

Pastors' Views on the Economy

Survey of American Protestant Pastors

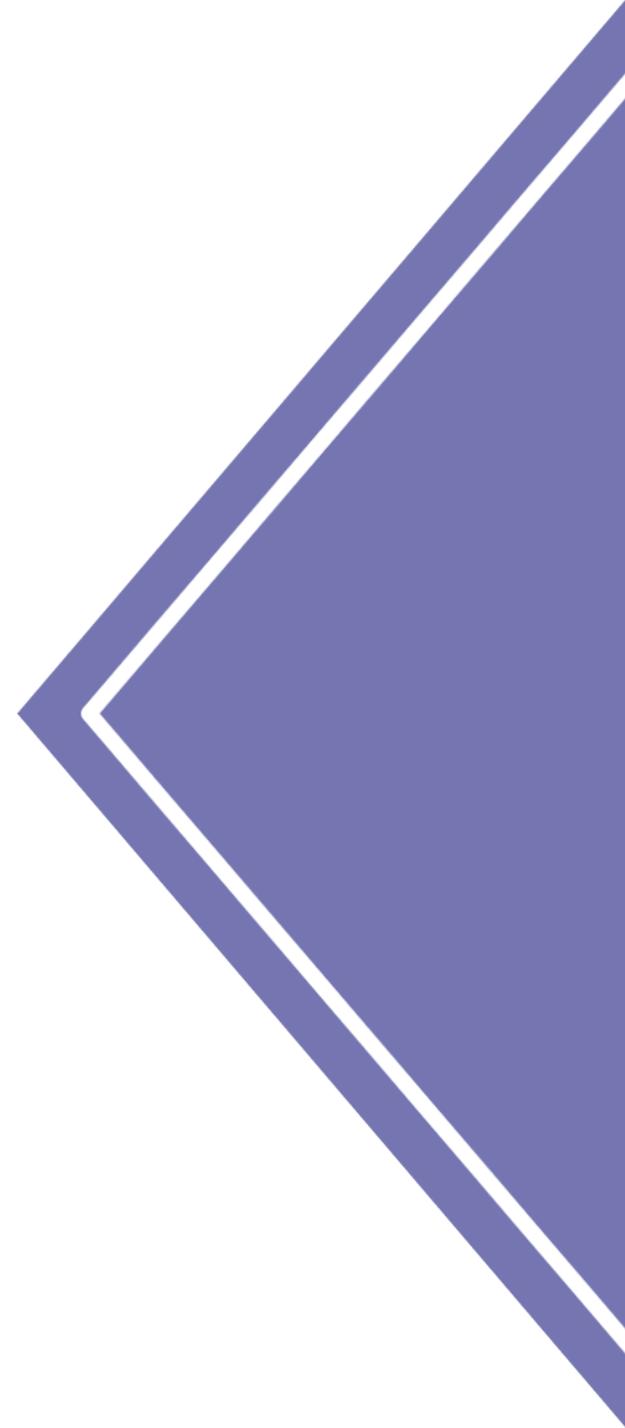
Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 -- September 24, 2019
- 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

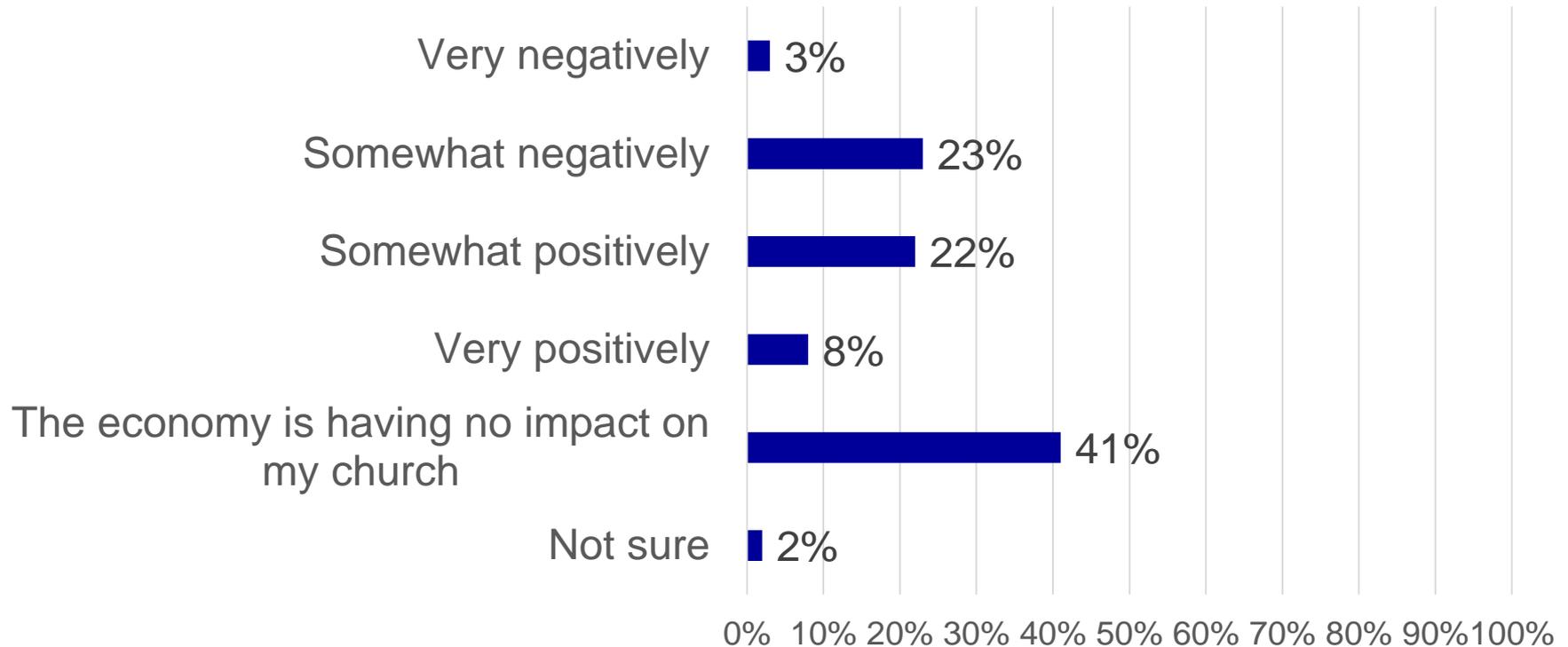
- Comparisons are also made to the following telephone surveys using the same methodology:
 - 1,002 pastors conducted November 5-12, 2009
 - 1,000 pastors conducted March 1-9, 2010
 - 1,000 pastors conducted October 7-14, 2010
 - 1,002 pastors conducted January 17-27, 2011
 - 1,000 pastors conducted May 18-25, 2011
 - 1,000 pastors conducted May 23-31, 2012
 - 1,000 pastors conducted September 11-18, 2014
 - 1,000 pastors conducted January 8-22, 2016
 - 1,000 pastors conducted August 29 – September 11, 2018

Survey Responses

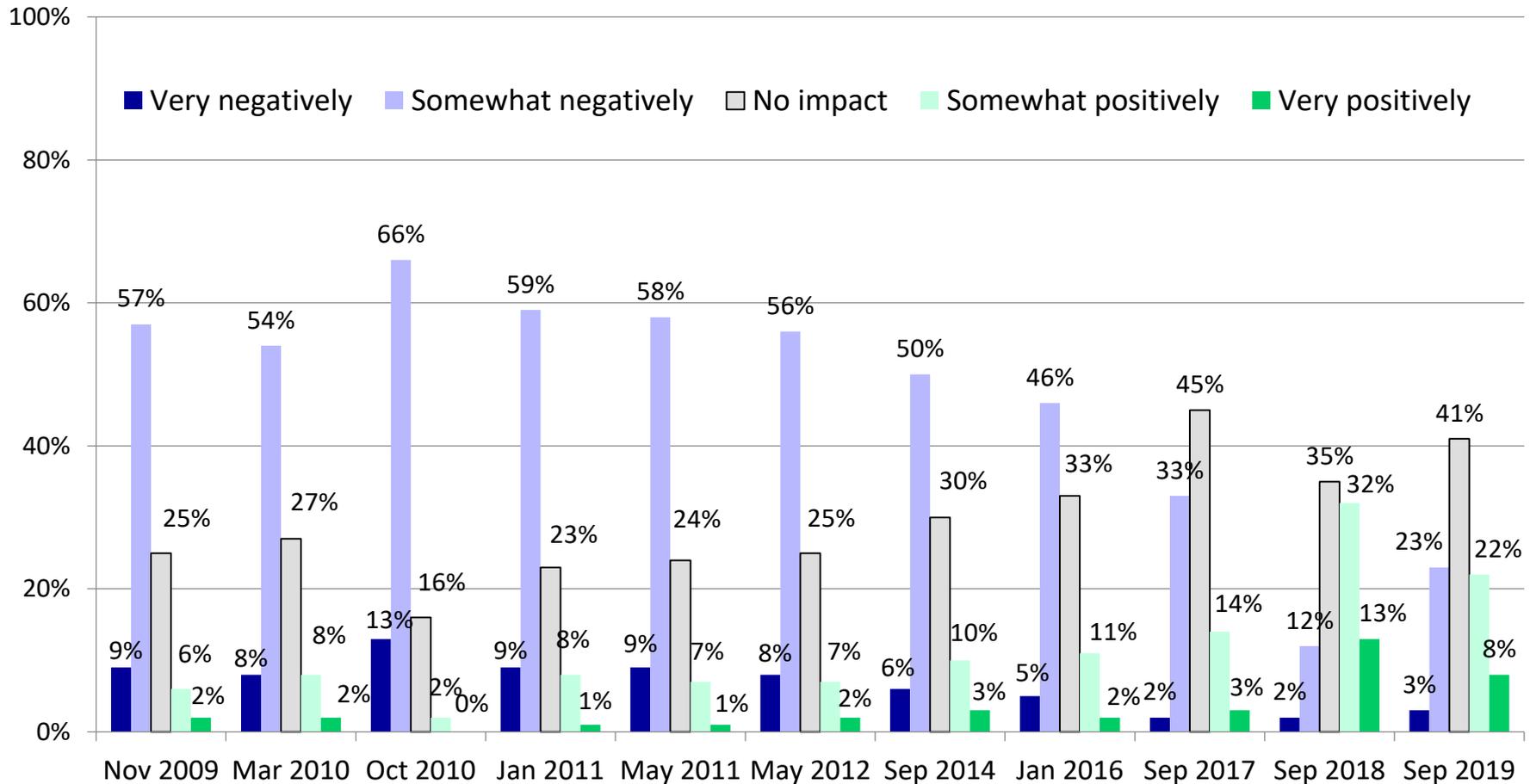


41% say the current economy is not impacting their church

Among Protestant Pastors

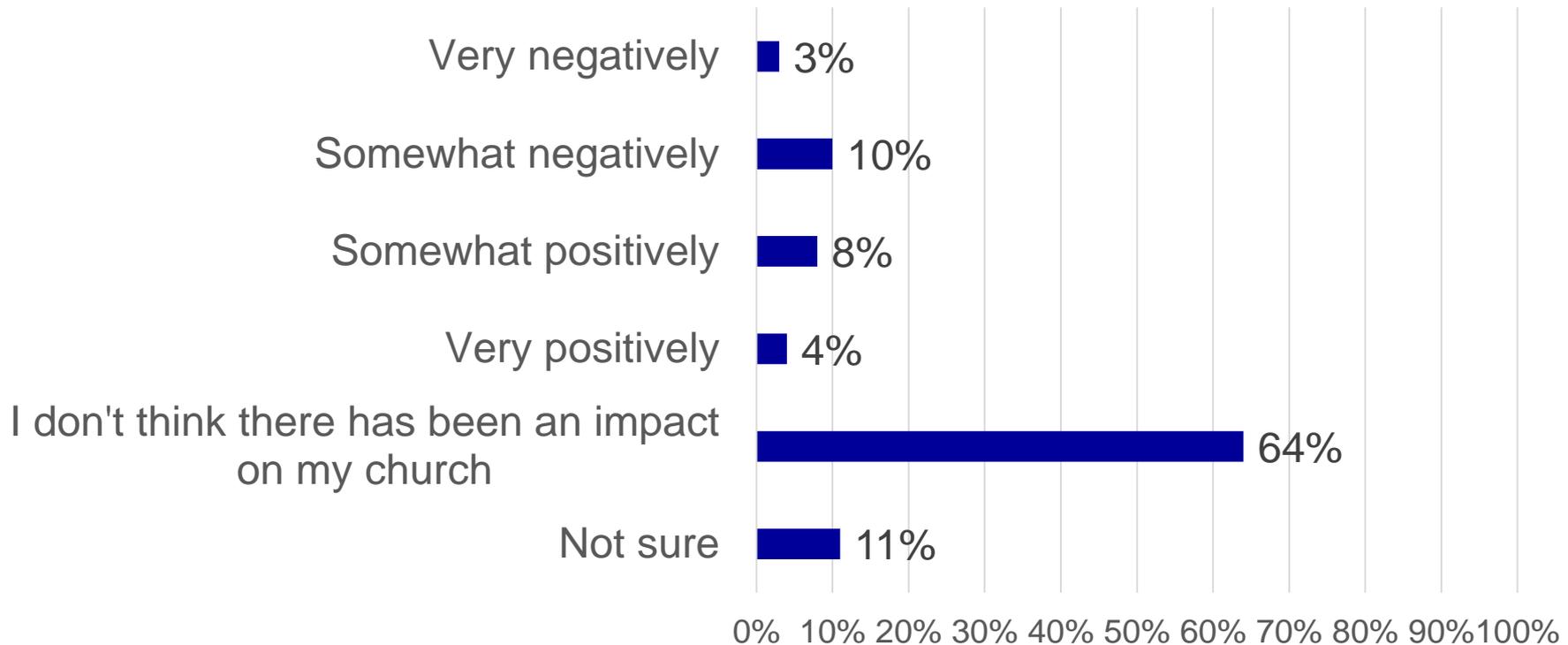


The number of churches feeling a negative impact from the current economy increased from 2018



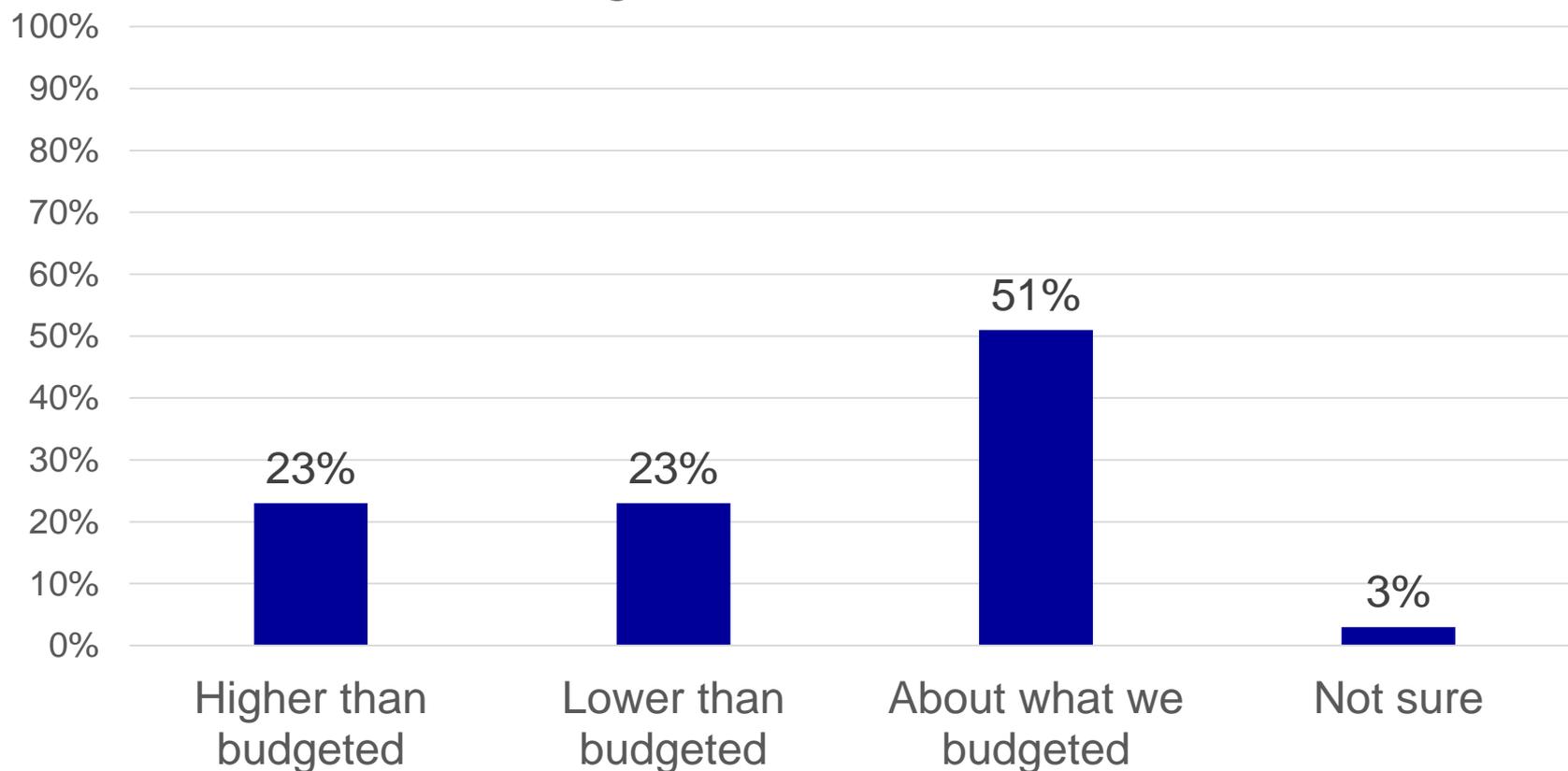
64% say that the 2018 tax reform has not had an impact on their church

Among Protestant Pastors



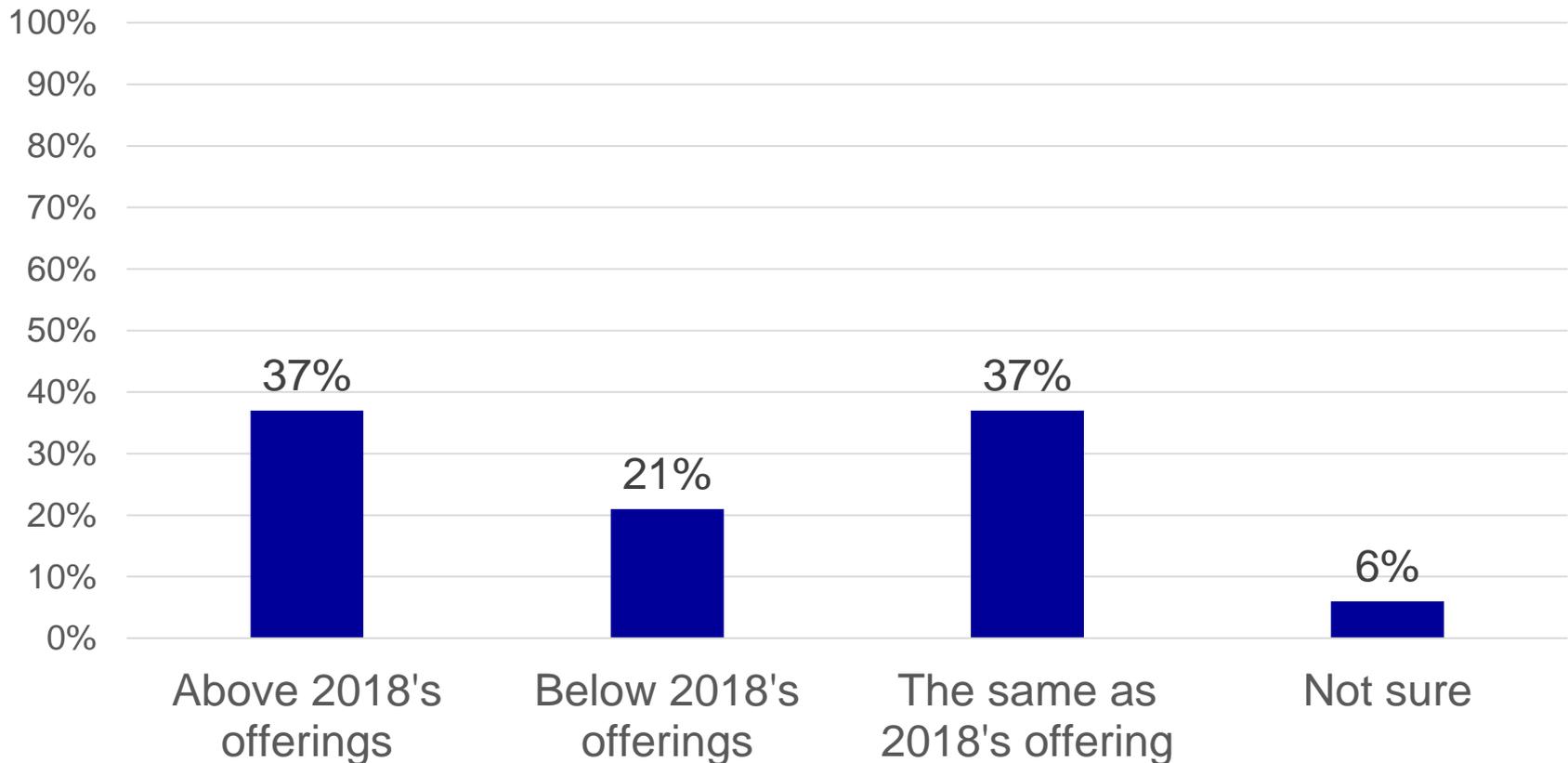
23% say that their 2019 offerings have been higher than budgeted; 23% say they have been lower than budgeted

Among Protestant Pastors



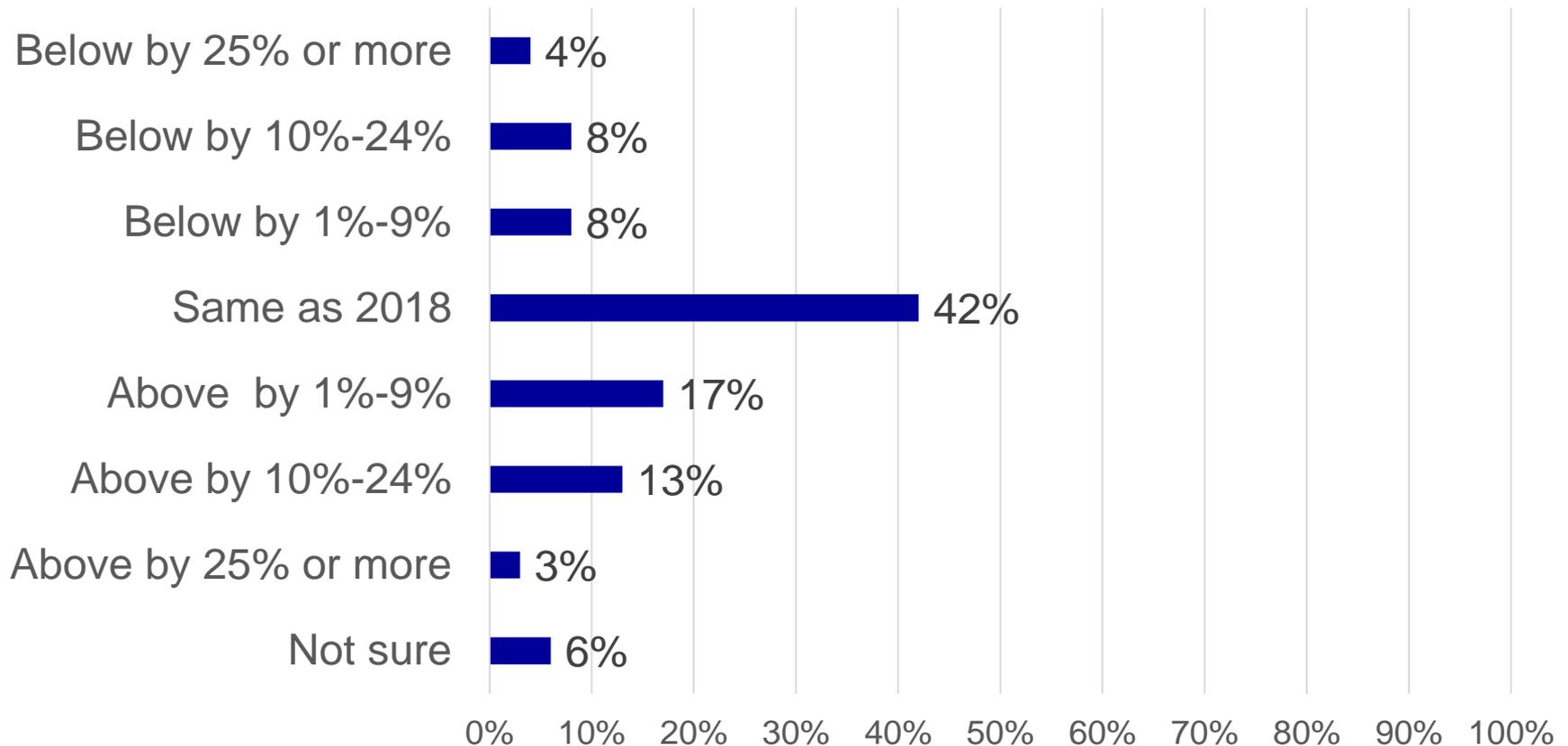
37% say that total offerings for 2019 are above 2018

Among Protestant Pastors



37% say that total offerings for 2019 are above 2018

Among Protestant Pastors



Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

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 pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, and self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

Ethnicity	Age	Gender	Education	Self-Identified
White	18-44	Male	No College Degree	Evangelical
African-American	45-54	Female	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
Other Ethnicity	55-64		Master's Degree	
	65+		Doctoral Degree	

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

Region	Denomination	Attendance
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Holiness	
	Christian/ Church of Christ	

“How is the current economy impacting your church?”

- African-American pastors are the most likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (49%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” (33%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than female pastors (34% v. 9%) and less likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (24% v. 42%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than Mainline pastors (35% v. 25%) and less likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (22% v. 35%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (35%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” than those in the South (24%)
- Pastors in the South (32%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than those in the Northeast (22%)

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

- Methodists (46%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (37%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” than Baptists (17%), Lutherans (23%), Pentecostals (19%), and Christian/Church of Christ (18%)
- Methodists are the least likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” (11%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (37%) and the least likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” (17%)

“How has the 2018 tax reform impacted your church’s finances?”

- African-American pastors are the most likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (38%)
- Pastors age 65+ (16%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than pastors age 18-44 (8%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “I don’t think there has been an impact on my church” than female pastors (65% v. 56%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (65%) are more likely to select “I don’t think there has been an impact on my church” than those with a Doctoral degree (56%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than Mainline pastors (16% v. 9%) and less likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (8% v. 19%)
- Pastors in the South (65%) and Midwest (66%) are more likely to select “I don’t think there has been an impact on my church” than those in the Northeast (53%)

“How has the 2018 tax reform impacted your church’s finances?” (continued)

- Baptists (64%), Lutherans (71%), Pentecostals (75%), and Christian/Church of Christ (74%) are more likely to select “I don’t think there has been an impact on my church” than Methodists (53%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (20%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than those with attendance of 0-49 (7%) and 50-99 (10%)

“Since the beginning of 2019, have your offerings been ...”

- African-American pastors are the most likely to select “Lower than budgeted” (41%) and the least likely to select “Higher than budgeted” (10%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than female pastors (25% v. 14%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than Mainline pastors (27% v. 18%)
- Baptists (28%) and Pentecostals (33%) are more likely to select “Higher than budgeted” than Lutherans (18%) and Methodists (12%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select “Lower than budgeted” (35%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are least likely to select “Higher than budgeted” (15%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (58%) are more likely to select “About what we budgeted” than those with attendance of 100-249 (48%)

“Compared to your calendar year 2018 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2019 been ...”

- African-American pastors are the most likely to select “Below 2018’s offerings” (36%) and the least likely to select “Above 2018’s offerings” (22%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Above 2018’s offerings” than female pastors (39% v. 24%) and less likely to select “The same as 2018’s offerings” (36% v. 45%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Above 2018’s offerings” than Mainline pastors (43% v. 33%) and less likely to select “Below 2018’s offerings” (18% v. 25%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select “Below 2018’s offerings” (36%) and the least likely to select “Above 2018’s offerings” (22%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (42%) and 250+ (50%) are more likely to select “Above 2018’s offerings” than those with attendance of 0-49 (25%) and 50-99 (34%)

“Compared to your calendar year 2018 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2019 been ...”

- White pastors (18%) are more likely to select “Above by 1%-9%” than African American pastors (9%)
- Pastors age 65+ (7%) are more likely to select “Below by 25% or more” than those 45-54 (1%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Above by 1%-9%” than female pastors (18% v. 9%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (19%) or a Doctoral degree (26%) are more likely to select “Above by 1%-9%” than those with no college degree (10%) or a Bachelor’s degree (10%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the least likely to select “Above by 10%-24%” (5%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (23%) are more likely to select “Above by 10%-24%” than Lutherans (10%) and Methodists (5%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select “Above by 1%-9%” (29%)

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