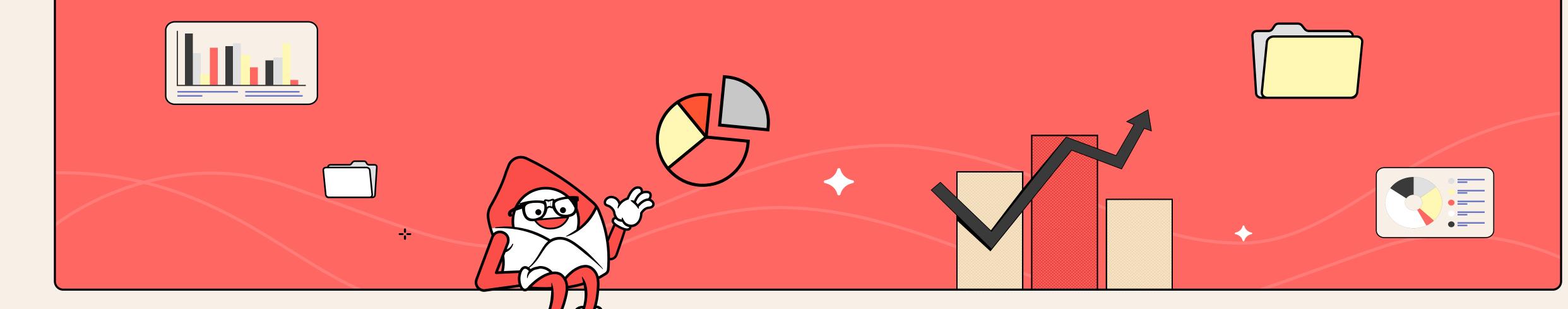
#### UNVEILING

## The 2025 Industry Report

Nearly 2,000 email geeks spilled the beans about their workflows, teams, tools, and production pains. The result is a candid look at the state of email in 2025, backed by real data and real experiences.



• • • • •

. . . . .



. . . . .

### A little background

This isn't your typical "enterprise-only" study. We've collected honest feedback from inbox heroes at brands big and small—no vendor spin, no skipped questions.

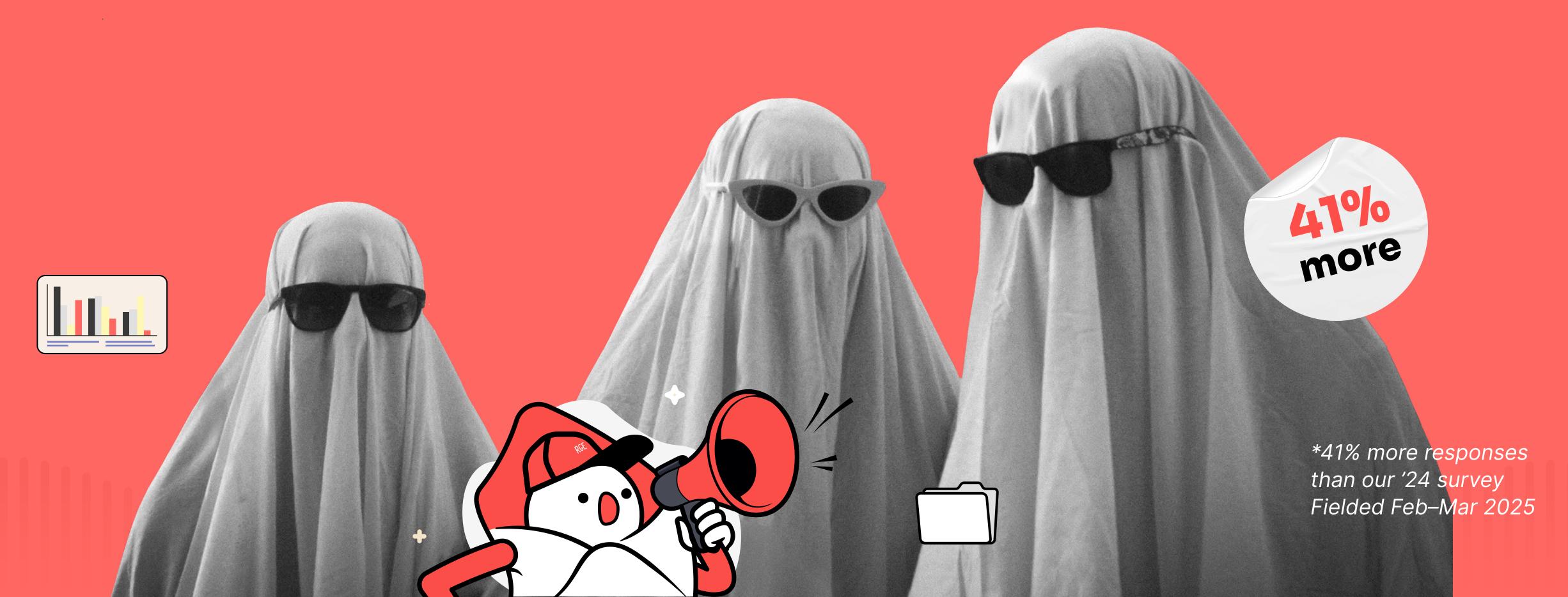
With zero bias, we asked the tough stuff (yes, the questions that make tools sweat) and got the **real story on how you actually work**, what frustrates you, and how you perceive your role moving forward.

Plus, we'll show you exactly what shifted over the years (since we've been doing this since 2018 and can see the trends). Ready? Let's dive in.



AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE: 20 MIN 10 SEC

# Sample size: 1,677



IN OTHER WORDS

# People in email still have a lot of time on their hands



Who's behind all that email magic? Let's meet the makers.

### Part-Time vs Full-Time?

#### TODAY'S EMAIL TEAMS AREN'T SIDE HUSTLES ANYMORE



We've gone from a world where "Hey, can you also send the newsletter?" was common, to hiring full-time Lifecycle Marketers, CRM Managers, and Email Strategists. As brands chase reliable ROI in a cookieless, omni-channel mess, they're investing in dedicated headcount and powerful platforms; not passing email off to interns. Here's why:

ROI Magnet. With ads getting shaky, email's predictability has execs plowing budget into owned channels.

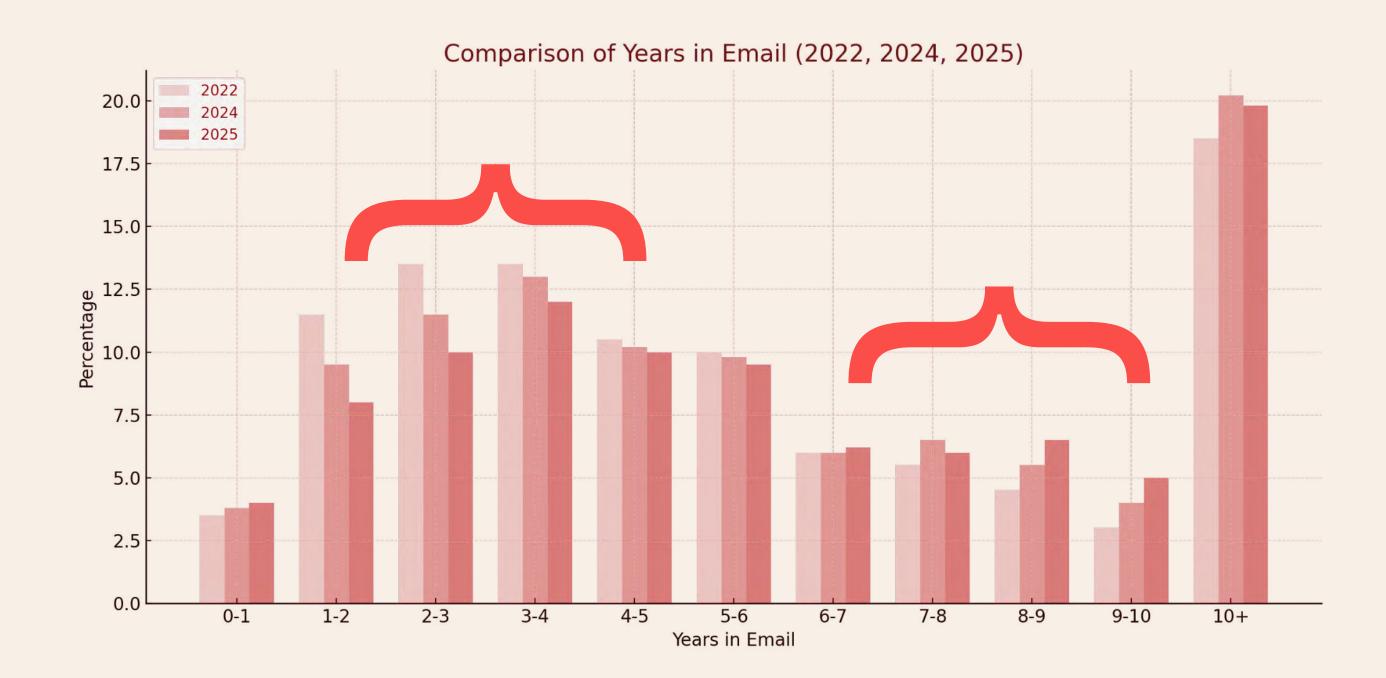
Tools That Empower. Platforms like Klaviyo, Braze, and Beefree let non-devs build complex journeys—so teams need a full-time pro to run them.

#### **Strategy Over Send.**

Segmentation, testing, compliance, accessibility—these aren't side gigs, they're full-time gigs.

## Years in email

MID-CAREER EMAILERS ARE BURNING OUT, WHILE VETERANS ARE DOUBLING DOWN.



The 2–4 year crowd—many hired in the pandemic boom—is facing budget cuts, flat career paths, and tool overload. Meanwhile, those with 6+ years of inbox battle scars are sticking around, thanks to deep expertise, proven ROI, and a healthy dose of skepticism toward every new fad.

X

Avg. 5.7 Years



Burnout Zone (2–4 Years) Juggling code, creative, tests, compliance... all without enough tooling or support.

Resilience Club (6+ Years) Deep knowledge of deliverability, lifecycle flows, and data hygiene keeps ROI humming.

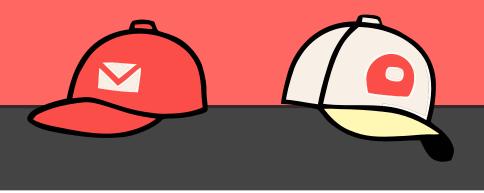
IN OTHER WORDS

# Email demands more experience than it used to

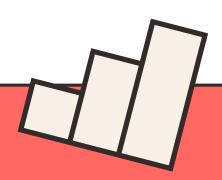
HYPOTHESIS

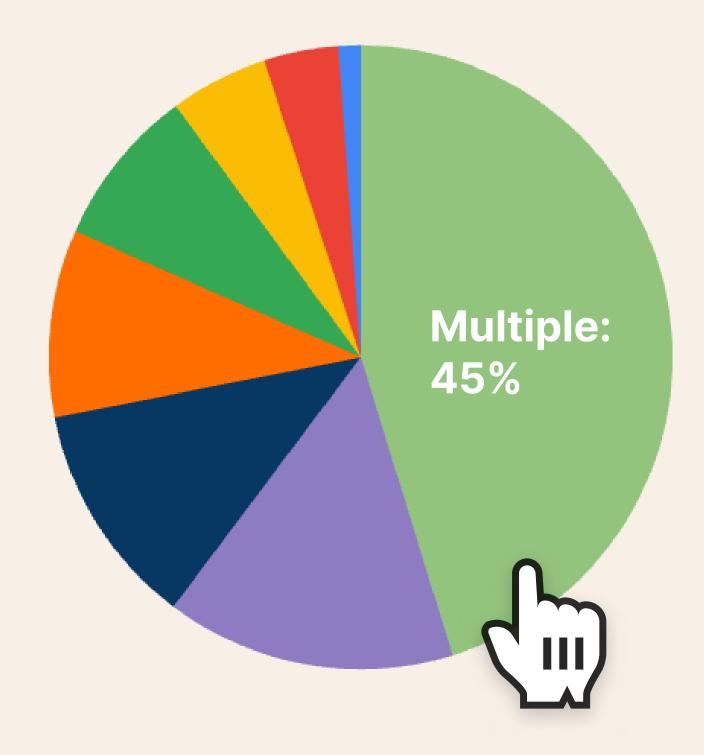
## Roles/Roleplaying

MULTI-HAT MARKETERS ARE SLIMMING DOWN.
DEDICATED PROS ARE STEPPING UP



Multi-Hat Drop-22% (58% → 45%) since '24 Companies are carving out email as a standalone function, so "wearing all the hats" is trending down. This is also seen in the data, where "Strategist" has grown to be the biggest slice of the pie for the first time since 2018.





Analyst: 1%

**Project Mgr: 4%** 

Developer: 5%

**Executive:** 8%

Writer: 10%

**Designer:** 12%

**Strategist: 15%** 

Biggest gain in 2025: "Strategist" + Designer

Biggest loss in 2025: Muli-hat + Writer

## Roles/Roleplaying

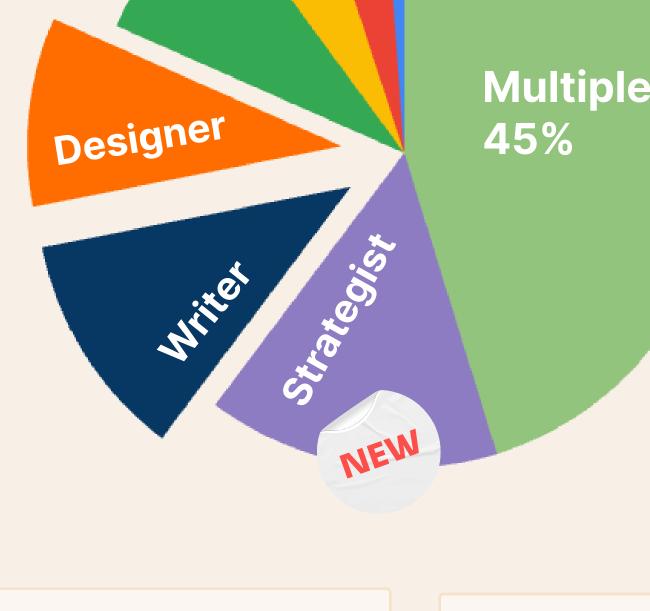
DESIGN BOUNCES BACK. WRITERS GET EATEN BY AI.



#### **Design's Comeback (for now)**

Brands need standout layouts, hover tricks, GIFs to break through the clutter.

Al Copy CrunchBuilt-in Al tools can bang out headlines and CTAs "good enough," shrinking writing gigs.



Multiple:

'20 Designer: 16% '22 Designer: 12% '23 Designer: 8% '24 Designer: 10% '25 Designer: 12%

+20% Increase

'20 Writer: 12% '22 Writer: 14% '23 Writer: 16% '24 Writer: 15% ' '25 Writer: 10%

-33% Decrease

MAY

#### IN OTHER WORDS:

# Individuals are becoming more specialised

HYPOTHESIS

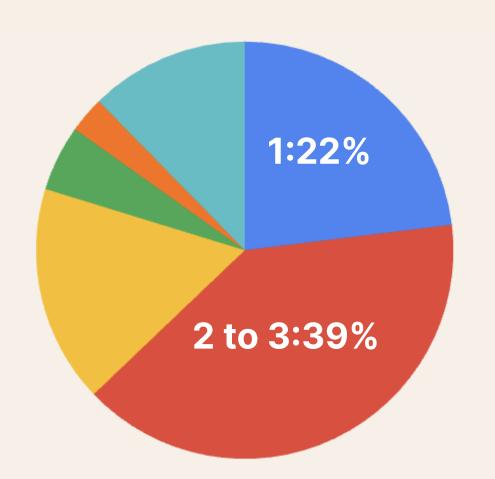
IN OTHER, OTHER WORDS:

# Companies are focusing more on strategy and Al

HYPOTHESIS

## Team size

SMALL TEAMS ARE THE MAJORITY, BUT THE TEAM SIZE IS GROWING YOY



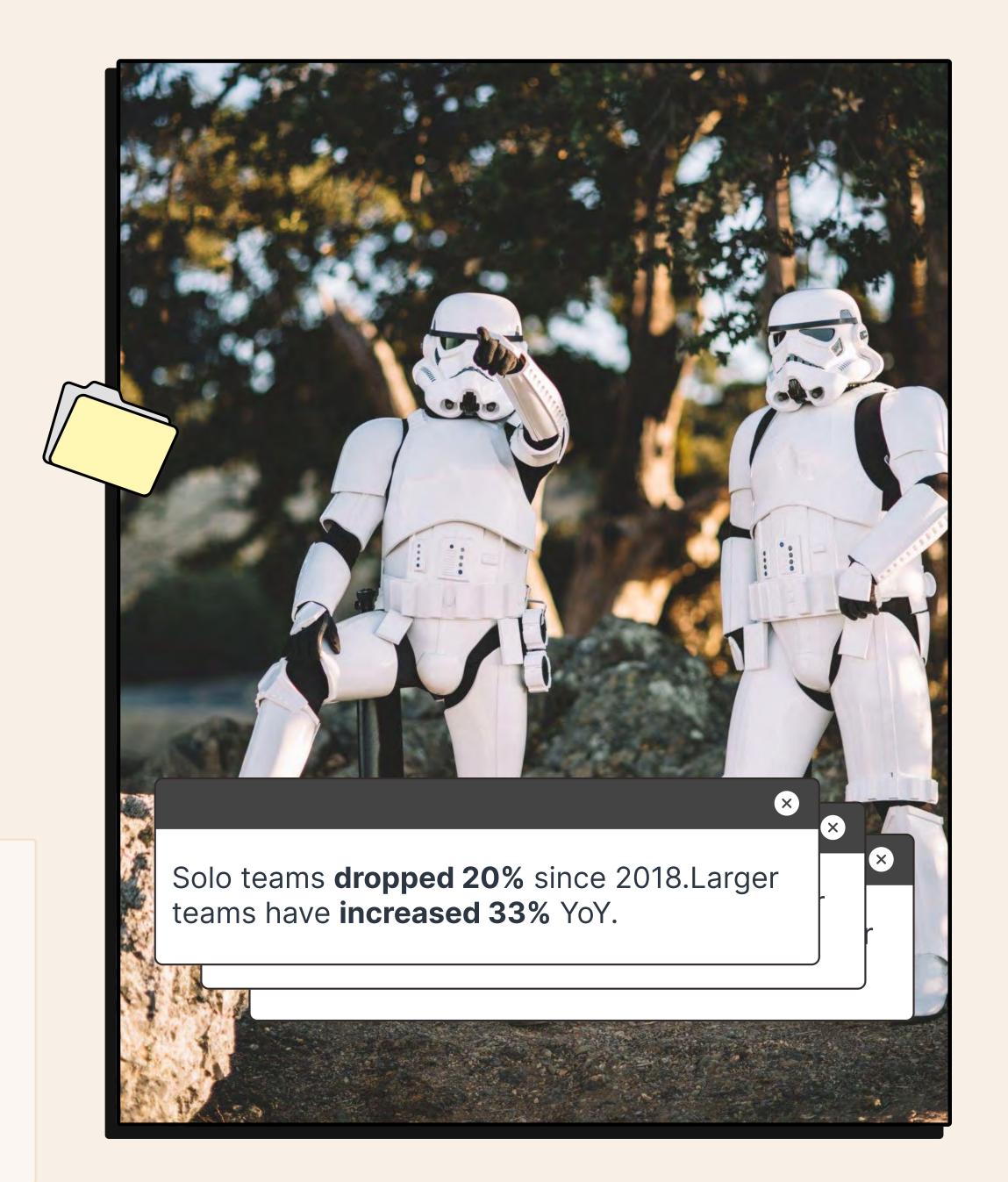
Loner: 22%
2 to 3: 39%
4 to 5: 17%
6 to 7: 6%
8 to 9: 3%
10+: 13%

Email complexity exploded. Flows, triggers, multichannel integrations demand more hands on deck.

Mid-market & enterprise adoption. Larger orgs are building out dedicated email crews, pushing averages upward.

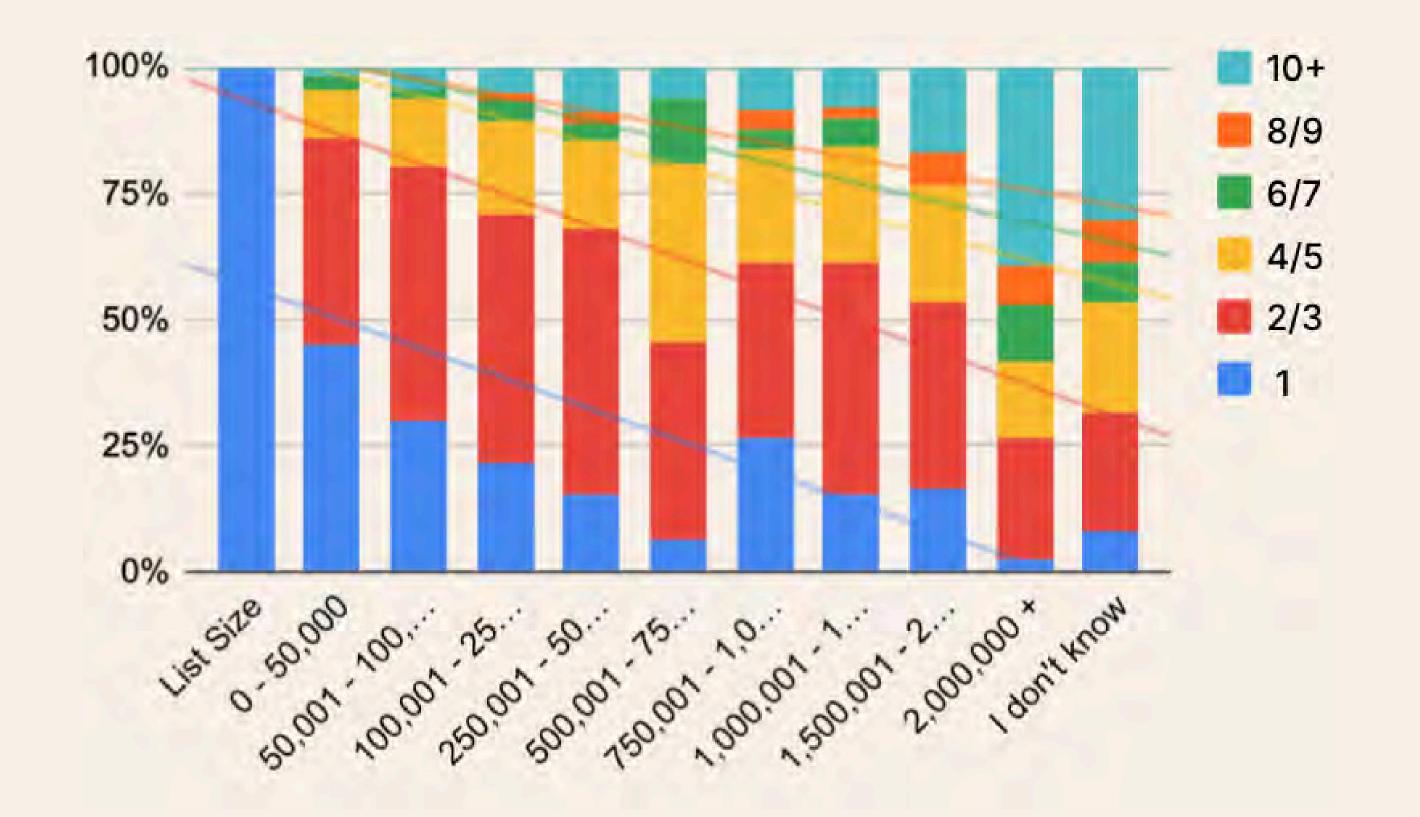
#### Specialization wins.

Fewer "jack-of-all-trades," more PMs, strategists, devs, QA, designers (except less writers. Sorry.)



## Team size

#### BIG LISTS NEED BIG CREWS





#### **Scaling complexity:**

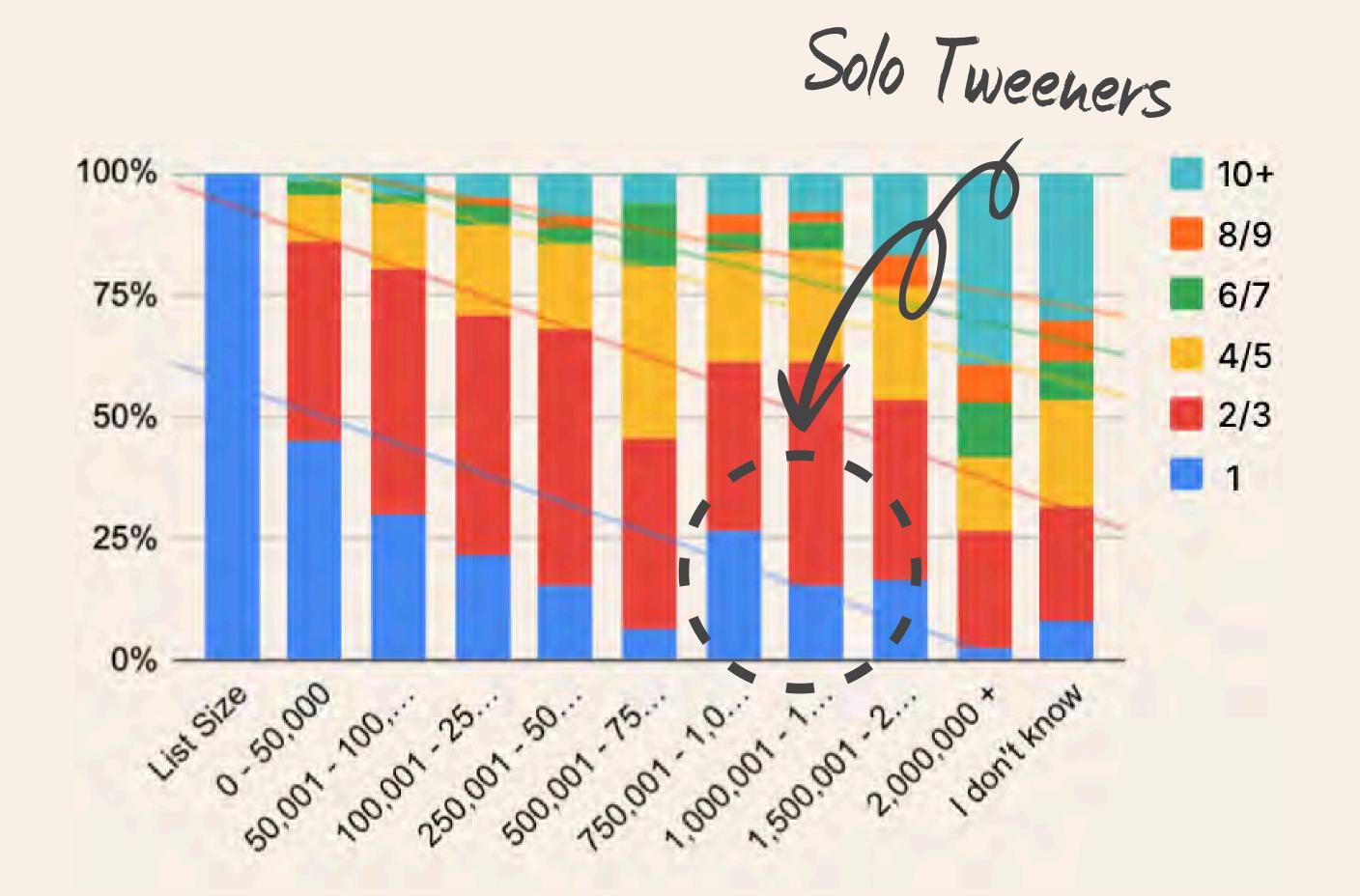
Personalized flows, behavior triggers, multichannel integrations... one person can't juggle it all.

#### List size correlates:

Under 250k: mostly solos/2-3 squads. Above 500k: 4–7 person teams take over.

## Team size

BIG LISTS NEED BIG CREWS





#### Scrappy Tweeners (750k):

Too big for one person, too small for enterprise. These DTC "sweet-spot" brands run nimble on ESP templates, agencies, and plugand-play automations.



While this tier of list size may mean more job security, it's likely there's higher burnout.

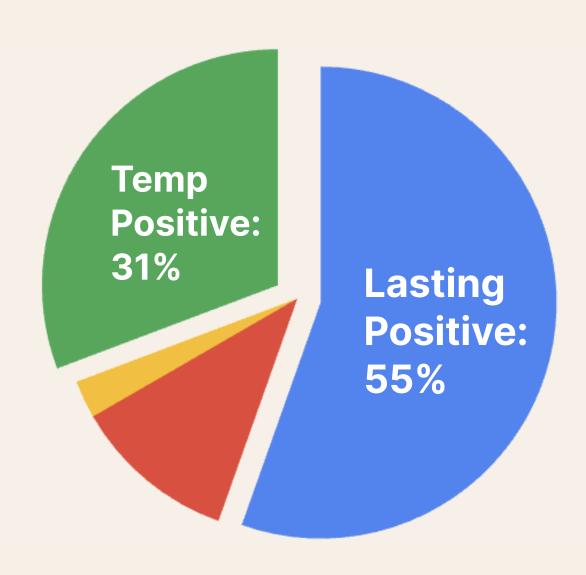
IN OTHER WORDS:

# Email is difficult to manage at scale

HYPOTHESIS

### 5-Year Role Sentiment

LONG-TERM OPTIMISM DIPS. SHORT-TERM CONFIDENCE CLIMBS.



Temporary: Negative: 3%

Positive: 31%

Lasting:

Negative: 11%

Positive: 55%



#### First major sentiment shift.

2025 marks our largest single-year decline in long-term outlook.

#### Migration to the moment.

The drop in "lasting" mood feeds directly into "temporary" optimism; teams are focused on today's wins.



## 5-Year Lasting Forecast

NEWBIES LOVE IT. YEAR-2 QUESTION IT. VETERANS CAN'T QUIT IT.



#### **Early excitement:**

Email's limitless potential hooks new entrants instantly.

#### Mid-career wobble:

Operational complexity, burnout risk, and scope ambiguity hit in year 2.

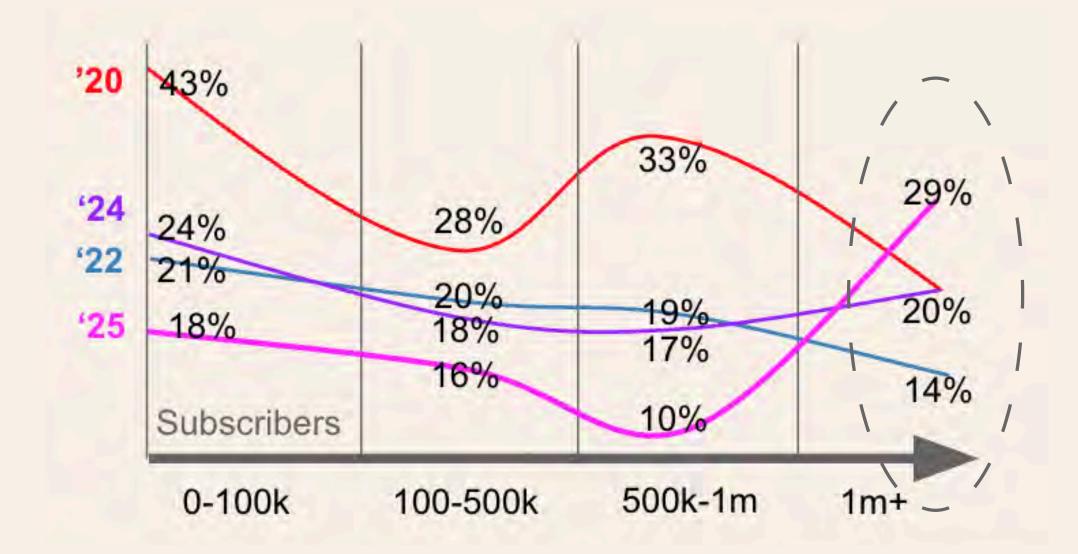
#### **Resilience builds:**

Veterans lean on deep expertise, network, and proven ROI to stay the course.



## 5-Year Temporary Forecast

MOST EMAILS PROS FEEL MORE SECURE THEN EVER, EXCEPT AT THE TOP.



#### Scale = stress.

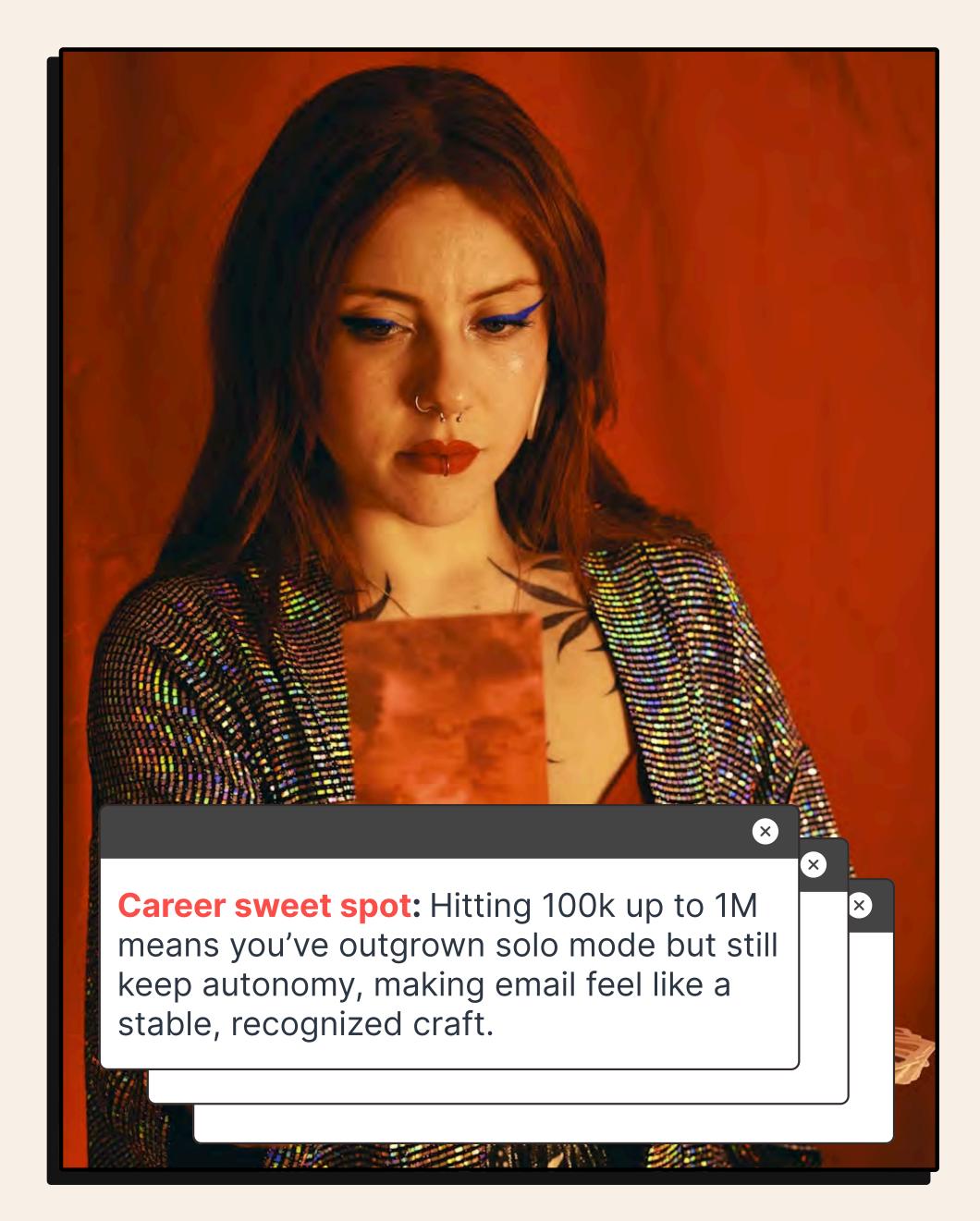
1M+ subscriber programs carry endless approvals, personalization pressure, and crossteam handoffs.

#### Visibility gap.

High ROI doesn't always translate to promotions or decision-making power in big orgs.

#### **Automation anxiety.**

When AI writes your copy and builds your journeys, you start to wonder: "What's left for me?"



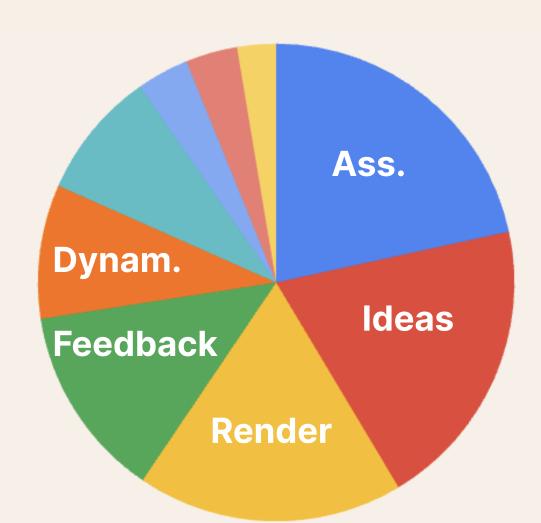
IN OTHER WORDS

# Your career outlook is based on time & size

HYPOTHESIS

5-Year Lasting Forecast

NEWBIES LOVE IT. YEAR-2 QUESTION IT. VETERANS CAN'T QUIT IT.



Organizing assets / people: 22%

Coming up with new ideas: 20%

**Designs rendering well: 18%** 

Feedback / Approvals: 13%

**Dynamic content: 9%** 

**Small changes:** 8%

**Brand police: 4%** 

Juggling: 4%

Code: 2%

#### New pains added.

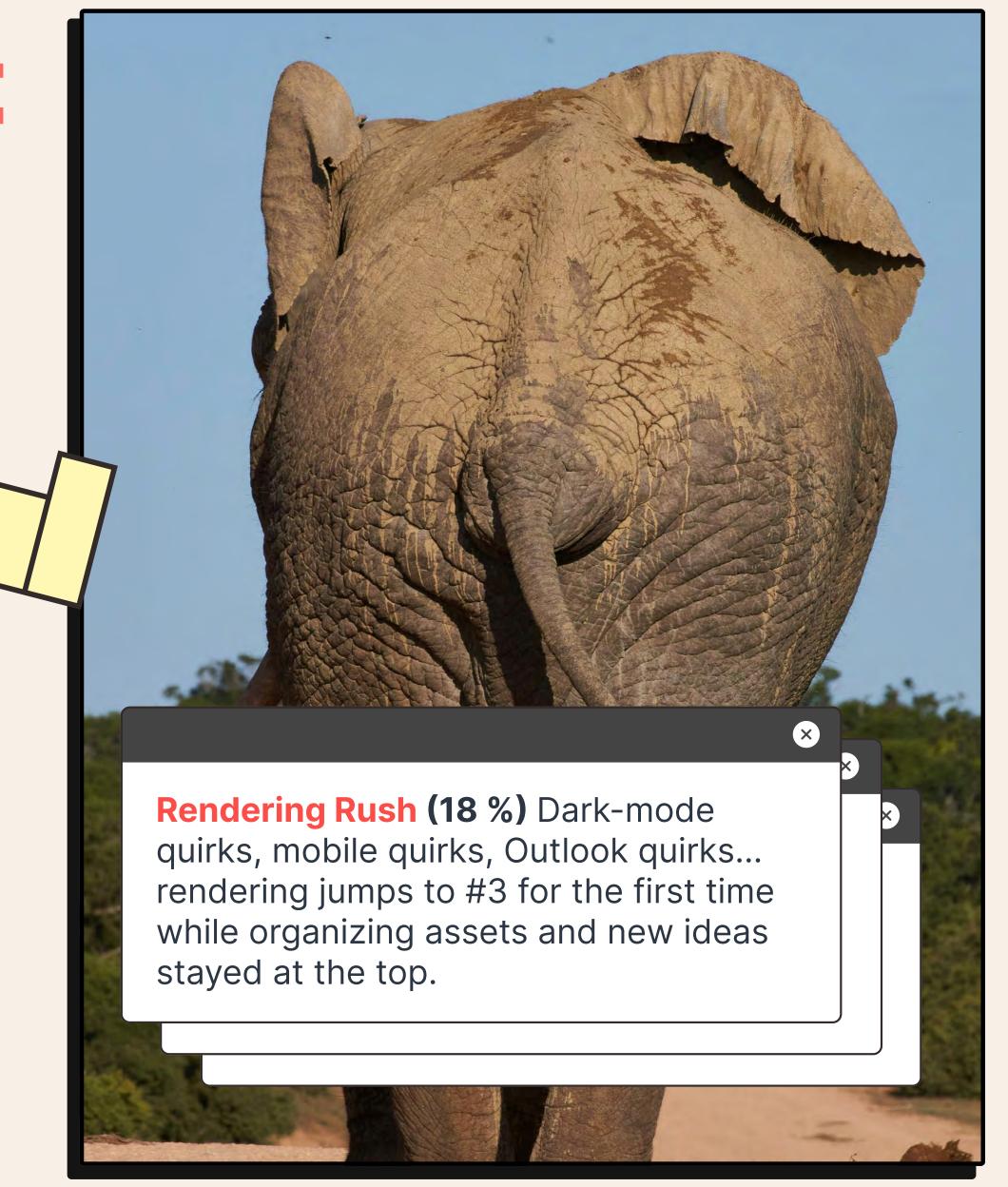
Brand issues, tiny tweaks, and juggling tools all debuted above "code" this year.

#### Code relief.

Code pain drops 3 percentage points; Al and standardized templates may be doing some of the heavy lifting.

#### Dynamic relief.

Dynamic content slid from #3 down to #5 (- 9 percentage points), suggesting those toolsets are maturing.



IN OTHER WORDS

# The struggle is real and nothing makes it better

HYPOTHESIS



Small shops to Fortune 500: see who's sending what.

# Distribution of Company Size

EVENLY SPLIT ACROSS SMALL, MID-MARKET, AND ENTERPRISE.



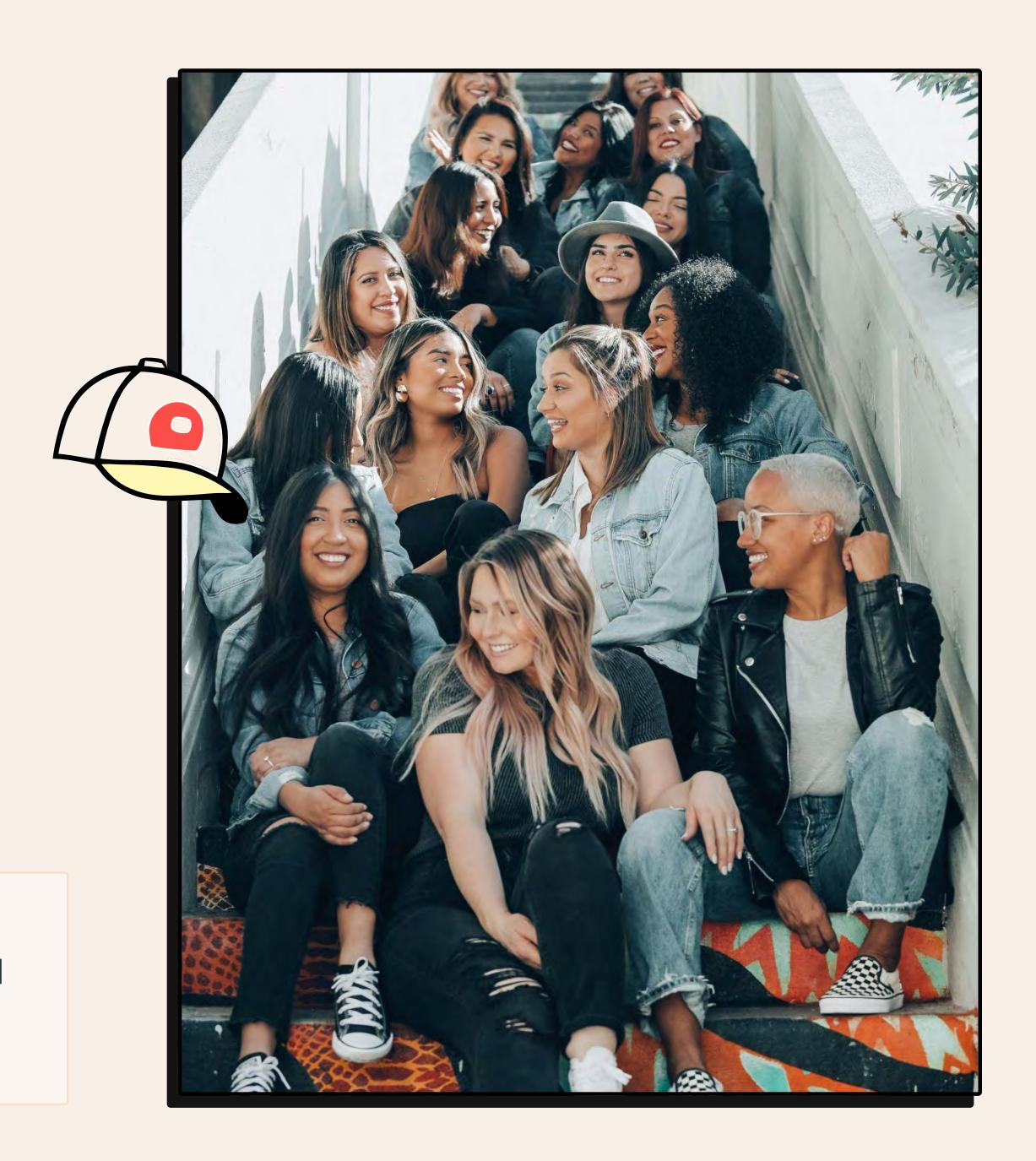
**Small**: 35%

Medium: 40%

Big: 24%

#### **Balanced Sample:**

Small (<50 Employees), Mid-market (50–500 Employees), and Enterprise (500+ Employees) ensures no single segment skews our findings.



Most important Metric

CTR STILL WEARS THE CROWN - BUT ITS LEAD IS SMALLER.

| 1. Click-through Rate         | 30% |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 2. Open Rate                  | 20% |
| 3. Revenue Generated per Sub  | 13% |
| 4. Revenue Generated by click | 11% |
| 5. Lifetime Value             | 11% |
| 6. Revenue Generated per Open | 7%  |
| 7. Subscribe Rates            | 4%  |
| 8. Reply Rates                | 2%  |
| 9. Unsub/Spam Rates           | 2%  |
|                               |     |

CTR's crown shrinks. Even though it still leads, fewer teams single-mindedly chase clicks—other measures are gaining mind-share.

Revenue metrics rising. "Rev per sub," "per click," and "per open" now rank 3–6, proving email's direct ROI matters more than ever.



## Most important Metric

YOUR #2 METRIC SIMPLY DOUBLES DOWN ON YOUR #1 FOCUS.

- 1. Click-through Rate
- 2. Open Rate
- 3. Revenue Generated per Sub
- 4. Revenue Generated by click
- 5. Lifetime Value
- 6. Revenue Generated per Open
- 7. Subscribe Rates
- 8. Reply Rates
- 9. Unsub/Spam Rates

**Open Rate** 

**Click-through Rate** 

**Rev by Click** 

**Rev per Sub** 

Rev per Sub

**Rev by Click** 

**Open Rate** 

**Click-through Rate** 

**Click-through Rate** 



#### Consistent focus.

Teams chasing clicks stick with opens—those chasing dollars stick with revenue metrics.

#### Specialization wins.

Very few marketers mix engagement and revenue KPIs at the top two spots.

#### Strategy clue.

Your #1–2 pairing tells you whether your team is laser-focused on growth (engagement) or ROI (revenue).

## Most important Metric

#### **CPG**

- 1. Clicks
- 2. Sub Rev
- 3. **LTV**
- 4. Opens
- 5. Click Rev

#### SaaS

- 1. Clicks
- 2. Opens
- 3. Sub Rev
- 4. **LTV**
- 5. Click Rev

#### Non-Profit

- 1. Opens
- 2. Clicks
- 3. Subs
- 4. Click Rev
- 5. Sub Rev

#### **Higher Ed**

- 1. Clicks
- 2. Opens
- 3. Replies
- 4. Unsubs
- 5. N/A

#### **Banks**

- 1. Clicks
- 2. Opens
- 3. **LTV**
- 4. Sub Rev
- 5. Click Rev

#### Healthcare

- 1. Clicks
- 2. Opens
- 3. Sub Rev
- 4. Click Rev
- 5. Replies

#### Travel/Leis.

- 1. Sub Rev
- 2. **LTV**
- 3. OpenRev
- 4. Clicks
- 5. Click Rev

#### Media/Pub.

- 1. Opens
- 2. Clicks
- 3. Subs
- 4. Sub Rev
- 5. N/A

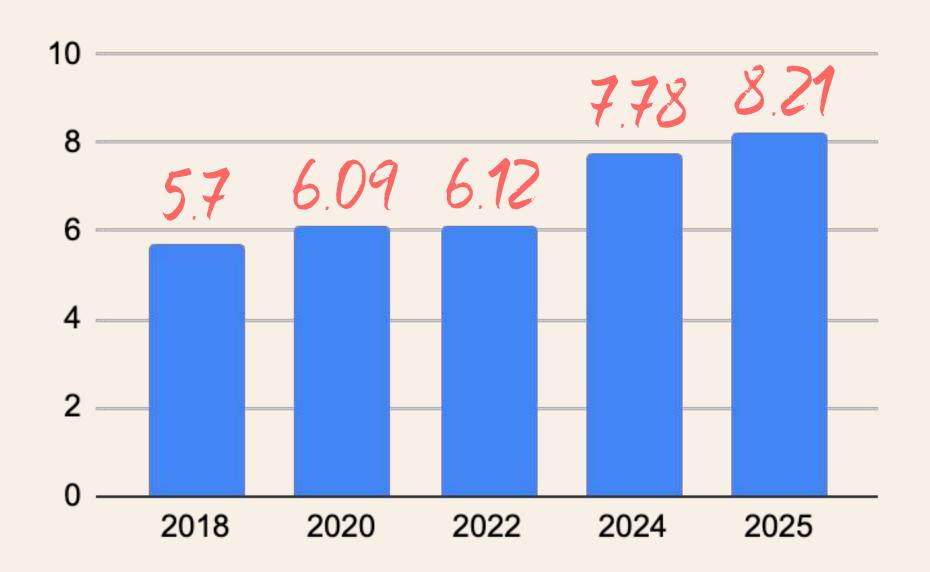
#### Sports/Ent.

- 1. Clicks
- 2. Opens
- 3. Sub Rev
- 4. Click Rev
- 5. Subs

#### B2B

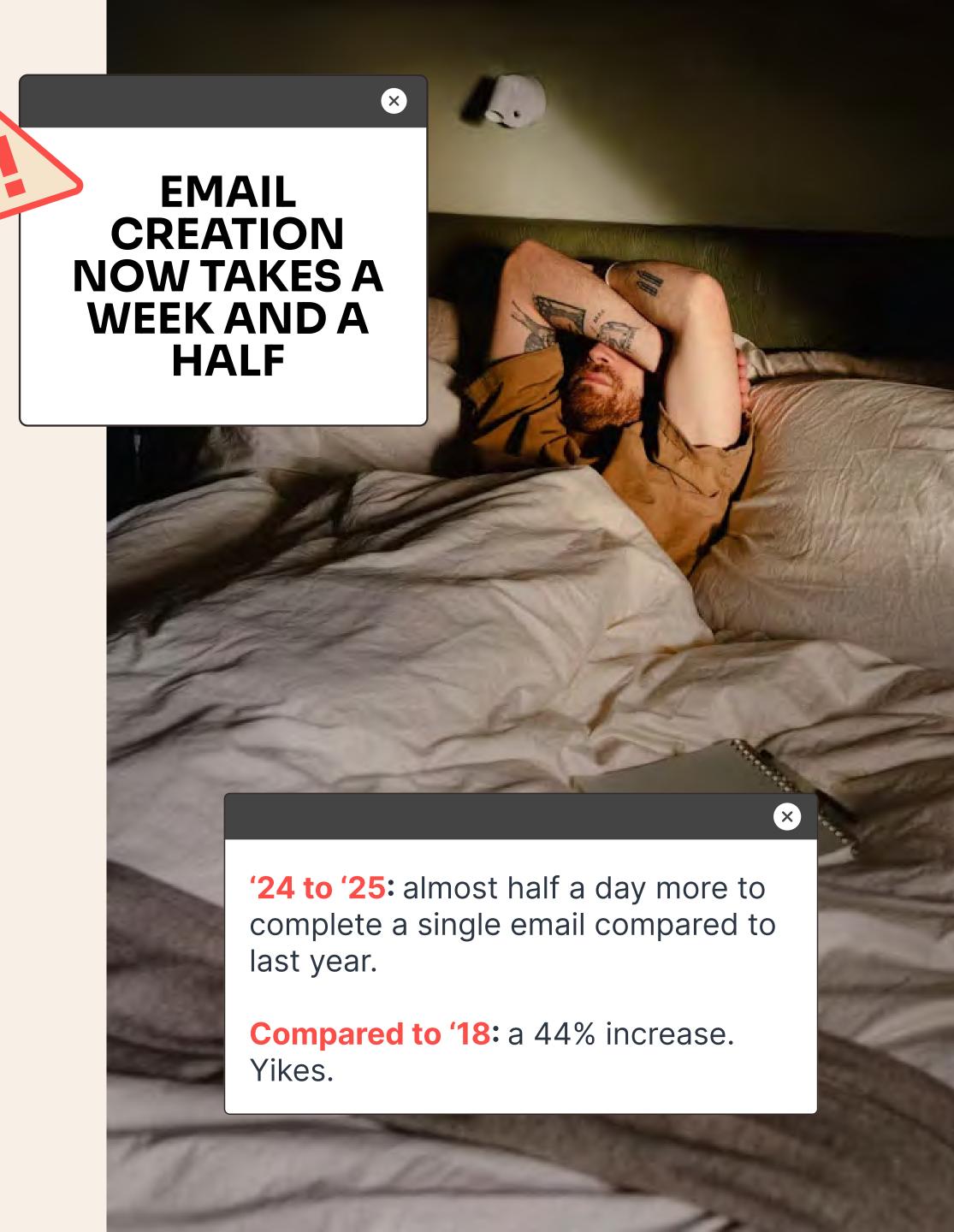
- 1. Clicks
- 2. Click Rev
- 3. **LTV**
- 4. Opens
- 5. N/A

# Days to complete 1 email

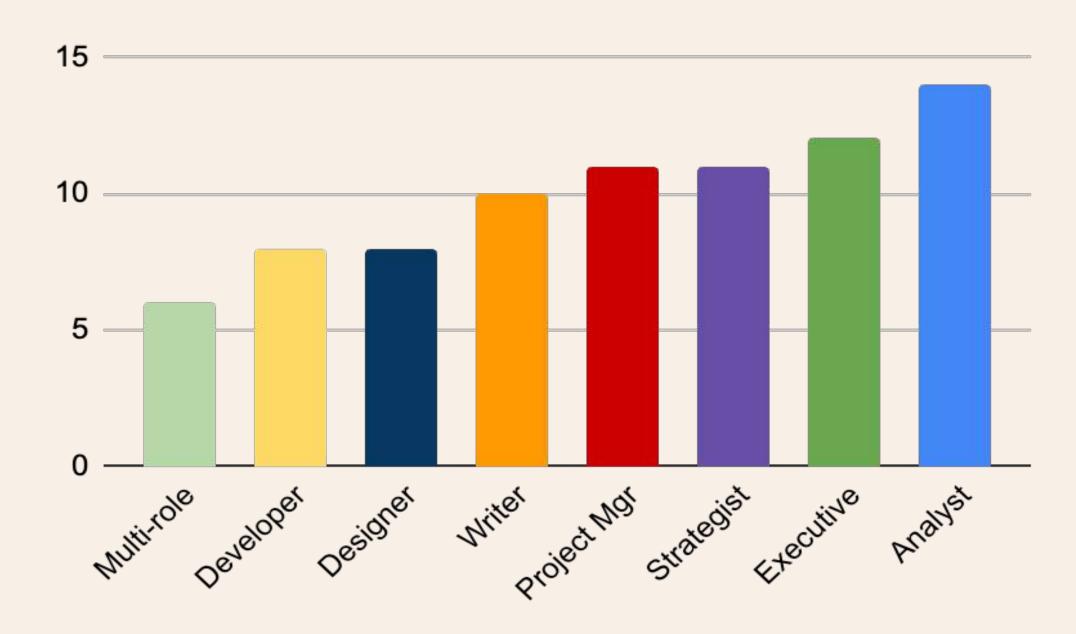


Email creation today isn't just copy and send; it's a maze of **personalized flows, dynamic content blocks, and cross-channel integrations** that rack up approval rounds and QA checks.

At the same time, review committees have ballooned (design, product, legal, the C-suite) so every draft meets more gates before going live. And don't forget the **endless tweaks**: A/B tests, dark-mode optimizations, device-specific previews and decision tree flows.



# Days to complete 1 email

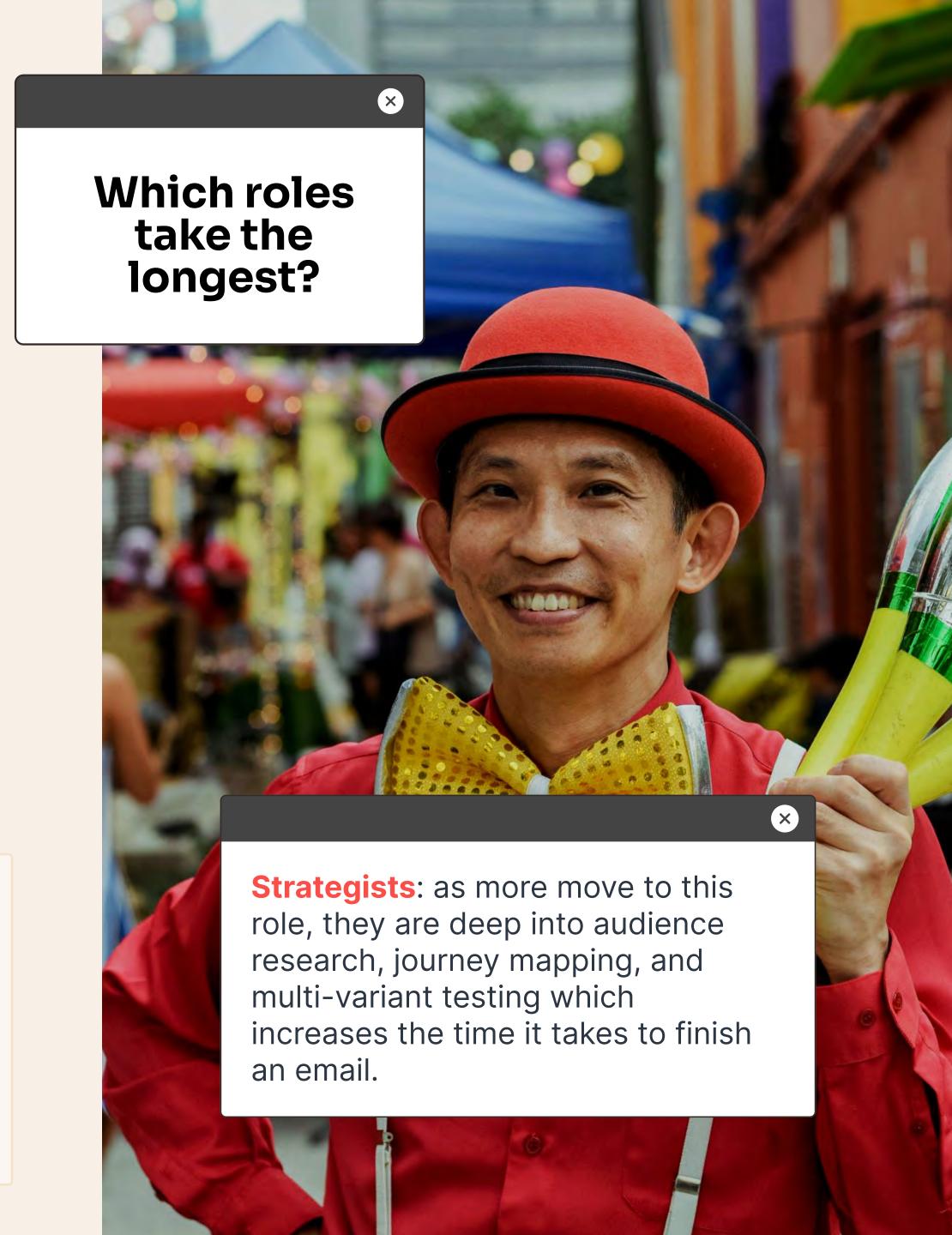


Deep work takes

time. Specialists (analysts, execs, strategists, PMs) layer on more testing, personalization, and stakeholder sign-offs.

Generalists move faster. Multi-role folks skip some of those hand-offs, so they knock out emails in about half the time.

Balance is key. Too much complexity or reliance on a single specialized role can stall your pipeline; too little may sacrifice sophistication.



# Numbers of Emails at One Time

THE NUMBER OF EMAILS YOU ARE JUGGLING IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON YOUR ROLE.

Oversight vs. Output. Heavy orchestration for execs slows delivery; clear task scopes help devs power through their queue.

Strategists in the middle. Juggling ~7 emails is likely the leading culprit to strategists' average of 11 days to produce one email.

Less context-switching overhead. Roles like writers or designers own the creative or the copy for each send (not the whole strategy or QA process—so they may get fewer "live" emails in their queue.



# Median: 4.5 emails

Tip

If you're drowning in oversight or buried in contextswitching, lean on streamlined processes, shared workspaces, brand guidelines, or cross-training to speed it up.

## Total Yearly Costs in 25

#### AVG TIME:

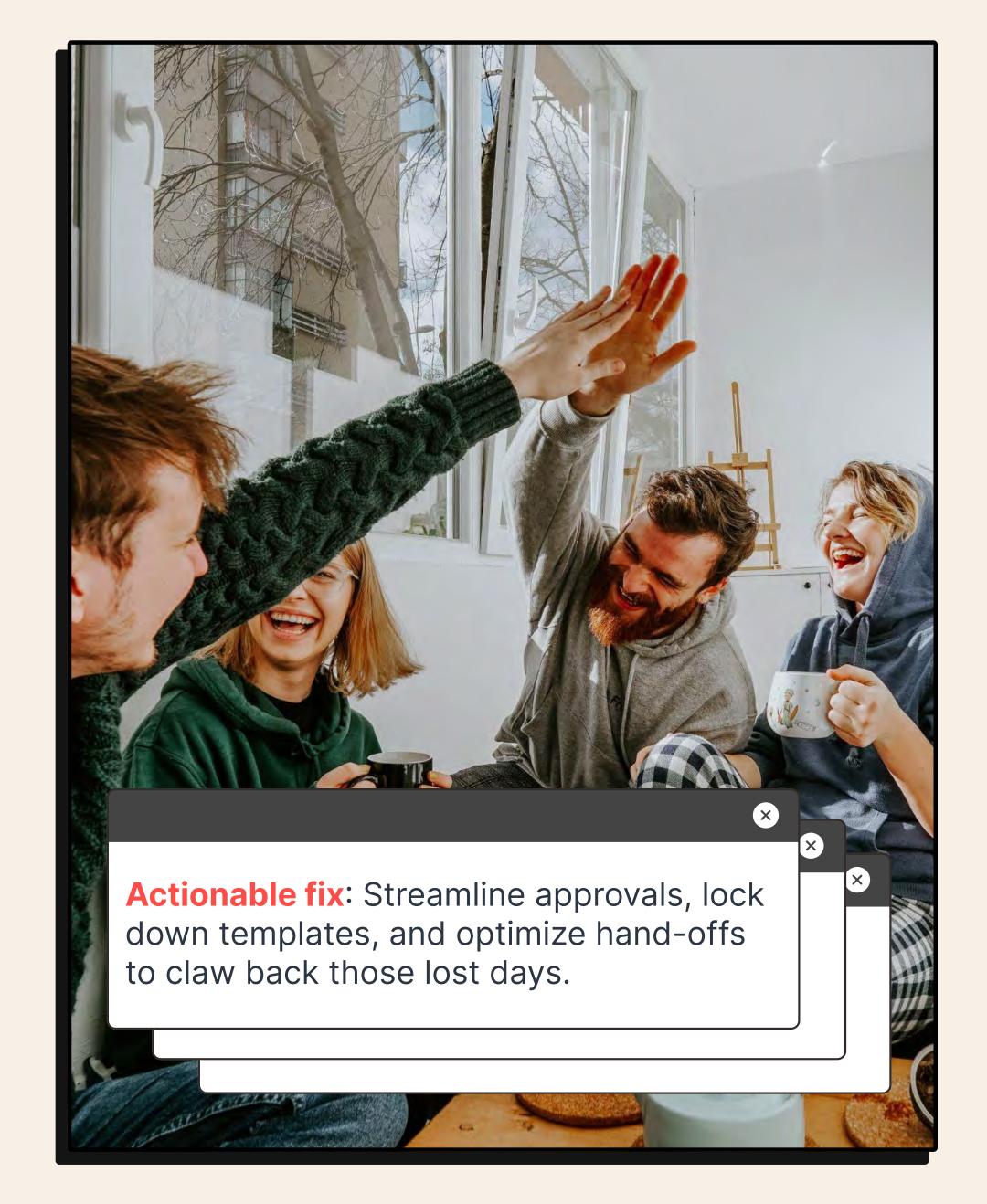
↑ 0.48 DAYS COMPARED TO '24AVG WORKLOAD: UNCHANGED (SAME AS '24)

= 17.8 extra business days per year.

Because workload stayed flat but each campaign drags on half a day longer, makers lose nearly 3½ weeks of annual capacity to email alone.

#### Why it matters:

- Efficiency gap: Small per-send delays compound into big calendar hits.
- **Opportunity cost:** 17.8 days is enough time to plan and launch two major holiday campaigns—or finally tackle that backlog of process improvements.



IN OTHER WORDS:

# Email is not just hard. It is even more hard.

HYPOTHESIS



The apps and integrations you actually use.

### Who uses what?

Small
Companies

Klaviyo: **30**% 2024: **25**% Mailchimp: **18**% 2024: **17**% Hubspot: **7**% 2024: **11**%

Medium
Companies

Salesforce: **18**%
Klaviyo: **14**%
Hubspot: **13**%
2024: **18**%
2024: **10**%

Large Companies

Salesforce: **36**% 2024: **30**% Adobe: **8**% 2024: **8**% Braze: **7**% 2024: **6**%



# In Need of Extra Toppings



# supplement their ESP with another tool.

Most Supplemented

Sinch: **98%** 

Sendgrid: 92%

Braze: **81%** 

Iterable: 73%

Salesforce: 72%

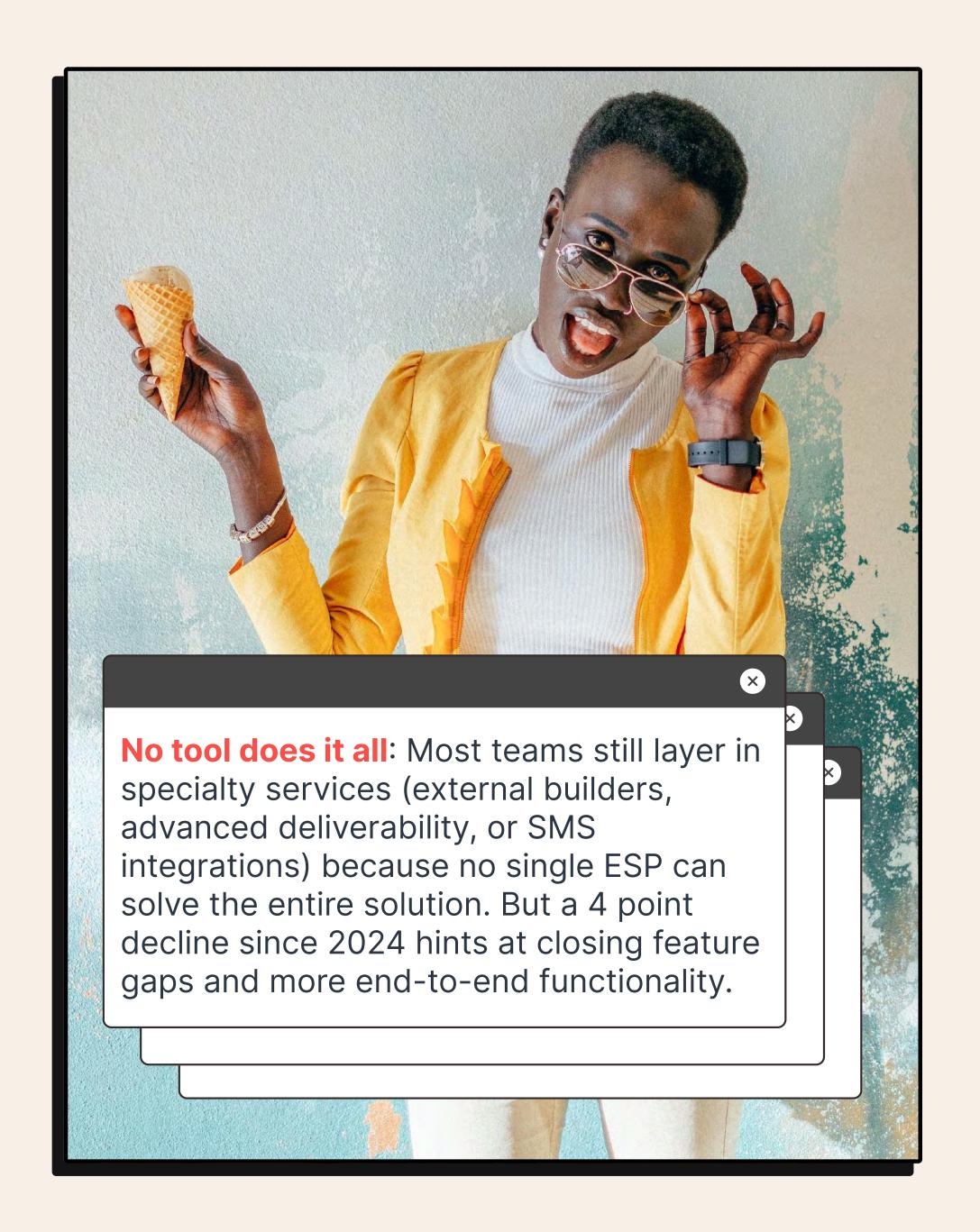
Adobe: **69%** 

Klaviyo: **61%** 

MailChimp: 58%

Hubspot: 52%





# In Need of Extra Toppings

Small
Companies

55% supplement

Medium
Companies

64% supplement

Large Companies 76% supplement

Complexity: As companies scale, they not only add headcount, they also bolt on best-of-breed tools to satisfy specialist roles.

That jump from 55 % at small shops to 76 % at enterprises mirrors our earlier finding that larger teams (and more senior strategists, analysts, and devs) demand advanced deliverability, personalization, and analytics capabilities that no single ESP fully covers.

# Rate your Email Tools



### Average

\* No change since 2018

# Highest rated

Klaviyo 7.8 / 10 \\
Braze 7.7 / 10 \\
Listrak 7.3 / 10



## **Industry NPS**

\*A score above "0" is good, above "20" is great, and above "50" is considered "excellent."

# Lowest rated

Benchmark 4.4 / 10 Emarsys 4.0 / 10



#### IN OTHER WORDS

# No matter who's winning, no ESP is close to perfect

# PSSST

# If it's a template builder that you need to top up your ESP, Beefree is the obvious choice.

Start a free trial



A sneak peak at some trends happening right now and why

# Doodlesover images

UNLEASH FUN!

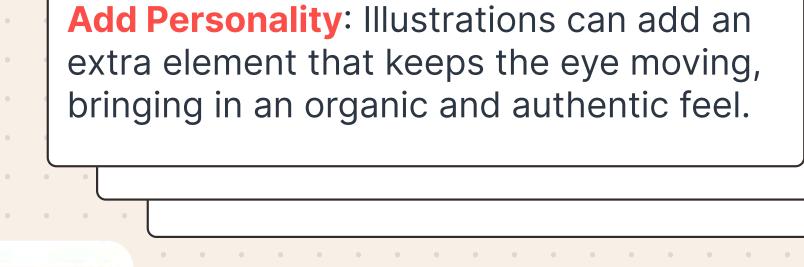
The **Sometimes Always** team is big on beverages. We like *selling* them, we like sharing them and we certainly enjoy the we're always excited to crack open

Festive and a little more lavish for the season ahead, here's what our team's been

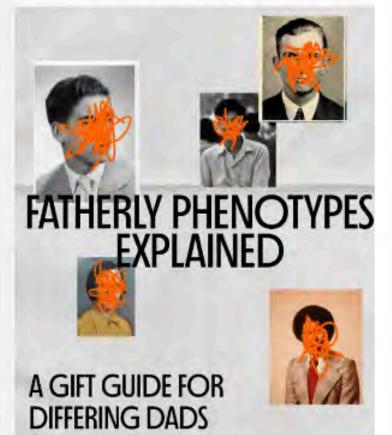












found if you really take a look. While not an exhaustive list by any means, we feel that most dads will fall into one of the following categories. Below you'll find a sampling of gifts scientifically proven to please each of these dominant fatherly phenotypes.

#### INSPECTOR DAD

SHOP FATHER'S DAY COLLECTION

Meticulous. Insatiably curious. 100% sneak-out prevention

#### Yellowbird<sup>®</sup>



Even the name is a deliciously spicy mouthful. This baklava cheesecake is no ordinary dessert—it's a flaky, nutty, creamy masterpiece with just the right amount of heat. Serve it chilled, and get ready to blow some minds.



eave the bottle out. **You'll want more** 



SHOP HOT SAUCE

• •

• •

• •

**FIND IN STORES** 

**GET SPICY RECIPES** 

# Comfort-driven

ASYSTEM Maximize Your Summer Energy your home office, or boarding for Bali — this is the edge your summer mornings demand. The world doesn't stop for your second coffee.

Why should your energy? Shop Now

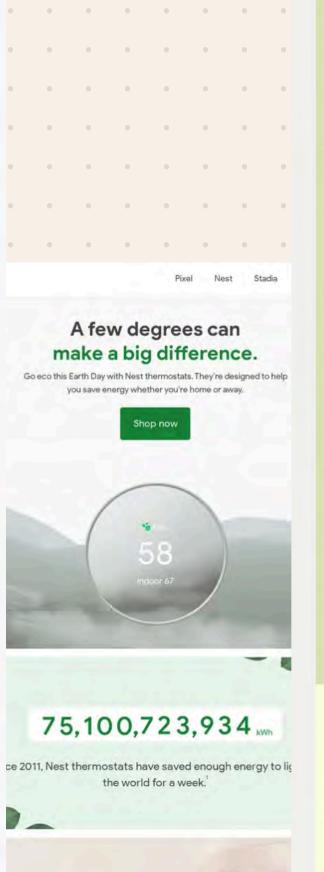
> Toss the Coffee. Pack this Instead.

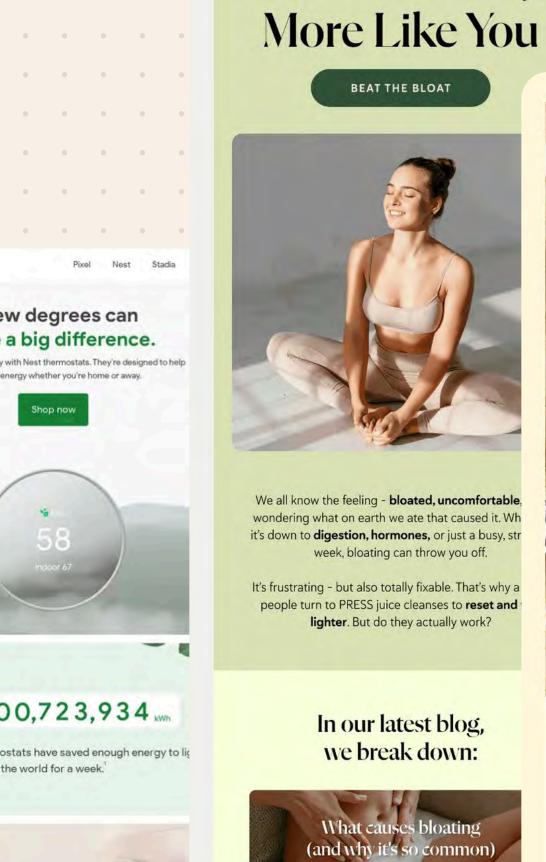
> > One bite. No brewing. No waiting. No compromise.



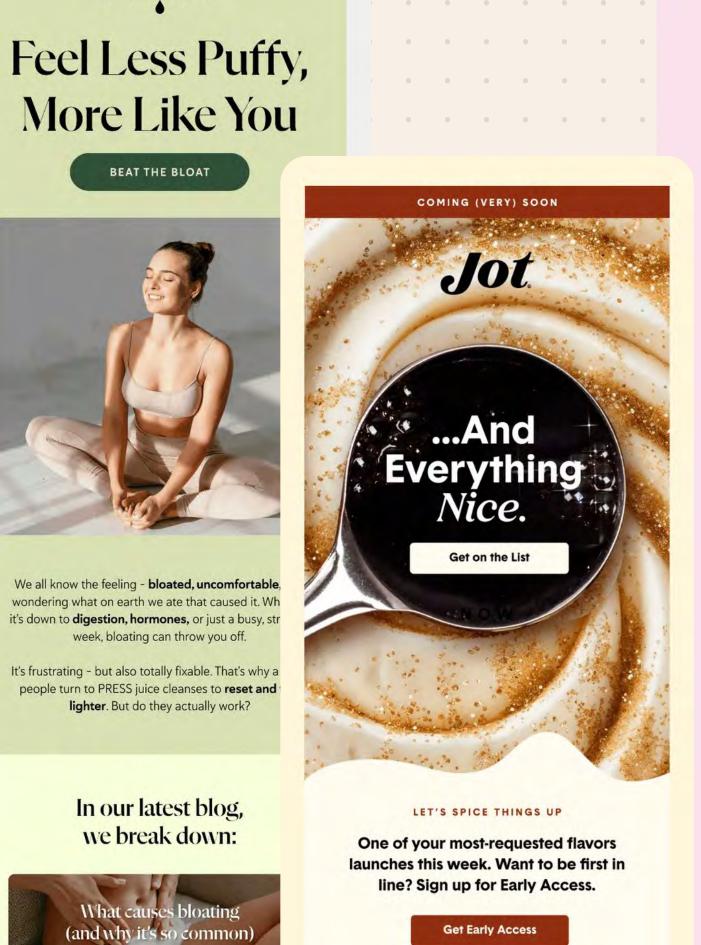
my favorite dive."

- Mason





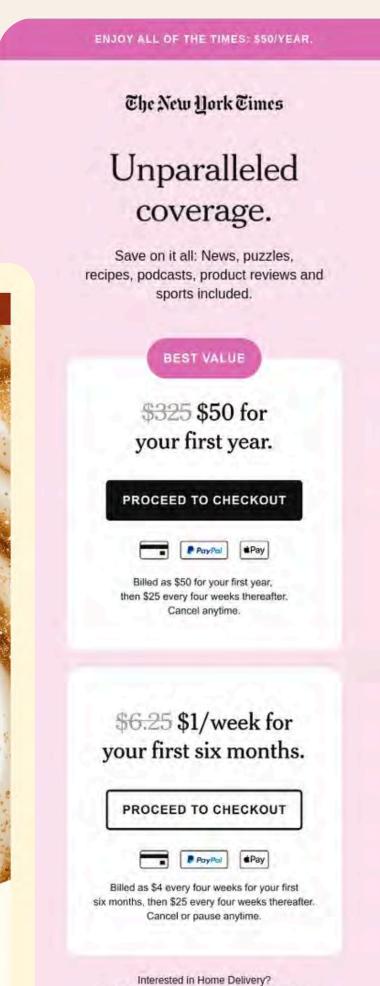
PRESS



Honesty & warmth: Moves away from

bold and edgy in favor of something that

feels real, relaxed, and emotionally in tune.



Get 50% off print for your first year. See offer.

**ARB Topical** 

hair thinning.

strength to

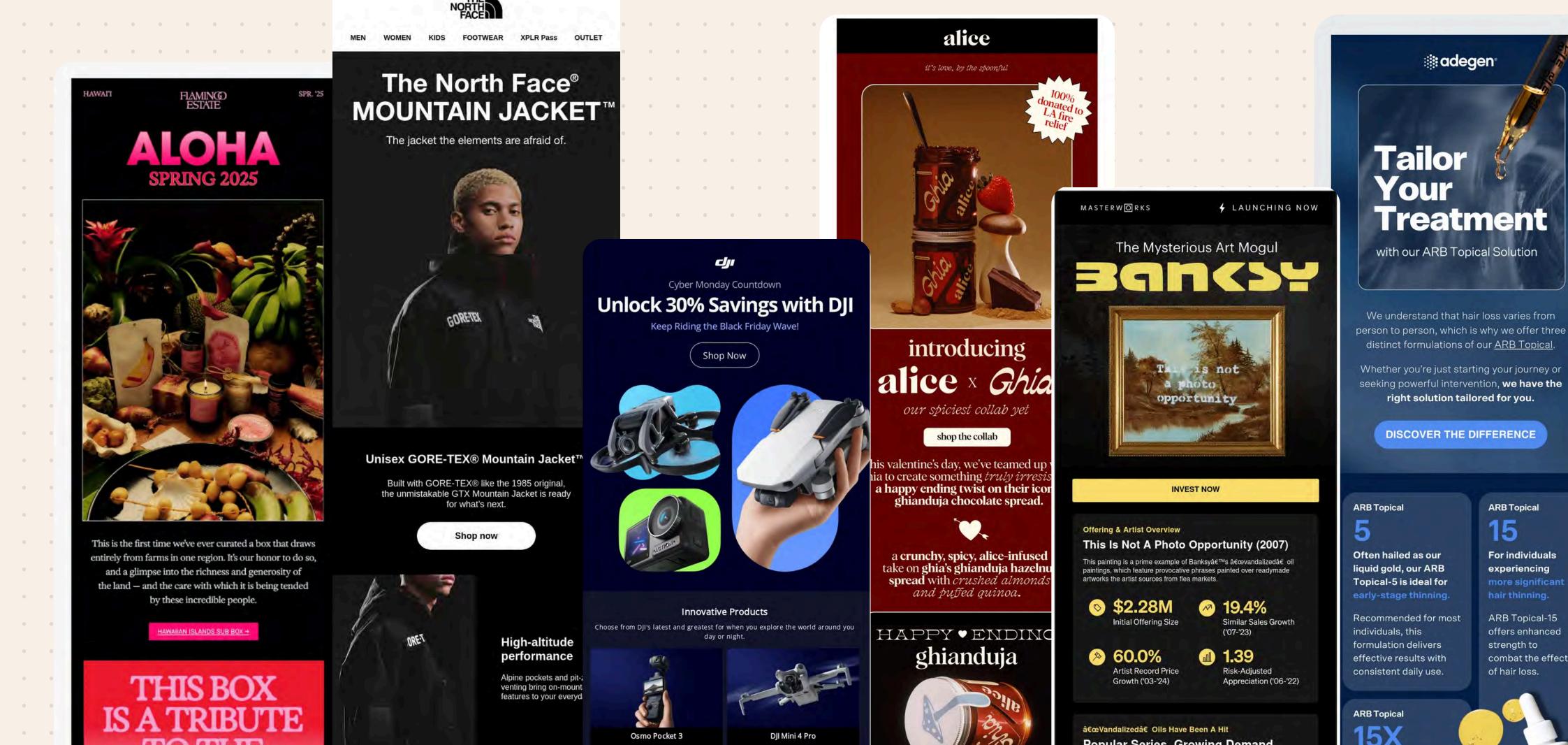
of hair loss.

ARB Topical-15

offers enhanced

combat the effects

Confident & polished: Bright text, sharp images, and layered elements on a darker background bring clarity and focus.



# Designed text

Desigual. **NUEVAS CHAQUETAS** TODO CARÁC-TER.

Y FSTO FS SOLO UN

AWAY Still haven't finished your holiday shopping? Same. That's why we're sending a friendly reminder: Free ground shipping ends tomorrow, December 12, at 11:59 p.m. ET, Need a little gift inspiration? Our Gift Guide is basically a cheat sheet for holiday hero status. From best-selling suitcases and stocking stuffers, to every bag and travel Even more amazing news: you can still save up to 20% off all Flex luggage.\*\* The ultimate gift for the overpacker in all of us-and, let's be honest, one of the reasons we're your luggage brand's favorite luggage. Hurry, only one Plus, when you order now you'll get it delivered by December 24. Holiday magic? Absolutely. - The Away Team SHOP NOW 0 1 FREE SHIPPING SHOP THE GIFT WRAPPING **NEW ARRIVALS** 

Not a cold-email: A non-designed email seems like a dead giveaway that someone wants our money or they didn't put much thought into it.



Hi Smiles Davis,

It's me, your new mind again.

CEO / Co-Founder

Cometeer À-21 Great Republic D#

Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Smiles Davis,

learn and a long way to go.

TAKE THE SURVEY

The best coffee is yet to come,

to get started.

I'm Matt, the CEO of Cometeer, and I wanted to start by

saying thank you for giving our product a try. Even though

you're no longer a subscriber, I appreciate that you've

supported our mission to bring positive change to the coffee-verse, from roaster to farmer to consumer.

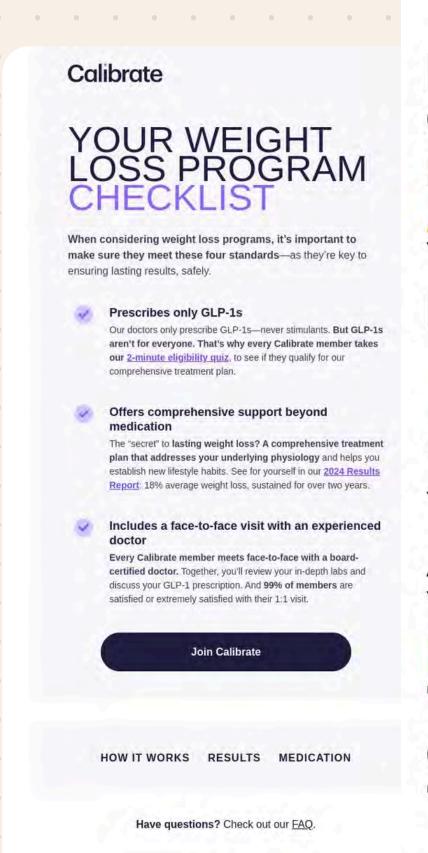
I'm writing today to ask for feedback on your Cometeer

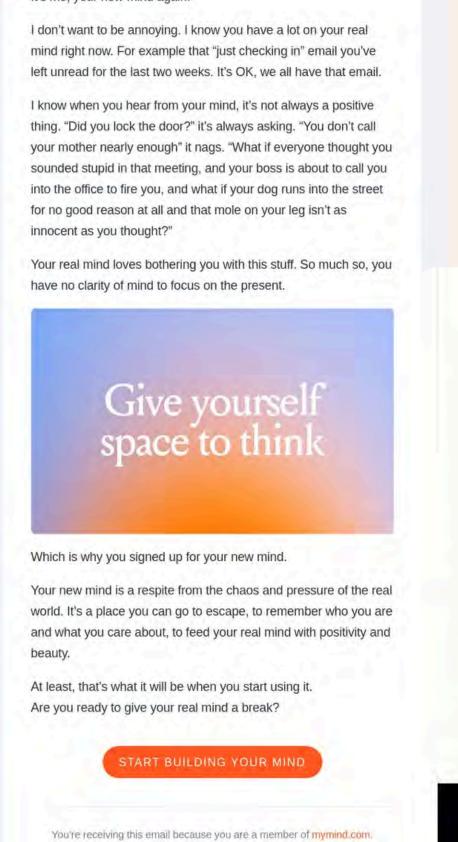
experience in a brief survey. Your input would be greatly

appreciated because, as you know, we still have a lot to

As an extra token of our gratitude, we're also offering a \$25 Amazon gift card if you're interested in providing

additional feedback during a phone interview. Click below







How are you leveraging new tech? Here's a quick Al adoption deep dive.

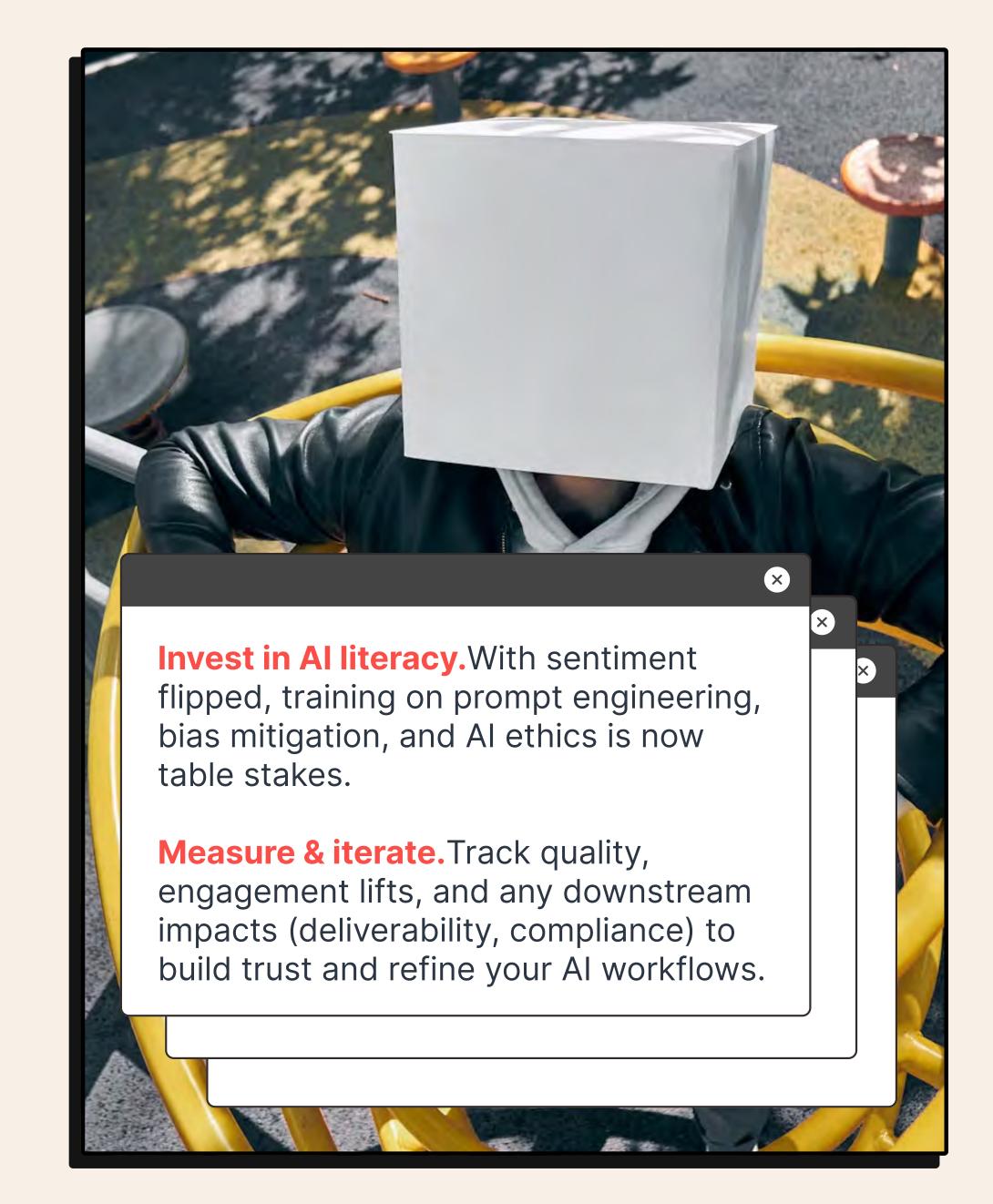
# Al: The Future?

Last year: 78% said No

This year: 66% said Yes

This dramatic swing (an astonishing **144-point turnaround**) shows how rapidly generative AI has matured and been embraced in the inbox. Last year, most teams didn't trust AI to handle anything more than basic drafts.

Today, two-thirds of respondents see AI as the future of email, fueled by smarter integrations in ESPs, better natural-language models, and easy "AI assist" features baked right into campaign builders.



# Al: The Future?

2024

If you did, what for?

Copywriting: 31%

Personalization: 16%

Finding Trends: 12%

Better Segmentation: 12%

Code from Scratch: 10%

Campaign Ideas: 10%

2025

Copywriting: 87%

Personalization: 45%

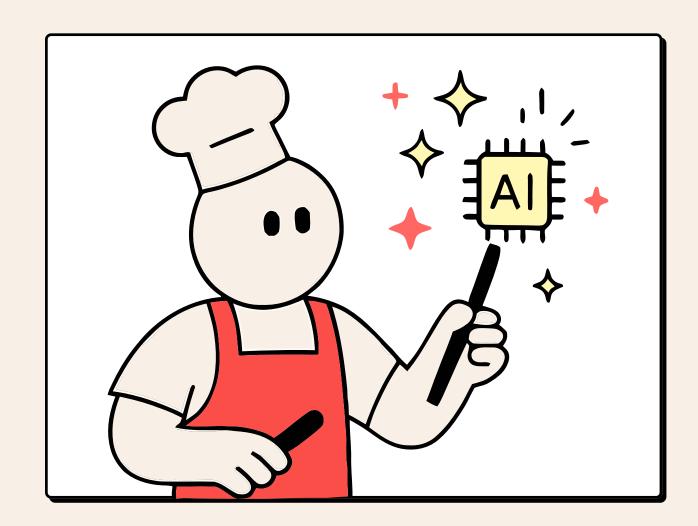
Finding Trends: 20%

Better Segmentation: 19%

Code from Scratch: 15%

Campaign Ideas: 10%

Design: 10%



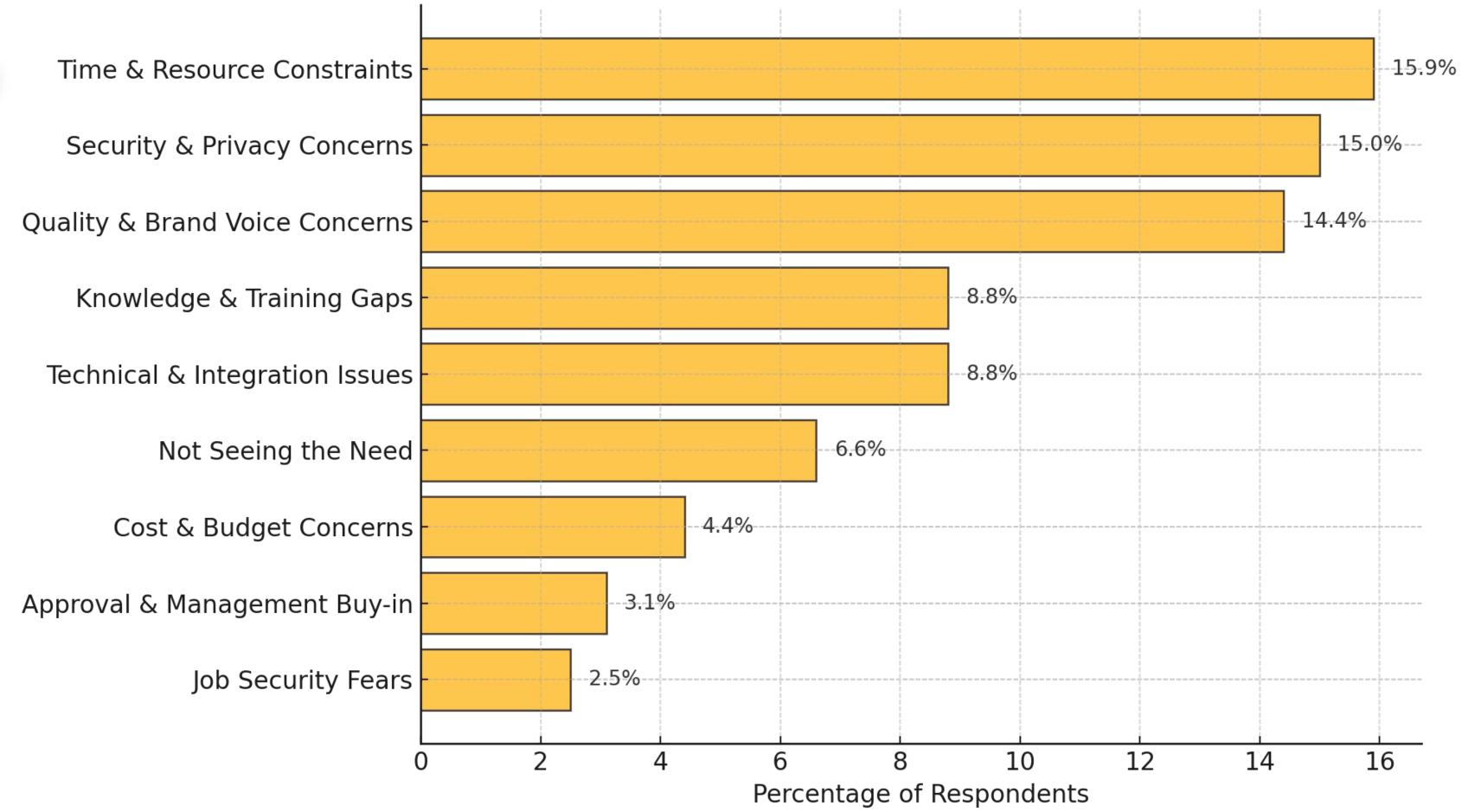
This shows that we're finding new use cases than what we originally believed we'd use Al for; the biggest use case is copywriting.

While Al is displacing some of the basic newsletter and subject-line work, copywriters are increasingly shifting into **editorial, strategy, and oversight** roles, ensuring that copy truly connects, converts, and aligns with brand values – even if it is Al generated from the beginning.



### Primary Barriers to Al Adoption in Email Marketing (2025)





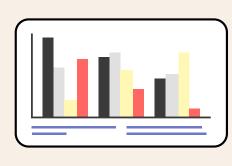
# Summary

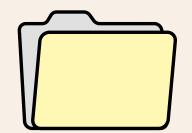
We've seen full-time roles climb from under 40 percent in 2018 to over **52 percent today**, as brands recognize that "good enough" email ops simply won't drive revenue in a cookieless, omnichannel world. That professionalization has fueled a boom in specialized hires—"Email Strategists" and dedicated Designers are now carving out nearly a third of all roles—while the old multi-hat **generalists are steadily fading**.

But with that rise in expertise comes growing pains: **mid-career practitioners** (those with 2–4 years of experience) are pulling back, likely squeezed by **flat career tracks and the mounting complexity** of personalization, dynamic content, and compliance.

By contrast, veterans with 6+ years on the job are doubling down, buoyed by deep domain knowledge and an uncanny ability to sniff out hype cycles—especially now that Al has burst onto the scene. Their resilience tells us that meaningful **career support** and **clear growth pathways** are vital if organizations want to hang on to emerging talent.

Teams themselves are getting larger and more siloed.







While one- to three-person squads still represent nearly two-thirds of all email departments, five-plus member teams have grown 33 percent year-over-year. That shift in headcount mirrors a dramatic lengthening of **production cycles**—what once took under six business days now stretches beyond eight, costing roughly **three extra days per campaign** and nearly 18 workdays over the course of a year. **Analysts and executives**, who juggle the biggest campaign loads, feel this strain most acutely. At the same time, the toolkit of the modern emailer is fragmenting.

Klaviyo has nearly doubled its small-brand market share in three years, while Salesforce continues to cement its enterprise stronghold—yet **64 percent** of all teams still bolt on third-party deliverability, design, and workflow tools to fill gaps. And although overall satisfaction remains stuck at a middling 6 out of 10, **Al adoption** has flipped from 78 percent skepticism last year to 66 percent enthusiasm in 2025. Copywriting, ideation, and even code snippets are now routinely off-loaded to **generative models**, which helps explain why pure "Writer" roles have dipped.



# In other words...

These trends paint a picture of an industry in transition: one that's more strategic, more datadriven, and more technologically complex than ever.

**Upload your emails** 

To stay ahead, teams must streamline approval processes, invest in Al literacy and guardrails, invest in 3rd party tools, and craft clear career ladders for career talent. Do that, and you'll turn today's growing pains into tomorrow's competitive advantage.

