

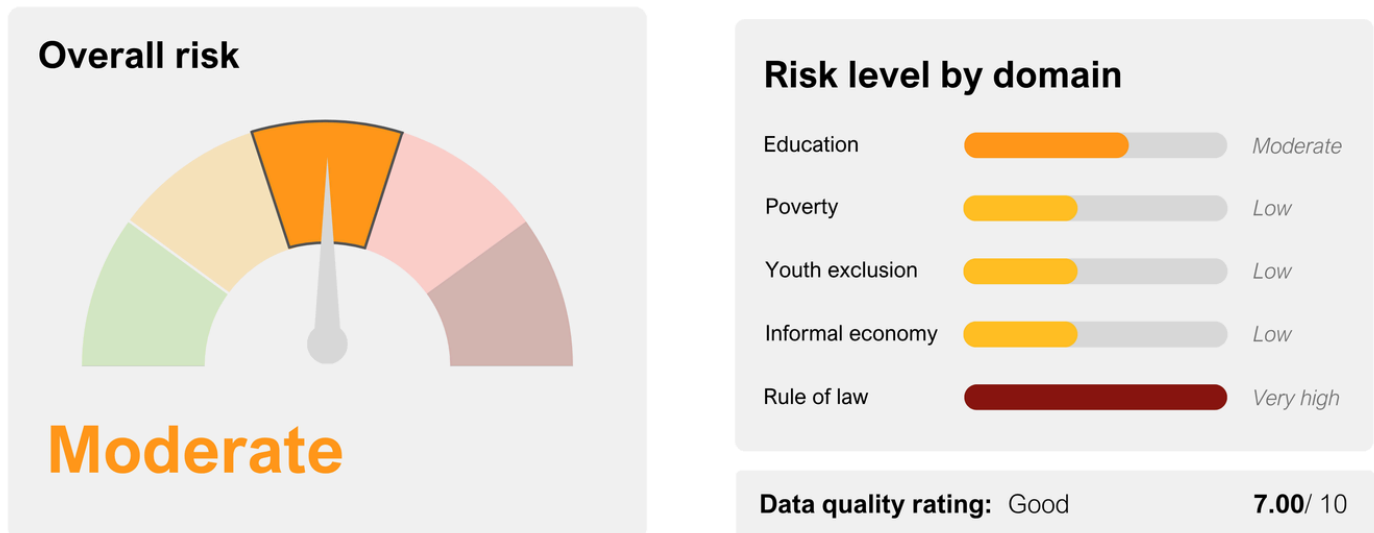
Child Labour Risk Index

Last Update
July 2026



China

Overview



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

Child Labour in China

The child labour risk profile in China reflects vulnerabilities concentrated in lower-tier and informal parts of the economy, particularly for migrant children and those out of school. Although the overall risk remains moderate and the legal framework is comparatively strong, uneven enforcement, limited transparency, and persistent economic vulnerabilities mean child labour can still occur in practice, particularly in informal and subcontracted production.

Risk Factors

Child labour risks arise in informal manufacturing and subcontracted production where age verification and labour oversight may be weak, but cases are also found in finished goods factories, particularly during peak production periods. Seasonal demand, labour migration, student work placements, and short-term hiring can increase the likelihood of underage work where effective due diligence and oversight are insufficient.



Standard due diligence is recommended in China. See page 3 for further guidance.

Evidence Indications



Between January 2020 and July 2026, The Centre received reports of 427 cases of child labour in China, representing an average age of 15.2 years.

The majority of cases were reported in the electronic products sector, followed by a significant number of incidents in the garment, electrical appliances and footwear sectors. These cases highlight the ongoing risks faced by adolescents engaged in informal or low-skilled work across China's key manufacturing hubs.

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 China 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:



Coffee (4)



Electronics (6)



Garments & textiles (2)



Manufacturing (1)



Multiple sectors (2)

Next Steps



Recommended Due Diligence:

Enhanced

Implement comprehensive measures: deep multi-tier tracing, in-depth assessments, structured remediation protocols and integration of findings into sourcing decisions.



Step 1: Commit

- Establish a clear CL policy outlining prevention and remediation commitments.
- Create a country-specific CL response plan referencing relevant national legal requirements and industry risks.
- Establish an ongoing partnership with a credible third-party child rights organisation to support case handling and expert guidance.
- Create a dedicated remediation budget or fund to cover remediation costs where needed.



Step 2: Build Capacity

- Train in-country staff and relevant third-party service providers on CL risk identification, escalation and response.
- Train business partners regularly on CL prevention and remediation expectations.
- Require completion of CL training prior to onboarding business partners in high-risk countries.



Step 3: Identify & Map Risks

- Conduct deeper research on CL risks in sourcing regions using credible country and industry reports.
- Assess relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) operating in or covering the country, including their effectiveness and suitability.
- Map supply chain links to informal settings and increase monitoring; consider formalisation where feasible.



Step 4: Conduct In-Depth Assessments

- Organise on-site risk assessments in high-risk countries, prioritised based on risk severity and company leverage over suppliers and intermediaries.



Step 5: Act on Drivers of Risk

- Assess how purchasing practices may contribute to CL risk and implement mitigating actions to avoid contributing to increased risk.

