Modern slavery in Colombia
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across the Americas

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 7.8 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Colombia at any point in 2021. In other words, 397,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Colombia in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Colombia ranks 40th globally and 5th within the Americas.

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

KEY STATS
Population (2021) 50,882,884
GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) $14,868

7.8
397,000
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

51/100
46/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

0
200k
400k
600k
800k
1M
1.2M
United States
Brazil
Mexico
Colombia
Venezuela
Peru
Argentina
Guatemala
Nepal
Bolivia
Dominican Republic
Canada
Honduras
Chile
Ghana
El Salvador
Nicaragua
Paraguay
Jamaica
Panama
Costa Rica
Trinidad & Tobago
Uruguay
Guyana

Estimated number of people in modern slavery

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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, Colombia is rated as 51 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Colombia scored 46 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 Colombia’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Colombia
1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
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.

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