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THE STATE OF RANSOMWARE IN SPAIN 2026

Findings from an independent, vendor-agnostic survey of 164 organizations in Spain that were hit by ransomware in the last year.

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About the report

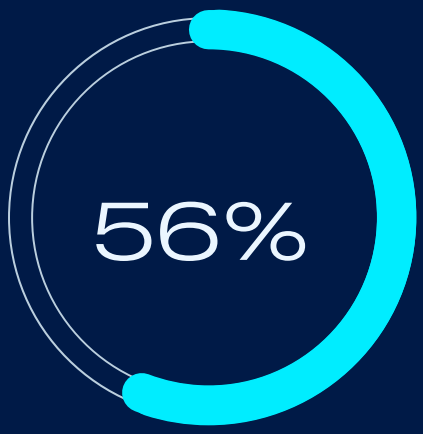
Now in its seventh year, the State of Ransomware report is based on the findings from an independent, vendor-agnostic survey commissioned by Sophos. This year's global report is based on the experiences of 2,158 IT/cybersecurity leaders working in organizations that were hit by ransomware in the last year, including 164 from Spain.

The survey was conducted between January and March 2026. All respondents work in organizations with between 100 and 5,000 employees and were asked to answer based on their experiences in the previous 12 months. All financial data points are in U.S. dollars. Outlier ransoms of $40 million or more were removed from this data.

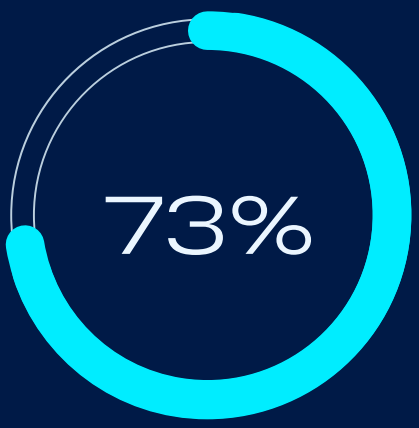
Survey of

164

IT/cybersecurity leaders in Spain working in organizations that were hit by ransomware in the last year.



Percentage of attacks that resulted in data being encrypted.



Confirmed that this past year's ransomware incident was the same event as their most significant identity attack.

Average cost to recover from a ransomware attack.

Why Spanish organizations fall victim to ransomware

- **Malicious email was the most common technical root cause of attack,** used in 29% of attacks, followed by phishing (24%) and compromised credentials (23%). Exploited vulnerabilities dropped sharply, falling to 17% from 30% in the 2025 report.
- **A lack of people/capacity (43%) was the most common operational root cause,** followed by an unknown security gap (38%) and a lack of expertise (38%).
- **(NEW) Exposed applications and systems were the most common attack entry point (46%)** for non-email, non-phishing root causes, followed by user devices (25%) and firewalls (17%).
- **(NEW) 73% confirmed that this past year's ransomware incident was the same event as their most significant identity attack.**

What happens to the data

- **56% of attacks resulted in data being encrypted.** This is in line with the global average of 56% and an increase from the 47% reported by Spanish respondents in the 2025 report.
- **Data was also stolen in 33% of attacks where data was encrypted,** a drop from the 36% in the 2025 report.
- **98% of Spanish organizations that had data encrypted were able to get it back,** in line with the global average.
- **33% of Spanish organizations paid the ransom and got data back,** a slight drop from the 36% in the 2025 report.
- **70% of Spanish organizations used backups to recover encrypted data,** unchanged from the 70% in the 2025 report.

Ransom demands

- **The median Spanish ransom demand was $1.85 million,** a 103% jump from the $911,600 in the 2025 report.
- **57% of ransom demands were for $1 million or more,** up from the 50% in the 2025 report.

Median Spanish ransom demand.

Business impact of ransomware

- Excluding any ransom payments, **the average (mean) recovery cost for Spanish organizations after their ransomware attack was $2.28 million,** a significant increase from the $1.15 million mean in the 2025 report. This includes the costs of downtime, people time, device cost, network cost, lost opportunity, etc.
- **50% of Spanish organizations recovered from a ransomware attack in up to a week,** a slight increase from the 49% in the 2025 report. 20% took between one and six months to recover, a small drop from the 24% in the 2025 report.

Human impact of ransomware on IT/cybersecurity teams in organizations where data was encrypted

39% report increased recognition from senior leaders.

35% report increased anxiety or stress about future attacks.

35% report increased pressure from senior leaders.

35% experienced changes to team/organizational structure. Up from 25% in 2025.

21% report that the team's leadership has been replaced.

Recommendations

Strengthen identity security as a ransomware defense. More than three-quarters of Spanish ransomware victims confirmed their ransomware incident was the same event as their most significant identity attack. Organizations should prioritize identity threat detection and response (ITDR), enforce multi-factor authentication across all access points, and regularly audit both human and non-human identity credentials.

Strengthen endpoint protection for AI frontier models. Frontier AI is accelerating vulnerability discovery and exploitability. Having strong endpoint defenses that automatically block exploit-based attacks is essential.

Prioritize email security. With phishing and malicious email accounting for nearly half of ransomware root causes in Spain, organizations should deploy advanced email filtering, implement DMARC/DKIM/SPF protocols, and invest in regular phishing awareness training.

Invest in backup and recovery infrastructure. Organizations that maintained robust backup systems recovered encrypted data at nearly record rates in the past year. Backups should be tested regularly, stored offline or in immutable formats, and integrated into a documented incident response plan that can be executed under pressure.

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To explore how Sophos can help you optimize your ransomware defenses, speak to an advisor or visit **sophos.com/ransomware2026**

Sophos delivers industry leading cybersecurity solutions to businesses of all sizes, protecting them in real time from advanced threats such as malware, ransomware, and phishing. With proven next-gen capabilities your business data is secured effectively by products that are powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning.

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