Modern slavery in Austria
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

KEY STATS
Population (2021) 9,006,400
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $55,686

1.9 PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people
17,000 NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

8/100 VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY
62/100 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 1.9 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Austria at any point in 2021. In other words, 17,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Austria in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Austria ranks 142nd globally and 37th within Europe and Central Asia.

Prevalence of modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia

Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia
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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, Austria is rated as 8 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Austria scored 62 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 the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

Figure 4.
Response of the government of Austria to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average

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