



# THE DRIVE TO DECIDE



# THE START

Finding the right New car includes preparation, inspiration and research.

Buyers turn to digital in several moments of intent – those moments that prepare the deal.

Expertise and good data help marketers to plan the right engagement at the right touchpoints to impact sales.

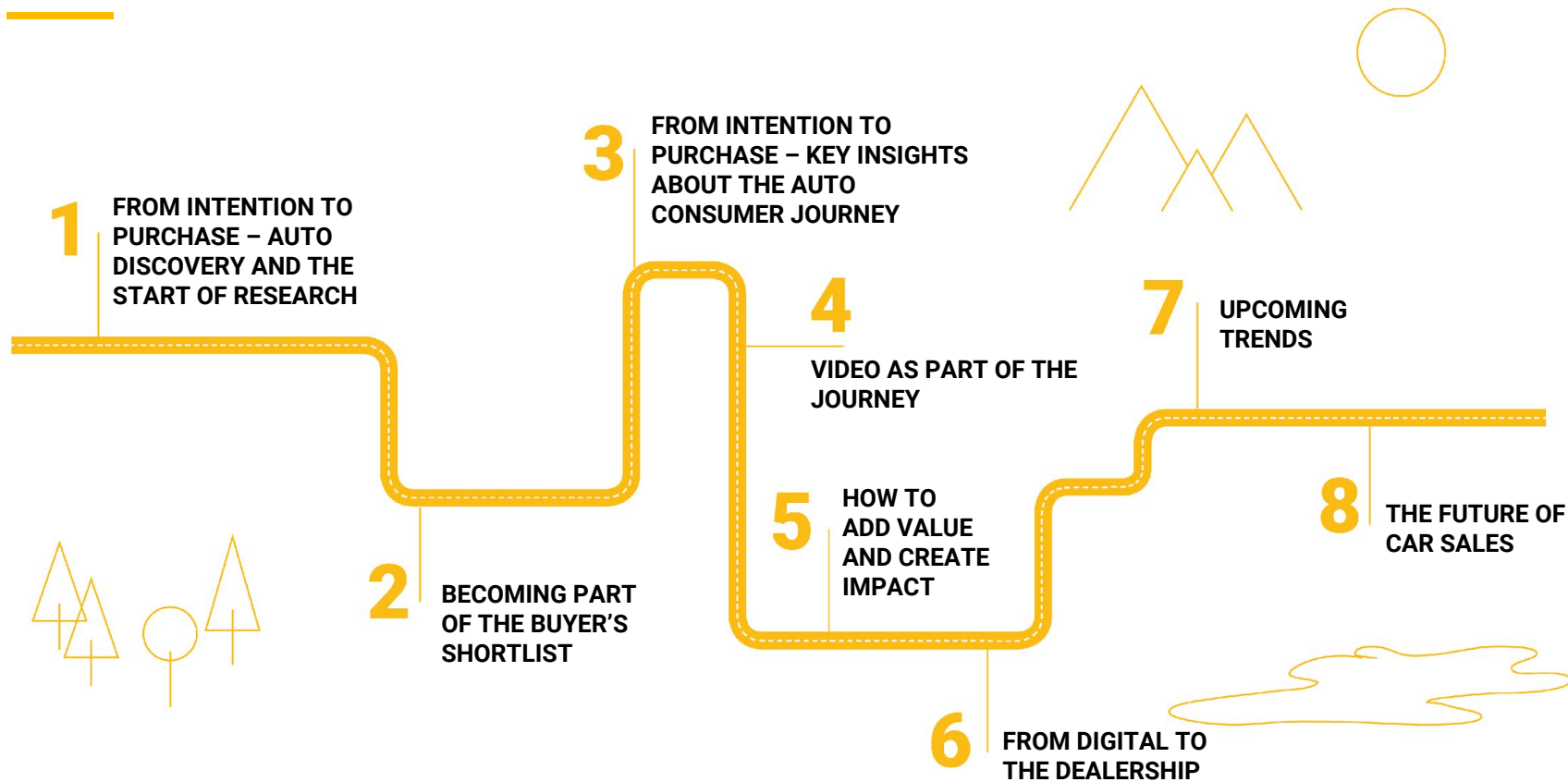


## This is Gearshift 2018

delivering comprehensive insights  
for marketers on the  
New car buyers' purchase journey

Google commissioned Kantar TNS to conduct online surveys with buyers of New cars in 2018 (28 countries, 500 interviews per market)

# FOLLOW THE ROUTE



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## 1 FROM INTENTION TO PURCHASE – THE AUTO DISCOVERY AND START OF RESEARCH

- Online is relevant in very early stages as a discovery channel and is also a 'go-to-channel' for initial research.
- Search and video are initial touchpoints, among others.

## 3 FROM INTENTION TO PURCHASE – KEY INSIGHTS ABOUT THE AUTO CONSUMER JOURNEY

- Online is an indispensable research source, with video and search being main research destinations.
- Google can add incremental reach in that process. Online presence has to be mobile first as many buyers research on their smartphone.

## 4

### VIDEO AS PART OF THE JOURNEY

- Video matters to buyers, as discovery place but also 'buyer's consulting zone' that allows them to explore the car from different perspectives.
- That empowers buyers to take in action in response to videos they have watched.
- YouTube is seen as comprehensive source and buyers appreciate that YouTube offers independent information.
- Successful YouTube ads should highlight relevant features.

## 2 BECOMING PART OF THE BUYER'S SHORTLIST

- A multi-brand consideration set, short decision cycles and a buyer audience that is partly non-loyal and also partly inexperienced pose an opportunity as well as a risk to brands.
- Brands need to become part of the buyer's shortlist early on to influence those who change their mind on that journey.





# KEY TAKEAWAYS

5

## HOW TO ADD VALUE AND CREATE IMPACT

- Digital adds value!
- YouTube and video accompany buyers through moments of intent (from upper to lower funnel stages), advanced video technology allows buyers to even consider buying a car without test driving it.
- Providing the right information in those moments adds value, too. All this ensures that brands and manufacturer can count on the impact of search and video.

6

## FROM DIGITAL TO THE DEALERSHIP

- The purchase is made at the dealer, with few and focused dealer visits and even fewer test drives.
- Buyers inform themselves in advance (often online) before negotiating with the dealer.
- The smartphone remains an important research tool on the lot.

7

## UPCOMING TRENDS

- Buyers become aware of alternative drives, but ultimately buy mostly traditionally.
- A relevant part of those who consider alternative drives finally also buy them.
- In addition to own car, public transport and car-sharing are important mobility options.

8

## THE FUTURE OF CAR SALES

- If buyers had the option, many would buy their new car online.
- Drivers for the online purchase: the option to get a good price, convenience and access (to other vehicles or if no dealer is close by).
- Main barrier: lack of physical product experience.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a dark-colored car, possibly a sedan, with a person standing behind it. A semi-transparent yellow rectangular overlay covers the center of the image. On the left side of this overlay is a yellow location pin icon containing the number '1'. To the right of the pin, the main title is written in white, bold, uppercase letters.

**1**

# **FROM INTENTION TO PURCHASE – AUTO DISCOVERY AND THE START OF RESEARCH**

# LIFE CHANGES TRIGGER NEW CAR PURCHASES



20%

Financial situation  
improved



8%

Got  
married



6%

Children became  
eligible to drive



11%

Growing  
family



7%

Moved to a  
new place

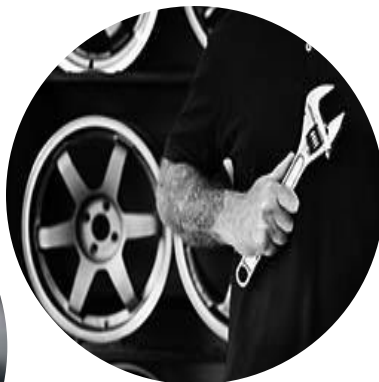


22%

discovered it  
**ONLINE**

26%

discovered it  
**ON TV**

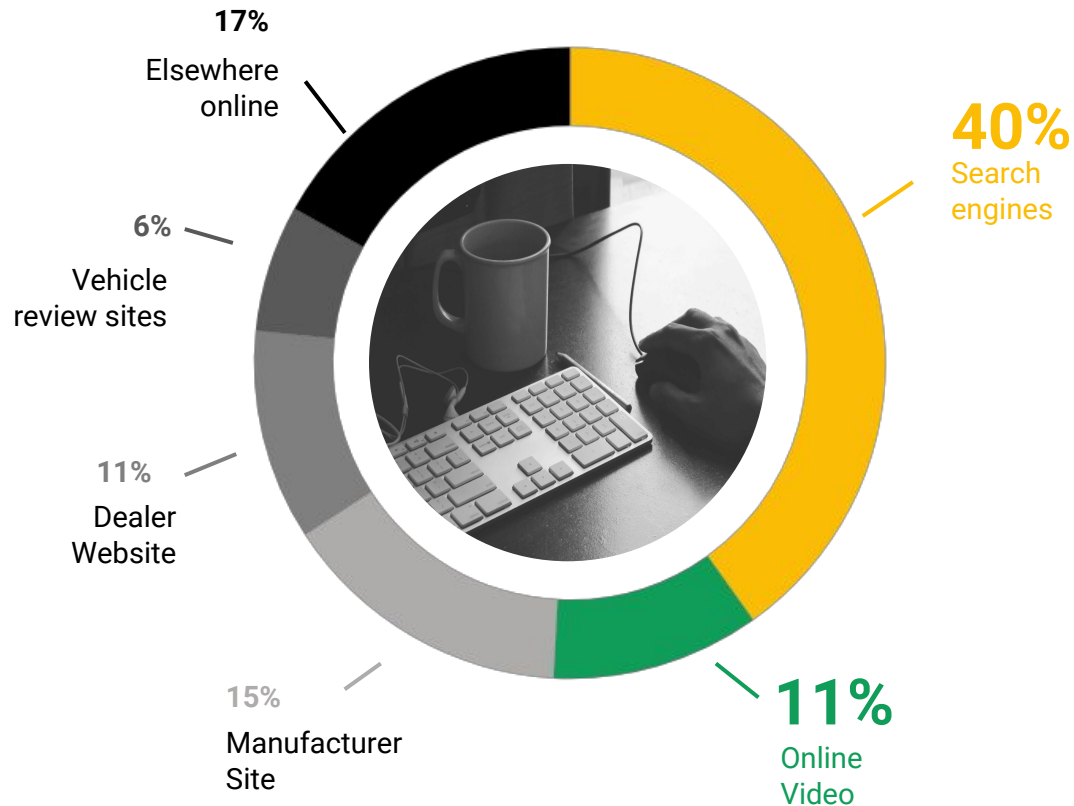


10%

discovered it  
**AT THE DEALER**

**PRODUCT  
DISCOVERY**  
is likely to also  
happen **online**

# MOST BUYERS START THEIR RESEARCH WITH **SEARCH** AND **VIDEO**





**2**

## **BECOMING PART OF THE BUYER'S SHORTLIST**





**NOT ALL NEW CAR  
BUYERS ARE  
EXPERIENCED**

**31%**

**Purchased a  
NEW CAR  
for the  
FIRST TIME**



## AND MANY BUYERS ARE **NOT BRAND LOYAL**


70%

Buy a brand  
which is not  
the same as  
the last  
vehicle

# THERE IS ONLY A SHORT WINDOW TO INTERCEPT BUYERS IN THEIR PURCHASE JOURNEY



 % of buyers who decide within 2 weeks

 % of buyers who decide within 2 months

70% »

of New car buyers  
research all information  
**within 2 months**, from  
start to final purchase

24% »

decide even quicker,  
**within 2 weeks!**



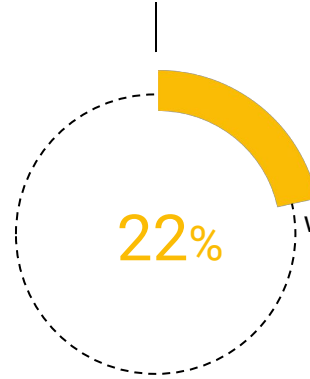
# 3.6

is the average number  
of brands buyers  
typically consider.

Non-loyal and first time buyers  
are likely to change their mind along  
the way ...

... and they have a  
wider short-list

## NON-LOYAL BUYERs

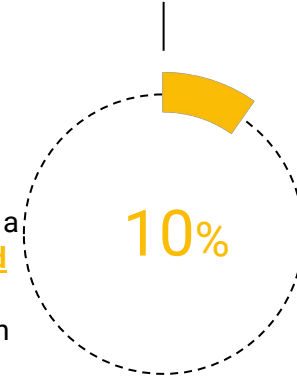


4.0

% of buyers  
who purchased a  
different brand  
than they  
originally had in  
mind

# number of brands  
in consideration set

## FIRST-TIME BUYERs



2.9

Question asked: Q37 - Influence of shopping or research phase on final choice - Which make did you ultimately purchase? //  
Q35 - Considered set of makes - Which makes did you consider, including the one you purchased?  
Base Q37: 1) New car buyers who are non-loyal and who have some or a precise idea about the make, n = 237 2) First time New car purchaser who have some or a precise idea about the make, n = 151;  
Base Q35: 1) New car buyers who are non-loyal, n = 301 2) First time New car purchaser, n = 192  
Source: Auto CB 2018



Some buyers  
will even change  
their minds  
during their journey

16%


began the process  
with one make in  
mind, but bought  
something different





**3**

# **FROM INTENTION TO PURCHASE – KEY INSIGHTS ABOUT THE AUTO CONSUMER JOURNEY**



The majority of  
buyers will be  
exposed to digital  
information

**93% of buyers research online**

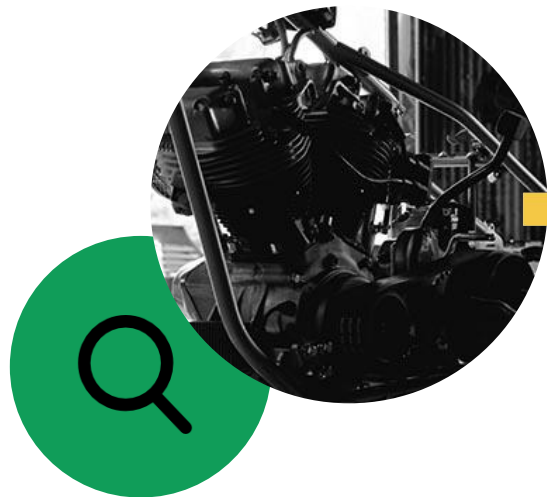
Question asked: Q9 - Which of these online sources informed or influenced your recent vehicle purchase? // Q10 - Which of these websites or apps did you use to inform your most recent vehicle purchase? // Q10a - Which of these search engines did you use to look for information during your research? // Q11 - On which of these websites or apps did you watch online videos during your most recent vehicle purchase?  
Base: New car buyers, n = 502  
Source: Auto CB 2018

› 66%

Smartphone Research  
is an essential touchpoint

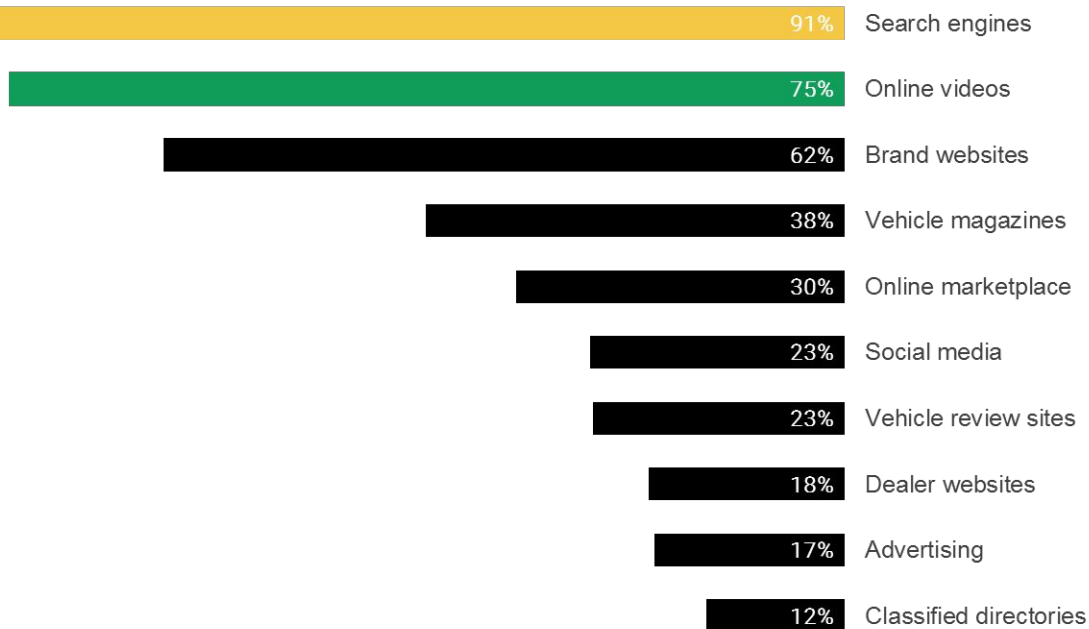


**Smartphone  
research  
influences  
purchase  
decisions**



# SEARCH AND VIDEO ARE LEADING ONLINE RESEARCH DESTINATIONS

% of online touch points used at any time until the final decision by all buyers\*



\* As all touchpoint lists have been changed significantly, a YoY comparison 2017 vs. 2018 is not recommended

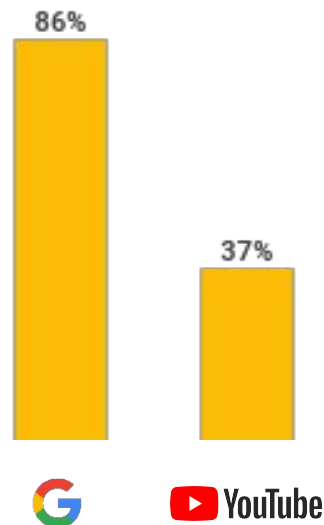
Question asked: Q9 - Used online information sources - Which of these online sources informed or influenced your recent purchase at any stage (from initial research to final decision)? //

Question asked: Q10 - Search on dedicated websites - Which of these websites or apps did you use to inform your most recent vehicle purchase?

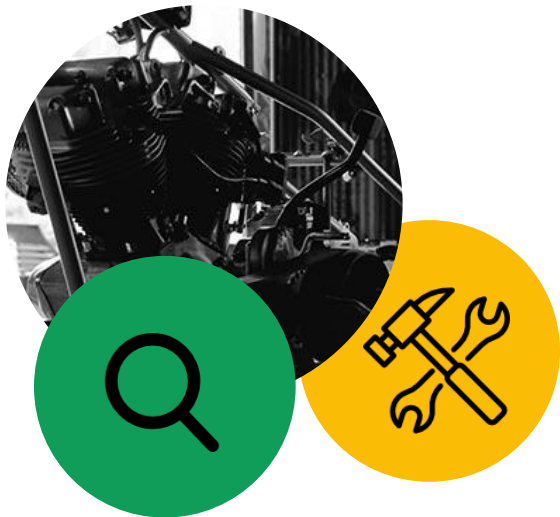
Base: New car buyers, n = 502

Source: Auto CB 2018

# GOOGLE AND YOUTUBE AMONG MOST RELEVANT TOUCHPOINTS

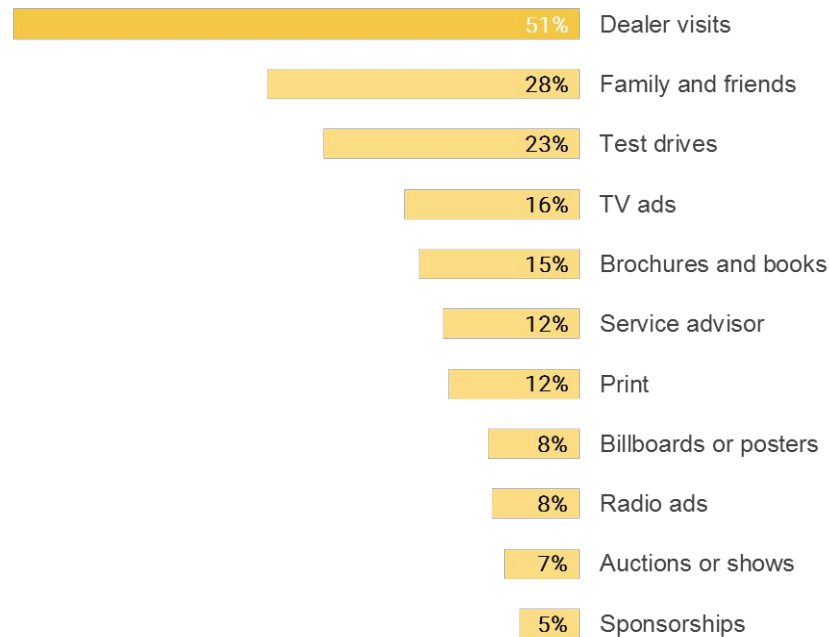






## DEALER VISITS ARE KEY OFFLINE TOUCH POINTS FOR RESEARCH

% of offline touch points used at any time until the final decision by all buyers



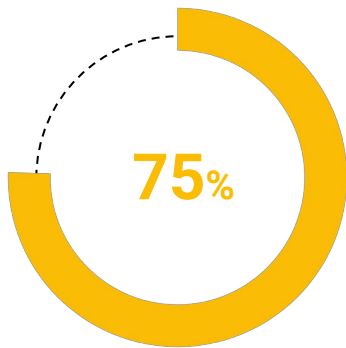




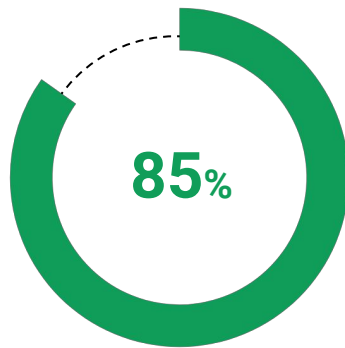
**4**

# **VIDEO AS PART OF THE JOURNEY**

# BUYERS - ESPECIALLY **FIRST TIME BUYERS** - WATCH ONLINE VIDEOS TO RESEARCH



Online Video usage<sub>1</sub>



Online Video usage of first time buyers<sub>2</sub>

\* As all touchpoint lists have been changed significantly, a YoY comparison 2017 vs. 2018 is not recommended

Question asked: Q9 - Used online information sources - Which of these online sources informed or influenced your recent purchase at any stage (from initial research to final decision)? // Q10 - Search on dedicated websites - Which of these websites or apps did you use to inform your most recent vehicle purchase? // Q11 - Online video usage - On which of these websites or apps - if any - did you watch online videos during your most recent vehicle purchase?

Base:1) New car buyers, n = 502; 2) New car buyers who purchased a New car vehicle for the first time n=192  
Source: Auto CB 2018



# ONLINE VIDEOS LET BUYERS EXPERIENCE CARS FROM DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE ANGLES

Shown is the % of buyers who watched these types of videos

## Car Design

**36%**

Feature highlight videos

**32%**

360 degree videos

**35%**

Vehicle walk-arounds (interior and exterior)



## Reviews and Ads

**31%**

Consumer review or testimonials

**26%**

3<sup>rd</sup> party reviews / test drives / comparisons

**12%**

Ads



## Car in Action

**17%**

Vehicle performance videos

**11%**

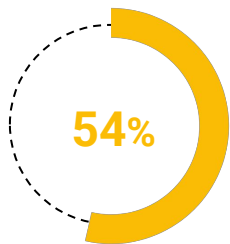
Augmented / virtual reality content

**19%**

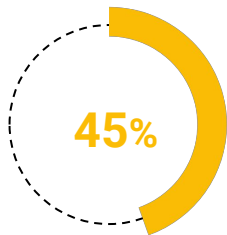
Vehicle safety tests



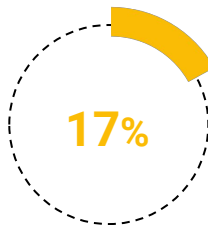
# PROFESSIONAL VIDEO CONTENT IS MOST RELEVANT TO THE CAR BUYER



Watched videos  
professionally produced  
by **vehicle manufacturer**



Watched videos  
professionally produced  
by **independent 3rd party**



Watched **amateur**  
videos produced  
by **private person**



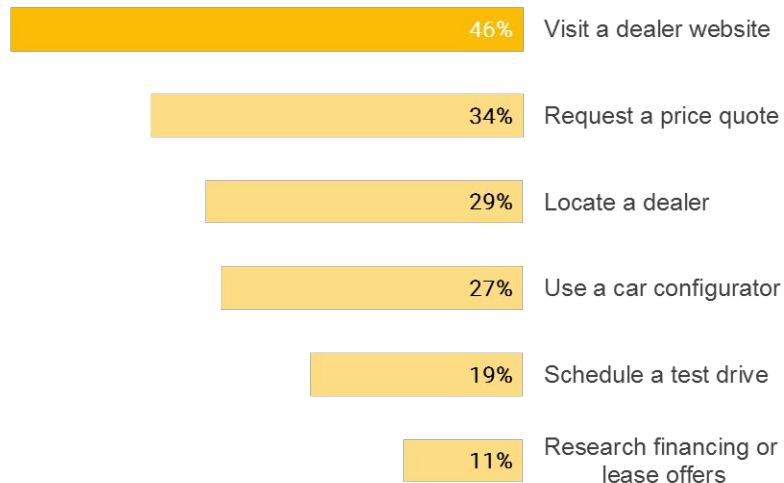
# ONLINE VIDEO LEADS BUYERS TO TAKE ACTION

86%

Of those **who watched an online video** actually **did at least one follow-up action** triggered by what was shown in the video



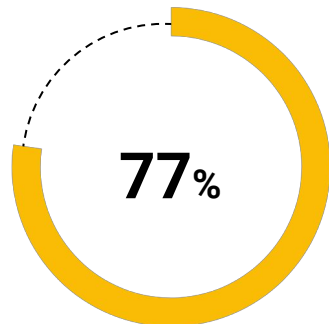
Shown is the type of follow-up action among those who have done at least one follow-up action



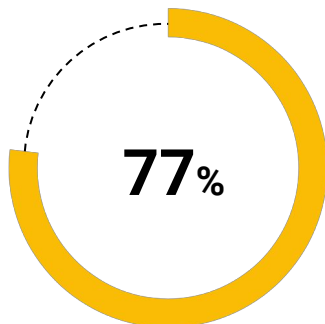
# BUYERS APPRECIATE YOUTUBE AS A RICH SOURCE OF INDEPENDENT INFORMATION



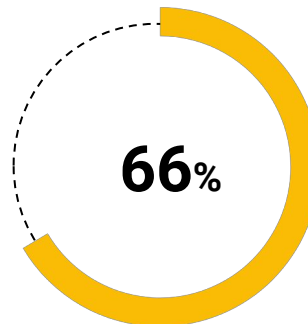
Share of buyers who watched YouTube agree to the statements:



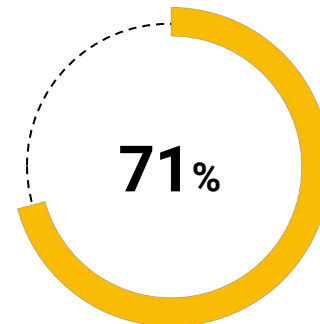
On YT I can find answers to the questions I have about vehicles



On YT I can find independent and credible videos about vehicles



YT is the primary source I rely on to view videos about cars



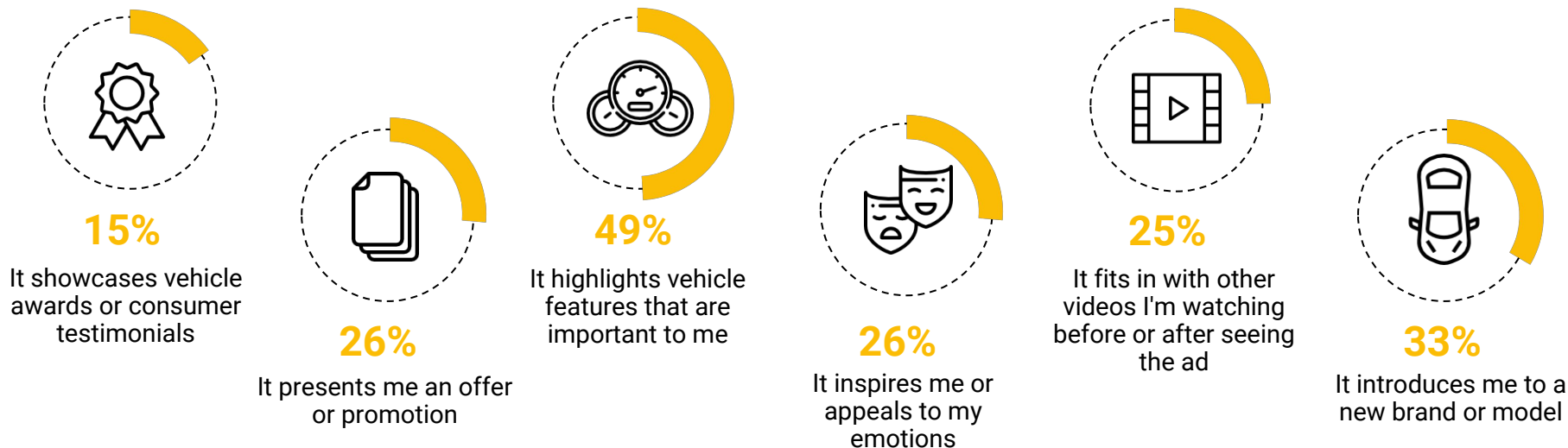
I like when dealers in my area post videos to YT

Question asked: NQ23.2 - YouTube contribution to decision making process - How much would you agree to the following statements about YouTube?  
Top 1 = Strongly agree Top 2 = Agree  
Base: New car buyers who watched YouTube, n = 231  
Source: Auto CB 2018



# SUCCESSFUL YOUTUBE ADS HIGHLIGHT CAR FEATURES OR INTRODUCE A NEW MODEL TO BUYERS

What makes an ad for a vehicle on YouTube relevant to you?



An aerial photograph of a winding road through a dense forest. A semi-transparent yellow rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image. Inside this rectangle, on the left, is a yellow location pin icon with the number '5' inside it. To the right of the pin, the text 'HOW TO ADD VALUE AND CREATE IMPACT' is written in large, bold, white capital letters.

**5**

# HOW TO ADD VALUE AND CREATE IMPACT

# DIGITAL TOOLS ENHANCE THE CONSUMER JOURNEY AND ARE VALUABLE IN DECISION MAKING



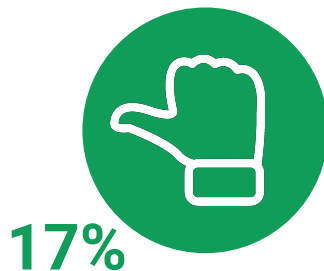
65%

use a  
car configurator

# ADVANCED VIDEO TECHNOLOGY LIKE 360° VIDEO COULD FOR MANY EVEN REPLACE A TEST DRIVE



Would definitely / probably  
convince me to buy  
without test drive



Probably not convince me  
to buy without test drive

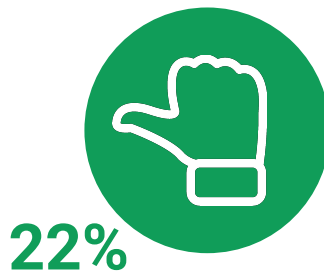


Video could never  
replace a test drive

# ADVANCED VIDEO TECHNOLOGY LIKE VR VIDEO COULD FOR MANY EVEN REPLACE A TEST DRIVE



Would definitely / probably  
convince me to buy  
without test drive



Probably not convince me  
to buy without test drive



Video could never  
replace a test drive

# MOMENTS OF INTENT

## KNOW THE KEY MOMENTS TO ENHANCE VALUE AND IMPACT



Discover  
relevant  
vehicles



Learn more  
about features



Decide If  
Affordable



Decide where  
to buy



Find the  
best deal

### UPPER FUNNEL

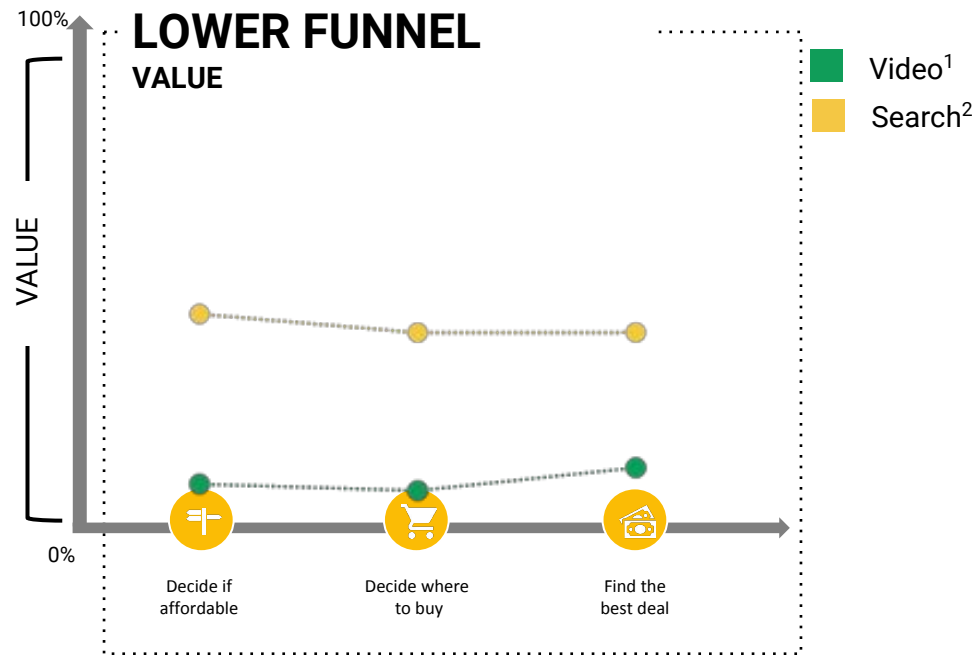
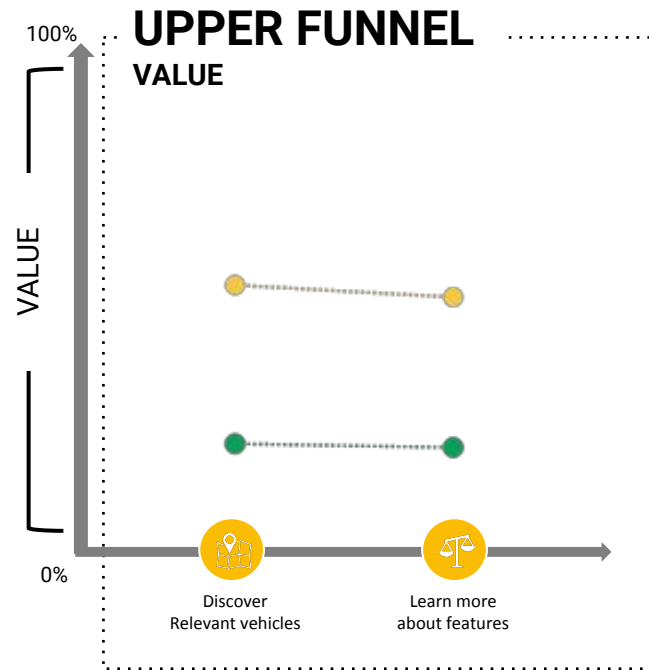
Some moments of intent might be linked to the upper funnel stages, where the decisions aren't fixed. Inspiration and widely spread information is needed

### LOWER FUNNEL

Some moments of intent are clearly linked to lower funnel stages, when at least part of the decision is being made



# SEARCH IN PARTICULAR, BUT ALSO VIDEO ADD VALUE IN ALL MOMENTS



Definition of value: % of buyers who are online video users / search engine users and who rate search or online video as helpful source of information in each moment of intent

Question asked: Q12.1.A-E – Value of online touchpoint groups - Please assess now which online information sources were helpful for the following steps in your most recent vehicle purchase journey:  
Base: 1) New car buyers, who used online video, n = 399; 2) New car buyers, who used a search engine, n = 465  
Source: Auto CB 2018

# GIVING THE RIGHT INFORMATION IN THE RIGHT MOMENTS ADDS VALUE FOR BUYERS

## Information needs in moments of vehicle discovery



**41%** Vehicle reviews or ratings

**36%** Vehicle size, type or segment

**33%** Perception of safety and durability

**33%** Brand or reputation of vehicle

**31%** Handling and driving experience

## Information needs in moments of learning about features



**48%** Quality, reliability

**37%** Space (trunk, interior space, etc.)

**36%** Exterior design and styling

**35%** Interior design and styling

**31%** Connectivity

# GIVING THE RIGHT INFORMATION IN THE RIGHT MOMENTS ADDS VALUE FOR BUYERS

Information needs to  
decide if affordable



**44%** Fuel efficiency

**35%** Purchase costs (retail price, taxes, etc.)

**33%** Warranty

**17%** Eco-friendly features

**17%** Financing rates or options

Information needs to  
decide where to buy



**47%** Prices

**33%** Business hours

**20%** Location/directions to the dealership

**19%** Contact information

**14%** Reviews or recommendations

Information needs to  
Find the best deal



**55%** Promotional offers, deals etc

**28%** Vehicle sticker price

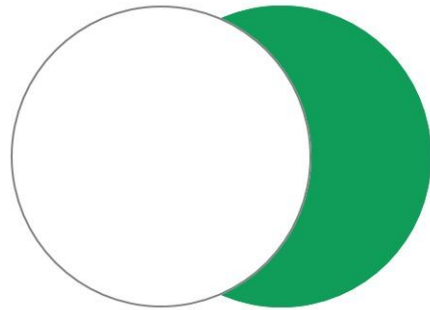
**12%** Projected resale value

# SEARCH, VIDEO AND MANUFACTURER WEBSITES ARE IMPACTFUL TOUCH POINTS

The extent to which a touchpoint can positively impact business results correlates with usage and value: the higher the reach and the higher the value of a touchpoint the more impactful will it be. Search and also video are used and valued touch point and hence, impactful tools for brands and manufacturers.

MANUFACTURER  
SITES

VIDEO

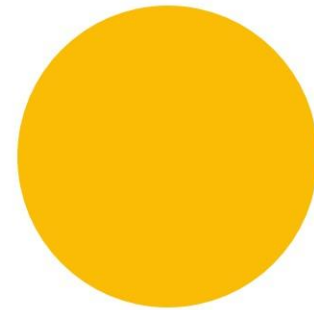


➤ ➤  
LOW IMPACT



HIGH IMPACT

SEARCH



A black and white photograph of a woman driving a car, viewed from the passenger side. The car is on a road with a forested hillside in the background. A large yellow rectangular overlay is positioned in the center-right of the image. Inside this overlay, on the left, is an orange location pin icon with the number '6' inside it. To the right of the pin, the text 'FROM DIGITAL TO THE DEALERSHIP' is written in large, bold, white capital letters.

6

# FROM DIGITAL TO THE DEALERSHIP

# PURCHASES STILL HAPPEN AT THE DEALERSHIP



98%  
Purchase Offline



2%  
Purchase Online



# BUT MANY GO ONLINE TO FIND THEIR DEALERS

**47%**  
researched online to  
find their dealer

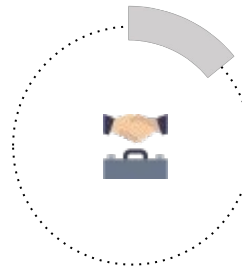


Share of buyers who found their dealer **online**,  
found it on...



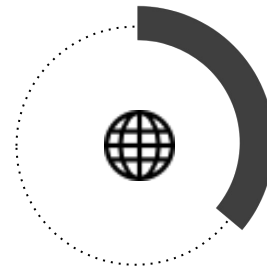
**18%**

found dealer via  
**search engine**



**14%**

found dealer via  
**online advertising**



**36%**

found dealer via  
**website of make**

# IT DOES NOT TAKE MANY DEALER VISITS OR TEST DRIVES TO DECIDE



2.6

IS THE AVERAGE  
NUMBER OF  
DEALER VISITS

1.2

IS THE AVERAGE  
NUMBER OF  
TEST DRIVES

# TODAY MANY BUYERS EVEN DECIDE AFTER JUST ONE TEST DRIVE

Shown is the share of buyers who  
decided after only one test drive

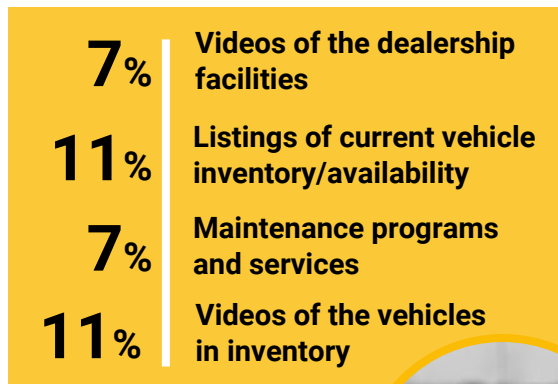


35%



# RESEARCH HELPS TO GET FAMILIAR WITH THE DEALERSHIP BEFORE ACTUALLY VISITING IT

Shown is the % of buyers who research for the below shown details before visiting a dealership



Buyers use their  
smartphone for  
research –  
even when at the  
dealership



55%

of New car buyers  
research on their  
smartphone  
while on the lot



**7**

# UPCOMING TRENDS



# MANY CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE DRIVES BUT MOST BUY TRADITIONAL IN THE END

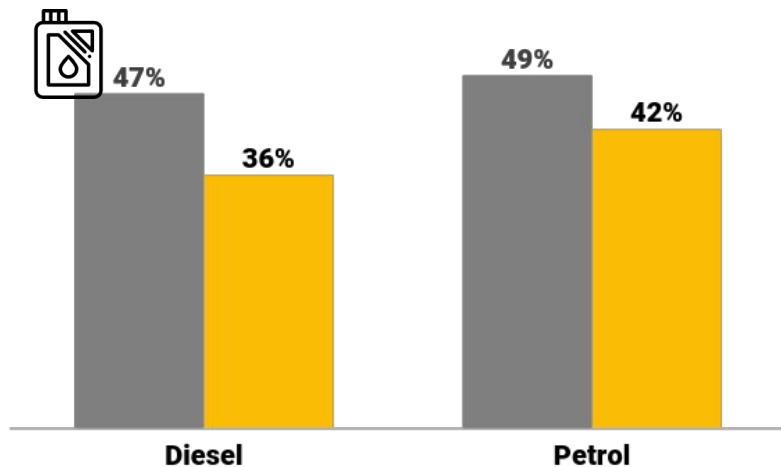


What type of car (fuel)  
did you consider?

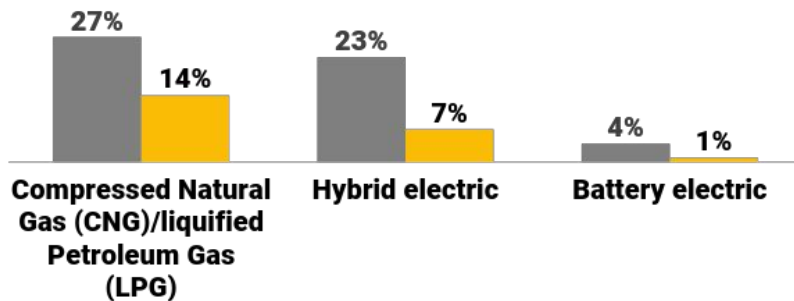


What type of car (fuel)  
did you buy?

## Traditional

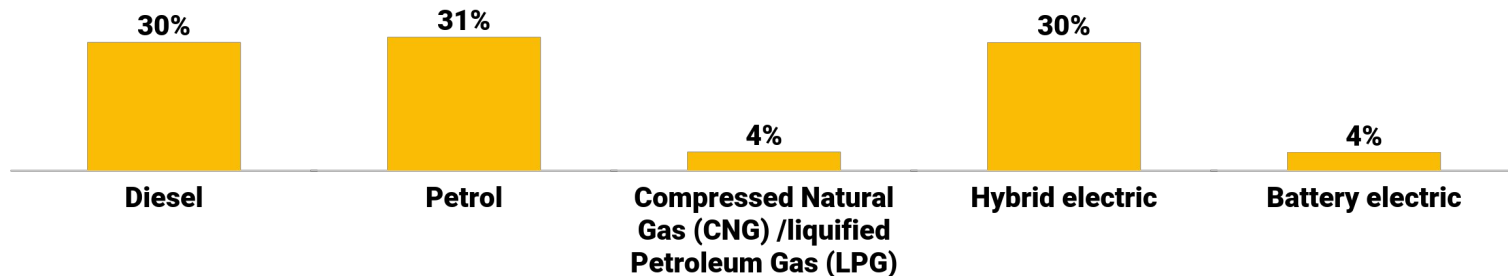


## Alternative



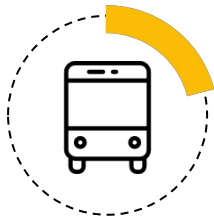
# A RELEVANT SHARE OF THOSE WHO CONSIDER A HYBRID OR BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLE, BUY A HYBRID VEHICLE

Share of buyers who considered a hybrid or battery electric vehicle, **bought...**



# PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND RIDING A BIKE OR SCOOTER ARE MOST RELEVANT FOR MOBILITY NEXT TO DRIVING OWN CAR

Shown is the % usage in an ordinary week



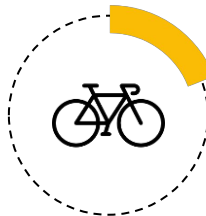
21%

Public  
transport



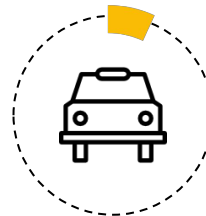
10%

Car sharing  
service



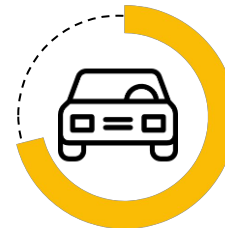
19%

Riding a bike  
or a scooter



7%

Taxi, cab or similar  
driver service



71%

Drive my  
own car



# THE FUTURE OF CAR SALES

# CAR PURCHASE MAY SHIFT TO ONLINE IN THE FUTURE

58%

Of buyers would  
consider to buy online if  
given the option



# CONVENIENCE, PRICES AND EASY ACCESS CAN DRIVE ONLINE PURCHASE INTENT

## CONVENIENCE

ONLINE PURCHASE DRIVERS



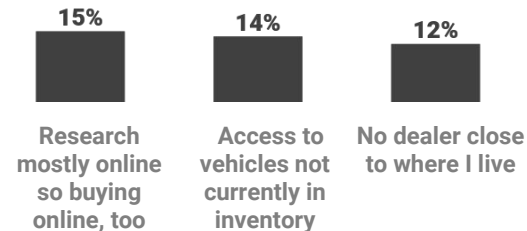
## PRICE

ONLINE PURCHASE DRIVERS



## ACCESS

ONLINE PURCHASE DRIVERS

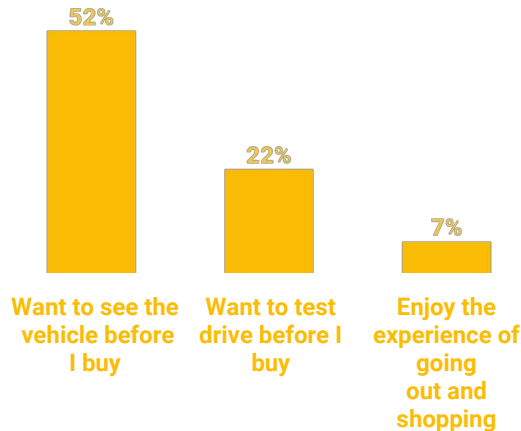




# LACK OF PHYSICAL PRODUCT EXPERIENCE AMONG MAJOR BARRIERS FOR ONLINE PURCHASE

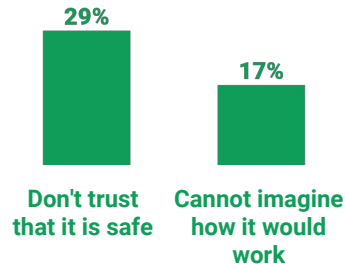
## PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE

ONLINE PURCHASE BARRIER



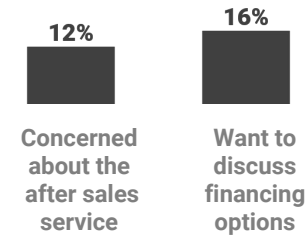
## TRUST

ONLINE PURCHASE BARRIER



## ASSURANCE

ONLINE PURCHASE BARRIER





# THANK YOU

# Methodology

## **Target Population**

Online 18 years and older who have bought a new or used vehicle within the last 6 or 12 months (see next slides specifics per market). No trending possible in countries where look back-window was shortened to 6 months.

## **Sampling**

For Online: Online sampling using the KANTAR online access panels per market  
Quotas to reflect online 18+ were applied on age, gender, device usage and region.

## **Survey administration**

Surveys were conducted through online panels or F2F.  
Questionnaires were administered in local language(s) for all countries surveyed.  
Questionnaire length was 15 minutes, questionnaire followed mobile-friendly design guidelines

## **Weighting**

The reported data was weighted against the Connected Consumer Survey.

## **Timing**

Surveys were administered June – August 2018

## **Small base**

Small bases are tagged in the foot line and should be used carefully to showcase the data

## **Net counts**

Some data points are defined by net counts – in this case this is stated per chart. A net count is defined as 'at least one answer out of a set of answers with multi-select'

# Specifics per market

Country	Method	Target groups	Look back window	Sample size (Minimum per category)
USA	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
UK	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
Australia	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
New Zealand	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Czech Republic	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Spain	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
South Africa	F2F	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Germany	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
France	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
Mexico	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)

# Specifics per market

Country	Method	Target groups	Look back window	Sample size (Minimum per category)
Argentina	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Portugal	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Brazil	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
Colombia	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Canada	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
Italy	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
China	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Sweden	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Japan	Online	New car buyers, used car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500 (new car buyers), N=300 (used car buyer)
Korea	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500

# Specifics per market

Country	Method	Target groups	Look back window	Sample size (Minimum per category)
Russia	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Thailand	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
KSA	F2F	New car buyers	Within past 12 months	N=500
Kuwait	F2F	New car buyers	Within past 12 months	N=500
UAE	F2F	New car buyers	Within past 12 months	N=500
Indonesia	F2F	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
Turkey	Online	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500
India	F2F	New car buyers	Within past 6 months	N=500