

# CSR Risk Check



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 8 country risk(s) have been identified

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- **LABOUR RIGHTS (4)**

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### HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK (2 RISKS)

A hundred and fifty workers die each day in the United States as a result of injuries at work or occupational diseases. The construction sector had the largest number of fatal work injuries, followed by transportation and warehousing, and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.

**Sources:** [AFL-CIO Safety and Health Department, Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect, 2015](#), [Equal Times, Work Kills 150 People a Day in the United States, 2015](#)

According to the American trade union federation AFL-CIO, 50,000 people die each year due to work-related conditions. Nearly five thousand employees pass away at the workplace, others die from diseases contracted at work. According to AFL-CIO, this high amount is due to poor control on safety conditions by government and businesses. Among Latin American workers, the number of work-related fatalities is 9% higher as they often perform heavy (illegal) labour.

**Sources:** [AFL-CIO, Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect, 2016](#)

### FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (1 RISK)

The United States score a 4 on the ITUC Global Rights Index (1-5) for freedom of association and workers' rights, which stands for systematic violations of labour rights. The government and/or companies are engaged in serious efforts to crush the collective voice of workers putting fundamental rights under continuous threat.

**Sources:** [ITUC-CSI, ITUC Global Rights Index, 2019](#)

### DISCRIMINATION & GENDER (1 RISK)

Pregnant employees are discriminated against in the United States of America.

**Sources:** [Center for American Progress, Efforts to combat pregnancy discrimination, 2018](#)

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- **ENVIRONMENT (2)**

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**CLIMATE & ENERGY (1 RISK)**

The Global Footprint Network calculated that every person on earth can use 1.7 gha (global hectares) to provide for their needs **and** to remain within the carrying capacity of the earth. While some countries remain below this average, this is one of the 10 worst performing countries, with an average consumption of more than 7 gha per capita. The high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to the production and consumption in this country are the main reason for this.

**Sources:** [WWF, Living Planet Report 2016: Risk and resilience in a new era, 2016](#), [Global Footprint Network, Ecological Wealth of Nations, 2017](#)

**WATER USE & WATER AVAILABILITY (1 RISK)**

In the United States, 130 million people live for at least part of the year under severe freshwater scarcity, mainly in western states such as California and in southern states such as Texas and Florida. This is predominantly during the spring-summer period. High levels of water scarcity occur mainly in areas with much irrigated agriculture, such as in the High Plains in central US. Due to high levels of water consumption relative to the availability of water, the Colorado River in the west, for example, is almost to fully exhausted before it reaches the end of its course. Groundwater depletion is also a problem in many parts of the United States, leading to reduced harvests and loss of income for farmers.

**Sources:** [Science Advances, Four billion people facing severe water scarcity, 2016](#)

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- **FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES (1)**

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**CORRUPTION (1 RISK)**

In an American study on transparency, accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms, only 3 states received a sufficient grade (a C- or higher): Alaska, California and Connecticut. According to experts, there is generally weak ethics oversight in the US.

**Sources:** [The Center for Public Integrity, Only three states score higher than D+ in State Integrity Investigation: 11 flunk, 2015](#)

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- **HUMAN RIGHTS & ETHICS (1)**

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**GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE (1 RISK)**

The United States is moving backward on human rights at home and abroad in recent years e.g with anti-immigration policies, the support of abusive regimes and harsh criminal sentencing. Read more in the report of [Human Rights Watch](#).

**Sources:** [Human Rights Watch, World Report 2020 - Events of 2019, 2020](#)

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