

# Suntory Beverage & Food Ltd.

**TICKER**  
 TKS:2587

**MARKET CAPITALIZATION**  
 US\$14 billion

**HEADQUARTERS**  
 Japan

**DISCLOSURES**
UK Modern Slavery Act: Yes (Disclosure of Subsidiary)

California Transparency in Supply Chains Act: Yes (Disclosure of Subsidiary)

**TARGETS**

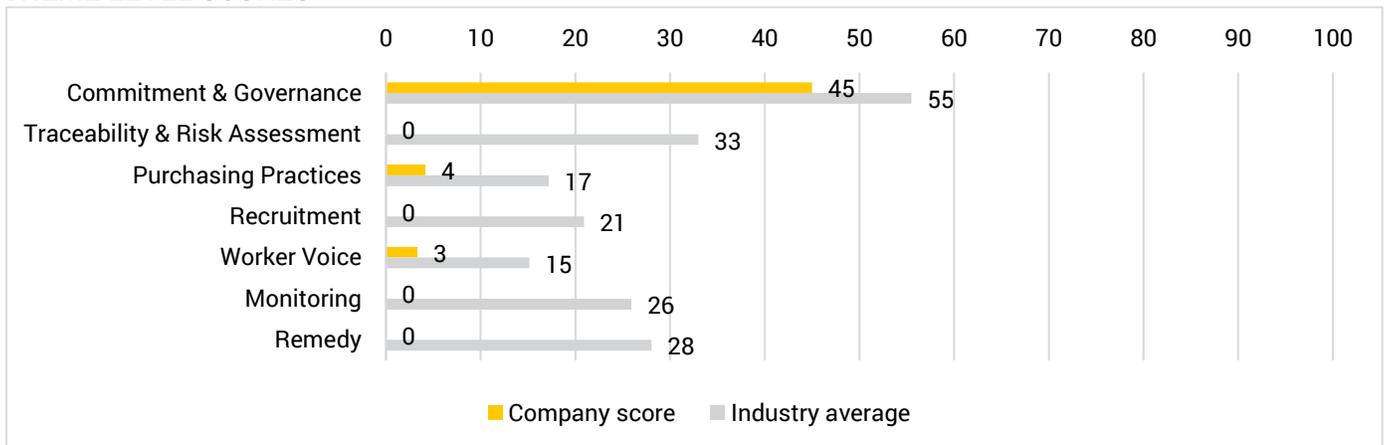
None

**OVERALL RANKING**
**38 out of 43**

(2018 Rank: 32 out of 38)

**OVERALL SCORE**
**8 out of 100**
**SUMMARY**

Suntory Beverage & Food Ltd. (Suntory), a Japanese company whose products include teas, fruit juices, and health foods, ranks 38<sup>th</sup> out of 43 companies, disclosing significantly less information on its forced labor policies and practices than its peers. Since 2018, the company does not seem to have taken additional steps to strengthen its performance and disclosure. As the benchmark methodology requires companies to keep up with evolving stakeholder expectations and emerging good practices, the company's score has decreased by three points. Its score is based on its disclosure on the theme of Commitment & Governance. The company is encouraged to improve on the themes of Traceability & Risk Assessment, Recruitment, and Remedy.

**THEME-LEVEL SCORES**


Research conducted through February 2020 or through May 2020, 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](#).

---

**KEY DATA POINTS****SUPPLIER LIST**

No

**NO-FEE POLICY**

No

**SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION**

No

**REMEDY FOR SUPPLY CHAIN WORKERS**

No

**HIGH-RISK COMMODITIES**Coffee, cattle (dairy), sesame, and others<sup>1</sup>

---

**LEADING PRACTICES**

None.

---

**NOTABLE FINDINGS**

**Management and Accountability:** The company reports that responsibility for implementing its supplier guidelines sits with its corporate sustainability and procurement divisions. The guidelines prohibit forced labor and state that suppliers are expected to cascade the standards to their own suppliers.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Suntory reports that it participates in the supply chain and human rights due diligence workshops at the Global Compact Network Japan, and discloses that both workshops have some focus on forced labor. It reports that as a result of its participation, it has been involved in developing a sustainable procurement self-assessment questionnaire, which includes forced labor.

**Purchasing Practices:** The company states that some of its coffee beans, sourced from Minas Gerais in Brazil, are certified by Rainforest Alliance and UTZ. Both include some standards on forced labor.

---

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT**

**Traceability & Risk Assessment:** To demonstrate a strong understanding of its supply chains, the company may consider disclosing the names and addresses of its first-tier suppliers, the countries of its below-first-tier suppliers, the sourcing countries of raw materials at high risk of forced labor, and information on its suppliers' workforce. The company is further encouraged to assess forced labor risks across its supply chains and disclose the risks identified.

**Recruitment:** To address the risk of exploitation of migrant workers through recruitment agencies in its supply chains, the company may consider requiring recruitment agencies used by its suppliers to uphold workers' rights and ensuring that workers in its supply chains are not charged fees during any recruitment-related process. The company is also encouraged to confirm that recruitment agencies used by its suppliers are audited and to work with suppliers to ensure that migrant workers' rights are respected (e.g., to confirm workers' passports or other personal documents are not retained).

**Remedy:** The company may consider establishing a process for creating corrective action plans with suppliers that are found to violate workers' fundamental rights and freedoms (those articulated in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work). It may also consider designing a procedure to ensure that remedy is provided to suppliers' workers in cases of human trafficking and forced labor.

---

**ENGAGED WITH KNOWTHECHAIN**

No.

---

<sup>1</sup> The US Department of Labor lists these commodities as commodities that may be produced using forced labor. US Department of Labor (20 September 2018), "[List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor.](#)"