

Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2023

2023

KEY FINDINGS



JTec IT are always advising our clients of the threat of cyber-attacks and the dangers out there in the regions we support – The UK and Ireland. We know we sound like a broken record at times but as with any diligent IT Support partner, it is our role to keep you informed of the increased threats and how best to protect your business.

The insurer Hiscox, with over 20 years' experience in privacy and cyber insurance produce an annual survey report which compares 7 of Europe's larger economies and the US and monitors the changing face of cyber attacks and their impact on business of all sizes across the regions.

The headline for us, is the rise in the targeting of smaller business which has risen by more than half in the last 3 years as criminals switch to easier prey. For the first time more than 50% of all companies surveyed, regardless of size reported at least 1 cyber attack over the last 12 months.

The Hiscox report stresses that while 'small businesses may be managing costs better and starting to invest more in cyber security, there is clearly an increasing risk that they must take seriously' In his introduction Eddie Lamb of Hiscox said that 'Given the number of people who continue to fall victim to phishing emails (still the number one way in for ransomware attacks), **repeated awareness training must be a priority for all businesses**'.

Cyber crime is still considered the number 1 threat to our business in the UK and Ireland by business owners but as we increase our resilience the cost and impact of successful attacks is coming down.

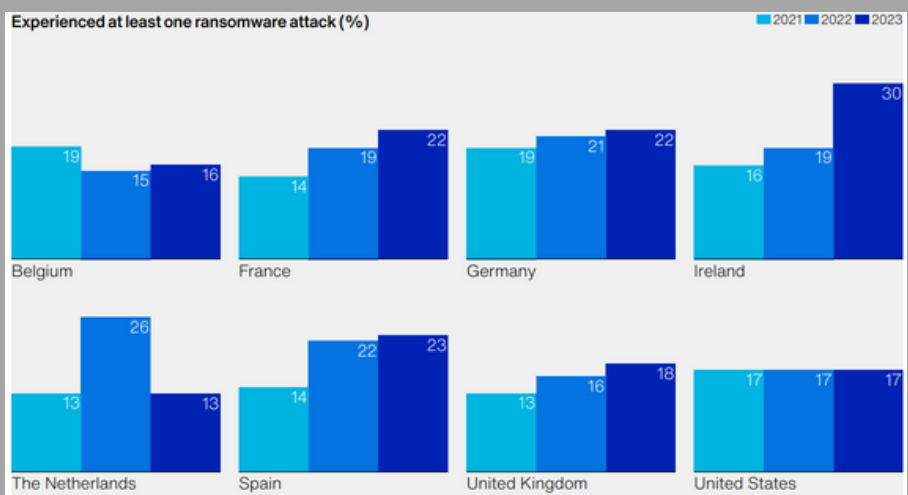
Surprisingly, Ireland was the region where the highest percentage of organisations in the study experienced at least one cyber attack in 2023 - over 70% compared to just 48% in the UK.

The weakest link
Business email compromise was the hackers' favourite way in, followed by a cloud or corporate server.

Majority report attacks
Cyber attacks rose for the third year running – 53% of firms suffered a cyber attack, up from 48% last year.

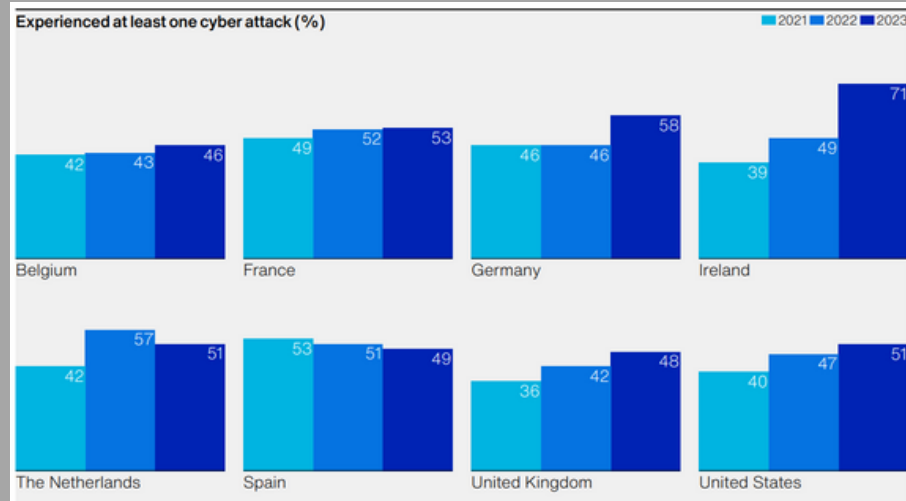
Smallest firms hit harder
In three years, the proportion of firms attacked with less than ten employees rose by more than half to 36%.

Security spend increases
Median spend on cyber security rose 39% over three years to \$155,000. For firms with less than ten employees, it quadrupled in two years.



It is probably unsurprising then that the region also leads the way in the take up of Cyber Insurance (69% in Ireland), more than any other region in the study.

While Ireland seems to be more vulnerable than the other countries in the survey, the worst hit financially were the UK. Across all sectors the average cost of a successful reported attack was \$24,200, even more than the USA at £20,000.



What do the experts do?

Hiscox consider 'Cyber Experts' to be firms that score over four out of five in their actions around Cyber Security and detailed the buy in of senior staff or board members as the key to how well Cyber Security is managed. These are the key actions that were being completed by 'cyber experts' and should be adopted by every organisation!

Key Actions taken by Cyber Experts

1. Ensure multi-factor authentication is used for sensitive or privileged access to IT systems.
2. Control communications between networked devices, for example using a host-based firewall
3. Proactive identification and removal of malicious software, for example using antivirus (AV) or endpoint detection and response (EDR).
4. Backing-up data to a secure remote source to eliminate the potential for unrecoverable data loss.
5. Managing the lifecycle of software patches and necessary updates for IT systems and software.

NB These were companies with under 250 employees!

How Can JTec IT help my organisation with my Cyber security?

- Free Consultation
- Free Cyber Security Report Addressing these key actions
- Cyber Security Awareness Training for your staff
- Cyber Insurance guide
- Help you Attain/Maintain IT Accreditation

CONTACT support@jtecit.com 02890992544 www.jtecit.com

You can download the full HISCOX report here
<https://www.hiscox.co.uk/cyberreadiness>

