

A close-up photograph of a baseball in a catcher's mitt. The baseball is white with red stitching and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame. The mitt is dark brown leather with visible stitching. The background is a blurred, warm-toned image of the mitt's interior.

Economic Security 2025

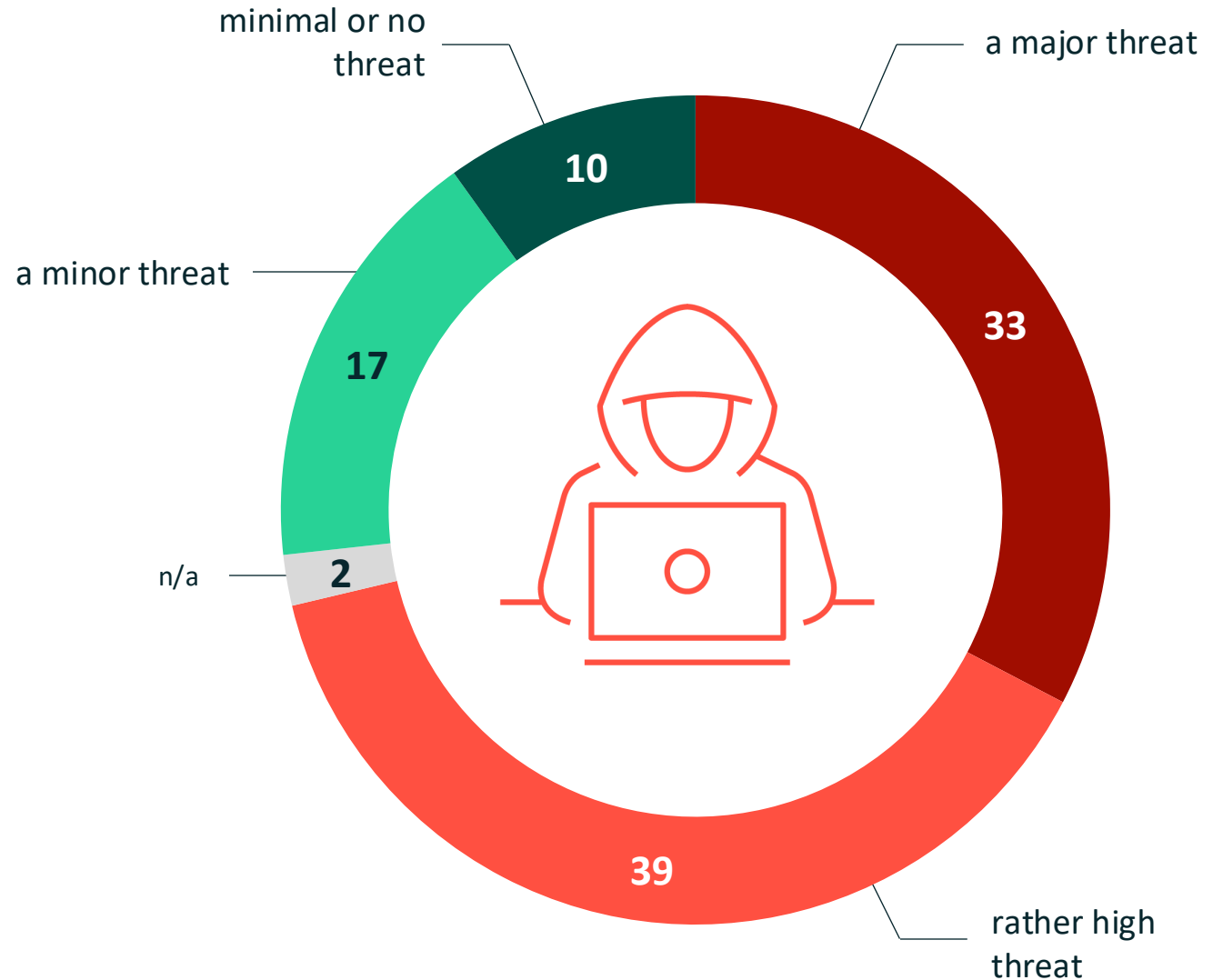
Dr. Ralf Wintergerst
President of Bitkom e. V.

Berlin, 18 September 2025

Almost three quarters feel highly threatened by both analogue and digital attacks

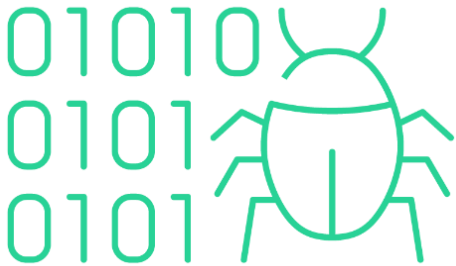
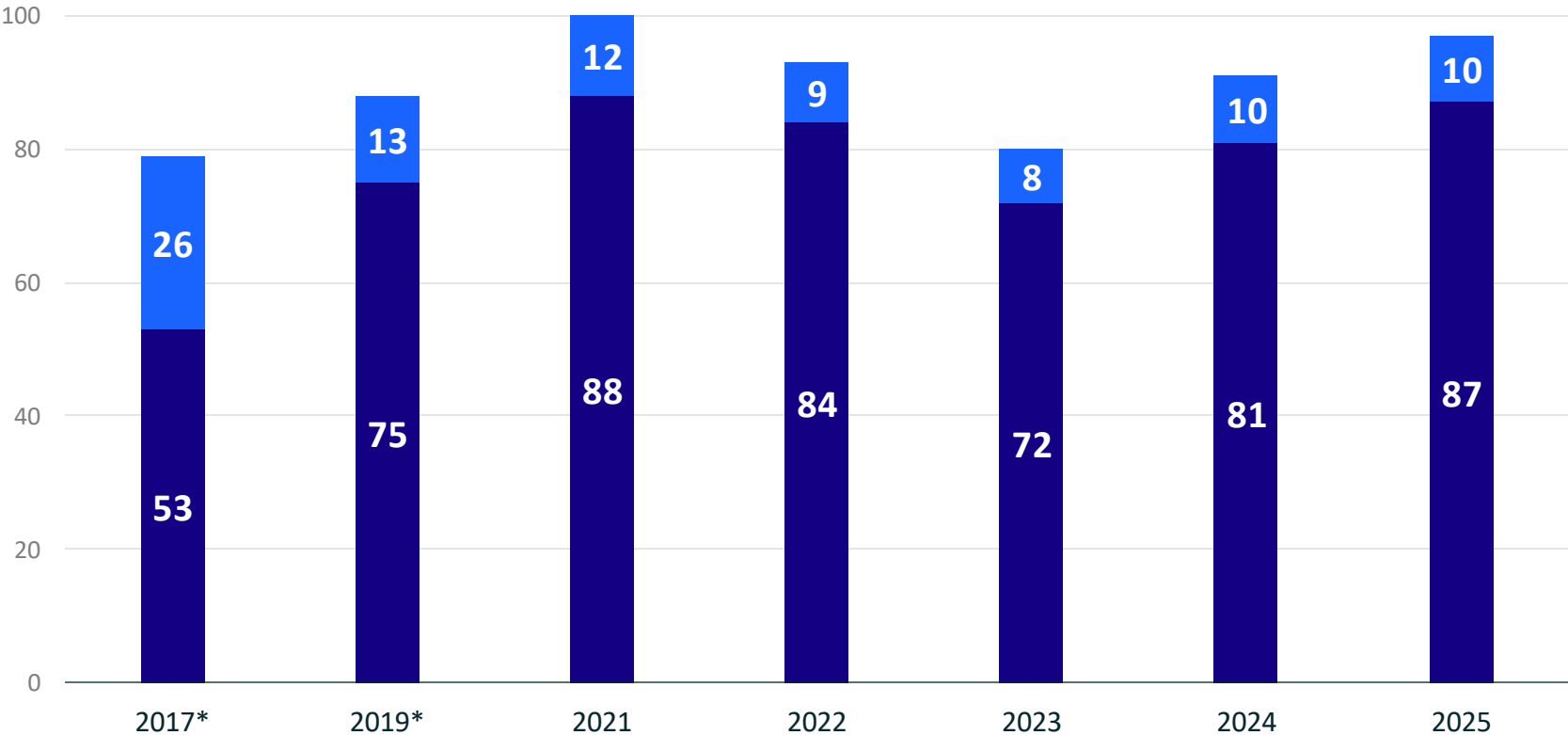
To what extent do you consider analogue and digital attacks (such as data theft, industrial espionage, and sabotage) a threat to your company?

in percent



More companies affected by attacks once again

Has your company been affected by theft, industrial espionage, or sabotage within the past 12 months?



■ likely affected
■ affected

in percent

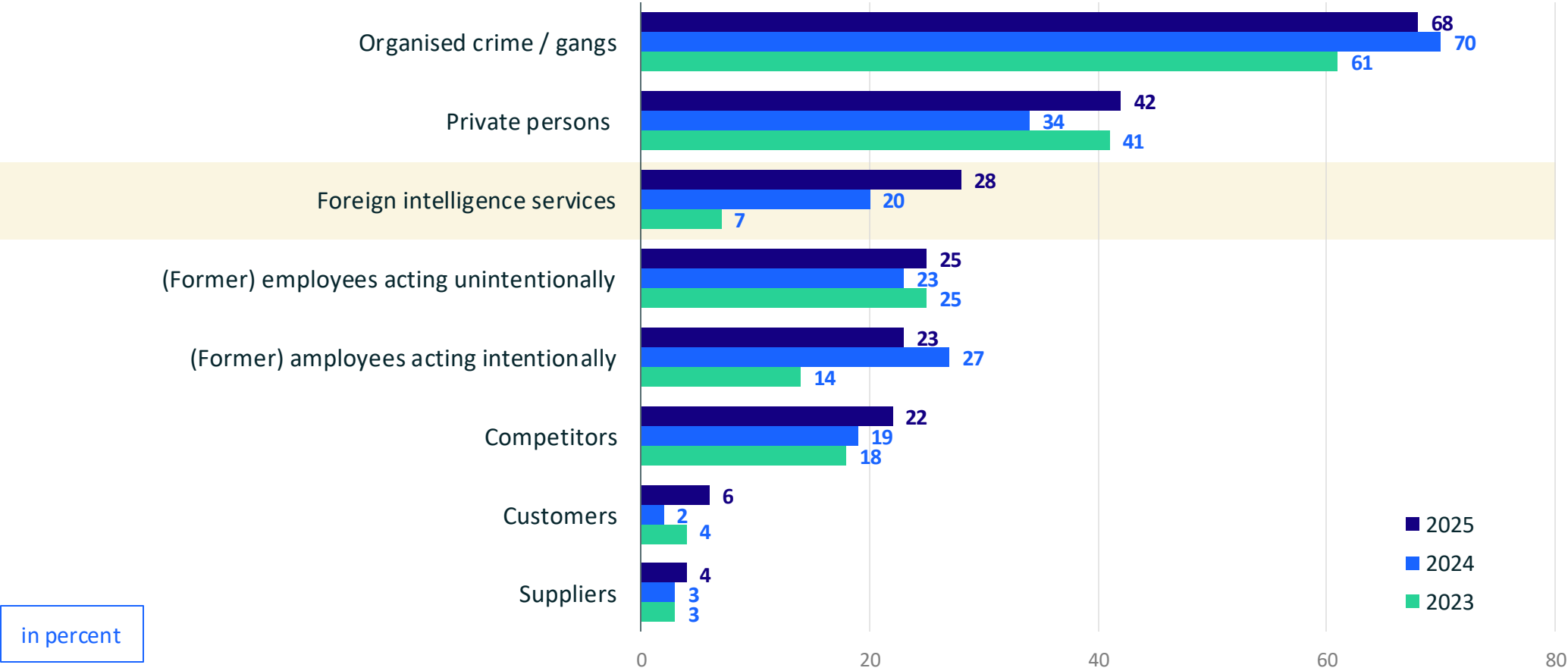
Damage amounting to €289 billion for the German economy

What types of damage has your company suffered in connection with theft, industrial espionage, or sabotage?

Damage due to...	Amount of loss in billion euros (2025)	Amount of loss in billion euros (2024)	Amount of loss in billion euros (2023)
Failure, theft or impairment of information and production systems or operational procedures	73,3	54,5	35,0
Legal costs	53,0	53,1	29,8
Costs for investigations and remedial measures	37,0	32,2	25,2
Loss of revenue due to counterfeit or imitation products	30,6	39,2	15,3
Data protection measures, e.g. by public authorities	23,8	27,2	12,4
Lost of revenue due to the loss of competitive advantages	23,1	11,2	21,5
Patent infringements, including those occurring prior to filing	16,0	14,8	10,4
Reputational damage among customers or suppliers, negative media coverage	15,9	20,2	35,3
Extortion using stoling data	15,6	13,4	16,1
Outflow of funds due to attempted fraud	0,9	0,8	3,9
Other losses	0	0	1,1
Total annual damage	289,2	266,6	205,9

Intelligence agencies are targeting the economy

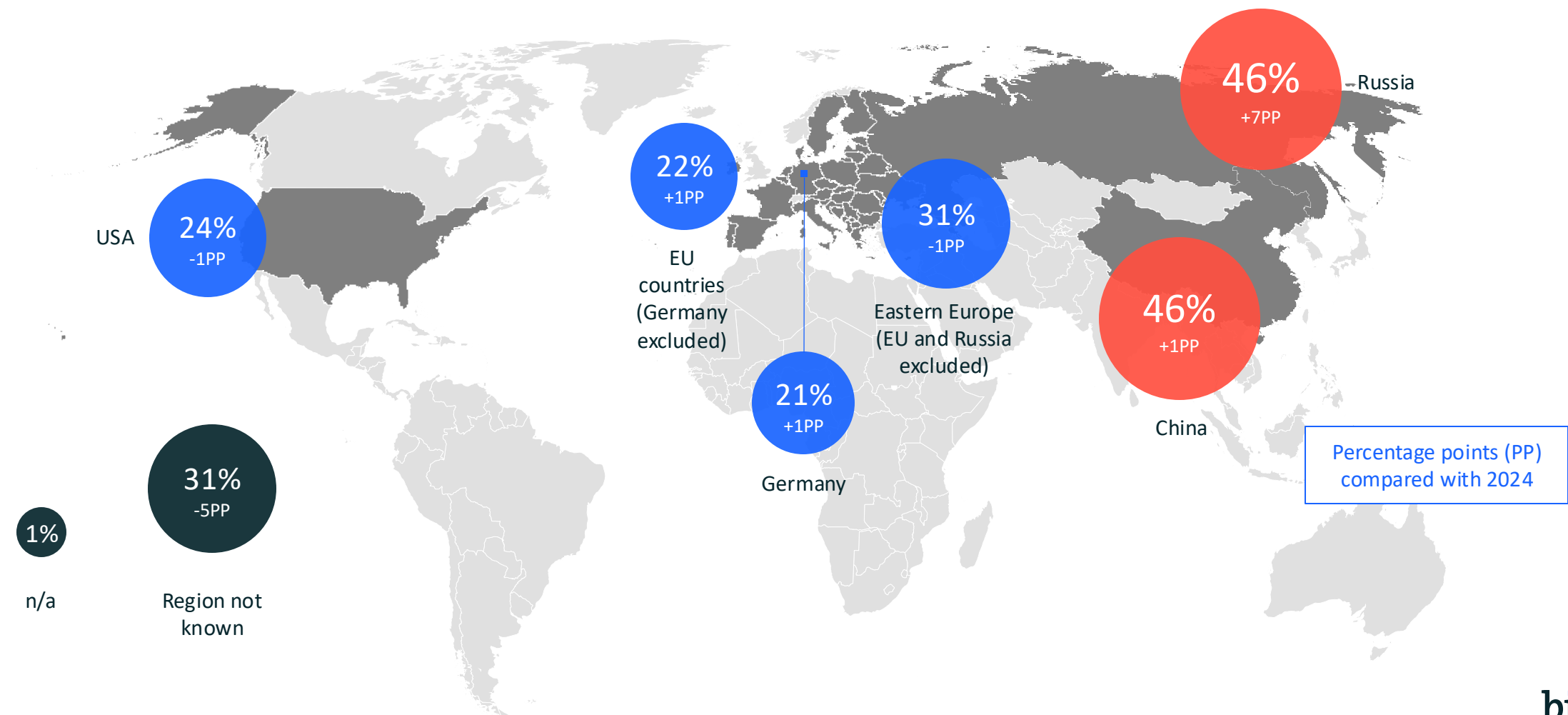
Which group of perpetrators was responsible for the incidents in the past 12 months?



Base: Companies affected by data theft, industrial espionage, or sabotage within the past 12 months (n=868) | Multiple choices were possible | Source: Bitkom Research 2025

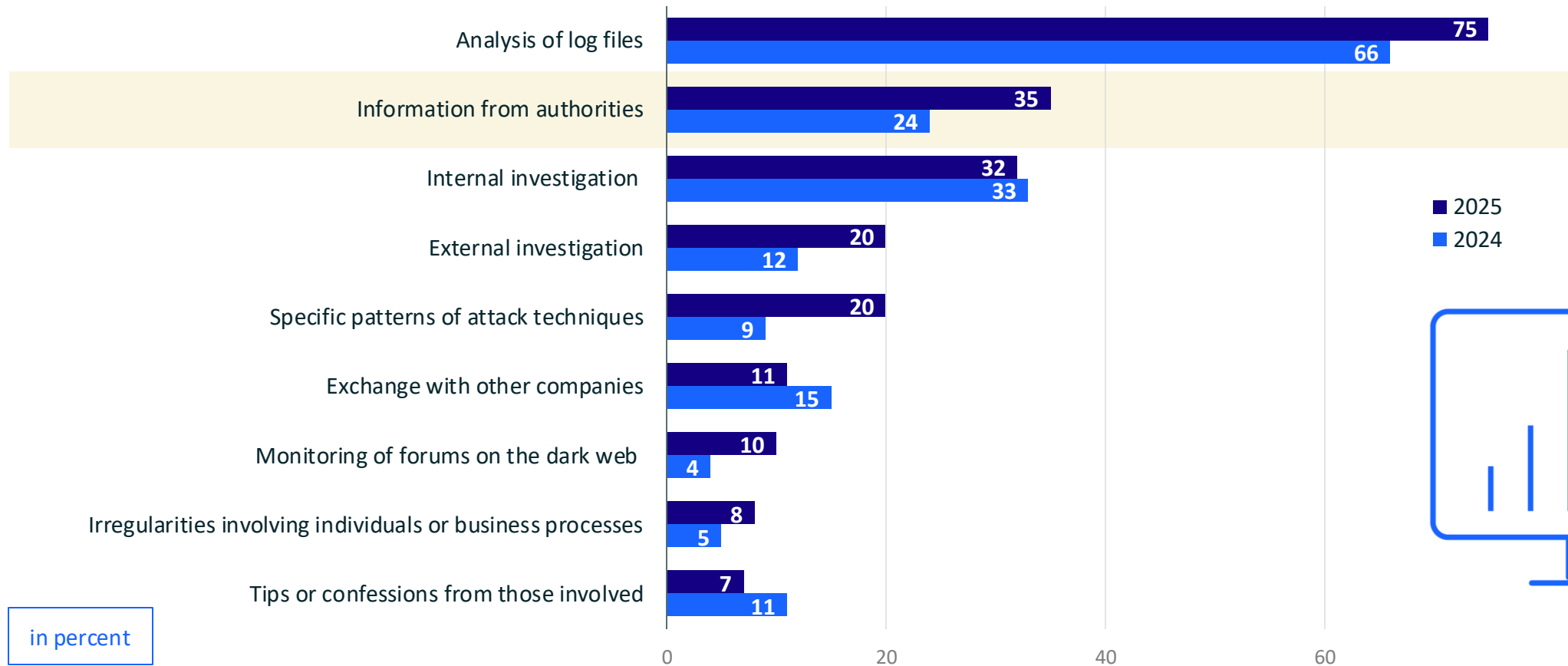
China and Russia remain the greatest threats

Could you determine the location or region from which these actions originated?



How perpetrators are identified: greater support from authorities

How did you obtain this information?

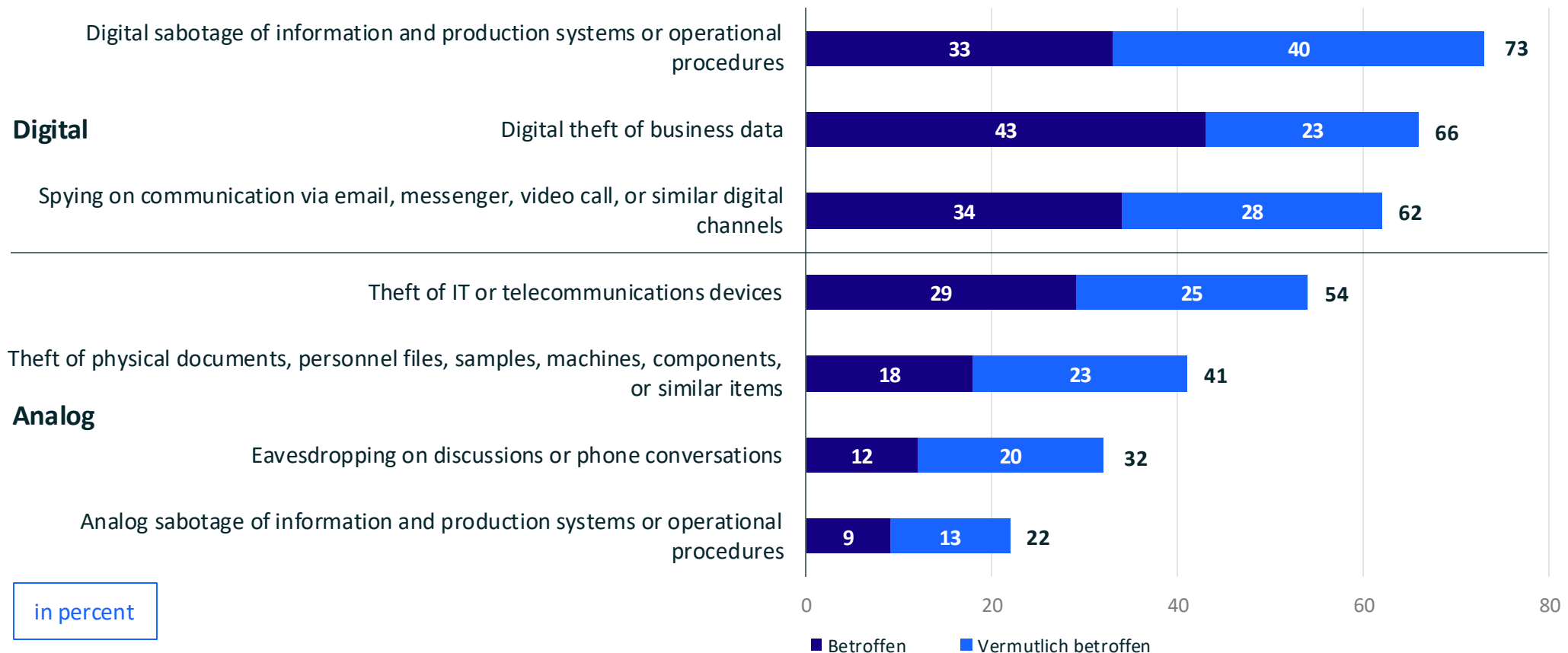


in percent

Base: Companies affected by data theft, industrial espionage, or sabotage within the past 12 months and with information on the origin or group of perpetrators (n=823) | Multiple choices were possible | Source: Bitkom Research 2025

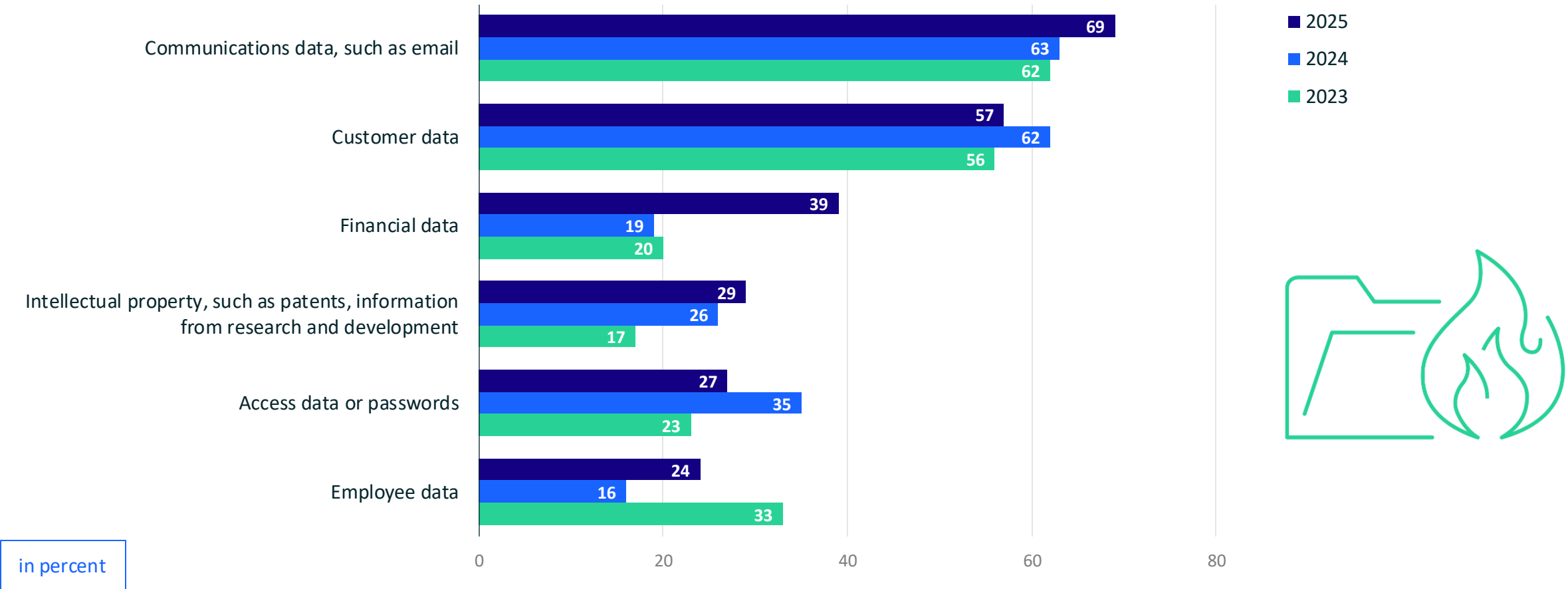
Companies are mainly attacked digitally

Which of the following incidents has your company (presumably) been affected by within the past 12 months?



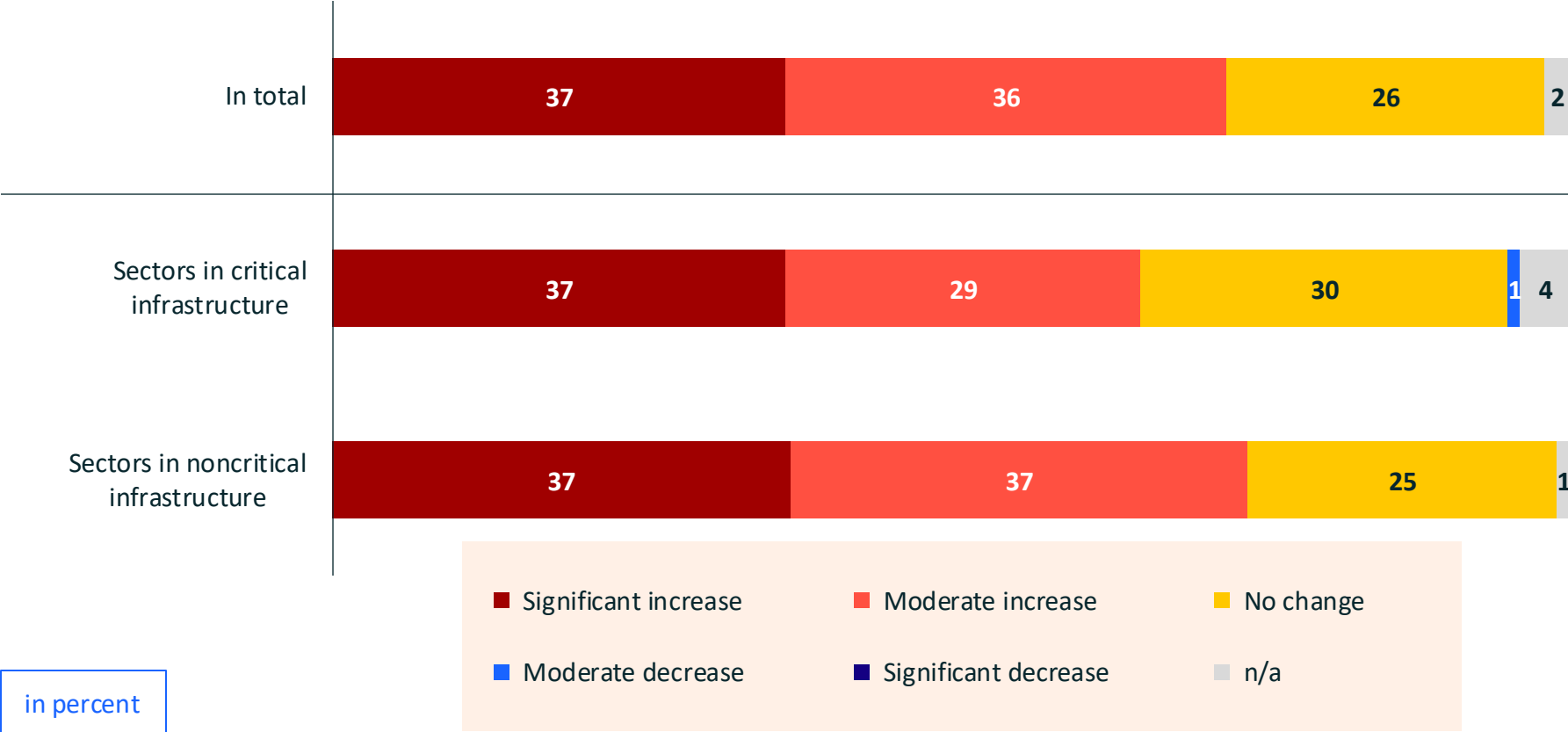
Data theft: communication, customers, and finances

Which of the following types of digital data were stolen from your company?



Cyberattacks have continued to increase

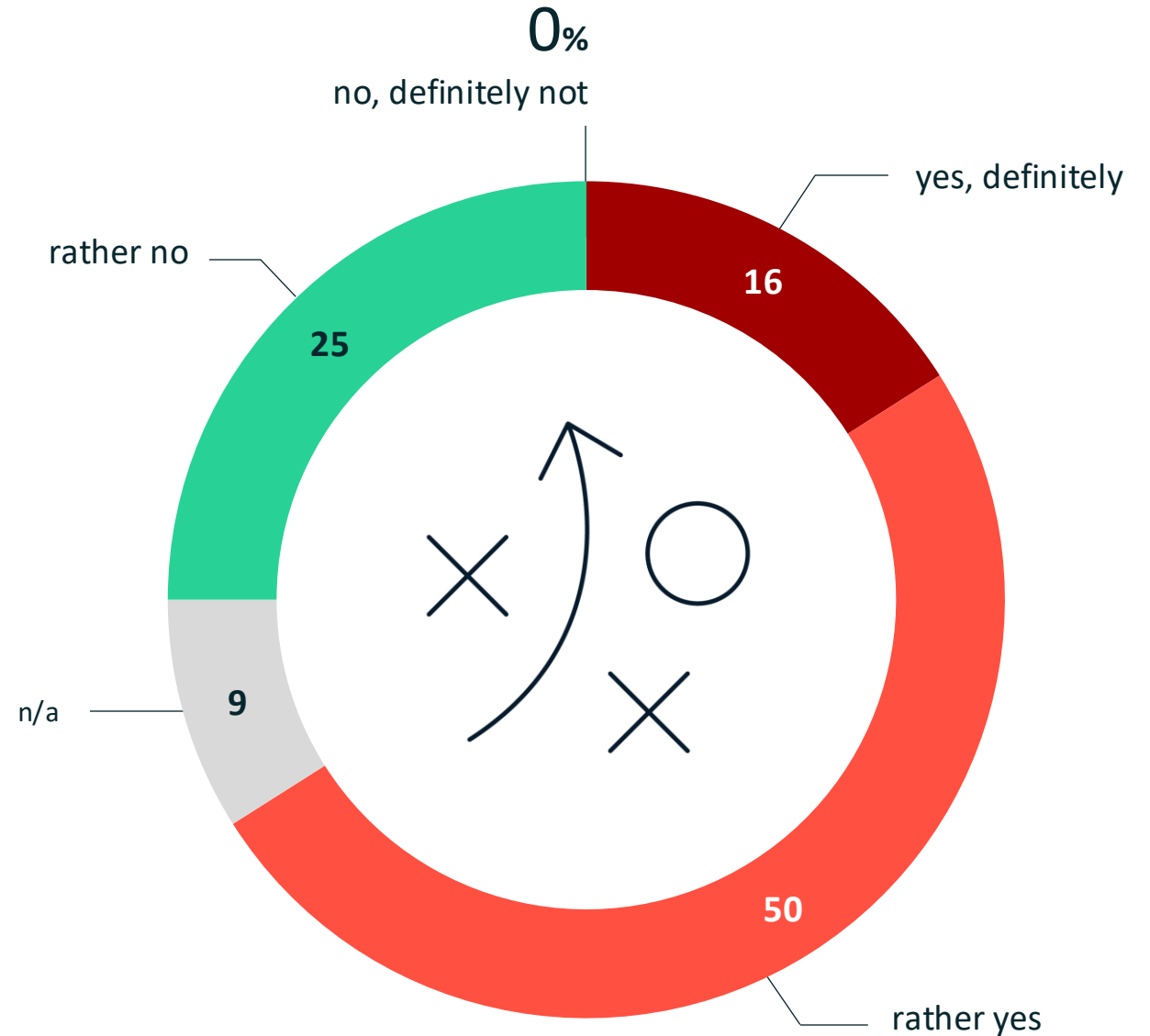
How have the numbers of cyber attacks staged against your company developed in the past twelve months?



Attackers are increasingly using artificial intelligence

Do you have the impression that artificial intelligence is being used more frequently in attacks on your company?

in percent



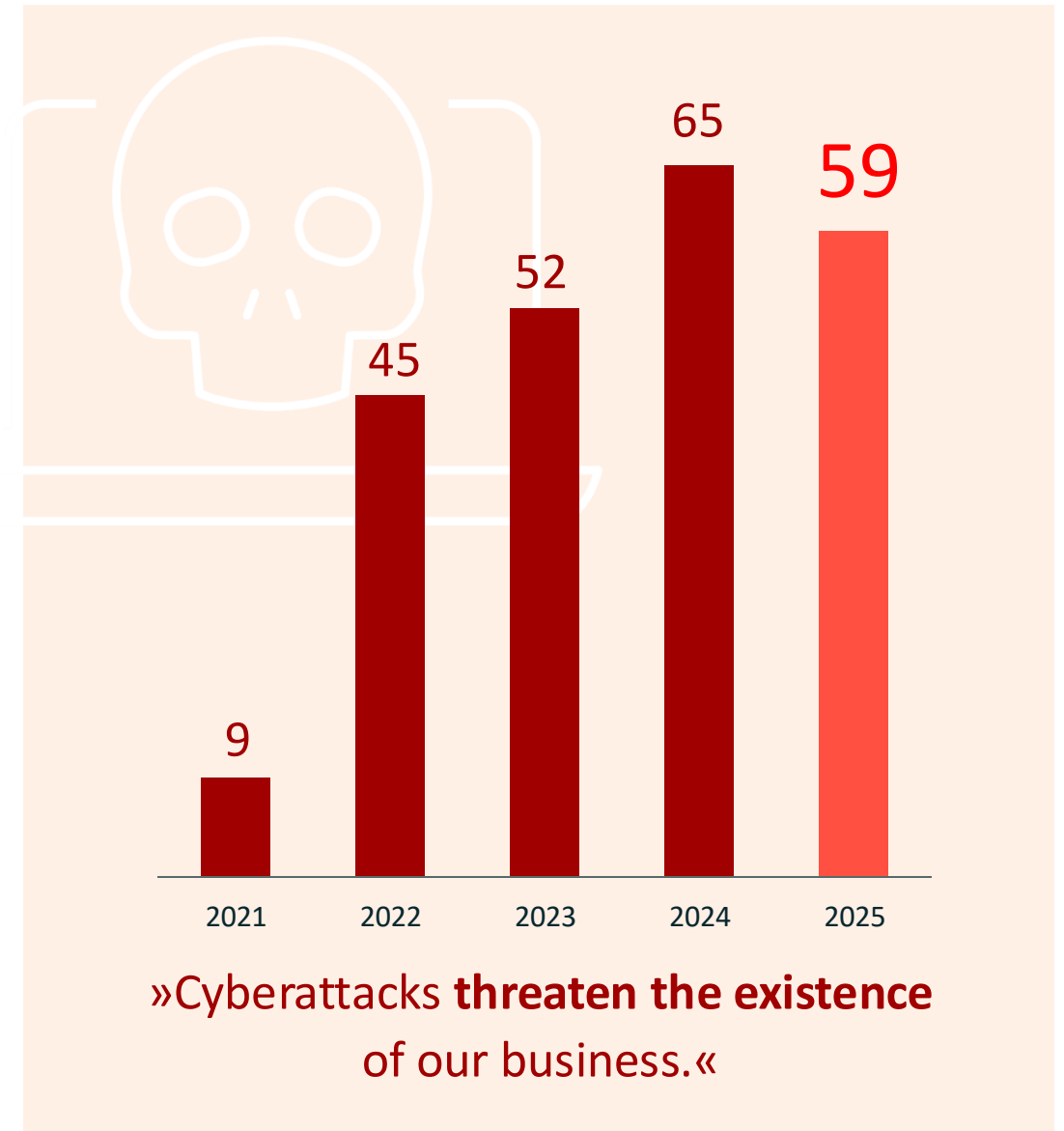
Companies view cyberattacks as existential threats – one in two is very well prepared

To what extent do the following statements apply?

50% (2024: 53%)

»Our company is **very well prepared** for cyberattacks.«

in percent

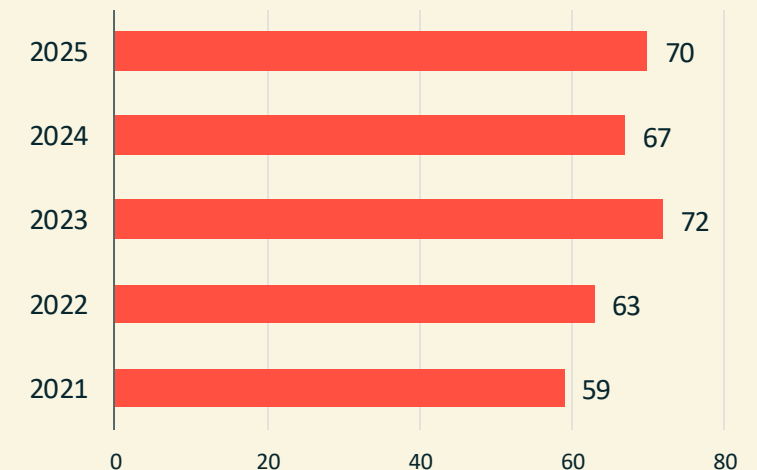


The majority of damages are caused by cyberattacks

What percentage of the total damage incurred can be attributed to cyberattacks?

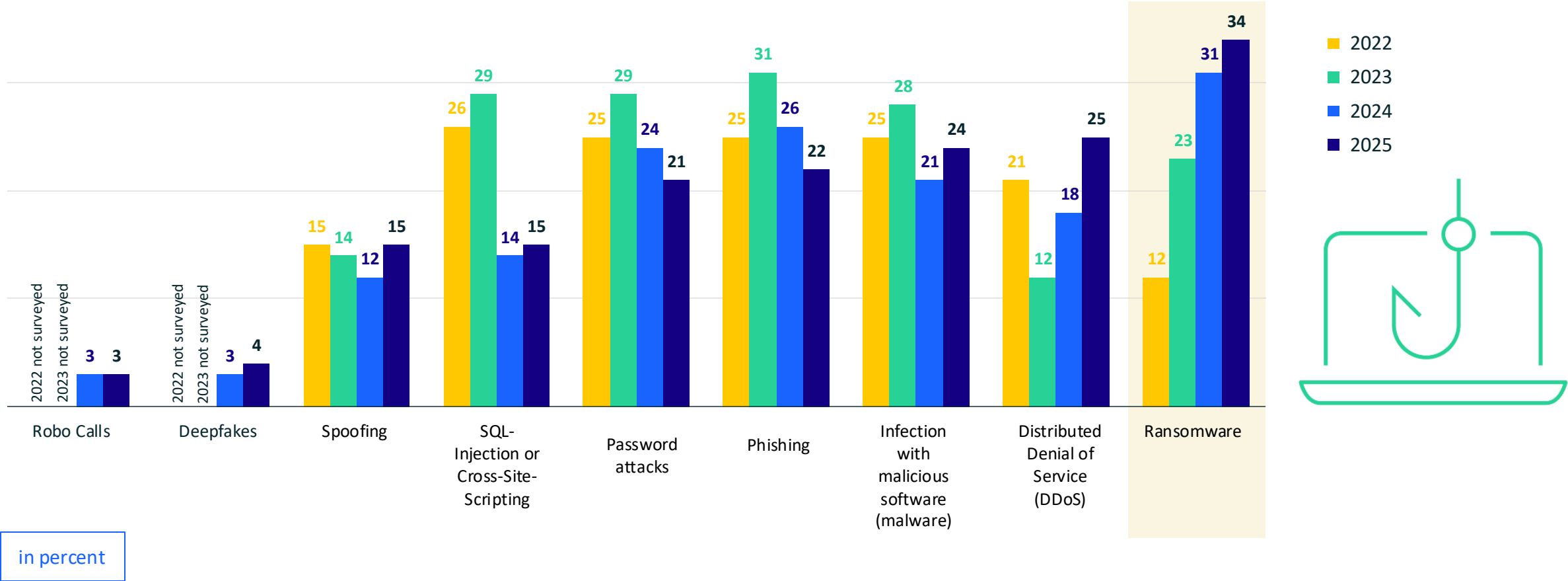


Proportion of total damages caused by cyberattacks
2021-2025



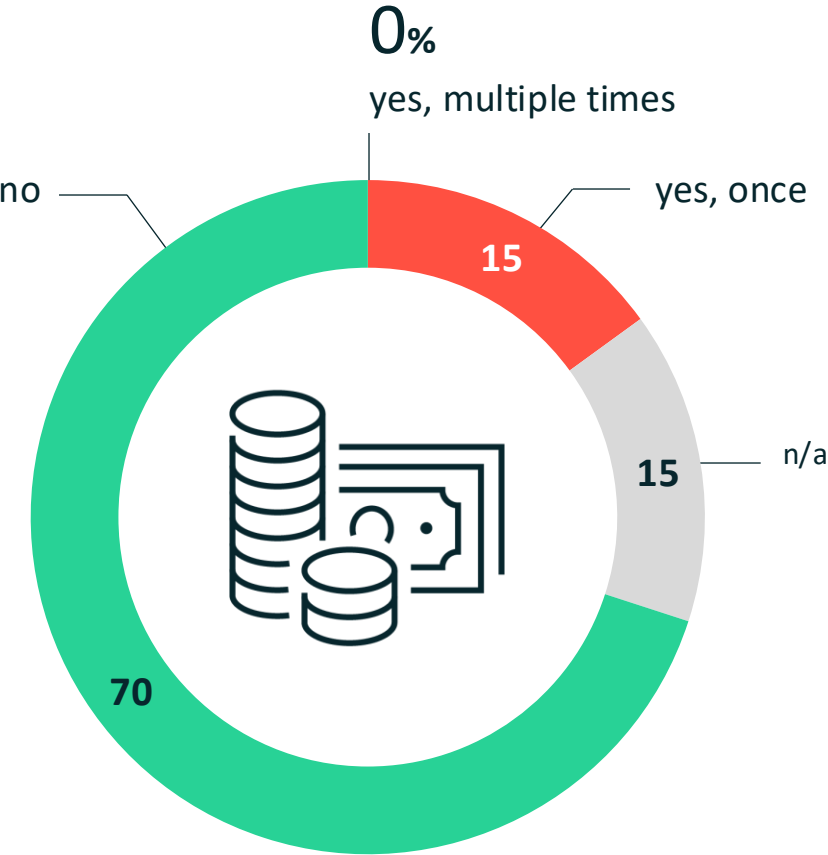
Ransomware is the most common cause of damage

Which of the following types of cyberattacks have caused damage in your company within the past 12 months?



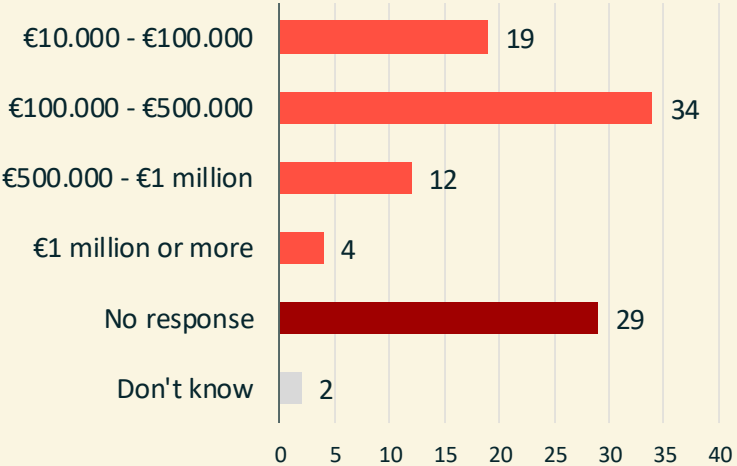
One in seven companies pays ransom to attackers

Did you pay ransom in connection with ransomware attacks?



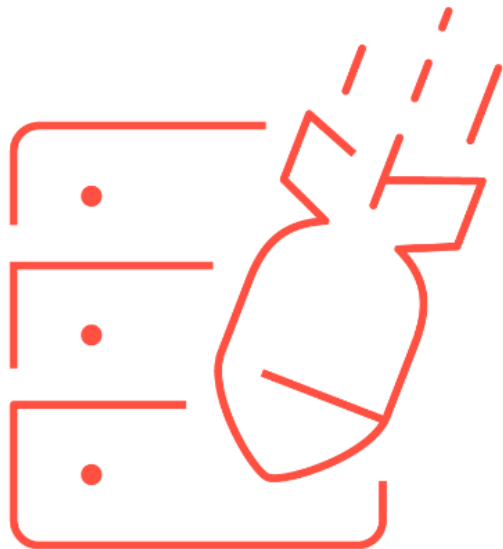
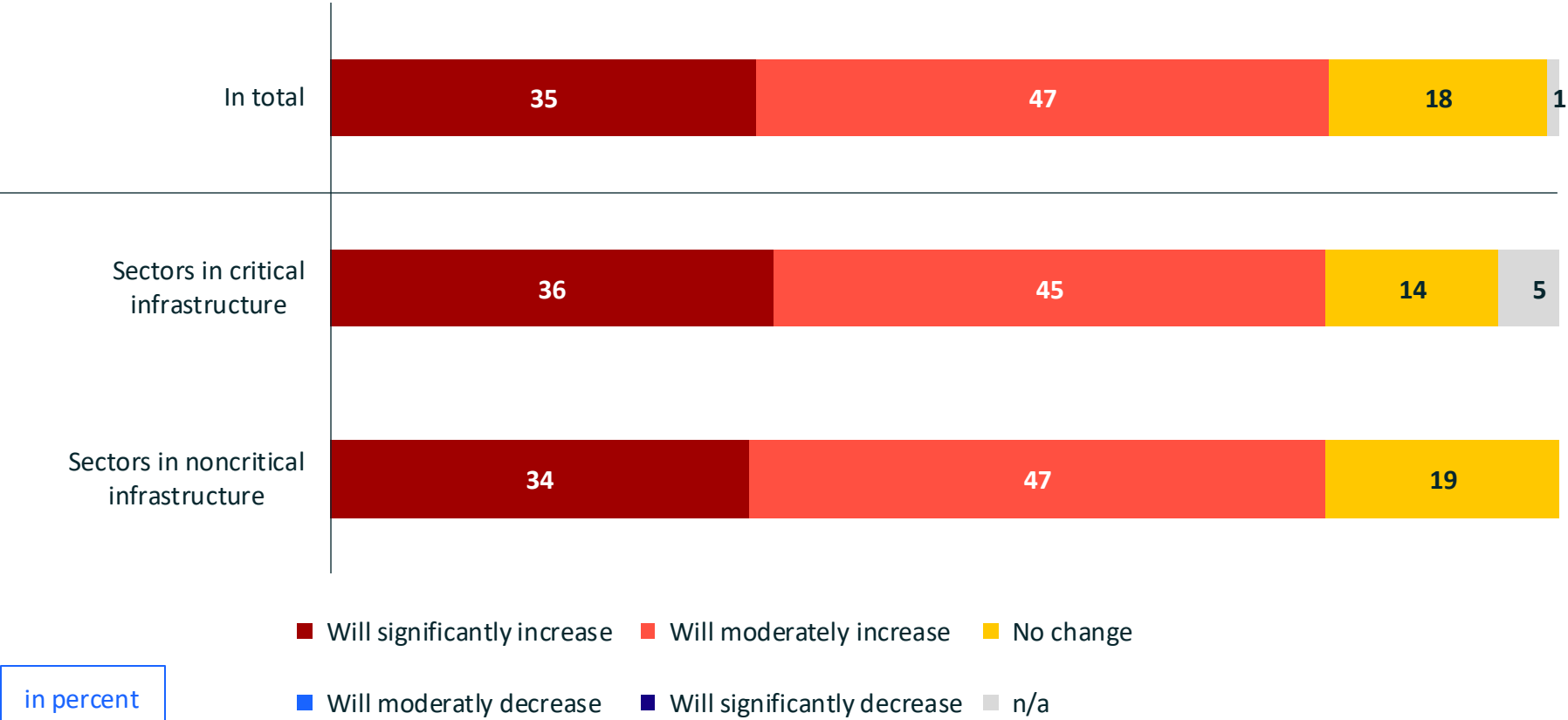
in percent

What was the total amount you paid in the past 12 months?



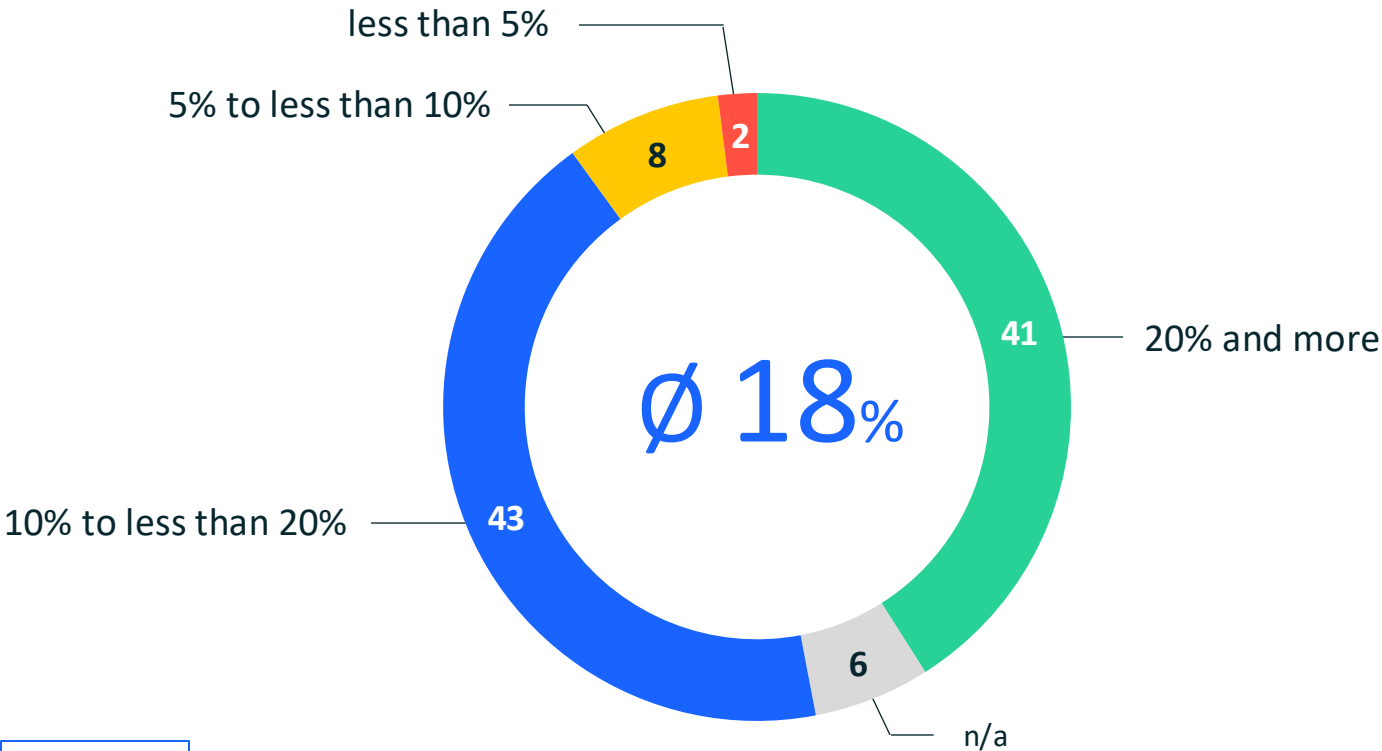
Economy expects an increase in cyberattacks

How do you expect the number of cyberattacks on your company to change over the next 12 months compared with the past 12 months?

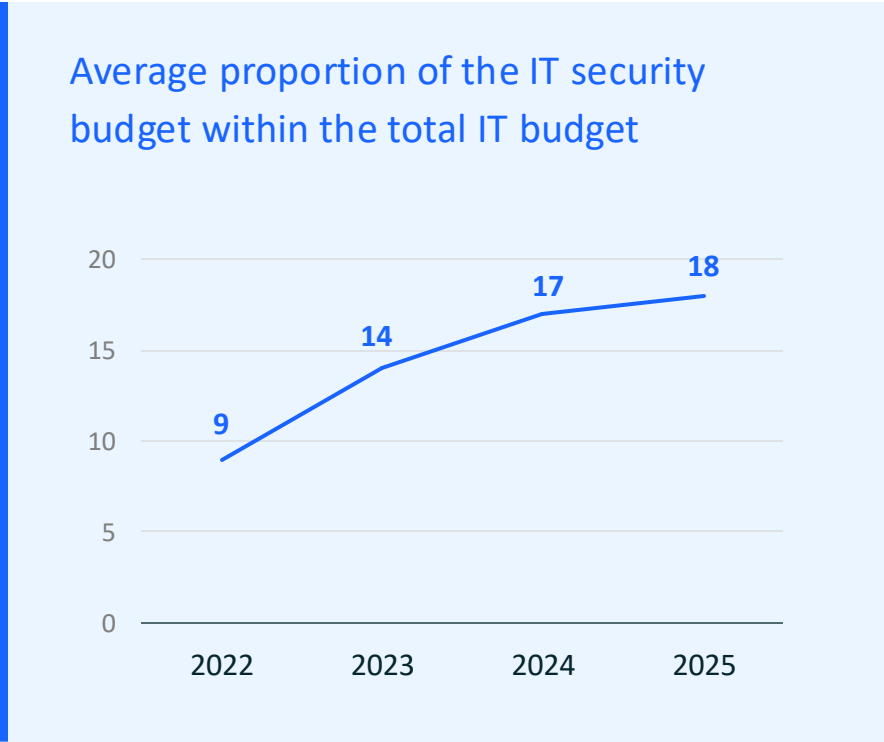


Investment in cybersecurity is on the rise

What percentage of your company's total IT budget is estimated to be allocated to IT security?

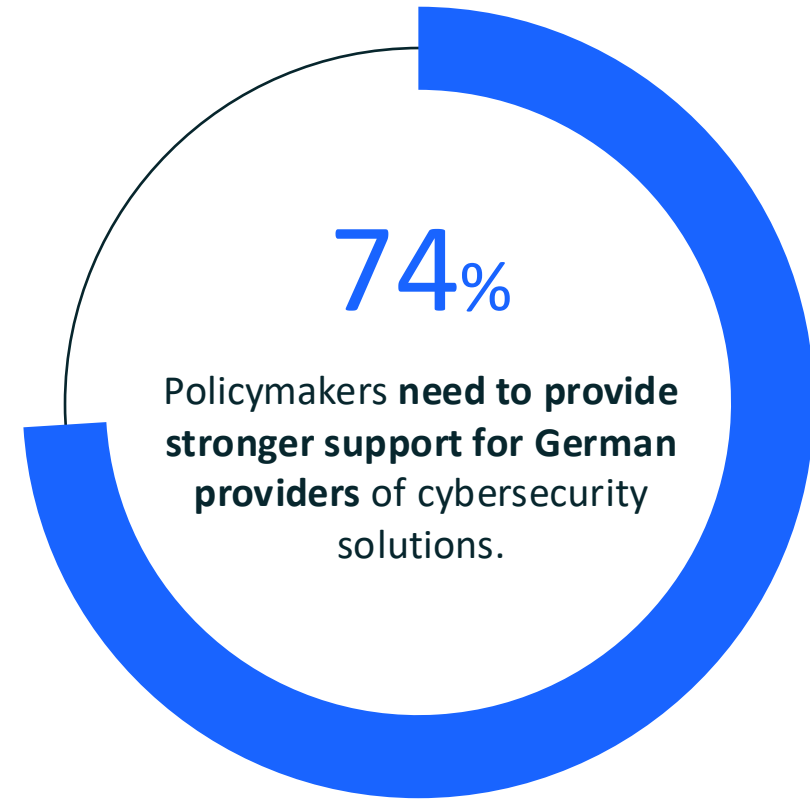


in percent



Digital sovereignty is becoming a key focus

Which of the following statements apply, in your opinion, to your company?



Survey design

On behalf of

Bitkom e. V.

Methodology	Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)
Statistical population	Companies based in Germany having at least 10 staff members and an annual turnover of 1 million euros or more.
Target persons	Executives responsible for the topic of economic security. This includes managing directors and, above all, executives from the IT sector.
Nominal sample size	n=1.002
Period of interviewing	Between mid-April and mid-June 2025
Statistical fault tolerance	+/- 3 percent in the totale sample

Contact

Bitkom e. V.
Albrechtstraße 10
10117 Berlin

bitkom.org



Felix Kuhlenkamp

Head of Security Policy

Bitkom e. V.

f.kuhlenkamp@bitkom.org

T 030 27576-279



Andreas Streim

Press Spokesman

Bitkom e. V.

a.streim@bitkom.org

T 030 27576-112



Bettina Lange

Deputy Head of Bitkom Research

b.lange@bitkom-research.de

T 030 27576-547