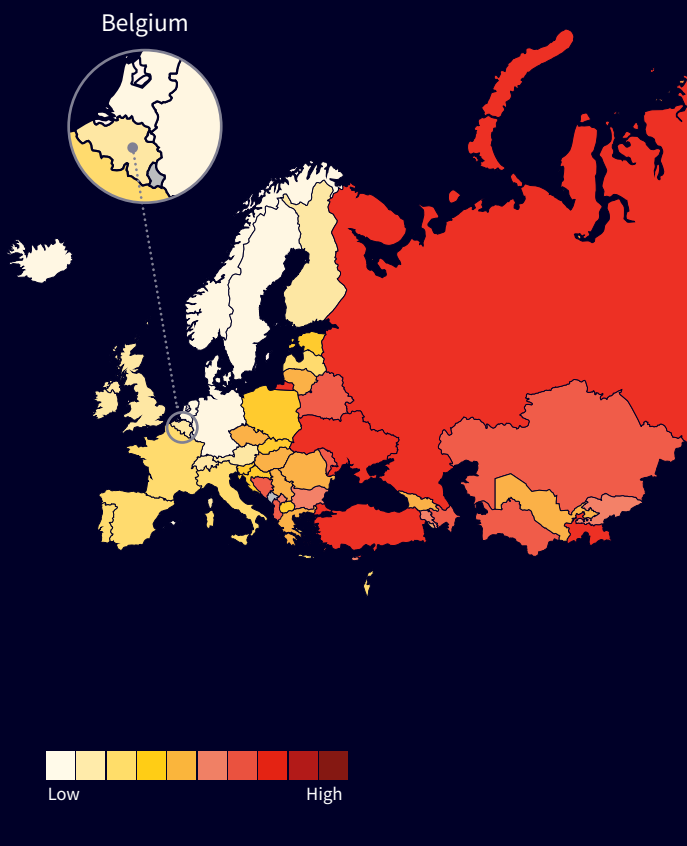


# Modern slavery in Belgium

## Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



**Figure 1.**  
Prevalence of modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia



### KEY STATS

Population (2021) 11,589,616

GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl \$) \$53,070

**1.0**

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

**11,000**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

**11/100**

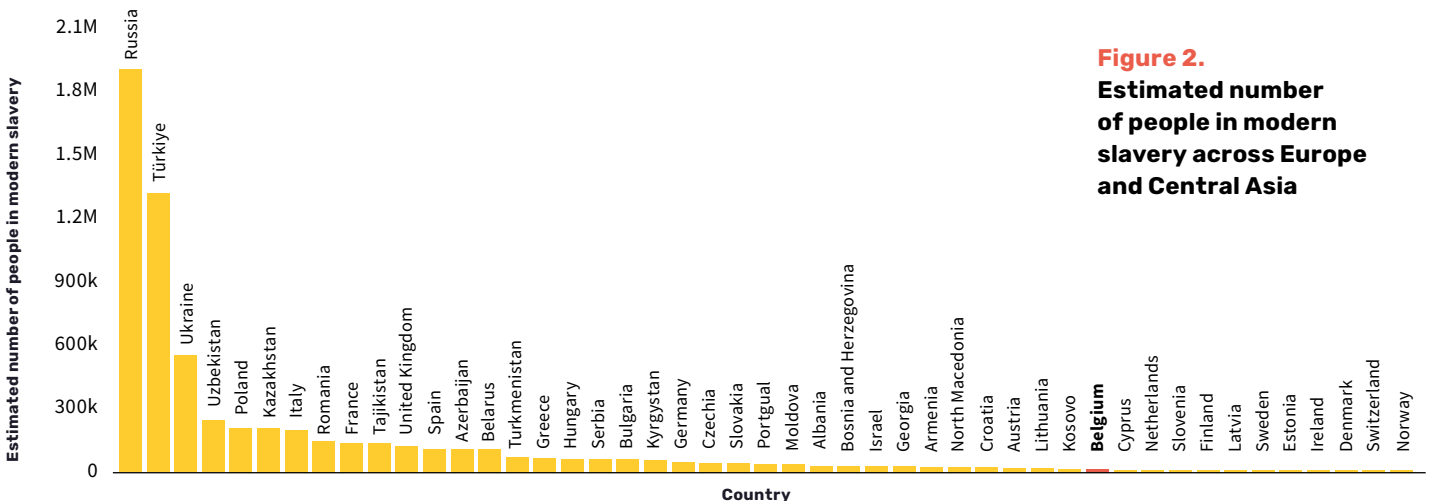
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

**59/100**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

### The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 1.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Belgium at any point in 2021. In other words, 11,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Belgium in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Belgium ranks 154th globally and 41st within Europe and Central Asia.



**Figure 2.**  
Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia

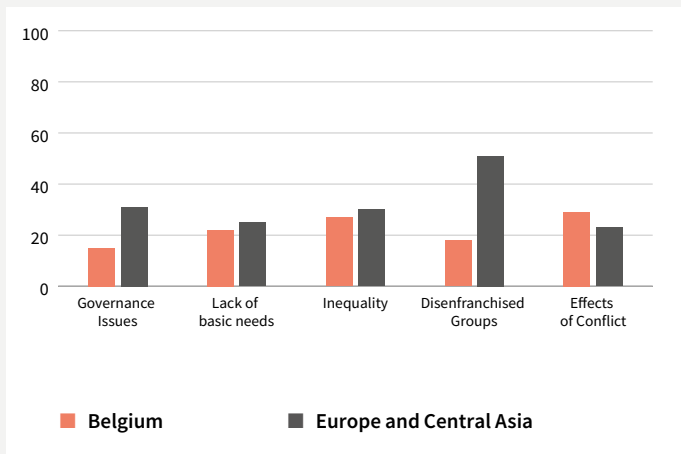
# Modern slavery in Belgium

Global Slavery Index 2023  
Country Snapshot

## 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, Belgium is rated as 11 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of effects of conflict.

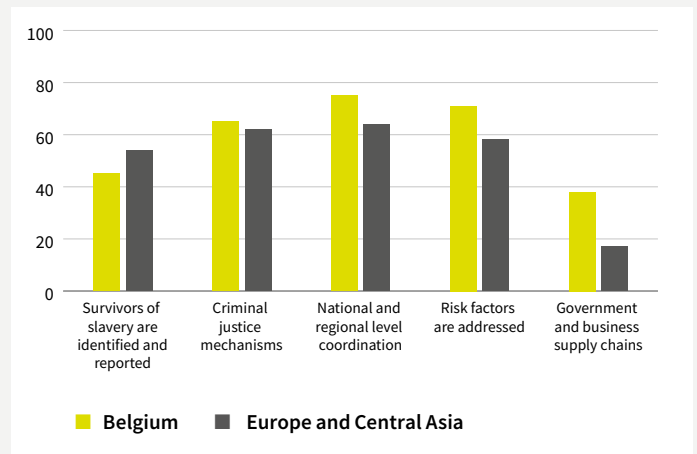
**Figure 3.**  
Vulnerability of Belgium to modern slavery by dimension of vulnerability, compared to the regional average



## Government response to modern slavery

The government of Belgium scored 59 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 Belgium to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average



## Priority Recommendations for the government of Belgium:

- 1 Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
- 2 Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.
- 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.

**THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023**

**WALK FREE**

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