Modern slavery in China
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific

Figure 2.
Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific

KEY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (2021)</th>
<th>1,439,323,774</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $)</td>
<td>$17,189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people</th>
<th>NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5,771,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY</th>
<th>GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46/100</td>
<td>40/100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 4.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in China at any point in 2021. In other words, 5,771,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in China in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, China ranks 111th globally and 19th within Asia and the Pacific.
**Modern slavery in China**

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**Vulnerability to modern slavery**

How vulnerable a country’s people are to modern slavery is dependent on a range of factors which reflect the strength of governance, access to basic needs, inequality, disenfranchised groups, and effects of conflict. On a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest vulnerability to modern slavery, China is rated as 46 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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**Figure 3.**

Vulnerability of China to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average

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**Importing risk of modern slavery**

China imported US$17.2 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:

- Palm Oil: US$6.3 billion
- timber: US$3.9 billion
- Cattle: US$3.9 billion
- Garments: US$1.7 billion
- Sugarcane: US$1.4 billion

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**Government response to modern slavery**

The government of China scored 40 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government’s response below the average regional response. Of the five areas of response assessed (milestones), the government has taken most action on national and regional coordination of the response to modern slavery and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

**Figure 4.**

Government of China’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

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**Priority Recommendations for the government of China**

1. Immediately end the state-imposed forced labour of Uyghur people and other Turkic and Muslim majority groups, Tibetans, and prisoners by acknowledging the existence of serious human right violations, which may amount to crimes against humanity and other international crimes. Take immediate steps to end these violations by repealing and amending legislation and policies that facilitate state-imposed forced labour.

2. Expand the human trafficking law (Criminal Code Article 240) to include men and boys over the age of 14 as possible victims.

3. Ensure support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality.

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*For more information on modern slavery, visit the Global Slavery Index 2023 website.*

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