

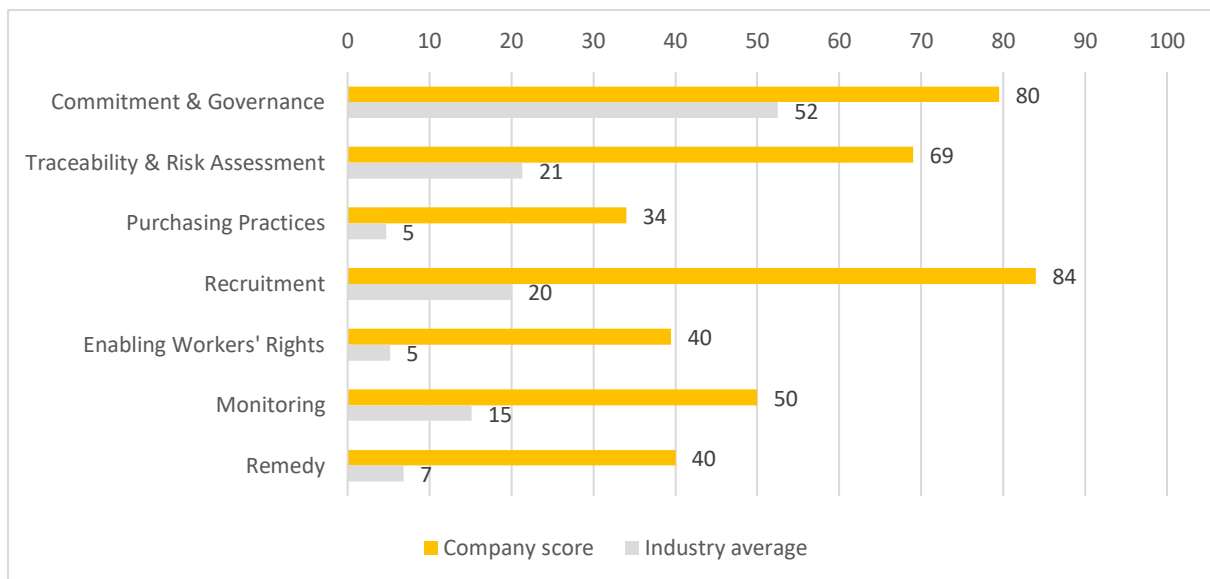
Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. (Samsung)

TICKER
5930

MARKET CAPITALISATION
US\$377.1 billion

HEADQUARTERS
South Korea

DISCLOSURES
UK Modern Slavery Act: [Yes \(Disclosure of Subsidiary\)](#)
California Transparency in Supply Chains Act: Not applicable

Australia Modern Slavery Act: [Yes \(Disclosure of Subsidiary\)](#)
OVERALL RANKING
1 out of 45
2022 Rank: 5 out of 60¹
OVERALL SCORE
61 out of 100
THEME-LEVEL SCORES

KEY DATA POINTS
FIRST-TIER SUPPLIER LIST

Yes

RISK ASSESSMENT

Yes

ENGAGED WITH KNOWTHECHAIN²


Yes

NO-FEE POLICY

Yes (Employer Pays Principle)

REMEDY FOR SUPPLY CHAIN WORKERS

Yes

HIGH-RISK SOURCING COUNTRIES³
 China and Malaysia

SUMMARY

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. (Samsung), one of the leading manufacturers of semiconductors globally, ranks 1st out of 45 companies. Compared to 2022, the company improved its score by 17 points. This is because the company strengthened its disclosure across themes. Notably, Samsung begun to disclose its process for tracing labour recruiters used by its suppliers and numbers of recruiters identified in sending and receiving countries, the percentage of its first-tier suppliers with collective-bargaining agreements in place, broken down per production country, additional detail on its human rights risk assessment, and several data points concerning its purchasing practices. Notably, the company is the highest-scoring company on the theme of Recruitment. However, with a score of 61/100, the company continues to have substantial scope for improvement on its prevention and management of forced labour risks.

KnowTheChain identified two allegations of forced labour in the company's supply chains, related to Uyghur forced labour. Of these, Samsung Electronics denied the sourcing link for allegation, involving four alleged suppliers. However, the company does not disclose the steps it has taken to address the risks of alleged Uyghur forced labour across raw materials and supply chain tiers.⁴ The company has an opportunity to further improve its performance and disclosure on the themes of Purchasing Practices, Enabling Workers' Rights, and Monitoring.

LEADING PRACTICES

Traceability and supply chain transparency: In addition to the legally mandated disclosure of 3TG smelters and operators, Samsung discloses full lists of cobalt smelters, mica operators, lithium smelters, copper smelters, nickel smelters, aluminium smelters, and silver smelters identified in its supply chains. The company also publicly discloses a first-tier supplier list, which it states accounts for 80% of spend for materials and manufacturing.

Recruitment: The company discloses identifying 32 labour recruiters used by 21 of its suppliers in Malaysia, Hungary and Slovakia. It discloses a breakdown of the number of agencies identified in sending countries versus receiving countries. Samsung also discloses detail on training for suppliers on responsible recruitment, including the uptake of the training, reporting the number of suppliers and supplier locations where the training has been completed each year.

Freedom of association (collective bargaining agreements): Samsung discloses the percentage of its first-tier suppliers with collective-bargaining agreements in place, broken down per production country.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Purchasing Practices: To address forced labour risks in its supply chains, the company is encouraged to adopt purchasing practices that decrease the risk of forced labour, such as improving planning and forecasting and prompt payment, and disclose further quantitative data evidencing the implementation of responsible purchasing practices, such as the average # of days between booking orders and start of production, % deviation (measured in units/pieces) from forecast on average at supplier level / total, % of orders for which wages and other labour costs (such as wage increases, mandated social security benefits) are isolated / ring-fenced. The company should take steps to ensure that pricing includes the full

cost of production, including a living wage/income, and consider separating labour costs from price negotiations such that all direct and indirect labour costs are isolated and incorporated as a distinct costing block in pricing. The company should consider integrating [responsible buying practices in its contracts](#) with suppliers, to ensure that the responsibility for respecting human rights is shared.

Enabling Workers' Rights: To support collective worker empowerment, the company is encouraged to work with local or global trade unions to support freedom of association in its supply chains. Further, the company is encouraged to disclose examples, covering different supply chain contexts, of how it improved freedom of association and/or collective bargaining for its suppliers' workers. To guarantee protections for supply chain workers on freedom of association and collective bargaining, the company may consider entering into a global framework agreement or enforceable supply chain labour rights agreements with trade unions or worker organisations.

Monitoring: The company is encouraged to adopt elements of worker-driven monitoring (i.e. monitoring undertaken by unions or independent organisations that includes worker participation and is guided by workers' rights and priorities) to improve its capacity to detect and address forced labour risks in its supply chains.

¹ The number of companies assessed in the ranking has decreased from 60 in 2022 to 45 in 2025.

² Research conducted through September 2024 or through December 2024, where companies provided additional disclosure or links. For more information, see the full dataset [here](#). For information on a company's positive and negative human rights impact, see the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre [website](#).

³ For further details on high-risk raw materials and sourcing countries, see KnowTheChain's [2025 ICT benchmark findings report](#).

⁴ For detail on the company response, see: Samsung Electronics (2024), "[Additional Disclosure](#)," p. 96-102.