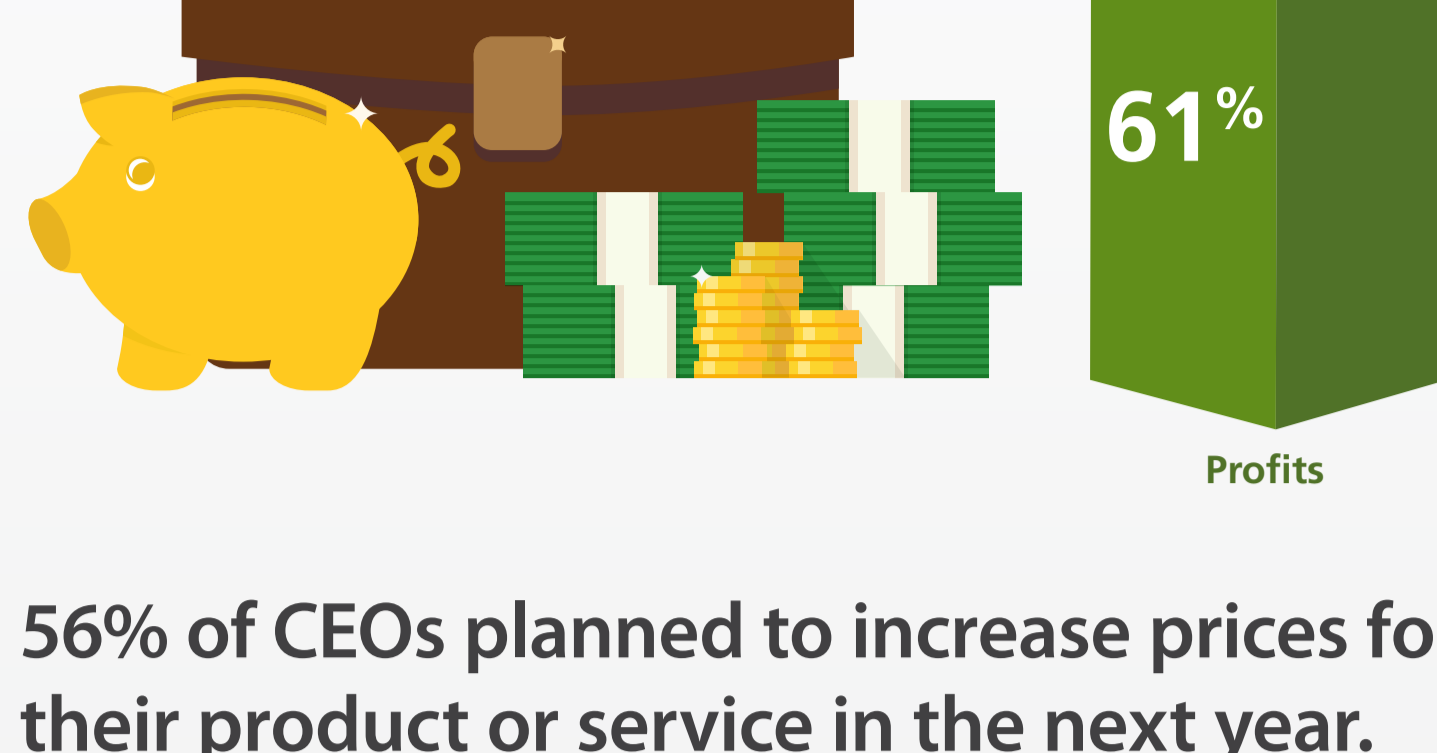


CEO optimism prevails.

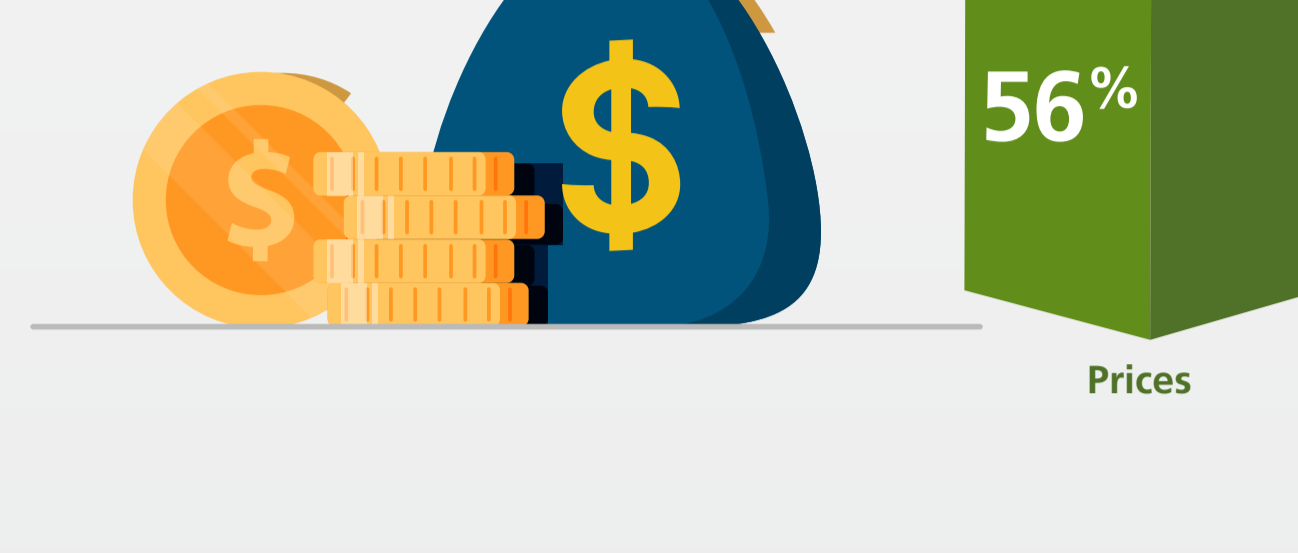
The Vantage CEO Confidence Index was 103.0 in Q3 2018, reversing the gain recorded in the past 3 quarters.

Despite decline in overall confidence, outlook for revenue and profit remains robust.

61% of CEOs expected increased profits in the year ahead.



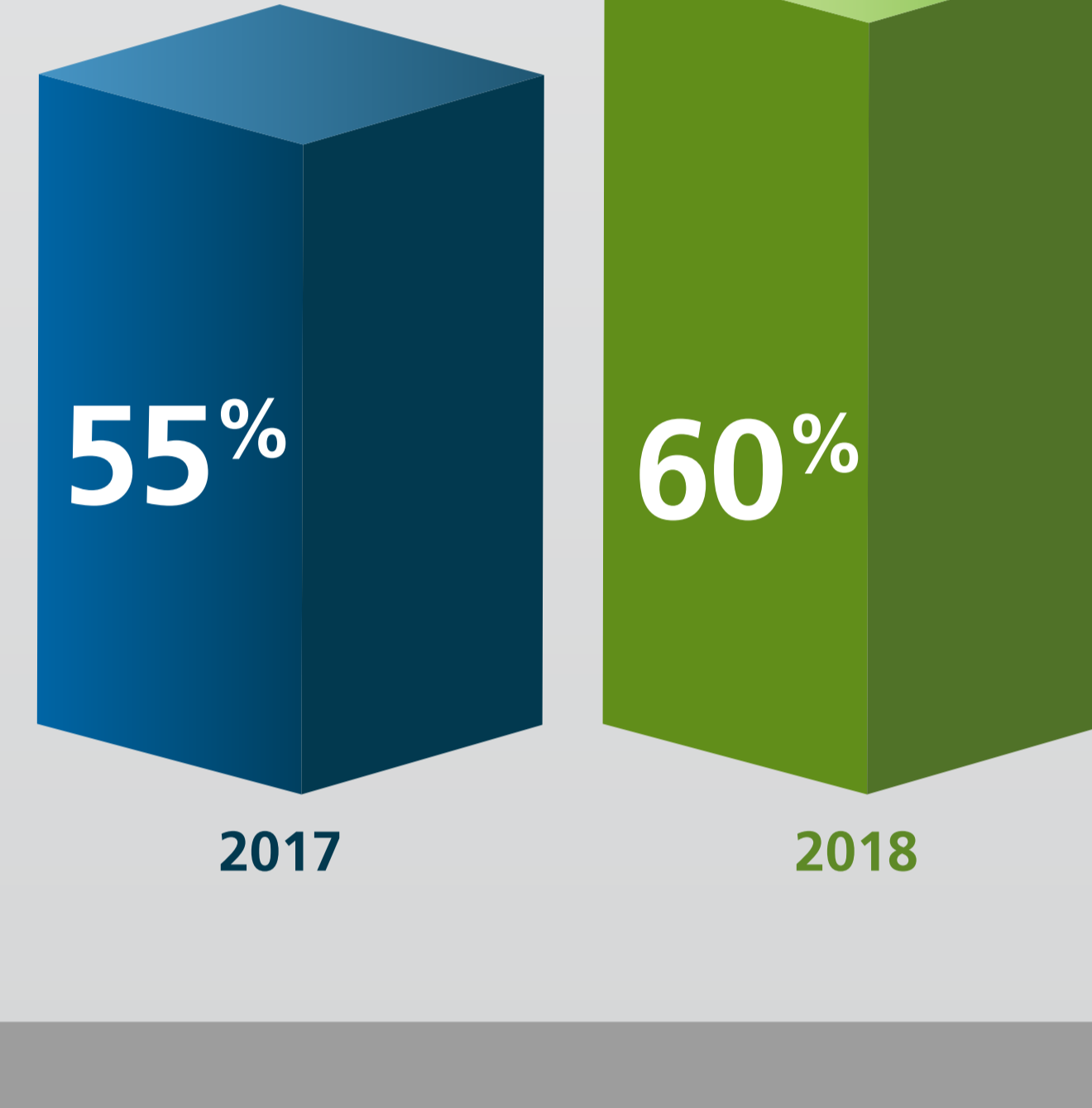
56% of CEOs planned to increase prices for their product or service in the next year.



75% of CEOs expected increased revenues in the next 12 months.

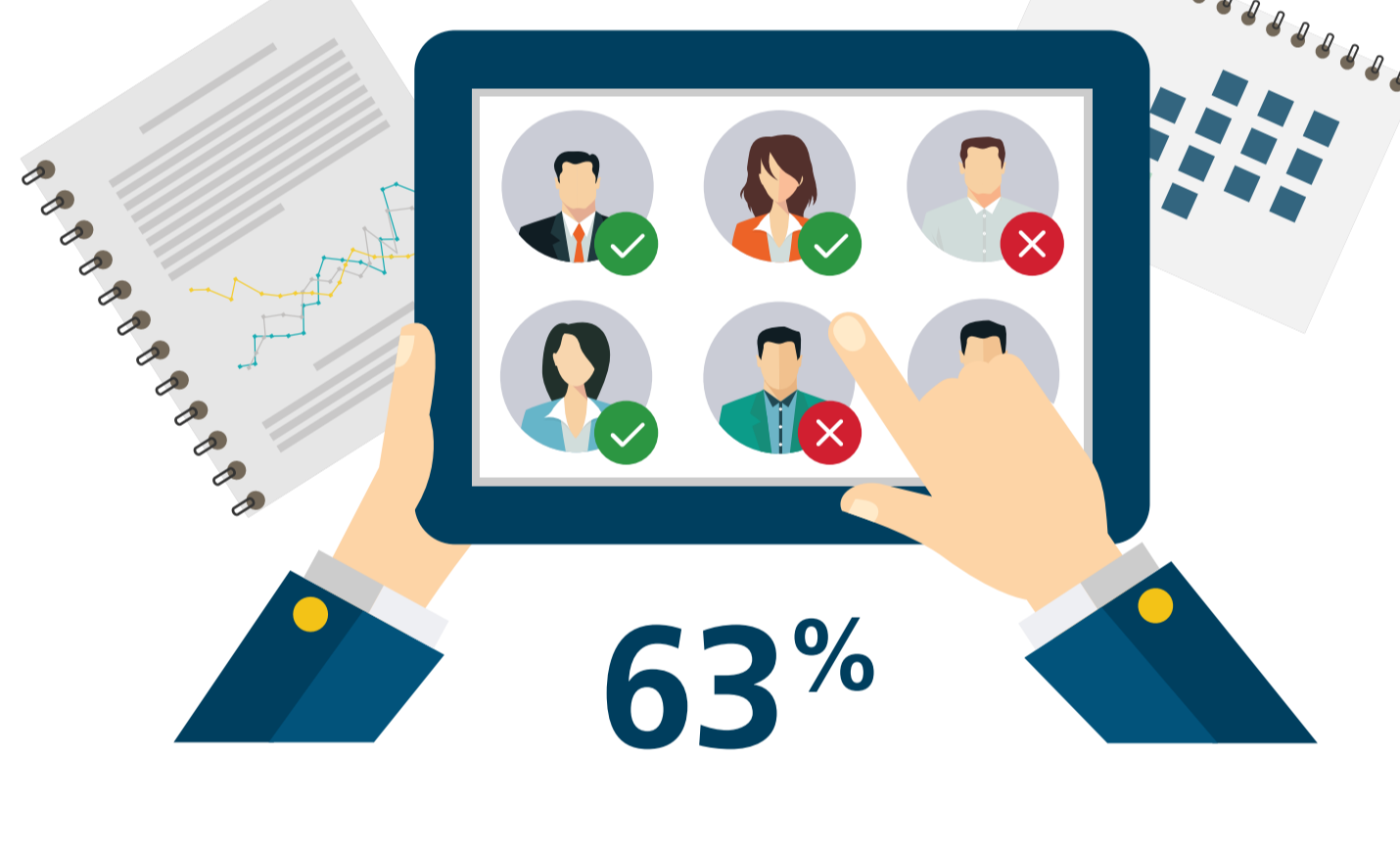


60% of CEOs indicated their revenues grew more than 6% last year, a 5 pt increase from the 55% recorded last year.



Hiring and investment plans remain strong.

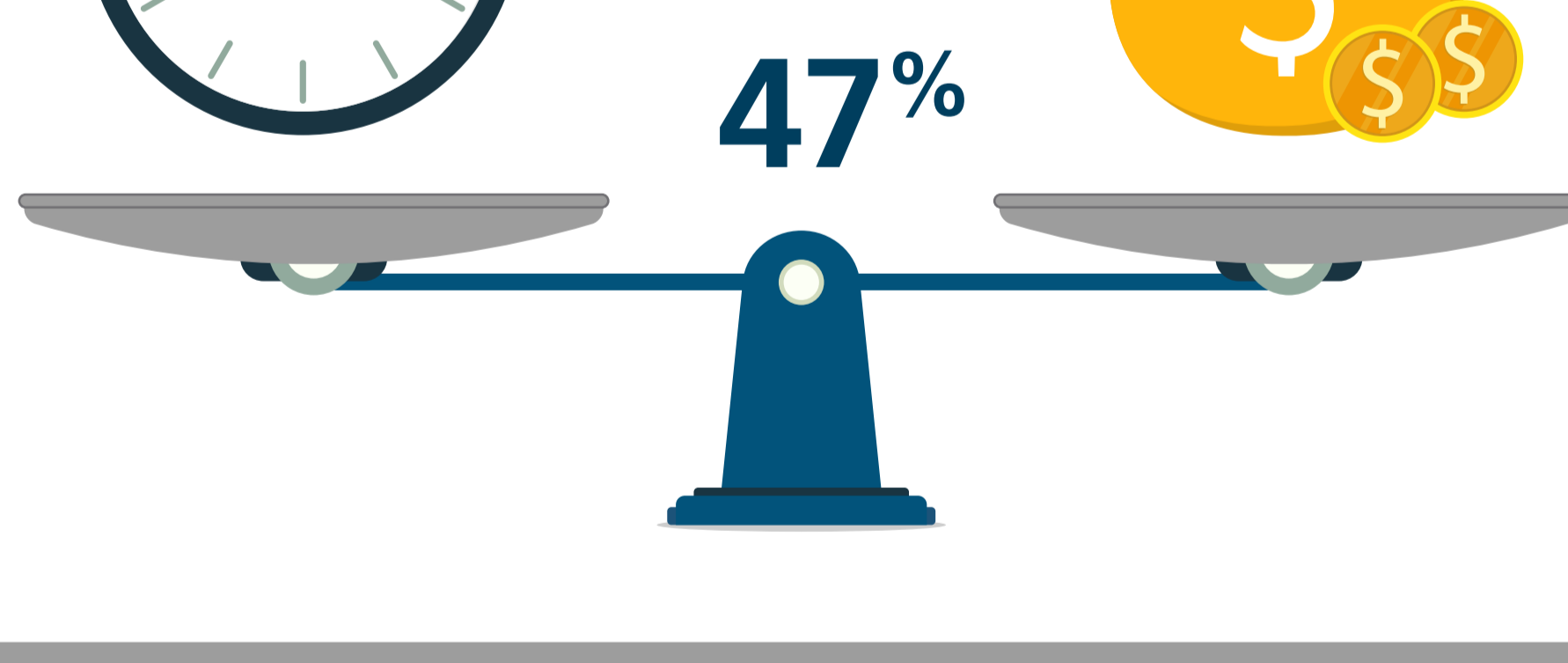
63% of CEOs planned increases in the total workforce in the next year; the past 4 quarters have been the highest rate for increases in hiring in the past fifteen years.



50% of CEOs reported plans to increase investment spending; the past 4 quarters have been the most favorable since 2004-05.

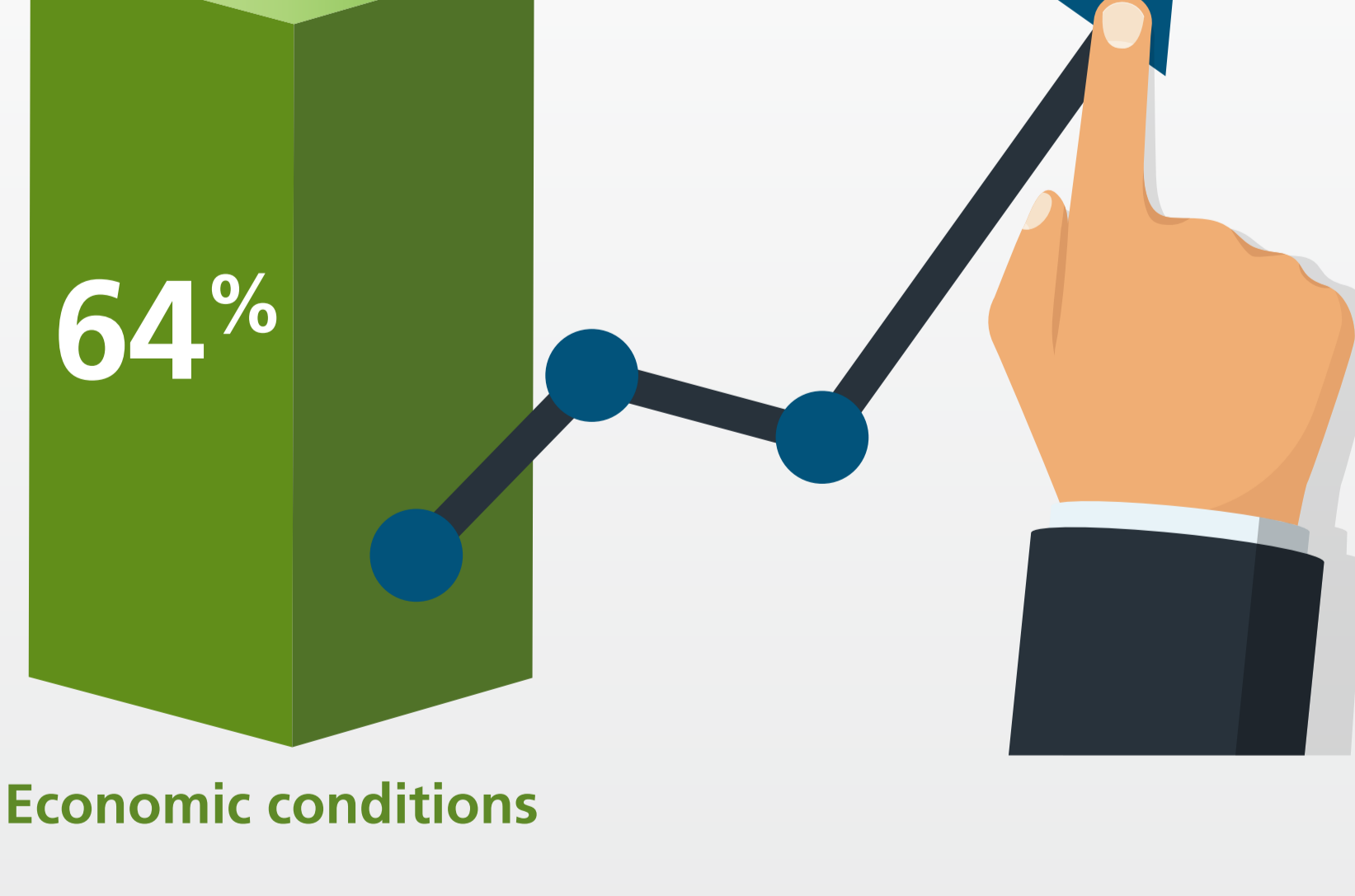


47% of firms reported that they boosted wages or benefits to attract top talent.

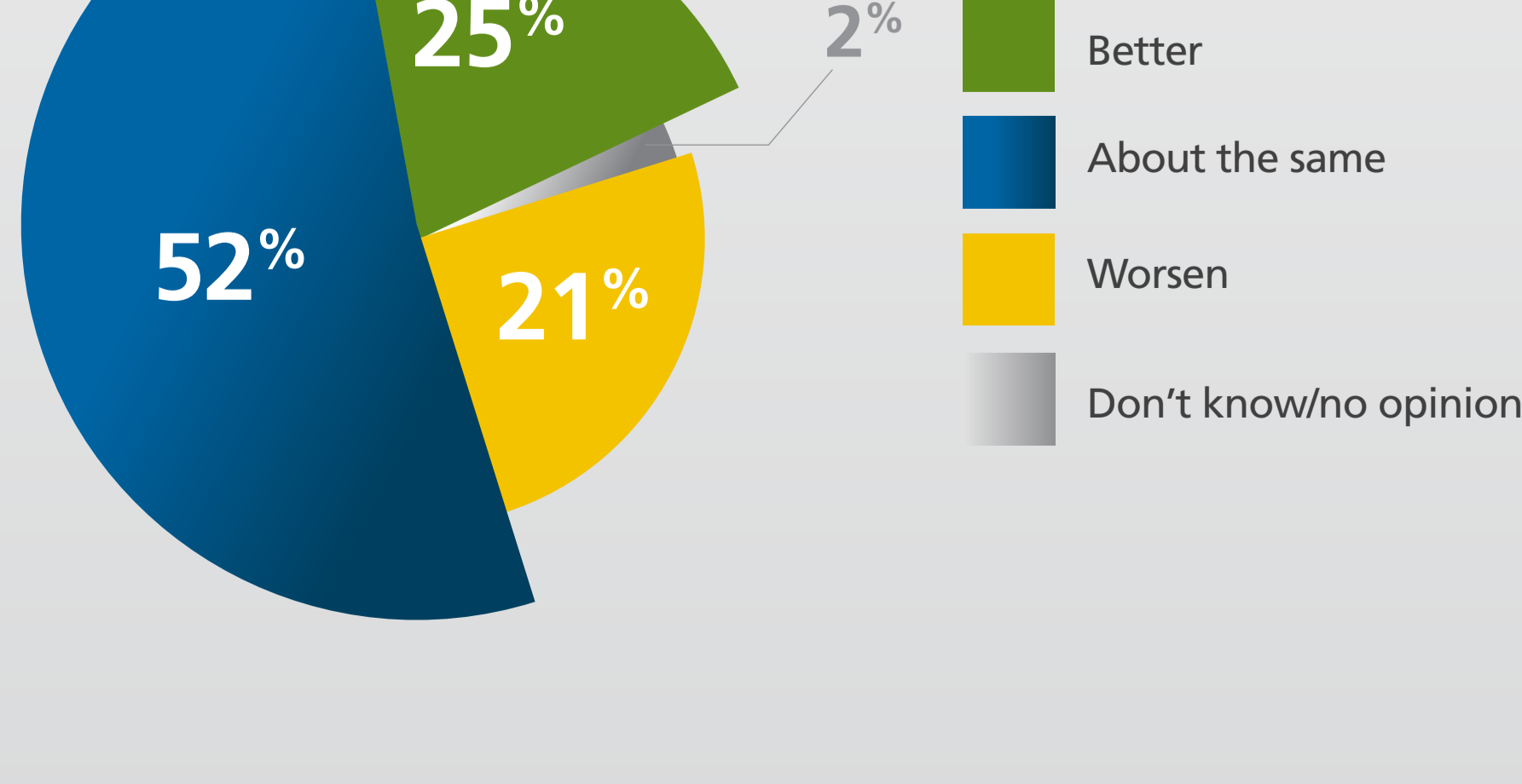


Low expectations for continued economic growth.

64% of CEOs reported recent improvements in economic conditions.



Just 25% of CEOs anticipated that the economy would continue to improve during the year ahead; 21% expected economic conditions to worsen.



– Analysis provided by Dr. Richard Curtin, University of Michigan

Source: Q3 2018 Vantage Business CEO Confidence Index survey, n= 1,484