

Labor: Freely Chosen Employment

Freely Chosen Employment, Overview

Although one may think that forced labor is uncommon today, the most recent ILO study, published in 2005, estimates that a minimum of 12.3 million people are victims of forced labor worldwide. This equates to 2 victims for every 1,000 inhabitants of the planet and 4 victims for every 1,000 workers on the planet 01.

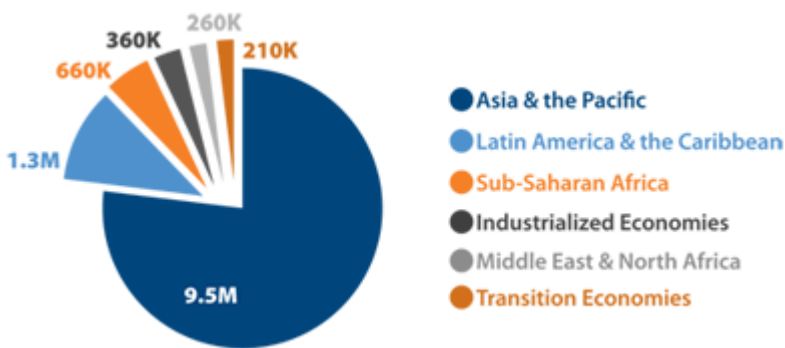


Figure 1: Estimate of Force Labor by Region — Click on the image for a larger view

Source: [ILO Minimum Estimate of Forced Labor in the World](#) (PDF)

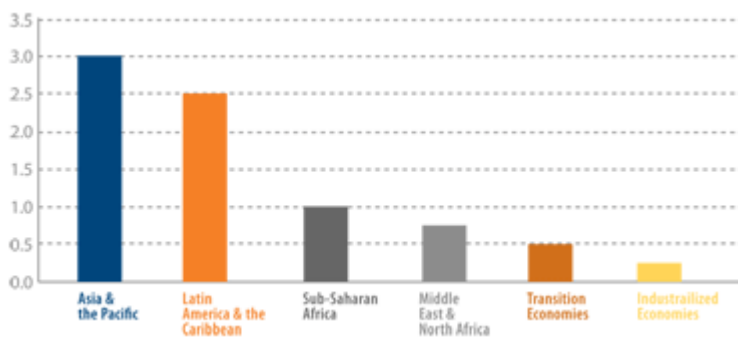


Figure 2: Forced Labor Victims per 1,000 Inhabitants — Click on the image for a larger view

Source: [ILO Minimum Estimate of Forced Labor in the World](#) (PDF)

Why should businesses be concerned? The ILO estimates that about 80% of these violations occur in the private sector ⁰². A great reference for businesses interested in learning more about forced labor and how to combat forced labor is the ILO's [Combating Forced Labour: A](#)

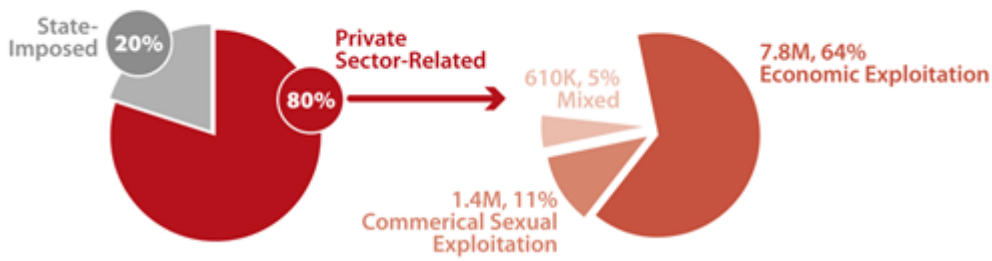


Figure 3: Forced Labor by Category, Worldwide — Click on the image for a larger view

Source: [ILO Minimum Estimate of Forced Labor in the World](#) (PDF)

⁰¹ International Labor Organization. [ILO Minimum Estimate of Forced Labour in the World](#) (PDF). April 2005.

⁰² IBID