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# LABSTAT

## Updates

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## WORKING CHILDREN IN OUR MIDST

(Third of a Three-Part Series)

A **child** is an individual below 18 years of age. This definition is contained in the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999). It is also stated in the 1992 Republic Act 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) that was amended in 2003 by R.A. 9231 (An Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Stronger Protection for the Working Child). On the other hand, the 1997 UNESCO International Standard Classification of Education states that the customary or legal age of entrance to primary schooling is not younger than five years. Taking into consideration these international perspectives and local laws, statistical inquiries on working children focus on those aged 5-17 years old.

There has been two nationwide surveys of children (1995 and 2001) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO). In both instances, these undertakings were provided assistance by the International Labour Organization-International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour. Starting with the October 2003 round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS), the NSO collected data on the economic characteristics of children 5 to 9 years old in addition to those 10 years old and over.

However, with the revisions in the LFS questionnaire beginning April 2005 survey round, only the inquiries on the industries and occupations of the working children 5-14 years old years were retained. (The country's labor force consists of persons at least 15 years old). However, a query on the schooling status of those 5-24 years old was added which was not asked in previous rounds of the LFS.

The data on working children are not part of the regular releases of the NSO and have to be sourced from the LFS public use files, the latest of which is for January 2005. These statistics are not **comparable** with those from the 1995 and 2001 Surveys of Children which used past 12 months as reference since the LFS uses a shorter reference period of past week.

Working children 5-17 years old worked 26 hours a week on the average and their normal working hours per day was seven. The average daily basic pay of children-employees was ₱101.92.

### Hours of work of children averaged 26 hours a week

While the normal working hours per day of the working<sup>1</sup> children was recorded at seven in January 2005, their average hours of work during the reference week was only 26 hours. (Table 1)

Children in wage employment in private households worked the longest at

60 hours while the shortest duration of 17 hours was recorded for unpaid family workers. Since more than half of the working children were in unpaid family work, their number pulled down the average working hours although other workers had longer work duration than them.

<sup>1</sup> Work is defined in terms of economic activity which encompasses paid and unpaid work of children including illegal work, whether in the formal or informal sectors. It is distinct from child labor which needs to be eliminated as it deters the child from natural development and exposes him/her to hazardous work. Presently, there is no data series on child labor.

Although there were more working male children in private establishments and more females in private household wage employment, the females worked longer hours than the males in both workplaces. The male children worked 33 hours compared with the 41 hours of females in private establishments and 43 hours in private households against the 62 hours of the females.

On the other hand, male unpaid family workers worked a little longer at 19

hours than the 14 hours recorded for the female children.

Relative to the magnitudes of working children by number of hours worked during the week, 47.4 percent (1.009 million of the 2.128 million working children) worked less than 20 hours. However, as noted mostly in private establishments, there were 13.4 percent (285,000) who worked 40-48 hours and 15.6 percent (333,000) who worked 49 hours or more during the reference week.

### **Children-employees earn daily basic pay of a little over ₱100 a day**

Beginning the January 2001 round of the Labor Force Survey, an inquiry on basic pay of wage and salary workers or employees was included.

There were 751,000 children working for pay according to the survey. Of this, 300,000 (39.9%) were paid on a daily basis while 238,000 (31.7%) on monthly basis. The rest of the children were paid per hour (1.3%), in kind (2.1%) or on output basis (24.9%). (*Table 2*)

Most of the male children-employees were paid on daily basis (222,000 out of 440,000). Female employees on the other hand were mostly on monthly basis (189,000 out of 311,000).

Mean daily<sup>2</sup> basic pay was ₱101.92. Male children-employees were paid higher at ₱108.13 compared to the ₱94.34 earned by the female children.

By basis of payment, the male children received more than their female counterparts except pay on the basis of piece output or per hour where the females had higher pay than the males. These female children received at least ₱122, which is greater than the overall average.

Median basic pay was ₱85, with male median pay at ₱100 and that of females at ₱70. Similar to mean basic pay, those for males were higher than their female counterparts except payment based on a day and piece output where the median pay were similar at ₱100.

### **Private households paid the least to working children**

Private households paid the least at ₱84.64 to their children-employees. The males received slightly higher pay at ₱84.79 than the ₱84.63 of females. Basic pay of private establishments averaged to ₱108.18 per day. Again, males were paid higher at

₱109.75 and the females ₱104.56. Government which was reported to have employed 3,000 male children paid the highest at ₱137.78 per day. Family-owned business also employed male children only at ₱89.14

*2 Reported basic pay were converted to their daily equivalent. Data on basic pay excludes commission workers' pay.*

For Inquiries:

Regarding this report contact LABOR STANDARDS STATISTICS DIVISION at 527-3000 loc 311/527-9325

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact BLES Databank at 527-3000 loc 317

Or write to BLES c/o Databank, 3/F DOLE Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila 1002

FAX 527-9325

E-mail: [Issd@manila-online.net](mailto:Issd@manila-online.net)

Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

[blesIssd@bles.dole.gov.ph](mailto:blesIssd@bles.dole.gov.ph)

<http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

**TABLE 1 - Working Children 5-17 Years Old by Class of Worker and by Total Hours Worked During the Past Week, Philippines: January 2005**  
(in thousands except hours)

Class of Worker	Total	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-48	49 and over	Did Not Work	Hours Worked During the Past Week	Normal Working Hours Per Day
<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>
Wage and Salary Workers	751	158	79	70	181	251	11	41	8
Private Households	177	10	8	9	16	133	1	60	9
Private Establishments	563	144	69	60	163	116	10	36	8
Gov't/Gov't Corporations	3	1	a	1	a	-	-	21	7
Family-owned Business	8	2	2	a	2	2	-	34	7
Self-Employed	155	64	32	19	23	16	1	26	7
Employers	3	-	a	1	1	a	-	38	7
Unpaid Family Workers	1,220	788	165	105	80	65	17	17	6
<b>Male</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>
Wage and Salary Workers	440	116	60	55	127	73	8	34	8
Private Households	20	4	2	3	3	8	-	43	7
Private Establishments	409	108	57	51	122	64	8	33	8
Gov't/Gov't Corporations	3	1	a	1	a	-	-	21	7
Family-owned Business	8	2	2	a	2	2	-	34	7
Self-Employed	129	50	28	17	21	13	1	26	7
Employers	2	-	-	1	a	a	-	40	7
Unpaid Family Workers	805	474	117	82	68	48	16	19	6
<b>Female</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>
Wage and Salary Workers	311	41	19	15	54	178	3	52	8
Private Households	157	5	6	6	13	125	1	62	10
Private Establishments	154	36	13	9	41	53	2	41	8
Gov't/Gov't Corporations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Family-owned Business	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Self-Employed	26	14	4	2	2	4	-	24	7
Employers	1	-	a	-	-	-	-	32	7
Unpaid Family Workers	414	314	48	23	12	17	1	14	6

Note: Details may not add up to total due to rounding.

a Less than 500.

Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

**TABLE 2 - Working Children 5-17 Years Old Who Are Wage and Salary Workers  
by Basis of Payment and by Sex, Philippines: January 2005**  
(in thousands except basic pay)

Basis of Payment	Number			Mean Basic Pay (₱)			Median Basic Pay (₱)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>101.92</b>	<b>108.13</b>	<b>94.34</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70</b>
In Kind only	16	11	5	91.62	98.48	77.50	80	93	77
Per piece	37	26	11	111.26	106.78	122.02	100	100	100
Per Hour	10	8	2	109.39	104.36	126.97	60	80	60
Per Day	300	222	78	108.93	109.74	106.59	100	100	100
Monthly	238	50	189	94.76	116.71	88.98	67	95	67
Pakyaw	50	37	13	92.83	96.43	82.26	83	83	80
Other Salaries/Wages	24	17	7	93.19	97.45	82.28	75	80	57
Commission Basis	76	69	7	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Details may not add up to total due to rounding.

Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

**TABLE 3 - Working Children 5-17 Years Old Who Are Wage and Salary Workers  
by Basic Pay Per Day and Sex, Philippines: January 2005**  
(in thousands except basic pay)

Basic Pay Per Day and Sex	Total	Private Households	Private Establishments	Gov't/Gov't Corporations	Family-owned Business
<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
50-99	354	133	217	-	4
100-149	188	16	168	1	2
150-199	71	13	57	-	1
200-249	37	9	27	a	a
250-499	24	3	21	-	-
500 or more	1	0	1	-	-
Commission Basis	76	2	73	1	-
Mean Basic Pay (₱)	101.92	84.64	108.18	137.78	89.14
Median Basic Pay (₱)	85	62	100	100	67
<b>Male</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
50-99	154	13	136	-	4
100-149	138	3	131	1	2
150-199	45	2	42	-	1
200-249	22	1	20	a	a
250-499	13	-	13	-	-
500 or more	1	-	1	-	-
Commission Basis	69	1	67	1	-
Mean Basic Pay (₱)	108.13	84.79	109.75	137.78	89.14
Median Basic Pay (₱)	100	60	100	100	67
<b>Female</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>154</b>	-	-
50-99	201	120	81	-	-
100-149	50	13	37	-	-
150-199	26	11	15	-	-
200-249	15	8	7	-	-
250-499	11	3	8	-	-
500 or more	0	0	-	-	-
Commission Basis	7	1	6	-	-
Mean Basic Pay (₱)	94.34	84.63	104.56	-	-
Median Basic Pay (₱)	70	62	85	-	-

Notes: 1. Details may not add up to total due to rounding.

2. Commission-based workers not included in computation of mean basic pay as no pay reported.

a Less than 500.

Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.