Modern slavery in Trinidad and Tobago
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 4.7 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Trinidad and Tobago at any point in 2021. In other words, 7,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Trinidad and Tobago in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Trinidad and Tobago ranks 93rd globally and 17th within 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, Trinidad and Tobago is rated as 38 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

Figure 3.
Vulnerability of Trinidad and Tobago to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average

Figure 4.
Government of Trinidad and Tobago’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Trinidad and Tobago scored 49 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 effective criminal justice mechanisms and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

Priority Recommendations for the government of Trinidad and Tobago
1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
2. Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.
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.

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