



Payments Fraud Trends & Prevention

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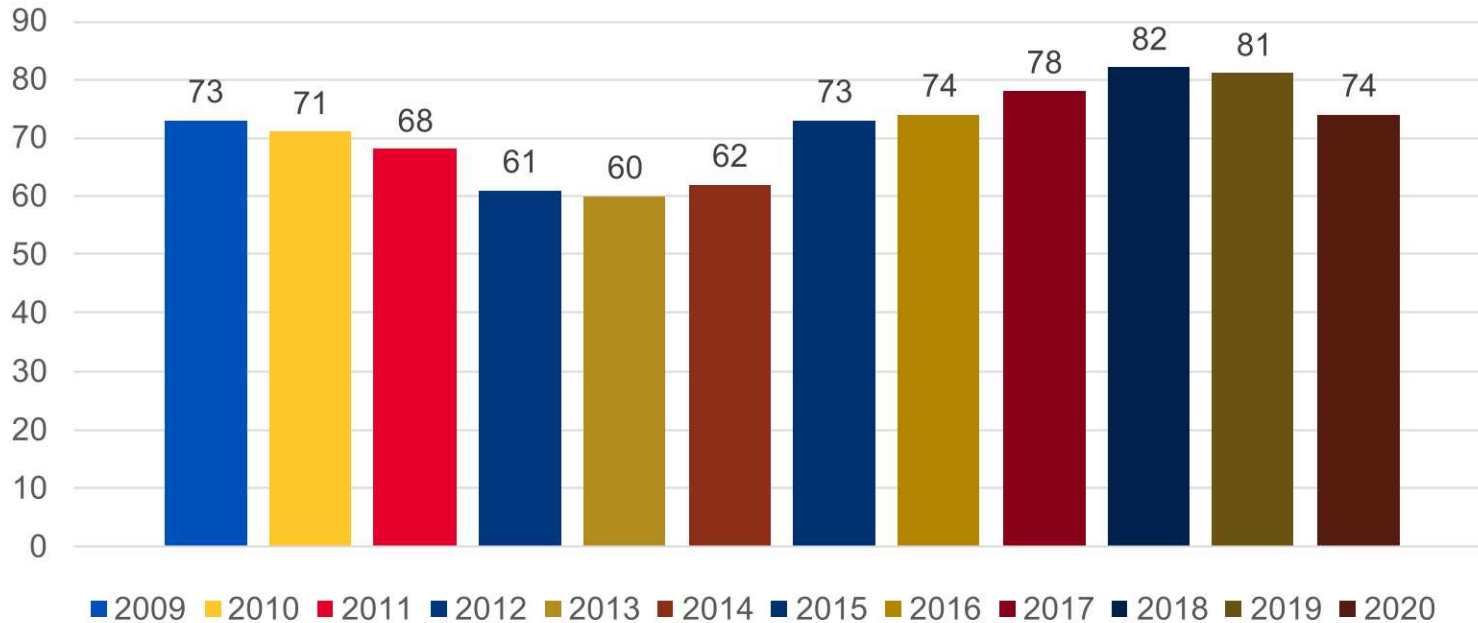
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2021 AFP Payments Fraud and Control Survey Results



Percentage of organizations that experienced attempted and/or actual payments fraud 2009 - 2020



2021 AFP Payments Fraud and Control *Survey Results*



74% of responding organizations reported being targets of payments fraud in 2020.

Checks continue as the most targeted form of payment

Business Email Compromise (BEC) a key source of fraud in 2019 and 2020

Overall, due to the pandemic, a drop in business transactions resulted in a decrease in fraud

Employee education AND adoption of preventative measures are key to avoiding business disruption and financial loss



Business Email Compromise (BEC)

Business Email Compromise



What is it?

“An email purporting to be from a known source making a legitimate request.”

Emails from a compromised/hacked email account or a spoofed email address.

Ultimately intended to implant malware, collect valuable information and/or deceive its target into disbursing funds to a fraudulent bank account.

Fraud disguised as plausible activities:

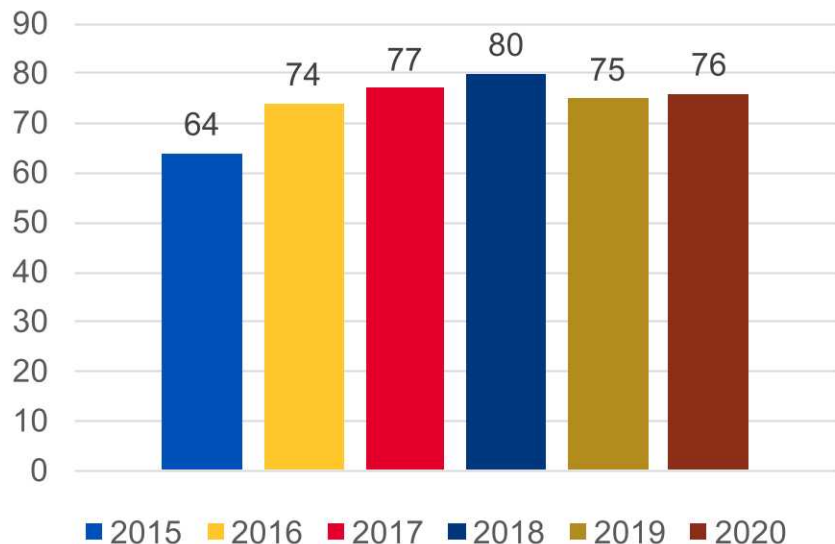
- A vendor your company regularly deals with emails you an invoice.
- Your customer wishes to pay you and initiates an email seeking your ACH or Wire instructions.
- A company owner instructs their bookkeeper to initiate a wire to a new supplier.



Business Email Compromise



Percentage of Organizations that Experienced BEC



2020 Financial Impacts

Nation

- 19,369 claims reported to IC3 (FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center)
- \$1.8 billion in financial losses
- 34% of AFP survey respondents reported financial loss

Oregon

- 263 claimants
- \$10,940,974 in losses

Washington

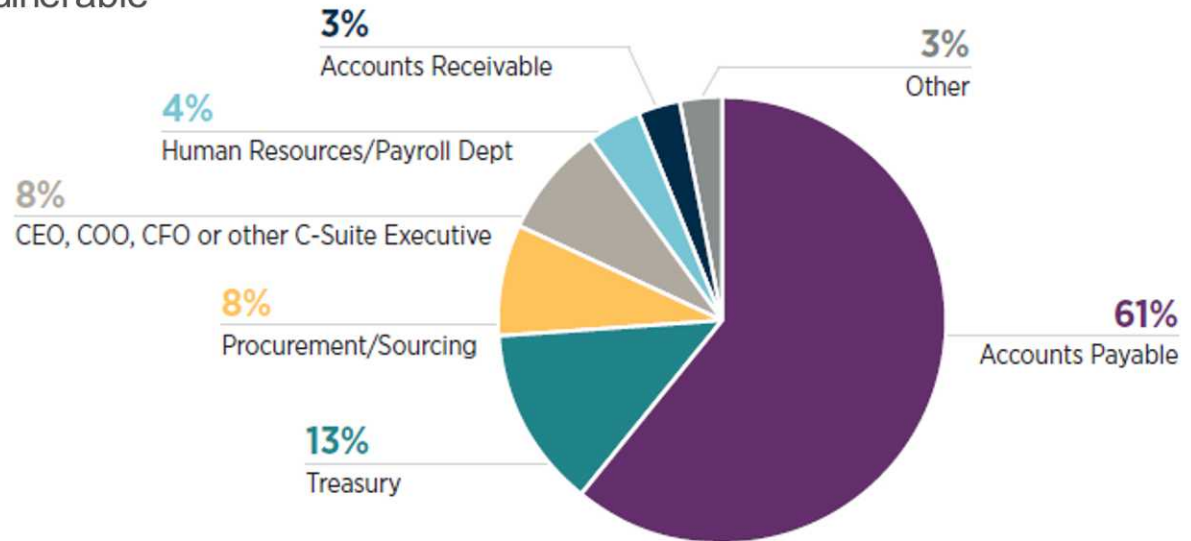
- 525 claimants
- \$38,009,931 in losses



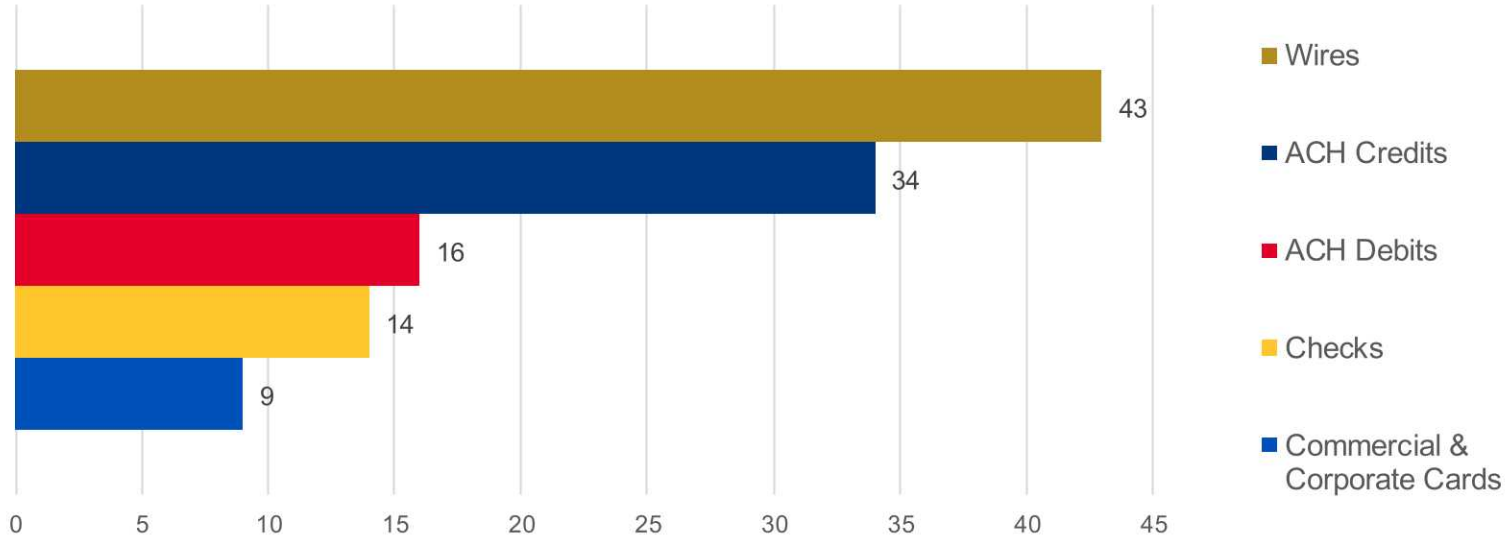
Targets within an Organization

- Accounts Payable most vulnerable
- Treasury
- Procurement/Sourcing
- Executives
- HR/Payroll
- Accounts Receivable

Departments Most Vulnerable to BEC Fraud



Payment Methods Impacted by Business Email Compromise





— Preventative Measures

Fraud Prevention



Reconcile accounts daily,
Checks and ACH debits

Use Check and ACH
Positive Pay

Rely on ACH initiation for
payroll and B2B payments,
reduce reliance on checks

Utilize dual user controls
for ACH & Wires; one user
to initiate, another to
approve

NEVER initiate an ACH or
wire transfer solely based
on emailed instructions or
an inbound call.

Phone verify (*w/ known
numbers*) ALL emails
requesting funds transfers
and/or ANY changes to
existing beneficiary
account details.

Fraud Prevention



Educate your staff. Employees are the first and last line of defense. Ensure they understand they are top target of hackers.

Prevent social engineering by exercising restraint publishing employee information on company websites or social media.

Be skeptical of requests from strangers to join LinkedIn or other social networking sites.

Scrutinize all emails. Do not open unsolicited emails or click on embedded links/attachments. Notify IT.

Be wary of “internal” emails or from a “trusted source” i.e. an executive requesting secrecy or applying pressure to act with urgency

Immediately report criminal activity to your bank, local authorities and the FBI’s IC3 division:
<https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>



Top Recommendations to Prevent Fraud



#1 TIP: Educate and train your staff. ★
They are your greatest asset & weakest link!

ALSO:

- Create formal policy and procedures
- Reconcile your accounts *daily*
- Utilize Check & ACH Positive Pay
- Initiate payments via ACH when and where possible (reduce check usage)
- Implement dual-user controls for all ACH & Wire Payments
- Phone verify ALL new and/or updated payment requests
- Contact your bank and authorities immediately if you doubt any transaction or experience fraud



Resources



- Banner Bank:

<https://www.bannerbank.com/financial-resources/security>

- Federal Trade Commission

[Start with Security: A Guide for Business | Federal Trade Commission \(ftc.gov\)](#)

- Federal Bureau of Investigation

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber>

- Internet Crime Complaint Center

<https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>



Questions & Answers



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