Modern slavery in Costa Rica
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across the Americas

KEY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (2021)</th>
<th>5,094,114</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $)</td>
<td>$22,244</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.2

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

16,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

24/100

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 3.2 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Costa Rica at any point in 2021. In other words, 16,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Costa Rica in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Costa Rica ranks 124th globally and 22nd within the Americas.

Figure 2.
Estimated number of people living in modern slavery across the Americas
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, Costa Rica is rated as 24 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

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

Government response to modern slavery

The government of Costa Rica scored 51 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 Costa Rica’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Costa Rica

1. Criminalise human trafficking in line with international conventions.
2. Ensure support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality.
3. Develop and promote the use of clear national guidelines for identifying and screening victims for all first responders.

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