

Protestant Pastors Views on the Economy

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Pastors

Methodology

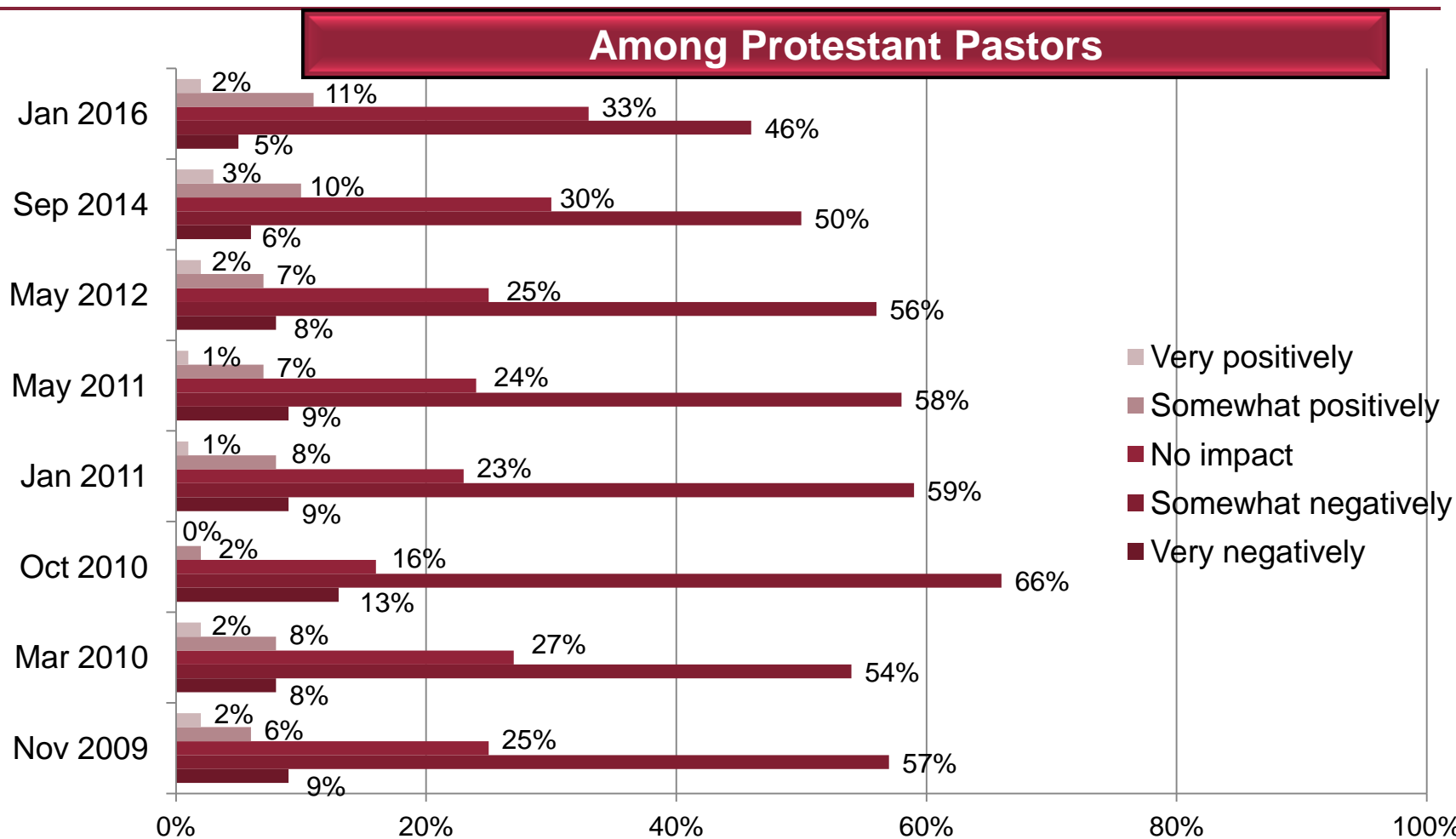
- ❑ The telephone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted January 8-22, 2016
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Up to six calls were made to reach a sampled phone number
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted to reflect the geographic distribution of Protestant churches

Methodology Continued

- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 phone interviews
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.1\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- ❑ Comparisons are also made to the following telephone surveys using the same methodology:
 - ❑ 1,002 pastors conducted November 5-12, 2009
 - ❑ 1,000 pastors conducted March 1-9, 2010
 - ❑ 1,000 pastors conducted October 7-14, 2010
 - ❑ 1,002 pastors conducted January 17-27, 2011
 - ❑ 1,000 pastors conducted May 18-25, 2011
 - ❑ 1,000 pastors conducted May 23-31, 2012
 - ❑ 1,000 pastors conducted September 11-18, 2014

Current Economic Impact on Churches

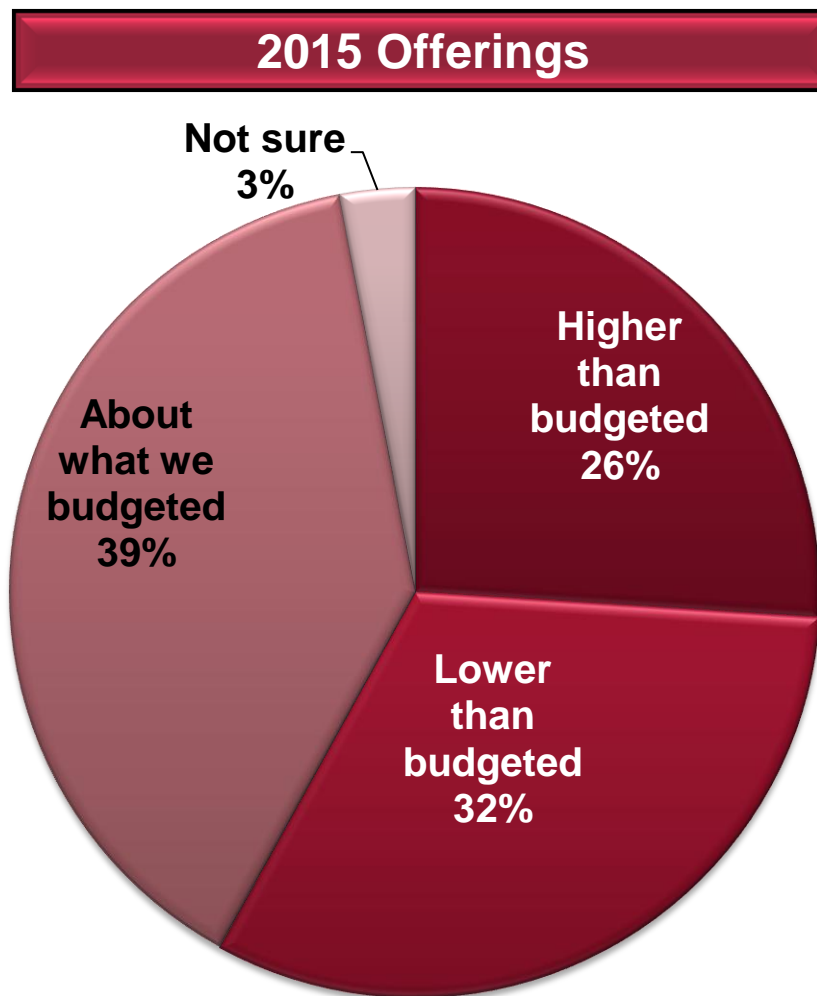
13% say economy is positively impacting their church



Don't Know - (3% Jan 2016, 2% Sep 2014, 1% all other surveys)

Q: "How is the current economy impacting your church?"

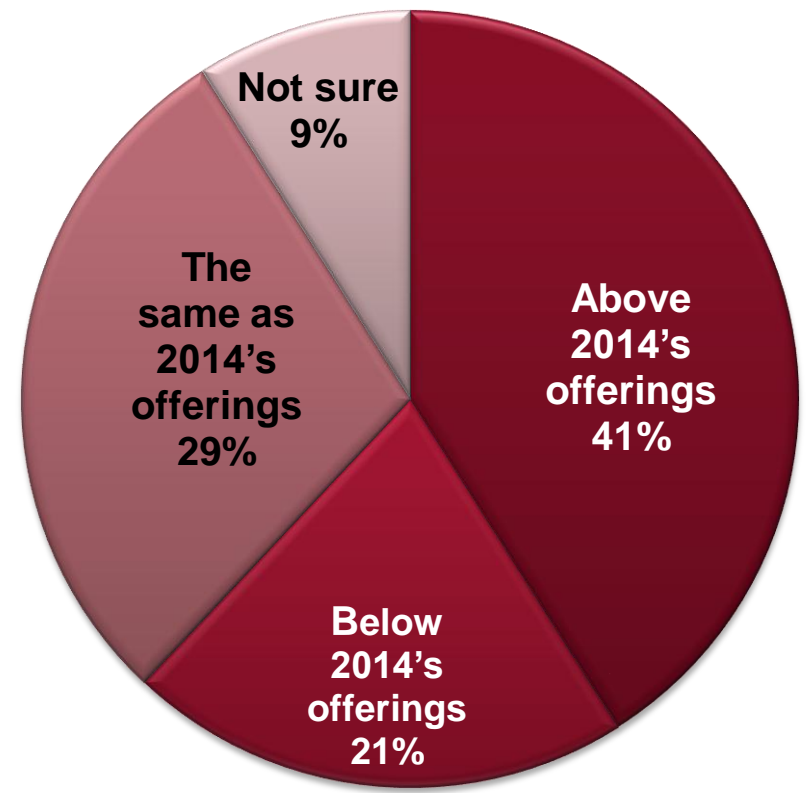
4 out of 10 churches had offerings for 2015 at about what was budgeted



Q: "At the end of calendar year 2015, were your offerings..."

41% of churches received offerings in 2015 that were above their 2014 offerings

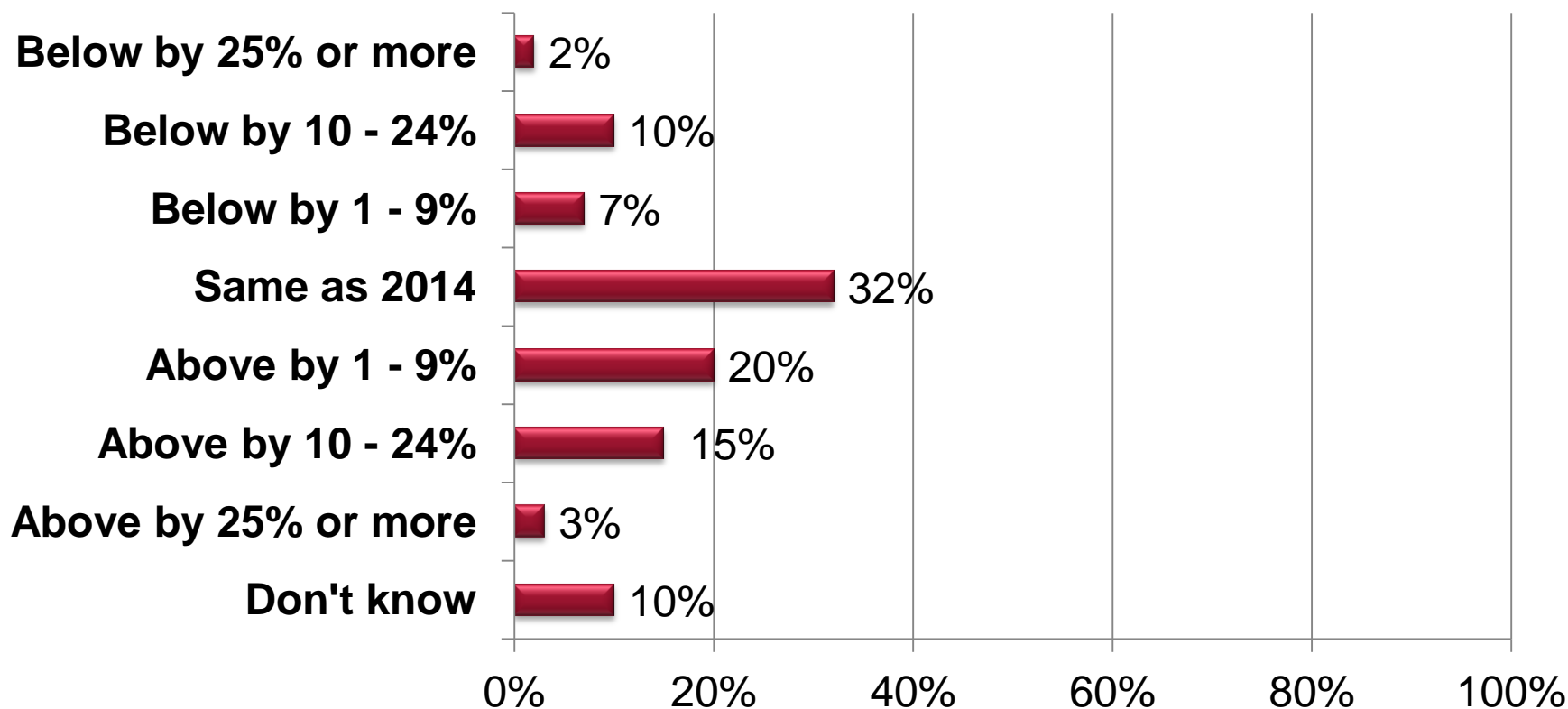
2015 Offerings



Q: "Compared to your calendar year 2014 offerings, have your total offerings for 2015..."

The average change in giving for Protestant churches in 2015 is +2.0% and the median is 0%

Calendar Year 2015 Offerings Compared to 2014



Significant Differences

Church Size
Region
Pastor Age
Education Level
Ethnicity
Evangelical/Mainline

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among church sizes, region of the country, and pastor age. Each category was divided into four groups.

Church Size	Region	Pastor Age
0-49 attendees	Northeast	18-44
50-99 attendees	South	45-54
100-249 attendees	Midwest	55-64
250+ attendees	West	65+

Notes:

Church Size is based on the average weekly worship attendance

Region is defined by US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among education level, ethnicity, and evangelical or mainline. Each category was divided into groups.

Education Level	Ethnic Group	Self-Identify
No College Degree	White	Evangelical
Bachelor's Degree	Other Ethnicities	Mainline
Master's Degree (including M.Div)		
Doctoral Degree (including Ph.D and D.Min)		

Notes:

Additional ethnic groups were identified, but did not have sufficient sample size for comparison

“How is the current economy impacting your church?”

- Pastors of churches 0-49 (6%) and 50-99 (7%) are more likely to select “Very negatively” compared to pastors of churches 250+ (1%)
- Pastors of churches 0-49 are the least likely to select “Somewhat positively” (6%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (56%) are more likely to select “Somewhat negatively” compared to pastors in the West (42%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (14%) are more likely to select “Somewhat positively” compared to pastors in the Northeast (6%)
- Pastors in the West (4%) are more likely to select “Very positively” compared to pastors in the Northeast (<1%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (7%) and 65+ (7%) are more likely to select “Very negatively” compared to pastors age 18-44 (2%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (52%) are more likely to select “Somewhat negatively” compared to pastors age 18-44 (43%) and 65+ (40%)

“How is the current economy impacting your church?” (continued)

- Pastors age 18-44 (38%) are more likely to select “The economy is having no impact on my church” compared to pastors age 45-54 (28%)
- Pastors with no college degree (8%) are more likely to select “Very negatively” compared to pastors with a Master’s (4%)
- Pastors with no college degree are the least likely to select “Somewhat negatively” (35%) and the most likely to select “Very Positively” (8%)
- Pastors with no college degree (42%) are more likely to select “The economy is having no impact on my church” compared to pastors with a Bachelor’s (31%) or a Doctoral degree (26%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (6%) are more likely to select “Very positively” than White pastors (2%)

“At the end of calendar year 2015, were your offerings...”

- Pastors of churches 100-249 (31%) and 250+ (34%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” compared to pastors of churches 0-49 (17%) and 50-99 (23%)
- Pastors of churches 0-49 (45%) are more likely to select “About what we budgeted” compared to pastors of churches 100-249 (35%)
- Pastors in the South (35%) are more likely to select “Lower than budgeted” than pastors in the West (27%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (32%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” compared to pastors with no college degree (19%)
- Pastors with no college degree (47%) are more likely to select “About what we budgeted” compared to pastors with a Doctoral degree (33%)

“Compared to your calendar year 2014 offerings, were your total offerings for 2015...”

- Pastors of churches 100-249 (50%) and 250+ (53%) are more likely to select “Above 2014’s offerings” than pastors of churches 0-49 (23%) and 50-99 (39%)
- Pastors of churches 0-49 (28%) and 50-99 (24%) are more likely to select “Below 2014’s offerings” than pastors of churches 250+ (11%)
- Pastors of churches 0-49 (28%) are more likely to select “Below 2014’s offerings” than pastors of churches 100-249 (18%)
- Pastors of churches 0-49 (35%) are more likely to select “The same as 2014’s offerings” than pastors of churches 100-249 (26%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (45%) are more likely to select “Above 2014’s offerings” compared to pastors age 65+ (34%)
- Pastors age 65+ (37%) are more likely to select “The same as 2014’s offerings” compared to pastors age 18-44 (25%) and 45-54 (27%)

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