

U.S. consumers spend over \$18 billion annually on fresh cut flowers.ⁱ

The United States imports almost 80% of their flowers.ⁱⁱ

Colombia is the largest exporter to the U.S. followed by Ecuador, both of which export over 70% of their flowers to the United States.ⁱⁱⁱ

Over 60% of the flowers imported by the U.S. come from Colombia.^{iv}

There are 40,000 flower workers in Ecuador and over 100,000 in Colombia, working to grow, harvest, and package flowers. Additional people indirectly depend on the flower industry for their employment, including those who transport flowers or produce the inputs.^v

About 65% of Colombian flower workers and 50% of Ecuadorian flower workers are women.^{vi}

Sexual harassment of female workers proceeds unchecked as 55% of Ecuadorian flower workers have been the victims of some form of sexual harassment. The aggressors are almost never punished by the company or the courts.

Due to heavy use of pesticides and fungicides, nearly two-thirds of Colombian flower workers suffer from one or more floriculture-related health problems including headaches, nausea, impaired vision, conjunctivitis, rashes, asthma, congenital malformations and respiratory and neurological problems.^{vii}

An alarming 19% of flower workers have been forced to have sex with a coworker or superior and 10% have been sexually attacked.

Women are frequently forced to take pregnancy tests as a condition of hire, and if found to be pregnant, are not hired. Women who are found to be pregnant after starting to work at a flower farm are often fired.^{viii}

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 20% of the 60,000 Ecuadorian flower workers are children.^{ix}

