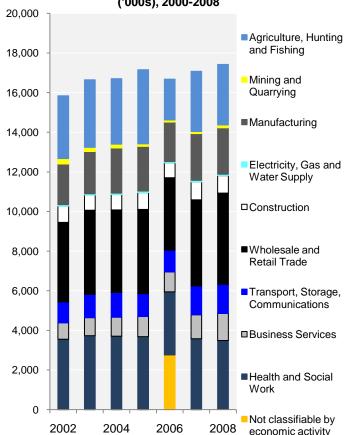
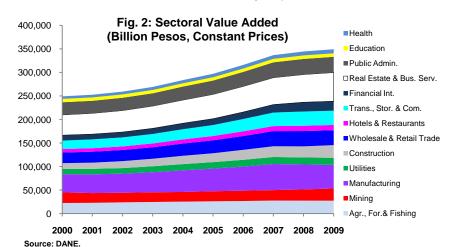
Fig. 1: Employment by Major Economic Activity ('000s), 2000-2008



Source: ILO Laborsta; Excl. armed forces. Persons aged 10 years and over.



## **Wholesale & Retail Trade**

The commerce sector (wholesale and retail trade), with about 4.6 million workers in 2008 (from 4.0 million in 2000), is by far the largest employer in Colombia, accounting for 26.4 per cent of total employment (see Figs. 1 & 3). While the sector recorded net employment growth, this fluctuated significantly over the period even as it maintained an overall average annual compounded growth of 2.3 per cent; much faster than the 1.6 per cent average annual compound growth for the economy as a whole. Commerce has also contributed nearly 8 per cent annually to Colombia's GDP since 2000.

Total sales in the industry equalled more than 171.9 billion pesos in 2008, of which retail trade contributed 66.4 billion pesos, wholesale trade contributed 79.3 billion pesos, and motor vehicle, parts and fuel distributors added 21.2 billion pesos. The primary wholesale products were mainly household items, machinery and equipment, construction materials and basic and intermediate agricultural goods. The majority of retail establishments were specialty stores dealing mostly in the sale of food, pharmaceuticals, perfume and cosmetics, clothing and textiles, and household supplies.

In 2008, merchandise exports and imports (mainly through wholesale and retail merchants) were respectively USD 37.6 billion and USD 39.6. Fuels and mining products comprised nearly half of Colombia's exports, with manufactures and agricultural products accounting respectively for 32 and 18 per cent. Major export products included crude and heavy petroleum, coal, coffee and vegetable materials. Colombia's top export partners in 2008 included the United States, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the European Union.

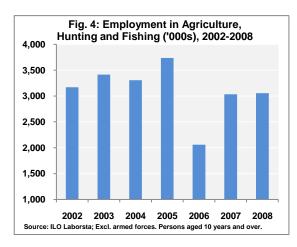
In 2007, the country's commerce sector comprised more than 126,262 wholesale and retail enterprises, most of them (98,241 or 75 per cent) engaged in retail. Wholesale comprised 17,960 establishments and motor vehicle, parts and fuel distribution accounted for 10,061 establishments. Small and microenterprises are over-represented in commerce, with 60 per cent of all Colombia's microenterprises operating in 2007 operating in the retail industry. Nevertheless, large, often foreign-owned companies are increasing presence in Colombia as well, with 2009 foreign direct investment inflows in commerce as a whole reaching USD 635 million; although this is down from more than the previous year's USD 1.05 billion.

In terms of working conditions, on average workers in wholesale and retail trade work longer hours than employees in other sectors: the all-industry average was 46 hours per week in 2008, lower than the 48.6 hours per week in commerce. For commerce, this represents an increase in average weekly working hours from the 44.9 in 2003. Average earnings per month in the Colombian wholesale and retail trade industry have increased from 294,000 pesos in 2003 to 540,000 pesos in 2007, reflecting a 12.1 per cent compound average annual growth rate, slightly lower than the economy-wide average growth rate of 12.5 per cent over the same period. Average monthly earnings in Colombia as a whole were 658,000 pesos in 2008. The wholesale and retail trade earnings per month are the lowest for any sector except agriculture.





## **Agriculture, Hunting & Fishing**



The agriculture sector in Colombia, including hunting, fishing and forestry, was the third largest employer sector in 2008, behind wholesale and retail trade, and health and social respectively. Employment in the agricultural sector, at 3.05 million workers in 2008, has declined from a 2003 peak of 3.41 million workers (see Figs. 1 & 4). Value added for the agriculture industry was 6.9 per cent of total GDP in 2008, down from a peak of 8.1 per cent in 2002 (see Fig. 2).

The amount of agricultural land in Colombia measured 42.4 million hectares in 2007. Colombia's major agricultural crop production in the same year included sugarcane (38.5 million tons), plantains (3.2 million tons), potatoes (2.8 million tons), paddy rice (2.3 million tons), bananas (1.8 million tons) and coffee (757,000 tons). Livestock and livestock products, particularly the production of milk and milk products were important contributions to the sector as well. In addition to serving the domestic market, agricultural products from Colombia comprised nearly 18 per cent of the country's 2008 exports, with vegetable products representing one of the country's top export commodities.

Industrial fishing in Colombia takes place in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, while small-scale fishing takes place along both coastlines and inland waterways. Fishing provides an important source of employment for nearly one quarter of Colombians employed in the broader agricultural, hunting and fishing sector. Fresh and marine aquaculture has also grown in the country since the 1980s. The main species targeted in both the Pacific and Atlantic are tuna, shallow and deep-water shrimp, white fish, anchovies, herring, crayfish and conch. The majority of fishing production is for human domestic consumption, though a minority of fish products is used in the processing of animal feed and other commodities.

Flows of foreign direct investment in the agricultural sector reach 28 million USD in 2009, down from a peak of 41 million USD in 2008. Flows of foreign investment have come mainly from the United States, Canada, and the European Union in recent years to enhance technology and scale up agricultural production in the country.

In terms of working conditions in the industry, agricultural workers in Colombia worked an average of 42.5 hours per week in 2008. This average is below the national average of 46 hours per week for the Colombian economy as a whole. This average reflects an increase from the 41 average weekly hours reported for this sector in 2003, yet it is down from the 43.9 average weekly hours reported for 2007.

## Key Labour Market Indicators (2009)

**Economically Active Population:** 

Total: 20,941,000 Men: 12,236,000 Women: 8,705,000

**Labour Force Participation Rate:** 

Total: 61.3% Men: 73.3% Women: 49.8%

Unemployment Rate: Total: 12.0%

Men: 9.3% Women: 15.8%



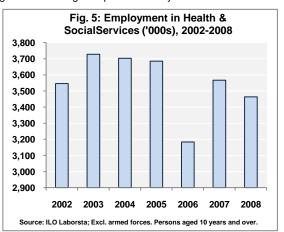
## **Health & Social Services**

The health and social services sector is the second largest employer in Colombia, after wholesale and retail trade. In 2008 the health and social work sector accounted for 19.9 per cent of total employment, providing jobs for about 3.46 million workers. This is slightly lower than the 3.55 million workers employed by the sector in 2002. Employment in this sector peaked in 2003, at 3.3 million workers (see Figs. 1 & 5). Female workers comprise more than 70 per cent of the industry's workforce.

The health and social work sector in Colombia employs a broad range of personnel engaged in a variety of occupations and subsectors within the industry. In addition to doctors, nurses and medical professionals, the health sector includes such occupations as public health promoters, family health practitioners, dental assistants, clinical and laboratory assistants, health statisticians, and pharmacy workers, among others.

In 2010 Colombia established the National Occupational Health Commission for the Health Sector (*la Comisión Nacional de Salud Ocupacional del Sector Salud*) as one of several national sector-specific commissions that support the work of the National Committee of Occupational Health. The commission is composed of multiple industry stakeholders, including workers, employers and Government representatives with the aim of promoting guidelines and strategies for ensuring occupational safety and health.

Due to the need to provide 24-hour care, working arrangements in health facilities are complex. Shift work, part-time schedules and non-traditional hours often characterize working time for employees. Industry workers earned 899,000 pesos on average per month in 2007. Workers in this sector earned more than the national average of 658,000 pesos per month in that year, but less than workers in the utilities, mining and business services sectors. Average monthly earnings have increased at an average growth rate of 12.5 per cent per year, similar to the national average. However, wages tend to vary across occupational specialties in the industry.





Colombia

Table 1: GDP	Value Add	led by Ind	ustry (Bill	ions of Pe	sos, Cons	stant Price	es) & % Sh	are in Tot	al Value A	dded
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total GDP	284,762.0	289,541.0	296,790.0	308,420.0	324,868.0	340,158.0	362,939.0	388,003.0	398,598.0	401,908.0
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Agr., For.& Fishing	22,617.0	23,017.0	24,064.0	24,807.0	25,570.0	26,279.0	26,836.0	27,821.0	27,659.0	27,557.0
	7.9%	7.9%	8.1%	8.0%	7.9%	7.7%	7.4%	7.2%	6.9%	6.9%
Mining	22,542.0	20,678.0	20,310.0	20,654.0	20,488.0	21,371.0	21,915.0	22,199.0	23,758.0	26,040.0
	7.9%	7.1%	6.8%	6.7%	6.3%	6.3%	6.0%	5.7%	6.0%	6.5%
Manufacturing	38,656.0	39,782.0	40,620.0	42,544.0	46,043.0	48,082.0	51,268.0	55,422.0	53,077.0	49,952.0
	13.6%	13.7%	13.7%	13.8%	14.2%	14.1%	14.1%	14.3%	13.3%	12.4%
Utilities	11,101.0	11,731.0	11,795.0	12,654.0	13,137.0	13,708.0	14,360.0	14,947.0	14,956.0	15,165.0
	3.9%	4.1%	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%
Construction	12,353.0	13,124.0	14,775.0	16,002.0	17,698.0	18,915.0	21,213.0	22,812.0	23,487.0	26,913.0
	4.3%	4.5%	5.0%	5.2%	5.4%	5.6%	5.8%	5.9%	5.9%	6.7%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	22,521.0	23,277.0	23,695.0	24,408.0	26,012.0	27,442.0	29,385.0	32,128.0	32,574.0	31,539.0
	7.9%	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%	8.0%	8.1%	8.1%	8.3%	8.2%	7.8%
Hotels & Restaurants	7,387.0	7,478.0	7,570.0	8,111.0	8,799.0	9,178.0	9,973.0	10,699.0	11,190.0	11,283.0
	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Trans., Stor. & Com.	18,043.0	18,698.0	19,213.0	20,081.0	21,601.0	23,288.0	26,110.0	28,764.0	30,301.0	30,308.0
	6.3%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.6%	6.8%	7.2%	7.4%	7.6%	7.5%
Financial Int.	11,491.0	11,147.0	11,323.0	12,004.0	12,729.0	13,409.0	14,894.0	16,958.0	19,721.0	20,149.0
	4.0%	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	4.1%	4.4%	4.9%	5.0%
Real Estate & Bus. Serv.	42,987.0	44,146.0	45,635.0	47,258.0	49,215.0	51,687.0	54,337.0	57,038.0	58,781.0	60,799.0
	15.1%	15.2%	15.4%	15.3%	15.1%	15.2%	15.0%	14.7%	14.7%	15.1%
Public Admin.	26,987.0	26,733.0	27,254.0	27,208.0	28,658.0	29,480.0	30,867.0	32,712.0	33,215.0	33,517.0
	9.5%	9.2%	9.2%	8.8%	8.8%	8.7%	8.5%	8.4%	8.3%	8.3%
Education	7,146.0	7,142.0	7,082.0	7,024.0	6,979.0	6,984.0	7,141.0	7,341.0	7,420.0	7,470.0
	2.5%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Health	5,376.0	5,723.0	5,955.0	6,485.0	6,826.0	7,312.0	7,739.0	7,917.0	8,407.0	8,642.0
	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%

Source: DANE.

Notes: Sectors are classified according to the national classification of industrial sectors as reported by the national source. Sum of individual sectors may not equal total due to rounding and other adjustments introduced by the national source.

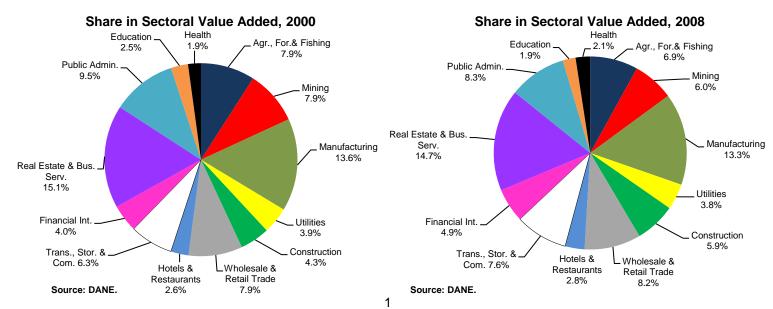


Table 2: World Merchandise Exports (Thousand USD, Current Prices)										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total All Products	13,158,389.8	12,301,473.8	11,897,475.1	13,092,203.5	16,729,661.0	21,190,438.7	24,390,975.1	29,991,332.0	37,625,882.1	32,852,985.8
All Food Items	2,501,106.2	2,232,950.7	2,201,375.4	2,278,362.0	2,821,152.2	3,635,694.5	3,858,982.6	4,576,661.7	5,403,204.1	4,849,596.7
Food	2,454,687.0	2,179,762.0	2,127,271.4	2,186,581.2	2,697,317.1	3,538,819.8	3,764,927.6	4,471,285.9	5,308,714.1	4,779,413.9
Beverages & Tobacco	46,419.2	53,188.7	74,104.1	91,780.8	123,835.1	96,874.7	94,055.0	105,375.9	94,490.0	70,182.8
Agricultural Raw Materials	621,796.2	650,543.9	715,302.1	725,025.6	749,945.5	962,925.8	1,062,887.6	1,281,484.0	1,290,005.4	1,120,966.0
Ores, Metals, Precious Stones & Non- Monetary Gold	193,292.9	200,631.2	303,465.5	805,732.3	861,689.0	984,052.3	1,500,768.4	1,628,608.9	1,933,742.3	2,163,115.4
Ores & Metals	87,276.3	99,651.3	98,237.3	132,565.9	211,134.1	283,956.2	581,601.3	702,099.3	751,666.4	514,688.1
Fuels	5,668,573.9	4,465,281.5	4,273,429.7	4,869,042.0	6,174,538.4	8,316,319.8	9,373,867.7	10,872,100.0	17,295,009.6	15,780,856.4
Coal, Coke, & Briquettes	892,881.7	1,178,765.4	990,160.8	1,422,476.0	1,853,728.4	2,598,186.9	2,912,972.6	3,494,543.8	5,043,330.5	5,416,385.3
Petroleum, Petroleum Products & Related Materials	4,762,123.3	3,265,408.1	3,262,536.6	3,366,990.2	4,217,512.3	5,543,898.0	6,309,800.0	7,297,135.5	12,050,870.4	9,992,807.1
Gas, Natural & Manufactured	13,568.9	19,728.5	12,507.8	16,481.5	10,588.6	16,867.5	22,007.1	22,362.9	163,024.8	275,938.0
Electric Current	:	1,379.5	8,224.5	63,094.3	92,709.1	157,367.5	129,088.1	58,057.9	37,783.9	95,726.0
Manufactured Goods	4,173,616.9	4,751,942.0	4,403,275.9	4,413,837.8	6,120,828.0	7,285,379.5	8,589,213.4	11,627,002.2	11,698,313.5	8,930,850.9
Chemicals	1,335,679.4	1,361,827.2	1,329,737.0	1,219,368.3	1,541,720.5	1,786,172.6	2,024,381.6	2,413,255.7	2,951,475.2	2,715,936.7
Machinery & Transport Equipment	565,440.9	828,160.8	663,022.7	430,311.1	910,812.0	1,265,020.0	1,519,771.1	2,208,299.4	1,884,343.7	1,427,862.0
Iron & Steel	310,362.1	346,772.6	370,698.8	517,290.4	819,105.9	1,036,717.0	1,400,269.0	1,941,057.3	1,257,521.7	961,987.4
Textile Fibres, Yarn, Fabrics & Clothing	799,999.3	846,396.9	740,271.3	876,441.1	1,201,680.6	1,281,830.7	1,360,578.9	1,996,832.0	2,095,520.8	1,236,528.0
Other Manufactured Goods	2,272,496.6	2,561,953.9	2,410,516.2	2,764,158.4	3,668,295.5	4,234,186.8	5,045,060.7	7,005,447.1	6,862,494.6	4,787,052.2

Source: UNCTADStat. Data presented according to SITC Rev.3 and standard UNCTAD product groupings.

	Table 3: World Merchandise Imports (Thousand USD, Current Prices)										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Total All Products	11,756,975.1	12,820,325.4	13,189,937.2	13,880,584.2	17,099,508.5	21,204,162.1	26,162,440.0	32,897,045.3	39,668,840.2	32,897,671.5	
All Food Items	1,402,495.2	1,504,057.8	1,541,960.7	1,560,181.7	1,809,703.4	1,853,614.5	2,276,608.7	3,012,848.5	4,020,825.3	3,368,417.7	
Food	1,325,586.6	1,405,300.0	1,458,337.9	1,468,958.7	1,691,054.3	1,759,870.2	2,171,989.2	2,883,404.1	3,890,698.4	3,254,216.2	
Beverages & Tobacco	76,908.6	98,757.7	83,622.9	91,222.9	118,649.1	93,744.3	104,619.5	129,444.4	130,126.9	114,201.5	
Agricultural Raw Materials	331,345.3	287,436.3	291,138.7	339,292.5	338,935.2	345,192.3	426,910.7	457,424.0	521,646.5	405,639.9	
Ores, Metals, Precious Stones & Non- Monetary Gold	279,670.3	269,361.4	264,587.0	290,552.3	416,608.5	560,661.6	884,258.9	1,057,293.8	1,023,400.5	591,022.2	
Ores & Metals	279,291.2	268,842.4	263,805.5	289,677.5	415,459.2	559,266.8	883,274.5	1,056,002.3	1,016,097.4	589,429.7	
Fuels	241,248.7	196,856.9	195,922.1	244,247.3	267,989.9	551,262.3	687,232.4	913,700.5	1,814,455.7	1,238,418.9	
Coal, Coke, & Briquettes	1,153.2	1,118.2	1,310.3	1,765.2	1,758.6	1,358.8	1,981.5	2,215.7	2,037.3	2,340.9	
Petroleum, Petroleum Products & Related Materials	234,196.1	187,231.6	189,833.3	238,718.8	263,470.8	545,523.1	679,929.8	907,900.9	1,795,527.2	1,220,446.3	
Gas, Natural & Manufactured	451.7	428.7	1,351.0	539.9	1,030.7	1,476.9	707.9	1,051.0	11,714.6	14,056.9	
Electric Current	5,447.7	8,078.5	3,427.5	3,223.4	1,729.8	2,903.5	4,613.3	2,532.8	5,176.6	1,574.9	
Manufactured Goods	9,480,655.5	10,441,269.0	10,885,568.5	11,371,730.2	14,152,731.2	17,738,445.0	21,631,785.1	27,156,089.1	31,971,554.5	27,025,758.9	
Chemicals	2,732,462.0	2,783,663.9	3,336,595.4	3,055,465.0	3,693,443.1	4,401,427.6	5,230,207.1	6,088,977.0	7,407,698.9	6,123,263.5	
Machinery & Transport Equipment	3,867,016.2	4,745,497.6	4,667,363.2	5,263,910.3	6,656,384.7	8,563,775.6	10,508,883.0	13,598,246.8	15,562,938.0	13,737,789.8	
Iron & Steel	443,780.8	429,793.3	416,850.5	518,172.3	834,582.9	1,091,081.4	1,257,506.1	1,798,273.2	2,481,034.6	1,491,895.1	
Textile Fibres, Yarn, Fabrics & Clothing	763,679.5	732,991.6	701,495.6	753,515.9	885,812.9	949,733.7	1,163,956.3	1,384,850.0	1,485,674.9	1,257,515.1	
Other Manufactured Goods	2,881,177.3	2,912,107.5	2,881,609.8	3,052,355.0	3,802,903.4	4,773,241.8	5,892,694.9	7,468,865.3	9,000,917.7	7,164,705.6	

Source: UNCTADStat. Data presented according to SITC Rev.3 and standard UNCTAD product groupings.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Employment	15,844.3	16,650.1	16,704.0	17,154.9	16,680.9	17,076.5	17,425.7
,	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	3,169.3	3,413.0	3,304.7	3,735.1	2,059.2	3,035.0	3,054.5
g , g ,	20.0%	20.5%	19.8%	21.8%	12.3%	17.8%	17.5%
Mining and Quarrying	276.1	203.1	188.0	130.6	102.0	103.2	149.1
3	1.7%	1.2%	1.1%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%
Manufacturing	2,051.1	2,134.9	2,283.3	2,253.1	1,998.0	2,361.4	2,335.6
3	12.9%	12.8%	13.7%	13.1%	12.0%	13.8%	13.4%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	68.9	65.0	68.2	83.7	62.9	83.7	78.7
	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Construction	825.8	766.4	781.4	846.3	755.2	905.1	878.5
	5.2%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	4.5%	5.3%	5.0%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4,015.9	4,249.6	4,163.7	4,253.1	3,646.5	4,344.4	4,605.3
	25.3%	25.5%	24.9%	24.8%	21.9%	25.4%	26.4%
Transport, Storage, Communications	1,054.1	1,173.5	1,248.8	1,153.0	1,097.9	1,450.1	1,467.4
	6.7%	7.0%	7.5%	6.7%	6.6%	8.5%	8.4%
Financial Intermediation	188.8	200.4	213.5	221.9	204.8	222.2	219.6
	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%
Real Estate, Rental, Business Services	640.1	713.0	745.5	792.4	811.2	995.7	1,146.8
	4.0%	4.3%	4.5%	4.6%	4.9%	5.8%	6.6%
Health and Social Work	3,546.3	3,728.2	3,702.6	3,684.7	3,183.0	3,567.3	3,463.3
	22.4%	22.4%	22.2%	21.5%	19.1%	20.9%	19.9%
Not classifiable by economic activity	7.8	3.1	4.4	0.8	2,760.1	8.5	26.9
,	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.5%	0.0%	0.2%

Note: Excl. armed forces. Persons aged 10 years and over.

Source: ILO Laborsta. Sectors are classified according to ISIC Rev.3, as reported in ILO Laborsta. Sum of individual sectors may not equal total due to rounding. Total employment is comprised of all persons above a specific age who during a specified brief period were either in paid employment at work, with a job but not at work, or self-employed. This category covers not only employees (wage earners and salaried employees), but also employers, own-account workers, members of producers' cooperatives, contributing family workers and workers not classifiable by status. Data are non-seasonally adjusted.

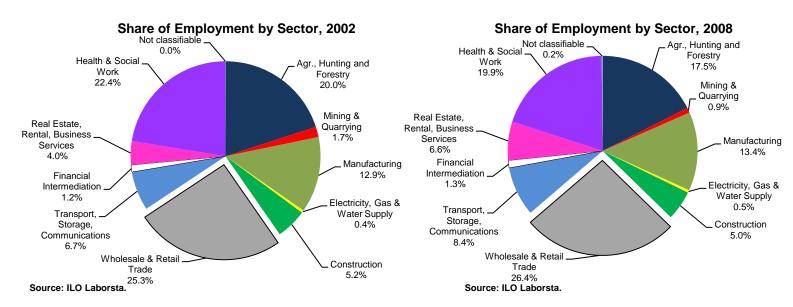


Table 5: Paid Employment in Manufacturing (thousands)										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005				
Furniture; Manufacturing NEC	19.3	17.3	19.1	19.6	19.0	27.0				
Other Transport Equipment	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9	4.0				
Motor Vehicles, Trailers and Semi-Trailers	8.0	8.7	8.9	8.7	9.8	14.1				
Precision Instruments, Watches and Clocks	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.1				
Communication Equipment and Apparatus	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.2				
Electrical Machinery, Apparatus NEC	10.2	10.2	10.3	9.5	9.6	13.6				
Machinery and Equipment NEC	16.5	15.4	14.7	15.5	16.1	23.1				
Fabricated Metal Products NEC	16.8	16.2	15.8	16.2	16.1	23.5				
Basic Metals	10.1	9.8	10.2	9.7	10.7	15.5				
Other Non-Metallic Mineral Products	23.3	22.3	22.0	21.7	22.5	30.3				
Rubber and Plastics Products	27.1	27.2	28.3	29.8	30.0	42.6				
Chemicals and Chemical Products	38.9	41.6	39.9	39.7	40.7	55.9				
Petroleum Refining and Related Products	4.6	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5				
Printing and Publishing	21.5	19.8	20.0	20.0	20.3	25.1				
Paper and Paper Products	17.4	17.2	17.1	16.7	17.0	20.1				
Wood and Wood Products	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.8				
Leather Products and Footwear	14.6	13.5	12.4	12.3	13.1	18.8				
Clothing	60.6	60.7	61.3	61.3	60.7	82.4				
Textiles	39.3	37.5	36.4	36.0	34.7	50.4				
Tobacco Products	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3				
Food Products and Beverages	109.1	102.6	98.2	95.2	92.2	128.1				

Note: Excl. armed forces. Persons aged 10 years and over.

Source: ILO Laborsta. Sectors are classified according to ISIC Rev.3, as reported in ILO Laborsta. Sum of individual sectors may not equal total due to rounding. Paid employment refers to workers in jobs where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts which give them a basic remuneration which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work, typically wages and salaries. Data are non-seasonally adjusted.