Modern slavery in Brazil
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1. Prevalence of modern slavery across the Americas

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

Figure 2. Estimated number of people living in modern slavery across the Americas

KEY STATS

Population (2021) 212,559,409
GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) $14,834

5.0
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people
1,053,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

47/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY
51/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 5.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Brazil at any point in 2021. In other words, 1,053,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Brazil in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Brazil ranks 91st globally and 16th within the Americas.

Figure 2. Estimated number of people living in modern slavery across the Americas
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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, Brazil is rated as 47 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Brazil scored 29 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 Brazil’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Importing risk of modern slavery
Brazil imported US$5.6 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:

Solar Panels: US$2.8 billion
Electronics: US$1.2 billion
Garments: US$800 million
Palm Oil: US$500 million
Textiles: US$300 million

Priority Recommendations for the government of Brazil

1. Repeal the 2018 ruling that created a new category of “volunteer labour,” which thereby removed the requirement to pay prisoners for their work while imprisoned.

2. Criminalise human trafficking in line with international conventions.

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