WITH secure

European CISOs see cyber security as a strategic business enabler

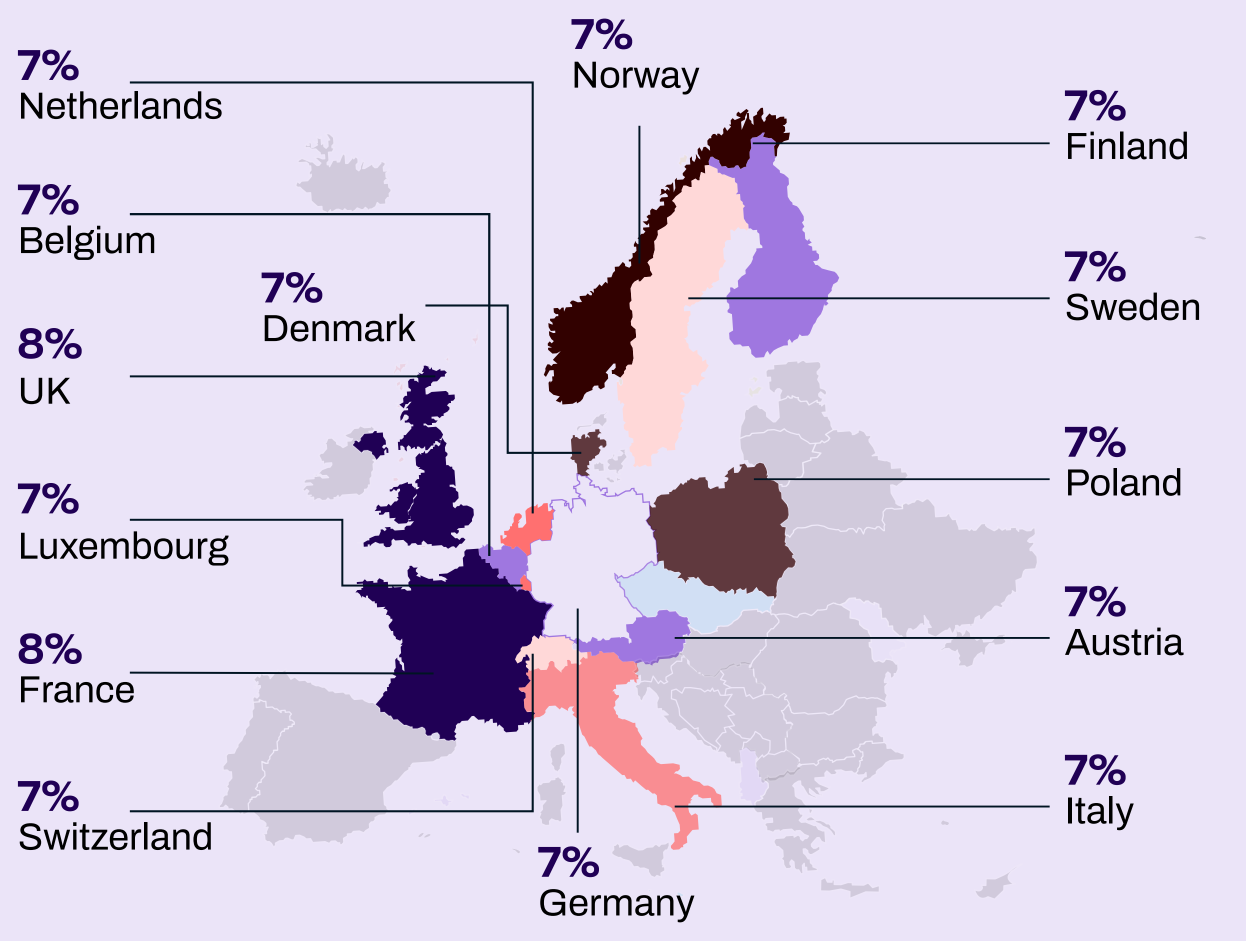
Based on data from a Forrester Consulting survey commissioned by WithSecure in 2024.

Objective

Explore the mid-market's approach to cyber security

Gauge interest in adopting a proactive approach

Countries represented



26%	29%	24%	20%
201 – 500 employees	501 – 1000 employees	1001 – 2000 employees	2001 – 5000 employees

When did you last experience a cyber security breach?[1]

11% Less than 3 months

21% 3-6 months

31% 6-12 months

63% of respondents have experienced a breach in the last year

The mid-market's cyber security playbook is broken

What does that mean?

This evolving landscape requires a shift from traditional reactive security to a proactive, strategic enabler of business resilience and growth.

Key findings

Proactive investment
43% of organizations prioritize a proactive security stance, with a focus on exposure management and digital trust.

Challenges
Budget constraints, increasing attack surface complexity, and cybersecurity skills gaps remain significant hurdles.

Compliance
GDPR compliance and ISO 27001 adherence drive European vendor preferences.

Third-party partnerships
84% of SMEs feel that the cybersecurity solutions available to large enterprises are also suitable for their own needs.

How make use of the data

1 Justify budget allocation

18% of organizations rank limited budget or budget constraints

Leverage these insights to make stronger business cases for security investments.

2 Enhance incident response and resilience

82% of express confidence in their overall cyber security resilience, but

53% acknowledge that managing an increasingly complex attack surface is a significant challenge.

Use this data to advocate for better security operations, automation, and external partnerships.

3 Optimize security resource allocation

68% of respondents are aware of attack surface management, but

38% have expressed the confidence they can manage it.

77% are likely to invest in new and proactive solutions in 2025, so now is the time to act – don't get stuck in the old, reactive way of thinking.

4 Addressing your skills gap

24% of organizations are prioritizing improved internal cyber security skills.

Recognize the urgent need for training and retention strategies to better navigate an expanding digital attack surface.

Get the benchmark tool today and start finding your place in the cyber security landscape.

WITH secure

1. 435 IT/Compliance/Security decision makers responsible for planning, recommending, or approving purchasing of security technology and/or IT services and/or compliance with IT and data related requirements