Modern slavery in Ireland
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

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

KEY STATS
Population (2021) 4,937,796
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $93,350

1.1
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

5,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

9/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

63/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery
According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 1.1 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Ireland at any point in 2021. In other words, 5,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Ireland in 2021. Ireland ranks 153rd globally and 40th within Europe and Central Asia.

Figure 2. 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, the level of inequality, disenfranchised groups, and effects of conflict. On a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest vulnerability to modern slavery, Ireland is rated as 9 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

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

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Ireland scored 63 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 Ireland to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Ireland:

1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
2. Enact legislation recognising that victims should not be treated as criminals for conduct that occurred while under control of their exploiter and ensure the law is enforced.
3. Ensure victims of modern slavery are not deported for immigration violations by instituting policies around screening for victims, providing training on victim identification for immigration and law enforcement officials, and providing visas to stay in the country.