Modern slavery in Serbia
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) 8,737,370
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $19,094

7.0
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

61,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

34/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

56/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery
According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 7.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Serbia at any point in 2021. In other words, 61,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Serbia in 2021. Serbia ranks 57th globally and 22nd 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, Serbia is rated as 34 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

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

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Serbia:

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.

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