

Customer Loyalty Index 2025

Turning Customer Engagement
into Lasting Loyalty

SAP Emarsys

CLI

Table of contents

CLI

3	Introduction
5	The Six Types of Customer Loyalty
12	The Rise of Trend Loyalty
16	Molton Brown Loyalty Story
18	Loyalty Overview in 2025
25	In-depth Analysis
48	Conclusion
50	Methodology



Introduction

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Loyalty isn't what it used to be. In 2025, even the most iconic brands are seeing loyalty slip through their fingers. Consumers still form strong attachments to the brands they love, but those bonds are more fragile, more fleeting, and more complex to earn than ever before. This year's data tells a clear story. True Loyalty has declined for the first time in five years, dropping 5% from 2024. In its place, a new type of loyalty is gaining ground: Trend Loyalty—loud, fast, and emotionally charged, but short-lived. TikTok reviews, viral product drops, and fleeting online buzz drive Trend Loyalty. One day, you're trending. Next, you're forgotten. So, how do you build True Loyalty that lasts?



Sara Richter,
CMO, SAP Emarsys

True Loyalty starts with connection. Consumers expect consistent, personalized, and emotionally resonant experiences across every channel and touchpoint. Today, loyalty is earned when brands use AI to empower personalization at scale. That's not just the job of marketing. It's a business-wide challenge that demands a connected customer strategy powered by real-time data from every corner and intelligent engagement.





SAP Emarsys has spent the last five years tracking loyalty and empowering brands to stay ahead. This fifth edition of our Global Customer Loyalty Index uncovers what drives loyalty in 2025: the rise of generational differences, the emotional power of trending content, and the growing importance of relevance over recognition.

”

Today, loyalty is increasingly about emotional engagement. You earn it by showing up with the right message at the right time in a way that feels real.

When you get that right, loyalty becomes more than a transaction—it becomes a relationship.

Welcome to the Engagement Era.

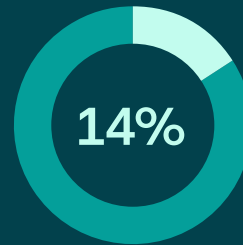
Key Findings

68%

of consumers say they're loyal to a brand, a return to pre-2022 levels.

5%

decline in True Loyalty since 2024.



of consumers are now classified as Trend Loyal.

23%

of consumers say batch-and-blast marketing actively damages their loyalty.





The Six Types of Customer Loyalty



The Six Types of Customer Loyalty

Since 2020, SAP Emarsys has mapped consumers across five types of customer loyalty. In 2025, we've identified a new sixth type: Trend Loyalty.



True Loyalty

This loyalty type is unwavering, unshakeable, and built on trust, love, and devotion to a brand—it is also known as the holy grail of customer loyalty. All brands aspire to achieve this level of loyalty.



Incentivized Loyalty

This type of loyalty is developed by offering customers cost-saving or value-adding incentives like discounts or rewards.



Inherited Loyalty

This loyalty is based on a brand's traditions or long-standing heritage, or can be built through associations with other brands.



Silent Loyalty

This type of loyalty occurs when customers demonstrate loyalty to a brand they would not endorse or advocate for publicly.



Ethical Loyalty

This loyalty occurs when a customer is loyal to a brand that aligns with their individual values or stance on strong social issues.



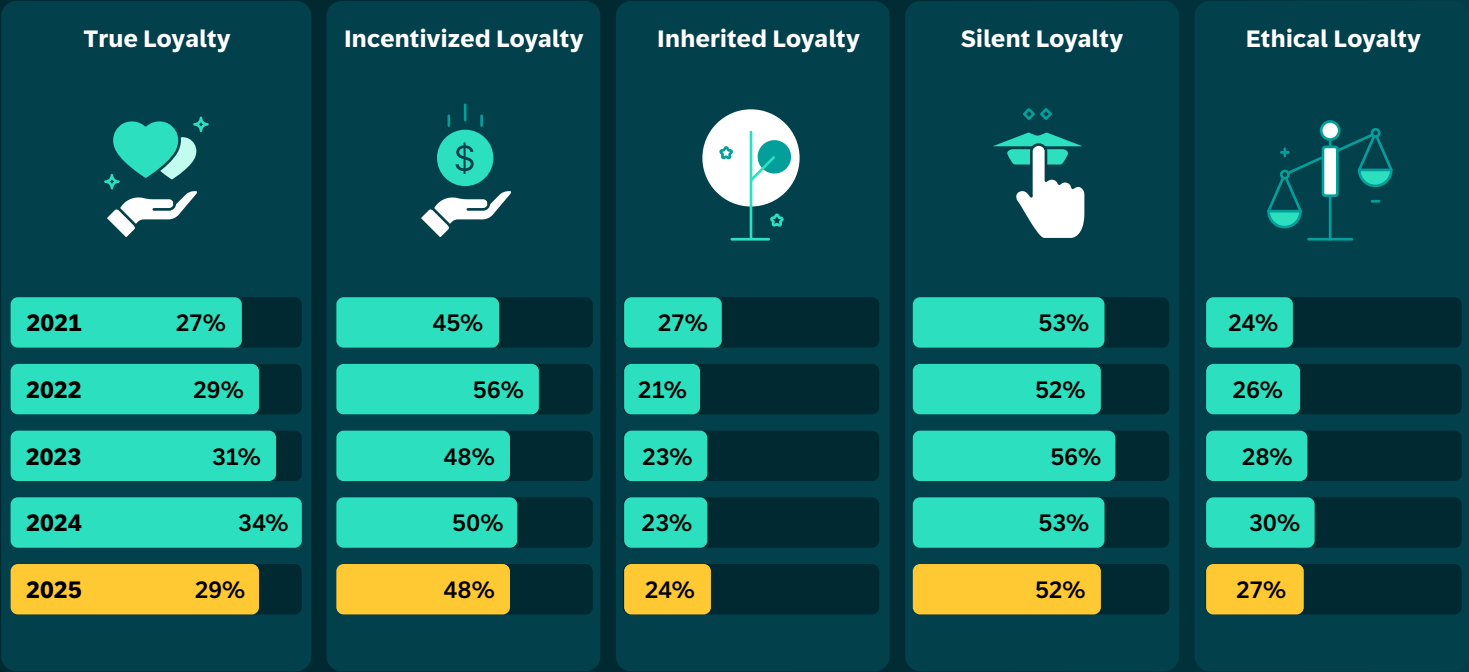
Trend Loyalty (NEW)

This type of loyalty is short-lived, opportunistic, and caused by social influence, viral appeal, or cultural momentum.



Loyalty Trends in the Last Five Years

Over the past five years, consumer responses have revealed shifting brand loyalty patterns.

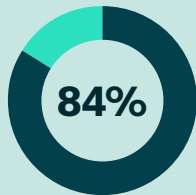




Loyalty Trends in the Last Five Years

In 2025, loyalty to known brands is in decline. **True Loyalty dropped by 5%** from 2024 to 2025, the most significant drop since we started the Customer Loyalty Index (CLI). So, why are marketers losing their grip on the holy grail of loyalty? Let's dive deeper.

Loyalty isn't just a goal; it's the heartbeat of every thriving company. As customer expectations soar, businesses stand on the precipice of a transformative opportunity to elevate customer experience and unleash the true power of loyalty. Marketers who achieve faithful customers see loyalty as a strategy, not just a rewards program. Loyalty must be continuously earned through meaningful engagement and personalization. AI can empower marketers to do so.



of brands do *not* excel in differentiating themselves with personalization.

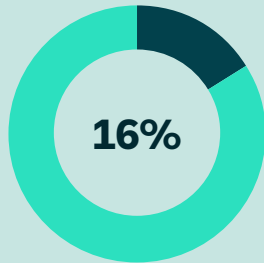




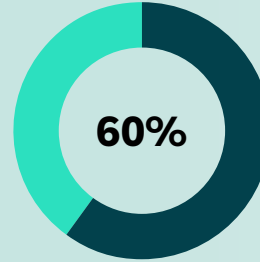
Step Into the Engagement Era: Where Loyalty Is Earned, Not Assumed

In 2025, SAP Emarsys declared the dawn of the Engagement Era: a time when customer loyalty is no longer a given, but a reward for brands that truly understand, respect, and respond to individual needs.

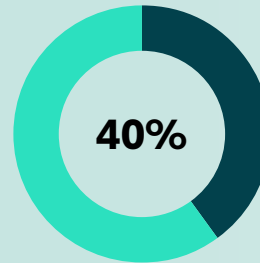
Gone are the days when brand names alone could command consumer trust. In fact, **64%** of consumers ignore brand names entirely when buying consumer products.



of marketers feel they can excel in the new engagement-driven landscape, which requires a robust enterprise resource planning (ERP) foundation.



of consumers believe most of the marketing emails they receive aren't relevant to them.



of consumers say brands don't understand them as people.



2025 Loyalty Levels

In 2025, 68% of consumers said they were loyal to specific brands, shifting to levels seen in 2021. Economic uncertainty, rising prices, supply chain issues, social media trends, and a flood of choices influence customers to switch brands if their expectations aren't met, highlighting the extreme fragility of customer loyalty.

Brands today must double down on consistency, connection, and personalization to keep customers coming back for more. Exceptional experiences ignite a cycle of repeated purchases, transform customers into passionate advocates, and foster stronger and more strategic partnerships.

Percentage of respondents “loyal” to certain brands:



Loyalty Levels Across Regions

While some regions are experiencing flat growth, customer loyalty in the U.S. and Germany has risen since 2024. For marketers in the U.S., this is likely due to staying ahead of customer expectations when tariff fears and concerns arose. Other contributing factors could be increased reward programs, creating more competition.

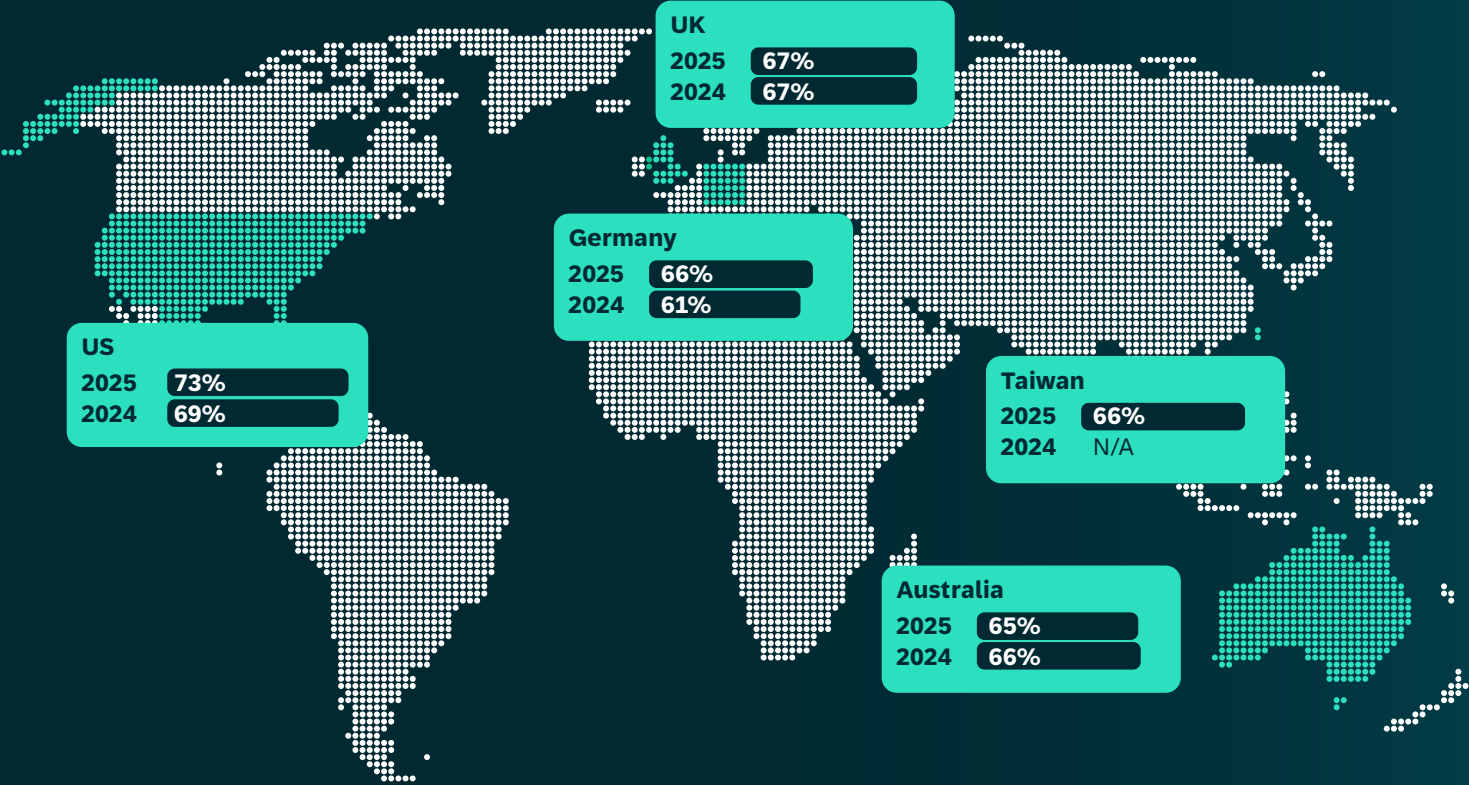
Discounts are often short-lived. That's why innovative marketers use omnichannel marketing strategies to offer customers the best deal on product recommendations to keep customers loyal. See the map on page 11.

Loyalty Lever

Use data to build better relationships with your customers. Personalized and consistent interactions across all touch-points foster trust and deepen emotional bonds between brands and consumers.



Map: Loyalty Levels Across Regions





The Rise of Trend Loyalty



Trend Loyalty

14%

of consumers
are now considered
Trend Loyal.

As loyalty becomes more fragile and fleeting, trends increasingly influence consumer decisions. Trend Loyalty is a short-lived, opportunistic form of loyalty caused by social influence, viral appeal, or cultural momentum.

Appealing to Consumer Emotions

Consumers love to share and engage with content that evokes strong feelings. Brands can build trust and connection by jumping onto trends without jeopardizing authenticity.

♥ Loyalty Lever

Use AI-powered product affinity, channels, and purchase predictions to continue tailoring content to individual customers so they feel special and unique.





19% of consumers trust products more and believe the hype if they're going viral.



16% of consumers now trust TikTok and social media trends more than ads and product reviews.



20% of consumers follow influencers specifically to discover what's worth buying.



18% of consumers have bought a product purely because an influencer was promoting it.

Trending Content as Education (Not Just Entertainment)

More consumers are searching trending content for answers. Whether it's a trending product review for a new vehicle or an influencer fashion haul video, a growing number of consumers are using what is popular to inform what they do, buy, and believe.

The numbers on the left
are an average of

10–15%

higher
among Gen Z and Millennials
compared to other generations



Loyalty Lever

Trending on social media might get your brand initial attention, but you must optimize customer journeys to drive lifelong loyalty. Loyalty is often lost due to technology silos and fragmented sources of data.



What drives Gen Z Loyalty?

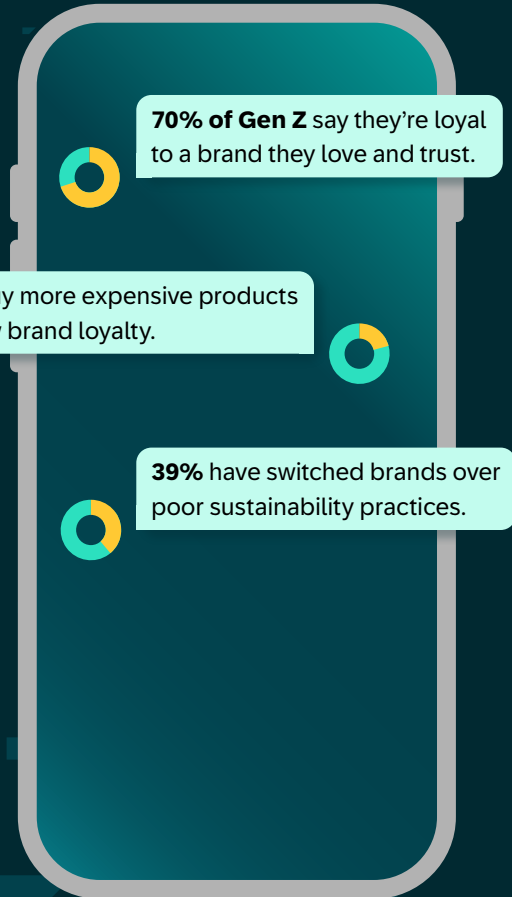
No generation shows shifting loyalty patterns more clearly than Gen Z. This generation expects more than reward points or emails. They want personal relevance, real-time experiences, and emotional connection, and they expect brands to show up where they are: on TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram—all via an app on their phone.

Compared to older generations, Gen Zers are less influenced by price or product quality, and more by personalization, values, and emotional cues.

In 2025, Gen Z loyalty is real, but only if you earn it. That means being relevant, fast, and emotionally intelligent across every touchpoint.

Loyalty Lever

Use AI to recognize and respond to fast-moving signals in real time. Tailor content by channel and sentiment. Trigger timely, personalized journeys that turn trend-driven attention into lasting relationships.





Molton Brown Loyalty Story





How Molton Brown Enhances Customer Loyalty

“ At Molton Brown, we’re exploring how digital tools can enhance discovery and personalization for our customers. Initiatives such as exclusive previews, tailored content, and our Fragrance Finder help inspire customers online while connecting back into a more connected customer view. This means when customers visit a boutique, associates are better informed about their preferences and can provide more relevant advice. Our focus is on using AI and data to guide discovery in ways that feel authentic, personal, and true to our heritage. ”



MOLTON BROWN
LONDON

Naresh Krishnamurthy,
Senior Business Relationship Manager,
Global Cosmetics, Molton Brown,
Kao Corporation






Loyalty Overview in 2025



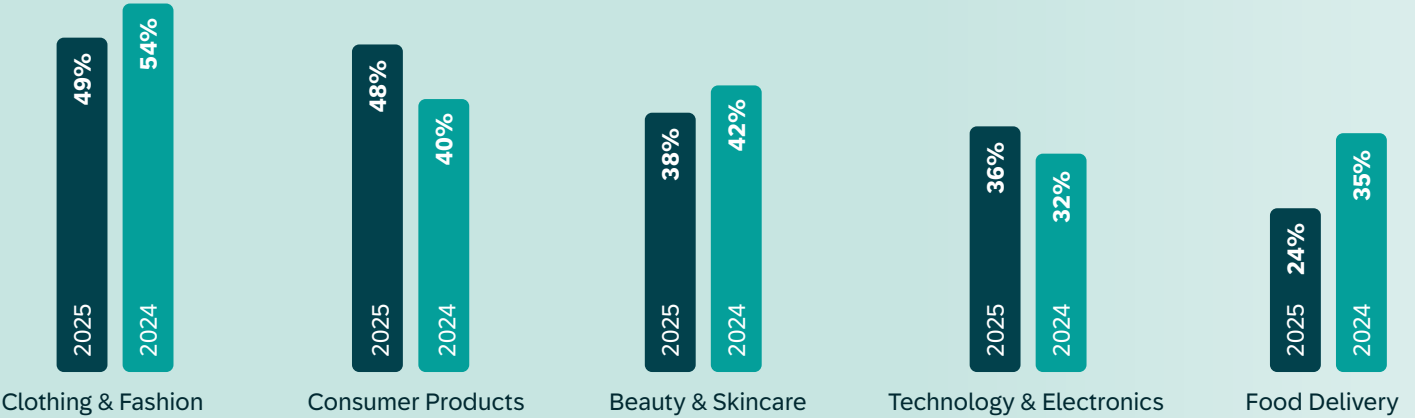
Loyalty by Industry

Loyalty looks different across industries, and it's changing fast. With increased apathy towards known brands, consumers are now becoming more loyal to brands that “do the job” by offering value, consistency, and emotional resonance, not just heritage, aesthetics, or advertising.

 **Loyalty Lever**

Use omnichannel personalization to maintain brand consistency across product lines and platforms. Respond to shifting preferences with real-time customer insights.

Top Five Industries by Loyalty





Why Are Customers Loyal?

Loyalty isn't random—it's earned through the experiences customers value most.

In 2025, product quality remains the top driver, but expectations are expanding. Consumers now reward consistency, emotional connection, and convenience across every interaction, not just at the point of purchase.

Loyalty Lever

Use omnichannel campaigns and progressive profiling to learn what “quality” means to your customers and deliver it, every time.

Top Loyalty Drivers





What Weakens Loyalty?

In a loyalty economy driven by expectations, the winning brands listen, learn, and act consistently. The result? Customers with no reason to leave are converted into lifetime true loyalists. Bad experiences cost more than lost sales; they break trust.

Top Loyalty Disruptors in 2025:

Lower product quality

54%

Price increases

49%

Poor customer service

47%

Irresponsible data use

34%

Misleading advertising

32%

28%



of consumers have switched brands due to “boredom”, signaling that relevance is just as important as reliability.



Loyalty Lever

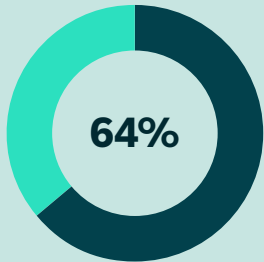
Keep customers engaged with triggered journeys—everything from replenishment reminders to personalized offers. This approach shows you understand their needs and timing.



How Customers Express Loyalty



of consumers opt into SMS programs to show loyalty, highlighting that SMS messaging is more of a standard expectation vs. a loyalty indicator.



of consumers are more likely to spend with a brand if they have a loyalty card or subscription.

Thinking about brands you're most loyal to, how do you commonly show your loyalty?

Shop with them frequently

63%

Recommend to friends/family

48%

Use their loyalty card/scheme

41%

Install their app on my phone

36%

Part of a membership scheme

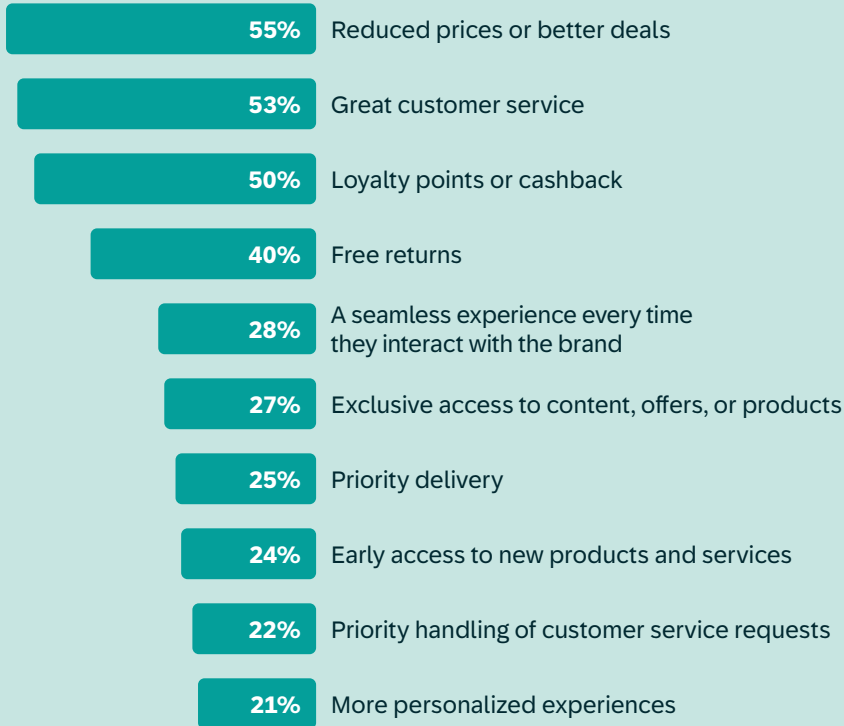
24%

Follow them on social media

22%



What Do Customers Expect in Change for Their Loyalty?



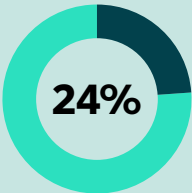
Loyalty Lever

Build automated abandoned cart, restock notifications, wish list, win-back, and upsell campaigns to reach customers with timely and relevant recommendations. Nurturing customers with AI-driven personalized experiences empowers marketers to pave the way for a future of sustainable growth, unlocking higher customer lifetime value and redefining what it means to succeed.

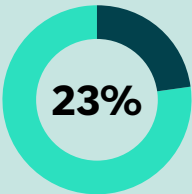


Regional Influences on Loyalty in the Last 12 Months

Over the past 12 months, regional differences have shaped how consumers define and demonstrate loyalty.



of global consumers
no longer feel they can
afford to be loyal.



of global consumers
are more loyal to
brands offering the best
personalized deals.

% of consumers that have started prioritizing cost over brand loyalty	% that say they are now more loyal to brands that provide a consis- tent experience across all touchpoints	% that have started using more loyalty schemes to get the best value from brands
Global 37%	Global 29%	Global 28%
Australia 42%	Australia 27%	Australia 30%
US 36%	US 30%	US 21%
Germany 31%	Germany 25%	Germany 28%
UK 35%	UK 29%	UK 34%
Taiwan 43%	Taiwan 35%	Taiwan 28%



In-depth Analysis



In-depth Analysis: Loyalty by Generation



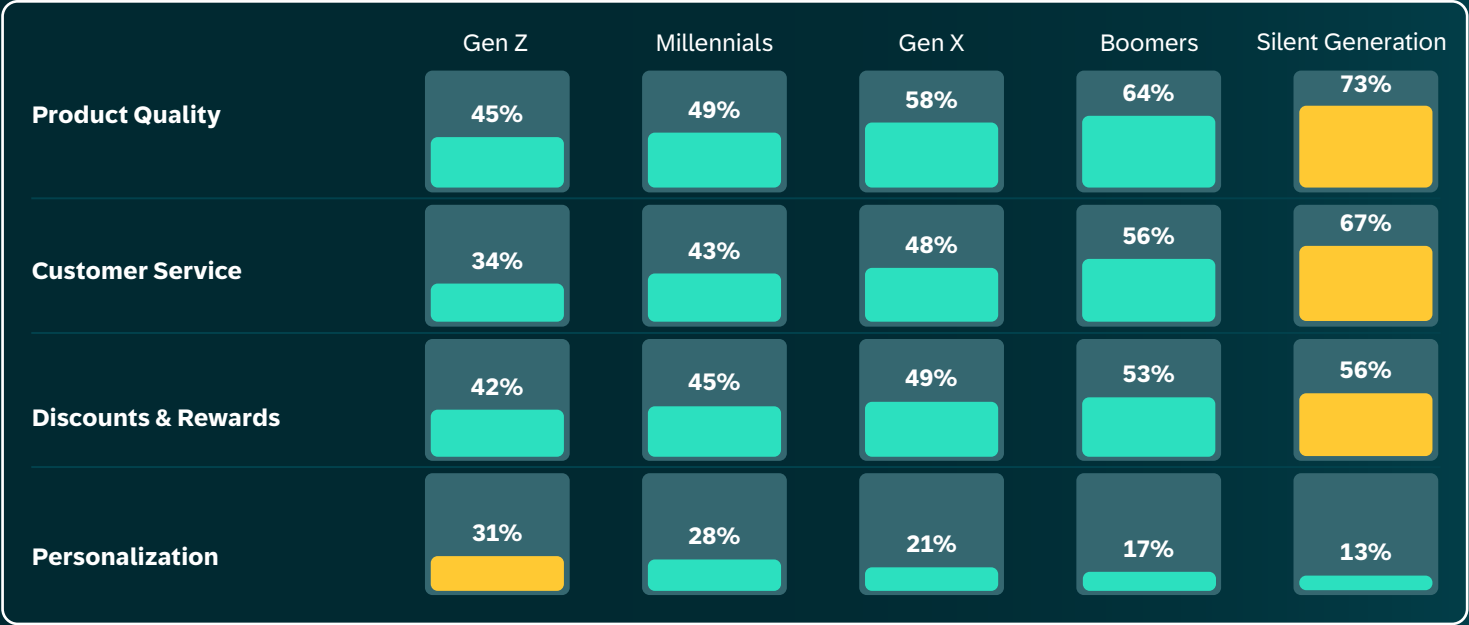


What Drives Loyalty by Generation?

Loyalty looks different across generations; understanding these differences is key to earning it. In 2025, Gen Zers expect relevance and personalization. Baby Boomers prioritize product quality and service. Meanwhile, Millennials balance emotion and incentives.

Loyalty Lever

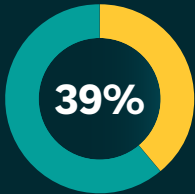
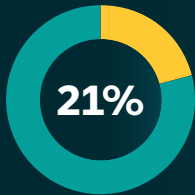
Segment loyalty journeys by generation. A single message won't work for everyone.



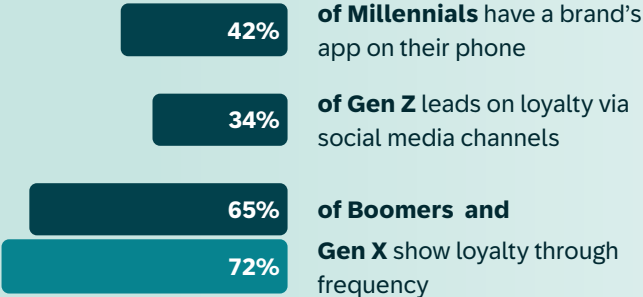


Generational Loyalty at a Glance

Gen Z Loyalty:



Loyalty Expression by Generation:



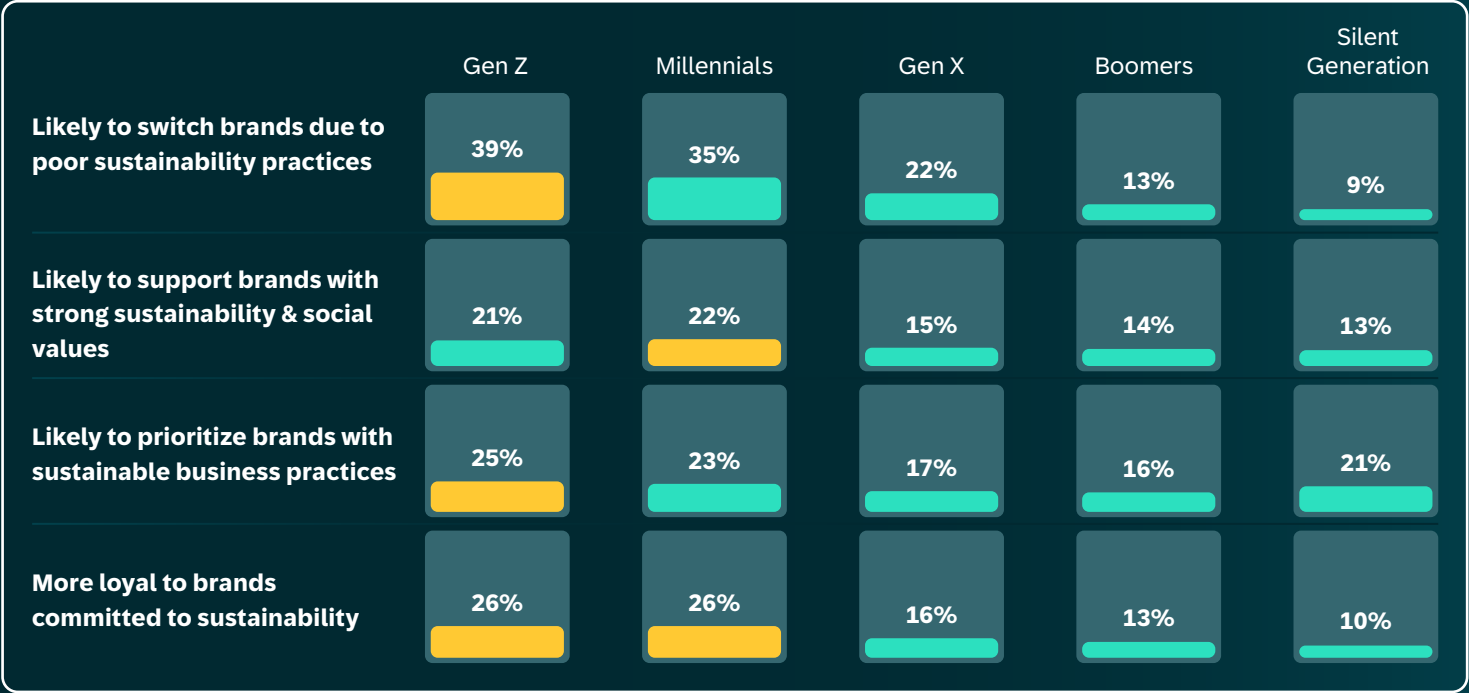
♥ Loyalty Lever

Track which channels each generation prefers and leverage AI to match your experiences accordingly. Loyalty is shown differently across age groups, but always starts with feeling understood.



Impact of Brand Sustainability on Loyalty

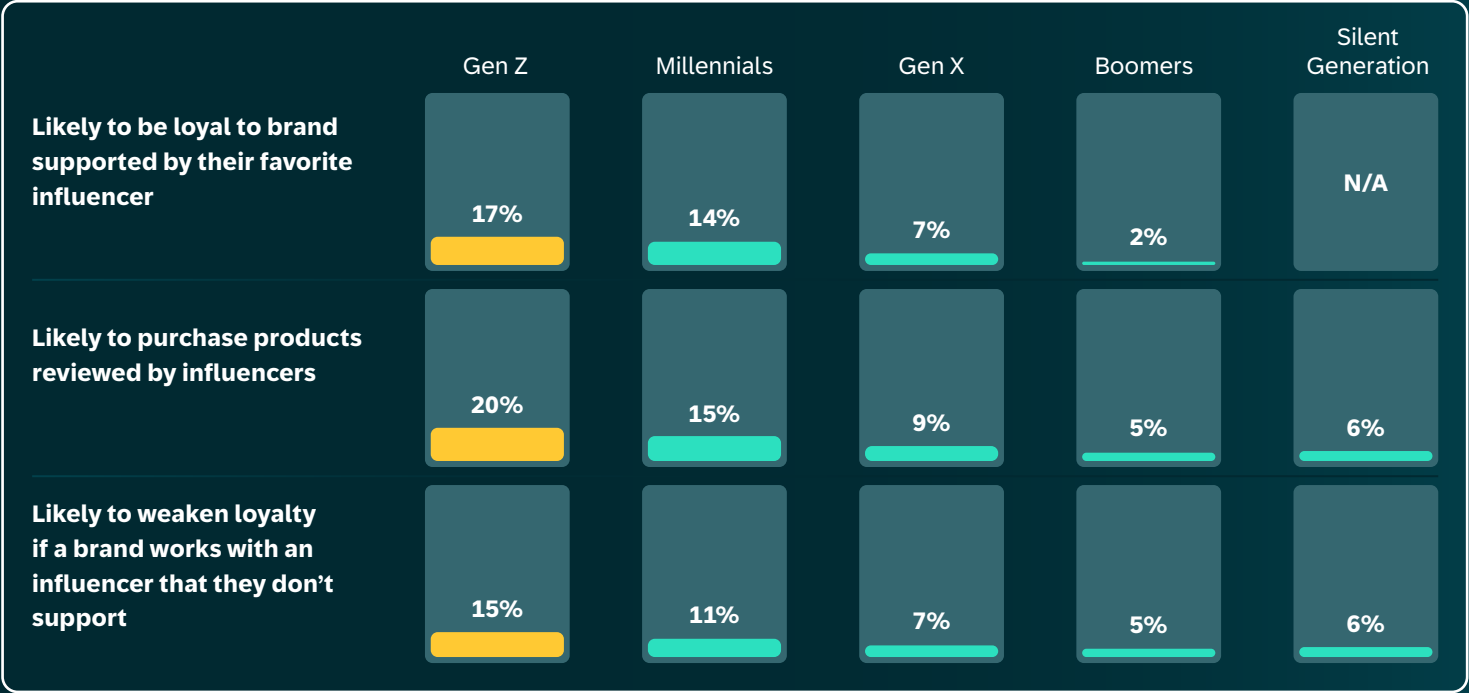
Although Ethical Loyalty has decreased, sustainability is important to different degrees among the generations. Brands should know that sustainability is essential for Gen Zers and Millennials.





Impact of Influencers on Loyalty

Influencers continue to shape the loyalty landscape by driving brand discovery and creating short-term trust, especially with younger consumers. Yet, 1 in 10 customers now say their loyalty dips if a brand works with an influencer they don't support.



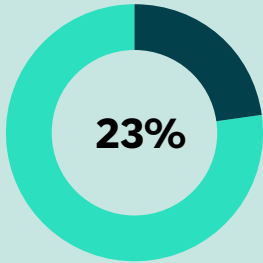


In-depth Analysis: Brand Believers

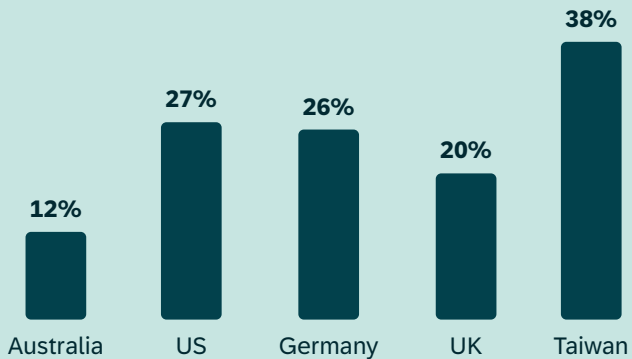




Brand Believers



of consumers are Brand Believers who have done something “extreme” to show their support for a brand, such as getting a tattoo, traveling abroad to visit a store, or naming their pet after a brand.





How Brand Believers Show Loyalty





The Fierce Few

While we have identified Brand Believers as part of our research, they are an exception to the rule in today's fragmented loyalty landscape. These customers will stick with you through price changes, trends, and experimentation with new products. Here are some extreme and unusual examples:

"I named my pet bird Coco after Coco Chanel."



"I cycled three hours to buy a specific guitar when no one else had one in stock since 1967."



"Once, I camped out overnight just to grab a pair of limited-edition Nike sneakers. It was totally wild, but being first in line for a brand I genuinely love made every minute worth it. It wasn't just about the shoes; it was about sharing that excitement with fellow Nike fans who get the hype."

"I drank Dr. Pepper for 3 months straight, every day, for a dare."



"I have eaten a Big Mac every day for 20 years."



"I have a Sony-authorized tattoo. It's a screen-accurate copy of Ray Stantz's tattoo as seen in Ghostbusters Afterlife. Sony paid for me to get it and used footage in a promotional ad for the home release of Ghostbusters Afterlife on DVD and Blu Ray."



Loyalty Lever

Loyalty is about listening. Take time to listen attentively to your customers when they talk about your brand experiences and products. Feature that user-generated content in campaigns across all of your channels.



In-depth Analysis: Mobile Loyalty Drivers





Mobile Loyalty

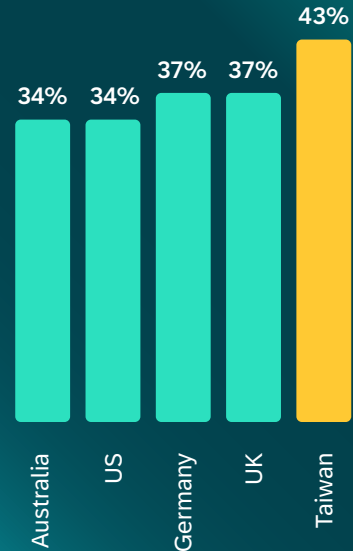
Across the globe, many customers connect with brands through their mobile phones. In 2025, 36% of customers express their loyalty by downloading their favorite brands' apps, but also by subscribing to SMS campaigns, or using mobile wallet coupons. When customers stay engaged through mobile, you get bigger shopping carts, more first-party data, and more lifelong customers.



Loyalty Lever

To complement your mobile app engagement strategy, use SMS to drive mobile app downloads. Mobile Wallet is an additional channel to keep your brand top of mind.

What percentage of customers show loyalty by having an app on their phone?



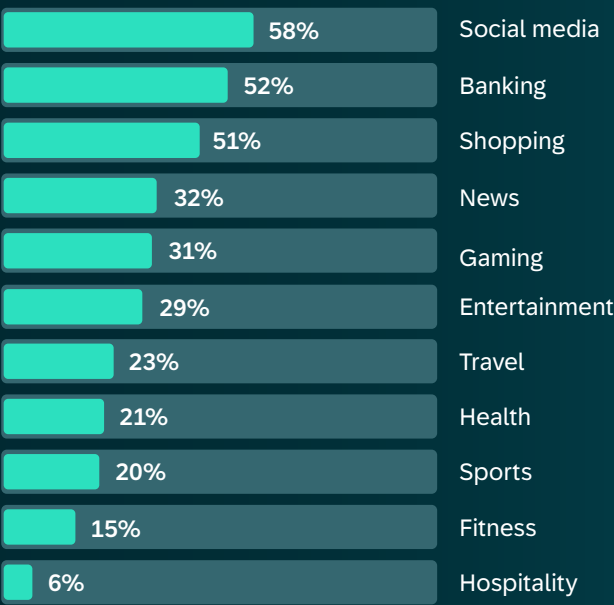


Mobile Loyalty Insights & Usage

What encourages customers to use an app more often?

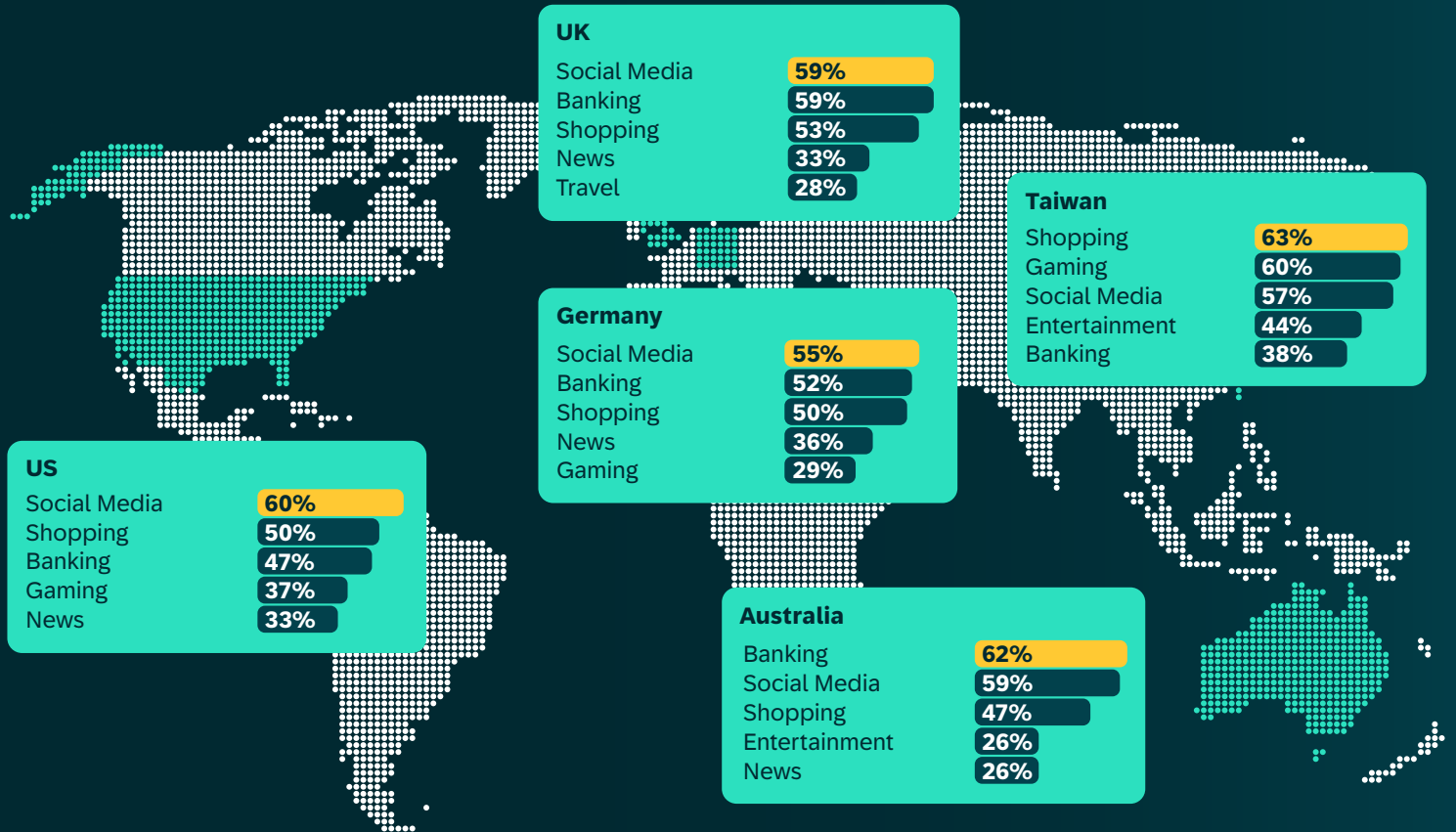


What are the most popular apps customers are using?





Most Popular Apps by Country

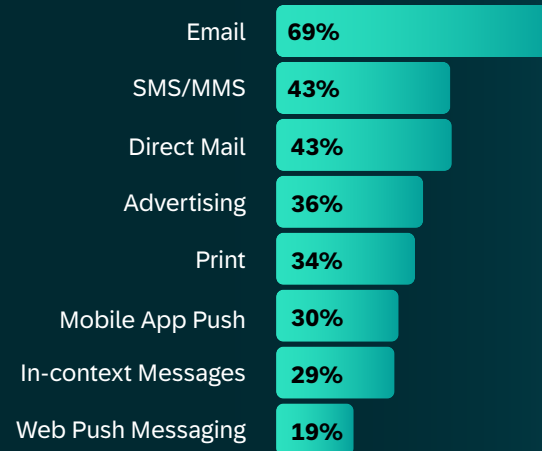




How Do Customers Prefer to be Contacted?

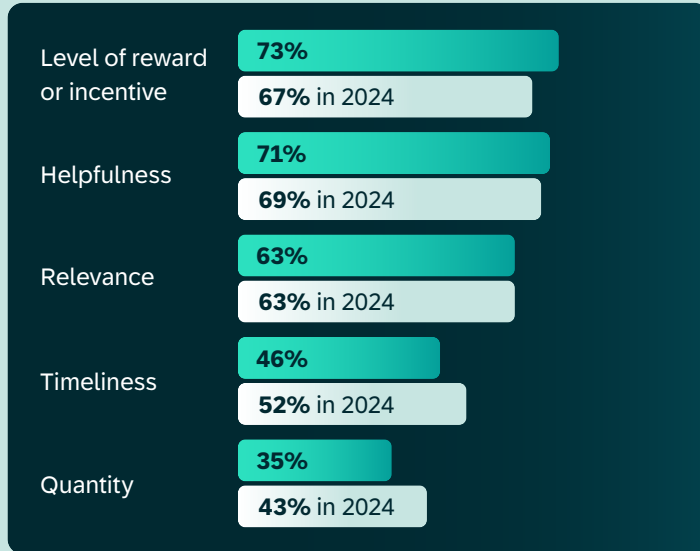
Understanding customer communication preferences drives more engagement. In recent years, the top three preferred communication channels are email, SMS, and direct mail.

What type of messages do customers find most useful?

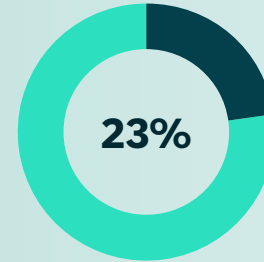




What encourages customers to “allow” notifications from apps?



Besides the reward level, customers seek brands that offer more help or support through mobile app notifications. Use this channel to drive personalized product discovery instead of batch-and-blast messages that lead to a quick opt-out and cost you more in the long run.



of consumers say batch-and-blast marketing actively damages their loyalty

♥ Loyalty Lever

Deploy AI-powered segmentation to create more cost-effective campaigns that build true loyalty. Use mobile-channels to drive email opt-ins, mobile downloads, or in-store shopping.



In-depth Analysis: Consumer Products and Supermarket Loyalty



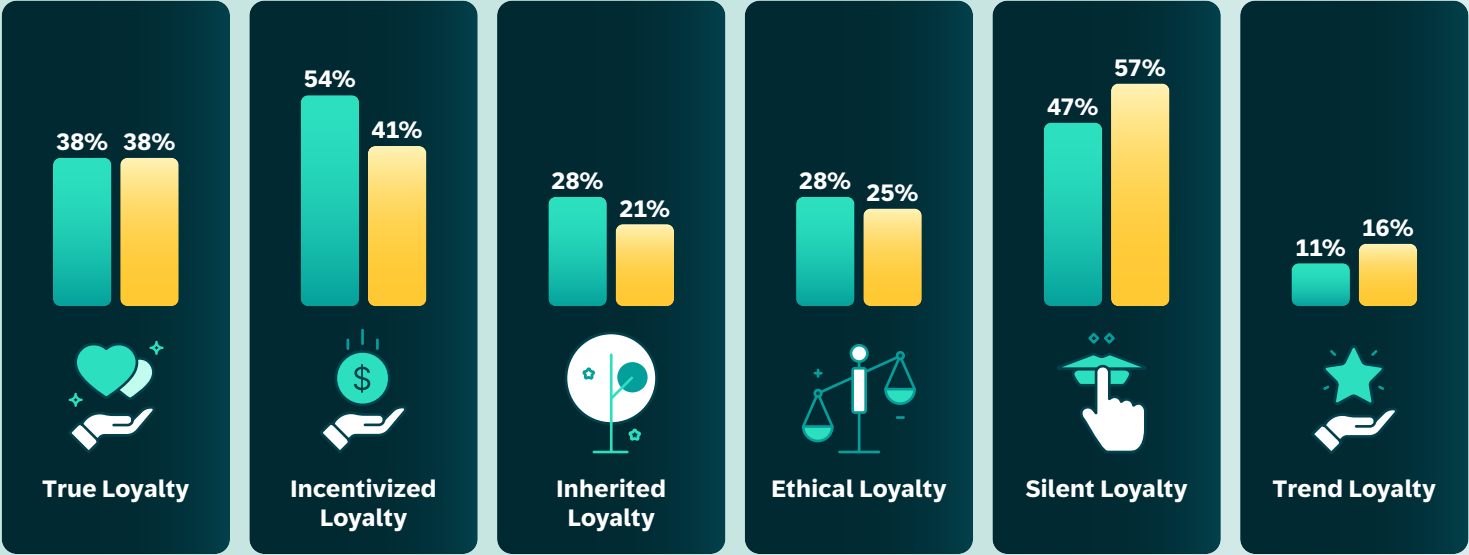


Consumer Products Loyalty

In 2025, **48% of customers** reported loyalty to a consumer products (CP) brand, an **increase of 8% points** from 2024. Shoppers stick with brands offering reasonable prices, consistent quality, and easy in-store and online experiences.

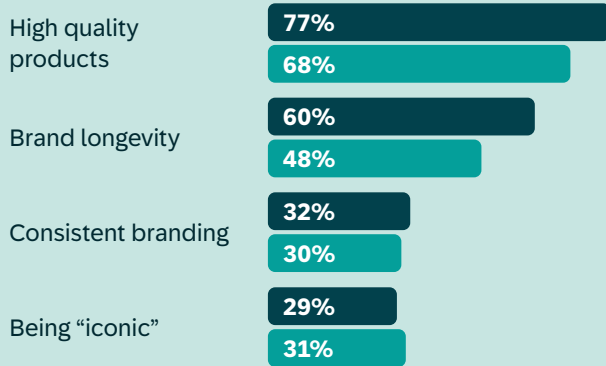
CP Customer Loyalty

● Consumer Products ● Other Respondents





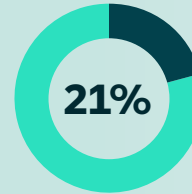
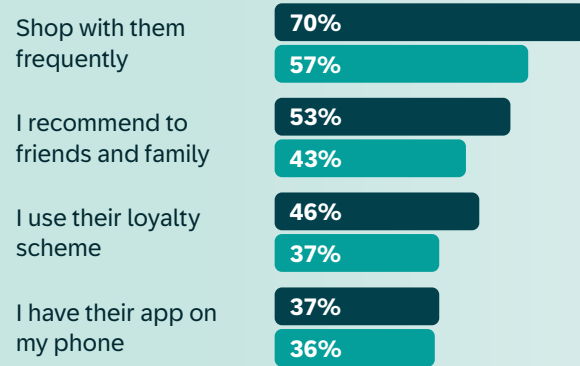
Key Loyalty Drivers for CP Brands



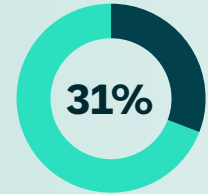
Why are CP customers loyal to particular brands?



How do CP customers show their loyalty?



of CP consumers buy products that are more expensive than alternatives



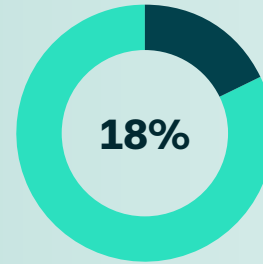
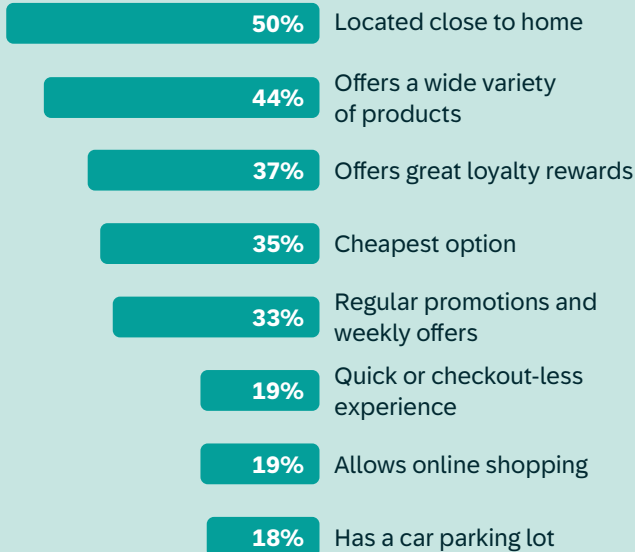
of CP consumers want a seamless experience every time they interact with a brand



Loyalty Toward Physical Stores

Despite the growth of online shopping, experiences in physical stores still influence their trust and long-term relationship with a brand. Loyalty for supermarkets tends to center around convenience, value, and trust.

Why are customers more loyal to a supermarket, grocery store, or a shop?



of customers don't care which supermarket they use if it meets their needs.



Loyalty Lever

To build lifelong loyalty, brands need more than great products. Use customer data to send reminders when they might be running low on certain items. Deploy location-based marketing tactics to reach customers when they are nearby.



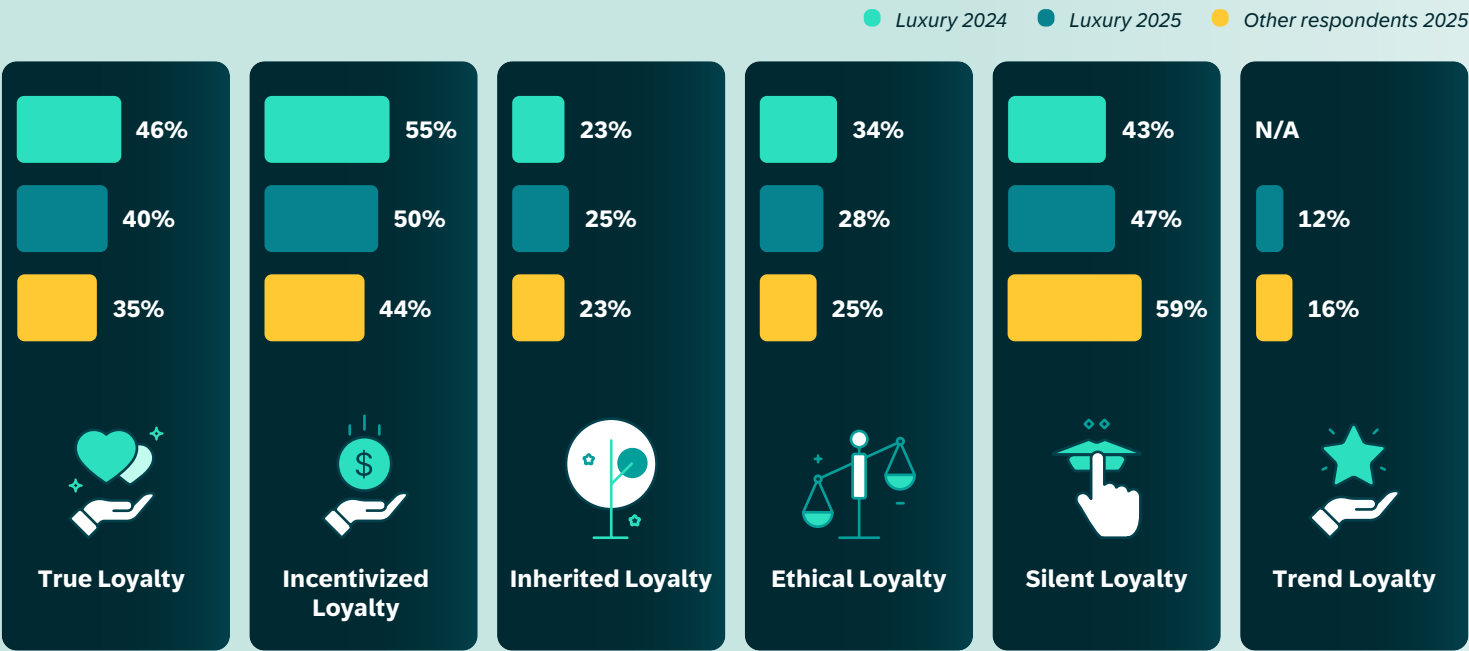
In-depth Analysis: Luxury Loyalty in 2025





Luxury Loyalty* in 2025

In the world of luxury, loyalty isn't earned with points. Instead, Luxury Loyalty transforms one-time buyers into brand devotees through curated, high-touch experiences.



* Respondents who selected "They produce high quality / exclusive products" when asked "What best explains why you are loyal to particular brand(s)?"



Luxury Loyalty Drivers

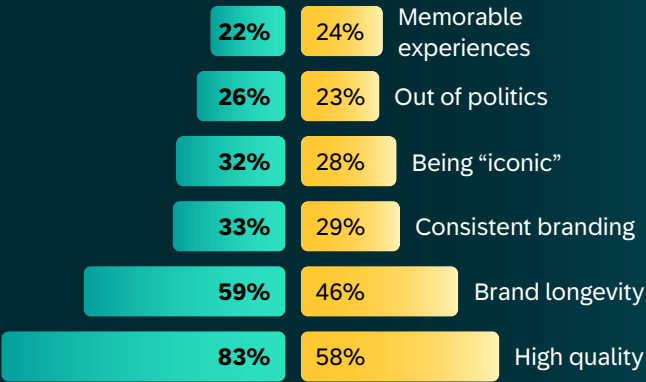
Brand longevity has increased **by 12%** since 2024, highlighting how important it is for luxury shoppers to withstand time and remain relevant throughout the years.



Loyalty Lever

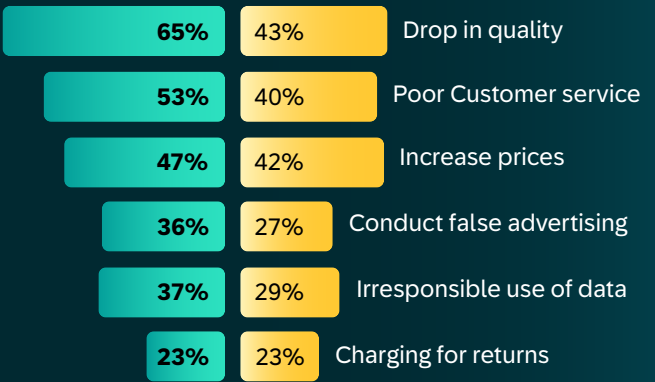
Luxury brands need to treat loyalty as a long-term strategy by investing in hyper-personalized experiences, using AI technologies to maximize customer engagement.

What positively impacts your loyalty to luxury brands?



● Luxury 2025 ● Other respondents 2025

What negatively impacts your loyalty to luxury brands?



● Luxury 2025 ● Other respondents 2025



Conclusion



Loyalty in the Engagement Era

Loyalty has never mattered more. True Loyalty is declining and harder to earn. Customers are still loyal, but only to brands that make them feel understood. Trend Loyalty is rising and fueled by emotion, speed, and social influence. Inherited Loyalty no longer holds as expectations have changed.

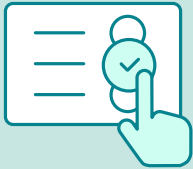
What is driving these changes? A growing personalization gap. This isn't a messaging issue. It's a data and execution challenge. To close that gap, brands need more than campaigns.

SAP Emarsys empowers brands to turn insight into action by using real-time customer data, predictive AI, and omnichannel customer engagement to close the personalization gap and earn lasting loyalty.

In today's Engagement Era, loyalty must be earned with relevance, consistency, and care. Every interaction with your customers is a catalyst for inspiration, driving innovation and forging bonds that transcend transactions.



Methodology



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Respondents across the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, Germany, and Taiwan.

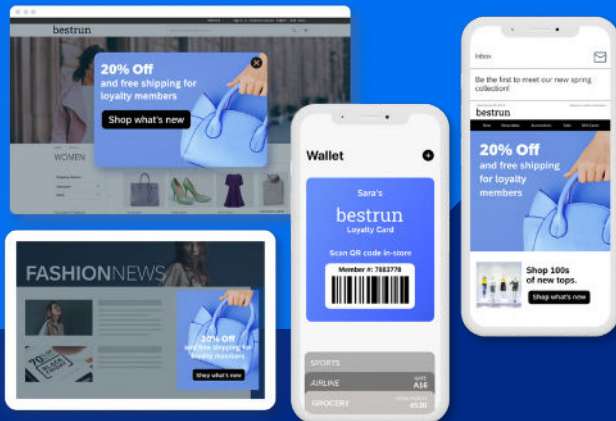
The research was conducted by Opinion Matters as part of global research among a sample of 10,006 respondents (aged 16+) across the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, Germany, and Taiwan. The data was collected between 5 and 12 June 2025. Opinion Matters abides by and employs members of the Market Research Society and follows the MRS code of conduct and ESOMAR principles. Opinion Matters is also a member of the British Polling Council.

The report also includes global data from past research conducted in 2024 by Opinion Matters and combined with 3Gem Research and Insights, with a sample of 12,041 general respondents across the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Australia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Additionally, this report includes global data from past research conducted in 2023 by Opinion Matters only, with a sample of 10,057 general respondents across the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, and Australia, and in 2022 and 2021 with samples of 9,063 and 7,074 general respondents respectively across the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Australia, and France.

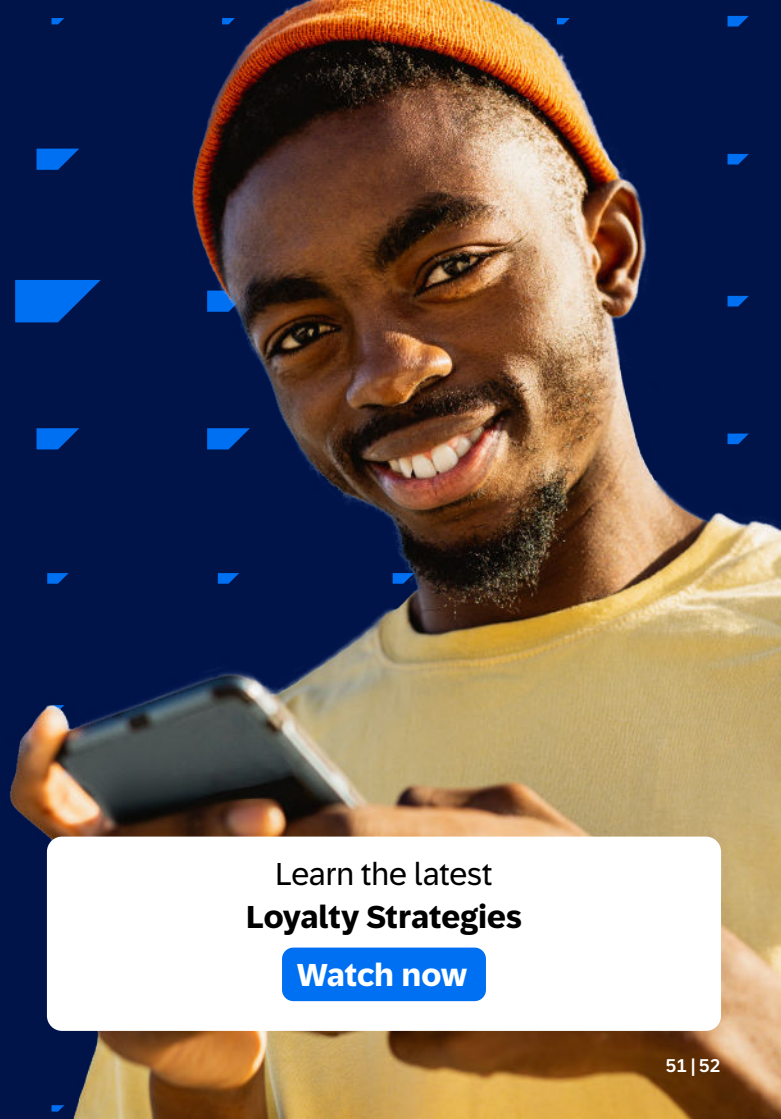
The generation breakdown throughout this report refers to Gen Z, 16 to 28 years old; Millennials, 29 to 44; Gen X, 45 to 60; Baby Boomer, 61 to 79; and the Silent Generation, 80+.

Moreover, in this report when it is mentioned a percentage change or difference in percentages, we refer to percentage points difference rather than percentage rate.



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