

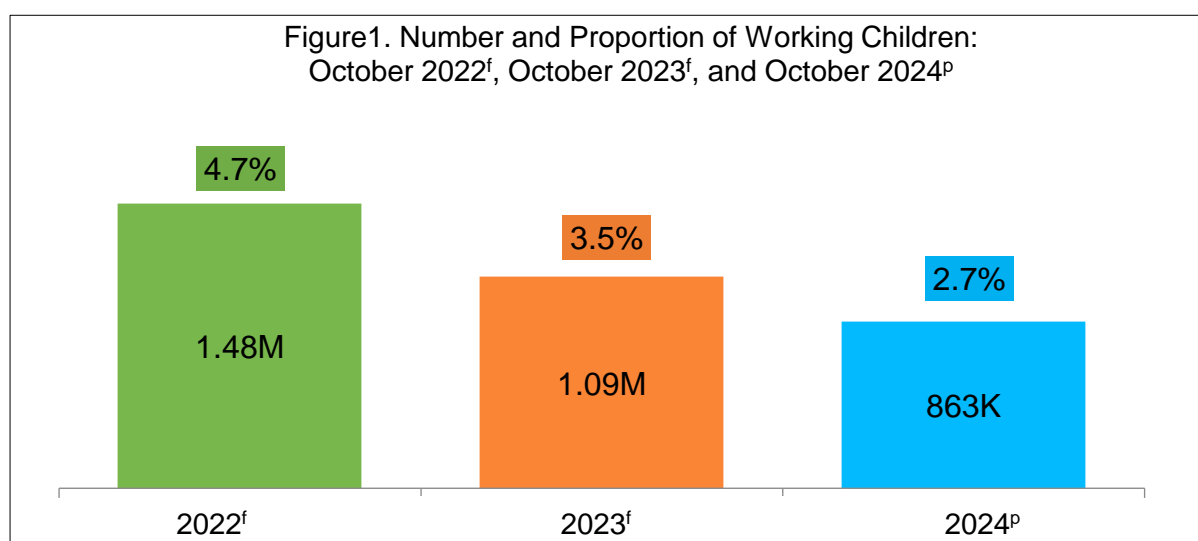
SPECIAL RELEASE

Working Children Situation (Preliminary Results)

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1. Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old Decreased

The number of working children 5 to 17 years old was estimated at 863 thousand in 2024, a decrease of 232 thousand from the estimated 1.09 million working children in 2023. In 2022, the number of working children 5 to 17 years old was recorded at 1.48 million. In terms of proportion or share of working children to the population of children 5 to 17 years old, it declined to 2.7 percent in 2024 from 3.5 percent in 2023. In 2022, the proportion of working children 5 to 17 years old was estimated at 4.7 percent. (Table A and Figure 1)



f - final

p - preliminary

M - million

K - thousand

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2022, October 2023, and October 2024 Labor Force Survey

In 2024, out of the 863 thousand working children, boys comprised 534 thousand or 61.8 percent, while girls made up 329 thousand or 38.2 percent. Similarly, more than half of the working children were boys in 2023 (59.1%) and in 2022 (58.7%).

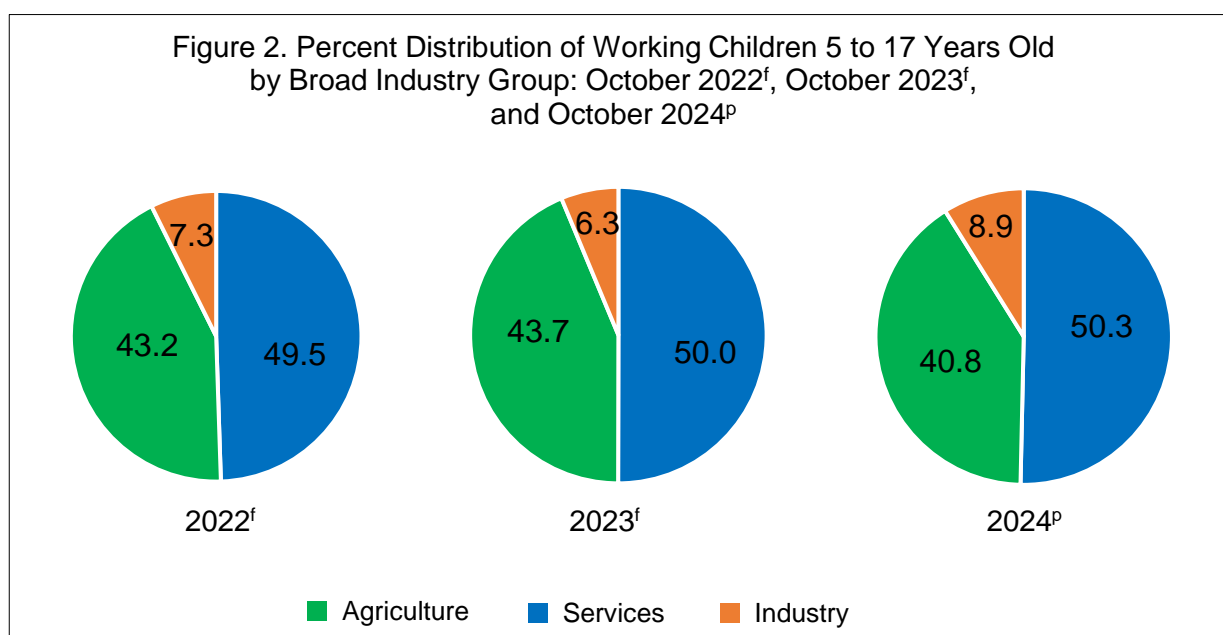
By age group, majority or 74.4 percent of the total working children in 2024 were 15 to 17 years old. The percentage of working children for the same age group was higher in 2024 compared to the percentage of working children in 2023 at 72.5 percent and in 2022 at 59.7 percent. (Table A)

2. Services Sector had the Largest Share of Working Children

The services sector has consistently employed the highest percentage of working children over the past three years. In 2024, it accounted for 50.3 percent of all working children, slightly higher than the percentage of working children in 2023 at 50.0 percent and in 2022 at 49.5 percent.

Agriculture was the second largest sector where working children are employed, accounting for 40.8 percent of working children in 2024, 43.7 percent in 2023 and 43.2 percent in 2022.

The industry sector had the least share, with 8.9 percent of working children in 2024, 6.3 percent in 2023, and 7.3 percent in 2022. (Table A and Figure 2)



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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2022, October 2023, and October 2024 Labor Force Survey

3. Majority of the Working Children Worked 20 Hours or Less per Week

Majority or 73.8 percent of working children reported to have worked 20 hours or less per week in 2024. Those who worked 20 hours or less per week in 2023 and 2022 were reported at 73.7 percent and 75.6 percent, respectively.

Children who worked 21 to 40 hours per week accounted for 15.2 percent of working children aged 5 to 17 years in 2024. In 2023 and 2022, children working 21 to 40 hours accounted for 16.4 percent and 15.7 percent, respectively. (Table A)

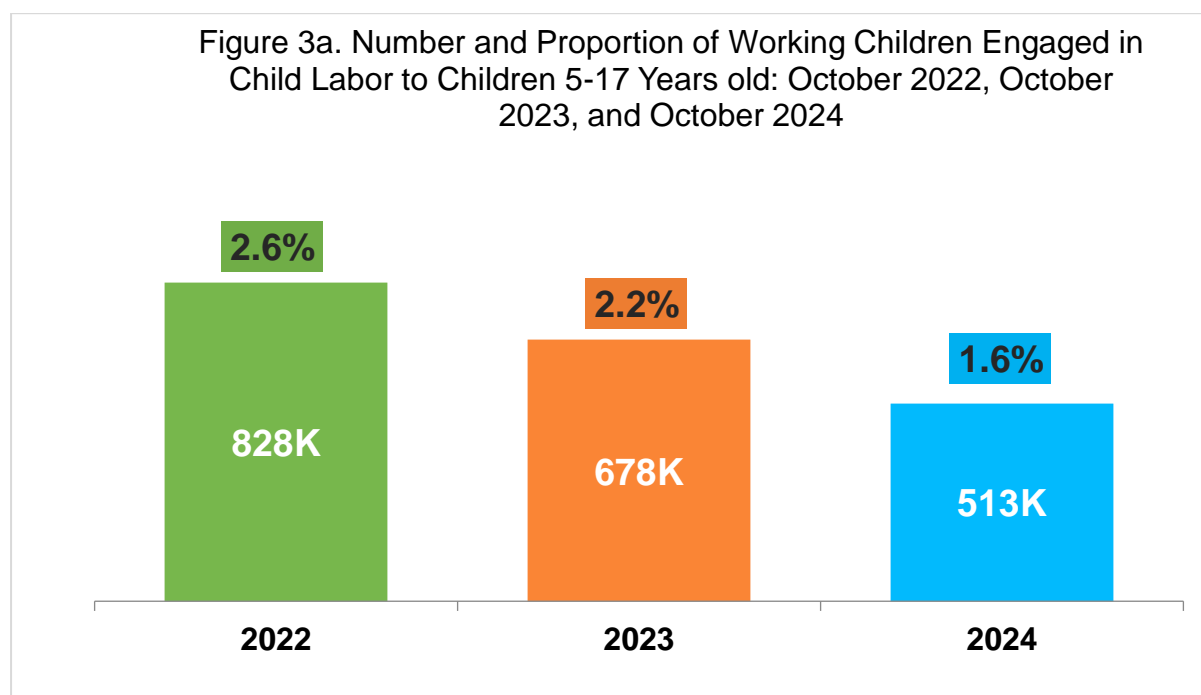
4. Child Laborers in the Country Decreased in 2024

Child labor refers to working children who were engaged in the following activities:

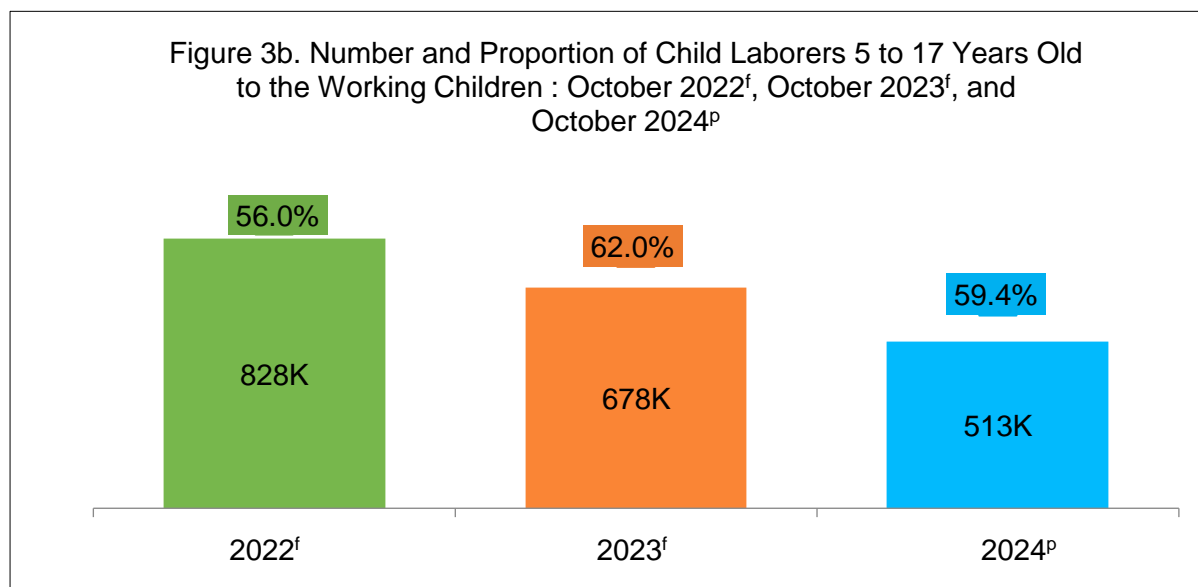
- (i) Hazardous Work (Hazardous Child Labor) or activities which are likely to be harmful to the health, safety or morals of children (as identified in the Department of Labor and Employment Department Order No. 149, Series of 2016 – Guidelines in Assessing and Determining Hazardous Work in the Employment of Persons Below 18 years of Age);
- (ii) Work by children below 15 years of age that is more than 20 hours a week or more than four hours at any given day or between eight o'clock in the evening and six o'clock in the morning of the following day (Sec. 12-A, paragraphs (1 and 3) of RA No. 9231); and
- (iii) Work by children 15 to 17 years of age that exceeds 40 hours a week or more than eight hours a day or between 10 o'clock in the evening and six o'clock in the morning of the following day (Sec. 12-A, paragraphs (2 and 3) of RA No. 9231).

The total number of working children who were engaged in child labor was estimated at 513 thousand in 2024. This was lower than the reported number of working children who were engaged in child labor in 2023 at 678 thousand and in 2022 at 828 thousand. (Table B)

The proportion of working children engaged in child labor to the children aged 5 to 17 years old dropped to 1.6 percent in 2024. This continues the downward trend from 2.2 percent in 2023 and 2.6 percent in 2022. (Table B and Figure 3a)



In terms of percentage in Working Children, 59.4 percent of the total number of working children in 2024 were engaged in child labor. This was lower than the estimated proportion of working children who were engaged in child labor in 2023 at 62.0 percent but higher than the proportion of working children who were engaged in child labor in 2022 at 56.0 percent. (Table B and Figure 3b)



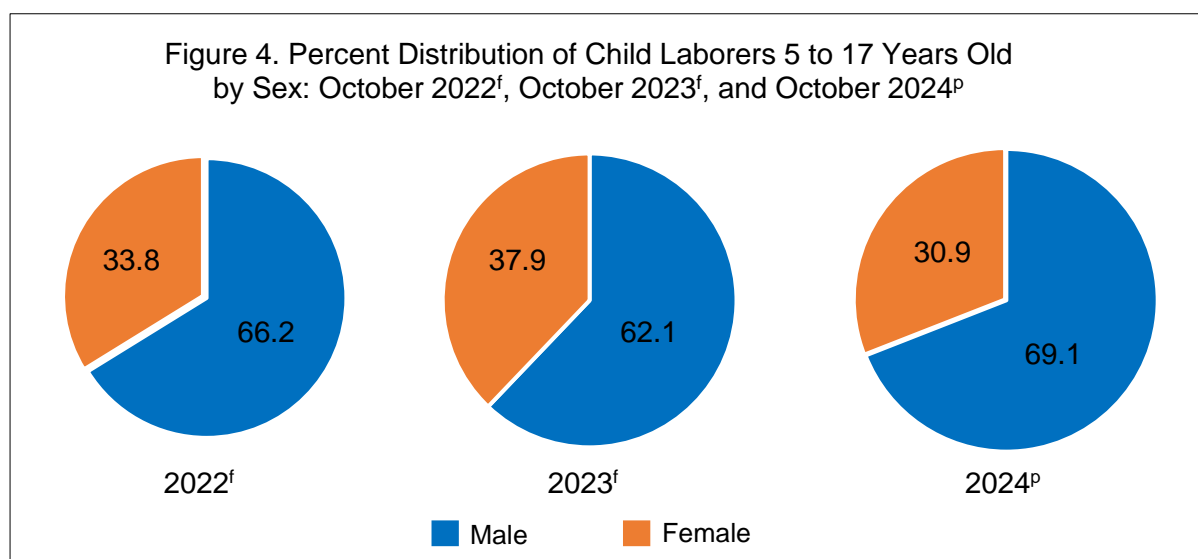
f - final

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2022, October 2023, and October 2024 Labor Force Survey

By sex, 354 thousand or 69.1 percent of the estimated 513 thousand working children engaged in child labor in 2024 were boys, while 159 thousand or 30.9 percent were girls. (Table B and Figure 4)

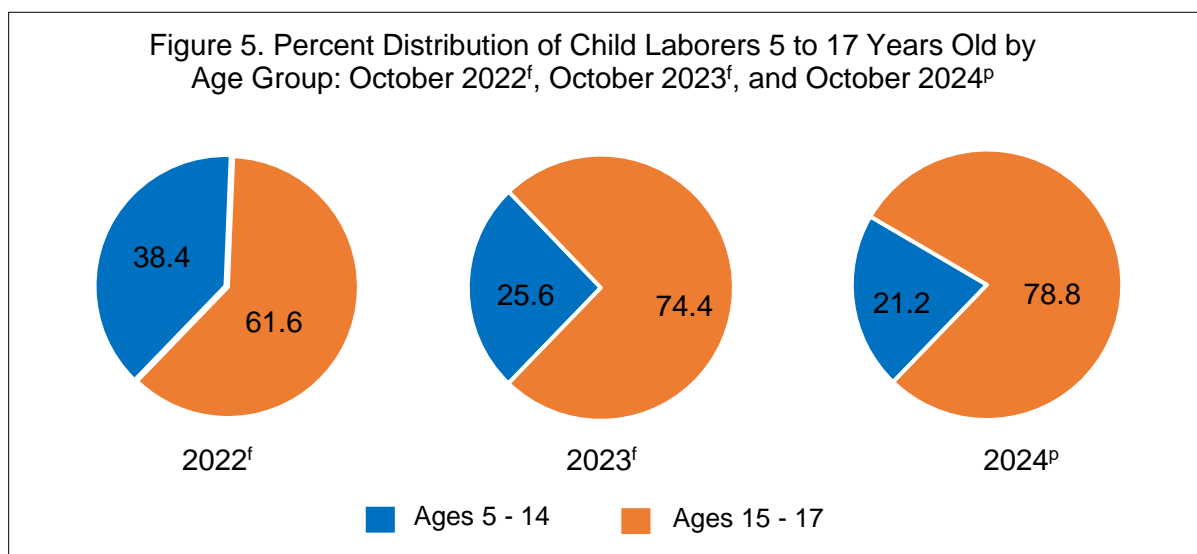


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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2022, October 2023, and October 2024 Labor Force Survey

Across age groups, child laborers 15 to 17 years old continued to account for the largest share of working children engaged in child labor at 78.8 percent in 2024. This was higher than the share of child laborers 15 to 17 years old reported in 2023 at 74.4 percent and in 2022 at 61.6 percent. (Table B and Figure 5)

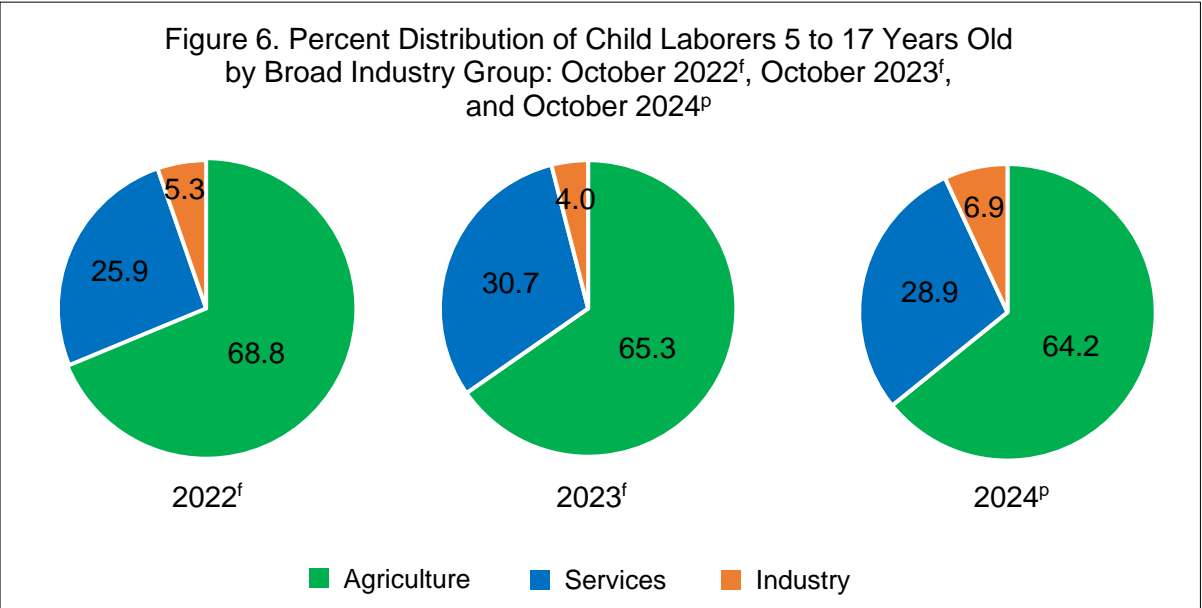


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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2022, October 2023, and October 2024 Labor Force Survey

By broad industry group, the agriculture sector continued to account for the largest share of child laborers at 64.2 percent in 2024, followed by the services sector with 28.9 percent share and the industry sector with 6.9 percent share. (Table B and Figure 6)



f - final
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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2022, October 2023, and October 2024 Labor Force Survey

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