

Turkey

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 1999:	4.2% ⁴²³⁸
Minimum age of work:	15 ⁴²³⁹
Age to which education is compulsory:	14 ⁴²⁴⁰
Free public education:	Yes ⁴²⁴¹
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2002:	91% ⁴²⁴²
Net primary enrollment rate in 2002:	86% ⁴²⁴³
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 1999:	88.1% ⁴²⁴⁴
Percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	Unavailable
Ratified Convention 138:	10/30/1998 ⁴²⁴⁵
Ratified Convention 182:	8/02/2001 ⁴²⁴⁶
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes ⁴²⁴⁷

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 1999, approximately 4.6 percent of boys and 3.7 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Turkey. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (66.7 percent), followed by services (18 percent), manufacturing (13.4 percent), and other sectors (2 percent).⁴²⁴⁸ Children are engaged in agriculture, metal work, woodworking, textiles and leather goods production, domestic service,⁴²⁴⁹ automobile repair, furniture making, hotel and catering

⁴²³⁸ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005.

⁴²³⁹ U.S. Embassy- Ankara, *reporting*, August 20, 2003. See also U.S. Department of State, "Turkey," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78844.htm>.

⁴²⁴⁰ Embassy of Turkey, *The Implemented Programs and Measures Taken Against Child Labor in Turkey*, Washington, DC, November 9, 2001, 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 5.

⁴²⁴¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 5.

⁴²⁴² UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary, Total, accessed December 20, 2006*; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁴²⁴³ Ibid.

⁴²⁴⁴ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁴²⁴⁵ ILO, *List of Ratifications of International Labor Conventions, Minimum Age Convention, 1973*, February 5, 2007; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-byConvYear.cfm?hdroff=1&Lang=EN&conv=C138>.

⁴²⁴⁶ ILO, *List of Ratifications of International Labor Conventions, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999*, February 5, 2007; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-byConvYear.cfm?hdroff=1&Lang=EN&conv=C182>.

⁴²⁴⁷ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labor: Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006.

⁴²⁴⁸ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁴²⁴⁹ Government of Turkey and UNICEF, *The Situation of Children and Women in Turkey: An Executive Summary*, [online] 1998 [cited October 22, 2006], Section E: Child Labor; available from <http://www.die.gov.tr/CIN/Sa98.pdf>. See also Ministry of Labor and Social Security Labor Inspection Board, *Report on the Implementation of Labor Inspection Policy on Child Labor in Turkey*, Ankara, June 2000, 3, 26. See also UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

work, and footwear production.⁴²⁵⁰ A rapid assessment on working street children in 2001 found that street children in the cities of Diyarbakir, Adana, and Istanbul pick through garbage, shine shoes, and sell various goods, among other activities.⁴²⁵¹

Children are trafficked to Turkey for commercial sexual exploitation and, to a lesser extent, forced labor.⁴²⁵² Turkey is also used as a transit point for trafficked persons. Internal trafficking also occurs.⁴²⁵³

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law establishes the minimum age for employment at 15 years. The law, however, allows children 14 years to perform light work that does not interfere with their education, and it enables governors in provinces dependent on agriculture to determine the minimum age for work in that sector. Before beginning a heavy and dangerous job, children 15 to 18 years must undergo a physical examination, which is to be repeated every 6 months.⁴²⁵⁴ Children under 16 are permitted to work no more than 8 hours per day.⁴²⁵⁵ While attending school, children are prohibited from working more than 2 hours per day or 10 hours per week. Under the law, persons should not be required to perform work unsuitable for their age or capabilities.⁴²⁵⁶

The minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces is 19 years.⁴²⁵⁷ The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MOLSS) published a list of prohibited occupations for children 15 to 18 years.⁴²⁵⁸ Children 15 to 18 years are not permitted to work in bars, coffee houses, dance halls, cabarets, casinos, or public baths, or to engage in industrial or night work. The law prohibits underground and underwater work for females of any age and for boys under 18.⁴²⁵⁹ The law prohibits prostitution under 21⁴²⁶⁰ and the sexual exploitation of children.⁴²⁶¹ The use of children

⁴²⁵⁰ Government of Turkey and UNICEF, *Situation of Children and Women*, Section E: Child Labor. See also Ministry of Labor and Social Security Labor Inspection Board, *Report on the Implementation of Labor Inspection Policy*, 26.

⁴²⁵¹ Bahattin Aksit, Nuray Karanci, and Ayse Gunduz-Hosgor, *Turkey Working Street Children in Three Metropolitan Cities: A Rapid Assessment*, ILO, Geneva, November 2001, 41-42; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/simpoc/turkey/ra/street.pdf>.

⁴²⁵² U.S. Department of State, "Turkey (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 5.

⁴²⁵³ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Turkey."

⁴²⁵⁴ U.S. Embassy- Ankara, *reporting, August 20, 2003*.

⁴²⁵⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 6d.

⁴²⁵⁶ *Constitution of the Republic of Turkey*, Article 50; available from <http://www.hri.org/docs/turkey/>.

⁴²⁵⁷ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Turkey," in *Child Soldiers Global Report- 2004*, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=933.

⁴²⁵⁸ U.S. Embassy- Ankara, *reporting, August 26, 2004*.

⁴²⁵⁹ See Article 176 of the 1930 General Health Care Act 1593 and Articles 68, 69, and 78 of the Labor Act 1475 as cited in Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations and ILO Ankara, *Child Labor in Turkey*, ILO Publications Bureau, Geneva, 1997, 28,31.

⁴²⁶⁰ Interpol, *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offenses Against Children- Turkey*, [online] accessed October 22, 2006; available from <http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaTurkey.asp>.

⁴²⁶¹ U.S. Embassy- Ankara, *reporting, August 20, 2003*.

in pornographic materials is punishable by imprisonment for 5 to 10 years.⁴²⁶² The law also designates the trafficking of persons as a crime; those convicted face 8 to 12 years in prison.⁴²⁶³

The MOLSS Labor Inspection Board is responsible for enforcing child labor laws in Turkey.⁴²⁶⁴ Approximately 100 field inspectors have been trained to handle child labor issues.⁴²⁶⁵ According to the Board, the MOLSS has been unable to effectively prevent child labor for a variety of reasons, including traditional attitudes, socio-economic factors, and the predominantly informal nature of child labor in Turkey. The work in which many children engage is not covered by labor laws, such as work in agricultural sites/workplaces with fewer than 50 workers, maritime transport, family businesses, small shops, and the informal economy, and therefore cannot be regulated by the inspectorate.⁴²⁶⁶ Therefore, the Board has focused on protecting working children by improving their working conditions.⁴²⁶⁷ The government enforces laws more effectively in medium and large businesses.⁴²⁶⁸

A Commission on Child Labor Working on the Streets investigates instances of child labor and proposes intervention programs. A parallel committee exists within the Grand Turkish National Assembly.⁴²⁶⁹ The Interior Ministry's Child Police are specifically responsible for protecting children, including protecting working children from employer abuses.⁴²⁷⁰

The Task Force on Human Trafficking coordinates government action on trafficking and includes members from the Ministries of Health, Interior, Justice, Finance, and Labor.⁴²⁷¹

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In working towards meeting EU accession conditions, priorities for the Government of Turkey include fulfilling obligations to eliminate child labor.⁴²⁷² The Government of Turkey has developed a National Timebound Policy and Program Framework designed to eliminate the

⁴²⁶² ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey - Supporting the Timebound Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey (2004-2006)*, technical progress report, TUR/03/P50/USA, Geneva, March 2005, 2.

⁴²⁶³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 5. See also Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Turkey, *Turkey on Trafficking in Human Beings*, June 27, 2005.

⁴²⁶⁴ Ministry of Labor and Social Security Labor Inspection Board, *Report on the Implementation of Labor Inspection Policy*, 5-6. See also Embassy of Turkey, *The Implemented Programs and Measures Taken Against Child Labor*.

⁴²⁶⁵ U.S. Embassy- Ankara, *reporting*, September 1, 2005.

⁴²⁶⁶ Ministry of Labor and Social Security Labor Inspection Board, *Report on the Implementation of Labor Inspection Policy*, 3-5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 6d.

⁴²⁶⁷ Embassy of Turkey, *The Implemented Programs and Measures Taken Against Child Labor*, 3-7. See also Embassy of Turkey, *Policies, Programs, and Measures Against Child Labor in Turkey*, Washington, DC, September 6, 2002, 10, 11, 14.

⁴²⁶⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 6d.

⁴²⁶⁹ ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2004 - 2006)*, technical progress report, March 2005, 2,3.

⁴²⁷⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2004 - 2006)*, project document, 50.

⁴²⁷¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 5.

⁴²⁷² Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Executive Summary of the Turkish National Program for the Adoption of the Acquis*, 2003.

worst forms of child labor and the involvement of children under 15 in all forms of work by 2014.⁴²⁷³

The Government of Turkey is participating in the USD 2.5 million USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project, Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey- Supporting the Timebound Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey (2003-2007). The program includes activities in 11 provinces on the basis of the prevalence of child work in priority sectors of street work, informal economy, and seasonal agricultural labor.⁴²⁷⁴ The project aims to withdraw 4,000 children and prevent 6,500 children from exploitive labor.⁴²⁷⁵ The government is cooperating with a USDOL-funded USD 6 million project, Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Turkey, 2004-2008.⁴²⁷⁶ The project is focused on assisting children working under hazardous conditions in seasonal agriculture in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Elazığ, Agri, and Ankara.⁴²⁷⁷ The project aims to withdraw 3,500 children and prevent 6,500 children from exploitive labor.⁴²⁷⁸ The government is also participating in a European Commission-funded USD 6.4 million project to combat the worst forms of child labor in Turkey.⁴²⁷⁹

The Government of Turkey is taking steps to combat trafficking of persons.⁴²⁸⁰ The Ministry of Health provides free medical treatment to persons who have been trafficked, and the Ministry of Justice provides free legal services to victims remaining in the country.⁴²⁸¹ The government sponsors anti-trafficking training programs for law enforcement officers and a hotline. Anti-trafficking brochures have been printed and distributed by law enforcement officers. Informational passport inserts have been provided by consular officials and at border crossings.⁴²⁸² Anti-trafficking protocols have been signed with Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova.⁴²⁸³ With USD 600,000 in U.S. Government funding, IOM began a new trafficking-awareness campaign in Turkey focusing on the negative results trafficking has on families and children.⁴²⁸⁴

⁴²⁷³ ILO-IPEC, *Summary Outline for Action Programme on Child Labour (2004-2006)*, TUR/03/P50/USA, July 27, 2004, 2,3. See also Ministry of Labor and Social Security Child Labor Unit, *Timebound Policy and Programme Framework for the Elimination of Child Labor Turkey (Draft)*, 2003, 47.

⁴²⁷⁴ ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2004 - 2006)*, project document, cover, 2.

⁴²⁷⁵ USDOL, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey - Supporting the Timebound National Policy and Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey*, ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary, Washington, DC.

⁴²⁷⁶ IMPAQ International, *Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Turkey*, project document, May 17, 2005, cover.

⁴²⁷⁷ IMPAQ International, *Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Turkey*, project revision, September 19, 2005.

⁴²⁷⁸ USDOL, *Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Turkey*, ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary, Washington, DC.

⁴²⁷⁹ ILO-IPEC official, Email communication to USDOL official, November 16, 2006.

⁴²⁸⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Turkey."

⁴²⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Turkey," Section 5.

⁴²⁸² U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Turkey."

⁴²⁸³ Ibid.

⁴²⁸⁴ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Central Asia-Turkey: IOM Launches New Anti-trafficking Campaign*, [online] February 1, 2006 [cited October 22, 2006]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=51485&SelectRegion=Asia&SelectCountry=CENTRAL_ASIA-TURKEY.