



Child Labor

Because their poor families needed them and businesses welcomed them, around 1.75 million children joined the work force in the late 1800s.

These laborers were mostly between the ages of 10-15, but some were as young as 6. Children worked up to 15 hours a day in coal mines and factories.

Child labor was especially common in mining because their small size worked well in the cramped spaces. Common injuries in the mines included back deformities, asthma and crushed or broken fingers. Many other industries employed and similarly harmed children.