

**RISKY GOODS**

**NEW ZEALAND  
IMPORTS**



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## Foreword

### Have you ever wondered whose hands have sewn your clothes, assembled your gadgets or made your children's toys?

None of us want to be an unwitting part of enslaving people. Yet many of the estimated 40 million children, women and men in modern slavery worldwide are producing the products that are in our homes and workplaces.

This research has an urgent message for New Zealanders. As households, we unwittingly spend an average of \$34 per week – only slightly less than on our electricity spend – on industries whose products are implicated in modern slavery. Right now, companies do not need to do even the most basic checks.

This “don't ask, don't tell” approach means that it's currently almost impossible for Kiwis to be confident that what we buy and use is slavery-free. And for companies already doing the right thing, there is no level playing field that requires their competitors to do the same.

Around the world, this is changing. Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, the European Union and other countries are setting up laws that require companies and the public sector to find out and disclose whether their products are supporting modern slavery. Some are going even further – requiring entities to take active steps to address modern slavery or other human rights issues identified in their supply chains. This is creating a ripple effect of real change. As a country that aspires to treat all people fairly, New Zealand must do the same.

We look back on the trans-Atlantic slave trade of previous centuries with horror, but there are more people in modern slavery now than there ever were then. My hope is that this research will be a rallying call for New Zealanders – businesses, churches, communities and individuals – to do two things. First, to ensure the products they buy as consumers are not facilitating modern slavery, and second, to demand urgent government action.

Kia tau te rangimārie – peace to you,



*Grant Bayldon*

**Grant Bayldon**  
National Director  
World Vision New Zealand

# Executive summary



By bringing risky goods into New Zealand, companies could be supporting child labour and forced labour.

Unknowingly, Kiwis could be contributing to slavery through the things we buy.

Currently in New Zealand, there are no laws stopping products linked to child labour or forced labour from being imported. Companies don't have to declare where their goods are coming from, or ensure their products haven't been made by people who are enslaved.

This report highlights New Zealand's most risky goods, as well as how other countries are looking into supply chains and addressing imports linked to child labour and forced labour.

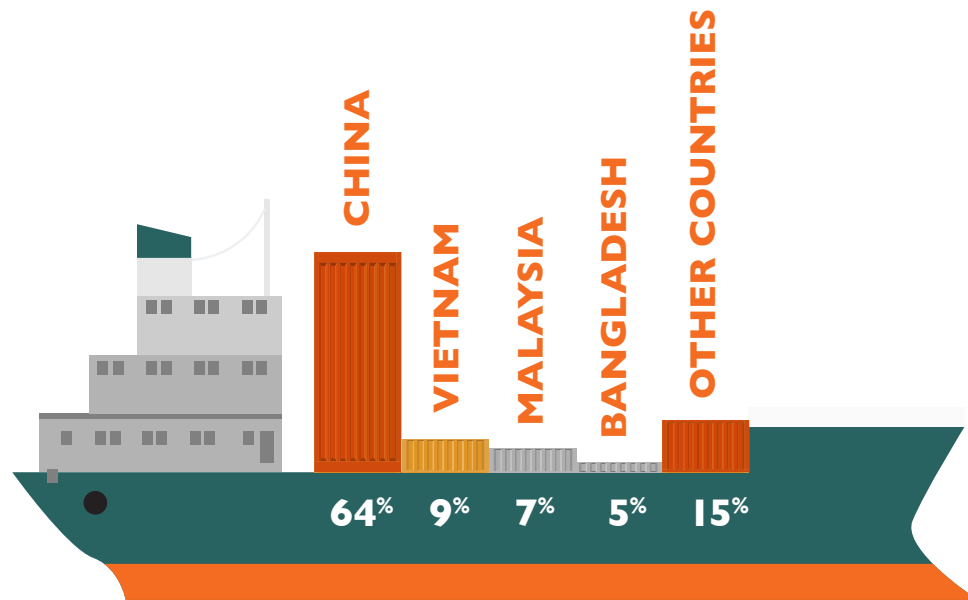
The New Zealand Government should make laws that require companies and the public sector to examine and disclose the origins of their products and then to take steps to address any child labour and forced labour identified in their supply chains. When this information is out in the open, Kiwis can make ethical purchasing decisions and be confident that they aren't supporting modern slavery.

# Key findings

- In 2019, New Zealanders imported more than **\$3.1 billion<sup>1</sup>** of risky products, which is more than **5%** of the country's total imports. Each week, a New Zealand household spends about **\$34** on risky products<sup>2</sup> – only slightly less than they spend on electricity.<sup>3</sup>



- **\$1.5 billion in imports were associated with forced labour, \$713 million with child labour, and \$920 million with both forced labour and child labour.**
- **New Zealand imported risky products from 44 countries globally in 2019.** We spent the most on risky goods from **China (64%, \$2 billion)**, then **Vietnam (9%, \$279 million)**, **Malaysia (7%, \$233 million)** and **Bangladesh (5%, \$150 million)**.



- **Garments were our highest-spend risky good in 2019.** New Zealanders bought **141 million** garments, totalling more than **\$1.3 billion**, or **40%** of all risky products imported. Most garments (**99%**) came from Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. **China**, where the garment industry is associated with forced labour, made up more than two-thirds of these risky garments (more than **95 million** garments).
- **The next four highest-spend risky goods imported** were **electronics** from China and Malaysia; **footwear** from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Turkey, and Vietnam; **toys** from China; and **textiles** from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China and Vietnam.

## Recommendations

1. **The New Zealand Government should enact Modern Slavery legislation**, requiring public and private entities to report on the risks of modern slavery in their businesses and supply chains, and what actions they are taking to address them.
2. **New Zealand should follow international best practice** when designing a Modern Slavery legislation, such as considering human rights due diligence and banning imports linked to modern slavery.
3. **New Zealand companies should keep taking meaningful action** to identify modern slavery and human rights risks in their operations and supply chains. And they should keep requesting that the New Zealand Government considers Modern Slavery legislation.
4. **New Zealand consumers should make ethical decisions about what we buy.** We should ask for more information when goods are deemed “risky”, and keep speaking up about products being free from modern slavery.
5. **More research should be undertaken** into New Zealand’s main imports linked to modern slavery.

## Methodology

This report aligns with a report by [World Vision Canada](#) on *Canada's Child & Forced Labour Problem*. In this report, “risky goods” are those linked to high instances of child and/or forced labour.

This report identifies risky goods using the United States Department of Labor's (USDOL) 2020 *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*.<sup>4</sup> Known as the TVPRA List, it is updated every two years. The 2020 list identifies 155 goods from 77 countries linked to child and/or forced labour.

We obtained [2019 New Zealand Imports data](#) and compared these products with the TVPRA List.<sup>5</sup> We then classified the products using the New Zealand Harmonised System Classification (NZHSC). We matched risky products from the TVPRA List with one or more NZHSC codes, then matched them to the New Zealand imports list. When a risky good was identified, we checked whether it was linked to child labour, forced labour or both, using the TVPRA List.

This report focuses on the top 10 risky imports, with an import spend of more than \$10 million per good. The appendix covers all risky goods imported to New Zealand (72 goods from 44 countries).

## Limitations

We took a conservative approach comparing the TVPRA List with the NZHSC codes of imported items. We found raw products from the imports data, excluding those used to make other items. For example, we matched cotton (a risky good) with cotton rolls or pellets, cotton thread and yarn. However, we didn't match it with items made using cotton thread, such as a cotton dress. This means more risky goods were potentially imported. In some cases, products in the TVPRA List didn't match a NZHSC code directly, so they weren't considered as containing risky products.

The USDOL uses many sources (articles, communications, publications, reports, studies, etc.) to decide which goods to include in the TVPRA List. While it's likely that goods in the list have been produced using child and/or forced labour, it can't be certain.

## Literature review

To find background information and statistics, we reviewed online material, including NGO and industry reports, human rights and international labour reports, and academic material. We used news and media articles to verify material published since 2018.

## Key terms and definitions

**Modern slavery** includes forced labour and child labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices, and human trafficking.<sup>5</sup> This report is concerned with instances of modern slavery in supply chains, which means we are primarily focused on forced labour and child labour.

**Supply chain** is the system of organisations, people, activities, information and resources involved in moving a product or service from the supplier to the customer. Supply chains can include many touchpoints and be difficult to follow. For example, a shoe might have its sole glued on in one factory, travel elsewhere to get laces, be packaged in a different facility and make a few additional stops before being shipped to New Zealand. A child labourer involved in any step can connect the product, and the consumer, to child labour.

**Risky good** means a product that is highly likely to be connected to forced labour or child labour.

**Forced labour** means all work or service exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty, and which the person hasn't offered to do voluntarily.<sup>6</sup> Here, “work or service” refers to all types of work, including in the informal economy.<sup>7</sup> “Threat of a penalty” refers to a wide range of penalties used to compel someone to work.<sup>8</sup> “Offered voluntarily” refers to a worker's free and informed consent to take a job, and leave at any time.<sup>9</sup> This is not the case, for example, when an employer or recruiter makes false promises so that a worker takes a job they wouldn't otherwise have accepted.<sup>10</sup>

**Forced labour by state authorities** While most forced labour occurs within commercial entities, sometimes it's perpetrated by state authorities as well. State authorities might force people to work for financial gain, to punish them for expressing their views or participating in strikes; or as some other means of control, or racial, religious or other discrimination.<sup>11</sup>

**Child labour** means work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous, and is harmful to children. This work may also stop children from attending school or force them to try and combine school with excessively long and heavy work.<sup>12</sup> The worst forms of child labour involve children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses, and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very young age.<sup>13</sup> Child labour also includes children who are victims of trafficking, debt bondage or forced labour, including in armed conflict, as well as children who are used in prostitution, producing pornography, or illicit activities such as the production and trafficking of drugs.<sup>14</sup>

# Modern slavery

Worldwide, at least 40 million people are victims of modern slavery, with 24.9 million people in forced labour and 15 million in forced marriages.<sup>15</sup>

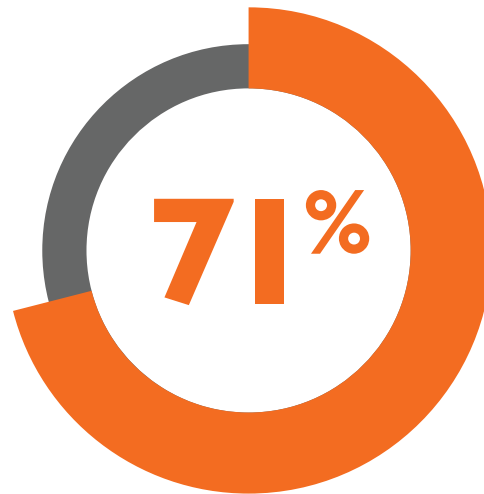
Among those forced to work, the global agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing industries exploit 16 million people, while state authorities exploit 4.1 million people.<sup>16</sup>



**40 million**  
people are victims of  
modern slavery

## Women and girls

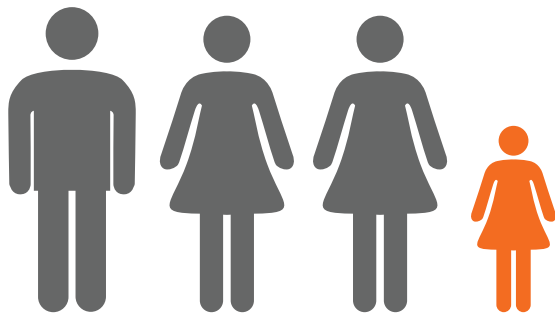
More females than males are enslaved. Some 28.7 million women and girls account for 71% of the total number.<sup>17</sup> In the commercial sex industry, 99% of victims of forced labour are women and girls. They make up 84% of victims of forced marriages, and 40% of the victims who state authorities force into work. In other sectors, women and girls make up 58% of people enslaved.<sup>18</sup>



**of all people in modern slavery are women and girls**

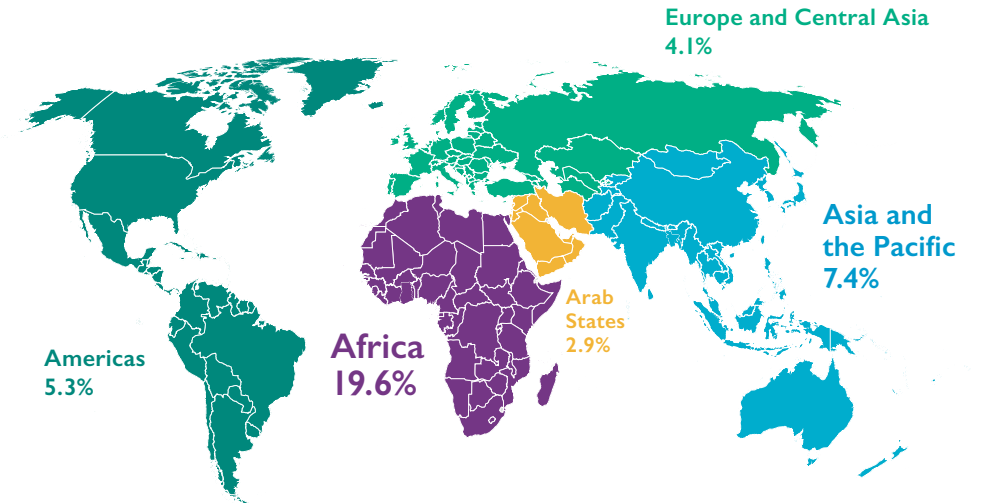
## Child labour

One in four victims of modern slavery is a child.<sup>19</sup> Children make up 18% of people forced into work, and 7% of those who state authorities force into work.<sup>20</sup> Children make up 37% (5.7 million) of people forced to marry.<sup>21</sup>



**One in four victims of modern slavery is a child**

Almost one in five African children are involved in child labour, the highest of any region around the world. This equates to an estimated **72 million children**. **Asia and the Pacific** ranks second with 7.4% of children in the region working, **62 million children**.<sup>22</sup>



Most child victims do farm work, with 70% of children working in subsistence or commercial farming and livestock herding.<sup>23</sup> Almost 50% of all child labourers are forced to do jobs that put their lives and health at risk.<sup>24</sup> However, there is some good news. In the past 15 years, the number of child labourers has fallen, with 100 million fewer children now working. In 2000, there were about 246 million children involved in child labour. In 2016, this fell to 152 million, a drop of 38%.<sup>25</sup>



## Profiteering from modern slavery

Modern slavery amounts to US\$150 billion in unlawful profits per year.<sup>26</sup> On average, an exploiter extracts about US\$3,978 a year from each person enslaved.



**Modern slavery:  
US\$150  
billion  
in unlawful profits per year**

**“Slave traders today make a return on their investment 25–30 times higher than their 18th- and 19th-century counterparts.”<sup>27</sup>**

## Implications of COVID-19

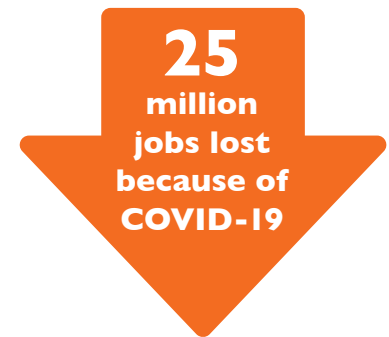
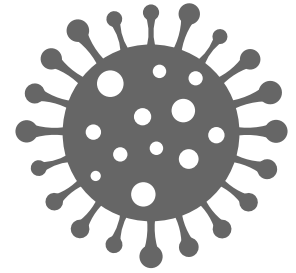
Globally in 2020, COVID-19 caused up to 25 million jobs to be lost.<sup>28</sup> Workers in supply chains are extra-vulnerable to losing their jobs and falling into poverty.<sup>29</sup> In some countries and industries, COVID-19-related job losses increased the risk of people being exploited by forced labour and modern slavery. Not just to workers, but their family members too. When parents are out of work and desperate, their children are more likely to be exploited through child labour, trafficking for forced marriage, or sexual exploitation.<sup>30</sup>

Lockdowns have pushed many casual and temporary labourers out of work. This includes vulnerable migrant workers who don't usually have savings or access to welfare in their host countries.<sup>31</sup> Without work, many migrant workers can't pay for food, housing or healthcare.<sup>32</sup> In March 2020, COVID-19 lockdowns turned Qatar's largest migrant camp into a “virtual prison”.<sup>33</sup> Thousands of labourers were trapped in squalid, overcrowded conditions in Doha Industrial Area, which was sealed off by police.<sup>34</sup>

Many migrant workers don't have legal rights or finances to fall back on. When lockdowns are lifted, they could face a greater risk of human trafficking or being forced into labour, either during their journey or at their destination.<sup>35</sup>

### Impact of COVID-19 on children

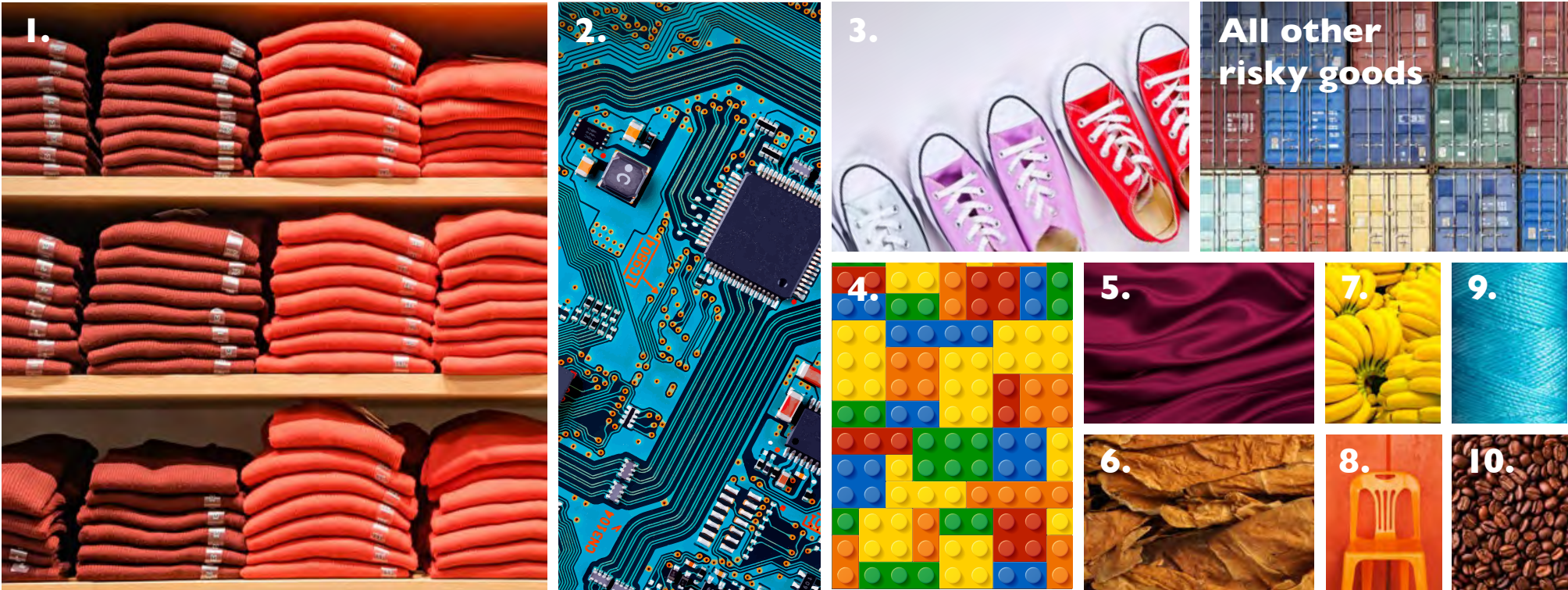
School closures have forced more children into work, begging and child marriage. When parents are out of work, many children have to work to help their family earn an income.<sup>36</sup>



# New Zealand imports of risky goods

New Zealand imported more than \$3.1 billion of risky goods from 44 countries in 2019. Of this amount, \$1.5 billion of goods is connected to forced labour, and \$713 million of goods to child labour. The remainder, \$920 million, is associated with both forced labour and child labour.<sup>37</sup>

## Top risky goods by import spend, 2019

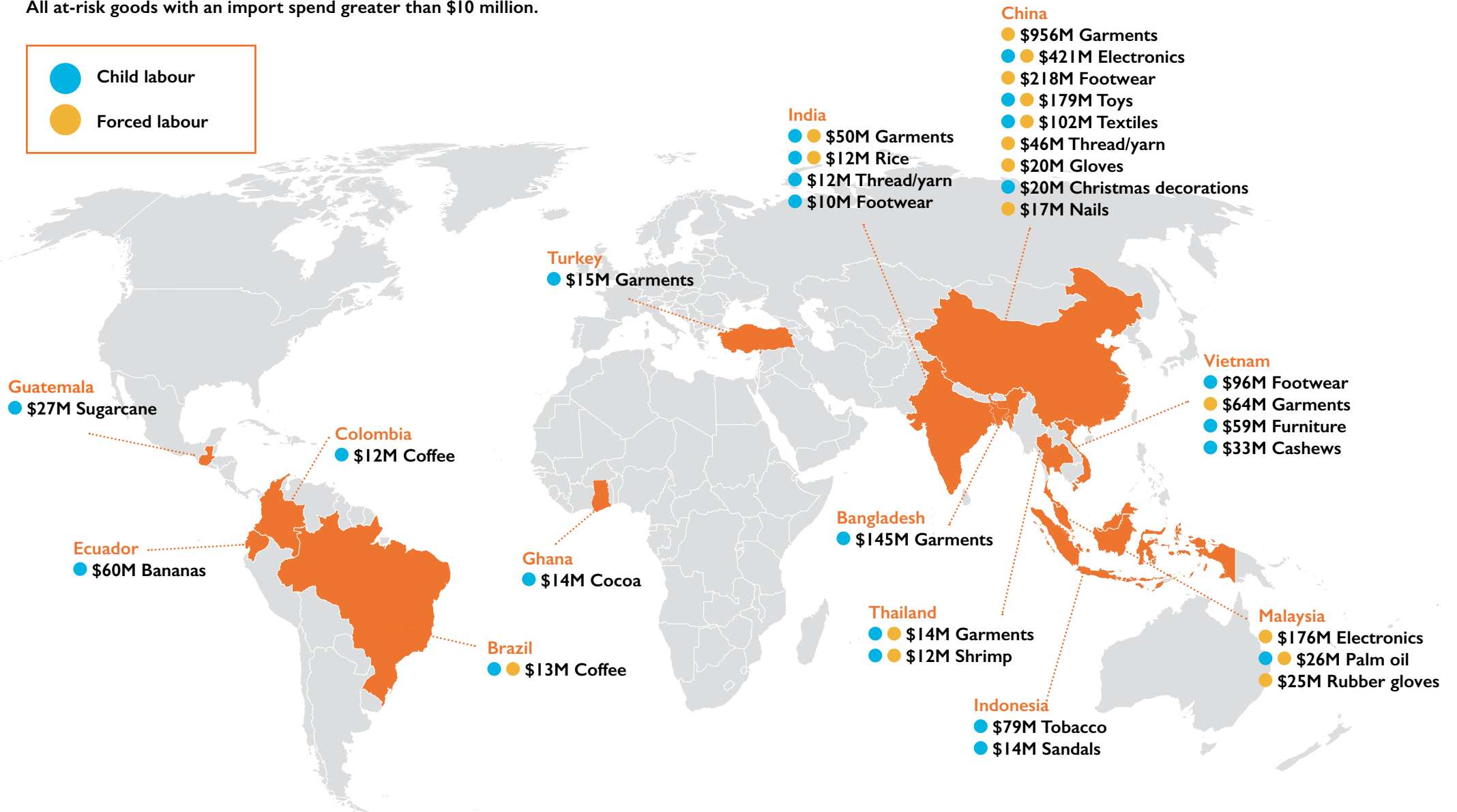


Good	Garments	Electronics	Footwear	Toys	Textiles	Tobacco	Bananas	Furniture	Thread	Coffee	Other
<b>2019 imports to New Zealand</b>	\$1.3B	\$598M	\$348M	\$185M	\$109M	\$89M	\$68M	\$61M	\$59M	\$50M	\$277M
<b>%</b>	40.2%	19.1%	11.1%	5.7%	3.5%	2.9%	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%	1.6%	9.9%

## Which countries do New Zealand’s risky imports come from?

All at-risk goods with an import spend greater than \$10 million.

- Child labour
- Forced labour



# New Zealand’s top 10 risky imports

<b>China:</b>	<b>Bangladesh:</b>	<b>India:</b>	<b>Argentina, Brazil, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam:</b>
<b>\$955.7M</b>	<b>\$144.7M</b>	<b>\$50.2M</b>	<b>\$106.0M</b>

## I. Garments

Garments were the largest at-risk good imported in 2019. Valued at \$1.3 billion, they accounted for 40% of risky products entering New Zealand that year. Garments include men’s and women’s wear, baby garments, underwear, sleepwear, swimwear and sportswear.

Of the 142 million risky garments imported, more than two-thirds – 95 million garments – came from China, with links to forced labour. Bangladesh was the second-largest source of risky garments, with 23%. Just under 5% came from India, where the garment industry is linked to child labour and forced labour.

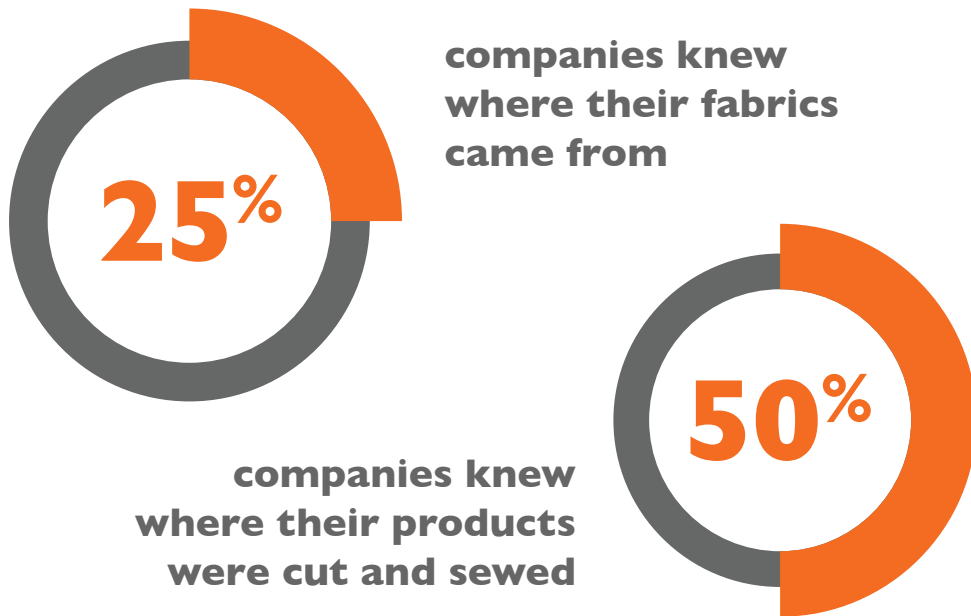
In Bangladesh, the Rana Plaza building that housed five garment factories notoriously collapsed in 2013. This was one of the largest industrial disasters in history, killing 1,138 people and injuring another 2,500. Most of the victims were young women.<sup>38</sup> Still, over the next five years, lead firms in the UK paid 13% **less** to their supplier factories in Bangladesh.<sup>39</sup> This meant their suppliers made less money. When brands ask more of suppliers to comply with international standards, but pay them less, it’s difficult for suppliers to improve working conditions.<sup>40</sup>

Globally in the garment industry, more than 90% of workers can’t negotiate their wages and conditions. So they can’t claim a fair share of the value their work creates.<sup>41</sup>



**Biggest exporters of risky garments to New Zealand**

Many companies don't know how their goods are produced. One survey found that, of 219 brands, 75% didn't know where all their fabrics and inputs came from, and only 50% could trace where their products were cut and sewed.<sup>42</sup>

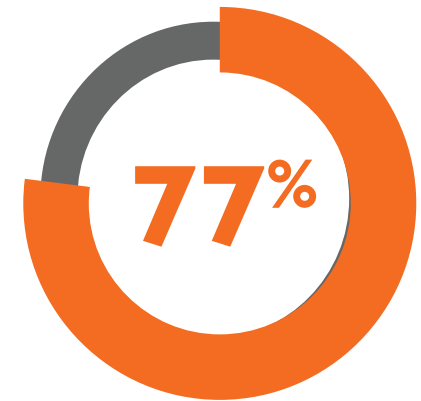


Both COVID-19 and consumer demand for clothes has had a huge impact on workers. The pandemic has affected as many as 2.17 million workers in Bangladesh. Many now face unemployment as orders were cancelled and production crashed.<sup>43</sup> In these conditions, less than 20% of firms could afford to pay wages for longer than 30 days – more than 1 million workers have already lost their jobs.<sup>44</sup>

Those people still in work are now earning less – with median monthly salaries of Tk 5,522 (US\$65) in May compared to Tk 9,500 (US\$113) in April.<sup>45</sup> Lower wages mean going hungry. In June 2020, 77% of people responding to a survey reported eating less food than they should have, because they didn't have enough money to buy it.<sup>46</sup>

Comparing wage gaps in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, garment workers lost between US\$3.19 and 5.78 billion from March to May 2020, due to layoffs and factory closures.<sup>47</sup>

Modern slavery in Asian manufacturing hubs has surged post-COVID-19, and is set to get worse with the ongoing economic impacts, increased violations of labour rights and poor law enforcement.<sup>48</sup> For the first time, Bangladesh and India are in the "extreme risk" category for slave labour, joining China and Myanmar.<sup>49</sup>



**of garment workers in Bangladesh didn't have enough money for food**

### Uighur forced labour in Xinjiang region

China is the world's largest cotton producer.<sup>50</sup> Xinjiang region produces 84% of China's cotton,<sup>51</sup> where Uighur people suffer from forced labour. Xinjiang produces 20%, or one-fifth, of the world's cotton, and more than 570,000 Uighur pick cotton<sup>52</sup> under forced labour conditions.

Human rights reports<sup>53</sup> outline that China's Uighur minority are being forced from their homes into mass detention camps to work as forced labourers. Over three years, 1.8 million Uighur have been detained, and they can't leave or communicate outside the camps. There are reports of Uighur people undergoing forced sterilisations and abortions, and of Uighur culture being dismantled.



**Xinjiang produces 20% of the world's cotton**

## 2. Electronics

In 2019, electrical goods were the second-largest risky good imported to New Zealand, totalling more than \$597 million. Most electrical goods (82%) came from China, which has an electronics industry associated with both child and forced labour. The remaining 18% were from Malaysia, where forced labour is used to make electronics. The types of risky electrical goods imported included coffee makers, digital cameras, dishwashers, modems, monitors, printers, stoves and toasters, as well as electrical parts and apparatus (e.g. electrical resistors, diodes, fuses, etc.).


Abuses in the electrical resistor and electronics industry have received global attention, with some major brands being criticised over labour exploitation, including forced labour, in their supply chains.<sup>54</sup>



**18%**  
of electrical goods  
imported from Malaysia

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**Forced labour**



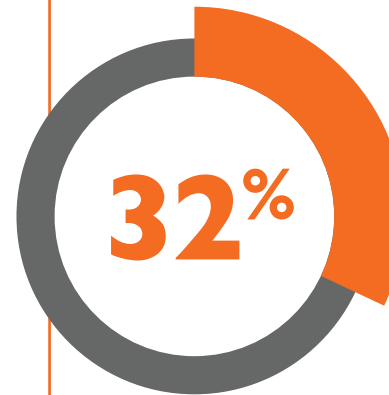
**82%**  
of electrical goods  
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**Child labour and forced labour**

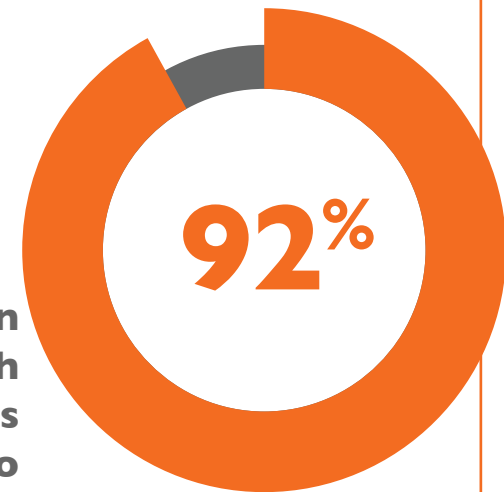
### Malaysia's electronics industry

Malaysia's huge electronics industry accounts for more than 36% of the country's exports and one-quarter of its employment.<sup>55</sup> Forced labour is present in this industry, which produces everyday electronics that Kiwis use, such as phones, TVs and washing machines. According to a 2014 report, 28% of all workers in the study sample were victims of forced labour.<sup>56</sup> Among foreign workers only, 32%, or one in three, were forced to work. Forced labour is linked to workers being charged recruitment fees and having to pay the debt afterwards. In the study, 92% of foreign workers had paid high recruitment fees to get their jobs.<sup>57</sup>



**of foreign workers  
in forced labour**

**of foreign  
workers paid high  
recruitment fees  
they now have to  
work off**



### 3. Footwear

**In 2019, more than 20 million pairs of risky shoes were imported into New Zealand – four pairs for every Kiwi.<sup>58</sup>**

New Zealand imported more than 20.6 million pairs of risky shoes in 2019, totalling \$348 million. Four of every five risky pairs of shoes came from China, where the footwear industry is linked to forced labour. The other 4.3 million pairs of shoes came from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Turkey and Vietnam, all countries where child labour is linked with making shoes.

Globally, the garment and footwear sectors employ more than 60 million workers.<sup>59</sup> The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) estimates that, worldwide, the garment and footwear supply chain affects more than 100 million children – either as workers, children of working parents or children living near farms and factories.<sup>60</sup> In addition to child labour issues, children suffer because their working mothers often don't get maternity leave; garment factories lack childcare and breastfeeding support; and garment worker villages have poor living conditions, sometimes without access to clean water or safe toilets.<sup>61</sup>

In 2020, according to the *Washington Post*, members of the Uighur Muslim minority in China were making shoes for Nike in conditions that suggested they were being used as forced labour.<sup>62</sup> Nike then conducted ongoing diligence with suppliers in China to identify and assess potential risks related to employing people from Xinjiang.<sup>63</sup>

**\$348M**  
in risky shoes  
imported in 2019



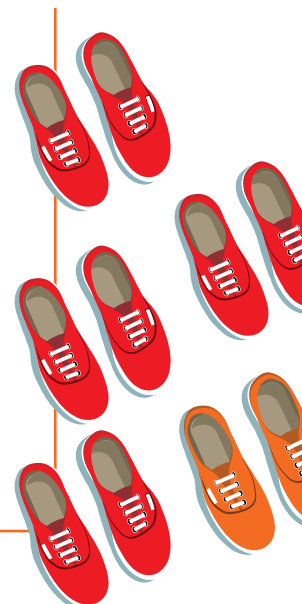
#### Missing school to make shoes

In 2019, New Zealand imported more than 342,000 pairs of shoes from India, adding up to more than \$10.3 million.

In India, children as young as 8 years old miss school to make shoes in dangerous conditions.<sup>64</sup> A report found children making shoes in small informal workshops and homes – from hand- and machine-stitching to gluing and packing shoes. Children who couldn't go to school in their neighbourhood became available for work.<sup>65</sup> Shoe factories in Agra had taken measures to prevent child labour. But because they outsourced work to small workshops or home businesses, many of these workplaces were missed, and the children who possibly worked there weren't protected.<sup>66</sup>

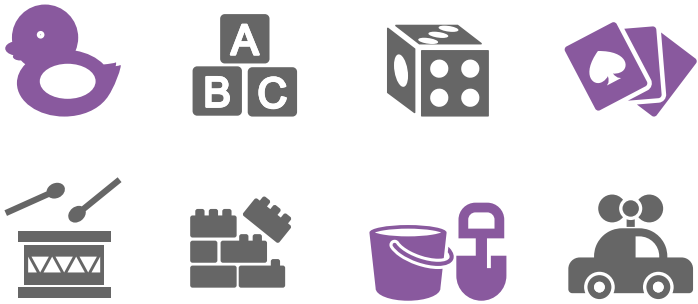
In Vietnam, more than 6,000 garment and footwear factories employed about 3.5 million workers in 2016. Around 80% of those workers were women who had migrated from rural to urban areas in search of a better life.<sup>67</sup> As in India, a survey on child labour found that in 2012, there were 47,343 workers under 18 in garment workshops. Because they were mostly subcontracted family businesses, many small workplaces weren't checked.<sup>68</sup>

**80%**  
of workers in  
Vietnamese  
footwear factories  
are women



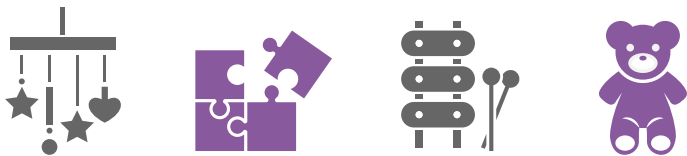
## 4. Toys

More than 41% of the 1.2 million toys that New Zealand imported in 2019 came from China – about 506,000 toys, totalling more than \$179 million. Both child labour and forced labour are reported in China's toy-making industry. Risky toys included electric trains, jigsaw puzzles, musical instruments, scooters, stuffed animals and portable electronic education devices.



**506,000**

toys came from China, potentially made by child labourers or forced labourers



Worldwide, China makes about 75% of all toys, with most made in the coastal region of Guangdong.<sup>69</sup> This US\$30 billion industry employs some 6 million mainland Chinese workers.<sup>70</sup> Across all manufacturing industries, about 61 million children are left behind in their rural hometowns while their parents work in faraway cities in factories for low wages.<sup>71</sup> *Nongmingong*, or “internal Chinese migrants”, live in factory dormitories. They often leave their children with grandparents, but as many as 2 million children are left alone, with no adults living with them.<sup>72</sup> These children rarely see their parents, which affects their development and emotional well-being.<sup>73</sup>

Some Chinese factory workers have said they were exposed to toxic chemicals without protective equipment; their dormitories have poor living conditions; and they know of incidents where workers had committed suicide.<sup>74</sup>



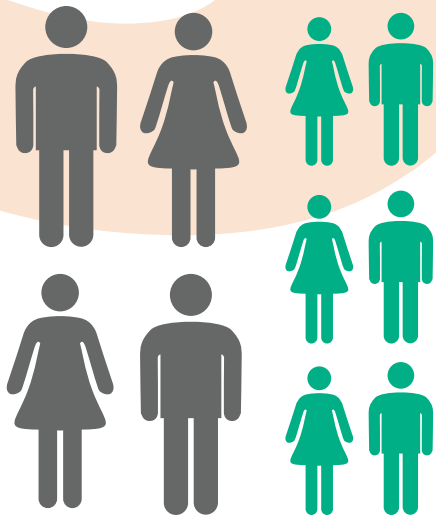
**2 million**  
children have  
no adults living  
with them

## 5. Textiles

Of the \$109 million-worth of textiles that New Zealand imported in 2019, 90% came from China. The Chinese textile industry is linked to both child and forced labour. Vietnam also supplied textiles (10%), as did Bangladesh and Cambodia.

Child labour is rampant in yarn and spinning mills.<sup>75</sup> A report found that 60% of workers at Indian mills they visited were under 18 when they started working there; some workers were as young as 15 when they joined.<sup>76</sup>

For clothing brands that buy textiles from China, there are greater risks in their supply chains because of the Uighur people living in forced labour detention camps in the Xinjiang region.<sup>77</sup> However, it's hard to prove links to forced labour in China. Authorities in Beijing try to mask the traceability of goods and components.<sup>78</sup> Raw materials exported from Xinjiang, including cotton, are also risky. This has a knock-on effect to other countries that manufacture garments, adding modern slavery into their supply chains.<sup>79</sup>

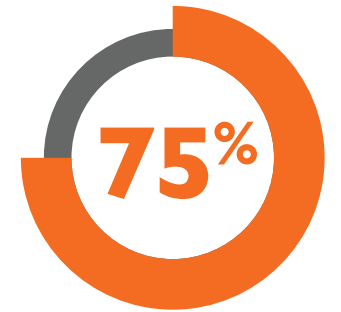


**60%**  
of workers at  
textile mills  
in India were  
under 18 when  
they started  
working

## 6. Tobacco

In 2019, \$89 million (or 35%) of all tobacco, cigarettes and cigars imported into New Zealand came from countries where the tobacco industry uses slave labour. Most risky tobacco (88%) came from Indonesia, followed by Brazil, Cambodia, Malawi, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Indonesia is the world's fifth-largest tobacco producer. Nationwide, it is home to more than 500,000 tobacco farms.<sup>80</sup>

Human Rights Watch interviewed children ages 8–17 who worked on Indonesian tobacco farms in 2014 or 2015.<sup>81</sup> Most children interviewed had started working in tobacco farming before the age of 15, and three-quarters of them started before age 12. Typically, children worked on their parents' or relatives' small plots of land. Many children also worked on a neighbour's or community member's farm land. Some children weren't paid for their work because they either worked for their own families or exchanged labour with other families in their communities. Other children received small wages.<sup>82</sup>



**of children  
surveyed started  
working before  
the age of 12**

### A sickening harvest

“When I was so tired from harvesting and carrying the [harvested tobacco] leaf, I was throwing up,” says Ayu, 13 years old. “My stomach was like – I can’t explain – it’s stinky in my mouth. I threw up so many times... My dad carried me home. This happened when we were harvesting. It was so hot, and I was so tired... The smell isn’t good when we’re harvesting. I’m always throwing up every time we’re harvesting.”<sup>83</sup>

## 7. Bananas



**For every 86 bananas Kiwis ate in 2019, only 10 were imported from countries not associated with child labour.<sup>84</sup>**

In 2019, New Zealand imported more than \$75 million-worth of bananas, about 86 million kilograms. Of these, 88% came from risky countries, such as Ecuador and the Philippines. Most (80%) were imported from Ecuador, where the banana industry uses child labour.

Bananas are the world's most popular fruit. People eat more than 100 billion bananas every year.<sup>85</sup> In New Zealand, each of us eats an average of 18 kilograms of bananas a year.<sup>86</sup> But in 2017, just 7% of those bananas we ate were ethically sourced. For every dollar Kiwis spend on their average banana, just 18 cents goes back to farmers and workers on banana plantations overseas.<sup>87</sup>



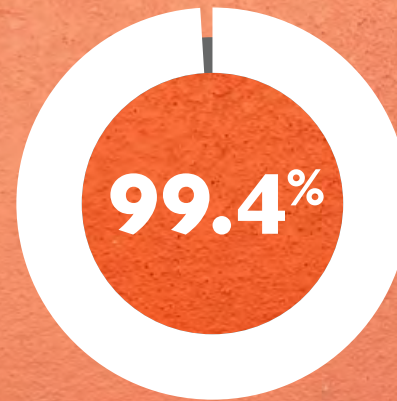
### Exploitation in Ecuador

According to a 2016 report by the US Department of Labor, banana plantations in Ecuador use child labour.<sup>88</sup> A Human Rights Watch investigation found that child workers in Ecuador's banana industry risk being exploited.<sup>89</sup> They work an average of 12 hours each day. Most of these children started working on plantations at 10 or 11 years old, while some were as young as 8. More than 60% of child workers studied had left school by 14.<sup>90</sup> Half of the workers surveyed worked 14-hour days, and were paid just US\$3.50 per day.<sup>91</sup>

**Some children start working on banana plantations as young as 8**

## 8. Furniture

New Zealand imported 201,000 pieces of risky furniture in 2019. Most of it (99.4%, worth \$58.9 million) came from Vietnam, where the furniture industry is associated with child labour. About 1,200 pieces (worth \$1.7 million) came from Turkey, where child labour is also linked to the furniture industry.



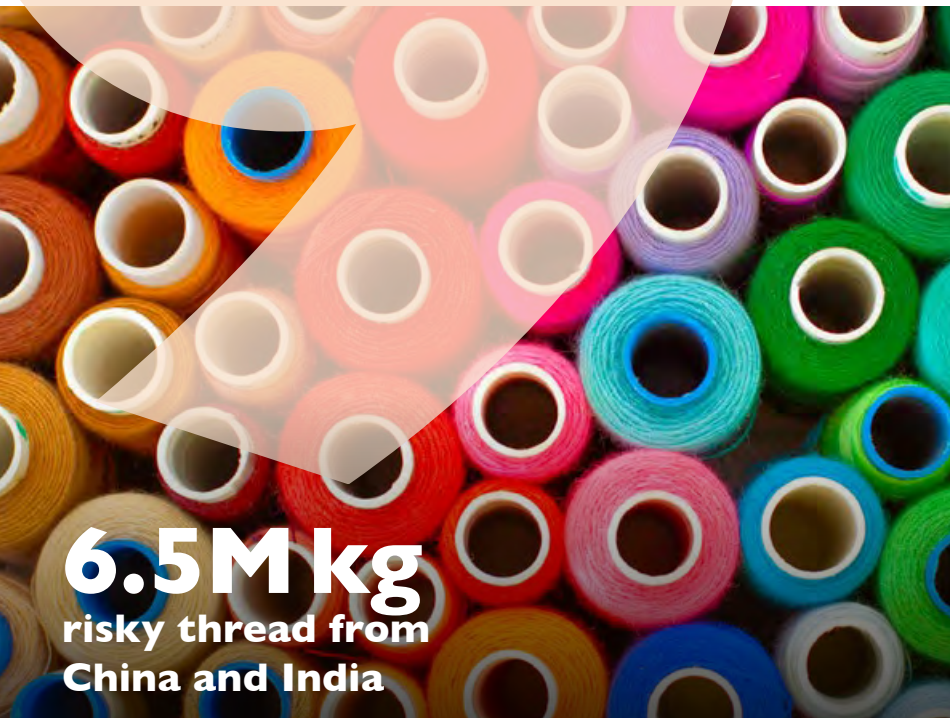
**99.4%**  
**of all risky furniture was imported from Vietnam and associated with child labour**



## 9. Thread

More than 6.5 million kilograms of risky thread/yarn was imported from China and India in 2019. It was worth more than \$58.7 million.

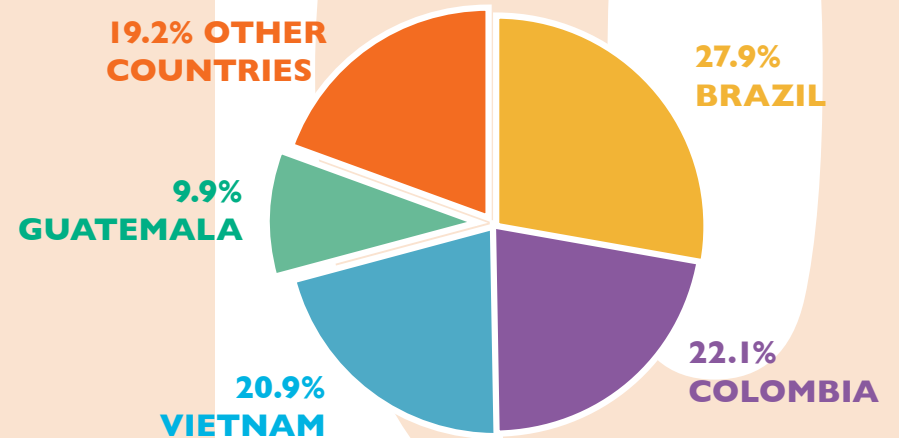
More than three-quarters came from China (77.9%), where it is linked to forced labour. The rest came from India (22.1%), where thread/yarn is connected to child labour.



**6.5M kg**  
risky thread from  
China and India

## 10. Coffee

In 2019, New Zealand imported millions of kilograms of coffee. More than 63% (about 9.8 million kilograms) of it was risky. This adds up to more than \$45.5 million, or 700 million cups of coffee. The top four sources of risky coffee were Brazil (27.9%), Colombia (22.1%), Vietnam (20.9%) and Guatemala (9.9%). Coffee from Brazil is associated with both child labour and forced labour, while coffee from the other countries, including Colombia, Vietnam and Guatemala, is associated with child labour.



On average in 2019, every adult<sup>92</sup> in New Zealand drank **three cups of coffee**<sup>93</sup> a week associated with child and forced labour



# International responses to slavery linked to imports

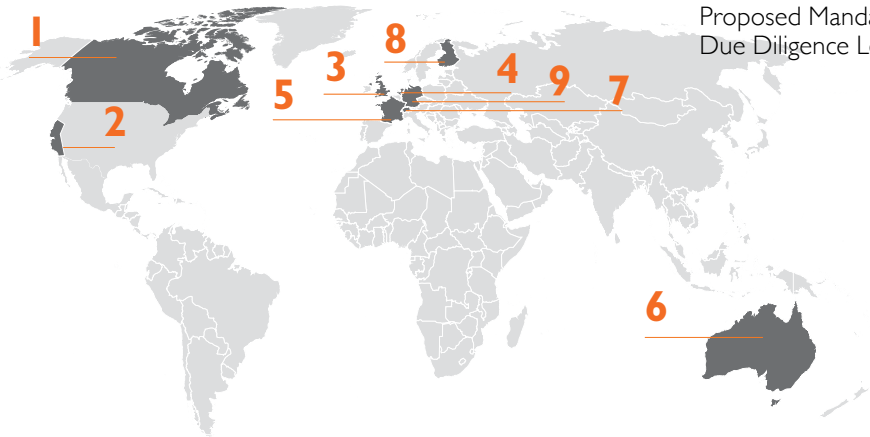
## Global supply chain laws

Internationally, there is growing movement towards legislating for supply chain transparency. More people are demanding that businesses and governments act ethically and ensure their supply chains are free from modern slavery.

Generally, this legislation requires companies and the public sector to identify risks to human rights in their supply chains and to disclose what they are doing to address those risks. This is what Modern Slavery acts in the UK and Australia focus on. European laws often go further, and require private and public entities to undertake active due diligence to address risks of modern slavery, as well as other human rights abuses.

A key feature of supply chain law is that entities need to publicly and transparently report on their efforts to address risks in their supply chains. Investors, consumers and the public can then hold companies and the public sector accountable.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Canada</b><br/>Bill S-216, the Modern Slavery Act (2020)</p> <p><b>2. California</b><br/>Transparency in Supply Chains Act (2010)</p> <p><b>3. United Kingdom</b><br/>Modern Slavery Act</p> | <p><b>4. Netherlands</b><br/>Child Labour Due Diligence Law</p> <p><b>5. France</b><br/>Child Labour Duty of Diligence Law (2017)</p> <p><b>6. Australia</b><br/>Modern Slavery Act</p> | <p><b>7. Switzerland</b><br/>Responsible Business Initiative (2020)</p> <p><b>8. Finland</b><br/>Proposed Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence Law (2019)</p> <p><b>9. Germany</b><br/>Due Diligence Act (2020)</p> <p><b>EU-wide</b><br/>Proposed Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation (2021)<sup>94</sup></p> |
|---|---|---|



## Ban on imports related to forced labour

In recent months, human and labour rights abuses in China involving Uighur labour have come under international activity and scrutiny. The UK and USA have publicly condemned accounts of the systematic rape of Uighur women in Chinese camps.<sup>95</sup> At the time of publishing this report, the New Zealand Government has expressed “grave concerns” at the human rights abuses of Uighur taking place in Xinjiang and welcomed sanctions by the UK, USA, EU and Canada. However, they have not announced any sanctions.<sup>96</sup>

### A timeline of progress

#### 2020

**17 June 2020**

Uighur Human Rights Policy Act passes in the USA, seeking to punish China for “gross human rights abuses” against Uighur and Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.<sup>97</sup>

**December 2020**

Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced by Uighur Forced Labour) Bill went before the Senate in Australia.<sup>98</sup>

#### 2021

**12 January 2021**

The UK government introduces new measures for British firms with links to Xinjiang. Firms will be subject to fines unless they meet new government requirements.<sup>99</sup>

**21 January 2021**

Canadian Government urges companies with business links to Xinjiang to “closely examine their supply chains”, and sign a declaration with the Trade Commissioner Service.<sup>100</sup>

**4 February 2021**

Australia calls for a UN investigation into human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region.<sup>101</sup>

**22 March 2021**

The USA, Canada, EU and UK impose parallel sanctions on senior Chinese officials in Xinjiang, including travel bans and asset freezes.<sup>102</sup>

#### 2022

## Supply chain law in New Zealand

New Zealand has no accountability legislation to address transparency in the supply chain. This means that New Zealand companies could unknowingly be importing products or services that exploit and enslave people. New Zealand also has no mandatory human rights due diligence requirements for New Zealand companies or the government.

As a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals, Bali Process, Human Rights Declarations and other global commitments, the New Zealand Government has openly committed to eradicating forced labour and modern slavery. And through the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in 2019, the New Zealand Government supported two recommendations, which they are now accountable to:

1. Consider introducing laws requiring businesses to report publicly on transparency in supply chains, to eliminate practices of modern slavery in New Zealand and beyond its borders.
2. Promote the role of its private sector by developing and adopting a national action plan to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.<sup>103</sup>

The plan of action against forced labour, people trafficking and slavery, published on 16 March 2021, outlined how the New Zealand Government should “consider introducing legislation requiring businesses to report publicly on transparency in supply chains, to help eliminate practices of modern slavery.”<sup>104</sup>

On the same day, 85 leading New Zealand companies signed an open letter, requesting that the New Zealand Government start an inquiry into a Modern Slavery Act for New Zealand business and public sector supply chains.<sup>105</sup>

**New Zealand, usually a leader in legislation promoting human rights and equality, is lagging behind the rest of the world by not taking action on supply chain legislation. While commitments have been made, to date, no action has progressed.**

A Modern Slavery Act for New Zealand should consider all global developments taking place, including human rights due diligence in Europe, the UK and Australian Modern Slavery acts, and the banning of imports linked to forced labour.



**New Zealand is lagging behind the rest of the world by not taking action to end modern slavery.**





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- <sup>10</sup> Ibid.
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- <sup>18</sup> Ibid, p. 10.
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid, p. 5.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid, p. 10.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid, p. 5.
- <sup>22</sup> International Labour Organization (2017) *Global estimates of child labour: results and trends, 2012–2016* [online]. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575499.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf) (Accessed: 19 April 2021), p. 28.
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- <sup>24</sup> Ibid, p. 11.
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid, p. 11.
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