

# Pastor Views on Economic Impact

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## Survey of Protestant Pastors

# Methodology

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- ❑ The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 – September 18, 2017
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Methodology Continued

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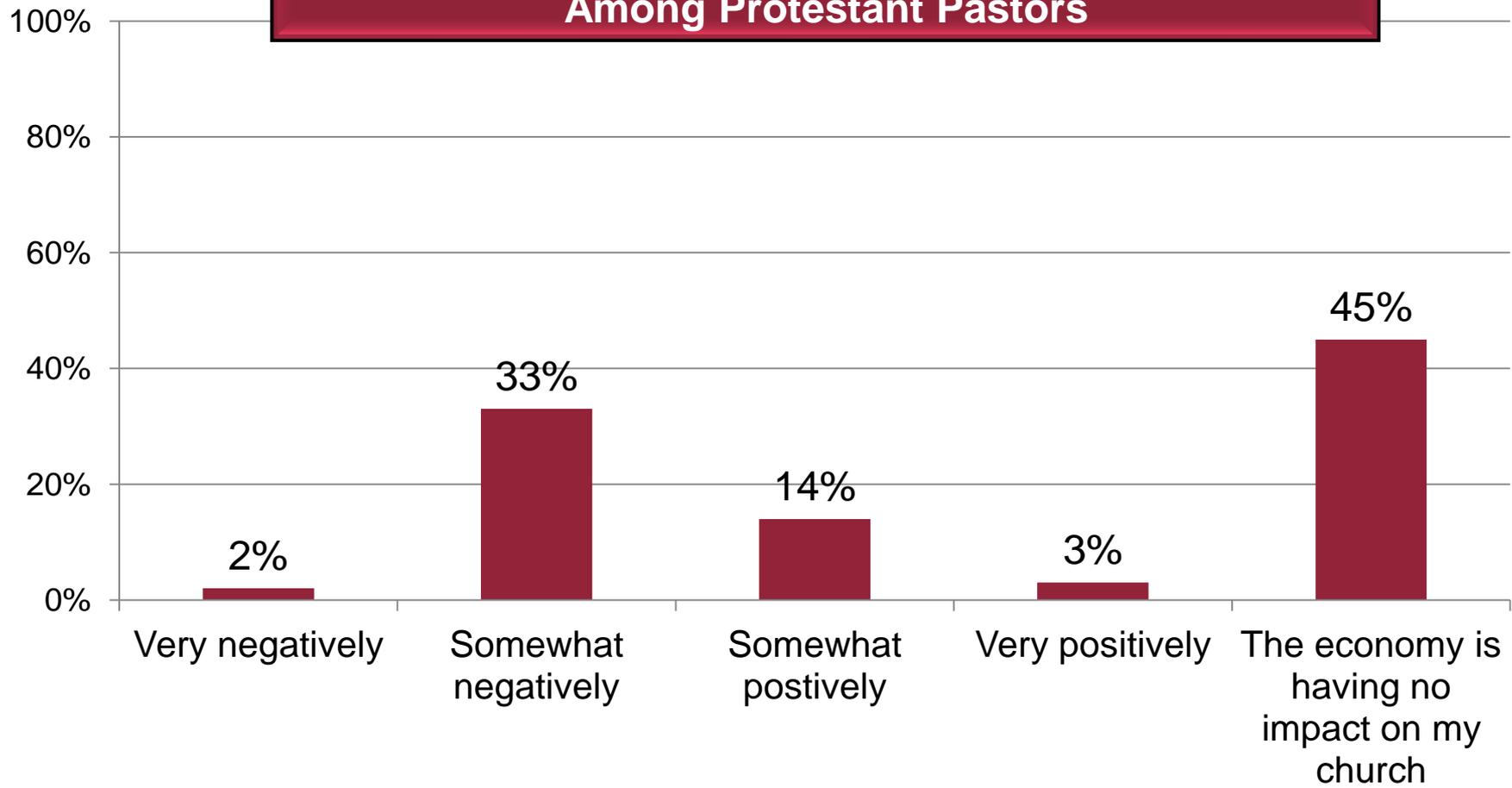
- Comparisons are also made to the following telephone surveys using the same methodology:
  - 1,002 pastors conducted November 5-12, 2009
  - 1,000 pastors conducted March 1-9, 2010
  - 1,000 pastors conducted October 7-14, 2010
  - 1,002 pastors conducted January 17-27, 2011
  - 1,000 pastors conducted May 18-25, 2011
  - 1,000 pastors conducted May, 2012
  - 1,000 pastors conducted September 11-18, 2014
  - 1,000 pastors conducted January 8-22, 2016

# Survey Responses



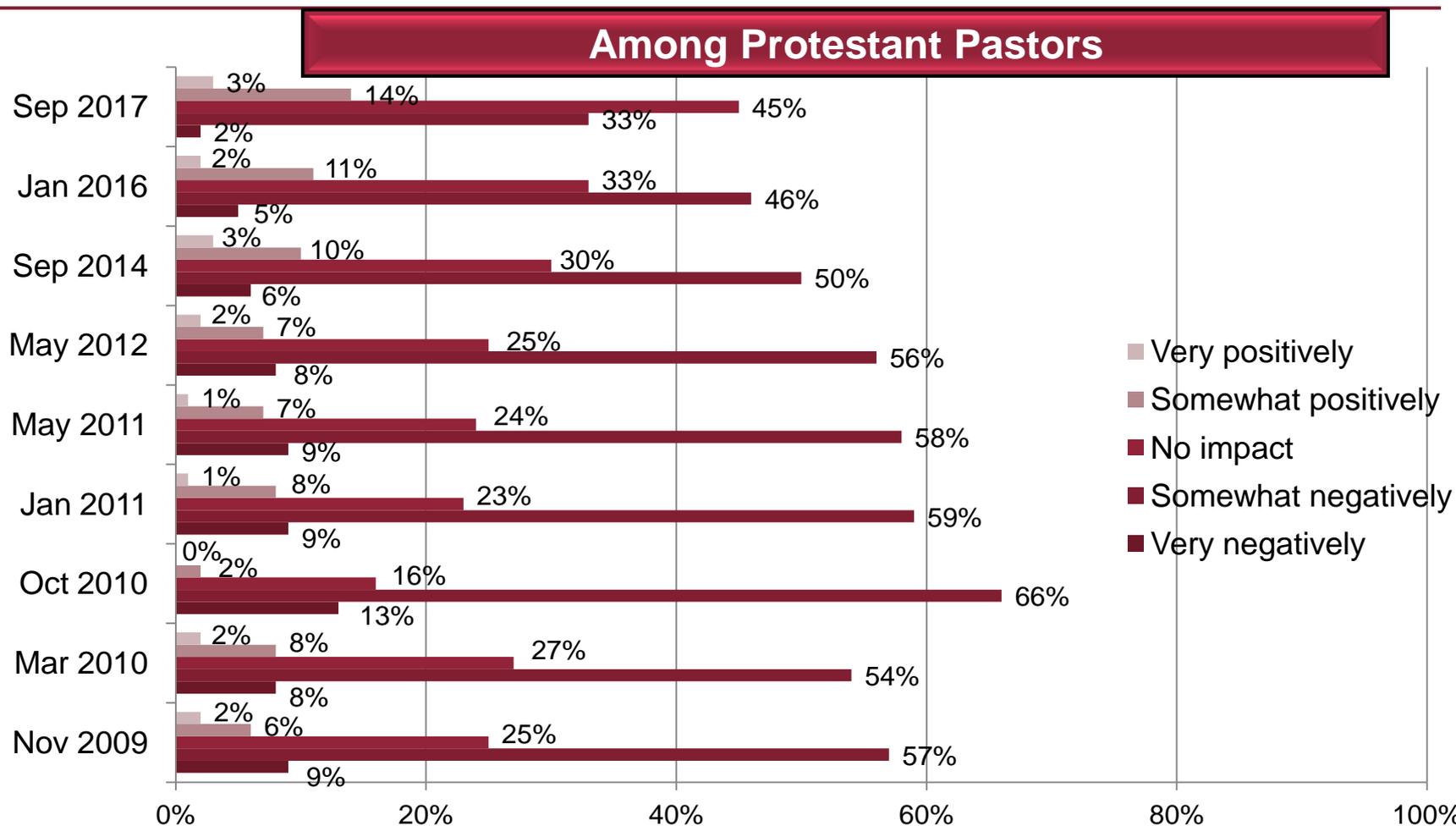
# 35% say that the current economy is negatively impacting their church

Among Protestant Pastors



Not sure 2%

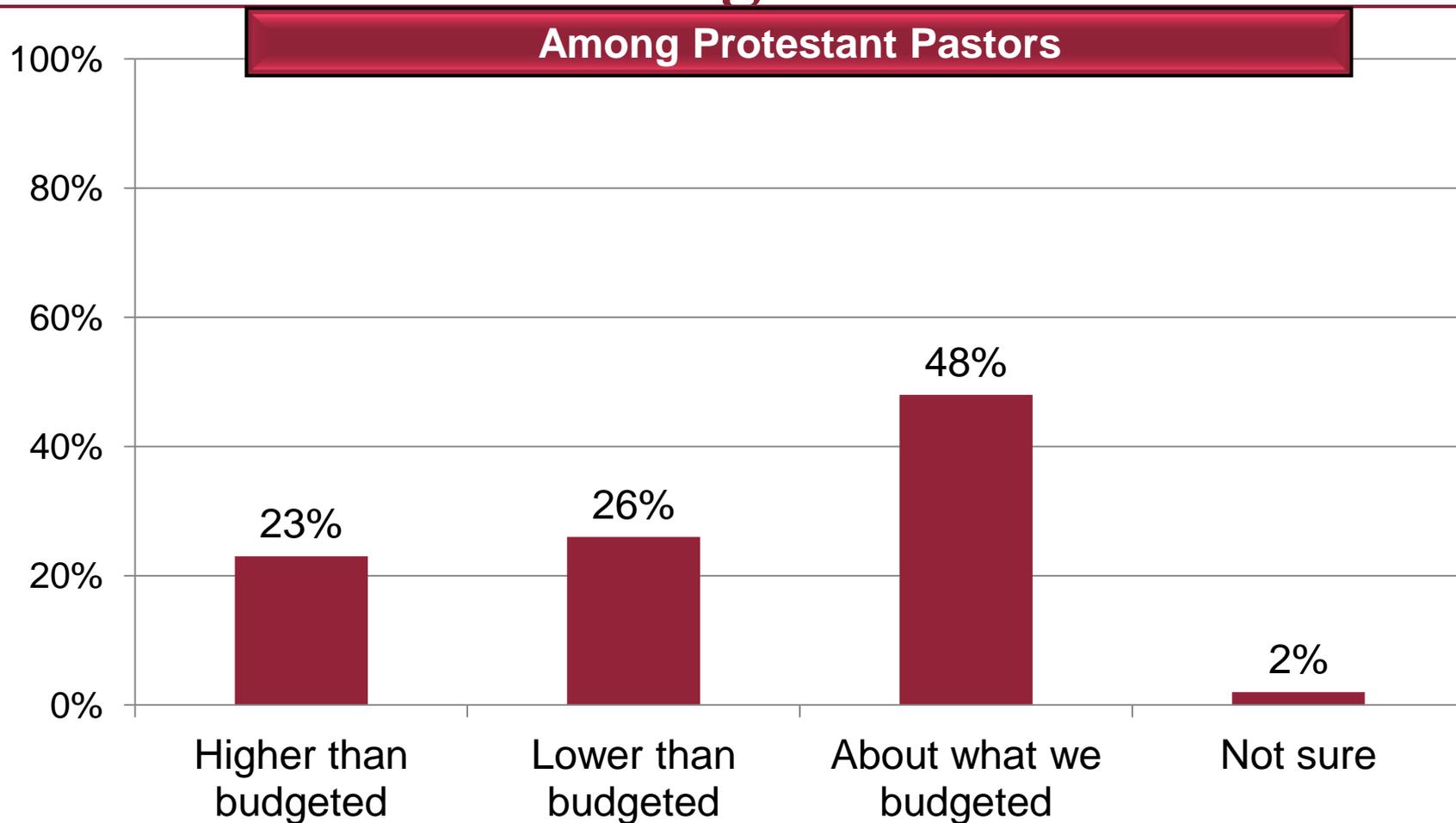
# Fewer pastors (35%) report the economy negatively impacting their church than in any previous survey



Don't Know - (3% Jan 2016, 2% Sep 2014 and Sep 2017, 1% all other surveys)

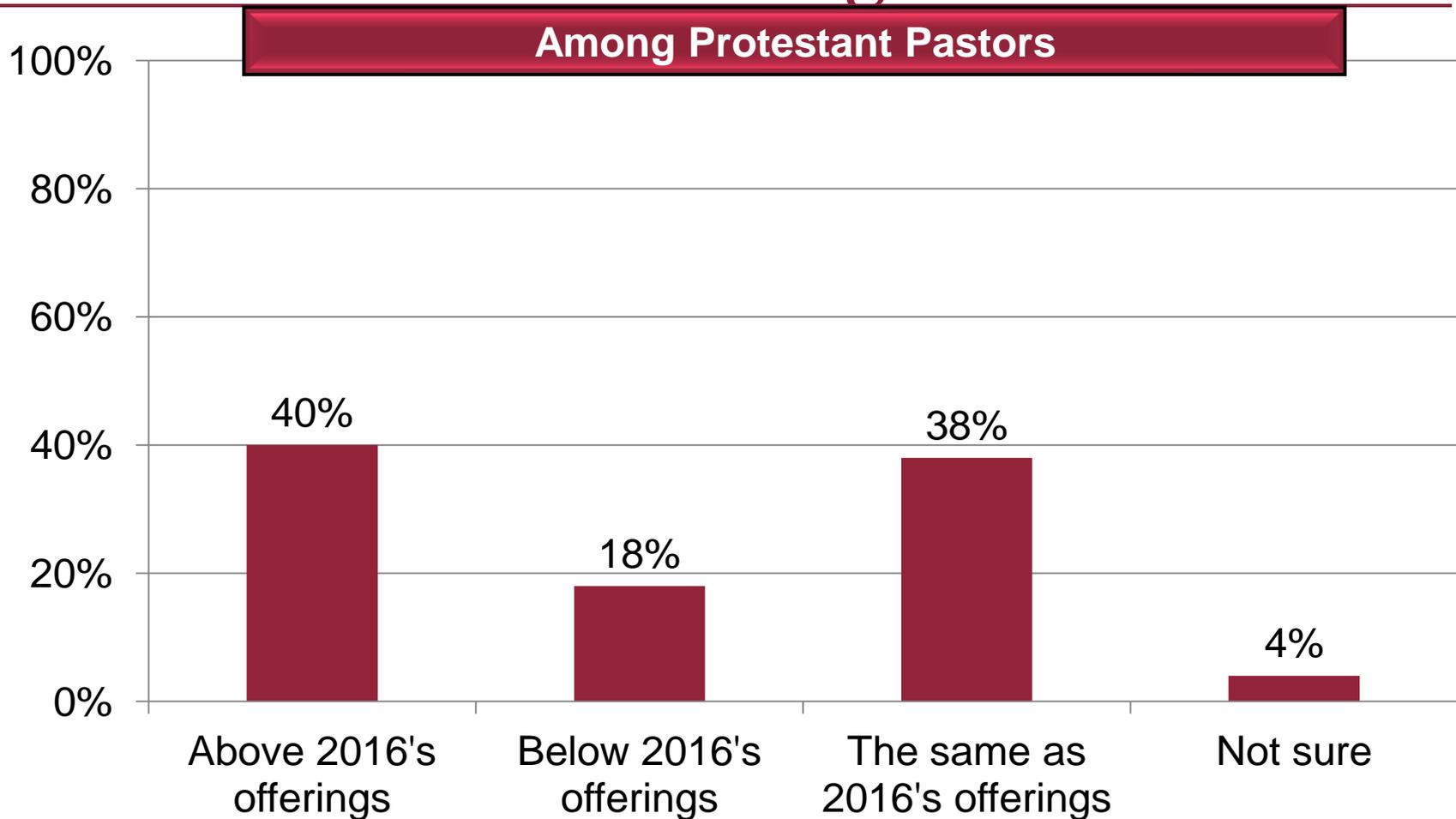
Q: "How is the current economy impacting your church?"

# 48% say that their offerings had been about what was budgeted for 2017

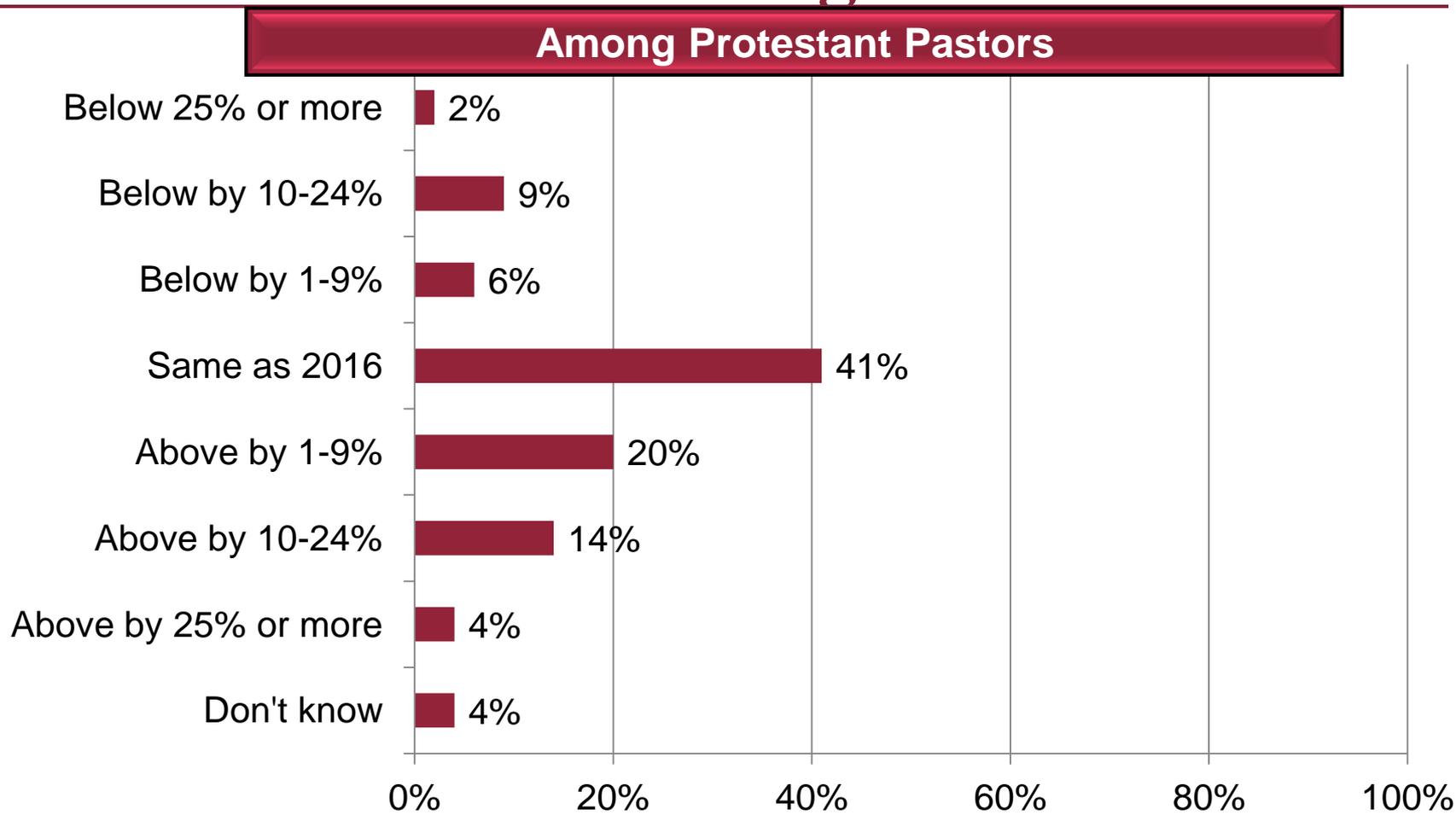


Q3: "Since the beginning of 2017, have your offerings been ..."

# 4 out of 10 say that 2017 offerings had been above 2016 offerings



# “Approximately what percentage are your calendar year 2017 offerings above or below 2016’s offerings?”



# Significant Differences

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Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's attendance and region, the pastor's gender, age and ethnicity.

Attendance	Region	Pastor's Gender	Pastor's Age	Pastor's Ethnicity
0-49	Northeast	Male	18-44	White
50-99	Midwest	Female	45-54	African-American
100-249	South		55-64	Other Ethnicities
250+	West		65+	

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among education level, the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, and denomination.

Education Level	Self-Identified	Denomination
No College Degree	Evangelical	Baptist
Bachelor's Degree	Mainline	Lutheran
		Methodist
		Pentecostal
		Presbyterian/ Reformed
		Holiness

# “How is the current economy impacting your church?”

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- Pastors of churches with attendance of 50-99 (40%) are more likely to answer “Very or somewhat negatively” than those with attendance of 10-249 (32%) and 250+ (27%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are most likely to answer “Very or somewhat positively” (28%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the least likely to answer “Very or somewhat positively” (9%)
- Female pastors are more likely to answer “Very or somewhat negatively” than male pastors (47% v. 34%) and less likely to answer “Very or somewhat positively” (10% v. 19%)
- African-American pastors are the most likely to answer “Very or somewhat negatively” (59%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree are the most likely to answer “Very or somewhat positively” (25%)

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

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- Mainline pastors (41%) are more likely to answer “Very or somewhat negatively” than Evangelical pastors (32%)
- Lutherans (44%) are more likely to answer “Very or somewhat negatively” than Baptists (31%)
- Pentecostals (25%) are more likely to answer “Very or somewhat positively” than Baptists (15%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (13%)

## “Since the beginning of 2017, have your offerings been ...”

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- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (27%) and 250+ (30%) are more likely to answer “Higher than budgeted” than those with attendance of 0-49 (16%) and 50-99 (20%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance 0-49 (29%) and 50-99 (29%) are more likely to answer “Lower than budgeted” than those with attendance of 250+ (19%)
- African-American pastors (41%) are more likely to answer “Lower than budgeted” than White pastors (26%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree are the most likely to answer “Higher than budgeted” (32%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (33%) are more likely to answer “Lower than budgeted” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (21%)
- Baptists (27%), Pentecostals (30%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (23%) are more likely to answer “Higher than budgeted” than Methodists (12%)
- Baptists (30%), Methodists (34%), and Holiness (34%) are more likely to answer “Lower than budgeted” than Pentecostals (17%)

# “Compared to your calendar year 2016 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2017 been ...”

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- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (47%) and 250+ (57%) are more likely to answer “Above 2016’s offerings” than those with attendance of 0-49 (26%) and 50-99 (35%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (21%) and 50-99 (22%) are more likely to answer “Below 2016’s offerings” than those with attendance of 250+ (10%)
- Pastors in the South (42%) are more likely to answer “Above 2016’s offerings” than Pastors in the Midwest (34%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (26%) are more likely to answer “Below 2016’s offerings” than those with a Master’s degree (16%)
- Baptists (45%) and Pentecostals (46%) are more likely to answer “Above 2016’s offerings” than Methodists (28%)

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