

Pastors' Views on the Economy's Impact 2018

Survey of Protestant Pastors

Methodology

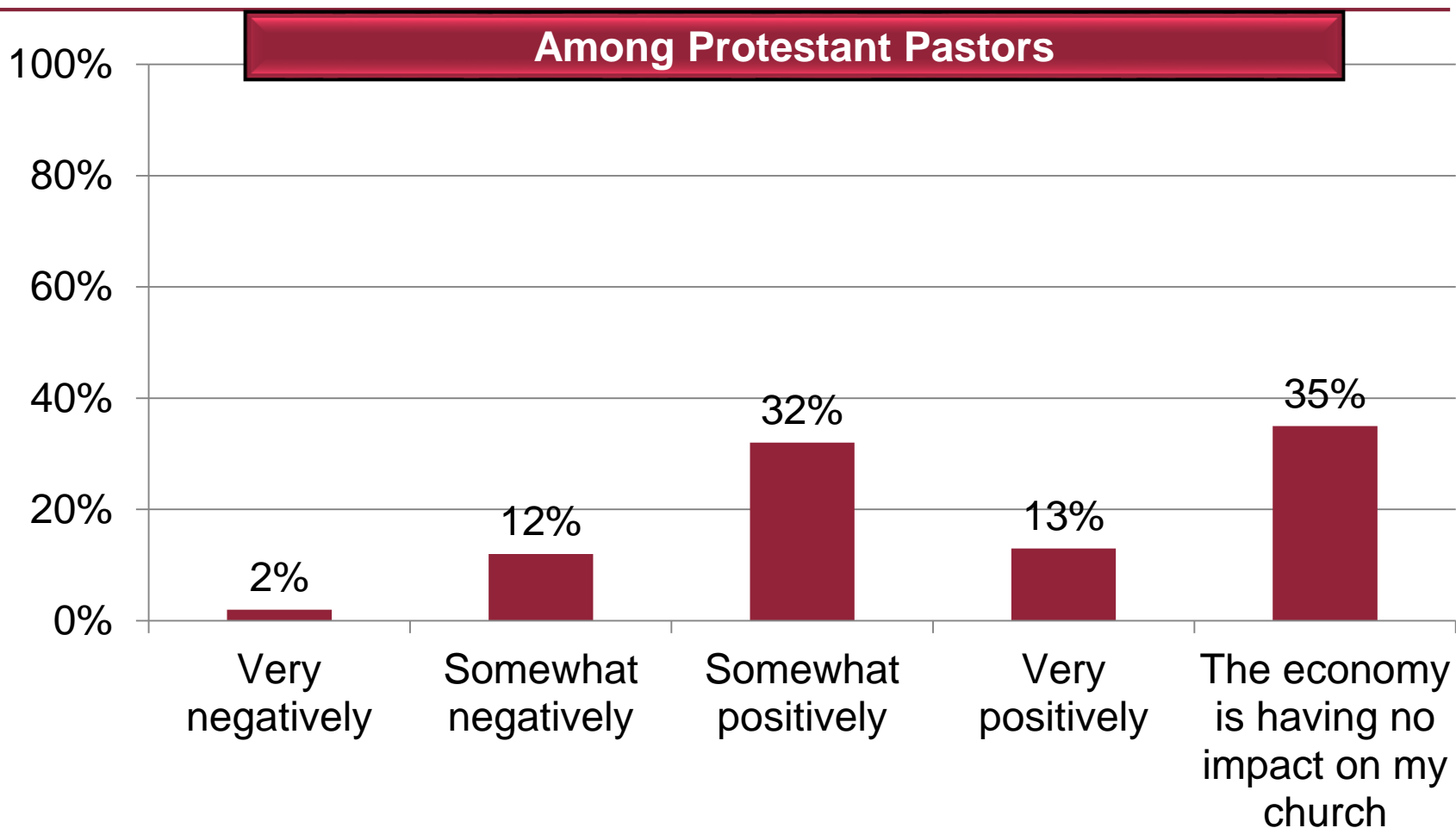
- ❑ The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 29 – September 11, 2018
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest 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

- ❑ 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

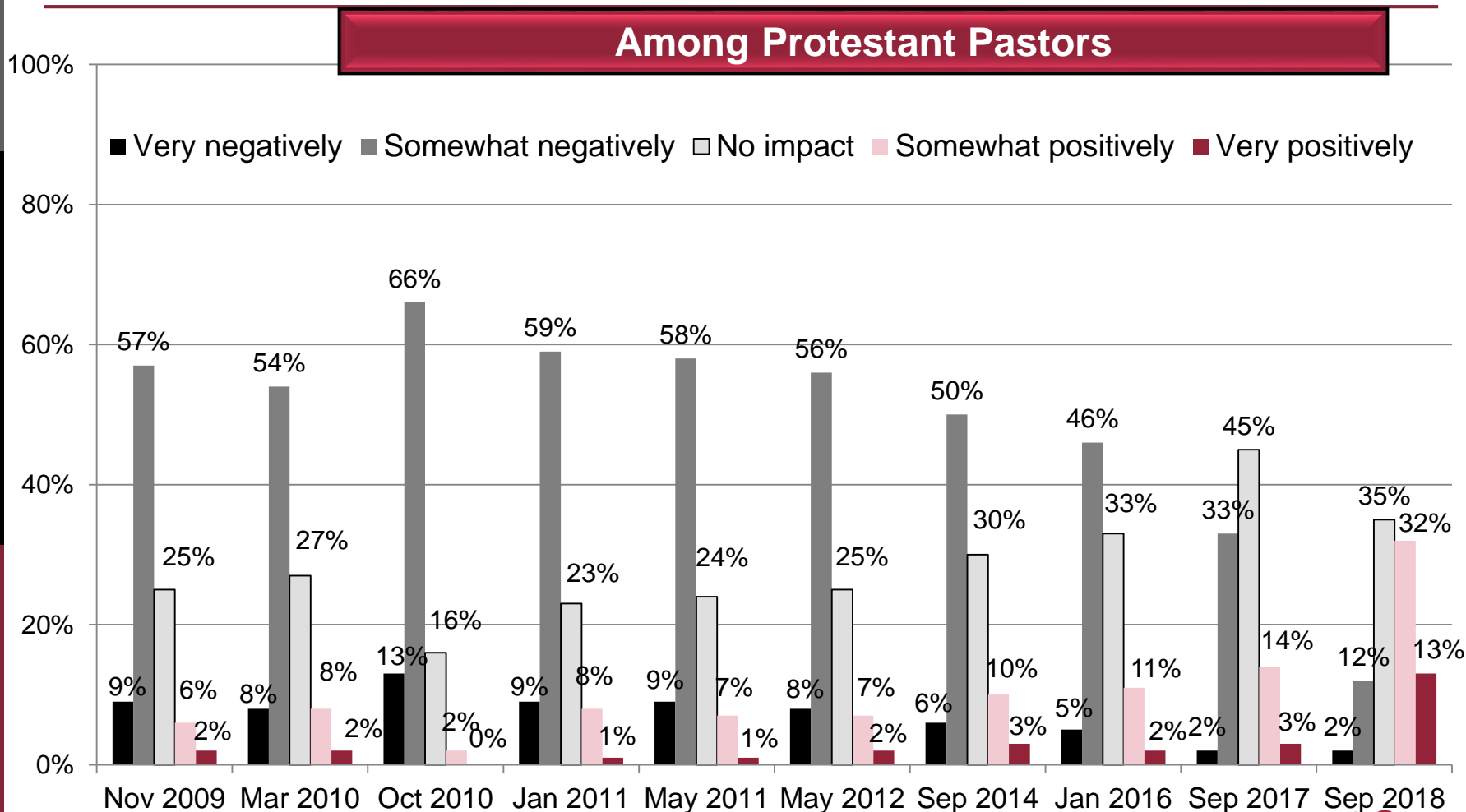
45% of pastors say the current economy is having a positive impact on their church



Not sure 6%

Q: "How is the current economy impacting your church?" n=1,000

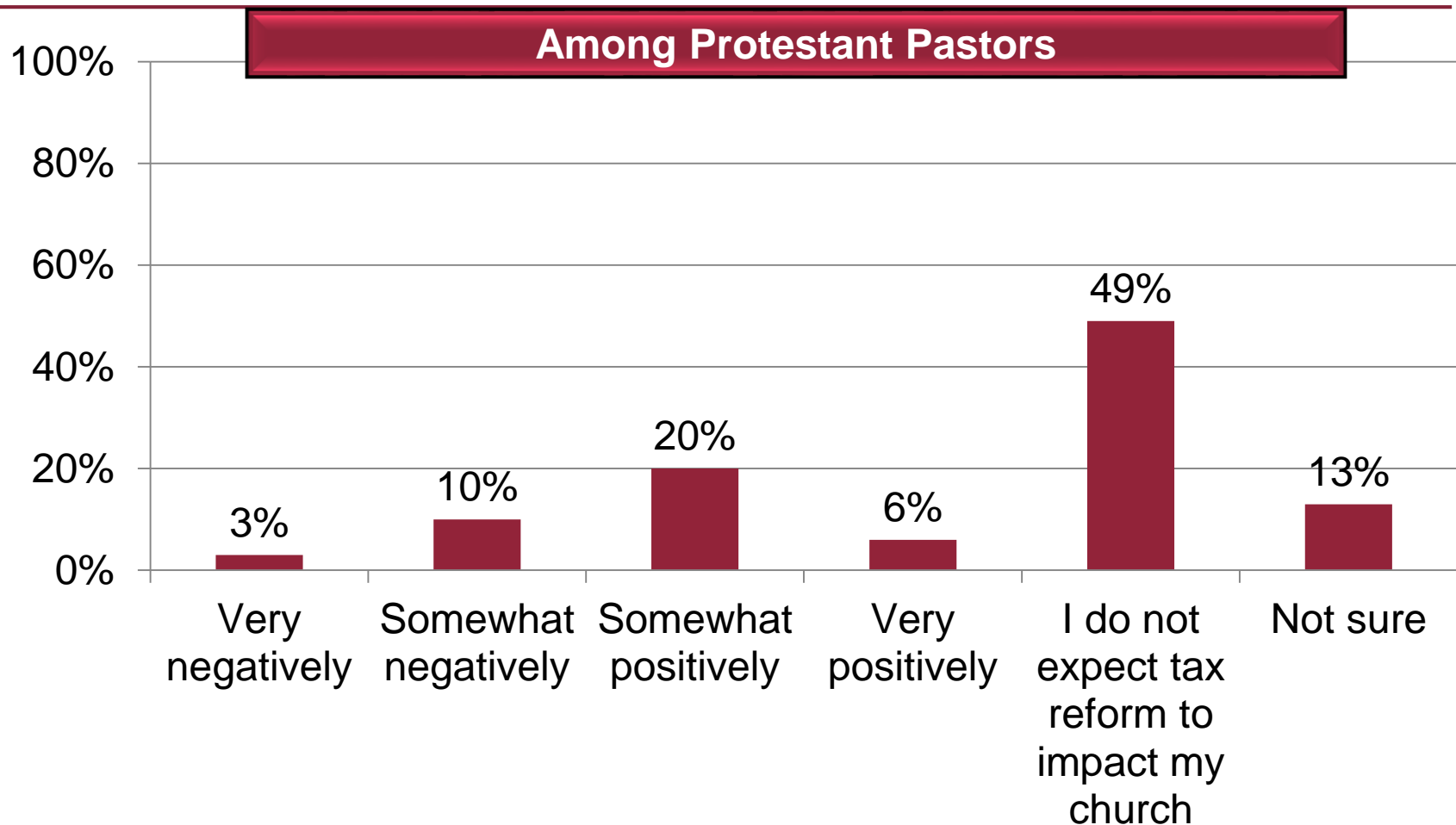
Fewer pastors (14%) report the economy negatively impacting their church than in any previous survey



Not sure - (6% Sep 2018, 3% Jan 2016, 2% Sep 2014 and Sep 2017, 1% all other surveys)

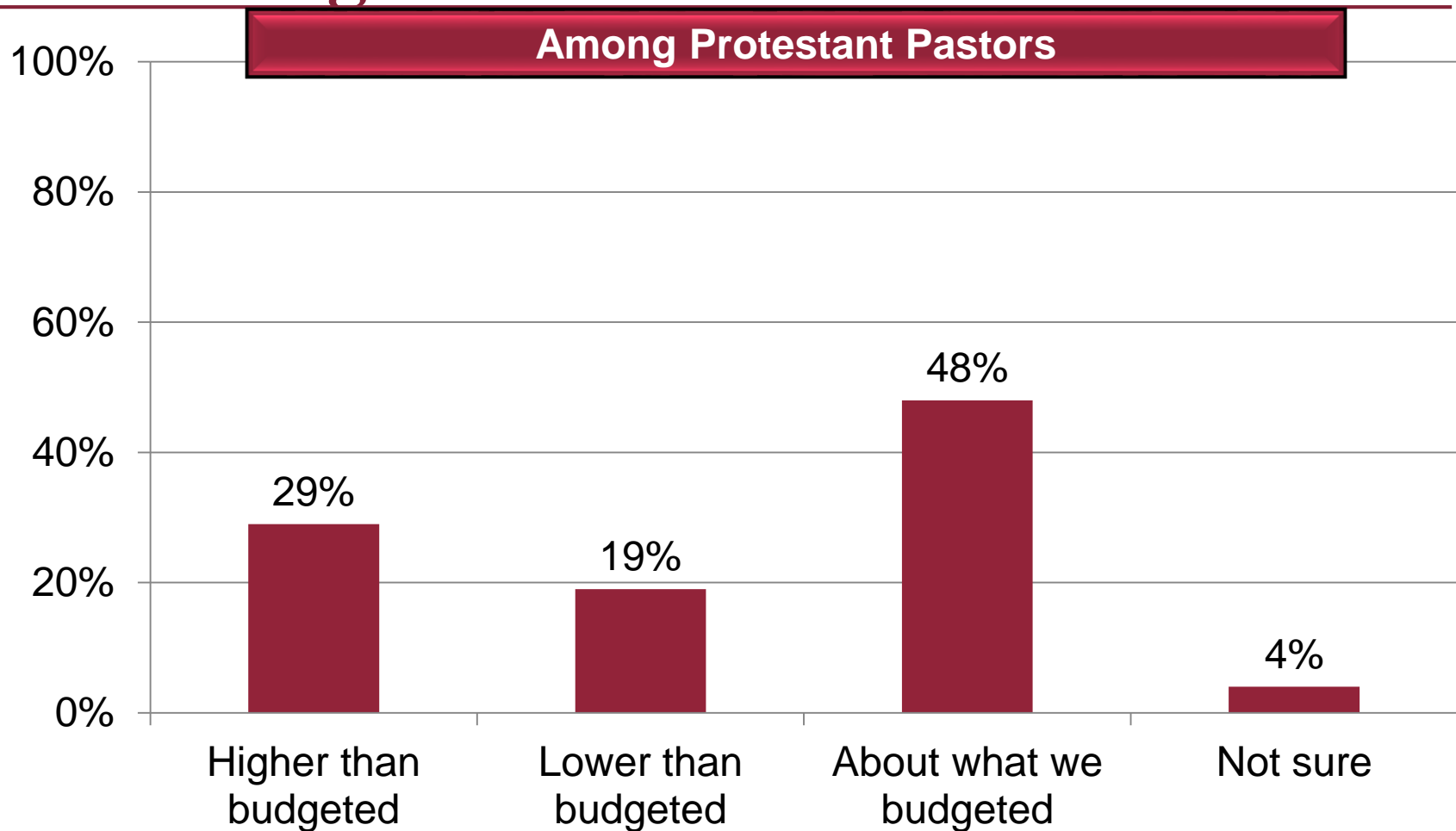
Q: "How is the current economy impacting your church?"

26% say that they expect last year's tax reform to positively impact their church's finances



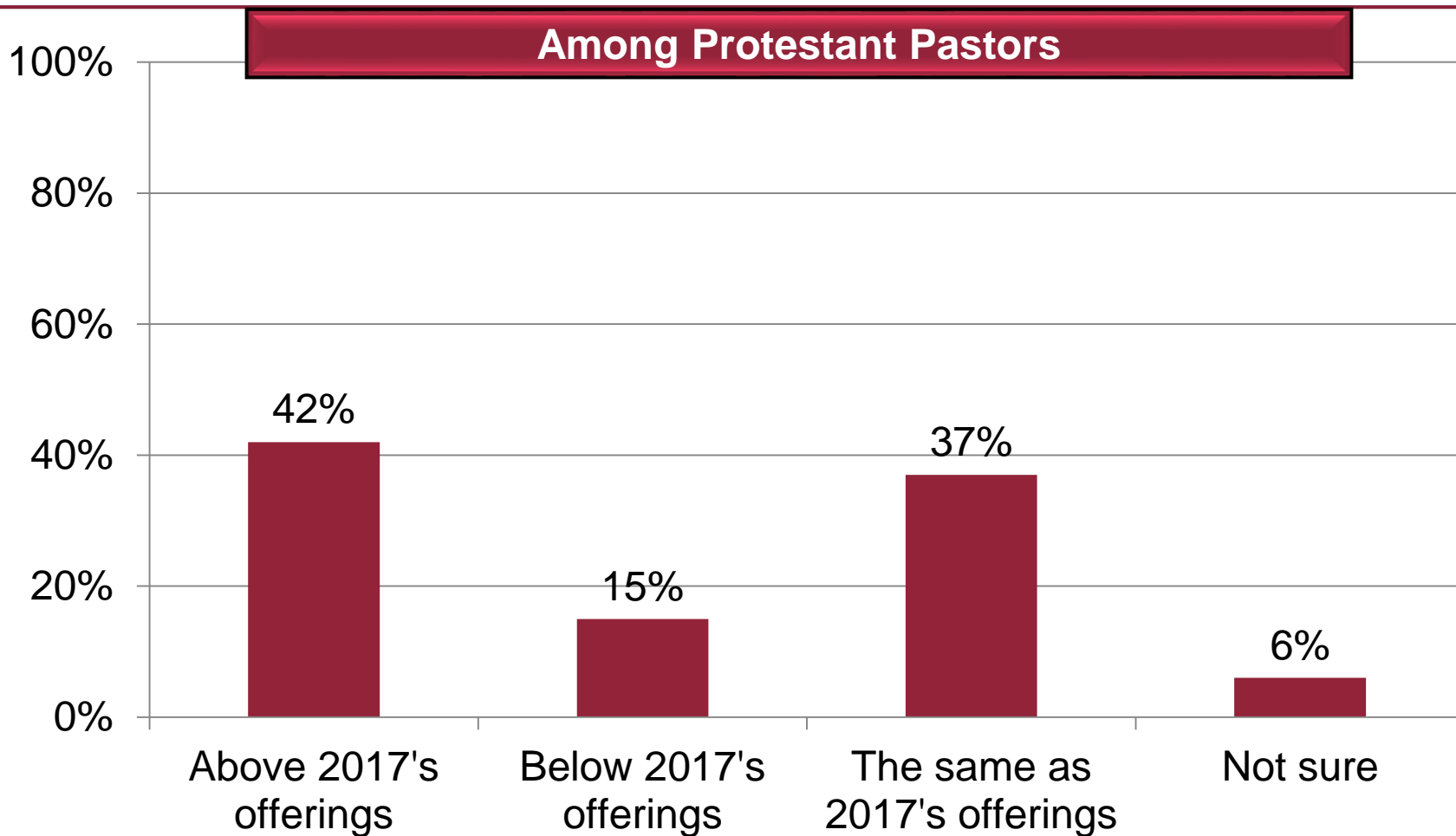
Q: "How do you expect last year's tax reform to impact your church's finances?" n=1,000

29% say that their offerings since the beginning of 2018 have been higher than budgeted



Q: "Since the beginning of 2018, have your offerings been ..." n=1,000

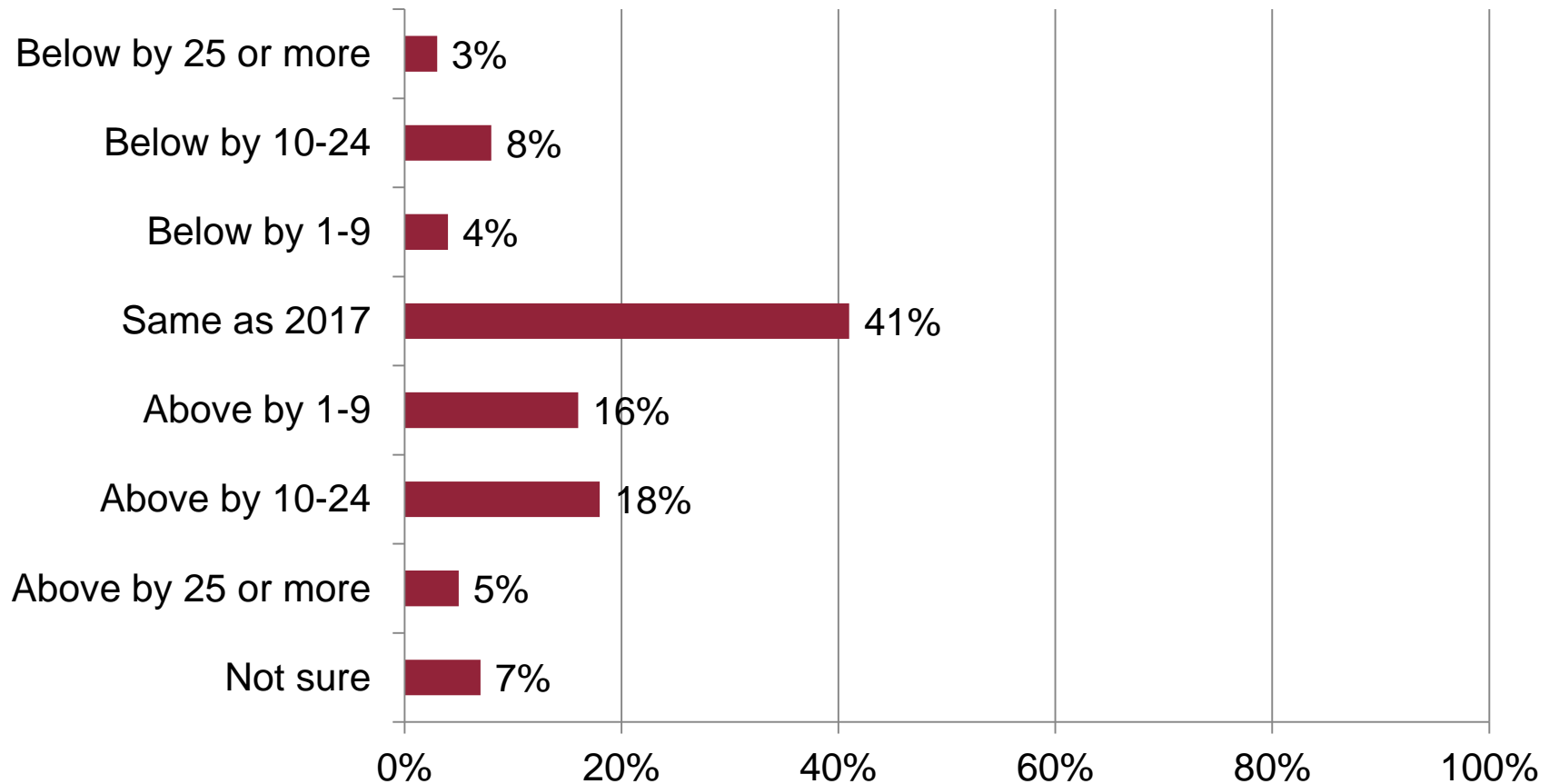
42% say that their offerings for 2018 have been above 2017



Q: "Compared to your calendar year 2017 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2018 been ..." n=1,000

“Approximately what percentage are your calendar year 2018 offerings above or below 2017’s offerings?”

Among Protestant Pastors



Q: “Approximately what percentage are your calendar year 2018 offerings above or below 2017’s offerings?” n=911

Significant Differences

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
		Christian/Church of Christ

“How is the current economy impacting your church?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (50%) and 250+ (52%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than those with attendance of 0-49 (34%)
- Pastors in the South (52%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than those in the Northeast (33%) and Midwest (38%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than Females (50% v. 23%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (48%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than pastors age 18-44 (39%)
- African-American pastors (36%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” than White pastors (13%)
- Pastors with no college degree (52%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than those with a Master’s degree (43%)
- Baptists (54%) and Pentecostals (64%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than Lutherans (38%), Methodists (31%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (35%)

“How do you expect last year’s tax reform to impact your church’s finances?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (29%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than those with attendance of 0-49 (19%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (15%) and Midwest (18%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” than those in the South (8%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than Females (29% v. 12%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (28%) and 65+ (30%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than pastors age 18-44 (20%)
- African-American pastors (38%) and pastors of Other Ethnicities (23%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” than White pastors (11%)
- Pastors with no college degree (34%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than those with a Master’s degree (23%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than Mainline pastors (31% v. 22%)
- Baptists (36%) and Pentecostals (37%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than Lutherans (21%), Methodists (17%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (13%)

“Since the beginning of 2018, have your offerings been ...”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (32%) and 250+ (36%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than those with attendance of 0-49 (21%)
- Pastors in the South (35%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than those in the Northeast (23%) and Midwest (23%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than Females (32% v. 18%)
- White pastors (29%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than African-American pastors (14%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (23%) or a Doctoral degree (21%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (11%)
- Baptists (39%) and Pentecostals (40%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than Lutherans (21%), Methodists (16%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (21%)

“Compared to your calendar year 2017 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2018 been ...”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (46%) and 250+ (57%) are more likely to select “Above 2017’s offerings” than those with attendance of 0-49 (29%) and 50-99 (39%)
- Pastors in the South (48%) are more likely to select “Above 2017’s offerings” than those in the Midwest (33%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Above 2017’s offerings” than Females (45% v. 26%)
- African-American pastors are the most likely to select “Below 2017’s offerings” (42%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (40%) are more likely to select “The same as 2017’s offerings” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (32%)
- Baptists (50%) and Pentecostals (54%) are more likely to select “Above 2017’s offerings” than Lutherans (33%), Methodists (31%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (34%)

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