

Digital  
Marketing  
Transformation

# Estudio Gearshift 2020



November 2020



# Your Google team



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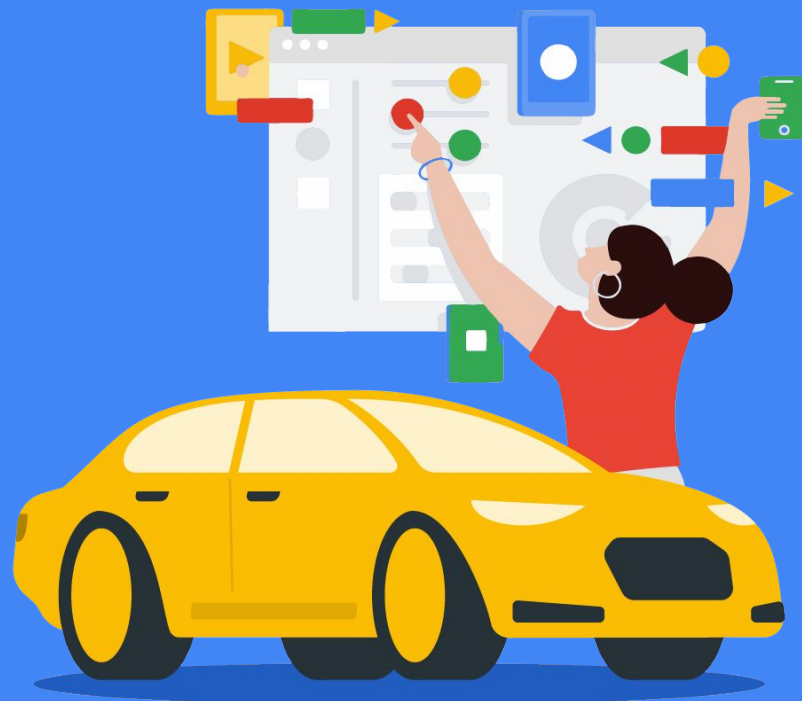
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- Estudio Gearshift 2020
  - Introduction & Learnings from Covid-19
  - Audiences
  - Journey design: create impact, not noise
  - The modern research journey
  - Dealerships and the rise of online purchase options

# Gearshift 2020

New car buyers



## Methodology

### Sampling and Target KANTAR | Google

- Onliners 18 years and older who have bought a new vehicle within the last 6 months
- Online sampling using the KANTAR online access panels per market (Spain)
- Surveys were administered April – July 2020

### Google Search trends and Audience explorer

- Information inferred from Google observed user activity (non declared)
  - Signals from Search, GDN and YouTube
  - Last 30 days of activity (september 2020)



# Introduction & Learnings from Covid 19



FA Cup final

altitude sickne

蔡威澤

160.000.000

Búsquedas en España de la industria de  
Auto\* en 2020

Attack on Titan  
Season 2

백원우

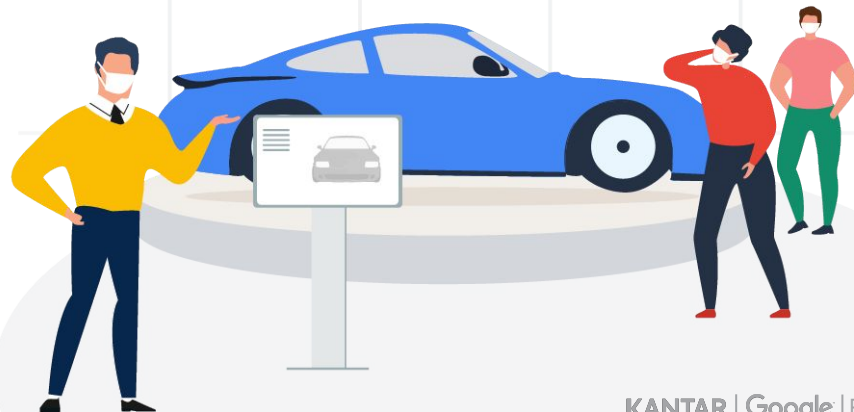
ฟุตบอลไทยวันนี้

# COVID-19 is causing global disruption to people's lives

“From a business point of view, COVID-19 is a disruption, and disruptions work by clearing the way for underlying trends to find the mainstream and become dominant.”

**J. Walker Smith**

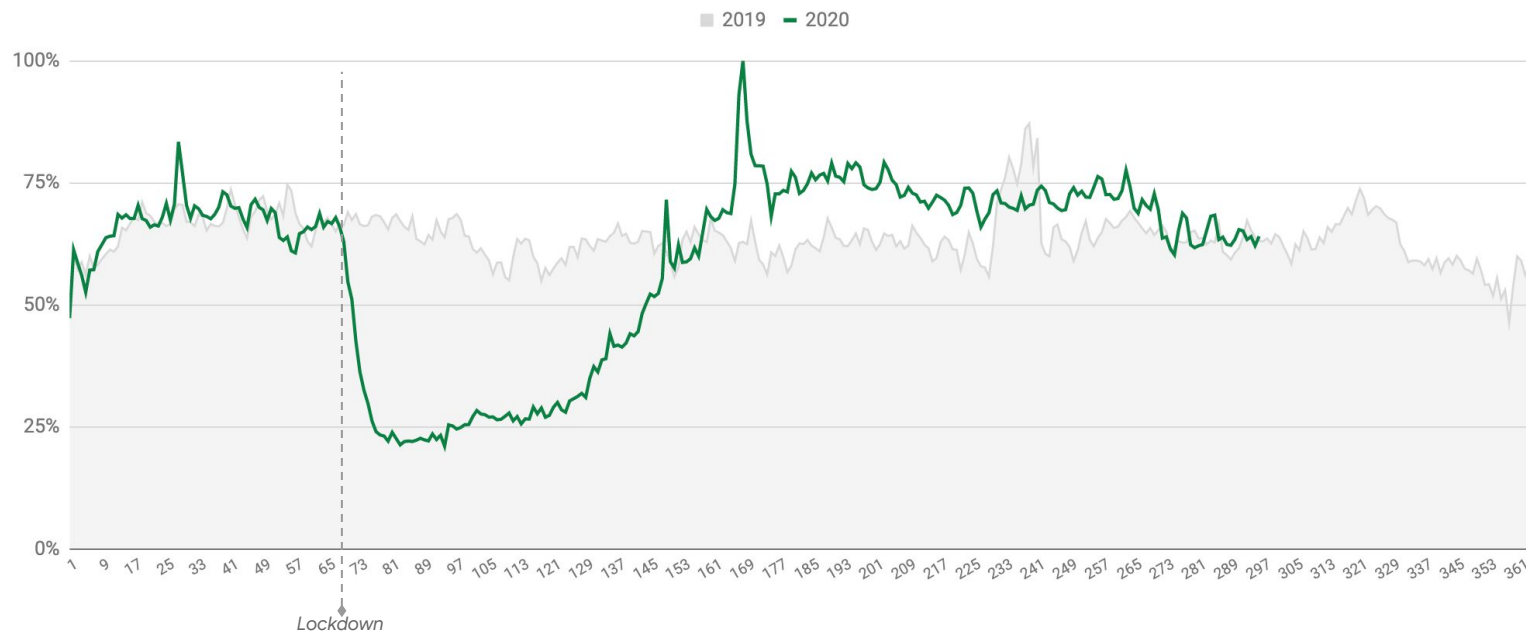
*Chief Knowledge Officer, Kantar*





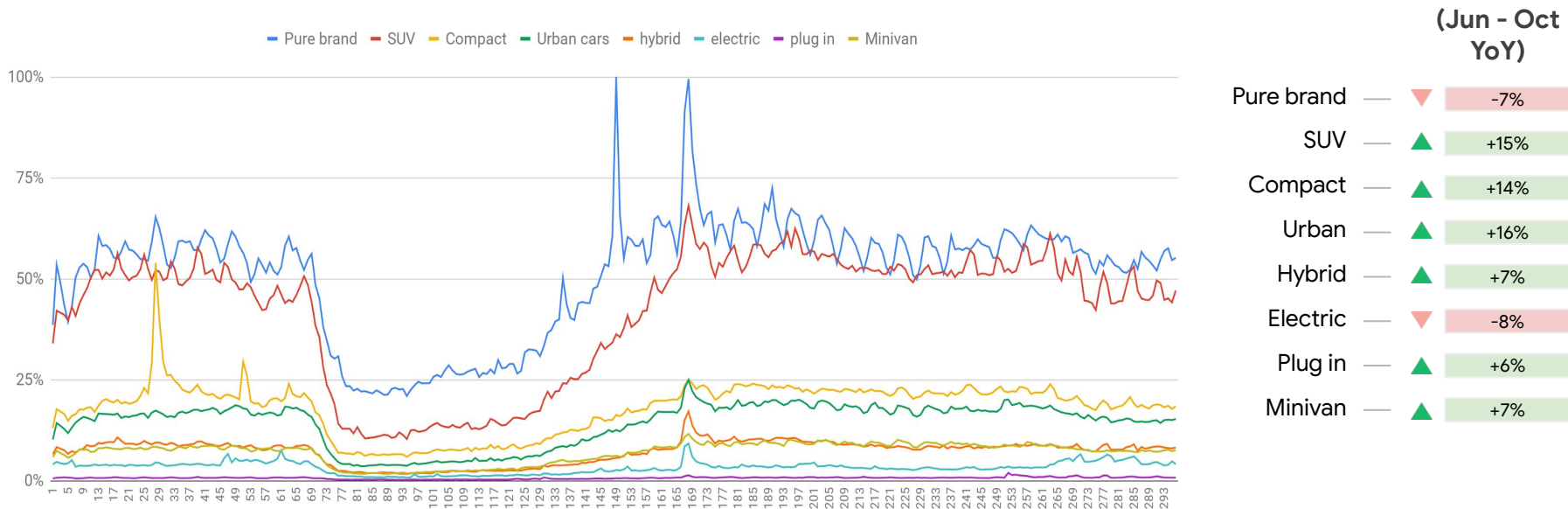
After search demand decrease during lockdown, Auto queries in Spain have increased more than 10% since June

### Auto industry query volume evolution (Jan 2020 - present)

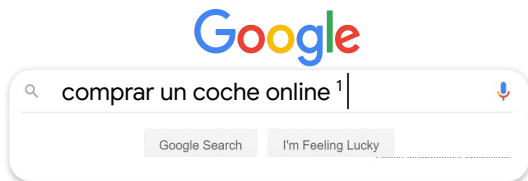


# Regarding segments, almost all have followed the same pattern with SUVs and Urban cars leading in terms of growth

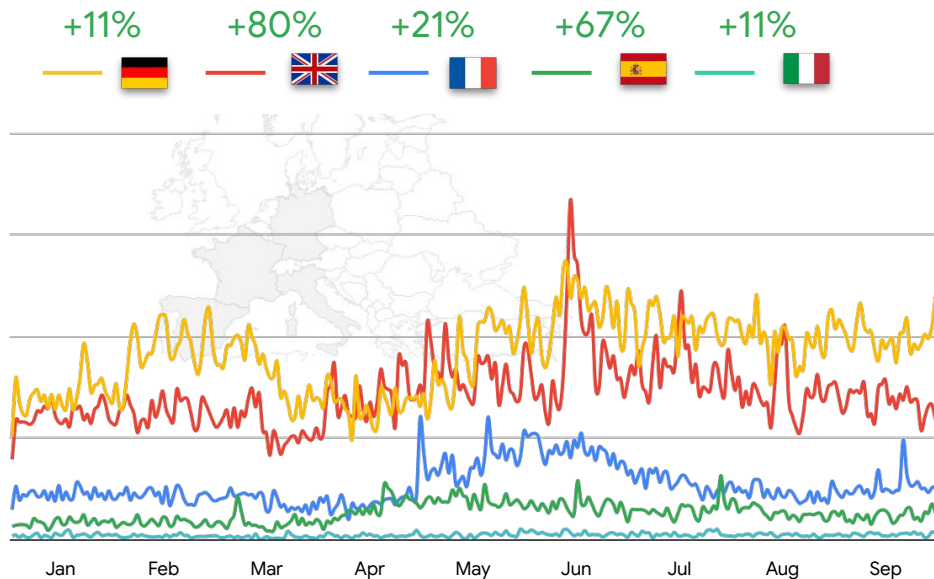
Auto industry query volume evolution by segment (Jan 2020 - present)



# Since the pandemic outbreak, search interest for buying a car online has increased by 67% in Spain



Despite the pandemic outbreak, queries **for buying a car online** have sustained momentum significantly above last year in Spain (+67%). All markets showed strong growth since last year with the largest increases in query volume starting in April 2020



# Willingness to order online increased slightly during the pandemic...

Impact of COVID-19 willingness to order online

% of vehicle buyers who would definitely consider buying next car online

27%

pre COVID-19

if the car will be delivered to  
your home address

27%

during COVID-19

33%

pre COVID-19

the car will be delivered to a nearby  
dealership of your choice

36%

during COVID-19



# ...However, COVID-19 has not accelerated online sales yet

Impact of COVID-19 on online vehicles sales

2%

pre COVID-19

2%

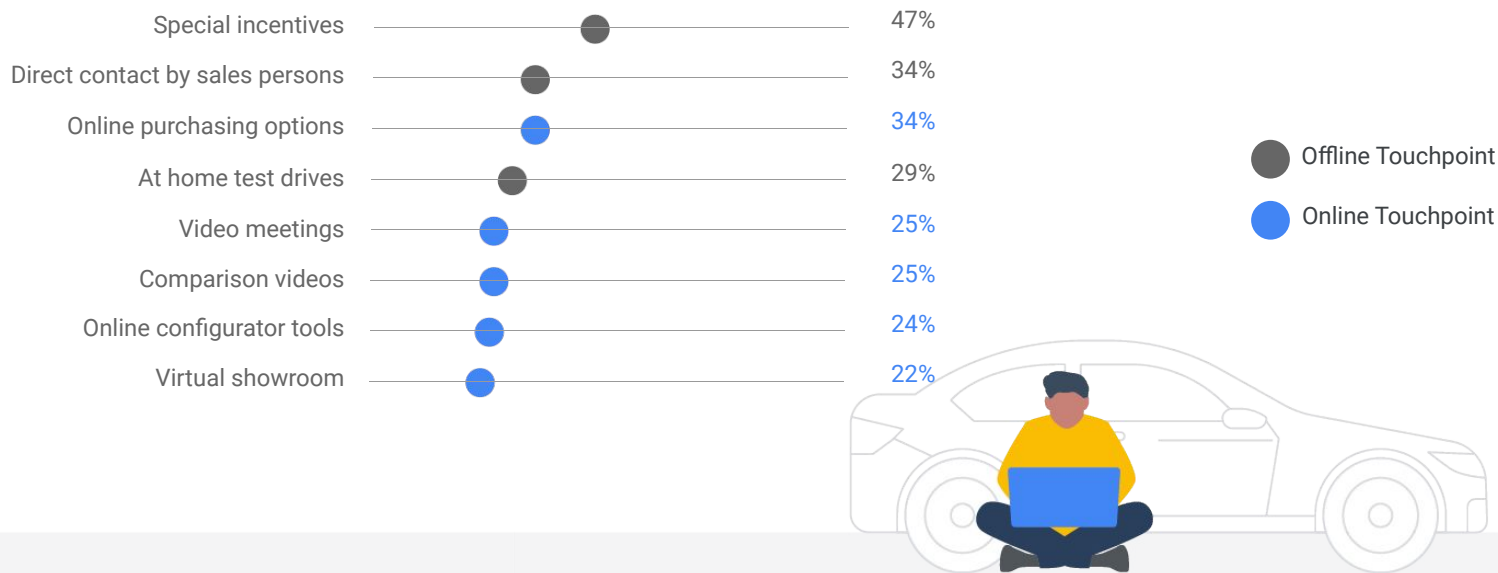
during COVID-19

% who purchased recent vehicle online



# Primarily, buyers expect incentives, but the purchase experience will also become more digital

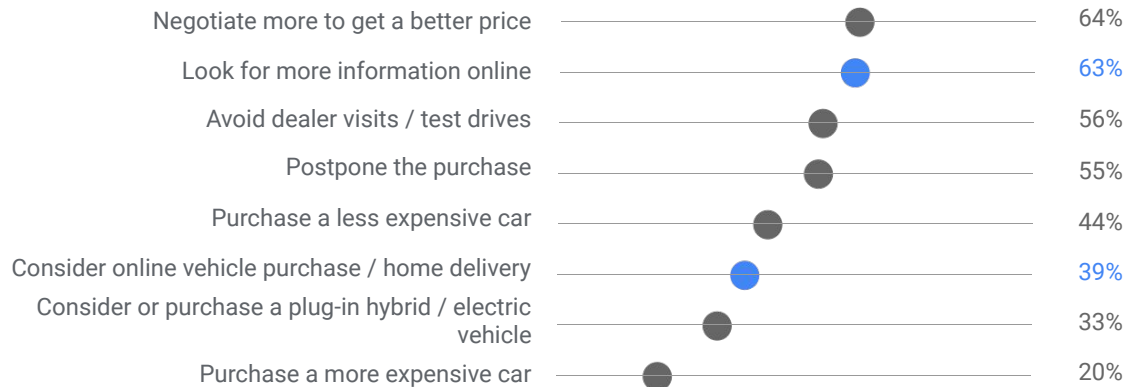
Customer expectations during COVID-19 crisis



# Buyers set further price pressure, look for more information online – and postpone the purchase

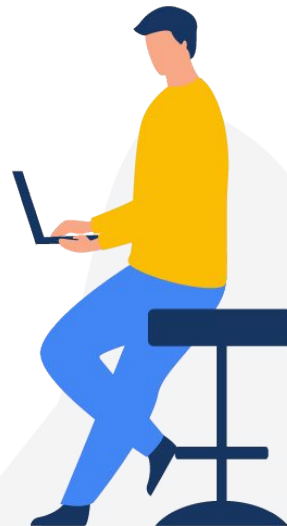
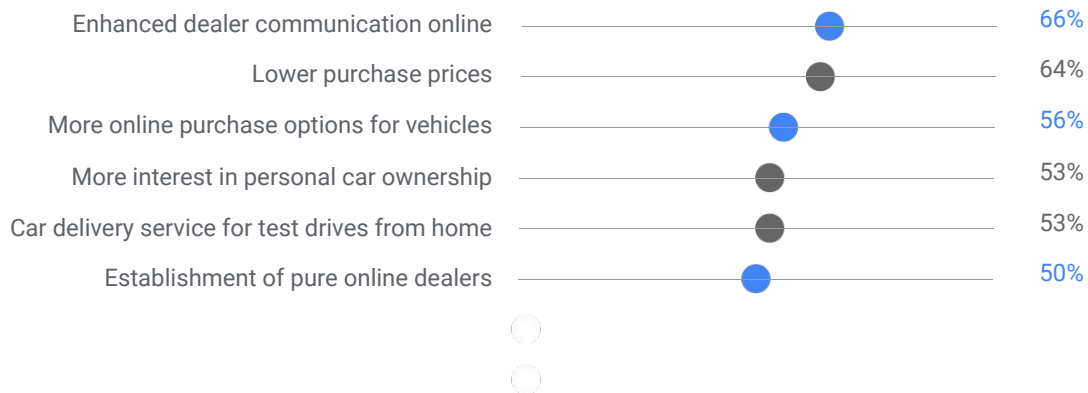
Behavioral impact of COVID-19 on car purchasers

## What would buyers do differently



# Buyers expect a more digital purchase process and lower purchase prices

How buyers think that COVID-19 will reshape car sales



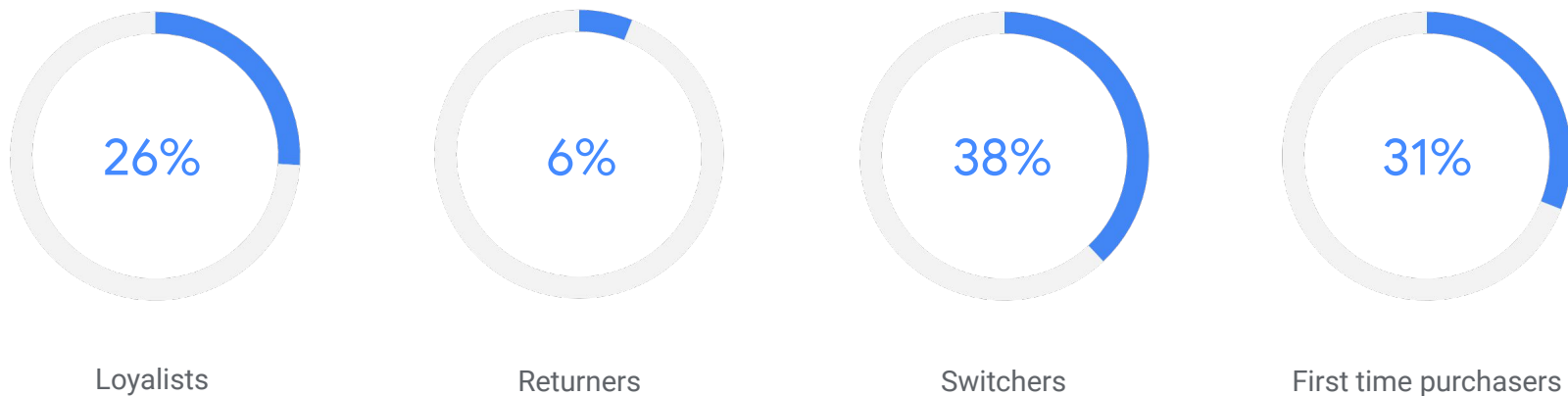


# Audiences



# The overall buyer profile shows high openness for new brands and more than 30% are first time buyers

New vehicle buyers - level of brand loyalty



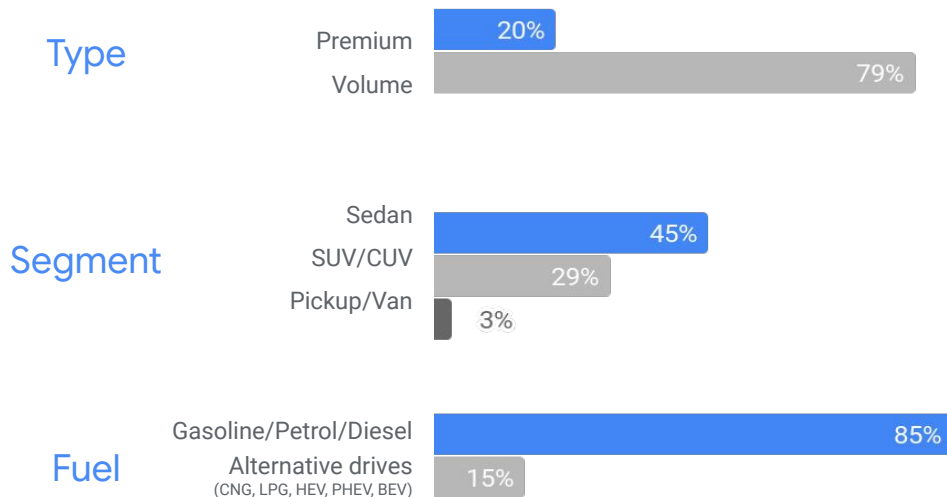
Source: Google Gearshift 2020

Base: All new car purchasers n = 750 // Q5: Was this the first time you purchased a new vehicle / used or certified pre-owned vehicle? // Q6: Which make did you purchase? // Q7: And which model did you purchase?

Base: All new car purchasers who have purchase a vehicle in the past n = 521 // Q9: Have you purchased this make of vehicle in the past?

# Volume and combustion engines dominate while 15% have bought an alternative drive (CNG, LPG, HEV, PHEV, BEV)

New vehicle buyer - purchases



Source: Google Gearshift 2020

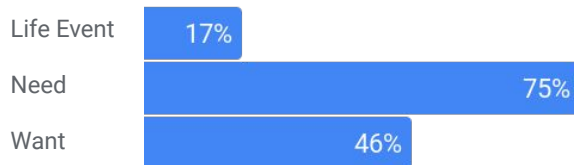
Base: All new car purchasers n = 750 // Q5: Was this the first time you purchased a new vehicle / used or certified pre-owned vehicle? // Q8: What type of car (fuel) did you buy? // Q6: Which make did you purchase? // Q7: And which model did you purchase?

Base: All new car purchasers who have purchase a vehicle in the past n = 521 // Q9: Have you purchased this make of vehicle in the past?

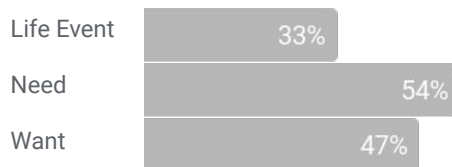
# Life events are a relevant trigger for 1<sup>st</sup> time purchases; while experienced buyers are more triggered by need and wish

## Trigger to buy a new vehicle

### Experienced buyers



### First Time purchasers



Life Event: Marriage or moved in with partner // Growing family // Children became eligible to drive // New job / promotion // Graduation from college or professional training // Relocation // Retirement  
Need: Leasing contract ran out // Need to replace old car // Need for second or additional car  
Want: Wish for new vehicle // Wish for reward / dream car // Good price / offer / incentive // Noticed ad for the vehicle // Contacted by dealer // Contacted by brand

Source: Google Gearshift 2020 // Base: All new car purchasers n = 750 // Q4: Did any of the following motivate you to look for a vehicle?

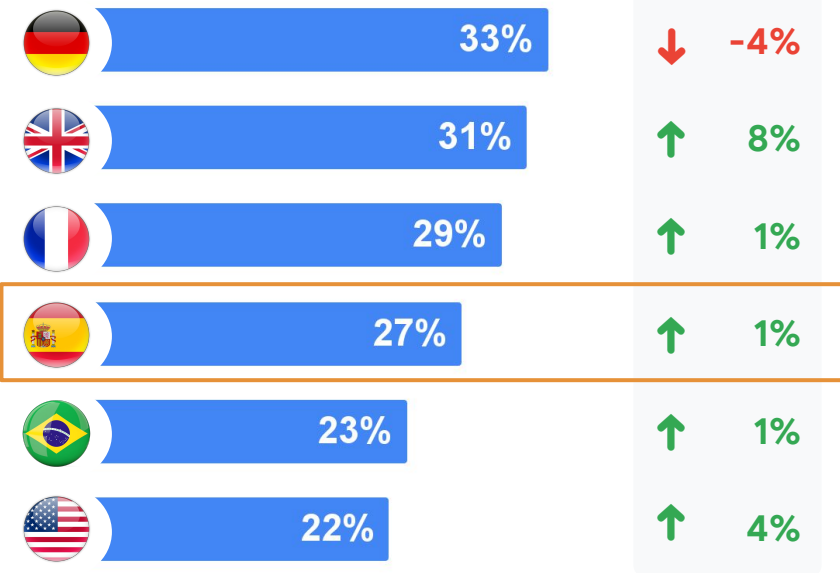


# Auto Intenders maintained their appeal for new offers & incentives as a catalyst to expedite their vehicle purchases

**1-in-4 respondents (25%) across markets** indicated that this would lead to them purchasing sooner.

Respondents in all markets, except **Germany signaled an increase** in this accelerating their purchase decisions

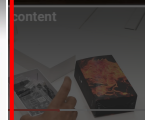
Respondents who would expedite their purchase timing because of a new offer




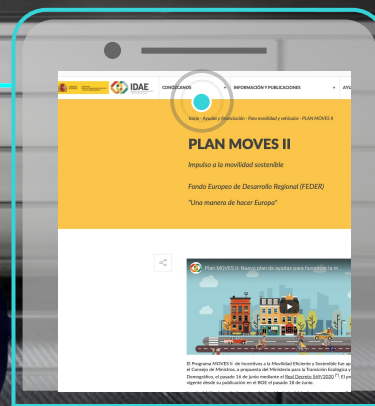
SUV compacto

Comprar vehículo online

vehículo eléctrico precio



 Signals above are examples only

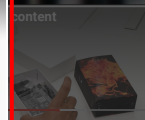




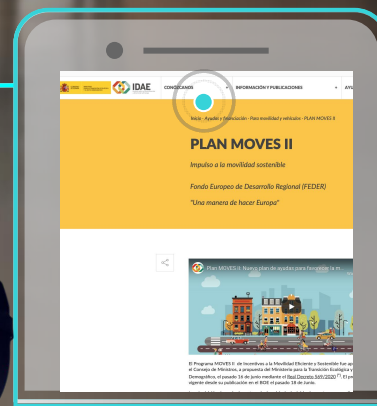
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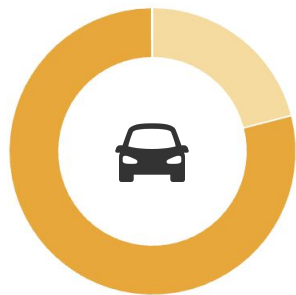


User interested  
in purchasing a  
new car



# Users interested in buying a motor vehicle in Spain are predominantly male and similar to benchmark regarding age

Gender distribution for users interested in buying a motor vehicle and benchmark, inferred from Google observed user activity

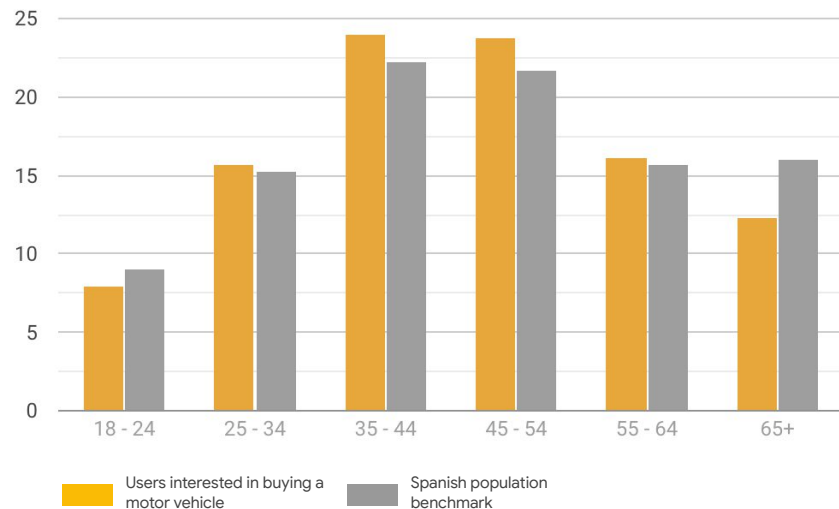


Male **79%**  
Female **21%**



Male **51%**  
Female **49%**

Age distribution for users interested in buying a motor vehicle and benchmark, inferred from Google observed user activity



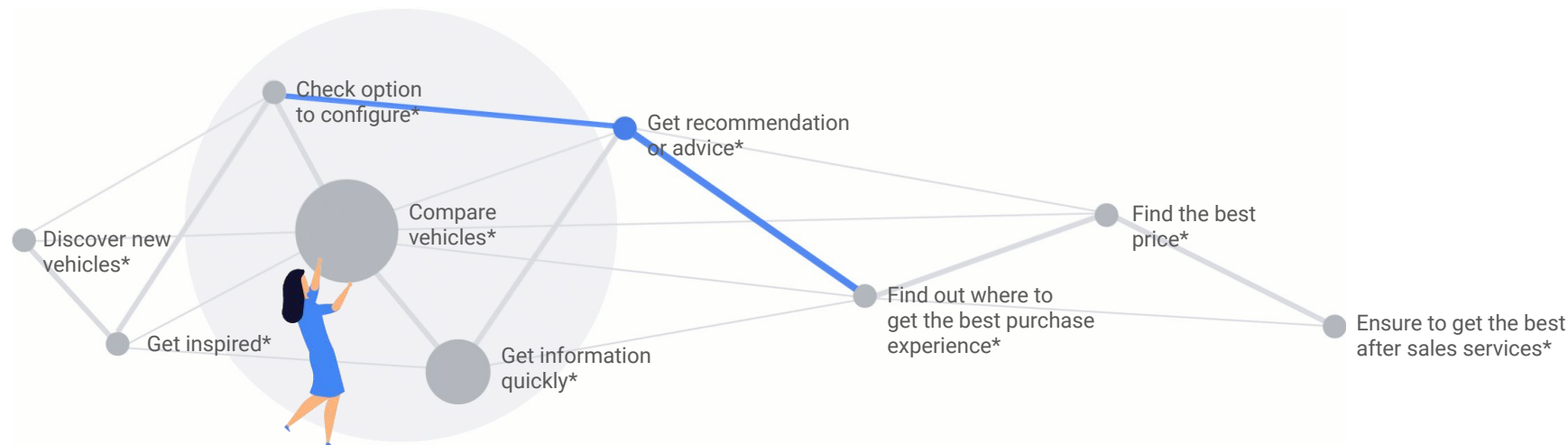


# Journey design: create impact, not noise



# Modern journey models demystify the research phase

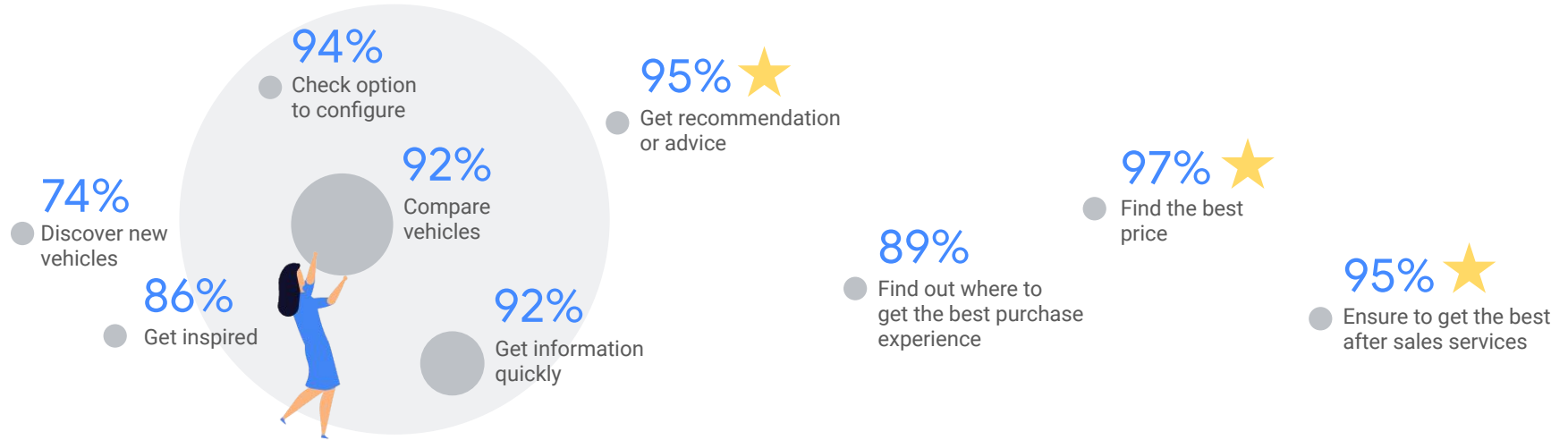
The research phase is a non-linear series of impact points reflecting buyer's key information needs. Effective comms seeks to provide relevant information at key impact points.



\*'Impact point' of vehicle consumer journeys. Each one represent a key need and brands that know and appreciate them will be able to add value

# Each impact matters and shows the complexity of the journey. Checking & advice matter as much as getting the best price

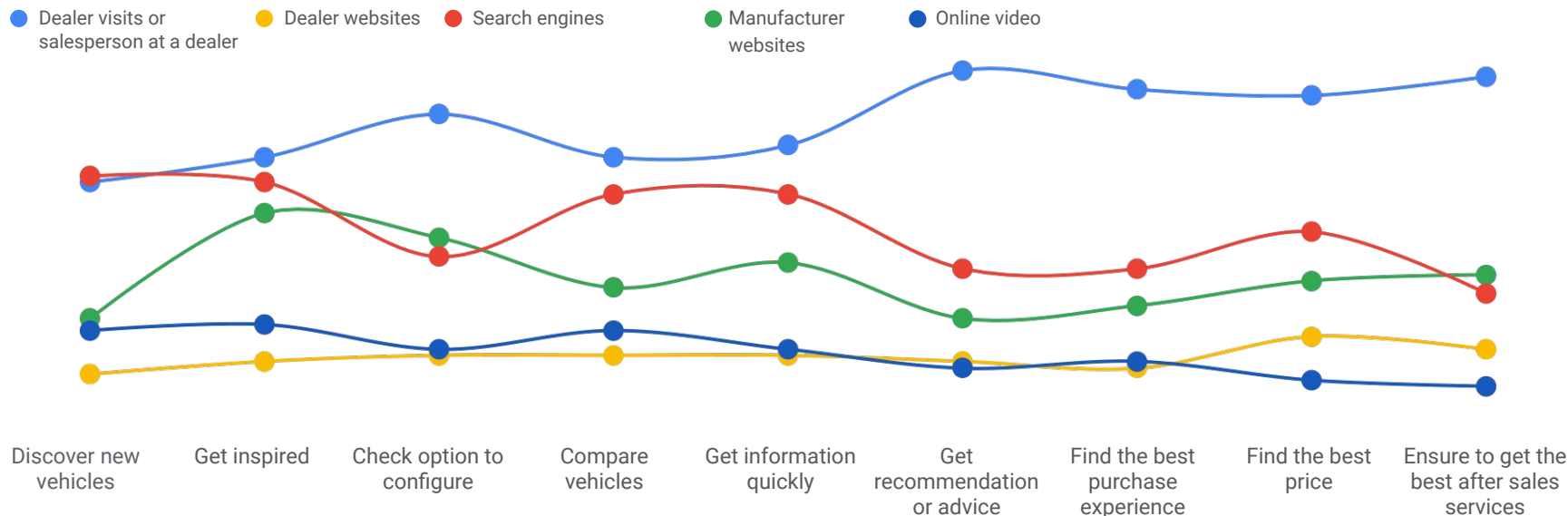
## Relevance of impact points



Importance of impact points - (very) relevant

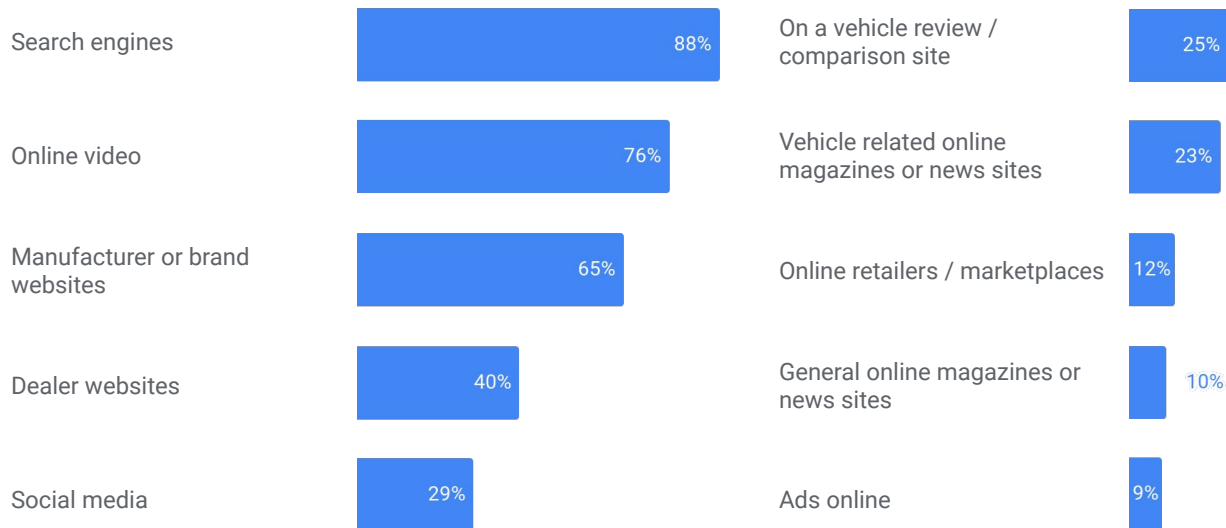
# Search matters especially in early stages, brand websites support inspiration & config. and dealer visits provide advice & after sales

5 relevant touch points used at each impact point



# Search and video are leading research sources in general, as well as brand websites

## Online research sources

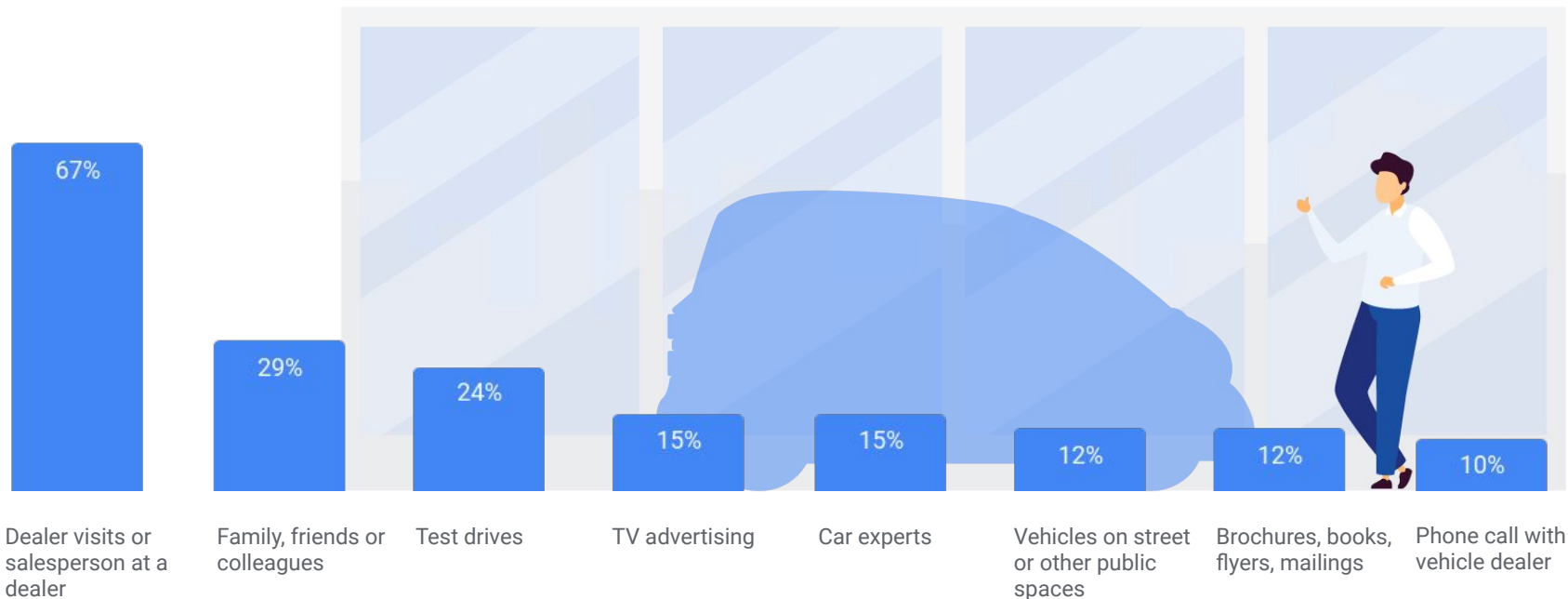


*93% of buyers research online, at #6 different online touch points*



# Dealers and recommendations from friends & family make up the majority of offline research

## Offline research sources



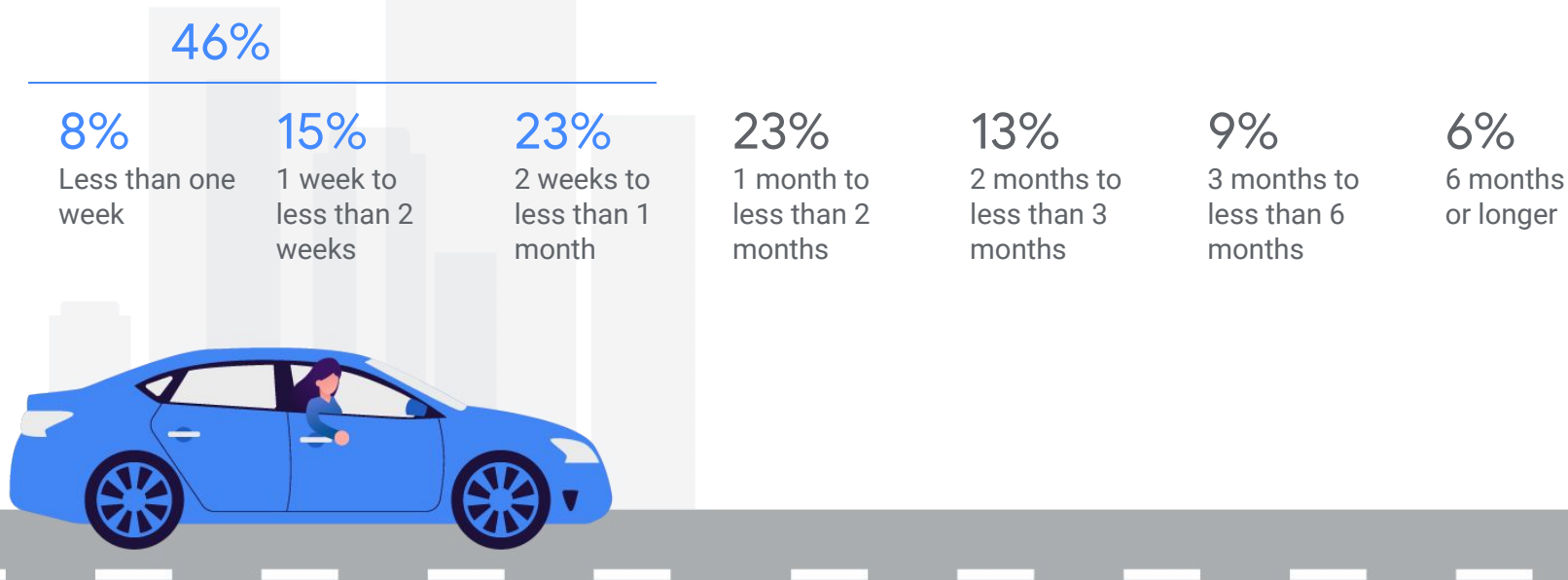
Source: Google Gearshift 2020 // Base: All new car purchasers n = 750 // Q18: Which of these offline sources informed or influenced your recent vehicle purchase, at any stage (from initial research to final decision)?

# The modern research journey



# Almost 50% of buyers spend less than 1 month in market before the car purchase

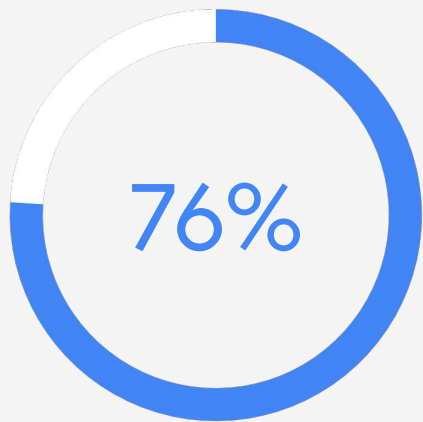
Length of research cycle



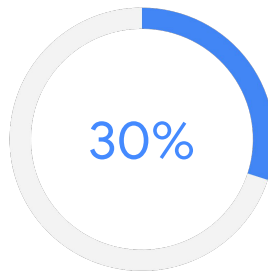
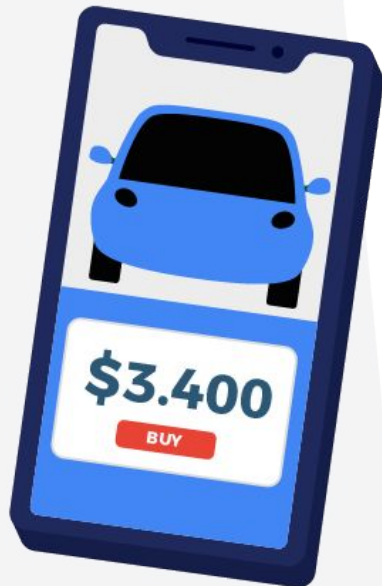


# Vehicle discovery happens online

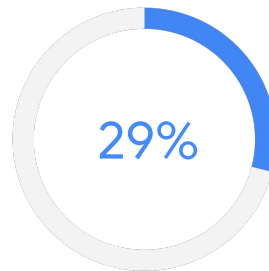
Underscoring the value of dealer websites in the research process



First product discovery  
online



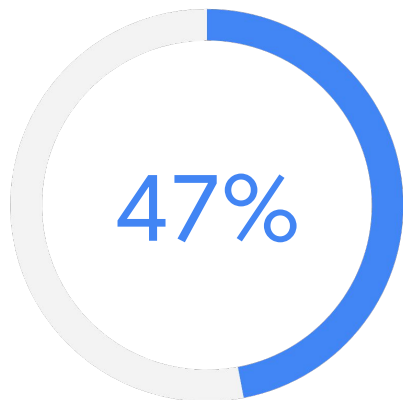
On a dealer website



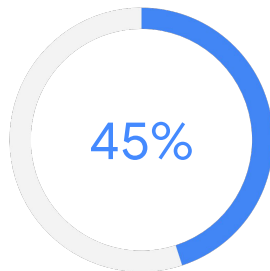
On a brand or  
manufacturer  
website

# Buyers value the ability to get detailed information and to compare vehicles from online research

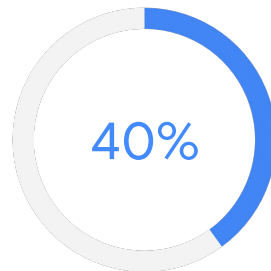
Buyers value the ability to get detailed information and to compare vehicles



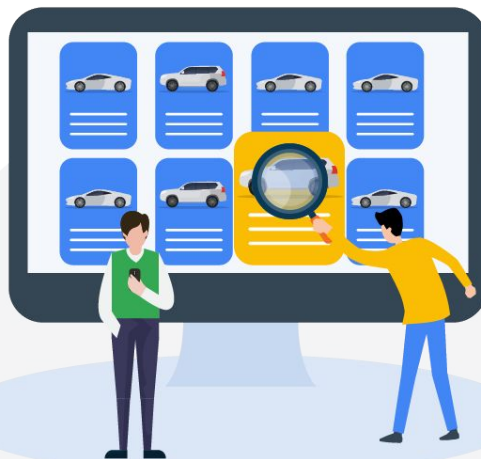
Detailed vehicle descriptions, pictures or videos are available



I can easily compare cars or look for options

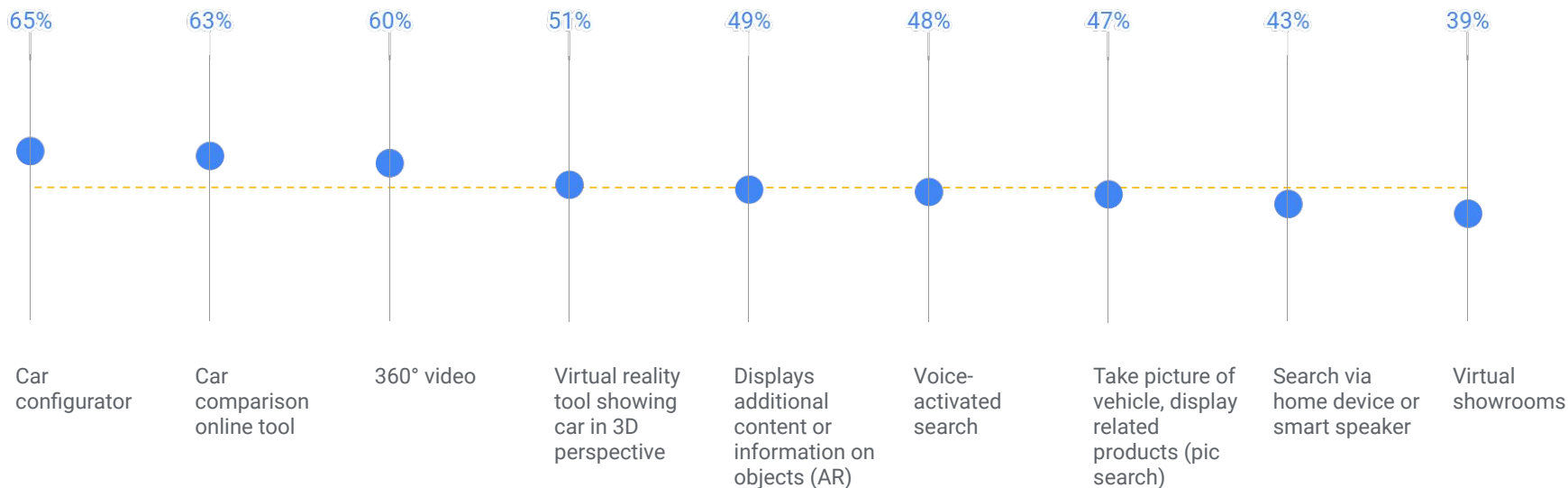


Always up-to-date information about the latest models



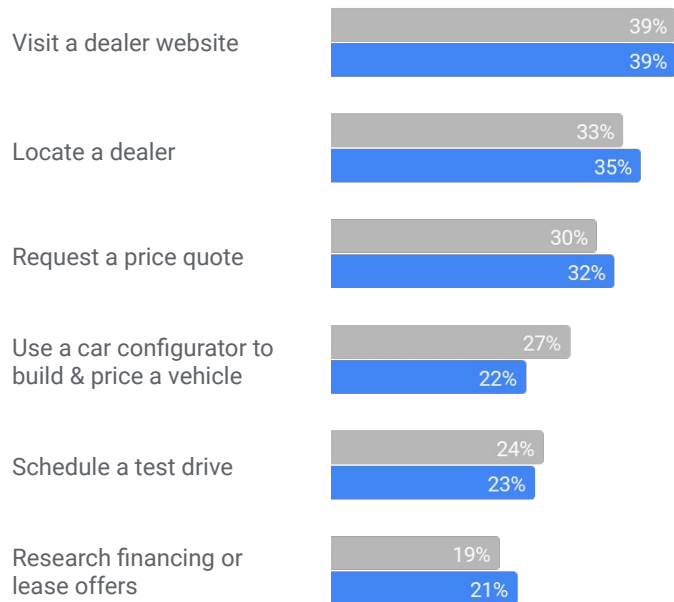
# Buyers are increasingly embracing higher tech online experiences during their purchase journey

Interest / engagement with digital tools



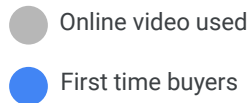
# Consumers, especially first time buyers, move down the funnel after viewing online video content

Online video leads buyers to take action



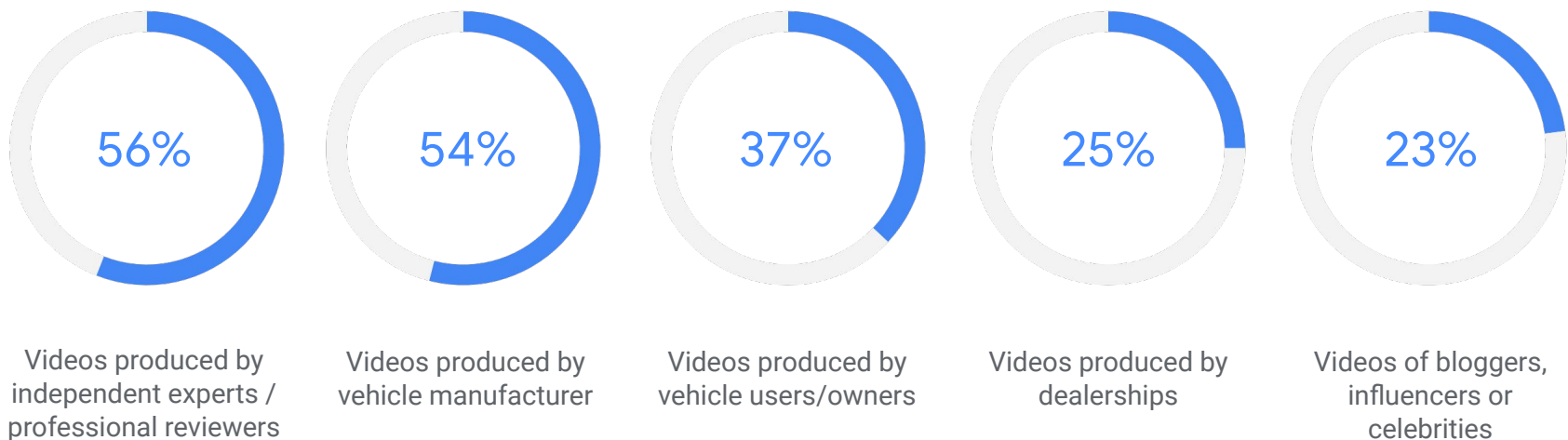
## 83%

of those who watched an online video completed at least one follow-up action



# Independent reports from experts and owners are highly preferred, supplemented by content from the brand

Preferred video content to engage with vehicle brands

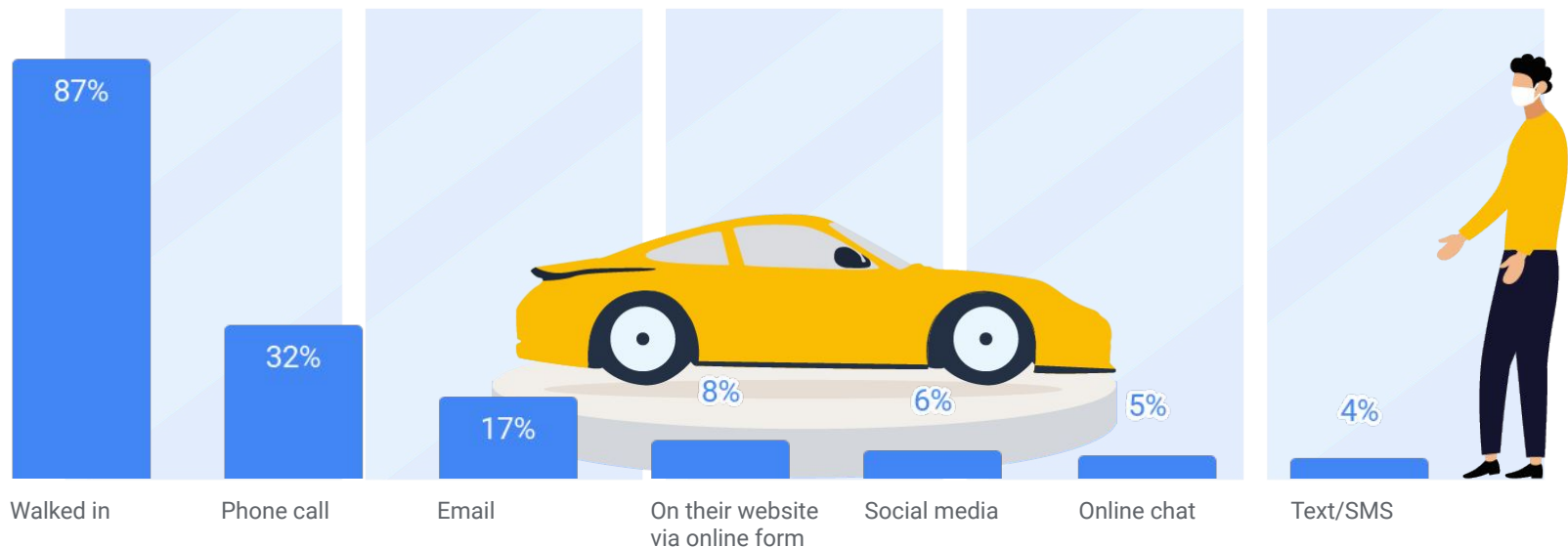


# Dealerships and the rise of online purchase options



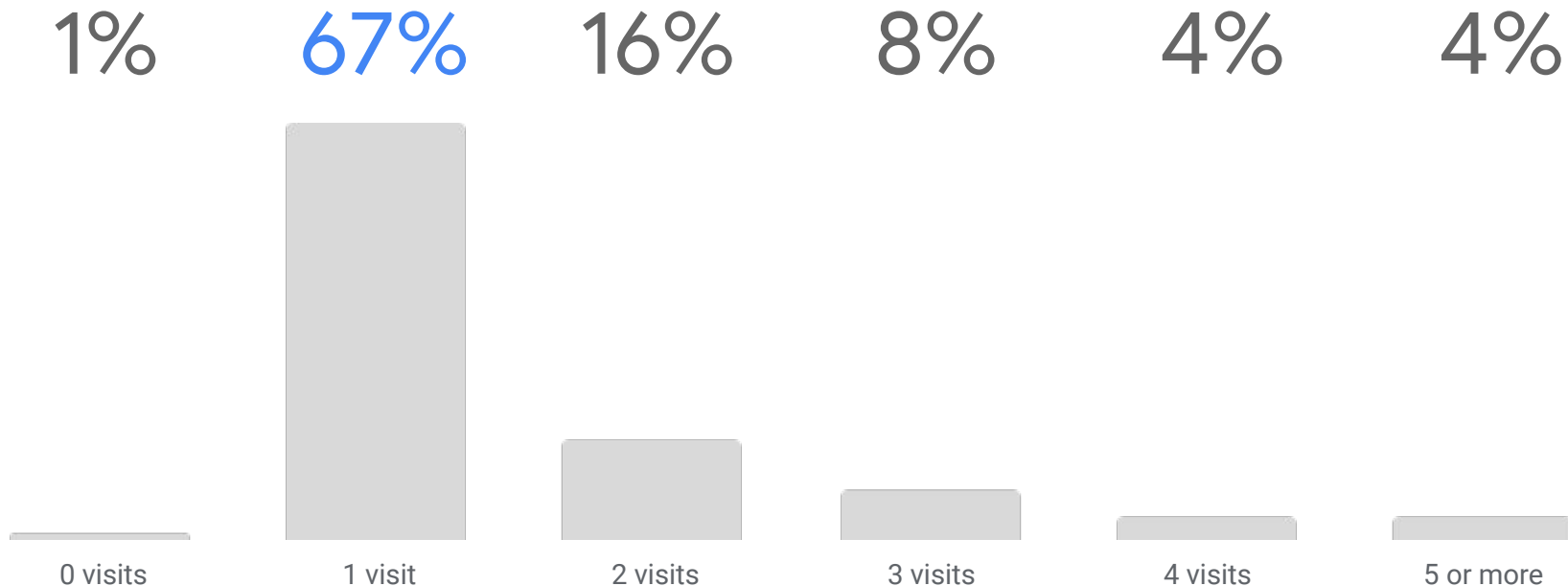
# Walk-ins and phone calls are still the most common points of contact

How buyers contact their dealer



# Number of dealer visits

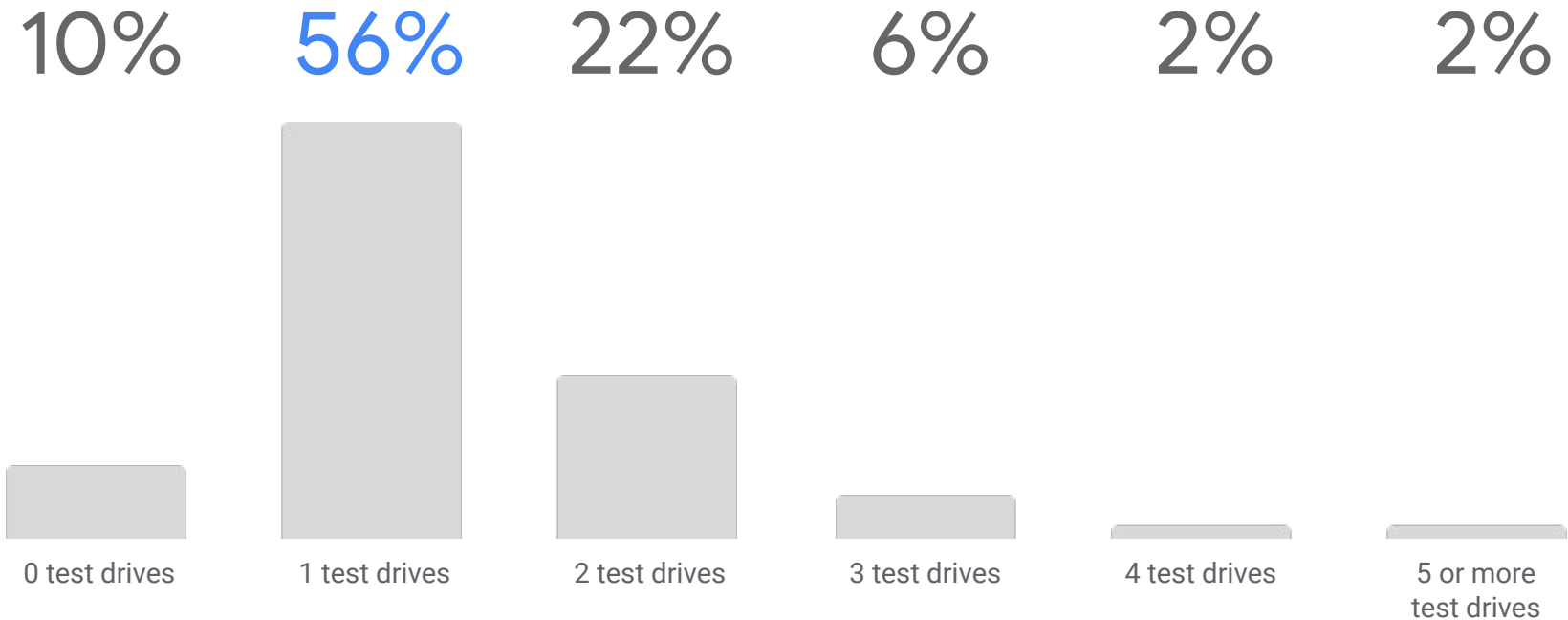
Customers who visit a dealership are highly likely to convert



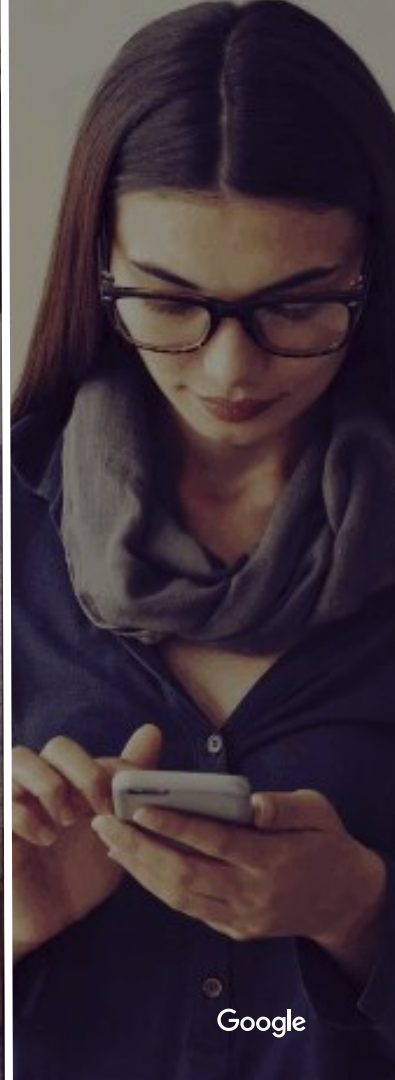
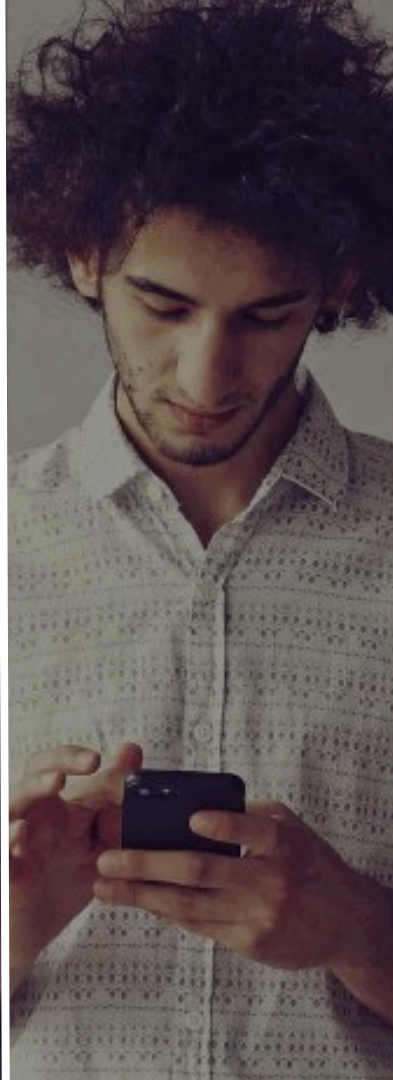
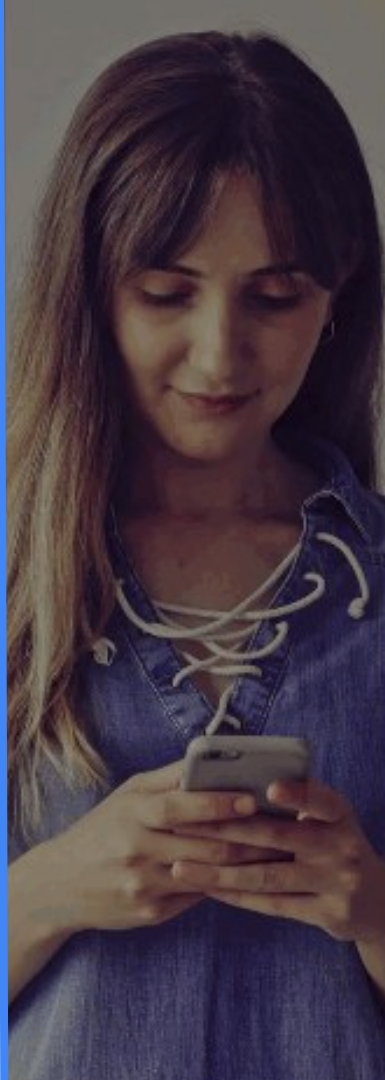


# Number of test drives

Just one test drive often seals the deal



# Conclusions



# Conclusions



## **Auto demand rises after lockdown with outstanding interest in buying a car online**

- After search demand decrease during lockdown, Auto queries in Spain have increased more than 10% since June and those related to buying a car online have increased by 67%



## **The ability to tailor offers and incentives to different target audiences is critical**

- High openness for new brands and more than 30% are first time buyers
- Life events are a relevant trigger for 1st time purchases; while experienced buyers are more triggered by need and wish
- Auto Intenders maintained their appeal for new offers & incentives as a catalyst



## **Today's journeys are complex, hyper-individual and non-linear**

- Dealer visits show massive impact, especially on configuration, advice and (after) sales touch points
- Search matters especially in discovery, inspiration and comparing stage
- Manufacturer websites inspire & support configuration



## **Despite the complexity: decisions are made quickly**

- Online product discovery is relevant and an easy-to-access
- Advanced digital tools enable buyers to comprehensively engage with vehicles of their choice
- Video encourage buyers to take follow up action



## **The car dealer is and will remain the main point of sale**

- Only few dealer visits seal the deal - which gives dealers only a short window to shine

# ¡Gracias!

Déjanos tu opinión >>

*Descargate las slides y  
dejanos tu opinión!*

