Modern slavery in Thailand
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

Population (2021) 69,799,978  
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $18,198

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY  
per 1,000 people

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 5.7 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Thailand at any point in 2021. In other words, 401,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Thailand in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Thailand ranks 79th globally and 14th within Asia and the Pacific.

Figure 2. Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific
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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, Thailand is rated as 46 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Thailand scored 55 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government’s response above 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 Thailand’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Thailand

1. Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.

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

3. 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.

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