



2024

KeyBanc Capital Markets & Sapphire Ventures SaaS Survey

Continued focus on efficient execution and profitability

15th Annual

15th Annual SaaS Survey – What’s Different?

For the past 15 years, KeyBanc Capital Markets has produced a one-of-a-kind survey that examines the performance of private SaaS companies year-over-year. This survey has been an asset for the SaaS community, providing guidance to private growth companies.

This year, and for the second time, KeyBanc Capital Markets and Sapphire Ventures have partnered together to take the survey to new heights, bringing a new lens to the data and its accompanying analysis. Specifically, this year’s KeyBanc Capital Markets & Sapphire Ventures SaaS Survey introduces an operator’s perspective, drawing actionable insights across various themes and understanding the impact of last year’s trends on go-to-market strategies.



1

New questions to shed light on GTM metrics and efficiency

2

More historical data points captured to identify key trends

3

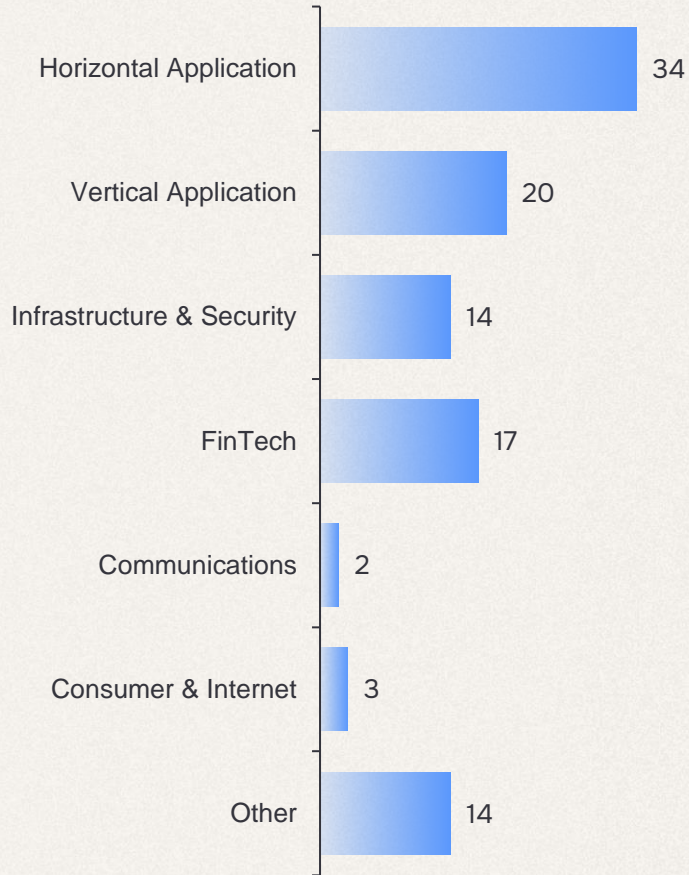
Operator feedback is included to bring relevance to the data set

3,800+

2023 SaaS Survey Downloads

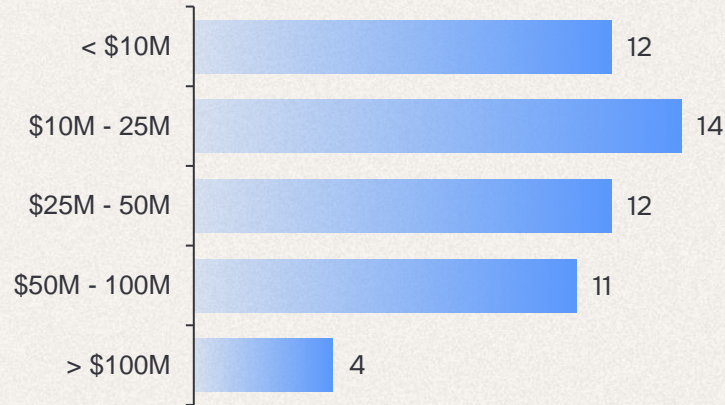
Participant Demographics

Participants by Sector



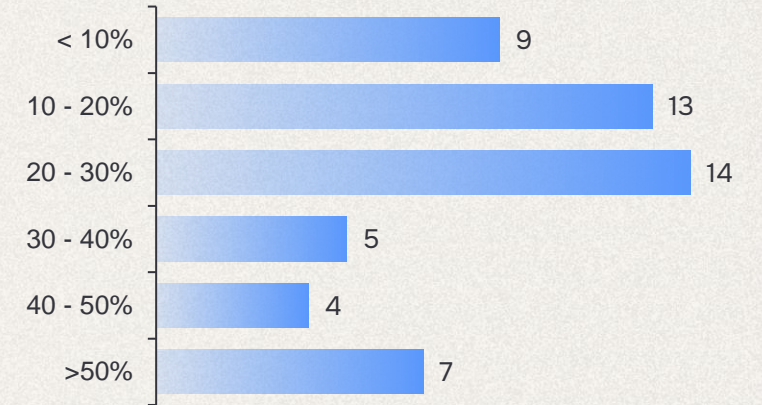
Respondents: 104

Participants by ARR Segment



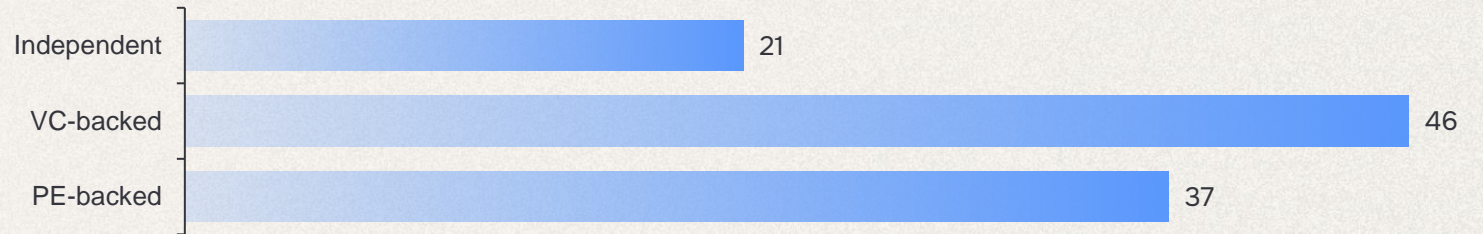
Respondents: 53

Participants by ARR Growth



Respondents: 52

Participants by Ownership Type



Respondents: 104



Note: ARR numbers based on 2023 ARR

Executive Summary

Based on the survey responses received this year, we have identified clear trends of subdued growth expectation and a continued focus on efficient execution and profitability – a resounding theme throughout the report



ARR Growth & Retention

- ARR growth is expected to slightly decelerate to ~19% in 2024 after companies already experienced growth deceleration in 2023 from ~22% to ~21%
- Both gross retention and net retention have remained and are expected to remain relatively consistent at ~90% and ~101%, respectively



GTM Execution & Performance

- Sales quota attainment rates remained consistent in 2023 at ~70%, but this is expected to increase in 2024 to ~75% as the macro environment improves
- Sales quotas have also increased from ~\$675K in 2022 to ~\$750K in 2023 and 2024, indicating that expectations have become greater for sales teams



Expenses & Profitability

- Most companies are still focused on operating efficiency and improving their EBITDA margins instead of aggressively pursuing top line growth
- We expect to see continued budget cuts and a more conservative approach to expense management, especially for larger-sized companies with >\$50M ARR



Financing & Valuation

- Private market financings and multiples are beginning to show strength, driven by recent AI developments and a more optimistic view of macro conditions
- Public market software valuations are returning to near-normalized levels at ~5-6x NTM revenue, compared to the all-time highs of ~17x in 2021

Metric (Median)	2022	2023	2024E
ARR (\$)	\$22.5M	\$26.0M	\$32.5M
ARR Growth	22%	21%	19%
Gross Dollar Retention	89%	89%	91%
Net Dollar Retention	102%	102%	101%
Account Executive Productivity	\$300K	\$333K	\$328K
Quota Attainment	70%	70%	75%
Magic Number	0.5	0.7	0.7
CAC Payback	25 Months	21 Months	20 Months
EBITDA Margin	(26%)	(15%)	(6%)
Rule of 40	(7%)	4%	15%
EV / ARR (most recent transaction)	10.0x	6.2x	9.1x

Key Performance Metrics

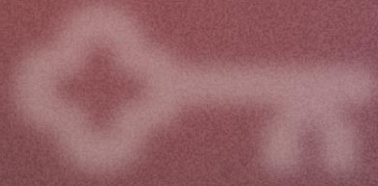
While we focus on median and composite numbers throughout the SaaS Survey report, we present the top-quartile benchmarks here so that SaaS executives and investors can use them to benchmark for outperformance vs. peers

Overall Survey Group			
Performance Metric	2022	2023	2024E
ARR Growth	22%	21%	19%
Gross Dollar Retention	89%	89%	91%
Net Dollar Retention	102%	102%	101%
Account Executive Quota	\$675K	\$750K	\$750K
Quota Attainment	70%	70%	75%
Magic Number	0.5	0.7	0.7
CAC Payback	25 Months	21 Months	20 Months
Gross Margin	67%	71%	72%
EBITDA Margin	(26%)	(15%)	(6%)
Rule of 40	(7%)	4%	15%
ARR per Employee	\$133K	\$154K	\$173K

Top Quartile Performers			
Performance Metric	2022	2023	2024E
ARR Growth	46%	32%	27%
Gross Dollar Retention	94%	93%	95%
Net Dollar Retention	110%	108%	109%
Account Executive Quota	\$1,000K	\$1,000K	\$1,085K
Quota Attainment	80%	80%	85%
Magic Number	0.9	0.9	1.0
CAC Payback	15 Months	16 Months	14 Months
Gross Margin	79%	81%	81%
EBITDA Margin	(7%)	1%	6%
Rule of 40	20%	21%	31%
ARR per Employee	\$195K	\$225K	\$235K



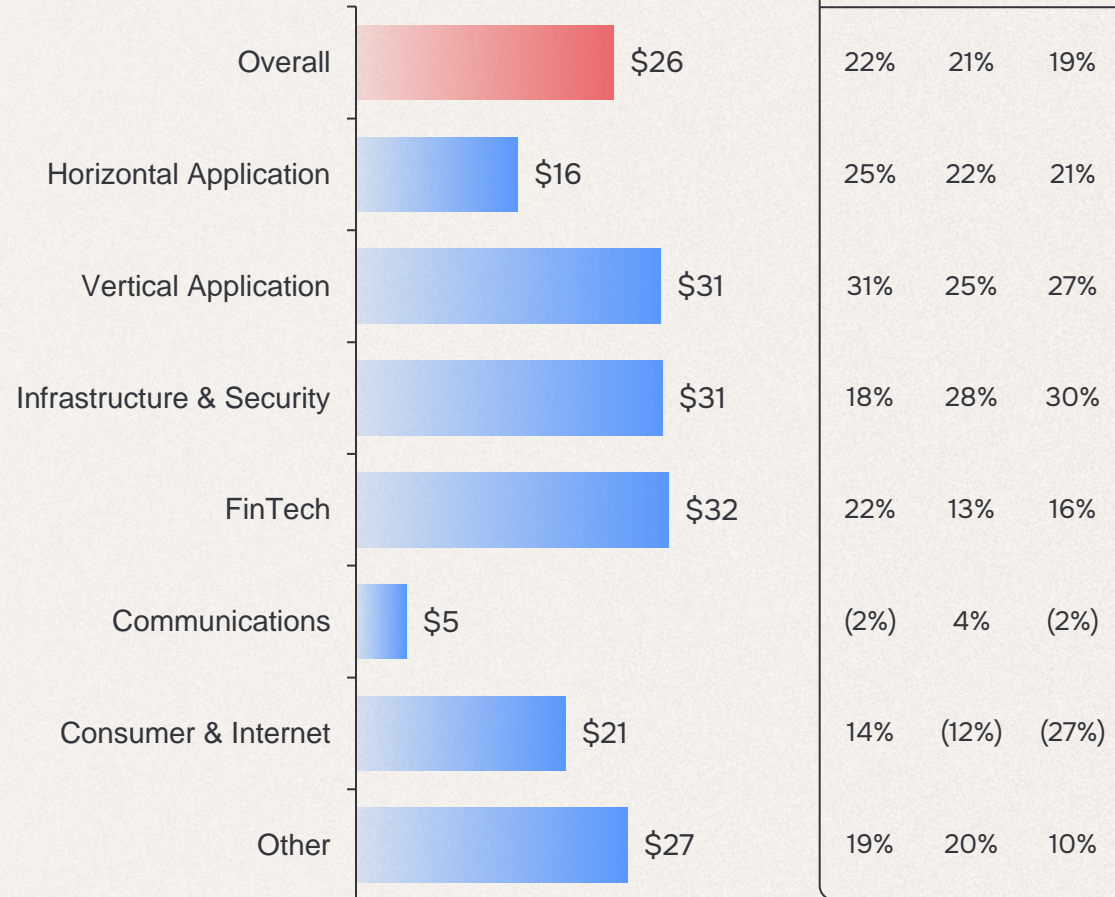
ARR Overview & Retention Metrics



ARR Distribution

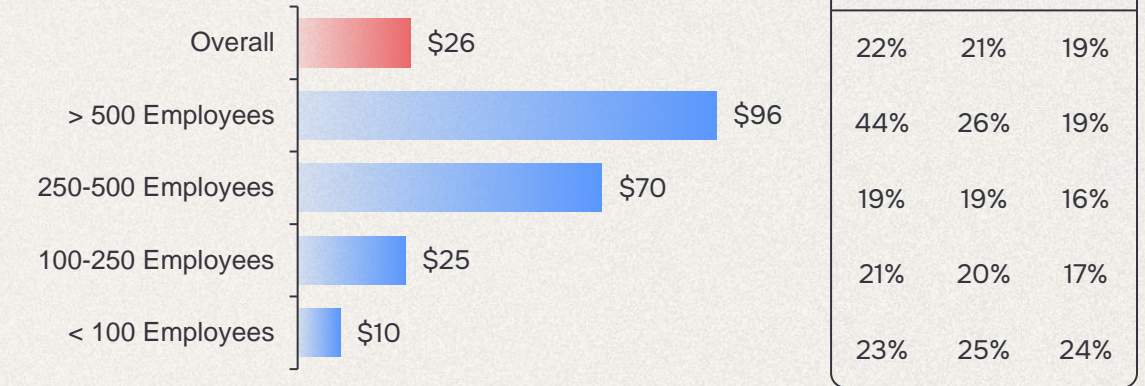
\$'s in USD millions

Median ARR by Sector



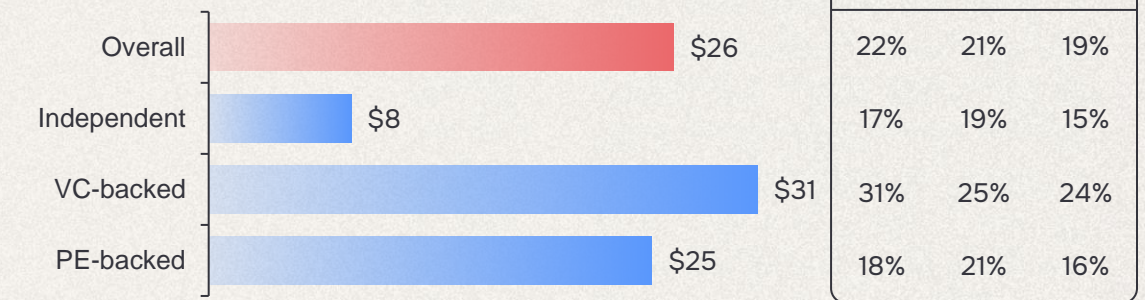
Respondents: 53

Median ARR by Employee Size



Respondents: 53

Median ARR by Ownership



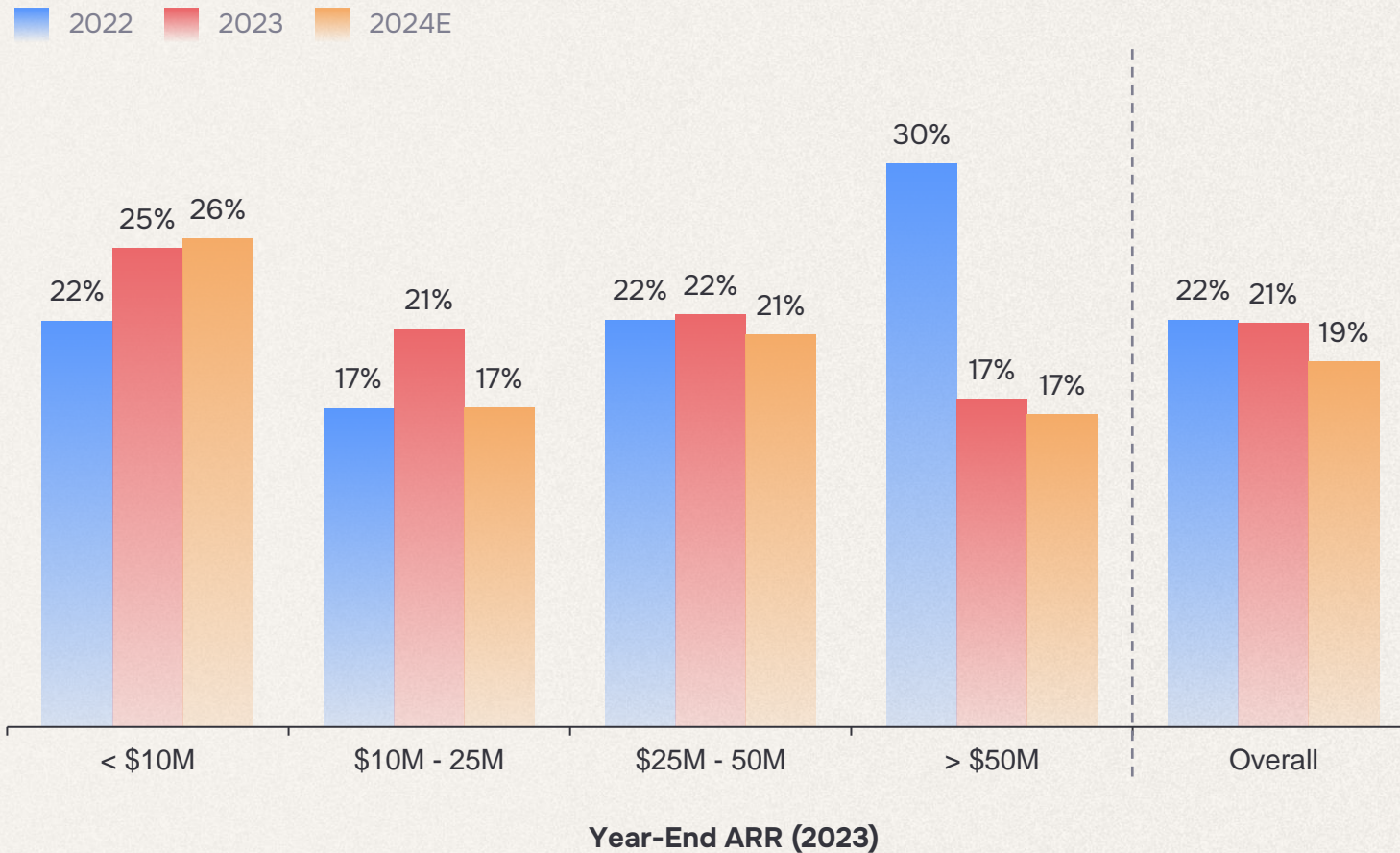
Respondents: 53



Note: ARR numbers based on 2023 ARR

ARR Growth

Median ARR Growth by ARR Segment



Challenging H2 2022 and 2023

H2 2022 and 2023 experienced a pullback in growth, which disproportionately impacted larger-sized companies primarily due to fewer upsell opportunities and the need for bundling products to prevent customer churn

Continued growth deceleration in 2024

In 2024, companies expect to experience slight growth deceleration of ~2-3%, with the exception of smaller-sized companies with <\$10M ARR, which expect to experience slight growth acceleration, partly driven by more newly formed AI-first companies



Respondents: 53



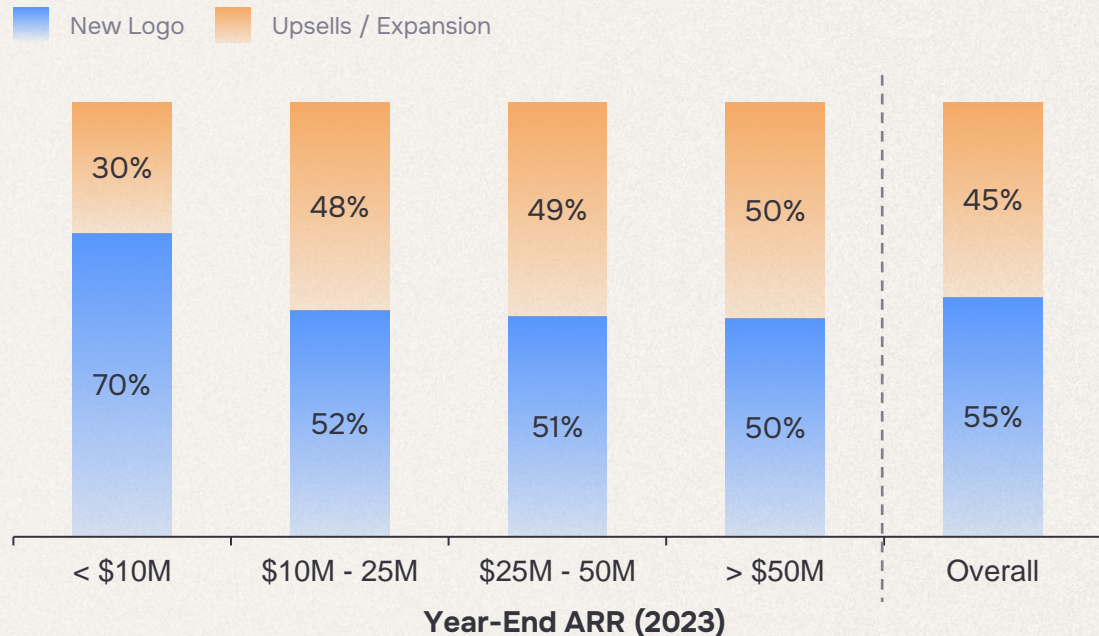
New ARR Growth Drivers - By ARR Cohort

Growth drivers shift depending on company size
 As companies scale above \$10M ARR, we start to see more of a reliance on upsells / expansion to achieve growth targets

Product expansion is required for continued growth at scale
 As companies continue to grow, they need to adjust their expansion strategy and can no longer rely on increasing the number of seats; product innovation and/or product expansion needs to take place for them to continue to grow at scale

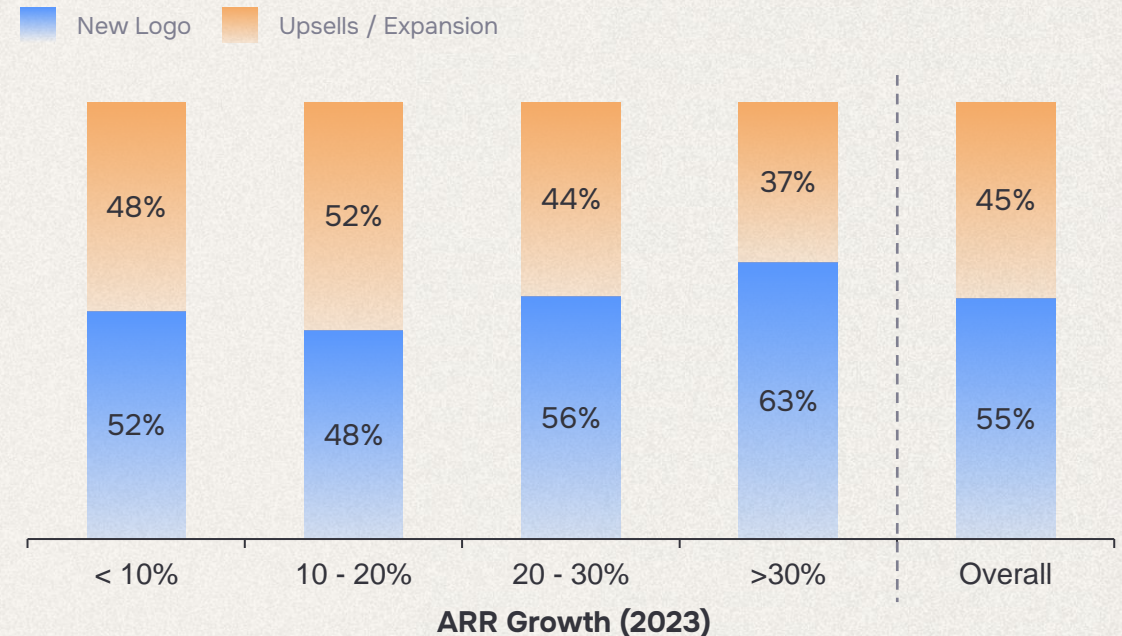


New ARR by ARR Segment



Respondents: 52

New ARR by ARR Growth



Respondents: 52



New ARR = New Logo ARR + Expansion ARR

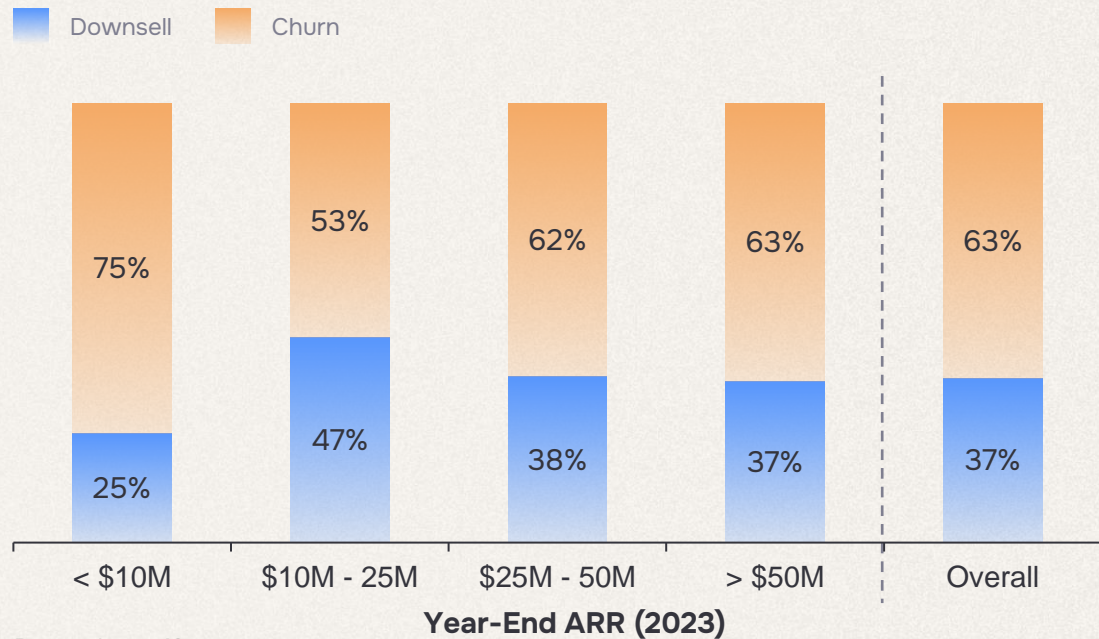
ARR Downsell & Churn Drivers - By ARR Cohort

Mix of downsell and churn changes depending on company size and growth
 Higher growth companies with >10% growth tended to experience more churn than downsell, which is most likely due to them being smaller sized companies and not having multiple products to offer, thus creating a more binary outcome with their customer base

Downsells creating a hurdle for achieving >10% growth
 Downsell is over indexed in the lowest growth segment and may be the underlying reason why companies end up in this growth segment

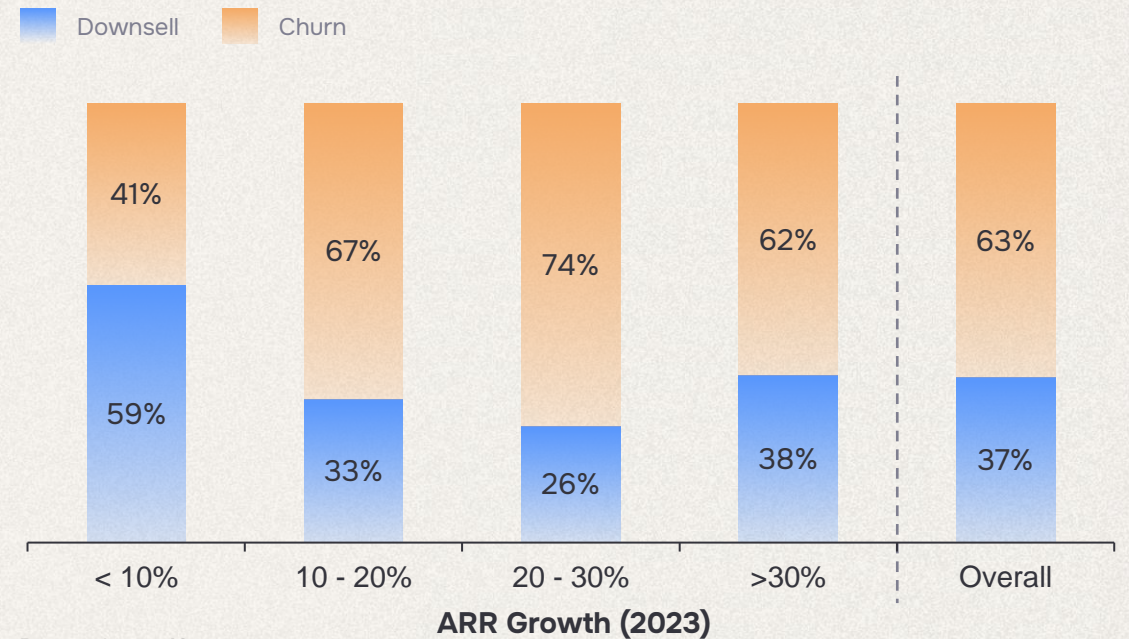


Downsell & Churn by ARR Segment



Respondents: 48

Downsell & Churn by ARR Growth



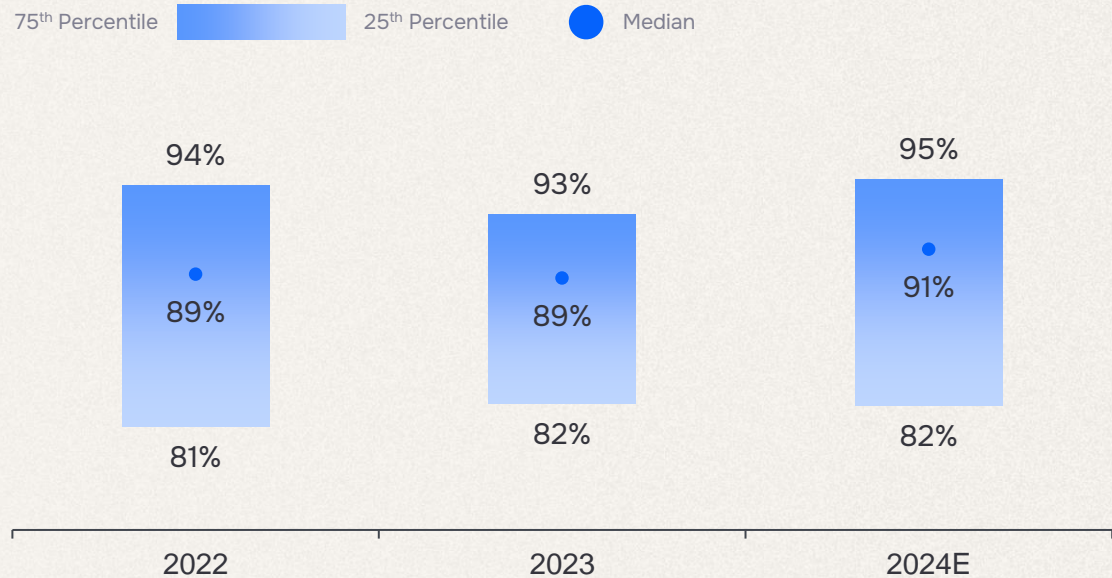
Respondents: 48

ARR Retention Metrics

Slight improvements to gross retention are expected in 2024
 There has not been noticeable volatility in median gross retention rates since 2022, and we expect this trend to continue moving forward

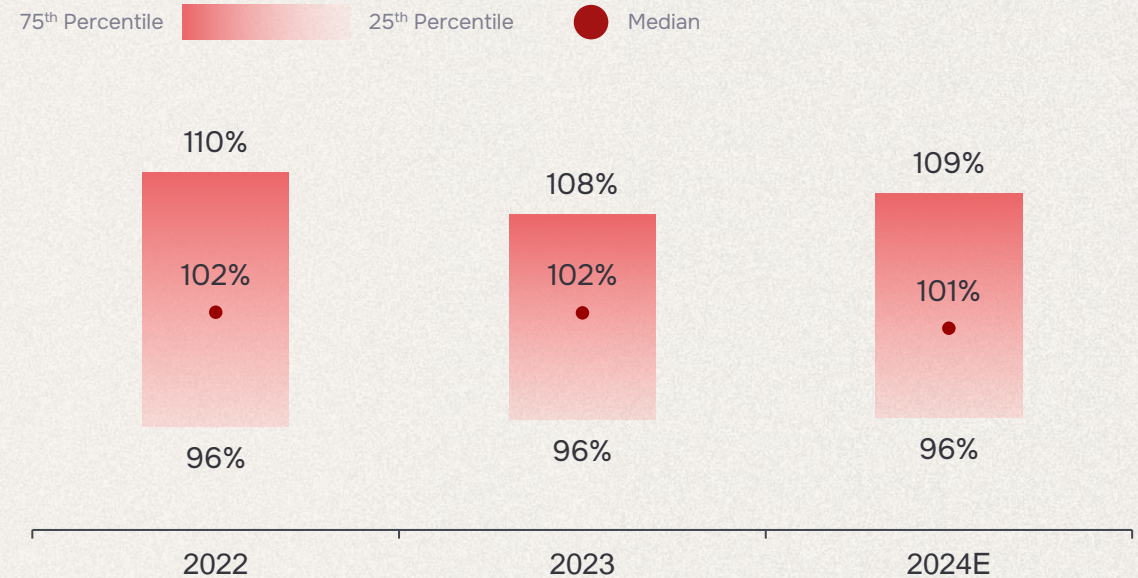
Net retention is expected to remain relatively consistent in 2024
 We can see net retention rates have remained relatively constant since 2022 with no major changes expected in 2024

Median Gross Retention



Respondents: 55

Median Net Retention



Respondents: 55



Gross Dollar Retention = (Beginning ARR - Churned ARR - Downsell ARR) / Beginning ARR
 Net Dollar Retention = (Beginning ARR + Expansion ARR - Churned ARR - Downsell ARR) / Beginning ARR

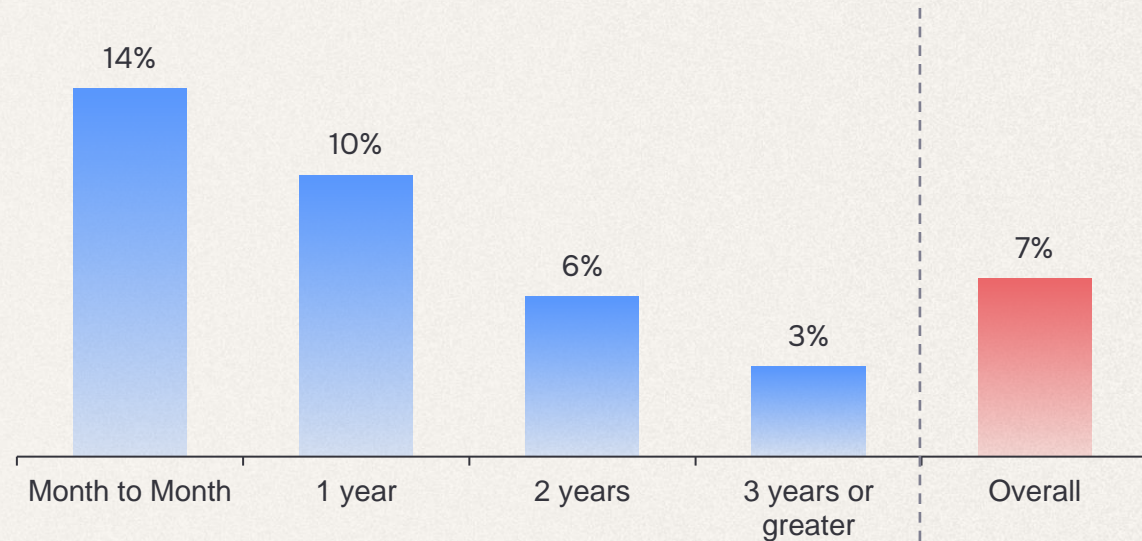
Additional ARR Churn Metrics

Increased contract lengths significantly reduce churn
 We see a clear trend pointing towards the benefits of increased contract lengths and their positive impact on churn rates

Increased professional services spend shows positive impacts to retention up to a certain point
 When companies provide more high-touch professional services work, there's a positive correlation with reduced churn; however, we start to see a reversal in this trend with >15% professional services spend as a % of ARR

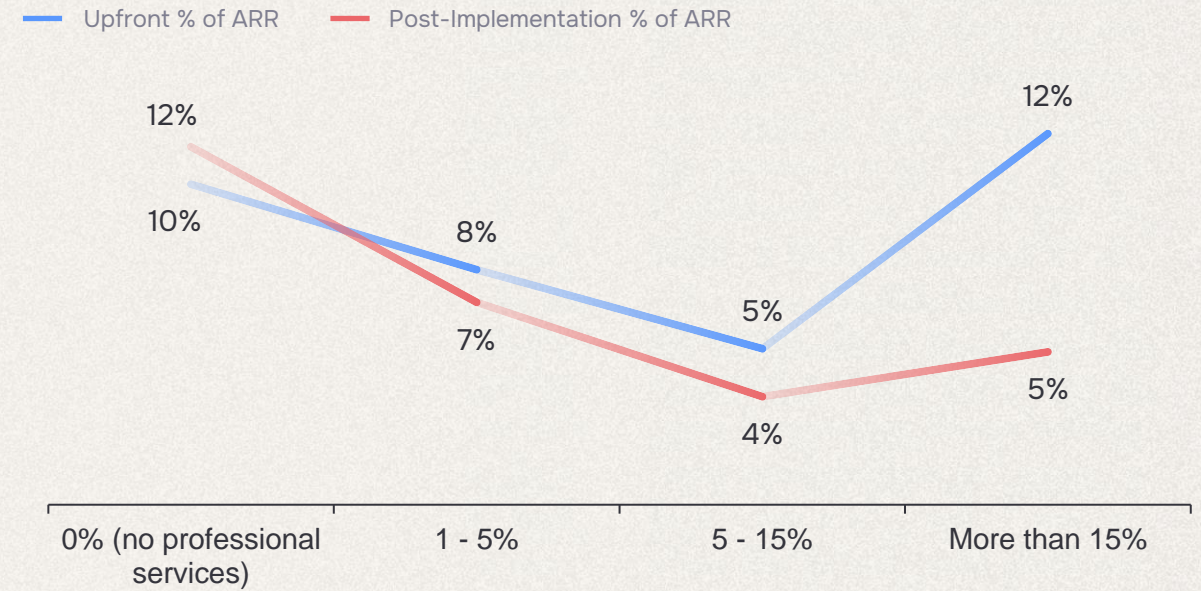


Churn Rate by Contract Length



Respondents: 52

Churn Rate by Professional Services as % of ARR



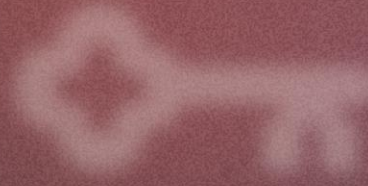
Respondents: 52



Note: ARR numbers based on 2023 ARR



GTM Execution & Performance



Primary GTM Approach

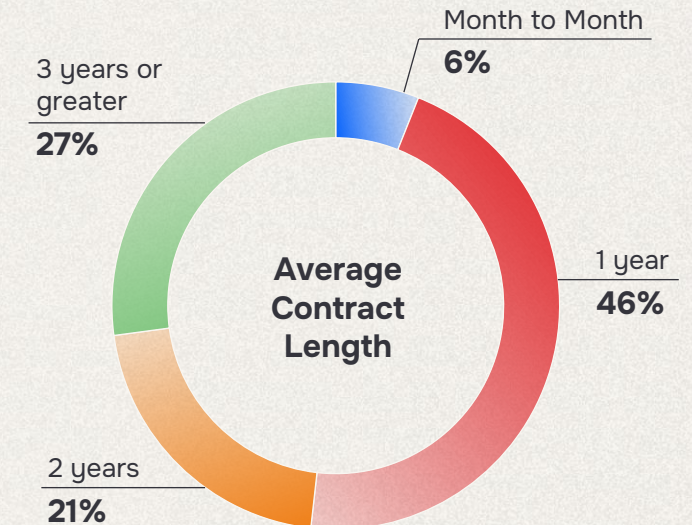
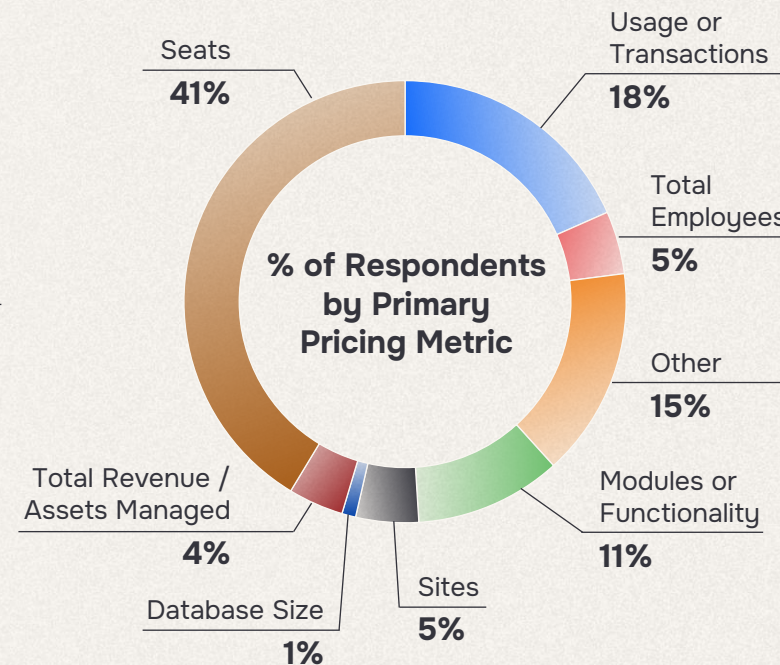
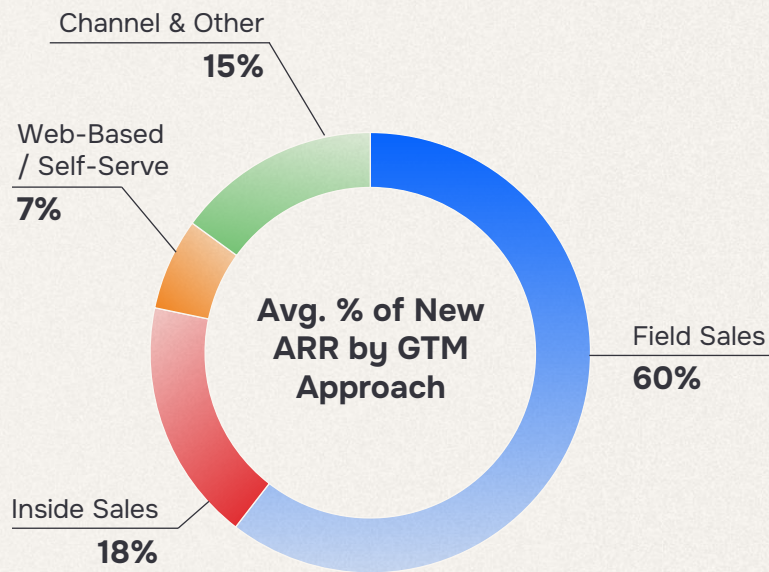
Majority of companies seem to be pursuing the traditional B2B enterprise sales strategy

Companies are seemingly preferring to focus on field sales, seat-based pricing, and yearly or multi-year contracts as their GTM strategies; Respondents to the survey did not indicate any major shifts to their GTM strategy moving forward

“Although self-serve and PLG models have gotten a lot of attention in the past, it is still rare to find successful companies who are purely self-serve / PLG, except perhaps for companies focused on SMB.”



Mahau Ma
Operating Partner,
Sapphire Ventures



Respondents: 66



Marketing & Indirect Sales Strategies

Paid digital and organic are the most often used marketing strategies

Companies are focused on generating quality-based leads and have historically achieved this through paid digital and organic; we expect this trend to continue as companies aim to generate high ROIs on marketing dollars spent

Primary Lead Sourcing Strategy

Respondents: 65



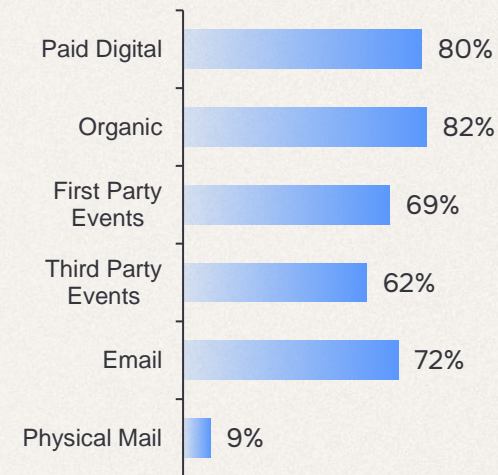
“Technology partnerships and loose affiliations without resell or referral mechanisms continue to increase in significance, as SaaS startups look to position themselves as part of the ‘opinionated, modern stack’ for enterprises adopting cloud technologies.”



Dave Wilner

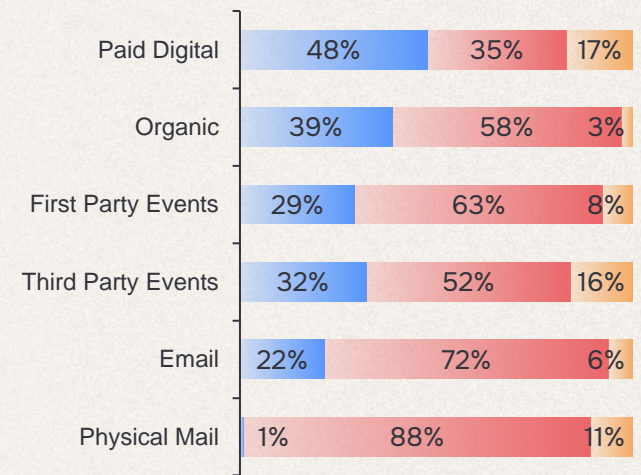
Operating Partner,
Sapphire Ventures

Marketing Strategies



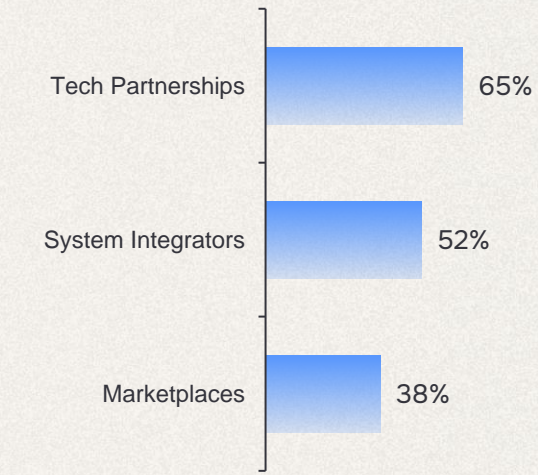
Respondents: 65

Shift in Priorities



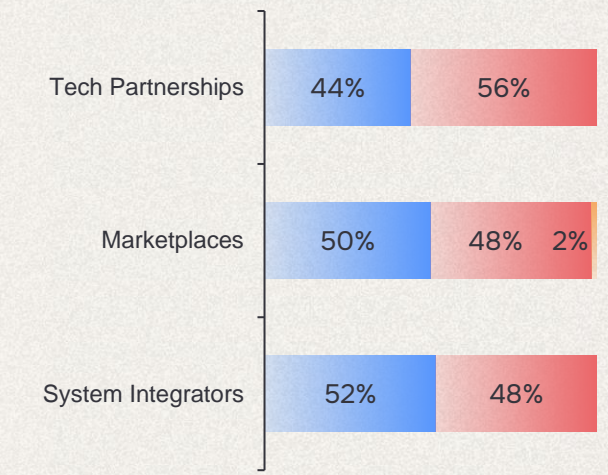
Increasing No Change Decreasing

Indirect Sales Strategies



Respondents: 66

Shift in Priorities



Increasing No Change Decreasing

GTM Organizational Breakdown

S&M Spend Breakdown*

Respondents: 53

Sales: 54%

Marketing: 46%

Sales Development Rep*

Respondents: 65

Inbound: 28%

Outbound: 30%

Hybrid: 42%

		SMB	Mid-Market	Enterprise	Overall
Account Executive**	Headcount	8.4	3.8	3.8	6.0
Business Development**	AE:BDR Ratio	1.9	3.5	1.8	2.5
Sales Engineer**	AE:SE Ratio	2.9	2.9	1.8	2.5
Customer Success Manager**	Book of Business	\$1.0M	\$1.4M	\$2.5M	\$2.1M
	# of Accounts	100	25	13	22

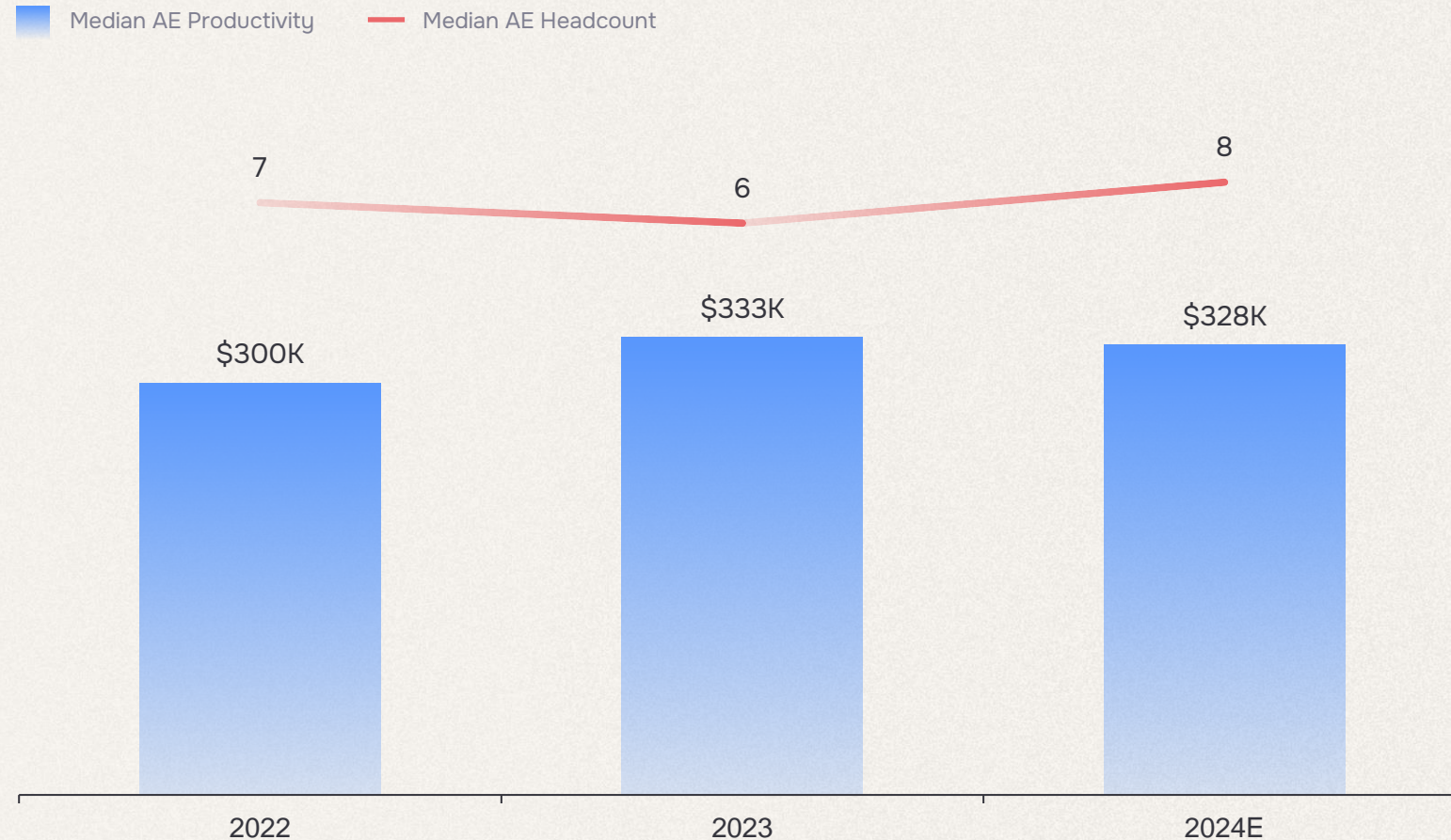
Respondents: 63



• = Averages; ** = Medians
Note: All numbers are based on 2023 results

Account Executive Productivity

Median New ARR per Full-Time Account Executive



Respondents: 63



AE Productivity = (New Logo ARR + Expansion ARR) / # of Quota-Carrying AEs

Account Executives are expected to perform equally well in 2024 compared to 2023

Companies are expecting continued, elevated performance from their salesforce to achieve their growth targets for 2024

The heightened pressure to perform is a result of companies looking to achieve more with less after conducting mass layoffs with their GTM departments last year

Headcount additions indicate some optimism moving forward

Many companies are expecting to increase their sales headcount this year in anticipation of a rebound in H2 2024 or 2025; however, they will still be monitoring AE productivity

“Nominal improvements in sales productivity stem from reduced team sizes from 2022-23 downsizing, but going forward we expect AI to be a driver of additional efficiencies.”

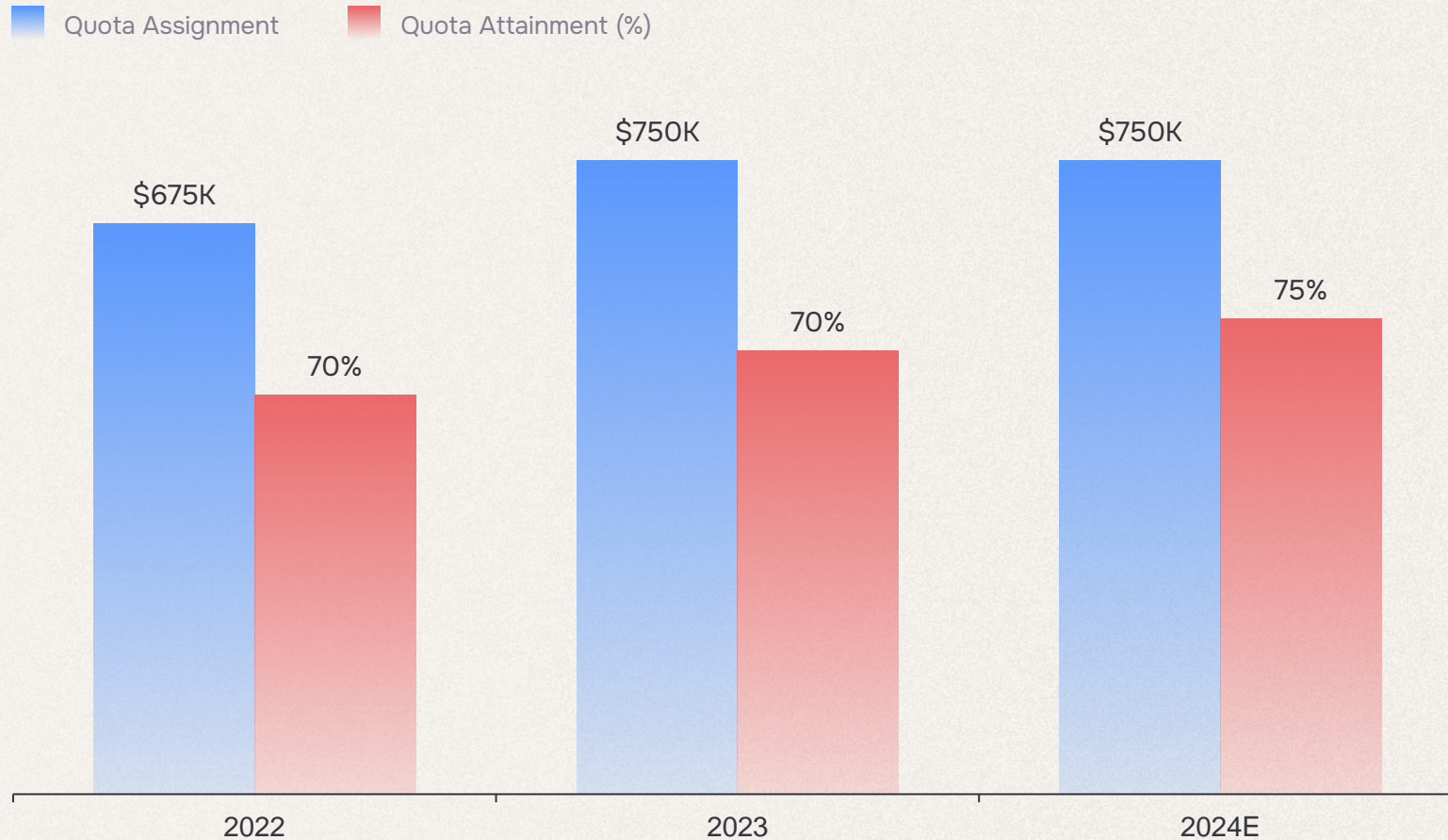


Dave Wilner

Operating Partner,
Sapphire Ventures

Sales Quota Assignments & Achievements

Sales Quota Attainment Rates



Significantly higher sales quotas with higher attainment rate expectations

Companies have kept high quota expectations for AEs this year after setting a high bar in 2023; however, they have also increased quota attainment expectations for 2024

We believe this is most likely the result of companies needing to show increased efficiency with AEs and the expectation of a better macroeconomic environment in 2024

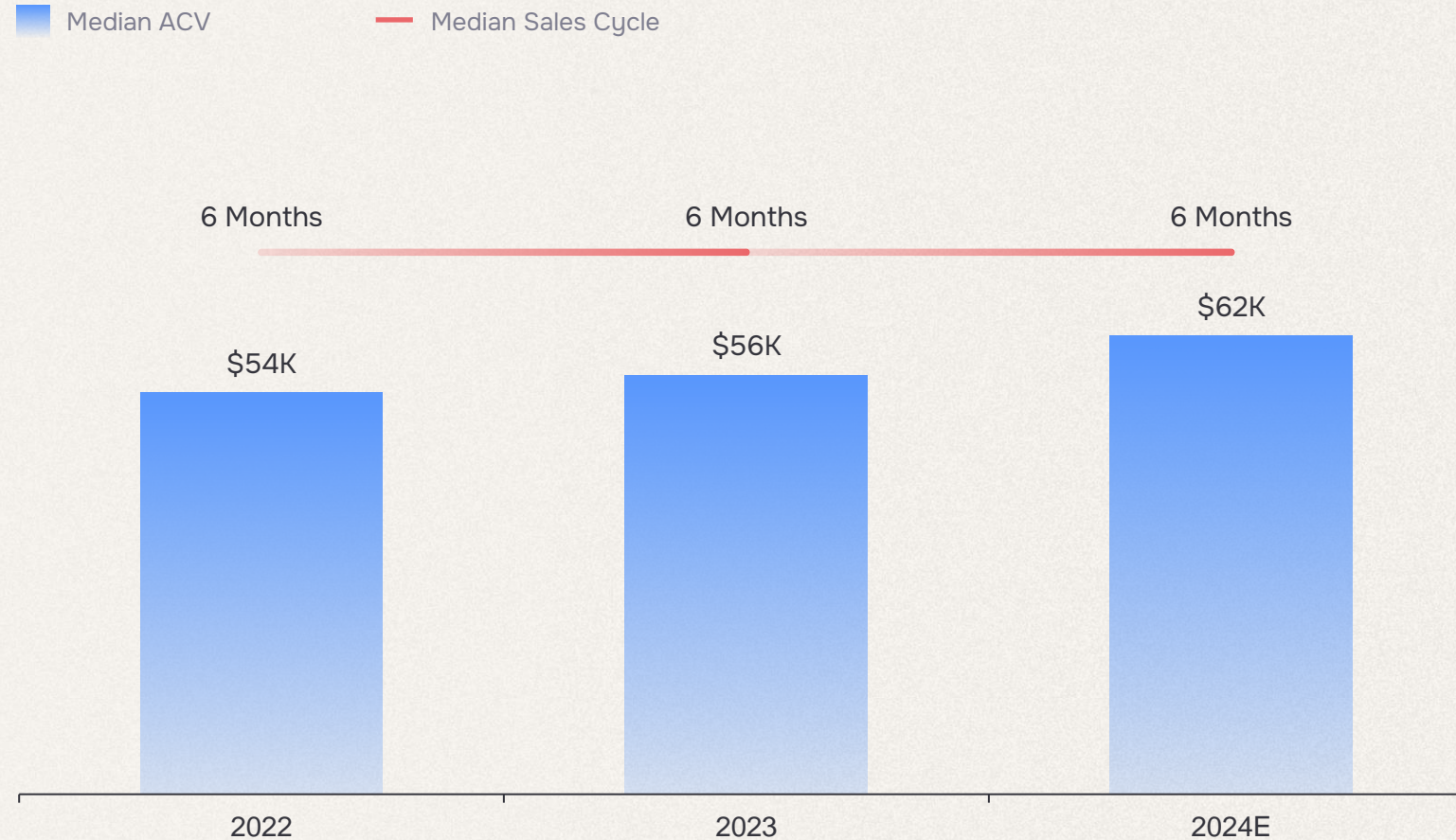
Respondents: 55



Note: Sales quota attainment figures based on fully-ramped, quota-carrying AEs

Annual Contract Value & Sales Cycle Length

Trending ACV & Sales Cycle Length



Sales cycles continue to remain constant

We are not seeing any noticeable trends with median sales cycle lengths remaining constant at ~6 months

Consistent improvements with ACV

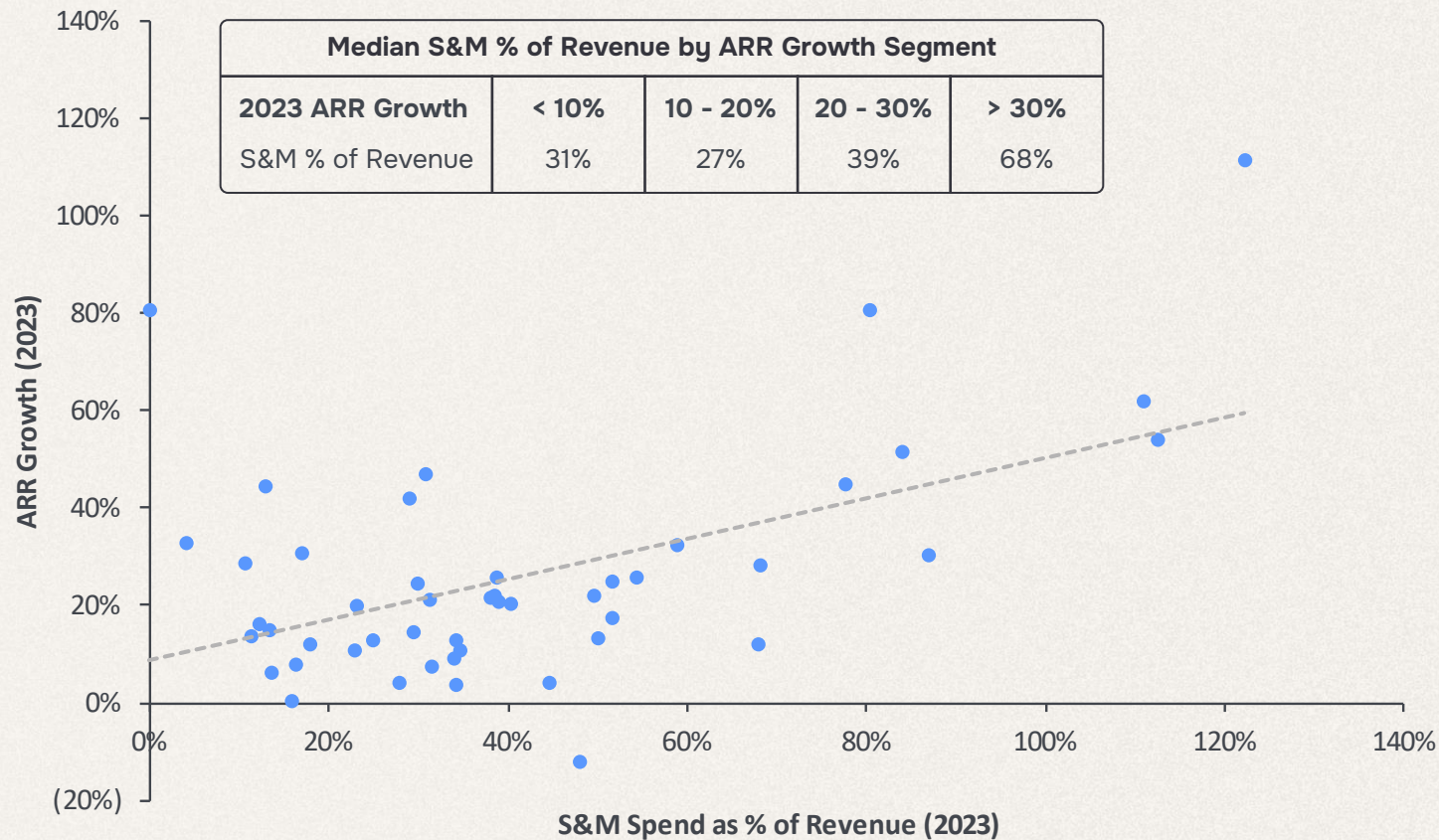
Companies are seeing their median ACV increase YoY as they start to move upmarket and capture larger-sized customers



Respondents: 62

Sales & Marketing Spend & ARR Growth

S&M Spend vs. ARR Growth



More S&M spend as a % of revenue tends to translate into higher growth

We can see a clear correlation between increased S&M spend (as a % of revenue) and improved growth rates once S&M spend exceeds 30%; however, there's mixed results once S&M spend drops below 30%

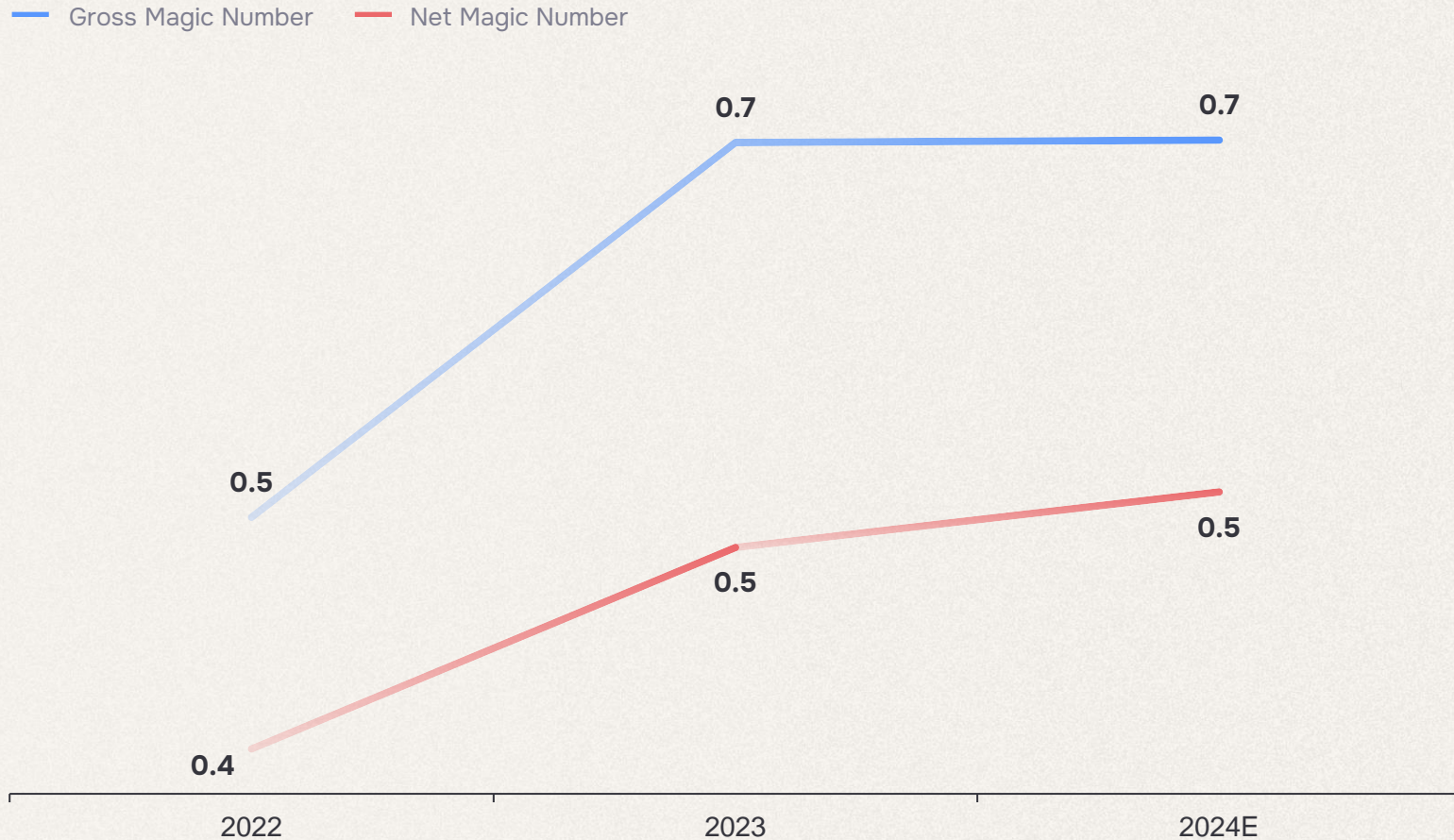


Respondents: 48



Magic Numbers

Median Magic Numbers



Respondents: 54

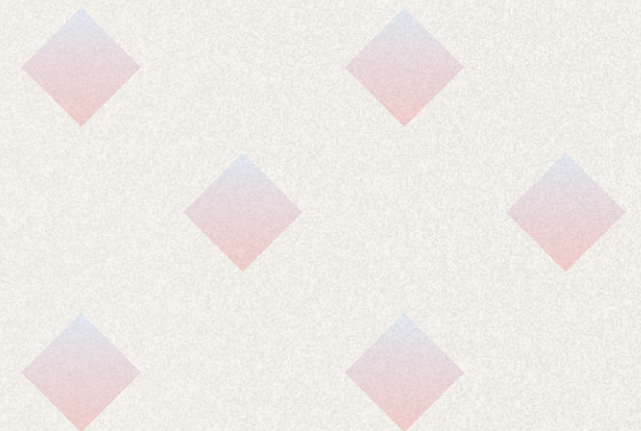


Gross Magic Number = (New Logo ARR + Expansion ARR) / Fully-Loaded S&M Spend
 Net Magic Number = (New Logo ARR + Expansion ARR - Churned ARR) / Fully-Loaded S&M Spend

Both gross and net magic numbers have remained relatively consistent in 2024

We saw some major improvements to the magic numbers in 2023 and that is expected to remain in 2024

We believe this is primarily a result of companies focusing more on S&M efficiency, and we predict that there will be additional improvements once we start seeing a recovery with the broader macro environment

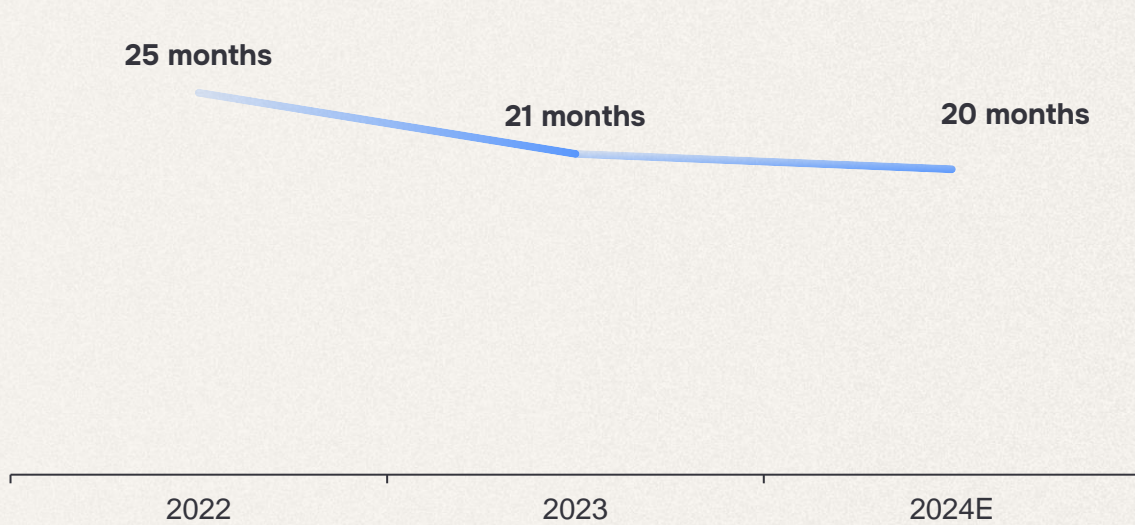


Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) & Payback Period

Continued improvements with both fully-loaded and new-only payback periods
This broader trend is telling us that it has become less expensive to acquire net new customers and expand into the existing customer base in recent years, likely due to the shift in company priorities from growth at all costs in 2021 and 2022 to a more measured approach to customer acquisition in 2023 and 2024

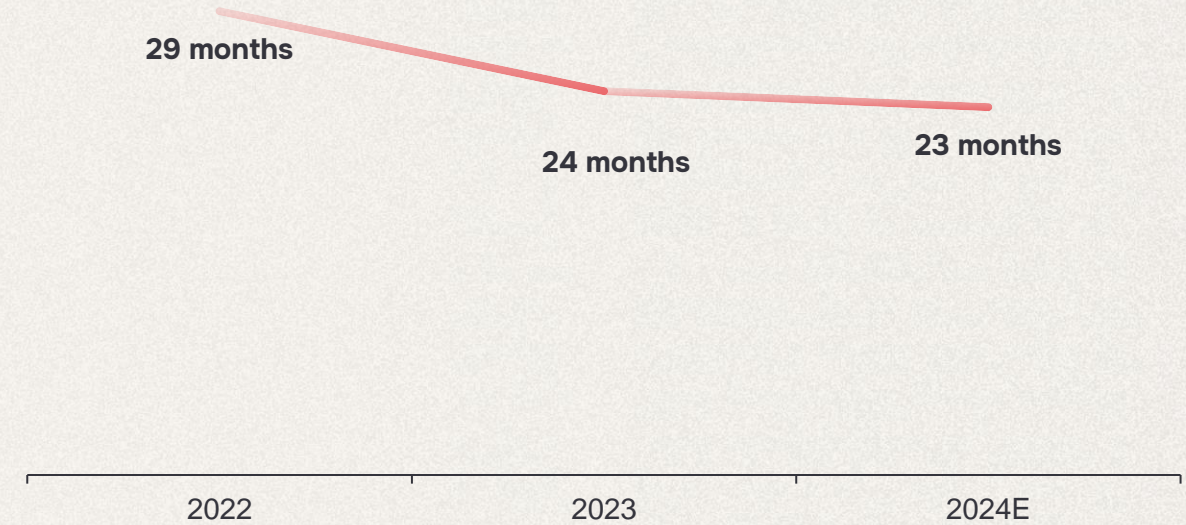


Fully-Loaded CAC Payback Period



Respondents: 47

New-Only CAC Payback Period



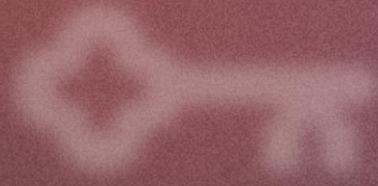
Respondents: 47



Fully-Loaded CAC = S&M Spend / (New Logo ARR + Expansion ARR) * Gross Margin / 12
New-Only CAC = New Customer S&M Spend / (New Logo ARR) * Gross Margin / 12

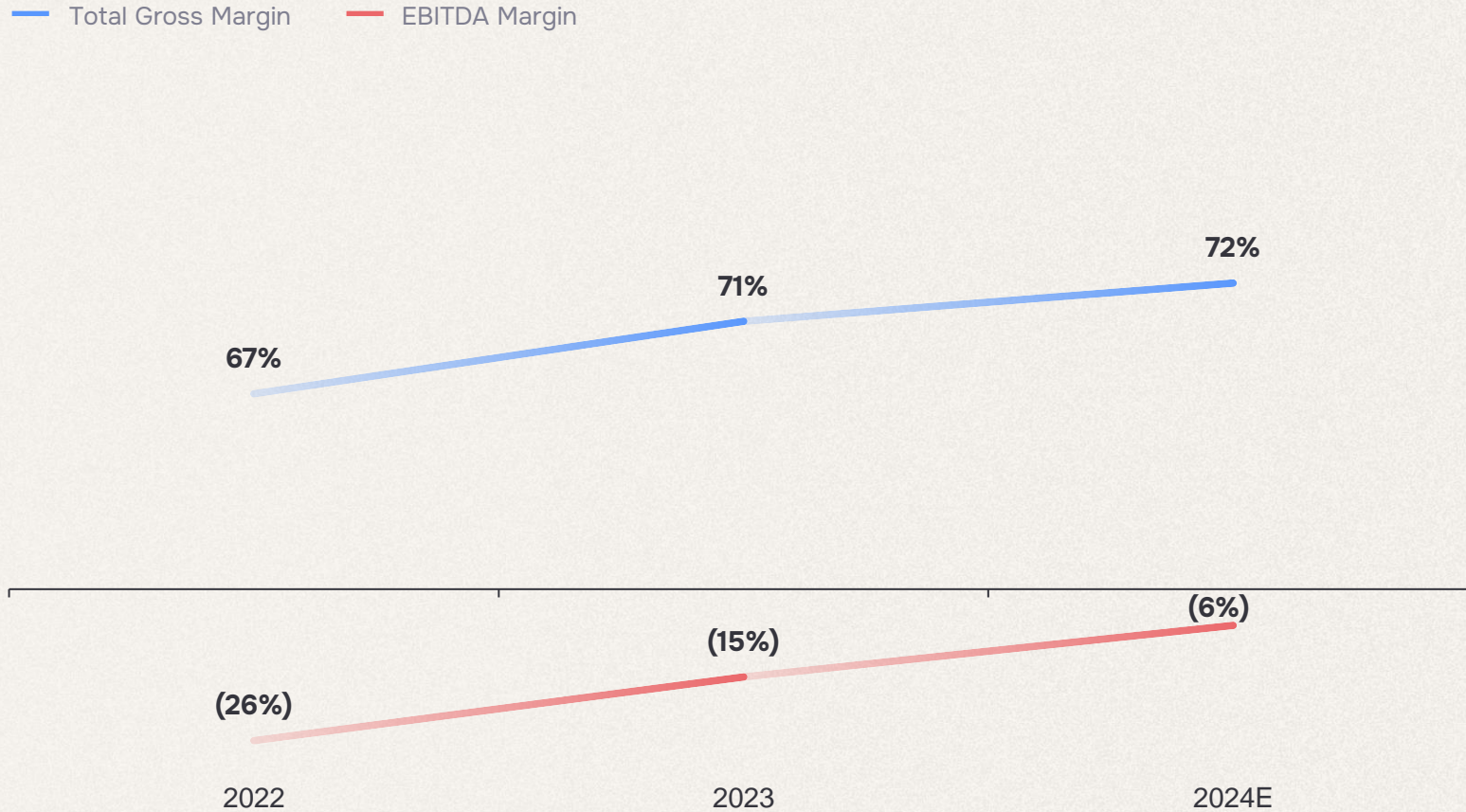


Expenses & Profitability



Profitability Metrics

Median Gross Margins and EBITDA Margins (% of Revenue)



Improvements across profitability metrics signal a shift in priorities

Profitability metrics saw a significant improvement in 2023, with an equally impressive improvement expected in 2024, as companies continue to shift their priorities from a growth-at-all-costs strategy to efficiency and profitability

Subscription gross margins are better than total gross margins

Median subscription gross margin was ~78%, while median total gross margin was ~71%, indicating an ~7% spread by revenue type



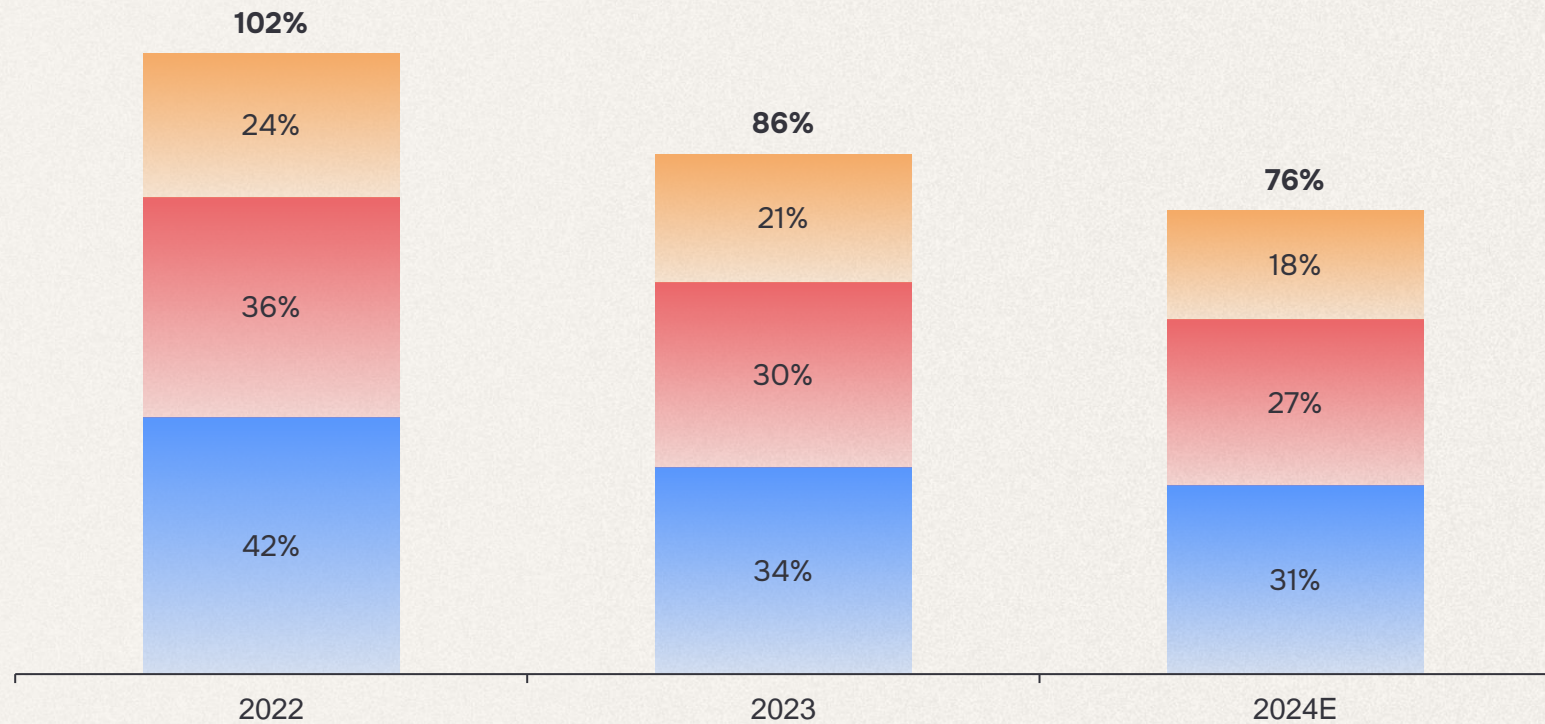
Respondents: 52



Operating Expenses

Median Expenses as % of Revenue

■ Sales & Marketing ■ Research & Development ■ General & Administrative



Budget cuts expected to persist in 2024, although AI trends necessitate additional spend going forward

We expect to see all major departments somewhat equally impacted this year after significant cuts were experienced by S&M and R&D teams in 2023

We will continue to see a focus on efficiency in 2024, but for both AI-first companies and traditional SaaS companies adding AI co-pilot technology, we expect to see increased spending on the margin in pursuit of growth and leadership positioning

Respondents: 55



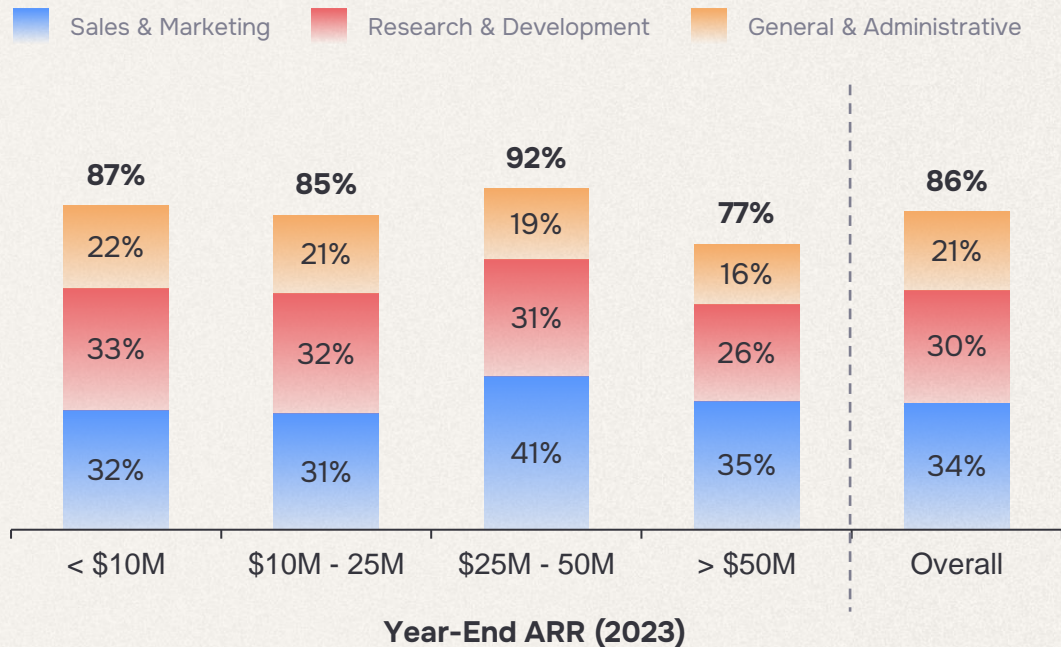
Operating Expenses (cont'd)

Larger companies remain more focused on profitability vs. smaller, higher-growth companies

We can see that smaller companies with <\$50M ARR still have an appetite for growth to achieve the benefits of scale and are less focused on profitability, which is demonstrated by their openness to incurring higher operating expenses as a % of revenue

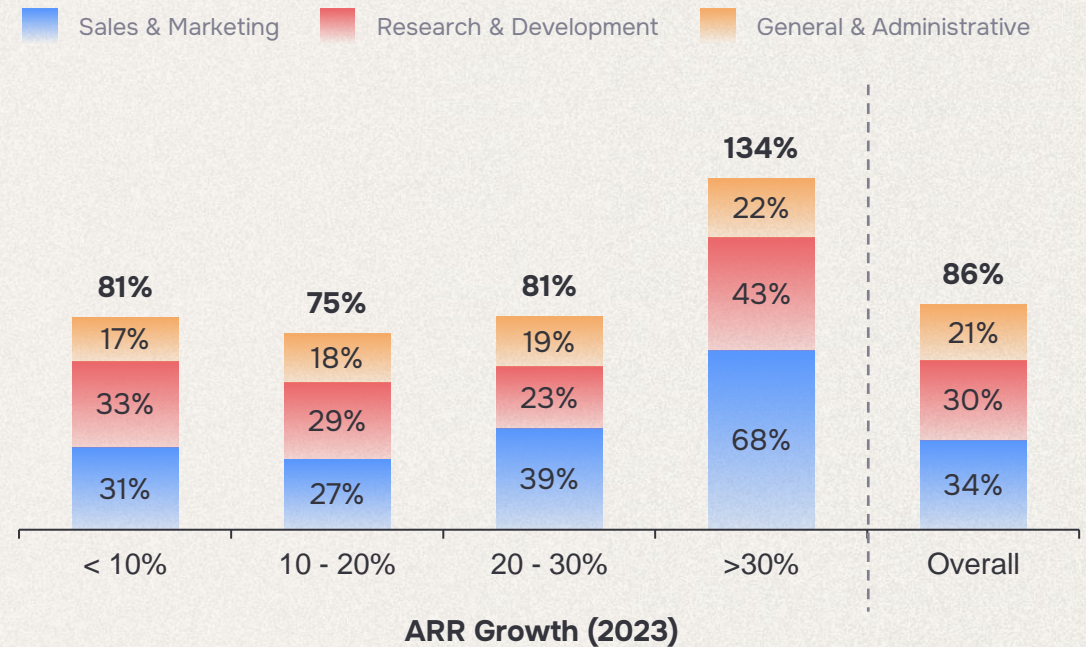
Larger-sized companies with >\$50M ARR seem to be taking a different approach and are willing to sacrifice growth for higher profitability

Median Expenses as % of Revenue by ARR Segment



Respondents: 55

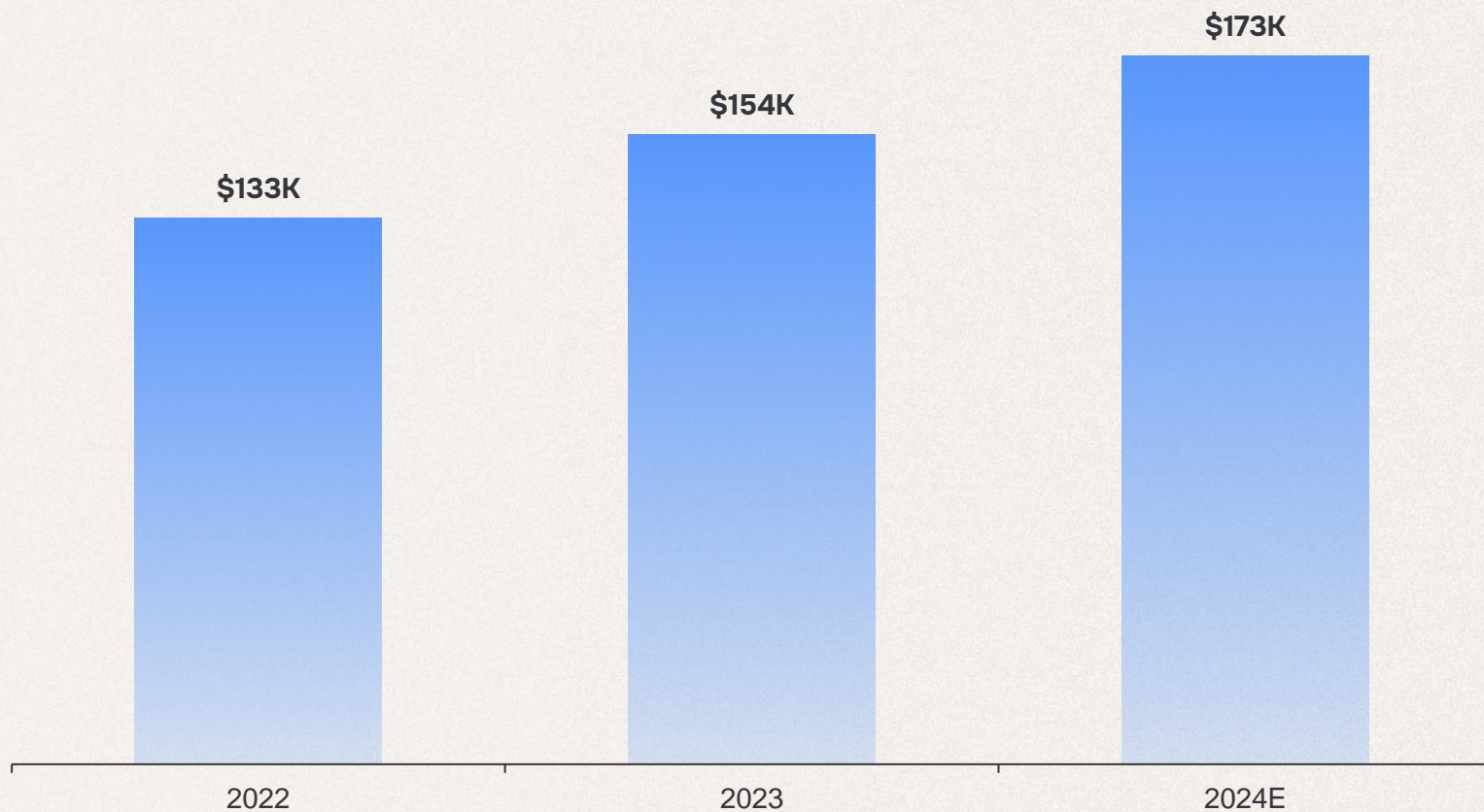
Median Expenses as % of Revenue by ARR Growth



Respondents: 55

Human Capital Efficiency

Median ARR per Full-Time Employee



Human capital efficiency is becoming an increasingly important metric

Boards are guiding management teams to achieve certain benchmarks by optimizing headcount and moving functions, such as engineering and customer success to lower-cost geographies (ex. India)

Steady increases in the ARR / FTE metric in most recent years

We expect this trend to continue in 2024 as companies continue to focus on getting more output with fewer resources

Both 2023 and 2024 show notable improvements to the ARR/FTE metric, which is a direct result of the recent headcount restructurings and reductions

Respondents: 53

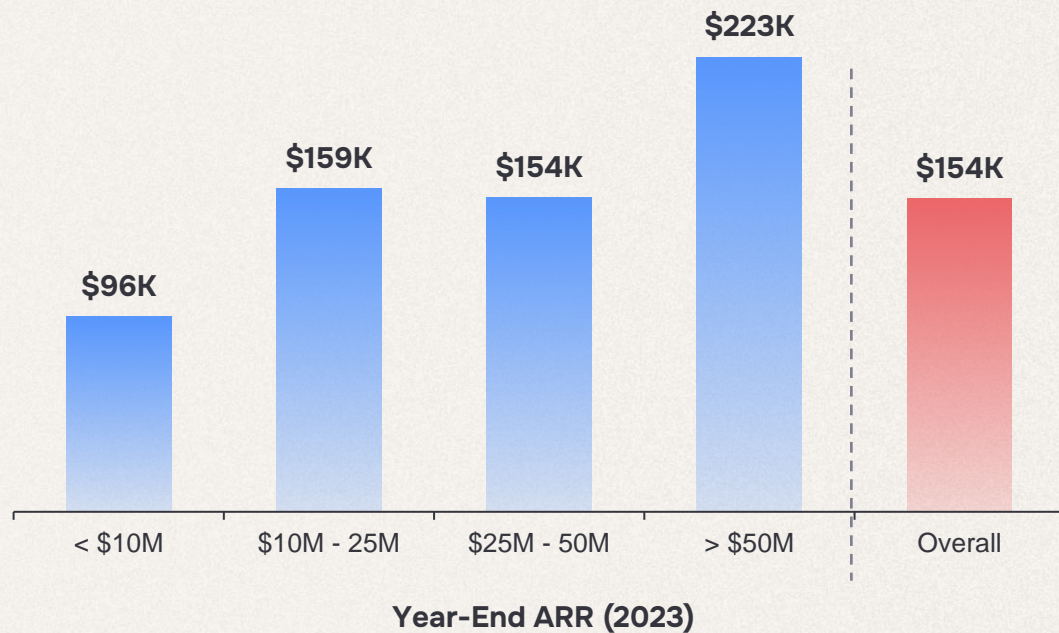


Human Capital Efficiency (cont'd)

Companies tend to become more efficient as they scale
Improvements to human capital efficiency seems to occur once companies surpass \$10M ARR and \$50M ARR thresholds

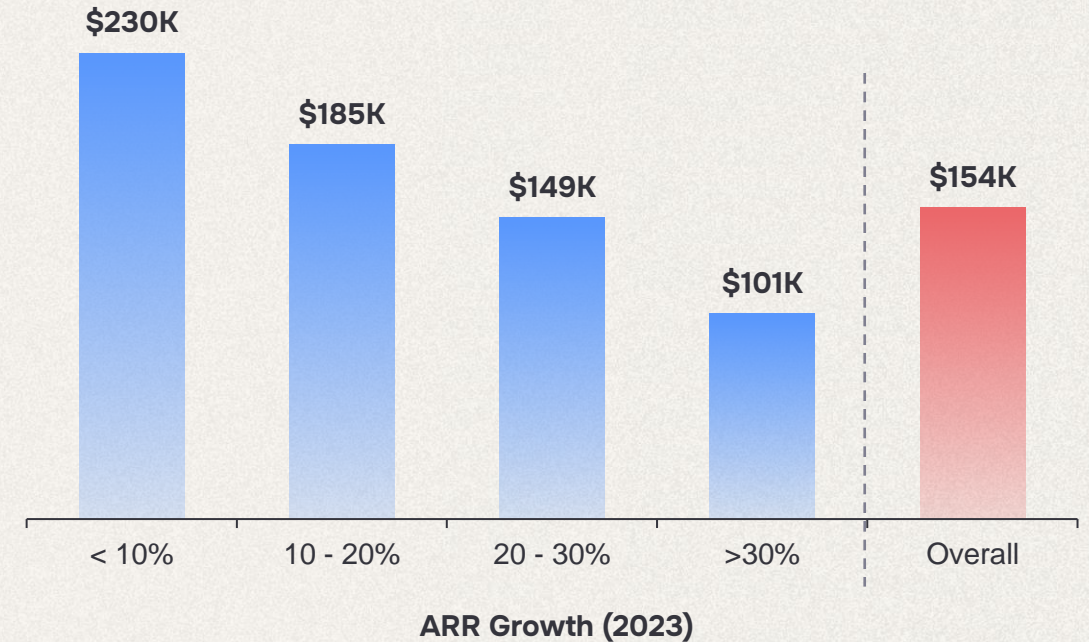
Major ARR / FTE variations exist across ARR growth segments
As companies pursue growth, they seem to be much less human capital efficient compared to lower growth businesses by a wide margin

Median ARR per FTE by ARR Segment



Respondents: 53

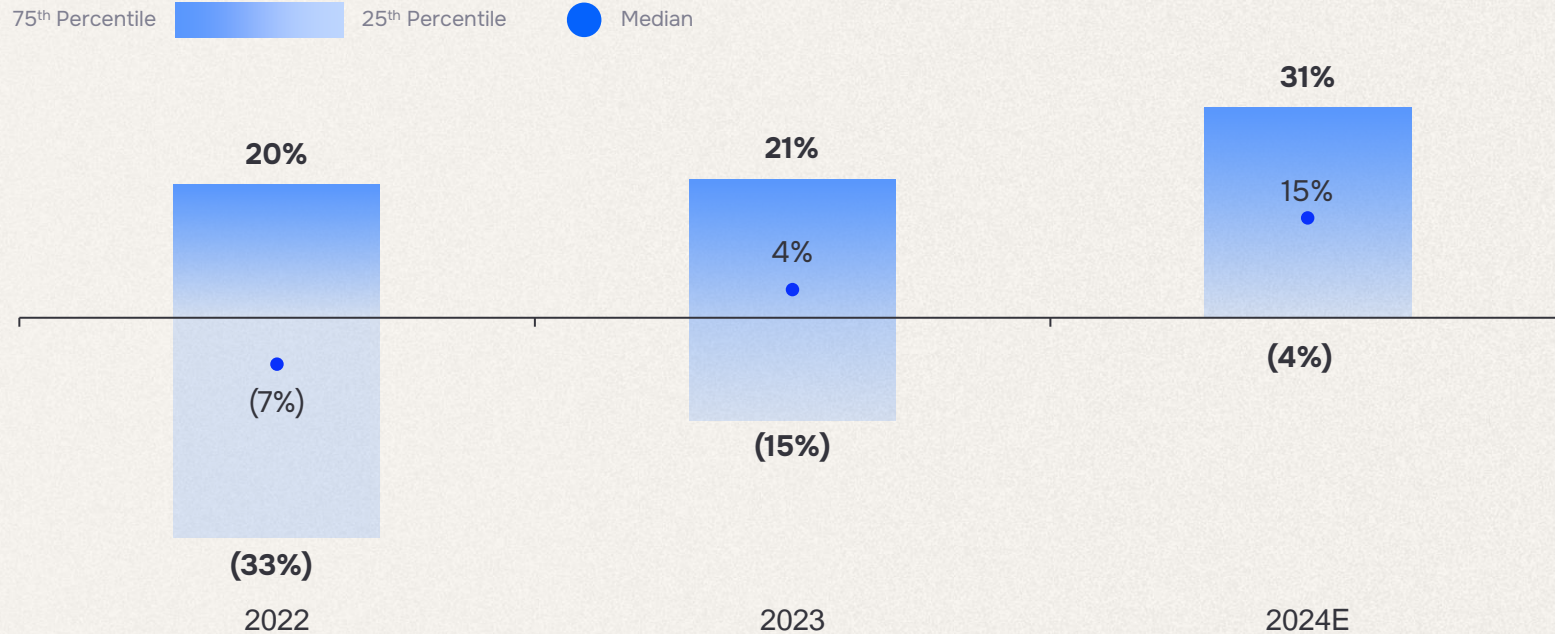
Median ARR per FTE by ARR Growth



Respondents: 53

Rule of 40 Performance

Median Rule of 40 Results



Rule of 40 benchmarking is showing some signs of improvement

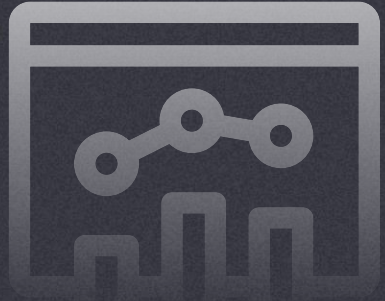
While few companies in the data set are expected to achieve or exceed the Rule of 40 this year, many of them have improved their financial profiles

Compared to prior years, when many companies were below the Rule of 40, now they're getting closer to it, primarily due to EBITDA margin improvements

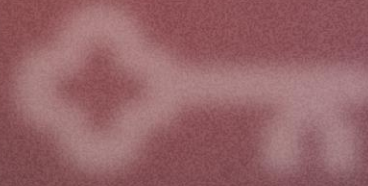
	2022	2023	2024E
Median ARR Growth	22%	21%	19%
Median EBITDA Margin	(26%)	(15%)	(6%)
% Met or Exceeded Rule of 40	13%	13%	11%

Respondents: 46





Financing & Valuation



Cash Runway & Capital Raise Requirements

Both smaller-sized and larger-sized companies in the <\$10M ARR or >\$50M ARR segments are at a crossroads
These segments of the market have the lowest level of cash runway and will soon need to decide if they need to come to market for additional capital or pursue M&A, unless they can create a profitable, self-sustainable business model to further extend their runway

No discernable trends are seen based on companies ARR growth profile
Growth does not seem to be an indicator of cash runway, with the 10-20% growth bucket having the most flexibility at ~48 months

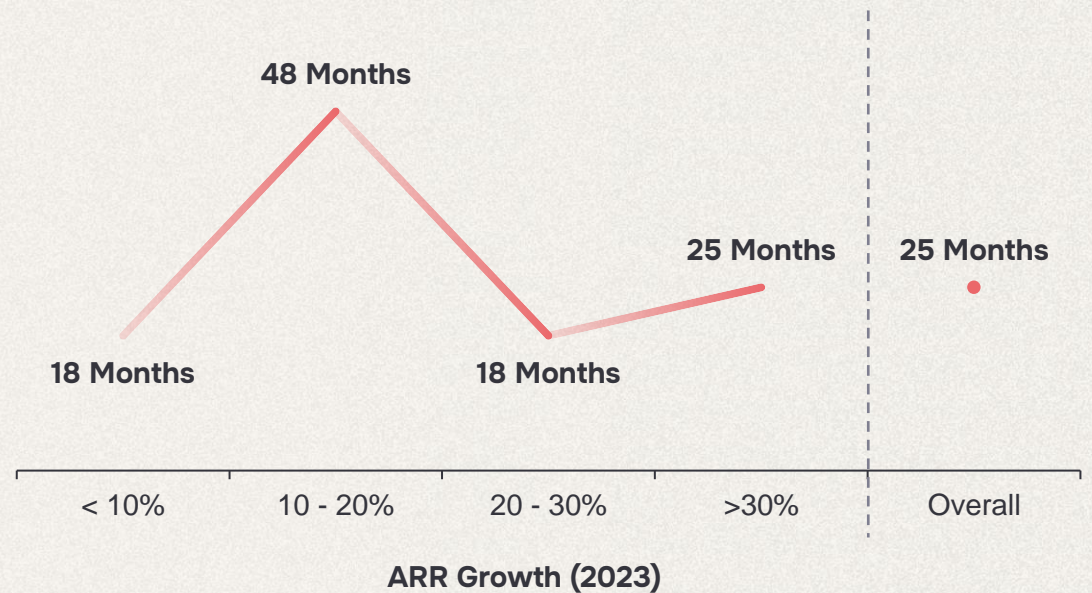


Cash Runway by ARR Segment



Respondents: 30

Cash Runway by ARR Growth



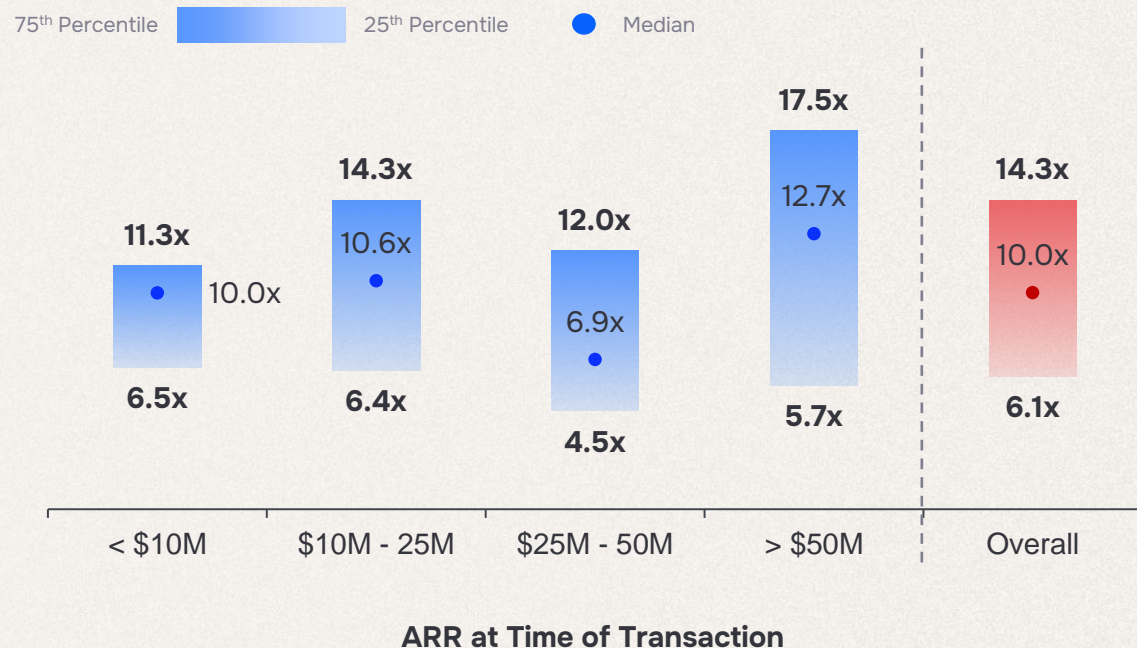
Respondents: 30

Valuation by ARR and ARR Growth at Time of Last Transaction

Private market financing activity and multiples continue to show strength with ~50% of all VC capital being invested into AI and AI-related technology

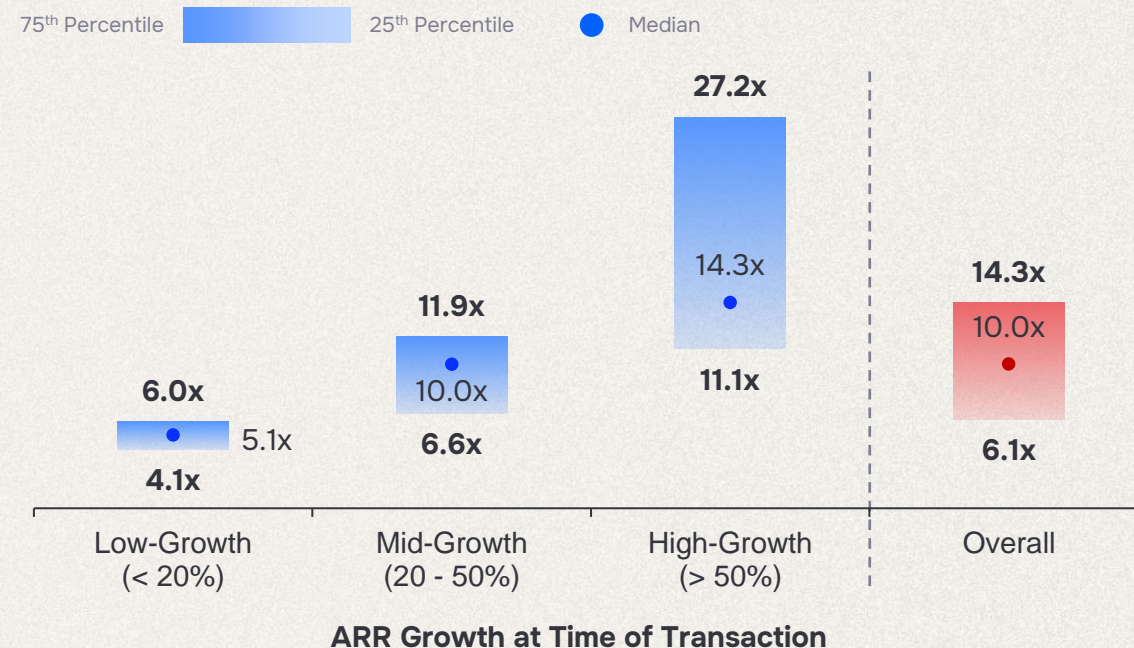
Lower growers (<20%) have seen private market multiples compress towards normalized public market multiples, while higher growers (>50%) have been more resilient, still commanding super-premium multiples of ~15x ARR

Pre-Money Valuation by ARR Segment



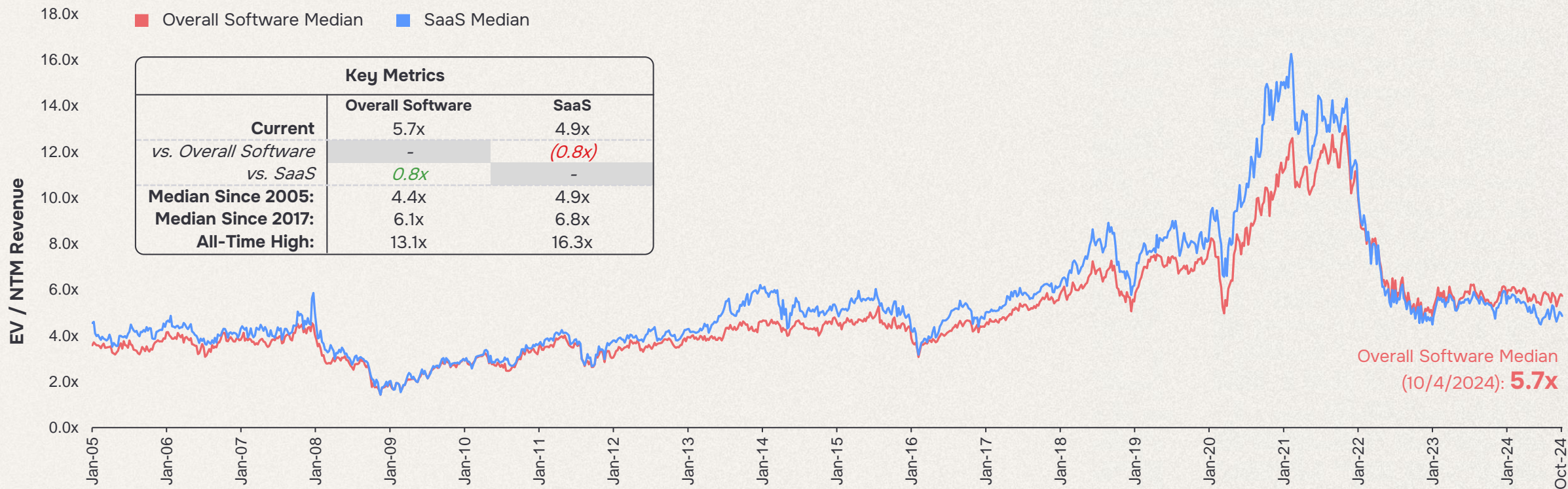
Respondents: 49

Pre-Money Valuation by ARR Growth



Respondents: 47

Median Public Software EV / NTM Revenue Multiples since 2005

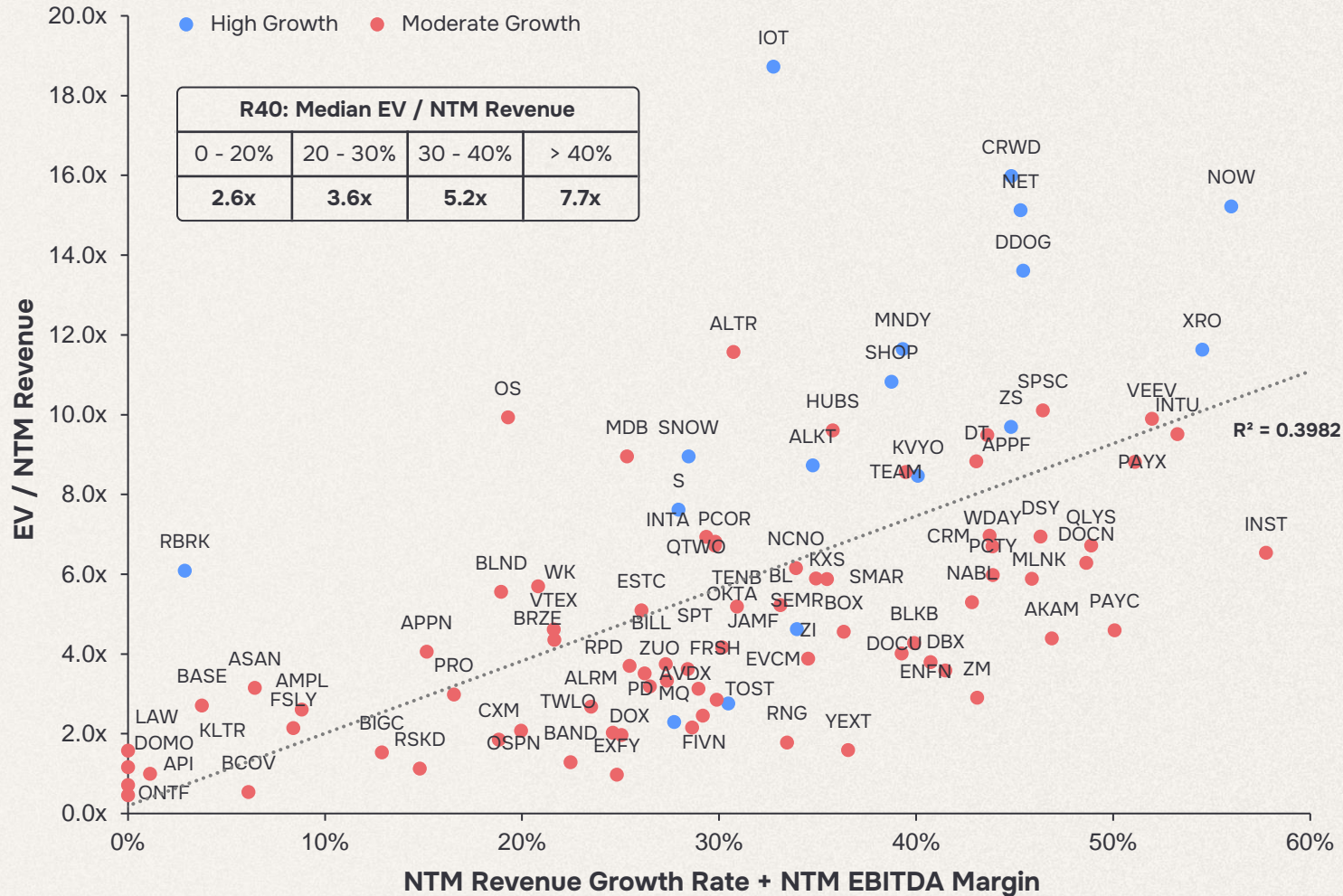


Source: Capital IQ as of market close on 10/4/2024; represents median NTM consensus estimates

Note: Software universe is equally-weighted and includes the following (when each was publicly traded):ADBE, ADSK, AI, AKAM, ALKT, ALRM, ALTR, AMBR, AMPL, ANET, ANSS, API, APPF, APPN, APTI, ASAN, ATHN, AVDX, AYY, BAND, BASE, BCOV, BIGC, BILL, BL, BLKB, BLND, BNFT, BOX, BRZE, BSY, BV, CALD, CARB, CBLK, CDNS, CFLT, CHKP, CISN, CLDR, CNQR, CNVO, COVS, CRM, CRWD, CSLT, CSOD, CTCT, CVLT, CVT, CXM, CYBR, DBX, DDOG, DMAN, DOCN, DOCU, DOMO, DOX, DSY, DT, DWRE, ELLI, ELOQ, ENFN, ESTC, ET, ETWO, EVBG, EVCM, EXFY, FICO, FIVN, FLT, FORG, FROG, FRSH, FSLY, FTNT, GEN, GTLB, GWRE, HCP, HGN, HUBS, INST, INTA, INTU, IOT, JAMF, JIVE, KLTR, KNXA, KVYO, KXS, LAW, LOGM, MANH, MB, MCFE, MDB, MIME, MKTG, MKTO, MLNK, MNDY, MODN, MQ, MSFT, MSTR, MULE, N, NABL, NCNO, NET, NEWR, NOW, OKTA, OMT, ONTF, OPWR, ORCL, OS, OSPN, OTEX, PANW, PATH, PAYC, PAYX, PCOR, PCTY, PD, PEGA, PFPT, PFWD, PLAN, PLTR, PRGS, PRO, PS, PSTG, PTC, PVT, PWSC, PYCR, QLYS, QTWO, RALY, RBRK, RNG, RNOW, RP, RPD, RSKD, S, SAP, SCWX, SEMR, SEND, SFSF, SHOP, SLRY, SMAR, SNOW, SNPS, SOW, SPSC, SPT, SQI, SUMO, SWI, TDC, TEAM, TENB, TLEO, TOST, TWLO, TWOU, TXTR, ULTI, VEEV, VMW, VOCS, VRNS, VRSN, VTEX, WDAY, WK, WKME, WORK, WTC, XM, XRO, XTLY, YDLE, YEXT, ZI, ZM, ZS, ZUO



Rule of 40 - Public Companies

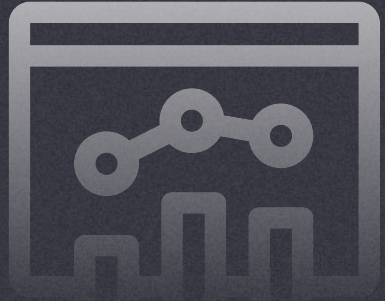


Public companies fared better when it came to Rule of 40

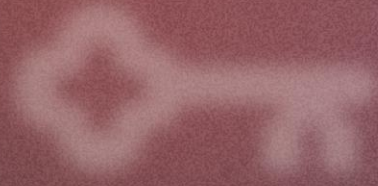
In addition to greater economies of scale, these companies are constantly being held under public scrutiny by investors relative to private companies

This has forced public companies to take a prudent approach to managing growth and profitability with ~30% of public companies meeting or exceeding the Rule of 40

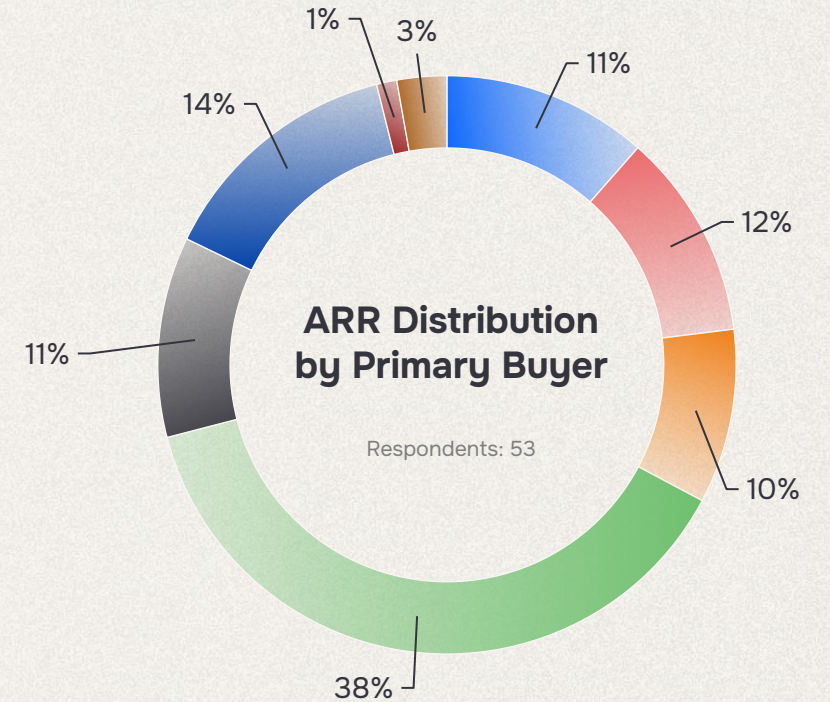
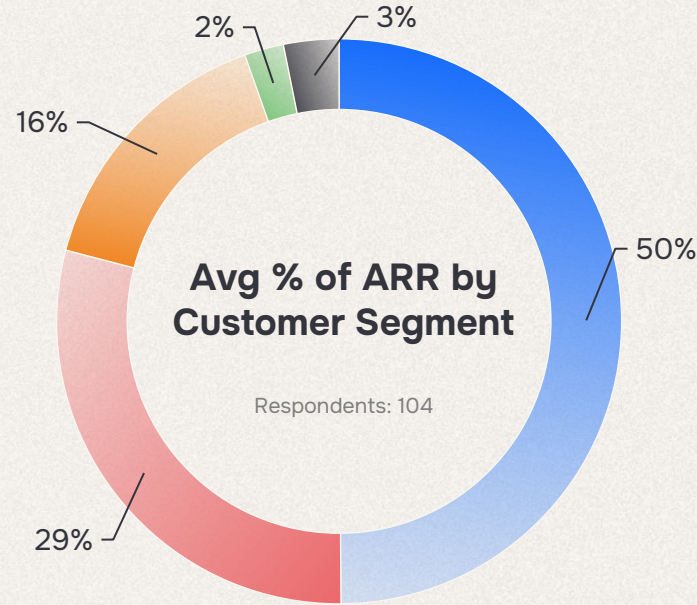
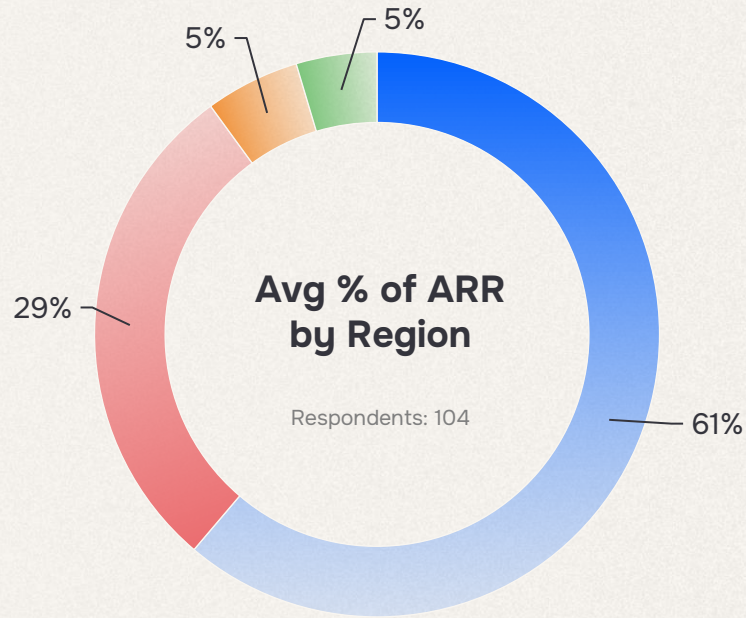




Additional Performance Metrics



ARR Distribution by End Market



North America EMEA APAC LATAM & Others

Enterprise Mid-Market SMB
Very Small Business Consumer

Sales & Marketing HR
Product / Dev / Engineering IT / Operations / CIO
Security / CISO CFO / Finance / Legal
Sole Proprietors Other

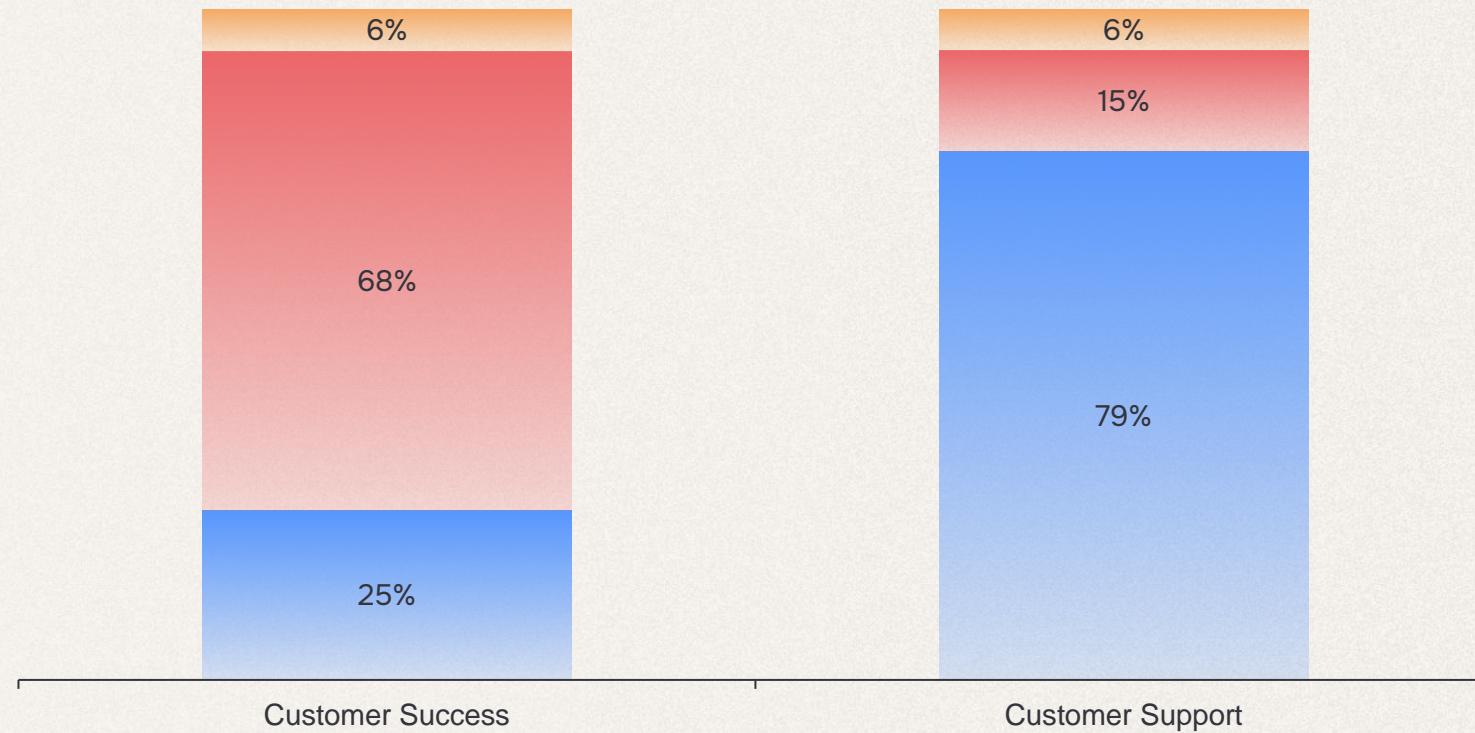


Note: ARR numbers based on 2023 ARR

Customer Success & Support Expenses

Customer Success & Support Expense Distribution by Cost Center

■ COGS
 ■ Sales & Marketing
 ■ General & Administrative



Customer support is directly attributable to COGS with ~80% of this expense going to the COGS cost center

There's approximately a 2:1 to 3:1 ratio of cost distribution between S&M and COGS for customer success departments



Respondents: 53



Note: "Customer Success" represents expenses related to renewals and upsells; "Customer Support" represents expenses related to customer service and product assistance

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Thank You



Patrick Kratus

Group Head, Technology Investment Banking

pkratus@key.com
Direct: (415) 659-0926
Mobile: (415) 730-6467



Scott Peterson

Managing Director, Software

speterson@key.com
Direct: (415) 659-0948
Mobile: (415) 215-1276



Steve Abbott

Partner

steve@sapphireventures.com

SAPPHIRE
VENTURES



Michael O'Hare

Managing Director, Software

mohare@key.com
Direct: (212) 476-7491
Mobile: (917) 881-0928



Michael Turits

Managing Director, Software

michael.turits@key.com
Direct: (646) 416-5032
Mobile: (917) 601-7404



Jyoti Kukreja

Vice President, Business Development

jyoti@sapphireventures.com

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