Modern slavery in Estonia
Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot

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

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

KEY STATS
Population (2021) 1,326,539
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $37,645

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<th>4.1</th>
<th>5,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people</td>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY</td>
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<th>15/100</th>
<th>56/100</th>
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<td>VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY</td>
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The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 4.1 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Estonia at any point in 2021. In other words, 5,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Estonia in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Estonia ranks 107th globally and 30th within 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, Estonia is rated as 15 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Estonia scored 56 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 addressing risk factors of modern slavery and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Estonia:
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. Develop an evidence-based National Action Plan in coordination with relevant stakeholders to tackle modern slavery.

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