steadily in both urban and rural areas, among both boys and girls, and in different age groups. In particular, a sharp increase in the school attendance rates of children aged 5 and of those 15-17 years was observed. This is considered as one of the successes of Viet Nam's education policy spanning the period 2012 to 2018 and a successful outcome of efforts made by relevant stakeholders in assuring education access for children and children involved in child labours.

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<sup>11</sup> Children attending school include those who are attending pre-schools, general (primary, lower secondary and upper secondary) schools and vocational education schools.

► **Table 2.2a.**

School attendance of children aged 5-17 years in 2018

Status of school attendance	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>19,254,271</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	18,178,221	94.4	93.6	95.3	98.3	94.3	81.7
Out of school	1,076,050	5.6	6.4	4.7	1.7	5.8	18.3
<b>Urban</b>	<b>6,127,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	5,915,173	96.5	95.8	97.3	98.6	97.4	89.2
Out of school	212,727	3.5	4.2	2.7	1.4	2.6	10.9
<b>Rural</b>	<b>13,126,371</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	12,263,048	93.4	92.6	94.3	98.2	92.8	78.1
Out of school	863,323	6.6	7.4	5.7	1.8	7.2	21.9

► **Table 2.2b.**

School attendance of children aged 5-17 years: comparison between 2012 and 2018

Status of school attendance	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
2018							
Nationwide	19,254,271	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attending school	18,178,221	94.4	93.6	95.3	98.33	94.25	81.67
Out of school	1,076,050	5.6	6.4	4.7	1.67	5.75	18.33
2012							
Nationwide	18,349,629	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attending school	16,610,257	90.5	93.4	98.3	97.4	90.8	73.5
Out of school	1,716,767	9.4	6.0	1.6	2.4	9.1	26.5
Not classified	22,605	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0

## 2.2.2. Out of school children aged 5-17 years

At the time of the survey, it was estimated that 1,076,050 children of the 5-17 age group did not go to school, accounting for 5.6 per cent of the total child population. Except for 5-year-old children of kindergarten age, the proportion of children not attending school increases with their age group; the higher the age, the higher the percentage of out of school children. The percentage of out of school children in the 6-11 age group was below 1.4 per cent; increasing to nearly 5 per cent in the 12-14 age group; and to over 18.3 per cent in the 15-17 age group.

### Causes for not attending school by the child population aged 5-17 years

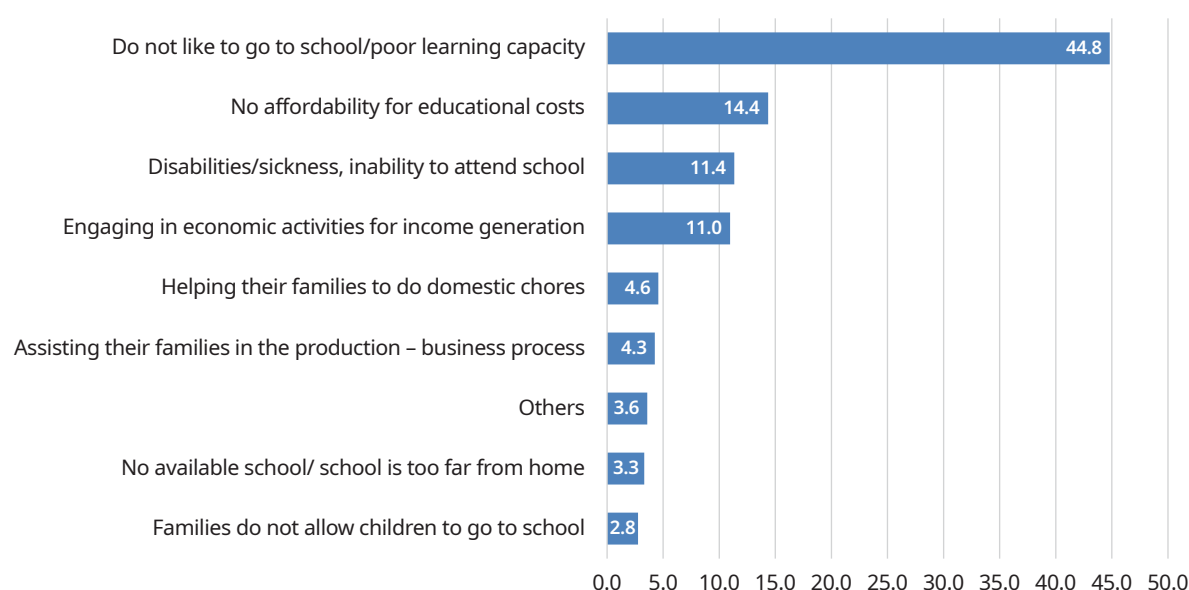
Over 44.8 per cent of children aged 5-17 years were not attending school and the reported reason was "do not like to go to school/poor learning ability". However, it is a matter of concern that more than 15 per cent of children did not go to school due to their participation in economic activities for the purpose of income generation for themselves

and/or their families, or for involvement in their family production and business process. Moreover, 14.4 per cent of children did not go to school because they could not afford educational costs for uniforms, tuition fees, study supplies, etc. In addition, about 11.4 per cent of them did not go to school because of disabilities.

## 2.2.3. Participation in economic activities of children aged 5-17 years

Of the 19,254,271 children nationwide, 1,754,066 children aged 5-17 years were participating in economic activities, accounting for 9.1 per cent of that population. The remaining child population, 17,500,205 children, accounting for 90.9 per cent, were not economically active. Of the working children, the boys' share was 54.5 per cent and the girls' 45.5 per cent. Working children of the 15-17 age group amounted to 56.4 per cent; however, there were still 21.2 per cent working children in the youngest age group of 5-12. The percentage of working children aged 5-17 years in rural areas was about 2.6 times higher than the corresponding proportion of 5-17 year old children living in urban areas.

► Figure 5. Causes for non-school attendance of children aged 5-17 years



► **Table 2.2c.**

Participation in economic activities of children aged 5-17 years

	Number	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>19,254,271</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>20.1</b>
Working children	1,754,066	9.1	54.5	45.5	21.2	22.4	56.4
Non-working children	17,500,205	90.9	51.9	48.1	70.5	13.1	16.5
<b>Urban</b>	<b>6,127,899</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Working children	262,195	4.3	53.3	46.7	16.4	17.9	65.7
Non-working children	5,865,705	95.7	51.2	48.8	68.5	13.2	18.2
<b>Rural</b>	<b>13,126,372</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>20.0</b>
Working children	1,491,871	11.4	54.7	45.3	22.0	23.2	54.8
Non-working children	11,634,501	88.6	52.2	47.8	71.4	13.0	15.6

## 2.3. Involvement in domestic chores of children aged 5-17 years

### Time spent on domestic chores

Estimates from the survey indicate that 8,239,117 children were involved in domestic chores, accounting for over 42.3 per cent of the total number of children aged 5-17 years. Of these children, 65.1 per cent spent less than five hours per week doing domestic chores; nearly 33.2 per cent were involved in such chores for five to less than 20 hours per week. It was thus noted that only

about 1.7 per cent of children performed domestic chores for more than 20 hours per week.

Overall, children in rural areas, girls, and older children were more likely to be involved in domestic chores than children in urban areas, boys and younger children. Children who did not go to school spent more significant time doing these chores than children attending school. Of 1,076,050 children aged 5-17 who did not attend school, 55 per cent were involved in doing domestic chores and 6.2 per cent of these were involved for more than 20 hours per week. Of 18,178,221 children attending school, only 42 per cent were involved in doing domestic chores and only 1.4 per cent did this type of work for more than 20 hours per week.

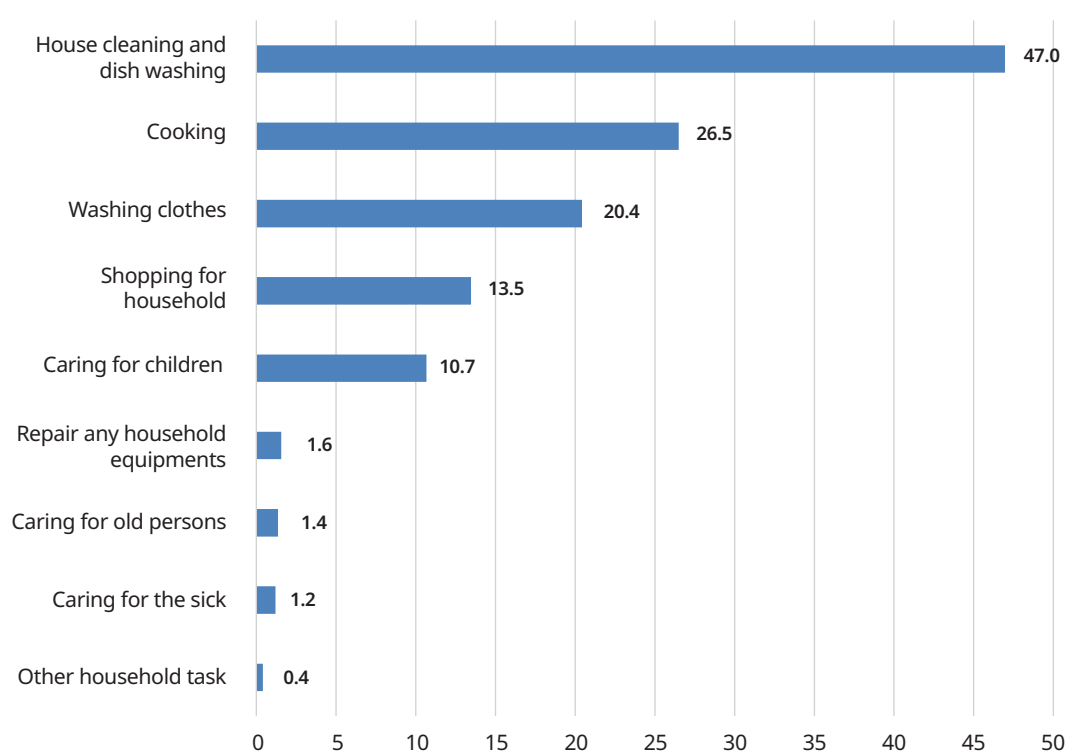


► **Table 2.3.**

Time spent on domestic chores per week of children aged 5-17 years

Time spent on domestic chore per week	Number	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>NATIONWIDE</b>	<b>8,239,117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
< 5 hours	5,364,765	65.1	72.1	59.4	77.7	63.7	55.7
5 - <20 hours	2,731,785	33.2	27.1	38.1	21.7	34.7	41.4
≥ 20 hours	142,567	1.7	0.8	2.5	0.6	1.7	3.0
<b>Attending school</b>	<b>7,644,454</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
< 5 hours	5,072,516	66.3	72.9	61.1	78.0	64.1	57.0
5 - <20 hours	2,466,413	32.3	26.5	36.9	21.4	34.4	40.9
≥ 20 hours	105,525	1.4	0.6	2.0	0.6	1.5	2.2
<b>Not attending school</b>	<b>594,663</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
< 5 hours	292,249	49.2	63.8	32.9	56.1	55.5	48.7
5 - <20 hours	265,372	44.6	33.6	56.9	42.7	40.3	44.2
≥ 20 hours	37,042	6.2	2.6	10.2	1.2	4.2	7.1

► **Figure 6. Children aged 5-17 years by type of domestic chores (percentage shares)**



## Types of domestic chores involving children

In terms of the types of domestic chores, children were most involved in doing house cleaning and dish washing chores (47.0 per cent), followed by cooking for households (26.5 per cent), and washing clothes (20.4 per cent). Other chores such as shopping for households, taking care of younger sisters or brothers accounted for 10-14 per cent. Less than 5 per cent of children were engaged in other types of domestic work, such as taking care of the elderly and the sick, repairing furniture, etc.

## 2.4. Distribution of child population by activity status

The survey shows that most children aged 5-17 belong to two groups: (i) attending school only and (ii) attending school and involvement in housekeeping activities. Housekeeping activities varied between working children and non-working

children and between different age groups of those involved in domestic chores. Among the working children, 57.4 per cent carried out economic and housekeeping activities while attending school; whereas nearly 28.1 per cent of the children were involved in these activities but did not attend school. The majority of those children working thus while attending school belonged to the 5-12 year age group, with the proportion being lower in higher age groups.

Among children not participating in economic activities, 47.3 per cent attended school only, while 47.8 per cent attended school and carried out housekeeping activities. Approximately 1 per cent of them were involved in housekeeping activities only and it is estimated that up to 3.8 per cent of children aged 5-17 years were idle (i.e. neither attending school nor being involved in economic or housekeeping activities). The survey results indicate that children who were not engaged in economic activities in the higher age groups were more involved in housekeeping activities, especially among those attending school.

► **Table 2.4.**

Distribution of children aged 5-17 years by activity status

Activity status	Total		Age group					
			5-12 years		13-14 years		15-17 years	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>19,254,271</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,701,247</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,682,179</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,870,845</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Participating in economic activities								
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>1,754,066</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>371,307</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>392,888</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>989,871</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Economic activities only	155,638	8.9	9,933	2.7	18,681	4.8	127,024	12.8
Economic activities and housekeeping activities	492,717	28.1	26,593	7.2	65,062	16.6	401,063	40.5
Economic activities while attending school	98,223	5.6	51,208	13.8	17,396	4.4	29,618	3.0
Economic activities and housekeeping activities while attending school	1,007,488	57.4	283,573	76.3	291,749	74.2	432,166	43.7

Activity status	Total		Age group					
			5-12 years		13-14 years		15-17 years	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Not participating in economic activities								
Sub-total	17,500,205	100.0	12,329,940	100.0	2,289,291	100.0	2,880,974	100.0
Attending school only	8,279,697	47.3	7,431,086	60.3	476,788	20.8	371,823	12.9
Attending school and housekeeping activities	8,367,788	47.8	4,300,803	34.9	1,741,916	76.1	2,325,069	80.7
Housekeeping activities only	184,522	1.1	44,611	0.4	37,517	1.6	102,394	3.6
Idling	668,198	3.8	553,441	4.4	33,069	1.5	81,688	2.8



# ► Children participating in economic activities (working children)

## 3.1. Percentage and distribution of working children

There were 1,754,066 working children aged 5-17, accounting for 9.1 per cent of the child population in 2018. Of these, 54.5 per cent were boys and nearly 45.5 per cent girls; 56.4 per cent belonged to the 15-17 years age group.

Over 85 per cent of working children lived in rural areas where the share was 11.4 per cent, 2.6 times higher than the share of working children in urban areas.

► Table 3.1a.

Percentage of working children aged 5-17 years by geographical area

Area	Total	Children aged 5-17 years	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>56.4</b>
Urban	262,195	4.3	53.4	46.6	16.4	17.9	65.7
Rural	1,491,871	11.4	54.7	45.3	22.0	23.2	54.8

More than one-half of children participating in family businesses were unpaid. About 19.6 per cent of working children produced goods or carried out services for household

consumption. However, more than 20.3 per cent of working children generated income for themselves and/or contributed to their family income.

► **Table 3.1b.**

Percentage of working children by type of work

Type of work	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>56.4</b>
Paid workers	356,698	20.3	64.7	35.3	2.7	15.4	81.9
Self-production, self-consumption <sup>12</sup>	344,166	19.6	49.1	50.9	21.6	36.0	42.4
Household workers and other forms	941,504	53.7	52.8	47.2	15.2	32.7	52.1
Not classified	111,698	6.4	53.4	46.6	14.9	30.0	55.1

## 3.2. School attendance

Compared to the results of the 2012 survey, more working children aged 5-17 years had access to education and attended school in 2018. Of 1,754,066 working children, 1,105,710 were attending school, (over 63 per cent of the total number of children). This rate was much higher than that of 2012 (43.6 per cent). However, in comparison with the national average of school attendance among children aged 5-17 (94.4 per cent), the percentage of working children

of this age who attended school is much lower. Particularly, of 1,754,066 working children, 628,856, accounting for 35.9 per cent, were not attending school and 19,500, accounting for over 1.1 per cent, had never attended school. These figures are evidence that children's participation in economic activities has a substantial negative impact on their access to education.

In addition, the survey results show that girls tended to participate more in economic activities while continuing to attend school than boys (nearly 69.3 per cent vs. 57.8 per cent).

► **Table 3.2.**

Working children by school attendance

School attendance	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	1,105,710	63.0	57.8	69.3	90.2	78.7	46.6
Out of school	628,856	35.9	41.3	29.3	8.1	20.4	52.4
Never attended school	19,500	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.7	0.9	1.0

<sup>12</sup> Self-production and self-consumption: includes the children participating in non-hazardous economic activities in small-scale household-based facilities or small establishments which do not often use wage workers or produce goods for local consumption.

### 3.3. Causes for participation in economic activities by working children

Children participate in economic activities for many reasons. The survey results indicate that 33.3 per cent of children participate in economic activities because they want to be involved in the business and production process of their households or help their households; over 17.9 per cent of them participated in economic activities to generate

income for the household or contribute to the household income of their families; and around 6.2 per cent of children participated in economic activities to generate income for themselves. However, in this survey, more than one-third of working children did not state their reasons. The percentage of children participating in economic activities because they had dropped out of school was 4.8 per cent; and 2 per cent engaged in economic activities for the purpose of entering into an apprenticeship.

► Table 3.3.

Causes for participation in economic activities by working children

Causes	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Income generation for oneself	109,163	6.2	7.0	5.4	3.5	1.8	9.0
Income generation for their families	314,694	17.9	19.2	16.5	11.0	17.9	20.6
Desire for involvement in household's production and business process	584,888	33.3	32.9	33.9	39.2	37.3	29.6
Desire for apprenticeship	36,284	2.1	3.0	1.0	0.0	0.2	3.6
Not attending school	84,741	4.8	6.3	3.0	2.4	2.5	6.7
Other reasons	31,459	1.8	2.0	1.5	2.3	2.3	1.4
Not classified	592,837	33.9	29.6	38.7	41.6	38.0	29.1

### 3.4. Economic sectors

Working children worked in all three economic sectors of the national economy. In particular, nearly 60 per cent of them worked in the agriculture sector (forestry and fisheries); while nearly 23 per cent worked in the services sector and 15.6 per cent worked in the industry and construction sector. Compared to the 2012 data, working children had a tendency to gradually withdraw from the agriculture sector and increase

their participation in the industry, construction and service sectors in 2018.

Boys were more likely to work in the agriculture sector than girls; in contrast, girls were more likely to work in the service sector.

Children in the older age groups tended to work more than their younger counterparts in all economic sectors, particularly with a high concentration in the industry and construction sectors. Children in the younger age groups tended to work more in the agriculture sector.



► **Table 3.4.**

Working children by economic sector

Economic sector	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>56.4</b>
Agriculture	1,047,081	59.7	56.9	43.1	23.0	25.1	51.9
Industry - construction	274,008	15.6	61.7	38.3	12.8	14.9	72.3
Services	401,410	22.9	44.2	55.8	21.2	20.0	58.8
Not classified	31,567	1.8	42.2	57.8	31.7	27.5	40.8

### 3.5. Types of work

The survey results indicate 97 specific types of work in which children participated, of which 21 types attracted 86.3 per cent of the total number of working children.

Of these 21 types of work, eight were in the agriculture sector and attracted 67.9 per cent of working children; six were in the industry - construction sector attracting 11.3 per cent; and seven were in the services sector attracting 20.7 per cent.

► **Table 3.5.**

Working children by types of work

Code	Type of work	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
				Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
				%	%	%	%	%
11	Growing of annual crops	309,565	20.4	56.5	43.5	15.5	23.6	60.9
12	Growing of fruit trees	165,076	10.9	60.2	39.8	15.3	23.2	61.5
14	Animal raising	437,093	28.9	55.2	44.8	33.8	27.1	39.1
15	Mixed crops and raising	20,899	1.4	40.5	59.5	7.6	24.8	67.6
16	Services for agriculture	19,845	1.3	26.3	73.7	23.1	29.1	47.8
23	Gathering non-wood products and others from forests	26,262	1.7	63.2	36.8	17.7	27.5	54.8
31	Fishing	21,755	1.4	87.7	12.3	18.3	17.6	64.1
32	Aquaculture	28,139	1.9	71.9	28.1	12.8	25.8	61.4



Code	Type of work	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
				Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
				%	%	%	%	%
102	Processing and preservation of seafood and aquatic products	20,625	1.4	53.1	46.9	15.2	20.3	64.5
107	Production of other food	20,350	1.3	37.6	62.4	24.3	31.0	44.7
141	Production of garments (except for the clothes made from leather and skin of animals)	48,307	3.2	58.6	41.4	8.1	15.2	76.7
170	Production of papers and paper-related products	19,330	1.3	37.4	62.6	48.5	1.7	49.8
310	Production of beds, wardrobes, tables and chairs	17,412	1.2	84.2	15.8	0.0	28.2	71.8
410	Construction of houses of all types	45,620	3.0	97.0	3.0	0.0	7.2	92.8
471	Retail in department stores	87,162	5.8	26.8	73.2	18.3	29.0	52.7
472	Retail of food, beverages or tobacco, pipe tobacco in specialized stores	44,841	3.0	41.7	58.3	23.1	26.3	50.6
477	Retail of other commodities in specialized stores	27,622	1.8	34.9	65.1	10.2	13.2	76.7
561	Restaurants and mobile catering services	83,628	5.5	43.2	56.8	23.9	20.9	55.3
562	Event catering and other food service activities	15,519	1.0	53.8	46.2	8.1	19.7	72.2
563	Beverage serving activities <sup>13</sup>	34,836	2.3	36.1	64.0	33.7	21.7	44.6
963	Other uncategorized personal support services	19,946	1.3	53.6	46.4	16.2	9.3	74.5
Total number in 21 types of work		1,513,832	100.0	53.8	46.2	21.9	23.6	54.5
Total number in 97 types of work		1,754,066	100.0	54.5	45.5	13.9	29.7	56.4

13 Beverage serving activities include taverns and bars; coffee shops and other taverns and bars (Decision No. 27/2018/QĐ-TTg dated July 06, 2018 of the Prime Minister on promulgating Viet Nam standard industrial classification. See more at: [https://incorporation.seoul.vn/document\\_business\\_code.pdf](https://incorporation.seoul.vn/document_business_code.pdf))

### 3.6. Working time per week

The time spent working is an important factor which has an influence on children's health and development. It is also an important base from which to determine the working level of children.

The survey results indicate that about 58.1 per cent of working children worked less than 20 hours per week and nearly 18.8 per cent worked between 20

and less than 40 hours per week. Moreover, nearly 20.1 per cent of these children (2.7 per cent of whom were under 13 years old) had extended working hours of over 40 hours per week, which negatively affects the health of most working children, especially the young ones. In general, boys tended to work longer hours than girls, and significantly, the working time of these children increases as they get older.

► **Table 3.6.**

Working children by working time per week

Working time per week	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
≤ 5 hours	322,935	18.4	16.9	20.2	27.2	15.5	10.9
5 - ≤ 20 hours	696,167	39.7	37.6	42.2	55.6	55.3	32.9
20 - ≤ 40 hours	329,483	18.8	19.1	18.4	12.2	17.6	21.7
> 40 hours	352,385	20.1	23.2	16.3	2.7	8.1	31.4
Not classified	53,096	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.3	3.5	3.1

### 3.7. Status in employment

Over half of the working children were household workers who participate in supporting the production and business process of their households, thereby contributing to their total income but receive no salary or remuneration in cash or in-kind. This form of labour, called 'unpaid family worker' is widespread and socially

acceptable in Viet Nam, and is considered the responsibility of each member to his/her family.

However, the survey results also identify that 356,698 children, accounting for 20.3 per cent of the total number of working children, worked as wage workers, involving mainly the older working children (15-17 years). Compared to 2012, the proportion of these children increased from 18 per cent in 2012 to 20.3 per cent in 2018.

► **Table 3.7.**

Working children by status in employment

Status in employment	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>56.4</b>
Business owners <sup>14</sup>	2,079	0.1	84.8	15.2	0.0	10.3	89.7
Own-account workers <sup>15</sup>	43,333	2.5	49.8	50.2	10.8	13.3	75.9
Unpaid family worker	896,091	51.1	52.9	47.1	23.8	25.4	50.8
Paid workers	356,698	20.3	64.7	35.3	3.9	14.2	81.9
Not classified	455,865	26.0	50.1	49.9	30.7	23.8	45.5

### 3.8. The age at which working children start to work

Most working children started to work at the age of 12 years and over, accounting for nearly 55.5

per cent of the total number of 1,754,066 working children. However, nearly 8 per cent of working children started to work when they were less than 10 years old, and in particular, nearly 3 per cent started to work at the age of 5-7 years, which is too young.

► **Table 3.8.**

The age at which working children start to work

Age	Total	%	By sex			
			Male		Female	
			Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>956,277</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>797,788</b>	<b>100.0</b>
5 years	3,049	0.2	350	0.0	2,699	0.3
6 years	9,202	0.5	4,375	0.5	4,827	0.6
7 years	38,443	2.2	11,501	1.2	26,942	3.4
8 years	41,705	2.4	23,425	2.5	18,280	2.3
9 years	47,481	2.7	28,633	3.0	18,847	2.4
10 years	112,008	6.4	50,132	5.2	61,876	7.8
11 years	96,105	5.5	55,860	5.8	40,245	5.0
12 years	171,493	9.8	87,098	9.1	84,395	10.6
13 years	147,645	8.4	84,742	8.9	62,903	7.9
14 years	245,796	14.0	139,529	14.6	106,267	13.3
15 years	212,753	12.1	138,896	14.5	73,857	9.3

<sup>14</sup> Business owners: refers to those who manage their own business - production establishment and employ at least one worker.

<sup>15</sup> Own account worker means that a person himself or cooperates with other partners to operate the activity of a unit in relation to production, business, service or professional undertaking and does not recruit or hire any salary/wage paid labourers.

Age	Total	%	By sex			
			Male		Female	
			Number	%	Number	%
16 years	139,223	7.9	85,284	8.9	53,939	6.8
17 years	56,455	3.2	29,574	3.1	26,881	3.4
Not classified	432,709	24.7	216,878	22.7	215,831	27.1

### 3.9. Work locations

The work places of working children are quite diverse. Some are considered to be of lower risk of abuse and labour exploitation than others (such as the home, and household businesses, etc.). Nonetheless, there were still work locations with a high potential of presenting risks and unsafe conditions for working children, such as restaurants and bars, rivers, ponds and lakes, customers' houses or mobile working places on streets where they work as street vendors, shoeshiners or other street-related services.

The most common work place was at home (with 588,992 children), accounting for 33.6 per cent of working children. Home-based work was also the most common for children with disabilities in all age groups and genders. However, as the children get older, the proportion of those working at home tended to decrease. The second most common work place was on farms, fields and gardens (235,337 children), accounting for 13.4 per cent of the total of working children, and the third was factories and workshops, where most of the working children were 15-17 years.

► **Table 3.9.**

Working children by work location

Work location	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
At children's home	588,992	33.6	27.9	40.4	36.8	36.8	31.1
Customers' houses	69,833	4.0	5.5	2.2	1.6	1.7	5.8
Office	7,009	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.6
Factories/workshops	125,757	7.2	8.3	5.9	0.5	3.2	11.2
Farms/fields/gardens	235,337	13.4	16.1	10.2	9.1	14.7	14.5
Construction sites	8,636	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7
Shop/Kiosk/Restaurants	69,281	3.9	4.3	3.5	1.7	2.0	5.5
Mobile work places	118,886	6.8	8.1	5.2	8.7	9.6	5.0
Fixed work places on streets or markets	33,010	1.9	1.3	2.6	1.0	1.8	2.3
Rivers/lakes/lagoons	17,345	1.0	1.7	0.2	0.8	0.8	1.1
Others	20,034	1.1	1.6	0.6	1.1	0.6	1.4
Not classified	459,946	26.2	23.9	28.8	38.7	28.0	20.8

### 3.10. Income

The majority of working children are found in low-stability jobs which are often changeable and interrupted; as a result, it was not easy to determine their average monthly income of the previous 12 months. The survey results revealed that as many as 81.5 per cent of working children

were not able to estimate their average monthly income over that time.

However, based on the income of those working children who were paid, it was calculated that the average income ranges from 2.5 million VND (US\$108) per month and more (66.9 per cent). Boys had a higher average monthly income than girls, but this income was only estimated for working children aged 13 years and older.

► Table 3.10.

Working children by monthly income

Monthly income (1,000 VND)	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Number of working children</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>56.4</b>
<b>Number of paid working children</b>	<b>324,452</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>81.9</b>
<500	9,923	3.1	51.3	48.7	14.3	39.4	46.3
500 - <1,500	57,764	17.8	58.8	41.2	13.1	15.9	71.0
1,500 - < 2,500	39,120	12.1	73.2	26.8	0.0	39.3	60.7
2,500 - < 3,500	83,940	25.9	57.3	42.7	0.0	15.3	84.7
3,500 - < 4,500	63,517	19.6	72.8	27.2	0.0	3.5	96.5
≥ 4,500	70,188	21.5	74.9	25.1	0.0	2.7	97.3



# 4

## ► Children in child labour

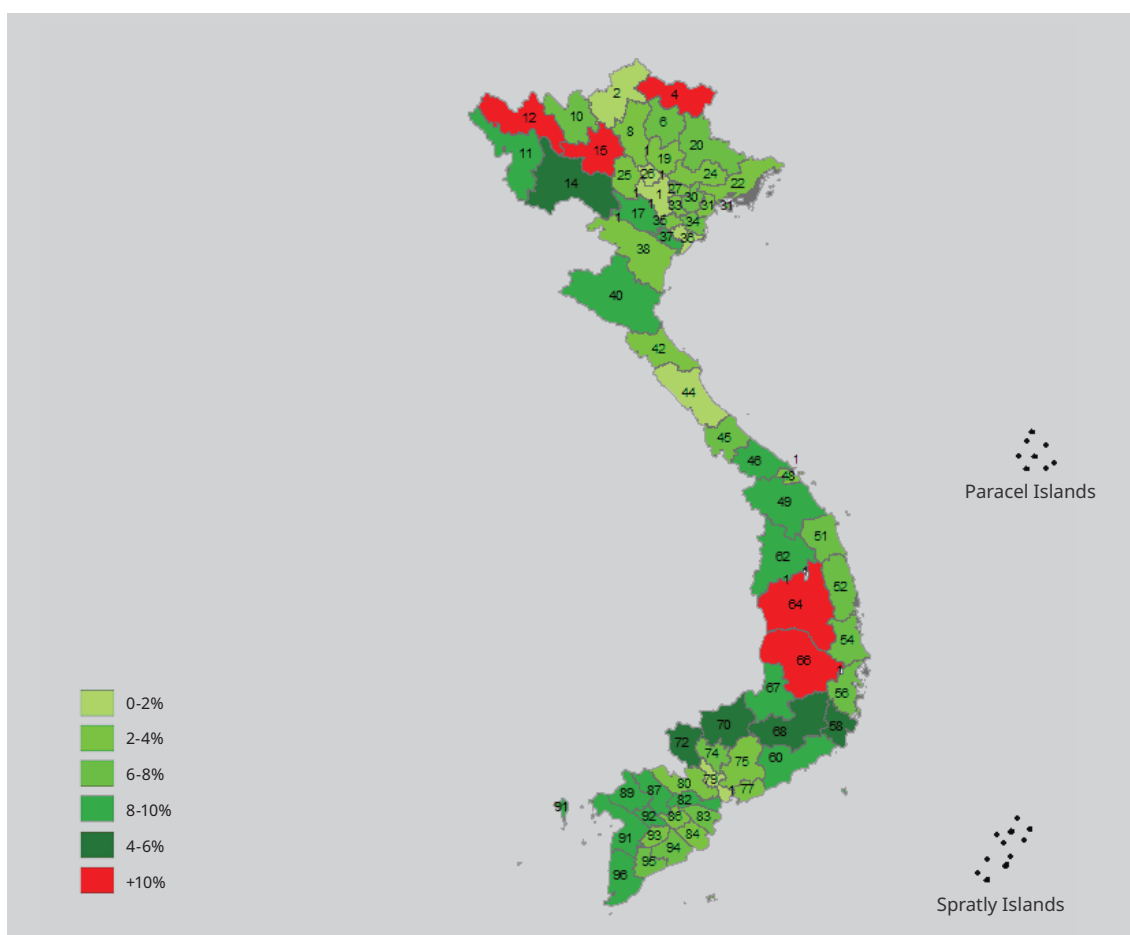
### 4.1. Percentage and distribution of children in child labour

Of the children that were economically active, 1,031,944 were identified as children in child labour, accounting for 5.4 per cent of the 5-17 years olds and 58.8 per cent of those participating in economic activities. Among children involved in child labour, 59 per cent were boys and nearly 41 per cent were

girls; and around 51.2 per cent belonged to the 15-17 year age group.

Over 84 per cent of children in child labour were identified in rural areas with a rate of 6.6 per cent of the rural population aged 5-17 years which is 2.5 times higher than the corresponding rate of those in urban areas (2.6 per cent).

► Figure 7. Child labour rate by province/city



► **Table 4.1a.**

Percentage of children in child labour by geographical area

Area	Total	Children aged 5-17 years	Working children aged 5-17 years	Sex		Age group		
		%	%	Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
				%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>51.2</b>
Urban	161,621	2.6	61.6	57.5	42.5	20.2	15.2	64.6
Rural	870,323	6.6	58.3	59.3	40.7	32.7	18.5	48.8

It was estimated that over 43 per cent of children in child labour were household workers and 31.7 per cent of them were paid workers. However, 198,505 of them, accounting for 19.2 per cent of 344,166 working children aged 5-17 years, were engaged in work related to self-production for self-consumption, which is excluded from the

regulations stated in ILO Convention No. 138. Nonetheless, these children were still identified as children in child labour because their work was identified as containing heavy, hazardous and dangerous factors that negatively affect the development of children.

► **Table 4.1b.**

Percentage of children in child labour by type of work

Type of work	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>51.2</b>
Paid work	327,624	31.7	66.2	33.8	3.5	15.0	81.5
Self-production for self-consumption	198,505	19.2	47.6	52.4	56.5	21.7	21.8
Household labour and other forms	445,162	43.2	58.9	41.1	39.1	18.5	42.4
Not classified	60,653	5.9	58.2	41.8	32.0	18.4	49.6



## 4.2. School attendance

Compared to working children, the rate of children in child labour attending school decreased significantly. While nearly one-half of the 1,031,944 children in child labour were attending school, 48.6 per cent were not; and 1.4 per cent had never been to school.

In general, male children involved in child labour were less likely to attend school than their female counterparts. With movement to higher age-groups, these children were more likely to drop out of school. The survey results indicate that the out of school rate of children in child labour aged 5-12 years was 9 per cent; however, the rate increased to 38.8 per cent among those aged 13-14 years; and to 75.8 per cent in the 15-17 age group.

► Table 4.2.

School attendance of children in child labour

School attendance	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	515,794	50.0	45.9	55.9	89.1	59.7	23.1
Out of school	501,095	48.6	53.0	42.2	8.9	38.8	75.8
Never attended school	15,055	1.4	1.1	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.1

## 4.3. Causes for participation in economic activities by children in child labour

The underlying causes for children in child labour to participate in economic activities are quite similar to those of working children. However, these children indicate a higher participation

in economic activities to generate income, with nearly 30 per cent stating that they participated in economic activities for this purpose, compared to nearly 24.2 per cent of working children who stated this reason. The trend is most evident in older children in child labour (15-17 years) where nearly 40.1 per cent stated that they worked for income generation (against 12.1 per cent for working children).

► **Table 4.3.**

Causes for participation in economic activities by children in child labour

Causes	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Income generation for oneself	95,956	9.3	9.8	8.5	3.9	3.6	14.6
Income generation for family	213,319	20.7	21.9	18.9	10.2	24.8	25.5
Desire for involvement in household's production and business process	281,651	27.3	27.4	27.1	37.6	27.8	20.9
Desire for apprenticeship	32,549	3.2	4.2	1.7	0.0	0.4	6.0
Non-school attendance	68,688	6.7	8.2	4.4	2.7	4.6	9.8
Others	11,561	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2	0.5	1.3
Not classified	328,220	31.7	27.5	38.1	44.4	38.3	21.9

## 4.4. Economic sectors

Compared to working children, children in child labour tended to gradually withdraw from the agriculture sector and work more in the service sector. In particular, they tend to work increasingly in the industry and construction sector. Of the total number of 1,031,944 children in child labour, 553,355, accounting for 53.6 per cent, worked in the agriculture sector; 244,465, accounting for nearly 23.7 per cent, worked in the industry - construction sector; and nearly 21 per cent worked in the services sector.

Boys and children in the older age groups showed higher proportions of participation in jobs in all three economic sectors, especially in the agriculture and construction sector. The rate of male children in child labour working in the agriculture and construction sector reached 64.5 per cent, around 1.8 times higher than the rate of their female counterparts working in these sectors. Similarly, the rate of these children in the older age groups (15-17 years) working in the industry and construction sector was nearly 74.2 per cent, which is much higher than that of the younger children aged 13-14 working in this sector.

► **Table 4.4.**

Children in child labour by economic sector

Economic sector	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>51.2</b>
Agriculture	553,355	53.6	59.0	41.0	39.7	20.5	39.8
Industry - Construction	244,465	23.7	64.6	35.4	12.4	13.4	74.2
Services	215,093	20.8	53.3	46.7	26.7	14.7	58.6
Not classified	19,031	1.9	50.0	50.0	50.2	41.9	7.9

## 4.5. Types of work

The survey identified 89 specific jobs in which children in child labour were engaged, of which 24 attracted 85.6 per cent of the total number of these children .

Of the 24 jobs that the children participated in, nine were in the agriculture sector, attracting 62.2 per cent children; seven in the industry and construction sector, with 18.3 per cent; and eight in the services sectors, with 19.5 per cent .

► Table 4.5.

Children in child labour by type of work

Code	Type of work	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
				Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
				%	%	%	%	%
11	Growing of annual crops	164,834	18.7	58.5	41.5	25.5	20.3	54.2
12	Growing of fruit trees	82,263	9.3	60.8	39.2	25.8	20.5	53.7
14	Animal raising	219,562	24.9	56.8	43.2	62.8	20.0	17.2
15	Mixed crops and raising	13,263	1.5	43.9	56.1	12.0	19.2	68.8
16	Services for agriculture	12,523	1.4	36.1	63.9	36.6	26.0	37.4
21	Afforestation and forest tending	9,905	1.1	57.4	42.6	10.3	27.3	62.4
23	Gathering non-wood products and others from forests	13,539	1.5	58.8	41.2	34.3	19.1	46.6
31	Fishing	16,154	1.8	93.2	6.8	21.6	15.9	62.5
32	Aquaculture	17,563	2.0	77.6	22.4	19.4	25.5	55.1
102	Processing and preservation of seafood and aquatic products	17,129	1.9	51.9	48.1	13.0	14.9	72.1
107	Production of other food	10,505	1.2	61.1	38.9	46.9	30.2	22.9
141	Production of garments (except for the clothes made from leathers and skin of animals)	44,597	5.0	60.8	39.2	8.3	11.5	80.2
162	Production of wood, bamboo, rattan products (except for beds, wardrobes, tables); production of straw products and plaited materials	11,776	1.3	63.1	36.9	14.3	16.5	69.2
170	Production of papers and paper-related products	15,861	1.8	36.2	63.8	59.1	1.0	39.9
310	Production of beds, wardrobes, tables and chairs	15,822	1.8	86.9	13.1	0.0	25.4	74.6
410	Construction of houses of all types	45,620	5.2	97.1	2.9	0.0	7.2	92.8
454	Selling, maintaining and repairing motorbikes, automobiles, spare parts and auxiliary parts of motorbikes and automobiles	11,415	1.3	100.0	0.0	21.8	14.0	64.2

Code	Type of work	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
				Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
				%	%	%	%	%
471	Retail in department stores	31,563	3.6	47.2	52.8	44.5	9.6	45.9
472	Retail of food, beverages or tobacco, pipe tobacco in specialized stores	19,518	2.2	52.9	47.1	29.7	16.4	53.9
477	Retail of other commodities in specialized stores	20,275	2.3	19.9	80.1	11.8	8.1	80.1
561	Restaurants and mobile catering services	41,543	4.7	46.3	53.7	31.0	22.1	46.9
562	Provision of regular on-contract catering services and other related catering services	13,104	1.5	62.7	37.3	9.6	16.8	73.6
563	Beverage serving activities	17,197	1.9	37.6	62.4	38.4	21.0	40.6
963	Other uncategorized personal support services	17,672	2.0	59.2	40.8	15.5	9.2	75.3
<b>Total number in 24 types of work</b>		<b>883,203</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>48.3</b>
<b>Total number in 89 types of work</b>		<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>51.3</b>

## 4.6. Working time per week

An estimate from the survey results reveals that of 1,031,944 children in child labour, 352,385 children, accounting for 34.2 per cent, worked 40 hours per week or more. The length of this working time negatively affects children's health. Most of

these children worked 40 hours per week or more and belonged mainly to the 15-17 year age group (58.7 per cent). There is no significant difference in the working time of male and female children in child labour. Nonetheless, one should pay proper attention to the nearly 12 per cent of children in child labour working over 40 hours per week who were under 15 years of age.

► **Table 4.6.**

Children in child labour by working time per week

Working time per week	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
≤5 hours	111,380	10.8	9.7	12.4	17.3	8.0	3.6
5 - ≤ 20 hours	330,131	32.0	31.1	33.3	65.0	35.2	15.4
20 - ≤ 40 hours	218,966	21.2	20.6	22.2	13.5	37.2	20.3
> 40 hours	352,385	34.2	36.5	30.8	3.2	17.1	58.7
Not classified	19,082	1.8	2.1	1.3	1.0	2.5	2.0

## 4.7. Working conditions

### a) Working conditions

Most children in child labour worked in the informal economic sector as paid employees or as own-account workers, or they were household workers in their family business and production activities. They often worked in places which presented an unsafe environment and working conditions. The survey results indicate that 27.7

per cent of these children were in contact with dust, rubbish and smoke at their workplace; 11.5 per cent of them worked in places with high levels of vibration and strong movement; nearly 11 per cent were engaged in an extremely hot or cold work environment; and over 8 per cent were in contact with chemical substances when at work. Particularly, more than 3.2 per cent of them worked on construction sites and more than 3 per cent worked under water. These work places were often deemed unsafe for children.

► Table 4.7a.

Children in child labour by working environment

Working environment	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
Dust, rubbish, smoke	286,253	27.7	72.7	27.3	11.5	17.8	70.7
Gases, flammable and explosive substances	26,069	2.5	67.9	32.1	1.1	15.0	83.9
High level of vibration and strong movement	119,363	11.5	79.0	21.0	16.2	23.6	60.2
Extreme temperatures	111,927	10.8	73.7	26.3	19.3	0.0	80.7
Working under ground/in caves/tunnels	3,097	0.3	19.3	80.7	2.3	1.8	95.9
Working in high places (over 3 meters)	25,554	2.5	95.8	4.2	7.3	18.1	74.6
Working under water (ponds, lakes, ...) diving and offshore fishing	33,373	3.2	85.3	14.7	12.1	12.4	75.5
Too dark and too narrow work places	10,642	1.0	53.8	46.2	16.5	13.1	70.4
Contact with chemical substances (pesticides, glue,...)	82,860	8.0	59.4	40.6	80.0	0.0	20.0
Addictive substances (drug,...)	749	0.1	80.0	20.0	3.8	8.6	87.6
Working on construction sites	33,702	3.3	99.2	0.8	8.9	0.0	91.1
Working in smithies, medical metal casting workshops	6,765	0.7	96.7	3.3	14.9	0.0	85.1
Working in production workshops or running businesses on beverage/cigarettes	4,024	0.4	100.0	0.0	18.2	7.7	74.1
Others	10,266	1.0	71.0	29.0	15.5	18.6	65.9

### b) Lifting heavy objects and operating machines

A certain number of children had to lift heavy objects or operate machines and equipment for production during the working process. These factors seriously affect the physical development and safety of children involved in child labour.

An estimate from the survey results indicates that nearly 10.5 per cent of children in child labour had to lift heavy objects weighing 30 or more kilograms, and nearly 9.1 per cent of them had to operate production machines and equipment during their working process. However, most of these children belonged to the 15-17 year age group and at this age children are more physically mature and more aware of labour safety at work.

► **Table 4.7b.**

Lifting heavy objects and operating machines during the working process

Total			%		Sex		Age group		
					Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
					%	%	%	%	%
a. Lifting heavy objects									
< 8kg	14,081	1.5	60.3	39.7	38.4	31.8	29.8		
≥ 8kg	2,603	0.3	73.3	26.7	16.4	31.2	52.4		
≥ 10kg	11,775	1.1	75.7	24.3	34.8	20.8	44.4		
≥ 12kg	2,322	0.2	79.7	20.3	14.0	26.6	59.4		
≥ 15kg	8,858	0.9	25.5	74.5	27.3	44.5	28.2		
≥ 20kg	14,657	1.4	84.1	15.9	15.7	15.2	69.1		
≥ 25kg	11,696	1.1	73.7	26.3	0.0	22.6	77.4		
≥ 30kg	108,174	10.5	87.2	12.8	1.3	15.2	83.5		
b. Operating machines and equipment									
Yes	93,713	9.1	71.7	28.3	3.6	4.1	92.3		
No	936,181	90.7	57.7	42.3	33.5	19.4	47.1		
Not classified	2,050	0.2	81.5	18.5	18.2	0.0	81.8		

## 4.8. Work locations

Children in child labour work in quite diverse locations. There were eight main locations where these children often work, namely their home (24.7 per cent); farms, fields and gardens (12.1 per cent);

construction sites (12.2 per cent); shop/kiosk/restaurants (over 4.8 per cent); mobile work places (over 8 per cent); and fixed work places on streets and markets (2 per cent). Particularly, nearly 1.7 per cent of them worked under water (ponds, streams, lakes and rivers).

► **Table 4.8.**

Children in child labour by work location

Work location	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
At children's home	255,236	24.7	21.1	30.0	32.0	22.3	21.3
Customers' houses	62,220	6.0	8.1	3.1	1.7	3.6	9.5
Office	7,009	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.6	1.1
Factories/ production workshops	125,757	12.2	13.0	11.1	0.6	6.8	21.0
Farms/ fields/ gardens	124,839	12.1	14.1	9.2	9.6	14.7	12.7
Construction sites	8,636	0.8	1.4	0.1	0.0	1.1	1.3
Shop/Kiosk/ Restaurants	49,902	4.8	4.9	4.8	2.0	3.5	7.0
Mobile work places	82,792	8.0	9.2	6.3	9.1	12.9	5.7
Fixed work places on streets or markets	21,785	2.1	1.6	2.9	0.8	2.8	2.7
Rivers/lakes/ lagoons	17,345	1.7	2.6	0.3	1.0	1.6	2.1
Others	13,004	1.3	1.8	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.9
Not classified	263,419	25.6	21.5	31.0	42.5	29.6	13.7

## 4.9. Status in employment

Compared to working children, the pattern of status in employment of children in child labour differed quite significantly. Particularly, the relative share of paid children was higher, and the

proportion of these children working as household workers was much lower. Of the 1,031,944 children, 31.8 per cent worked as paid workers and 40.5 per cent as household workers. 81.5 per cent aged 15-17 years worked as paid workers and over 66.2 per cent of them were boys.

► **Table 4.9.**

Children in child labour by status in employment

Status in employment	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>51.2</b>
Business owners	1,865	0.2	94.6	5.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Own-account workers	25,282	2.5	49.5	50.5	11.5	18.2	70.3
Unpaid family workers	418,014	40.5	59.3	40.7	41.0	18.6	40.4
Paid workers	327,624	31.8	66.2	33.8	3.5	15.0	81.5
Not classified	259,159	25.0	50.0	50.0	50.8	20.9	28.3

## 4.10. The age at which children in child labour start to work

Although the age at which children in child labour start to work is higher than for working children, the difference is not very significant. The survey finds that of 1,031,944 children involved in child

labour, 53.4 per cent started to work at the age of 12 or more. However, 10.3 per cent of them started to work at the age of less than 10 years, and 3.5 per cent started to work at the age of 5-7 years, which is very young to start working because it often negatively affects children's health and their participation in education.

► **Table 4.10.**

The age at which children in child labour start to work

Age	Total	%	By sex			
			Male		Female	
			Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>608,786</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>423,158</b>	<b>100.0</b>
5 years	1,336	0.1	350	0.1	986	0.2
6 years	5,715	0.6	3,277	0.5	2,438	0.6
7 years	28,356	2.8	10,311	1.7	18,045	4.3
8 years	31,216	3.0	17,949	3.0	13,267	3.1
9 years	39,238	3.8	24,208	4.0	15,030	3.6
10 years	71,027	6.9	30,392	5.0	40,635	9.6
11 years	63,077	6.1	38,097	6.3	24,980	5.9



Age	Total	%	By sex			
			Male		Female	
			Number	%	Number	%
12 years	77,592	7.5	44,503	7.3	33,089	7.8
13 years	63,868	6.2	37,585	6.2	26,283	6.2
14 years	123,368	12.0	81,271	13.4	42,097	10.0
15 years	141,580	13.7	102,587	16.9	38,993	9.2
16 years	101,750	9.9	71,710	11.8	30,040	7.1
17 years	42,093	4.1	25,615	4.2	16,478	3.9
Not classified	241,728	23.3	120,931	19.9	120,797	28.6

## 4.11. Income

Similar to working children, the majority of children in child labour had difficulties in estimating their average monthly income. The survey results show that nearly 71.3 per cent of them could not estimate

their average monthly income in the previous 12 months. However, based on the average monthly income of those who could estimate, the most frequent income of these children came to 2.5 million VND (US\$108) per month, and more. This income was mostly estimated by children aged 15-17 years.

► **Table 4.11.**

Children in child labour by monthly income

Monthly income (1,000 VND)	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Number of children in child labour</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>51.2</b>
<b>Number of paid children in child labour</b>	<b>296,534</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>81.5</b>
<500	5,533	1.8	57.3	42.7	7.3	53.8	38.9
500 - <1.500	46,815	15.8	63.2	36.8	13.5	19.6	66.9
1.500 - < 2.500	32,423	10.9	76.5	23.5	0.0	47.4	52.6
2.500 - < 3.500	78,158	26.4	57.8	42.2	0.0	16.4	83.6
3.500 - < 4.500	63,417	21.4	72.9	27.1	0.0	3.5	96.5
≥ 4.500	70,188	23.7	74.9	25.1	0.0	2.7	97.3

## 4.12. Health and safety related issues of children in child labour

During the working process, children in child labour often have to face occupational health and safety issues. Each child may experience one or more of the risks or injuries that affect their health. Common risks and accidents include skin or open wounds; dislocations, sprains, bruises;

respiratory diseases, skin and eye related diseases. An estimated 13.3 per cent of these children have experienced skin or open wounds; dislocations, sprains, bruises (over 4 per cent). The majority of those who encountered risks and accidents during the working process belonged to the 15-17 year age group of boys ; but skin and intestinal diseases occurred with greater frequency among younger children, particularly those belonging to the 5-12 year age group.

► **Table 4.12.**

Children in child labour by health and safety related issues

Type of health and safety issue	Total	Per cent of children in child labour affected	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
Skin or open wounds	137,981	13.3	73.2	26.8	16.9	18.2	64.9
Dislocations, sprains, bruises	43,647	4.2	69.6	30.4	13.3	13.5	73.2
Burns by fire or water, swelling	10,077	1.0	46.1	53.9	13.1	27.7	59.2
Respiratory diseases	24,287	2.4	53.8	46.2	7.1	29.0	63.9
Eye diseases	7,952	0.8	67.3	32.7	4.6	21.8	73.6
Skin diseases	28,370	2.7	62.2	37.8	24.6	13.4	62.0
Intestinal diseases	8,303	0.8	55.5	44.5	16.9	18.2	64.9
Others	10,844	1.1	49.2	50.8	13.3	13.5	73.2





## ► Children in hazardous work

### 5.1. Percentage and distribution of children in hazardous work

Nationwide, 519,805 children in child labour aged 5-17 years are involved in hazardous work, accounting for 2.7 per cent of the child population of that age. This includes 29.6 per cent of working children aged 5-17 years and nearly 50.4 per cent of children in child labour, of which, nearly 67.2 per cent were boys and nearly 32.8 per cent were girls. Almost 71 per cent of the children in hazardous work belonged to the 15-17 year age group.

Over 81.7 per cent of these children lived in rural areas. The share of the total number of working children living in rural areas was 28.5 per cent, which was lower than the corresponding share for urban areas. Similarly, the share of children in child labour in rural areas was 48.8 per cent, which was lower than the corresponding rate in urban areas (58.8 per cent). The numbers below indicate the seriousness of children in hazardous work in urban areas, although in urban areas, the proportion of children participating in economic activity is only about one fifth in rural areas. However, the proportion of children in child labour and children in hazardous work of the total number of children participating in economic activities in urban areas is higher than in rural areas.

► Table 5.1a.

Children in hazardous work by geographical area

Area	Total	Children population (5-17 years)	Working children	Children in child labour	Children in hazardous work				
					Sex		Age group		
					Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	519,805	2.7	29.6	50.4	67.2	32.8	11.6	17.6	70.8
Urban	94,994	1.4	36.2	58.8	61.1	38.9	10.0	18.4	71.6
Rural	424,811	3.3	28.5	48.8	68.5	31.5	11.9	17.4	70.7

The survey estimated that 47 per cent of children in hazardous work were paid workers: 5 per cent were engaging in work for self-production and self-consumption; while 43 per cent were household

workers. Therefore, most these children were mainly working in their own homes and engaging in the business and production process of their families.

► **Table 5.1b.**

Children in hazardous work by type of work

Type of work	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>70.8</b>
Paid workers	244,151	47.0	73.7	26.3	2.0	12.3	85.7
Self-production self-consumption	25,948	5.0	59.0	41.0	4.2	40.0	55.8
Household workers and other forms	223,331	43.0	62.3	37.7	12.7	30.1	57.2
Not classified	26,375	5.0	56.6	43.4	10.3	27.0	62.7

## 5.2. School attendance

Compared with working children and children in child labour, the proportion of children in hazardous work while attending school was significantly lower. Of 519,805 such children, only around 38.6 per cent were attending school; 60 per cent dropped out of school; and 1.4 per cent had never attended school.

In general, school attendance of boys in hazardous work is lower than their female counterparts doing similar work. Moreover, the dropout rate rises within higher age-groups for children in hazardous work. The percentage of these children who were

not attending school in the 5-12 year age group was 20 per cent, but in the older age groups, the corresponding rate increased sharply to nearly 34.7 per cent (13-14 year age group) and 72.8 per cent (15-17 year age group).

These numbers show the negative impact of labour involvement on children's participation in education. When children were engaged in economic activities for long working hours under unsafe working conditions as well as in hazardous work, they were more likely to drop out of school. This could affect children's possibilities to access full general education and the chance to get decent work in the future.

► **Table 5.2.**

Children in hazardous work by school attendance

School attendance	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	200,550	38.6	32.7	50.6	77.5	63.6	26.0
Out of school	311,881	60.0	66.2	47.2	20.0	34.7	72.8
Never gone to school	7,374	1.4	1.1	2.1	2.5	1.7	1.2

### 5.3. Causes for children in hazardous work's participation in economic activities

The reasons that cause children in child labour to engage in hazardous work while participating in economic activities were quite similar to those

of working children and children in child labour. However, children doing this type of hazardous work (39.6 per cent) tend mostly to work in order to generate income for their families. This is most evident in the group of children aged 15-17 years in which 44.7 per cent worked for the purpose of income generation.

► **Table 5.3.**

Causes for participation in economic activities by children in hazardous work

Causes	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Income generation for oneself	64,996	12.5	13.1	11.4	4.8	2.3	16.3
Income generation for family	140,925	27.1	26.6	28.1	18.0	27.9	28.4
Desire for involvement in household's production and business process	148,479	28.6	27.1	31.5	61.3	38.0	20.9
Desire for apprenticeship	26,261	5.1	5.7	3.8	0.0	0.8	6.9
Non-school attendance	37,547	7.2	9.4	2.7	2.3	3.5	9.0
Others	7,457	1.4	1.3	1.8	0.0	0.5	1.9
Not classified	94,140	18.1	16.8	20.7	13.6	27.0	16.6

### 5.4. Economic sectors

Similarly to working children and children in child labour, children in hazardous work were found working in all three economic sectors; however, they were more concentrated in the industry and construction sector and showed a lower participation rate in the agriculture sector. The rate of children engaged in hazardous work in the

industry and construction sector was, respectively, 43.5 per cent, 1.8 times and 2.8 times higher than that of children in child labour and working children working in the same sector. At the same time, the proportion of children in hazardous work was lower in the agriculture sector and stood at 35.1 per cent, about 1.5 times lower than the corresponding rate of children in child labour and nearly 1.7 times higher than working children in the agriculture sector.

► **Table 5.4.**

Children in hazardous work by economic sector

Economic sector	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>70.8</b>
Agriculture	182,618	35.1	70.9	29.1	11.7	21.8	66.5
Industry - Construction	226,198	43.5	66.3	33.7	9.6	13.3	77.1
Services	108,463	20.9	63.3	36.7	16.1	17.5	66.4
Not classified	2,526	0.5	39.3	60.7	0.0	96.0	4.0

## 5.5. Types of work

The survey results indicate 84 specific types of work that children in hazardous work participated in, of which 25 types attracted 79.3 percent of the total number of these children .

Of the 25 types of work where children in hazardous work were engaged, six of them were in the agriculture sector, attracting up to 41.2 per cent of these children; 12 jobs were in the industry and construction sectors, attracting 42.6 per cent; the remaining seven jobs were in the service sectors, attracting 16.2 per cent of these children.

► **Table 5.5a.**

Children in hazardous work by type of work

Code	Type of work	Number	%	Sex		Age group		
				Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
				%	%	%	%	%
11	Growing of annual crops	64,515	15.6	69.4	30.6	8.6	21.2	70.2
12	Growing of fruit trees	30,563	7.4	80.4	19.6	7.1	15.7	77.2
14	Animal raising	39,773	9.6	60.9	39.1	20.9	23.1	56.0
23	Gathering non-wood products and others from forests	8,430	2.0	61.1	38.9	15.9	19.8	64.3
31	Fishing	12,055	2.9	90.9	9.1	17.6	14.0	68.4
32	Aquaculture	14,596	3.5	86.4	13.6	10.6	26.3	63.1
107	Production of other food	6,137	1.5	57.0	43.0	36.5	38.4	25.1
139	Production of other textiles	9,032	2.2	24.5	75.5	14.6	42.9	42.5
141	Production of garments (except for the clothes made from leathers and skin of animals)	42,801	10.4	62.1	37.9	6.3	10.7	83.0
152	Production of footwear	6,156	1.5	23.2	76.8	0.0	10.5	89.5



Code	Type of work	Number	%	Sex		Age group		
				Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
				%	%	%	%	%
162	Production of wood, bamboo, rattan products (except for beds, wardrobes, tables, chairs); production of straw products	11,776	2.9	63.1	36.9	14.3	16.5	69.2
170	Production of papers and paper-related products	15,861	3.8	36.2	63.8	59.1	1.0	39.9
222	Production of plastic products	5,719	1.4	70.6	29.4	0.0	6.5	93.5
239	Producing of unclassified non-metal mineral products	5,054	1.2	37.0	63.0	16.5	46.5	37.0
251	Production of metal components, barrels, tanks and boilers	6,760	1.6	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
310	Production of beds, wardrobes, tables and chairs	15,822	3.8	86.9	13.1	0.0	25.4	74.6
331	Repair and maintenance of prefabricated metal machines, equipment and products	4,729	1.1	91.7	8.3	0.0	8.0	92.0
410	Construction of houses of all types	45,620	11.1	97.0	3.0	0.0	7.2	92.8
471	Retail in department stores	12,571	3.0	50.3	49.7	12.7	17.3	70.0
472	Retail of food, beverages or tobacco, pipe tobacco in specialized stores	11,607	2.8	54.0	46.0	16.6	17.7	65.7
475	Retail of other home appliance in specialized stores	4,789	1.2	70.4	29.6	18.7	5.3	76.0
478	Mobile retail or retail at local markets	4,364	1.1	69.6	30.4	31.6	28.3	40.1
561	Restaurants and mobile catering services	14,648	3.6	46.7	53.3	14.5	29.7	55.8
562	Provision of irregular on-contract catering services and other catering services	7,464	1.8	54.2	45.8	7.6	14.4	78.0
963	Other uncategorized personal support services	11,514	2.8	58.7	41.3	23.7	14.2	62.1
<b>Total number in 25 types of work</b>		<b>412,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>70.4</b>
<b>Total number in 84 types of work</b>		<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>70.8</b>

Of the 16 types of work involving many children in economic activities, children in child labour and children in hazardous work, three of them attracted the highest total number of working children including children in child labour and children in hazardous work. These types of work

belong to the industry and construction sector, namely "Construction of houses of all types", "Production of beds, wardrobes, tables and chairs", and "Production of garments (except for the clothes made from leathers and skin of animals)".

► **Table 5.5b.**

Types of work involving children in economic activities, children in child labour and children in hazardous work

Code	Type of work	Working children	Children in child labour		Children in hazardous work	
		Number	Number	Percentage of working children	Number	Percentage of working children
11	Growing of annual crops	309,565	164,834	53.2	64,515	20.8
12	Growing of fruit trees	165,076	82,263	49.8	30,563	18.5
14	Animal raising	437,093	219,562	50.2	39,773	9.1
23	Gathering non-wood products and others from forests	26,262	13,539	51.6	8,430	32.1
31	Fishing	21,755	16,154	74.3	12,055	55.4
32	Aquaculture	28,139	17,563	62.4	14,596	51.9
107	Production of other food	20,350	10,505	51.6	6,137	30.2
141	Production of garments (except for the clothes made from leathers and skin of animals)	48,307	44,597	92.3	42,801	88.6
170	Production of papers and paper-related products	19,330	15,861	82.1	15,861	82.1
310	Production of beds, wardrobes, tables and chairs	17,412	15,822	90.9	15,822	90.9
410	Construction of houses of all types	45,620	45,620	100.0	45,620	100.0
471	Retail in department stores	87,162	31,563	36.2	12,571	14.4
472	Retail of food, beverages or tobacco, pipe tobacco in specialized stores	44,841	19,518	43.5	11,607	25.9
561	Restaurants and mobile catering services	83,628	41,543	49.7	14,648	17.5
562	Provision of irregular on-contract catering services and other catering services	15,519	13,104	84.4	7,464	48.1
963	Other uncategorized personal support services	19,946	17,672	88.6	11,514	57.7
<b>Total number in 16 types of work</b>		<b>1,390,005</b>	<b>753,859</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>353,977</b>	<b>25.5</b>

## 5.6. Working time per week

Of 519,805 children in hazardous work, 210,990, accounting for nearly 40.6 per cent of the total number of these children worked for 40 hours or more per week. Long hours of work are often likely to have a negative impact on children's physical and

mental health, and are thus considered a type of hazardous work. Most of these children worked for 40 hours per week and over and belonged to the 13-14 and 15-17 year age groups. The rate of male children in hazardous work working for 40 hours per week or more was 1.3 times higher than the corresponding rate of their female counterparts.

► Table 5.6.

Children in hazardous work by working time per week

Working time per week	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
≤ 5 hours	52,791	10.2	9.5	11.4	21.5	13.1	5.2
5 - ≤ 20 hours	140,204	27.0	22.8	35.6	58.8	44.6	19.8
20 - ≤ 40 hours	102,464	19.7	20.9	17.3	17.8	22.9	19.2
> 40 hours	210,990	40.6	44.1	33.4	1.9	14.3	53.5
Not classified	13,356	2.6	2.7	2.3	0.0	5.2	2.3

## 5.7. Working conditions

### a) Working environment

Compared to working children and children in child labour, children in hazardous work were more likely to be in contact with harmful factors and/ or working environments which are unsafe for children. The survey results indicate that 36.4 per cent of these children worked in contact with

dust, rubbish, and smoke; 21.8 per cent worked in conditions with high levels of vibration and strong movement; nearly 13.9 per cent worked in extremely hot or cold work places; nearly 13.7 per cent were in contact with chemical substances. In addition, more than 6.2 per cent of these children worked on construction sites; nearly 5.6 per cent worked under water; and nearly 4.7 per cent worked in places that were high, over 3 meters, etc. These work places are often regarded as dangerous for children.

► **Table 5.7a.**

Children in hazardous work by working environment

Working environment	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
Dust, rubbish, smoke	189,482	36.4	81.9	18.1	3.1	16.6	80.3
Gases, flammable and exposable substances	18,731	3.6	62.8	37.2	9.6	16.3	74.1
High level of vibration and strong movement	113,450	21.8	80.9	19.1	0.5	13.9	85.6
Extreme temperatures	72,360	13.9	82.5	17.5	6.9	19.0	74.1
Working under ground/in caves/tunnels	2,498	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Working in high places (over 3 meters)	24,260	4.7	95.6	4.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Working under water (ponds, lakes, ...) diving and offshore fishing	28,918	5.6	87.0	13.0	4.0	17.0	79.0
Too dark and too narrow work places	7,420	1.4	43.0	57.0	0.0	8.5	91.5
Contact with chemical substances (pesticides, glue, etc.)	71,033	13.7	61.4	38.6	15.9	13.6	70.5
Addictive substances (drug, etc.)	150	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Working on construction sites	32,418	6.2	99.2	0.8	0.0	8.9	91.1
Working in smithies, medical metal casting workshops	6,165	1.2	96.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	100.0
Working in production workshops or running businesses on beverage/cigarettes	2,443	0.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Others	2,357	0.5	78.9	21.1	0.0	17.8	82.2

**b) Lifting heavy objects and operating machines**

During the working process, some children in child labour had to lift heavy objects or operate machines and equipment for production. These factors seriously affect their physical development and safety and are considered heavy, dangerous and hazardous work.

The survey results estimate that nearly 21 per cent of children in hazardous work had to lift heavy

objects of 30 kilograms and over, while more than 18 per cent of them had to operate production machines and equipment during their working process. Although most of these children belonged to the 15-17 year age group, nearly 15.2 per cent belonged to the 13-14 year age group and nearly 28.3 per cent of the children doing such work were female. These are concerns that need to be addressed in order to ensure the safety of child workers and their full development.

► **Table 5.7b.**

Lifting heavy objects and operating machines during the working process

Total		%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
a. Lifting heavy objects							
< 8kg	11,301	2.2	75.1	24.9	47.8	39.7	12.5
≥ 8kg	2,603	0.5	73.3	26.7	16.4	31.2	52.4
≥ 10kg	10,924	2.1	76.2	23.8	37.4	22.5	40.1
≥ 12kg	2,322	0.5	79.7	20.3	14.0	26.6	59.4
≥ 15kg	8,858	1.7	25.5	74.5	27.3	44.5	28.2
≥ 20kg	12,725	2.5	81.7	18.3	18.0	17.6	64.4
≥ 25kg	10,729	2.1	71.3	28.7	0.0	24.7	75.3
≥ 30kg	108,174	20.8	87.2	12.8	1.3	15.2	83.5
b. Operating machines and equipment							
Yes	93,713	18.0	71.7	28.3	3.6	4.1	92.3
No	425,341	81.8	66.2	33.8	13.3	20.6	66.1
Not classified	752	0.1	49.7	50.3	49.7	0.0	50.3

## 5.8. Work locations

The work places of children in hazardous work are similar to those of working children and children in child labour. Nonetheless, the concentration of children in hazardous work in certain locations

was quite different. Compared to children in child labour, an increased proportion of the children in hazardous work were found working at their customers' homes, factories, workshops, or construction sites. These work places presented working conditions and environments which were inappropriate for children.

► **Table 5.8a.**

Children in hazardous work by work location

Work location	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
At children's homes	141,351	27.2	21.0	39.8	55.2	32.6	21.3
Customers' houses	44,266	8.5	12.0	1.4	2.7	4.6	10.4
Office	3,986	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	1.2	0.8

Work location	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
Factories/production workshops	125,757	24.2	22.6	27.4	3.0	13.9	30.2
Farms/fields/gardens	56,153	10.8	12.5	7.4	9.9	11.1	10.9
Construction sites	8,636	1.7	2.4	0.2	0.0	2.2	1.8
Shop/Kiosk/Restaurants	18,796	3.6	4.2	2.5	6.5	1.9	3.6
Mobile work places	31,058	6.0	6.7	4.5	3.5	9.5	5.5
Fixed work places on streets or markets	10,943	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.6	1.9
Rivers/lakes/lagoons	17,345	3.3	4.6	0.8	5.1	3.2	3.1
Others	10,157	2.0	2.6	0.7	2.3	0.2	2.3
Not classified	51,357	9.9	8.7	12.3	9.3	17.0	8.2

The three work places where children were most at risk of child labour and hazardous work were: “Factories/production workshops”, “Construction sites” and “Rivers/lakes/lagoons”. Overall, the

survey found that 100 per cent of the total number of children working in these three workplaces were in hazardous work.

► **Table 5.8b.**

Work locations of working children, children in child labour and children in hazardous work

Work location	Working children	Children in child labour		Children in hazardous work	
		Number	Percentage of working children	Number	Percentage of working children
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754,066</b>	<b>1,031,944</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>29.6</b>
At children's homes	588,992	255,236	43.3	141,351	24.0
Customers' houses	69,833	62,220	89.1	44,266	63.4
Office	7,009	7,009	100.0	3,986	56.9
Factories/production workshops	125,757	125,757	100.0	125,757	100.0
Farms/fields/gardens	235,337	124,839	53.0	56,153	23.9
Construction sites	8,636	8,636	100.0	8,636	100.0
Shop/Kiosk/Restaurants	69,281	49,902	72.0	18,796	27.1
Mobile work places	118,886	82,792	69.6	31,058	26.1
Fixed work places on streets or markets	33,010	21,785	66.0	10,943	33.2
Rivers/lakes/lagoons	17,345	17,345	100.0	17,345	100.0
Others	20,034	13,004	64.9	10,157	50.7
Not classified	459,946	263,419	57.3	51,357	11.2

## 5.9. Status in employment

Compared to working children and children in child labour, the employment status of children in hazardous work changed significantly, especially among the household workers group. Of 519,805

children in hazardous work, 47 per cent worked as paid workers and 40 per cent as household workers. More than 85.7 per cent working as paid workers belonged to the 15-17 year age group and over 73.6 per cent of them were boys.

► Table 5.9.

Children in hazardous work by status in employment

Status in employment	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>70.8</b>
Business owners	1,865	0.4	94.6	5.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Own-account workers	14,046	2.7	47.7	52.3	0.0	25.7	74.3
Unpaid family workers	207,420	39.9	63.0	37.0	22.8	21.5	55.7
Paid workers	244,151	47.0	73.7	26.3	2.6	11.7	85.7
Not classified	52,323	10.0	57.8	42.2	12.5	28.2	59.3

## 5.10. The age at which children in hazardous work start to work

The age at which children in hazardous work start to work is higher than that of working children and children in child labour. Of 519,805 children in hazardous work, 59.3 per cent started to work at

the age of 14 years and over, and 16.2 per cent started to work at the age of 12 to 13 years old. 6.6 per cent started to work when they were younger than the age of 10. This compares with respective rates of 8 per cent for working children, and of 10.2 per cent for children in child labour of that age. It is important to note that over 2 per cent of children in hazardous work started to work when they were 5-7 years old, which is too young to start to work.

► Table 5.10.

The age at which children in hazardous work start to work

Age	Total	%	By sex			
			Male		Female	
			Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>349,208</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>170,597</b>	<b>100.0</b>
5 years	350	0.1	350	0.1	0	0.0
6 years	1,372	0.3	122	0.0	1,250	0.7
7 years	8,796	1.7	1,495	0.4	7,301	4.3
8 years	11,009	2.1	6,523	1.9	4,486	2.6
9 years	12,443	2.4	4,891	1.4	7,552	4.4

Age	Total	%	By sex			
			Male		Female	
			Number	%	Number	%
10 years	24,298	4.7	11,599	3.3	12,699	7.4
11 years	28,302	5.4	20,630	5.9	7,672	4.5
12 years	46,502	9.0	25,211	7.2	21,291	12.5
13 years	37,545	7.2	24,306	7.0	13,239	7.8
14 years	87,989	16.9	65,146	18.7	22,843	13.4
15 years	106,126	20.4	83,959	24.0	22,167	13.0
16 years	78,542	15.1	57,882	16.6	20,660	12.1
17 years	35,716	6.9	24,490	7.0	11,226	6.6
Not classified	40,815	7.9	22,604	6.5	18,211	10.7

## 5.11. Income

Compared to working children and children in child labour, children in hazardous work had a higher

level of income. Estimates from the survey indicate that 49.6 per cent of these paid children had an average monthly income amounting to 3.5 million VND (US\$151) per month and more.

### ► Table 5.11.

Children in hazardous work by monthly income

Monthly income (1,000 VND)	Total	%	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total number of children in hazardous work</b>	<b>519,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>70.8</b>
<b>Total number of children in hazardous work paid</b>	<b>222,573</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>85.7</b>
<500	3,178	1.5	72.6	27.4	0.0	40.6	59.4
500 - <1.500	35,701	16.0	73.2	26.8	13.3	8.5	78.2
1.500 - < 2.500	18,938	8.5	89.9	10.1	0.0	41.1	58.9
2.500 - < 3.500	54,244	24.4	68.5	31.5	0.0	13.9	86.1
3.500 - < 4.500	48,604	21.8	81.1	18.9	0.0	3.3	96.7
≥ 4.500	61,908	27.8	71.5	28.5	0.0	2.5	97.5



## 5.12. Health and safety related issues of children in hazardous work

During the working process, children in hazardous work faced more occupational health and safety issues than working children and children in child labour. It should be noted that every child who works may experience one or more of the risks or injuries that affect their health. In this survey, the results indicate that common risks and accidents faced by these children include skin

related wounds and open wounds; dislocations, sprains, bruises; respiratory related diseases; and skin and eye related diseases. Up to 18 per cent of children in hazardous work suffered from skin related wounds or open wounds; 5.9 per cent experienced dislocations, sprains or bruises due to falling or bumping; over 3 per cent got respiratory diseases. The majority of those encountering risks and accidents during the working process belonged to the 15-17 year age group; however, skin and intestinal diseases occurred with greater frequency among younger children, particularly those of the 5-12 year age group.

► Table 5.12.

Children in hazardous work by health and safety related issues

Type of health and safety issues	Total	Per cent of the children affected	Sex		Age group		
			Male	Female	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years
			%	%	%	%	%
Skin or open wounds	93,106	17.9	79.5	20.5	5.3	16.8	77.9
Dislocations, sprains, bruises	30,486	5.9	84.0	16.0	1.0	15.0	84.0
Burns by fire or water, swelling	7,782	1.5	55.0	45.0	4.6	35.9	59.5
Respiratory diseases	15,879	3.1	48.3	51.7	4.0	22.3	73.7
Eye diseases	6,893	1.3	62.3	37.7	0.0	15.1	84.9
Skin diseases	18,429	3.6	69.0	31.0	8.6	8.2	83.2
Intestinal diseases	5,182	1.0	59.9	40.1	5.9	0.0	94.1
Others	5,778	1.1	44.3	55.7	9.4	51.9	38.7



## ► Profile of households comprising children aged 5-17 years

### 6.1. Size of household and household economic circumstances

It is estimated that nationwide, 12,740,594 households comprised members aged 5-17 years, of which, 4,190,036 lived in urban areas and 8,550,558 in rural areas. The average size of

a household was 4.4 persons with 1.5 persons of the age 5-17 years. Viet Nam's current poverty rate is 6.1 per cent, with the poverty rate in rural areas at 8.3 per cent, about 5.5 times higher than that in urban areas. This is also a major cause for the greater prevalence of children's participation in economic activities in rural areas than in urban areas.

► Table 6.1.

Size of household and household economic circumstances of households comprising children aged 5-17 years

Geographical code	Total number of households	Size of household		Economic situation		
		Average household size (person)	Average household size with children aged 5-17 years (person)	Poor households	Nearly poor households	Non-poor households
				%	%	%
<b>NATIONWIDE</b>	<b>12,740,594</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>89.6</b>
Red River Delta	2,768,534	4.4	1.5	1.1	1.3	97.6
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,841,505	4.5	1.5	18.9	8.6	72.5
North and South Central Coast	2,724,823	4.4	1.5	6.6	6.0	87.4
Central Highlands	838,474	4.5	1.7	12.4	9.6	78.0
Southeast	2,202,147	4.4	1.5	0.7	0.8	98.5
Mekong River Delta	2,365,111	4.3	1.4	3.9	4.0	92.1
<b>URBAN</b>	<b>4,190,036</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>97.0</b>
Red River Delta	1,106,614	4.5	1.5	0.5	0.6	98.9
Northern Midlands and Mountains	325,912	4.1	1.4	3.3	2.3	94.4
North and South Central Coast	729,292	4.4	1.5	2.9	3.3	93.8
Central Highlands	217,286	4.4	1.6	1.5	3.3	95.2
Southeast	1,278,134	4.4	1.4	0.6	0.3	99.1
Mekong River Delta	532,798	4.4	1.4	2.7	2.3	95.0

Geographical code	Total number of households	Size of household		Economic situation		
		Average household size (person)	Average household size with children aged 5-17 years (person)	Poor households	Nearly poor households	Non-poor households
				%	%	%
<b>RURAL</b>	<b>8,550,558</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>86.0</b>
Red River Delta	1,661,920	4.4	1.5	1.6	1.8	96.6
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,515,593	4.6	1.6	22.2	10.0	67.8
North and South Central Coast	1,995,531	4.4	1.5	8.0	7.0	85.0
Central Highlands	621,188	4.6	1.7	16.2	11.8	72.0
Southeast	924,013	4.3	1.5	0.9	1.5	97.6
Mekong River Delta	1,832,313	4.3	1.4	4.3	4.5	91.2

## 6.2. Economic sectors of involvement of the households

Of the total number of 12,740,594 households comprising persons aged 5-17 years, over 2 per cent were running small-scale handicraft businesses. These households had registered for traditional handicrafts and industrial handicrafts and were engaged in producing hand-made and fine-art goods.<sup>16</sup> In this survey, about 22.5 per cent of the households were engaged in several occupations at the same time, many engaged in at least two production and business activities. 14.8 per cent of the households were engaged in running businesses in the services sector which include small traders and/or services providers.

About 26.4 per cent were purely agricultural households which were only engaged in the production and business activities in the agriculture sector. The remaining, over 34 per cent, comprised other households that were not in the four groups mentioned above. These include households with members who were civil servants, officials, workers, or served in the armed forces, etc. The distribution of household types varies greatly between urban and rural areas. In urban areas, business households, those specializing in services provisions, multi-occupation households and other types of households were more prevalent. In contrast, in rural areas, households working in the agriculture - forestry - fisheries sector and multi-occupation households were more prevalent.

<sup>16</sup> Normally, the handicraft industry forms and develops over generations with its own typical products.

► Table 6.2.

Economic sectors of involvement of households comprising children aged 5-17 years

Geographical code	Total number of households	Economic field				
		Handicraft households	Multi-occupation households	Service business households	Agriculture - forestry - fisheries households	Others
		%	%	%	%	%
<b>NATIONWIDE</b>	<b>12,740,594</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>34.1</b>
Red River Delta	2,768,534	3.4	28.7	16.5	9.7	41.7
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,841,505	1.0	19.1	8.8	45.0	26.1
North and South Central Coast	2,724,823	1.9	23.7	15.2	31.3	27.9
Central Highlands	838,474	1.3	18.7	7.9	60.7	11.4
Southeast	2,202,147	3.2	23.2	18.2	7.2	48.2
Mekong River Delta	2,365,111	1.5	17.1	16.6	31.7	33.1
<b>URBAN</b>	<b>4,190,036</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>47.3</b>
Red River Delta	1,106,614	2.3	22.2	22.0	2.0	51.5
Northern Midlands and Mountains	325,912	1.6	15.5	20.4	9.6	52.9
North and South Central Coast	729,292	2.8	18.8	26.3	9.2	42.9
Central Highlands	217,286	0.9	20.8	19.1	35.1	24.1
Southeast	1,278,134	2.3	23.0	21.7	1.0	52.0
Mekong River Delta	532,798	2.1	22.1	25.1	11.6	39.1
<b>RURAL</b>	<b>8,550,558</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>27.6</b>
Red River Delta	1,661,920	4.1	33.0	12.8	14.9	35.2
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,515,593	0.8	19.9	6.3	52.6	20.4
North and South Central Coast	1,995,531	1.6	25.4	11.1	39.4	22.5
Central Highlands	621,188	1.5	18.0	4.0	69.6	6.9
Southeast	924,013	4.6	23.4	13.2	15.8	43.0
Mekong River Delta	1,832,313	1.2	15.7	14.1	37.6	31.4

### 6.3. Sources of income of households comprising children aged 5-17 years

The household's income is considered as the total income of all household members who contribute to it and is often managed by the head of the household. Most households have more than one source of income. The survey results show

that households with persons aged 5-17 years were involved in agriculture, forestry and fishery activities (50.2 per cent) and non-agriculture activities such as business, trade, and services (33.7 per cent). The percentage of households with other sources of income beyond those mentioned above was low, ranging from 2-7 per cent. These sources of income included asset leasing, individual supports or governmental supports.

► **Table 6.3.**

Sources of income of households comprising children aged 5-17 years

Geographical code	Total number of households	Sources of income						
		Income from wages and salaries	Agriculture - forestry - fisheries activities	Non-agriculture business activities	Asset leasing	Individual supports	Governmental supports	Others
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>NATIONWIDE</b>	<b>12,740,594</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Red River Delta	2,768,534	77.0	42.6	39.1	2.1	2.6	5.8	10.2
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,841,505	57.8	75.1	22.5	0.9	2.1	9.6	3.8
North and South Central Coast	2,724,823	70.5	60.1	33.8	0.9	3.5	10.0	6.5
Central Highlands	838,474	53.3	77.7	20.5	0.5	0.5	2.6	0.7
Southeast	2,202,147	75.1	15.0	40.2	2.9	3.1	3.2	6.4
Mekong River Delta	2,365,111	59.0	51.2	34.9	3.7	7.0	4.1	4.5
<b>URBAN</b>	<b>4,190,036</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>10.9</b>
Red River Delta	1,106,614	78.8	12.4	42.4	3.5	1.9	8.1	16.9
Northern Midlands and Mountains	325,912	74.8	24.0	39.4	2.1	1.4	8.5	9.0
North and South Central Coast	729,292	74.0	25.0	45.7	1.4	2.0	10.9	11.8
Central Highlands	217,286	56.4	54.9	34.4	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.9
Southeast	1,278,134	77.9	2.9	45.0	2.8	4.0	3.5	8.4
Mekong River Delta	532,798	63.1	21.2	51.1	5.2	5.8	5.0	8.7
<b>RURAL</b>	<b>8,550,558</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Red River Delta	1,661,920	75.9	62.7	36.8	1.1	3.1	4.3	5.7
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,515,593	54.2	86.1	18.9	0.6	2.2	9.8	2.7
North and South Central Coast	1,995,531	69.2	72.9	29.4	0.7	4.0	9.6	4.6
Central Highlands	621,188	52.2	85.6	15.6	0.5	0.6	3.1	0.6
Southeast	924,013	71.2	31.8	33.7	3.0	1.8	2.7	3.6
Mekong River Delta	1,832,313	57.8	59.9	30.2	3.2	7.4	3.8	3.2

## 6.4. Awareness and attitude to children's participation in economic activities

Awareness and attitudes of parents with regard to children's participation in economic activities is a very important factor which influences their position on whether to allow their children to work or not. It is also the most important factor preventing children from labour exploitation and abuses.

The survey estimated that 41.8 per cent of parents were aware that children were allowed to participate in some age-appropriate work which does not affect their health, education or recreation. Parents also considered children's participation in age-appropriate work as a

measure to help children become more aware of the meaning and role of work in life. Nonetheless, the survey results also indicate that about 57.1 per cent of the parents believed that children should not be allowed to participate in any sort of work, even that which may not affect the child's development. In particular, less than 1 per cent of parents thought that children could participate in all kinds of work regardless of the type of job, or were not aware of the issue of children being able to work or not.

Given their level of awareness, 67 per cent of parents decided not to allow their children to participate in economic activities; 17.4 per cent decided to let children participate in appropriate work; and 15.6 per cent said that they did not know how to make a decision at the time of the survey.

### ► Table 6.4.

Parents' awareness towards child labour and their intention of letting children participate in economic activities

Geographical code	Total number of households	Awareness toward children's participation in economic activities			Decision on letting children participate in economic activities			
		Not allowed to participate in any work	Can participate in some age-appropriate work	Can participate in all types of work	Do not know	Will let children participate	Will not let children participate	Do not know/ have not made any decision
<b>NATIONWIDE</b>	12,740,594	57.1	41.8	0.9	0.2	17.4	67.0	15.6
Red River Delta	2,768,534	60.7	38.5	0.6	0.2	12.3	73.7	14.0
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,841,505	45.2	53.6	0.8	0.4	25.6	55.3	19.1
North and South Central Coast	2,724,823	53.4	45.9	0.6	0.1	18.9	64.1	17.0
Central Highlands	838,474	48.0	50.6	1.3	0.1	29.4	55.2	15.4
Southeast	2,202,147	64.2	35.0	0.4	0.4	11.7	74.2	14.1
Mekong River Delta	2,365,111	63.1	34.9	1.8	0.2	16.4	68.9	14.7
<b>URBAN</b>	4,190,036	64.4	34.9	0.5	0.2	11.3	75.1	13.6
Red River Delta	1,106,614	65.9	33.9	0.1	0.1	7.7	79.5	12.8
Northern Midlands and Mountains	325,912	52.3	47.4	0.2	0.1	13.3	70.2	16.5
North and South Central Coast	729,292	62.0	37.1	0.7	0.2	15.5	67.7	16.8
Central Highlands	217,286	57.3	42.2	0.5	0.0	20.7	68.4	10.9
Southeast	1,278,134	67.5	31.8	0.5	0.2	9.3	79.0	11.7
Mekong River Delta	532,798	67.3	31.3	1.1	0.3	12.8	72.5	14.7
<b>RURAL</b>	8,550,558	53.6	45.1	1.0	0.3	20.4	63.0	16.6
Red River Delta	1,661,920	57.2	41.6	0.9	0.3	15.3	69.9	14.8

Geographical code	Total number of households	Awareness toward children's participation in economic activities			Decision on letting children participate in economic activities			
		Not allowed to participate in any work	Can participate in some age-appropriate work	Can participate in all types of work	Do not know	Will let children participate	Will not let children participate	Do not know/ have not made any decision
Northern Midlands and Mountains	1,515,593	43.6	54.9	0.9	0.6	28.3	52.1	19.6
North and South Central Coast	1,995,531	50.3	49.1	0.6	0.0	20.2	62.8	17.0
Central Highlands	621,188	44.8	53.6	1.5	0.1	32.4	50.6	17.0
Southeast	924,013	59.7	39.4	0.2	0.7	15.0	67.5	17.5
Mekong River Delta	1,832,313	61.9	36.0	2.0	0.1	17.4	67.9	14.7







# ► Conclusions and recommendations

## 7.1. Conclusions

1. The size of the population of working children and the accompanying trend show a positive change with the percentage of children aged 5-17 years classified as working children decreasing to 9.1 per cent in 2018 from 15.5 per cent in 2012. Nonetheless, in 2018, the proportion of working children doing hazardous work still reached 29.6 per cent and most of them are working in the industry, construction and service sectors.
2. In Viet Nam, child labour still exists and is prevalent in the informal sector, which is difficult to reach and address through law enforcement and interventions. Over 84 per cent of children in child labour lived in rural areas and over 43 per cent of them were involved in household work. Most of these children worked as unpaid workers in small scale production and business establishments in the informal sector, participating in supply chains by directly creating goods, products and services within small household enterprises.
3. The rate of children aged 5-17 years working in urban areas was low; however, once urban children participate in economic activities, most of them will become involved in child labour and, even worse, in hazardous work. This shows the severity of the child labour issue in urban areas and the necessity of applying the measures to eliminate child labour in hazardous work in urban areas as a priority.
4. The survey results indicate that households' economic conditions, poverty, and pressures on income generation are the major causes for children's participation in economic activities and child labour. Child labour is depriving children of educational and vocational training opportunities and puts them in the vicious circle of poverty and child labour.
5. The majority of working children are aged 15-17 years; however, more than 18 per cent of children in the 5-12 age group were still classified as children in child labour; these children are too young to participate in economic activities. Thus, essential measures need to be adopted as soon as possible to eliminate the involvement of children of this young age group in child labour.
6. The survey results indicate that children in child labour participated in 89 different jobs in all three economic sectors of the national economy, as well as in the production of many different types of goods and services. These children may be involved in the various stages/activities of a value chain because these can exist in small factories or households and are not necessarily detected by the corporations and big companies operating the supply chain and by state management agencies.
7. Awareness of and attitudes toward child labour are still limited and inconsistent among parents. This requires further awareness raising for households and parents to ensure that they make the right decision on allowing/disallowing their children to work. Moreover, awareness raising will help households and parents have a better understanding of the negative impact of child labour on child development and national interests. It will also contribute to the appreciation of the importance of complying with related laws and policies.
8. The criteria for working hours to determine child labour of the 2018 National Child Labour Survey applied the criteria according to the 2012 Labour Code, while the 2012 Survey applied them according to the 2007 Labour Code. However, the 2012 Labour Code Amendments to the 2007 Labour Code regarding these criteria<sup>17</sup> should make a difference to those applied for measuring child labour between the two surveys. Therefore, it is not possible to assess the change in the child labour situation between the two surveys.

17 The 2012 Labour Code, Article 163 states "The working hours of minor employees from 15 full years of age to fewer than 18 years of age shall not exceed 08 hours in 01 day and 40 hours in 01 week. The working hours of minor employees less than 15 years of age shall not exceed 04 hours in 01 day and 20 hours in 01 week".

The 2007 Labour Code, Article 122 states "The normal working hours of a junior worker shall not exceed 7 hours per day or 42 hours per week".

## 7.2. Policy recommendations

Child labour is covered by Viet Nam's legislation and the country has made commitments to eliminate child labour in the international arena; however, child labour still exists in Viet Nam. From a policy perspective, the following recommendations are made:

1. Although, the issue of child labour has been concerned by the Party and State and concretized by the State's legal documents; however, it is necessary to continue to further refine the national legal system regulating child labour to make it relevant to national conditions and international legal regulations in the field of labour, forced labour and child labour; promote the implementation of child labour legislation, strengthen sanctions against violations related to the use of children in child labour in contravention of laws, especially as regards children under the age of 13 years.
2. Facilitate the application of various measures to support children in child labour in accessing general education and vocational education through government implementation of education support policies (policies on tuition fee exemption and reduction, subsidies for textbooks, books and school supplies, etc.).
3. Review the jobs in the agriculture sector where children work in order to identify and update the relevant list of hazardous work according to ILO Convention No. 138; develop and sustain a child labour monitoring system; develop a plan to support families living in disadvantaged circumstances. This plan can be integrated into the new national and grassroots socio-economic development programmes, the programmes on poverty reduction and new rural development to ensure that the families with children aged 5-17 years are supported to develop their own production and business activities and generate higher income. Once the living standards of households are improved, the proportion of children in child labour in the agriculture sector will decrease and the number of children continuing their school attendance will increase.
4. Implement livelihood support for poor and near-poor households with child labour; at the same time, organizing vocational guidance suitable for children in these households.
5. Strengthen the role and responsibility of businesses in eliminating child labour through measures such as establishing operational rules and organizing national forums on child labour, and getting enterprises to share information and identify challenges and successes; develop a Code of Conduct on the prevention and reduction of child labour; promote Viet Nam's compliance with international labour standards through signing new-generation Free Trade Agreements and national commitments with various countries and stakeholders.
6. Strengthen the implementation of the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1023/ QD-TTg dated June 7th 2016 approving the Scheme for the prevention and reduction of child labour in the 2016-2020 period and the upcoming Scheme for the prevention and reduction of child labour for the period 2021 to 2025.
7. Further develop and implement national programmes on child protection with a focus on: (1) developing child protection systems at three levels (prevention, interventions and support); (2) forming and maintaining a group of commune-level child protection officers in accordance with Decree No. 56/2017/ ND-CP dated May 9th 2017 which details a number of articles in the Law on Children.
8. Develop and implement a communication strategy on child labour to attract the attention of the entire society to the issue. Priority must be given to the parents of children, the education sector and the agriculture sector, with particular emphasis on communication, on international standards related to child labour, and prevention of child labour from entering the supply chain.
9. Strengthen the capacity of the Inspectorate Department of the Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs sector, step up inspection and examination, especially in the informal sector.
10. Overall, the best practice is to mobilize the participation and maximize the role of stakeholders with a specialized agency taking on a leading role to eliminate child labour. Therefore, it is necessary to develop mechanisms to mobilize the participation of stakeholders and strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation, particularly the coordination between MoLISA, programmes of education and training, the police, socio-political organizations, and enterprises at the national, provincial, district and community levels.

## ► References

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### Laws and policies on child labour of Viet Nam

- ▶ Directive No. 20/CT-TW dated November 5th 2012 of the Politburo on strengthening the leadership of grassroots party committees in the work of child protection, care and education in the next context
- ▶ Amended Labour Code 2012
- ▶ Civil Code 2015
- ▶ Criminal Code 2015
- ▶ Law on Children 2016
- ▶ Law on Marriage and Family 2019
- ▶ Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control 2007
- ▶ Decision No. 2361/QĐ-TTg dated December 22th 2015 of the Prime Minister approving the Program of Child Protection for the 2006-2020 period
- ▶ Decision No. 1023/QĐ-TTg dated June 7th 2016 of the Prime Minister approving the Program on Prevention and Reduction of child labour for the 2016-2020 period
- ▶ Circular No. 10/2013/TT-BLĐTBXH dated June 10th 2013 promulgating the list of occupations and conditions allowing the employment of children under 15 years of age
- ▶ Circular No. 11/2013/TT-BLĐTBXH dated June 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 of the Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs detailing a list of light work that the persons under 15 years of age can do

### International treaties and conventions

- ▶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990
- ▶ ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.) and the Minimum Age Recommendation, 1973 (No. 146)
- ▶ ILO Worst Forms of Child labour, 1999 Convention (No. 182) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 (No. 190)
- ▶ ILO Resolution No. 2 concerning statistics of child labour, December 5th 2008
- ▶ ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and the Domestic Workers Recommendation, 2011 (No. 201)

### Reports

- ▶ MoLISA. 2015. Viet Nam National Child labour Survey 2012 Report, Hanoi.
- ▶ ILO. 2017. Global Estimates of Child labour: Results and trends, 2012-2016, Geneva.





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