Modern slavery in the United States

Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1. Prevalence of modern slavery across the Americas

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

KEY STATS

Population (2021) 331,002,647
GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) $63,028

3.3
1,091,000
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

25/100
67/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 3.3 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in the United States at any point in 2021. In other words, 1,091,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in the United States in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, the United States ranks 122nd globally and 21st 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, the United States is rated as 25 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Figure 4.
Government of the United States’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Importing risk of modern slavery
The United States imported US$169.6 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:

- **Electronics**: US$108 billion
- **Garments**: US$52.4 billion
- **Textiles**: US$4.8 billion
- **Timber**: US$2.7 billion
- **Fish**: US$2.2 billion

Priority Recommendations for the government of the United States

1. Immediately end forced labour of citizens by amending federal and state laws and constitutions that allow for compulsory prison labour as a punishment and to occur in administrative detention and for private interests.

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

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