

ACCOUNT-BASED MARKETING INITIATIVES

A RESEARCH-BASED GUIDE FOR MARKETERS



Research Series Conducted in Partnership with Leading Providers
of Marketing Technology and Digital Marketing Agency Services.

Ascend2[™]
RESEARCH-BASED MARKETING

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➤ METHODOLOGY

Ascend2 benchmarks the performance of marketing strategies, tactics and the technology that drives them with a standardized online questionnaire and a proprietary 3-Minute Survey format.

This survey was fielded to a panel of marketing professionals and marketing research subscribers.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Primary Marketing Channel

B2B	31%
B2C	46%
B2B and B2C equally	23%

Number of Employees

More than 500	17%
50 to 500	26%
Fewer than 50	57%

Primary role in company

Owner / Partner / C-Level	52%
Vice President / Director / Manager	28%
Non-Management Professional	20%

ACCOUNT-BASED MARKETING INITIATIVES

As account-based marketing (ABM) initiatives become more widely used across businesses of different sizes and industries, marketers have had a chance to evolve and optimize their approach.

But what are the strategies and tactics behind account-based initiatives today?

To help answer this question, Ascend2 and our Research Partners fielded the Account-Based Marketing Initiatives Survey. We thank the 293 marketers who responded to this survey between May 17, 2021 and May 25, 2021.

This Survey Summary Report, titled *Account-Based Marketing Initiatives*, represents the opinions of all the market segments responding to the survey. Specific market segments from the survey are reported on separately and exclusively by our participating Research Partners.

This research has been produced for your use. Put it to work in your own marketing strategy. Clip the charts and write about them in your blog or post them on social media. Please share this research credited as published.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Ultimately, an account-based marketing program should make it as streamlined and efficient as possible for sales to close deals. Over half (53%) of marketers agree that **creating new opportunities for sales** is a top priority for their ABM strategy to achieve. Another main focus is **generating more revenue from existing customers** according to 42% of those marketing professionals surveyed.

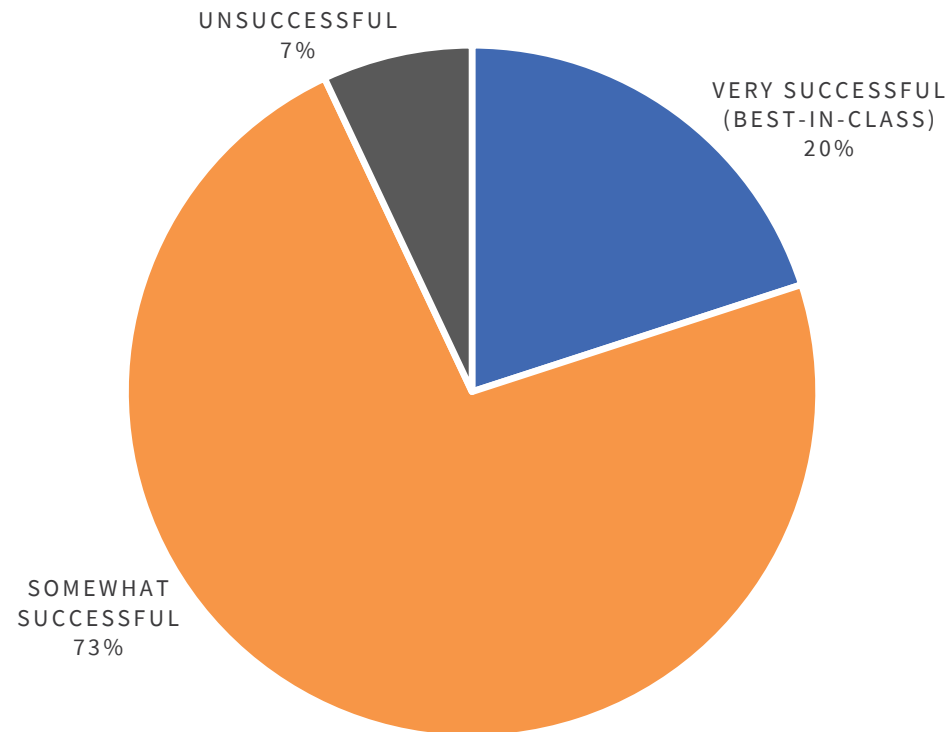
WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH AN ABM STRATEGY?



ABM SUCCESS

When asked to describe how successful an account-based program is at achieving strategic objectives, marketers paint an encouraging picture, but there is still room for improvement. While one-in-five (20%) marketers are finding **best-in-class success** with their ABM strategy, nearly three-quarters (73%) of those surveyed report experiencing just **some success** from their efforts.

WHICH BEST DESCRIBES THE SUCCESS OF YOUR (OR YOUR TYPICAL CLIENT'S) ABM STRATEGY AT ACHIEVING THESE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES?



TOP CHALLENGES

Marketers are faced with a myriad of barriers to overcome when executing ABM initiatives. **Identifying target accounts** is a particularly challenging task for 36% of marketers. **Coordinating marketing and sales efforts** as well as **reaching specific contacts** also prove to be difficult elements of an overall strategy to execute according to 33% and 29% of marketing professionals, respectively.

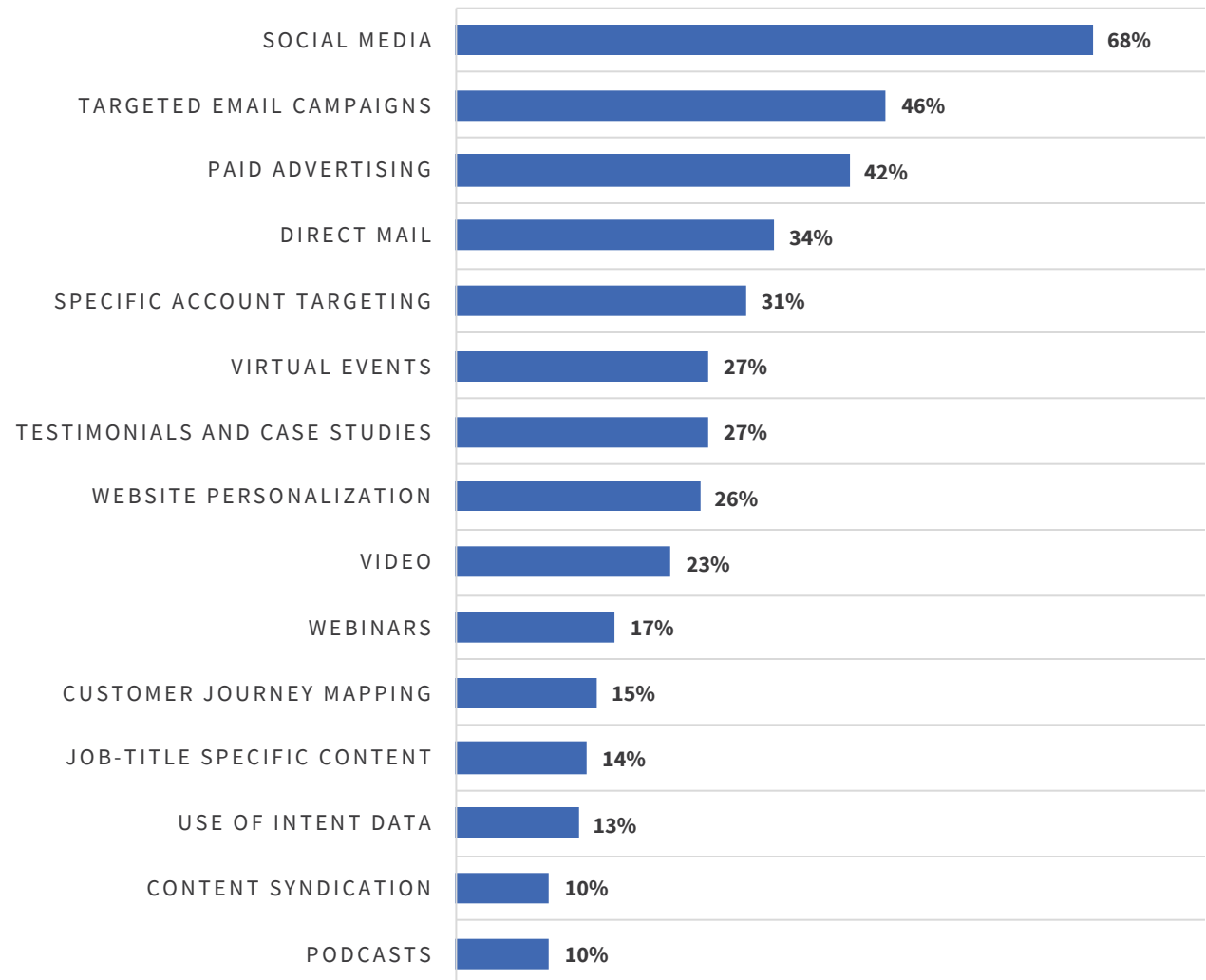
WHAT ARE THE TOP CHALLENGES FACED WHEN EXECUTING AN ABM PROGRAM?



ABM-ORIENTED MARKETING ACTIVITIES

Account-based marketing as a strategic approach might be new to some organizations, but it is likely the case that most marketers are already executing many activities that resemble ABM initiatives. Interestingly, **targeted email campaigns** is second only to social media on this list with 46% of marketers currently executing this activity. Another account-based activity that nearly one-third (31%) of marketers are taking part in is **specific account targeting**. Many who may not have a well-developed ABM strategy in place could still be taking part in activities reflective of an ABM

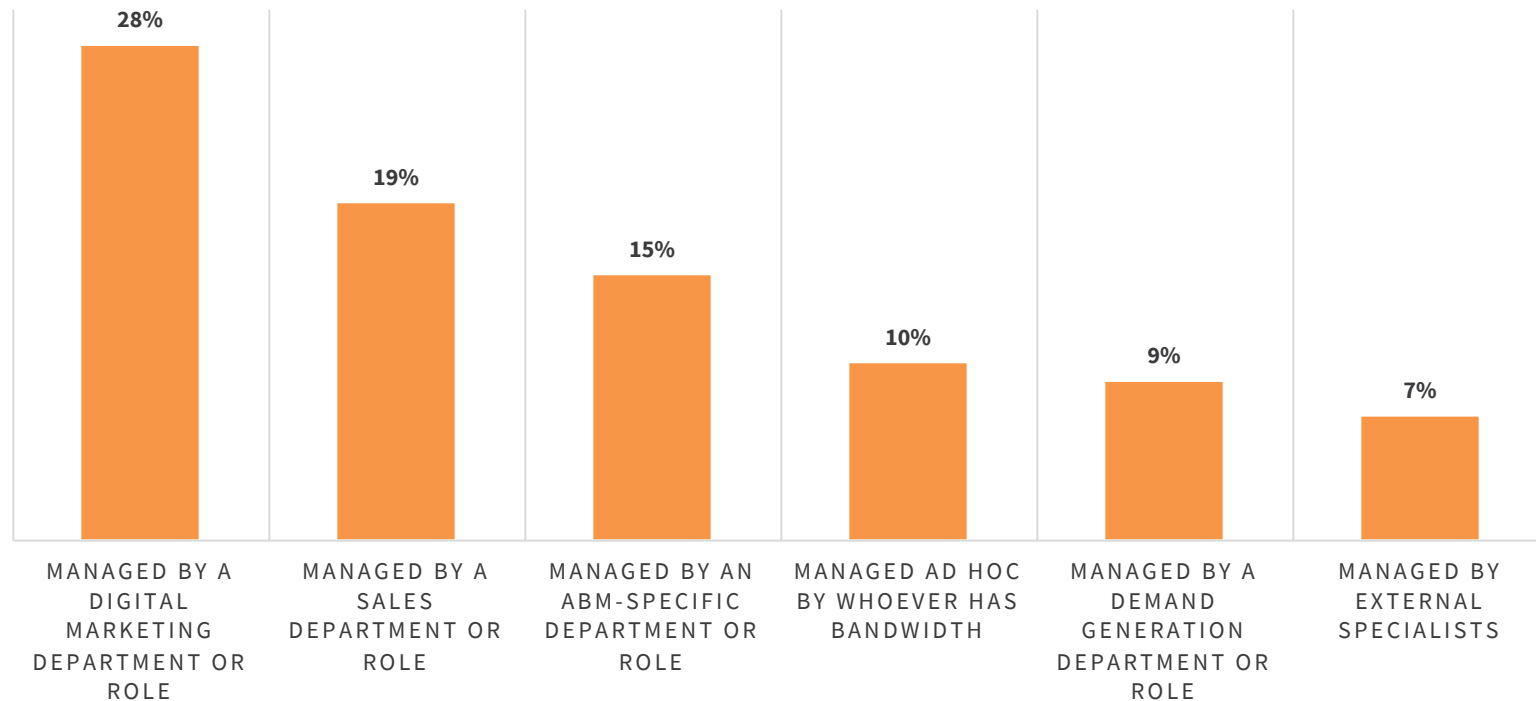
WHICH OF THE BELOW MARKETING ACTIVITIES ARE YOU CURRENTLY EXECUTING?



ABM PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

ABM strategies typically involve a number of departments including marketing and sales. So where are account-based efforts being managed and executed within an organization? 28% say ABM programs are managed by the **marketing department** with another 19% reporting that these initiatives are overseen by a **sales department or role**. Another 15% have defined an **ABM-specific role** to take on the task.

WHICH MOST ACCURATELY DESCRIBES HOW YOUR ABM PROGRAM IS MANAGED?

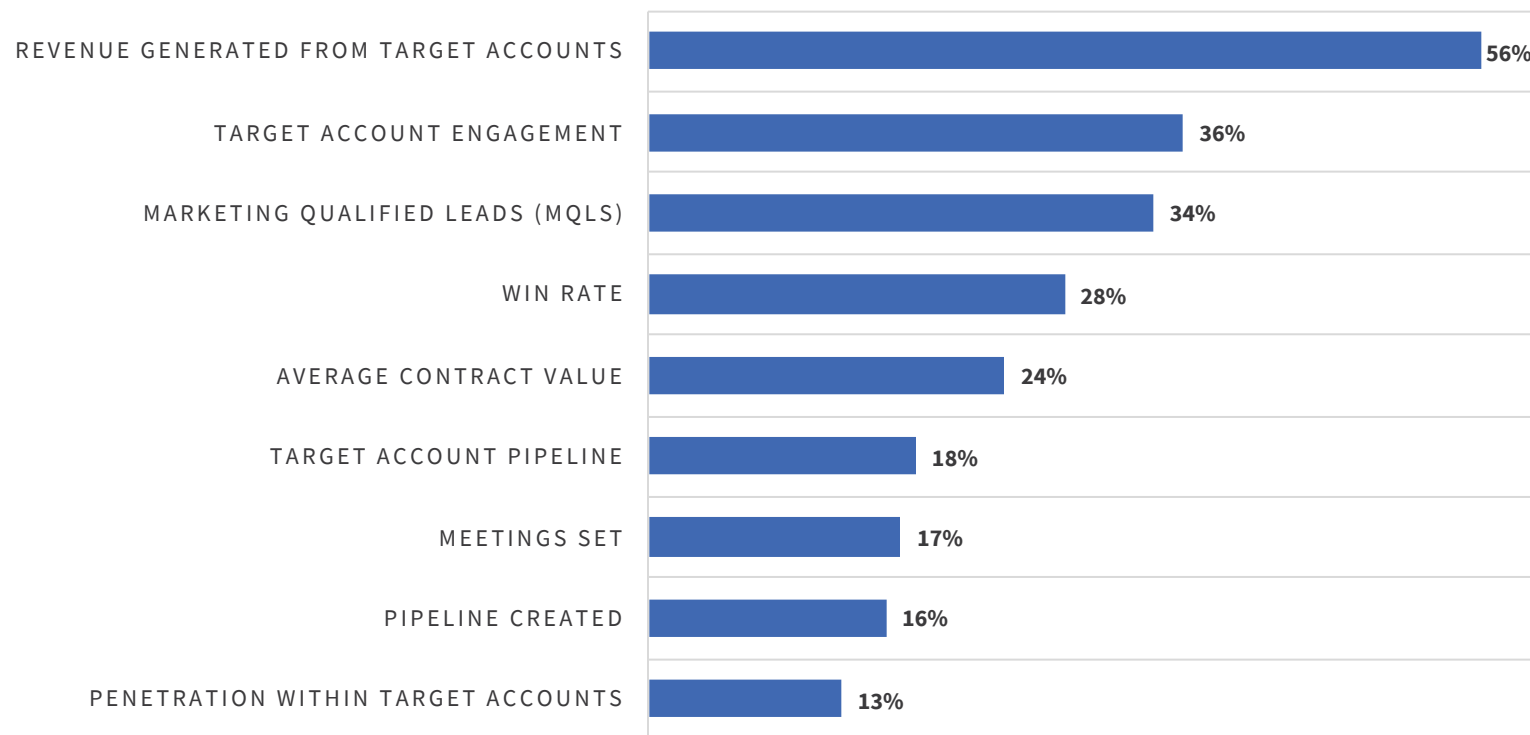


KEY METRICS FOR MEASUREMENT

Measuring the success of an ABM strategy is critical to optimizing for success. Marketers are using **revenue generated from target accounts** as a key metric for measurement according to 56% of those surveyed.

Target account engagement, **Marketing Qualified Leads (MQLs)** and **win rate** are also meaningful indicators used by 36%, 34% and 28% of marketers, respectively.

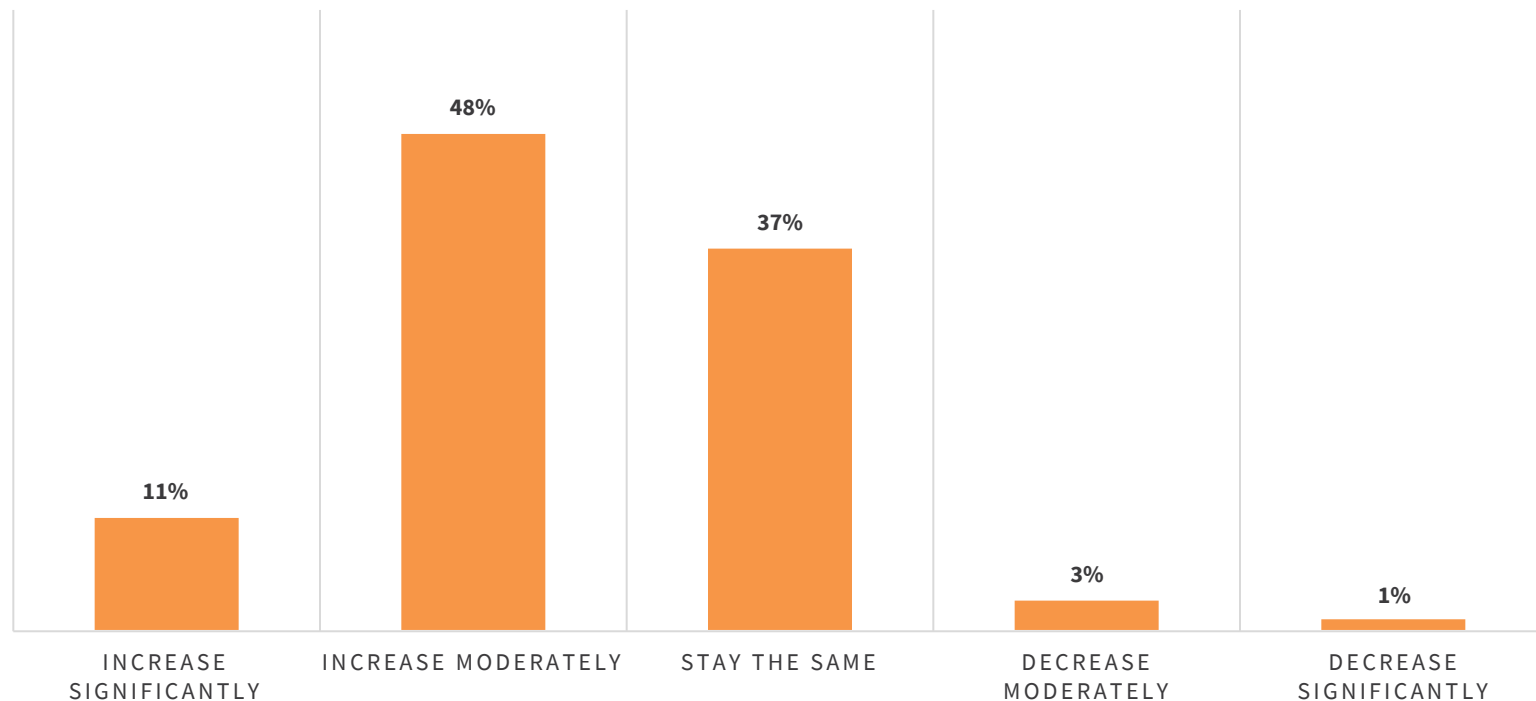
WHAT ARE THE KEY METRICS USED TO MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR ABM STRATEGY?



ABM BUDGET TRENDS

Nearly half (48%) of marketers report expecting a **moderate increase in budget** dedicated to account-based initiatives in the year ahead but only 11% say they are going all in with a **significant increase**. While 37% of marketers report that their ABM budgets will **remain the same** in the coming months, only a mere 4% of those surveyed report a **decrease** to some extent.

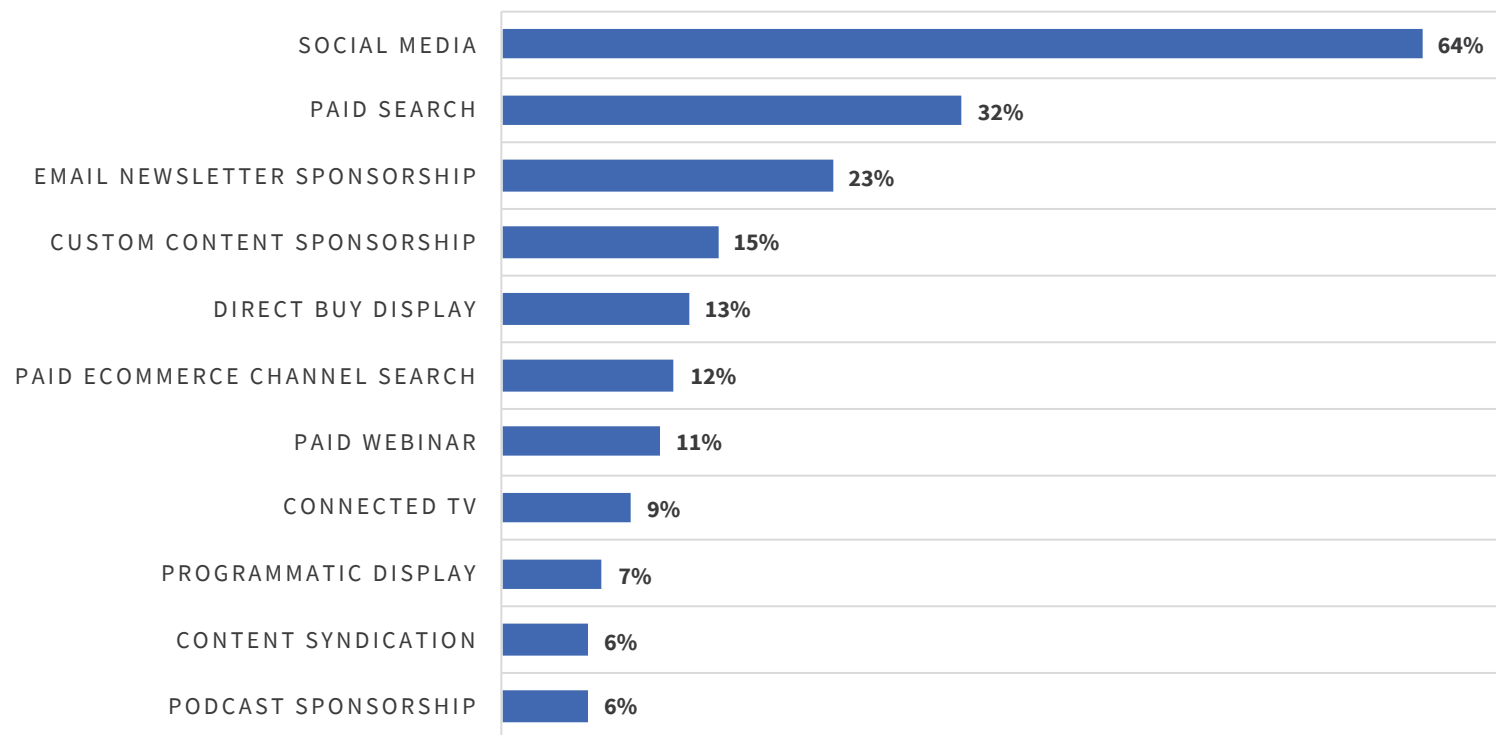
HOW DO YOU EXPECT YOUR TOTAL BUDGET DEDICATED TO ACCOUNT-BASED INITIATIVES TO CHANGE IN THE YEAR AHEAD?



PAID DIGITAL CHANNELS

An account-based strategy can span many channels and areas of marketing, but which paid digital channels are marketers dedicating the most resources and budget to? **Paid social media** is a clear priority here as nearly two-thirds (64%) of marketers list this as a top investment channel. There is also a focus on **paid search** and **email newsletter sponsorship** according to 32% and 23% of marketers, respectively.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PAID DIGITAL ADVERTISING CHANNELS DO YOU INVEST IN THE MOST AS A PART OF YOUR ABM STRATEGY?

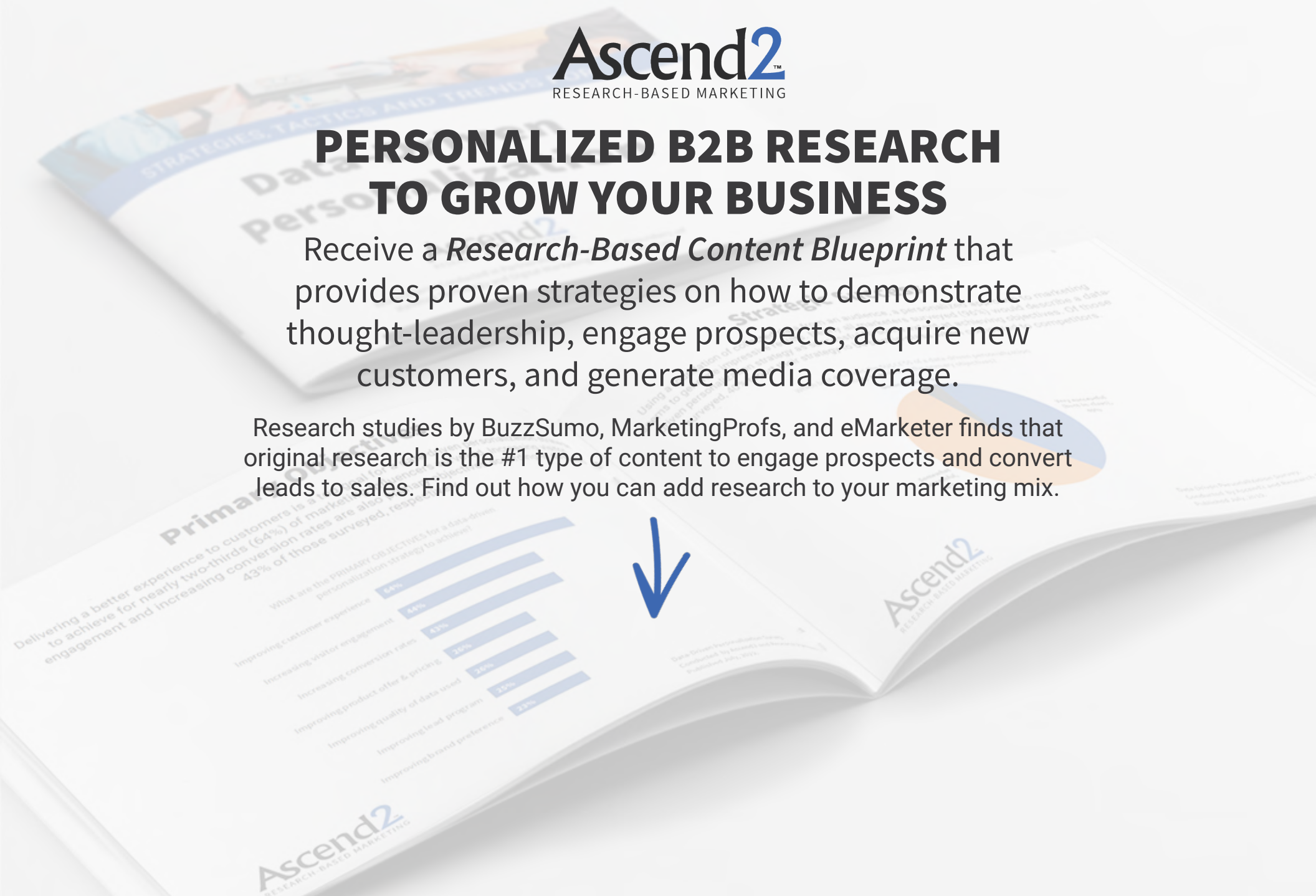


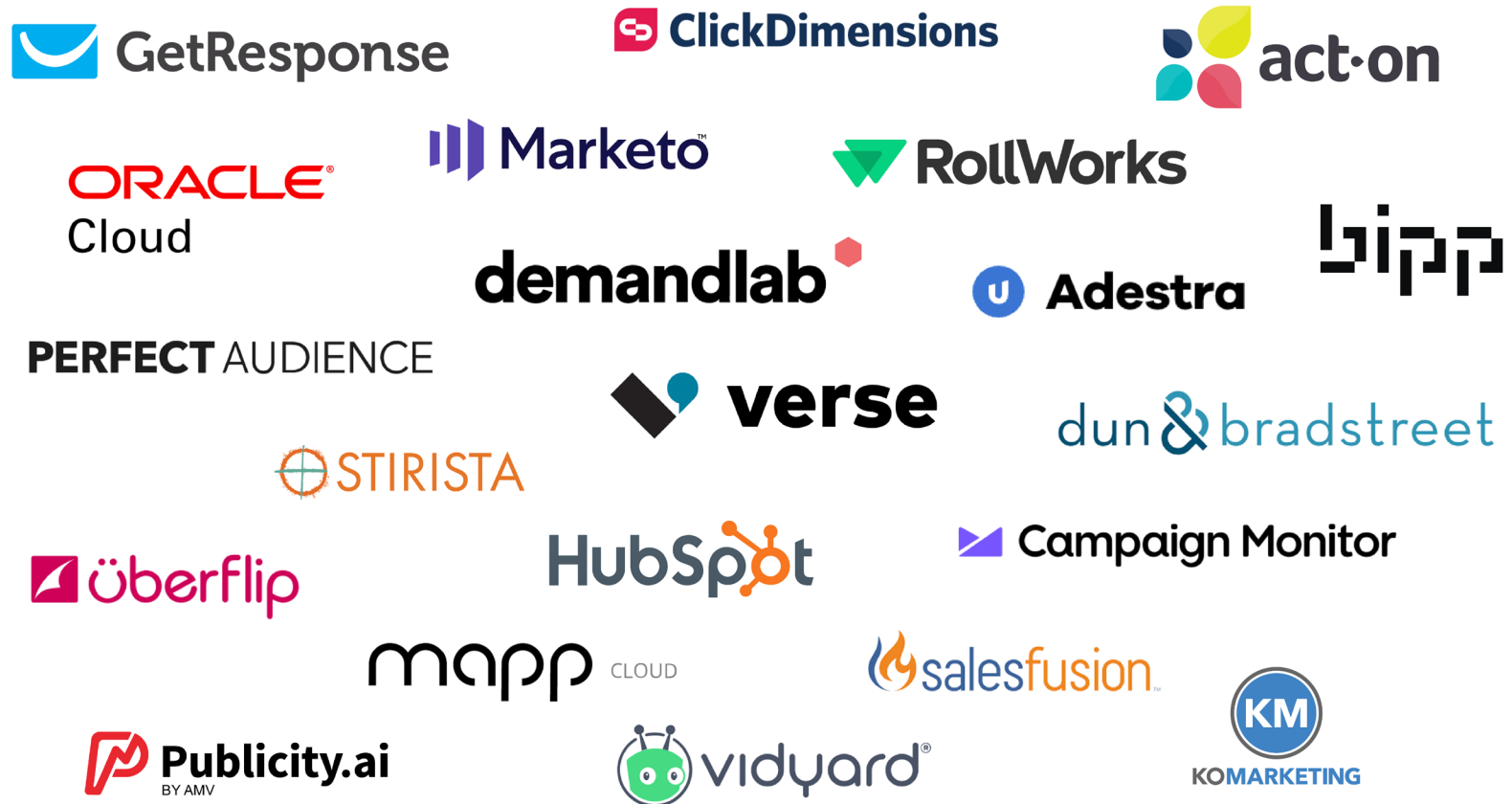


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Research studies by BuzzSumo, MarketingProfs, and eMarketer finds that original research is the #1 type of content to engage prospects and convert leads to sales. Find out how you can add research to your marketing mix.





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