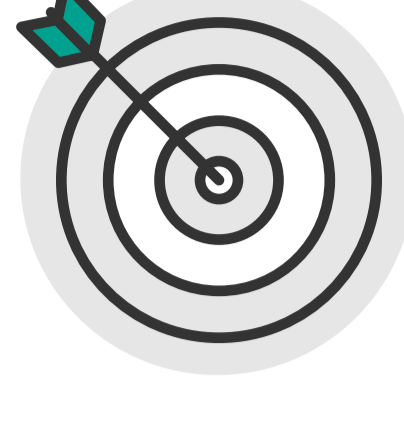


THE SPREADSHEET IS HERE TO STAY



According to a new study, a huge proportion of companies in the financial sector rely on spreadsheets to handle their business critical data - despite the fact that **lack of management in End User Computing (EUC) is now widely recognised as risky business and a major drain on time.**



The ClusterSeven survey provides interesting insights into the attitudes and concerns held by individuals and organisations across the UK regarding spreadsheets and similar EUC tools.

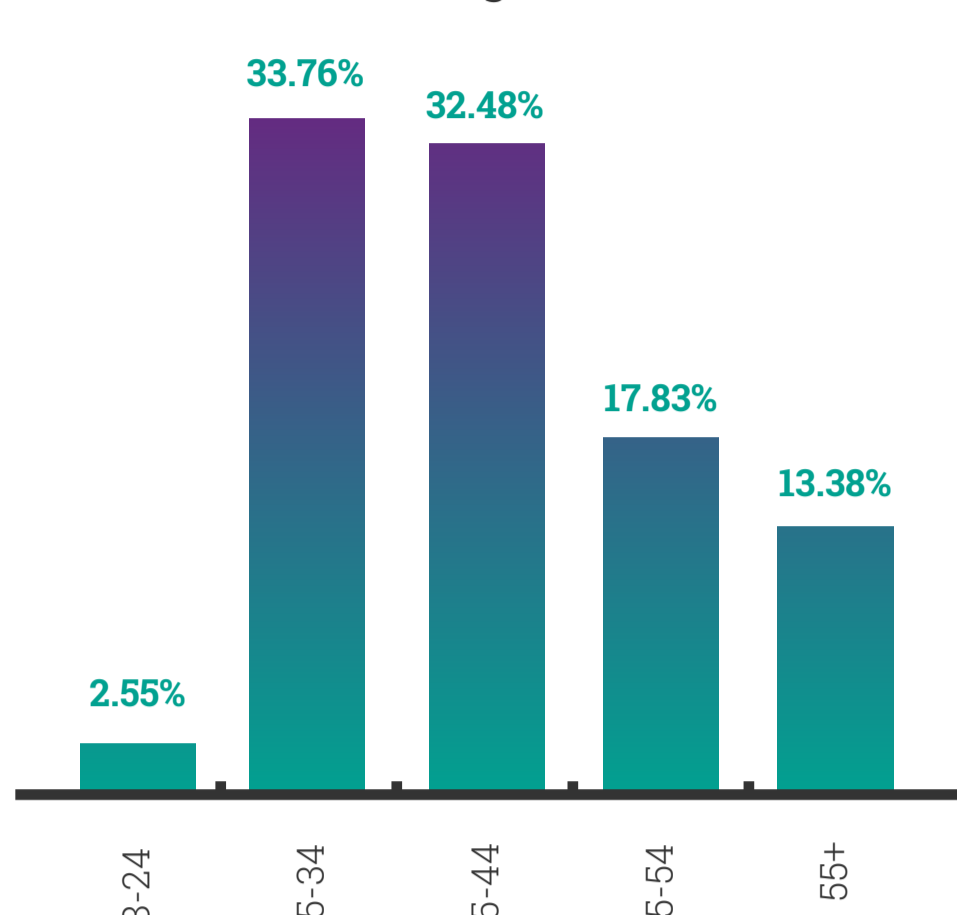
Carried out across a wide range of organisations, the study has revealed that **60%** of auditors, **40%** of regulators and **45%** of risk and compliance professionals believe that interest in use of spreadsheets in business is set to increase over the next two years.

WHO WE ASKED

Role Within Organisation



Age



SPREADSHEETS: ARE THEY A RISK?

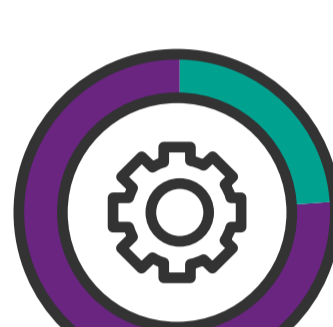


An overwhelming **88%** of respondents recognise the risks posed by spreadsheets and similar EUC applications.



Particularly in the financial services industry, nearly **57%** of respondents rate spreadsheet risk as a risk or serious risk.

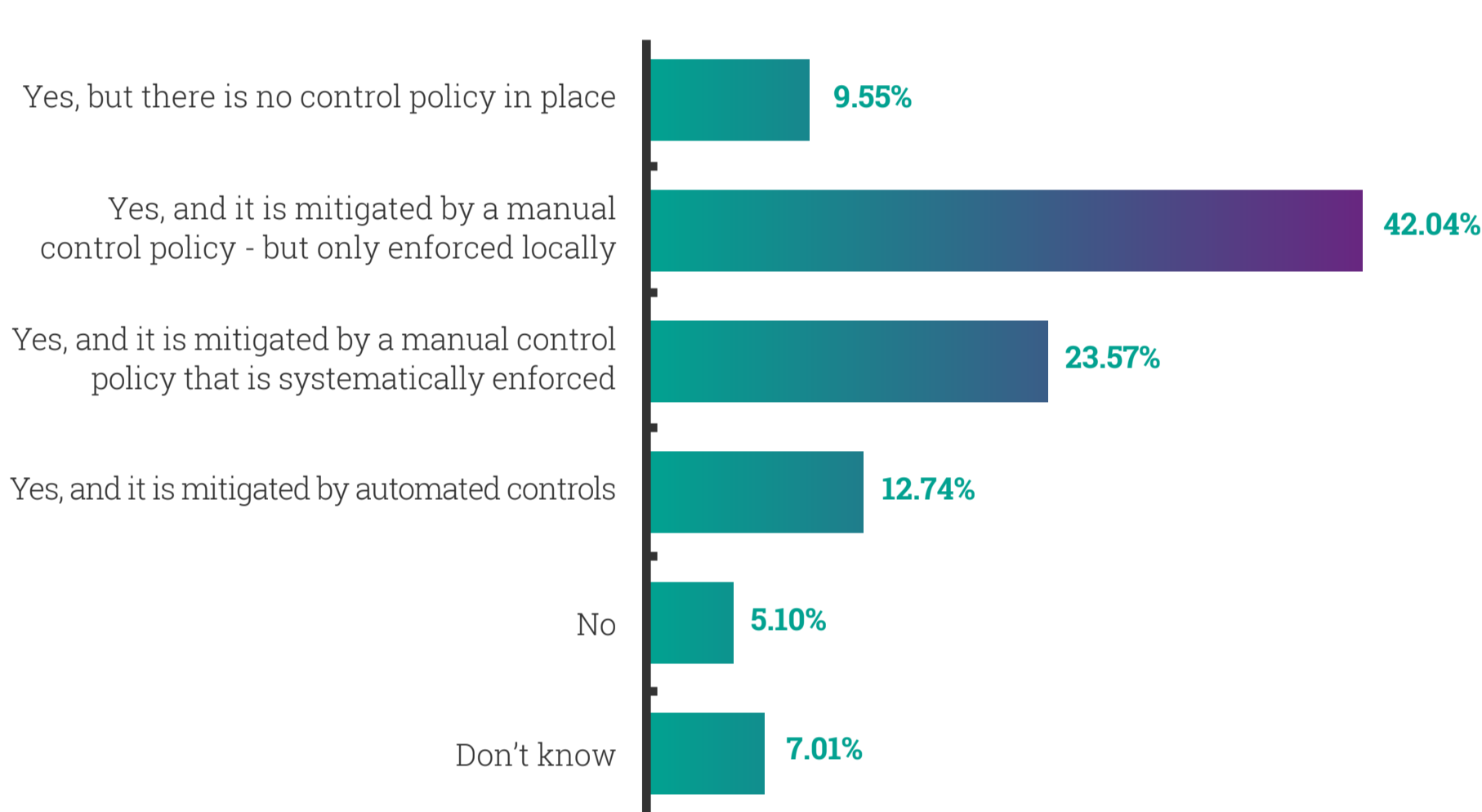
YET



Only **24%** of organisations are systematically enforcing a manual control policy (let alone anything automated).

In answer to the question:

"Is spreadsheet and other End User Computing (EUC) risk recognised in your organisation?"



Approximately speaking, respondents said that more than **60%** of their business critical data processes rely entirely on spreadsheets.

This makes sense. As professionals, we need technology in place to guide us through complex calculations, analytical tasks and presentations. Readily available at little to no cost, spreadsheets offer us agility, flexibility and the ability to swiftly produce new reports, models and complex calculations from the ground up.

However, the strong presence of EUCs in business makes **manual controls time-intensive, costly and error-ridden.**



60% of Auditors

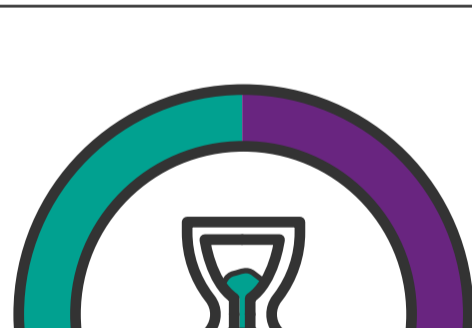


40% of Regulators

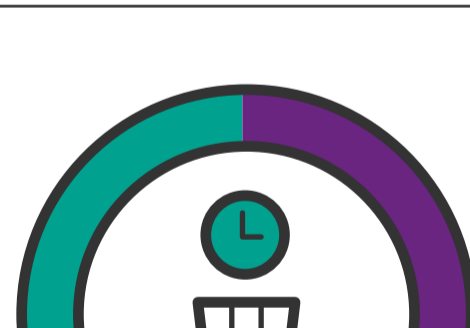


45% of Risk and Compliance Professionals

...believe that interest in the pros and cons of spreadsheets will increase significantly over the next two years. **Less than 5% of respondents expect interest to decrease.**



On average, respondents spend **43%** of their time **monitoring and validating information on spreadsheets.**



Those in management spend closer to **47%**, constituting **very poor use of an expensive resource.**



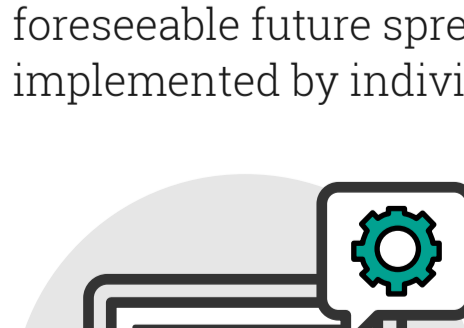
Nearly **50%** of respondents expect spreadsheet error to trigger a significant financial and/or reputational crisis at some point in the next two years.

Organisations could learn a lot from **Marks and Spencer** - the company experienced trouble recently when it mistakenly issued inaccurate company results due to a spreadsheet error. Double-counting in a spreadsheet led M&S to say that sales had risen by **1.3%** in the three months leading up to July when in reality they had fallen by **0.4%**.



CONCLUSION

Often the preferred choice for numerical problem solving, EUC's are here to stay. For the foreseeable future spreadsheets will continue to co-exist with the other various systems implemented by individual businesses.



Safely navigating EUC-related risks requires a comprehensive, rigorous and strictly enforceable risk management policy.

Ultimately, automation is the only fail-safe way forward.

ClusterSeven is a unique system which allows organisations to manage their EUCs throughout their lifecycle. Contact the team to see what we can do to keep your data accurate and your business on track.



ClusterSeven

Download the full report at clusterseven.com/report

