

B2B CONTENT MARKETING

2017 Benchmarks, Budgets,
and Trends—North America



CONTENT
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WELCOME

Greetings Marketers,

Welcome to the *7th Annual B2B Content Marketing Benchmarks, Budgets, and Trends—North America* report. We've made quite a few changes to our annual survey this year to reflect the maturing content marketing industry.

This year's research paints a brighter picture than the last few years, indicating that content marketing is alive and well! Content marketers are on track—with 62% reporting that their organizations are much more or somewhat more successful with their overall content marketing approach compared with one year ago.

Like last year, those who are further along with their approach are the most successful, while the vast majority of the least successful are in the young/early phases of content marketing. With time, a documented strategy, creativity, meaningful goals and metrics, a willingness to experiment, and perhaps most importantly, *a commitment to content marketing*, those marketers will succeed.

Please watch for continuing editorial coverage of our research findings throughout 2017. We hope you will find the insights useful as you prepare for the year ahead.

Yours in content,

Joe & Ann



Joe Pulizzi

Founder
Content Marketing Institute



Ann Handley

Chief Content Officer
MarketingProfs

COMPARISON CHART

This Year's B2B Content Marketing Top Performers At-A-Glance

	Most Successful	All Respondents	Least Successful
Organization is clear on what an effective or successful content marketing program looks like	81%	41%	14%
Organization is extremely/very committed to content marketing	91%	63%	35%
Describes organization's content marketing maturity as sophisticated/mature	72%	28%	2%
Has a documented content marketing strategy	61%	37%	13%
Content marketing strategy is extremely/very effective	83%	34%	2%
Measures content marketing ROI	88%	72%	56%
Percentage of total marketing budget allocated to content marketing (average)	39%	29%	22%
Agrees that organization is realistic about what content marketing can achieve	91%	68%	41%
Agrees that organization is able to quickly adjust content marketing strategy	87%	66%	41%
Always/frequently delivers content consistently	85%	58%	32%
Agrees that leadership gives ample time to produce results	77%	52%	26%

Chart term definitions: A top performer (aka, "most successful") is one who characterizes his or her organization's overall content marketing approach as extremely or very successful. The "least successful" characterize their organization's approach as minimally or not at all successful.

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

USAGE & TEAM ORGANIZATION

28%

Are in the sophisticated/mature phase of content marketing maturity

55%

Have small content marketing teams serving the entire organization

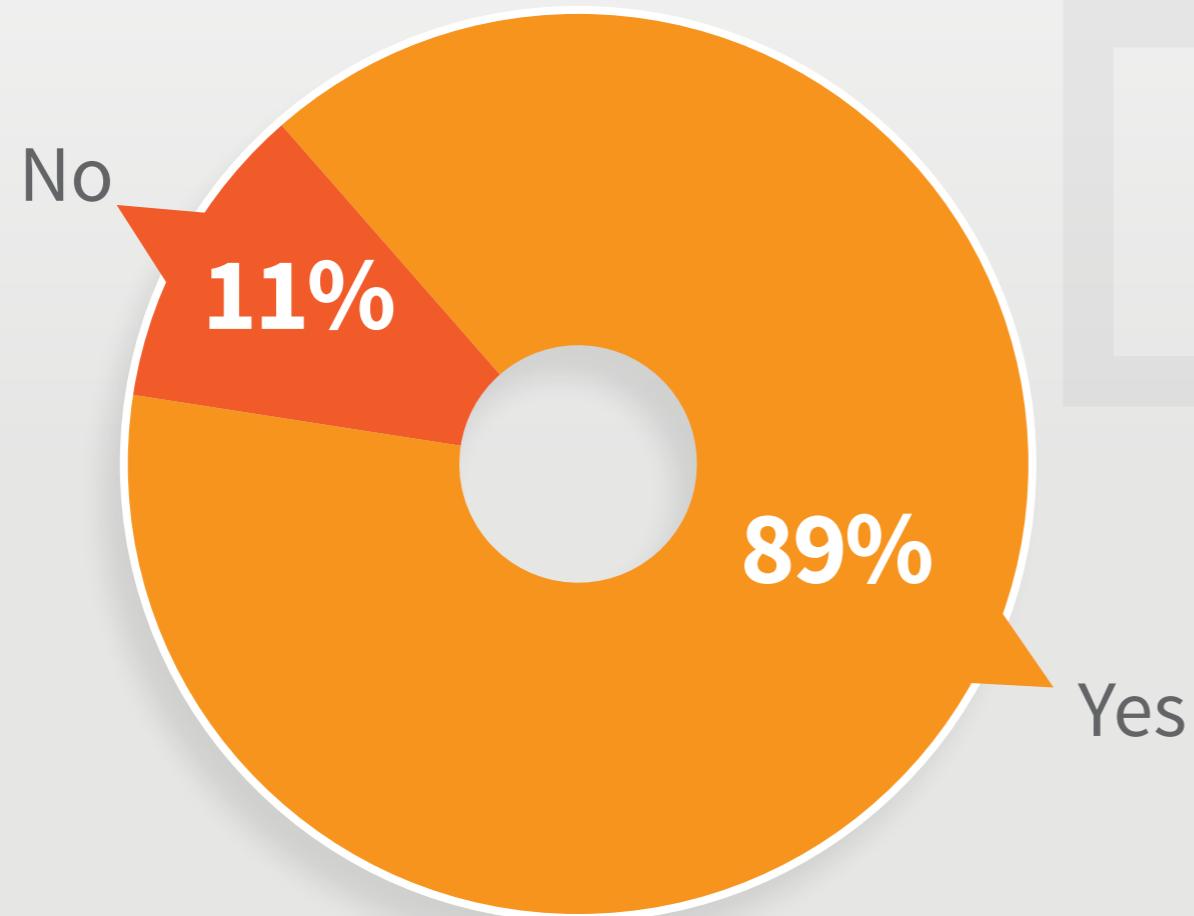
42%

Have experienced management changes that have had a positive impact on the organization's content marketing



Does your organization use content marketing?

Percentage of B2B Marketers Using Content Marketing



Content marketing is defined as “a strategic marketing approach focused on creating and distributing valuable, relevant, and consistent content to attract and retain a clearly defined audience—and, ultimately, to drive profitable customer action.”

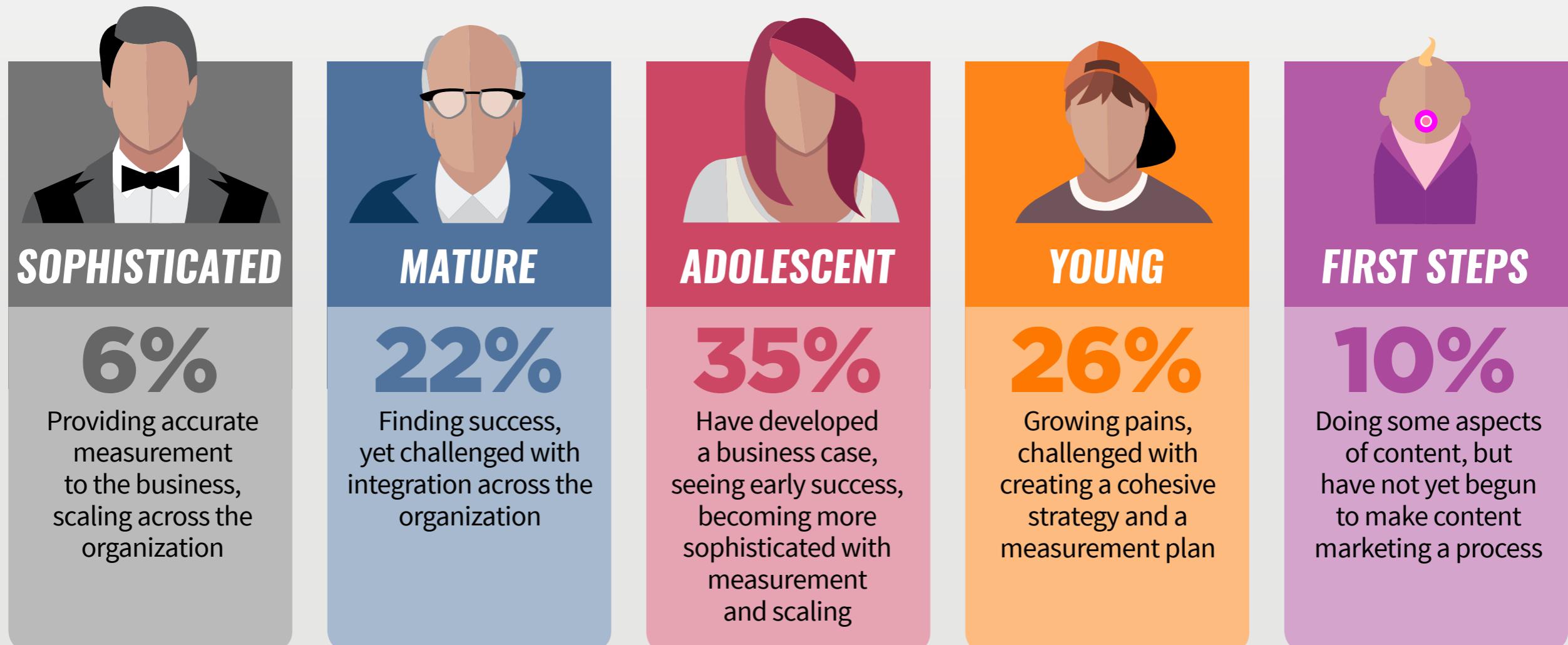
Note: Of the 11% nonusers, 52% say they plan to launch a content marketing effort within 12 months; 43% had no immediate plans to begin using content marketing; and 5% had used content marketing in the past but stopped.

Base = B2B marketers.

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

How would you describe your organization's content marketing maturity level?

How B2B Marketers Assess Their Organization's Content Marketing Maturity Level



2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

How is content marketing structured within your organization?

B2B Content Marketing Organizational Structure

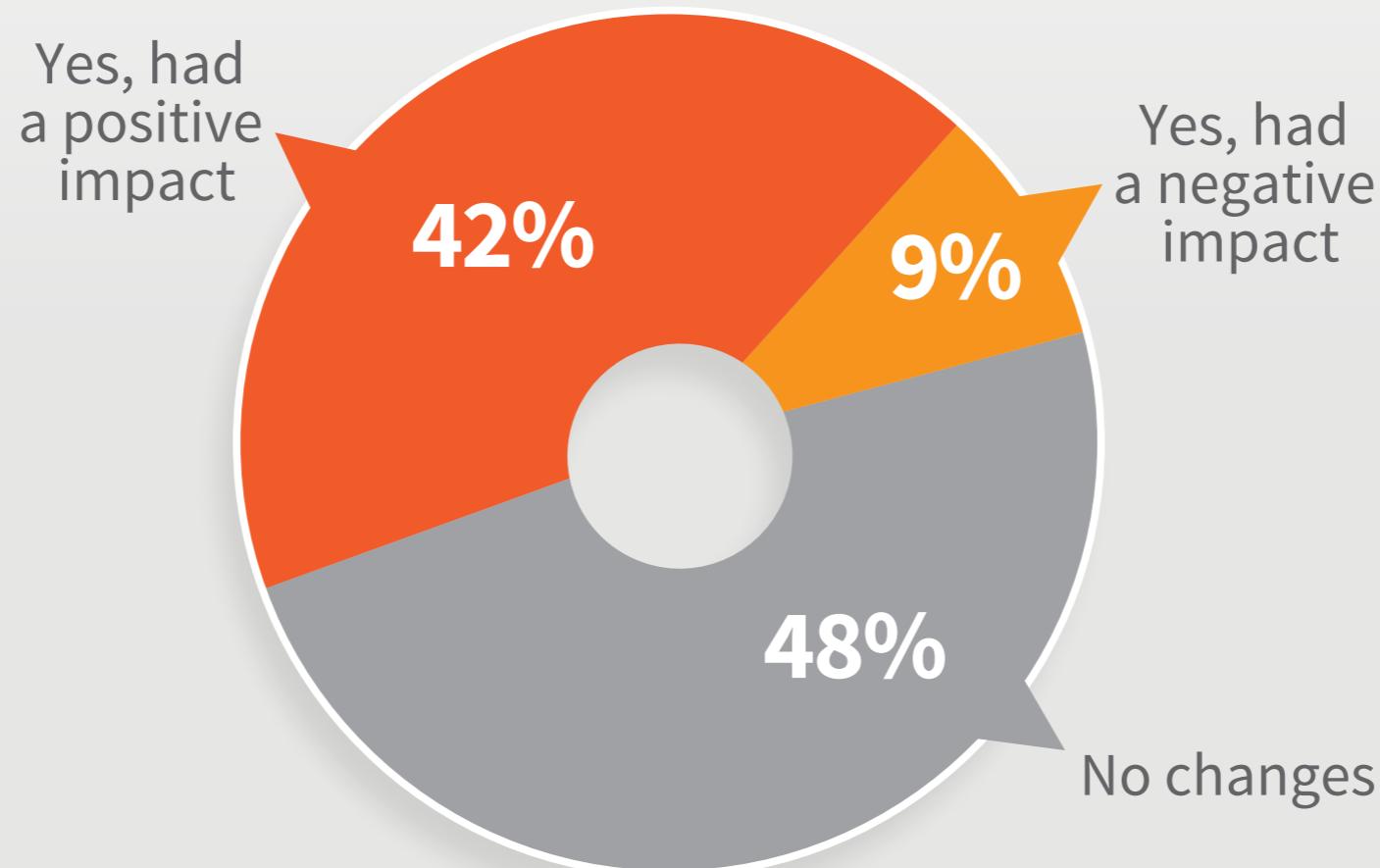


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

Has your organization undergone any management and/or structural changes over the last 12 months that have impacted your content marketing approach?

B2B Management Changes Impacting Content Marketing



2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

CLARITY, COMMITMENT & OVERALL SUCCESS

63%

Are extremely or
very committed to
content marketing

22%

Are extremely or
very successful
with their overall
approach to
content marketing

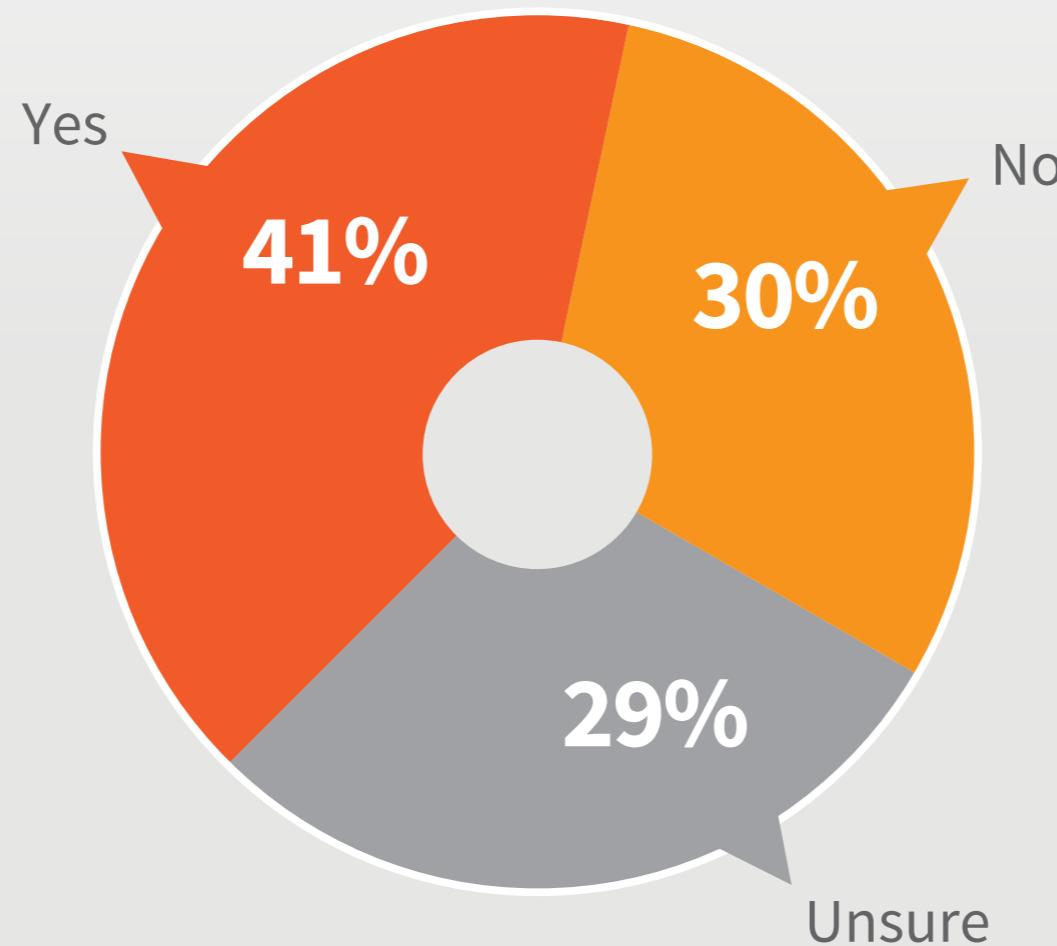
62%

Are much more or
somewhat more
successful with
content marketing
than they were one
year ago



In your organization, is it clear what an effective or successful content marketing program looks like?

Percentage of B2B Marketers Whose Organizations Have Clarity on Content Marketing Success

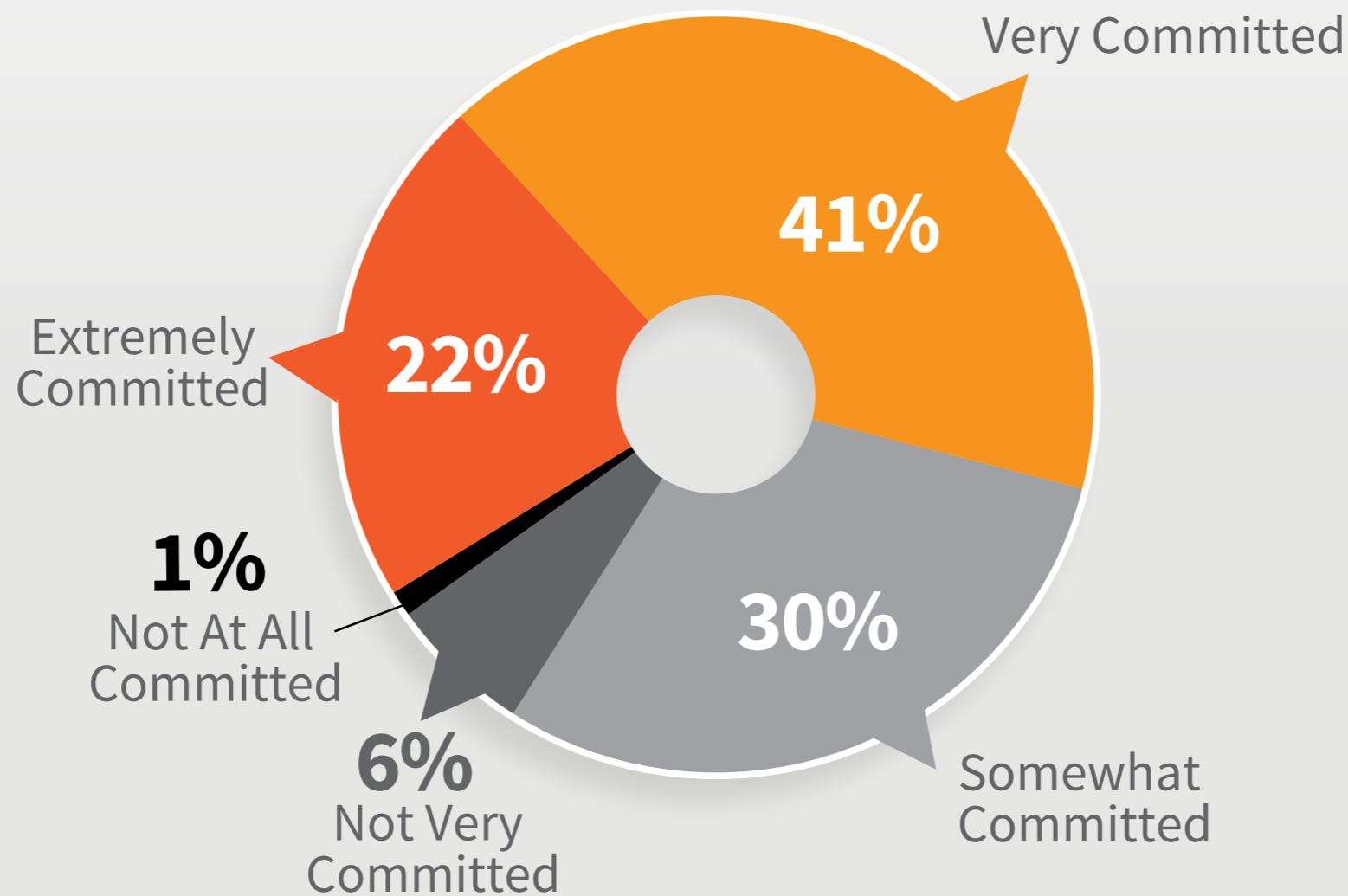


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

How would you describe your organization's commitment level to content marketing?

B2B Organizations' Commitment to Content Marketing

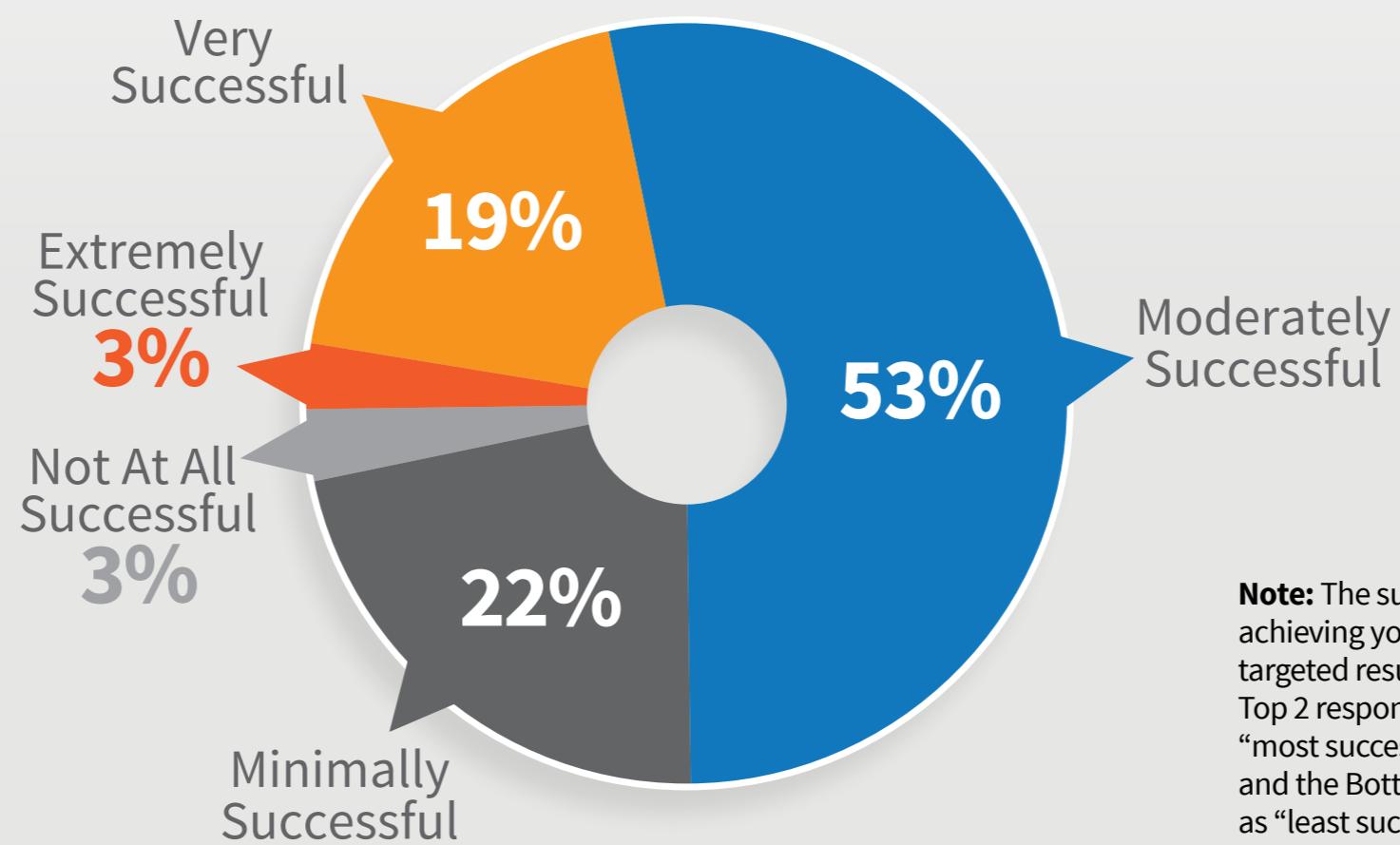


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

How would you characterize the success of your organization's current overall content marketing approach?

How B2B Marketers Rate the Success of Their Organizations' Overall Content Marketing Approach

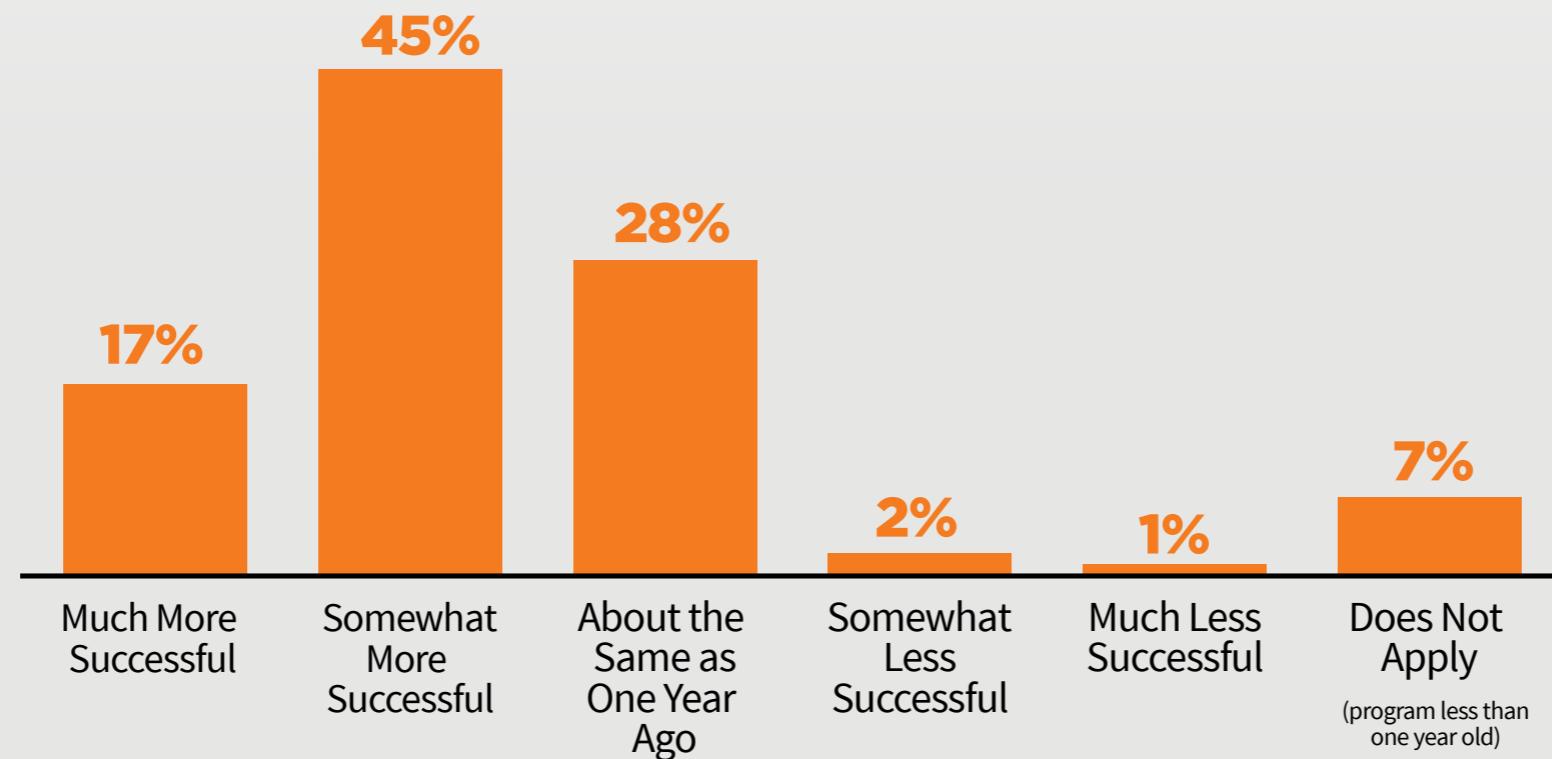


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

How does the success of your organization's current overall content marketing approach compare with one year ago?

How B2B Marketers Rate Their Organization's Content Marketing Success Compared With One Year Ago

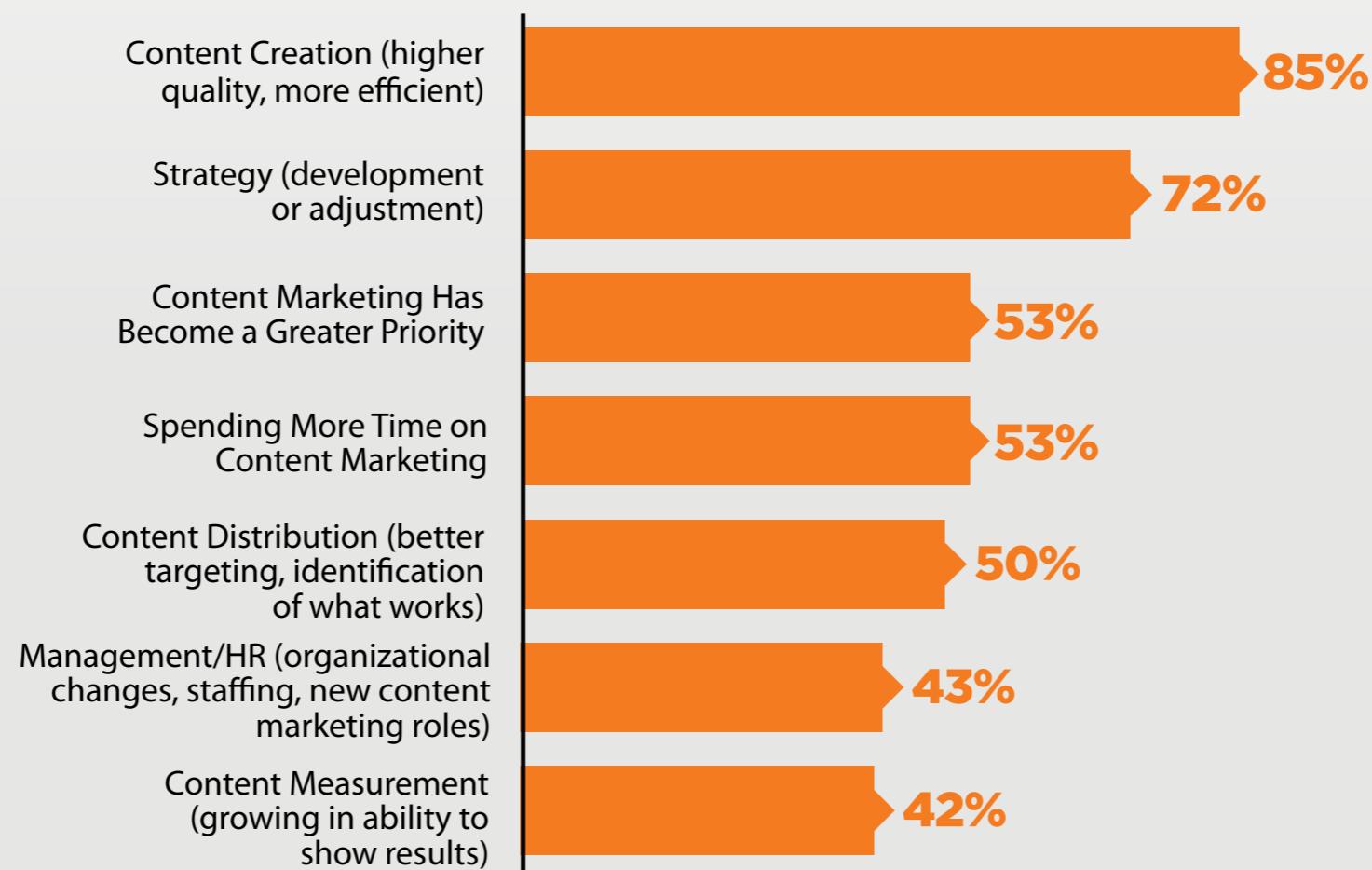


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

To what factors do you attribute your organization's increase in overall success?

Factors Contributing to B2B Marketers' Increased Success Over the Last Year



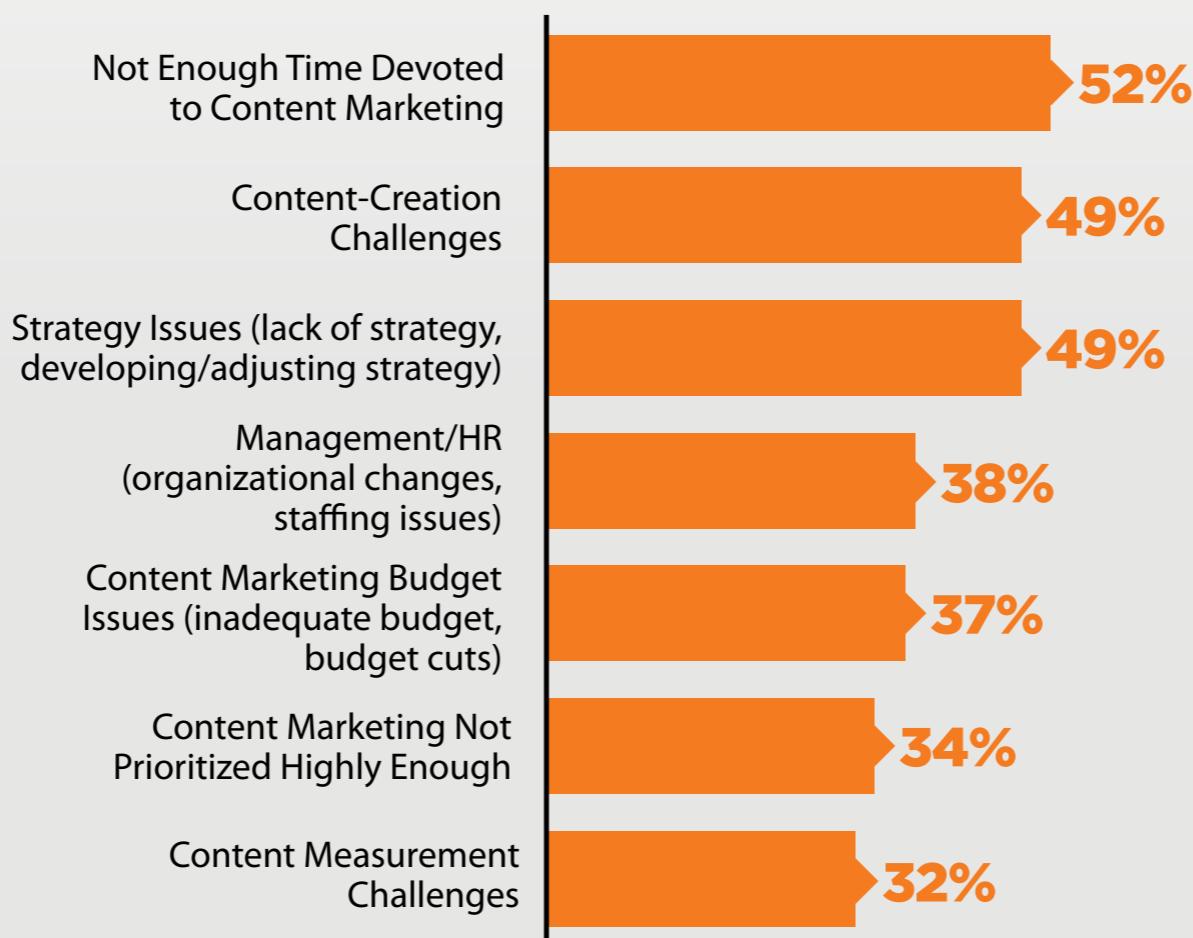
Other reasons cited: Content Marketing Technologies/Tools (28%), More Budget for Content Marketing (25%), Content Marketing Training/Education (23%), We Have Given Our Efforts Time to Bear Fruit and Are Now Getting Results (21%), Assistance of Outside Expertise (10%), Changes in Target Audience (7%), and Other (3%).

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who said their organizations' content marketing success is much/somewhat more successful than one year ago. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

To what factors do you attribute your organization's stagnancy in success with content marketing?

Factors Contributing to B2B Marketers' Stagnant Success Over the Last Year



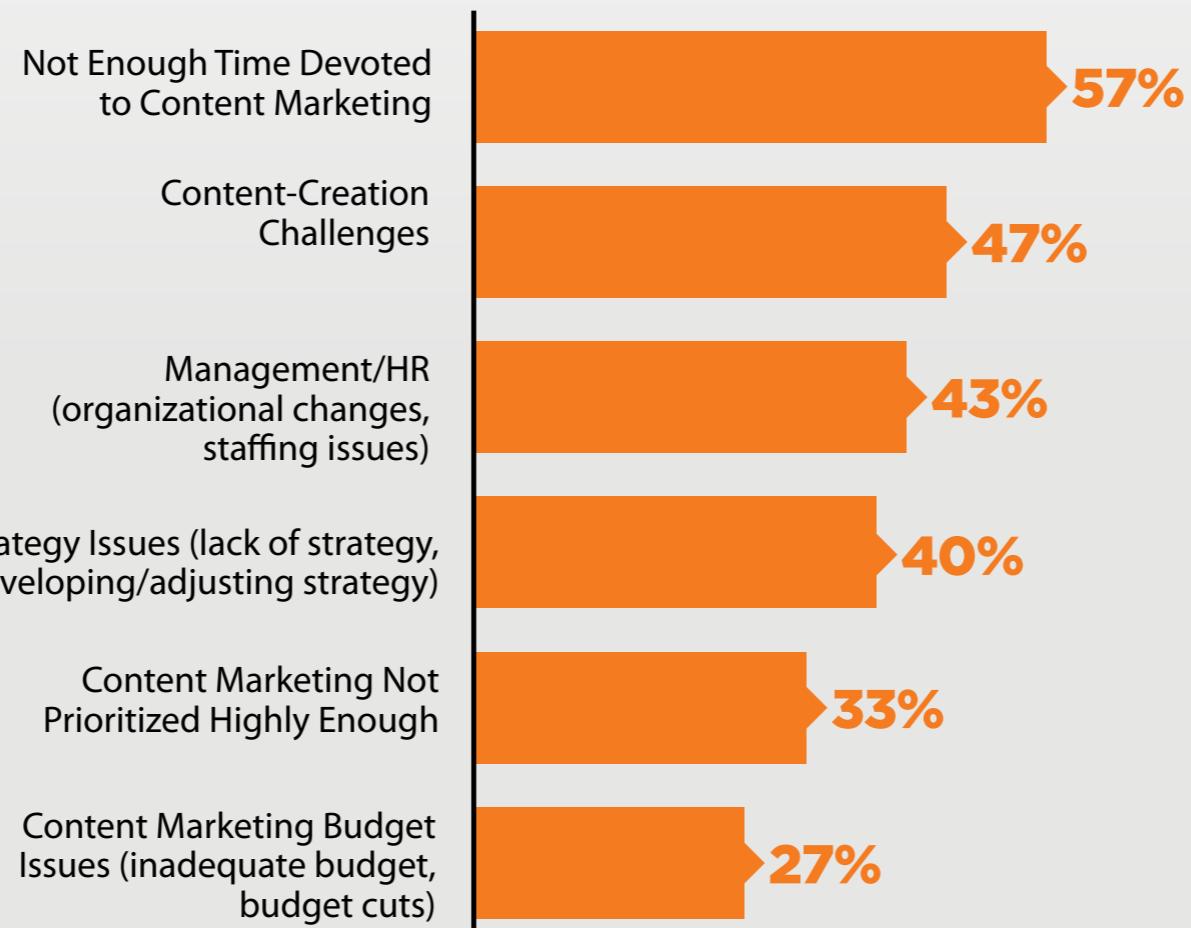
Other reasons cited: Content Marketing Technologies/Tools [lack of, or new systems that require a learning curve] (24%), Lack of Content Marketing Training/Education (22%), Lack of Adequate or Effective Content Distribution (20%), Program Hasn't Had Enough Time to Bear Fruit/Produce Results (14%), Changes in Target Audience (5%), and Other (7%).

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who said their organizations' content marketing success is about the same as one year ago. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

To what factors do you attribute your organization's decrease in success with content marketing?

Factors Contributing to B2B Marketers' Decreased Success Over the Last Year



Other reasons cited: Changes in Target Audience (20%), Lack of Adequate or Effective Content Distribution (20%), Lack of Content Marketing Training/Education (20%), Content Measurement Challenges (13%), Content Marketing Technologies/Tools [lack of, or new systems that require a learning curve] (10%), Program Hasn't Had Enough Time to Bear Fruit/Produce Results (10%), and Other (23%).

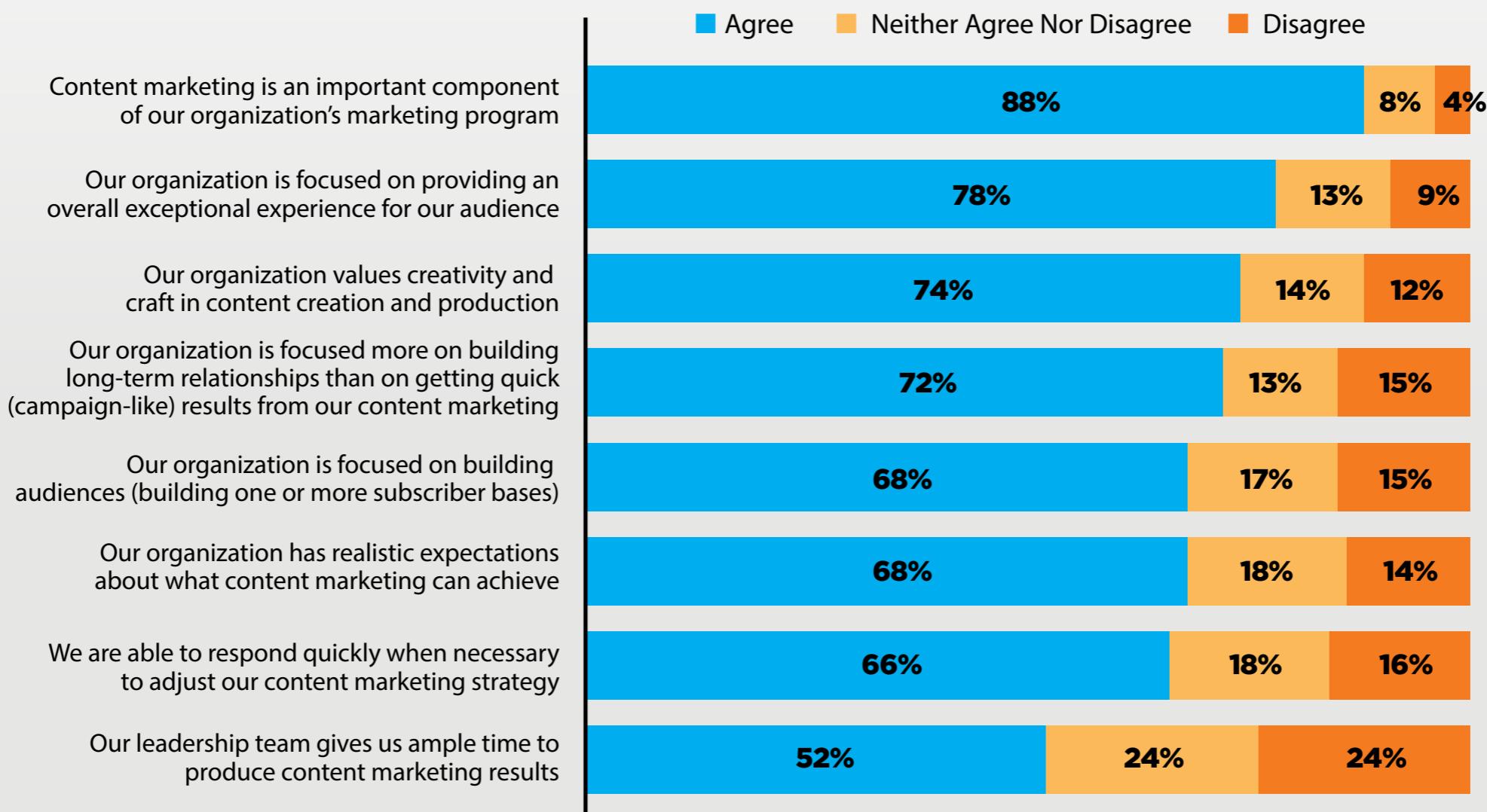
2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who said their organizations' content marketing success is somewhat/much less successful than one year ago. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

CLARITY, COMMITMENT & OVERALL SUCCESS

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements concerning content marketing in your organization.

B2B Marketers' Opinions About Content Marketing



2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

CONTENT MARKETING STRATEGY

37%

Have a
documented
content marketing
strategy

73%

Say their strategy
includes a plan to
operate content
marketing as an
ongoing business
process, not
simply a campaign

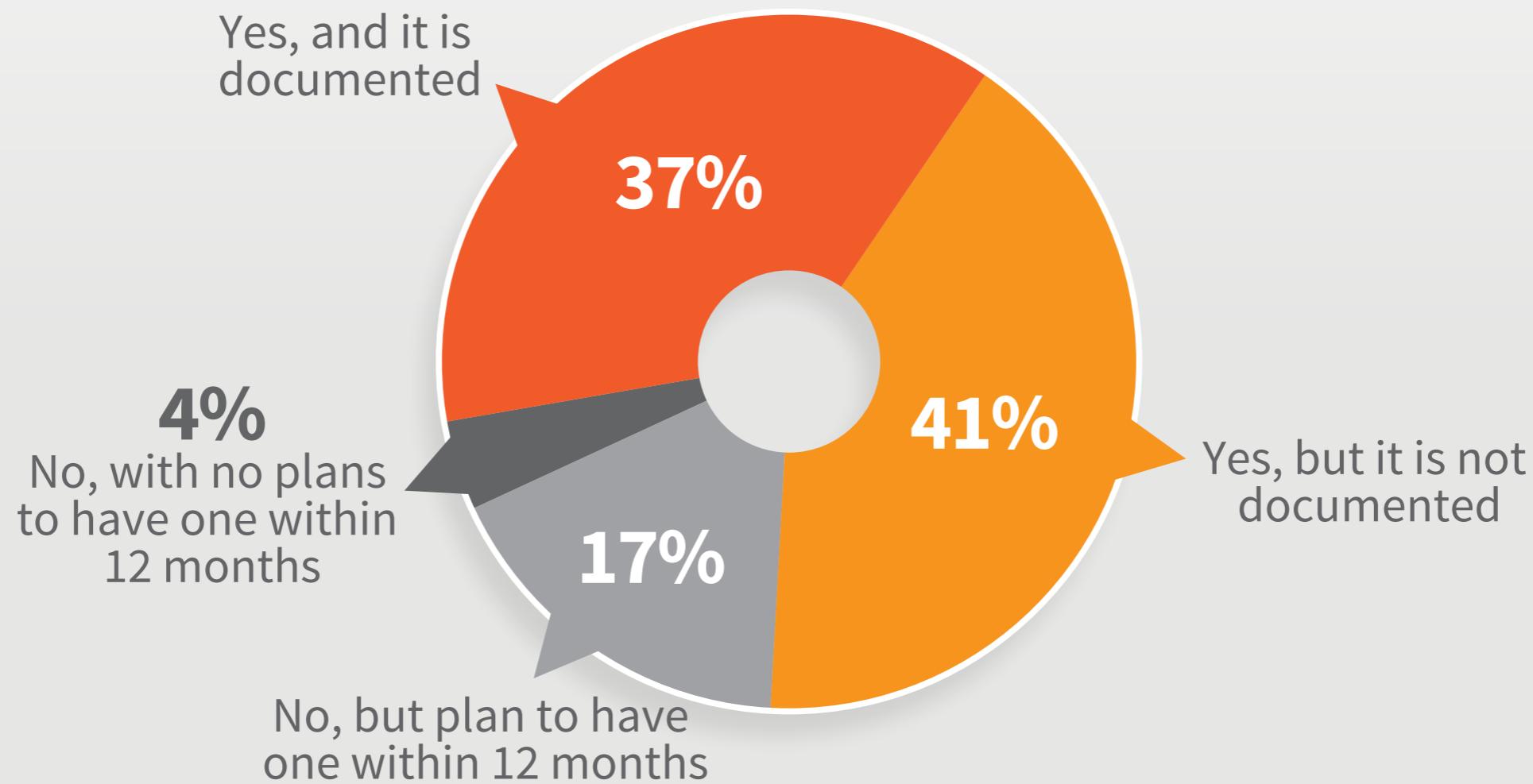
34%

Say their strategy
is extremely or very
effective at helping
their organization
achieve its current
content marketing
goals



Does your organization have a content marketing strategy?

Percentage of B2B Marketers Who Have a Content Marketing Strategy

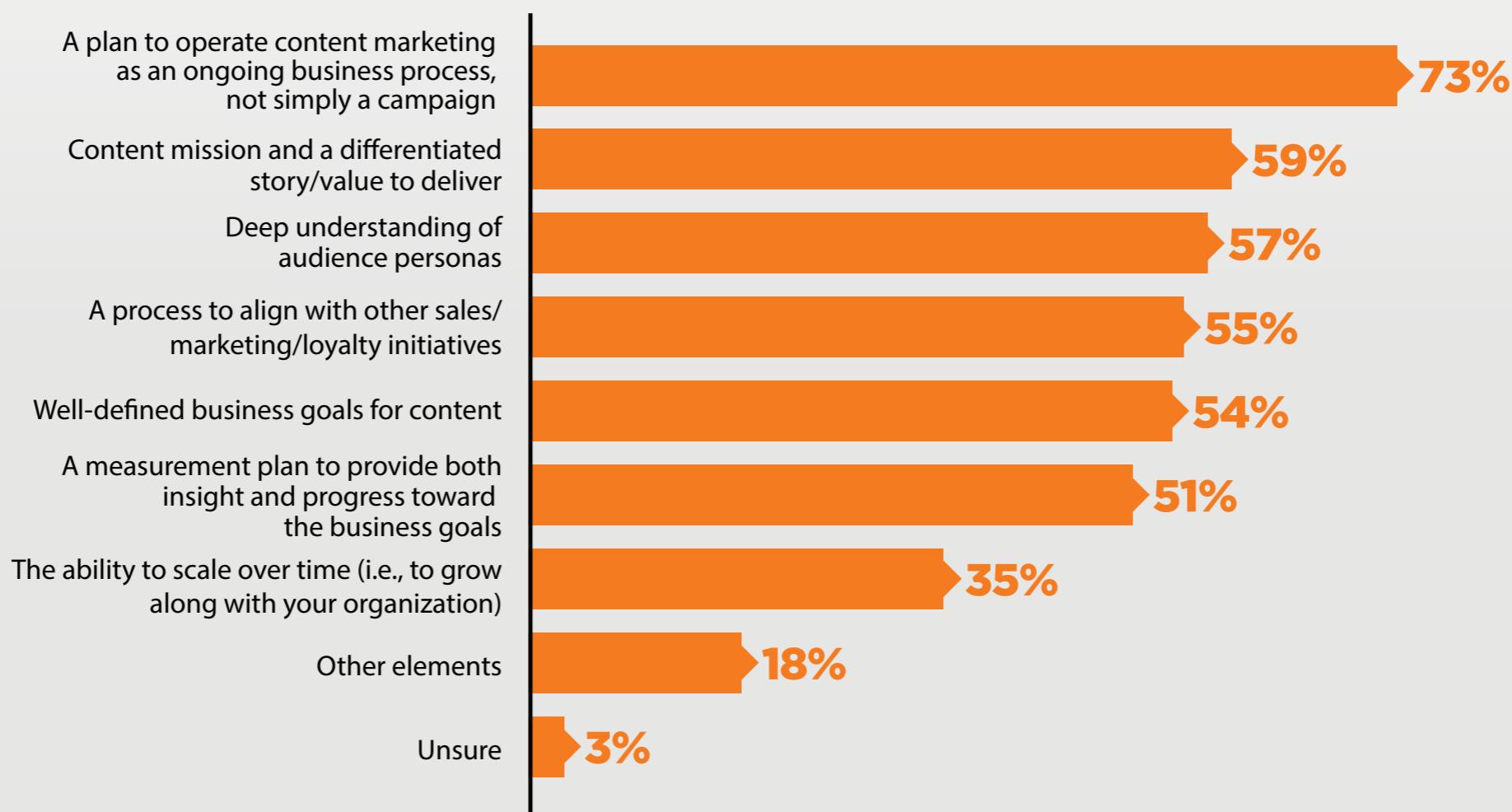


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

Which of the following elements are included in your content marketing strategy?

Elements B2B Marketers Include in Their Content Marketing Strategy

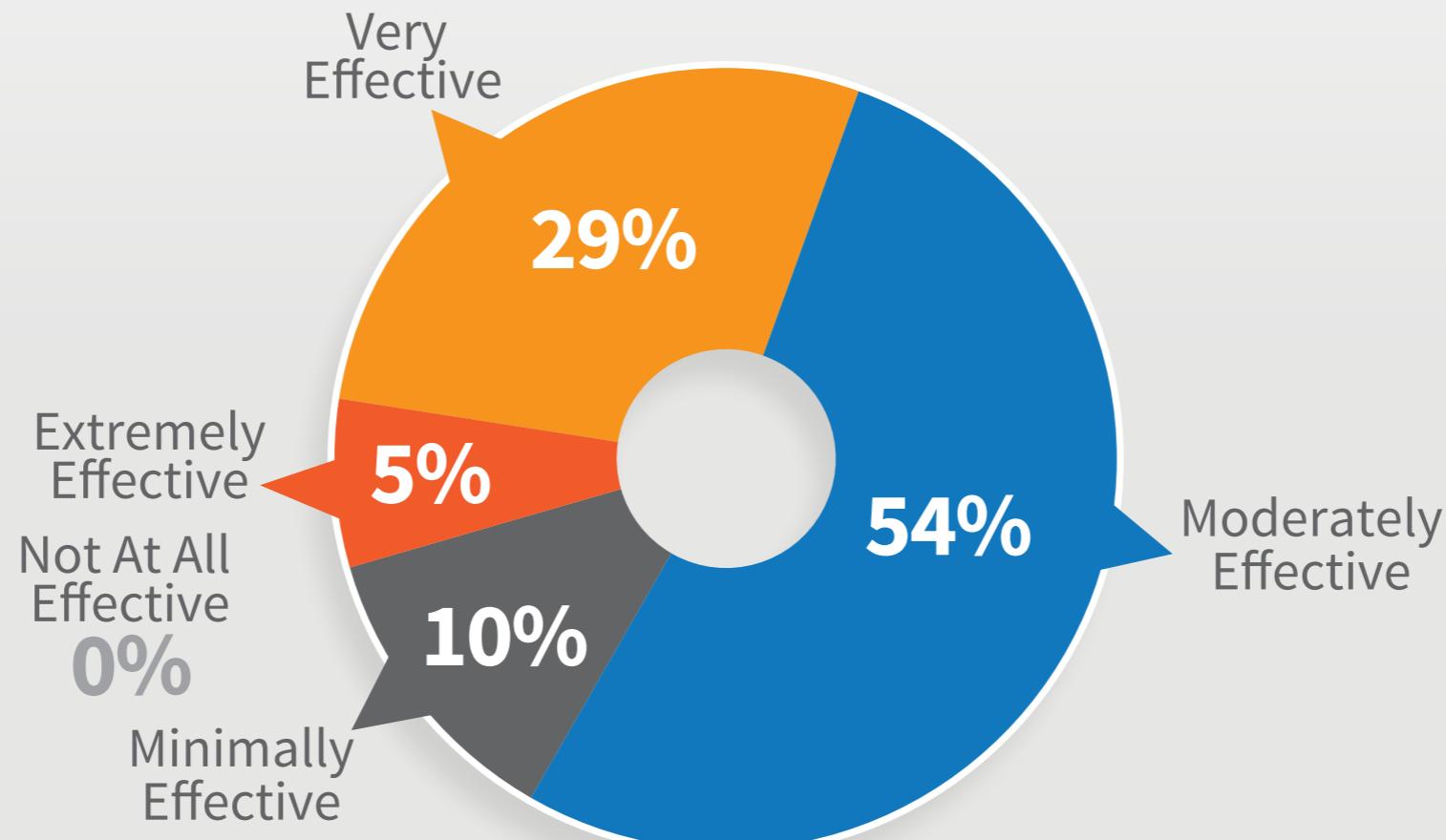


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who have a content marketing strategy.
Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

How effective is your content marketing strategy at helping your organization achieve its current content marketing goals?

How B2B Marketers Rate the Effectiveness of Their Content Marketing Strategy

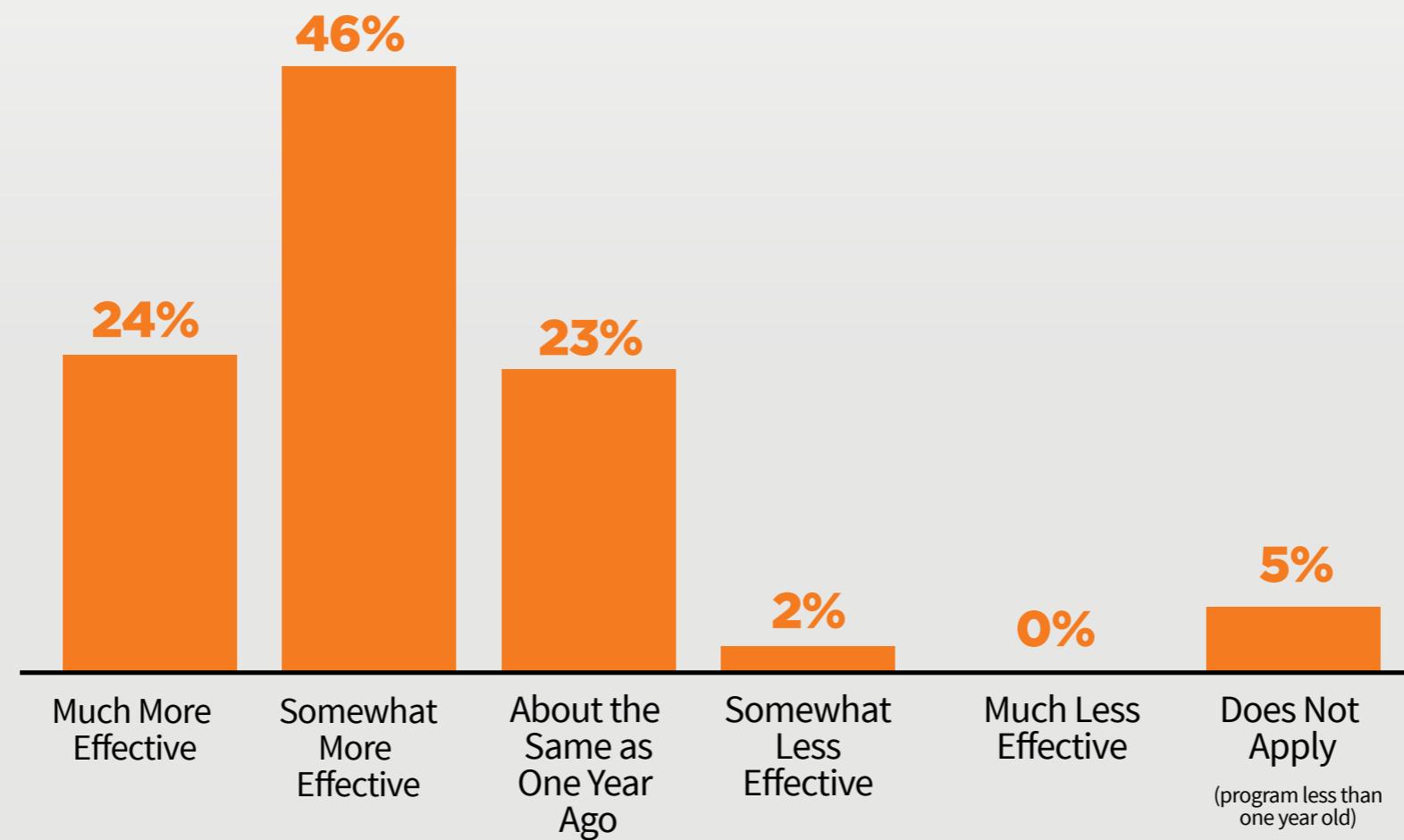


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who have a content marketing strategy; aided list.

How effective is your content marketing strategy compared with one year ago?

How B2B Marketers Rate the Effectiveness of Their Content Marketing Strategy Compared With One Year Ago



2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who have a content marketing strategy; aided list.

CONTENT CREATION & DISTRIBUTION

76%

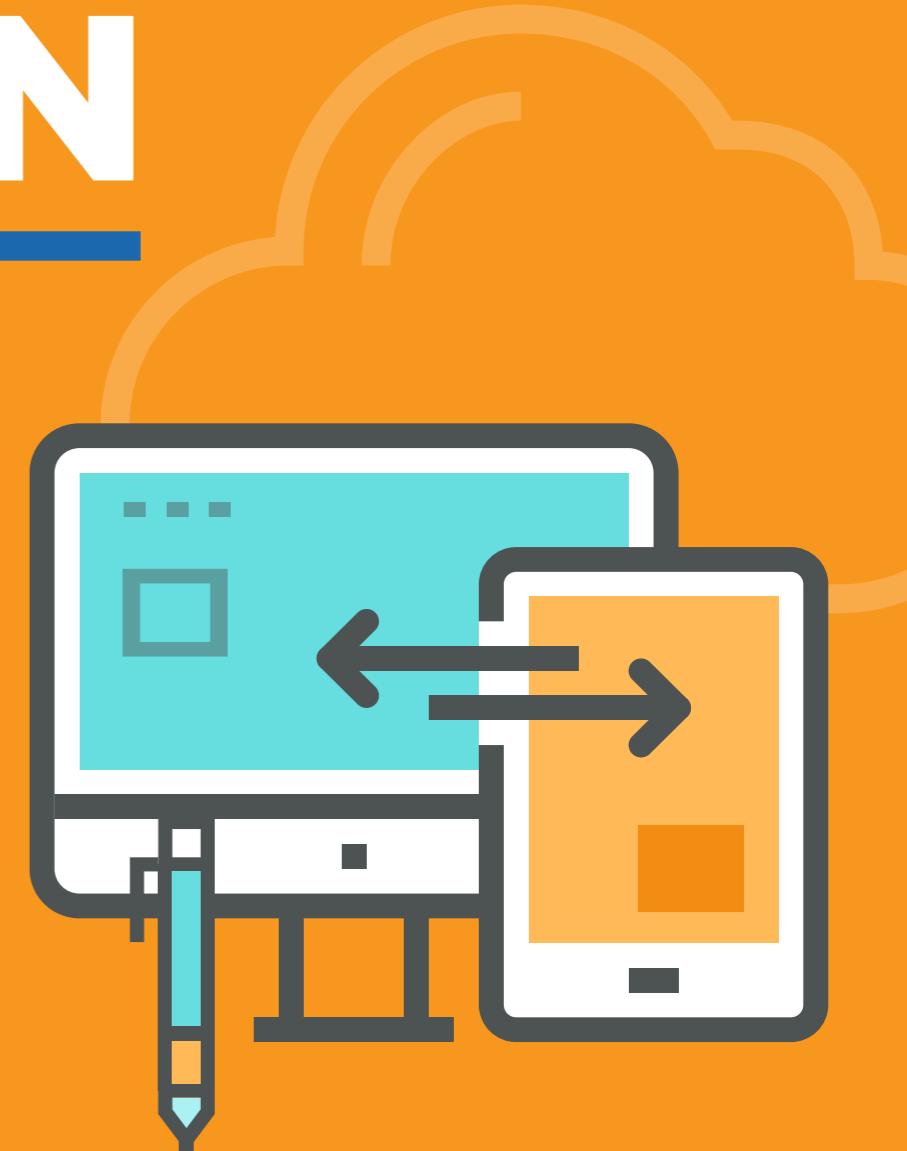
Prioritize
delivering content
quality over
quantity

71%

Consider how
their content
impacts the
overall experience
a person has with
their organization

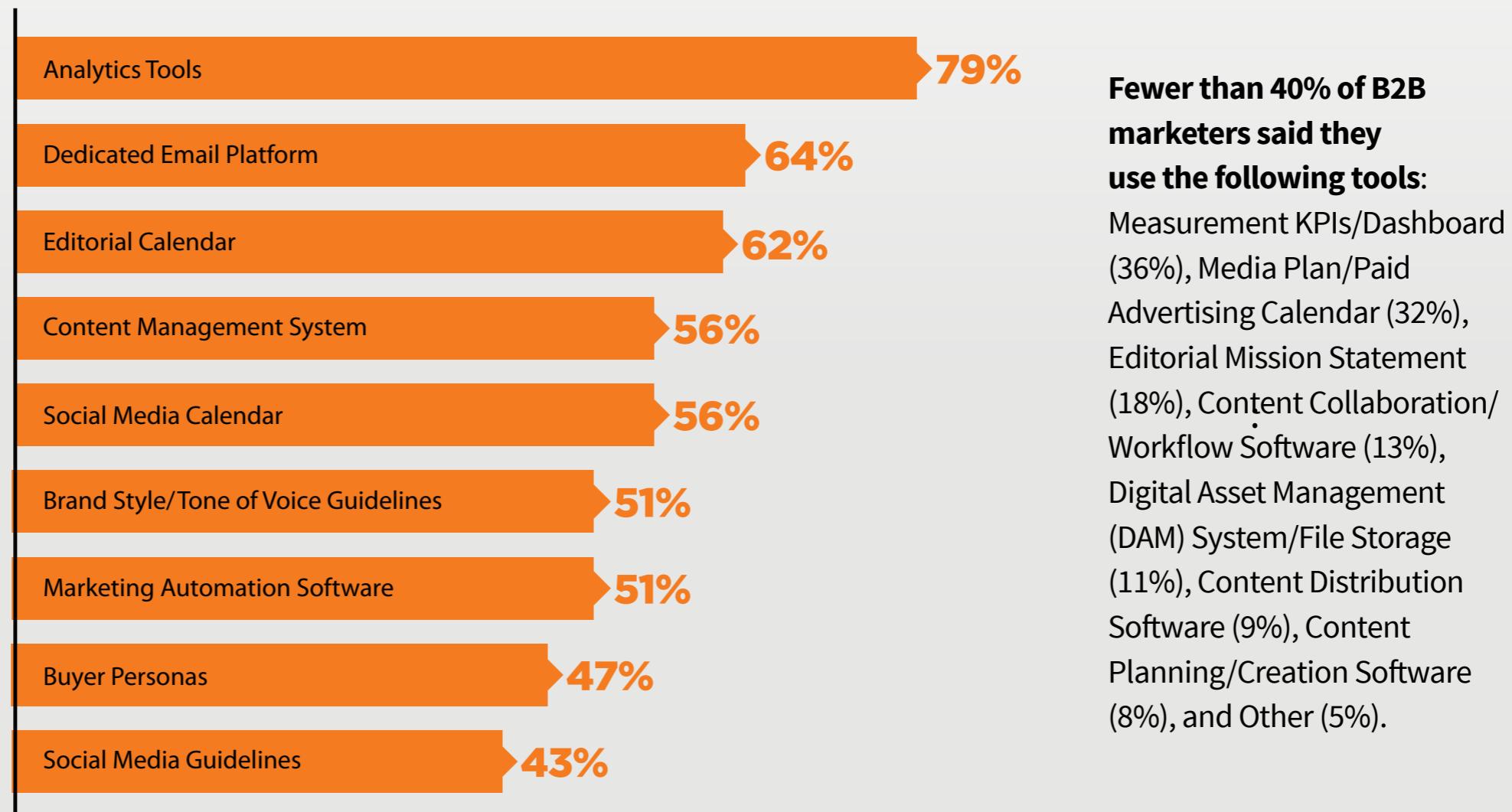
69%

Focus on creating
content for their
audience versus
their brand



Which content marketing tools does your organization currently use?

B2B Marketers' Content Marketing Tool Usage



2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

Which techniques does your organization use to gain knowledge about its target audience(s)?

Techniques B2B Marketers Use to Learn About Audience(s) for Content Marketing Purposes



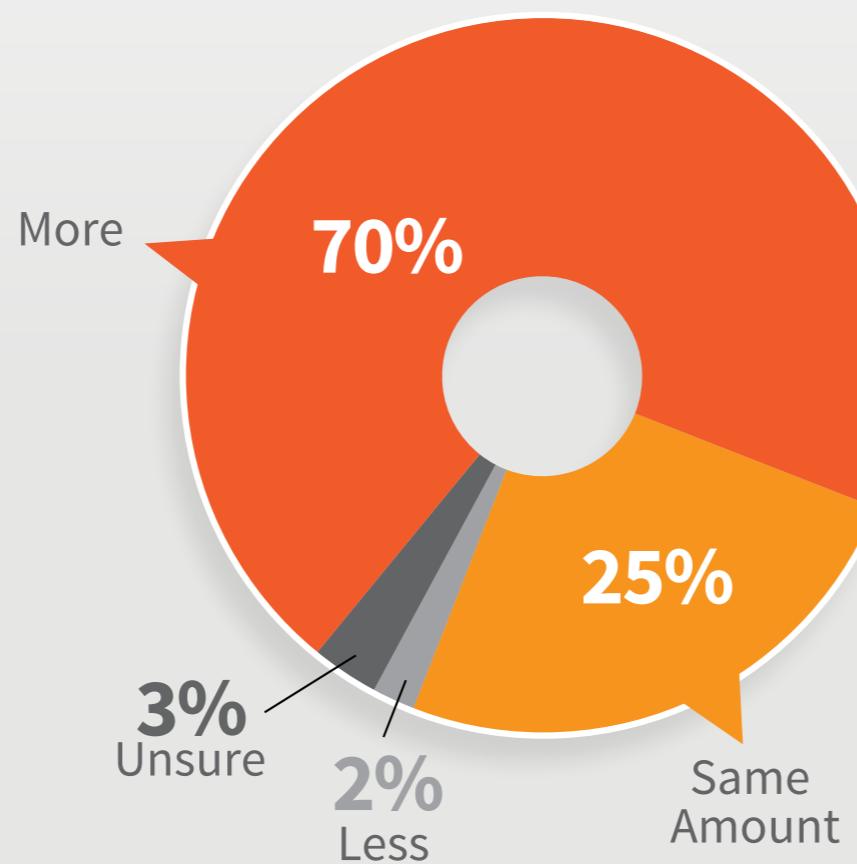
Fewer than 35% of B2B marketers said they use the following techniques:
Database Analysis (31%), Qualitative Primary Research (28%), Quantitative Primary Research (27%), Auditing Existing Buyer Data (24%), Expert Advisory Boards (11%), Usability Testing (11%), and Other (1%). 3% said they do not use techniques.

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

Compared with 2016, do you expect your organization to produce more, the same amount, or less original content in 2017?

**Expected Change in B2B Content Creation
(2016 vs. 2017)**

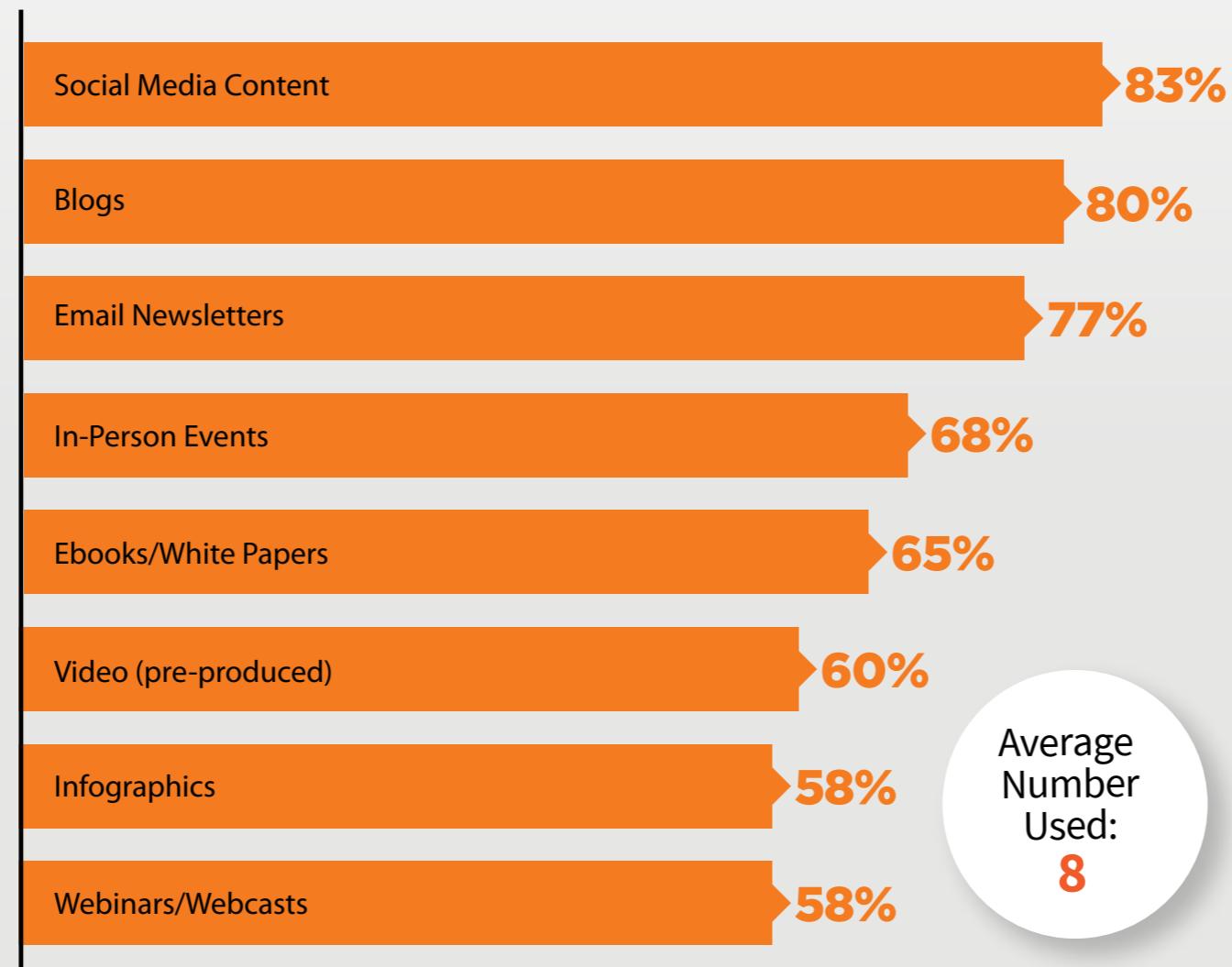


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

Which content marketing tactics does your organization use?

B2B Marketers' Content Marketing Tactic Usage



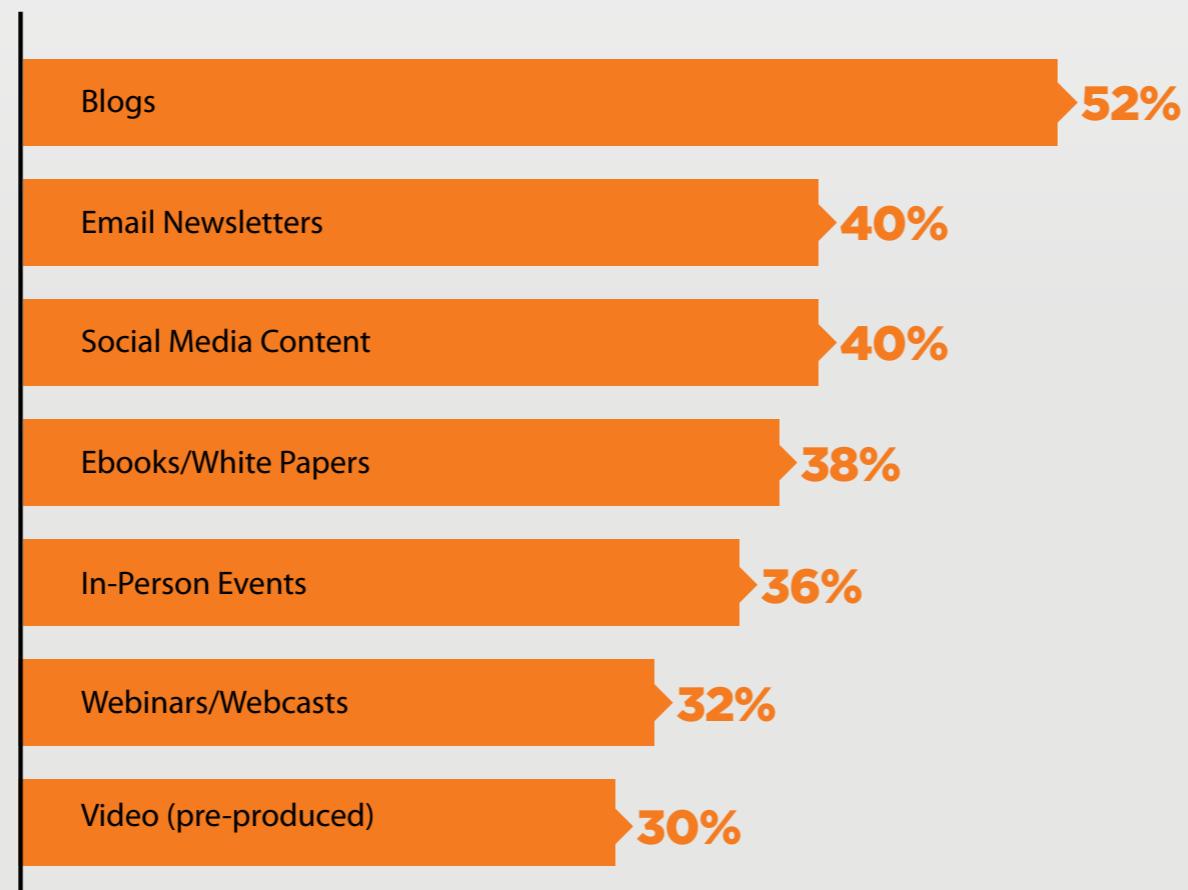
Fewer than 50% of B2B marketers said they use the following tactics:
Online Presentations (42%), Illustrations/Photos (39%), Research Reports (28%), Interactive Tools (28%), Print Magazines (23%), Digital Magazines (17%), Books (15%), Mobile Apps (14%), Podcasts (12%), Separate Content Hubs (10%), Video [live-streaming media] (10%), Print Newsletters (9%), Virtual Conferences (8%), and Other (12%).

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

Which content marketing tactics that your organization uses will be most critical to its overall content marketing success in 2017?

Tactics Used That B2B Marketers Say Will be Most Critical to Content Marketing Success in 2017



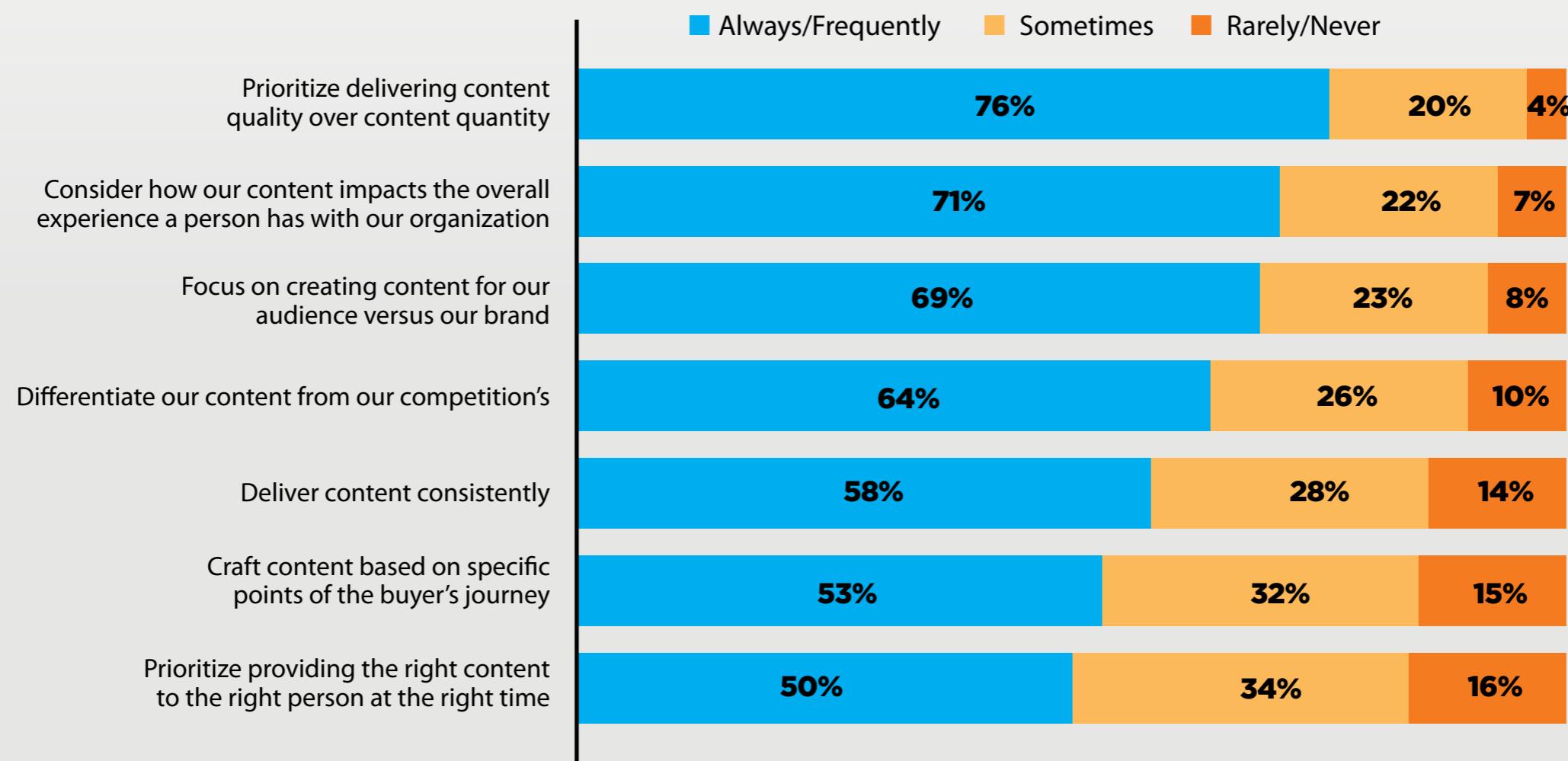
Fewer than 30% of B2B marketers whose organizations use the following tactics said the tactic will be critical to overall content marketing success in 2017: Infographics (15%), Research Reports (12%), Online Presentations (11%), Interactive Tools (9%), Illustrations/Photos (7%), Print Magazines (6%), Digital Magazines (5%), Books (4%), Mobile Apps (4%), Video [live-streaming media] (4%), Separate Content Hubs (4%), Podcasts (3%), Print Newsletters (2%), Virtual Conferences (2%), and Other (4%).

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who use the tactics shown; multiple responses permitted.

How often do you take the following concepts into account while creating content for your organization?

How Often B2B Marketers Consider Various Concepts While Creating Content

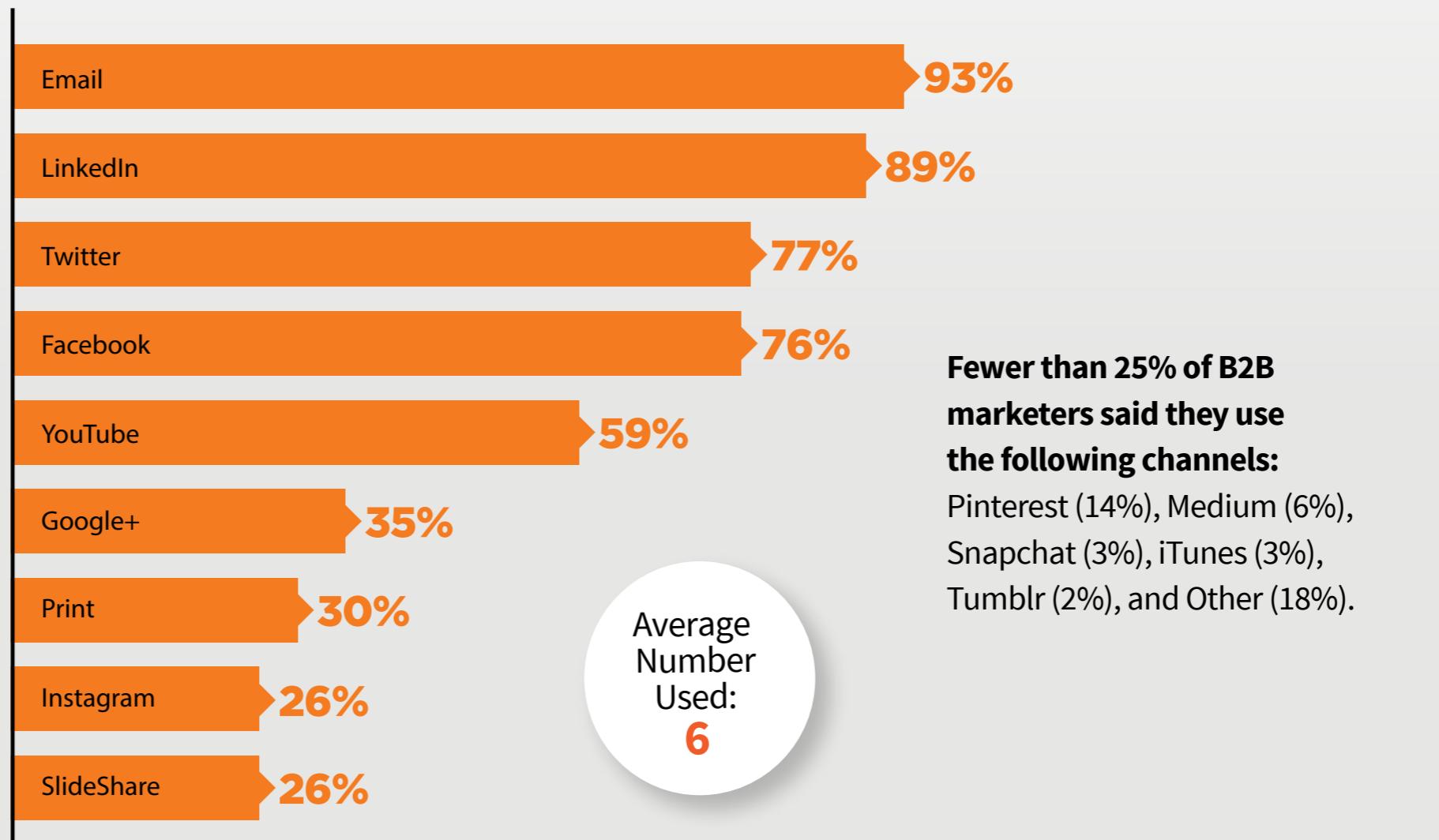


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base: Content marketers; aided list.

Which channels does your organization use to distribute content?

Channels B2B Marketers Use to Distribute Content

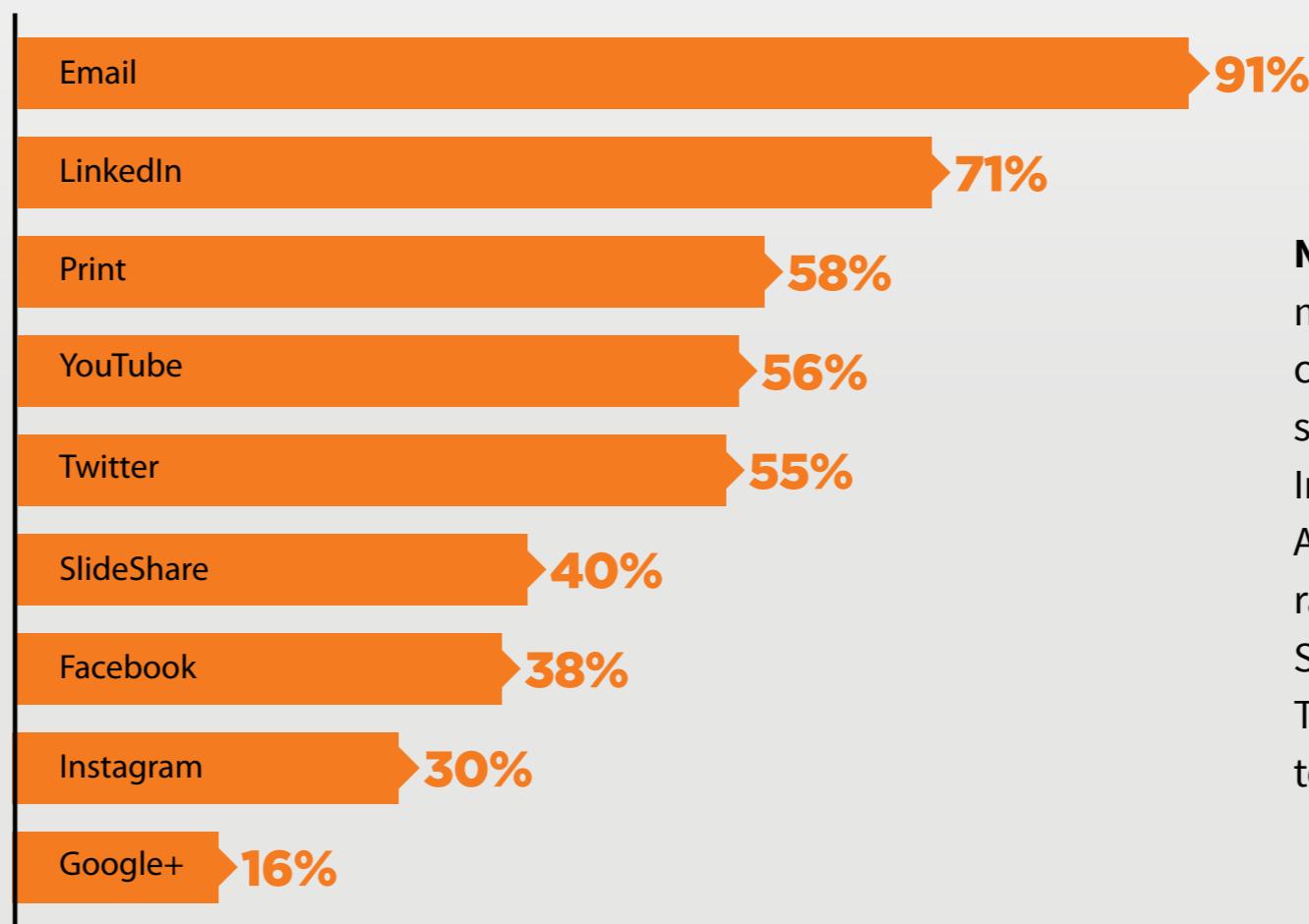


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

How important is each channel your organization uses to its overall content marketing success?

Channels B2B Marketers Use to Distribute Content Rated by Importance to Overall Content Marketing Success



Note: Percentages comprise marketers who rated each channel a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 5 = Extremely Important and 1 = Not At All Important. Importance ratings for Pinterest, Medium, Snapchat, iTunes, and Tumblr are not reported due to low incidence of use.

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who use the channels shown; multiple responses permitted.

Which paid methods of content promotion does your organization use in its content marketing efforts?

Paid Methods B2B Marketers Use to Promote Content

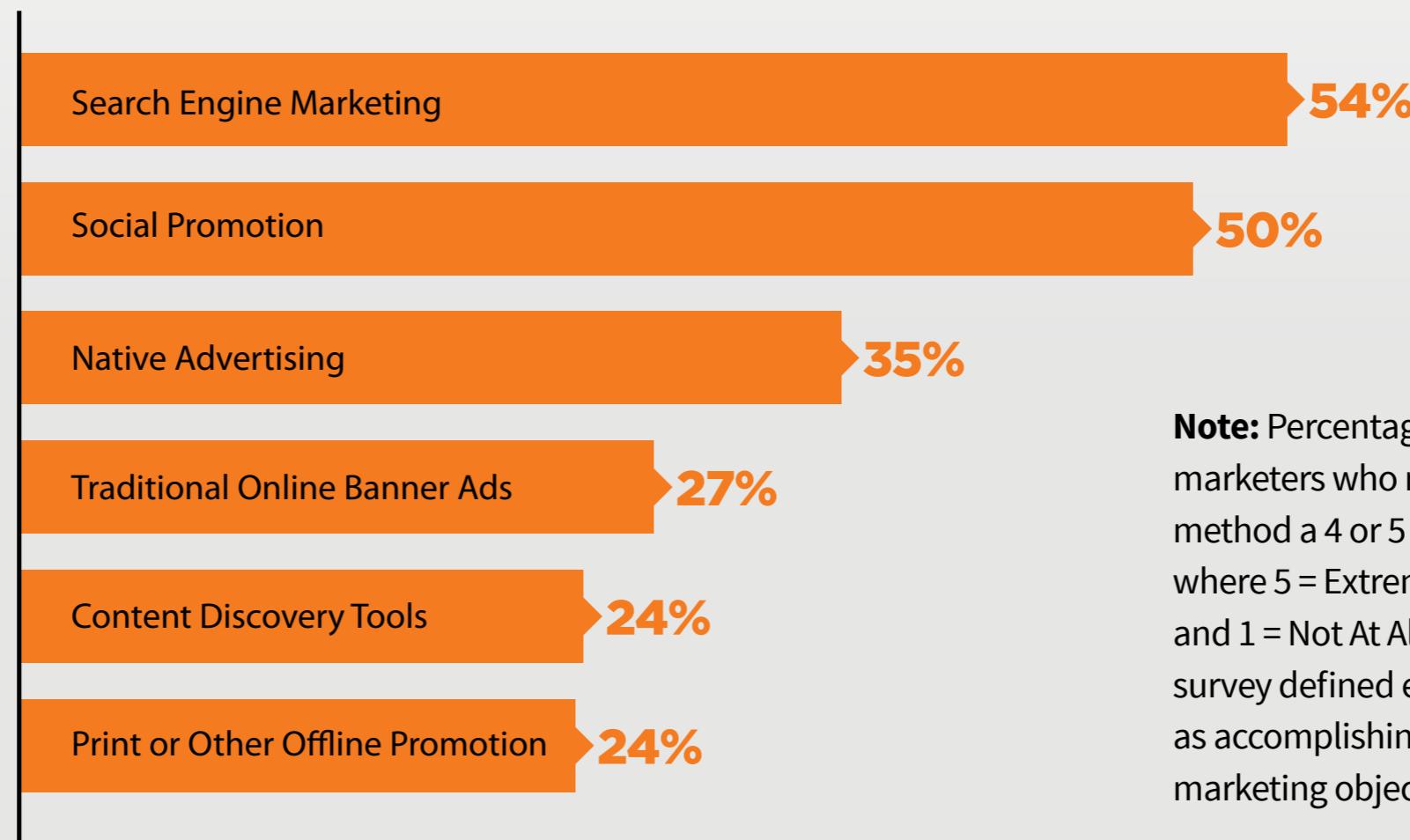


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

How effective are the paid methods of content promotion that your organization uses?

Paid Methods B2B Marketers Use to Promote Content Rated by Effectiveness



Note: Percentages comprise marketers who rated each paid method a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 5 = Extremely Effective and 1 = Not At All Effective. The survey defined effectiveness as accomplishing your content marketing objectives.

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who use the paid methods shown; multiple responses permitted.

GOALS & METRICS

80%

Will focus on lead gen as a content marketing goal over the next 12 months

78%

Use website traffic to measure how well their content marketing is producing results

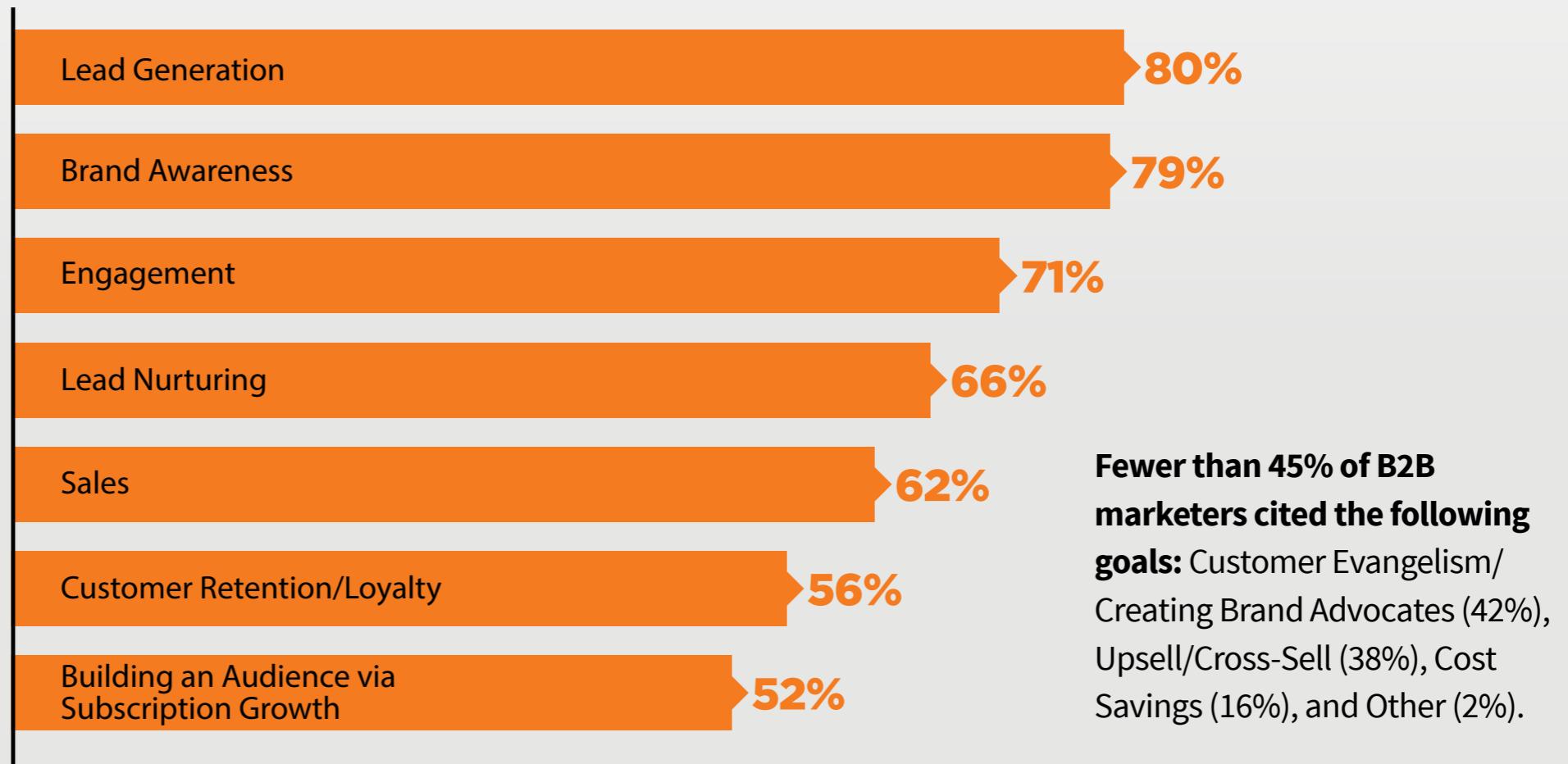
75%

Can demonstrate how content marketing has increased audience engagement



Which content marketing goals will your organization focus on over the next 12 months?

Organizational Goals for B2B Content Marketing Over Next 12 Months

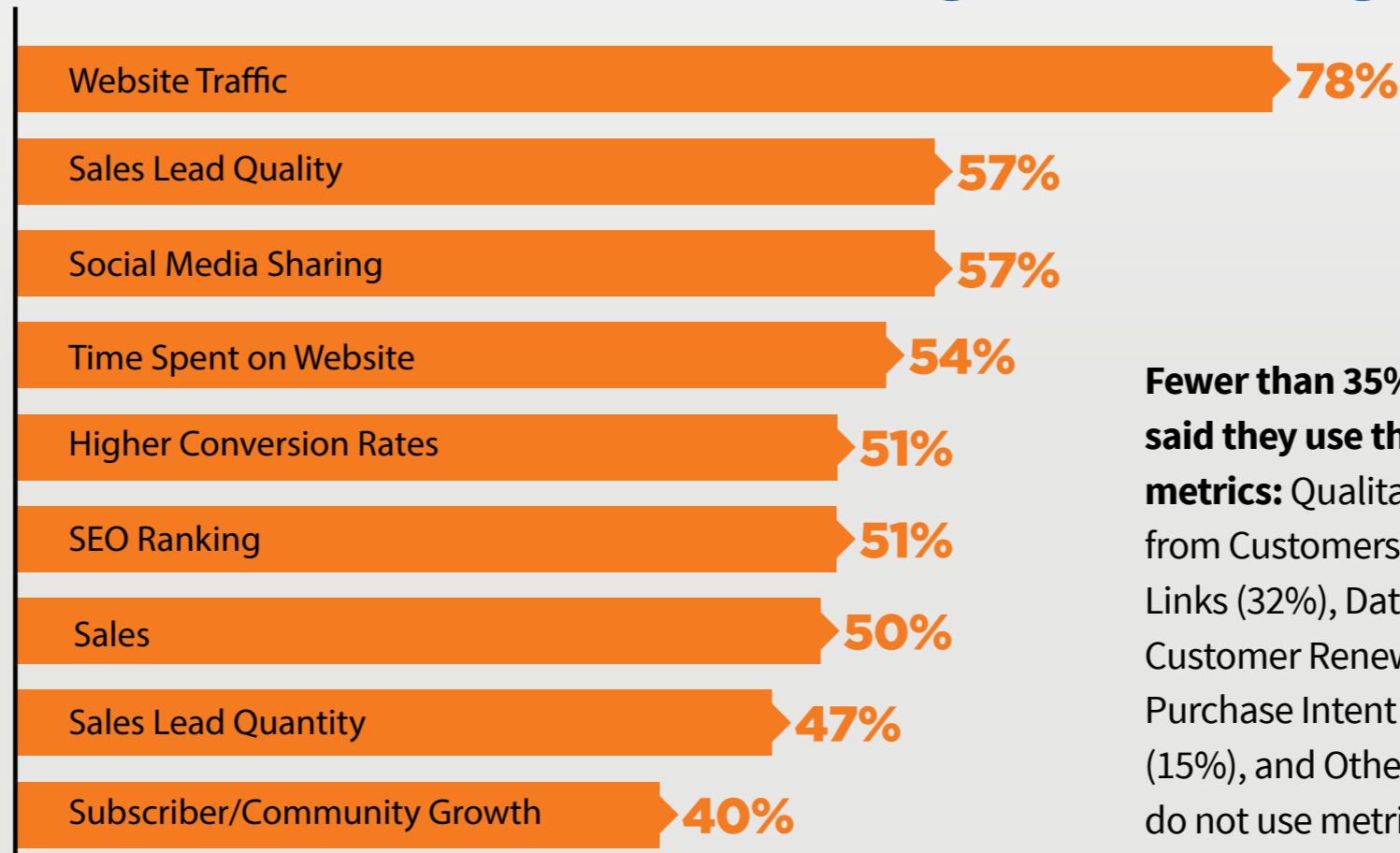


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base: Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

Which metrics does your organization use to determine how well its content marketing is producing results?

B2B Marketers' Content Marketing Metrics Usage



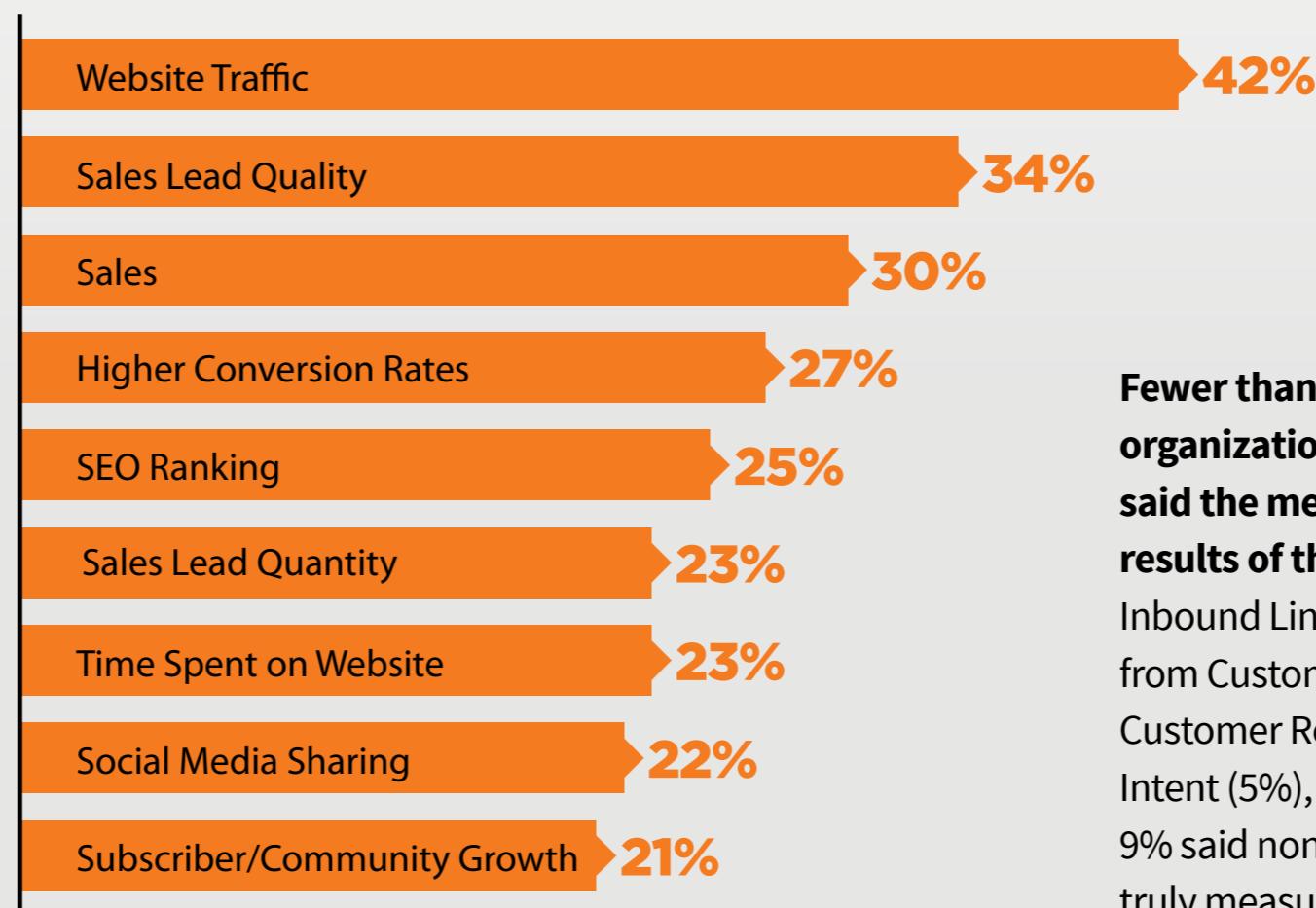
Fewer than 35% of B2B marketers said they use the following metrics: Qualitative Feedback from Customers (33%), Inbound Links (32%), Data Capture (28%), Customer Renewal Rates (19%), Purchase Intent (17%), Brand Lift (15%), and Other (4%). 2% said they do not use metrics.

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

Which metrics that your organization uses provide truly measurable results of your content marketing efforts?

Metrics Used That B2B Marketers Say Provide Truly Measurable Results of Content Marketing Efforts



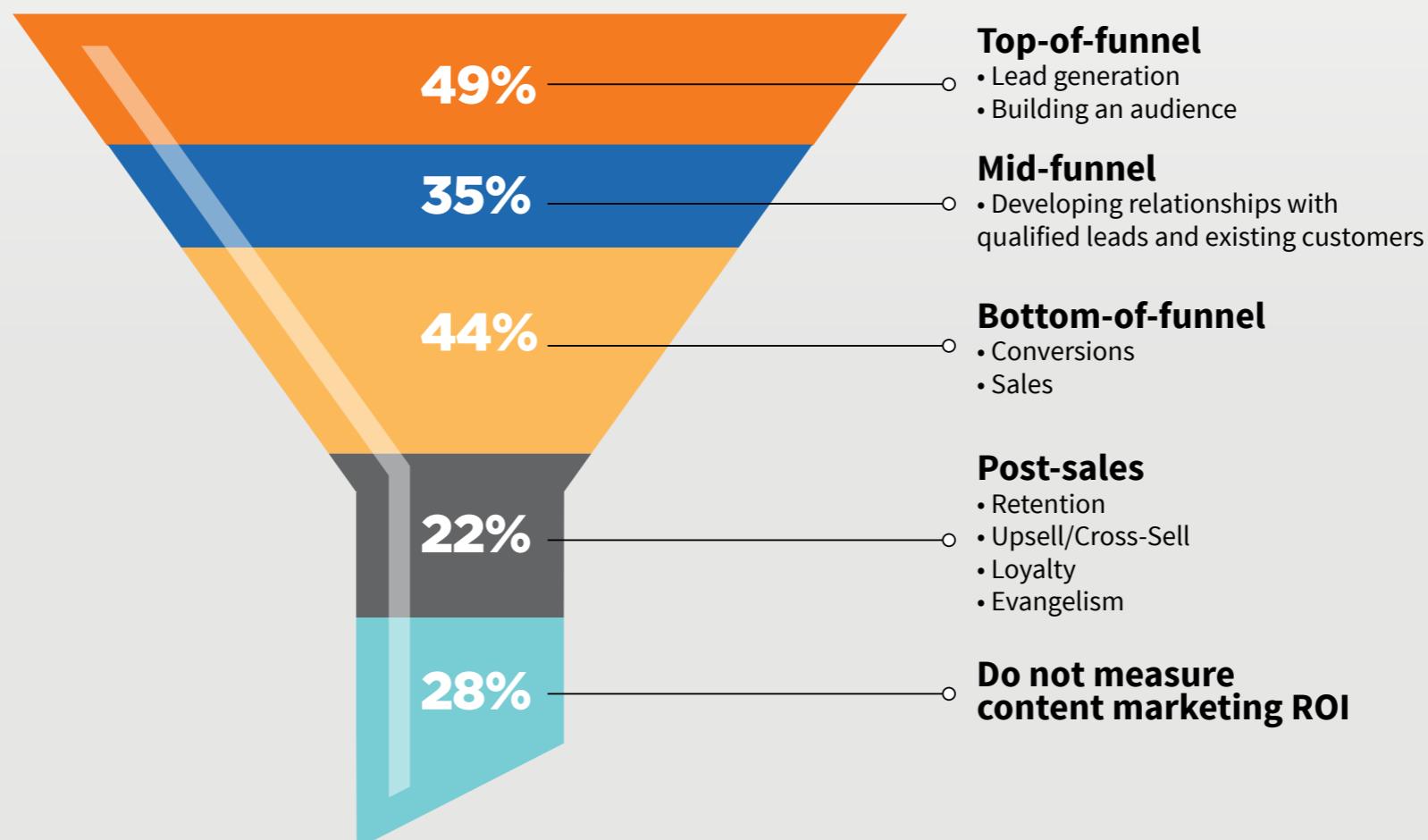
Fewer than 15% of B2B marketers whose organizations use the following metrics said the metric provides truly measurable results of their content marketing efforts:
Inbound Links (11%), Qualitative Feedback from Customers (10%), Data Capture (9%), Customer Renewal Rates (8%), Purchase Intent (5%), Brand Lift (4%), and Other (2%).
9% said none of the metrics they use provide truly measurable results.

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who use the metrics shown; multiple responses permitted.

At which phases of the buyer's journey does your organization measure content marketing ROI?

Phases of Buyer's Journey Where B2B Marketers Measure Content Marketing ROI



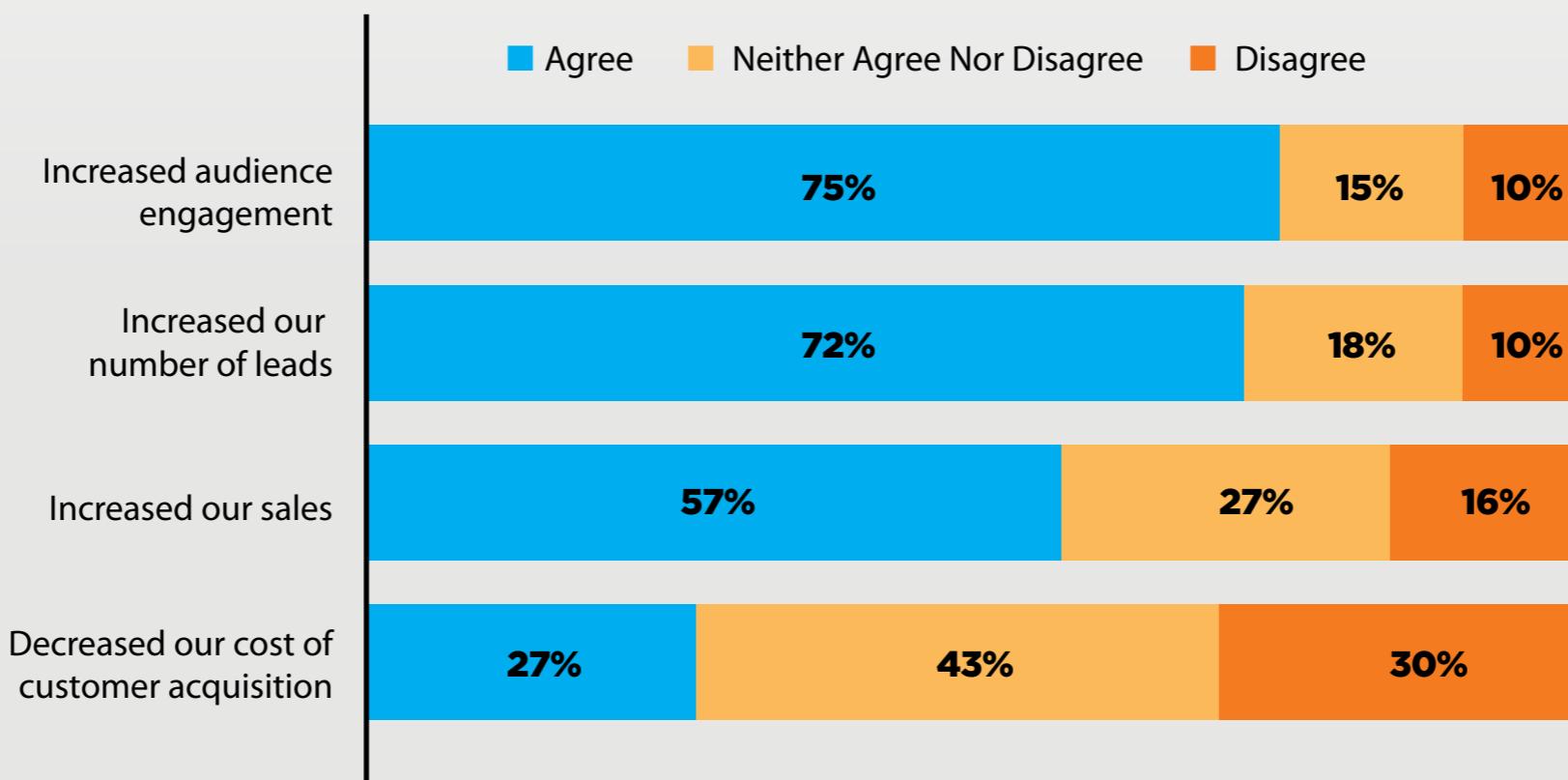
2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers. Aided list; multiple responses permitted.

Indicate your level of agreement with each statement concerning the content marketing metrics used in your organization.

B2B Marketers' Metrics Agreement Statements

I/my team can demonstrate how content marketing has...



2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers who use metrics to determine content marketing results; aided list.

BUDGETS & SPENDING

29%

Is the average proportion of total marketing budget that is spent on content marketing

39%

Plan to increase their content marketing spending over the next 12 months

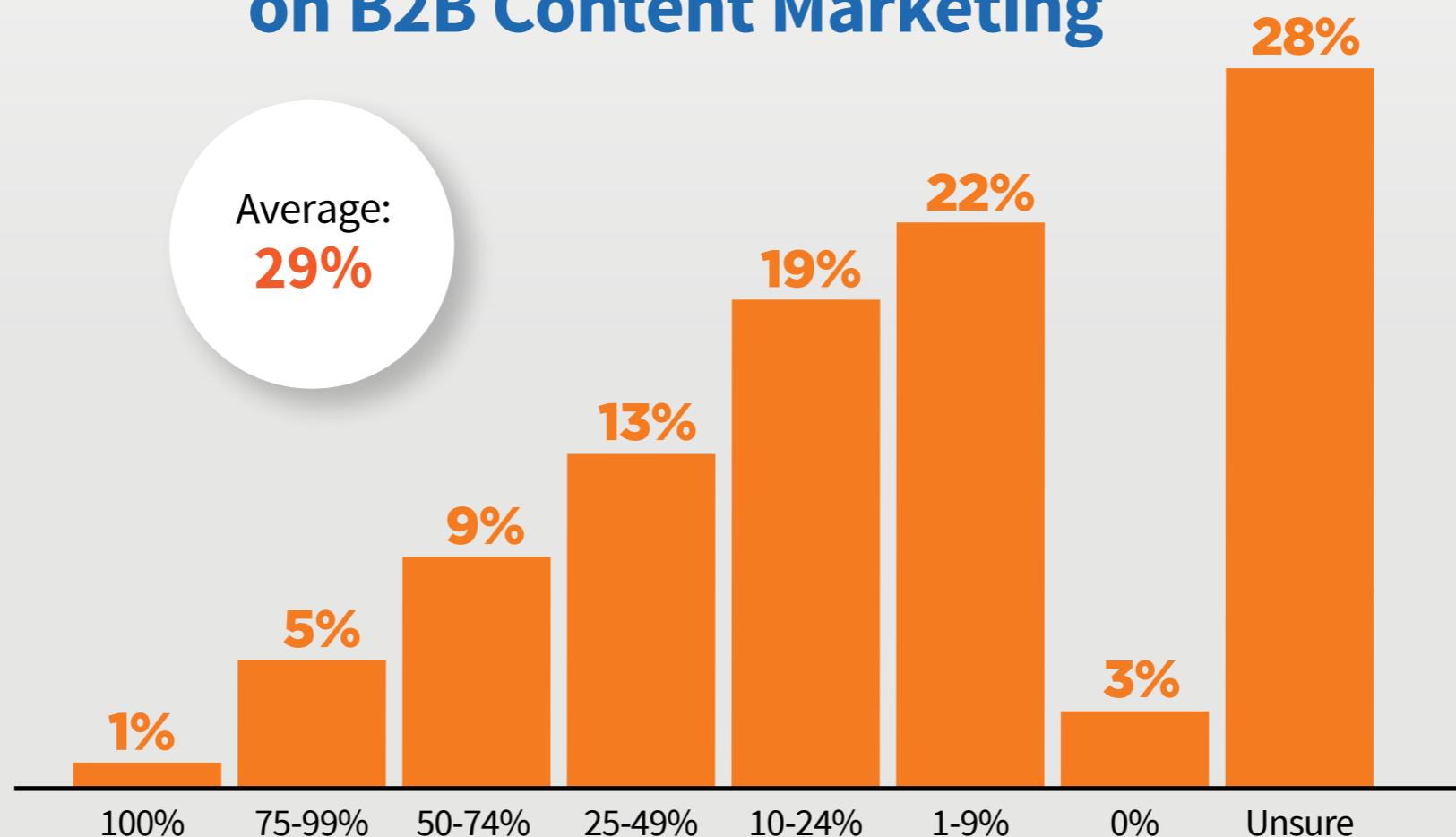
45%

Plan to keep their content marketing spending around the same level over the next 12 months



Approximately what percentage of your organization's total marketing budget (not including staff) is spent on content marketing?

Percentage of Total Marketing Budget Spent on B2B Content Marketing

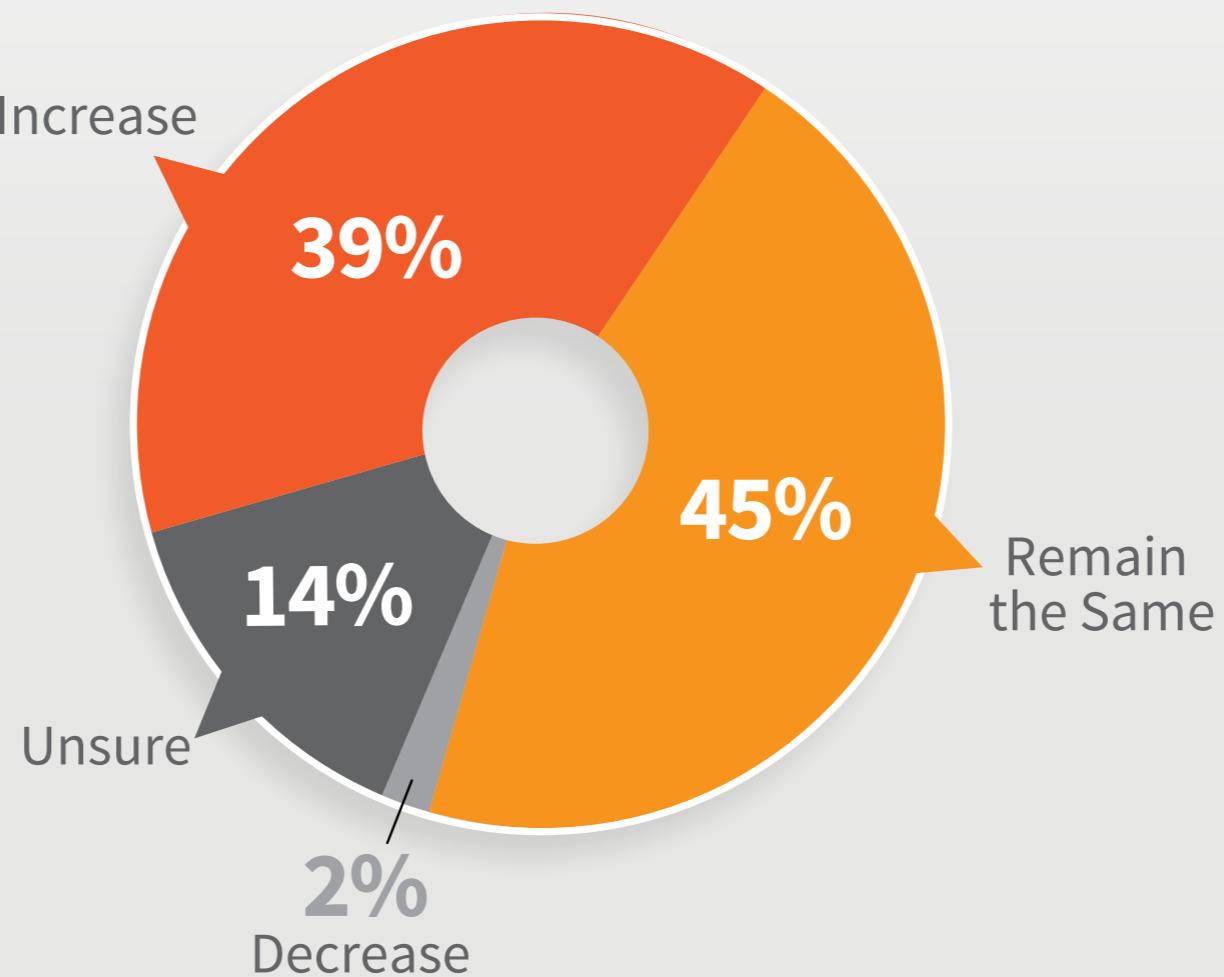


2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

Base = Content marketers; aided list.

How do you expect your organization's content marketing budget to change in the next 12 months?

B2B Content Marketing Spending (Over Next 12 Months)



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Base = Content marketers; aided list.

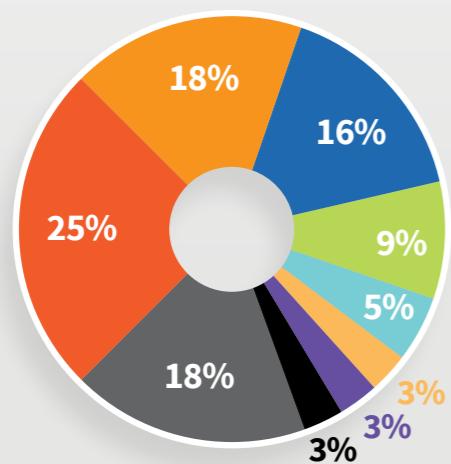
METHODOLOGY/DEMOGRAPHICS

B2B Content Marketing: 2017 Benchmarks, Budgets, and Trends—North America was produced by **Content Marketing Institute** and **MarketingProfs** and sponsored by **Brightcove**.

The 7th Annual Content Marketing Survey, from which the results of this report were generated, was mailed electronically to a sample of marketers included in lists from Content Marketing Institute, MarketingProfs, The Association for Data-driven Marketing & Advertising (ADMA), and WWH Media.

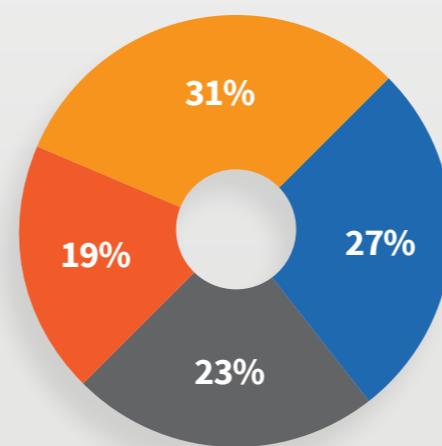
A total of 2,562 recipients from around the globe—representing a full range of industries, functional areas, and company sizes—completed the survey during July and August 2016. This report presents the findings from the 1,102 respondents who said they were B2B marketers in North America.

B2B Industry Classification



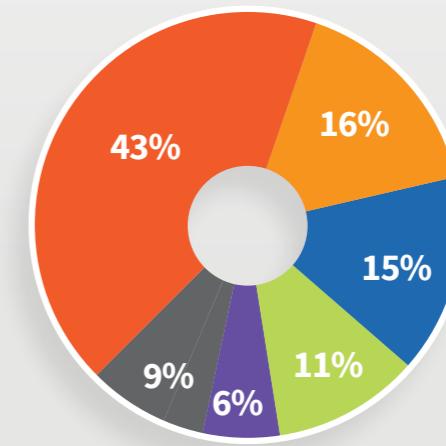
- Technology
- Agency (Advertising, Digital Marketing, Content Marketing, PR, Marcom)
- Manufacturing
- Consulting
- Publishing/Media
- Banking/Accounting/Financial
- Healthcare/Pharmaceuticals
- Engineering/Construction/Architecture
- Other

Size of B2B Company (by Employees)



- Micro (Fewer than 10 Employees)
- Small (10-99 Employees)
- Midsize (100-999 Employees)
- Large (1,000+ Employees)

B2B Job Title/Function



- Marketing/Advertising/Communications/PR Management
- Corporate Management (Owner/President, CEO, CMO)
- Content Creation/Management
- Marketing – Staff/Support
- General Management (GM, VP)
- Other

2017 B2B Content Marketing Trends—North America: Content Marketing Institute/MarketingProfs

ABOUT

Content Marketing Institute and MarketingProfs thank all the survey respondents and the distribution partners who made this survey possible.

About Content Marketing Institute (CMI)

Content Marketing Institute is the leading global content marketing education and training organization, teaching enterprise brands how to attract and retain customers through compelling, multichannel storytelling. CMI's **Content Marketing World** event, the largest content marketing-focused event, is held every September in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, and the **Intelligent Content Conference** event is held every spring. CMI publishes the bi-monthly magazine **Chief Content Officer**, and provides strategic consulting and content marketing research for some of the best-known brands in the world. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about CMI, a UBM company. To view all research and to subscribe to our emails, visit www.contentmarketinginstitute.com.

About MarketingProfs

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About Brightcove

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