

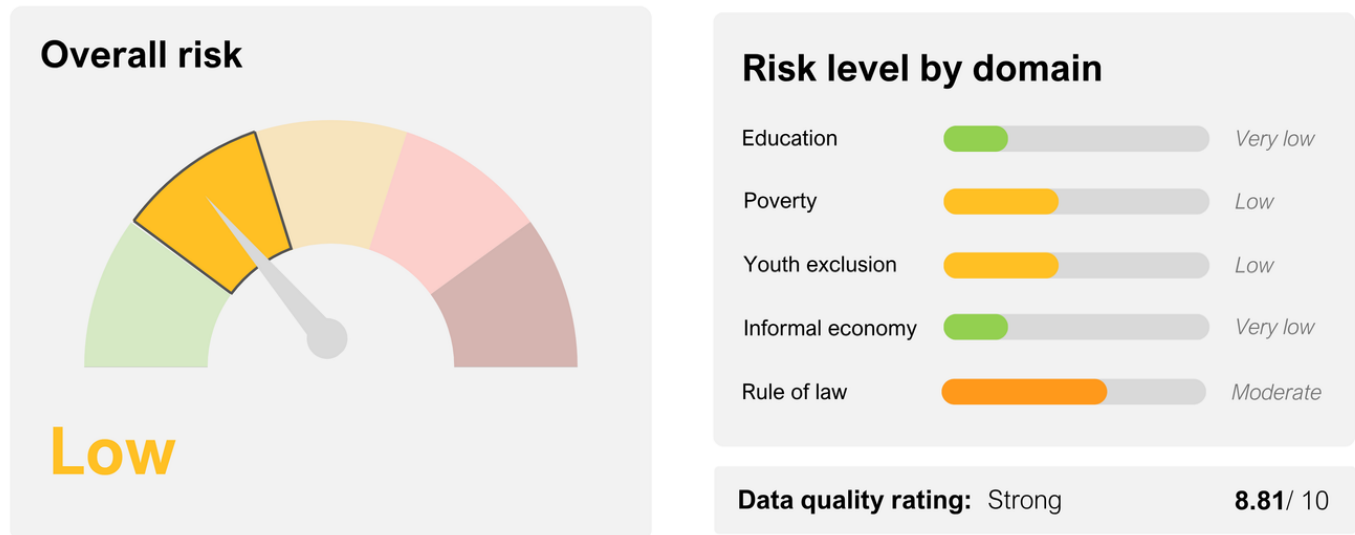
Child Labour Risk Index

Last Update
July 2026



United States

Overview



For detailed information including methodology, visit the [Child Labour Risk Index website](#).

Child Labour in the United States

The low child labour risk score in the United States reflects comparatively low levels of poverty, youth vulnerability, and informal employment, alongside a strong legal and institutional framework. However, documented violations show that children can still be employed unlawfully, including in hazardous work. Gaps in employer compliance, oversight, and enforcement mean that child labour can still occur in practice, particularly where minors are recruited through contractors or other third parties.

Risk Factors

Child labour risks are concentrated in specific sectors and workplaces, including agriculture, food processing, meat and poultry production, and hospitality. Risks may increase where employers rely on labour contractors, conduct inadequate age verification, or assign minors to hazardous tasks or prohibited working hours. Migrant and vulnerable adolescents may face greater exposure where recruitment and employment arrangements reduce visibility and oversight.



Core due diligence is recommended in the United States. See page 3 for further guidance.

Evidence Indications



Between January 2020 and July 2026, The Centre received reports of 5 cases of child labour in the United States, representing an average age of 14.6 years.

Please note that this case data is not representative of prevalence, but rather indicative of where The Centre and our clients work.

Please explore [Child Labour Alerts and Trends](#) in the CRIB Members' Area for more details.



Credible Reports of Child Labour

Child Labour in the United States was also documented in **15 credible reports** (via academia, government, media or NGOs) from January 2020 to July 2026. Sectors mentioned in the reports include:



Manufacturing (1)



Multiple sectors (7)



Food & Beverage (4)



Agriculture & Forestry (2)



Social Media (1)

Next Steps



Recommended Due Diligence:

Core

Maintain baseline systems: clear policy commitment, age verification, Tier 1 mapping, and functioning grievance mechanisms.



Step 1: Commit

- Establish a clear CL policy outlining prevention and remediation commitments.



Step 2: Identify & Map Risks

- Map supply chain links to informal settings (e.g., home-based work, informal subcontracting) and increase monitoring in these areas; consider formalization steps where feasible.

