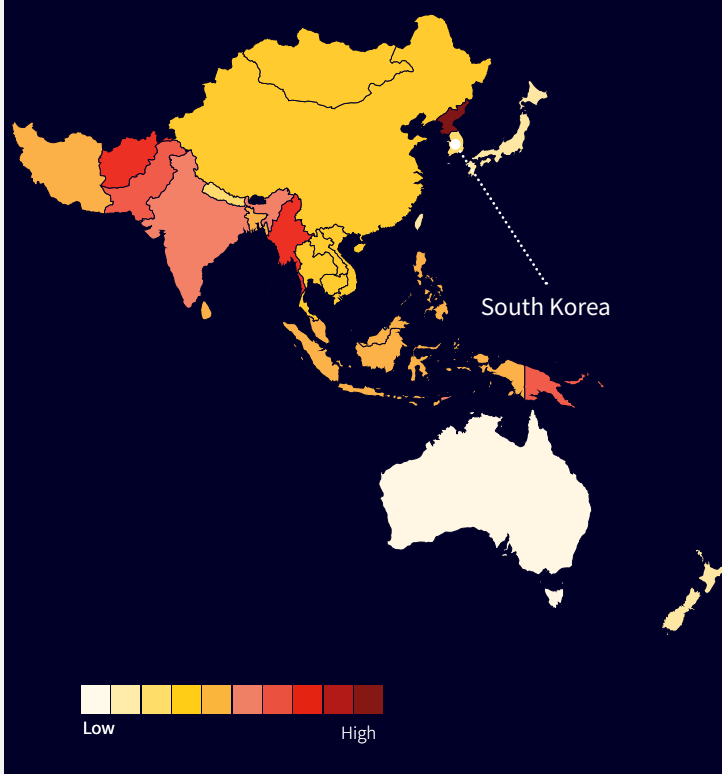


Modern slavery in South Korea

Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



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



KEY STATS

Population (2021) 51,269,183

GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl \$) \$45,226

3.5

**PREVALENCE OF
MODERN SLAVERY**
per 1,000 people

180,000

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING
IN MODERN SLAVERY**

29/100

**VULNERABILITY TO
MODERN SLAVERY**

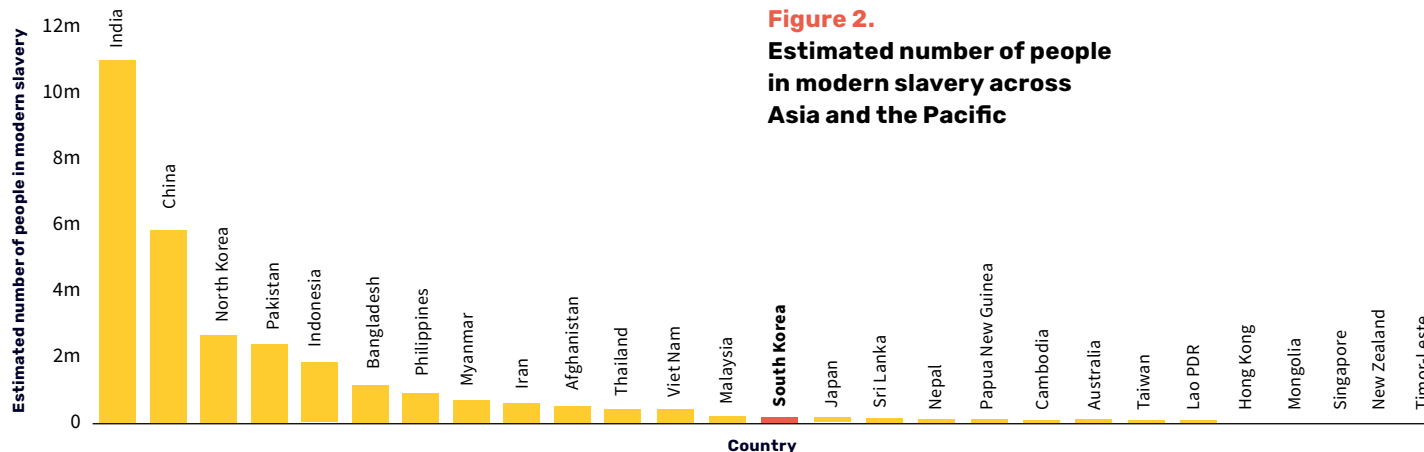
38/100

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
TO MODERN SLAVERY**

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 3.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in South Korea at any point in 2021. In other words, 180,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in South Korea in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, South Korea ranks 117th globally and 20th within Asia and the Pacific.

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



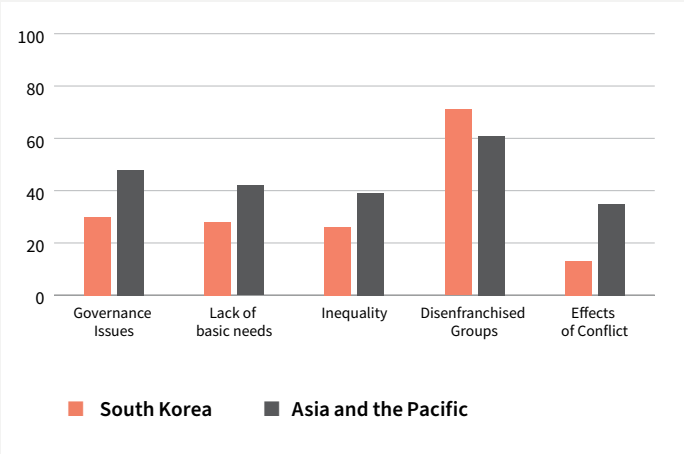
Modern slavery in South Korea

Global Slavery Index 2023
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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, South Korea is rated as 29 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

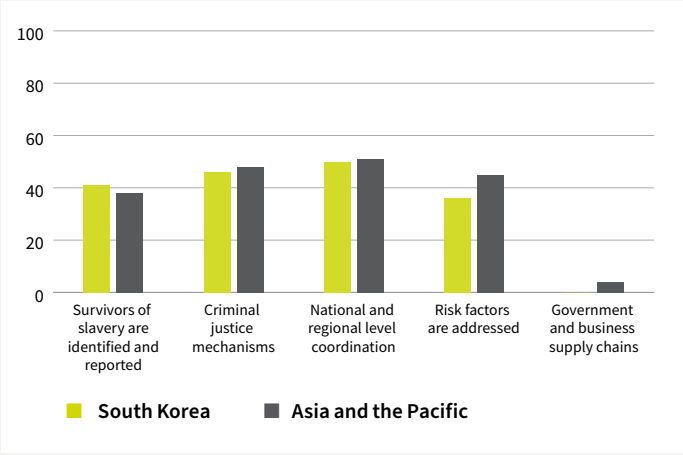
Figure 3.
Vulnerability of South Korea to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average



Government response to modern slavery

The government of South Korea scored 38 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 South Korea’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average



Importing risk of modern slavery

South Korea imported US\$20 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:



Priority Recommendations for the government of South Korea

- 1 Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.
- 2 Enact legislation recognising that victims should not be treated as criminals for conduct that occurred while under control of their exploiter and ensure the law is enforced.
- 3 Remove laws or policies that prevent or make it difficult for workers to leave abusive employers without risking loss of their visa, deportation, and/or loss of security deposits.

THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

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

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