Modern slavery in Russia
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

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

The scale of modern slavery
According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 13 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Russia at any point in 2021. In other words, 1,899,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Russia in 2021. Russia ranks 8th globally and 3rd within Europe and Central Asia.

Figure 2. Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia
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For more information on modern slavery, visit the Global Slavery Index 2023 website.

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, Russia is rated as 60 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of governance issues.

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Russia scored 24 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government’s response below 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.

Priority Recommendations for the government of Russia:

1. Immediately end state-imposed forced labour by ceasing the use of compulsory prison labour and compulsory labour as a punishment for holding views opposed to the established political, social, or economic system. Amend or repeal sections of legislation that allow these practices to occur, including the Penal Code, Law of 24 July 2007, the Code on Administrative Offences, Federal Law No. 141 of 28 July 2012, the Criminal Code, Law No. 136-FZ, the Code on the Execution of Penal Sentences, and Act No, 5473-I (21 July 1993).

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.

Importing risk of modern slavery
Russia imported US $15.2 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:

- Electronics: US$8.7 billion
- Garments: US$4.7 billion
- Palm oil: US$900 million
- Cattle: US$500 million
- Textiles: US$400 million

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