



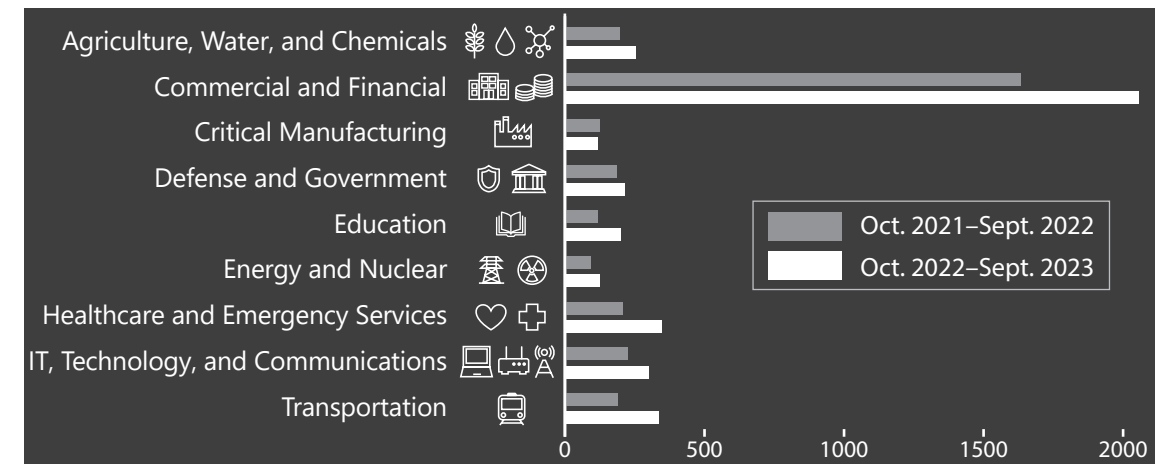
Worldwide Ransomware Activity October 2022–September 2023: Europe, North America, and Asia Among Top Targeted Regions

Ransomware attacks continue to pose a persistent global security threat, causing countrywide disruptions, inflicting financial harm on private and public entities, and threatening critical infrastructure. Between October 2022 and September 2023, the number of claimed ransomware attacks increased in the US by 51 percent and worldwide, excluding the US, by 30 percent compared with the preceding 12 months. Ransomware actors have constantly evolved their tradecraft to successfully breach their targets and evade law enforcement disruption.

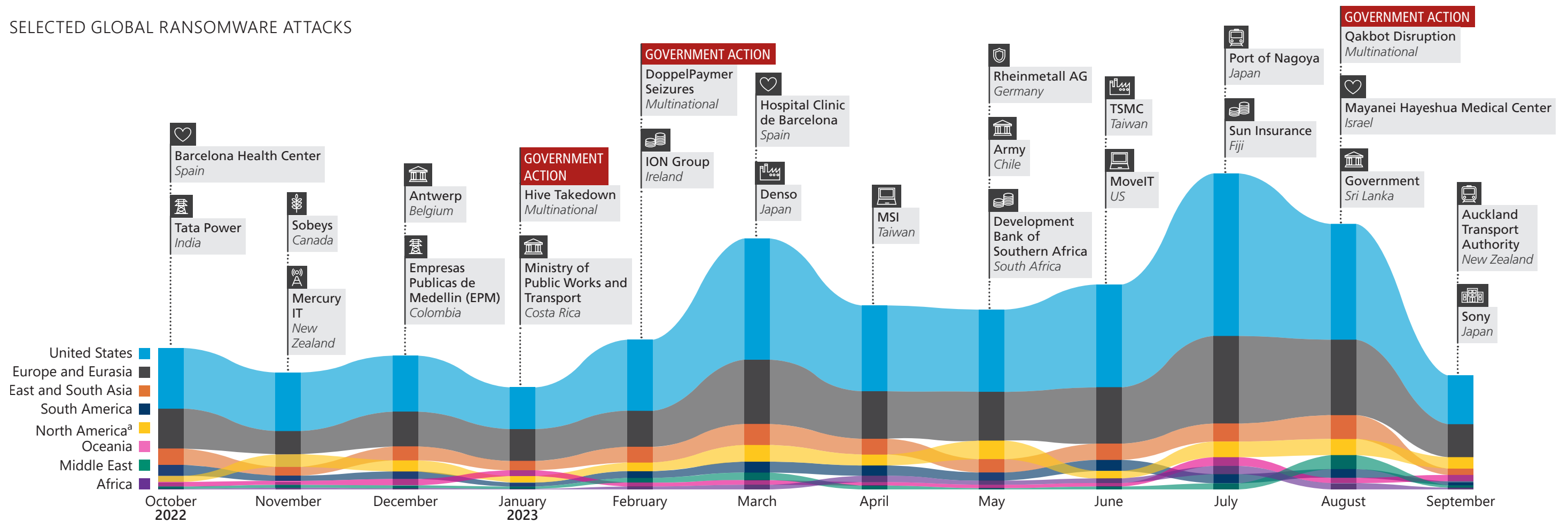
- Thus far in 2023, CIOP ransomware actors conducted two novel campaigns that abused zero-day exploits to compromise hundreds of victims across the globe, and LockBit’s ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) was again the top variant, with actors who used it claiming about one-quarter of all attacks. Victims’ hesitance to report incidents and incomplete data on ransom payments stymie efforts to comprehensively track the effects of this activity.

Methodology Note: The data underlying this analysis is drawn from CTIIC’s dataset, which captures 10,500 worldwide ransomware events claimed by malicious actors between 1 January 2020 and 30 September 2023—typically after a victim refused to pay a ransom—and from open-source research and cybersecurity firm information, including daily collection from data leak websites and dark web forums. The dataset defines ransomware events as attacks in which malicious actors encrypt or steal data and then press victims for payments to either decrypt or return the data or to refrain from disclosing it publicly. CTIIC used a machine learning model trained on a set of manually matched examples to combine cybersecurity firm ransomware event information into a single dataset. CTIIC grouped the attacks by malware variant or actor involved (including groups, affiliates, and RaaS customers) and by US-defined critical infrastructure sector. CTIIC determined the victim’s location by its headquarters.

TOTAL RANSOMWARE ATTACKS WORLDWIDE BY SECTOR



SELECTED GLOBAL RANSOMWARE ATTACKS



^aExcludes US attack claims.

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TARGETED SECTORS BY REGION, EXCLUDING US ACTIVITY
October 2022–September 2023

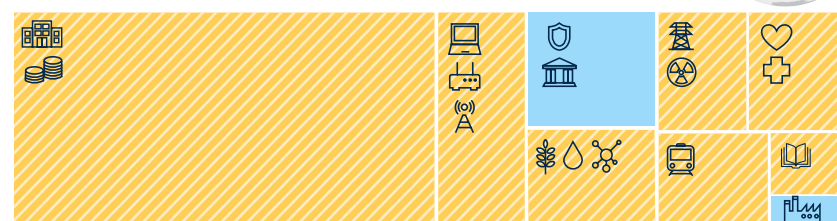
Change from the preceding 12 months: INCREASE NO CHANGE DECREASE

- SECTORS**
- AGRICULTURE
 - WATER
 - CHEMICALS
 - COMMERCIAL
 - FINANCIAL
 - CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
 - DEFENSE
 - GOVERNMENT
 - EDUCATION
 - ENERGY
 - NUCLEAR
 - HEALTHCARE
 - EMERGENCY SERVICES
 - IT
 - TECHNOLOGY
 - COMMUNICATIONS
 - TRANSPORTATION

The portion of global ransomware activity affecting the US during the past 12 months—47 percent, based on CTIIC data—obscures the actual level of global activity associated with individual regions. The charts below exclude US data to provide a clearer picture of regional activity. The total year-on-year percent change in activity, based on CTIIC data, is noted below each chart.

AFRICA

4%
OF GLOBAL
ACTIVITY



Up 74 percent; although this increase was the largest among the regions, Africa remained the least-targeted region.

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

15%
OF GLOBAL
ACTIVITY



Up 31 percent; significant increases in defense and government; IT, technology, and communications; and healthcare and emergency services sectors.

^bWe have not observed any claimed attacks in Russia.
^cExcludes US attack claims.

NORTH AMERICA EXCLUDING US

12%
OF GLOBAL
ACTIVITY



Up 46 percent, with the commercial and financial sector hit the hardest.

EUROPE AND EURASIA^b

51%
OF GLOBAL
ACTIVITY



Up 9 percent; the commercial and financial sector accounted for the most claimed attacks; IT, technology, and communication sectors experienced the highest percent increase in attack claims.

OCEANIA

5%
OF GLOBAL
ACTIVITY



Up 46 percent; although the total number of claims remained low, the education sector and the defense and government sector experienced the largest percent increases.

SOUTH AMERICA

8%
OF GLOBAL
ACTIVITY



Up 24 percent; no sector exhibited a noteworthy rise in activity compared with the preceding 12 months.

MIDDLE EAST

5%
OF GLOBAL
ACTIVITY



Up 19 percent; largest increase in healthcare and emergency services sector.

TOP FIVE VARIANTS WORLDWIDE^c October 2022–September 2023

