

End Exploitation: An Immersive Experience

Migrant Workers in Michigan Station Follow-up

Migrant workers face a higher risk of forced labour than other workers. The forced labour prevalence of adult migrant workers is more than three times higher than that of adult non-migrant workers. This figure makes clear that when migrant workers are not protected by law or are unable to exercise their rights, migration is irregular or poorly governed, or where recruitment practices are unfair or unethical, migration can lead to situations of vulnerability to forced labour.

Migrant workers who are not protected by law or are unable to exercise their rights face a higher risk of forced labour than other workers. The 2021 Global Estimates indicate that 15 per cent of all adults in forced labour exploitation are migrants (i.e., are subjected to forced labour in a country different from that of their birth). By comparison, in 2019 international migrant workers accounted for roughly 5 per cent of the total global labour force. Migrants are therefore disproportionately represented in the group of workers in forced labour. Other localised studies suggest that migrants account for a much larger share of total people in forced labour in specific sectors and locations. The prevalence of forced labour exploitation (expressed as a share of total workers) also makes clear that migrant workers are more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant workers. Nearly 14 out of every thousand adult migrant workers are in forced labour in the private economy, a prevalence rate that is more than three times higher than that of non-migrant workers (4.1 out of every thousand). Once they reach their destination, migrants may remain vulnerable to forced labour and human trafficking due to language and cultural barriers, lack of reliable information and support networks, challenges of economic and social integration, lack of access to basic services and social security, or restrictions on their ability to change employer or organize and bargain collectively. In addition, migrant workers are often employed in sectors such as domestic work or agriculture, which may not be covered by the labour code and where there may be other restrictions, for example on the right to organize. High levels of informality in such sectors further limit their access to workplace protections or grievance mechanisms. Unscrupulous employers, landlords, and service providers may take advantage of their limited knowledge of local conditions and reduced bargaining power.

From the International Labour Organization's [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery Report](#)

More Resources (click on the title to be directed to the resource):

[Michigan Labor Trafficking Case-Purpose Point Harvesting](#)

[Michigan Labor Trafficking Case-First Pick Farms](#)

[Michigan Labor Trafficking Case-Four Star Greenhouse](#)

[Labor Trafficking on Specific Temporary Work Visas Report](#)

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