

DETAILED FINDINGS

From The State of the Market Report:

GRC in SAP Environments

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About this Report

This year's report brings together research conducted from 2023 through 2025. 339 respondents throughout those years shaped this state of the market view of governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) in SAP® environments. Surveys are conducted anonymously. Respondents have the option to provide their email at the end of the survey. Interviews are conducted post research to validate findings. Responses are counted when email addresses and IP addresses are unique. Findings are rounded to the nearest percentage.

This report wholistically looks at the people, processes, and technologies driving GRC practices in organizations within SAP technology landscapes worldwide. SAPinsider uses a proprietary DART Model Framework to set context for the environmental factors driving practices, then identifies the actions, requirements, and technologies organizations use to manage how they address these impacts through their practices, partnerships, and technology ecosystems.

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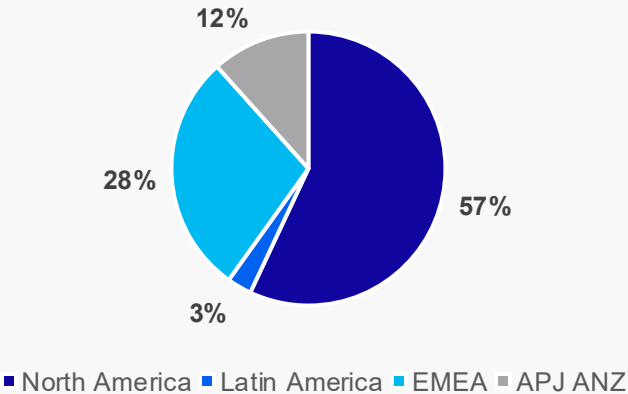
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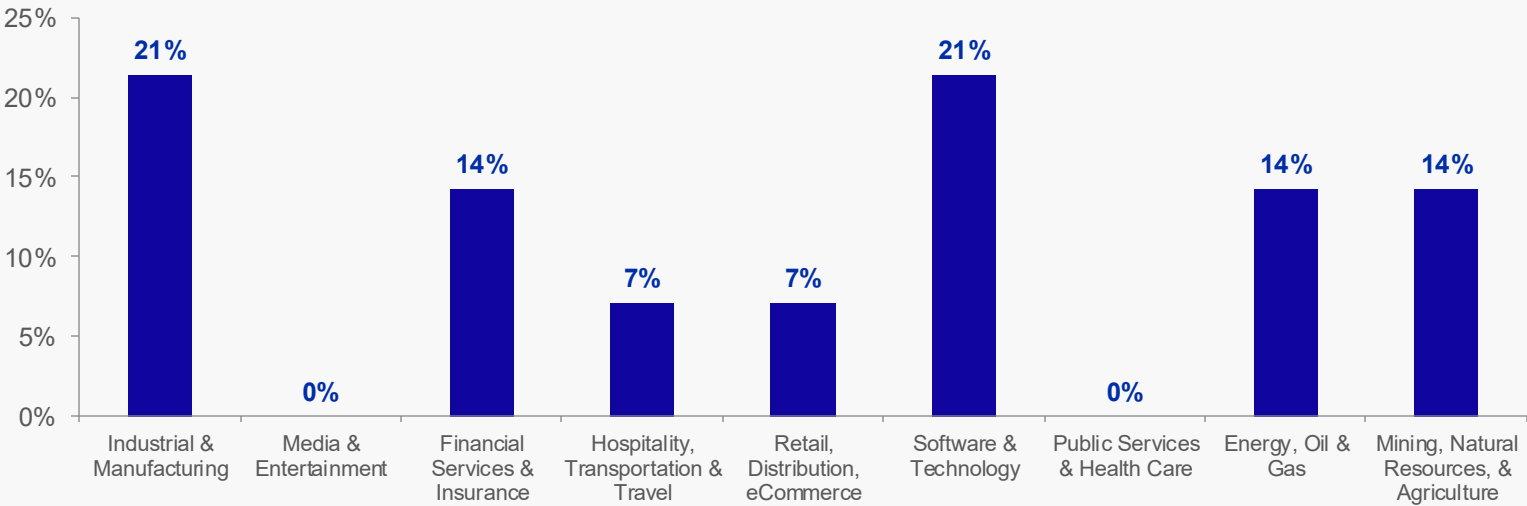
About this Report

Respondent Demographics

Regions of Operation¹



Industry¹

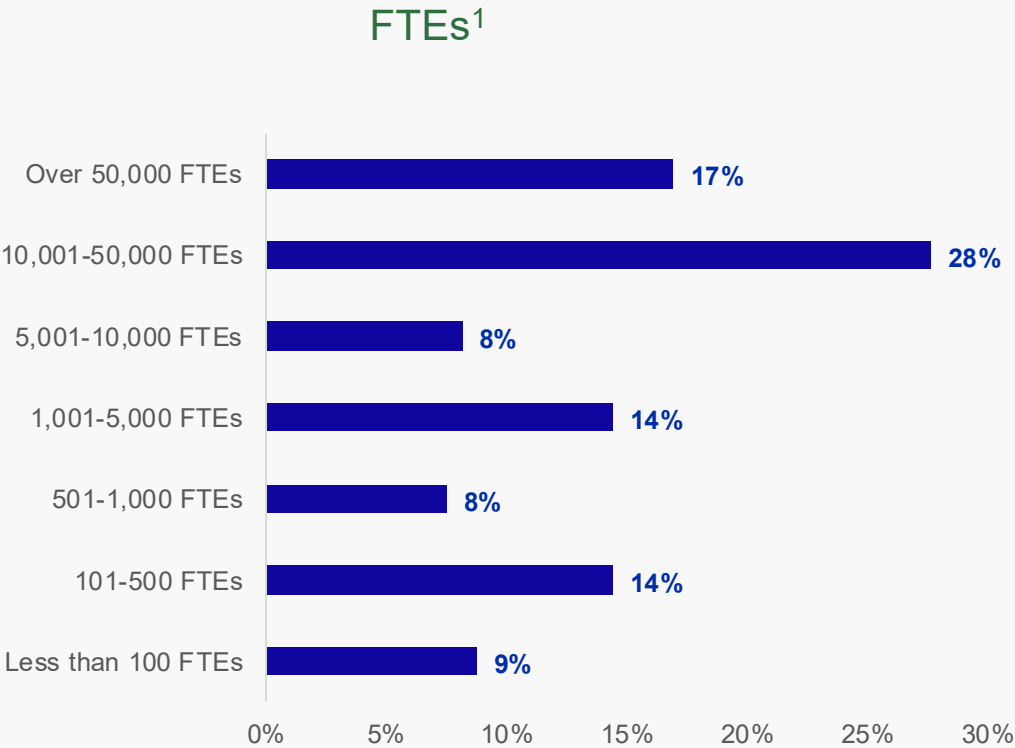


¹Based on 2023, 2024, and 2025 respondents.

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About this Report

Respondent Demographics

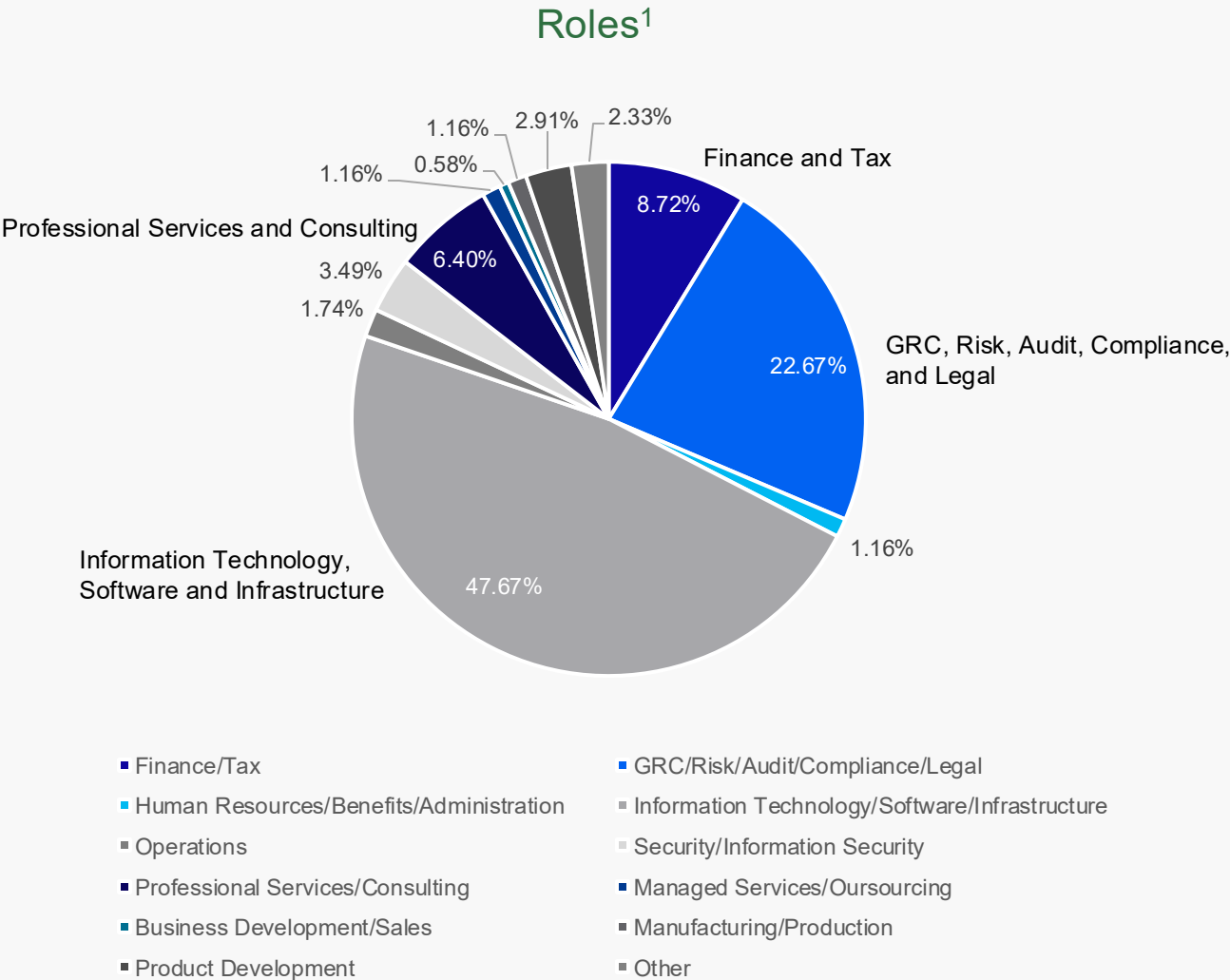


¹Based on 2023, 2024, and 2025 respondents.

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About this Report

Respondent Demographics

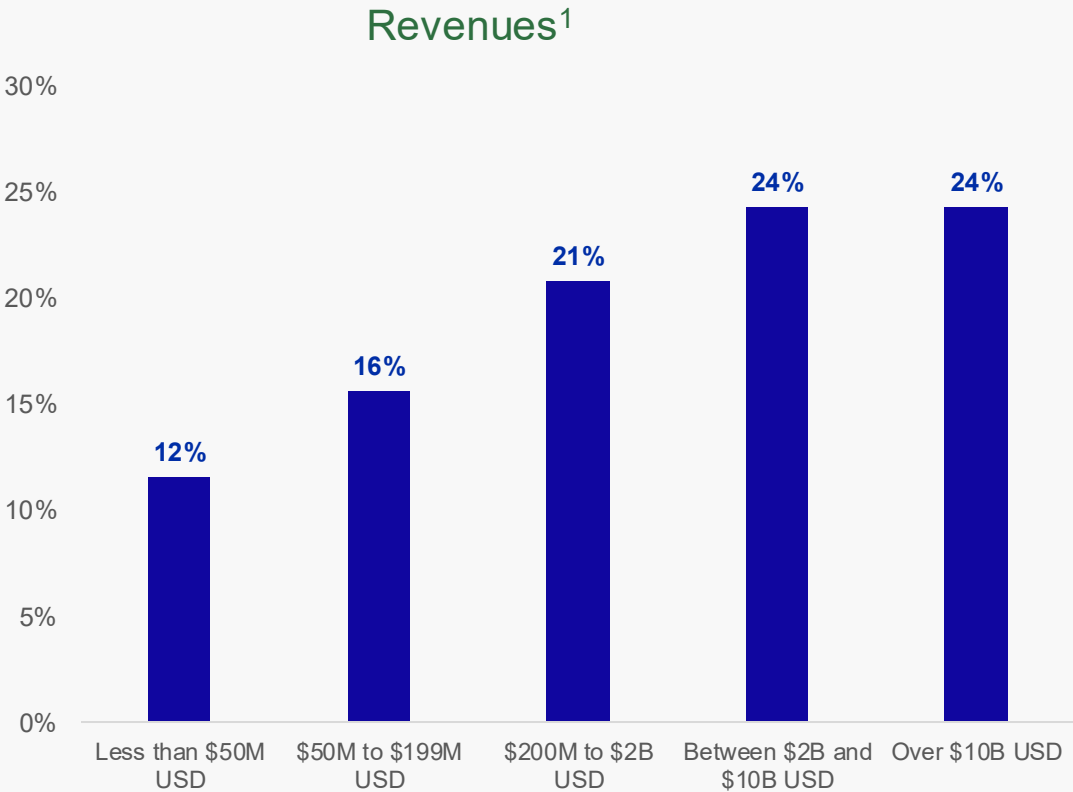


¹Based on 2023, 2024, and 2025 respondents.

1

About this Report

Respondent Demographics



¹Based on 2023, 2024, and 2025 respondents.



State of the Market GRC



DRIVERS

- 60% Cybersecurity, fraud risk exposure
- 53% Technology modernization
- 27% Emerging technologies (e.g., generative AI, agentic AI, automation)
- 27% Organizational change and workforce readiness (e.g., M&A, globalization, return to work)



ACTIONS

- 60% Automating GRC processes to reduce manual effort and improve efficiency
- 53% Centralizing control, testing monitoring and remediation workflows
- 40% Establishing enterprise-wide visibility into risk, compliance, and fraud



REQUIREMENTS

- 47% Automated intelligent risk detection, exception handling and remediation workflows.
- 40% Centralized validated and accessible data across risk and compliance.
- 20% Integration between SAP GRC and operational systems.
- 20% Security monitoring and threat detection integration with compliance.



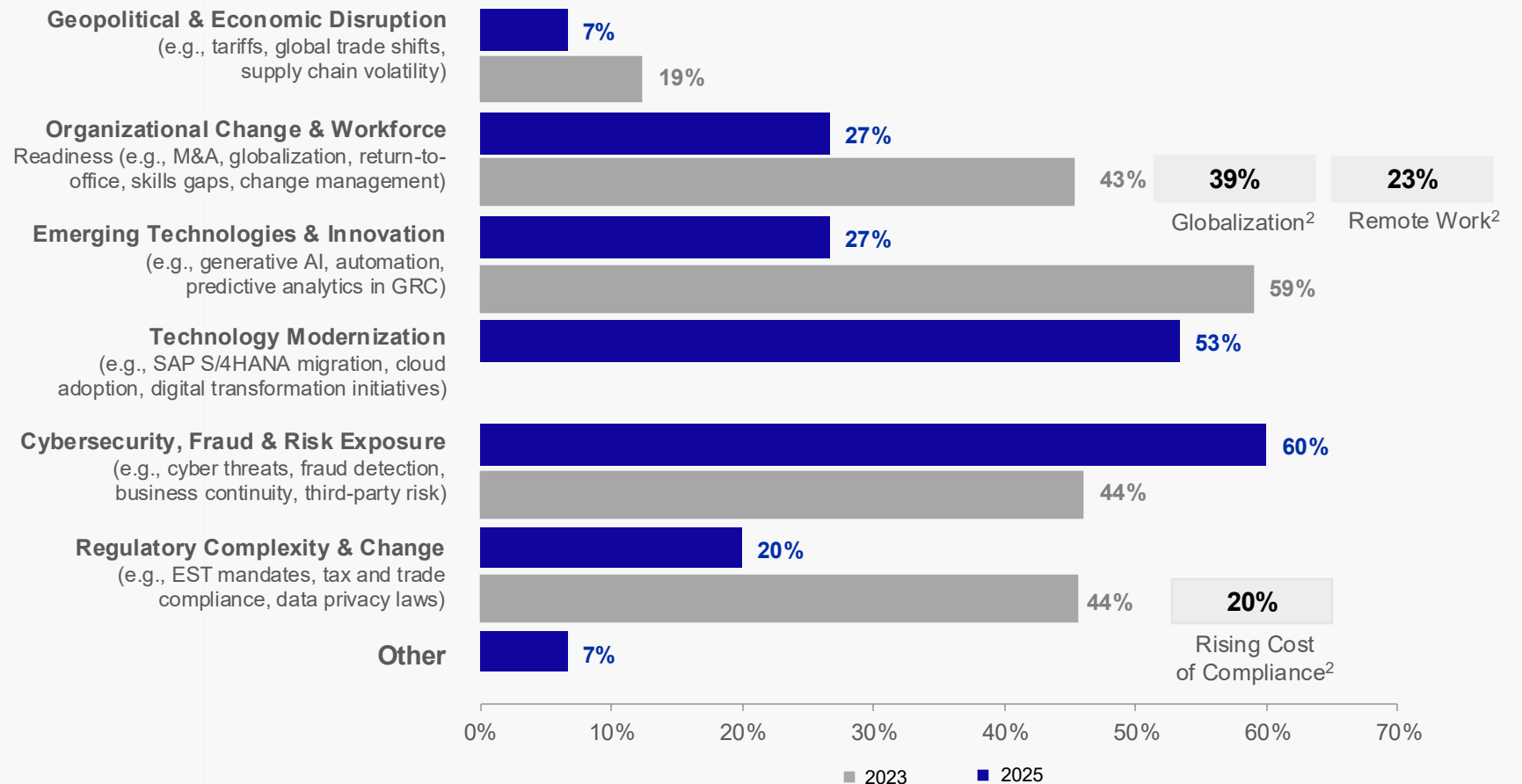
TECHNOLOGIES

- 47% Zero trust Architecture – SAP IAG, SAP BTP Security Services
- 47% SAP Process Control
- 40% SAP Process Control Data Privacy Controls
- 43% SAP Privacy and Governance Center
- 40% SAP GRC
- 33% SAP Analytics Cloud
- 33% User Behavior Analysis (UBA – SAP Business Integrity Screening, SAP Enterprise Threat Detection)
- 23% SAP Business Integrity Screening

2

Environmental Drivers

In 2023, regulatory complexity (44%) and cybersecurity threats (44%) were top concerns, with technology upgrades (59%) also driving investment. By 2025, cybersecurity, fraud, and risk exposure surged to 60%, becoming the dominant factor, while technology modernization remained high at 53%.

Factors impacting¹ GRC strategy and investments.

¹Based on 2025 and 2023 respondents. 2023 responses mapped to 2025 based on description.

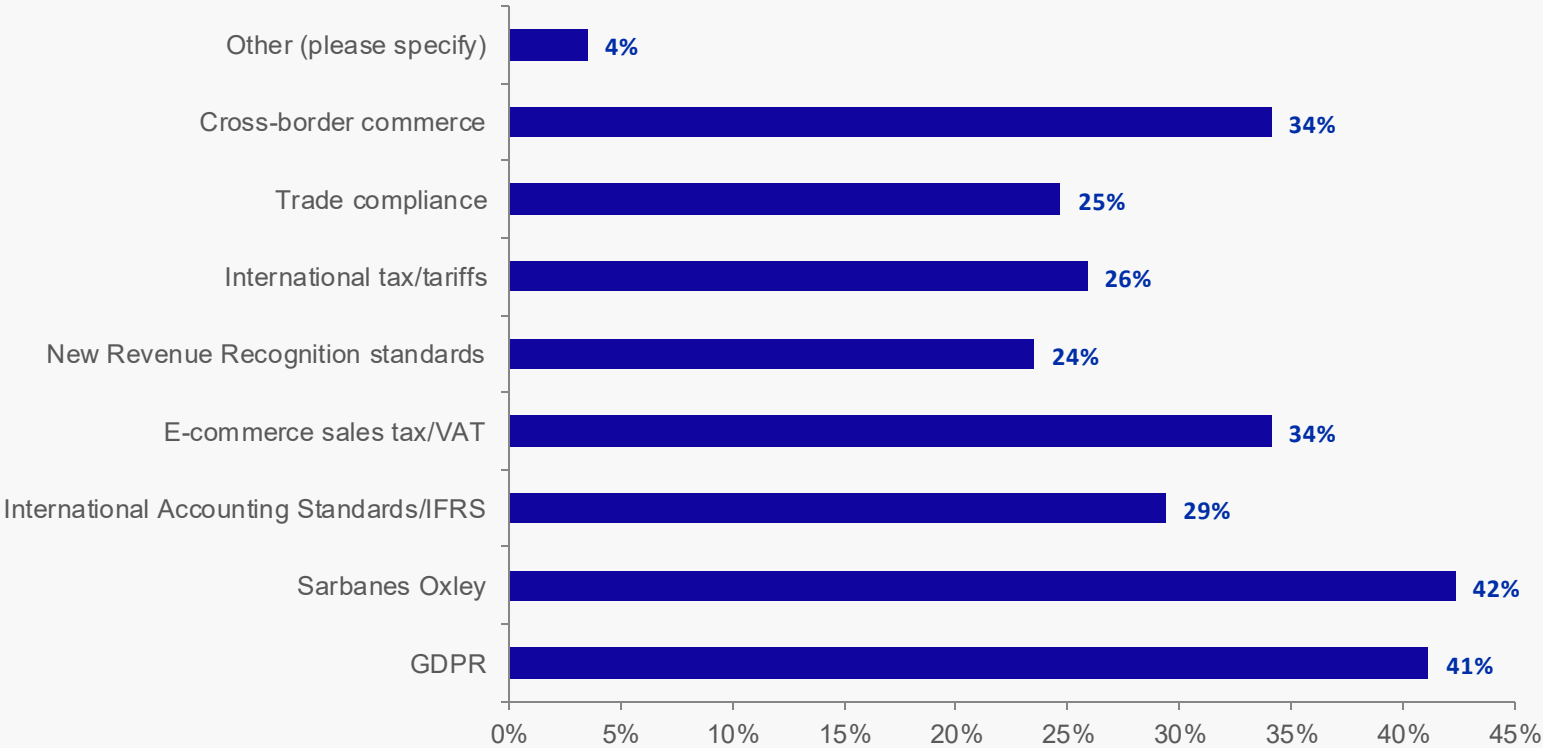
²2023 questions without a direct map to 2025 responses.

2

Environmental Drivers

In 2023, GRC teams reported that the most time-consuming regulations to manage were Sarbanes-Oxley (42%) and GDPR (41%), reflecting the ongoing complexity of financial controls and data privacy compliance. E-commerce sales tax/VAT and cross-border commerce (both at 34%) also demanded significant attention. These concerns persist in 2025.

Key regulations¹ the organization will spend significant time and resources to meet.



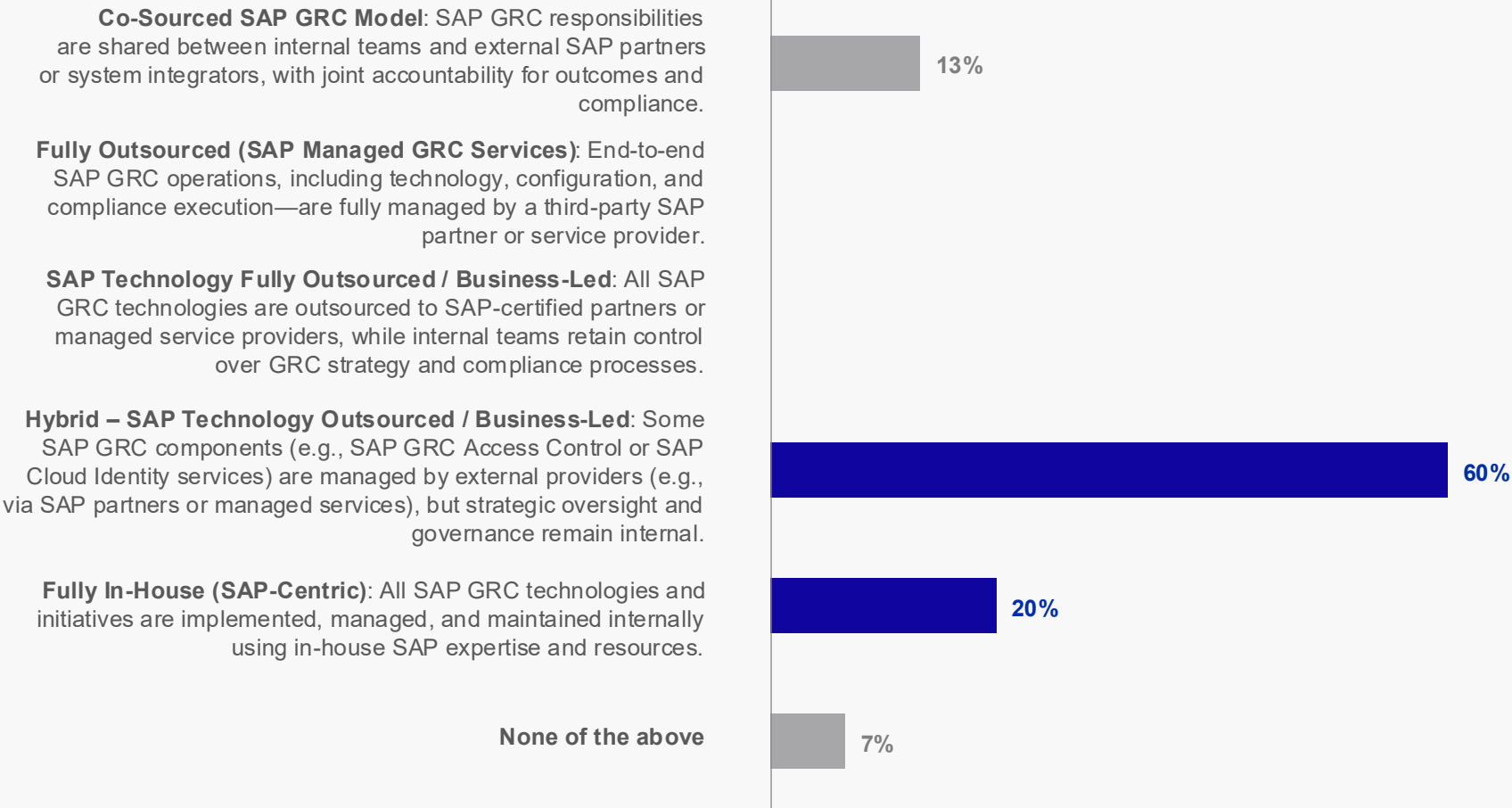
¹Based on 2023 respondents.

3

Project Approaches

Hybrid approaches dominate¹ (60%) as identified by respondents to the 2025 survey. Given the breadth of functional areas associated with GRC - Risk, Finance, Tax, IT – and the complexity of technology environments these results are not surprising.

Organization’s approach to managing GRC¹ systems and initiatives within the SAP ecosystem.



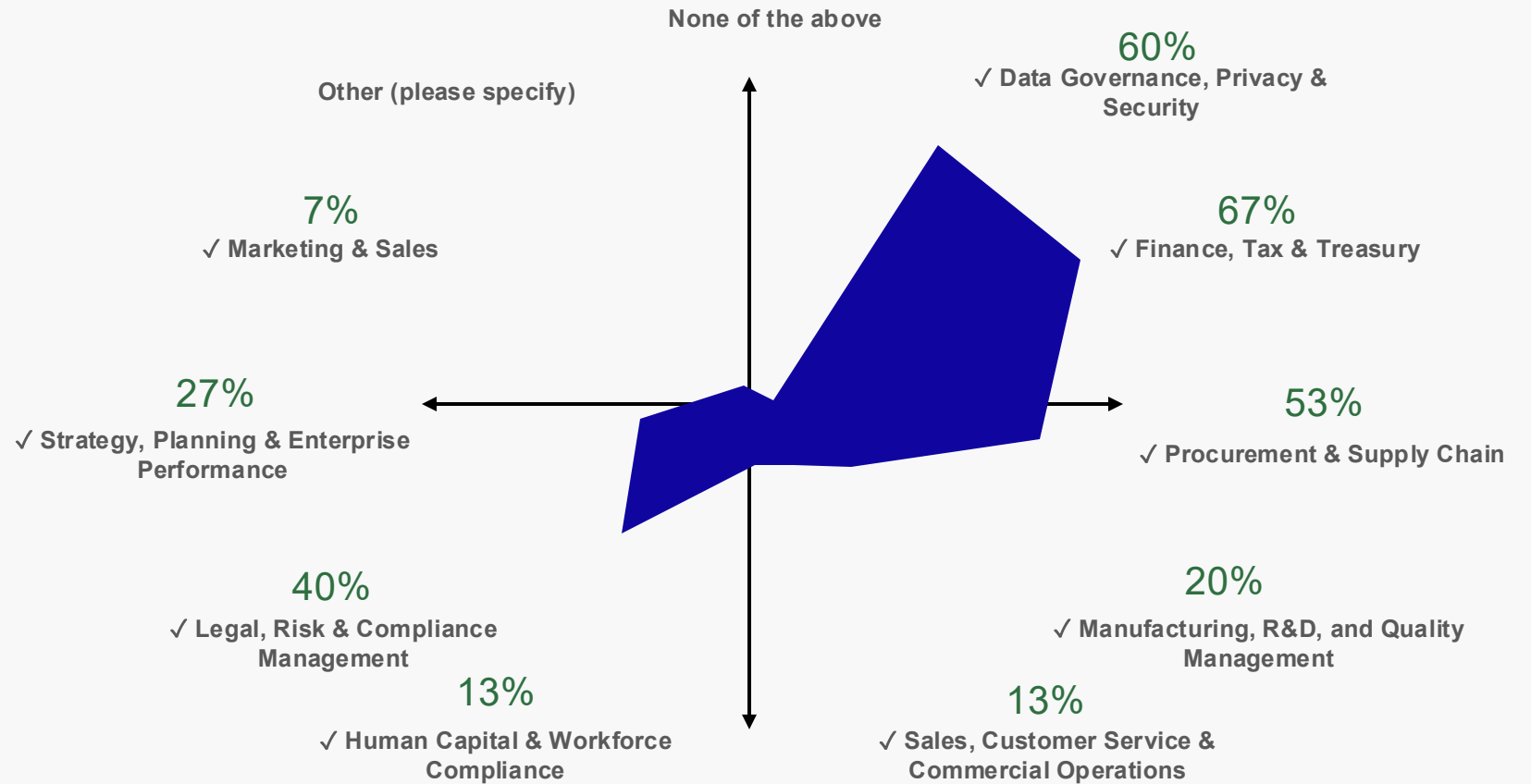
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

3

Project Approaches

In scope for formalized GRC initiatives overall Finance, Tax, & Treasury (67%), Data, Privacy & Security (60%), Procurement & Supply Chain (53%), Leegal, Risk & Compliance Management. Other areas align as they become priority to the business.

Business areas currently in **scope**¹ of formalized GRC systems or initiatives within your SAP environment?



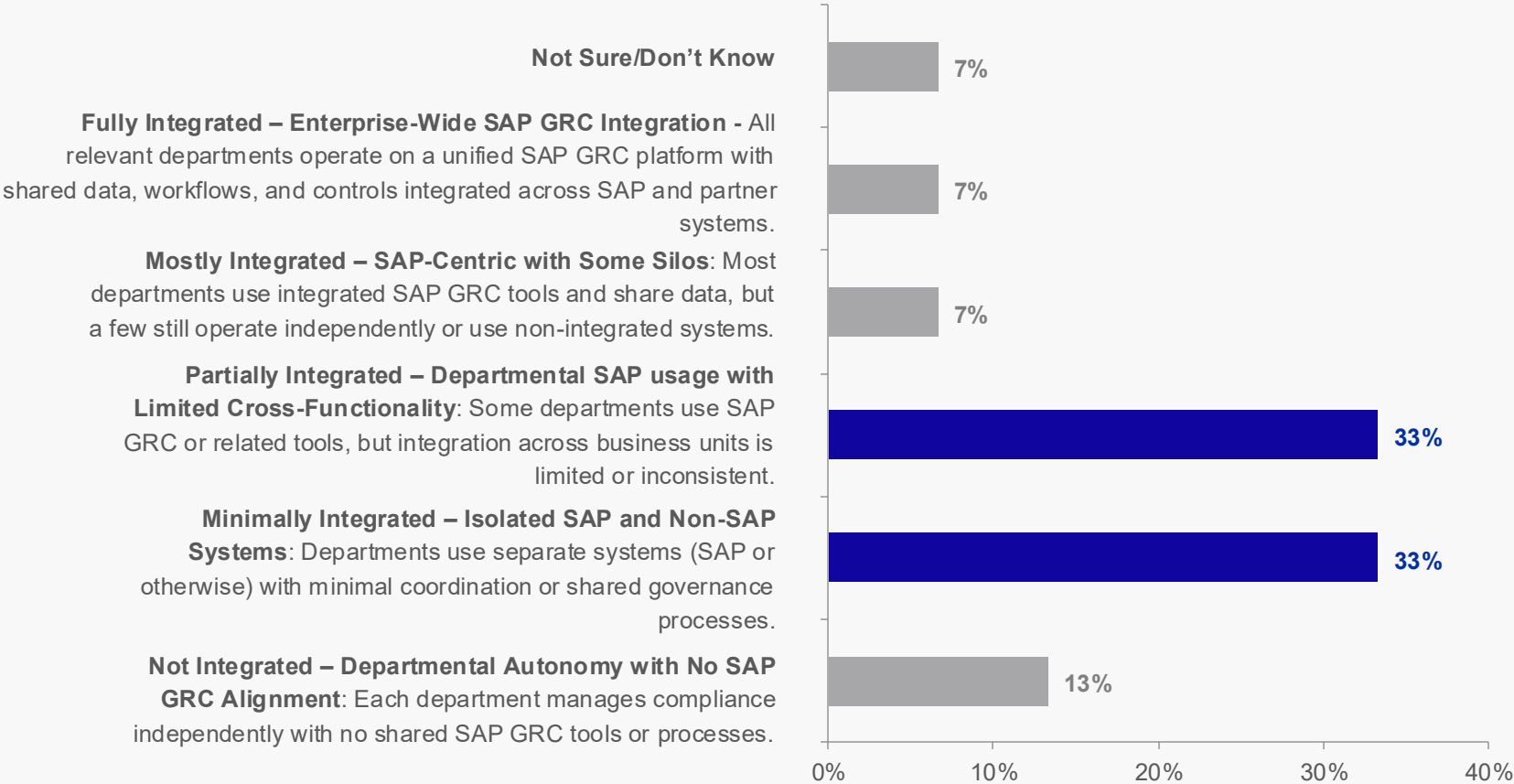
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

3

Project Approaches

SAP GRC and related tools are utilized within certain departments, but cross-functional integration remains limited and inconsistent (33%) across organizations. Departments are also relying on standalone SAP and non-SAP systems (33%) with little to no integration, resulting in fragmented operations and limited shared governance.

The level of integration of GRC systems¹ and initiatives across departments.



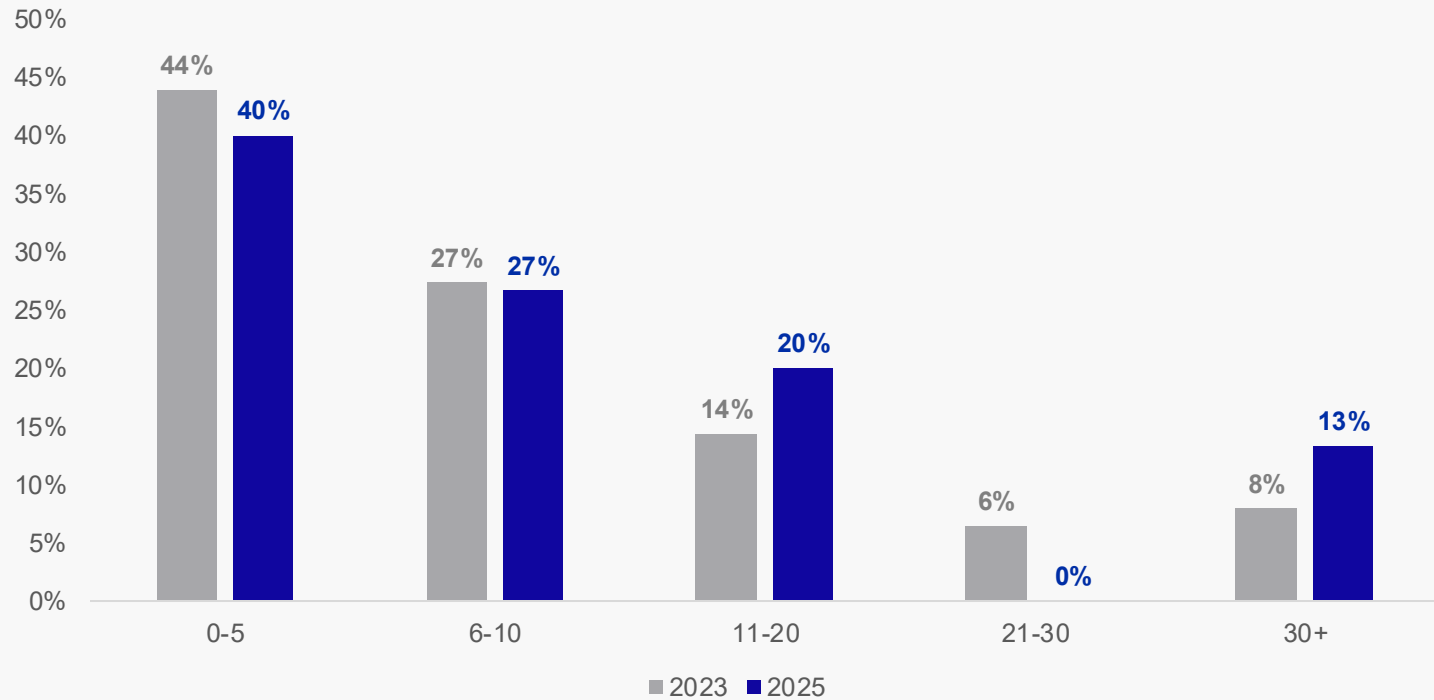
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

3

Project Approaches

Applications within scope for compliance activities increased between 2023 to 2025, with notable growth in organizations managing 11-20 and 30+ SAP-integrated apps in scope for GRC initiatives.

Number of **apps integrated**¹ with SAP that are (or should be) included in compliance scope.



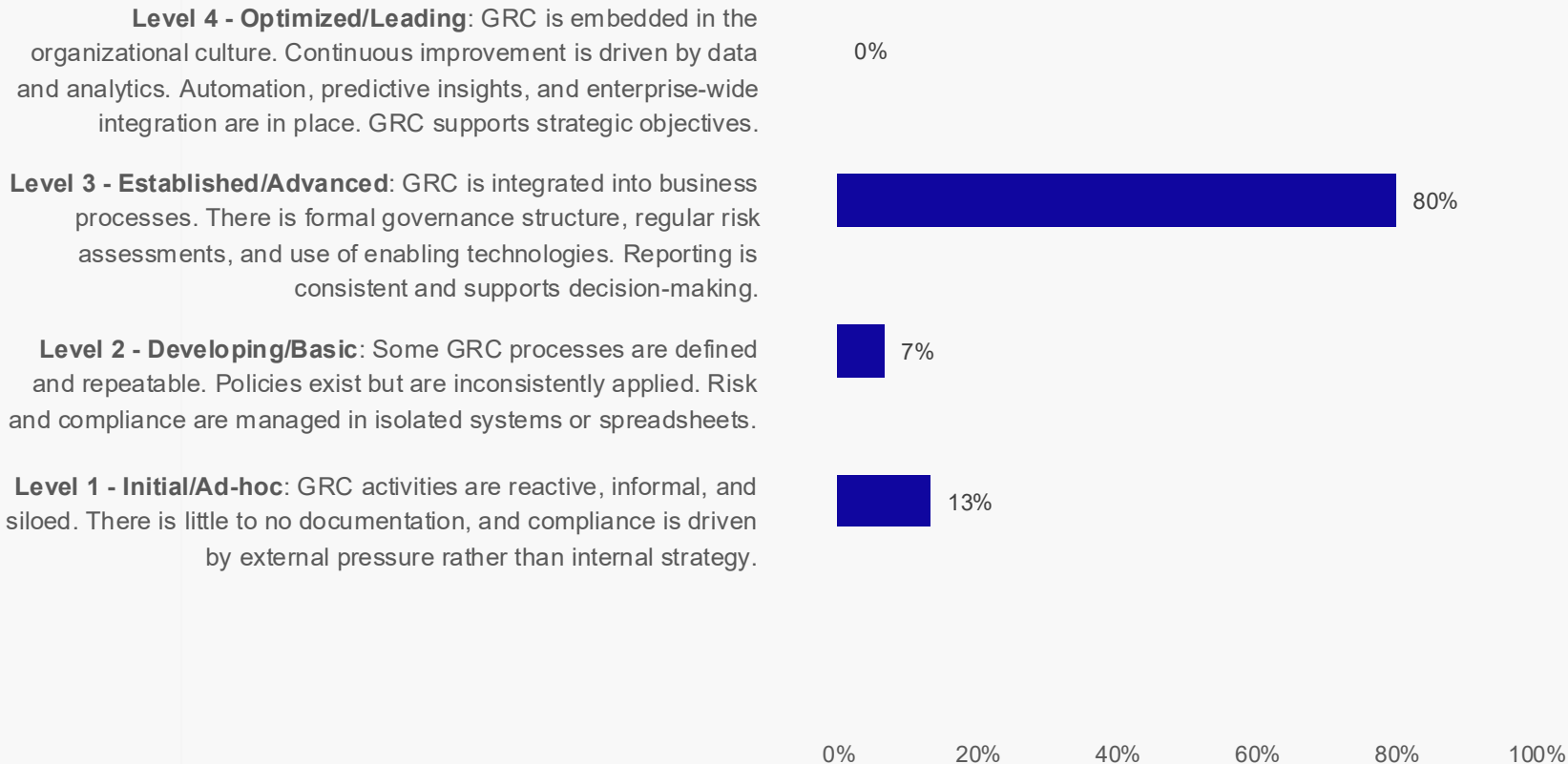
¹Based on 2023 and 2025 respondents.

4

Maturity

80% of respondents in this year’s study place themselves at Level 3—where GRC is integrated into business processes with formal governance and enabling technologies. This maturity level signals meaningful progress but also reveals a critical inflection point. In today’s volatile regulatory and cyber risk environment, remaining at this “Established” level without advancing to Level 4 poses significant risks.

Maturity level¹ of GRC ecosystem as perceived by organization.



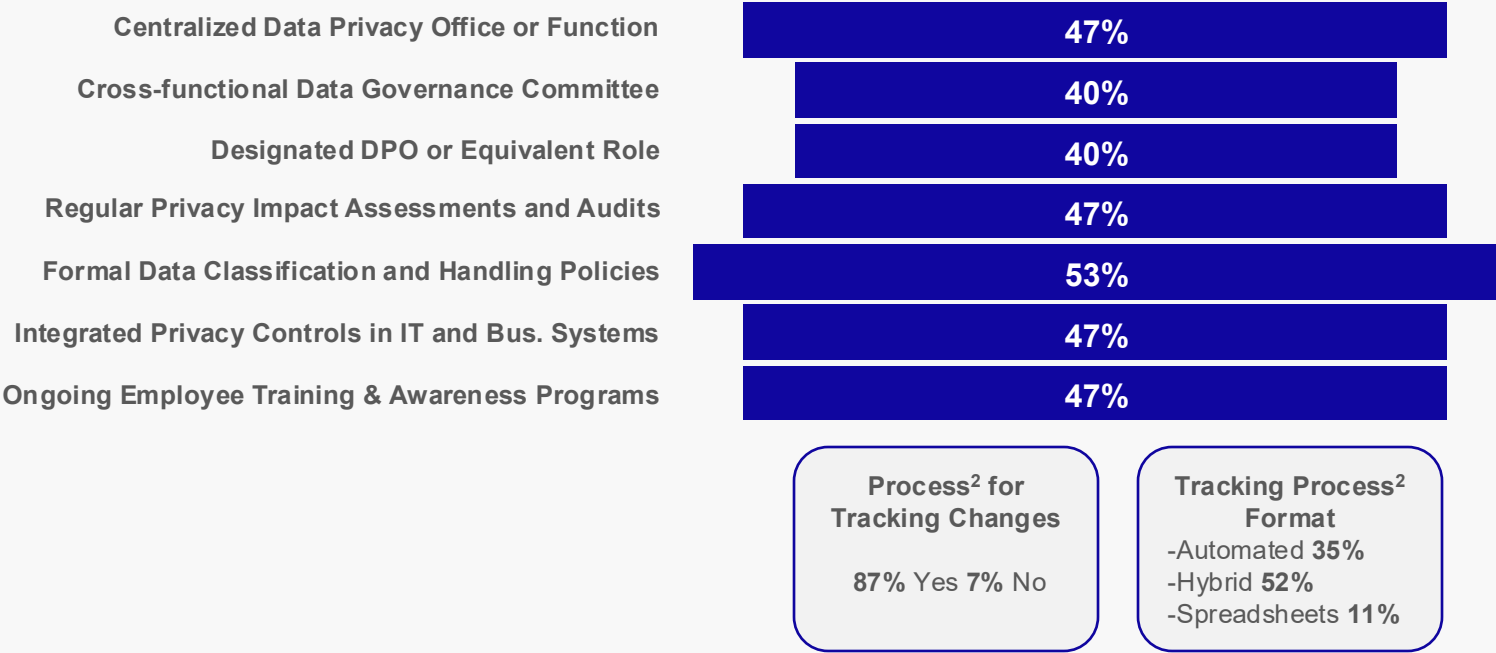
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

5

Governance & Process Management

Gaps in governance appeared this year. Formal data classification policies are slightly more common (53%), but integrated privacy controls and employee training programs are less common (47%). Our findings reveal that while some foundational governance structures are in place to support data privacy compliance, adoption remains uneven. Only 47% of respondents report having a centralized data privacy office or conducting regular privacy impact assessments.

Governance structures¹ in place to ensure compliance with data privacy regulations.



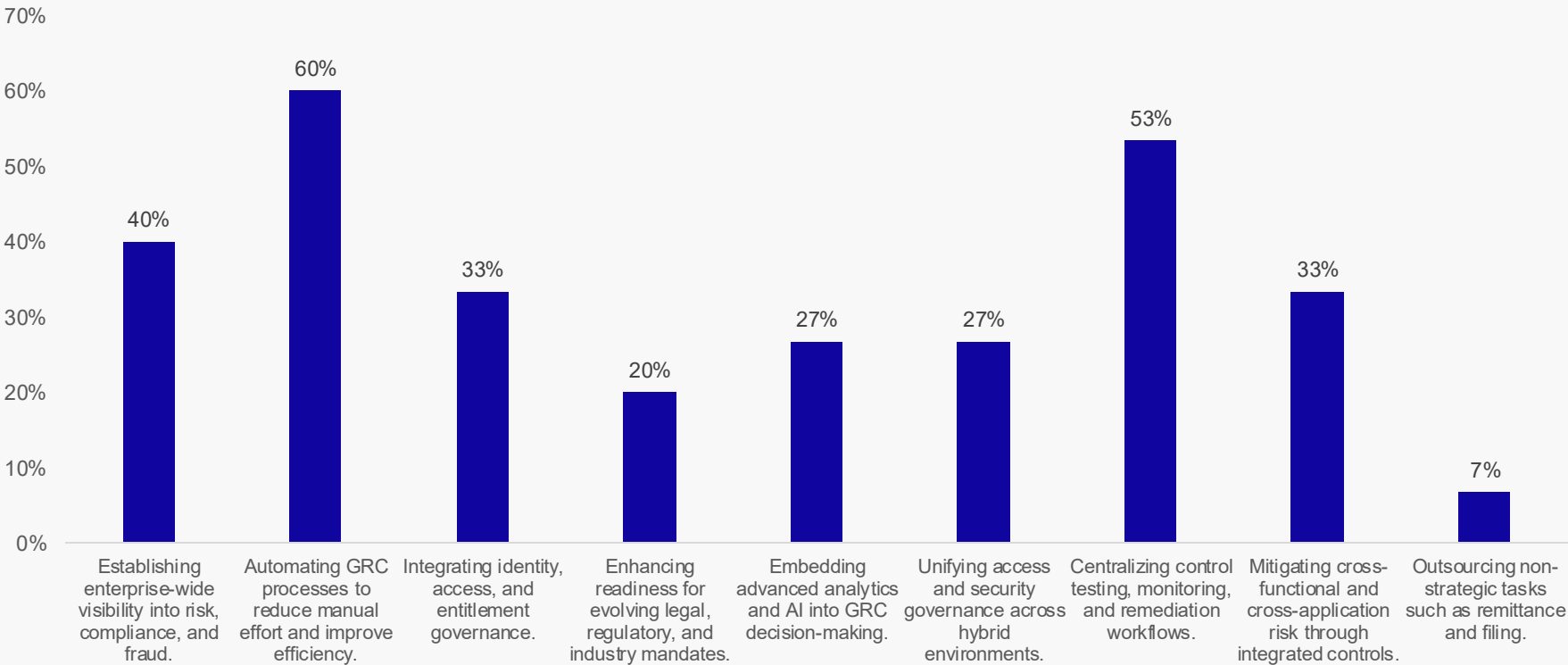
¹Based on 2025 respondents.
²13% selected “other” without identifying the structure in place.

6

Actions & Capabilities
Required for Success

This year’s study showed a strategic shift toward enterprise-wide integration, automation, and intelligence in GRC within SAP environments. Businesses are prioritizing centralized visibility into risk, compliance, and fraud (40%) and automating GRC processes (60%) to reduce manual effort and improve efficiency.

Strategic actions¹ being taken across SAP solutions, integrated platforms and third-party tools to strengthen the GRC system.



¹Based on 2025 respondents.

6

Actions & Capabilities
Required for Success

The 2025 business requirements reveal that SAP-centric organizations are prioritizing intelligent, integrated, and scalable GRC strategies. Centralized, validated data across risk, compliance, and audit functions (40%), and automation of risk detection and remediation (47%).

Business requirements¹ most important to enabling execution of GRC strategy.



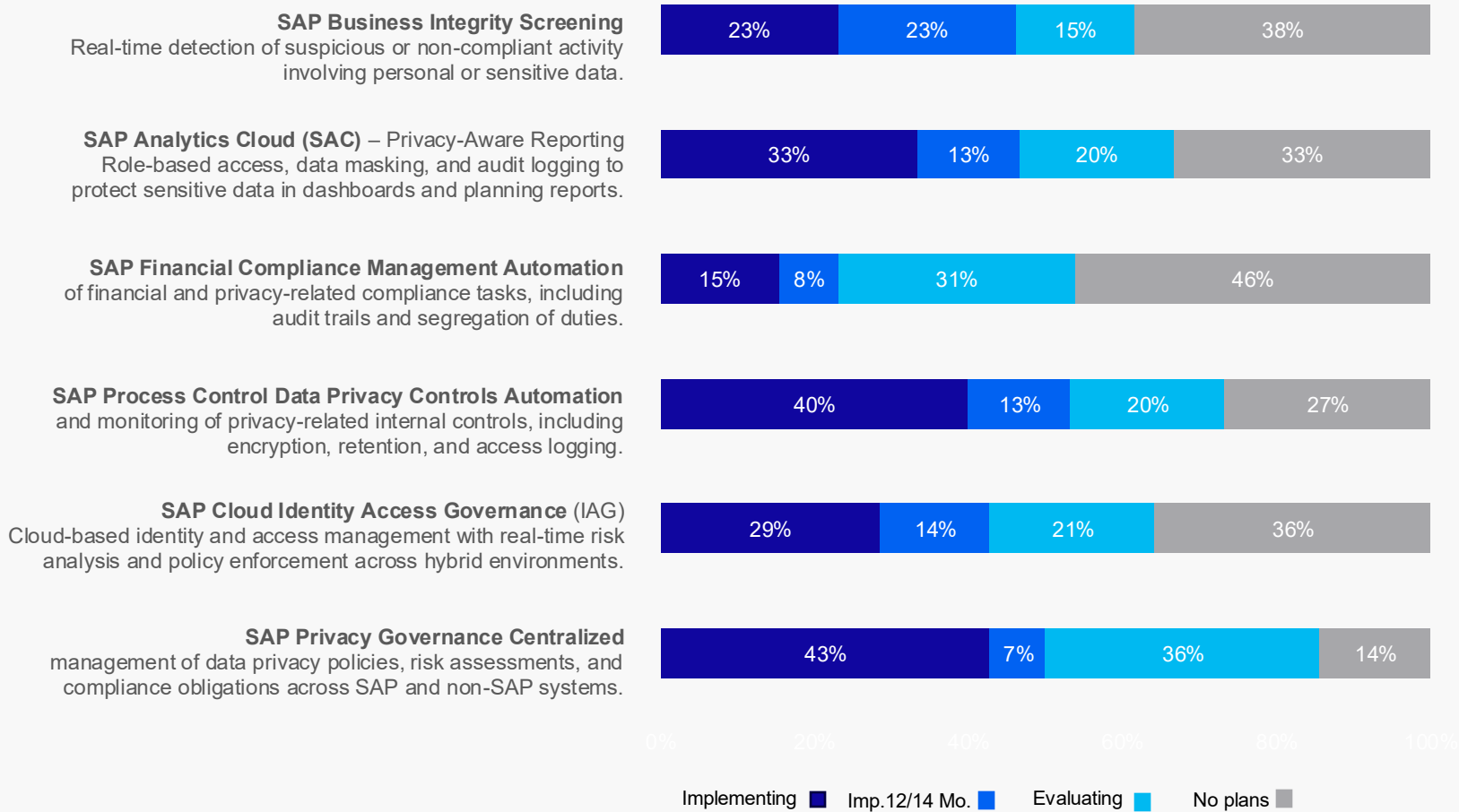
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

7

Technologies, Data & Automation

SAP Privacy Governance leads adoption, with 43% already implementing and 36% evaluating, signaling strong interest in centralized policy and compliance management. SAP Process Control Data Privacy Controls Automation follows closely at 40%.

Privacy controls¹ in place or planned in SAP GRC Financial Planning and Analytics environments.



¹Based on 2025 respondents.

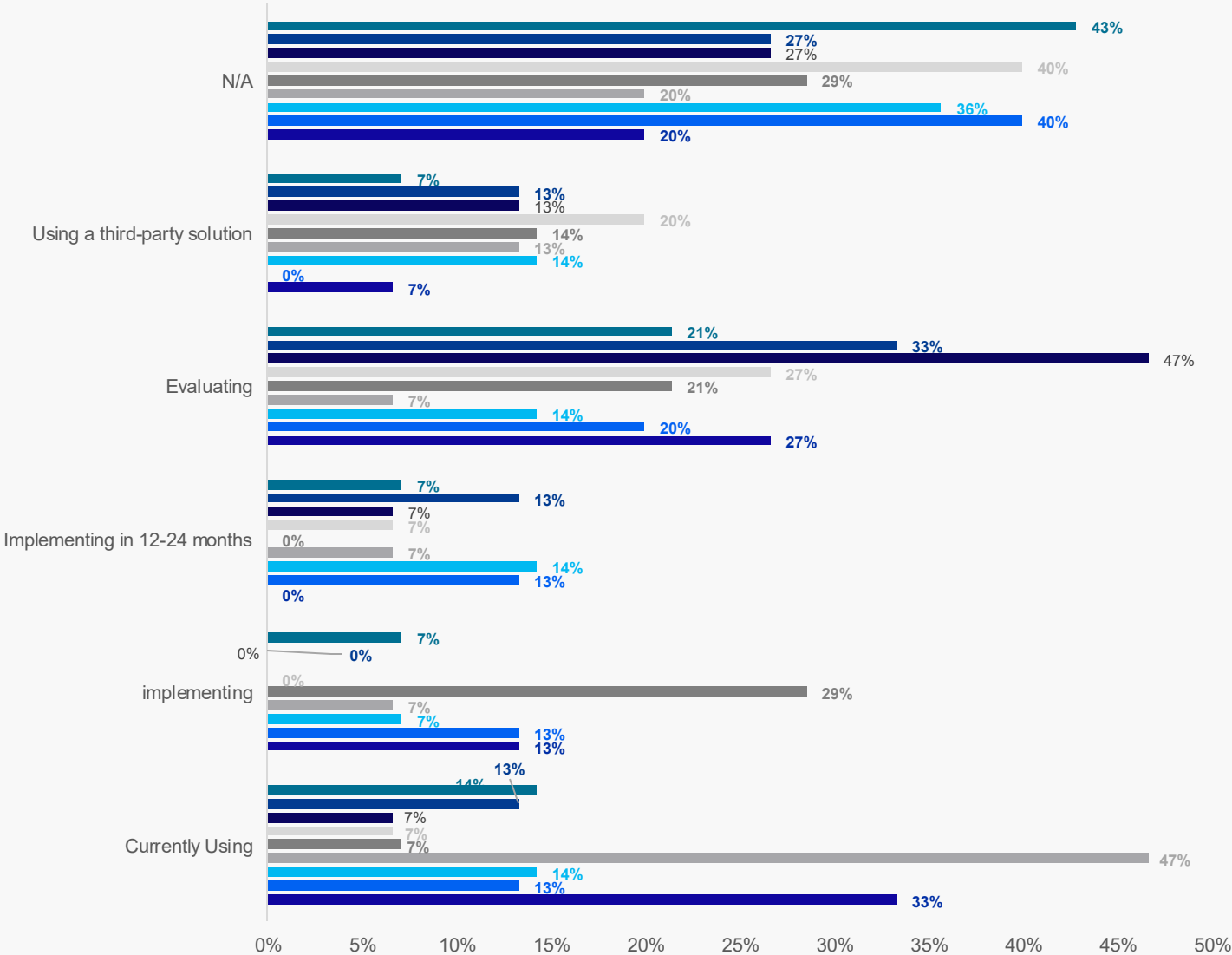
7

Technologies, Data & Automation

Organizations are prioritizing Privileged Access Management (PAM) through SAP GRC Access Control Firefighter ID, with 46.67% currently using and 13.33% relying on third-party solutions, signaling strong focus on controlling emergency access.

- Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) - SAP GRC Access Control (Role Management, SoD Analysis)
- Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC) - SAP Cloud Identity Services, SAP BTP Context Aware Access
- Identity and Access Management (IAM)- SAP Cloud Identity Access Governance (IAG)
- Privileged Access Management (PAM) - SAP GRC Access Control (Firefighter ID)
- Zero Trust Architecture - SAP IAG, SAP BTP Security Services
- Data Loss Prevention (DLP)- SAP Data Custodian, SAP Enterprise Threat Detection
- User Behavior Analytics (UBA) - SAP Business Integrity Screening, SAP Enterprise Threat Detection
- Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) - Third-party integration with SAP security monitoring.
- Encryption and Tokenization - SAP Data Custodian, SAP ILM

SAP technologies or frameworks used or investing in to ensure data, access, and minimize insider threats¹.



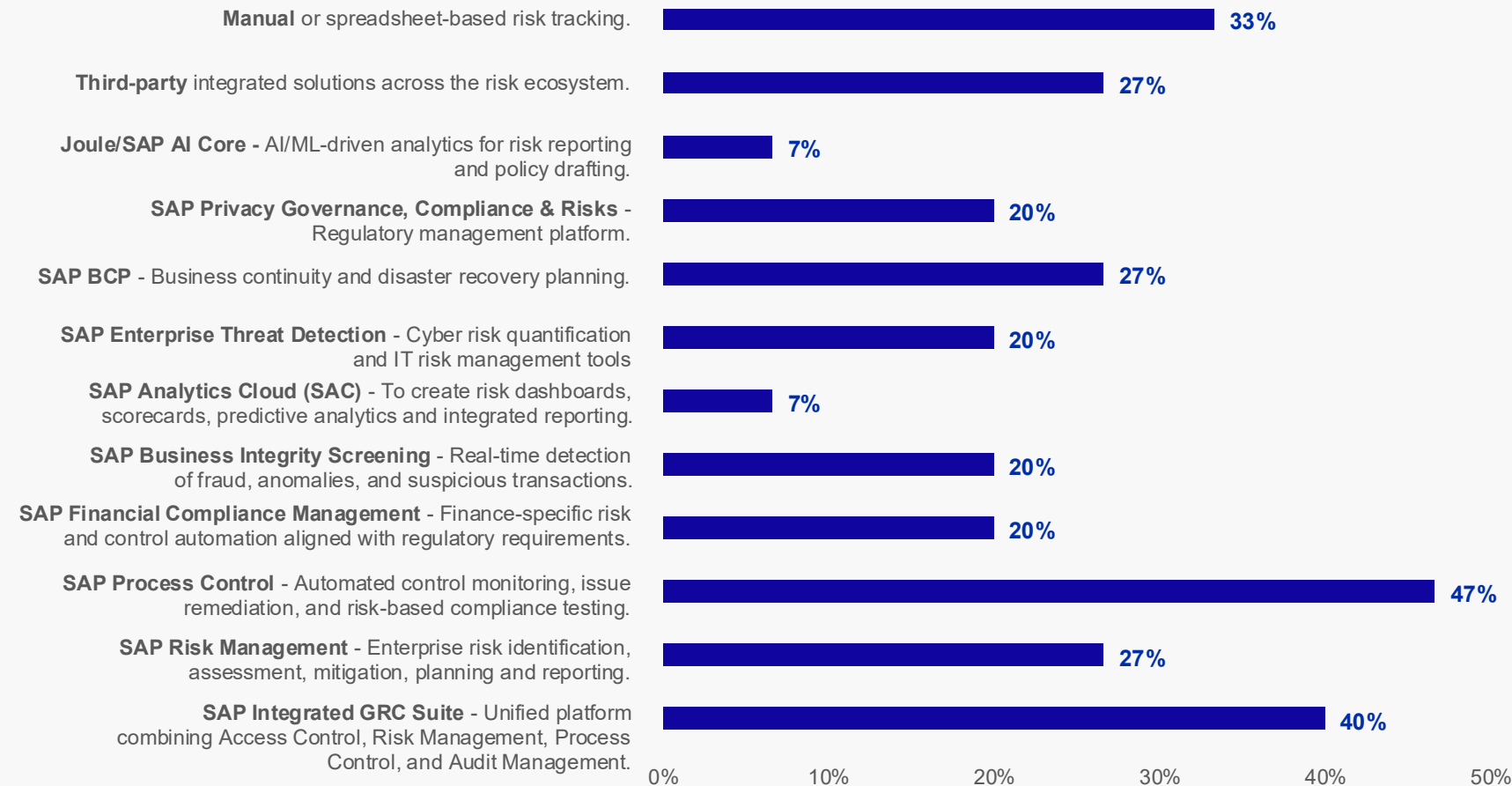
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

7

Technologies,
Data & Automation

Organizations are relying heavily on SAP Process Control (47%) and the SAP Integrated GRC Suite (40%) for monitoring, assessing, and reporting enterprise risk, signaling a strong preference for automation and unified platforms. SAP Risk Management (27%) and SAP BCP (27%) are moderately adopted, reflecting growing attention to enterprise risk planning and business continuity.

SAP solutions used to monitor, asses, and report on GRC risk¹ across the enterprise.



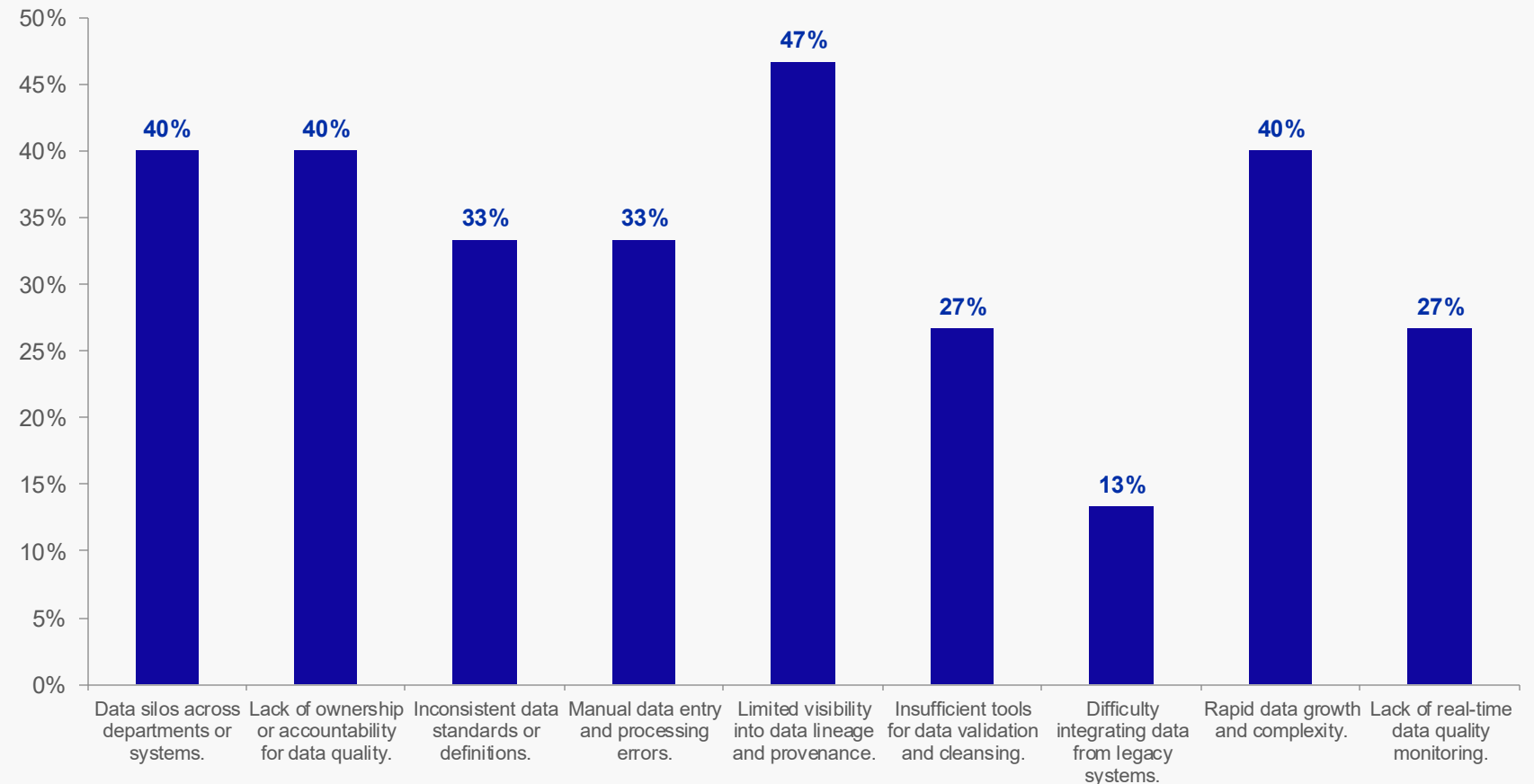
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

7

Technologies, Data & Automation

The most cited issue is limited visibility into data lineage and provenance (47%), which makes it difficult to trace data sources and ensure accuracy. Data silos across departments and lack of ownership for data quality (both 40%) further complicate governance, while rapid data growth and complexity adds pressure on existing systems.

Challenges faced with managing data quality¹ and integrity.

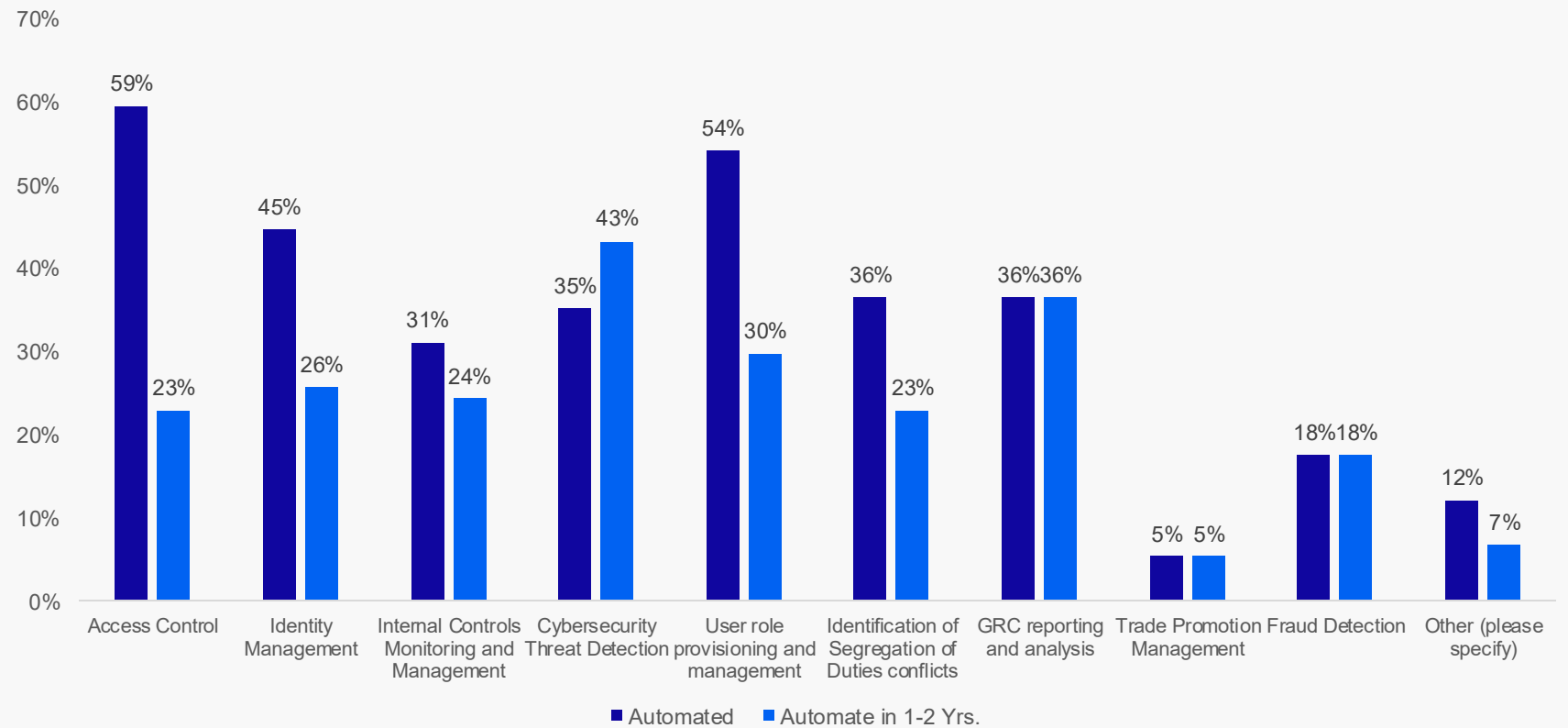


¹Based on 2025 respondents.

7

Technologies,
Data & Automation

Progress is being made in automating core GRC processes within SAP environments, with Access Control (60%) and User Role Provisioning (55%) leading the way. Identity Management and Internal Controls also show significant automation, while Cybersecurity Threat Detection and GRC Reporting are emerging priorities for the next 1–2 years.

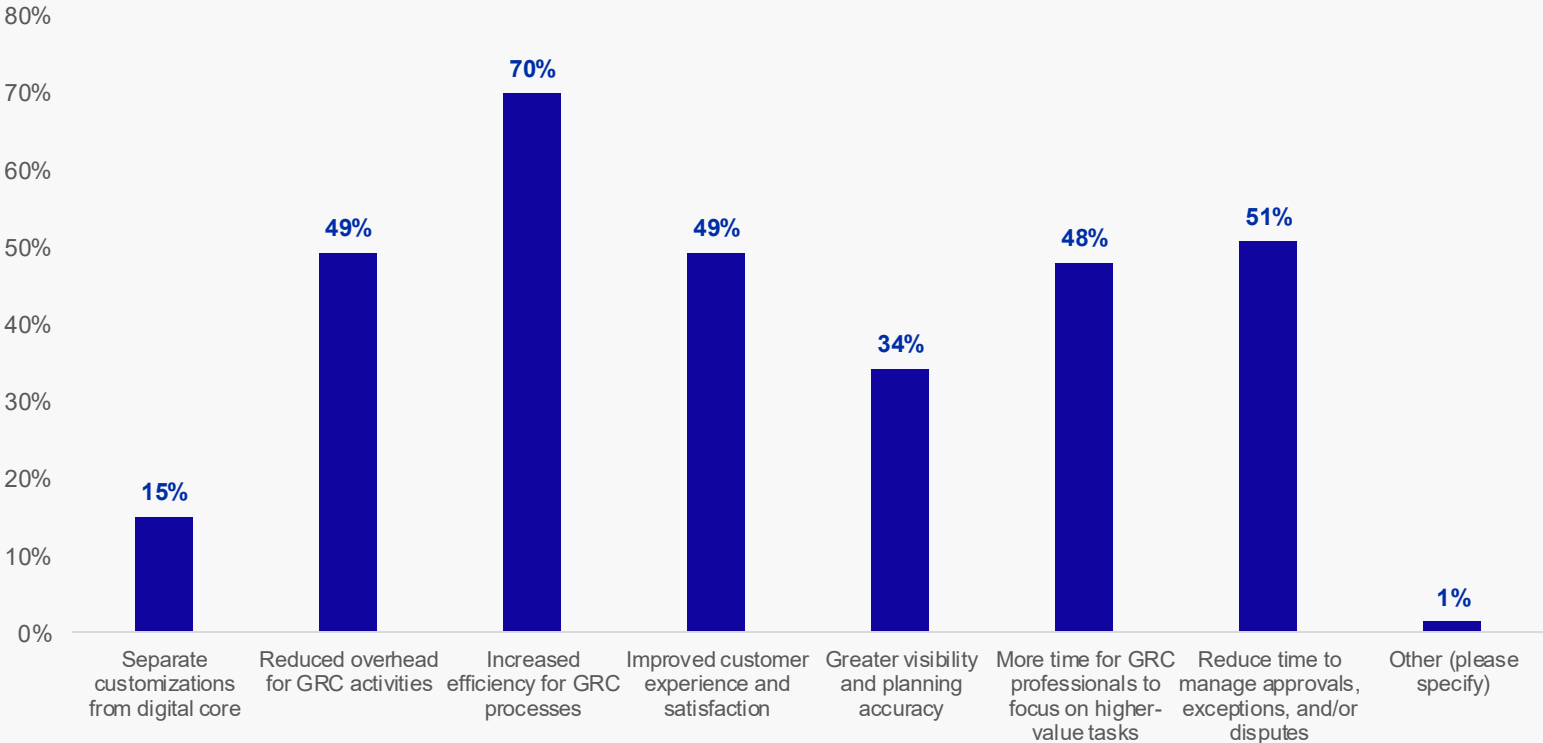
GRC processes automated¹ within 1-2 years.¹Based on 2024 respondents.

7

Technologies,
Data & Automation

The most cited benefit is increased efficiency for GRC processes (70%), followed by reduced time to manage approvals, exceptions, and disputes (51%) and reduced overhead for GRC activities (49%).

Perceived benefits of implementing AI and automating¹ finance.



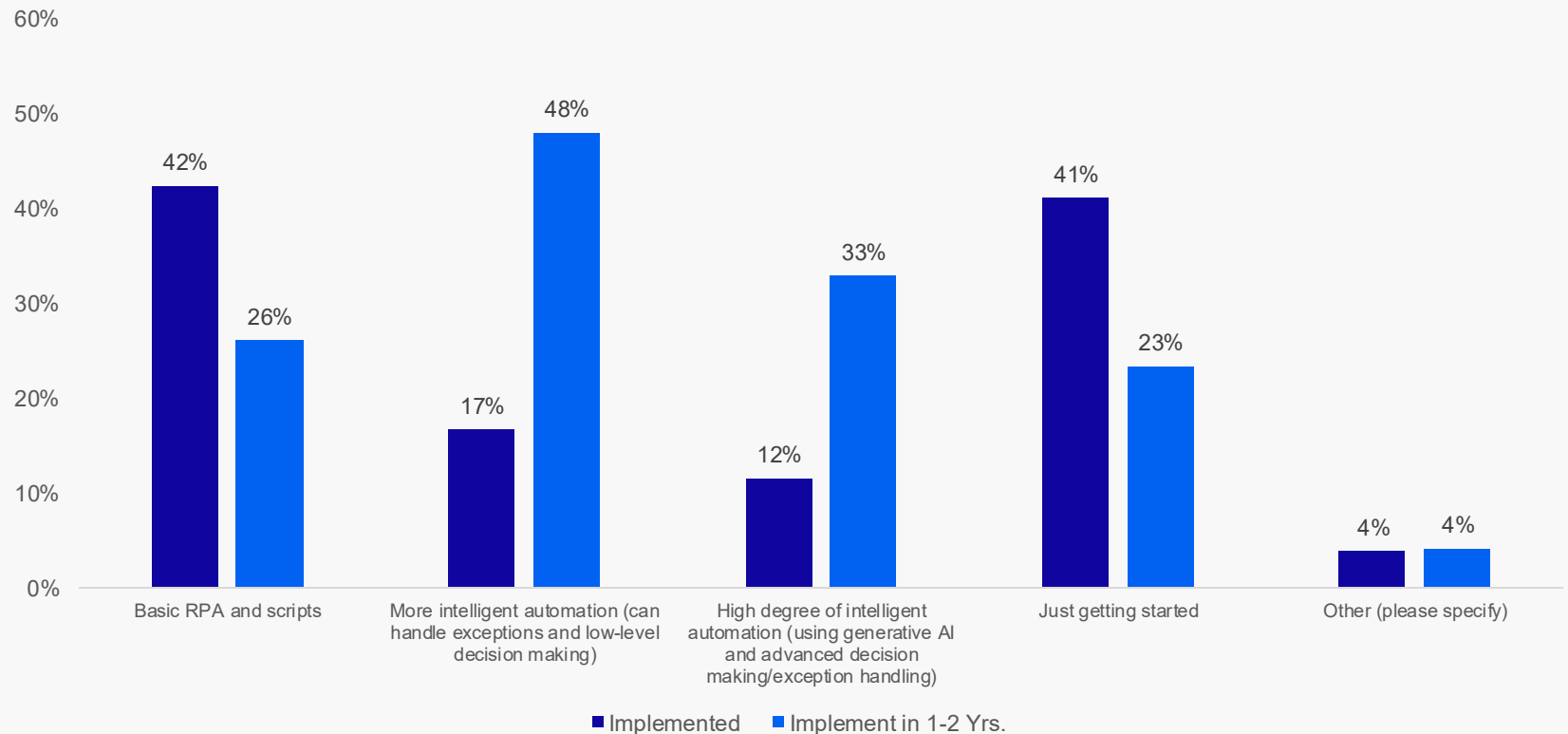
¹Based on 2024 respondents.

7

Technologies, Data & Automation

Top results show that 48% of respondents already use intelligent automation for exception handling and decision-making, while 33% have plans to advance adoption of AI-driven automation. Basic RPA is actively used and 26% implementing now or in the future, and 41% started the adoption journey in 2024, with 23% with engaged now or in the near future.

Level of automation implemented or planned¹ within the next 1-2 years.



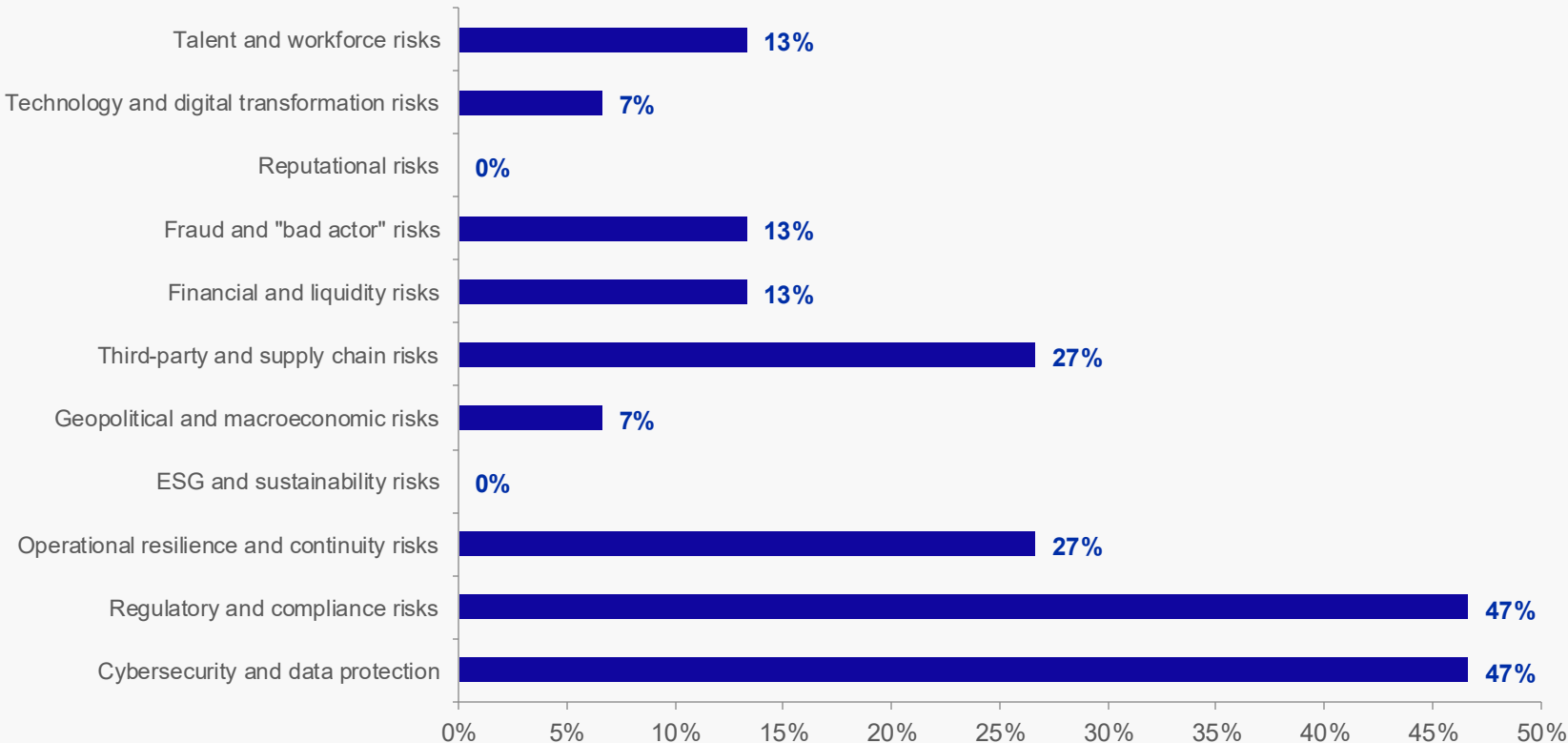
¹Based on 2024 respondents.

8

Risk Management
& Security Threats

In SAP environments, respondents for 2025 are prioritizing cybersecurity and data protection (47%) and regulatory and compliance risks (47%) as their top focus areas, reflecting growing concerns over data breaches and evolving mandates such as tax compliance and privacy laws.

Areas of risk prioritized¹ over 12 to 18 months.



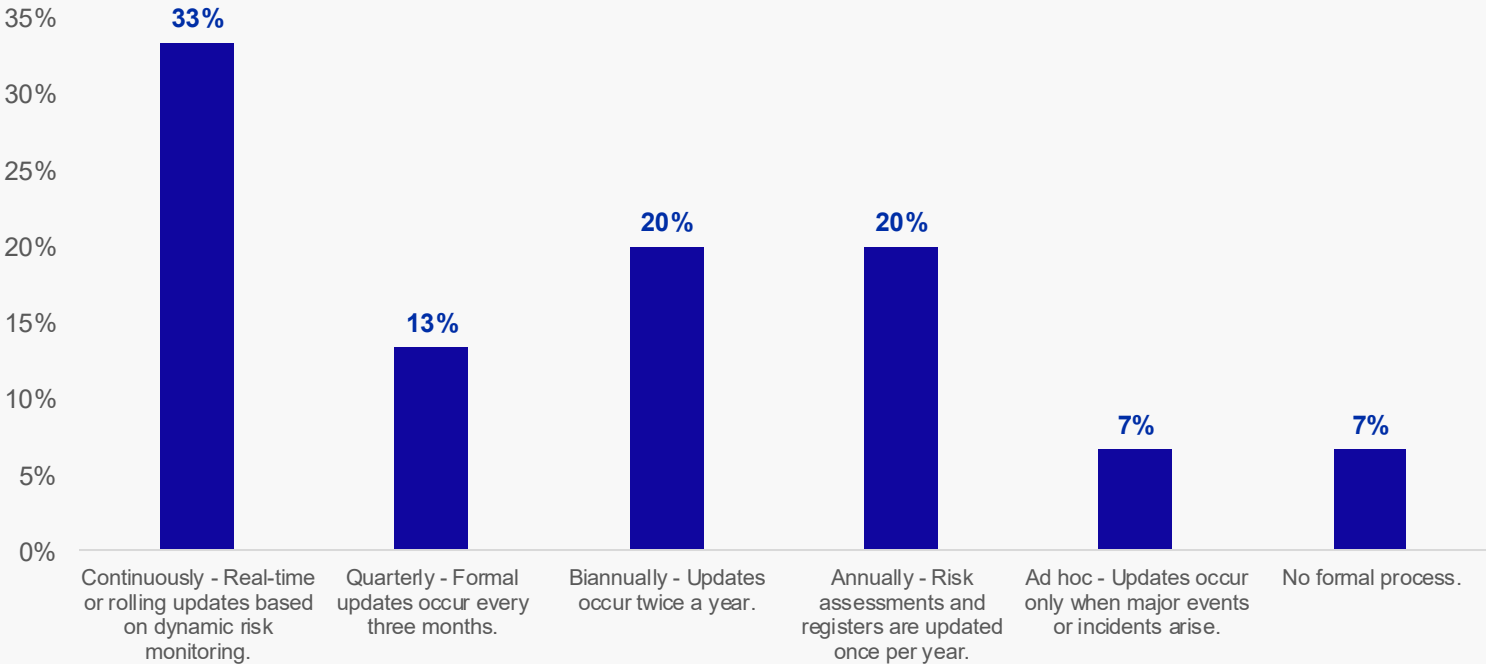
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

8

Risk Management & Security Threats

One-third of 2025 respondents conduct continuous risk assessments (33%), while most others rely on periodic updates, biannual (20%) or annually (20%).

Frequency of risk assessments¹ and register updates.



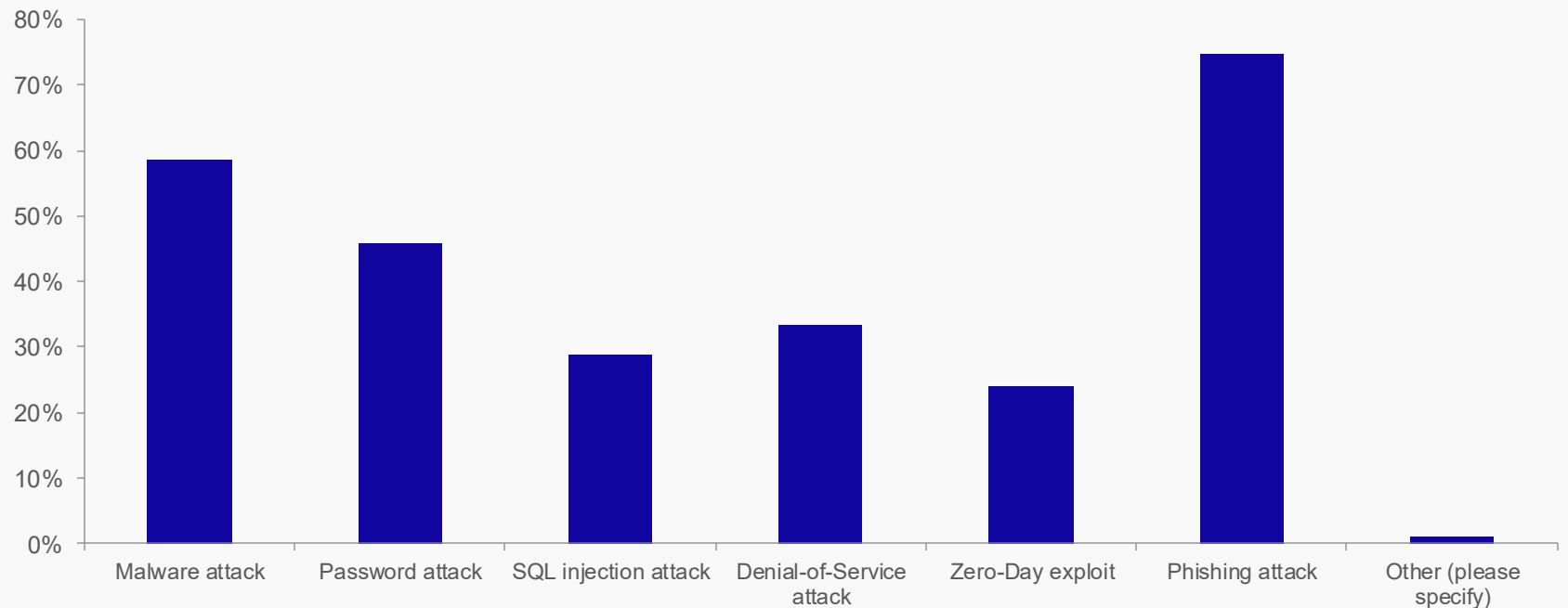
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

8

Risk Management & Security Threats

Phishing (74.71%) and malware attacks (58.62%) were the top security concerns for SAP GRC leaders in 2023, followed by password attacks (45.98%) and denial-of-service (33.33%). These threats remain highly relevant in 2025, as phishing and ransomware continue prevalently in attacks^{2,3}.

Security **threats**¹ posing the greatest risk.



Report includes a spotlight on 2025 SAPinsider Security Report Key Findings by Robert Holland

¹Based on 2023 respondents.

² [Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025, World Economic Forum in partnership with Accenture, January 2025.](#)

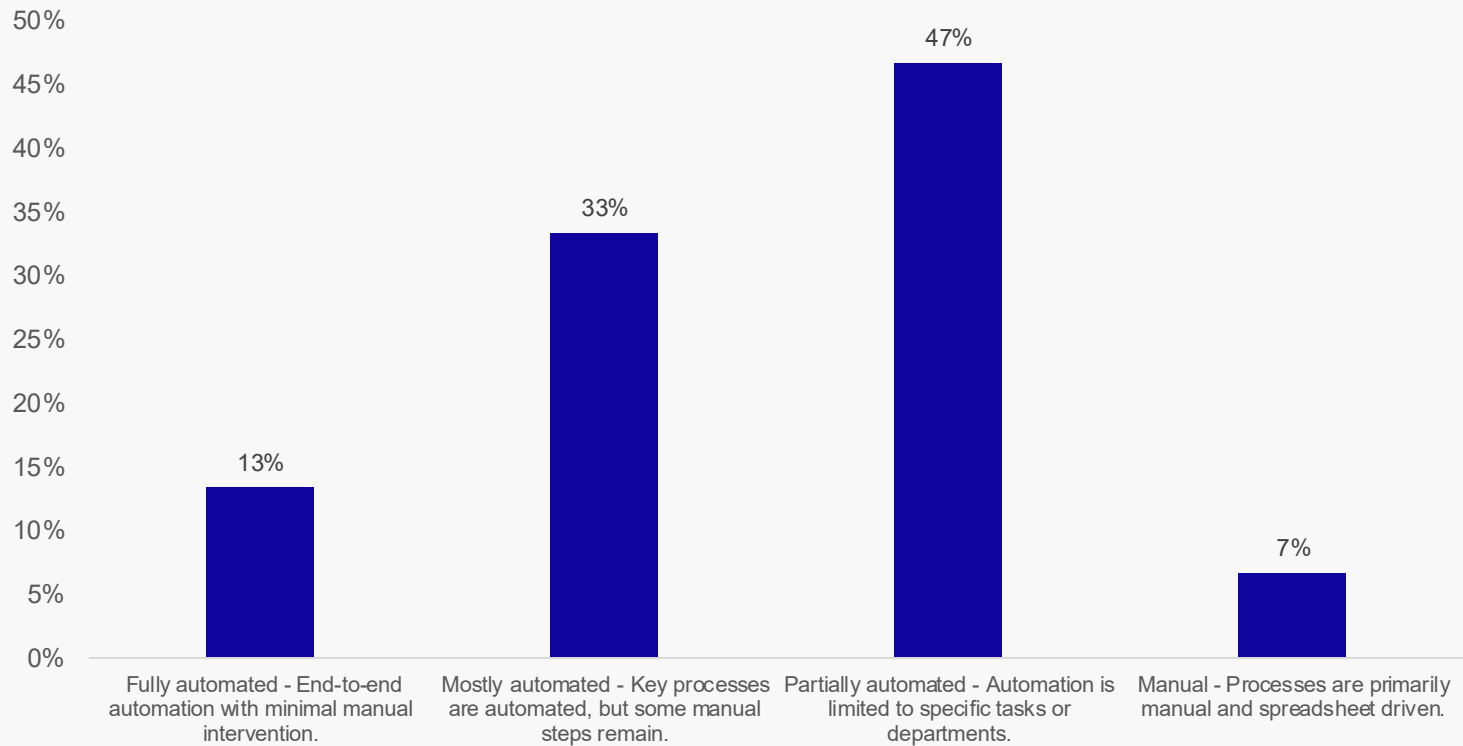
³ [State of Cybersecurity 2025, CompTIA, p.25.](#)

9

Financial Governance

Financial close and consolidation processes in SAP environments remain largely manual or semi-automated. Only 13% of respondents have fully automated processes, while 33% report mostly automated workflows. The majority (47%) are still partially automated.

Automation of financial close¹ and consolidation processes.



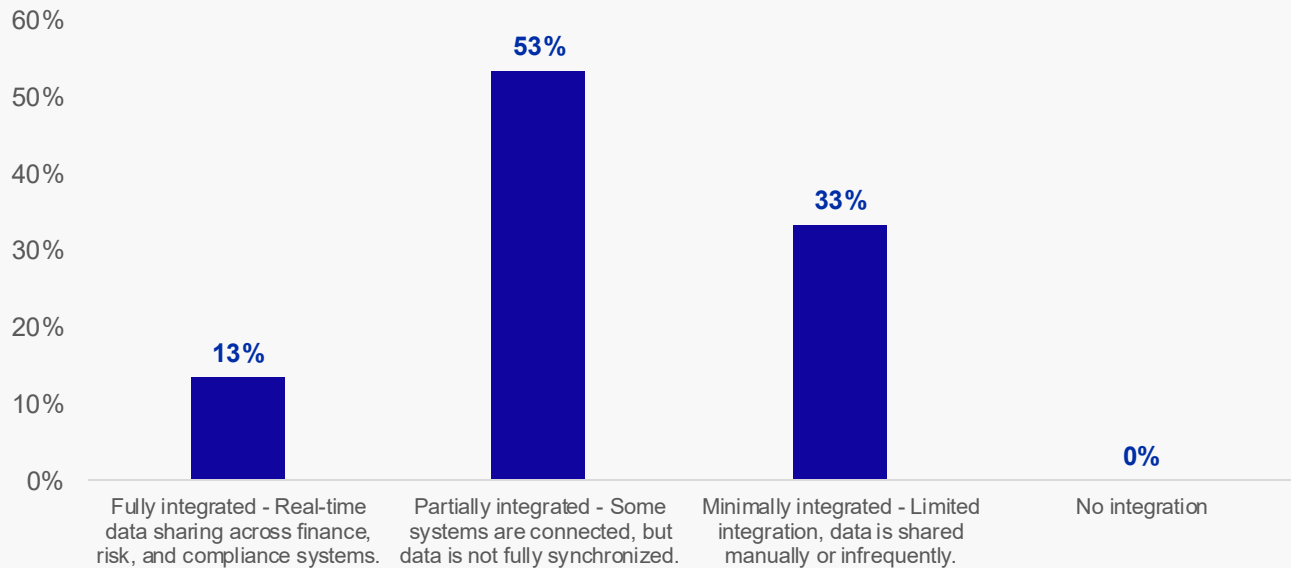
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

9

Financial Governance

Only 13% of respondents have fully integrated financial systems with risk and compliance data, while 53% report partial integration and 33% rely on minimal, manual data sharing.

Financial system integration with risk¹ and compliance data for real-time insights.



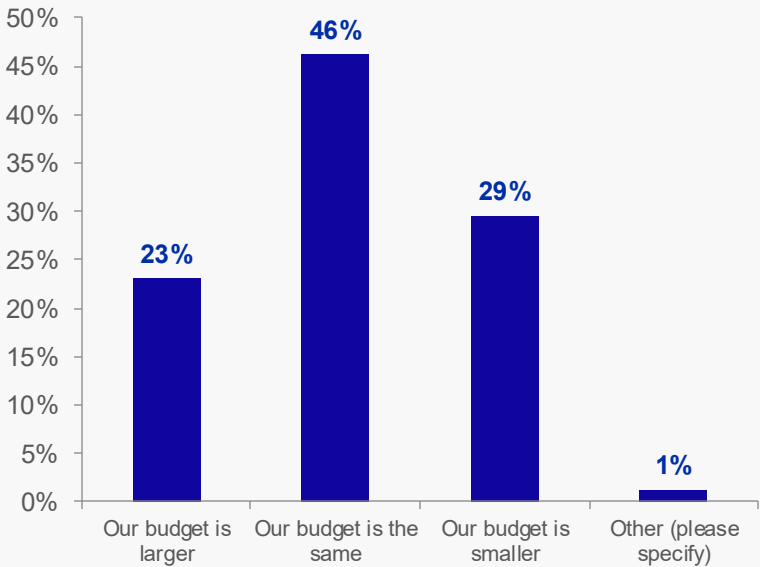
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

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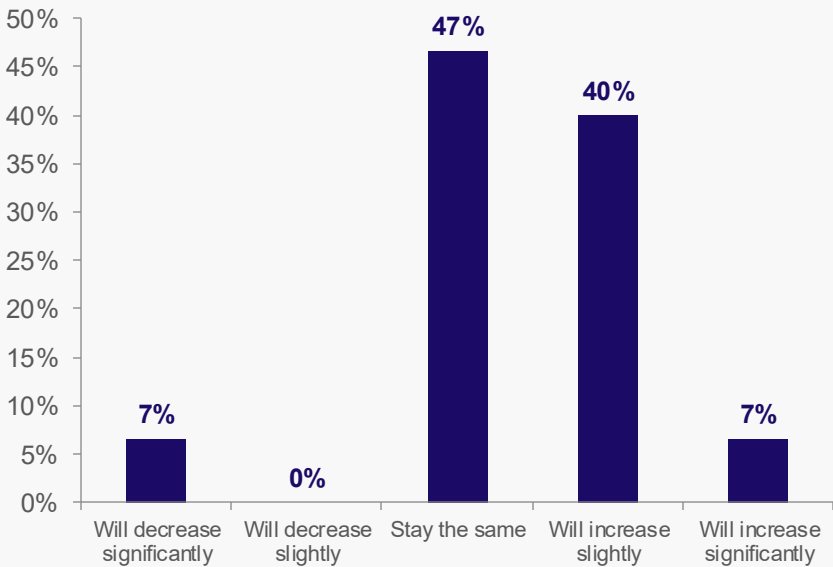
Budgets & Investments

Budgets compared to 2023 are increasing according to 47% of respondents. Far fewer organizations are seeing decreases in budgets as compared to 2023 (down to 7% from 23%).

Budget Size 2023¹



Budget Size 2025¹



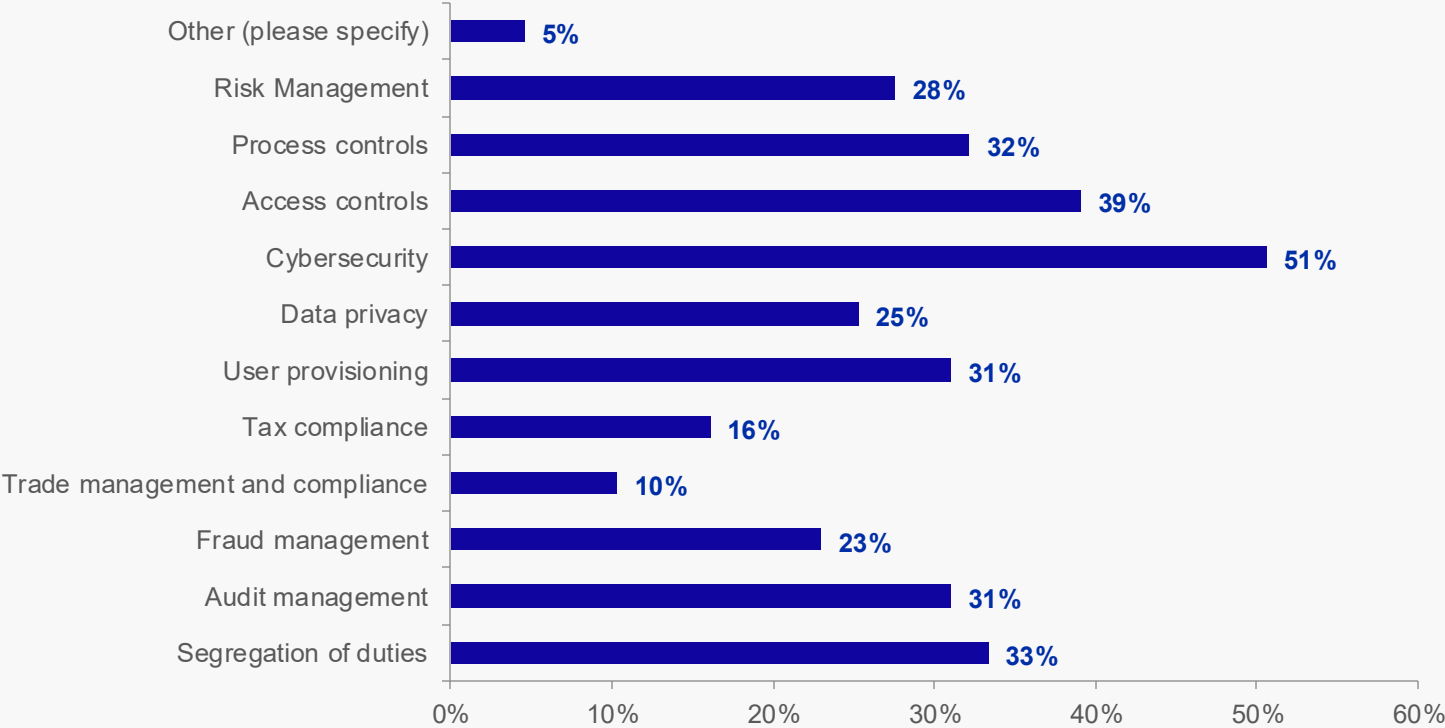
¹Based on 2023 and 2025 respondents.

11

Budgets & Investments

In 2023, GRC leaders focused investments on cybersecurity (51%), access controls (39%), and segregation of duties (33%), reflecting the urgency to secure SAP environments and prevent fraud. Audit management (31%), user provisioning (31%), and process controls (32%) were also key priorities, supporting compliance and operational integrity.

GRC related investments in 2023.



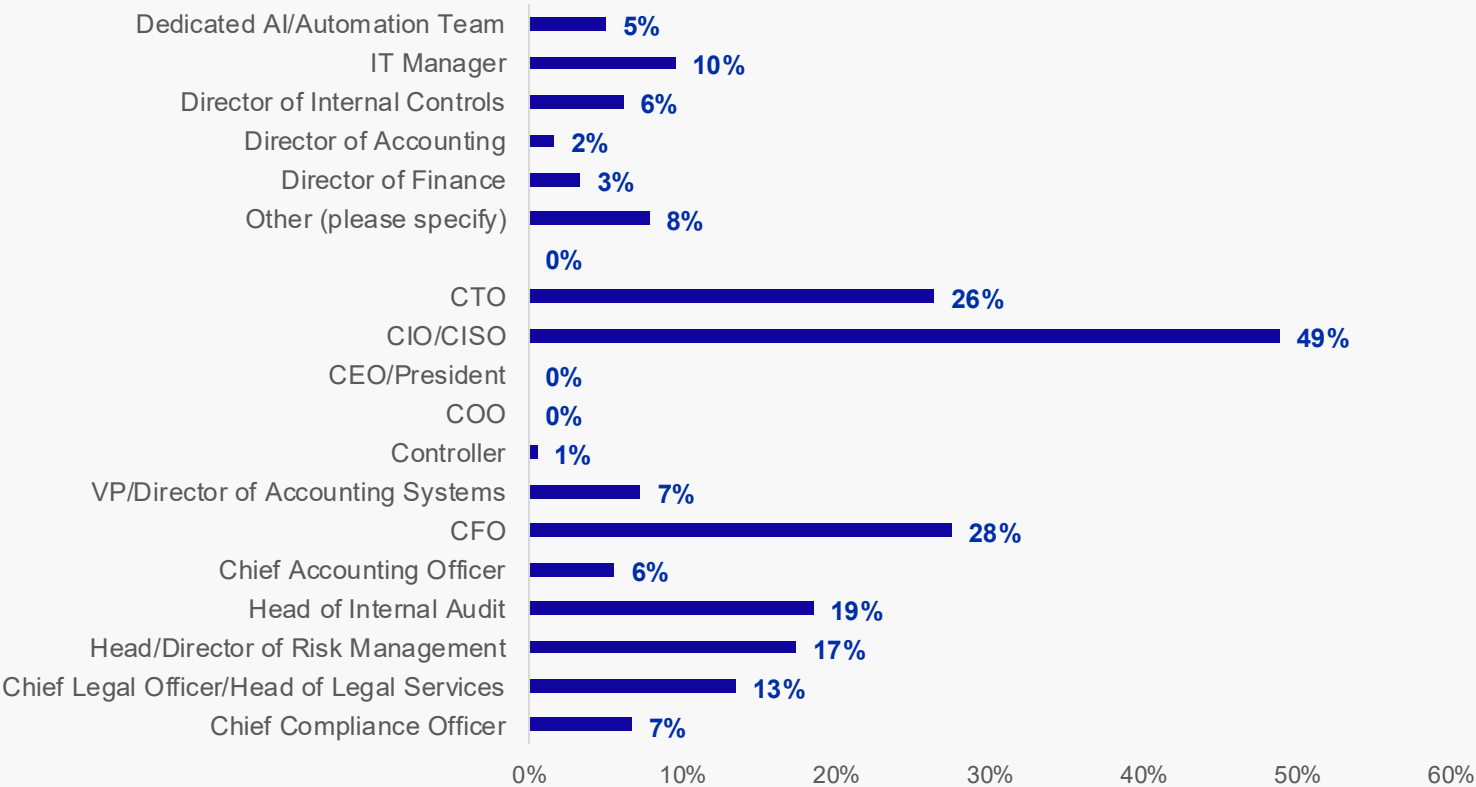
¹Based on 2023 respondents.

12

Leadership, Team Structure & Skills

Survey results show that responsibility for GRC is widely distributed across organizations, with the CIO/CISO (49%) and CFO (28%) emerging as the most common leaders. Other significant roles include Head of Internal Audit (19%) and Head/Director of Risk Management (17%), reflecting strong ties to risk and assurance functions.

Responsible for GRC¹ in organization.



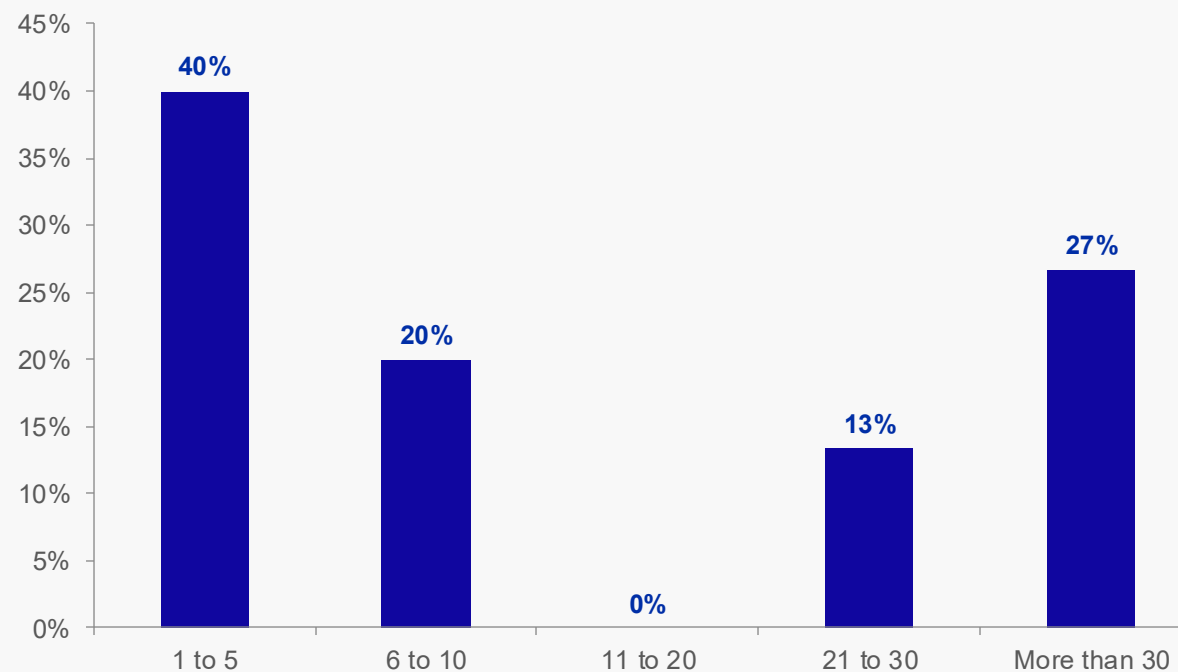
¹Based on 2023 through 2025 respondents.

12

Leadership, Team Structure & Skills

Team sizes vary, while most are small (1-5 members), others are quite large with over 30 or more members. Larger teams are common in highly regulated industries (e.g., pharmaceuticals, financial services, oil and gas, energy).

Number of **fulltime employees**¹ on GRC team.



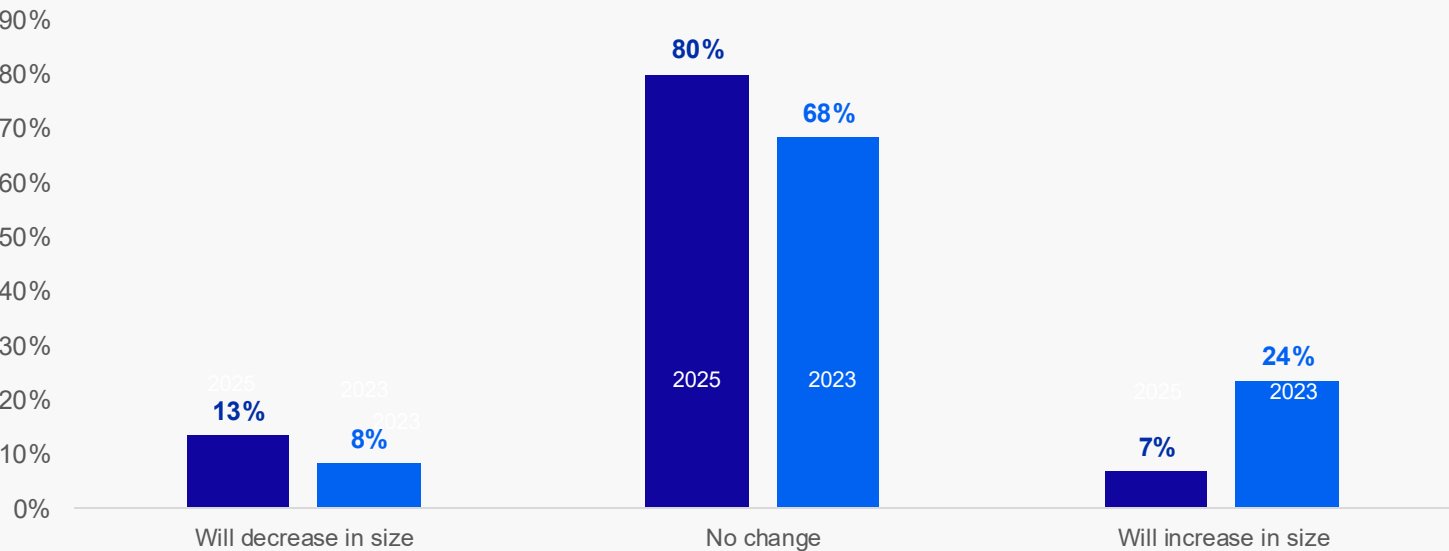
¹Based on 2025 respondents.

12

Leadership, Team Structure & Skills

In 2025, 80% anticipate no change, up from 68% in 2023. Fewer expect growth only 7% foresee an increase, compared to 24% in 2023.

Growth expected in size of team¹.



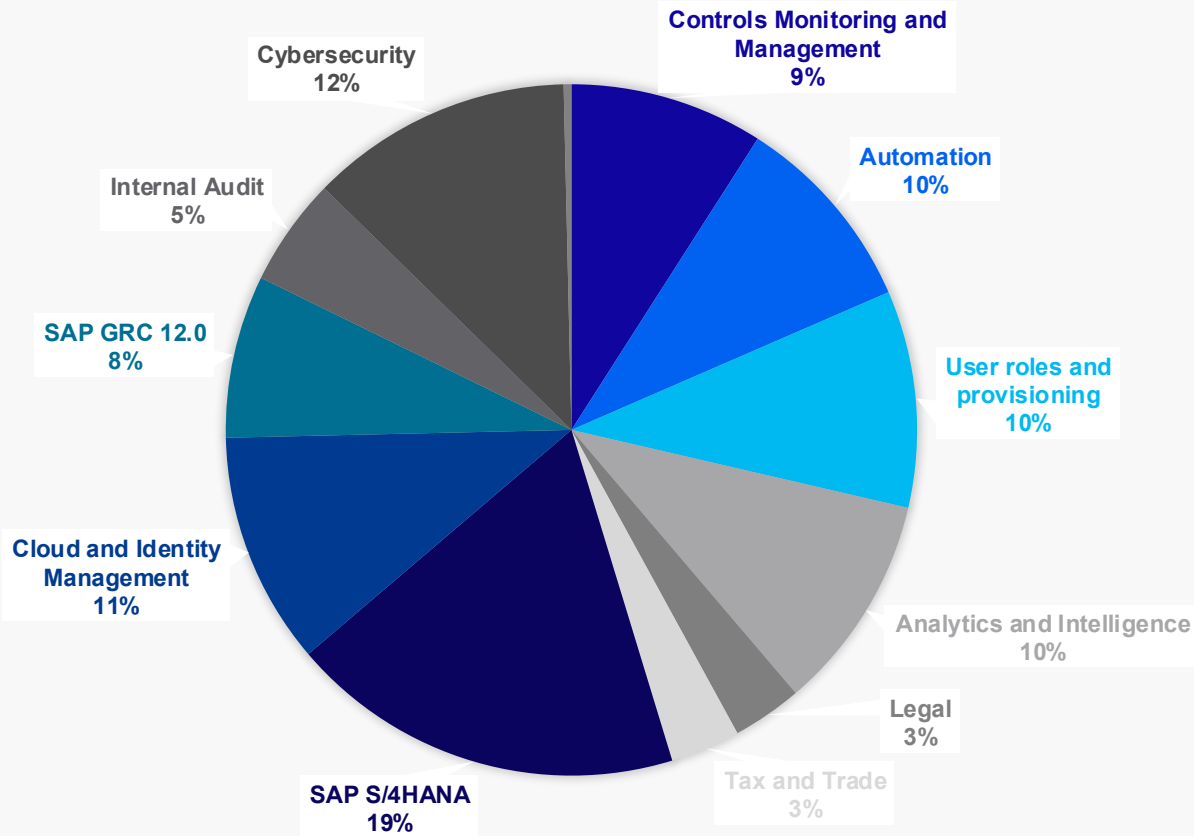
¹Based on 2023 and 2025 respondents.

12

Leadership, Team Structure & Skills

In 2023, GRC professionals prioritized skills in SAP S/4HANA (57%), Cybersecurity (38%), and Cloud and Identity Management (35%), alongside core areas like user roles, analytics, and automation.

Skills Development¹



¹Based on 2023 respondents.

THANK YOU

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