Modern slavery in Latvia
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

The scale of modern slavery
According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 3.4 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Latvia at any point in 2021. In other words, 6,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Latvia in 2021. Latvia ranks 119th globally and 33rd 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, 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, Latvia is rated as 17 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Latvia 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 effective criminal justice mechanisms and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Latvia:
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.