

Table 13. Distribution of working children by occupation, 5-17 years

Occupation	Number	%
Total	30,296	100
Service and sales workers	9,272	30.6
Craft and related trades workers	10,571	34.9
Elementary occupations	(7,982)	(26.3)
Other	(*)	(*)
(*) : Number less than 25 cases (n.n) : Number between 25 and less than 50 cases		

6.3 Working children by status in employment

This section focuses on the employment status of children of the three broad age groups. The status in employment represents the type of contract which a person has with other persons or organisations when performing a particular job. The International Classification of Status of Employment (ICSE-93) consists of six main categories, ie. employees, employers, own-account workers, cooperative members, contributing family workers and not classifiable. Among working children, employers are very rare. Thus, the categories of employers and own-account workers are merged into one category – self-employed.

In Lebanon, 75% of working children are employees and 17% are unpaid family workers (Table 14). Reliable estimates for the self-employed category could not be generated as the sample sizes were too small. The majority of both boys and girls at work have the status of employees.

Table 14. Distribution of working children by status in employment, 5-17 years

Status in current employment	Number	%
Total	30,296	100
Employee	22,902	75.6
Employer or own account worker	(*)	(*)
Unpaid family worker	(5,195)	(17.1)
Excluding the unpaid household services (UHS) (*) : Number less than 25 cases (n.n) : Number between 25 and less than 50 cases		

6.4 Working children by number of hours worked per week

In the analysis of the characteristics of the work performed by children, the intensity of their work is of special interest, as it can be considered as an important proxy for the potential harmfulness of work. Long hours of work are likely to mean less time available for children for school and leisure, and also adversely affect their health.

Table 15. Distribution of working children by number of hours worked per week, 5-17 years, and median number of hours worked

Total hours worked	Number	%
Total	30,296	100.0
1 to 21	(4,173)	(13.8)
22 to 42	8,428	27.8
More than 42	17,214	56.8
Not specified	(*)	(*)
Median number of hours worked per week: 48		
(*) : Number less than 25 cases (n.n) : Number between 25 and less than 50 cases		

The weekly hours of work indicator refers to the hours worked during the 7 days prior to the survey at the main job or at all jobs. In the case that a child is considered to be working but was temporarily absent from work during the last 7 days due to illness, holidays or for other reasons, hours of work are defined (only for those children) in terms of usual weekly hours of work.

Children engaged in their current industries of employment in Lebanon indicate work for a median time of 48 hours per week which indicates a tough schedule of 8 hours per day in a 6-day week (Table 15).

6.5 Working children by type of work

Working children can be classified in two mutually exclusive subcategories: children in child labour and working children not in child labour. The following chapter presents the issue of child labour. Regarding working children not in child labour, the results showed the total of this category 2,582³⁰ children aged 12-17 years.

30 Less than 25 cases.

Chapter 7

Child labour and hazardous work

This chapter focuses on children in child labour, reflecting their engagement in prohibited and hazardous activities, or more generally, in types of work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable. The definitions and measurement of child labour and hazardous work adopted for the analysis of the survey data were provided earlier in the report (see Chapter 4, Section 3).

Lebanon has ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (C182). Countries that ratify C182 are obliged to determine hazardous work “by national laws or regulations or by the competent authority, after consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned, taking into consideration relevant international standards.” The Decree No. 8987 on worst form of child labour specifies activities that could be harmful to children, and has indicated two distinct lists of work-related activities. The first is the list of totally prohibited works and activities that are forbidden for those below 18 years of age. The second is the list of activities that are not altogether forbidden but is permitted to be taken up by children not below 16 years. The definitions of child labour and hazardous work adopted for the survey, while adhering to the standards and guidelines of ILO Conventions C138 and C182, are also in close correspondence with the provisions contained in Decree No. 8987.³¹

It should be noted that the methodology followed in the Lebanon CLS 2015 deployed house-to-house enquiry at the residence of the child workers and responses were recorded based on what the respondents – children themselves or their family members – reported. No further checks at the worksite were conducted to verify these responses. Therefore, it is not possible to assert with certainty the actual hazardous conditions prevailing in the workplaces.

7.1 Child labour

In line with the categorization of child labour set out in Chapter 4, child labour can be grouped in mutually exclusive categories according to the type and conditions of their work. This categorisation provides a distribution of child labour in which children are counted only once, even if they perform multiple risks, and is based on the ILO’s conceptual framework for identifying

³¹ As defined by the Lebanese ministry of labour. www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_443274.pdf

child labour and hazardous child labour. Table 16 presents the Lebanon CLS 2015 estimates of child labour and hazardous child labour, decomposed into the categories recognised in the framework.

As the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work are not captured by household-based child labour surveys, this component of child labour is not included in the estimates of child labour. Accordingly, child labour classification process for statistical measurement includes:

Hazardous work: includes:

- work in designated hazardous industries (namely, mining and quarrying, and construction) by children aged 5-17 years;
- work in designated hazardous occupations;
- work for long hours (43 hours or more per week);
- work under hazardous conditions;
- hazardous unpaid household services.

Child labour other than hazardous work:

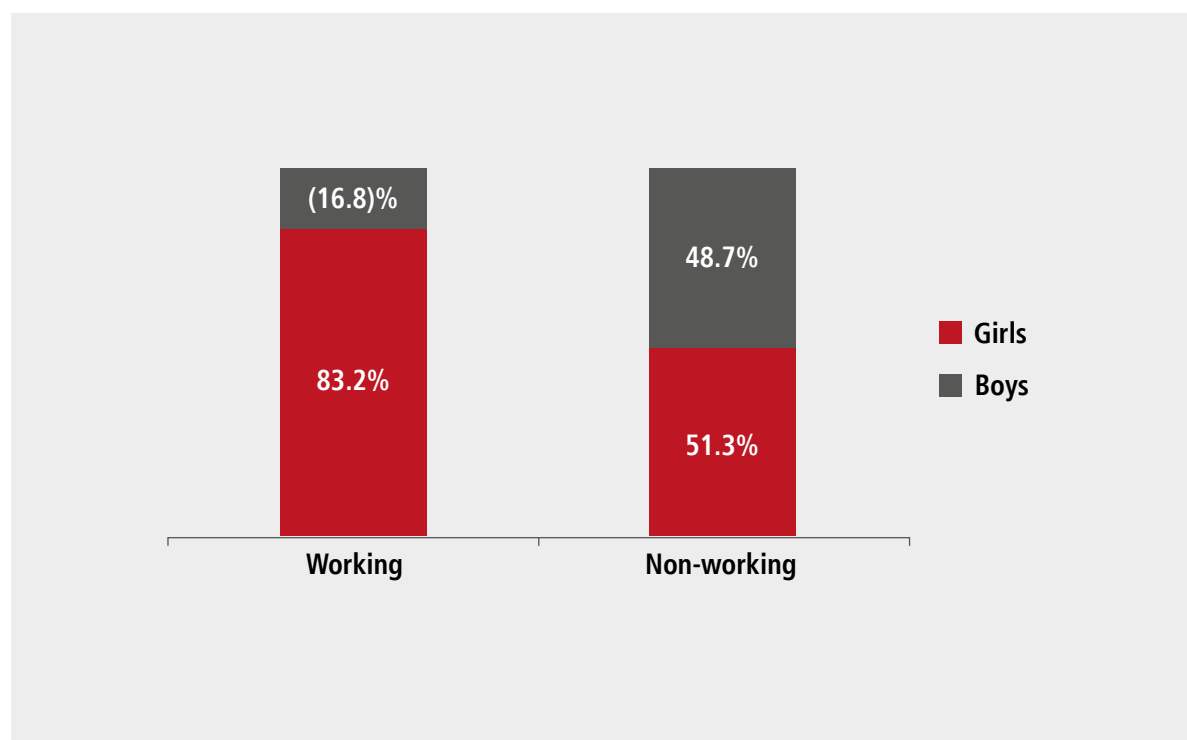
- All children aged 5-11 years who are not in hazardous work, and
- All children aged 12-14 years who are not in hazardous work and work for 14 hours or more (that is, are not in light work).

The majority (66.7%) of working children among households with children aged 5+ are aged 15-17 years, followed by children aged 12-14 years. The survey results indicate the quasi inexistence of working children under age 11.

Table 16. Distribution of children by working status, age and sex, 5-17 years

	Working children		Non-working children	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	33,474	100	885,594	100
Age				
5-11 years	(*)	(*)	493,702	55.7
12-14 years	9,558	28.6	207,968	23.5
15-17 years	22,334	66.7	183,924	20.8
Sex				
Boys	27,837	83.2	454,366	51.3
Girls	(5,637)	(16.8)	431,227	48.7
(*) : Number less than 25 cases (n.n) : Number between 25 and less than 50 cases				

Gender disparity of working children is biased towards boy's involvement in work. Around 83% of working children are boys compared to 17% for girls.

Figure 7. Distribution of children by working status and sex, 5-17 years

(n.n) : Number between 25 and less than 50 cases

7.2 Major child labour characteristics

This section offers a general picture on the extent of child labour in the country and examines number and percentage of children in child labour, working children not in child labour and non-working children by sex and age. Information regarding the prevalence of child labour clarifies the magnitude of the problem, and its disaggregated dimensions by gender and age groups.

Overall, a small proportion (3.4%) of the children in Lebanon are found to be working as children in child labour (Table 17). Another 0.3% are working but are not in child labour. The majority (96%) are not working.