Introduction

Forces are changing the mobility landscape and affording consumers more choices than ever before in meeting their transportation needs. For automotive companies, these shifting consumer demands result in a number of complex questions that may ultimately impact their products and how they engage their customers.

To explore consumers’ mobility choices and transportation decisions, Deloitte fielded a survey in 19 countries. In total, more than 23,000 individuals representing a broad range of cross generational—Baby Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y—automotive consumers responded to the survey. This broad and diverse consumer demographic, both across countries and Gen Y, allowed for in-depth analysis through multiple lenses, including generational, socio-economic, gender, and many others.

The objectives of the study centered on understanding the factors influencing consumers’ mobility decisions as new transportation models that provide access to transportation (e.g., car-sharing, etc.) emerge. We also analyzed the different tradeoffs consumers are willing to pay for to own a vehicle, and examined how preferences for powertrains, technology (inside and outside of the vehicle), and lifestyle needs impact consumers’ choice in the purchase or lease decision. The study also sought to assess the customer experience and the factors influencing the final vehicle purchase decision.

The findings of the study outlined in the follow pages represent the analysis of the over 2,000 U.S. consumers who responded to this global survey. These findings form the foundation for an informed dialogue between automakers, dealers, and non-automotive companies working within the industry about the factors that will increasingly impact how consumers around the world choose to get from one place to another.
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About the Global Automotive Consumer Study

The Global Automotive Consumer Study focuses on "the changing nature of mobility" and how mobility affects various aspects of the automobile buying and ownership experience. Within the mobility theme, the study examines how alternative powertrains, connected vehicle technology and automation, and the sales channel experience influences the transportation choices of automotive consumers.
The *Global Automotive Consumer Study* is based on a survey of *over 23,000 consumers* in *19 countries*.

The key findings and insights in this publication are based on U.S. responses to the survey.

**Participating countries**
As these powerful and dynamic forces continue to take shape, consumer mobility preferences are rapidly evolving.

Hyper-urbanization

In 2006, the world reached a critical midpoint; over half of the world’s population was living in a city. The trend is expected to accelerate, with approximately 70% of the world’s population expected to live in cities by 2050 (90% in North America)\(^1\). Overcrowding, the realities of traffic, and new capabilities enabled by technology are all leading to more collaborative approaches to transport: for example, the “sharing economy,” driverless cars, and improved public transportation.

Generational views

Individuals today have a number of transportation options, and increasingly their transportation decisions are differing across Gen Y. Some tend to gravitate toward traditional vehicle ownership models, while others are highly interested in models that provide access to mobility, allow them to remain connected (and productive), and reduce costs. These differing views and expectations of mobility, along with disruptions of traditional ownership models, will likely change how OEMs engage their customers.

Connected technology

Innovations in V2X connectivity, mobile phones, apps, and smart card technology are disrupting the automotive industry. Moreover, automotive consumers will increasingly expect customer experiences that go beyond the sales or service transaction and leverage technology to integrate with their connected lifestyles—both inside and outside of the vehicle. The formerly clear lines—between humans and machines, between ownership and non-ownership, between goods and services—will blur as a result of connectivity and the information generated and used interchangeably by people and machines.

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The mass adoption and use of new transportation systems (e.g., public transportation, electric and driverless cars vehicles, supporting infrastructure, etc.) is going to require increased public-private collaborations. Government will neither be able to fully fund nor take primary responsibility for the requirements supporting tomorrow’s transportation systems. Moreover, the sheer complexity of transportation systems that work for everyone argues that many players will have to be involved. The resulting improved systems will likely offer consumers better transportation options that are more efficient, cost effective, and environmentally friendly.

In 2012, new Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards were released in the U.S. that require automakers to raise the average fuel efficiency of new cars and trucks to 54.5 MPG by 2025. At the same time, U.S. consumer interest in large SUVs and trucks remains high (CAFE). These factors are fueling the development of disruptive innovations within the vehicle—particularly advancements in alternative powertrains. As a result, by 2025, consumers in the U.S. may have the ability to choose from a mix of proven powertrain options that best meet their lifestyle needs—including more efficient internal combustion engines, electric vehicles (EVs), plug-in hybrids, and vehicles powered by natural gas.
Over three-quarters of Gen Y consumers plan to purchase or lease a vehicle within the next five years.

- Within one year: 23%
- 1 to less than 3 years: 38%
- 3 to less than 5 years: 19%
- 5 years or longer: 12%

80M Total U.S. Gen Y population

64M plan to buy within 5 years

48.8M plan to buy within 3 years

18.4M plan to buy within a year
Affordability and high operational and maintenance cost are top reasons across Gen Y for not owning a vehicle. In addition, Gen Y consumers generally feel that their lifestyle needs can be met by walking or public transportation.

Top three reasons Gen Y doesn't buy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affordability</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational/Maintenance Costs</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifestyle needs met by walking/public transit</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top three things that would get them into a vehicle

- Cheaper
- More fuel efficient
- More affordable payment options

But are they willing to buy? 80% interested vs. 20% not interested (in current models)
Gen Y enjoys driving, provided the cost is low and it's convenient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eco-friendly</th>
<th>Low cost</th>
<th>Convenience</th>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>Luxury</th>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Love to drive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I make green choices in my life. When going somewhere, I want to do so in an eco-friendly manner, even if that means more time and money.</td>
<td>My total cost when going somewhere needs to be low, and I will choose a transportation option that is cheapest.</td>
<td>When going somewhere, I want to do so in the fastest and easiest way and am willing to use any transportation option to achieve this.</td>
<td>I have things to do and getting somewhere needs to fit the demands of my lifestyle. My transportation option must have the functionality to meet these demands (e.g., I require a truck to haul my equipment/tools).</td>
<td>I value luxury and want to be noticed when I go somewhere. I feel a sense of pride driving a luxury vehicle and am willing to pay more for the features and the brand name.</td>
<td>Connected technology is important to me when going somewhere. To do this, my transportation choice needs to be integrated with my electronic devices, and it needs to access, consume, and create information.</td>
<td>I look forward to driving because getting there is half the fun.</td>
</tr>
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How would you describe yourself as a commuter?

Driver Profile Generational Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen Y</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other generations</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
64% of Gen Y consumers love their cars but are 3X more likely to abandon their vehicles if costs increase.

“I would be willing to give up driving my car even if I had to pay more to get where I need to go.”

29% Gen Y

10% Other generations
Factors that may influence consumers' decision to abandon vehicle ownership

Lifestyle is the primary reason

How much do you agree with the each of following statements?

Prefer living in a neighborhood that has everything within walking distance.

- **Gen Y:** 67%
- **Other generations:** 55%
  - Difference: **12%**

Willing to relocate closer to work to reduce my commute.

- **Gen Y:** 47%
- **Other generations:** 22%
  - Difference: **25%**

Willing to use car-sharing, car-pooling, or similar services if they were readily available and convenient.

- **Gen Y:** 42%
- **Other generations:** 28%
  - Difference: **14%**
Gen Y consumers are more interested in alternative modes of transportation, particularly if they are safe and enabled by technology.

Percentage of Gen Y respondents that agree with the following statement:
More than half of Gen Y would prefer to be driving an alternative powertrain five years from now. 

59% of Gen Y consumers see themselves driving an alternative engine in 5 years. 

- Hybrid electric 27% 
- Plug-in hybrid 8% 
- Battery-powered electric 7% 
- Compressed natural gas 7% 
- Diesel 6% 
- Fuel cell 4%
Gen Y is **willing to pay more** for an alternative powertrain...

...but cost is **still a primary motivation**

- 65% are willing to pay $2,000 or more
- 37% are willing to pay
- 53% say “My motivation to purchase/lease an alternative powertrain would be driven more by my desire to save money on fuel rather than to save the environment.”
- 53% of Gen Y would prefer to drive a traditional vehicle if it could provide comparable fuel efficiency to vehicles with alternative powertrains.

**6.4 years***

Time it would take to recoup an incremental $2,000 in the purchase price of a new alternative powertrain vehicle versus a new traditional gasoline vehicle through increased fuel efficiency.

Majority of Gen Y feels there aren't enough alternative powertrain options in the market, and 2:1 prefer a broad range of powertrain options in each vehicle model.

Manufacturers don't offer enough alternative powertrains in vehicles I would actually want to drive.

Alternative Powertrain Preference

Gen Y has a significant preference for range of engine options vs. specialized line of vehicles.

“I would prefer that manufacturers offer a range of engine options for each model that they produce.”

“I would prefer that manufacturers offer a specialized line of vehicles that only have alternative engines.”
Gen Y is more supportive of government incentives to switch to alternative powertrains

I would support more government programs that reward consumers who switch to or own vehicles with alternative fuel engines and/or high fuel efficiency engines.

- Gen Y: 61%
- Other generations: 59%

I would support more government standards that require manufacturers to produce vehicles that have better fuel efficiency.

- Gen Y: 58%
- Other generations: 50%

Percentage of respondents that agreed with the following statements
Gen Y consumers believe *there are significant benefits from new vehicle technologies*, including vehicles that:

**Greatest Benefits***
- Don't crash: 79%
- Are highly fuel efficient: 66%

**Other Benefits***
- Drive themselves: 45%
- Are fully connected: 46%

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**Gen Y wants:**
- Technology that recognizes the presence of other vehicles on the road
- Technology that will let them know when they exceed the speed limit
- In-vehicle technologies that would automatically block them from engaging in dangerous driving situations
Gen Y wants...

Percent of respondents indicating they expect significant benefits from these automotive technologies.

- **72%** Technology that recognizes the presence of other vehicles on the road
- **63%** Technology that will let them know when they exceed the speed limit
- **59%** Technologies that block them from engaging in dangerous driving situations
- **52%** In-vehicle technology that makes them feel safe and secure
- **57%** Easier customization of a vehicle’s technology after purchase or lease
- **52%** To connect their smartphone to use all its applications from the vehicle’s dashboard interface
- **46%** Technologies that help keep them connected to friends and family

*But they aren’t willing to pay much, with only 27% willing to pay over $2,500*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gen Y consumers’ willingness to pay</th>
<th>79% Willing to pay</th>
<th>21% NOT willing to pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,500 or more</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wouldn’t pay more</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In general, U.S. consumers today find higher levels of automation less desirable. But Gen Y is far more comfortable with autonomous vehicles than other generations.

**U.S. federal government definitions for autonomous (driverless) vehicles**

- **Basic**: Allows the vehicle to assist the driver by performing specific tasks like anti-lock braking (prevent from skidding) and/or traction control (to prevent loss of grip with the road).
- **Advanced**: Combines at least two functions such as adaptive cruise control and lane centering technology in unison to relieve the driver of control of those functions.
- **Limited Self-Driving**: Allows the vehicle to take over all driving functions under certain traffic and environmental conditions. If conditions changed, the vehicle would recognize this and the driver would then be expected to be available to take back control of the vehicle.
- **Full Self-Driving**: Allows the vehicle to take over all driving functions for an entire trip. The driver would simply need to provide an address and the vehicle would take over and require no other involvement from the driver.

*% of Respondents indicating they would find the following levels of autonomy desirable

- **Basic**
  - Gen Y: 73%
  - Other generations: 75%
- **Advanced**
  - Gen Y: 61%
  - Other generations: 53%
- **Limited Self-Driving**
  - Gen Y: 46%
  - Other generations: 35%
- **Full Self-Driving**
  - Gen Y: 47%
  - Other generations: 31%

Source: Based on U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) definitions
Research is key
The majority of Gen Y consumers spend more than 10 hours researching and considers 3 or more brands before they purchase or lease a vehicle.

Time spent researching possible vehicles

- More than 10 hours: 52%
- 4-10 hours: 31%
- Less than 4 hours: 17%

Number of brands considered when purchasing or leasing

- 21% consider 2 or less
- 79% consider 3 or more
Influencing the purchase decision

Gen Y trusts independent car reviews and family and friends the most.

- Car reviews on independent websites: 70% Gen Y, 59% Other generations
- Family and friends: 66% Gen Y, 44% Other generations
- Manufacturer websites: 53% Gen Y, 35% Other generations
- News articles/media reviews: 45% Gen Y, 34% Other generations
- Salesperson at the dealership: 40% Gen Y, 27% Other generations
- Social networking sites: 32% Gen Y, 11% Other generations (with a +21% increase)

Percent of respondents indicating this source is a significant influence on the purchase decision.
9 out of 10 Gen Y consumers want an extremely efficient purchase process.

Maximum time per phase (average for Gen Y consumers):

- Getting info from dealerships: 40 min
- Waiting to test drive a vehicle: 33 min
- Processing paperwork and registration: 41 min
- Processing financing: 41 min
- Performing simple maintenance service: 47 min
Gen Y consumers have a *more positive image of automotive dealerships* but the *majority of Americans would prefer to skip the negotiation process.*

- I would prefer to purchase a vehicle without negotiating with a salesperson: 54% (Gen Y), 57% (Other generations)
- Automotive salespeople treat me fairly and with respect: 50% (Gen Y), 39% (Other generations)
- I have a positive attitude towards automotive dealers: 41% (Gen Y), 22% (Other generations)
Service impacts vehicle sales

The *cost* and *quality* of the service bundle *influences over 2/3* Gen Y consumers' purchase decision.

*When choosing a vehicle to purchase or lease, how important are each of the following attributes?*

- **71%** free routine maintenance
- **66%** confidence in the dealer’s ability to repair

Nearly half of Gen Y consumers are *willing to pay for services* that make their lives easier.

- **44%** would pay to have a dealer pick up to service vehicle & drop-off a loaner

Percentage of respondents that agreed with the following statements
Contacts

Craig Giffi
U.S. Automotive Industry Leader
Deloitte LLP
cgiffi@deloitte.com

Joe Vitale
Global Automotive Industry Leader
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited
jvitale@deloitte.com

Michelle Drew
Senior Automotive Sector Specialist
Deloitte Services LP
midrew@deloitte.com

Candan Erenguc
Senior Manager
Deloitte Consulting LLP
cerenguc@deloitte.com

Steve Schmith
U.S. Automotive Marketing Leader
Deloitte Services LP
sschmith@deloitte.com

Bharath Gangula
Manager
Deloitte Services LP
bgangula@deloitte.com

Masa Hasegawa
Principal
Deloitte Consulting LLP
mahasegawa@deloitte.com

Contributors

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following professionals who have contributed to the Global Automotive Consumer Study and this publication. Matthew Josephson, senior consultant, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Kaitlyn Peale, consultant, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Sam Hyde, manager, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Srinivasa Reddy Tummalapalli, senior analyst, Deloitte Support Services India Pvt. Ltd.; Sandeepan Mondal, senior analyst, Deloitte Support Services India Pvt. Ltd.; Karen Ambari, senior manager, Deloitte Services LP.

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