



# GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE MONTHLY PRESS RELEASE



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No. 03 June 2023

## Over 75,000 children aged 5 to 9 years engaged in economic activity in the seven days preceding Census Night

*GSS releases additional statistics on economic activity of children on World Day Against Child Labour*

Nationally, **419,254 children aged 5 to 17 years were engaged in economic activity<sup>1</sup> during the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC): 76,439 children aged 5 to 9 years, 153,189 aged 10 to 14 years, and 189,626 aged 15 to 17 years.**

**Children aged 5 to 17 years worked on average 29.2 hours in the seven days preceding Census Night.** Children 15 to 17 years worked an average of 35.2 hours, children 10 to 14 years worked an average of 26.5 hours (about 5 hours per weekday), and **children 5 to 9 years worked an average of 19.8 hours** (about 4 hours per weekday). Children engaged as paid apprentices worked the highest number of hours on average (48.4), almost twice that of those engaged as contributing family workers who worked the lowest hours on average (25.0). Children in the service sector worked 36.8 hours on average, while those in the agricultural sector worked an average of 25.6 hours.

**Nationally, 153,773 children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in economic activity had never attended school.** Out of this number, 37,963 children were 5 to 9 years. **In all, 94,748 children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in economic activity were also attending school during the census.**

**Eight in every ten (81.3%) children aged 5 to 9 years who were engaged in economic activity lived in six regions – Northern (19,727), Oti (14,875), North East (8,073), Upper West (7,071), Savannah (6,525), and Upper East (5,851). Nkwanta North (9,707), Krachi Nchumuru (7,598) and Nanumba North Municipal (7,598) had the highest number of children 5 to 14 years engaged in economic activities.** These three districts had 21,726 children representing 10.8 per cent of all children 5 to 14 years engaged in economic

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<sup>1</sup> Economic activity refers to any work performed in the seven days before Census Night (i.e., 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021) that contributed to the economic production of goods and services.

activities. **The population of children engaged in economic activities in the Nkwanta North, Krachi Nchumuru and Nanumba North Municipal districts exceeds that of the Bono (3,635), Ahafo (3,261), Western North (2,088), Western (4,179) and Central (4,834) regions combined.**

**In all, 30 out of the 261 districts had more than 10 per cent of children 5 to 14 years engaged in economic activity. The district with the highest percentage was Krachi Nchumuru, where one in every three children (34.8%) was engaged in economic activity.** The percentage in this district was about 10 times the national average of 3.2 per cent. Nkwanta North (27.8%) and Yunyoo Nasuan (25.3%) were the two other districts where over a quarter of children were engaged in economic activity.

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) released these statistics on 2023 World Day Against Child Labour which is being commemorated on 12<sup>th</sup> June under the theme “Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!”. Further information on children engaged in economic activity is available in the 2021 PHC General Report on Economic Activity which can be downloaded from [www.census2021.statsghana.gov.gh](http://www.census2021.statsghana.gov.gh). Disaggregated statistics on the economic activity of children at the national, regional, and district levels are directly accessible from the GSS StatsBank (<https://statsbank.statsghana.gov.gh>).

### **About the Ghana Statistical Service**

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) provides comprehensive, reliable, quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information to guide national development as stipulated in Section 3 of the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). The organisation’s vision is to be a trusted provider of official statistics for good governance and its mission being the efficient collection, production, management, and dissemination of quality Official Statistics based on international standards, using competent and motivated staff for evidence-based decision-making, in support of national development.

The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as Consumer Inflation, Producer Inflation and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GSS also regularly generates periodic population, housing, demographic and economic data at the locality, district, and national levels from routine surveys and censuses. The statistics generated by GSS are utilised by a wide cross-section of users including the public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. For more information on the statistics generated by GSS visit [www.statsghana.gov.gh](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh).