

Crypto threats



Investors encounter scams, fraudulent websites, identity theft and stolen money

Crypto trading has exploded in popularity in recent years, however, in addition to recent market volatility, a number of security issues have arisen. In order to learn more about the risk to individual users of scams and theft, Kaspersky surveyed 2,000 American adults between October 20 and 24, 2022 about their experiences with those things, as well as the steps they take to protect their crypto assets.

Key findings

- A **third** of respondents who own or have owned cryptocurrency or other crypto assets have had them stolen.
- The average value of the theft was **\$97,583**.
- A **third** of respondents who own or have owned cryptocurrency or other crypto assets said they have fallen victim to a fraudulent crypto-related website or investment scam.
- Among those victims, **19%** experienced identity theft, and **27%** had payment details stolen and money taken from their bank account.

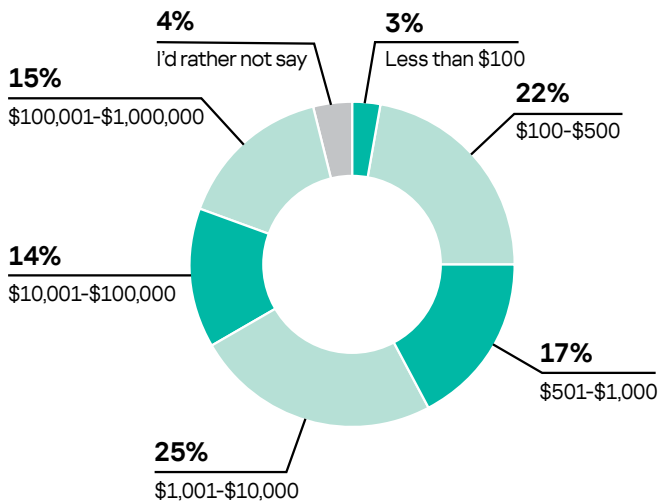
Age differences

- **36%** of respondents aged 25-44 currently own cryptocurrency or crypto assets, compared to just **10%** of respondents aged 55+.
- Nearly half (**47%**) of respondents aged 18-24 said they have had cryptocurrency or a crypto asset stolen, while just **8%** of respondents aged 55+ said the same.

Protection measures needed

- **24%** of respondents currently own cryptocurrency or other crypto assets.
- On average, respondents said the last time they checked on their crypto investments was **six weeks ago**.
- **32%** of respondents who own or have owned cryptocurrency or other crypto assets said they have lost access to a crypto-related account.
- **27%** of users keep their crypto stored in an exchange account with no added protection, while only **34%** use multi-factor authentication to protect their account.
- **25%** said they use an online wallet or browser plugin, **15%** use a desktop wallet, **15%** use a cold wallet not connected to the internet, and **11%** use a paper wallet.

Value of the theft



Result of falling victim to a fraudulent crypto-related app, website or investment scam

Cryptocurrency stolen	33%
Payment details stolen and money stolen from my bank account	27%
I lost access to my account	24%
Payment details stolen but no financial loss or identity theft	19%
I experienced identity theft	19%
No significant harm was done	8%
I'd rather not say	4%
Other	1%

How users store seed phrases and private keys



Steps users take to protect their crypto assets



“From scams to malware to cryptojacking, there is a long list of threats lurking online to target cryptocurrencies. Without any regulation or established common knowledge, people need to take care to protect themselves. This survey data shows a lot of people are falling victim, getting their crypto stolen in many cases, and in many others, losing real money and experiencing identity theft. Users should be very careful where they invest their money, keeping a close eye out for phishing scams and fake websites. They should employ any extra security measures that are available to them, such as multi-factor authentication, and should use strong, unique passwords across all accounts. Consumer security solutions like Kaspersky Premium offer further protection against crypto scams and other threats,” said Marc Rivero, Senior Security Researcher at Kaspersky’s Global Research and Analysis Team.