



## Cybersecurity, AI, and Economic Uncertainty: How Internal Audit Teams Are Managing 2025's Top Risks

September 16, 2025 at 11:31 AM EDT

*Jefferson Wells 2025 Internal Audit Priorities Survey Reveals Key Trends and Challenges Keeping Audit Teams Busy*

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 16, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Cybersecurity, AI, and economic uncertainty are dominating the priorities of internal audit leaders in 2025, according to [Jefferson Wells](#), a leading professional services firm specializing in Finance & Accounting, Internal Audit, Risk & Compliance, and Tax, and part of the [ManpowerGroup](#) family of brands.



The firm's ninth annual Internal Audit Priorities Survey finds that cybersecurity remains the top emerging risk for the fifth consecutive year, highlighting the critical role of robust cyber defenses in an increasingly connected and vulnerable technology environment. Generative AI has surged as the second most pressing concern, reshaping audit strategies, toolsets, and the skills required to manage emerging risks. Economic uncertainty is the newest factor on audit leaders' radar, cited by 26% of respondents—up from near zero in last year's survey.

As internal audit departments wrestle with these complex risks, they are also grappling with skill shortages in areas such as cybersecurity, AI, IT audit, and data analytics. More than 85% of audit leaders report relying on external partners to augment their internal capabilities and bridge critical gaps.

"Technology and cybersecurity have become paramount as organizations navigate an increasingly complex risk landscape," Tim Lietz, National Practice Leader for Risk & Compliance at Jefferson Wells, said. "Our annual survey underscores the pressing need for Internal Audit functions to adapt to swift advancements in AI, growing global economic uncertainty and their inability to maintain required skillsets on their team to execute their annual internal audit plan. To effectively address these challenges, Internal Audit departments must enhance their capabilities and leverage external expertise to bridge these expanding skill gaps."

Get more insights from the Jefferson Wells 2025 Internal Audit Priorities Survey report at: [www.jeffersonwells.com/en/internal-audit-report-2025](http://www.jeffersonwells.com/en/internal-audit-report-2025).

### ABOUT JEFFERSON WELLS

[Jefferson Wells](#) is a professional services firm delivering solutions in Finance & Accounting, Internal Audit, Risk & Compliance, and Tax. We provide consulting, thought leadership, integrated resourcing, and executive search. Jefferson Wells is a part of the ManpowerGroup family of brands.

For more information, visit [www.jeffersonwells.com](http://www.jeffersonwells.com), or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).


### ABOUT MANPOWERGROUP

[ManpowerGroup](#)® (NYSE: MAN), the leading global workforce solutions company, helps organizations transform in a fast-changing world of work by sourcing, assessing, developing, and managing the talent that enables them to win. We develop innovative solutions for hundreds of thousands of organizations every year, providing them with skilled talent while finding meaningful, sustainable employment for millions of people across a wide range of industries and skills. Our expert family of brands – [Manpower](#), [Experis](#), and [Talent Solutions](#) – creates substantially more value for candidates and clients across more than 70 countries and territories and has done so for more than 75 years. We are recognized consistently for our diversity – as a best place to work for Women, Inclusion, Equality, and Disability, and in 2025 ManpowerGroup was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the 16th time – all confirming our position as the brand of choice for in-demand talent.

For more information, visit [www.manpowergroup.com](http://www.manpowergroup.com), or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Bluesky](#).



Jefferson  
Wells<sup>TM</sup>  
ManpowerGroup

 View original content to download multimedia: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cybersecurity-ai-and-economic-uncertainty-how-internal-audit-teams-are-managing-2025s-top-risks-302557956.html>

SOURCE ManpowerGroup

Lisa Spathis, +1 (847) 970-0006, [lisa.spathis@manpowergroup.com](mailto:lisa.spathis@manpowergroup.com)