

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

Economic Security 2026

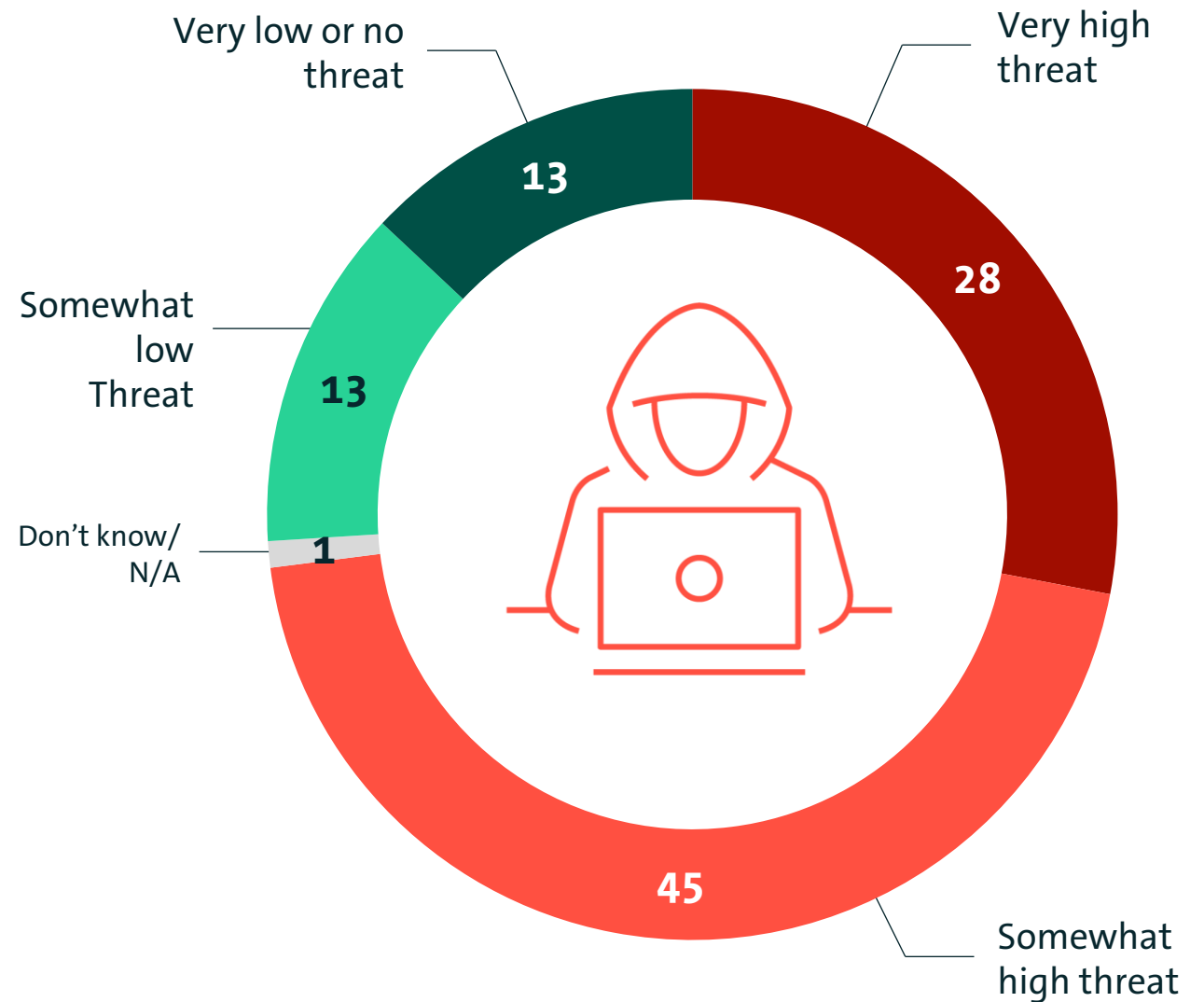
Dr Ralf Wintergerst
Bitkom President

Berlin, 26 August 2026

Analogue and digital attacks: Three-quarters feel highly threatened

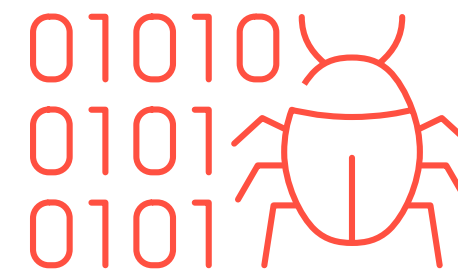
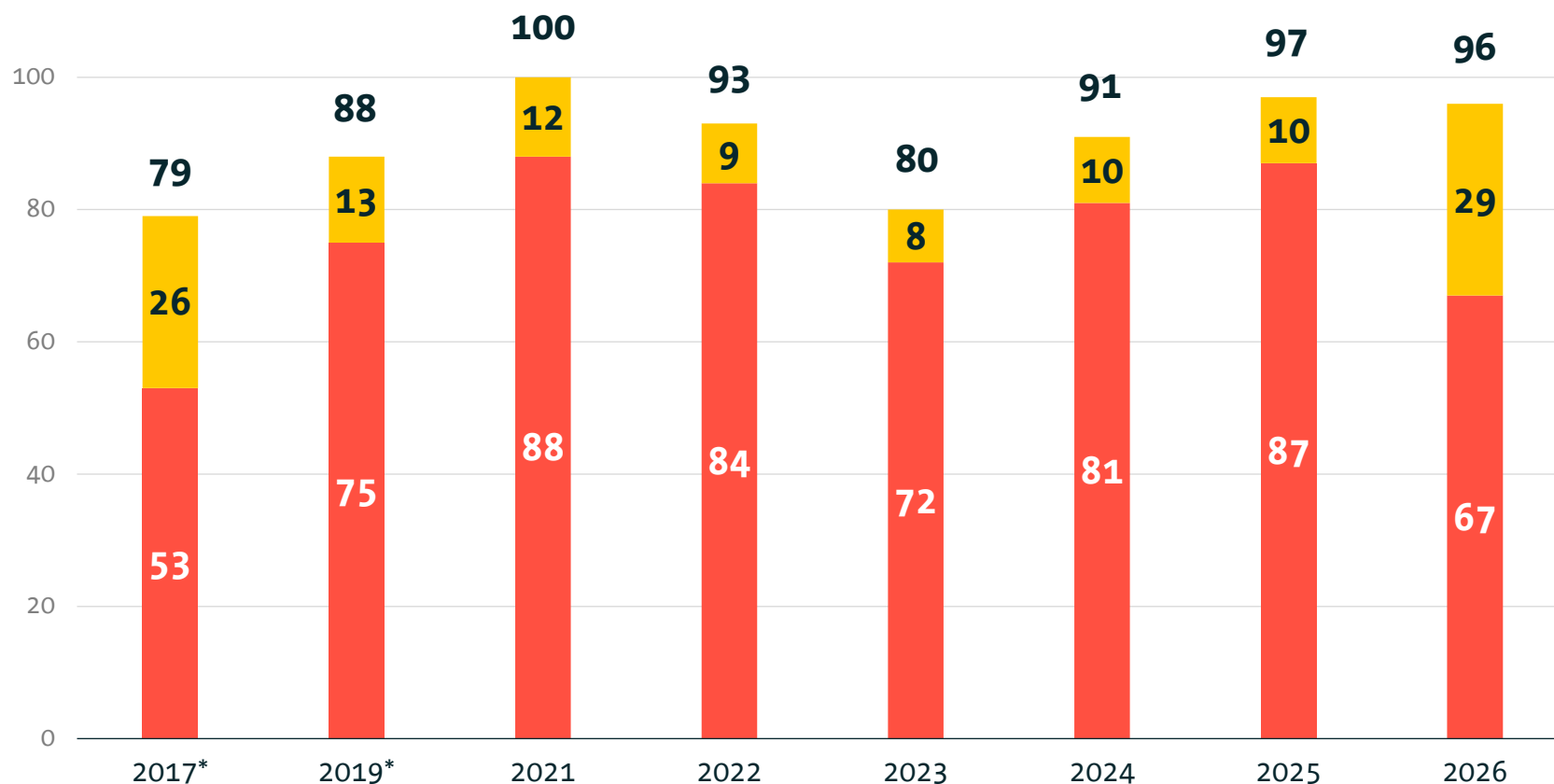
To what extent do you consider analogue and digital attacks – such as data theft, industrial espionage and sabotage – as a threat to your company?

in percent



Almost every company is (presumably) affected

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



■ Presumably affected
■ Affected

in percent

At least 211 billion euros in damages in Germany

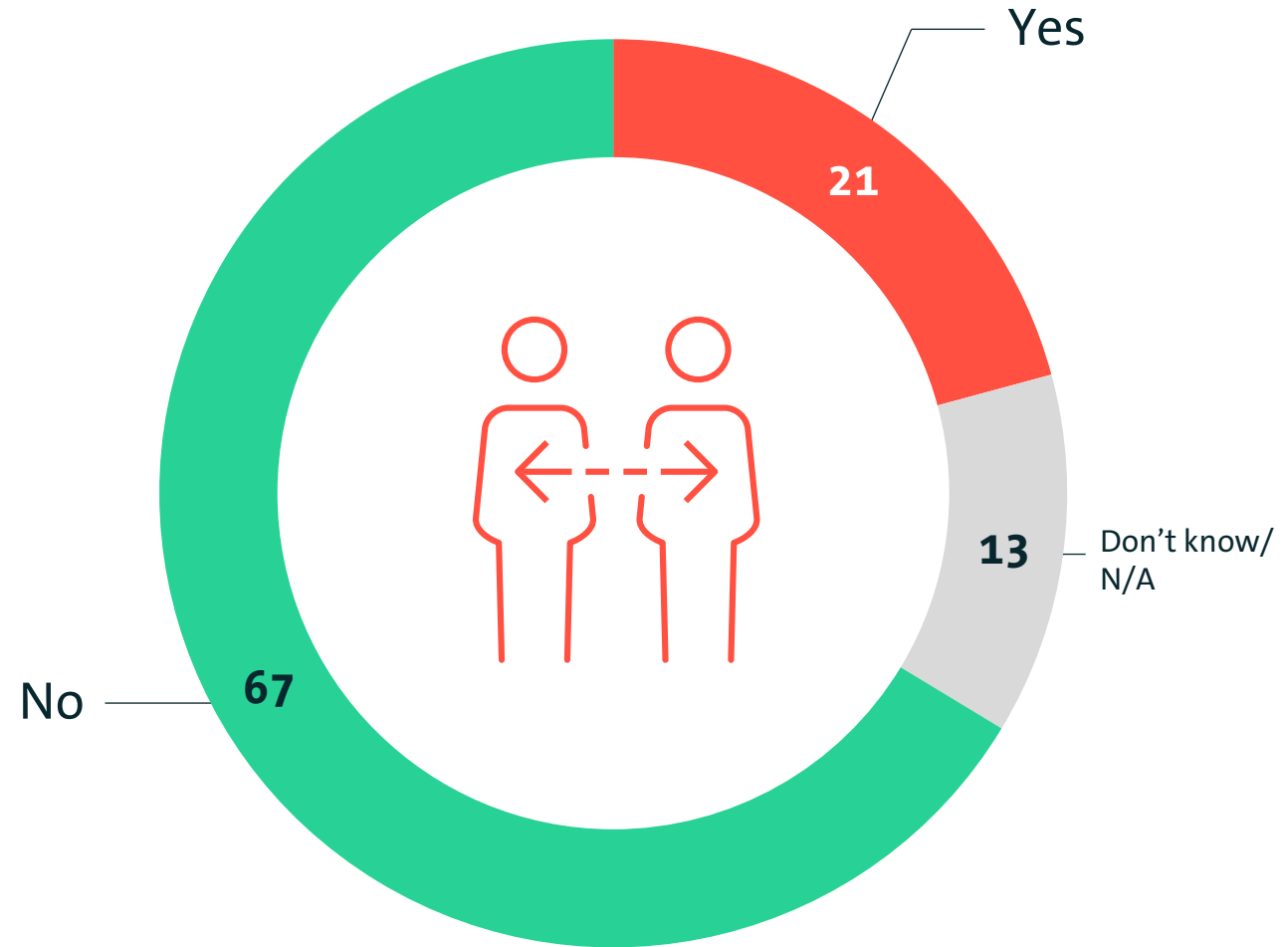
What types of damages has your company suffered in connection with theft, industrial espionage or sabotage?

Losses due to...	Total losses in billions of euros		
	2026	2025	2024
Loss of revenue due to counterfeit products or piracy	38.9	30.6	39.2
Failure, theft or damage to information and production systems or operational processes	36.5	73.3	54.5
Costs of investigations and remedial measures	35.6	37.0	32.2
Costs of legal proceedings	34.9	53.0	53.1
Damage to reputation amongst customers or suppliers, negative media coverage	21.1	15.9	20.2
Loss of revenue due to loss of competitive advantages	18.2	23.1	11.2
Data protection measures, e.g. imposed by authorities	11.5	23.8	27.2
Cash outflow due to attempted fraud	8.4	0.9	0.8
Extortion using stolen data	5.0	15.6	13.4
Patent infringements, including pre-filing infringements	0.9	16.0	14.8
Other damages	0	0	0
Total damage per year	211.0	289.2	266.6

Basis: All surveyed companies with 10 or more employees (n=1,003) | Multiple responses permitted | Due to rounding, the sum of individual losses may differ from the total loss. | Source: Bitkom Research 2026

One in five successful attack affects third parties

Did the incident affect other businesses, for example, by causing production downtime for business partners or reputational damage to clients?

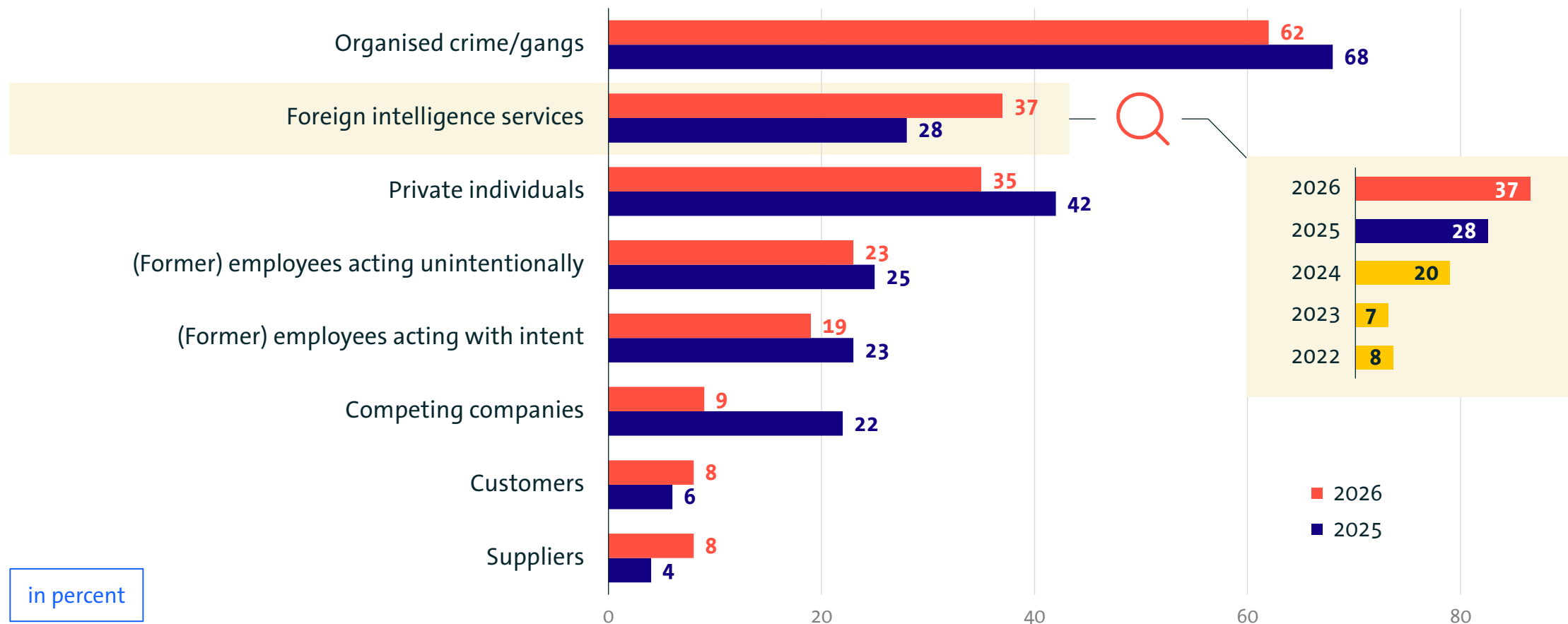


in percent

Basis: Companies surveyed with 10 or more employees that had been affected by data theft, industrial espionage or sabotage in the last 12 months (n=671) | Deviations from 100 per cent are due to rounding | Source: Bitkom Research 2026

Intelligence agencies are increasingly behind attacks

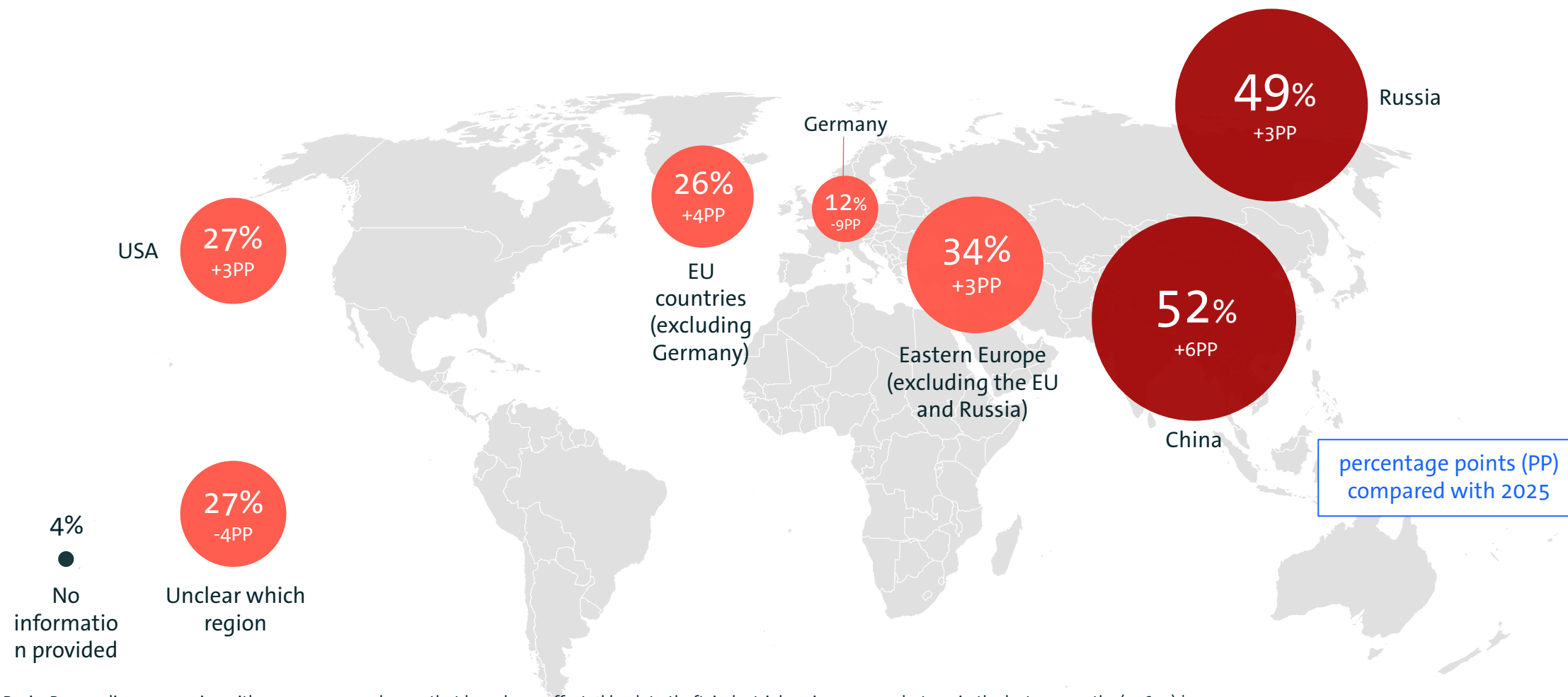
Who was behind the attacks in the past 12 months?



Basis: Responding companies with 10 or more employees that have been affected by data theft, industrial espionage or sabotage in the last 12 months (n=671) | Multiple responses possible | Source: Bitkom Research 2026

Threats from China and Russia continue to grow

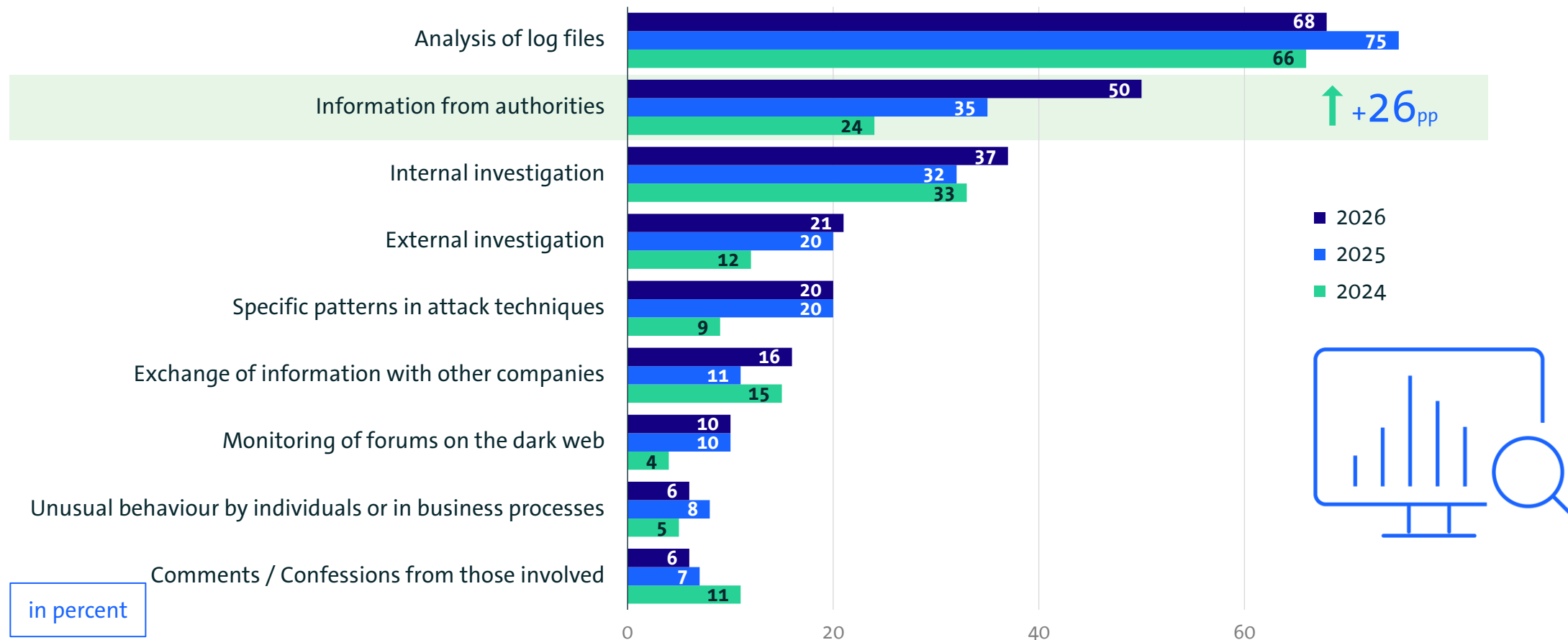
Were you able to determine which countries or regions the attacks originated from?



Basis: Responding companies with 10 or more employees that have been affected by data theft, industrial espionage or sabotage in the last 12 months (n=671) | Multiple responses possible | Source: Bitkom Research 2026

Authorities provide important leads on perpetrators

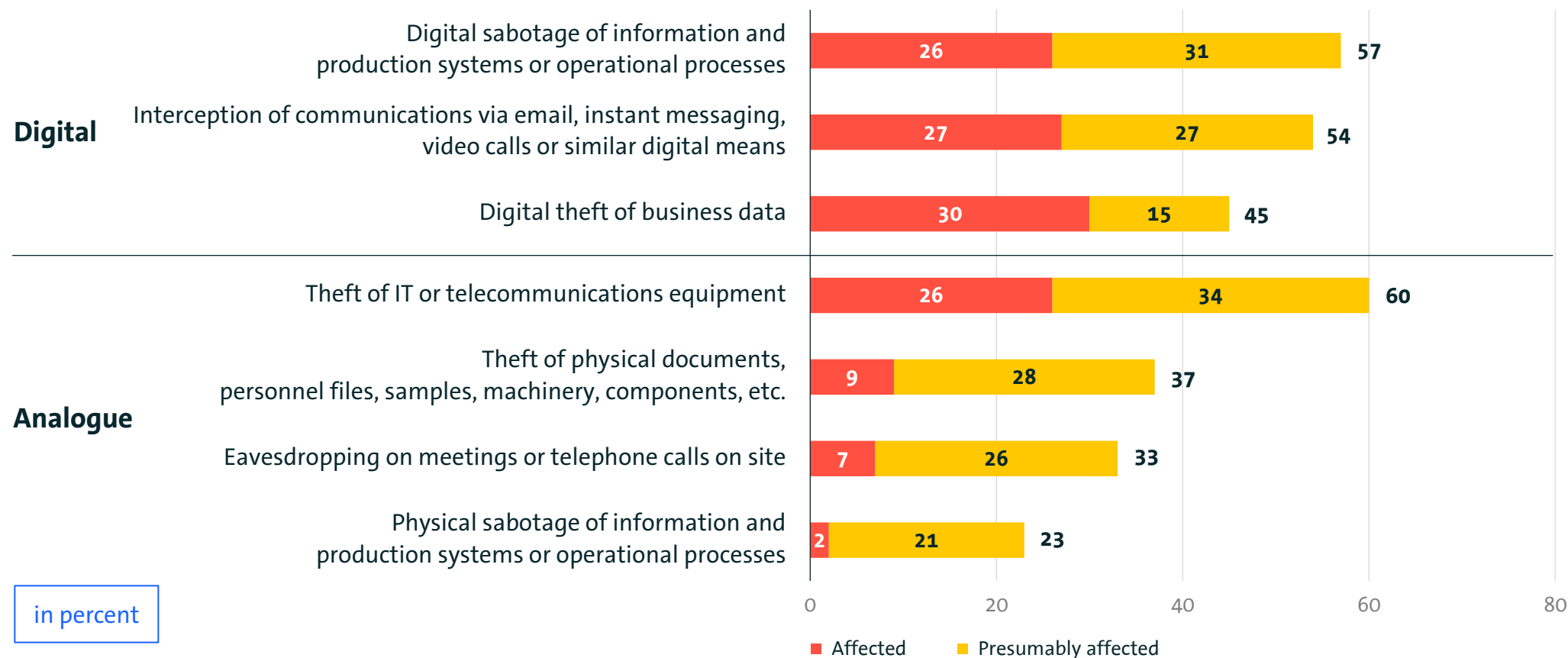
What were your findings based on?



Basis: Companies surveyed with 10 or more employees that had been affected by data theft, industrial espionage or sabotage in the last 12 months and had information about the source or group of perpetrators (n=667) | Multiple responses possible | Source: Bitkom Research 2026

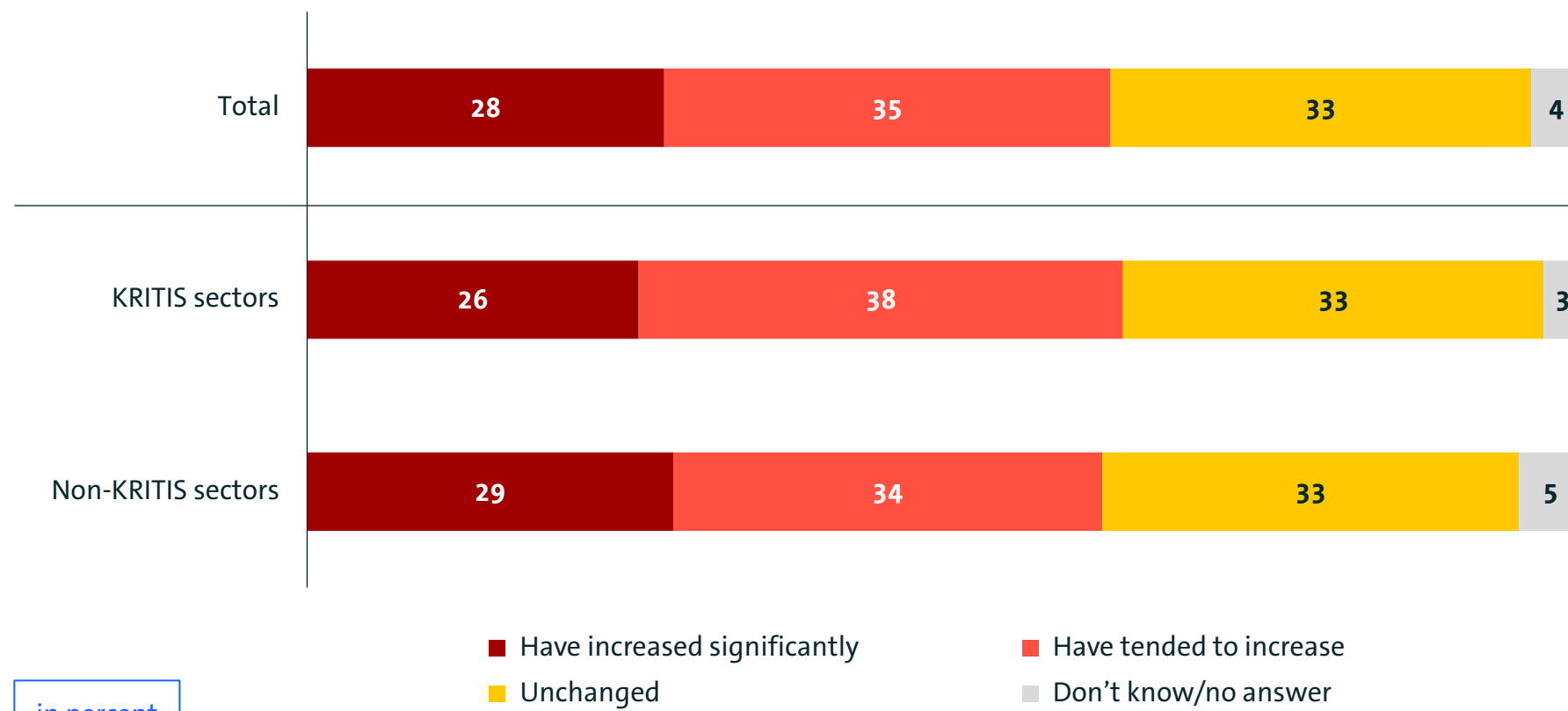
Attacks on companies are predominantly digital

Which of the following incidents did your company experience the last 12 months (presumably)?



Cyberattacks on companies continue to rise

How has the number of cyberattacks on your company changed over the past 12 months?

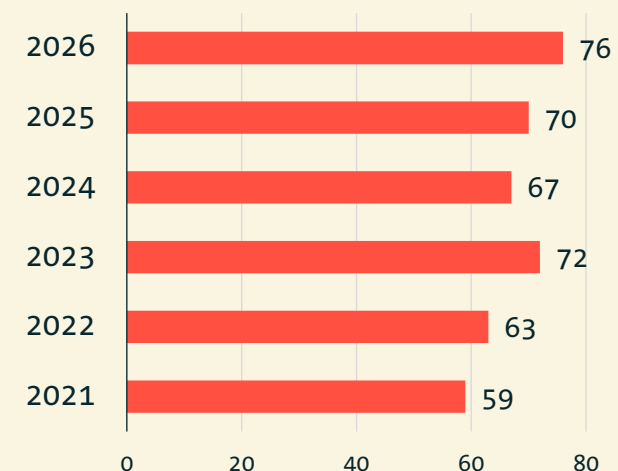


Cyberattacks account for three-quarters of the damage

What percentage of the total damage was caused by cyberattacks?



Share of cyberattacks in total damages 2021-2026

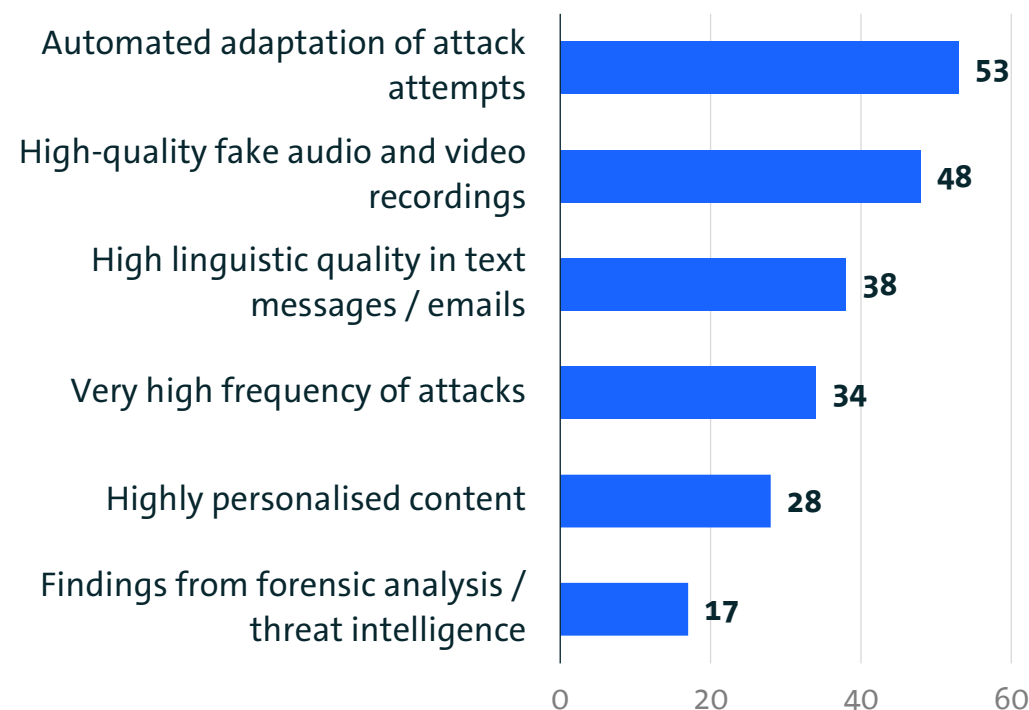
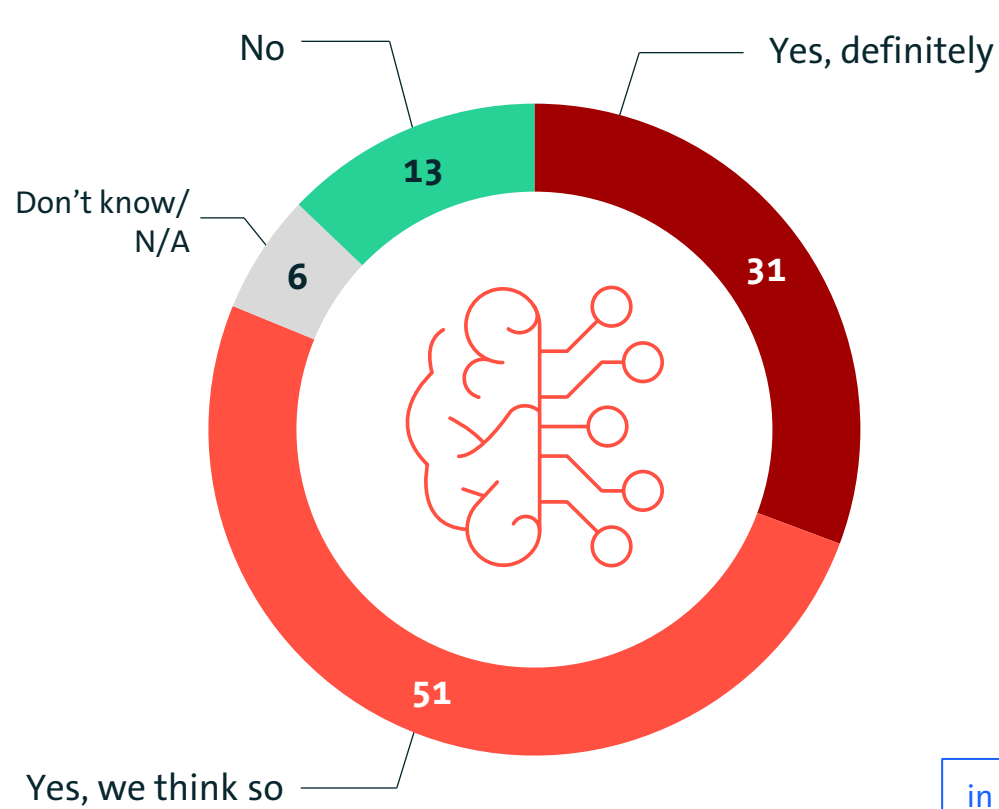


in percent

Basis: Responding companies with 10 or more employees that have been affected by data theft, industrial espionage or sabotage in the last 12 months (n=671) | Source: Bitkom Research 2026

Cyber attackers are increasingly using AI

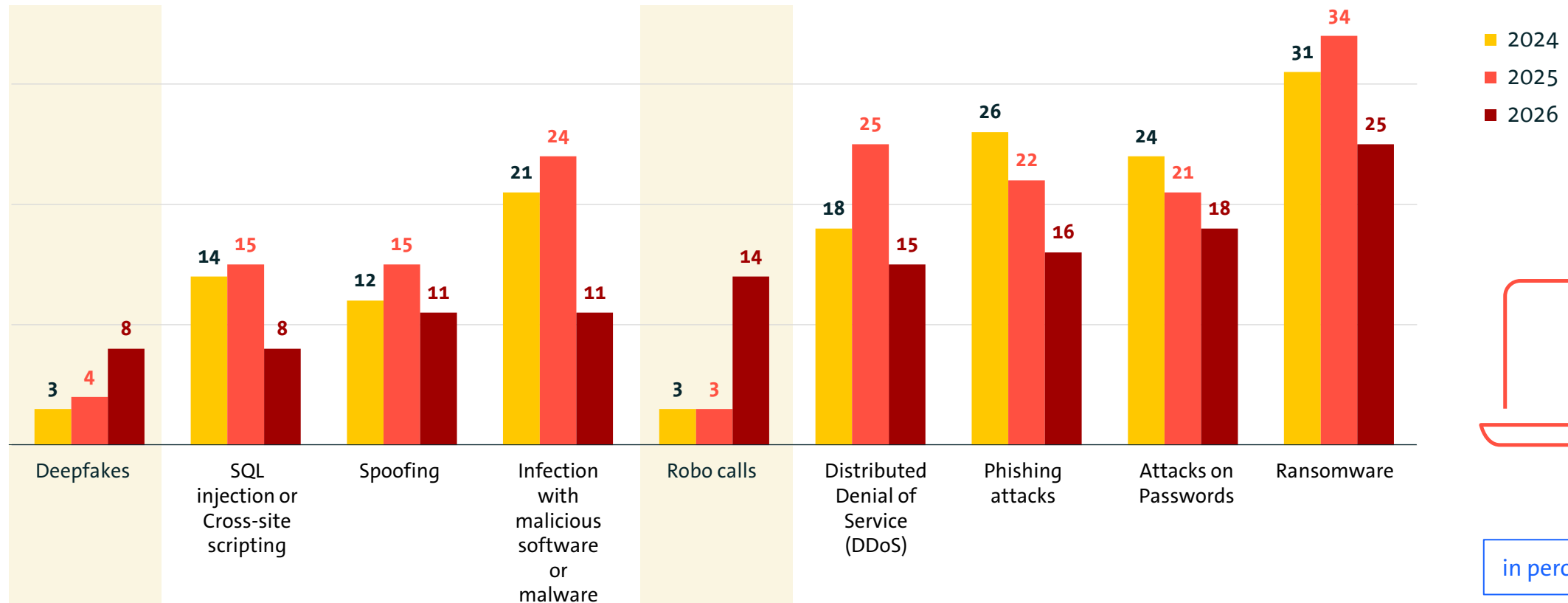
Have you noticed an increase in the use of AI in attacks on your company? What evidence is this based on?



in percent

AI-powered attacks cause damage more frequently

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



How companies make it easy for cybercriminals

Which factors significantly contributed to the successful attack on your company?



58%

of companies have suffered damage as a result of cyber attacks in the past twelve months.

in percent

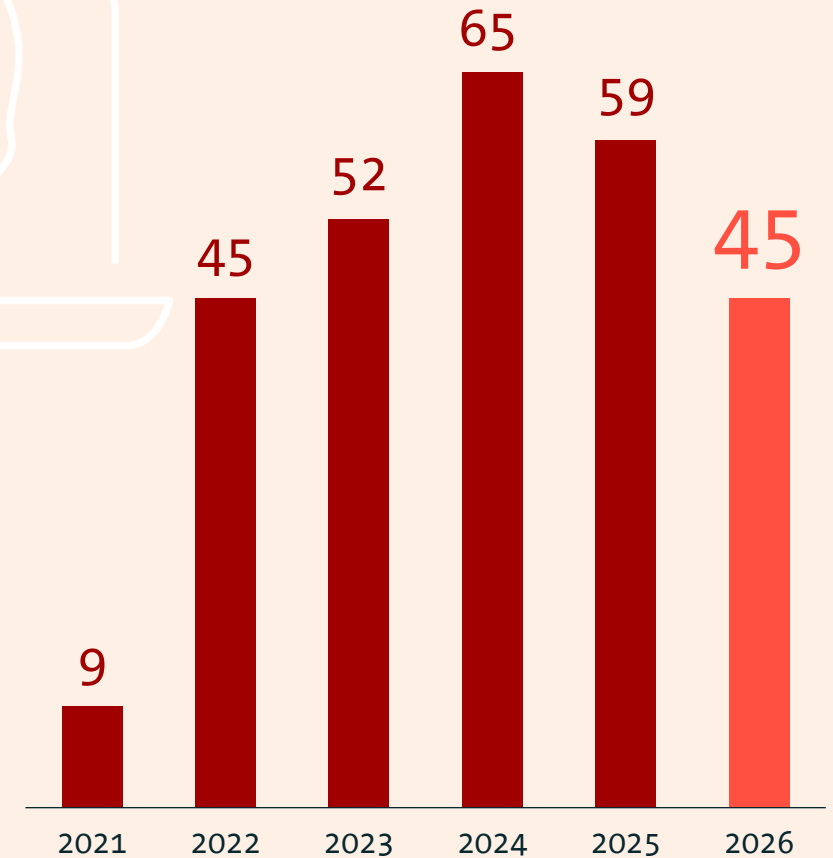
Cyberattacks: Companies are less well prepared, but the existential threat is declining

Which of the following statements apply to your company?

43% (2025: 50 per cent)

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

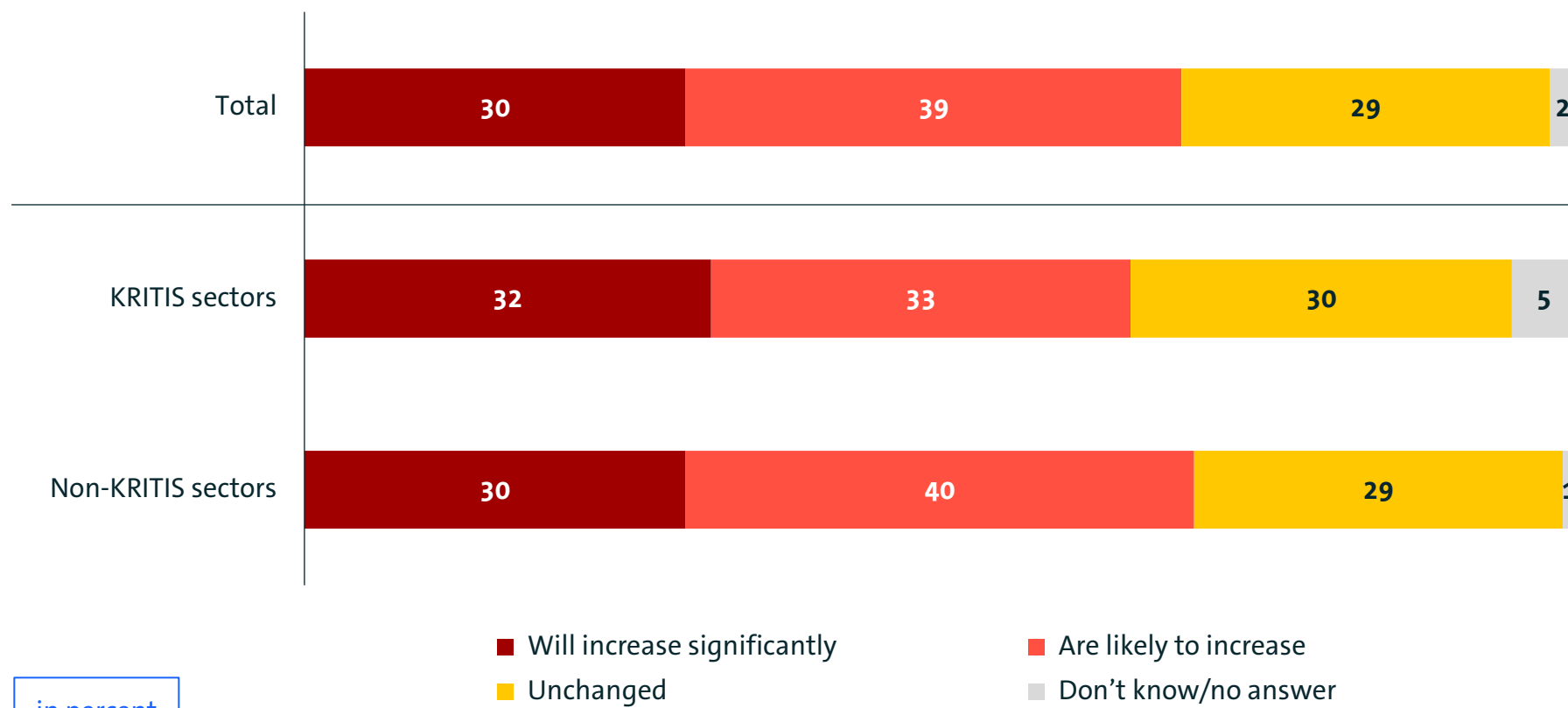
in percent



»Cyberattacks **threaten the existence** of our business.«

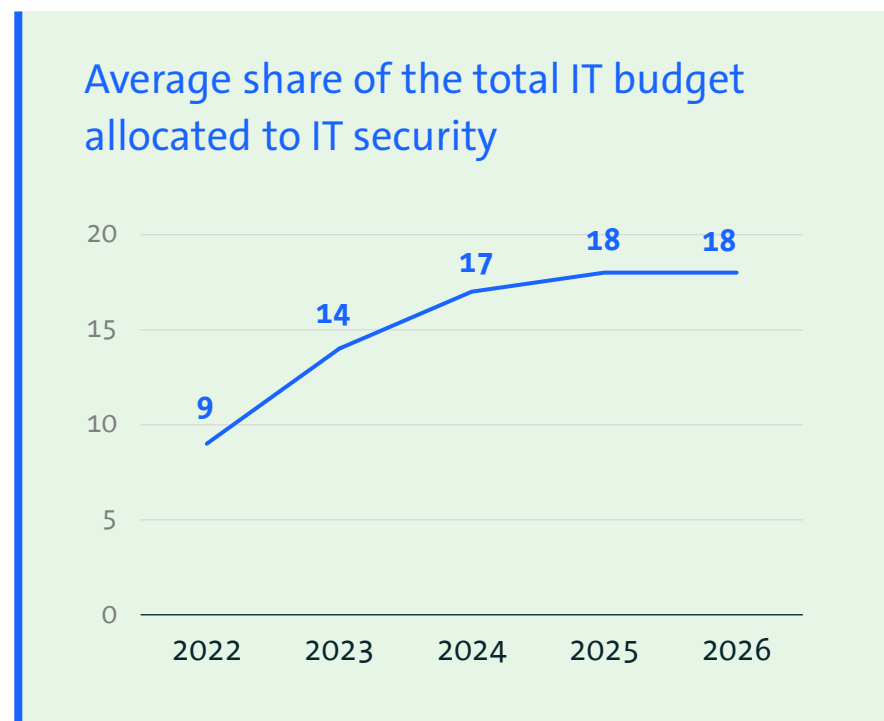
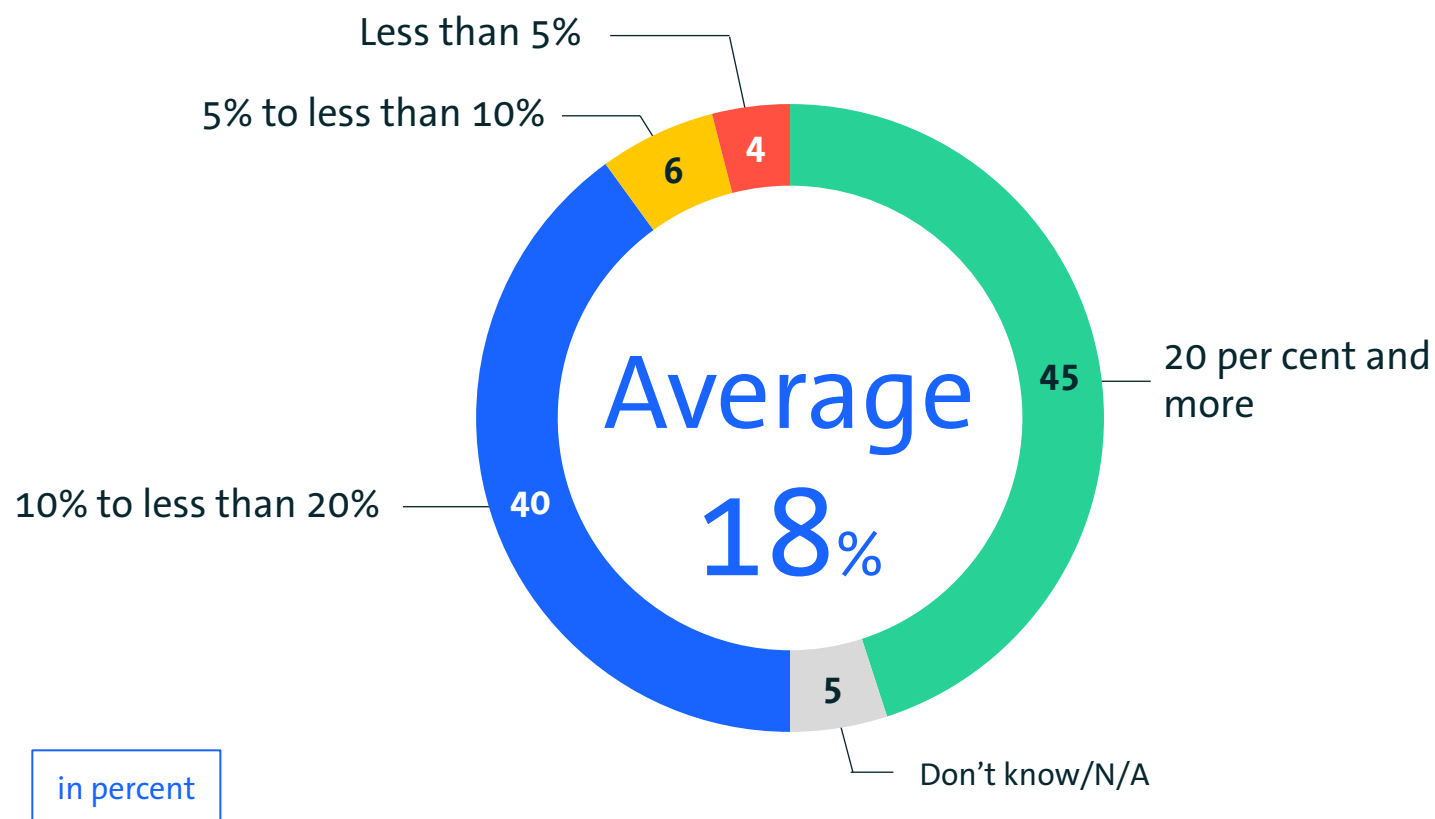
Two-thirds expect cyberattacks to increase

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



Willingness to invest in cybersecurity remains stagnant

What proportion of your company's total IT budget is allocated to IT security?



Digital sovereignty matters to most companies

Which of the following statements apply to your company?



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Bitkom President

Study design

Commissioned by

Bitkom e.V.

Methodology	Computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI)
Population	Companies in Germany with at least 10 employees and an annual turnover of 1 million euros or more
Target respondents	Managers responsible for business security. This includes managing directors and, in particular, managers from the IT sector.
Sample size	n=1,003
Survey period	Calendar weeks 16 to 23, 2026
Statistical margin of error	± 3 per cent of the total 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 Officer
Bitkom e.V.
a.streim@bitkom.org
T 030 27576-112



Dr. Monika Thiel

Research Consultant
Bitkom Research
m.thiel@bitkom-research.de
T 030 27576-420