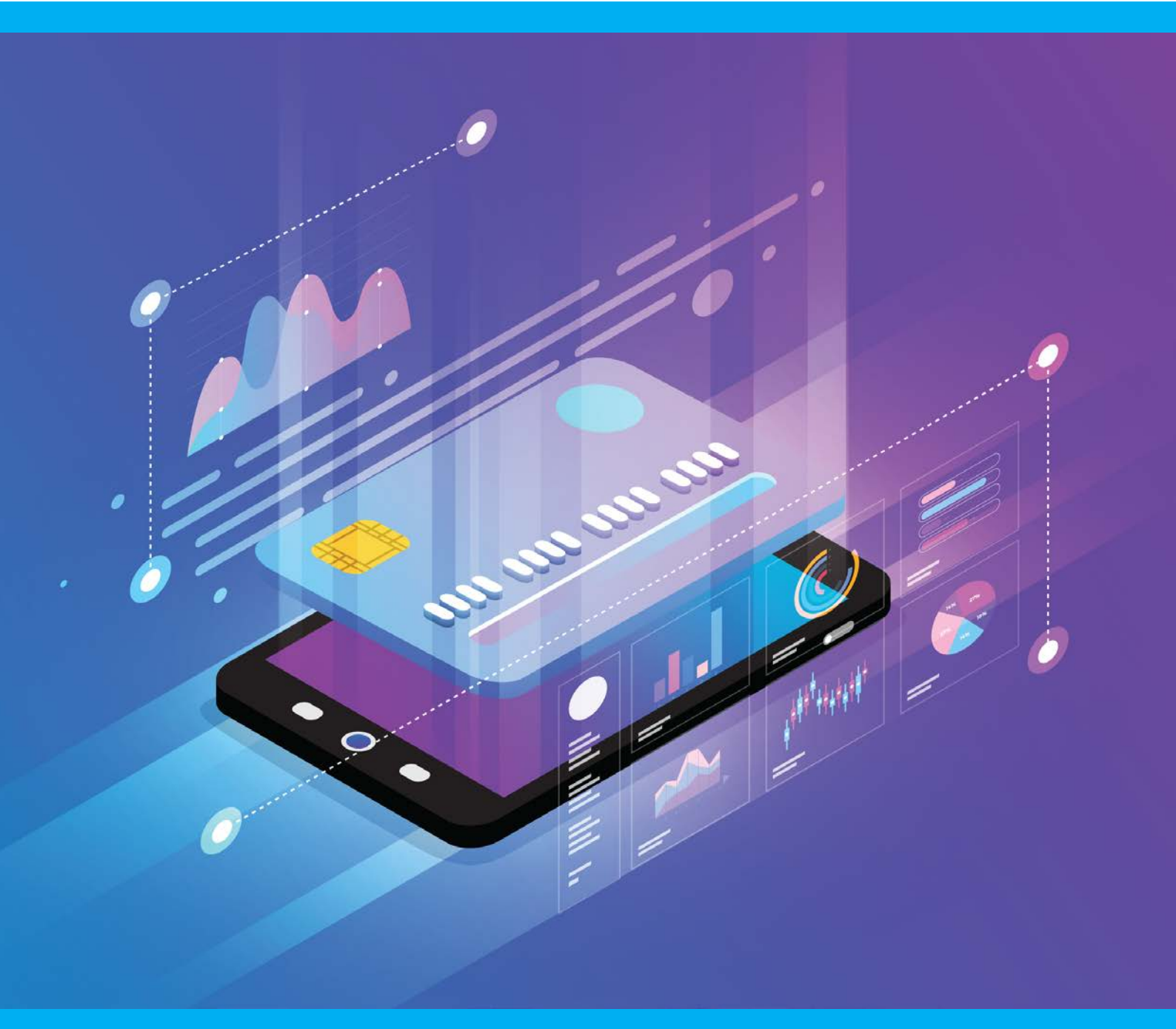




# GLOBAL PAYMENTS & FRAUD REPORT 2022



In partnership with



Building  
Better Commerce  
Fraud & Payments Professionals

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## Overview

The Merchant Risk Council (MRC), Cybersource, and Verifi are pleased to present the results of the 2022 Global Fraud and Payments Survey, an educational report that conveys transparent and unbiased research. This report is based on a survey of MRC and non-MRC merchants from around the globe, who were asked about their eCommerce fraud and payments practices. The survey sample included a diverse mix of small businesses (SMBs), mid-market and enterprise merchants, representing organizations based throughout the North American, European, Asia-Pacific (APAC) and Latin American (LATAM) regions. The research was conducted in November and December of 2021.

The survey results provide the MRC merchant community with the latest industry fraud data and fraud management methods used by their peers, along with a robust set of performance benchmarks that members can use to help optimize their fraud management and prevention practices. In addition, the survey delves into today's rapidly changing payments landscape to examine the range of different payment acceptance, management and partnership practices merchants are deploying, globally and across key subsegments, as well as the reasons why they are adopting these payment strategies and tactics in the current commercial environment.

The MRC would like to thank the participants for taking the time to complete the online survey, Cybersource and Verifi for managing the research, and B2B International for directing the program and providing the analysis.

## Executive Summary

The key findings from the 2022 Fraud and Payments survey are organized into five focus areas. Each area covers a central question integral to understanding the state of eCommerce fraud and payments from the merchant perspective.

The first three focus areas cover questions related to eCommerce fraud, specifically:

- 01 What effect is fraud having on merchant businesses today?
- 02 What types of fraud attacks are merchants experiencing?
- 03 What strategic and tactical approaches are merchants using to prevent and manage fraud?

The final two focus areas delve into questions related to eCommerce payments, specifically:

- 04 What practices and partners are merchants using to accept eCommerce payments?
- 05 How are merchants optimizing payment processes and platforms?

The key, high-level insights from each of the five focus areas are summarized below:



## 1. Business Impacts of Fraud – *What are the effects of fraud?*

- Globally, fraud costs and KPIs all increased (or worsened) for a second consecutive year, yet most merchants did not increase the share of revenue they spend to manage fraud. Merchants in North America were the only segment to increase fraud management spending, likely due, in part, to the significant upticks they registered in costs and KPIs.
- MRC members continue to outperform non-MRC members across the board on fraud management KPIs: MRC merchants in our survey report fraud rates by revenue that are 5 to 8 times lower, order rejection rates that are 50 to 60 percent lower, and shares of accepted orders that are fraudulent that are 5 times lower, when compared to non-members.
- Most merchants still seek to reduce dependency on manual order review, and this aim may now be translating to action, given slight decreases this year in the share of orders manually reviewed and the share of reviewed orders that are ultimately rejected.
- Merchants generally feel well-prepared for the amendment to the European Commission's Payment Services Directive, specifically involving the implementation of Strong Customer Authentication (known as PSD2 / SCA) and for the implementation of EMV® 3DS – two important new requirements being implemented in specific countries that will collectively bolster anti-fraud postures in the near future. MRC members, in particular, are feeling far more prepared to incorporate these into their businesses this year than they did in 2021.



## 2. Range of Fraud Attacks – *Where are merchants most vulnerable?*

- Phishing / pharming, card testing, identity theft, and first-party misuse remain the most prevalent fraud attacks, each affecting more than 3 in 10 merchants globally.
- MRC members continue to register a wider variety of fraud attacks than non-members (due in part to their more robust fraud detection tools, the enhanced education and ongoing training they receive from the MRC about the various types of fraud attacks impacting the marketplace, and the collaboration and networking opportunities they are afforded with other MRC merchants).
- Globally, on average, merchants believe 16% of fraudulent disputes should be attributed to first-party misuse (or “friendly fraud”), with the majority of disputed transactions a result of issues with cardholders aiming to obtain free goods, confusion about transaction descriptors, or issuers incorrectly filing disputed transactions as fraud. In some regions and sectors, merchant estimates for this figure ranged as high as 1 in 5.



### 3. Fraud Prevention Strategies – *How are merchants addressing the issue of eCommerce fraud?*

- The top priority driving fraud management strategies changed over the past year: More merchants now prioritize reducing fraud and chargebacks as their primary imperative, versus optimizing the customer experience, which was the main goal for most in 2021. In part, this strategic shift may be driven by rising fraud costs and KPIs.
- At the tactical level, merchants report using an average of four fraud detection tools and services, in total. Payment card and identity verification services, along with 3D-Secure and two-factor phone authentication, are the most widely used tools. But MRC members we surveyed use twice as many fraud detection and prevention tools as non-members, on average – a strategic investment that may be paying major dividends, given the much lower (better) fraud metrics they are reporting, compared to non-members.



### 4. Payment Acceptance and Partners – *How are merchants being paid?*

- Most eCommerce merchants accept payments via digital wallets, direct debit, cards, and mCommerce mobile payments. The vast majority (nearly 9 in 10) encourage customers to pay via preferred methods, mainly to minimize risk of payment fraud.
- Third-party payments, buy now pay later (BNPL), digital wallet, and mobile payments are the fastest growing payment methods; most merchants who accept these added them in the past year. Improving the customer experience is the top reason merchants add new methods, but reaching new customer segments and markets, as well as “going mobile,” are important drivers too. Similar motivations also drive most to sell goods on third-party marketplaces.
- Merchants leverage multiple payment processors and acquiring banks to support omnichannel payments. Maximizing flexibility, geographic coverage, uptime, and authorizations represent merchants’ main motivations for utilizing multiple acquirers.



### 5. Payment Management – *How are merchants optimizing processes and platforms?*

- Merchants are experimenting with a diverse range of novel retail approaches, such as buy now pay later (or BNPL) and buy online pickup in store (BOPIS), as well as new customer experiences to facilitate payments, like AI chatbots and face-to-pay technologies. But all of these have yet to be widely adopted. APAC, LATAM, mid-market, and enterprise merchants, as well as non-MRC members, are more likely to be early adopters of these new approaches and experiences.
- On average, merchants use 2 to 3 different approaches or techniques to optimize payment authorization. EMV® 3DS, intelligent routing, machine learning and automated retries are most common. Most use third-party data in association with each technique.
- MRC members are more likely to have a sophisticated approach to payment management, with most using tokenization, employing authorization-boosting techniques, and monitoring a larger and wider range of payment KPIs.

## Survey Firmographics

The survey was fielded in November and December of 2021. A total of 1,060 merchants involved in eCommerce fraud and payment management (including 45 MRC members) participated in the research. The sample includes merchants based in four major geographic regions, with broad representation across all size tiers, sales channels and categories. The breakdown of the total merchant sample across key firmographics is depicted in the charts below.

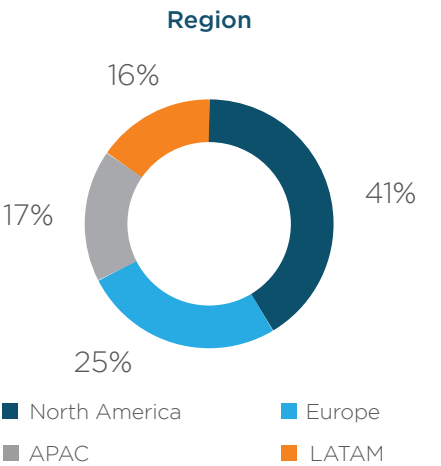


Figure 1

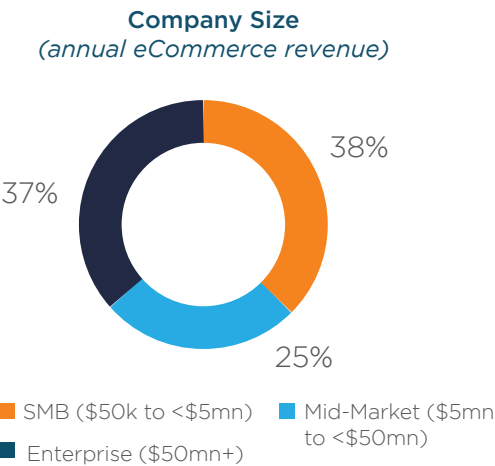


Figure 2

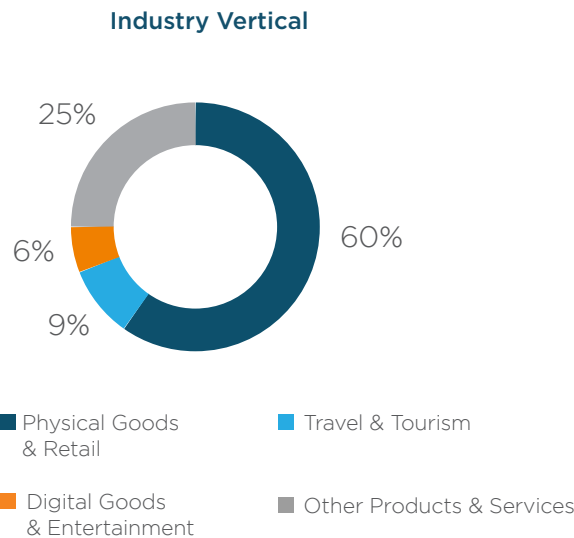


Figure 3

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of MRC members in the survey sample are based in North America (29 out of 45), with the remainder largely based in Europe (14 out of 45). 85 percent of MRC merchants in the survey are enterprises with over \$50mn in annual eCommerce revenue (40 out of 45).

# 1. Business Impact of Fraud: Key Findings



The first section of this report focuses on how eCommerce fraud is affecting merchants, how fraud management KPIs and investments have changed over the past year, and where merchants have been successful in thwarting fraud attacks and mitigating harmful impacts. In addition, this section delves into the topic of manual order review to shed light on how integral this process is to merchant fraud management strategies, now and in the future. Lastly, this section examines merchant readiness for PSD2 / SCA and EMV® 3DS compliance.

## Fraud Costs and KPIs Continue to Rise

For the second year in a row, merchants reported across-the-board increases in multiple key indicators that measure the extent to which fraud is impacting eCommerce. From more revenue being lost to fraud to more eCommerce orders being rejected as fraudulent to increasing chargebacks and disputes, the average figures merchants reported for every key indicator tracked in the survey increased over the past year globally, on average (see Figure 4).

Table Shows Fraud Management KPIs  
(Trimmed averages shown for all KPIs)

			By Region - 2022				By Size - 2022			By Membership - 2022	
	2021	2022	North America	Europe	APAC	LAT AM	SMB	Mid-Market	Enterprise	MRC Member	Non-Member
% of eCommerce revenue lost to payment fraud globally	3.1	3.6	3.6 <span>↑</span> (2.6)	3.0 <span>↑</span> (3.2)	4.3 <span>↑</span> (4.0)	4.2 <span>↑</span> (3.7)	2.9 <span>↑</span> (3.0)	4.1 <span>↑</span> (3.4)	3.7 <span>↑</span> (3.0)	0.7 <span>↑</span> (0.8)	3.7 <span>↑</span> (3.4)
% of eCommerce revenue lost to payment fraud from domestic orders	3.0	3.4	3.6 <span>↑</span> (2.5)	2.8 <span>↑</span> (2.9)	3.3 <span>↓</span> (3.9)	3.6 <span>↑</span> (3.9)	3.0 <span>↑</span> (2.7)	3.8 <span>↑</span> (3.4)	3.4 <span>↑</span> (3.1)	0.4 <span>↓</span> (1.0)	3.5 <span>↑</span> (3.2)
Order rejection rate for domestic orders (%)	3.0	3.4	3.6 <span>↑</span> (2.8)	2.8 <span>↑</span> (2.8)	2.9 <span>↓</span> (3.8)	4.4 <span>↑</span> (4.0)	2.8 <span>↑</span> (2.4)	3.9 <span>↑</span> (3.7)	3.6 <span>↑</span> (3.3)	2.1 <span>↑</span> (2.1)	3.4 <span>↑</span> (3.2)
Order rejection rate for international orders (%)	5.6	6.0	6.3 <span>↑</span> (5.0)	5.1 <span>↑</span> (5.6)	5.3 <span>↑</span> (5.7)	7.0 <span>↑</span> (6.9)	5.3 <span>↑</span> (5.1)	6.7 <span>↑</span> (6.2)	6.0 <span>↑</span> (5.5)	3.0 <span>↑</span> (2.7)	6.1 <span>↑</span> (5.8)
% of domestic eCommerce orders that turned out to be fraudulent	2.6	3.1	3.2 <span>↑</span> (2.2)	2.7 <span>↑</span> (2.5)	2.9 <span>↓</span> (3.6)	3.4 <span>↑</span> (3.5)	2.6 <span>↑</span> (2.3)	3.7 <span>↑</span> (3.0)	3.1 <span>↑</span> (2.7)	0.6 <span>↑</span> (0.6)	3.2 <span>↑</span> (2.8)
% of international eCommerce orders that turned out to be fraudulent	3.0	3.4	3.3 <span>↑</span> (2.8)	3.0 <span>↑</span> (3.2)	3.7 <span>↑</span> (3.1)	4.0 <span>↑</span> (3.1)	3.0 <span>↑</span> (2.7)	3.8 <span>↑</span> (3.1)	3.3 <span>↑</span> (3.2)	0.7 <span>↑</span> (1.0)	3.5 <span>↑</span> (3.0)
% of eCommerce orders that led to chargebacks	2.7	3.1	3.4 <span>↑</span> (2.2)	2.3 <span>↑</span> (2.6)	2.9 <span>↓</span> (3.6)	3.8 <span>↑</span> (3.8)	2.6 <span>↑</span> (2.4)	3.7 <span>↑</span> (3.0)	3.3 <span>↑</span> (2.9)	0.2 <span>↑</span> (0.7)	3.2 <span>↑</span> (2.9)

↓ = Sig. Lower vs 2021    ↑ = Sig. Higher vs 2021

(%=2021 figures)

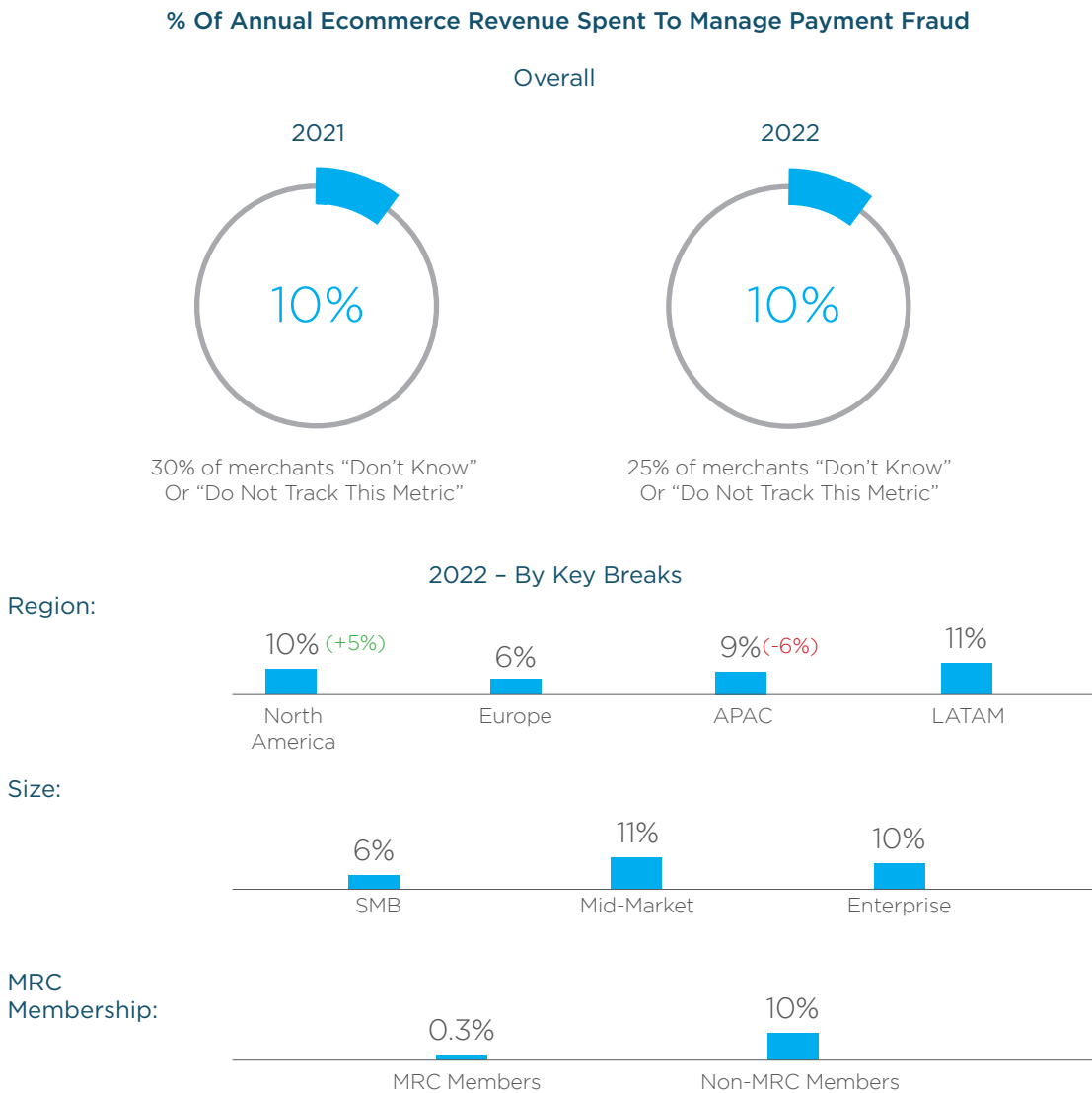
Figure 4

While the impacts of fraud have generally intensified worldwide, merchants in North America were hit particularly hard over the past year, reporting larger upticks in most fraud KPIs compared to those operating in other regions. On the other hand, merchants based in APAC saw significant declines in most fraud KPIs tracked by the survey, bringing their averages more in line with merchants in other regions, when compared to last year.

Mid-market merchants reported significant spikes across most fraud KPIs. The average values reported by mid-market merchants on every metric now exceed those of eCommerce businesses on the SMB and enterprise ends of the size spectrum. These midsize organizations may have disproportionate impacts from eCommerce fraud, as they are large enough to be appealing targets for fraudsters but have smaller budgets and fewer personnel, tools and resources to utilize for fraud prevention.

Fraud Management Spending Stays Flat

Despite rising fraud KPIs and revenue losses over the past year, merchants generally continue to spend the same amount on fraud management (as a share of total revenue). Globally, merchants spend an average of 10% of their eCommerce revenues to manage payment fraud – the same percentage recorded in 2021 (see Figure 5).



Note: Trimmed medians shown for all cost estimates.

(Parentheses show noteworthy trends compared to 2021; green text indicates an increase & red text indicates a decline)

Figure 5

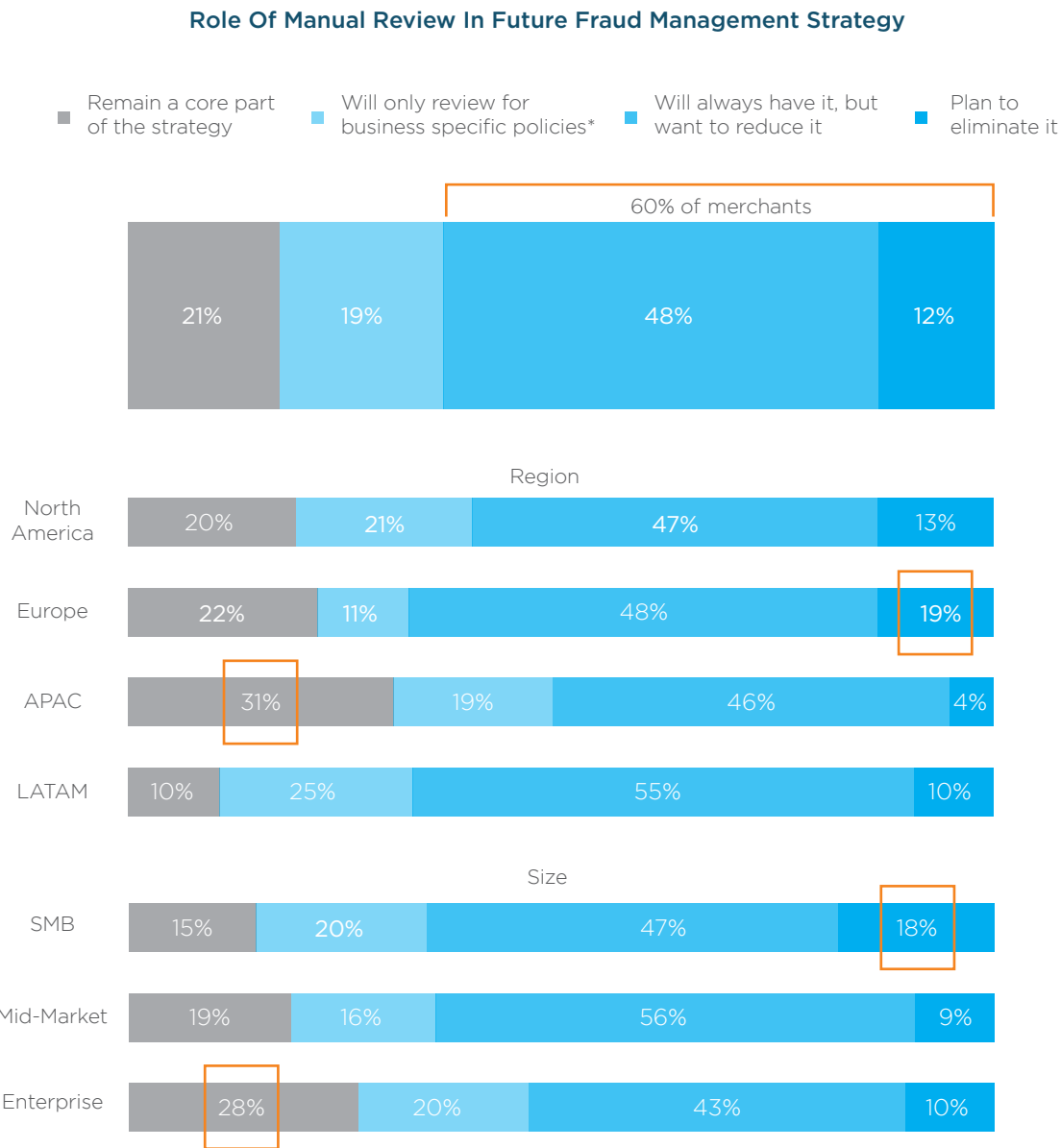


While spend among most merchant segments remained consistent, North American merchants doubled the average share of revenue they allocate to fraud management, from 5% last year to 10% this year. APAC-based merchants reduced spend slightly, bringing their outlay more in line with merchants in other regions.

Worth noting is the far lower share of revenue MRC members spend on managing payment fraud, compared to non-members – a significant difference that has remained consistent through consecutive years.

Most Still Aiming, And More Now Acting, To Reduce Manual Order Review

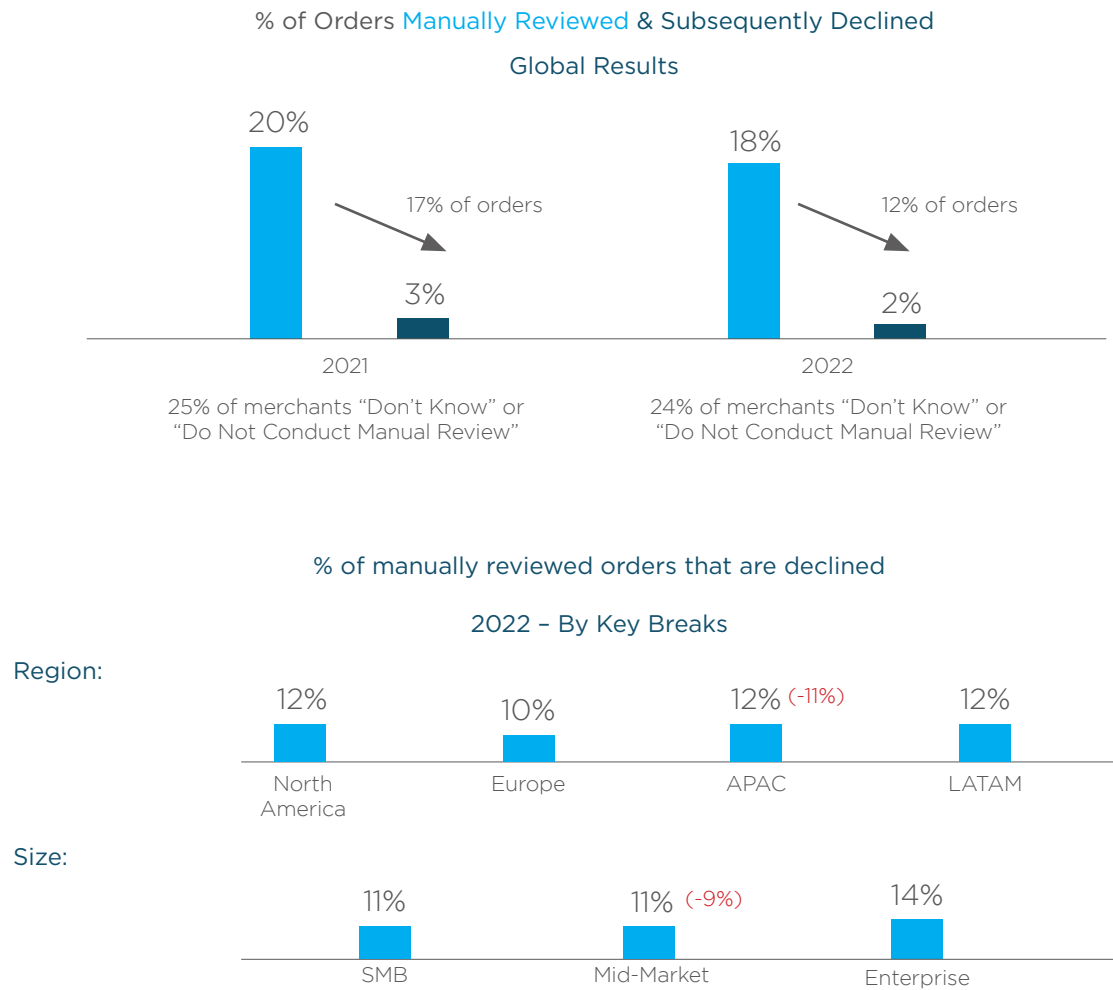
When it comes to the role of manual order review in merchant fraud management strategies, 60% seek to reduce their reliance on this process or eliminate it entirely. European merchants and SMBs are significantly more likely to lean in this direction, with around one-in-five looking to eliminate manual review. Merchants based in APAC and at the enterprise level skew more towards retaining it as a core part of their fraud management strategy (see Figure 6).



(\*policies include the likes of 1 PS5 per customer, only ship to certain countries, etc.)

Figure 6

There is some indication merchants are acting on their aim to reduce manual review, given that the share of orders manually screened and the share of screened orders that were subsequently declined due to suspicion of fraud, both decreased across all region and size segments over the past year (see Figure 7).



(Parentheses show noteworthy declines compared to 2021)

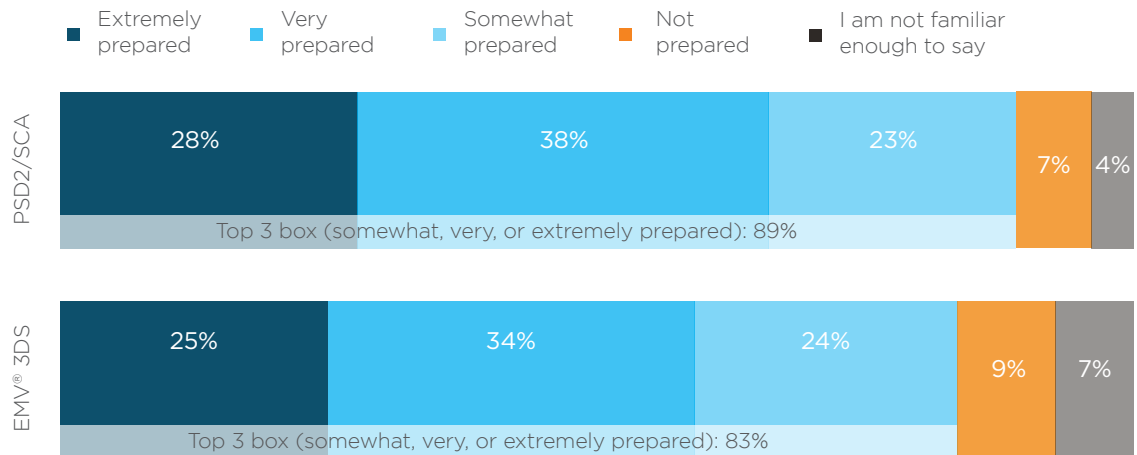
Figure 7

MRC members continue to take a markedly different approach to manual order review when compared to non-members. MRC merchants manually screen only 2% of total eCommerce orders – 10x fewer than the 20% screened by non-members, on average. MRC members are also half as likely to outsource their manual review process and twice as likely to say they plan to eliminate manual review entirely from their fraud management strategy, versus non-members.

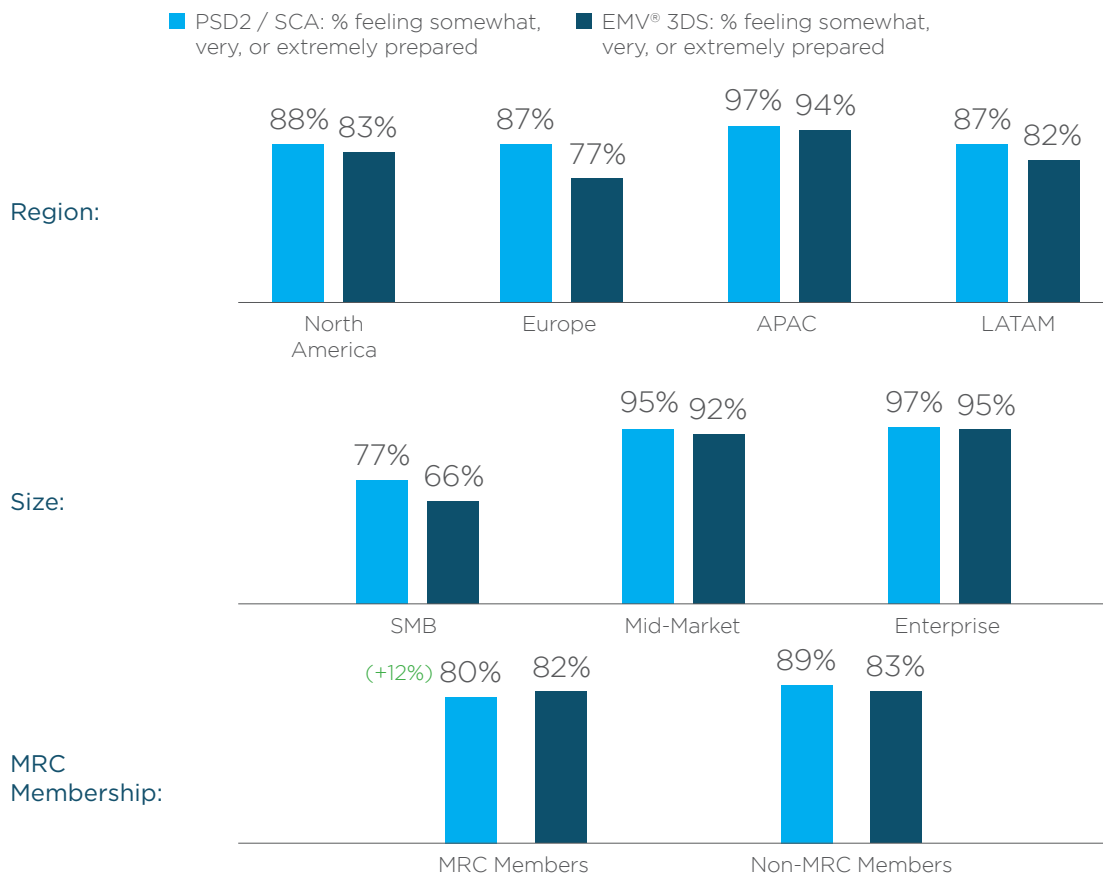
### Most Well-Prepared For PSD2 and EMV® 3DS To Enable Strong Customer Authentication (SCA)

Merchants are well-prepared to adapt to the evolving compliance and technical requirements driven by amendments to the EU's Payment Services Directive, or PSD2, as well as industrywide implementation of EMV® 3DS. Around 6 in 10 feel "very" or "extremely" prepared for both, versus 1 in 10 saying their organization is "not prepared". More MRC merchants are more prepared for these changes going into this year, compared to 2021 (see Figure 8).

## Merchant Preparedness For PSD2 / SCA & EMV® 3DS



## 2022 - By Key Breaks



(parentheses show noteworthy trends vs 2021)

Figure 8

The consensus around preparedness for the implementation of PSD2 Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) requirements is encouraging. Most merchants globally expect the regulation to have a major impact on their organization. This is especially the case for merchants based in the APAC and LATAM regions, for mid-market and enterprise merchants, and for non-MRC members.

## 2. Range of Fraud Attacks: Key Findings



This section of the report focuses on the types of fraud attacks eCommerce merchants are experiencing, globally and within specific regions and size segments, as well as among MRC members vs. non-members. In addition, this section discusses the top fraud-related challenges merchants are struggling to overcome and how they have shifted and evolved since the publication of the 2021 report.

### Top Fraud Attacks Remain Consistent

The four most prevalent forms of fraud faced by merchants remained consistent over the past year, as did their general incidence rates, in terms of the proportions of merchants who reported experiencing each of them. These top four fraud attacks are phishing / pharming / whaling, card testing, identity theft, and first-party misuse (also known as “friendly fraud”), and they all continue to impact around one-third of merchants, globally. That these fraud attacks aren’t experienced in isolation and are generally interrelated is a likely cause behind the prevalence of these most common attacks. Out of the top four, only first-party misuse has seen a slight decline in reported incidence, as it impacted 32% of merchants in this year’s survey, compared to 39% in 2021 (see Figure 9).

Type Of Fraud Attacks Experienced	Global % Experiencing (2022)	% of MRC Members Experiencing (2022)
Phishing / pharming / whaling	35%	56%
Card testing	34%	83%
Identity theft	33%	34%
First-Party Misuse (i.e., friendly fraud / chargeback fraud)	32%	76%
Account takeover	27%	60%
Loyalty fraud	25%	31%
Coupon / discount / refund abuse	25%	37%
Affiliate fraud	23%	29%
Botnets	17%	35%
Triangulation schemes	16%	40%
Re-shipping	15%	28%
Money laundering	14%	16%
AVG. # of attacks experienced	3	5

■ = Sig. Higher

Figure 9

## MRC Members Report Experiencing More Types of Attacks Than Non-Members

Once again, our research revealed a clear difference between MRC members and non-members, in terms of both the number and variety of fraud attacks faced by merchants in each group. MRC members continue to be far more likely to identify or register a greater number and variety of fraud attacks than non-members, with the former more familiar with a great number of fraud types, such as card testing, first-party misuse, account takeover and phishing / pharming attacks, compared to the latter (see Figure 9 on page above). While the trend of MRC merchants reporting more attacks than non-members is clear and consistent in our survey data, it remains an open question whether this is due to MRC members actually experiencing a larger number and range of attacks, whether this is due to MRC members having more fraud detection tools in place, which allows them to identify and register a larger share of the attacks that hit their systems, or some combination of both.

The top attacks reported by region and size also remained largely consistent with those in 2021, (as illustrated in figure 10, below), although there were significant shifts in incidence rates among certain segments. For instance, while card testing and first-party misuse are still the two most common fraud attacks reported by merchants in North America, the share of merchants citing each of these declined significantly. The same is true of incidence rates for loyalty fraud and coupon / discount / refund abuse among APAC merchants and of those for first-party misuse in the LATAM region. On the other hand, incidence rates for the top three attacks rose significantly among merchants based in Europe, as did the rate for identity theft in LATAM (see Figure 10).

Top Fraud Attacks Experienced by Region				Top Fraud Attacks Experienced by Company Size			
	North America	Europe	APAC	LATAM	SMB	Mid-Market	Enterprise
1	Card Testing ↓	Phishing/Pharming/Whaling ↑	Phishing/Pharming/Whaling	Card Testing	First-Party Misuse	Phishing/Pharming/Whaling	Phishing/Pharming/Whaling
2	First-Party Misuse ↓	Identity Theft ↑	Identity Theft	Phishing/Pharming/Whaling	Card Testing	Identity Theft	Card Testing
3	Phishing/Pharming/Whaling	Card Testing ↑	Card Testing	Identity Theft ↑	Phishing/Pharming/Whaling	Card Testing	Identity Theft
4	Identity Theft	First-Party Misuse	Loyalty Fraud ↓	Coupon/Discount/Refund abuse	Identity Theft	First-Party Misuse	Loyalty Fraud ↓
5	Account Takeover	Loyalty Fraud	Coupon/Discount/Refund abuse ↓	First-Party Misuse ↓	Account Takeover ↑	Loyalty Fraud	First-Party Misuse

↓ = Sig. Lower incidence vs. 2021

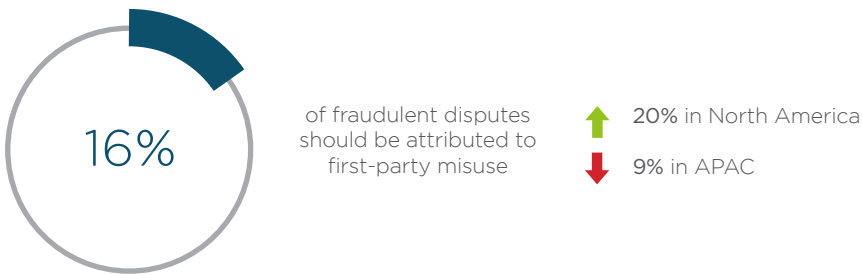
↑ = Sig. Higher incidence vs. 2021

Figure 10

## First-Party Misuse Represents Sizable Share of Fraud Attacks

First-party misuse, also referred to as “friendly fraud” or chargeback fraud, is believed by merchants to account for a sizable share of all fraud attacks or attempts (impacting around a third of merchants, as shown in the previous section of this report). Globally, merchants believe 16% of fraudulent disputes should be attributed to first-party misuse, and merchants state that most disputed transactions are the result of cardholders aiming to obtain free goods, confusion about transaction descriptors, or card issuers incorrectly processing general cardholder disputes as fraud (likely due, in part, to incentives issuers have to resolve disputes quickly). (see Figure 11 and Figure 12)

**% Of Disputes That Should Be Attributed To First-Party Misuse**



**Extent To Which Issuers Incorrectly File Disputed Transactions As Fraud**

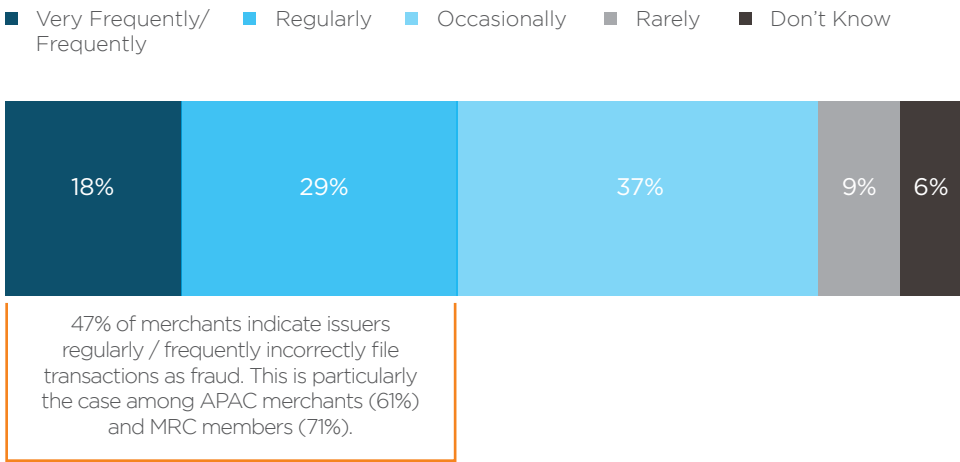


Figure 11

**Common Types Of First-Party Misuse (Drivers For Submitting Disputes)**

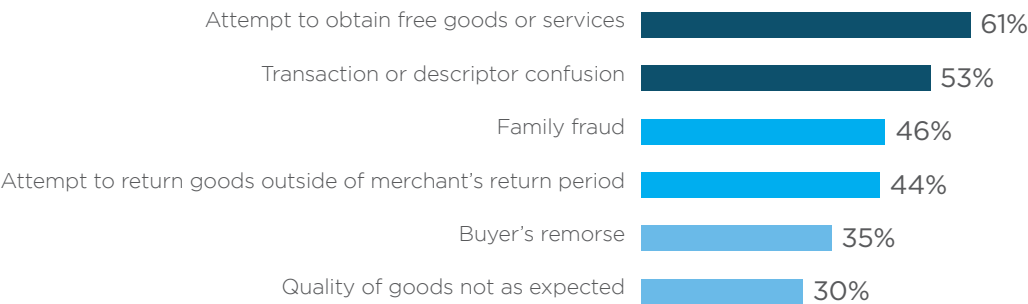


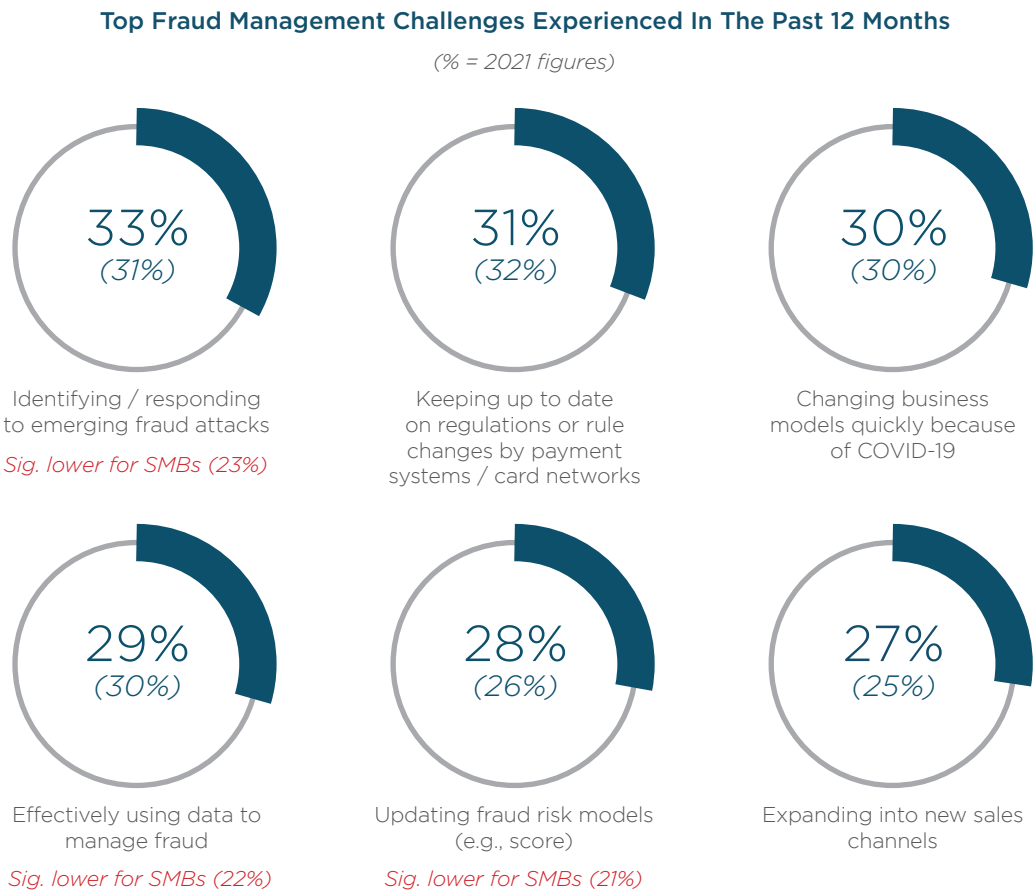
Figure 12

## Key Fraud Challenges Stay Consistent In Prevalence But Shift In Severity

Merchants must effectively prevent and mitigate fraud attacks while also grappling with a range of broader business challenges related to, and impacted by, fraud. The results of last year's fraud study illustrated both the relative incidence and severity of these fraud-related challenges, which were all tracked again in this year's survey.

The 2022 study makes clear the share of merchants facing each of these fraud-related challenges – or their respective incidence rates – has stayed remarkably consistent, year-on-year. The largest share of merchants are struggling to identify and respond to emerging fraud attacks, while also confronting the challenge of keeping up to date with payment regulations or rule changes by payment partners, and changing business models quickly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (see Figure 13).

Once again, mid-market and enterprise merchants remain far more likely to face many of these challenges, compared to SMBs. More MRC members surveyed, reported wrestling with a lack of sufficient internal resources and gaps in their fraud tool functionalities, versus non-members.



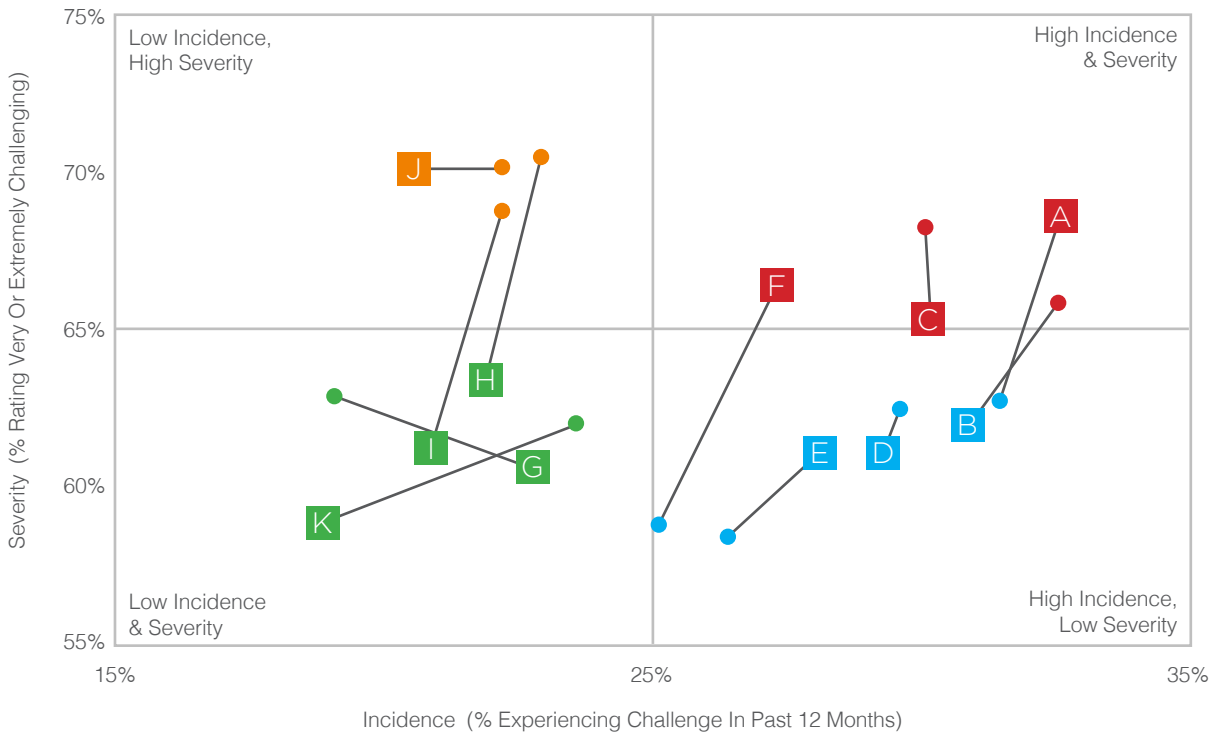
**Noteworthy differences by key breaks:**

More MRC members continue to be challenged by a **lack of sufficient internal resources and gaps in fraud tool functionalities** compared to non-members.

More Enterprise and mid-market merchants experienced the **vast majority of challenges**, compared to SMB merchants (with some key differences highlighted above).

Figure 13

While the nature and prevalence of fraud-related challenges stayed fairly consistent, what did change over the past year was the relative severity or difficulty each challenge presented to the merchants facing it. Figure 14, below, indicates how both the incidence and severity of each challenge has shifted, since 2021.



Bubbles in chart show positioning for 2021

- A**

**Identifying / responding to emerging fraud attacks**
- B**

**Keeping up to date on regulations or rule changes by payment systems**
- C**

**Changing business models quickly because of COVID-19 (e.g., leading to unplanned attacks, management challenges)**
- D**

**Effectively using data to manage fraud**
- E**

**Updating fraud risk models (e.g., score)**
- F**

**Expanding into new sales channels**
- G**

Gaps in fraud tool functionalities
- H**

Lack of sufficient internal resources
- I**

Lack of internal expertise
- J**

Managing omnichannel fraud
- K**

International expansion

Bolded text labels above show challenges with increasing severity

Figure 14

The challenges of identifying and responding to emerging fraud attacks, updating fraud risk models, and effectively managing fraud while expanding into new sales channels have become markedly more difficult for merchants to overcome. And while managing omnichannel fraud still has relatively low incidence compared to most other challenges, it remains an especially troublesome problem for the merchants it impacts. On the other hand, merchants are generally finding it less difficult now to overcome the challenges of staying up to date on payment regulations and payment partner rule changes, as well as managing fraud effectively despite the lack of internal resources and / or expertise, when compared to last year.



### 3. Fraud Prevention Strategies: Key Findings



Having discussed the impacts of eCommerce fraud on merchant businesses and the more prevalent and pernicious fraud attacks and challenges, the following section of insights examines how merchants are responding to prevent and mitigate fraud at both a strategic and tactical level.

#### Strategic Shift in Fraud Management Priorities

The survey shows there has been a significant shift in the top priority driving merchants' strategic approaches to fraud management and prevention. Compared to 2021, significantly more merchants are now prioritizing "reducing fraud and chargebacks" and "minimizing fraud-related operational costs," while significantly fewer are focused primarily on "improving the customer experience (or CX)" (see Figure 15). In part, this strategic shift may be driven by rising costs and KPIs associated with eCommerce fraud (as detailed in the first section of this report). Alternatively, some merchants may have decided they've improved the customer experience sufficiently over the past year and can now focus a bit more intently on reducing fraud and chargebacks or reducing fraud-related costs, instead.

Most MRC members, however, continue to cite improving CX as their top fraud management priority (likely because their performance on fraud management KPIs is better, i.e., they are lower), while non-members are more likely to be focused on reducing fraud and chargebacks or lessening fraud-related operational costs.

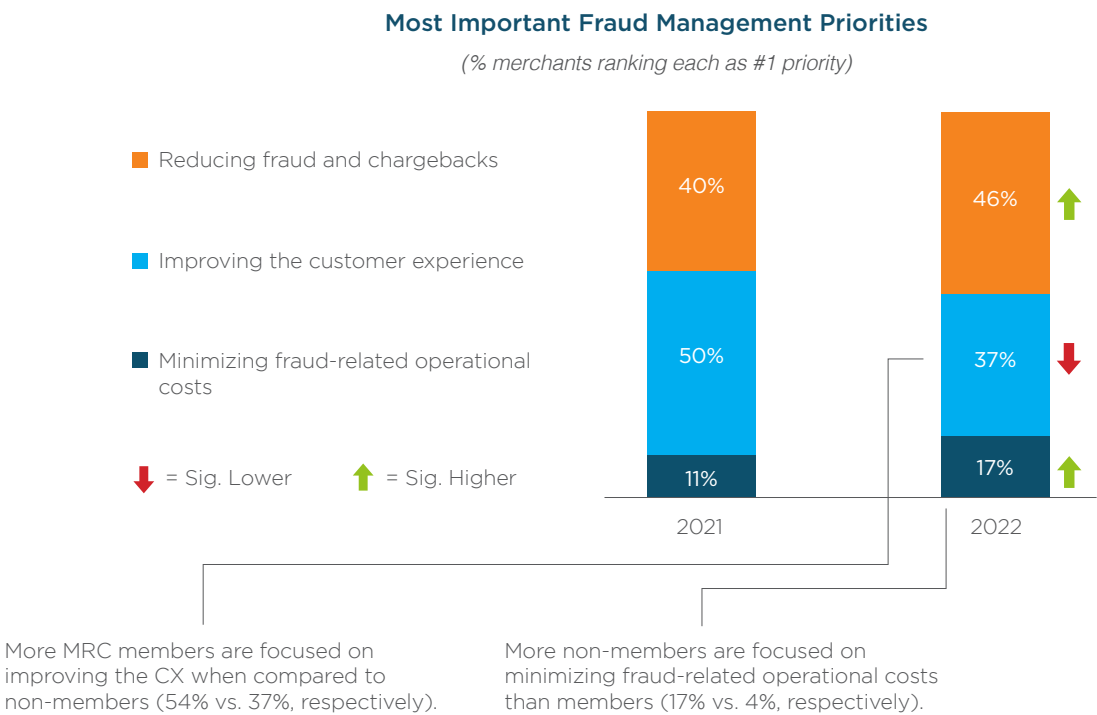


Figure 15

## Most Use Multiple Fraud Prevention Tools Now and Plan to Add More

Digging into the tools used by merchants for fraud prevention, they currently use an average of four different tools and services to detect and thwart fraud attacks. Credit card and identity verification services, along with EMV® 3DS and two-factor phone authentication, are the most widely used anti-fraud tools, each employed by around 35-40% of merchants, globally (see Figure 16). These, and other commonly used tools, such as geographic indicators and customer order histories, are also the tools most likely to be adopted by more merchants in the future.

MRC members continue to utilize a much wider range and larger number of fraud prevention tools than non-members. The average MRC merchant in our survey uses 8 tools – two times more than the global average. In particular, MRC merchants are far more likely than non-members to make use of list management tools (e.g., negative lists / blacklists, positive lists / whitelists), geographic indicators (e.g., maps, geo location for country, IP location, etc.), company-specific fraud scoring models, and order velocity monitoring to significantly enhance their ability to detect and thwart incoming fraud attacks (see Figure 16).

	Global % Using Tool (2022)	% of MRC Members Using Tool (2022)
Payment card verification services (e.g., AVS, CVN, etc.)	41%	73%
Identity validation / verification services	39%	60%
3-D Secure authentication	35%	62%
Two-factor phone authentication	37%	35%
Geographic indicators and comparisons	30%	78%
Customer order history	31%	69%
List management	29%	81%
Credit history checks	25%	5%
Biometric indicators	22%	20%
Device-based results	26%	65%
Fraud scoring model – company specific	23%	76%
Multi-merchant purchase velocity	19%	21%
Order velocity monitoring	18%	74%
Search engine results	21%	36%
Social networking sites	18%	39%
AVG. # of tools used	4.0	8.0

■ = Sig. Lower    ■ = Sig. Higher

Figure 16

As in previous years, enterprise merchants continue to use a significantly larger array of fraud prevention tools than SMBs, and while the usage of tools has remained largely consistent, some specific tools are increasingly adopted in certain markets (see Figure 17).

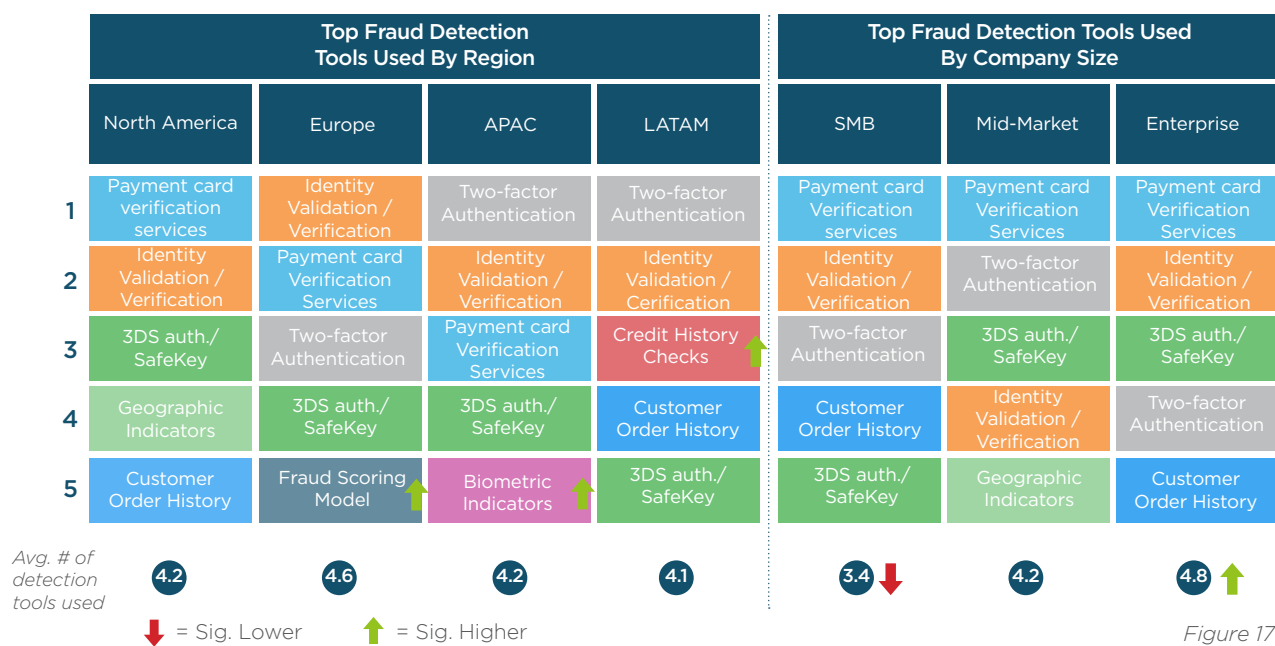


Figure 17

## Increasing Correlation Between Tool Usage and Effectiveness

In contrast to the trend reflected by the 2021 survey, many of the most widely used tools today are also considered the most effective at detecting and preventing fraud. These include payment card and identify verification services, two-factor authentication and EMV® 3DS authentication, customer order histories, geographic indicators, list management and device-based results (see Figure 18). There is room for merchants to improve their fraud prevention toolkits by adopting less widely used, but highly effective, tools and techniques – most notably, company-specific fraud scoring models, biometric indicators, and multi-merchant / order velocity monitoring (see Figure 18).

Fraud Detection Tool Usage vs. Effectiveness

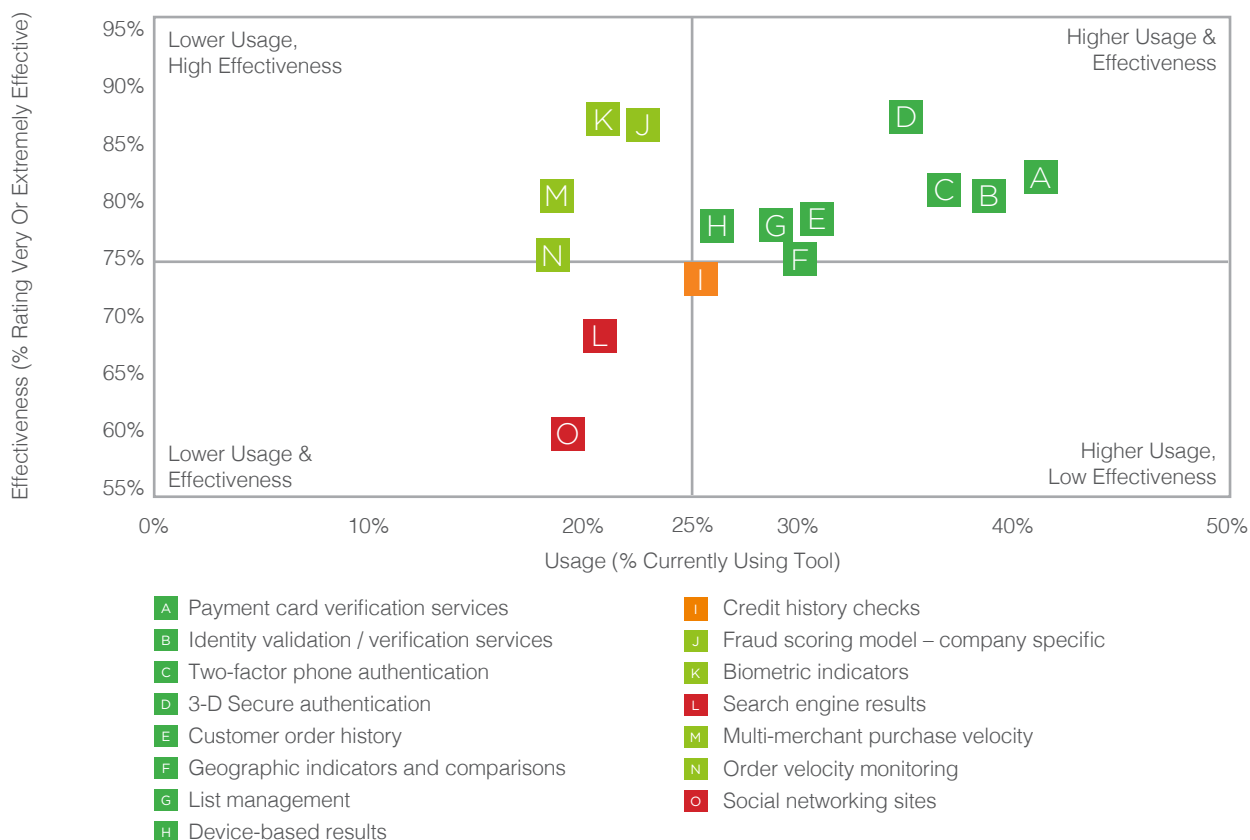


Figure 18

## 4. Payment Acceptance and Partners: Key Findings



In these final two sections, the focus is on eCommerce payments. Specifically, these sections examine how merchants are being paid by consumers and how they are managing and optimizing payment processes and operations.

This section delves into the question of how merchants are being paid – i.e., which payment methods they accept, how many processing and finance partners they use to support payment acceptance, and how their acceptance strategies and partnerships vary by region, size, and MRC membership status.

### Four Main Payment Methods Accepted and Preferred, With Digital and Mobile Payments Increasingly Accepted

Globally, eCommerce merchants currently accept payments via four primary methods: digital wallets, direct debit transfers, traditional cards and mCommerce mobile apps (such as PayPal mobile or Amazon one-click). Beyond these primary methods, cash is accepted by 45% of merchants, while gift cards and vouchers, third-party payments, and buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) payments are each accepted by around 3 in 10. Over the past 12 months, merchants have been more likely to add digital wallets and mCommerce mobile payments to their payment acceptance portfolio than any other methods (see Figure 19).

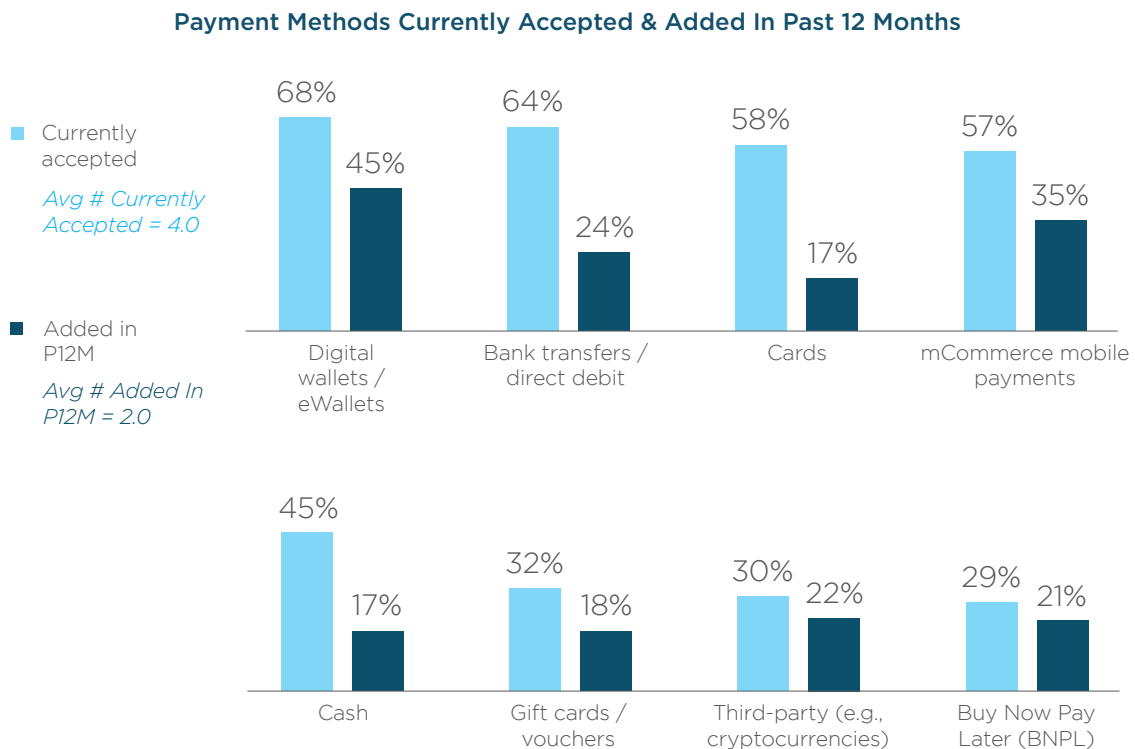


Figure 19

A closer look at Figure 19 points to some interesting trends regarding the fastest growing payment methods among eCommerce merchants globally. Third-party payments (e.g., cryptocurrency), BNPL, digital wallets, and mCommerce are being more readily adopted by merchants, with the majority of businesses currently accepting these methods adding each of them within the past year.

While there are few differences across merchant segments based on the average number of payment methods currently accepted, APAC-based merchants, mid-market and enterprise sized merchants, and non-MRC members have been more active over the past 12 months expanding the number of payment methods offered to customers (see Figure 20).

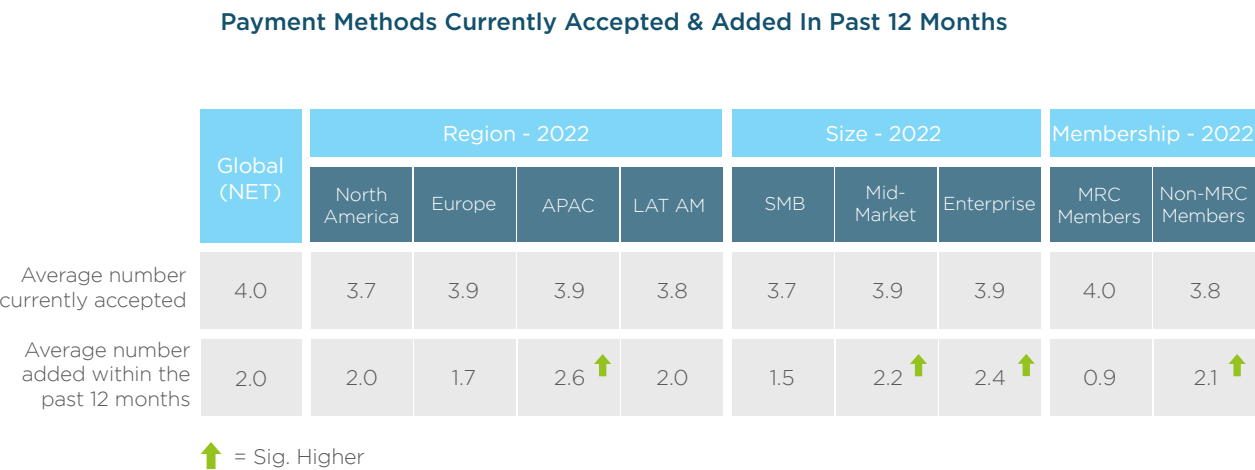


Figure 20

Merchants are adopting a multifaceted approach to adding new payment methods, driven primarily by the following factors:

- 01

A focus on improving customer experience  
(factor for 57% of merchants)
- 02

Reaching new customer segments  
(factor for 42% of merchants)
- 03

Providing access to new markets  
(factor for 40% of merchants)
- 04

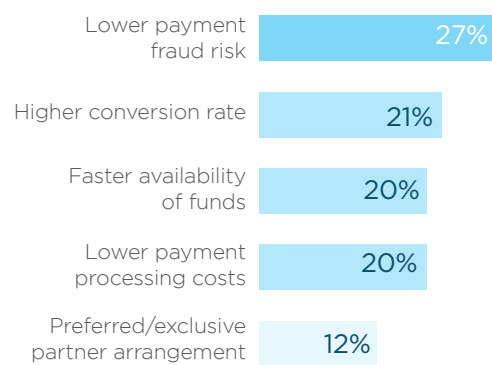
A desire to accept mobile payment methods  
(factor for 38% of merchants).

In other words, merchants are continually adjusting payment acceptance offerings to better satisfy current customers, as well as to better target and attract new ones.

At the same time, nearly 9 in 10 merchants encourage customers to pay via the merchant’s preferred methods (although MRC members and SMBs are significantly less likely to do so, with 38% and 75% pushing preferred methods, respectively), which yield maximum benefits in terms of the efficiency and profitability of payment operations. The top reasons for encouraging payments via merchant-preferred methods include lowering fraud risk, maximizing conversion rates, expediting availability of funds and minimizing processing costs (see Figure 21).

Merchants leverage several techniques to encourage customers to pay via preferred methods, including promoting these methods during the checkout process, offering or pre-selecting preferred payment methods prior to the main payment selection page, and providing incentives for customers to select preferred methods. (see Figure 21).

**Most Important Reasons For Encouraging Use Of Preferred Methods**



**Usage of Approaches To Encourage Use Of Preferred Methods**

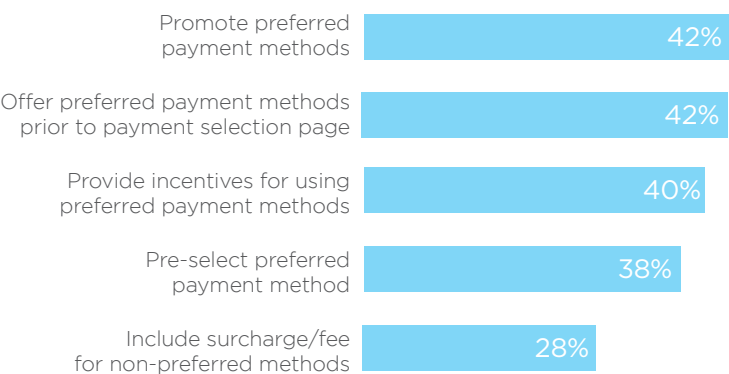
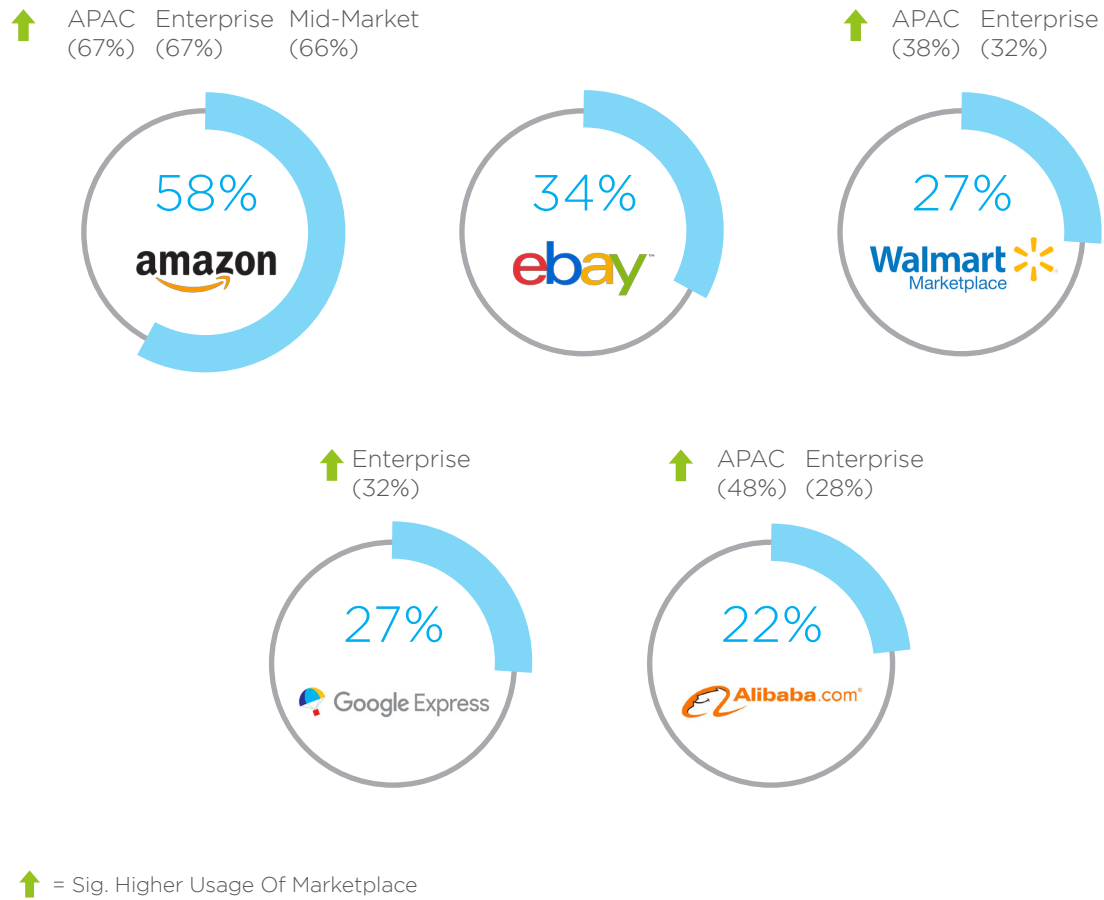


Figure 21

Customer-centric and competitive motivations also drive around 8 in 10 merchants to sell goods on third-party marketplaces (although marketplace usage is less common among SMB merchants and MRC members, with 64% and 22% of these segments using marketplaces, respectively). Amazon is used by the majority, while around one-third leverage eBay and nearly 3 in 10 merchants sell on Walmart Marketplace and Google Express (see Figure 22). Around 1 in 5 merchants (22%) sell on Alibaba, although it should be noted that the plurality (41%) of merchants in our survey are based in North America, versus 17% from the APAC region.

### Top 5 Third-Party Marketplaces Used By Merchants



### Reasons For Using Third-Party Marketplaces

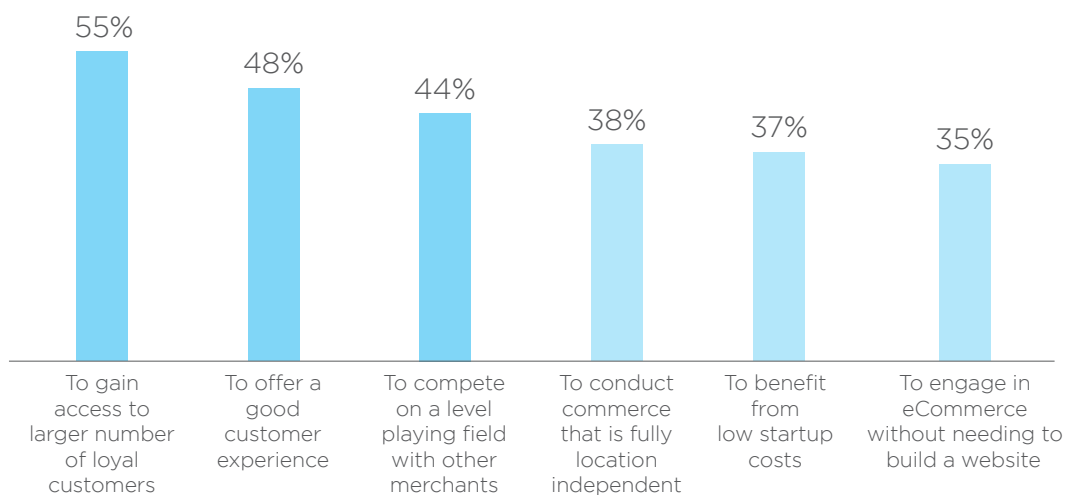


Figure 22

## Payment Acceptance Supported By Multiple Processor and Acquirer Partners

While online marketplaces may occupy the gray area between cooperation and competition with eCommerce merchants, there are other third-party partners that are far more essential to supporting payment acceptance offerings: specifically, payment processors and acquiring banks.

On average, merchants leverage four payment processor connections and three different acquiring banks to support omnichannel payments, although these figures skew higher for APAC and LATAM-based merchants, as well as those in the mid-market and enterprise-size segments. Maximizing flexibility, geographic coverage, uptime, and authorizations represent the main motivators for merchants utilizing multiple acquirers, with LATAM and APAC-based merchants, and enterprise sized merchants citing a broader range of motivators (see Figure 23).

**Usage Of Payment Partners** (trimmed averages shown for figures in this table)

	Global (NET)	Region - 2022				Size - 2022			Membership- 2022	
		North America	Europe	APAC	LATAM	SMB	Mid-Market	Enterprise	MRC Members	Non-MRC Members
# Of Payment Gateway Or Processor Connections Currently Supported	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.0	4.4	3.6	4.4 ↑	4.4 ↑	3.4	4.1
# Of Acquiring Banks Currently Used	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.7 ↑	3.6 ↑	2.6	3.5 ↑	3.9 ↑	3.4	3.2

↑ = Sig. Higher

**Reasons For Using Multiple Acquiring Banks** (among those using 2 or more acquiring banks)

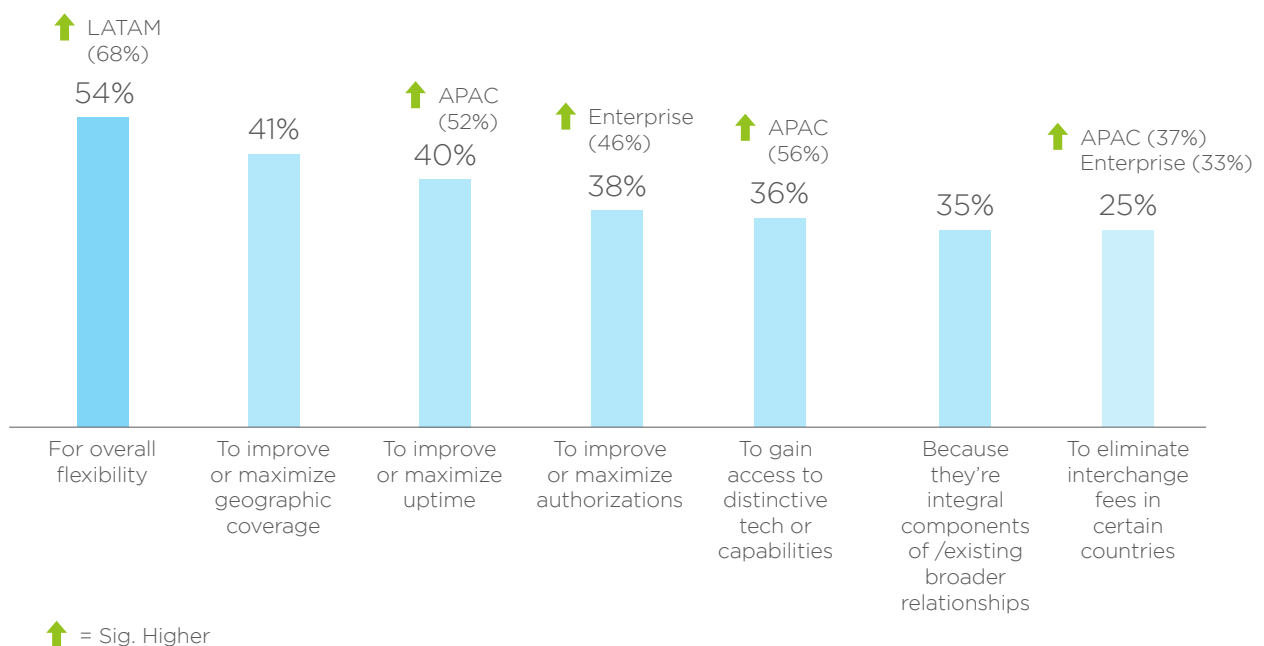


Figure 23

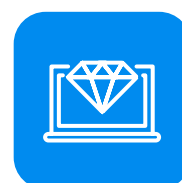


## Payment Acceptance and Partnership Approaches Vary Substantially by Merchant Segment

It is worth noting here that payment acceptance and partnership approaches vary significantly by merchant segment. As indicated in Figures 19-23 in this section, merchants in APAC, enterprise merchants, and non-MRC members contrast starkly with merchants in Europe, SMBs and MRC members when it comes to payment acceptance methods and partners. The former are adding more new methods, using more third-party marketplaces, and leveraging more processor partnerships to support their eCommerce payments, and they cite a wider and larger range of motivations for doing all the above when compared to the latter. Time and further research will tell whether these differences in payment approaches persist and widen across merchant segments, or whether merchant payment acceptance strategies and partnerships become more globally uniform in the future.

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## 5. Payment Management: Key Findings



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This final area of insights shows what merchants are doing to optimize the customer payment experience, as well as internal payment management processes and operations. Here, the survey data once again reveal clear and significant divergences in the payment management approaches employed by merchants in different segments.

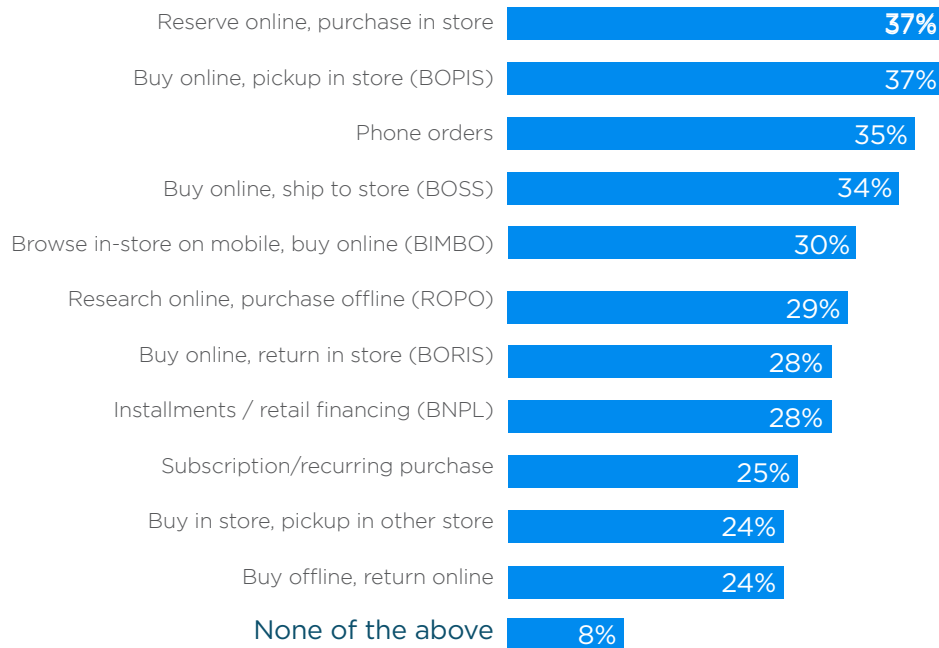
MRC merchants appear to be taking a different approach toward payment management than non-members. MRC members skew lower than non-members when it comes to implementing new, customer-facing retail approaches and payment experiences; 35% of MRC members aren't implementing any of the retail approaches shown in figure 24 (compared to 7% of non-members) and 59% of MRC members aren't implementing any of the customer experiences shown in figure 24 (compared to 15% of non-members). However, MRC merchants are more advanced than non-members in terms of their operational approaches to payment management - i.e., in using tokenization, employing authorization-boosting techniques, and monitoring a significantly larger and wider range of payment KPIs. These differences in payment management strategies between MRC members and non-members are worth keeping in mind, as they are highlighted throughout the facts and figures that follow.

### Merchants Experimenting With, But Not Widely Adopting, New Payment Experiences

Merchants are rolling out a diverse range of novel retail approaches and customer experiences to better serve customers and facilitate payments, but these have yet to be widely adopted. The top retail approaches, each used by over 3 in 10 merchants globally, include reserve online, purchase in store; buy online pickup in store; phone orders; and buy online and ship to store. The top customer experiences, used by over a third of merchants globally, are chatbots / customer service AIs and connected devices (see Figure 24). APAC, LATAM, mid-market, and enterprise merchants, as well as non-MRC members, are more likely to be early adopters of these new approaches and experiences, over-indexing on implementation for several of the approaches and experiences listed below.

### Usage Of Retail Approaches

Avg. # Of Retail Approaches Used: 3.4



### Customer Experiences Offered

Average # of Customer Experiences Offered: 2.6

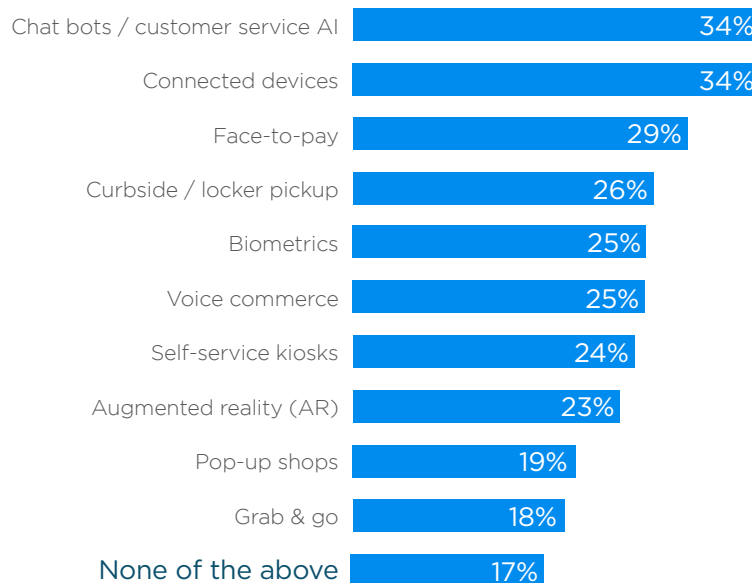


Figure 24

## Most Monitor Three To Four Key Indicators Tied To Payment Management

Most merchants focus on 3 to 4 key performance indicators for payment management (although MRC members tend to track many more). Payment success rate, revenue, and cost of payments represent the top three KPIs tracked by merchants, globally, followed by authorization, authentication and loss rates (see Figure 25). Like MRC members, enterprise merchants also monitor a significantly larger number and variety of payment management KPIs, especially compared to SMBs, which tend to focus on just the top three.

## Most Important KPIs For Payment Management

Average # of KPIs tracked: 3.7

↑ MRC Members (6.9 KPIs tracked)    ↑ Enterprise (4.2 KPIs tracked)    ↓ SMB (3.2 KPIs tracked)

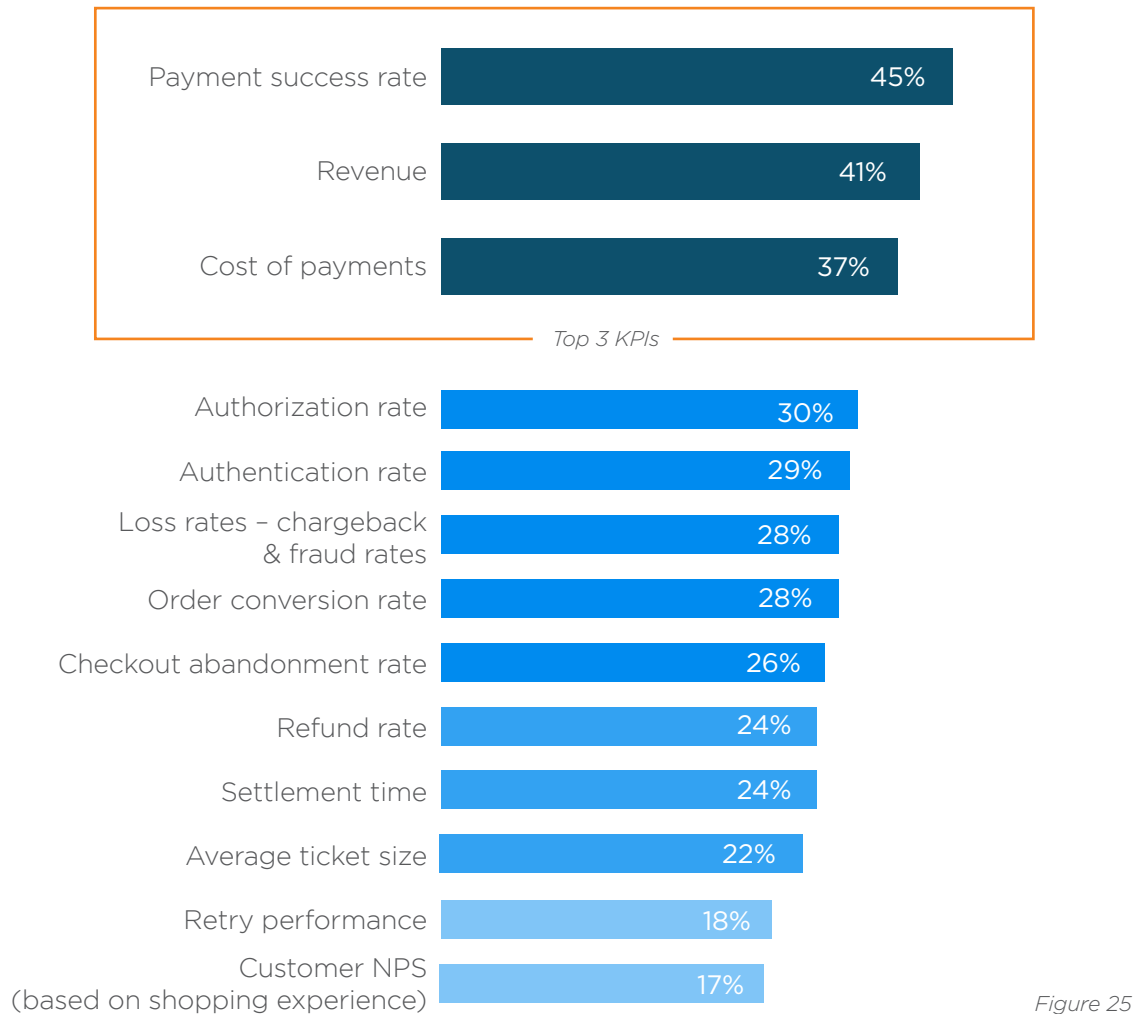


Figure 25

## Multiple Techniques Used To Maximize Authorization Rates

While authorization rates are a key indicator tracked by only 3 in 10 merchants, the vast majority (86%) employ multiple techniques aimed at maximizing authorizations when processing payment transactions. 3DS2, intelligent routing, machine learning, and automated retries are the most widely used techniques, although sizable shares also leverage account updaters, tokenization, and dynamic currency conversion as well (see Figure 26).

The majority of merchants that employ these techniques support them with the use of third-party data sources. MRC members stand out as an exception in this regard, as most do not rely on third-party data to support 3DS2 or intelligent payment routing (only 39% and 28% of MRC members leverage third-party data for these approaches, respectively).

## Techniques Used To Maximize Authorization Rates & % Using Third-Party Data With Each

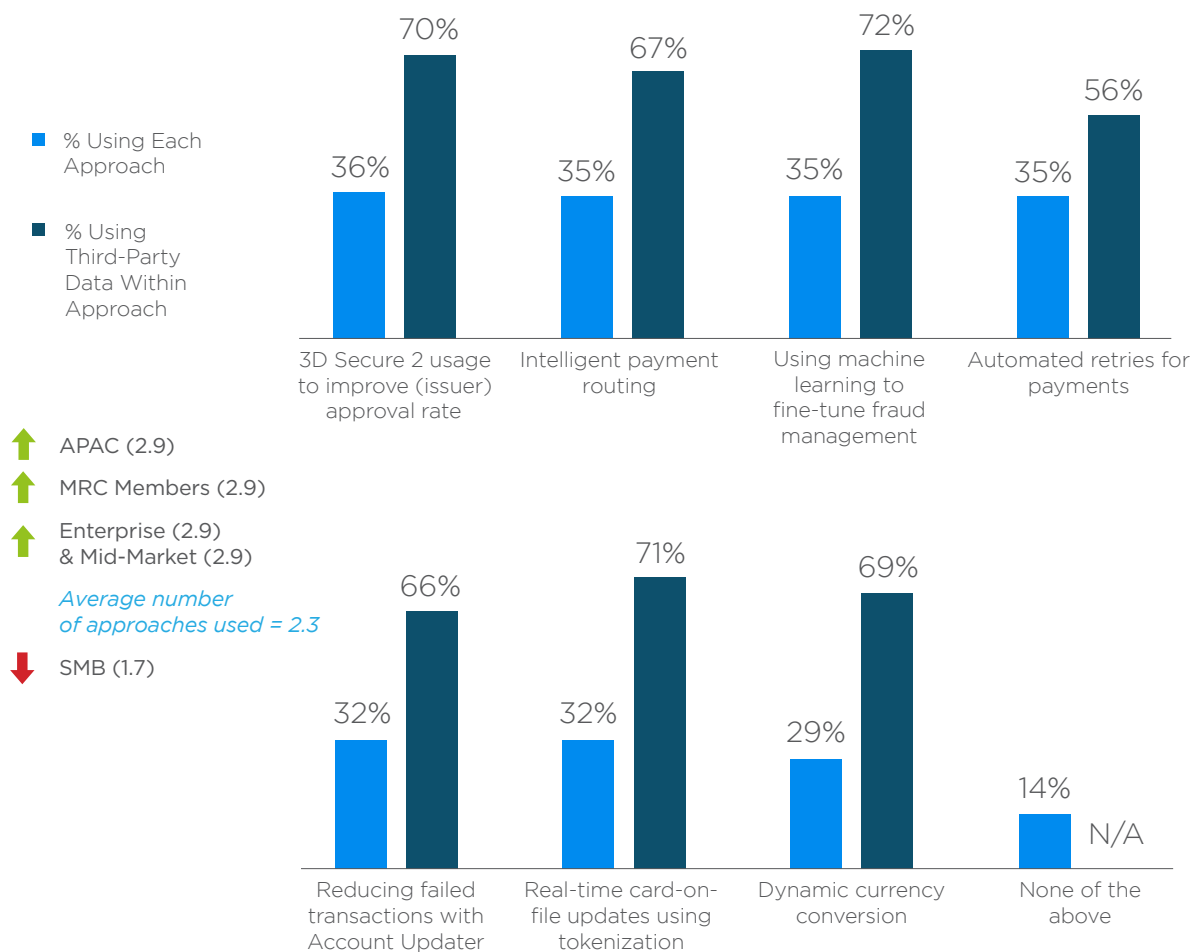


Figure 26

## Majority Use Tokenization To Enhance Security, Customer Trust and Authorization Rates

Lastly, turning to the use of tokenization in payment management (meaning the encryption of customer card numbers, either in the merchant's own internal databases, or via the merchant's card network / card issuer / wallet provider payment partners), the majority of merchants currently utilize tokenization, with MRC members, enterprises and APAC-based merchants over-indexing significantly in this area. SMBs, meanwhile, are much more evenly split, as nearly half (47%) have yet to implement tokenization (see Figure 27).

The most common motivation for employing tokenization is to improve payment security and reduce risk – i.e., protecting customer privacy and reducing the risk of data breaches – and this is particularly important to MRC members, as nearly 9 out of 10 cite it as their main motivation. Fostering trust among customers, improving authorization rates, optimizing the customer experience, and ensuring robust compliance with Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standards (DSS) and payment regulations are also important rationales for merchants leveraging tokenization.

### Usage of Tokenization In Payment Management

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know/Cannot Disclose



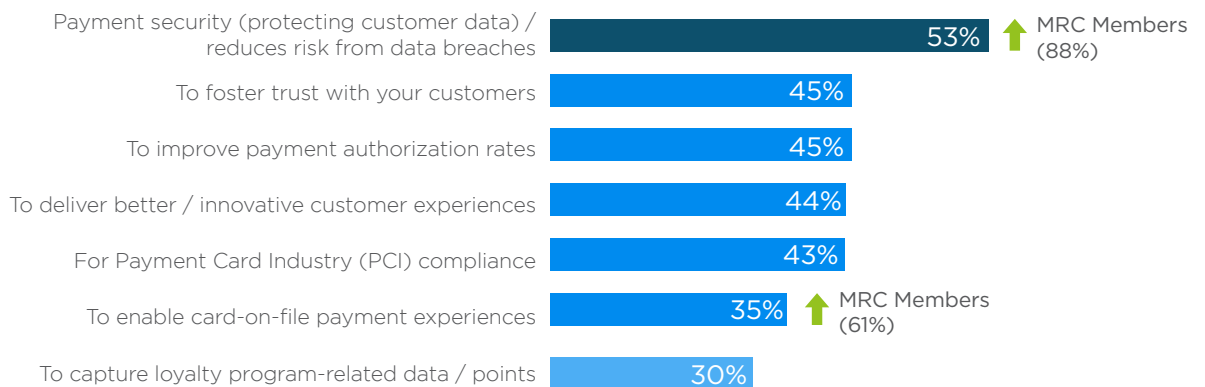
↑ APAC (70%)

↑ MRC Members (77%)

↑ Enterprise (72%)

↑ SMBs (47%)

### Reasons For Using Tokenization



↑ = Sig. Higher

Figure 27

## Conclusion

Overall, the results of this survey illustrate how eCommerce merchants have been making substantial progress in advancing their approaches to managing fraud and payments. This is particularly impressive given how critical, complex, and challenging the issue of global eCommerce payment fraud is for merchants.

This report highlights several encouraging trends and indicators that together send a positive signal about merchants' collective capabilities to successfully improve and advance fraud management strategies to better protect business and customers. This report also highlights several ways merchants have considered their approach to better serve customers by expanding channels to enable purchases, while still ensuring safety is at the forefront of these decisions.

Enterprises, APAC-based merchants and MRC members are leading the way in many of these areas, relative to merchants in other regions and size segments, as well as to non-members. However, as the insights and analysis above make clear, there is opportunity for merchants of all sizes and in all regions to learn from their peers and monitor trends, and there is still ample room for merchants of all sizes to further advance and improve to prevent and mitigate fraud and to optimize and enhance payments and the customer shopping experience in 2022 and beyond.

## About The Authors



As an independent, not-for-profit business association, the Merchant Risk Council's mission is to facilitate collaboration between eCommerce payments and risk professionals. Year-round, the MRC provides valuable resources to its members that include proprietary educational content, webinars, best practices, industry trends, benchmarking reports and whitepapers. In addition, the MRC hosts four annual conferences in the US and Europe as well as several regional networking events which provide an opportunity for industry professionals to build stronger connections with industry stakeholders.

For more information, please visit: [merchantriskcouncil.org](https://merchantriskcouncil.org)



Since 2005, Verifi has been a leader in the payments industry, providing innovative, end-to-end payment solutions that protect against fraud, prevent and resolve disputes, and recover revenue lost to chargebacks. In 2019, Verifi was acquired by Visa, combining technologies to provide enhanced fraud and dispute management solutions on a global scale. Verifi creates strategic, adaptive technologies for sellers, payment facilitators, acquirers, and issuers, building sustaining partnerships to deliver value, increase profits, and promote brand growth.

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Cybersource is a global, modular payment management platform built on secure Visa infrastructure with the benefits and insights of a vast \$427 billion global processing network. This solution helps businesses operate with agility and reach their digital commerce goals by enhancing customer experience, growing revenues and mitigating risk. For acquirer partners, Cybersource provides a technology platform, payments expertise and support services that help them grow and manage their merchant portfolio to fulfil their brand promise.

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## Appendix – Conversion and Acceptance Rates By Payment Method

This section displays the average (mean and median) conversion and acceptance rates by payment method, as reported by merchants in this year's survey.

Card, direct debit, digital wallet and mCommerce mobile payments have the highest average conversion rates, with means ranging from 30 to 40 percent. Conversion rates are significantly higher for mobile payments accepted by merchants in North America (see Figure 28).

Average Conversion Rate By Payment Method (median/ <i>mean</i> )	Overall	North America	Europe	APAC	LATAM	SMB	Mid-Market	Enterprise
Cards	30% <i>39.5%</i>	30% <i>43.5%</i>	35% <i>41.9%</i>	20% <i>30.3%</i>	30% <i>36.0%</i>	40% <i>43.7%</i>	29% <i>33.8%</i>	30% <i>38.4%</i>
Bank transfers / direct debit	25% <i>33.9%</i>	30% <i>40.7%</i>	25% <i>36.4%</i>	20% <i>28.8%</i>	20% <i>23.3%</i>	25% <i>37.1%</i>	25% <i>31.4%</i>	25% <i>31.8%</i>
Digital wallets / eWallets	25% <i>33.6%</i>	30% <i>39.2%</i>	20% <i>30.9%</i>	25% <i>32.5%</i>	18% <i>22.5%</i>	30% <i>37.1%</i>	25% <i>30.6%</i>	25% <i>33.0%</i>
mCommerce mobile payments	25% <i>30.0%</i>	30% <i>39.2%</i> ↑	20% <i>24.8%</i>	20% <i>25.8%</i>	15% <i>18.1%</i>	25% <i>32.9%</i>	20% <i>26.2%</i>	25% <i>30.2%</i>
Buy Now Pay Later	20% <i>27.7%</i>	30% <i>32.9%</i>	20% <i>19.7%</i>	20% <i>24.0%</i>	15% <i>20.3%</i>	25% <i>31.1%</i>	20% <i>25.0%</i>	20% <i>27.3%</i>
Third-party payments	20% <i>25.4%</i>	25% <i>33.2%</i>	15% <i>16.5%</i>	17% <i>21.1%</i>	17% <i>16.8%</i>	20% <i>28.5%</i>	20% <i>23.3%</i>	20% <i>24.4%</i>
Gift cards / vouchers	15% <i>24.9%</i>	20% <i>26.6%</i>	15% <i>29.7%</i>	20% <i>25.1%</i>	10% <i>14.2%</i>	10% <i>26.9%</i>	20% <i>22.3%</i>	18% <i>24.9%</i>

(All means calculated with trimmed averages) ↑ = Sig. Higher

Figure 28

When it comes to payment acceptance, the same four methods (cards, debit transfers, digital wallets and mobile payments) again boast the highest average rates, with means ranging from 45 to 55 percent, globally (see Figure 29).

Average Acceptance Rate By Payment Method (median/ <i>mean</i> )	Overall	North America	Europe	APAC	LATAM	SMB	Mid-Market	Enterprise
Cards	50% <i>54.3%</i>	60% <i>56.9%</i>	60% <i>59.2%</i>	30% <i>45.6%</i>	50% <i>48.4%</i>	60% <i>59.3%</i>	45% <i>50.1%</i>	40% <i>50.8%</i>
Bank transfers / direct debit	35% <i>50.1%</i>	55% <i>57.1%</i>	70% <i>56.6%</i>	25% <i>43.0%</i>	20% <i>34.5%</i>	60% <i>56.9%</i>	30% <i>45.9%</i>	29% <i>44.4%</i>
Digital wallets / eWallets	40% <i>48.0%</i>	50% <i>53.0%</i>	50% <i>53.8%</i>	30% <i>41.7%</i>	25% <i>33.3%</i>	50% <i>53.8%</i>	30% <i>45.7%</i>	35% <i>44.6%</i>
mCommerce mobile payments	30% <i>44.3%</i>	40% <i>50.2%</i>	32% <i>50.4%</i>	25% <i>36.2%</i>	20% <i>29.0%</i>	40% <i>50.4%</i>	30% <i>40.1%</i>	30% <i>41.9%</i>
Buy Now Pay Later	30% <i>37.8%</i>	30% <i>41.3%</i>	25% <i>40.7%</i>	20% <i>27.3%</i>	20% <i>30.8%</i>	35% <i>46.7%</i>	29% <i>33.1%</i>	25% <i>35.2%</i>
Gift cards / vouchers	20% <i>36.2%</i>	20% <i>37.8%</i>	25% <i>49.9%</i>	20% <i>31.2%</i>	10% <i>19.3%</i>	20% <i>39.7%</i>	20% <i>33.5%</i>	20% <i>35.9%</i>
Third-party payments	25% <i>36.1%</i>	32% <i>43.5%</i>	20% <i>34.9%</i>	20% <i>28.4%</i>	15% <i>21.9%</i>	25% <i>41.2%</i>	23% <i>30.4%</i>	21% <i>35.9%</i>

(All means calculated with trimmed averages)

Figure 29

## Appendix – Questions Asked

This section shows the questions asked to survey respondents to gather the data shown throughout this report.

Figure 1: *In which country are you located?*

Figure 2: *Please estimate your organization's annual eCommerce revenue.*

Figure 3: *Which one of the following describes the primary source of your eCommerce revenue?*

Figure 4:

- *Please indicate the percent of your annual eCommerce revenue lost due to payment fraud globally, i.e., fraud rate by revenue.*
- *Please indicate the percent of your annual eCommerce revenue lost due to payment fraud on orders from your country, i.e., domestic orders).*
- *Please indicate your order rejection rate for your country, i.e., domestic orders*
- *Please indicate your order rejection rate for outside your country, i.e., international orders.*
- *Please indicate the percent of accepted annual eCommerce orders that turned out to be fraudulent (i.e., fraud rate by order) from your country, i.e., domestic orders).*
- *Please indicate the percent of accepted annual eCommerce orders that turned out to be fraudulent (i.e., fraud rate by order) from outside your country, i.e., international orders.*
- *Please indicate the percent of eCommerce orders for which you have received chargebacks due to fraud.*

Figure 5: *Please indicate the percent of your annual eCommerce revenue your organization spends to manage payment fraud — excluding actual fraud losses.*

Figure 6: *How do your organization's future fraud strategy plans incorporate manual review?*

Figure 7:

- *Please indicate the percentage of eCommerce orders you manually screen for fraud.*
- *Of the eCommerce orders manually reviewed by your organization, please indicate the percentage you decline (cancel) due to suspicion of fraud.*

Figure 8:

- *How prepared would you say your organization is for PSD2, in particular, strong customer authentication (SCA)?*
- *And, how prepared would you say your organization is for EMV<sup>®</sup> 3DS?*

Figure 9 and Figure 10: *Which of the following types of fraud attacks, if any, have you ever experienced at your organization?*



Figure 11:

- *What percentage of (all) fraudulent disputes do you feel should be attributed to first-party misuse (i.e., friendly fraud or chargeback fraud)?*
- *To what extent do you believe disputed transactions are filed or categorized incorrectly as “fraud” by issuers (i.e., when no fraud has taken place, but the transaction is categorized as fraud)?*

Figure 12: *Which, if any, of the following reasons do you expect causes first-party misuse (i.e., friendly fraud or chargeback fraud) to occur at your company?*

Figure 13: *Which of the following challenges related to eCommerce fraud management, if any, has your organization experienced in the last 12 months?*

Figure 14:

- *Which of the following challenges related to eCommerce fraud management, if any, has your organization experienced in the last 12 months?*
- *And how challenging would you say each of the following have been for your organization to manage?*

Figure 15: *Now, which one would you say is the most important to your organization when evaluating fraud management practices?*

Figure 16 and Figure 17: *•Please indicate which tools your organization currently uses.*

Figure 18:

- *Please indicate which tools your organization currently uses.*
- *Now, how effective is each of the following tools in detecting eCommerce payment fraud?*

Figure 19 and Figure 20:

- *Which of the following types of payment methods does your organization currently accept?*
- *And which of these payment methods, if any, did your organization add over the past 12 months?*

Figure 21:

- *What is the ONE most important reason why you encourage customers to use your preferred payment method(s)?*
- *In what ways, if any, does your organization encourage or guide customers to use your preferred types of payment method(s)?*

Figure 22

- *Which, if any, of the following third-party marketplaces does your organization currently use to sell to customers?*
- *Why does your organization utilize third-party marketplaces?*

Figure 23:

- *How many payment gateway or processor connections does your organization currently support?*
- *How many merchant acquiring banks does your organization currently use?*
- *For what reasons does your organization have multiple acquiring relationships?*

Figure 24:

- *Which, if any, of the following retail approaches are used by your organization?*
- *Which, if any, of the following customer experiences does your organization currently offer?*

Figure 25: *Which of the following payments management key performance indicators (KPIs) are extremely important to your organization?*

Figure 26:

- *Which, if any, of the following authorization-related approaches and techniques does your organization currently use?*
- *Does your organization use any third-party data in association with any of these?*

Figure 27:

- *Does your organization currently utilize tokenization as part of its payment management? Note: By tokenization, we mean encryption of customer card numbers, either in your own internal databases, or via your card network / card issuer / wallet provider payment partners.*
- *For which of the following reasons does your organization use tokenization?*

Figure 28: *What is your organization's average conversion rate (i.e., percentage of visits from the checkout page that result in a completed checkout) for each of the following payment methods that you currently accept?*

Figure 29: *Please estimate your organization's acceptance rate (meaning the percentage of initiated payments accepted by the payment provider) for each of the following types of payment methods.*



For more information about MRC, please visit:  
[merchantriskcouncil.org](https://merchantriskcouncil.org)



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