

# UK Gov - Cyber Security Breaches Survey: 2025



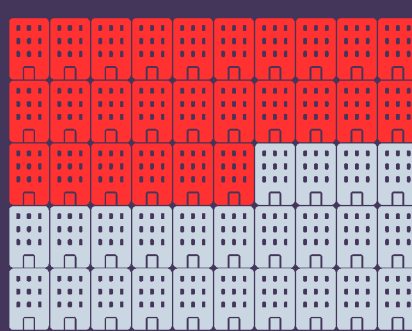
## Micro & Small businesses Overview

The UK Government annually conducts and releases a Cyber Security Breaches Survey. This survey provides a glimpse into the current state of cyber security in the UK.

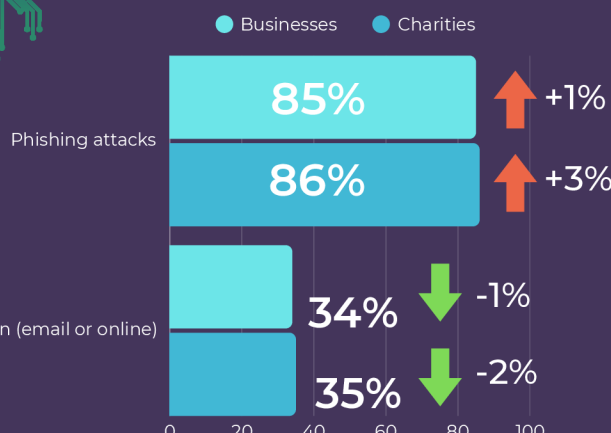
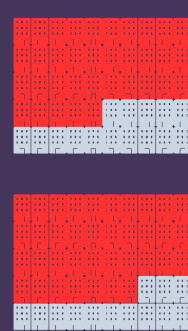
Our infographic distills some important trends and risks facing Micro and Small businesses (1-49 employees) and a view of the ongoing efforts of micro and small businesses to improve their cyber security.

### Cyber attack

**50%** of small businesses overall identified a cyber breach or attack in the past 12 months.



**70%** medium businesses  
**74%** large businesses



Overall, **phishing** is still the most prevalent type of attack identified, with **online impersonation** as second.

Where attacks were successful, 13% of businesses experienced a negative outcome, such as money being stolen (3%) or temporary loss of files or networks (4%).



17% of businesses required staff to work additional time to deal with breaches or inform customers, with 18% identifying the need for new measures against future attacks.

**£3,040**

Average short-term direct cost of most disruptive incidents.

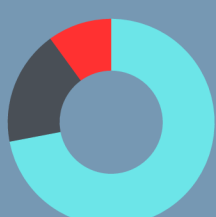
**“It is estimated UK businesses have experienced approximately 8.58 million cyber crimes (vs 7.78 million in 2024) of all types and approximately 680,000 non-phishing cyber crimes in the last 12 months.”**

## Cyber Security Preparation and Response

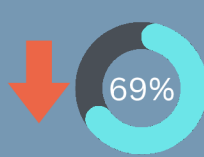


Steps and activities in preparing for and ability to detect cyber risks and breaches.

### Engagement



72% of businesses stated cyber security is a high priority vs 75% in 2024. Which is 10% lower than 82% reported in 2022.



This trend decreased most in Micro businesses from 73% in 2024, marking a near return to 2023 levels.

**42%** of small businesses have a board member or trustee responsible for cyber security. VS **27%** of businesses overall.



small businesses stated that cyber security coverage is included in their insurance policy, with 17% having a specific cyber insurance policy.

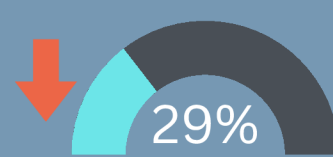
**Just 12%** of responding businesses were aware of the government-backed Cyber Essentials standard.

**19%** of businesses overall have carried out staff training or cyber security awareness-raising activities, which is a 1% increase since 2024.

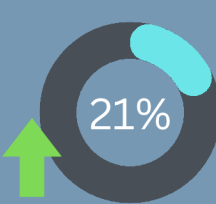
18% tested staff e.g. with mock phishing exercises

### Risk Management

in the last 12 months:

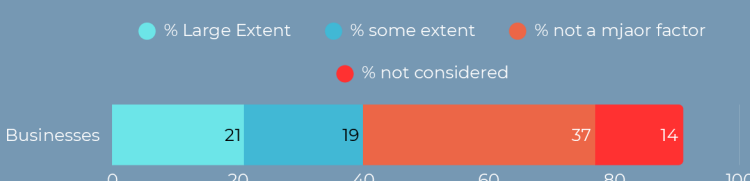


overall businesses conducted risk assessments covering cyber security risks.



of small businesses review risks from immediate suppliers. 11% (a slight increase from 2024) consider their wider supply chain.

Only 40% of businesses considered the cyber security risks when purchasing new software.



17% of businesses carried out a cyber security vulnerability audit



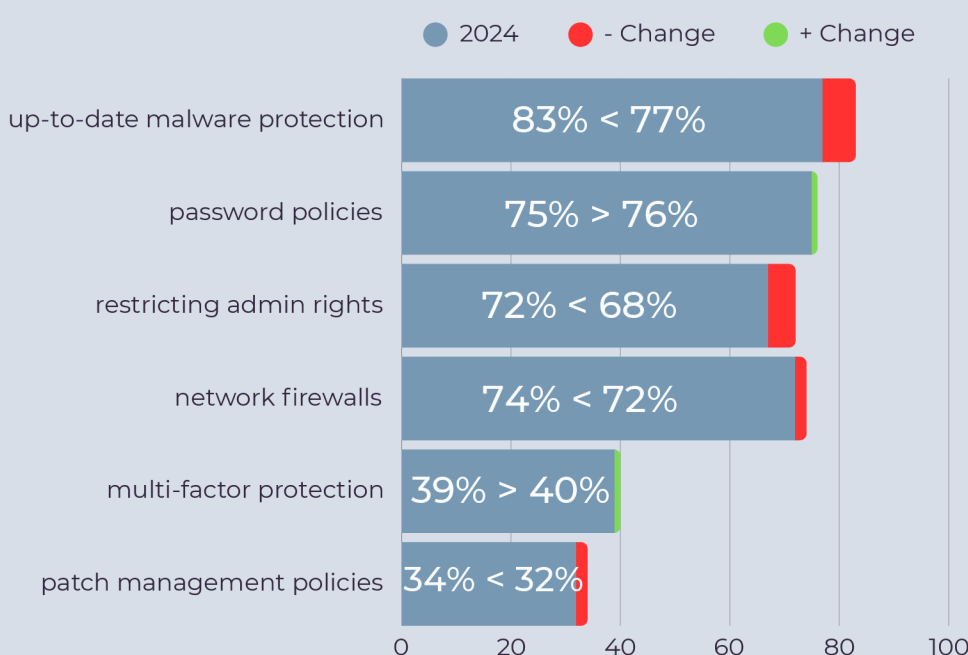
Small businesses have a formal cyber security policy



of businesses have in place a formal plan to respond to cyber incidents.

## Technical Controls

Applied by businesses to protect against cyber risks and attacks.



*“In 2024, the survey saw several rules or controls (up-to-date malware protection, restricting admin rights, network firewalls and agreed processes for phishing attacks) increase upon a previous trend of decline, but 2025 results suggest the upward trajectory has not been sustained.”*

### In Summary:

*“Overall, the 2025 survey demonstrates a continually evolving and challenging security landscape for UK businesses. In many areas, there are small reversals in the increases of 2024. It’s reassuring to see that small businesses are in some cases leading the way in the adoption of good basic cyber hygiene practices. Conversely, the awareness of government-backed support and schemes for Micro businesses has decreased, alongside the current low awareness of Cyber Essentials shows that there’s still a long road ahead to protect micro and small businesses”*

Triston Hellard-Smith - Founder - Shout Cyber

Shout Cybers’ mission is to support small and growing businesses, providing tailored, practical, human support to ensure small businesses are protected and supported against continually evolving threats. If you would like to find out more about how we support micro and small businesses of all sizes, why not book a free discovery call with us? Simply visit: <https://shoutcyber.co.uk/discovery> to make a booking.

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