

# FRAUD, SCAMS, & RANSOMWARE: THE \$131 BILLION HIDDEN TAX ON SMALL BUSINESS

Fraud, scams, and ransomware cost small businesses at least \$131 billion last year. Yet, fewer than one-third of small business owners say they are prepared to defend against these attacks. At this scale, fraud is not just a small business problem. Combating it requires coordinated action across the public and private sectors

## A Big and Growing Problem



Nearly three in four (72%) of small businesses were hit by fraud, scams, or ransomware last year.

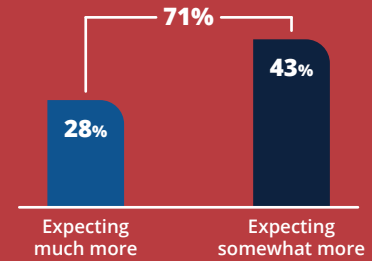


Payment fraud and email phishing are the most frequently reported attacks. For businesses hit, losses average ~\$60,000 for payment fraud and >\$90,000 for email compromise.

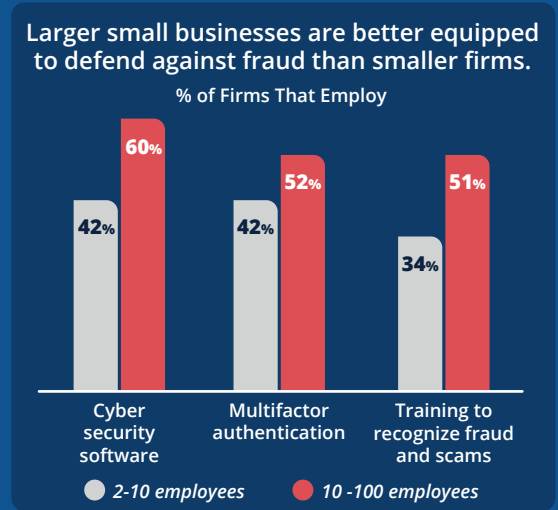
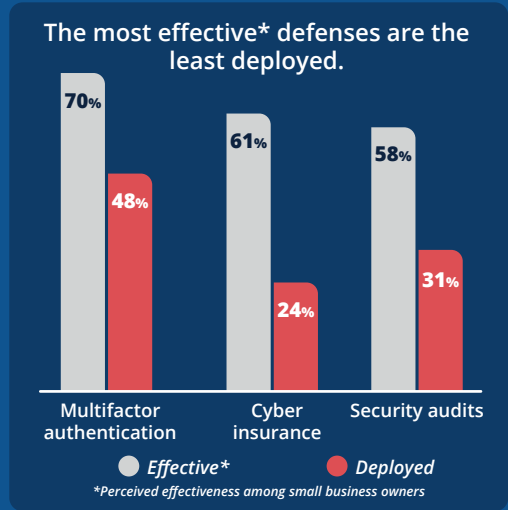


Fraud doesn't just drain revenue; it slows growth. Small businesses say these threats make it harder to accept payments (43%), attract and retain customers (40%), and innovate or develop new products (39%).

The threat is accelerating: Seven in ten (71%) small business owners say AI will make attacks more frequent.



## Awareness Outpaces Preparedness



## Fraud Defense is a Shared Responsibility



For more information, visit:  
<https://www.ppsi.org/insights/fraud-scams-ransomware-survey>