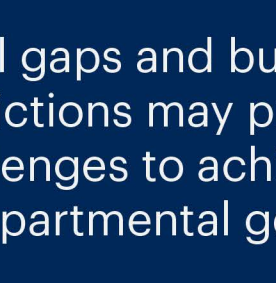


# 2024 Software Engineering Priorities and Challenges

Which priorities are most important to software engineering leaders in 2024? How might larger economic and talent-related trends impact departmental success? Read on to find out.



Top goals for 2024 include integrating AI and increasing developer productivity



Skill gaps and budget restrictions may present challenges to achieving departmental goals



There is little consensus on how the global economy might impact 2024 goals

Data collection: Oct 4 to Nov 4, 2023

Respondents: 120 software engineering leaders who are involved in annual strategy setting for the department

## About Gartner Peer Community One-Minute Insights:

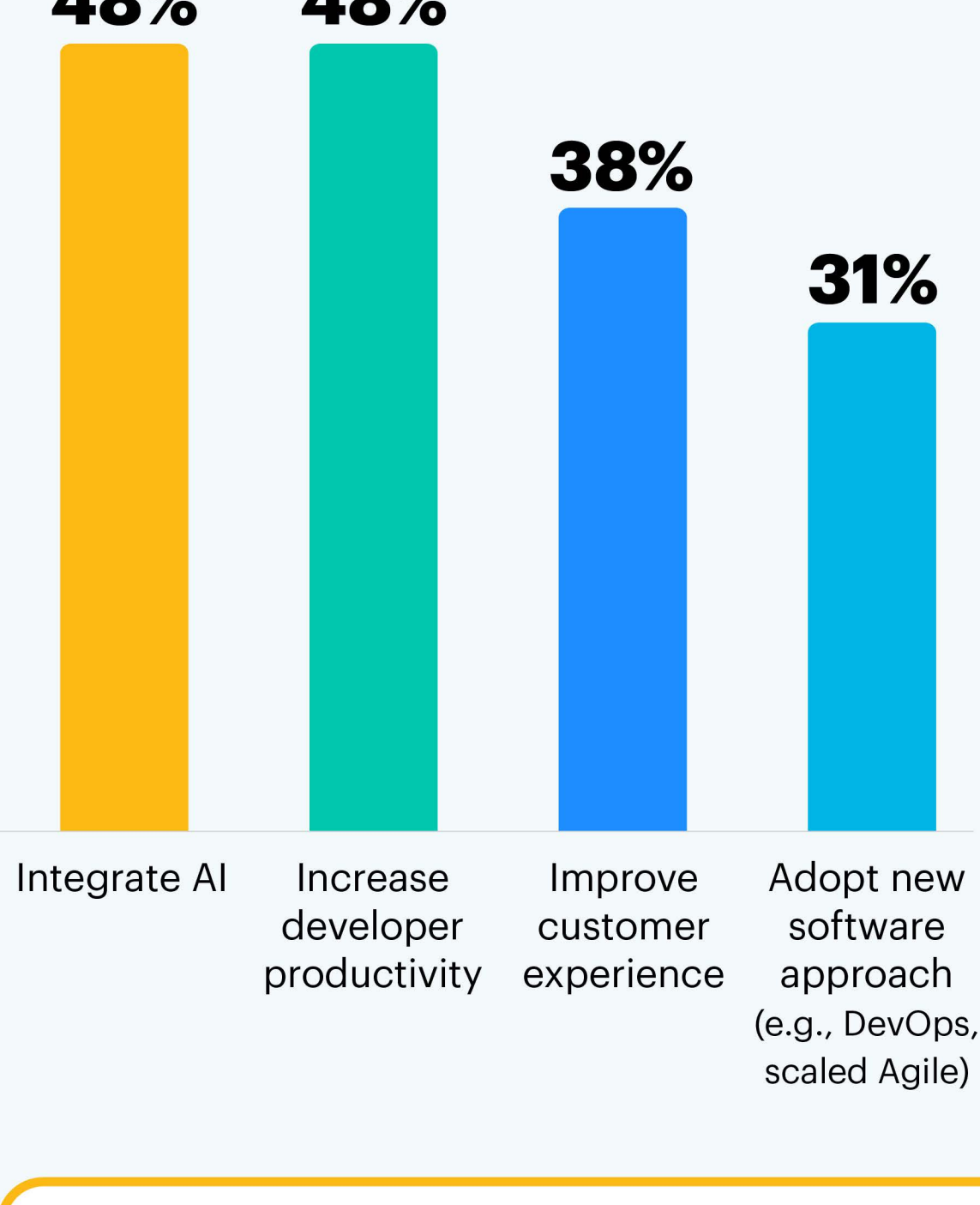
Gartner Peer Community is for technology and business leaders to engage in discussions with peers and share knowledge in real time.

Surveys are designed by Gartner Peer Community editors and appear on the Gartner Peer Community platform. Once the respondent threshold is met, survey results are summarized in a One-Minute Insight.

The results of this summary are representative of the respondents that participated in the survey. It is not market representative.



## Organizations plan to integrate AI and increase developer productivity in 2024



**Integrating AI (48%) and increasing developer productivity (48%)** are among the top three strategic goals for many respondents' (n = 120) software engineering departments in 2024.

**Based on your personal knowledge of your software engineering department's goals, what are its top three strategic priorities for 2024? Select up to three.**

Develop new software products **30%** | Improve developer experience **30%** | Reduce technical debt **29%** | Strengthen cybersecurity **28%** | Support digital transformation **16%** | Adopt product-centric delivery model **16%** | Improve cross-functional relationships **12%** | Establish platform engineering teams **8%** | Implement green software engineering practices **6%** | Migrate to cloud **5%** | Other\* **1%** | Not sure **0%**

n = 120

\*Other includes: "Provide better products for our customers"

**"The topmost priorities in 2024 are going to be training the engineers on how to develop software around AI using AI, and [to] become more productive and let AI/ML drive some of the traditional aspects of software engineering."**

VP, software industry, 1,000 - 5,000 employees

Question: What are your final thoughts on your software engineering department's priorities and planning for 2024?



## Skill gaps and budget restrictions may pose problems

**More than half (52%) expect skill gaps and training needs to pose significant obstacles to achieving their departments' top three strategic priorities.**

**Which talent-related issues, if any, do you think could pose the most significant obstacles to achieving your software engineering department's top three strategic priorities in 2024? Select all that apply.**

Engineer and developer productivity **34%** | Succession planning and leadership development **31%** | Employee engagement and morale **31%** | Changed working requirements (e.g., return to office) **18%** | Team diversity, equity and inclusion **14%** | None — I don't foresee any talent-related obstacles **6%** | Other\* **1%** | Not sure **0%**

n = 120

\*Other includes: "Changing priorities"

**Aside from talent concerns, 60% of respondents expect budget restrictions to present challenges.**

**Apart from talent-related issues, which of the following do you think may pose the biggest challenges to achieving your software engineering department's top three strategic priorities in 2024? Select all that apply.**

Regulatory changes **23%** | Supply chain disruptions **15%** | Not sure **2%** | Other\* **2%**

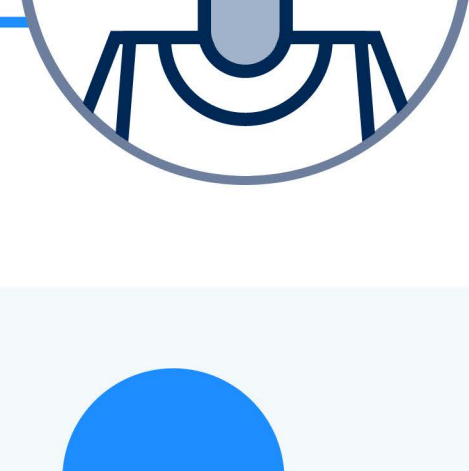
n = 120

\*Other includes: "Ability to scale the delivery team", and "Challenges, what challenges"

**"With budget cuts and [a] tight economic environment, efficiency and quality will be the key for software engineering teams."**

C-suite, transportation industry, <1,000 employees

Question: What are your final thoughts on your software engineering department's priorities and planning for 2024?



## There is little consensus on how the global economy might impact 2024 goals

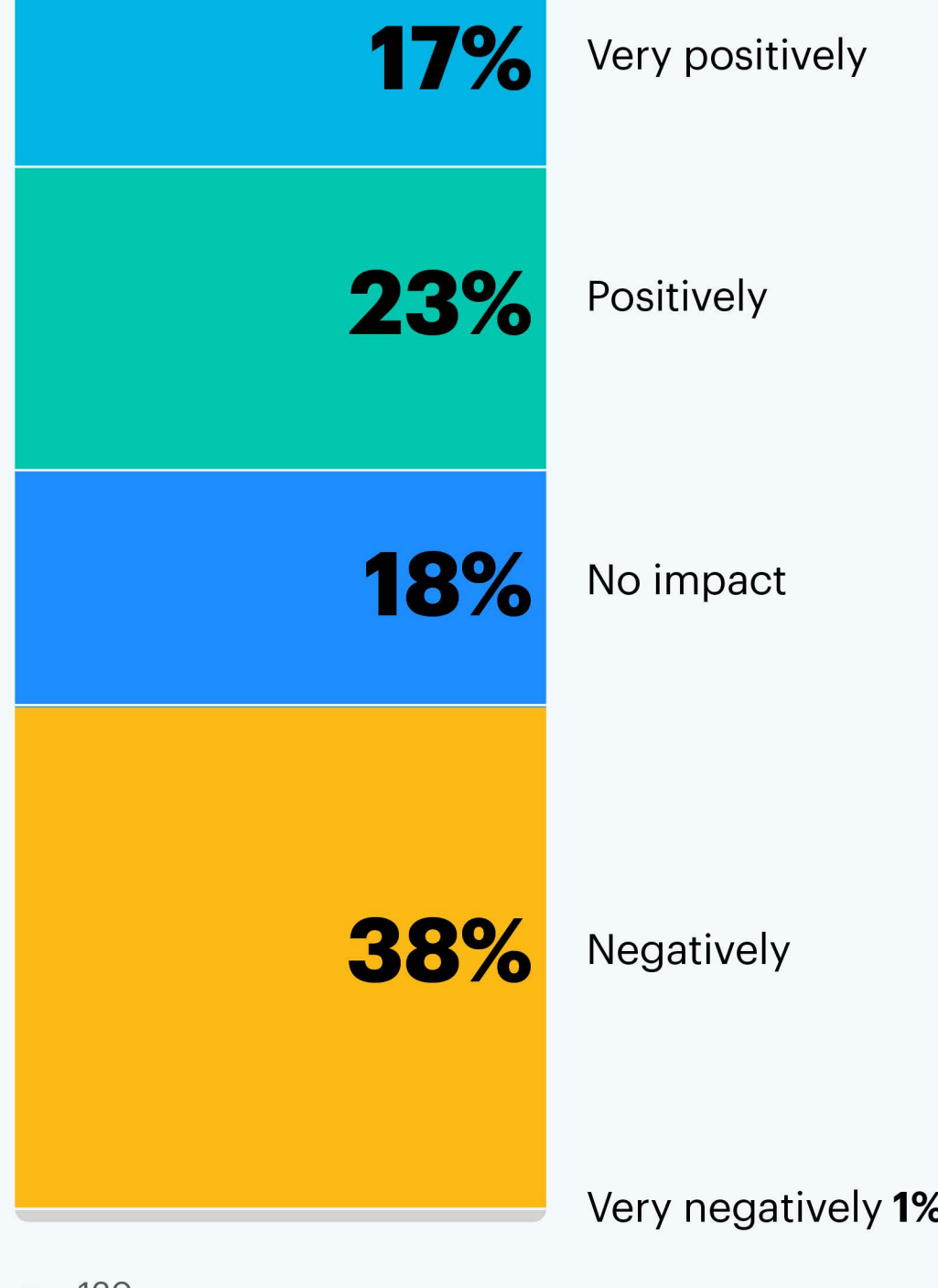
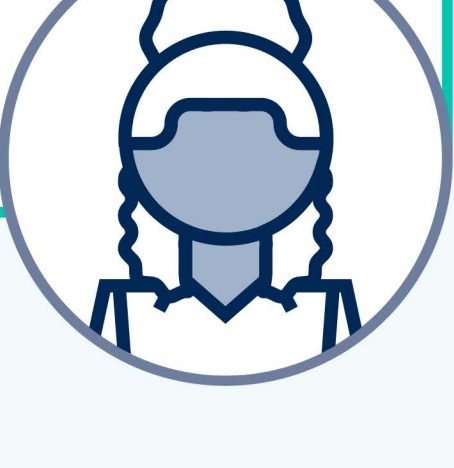
**40% of respondents expect the global economy to have a positive impact on their 2024 goals, while 39% expect it to have a negative impact.**

**How do you think the anticipated state of the global economy will impact your software engineering department's operations and strategies in 2024, if at all?**

**"Inflationary pressures will continue to force us to be creative."**

Director, manufacturing industry, 1,000 - 5,000 employees

Question: What are your final thoughts on your software engineering department's priorities and planning for 2024?



n = 120  
Note: May not add up to 100% due to rounding

## In their own words...

**"There is a lot of uncertainty in the world, the economy, and the markets, which brings a lot of uncertainty to what engineering is focused on in 2024. While there have been a lot of layoffs, people are also reluctant to switch roles and are paying a lot more attention to what company they join and what the team will be focused on. Businesses are careful with capital and investments, citing uncertainty and the 'higher for longer' mantra. In general, this manifests as a conservative investment focusing more on incremental improvements rather than bigger bets."**

- VP, software industry, <1,000 employees

**"I think we have some very good features coming up that will enhance [our] customer experience. That being said, we have a return to work policy that is hindering productivity at the moment. I feel once we all get used to being back, productivity will increase as long as the top talent doesn't look elsewhere. We have worked hard on reducing technical debt and I feel it will pay off in 2024."**

- Manager, finance industry, 5,000 - 10,000 employees

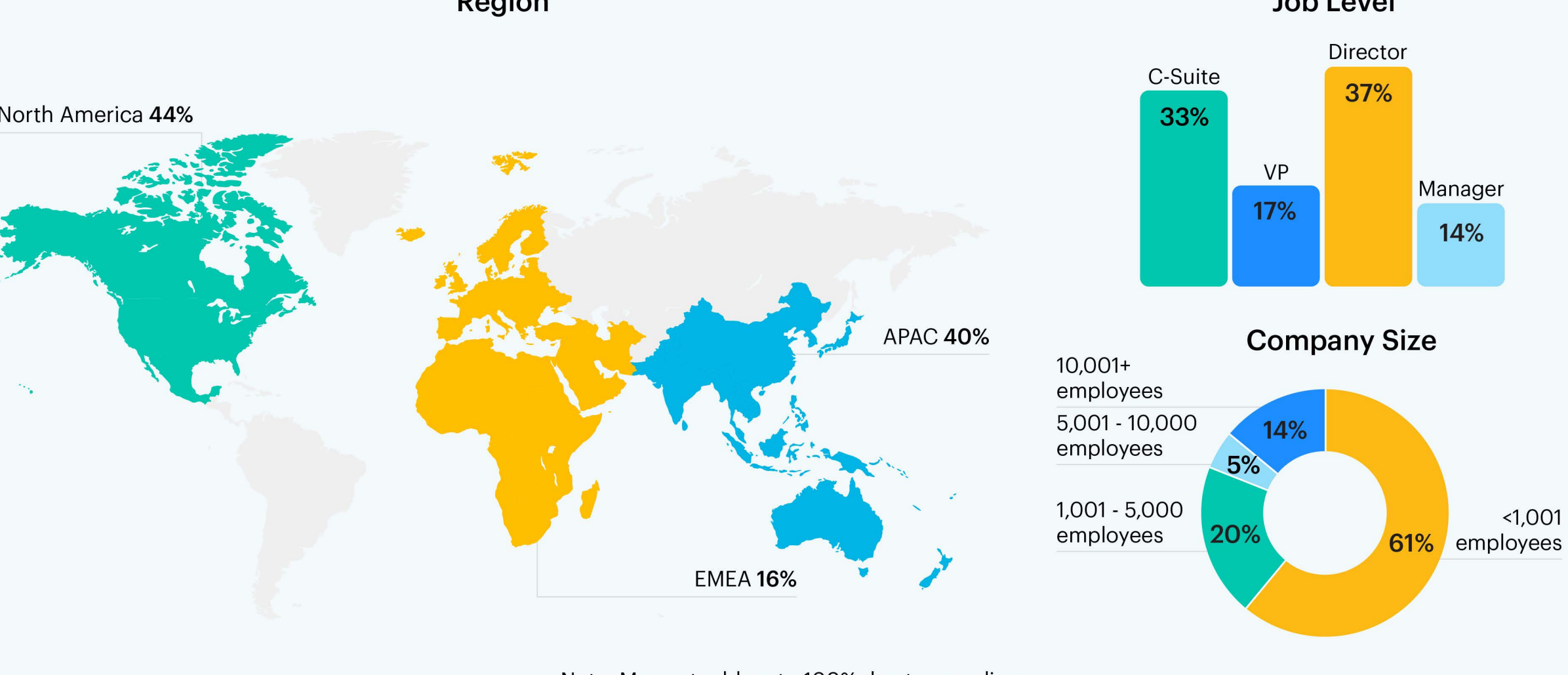
Question: What are your final thoughts on your software engineering department's priorities and planning for 2024?

**"Adaptability is key to the success of the software engineering departments of 2024. There will be continuous change in process flow and technologies that the department will need to adapt to."**

- C-suite, software industry, <1,000 employees



## Respondent Breakdown



Note: May not add up to 100% due to rounding  
Respondents: 120 software engineering leaders who are involved in annual strategy setting for the department

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Source: Gartner Peer Community, 2024 Software Engineering Priorities and Challenges: What's Top of Mind? survey

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