

CYBER SECURITY BREACHES SURVEY 2021

UK MICRO AND SMALL BUSINESS TRENDS

The Cyber Security Breaches Survey is an official statistic. Since 2016, it has measured how UK organisations approach cyber security, and the impact of breaches and attacks. This infographic shows the key findings for smaller businesses.



1. Despite COVID-19, cyber security remains a priority for small business owners. 77% of micro and small businesses say that cyber security is a high priority for their directors (vs. 69% in 2016).



2. Phishing is the most commonly identified cyber attack. Among the 38% identifying any breaches or attacks, 82% had phishing attacks, 25% were impersonated and 13% had malware (including ransomware).



3. Unprepared staff risk being caught unaware. A total of 13% of smaller businesses train staff on cyber security and 19% have tested their staff response, for example with mock phishing exercises.



4. COVID-19 has made cyber security harder. With resources stretched, fewer report having up-to-date malware protection (83% vs. 87% in 2020) and network firewalls (77% vs. 82% in 2020).



5. Many smaller businesses could benefit from using government guidance on best practice. In total, 18% have heard of the Small Business Guide and 13% have heard of Cyber Essentials.

Technical note: Ipsos MORI carried out a telephone survey of 1,006 micro and small businesses with 1 to 49 staff (excluding sole traders, and agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses) from 12 October 2020 to 22 January 2021. This included 380 micro and small businesses that identified a breach or attack in the last 12 months. Data are weighted to represent UK businesses by size and sector.

For the full results, visit www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cyber-security-breaches-survey-2021.

For further cyber security guidance for your business, visit the National Cyber Security Centre website (www.ncsc.gov.uk).

This includes COVID-19 guidance covering:

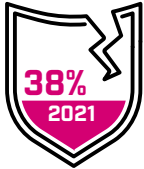
- the tailored **Small Business Guide to Cyber Security**
- the **Cyber Essentials scheme** – independent certification for organisations that meet good-practice standards in cyber security
- cyber security under the COVID-19 pandemic, including **home working, video conferencing and moving your business online.**



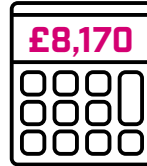
UK MICRO AND SMALL BUSINESS TRENDS



EXPERIENCE OF BREACHES OR ATTACKS



of micro and small businesses identified cyber security breaches or attacks in the last 12 months (down from 2020)



is the average annual cost for micro and small businesses that lost data or assets after breaches

AMONG THE 38% IN 2021:



27%
were attacked at least once a week



22%
needed new measures to stop future attacks

DEALING WITH COVID-19



have security controls on company devices



have staff using personal devices for work



have a VPN for remote working



have a business continuity plan that covers cyber security



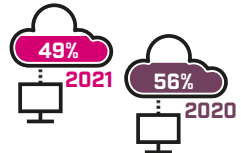
MANAGING RISKS



83%
have up-to-date malware protection (down from 2020)



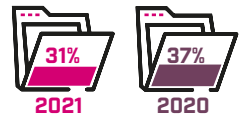
49%
have rules for moving and storing personal data (down from 2020)



33%
have done a cyber risk assessment



31%
have cyber security policies (down from 2020)



15%
have done a cyber security vulnerability audit

