

# ecommerce report

The changing shape of the local ecommerce  
and retail marketing landscape

australia : wave 4  
new zealand : wave 1  
2024

iab.  
australia Pureprofile



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# introduction

We are proud to present Wave 4 of the Australian-commerce Report in collaboration with our long-standing partner, IAB Australia. This report provides valuable insights into online consumer behaviour in an unpredictable and challenging environment. This year, we're thrilled to expand our analysis to include New Zealand, giving us a deeper understanding of spending habits across the Tasman Sea.

Our report is set against a backdrop of a shifting economic climate. With many consumers feeling the pinch of inflation and interest rate hikes over the past year, there is a noticeable shift towards conservative spending. Convenience remains the key driver for purchasing items online, but people are being more cautious in their approach. Across Australia and New Zealand, consumers are spending more time researching a potential purchase or delaying it altogether. Current and future cost of living pressures have also seen them cut down on purchasing non-essential items.

In this quest for savings, consumers are prioritising the best possible deals and frequently switch retailers or brands to secure better prices. Rewards and loyalty programs have also gained traction, with our findings revealing that 9 out of 10 online shoppers are enrolled in at least one program to earn rewards or cashback.

While budgets are tighter, retailers still have a great opportunity to capture attention with the majority of consumers engaging with some form of retail marketing. Moreover, nearly all online shoppers are willing to exchange personal information with retailers in exchange for benefits, as long as there is transparency about how their data is being used.

We hope this report provides crucial insight to help businesses navigate the evolving landscape of online consumer behaviour. Together with the IAB, we remain committed to delivering comprehensive and actionable data to support strategic decisions in this dynamic market.



**Martin Filz**  
CEO  
Pureprofile



**Gai Le Roy**  
CEO  
IAB Australia

The IAB are proud to partner with Pureprofile to release the fourth wave of the Ecommerce Report assessing Australian consumer attitudes and behaviours and to include insights on the ecommerce market and shoppers in New Zealand for the first time.

The IAB Australia brings together around 180 members to help build sustainable and diverse investment in digital advertising. Our role includes understanding the digital landscape and highlighting its opportunities to the broader market.

Online shopping is firmly established as an essential part of the retail landscape. Consumers continue to discover brands via a huge range of digital channels and ad formats available to advertisers. With increased cost of living pressures this year, shoppers have relied on online channels to provide the information and the tools to help them with more discerning decision making.

The increased importance of loyalty programs for shoppers and retailers is underpinned by trust, transparency and a clearly understood value exchange. Consumers are increasingly looking to loyalty and rewards programs for key benefits including lower prices.

As retailers ramp up retail media offerings, first party data and retailer content are key ingredients in the opportunity for partnering with retailers to reach shoppers at the point of purchase. It is critical that retail businesses carefully review communications to ensure they are providing clear information about their use of shoppers' personal information, as new privacy regulation in Australia is imminent.

The Australian e-commerce sector has experienced significant growth over recent years and it is clear that ecommerce will continue to present exciting opportunities for shoppers, retailers, media owners and advertisers.

# executive summary

Online shopping is firmly established as **an essential part of the retail landscape** in Australia and New Zealand. The COVID pandemic changed consumer attitudes and behaviours helping online shopping become a mainstream retail avenue. Australian online shopping frequency has increased from 2021 and been maintained year on year.

New online stores are entering the market and expanding product ranges. There is a diverse range of products being purchased online with **clothing, fashion & shoes, groceries and meals & takeaways** being the most popular.

Retailers must look to win over online shoppers with added value and relevant shopping experiences that are suited to the current economic climate and deliver truly life enhancing convenience. **Convenience remains the #1 reason for purchasing online** but stands out less as a driver in recent years. With cost of living pressures there is **a heightened consumer quest for lower prices and discounts**.

With cost of living pressures, online shoppers are embracing more considered spending behaviour, making careful changes to keep their budgets under control. Most online shoppers currently feel like they don't have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping.

Retailers need strategies to overcome consumer hesitancy and possible brand, product and retailer switching (particularly amongst 18-49s). Retailers and brands should **enhance their value proposition, loyalty programs**, delivering **convenience** as well as focus on **brand trust and customer experience and support**. Having information available and an **easy research process** will also enhance consumer confidence.

There are many ways that various segments of online shoppers discover products and brands. It is important for retailers and brands to show up in these various avenues to discovery as online shoppers are spending more time shopping around comparing features, prices, and reviews. **Search** remains key and **social media and influencers** are key for 18-39s. **Price comparison sites** and **shopping events** have increased in importance.

**Content produced and distributed by retailers** (in particular retailer websites and apps, social posts and emails) is also an important way online shoppers are discovering products and brands. The dominance of digital content touchpoints along with loyalty programs provide rich data for retail marketers.

Cost of living pressures have increased the usage of **shopper loyalty and rewards programs** with the number of online shoppers signed up to paid programs has also increased.

**Trust and transparency are key for retailers collecting shopper data** as online shoppers concerns about how retailers use their data have increased significantly over the last year. Retailers need to ensure they are using **clear communication around the data value exchange** and **transparency on how shopper data is used**, to make shoppers more comfortable to provide their data.

Most online shoppers do understand that their data is used for targeting advertising, marketing and personalising products shown to them. **Nearly all online shoppers are willing to share some type of personal data** with retail businesses in exchange for benefits from the retailer.



## background

online shopping behaviour

online shopping drivers

cost of living impact

discovering products and brands

retail marketing

retail data exchange

# 01. background

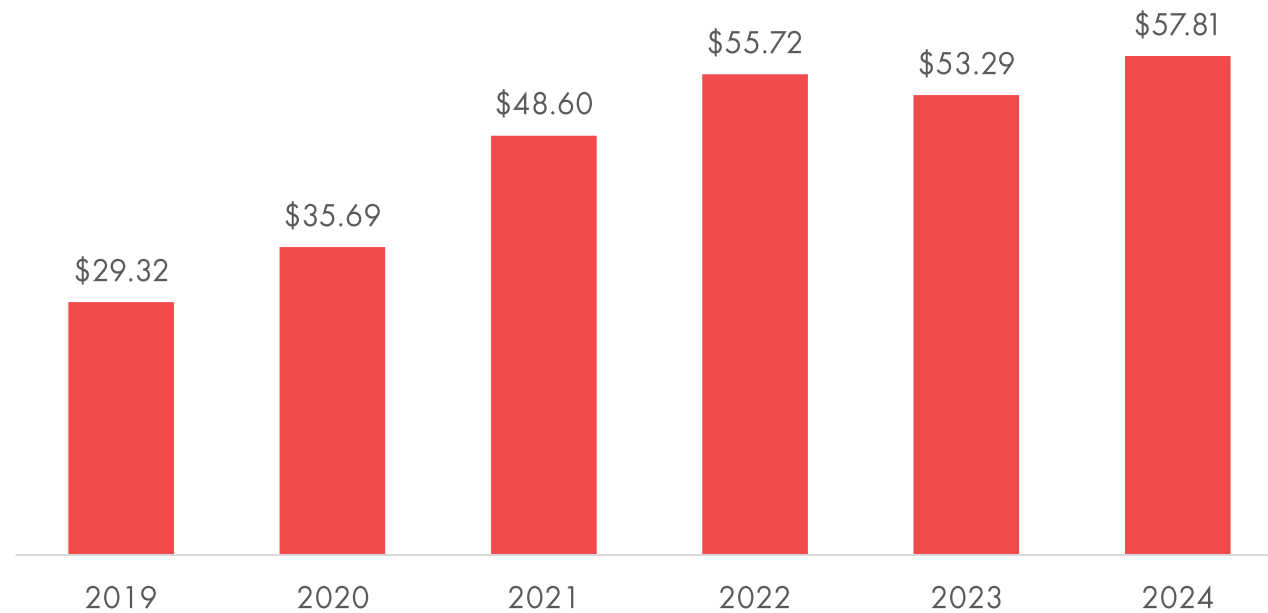
## growth in online retail expenditure

NAB estimates that in the 12 months to June 2024, Australians spent

**\$57.81 billion**

on online retail, growing 8.3% year on year. This is around 13.5% of the total retail trade estimate.

### australian online retail sales NAB Online Retail Sales Index Report

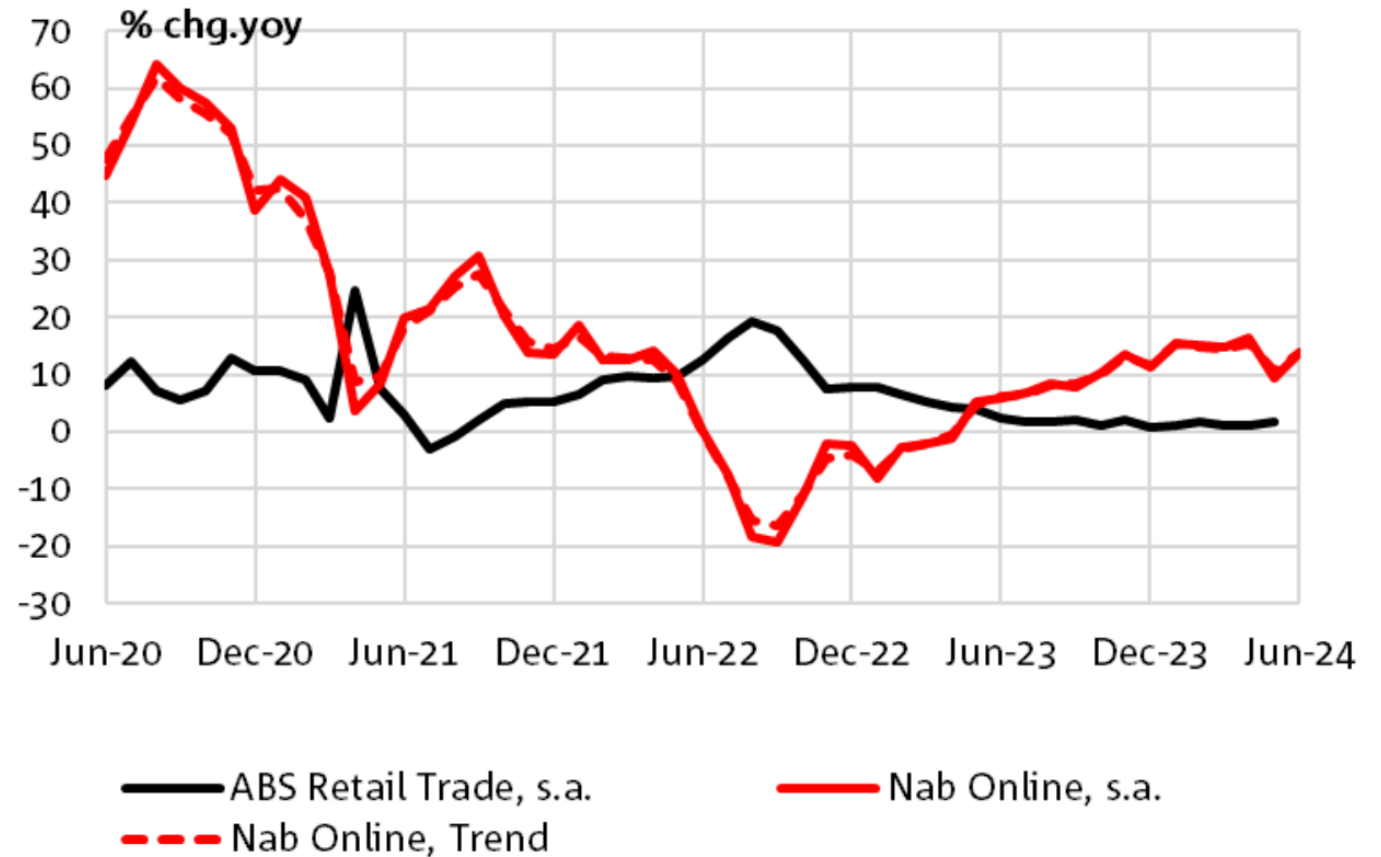


## current economic conditions are impacting expenditure

For the month of June 2024 growth accelerated in year-on-year terms (14.0% y/y), with online retail recording continuous growth by this metric since May 2023.

“The average spend also increased, and beyond the rate of growth in volume of transactions. While the seasonal factors should account for larger baskets of goods purchased in the June EOFY sales period, there may also be an element of price inflation, evidenced by strong year on year growth.”

### NAB Australian online retail sales and ABS retail sales



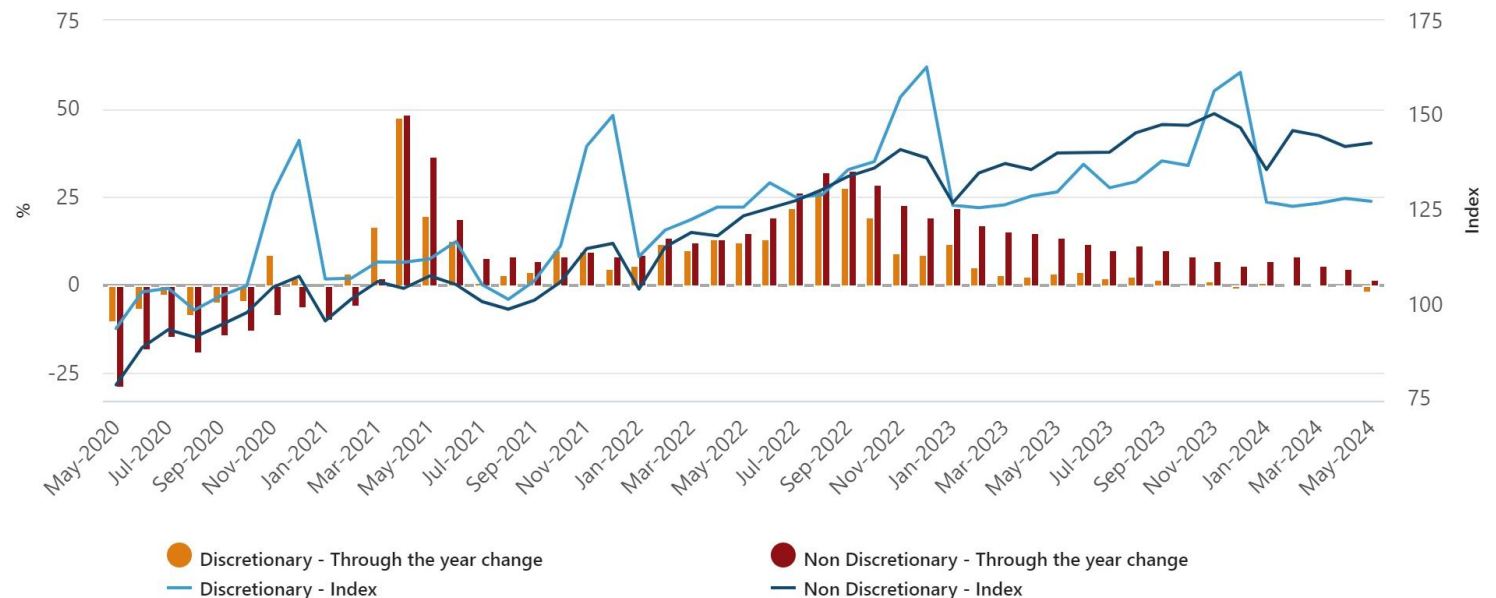
# australian household discretionary spending has been falling

In the latest month of ABS data, May 2024 household spending increased 0.1% through the year on a current price, calendar adjusted basis.

Through the year, household spending increased for services (+2.3%) and decreased for goods (-2.5%).

Through the year, household spending increased for non-discretionary (+1.8%) and decreased for discretionary (-1.9%).

## ABS household discretionary and non-discretionary spending current price, calendar adjusted



Index reference period January 2019 = 100.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Household Spending Indicator May 2024

# nearly all online australians visit a retail website or app in a month

**21.16 million**

99% of online australians aged 14+ visited an **online retail or commerce** website or app on computer, smartphone, tablet in June 2024.

On average online retail visitors spent **6.6 hours** on retail or commerce websites and apps in June 2024.

## most popular online retail and commerce subcategories in June 2024 audience aged 14+



**consumer electronics**  
18.4 million



**voucher/rewards**  
17.7 million



**grocery/supermarkets**  
16.5 million



**dept, discount stores**  
15.4 million



**fast food and delivery**  
14.6 million



**fashion & beauty**  
14.3 million

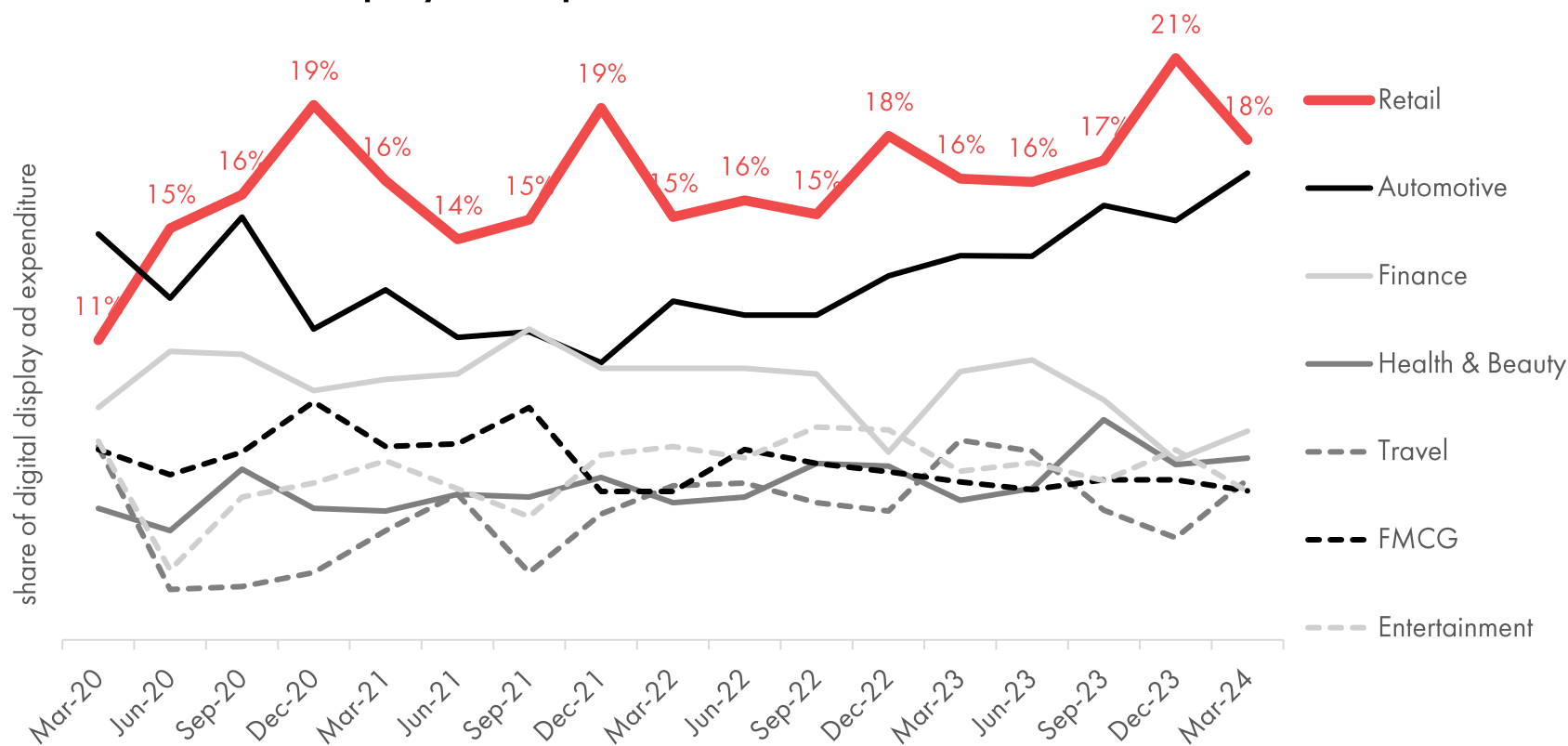


# retail is the #1 online advertising expenditure category

**18%**

of digital display advertising expenditure is from retail advertisers.

australian online display advertiser expenditure, top categories (share of online display ad expenditure)



# methodology

## australia

**survey  
in field:**

wave 1 - june 2021  
wave 2 - june 2022  
wave 3 - july 2023  
wave 4 - july 2024



survey  
respondents  
each wave

## new zealand

**survey  
in field:** july  
2024



### respondents:

nationally representative sample of australians aged 18 to 70 who have shopped online at least once in the last 12 months

Previous year reports are available to download from the IAB Australia website.

### respondents:

nationally representative sample of new zealanders aged 18 to 70 who have shopped online at least once in the last 12 months

Comparisons between New Zealand and Australia for wave 4 are made throughout this report.

background

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## 02. online shopping behaviour

# online shopping behaviour

AU NZ

# 83%

of Australian online shoppers are shopping every month



49% for groceries



76% for other retail products

# 77%

of New Zealand online shoppers are shopping every month



42% for groceries



71% for other retail products

## Top products purchased online:

- Clothing, shoes & fashion
- Groceries
- Meals & takeaway
- Travel
- Tickets

## Top products purchased online:

- Clothing, shoes & fashion
- Groceries
- Meals & takeaway
- Travel
- Books, toys & stationery

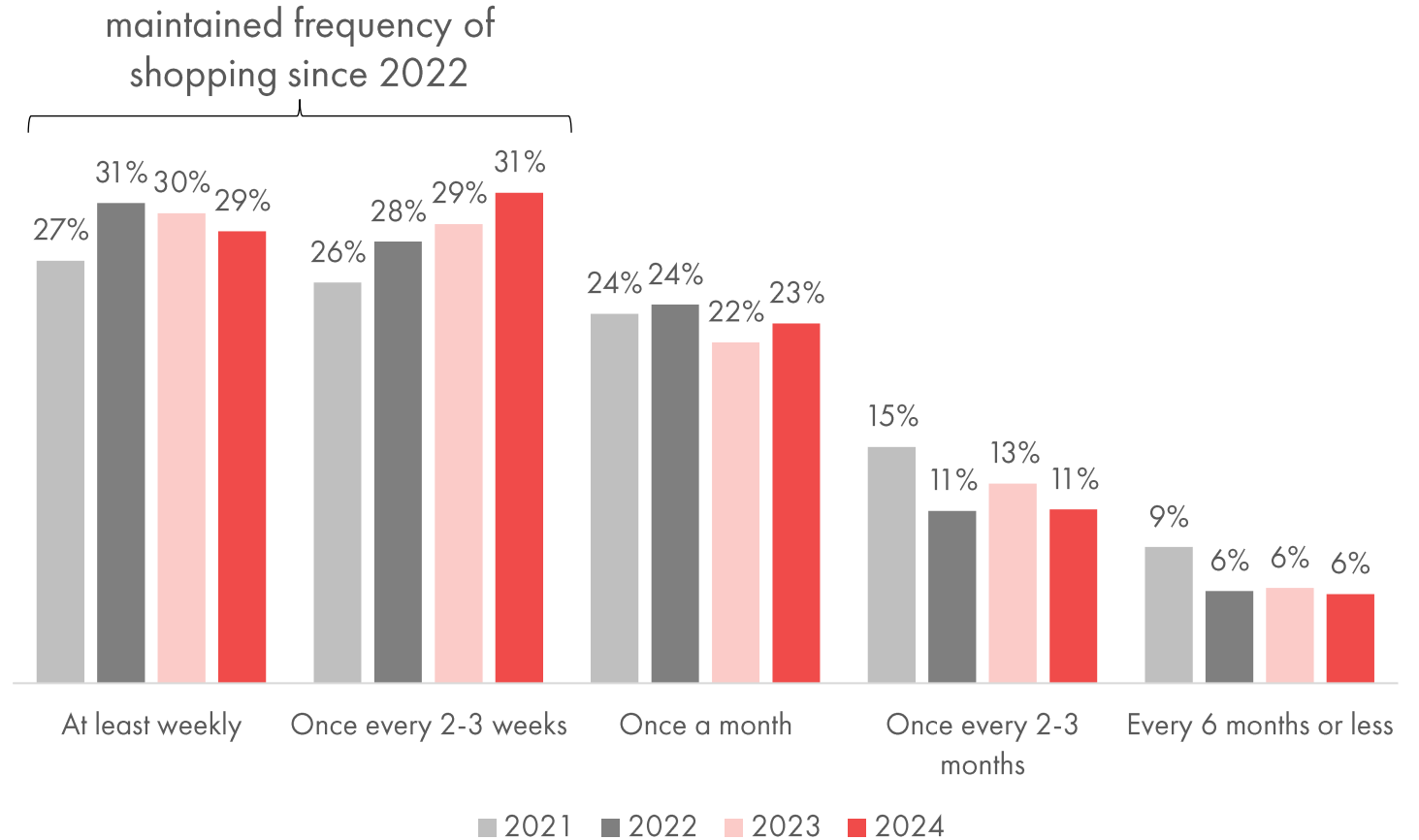
# buying frequency of online shoppers

## 6 in 10

(60%) are shopping online every 2-3 weeks, maintaining frequency of shopping over the last two years (up from 53% in 2021).

83% of Australian online shoppers are shopping every month.

## australian frequency of online shopping





# buying frequency of online shoppers

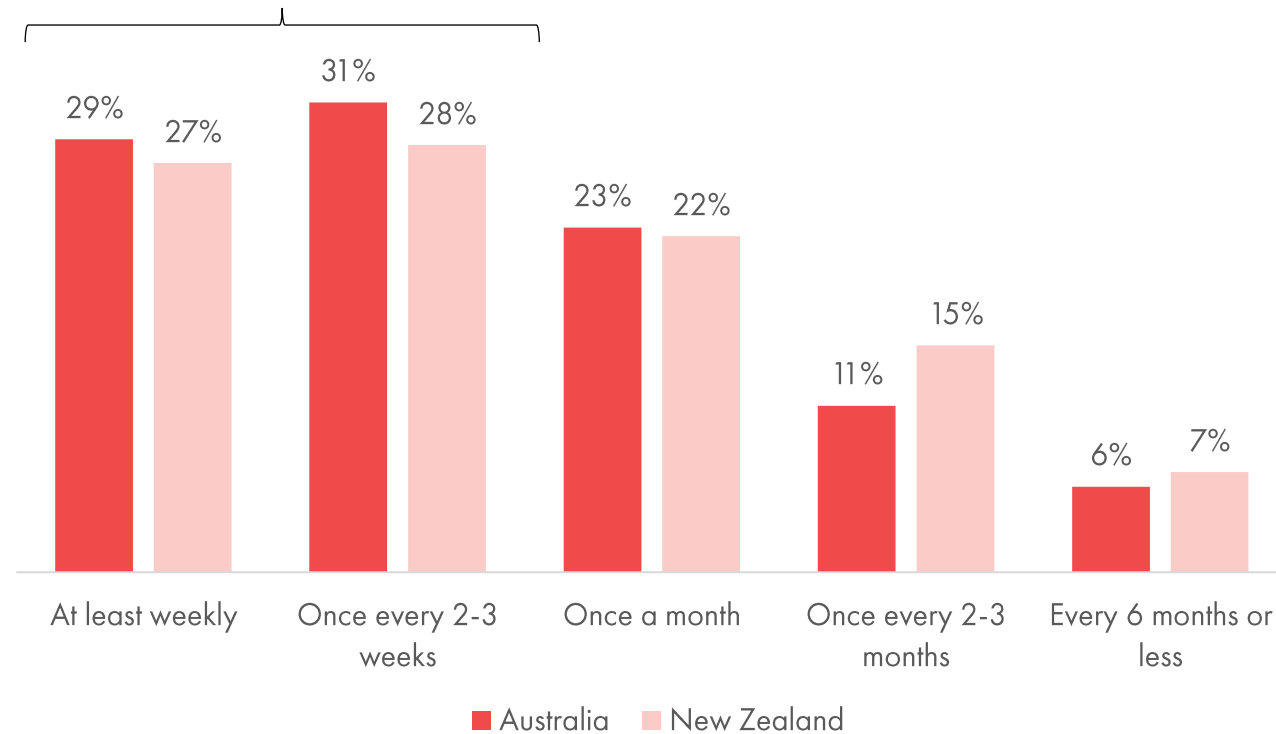
**60%**

of Australian online shoppers are shopping every 2-3 weeks.

**55%**

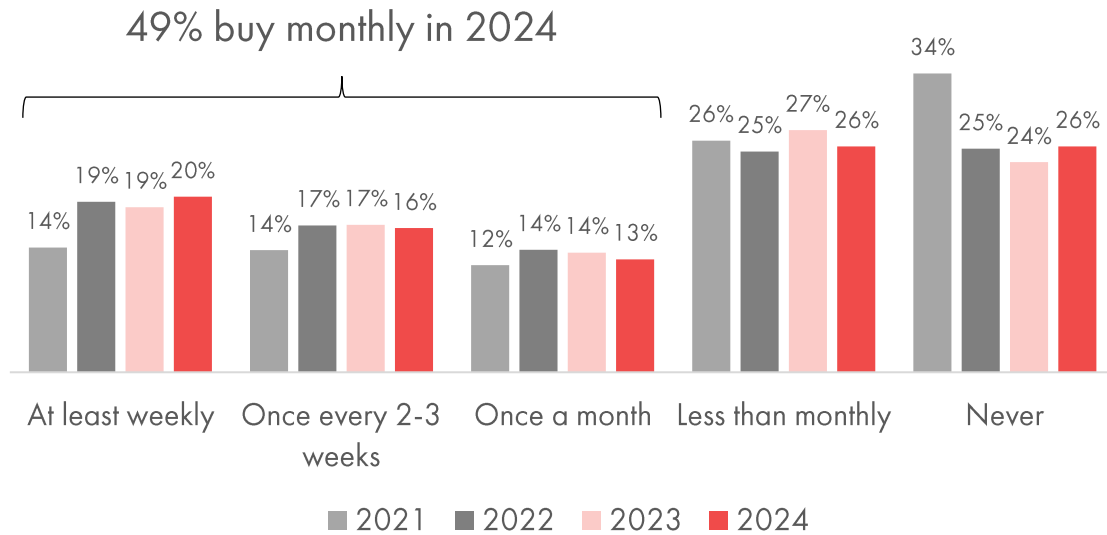
of New Zealand online shoppers are shopping every 2-3 weeks.  
77% of New Zealand online shoppers are shopping every month.

## frequency of online shopping



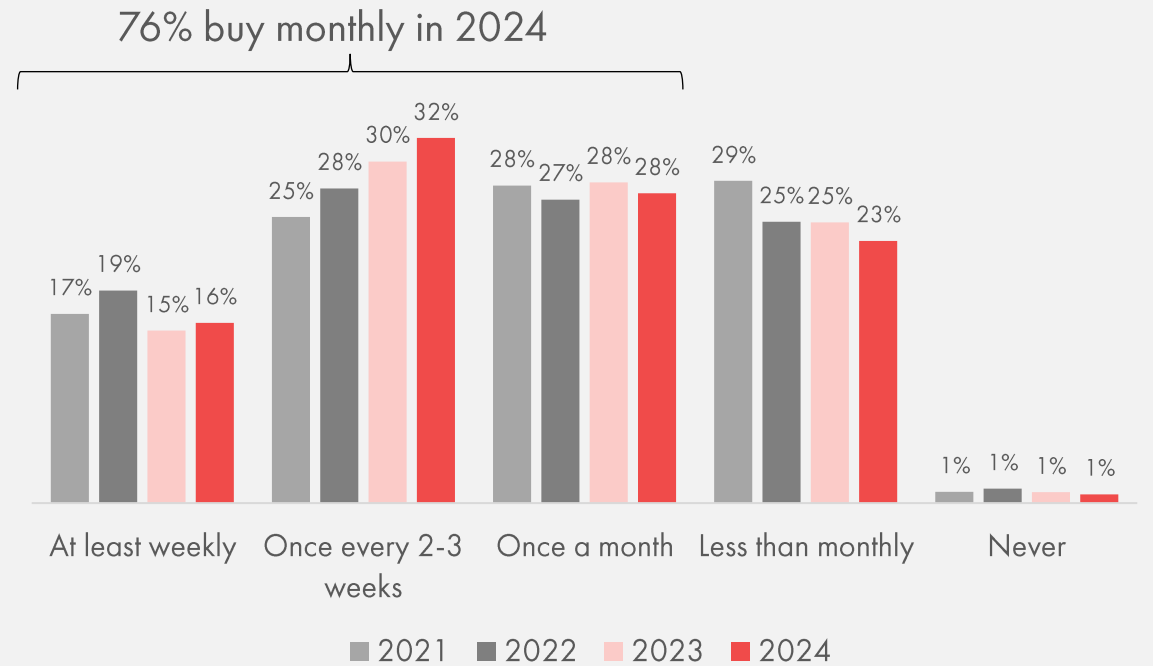
# frequency of online shopping for groceries and other retail products has been maintained

## australian frequency of buying groceries online



Online shopping for groceries at least once a month has remained stable at 49% of online shoppers since 2022 (up from 40% in 2021)

## australian frequency of buying other retail products online

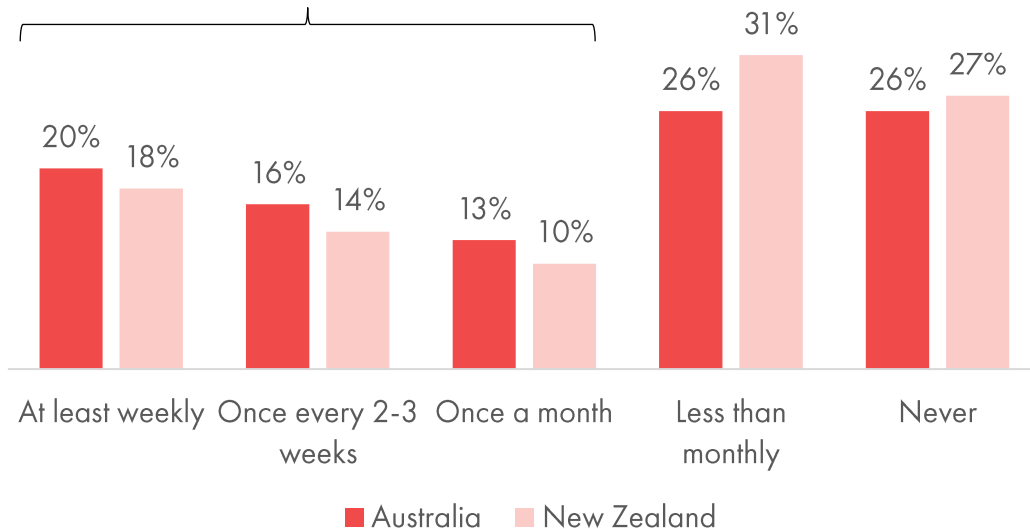


Online shopping for non-grocery retail products at least once a month has steadily increased to 76% (up from 73% last year and 70% in 2021).

# buying frequency of online shoppers for groceries and other retail products

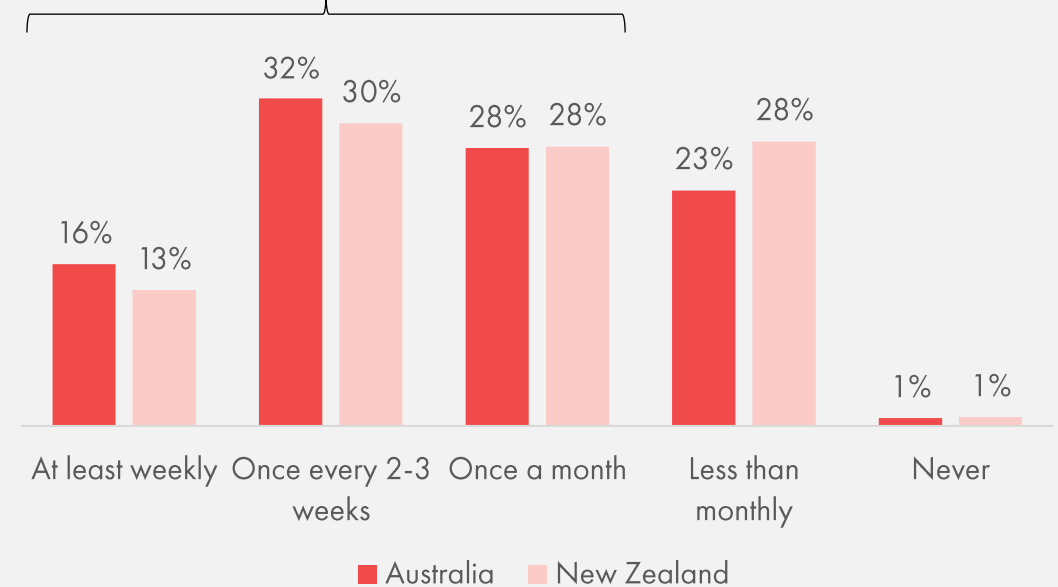
## frequency of buying groceries online

49% Australians and 42% of New Zealanders buy monthly in 2024



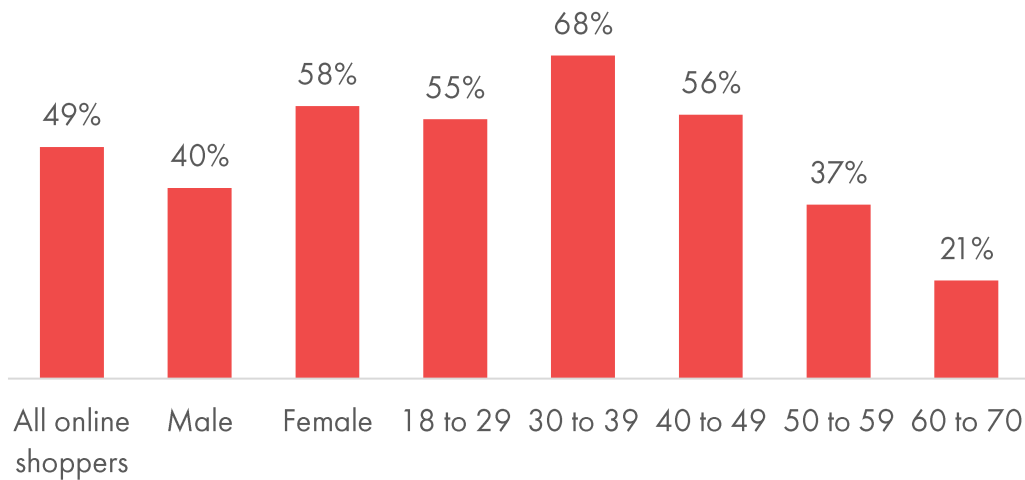
## frequency of buying other (non-grocery) retail products online

76% of Australians and 71% of New Zealanders buy monthly in 2024



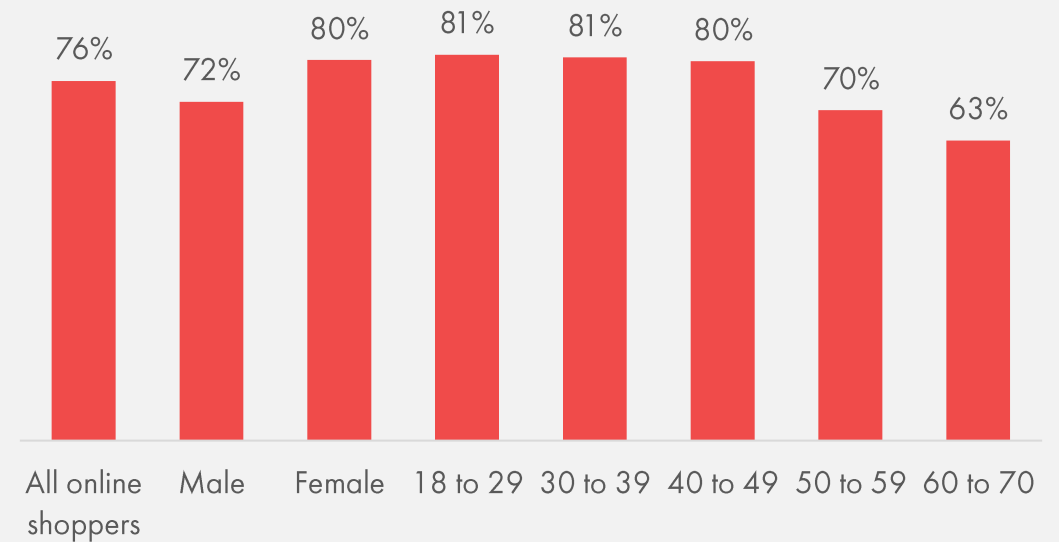
# 18-49's are the key demographic for regular online shopping in australia

## buying groceries online monthly



59% of Australian online shoppers aged 18-49 buy groceries online each month

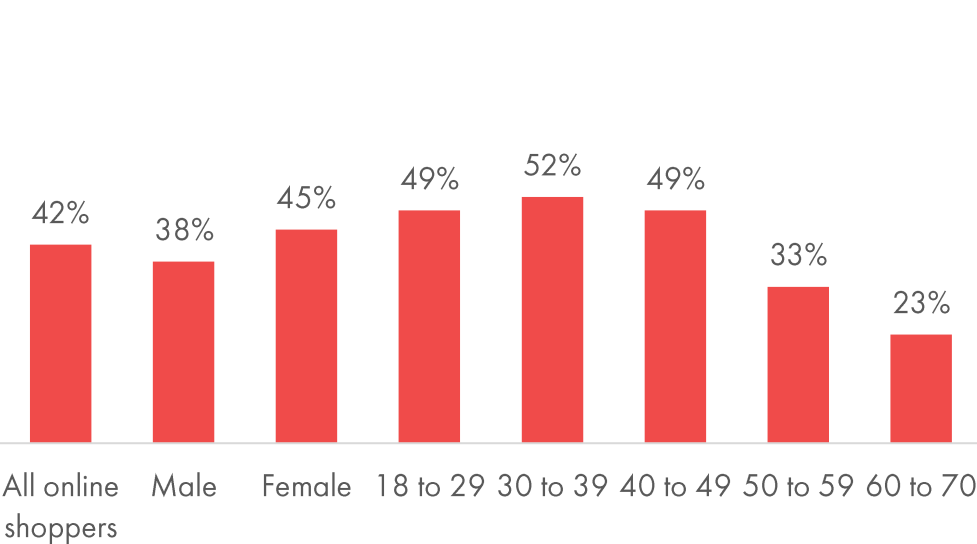
## buying other (non-grocery) retail products online monthly



81% of Australian online shoppers aged 18-49 buy retail products (non-grocery) online each month.

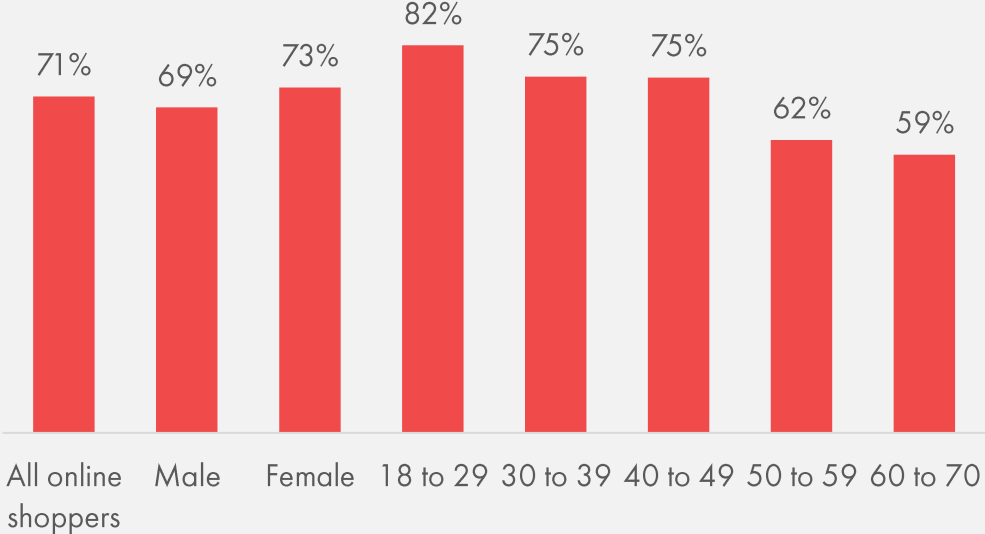
# 18-49's are the key demographic for regular online shopping in new zealand

## buying groceries online monthly



50% of New Zealand online shoppers aged 18-49 buy groceries online each month.

## buying other (non-grocery) retail products online monthly



77% of New Zealand online shoppers aged 18-49 buy retail products (non-grocery) online each month.



# products bought online over last year

**Clothing, shoes and fashion remain the most popular online purchase by Australians over the past 12 months.**

Purchasing petfood online has steadily increased to 35% of online shoppers, up 7% pts from last year (28% in 2023 and 26% in 2021).

Cost-of-living pressures have reduced online shopping for furniture, household goods and appliances to 29%, down -8% pts from last year (37% in 2023 and 33% in 2021).

There is minimal change in other products being purchased since last year.

Travel, hotels and airline bookings; Tickets to events, shows, sports, movies & exhibitions; Content subscriptions (e.g video, music, ebooks); Gift vouchers have been added to the survey for the first time in 2024. Prescription medication was added to the survey for the first time in 2023.

## products bought online by **australian** online shoppers



# products bought online over last year

## Clothing, shoes and fashion are the most popular online purchase in both Australia and New Zealand.

Ranking of purchased items is similar in both markets.

Australians are more likely than New Zealanders to have purchased alcohol and content subscriptions online in the last year.

New Zealanders are more likely than Australians to have purchased home, garden and hardware products online.

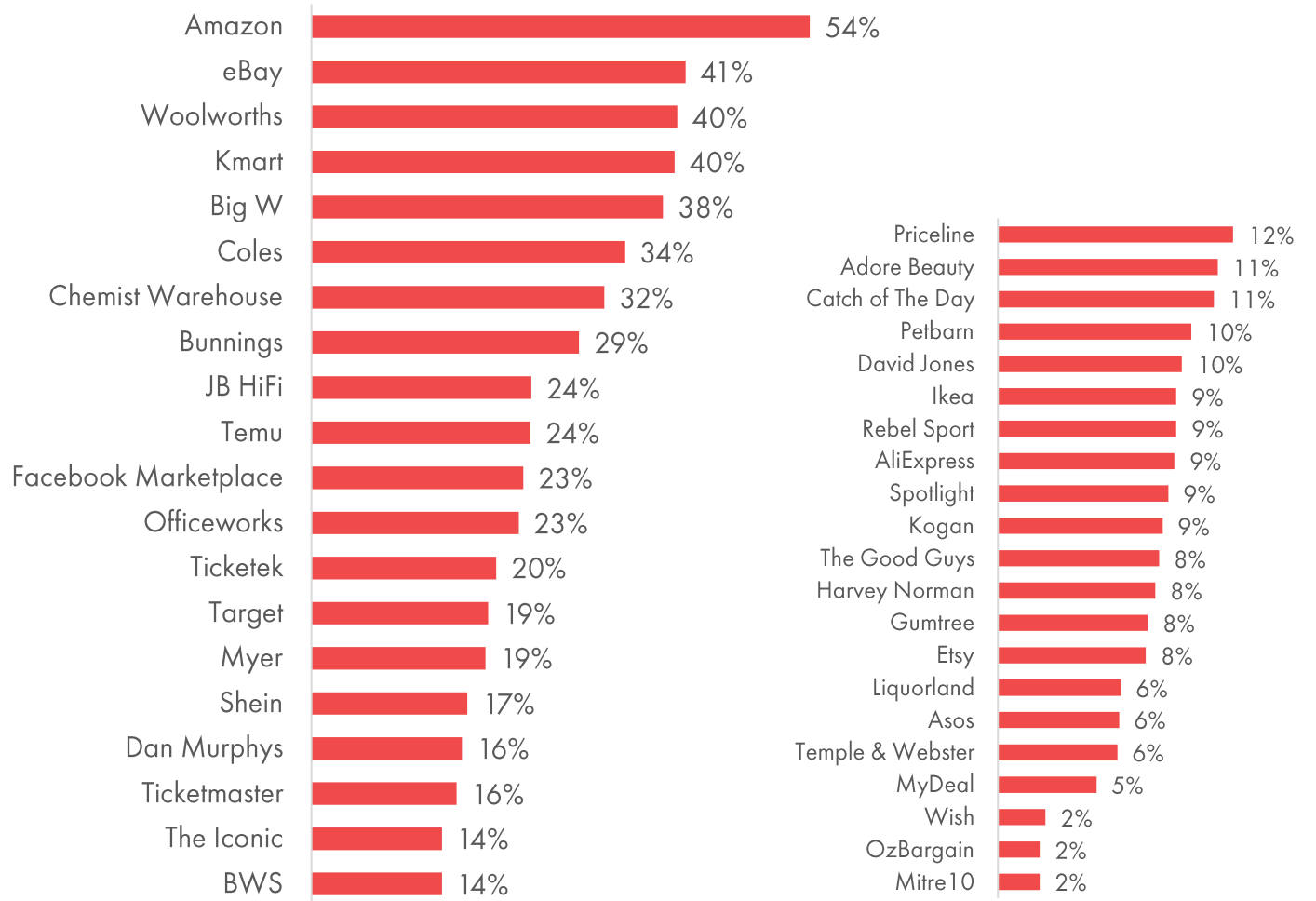


# most popular online retailers and marketplaces purchased from over the last year

**Amazon continues to be the most popular online retailer Australians have purchased from in the last 12 months, usage is up 12% pts on last year to 54%.**

There has been modest growth in online purchasing from BigW, Bunnings, Adore Beauty and Aldi since last year.

## online retailers and marketplaces australian's have purchased from in the last year



## retail category top 20 online brands, monthly audience aged 14+

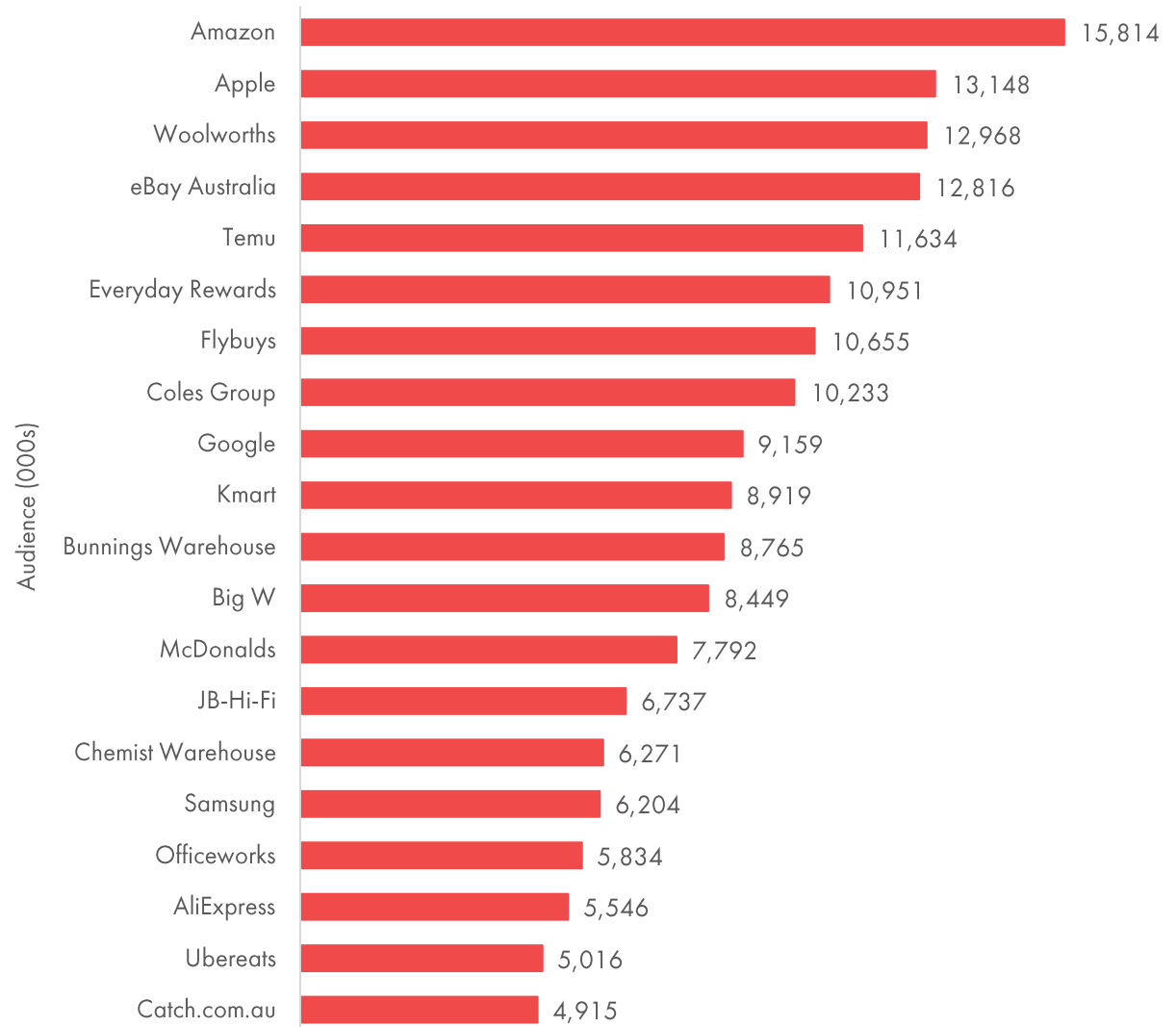
**21.16 million**

Australians aged 14+ used a retail or commerce website or app in June 2024.

Amazon has the largest website and app audience in the online retail and commerce category with over 15.8 million Australians in June 2024.

Audience includes Australian visitors browsing and purchasing from retail websites and apps (and app stores for Apple and Google).

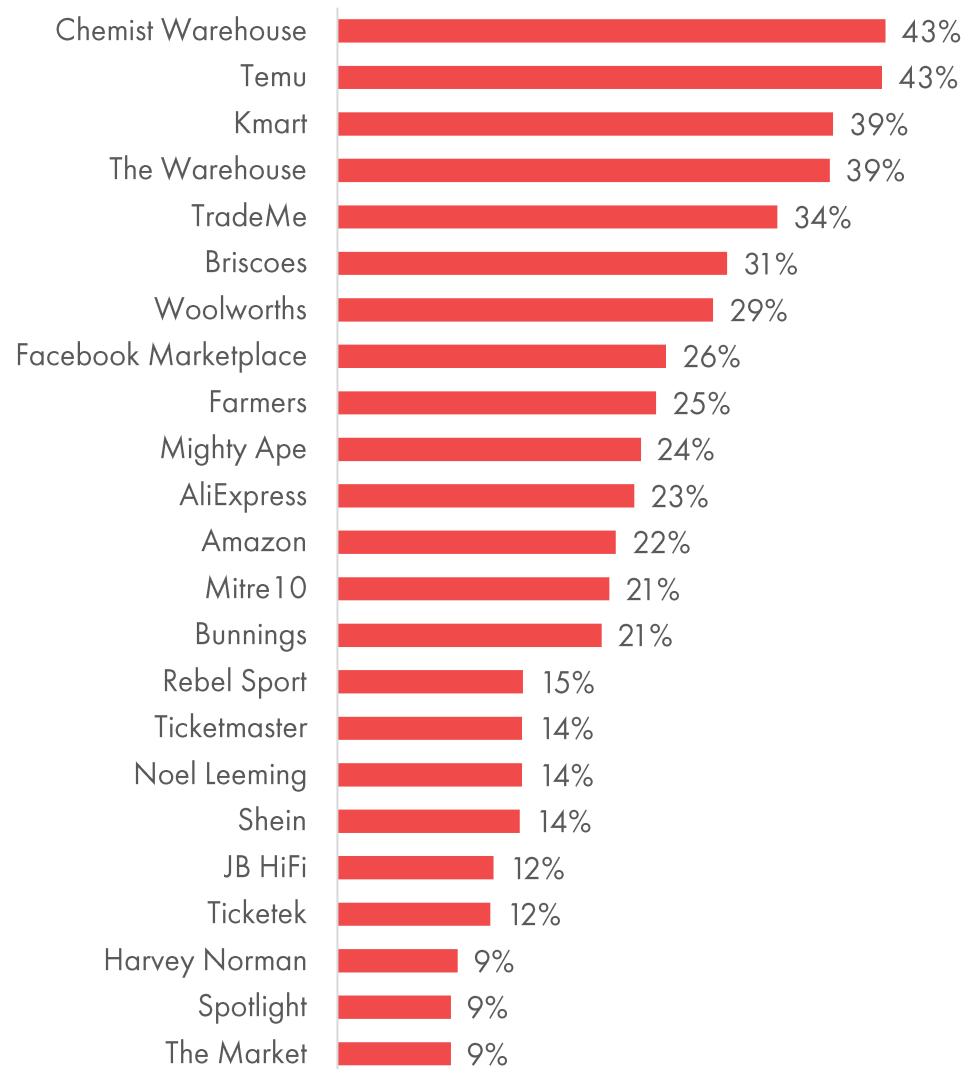
## retail and commerce category australian audience (000s) visiting websites and apps in June 2024



# most popular online retailers and marketplaces new zealanders purchased from over the last year

The top retailers New Zealanders have purchased online from in the last year are a mix of local and global retail brands.

## online retailers and marketplaces new zealanders have purchased from in the last year





# there is continued caution in spending due to current and potential future cost of living pressures



**71%**

**australia**

**70%**

**new zealand**

“potential for further interest rate rises means I’m more cautious about spending”



**75%**

**australia**

**80%**

**new zealand**

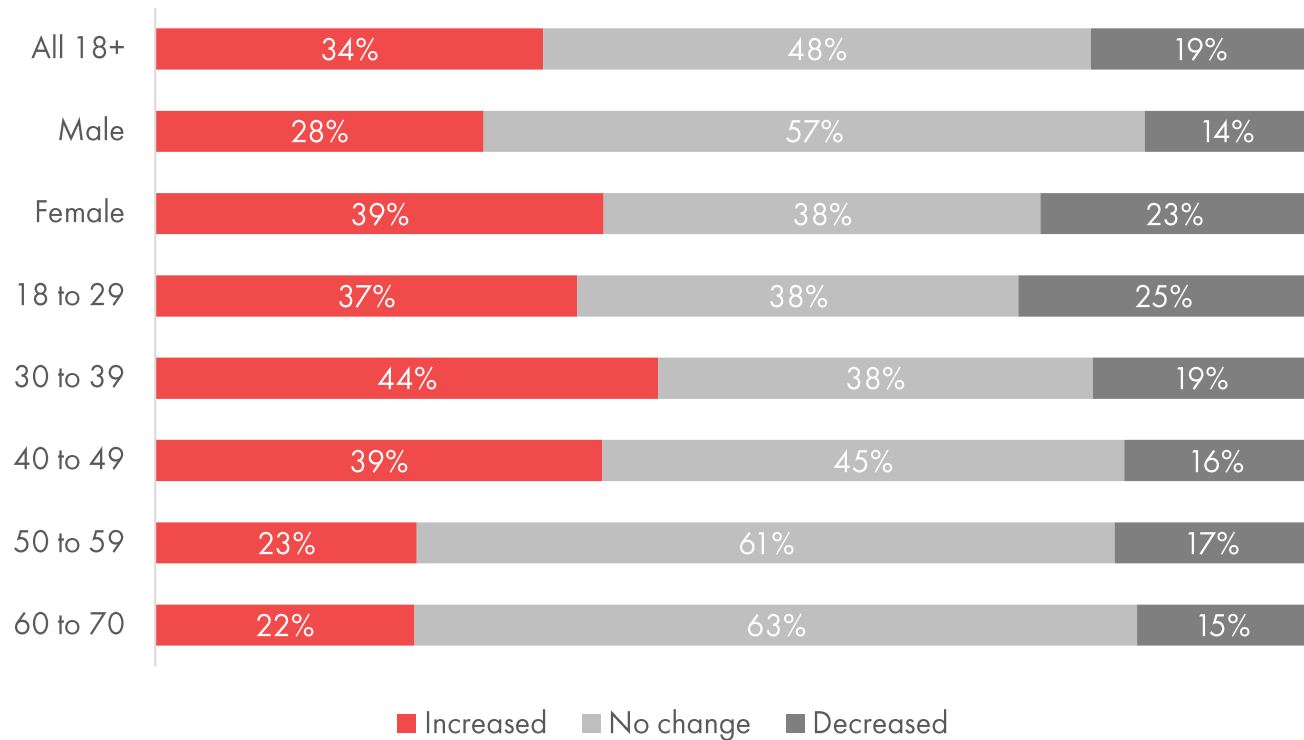
“cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping”

# a third of Australian online shoppers have increased online shopping since recent rises in costs of living

In these times of cautious spending, 34% of Australian online shoppers have increased their usage of online shopping, while 19% have decreased their usage since the recent rises in costs of living.

44% of Australian online shoppers aged 30-39 have increased their usage of online shopping since the recent rises in costs of living (up from 40% in the year prior).

usage of online shopping amongst Australian online shoppers since recent rises in costs of living

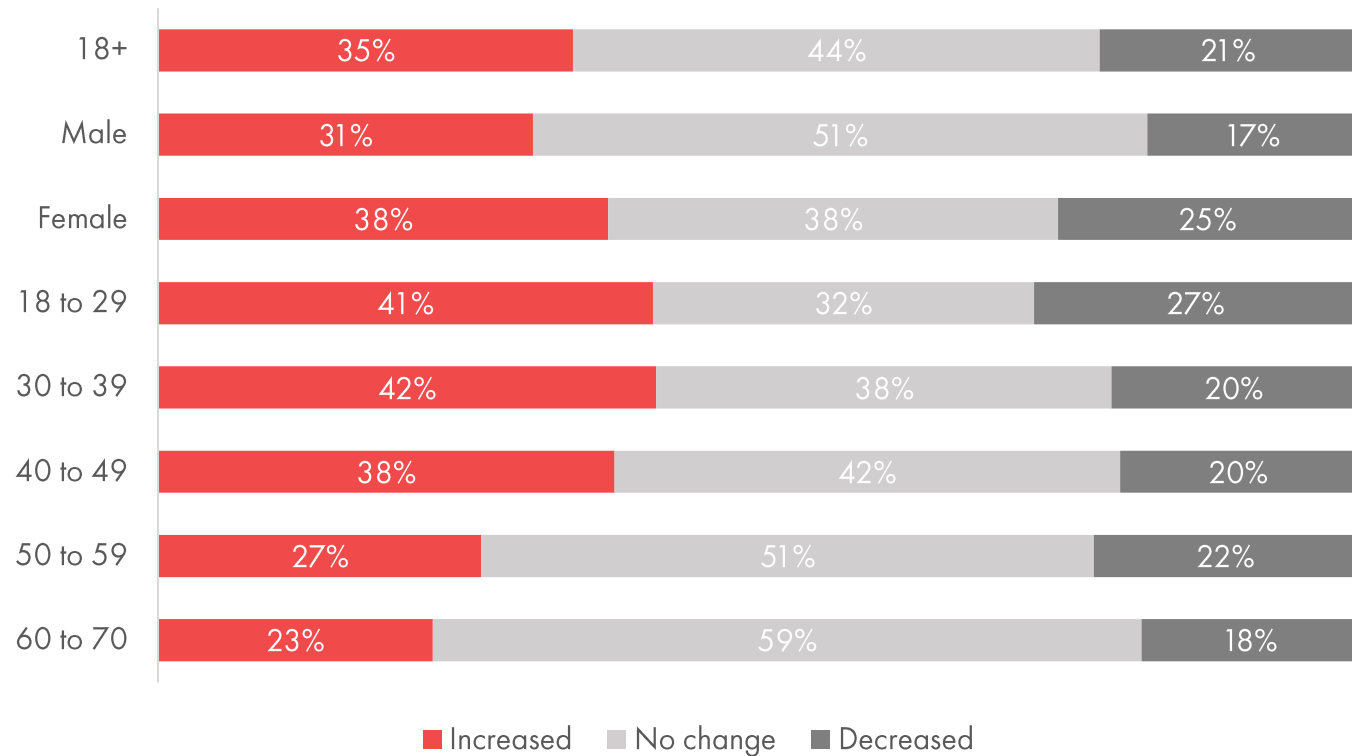


# a third of NZ online shoppers have increased online shopping since recent rises in costs of living

In these times of cautious spending, 35% of New Zealand online shoppers have increased their usage of online shopping, while 21% have decreased their usage since the recent rises in costs of living.

42% of New Zealand online shoppers aged 30-39 have increased their usage of online shopping since the recent rises in costs of living.

usage of online shopping by **new zealand** online shoppers since recent rises in costs of living



# online shopping behaviour

**Online shopping is firmly established, continuing to be an essential part of the retail landscape in Australia and New Zealand.**

- The COVID pandemic changed consumer attitudes and behaviours helping online shopping become a mainstream retail avenue.
- Australian online shopping frequency increased from 2021 and has been maintained over 2022-2024. Online shopping frequency in NZ is slightly lower than in Australia.
- 18-49's remain a key demographic for regular online shopping.

**New online stores are entering the market and expanding product ranges.**

- Clothing, fashion & shoes, groceries and meals & takeaways are the top 3 products purchased online.
- Purchasing petfood online has continued its steadily increase amongst Australian online shoppers this year.
- Amazon continues to be the #1 retailer for online purchasing in Australia but has not gained the same foothold in New Zealand where Chemist Warehouse and Temu are the most popular for online retail purchasing. Temu has grown significantly in popularity since it started operations in Australia and New Zealand in March 2023.

**Continued steady growth in online retail is expected, however retailers need strategies to overcome consumer hesitancy as cost-of living pressures continue.**

- Online shopper caution with spending has been maintained at similar levels to last year in Australia.
- New Zealand online shoppers are slightly more likely than Australians to not have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping.
- Cost of living pressures have likely driven the reduction in online shopping for furniture, household goods and appliances in the Australian market from last year.
- The frequency of online shopping remains resistant to cost of living impacts in both markets with few online shoppers reducing frequency of online shopping since the recent rises in cost of living.

background

online shopping behaviour

**online shopping drivers**

cost of living impact

discovering products and brands

retail marketing

retail data exchange

## 03. online shopping drivers

# online shopping drivers

58%

of 18-49 online shoppers will pay more for convenience

Convenience is the #1 reason for purchasing online

## Top drivers for purchasing online:



Convenience



Lower prices



Discounts



Free delivery



Price comparison

46%

of online shoppers prefer to buy from sustainable brands

Value is the #1 reason for purchasing brands online

## Top drivers for brand choice online:



Value for money



Convenience & availability



Positive experience



Consistent quality



Quick delivery & returns



Great reviews

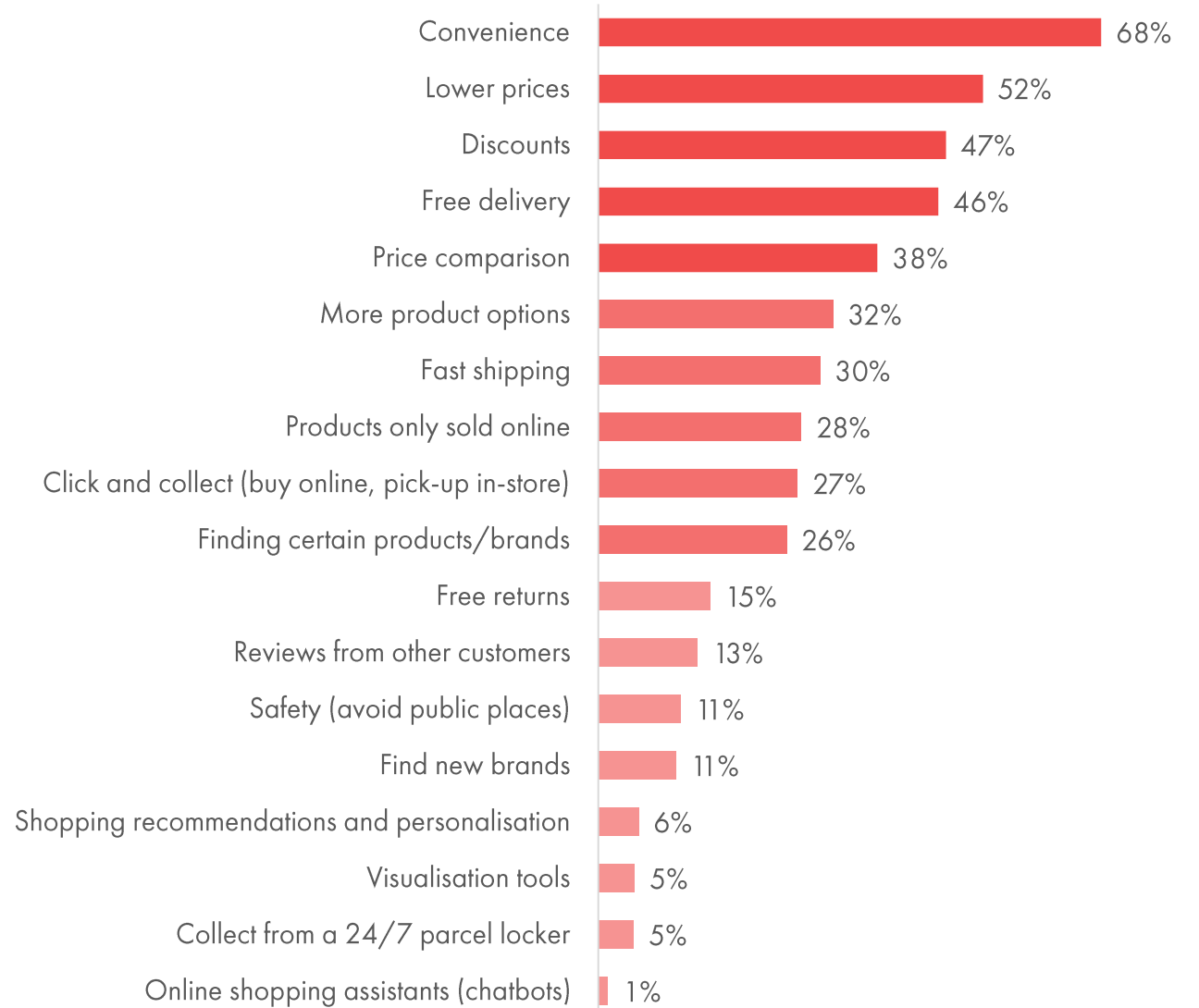
# online purchasing drivers

**Convenience remains the #1 reason for Australians purchasing online but has declined as a driver for buying online over 2023 and 2024.**

With the growth in usage, number of online shopping retailers and marketplaces and improvements in retailer efficiency and experience, convenience does not stand out as much as a driver for online shopping as it used to.

Pricing and free delivery now also dominate the top key drivers for online shopping. With increasing cost of living pressures this year, lower prices has increased as a driver and the gap to the #1 driver of convenience has reduced.

## drivers for buying online amongst **australian** online shoppers



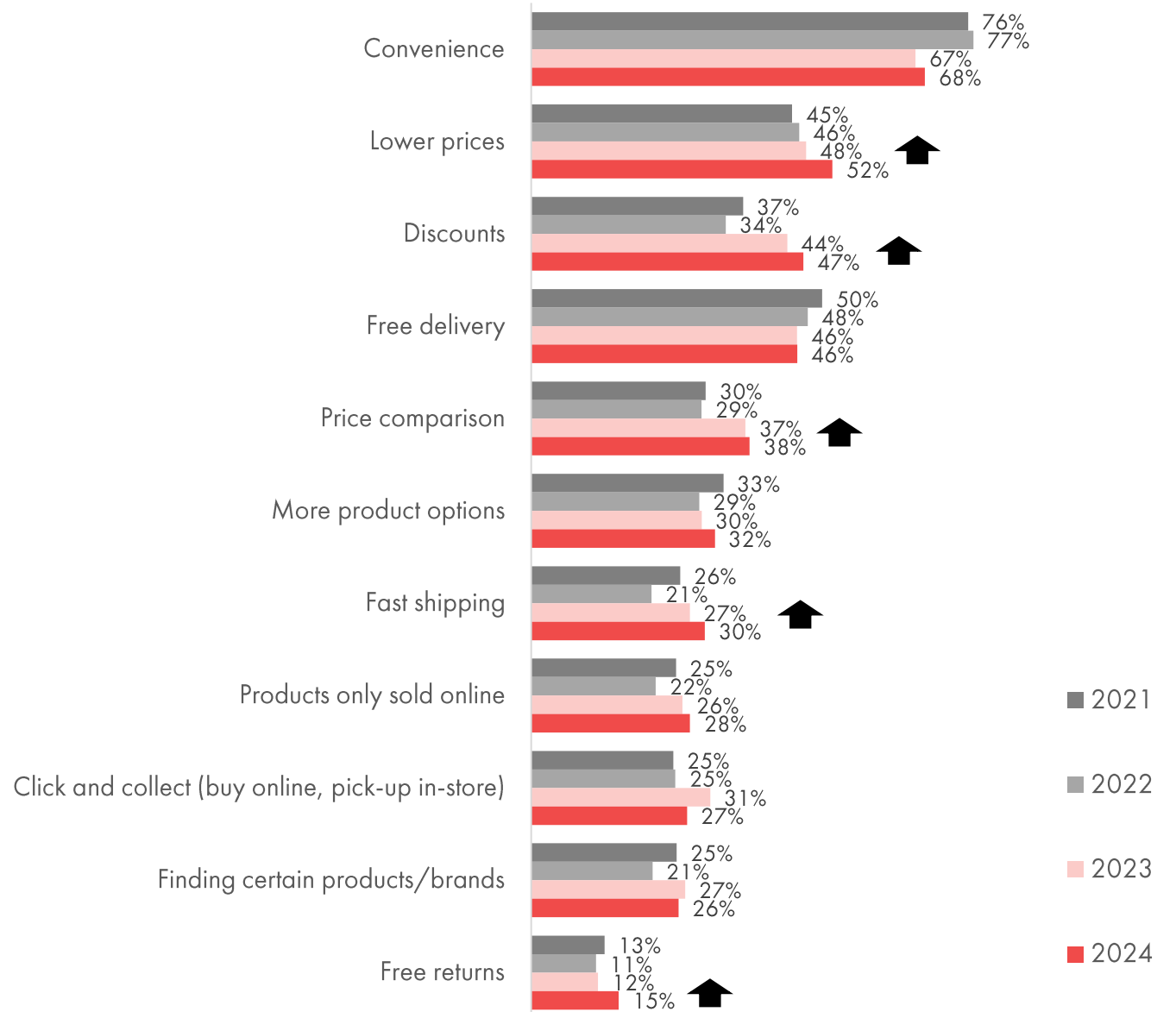
# change in key online purchasing drivers

**Convenience remains the #1 reason for purchasing online but has declined -8% pts since 2021.**

Pricing has also dominated the top key drivers for online shopping over the last two years. Lower prices has increased 4% pts on last year and 7% pts since 2021.

Some areas of convenience such as enabling price comparison, fast shipping and free returns have increased in importance to online shoppers during this year when consumer are under greater financial pressures.

## drivers for buying online amongst **australian** online shoppers



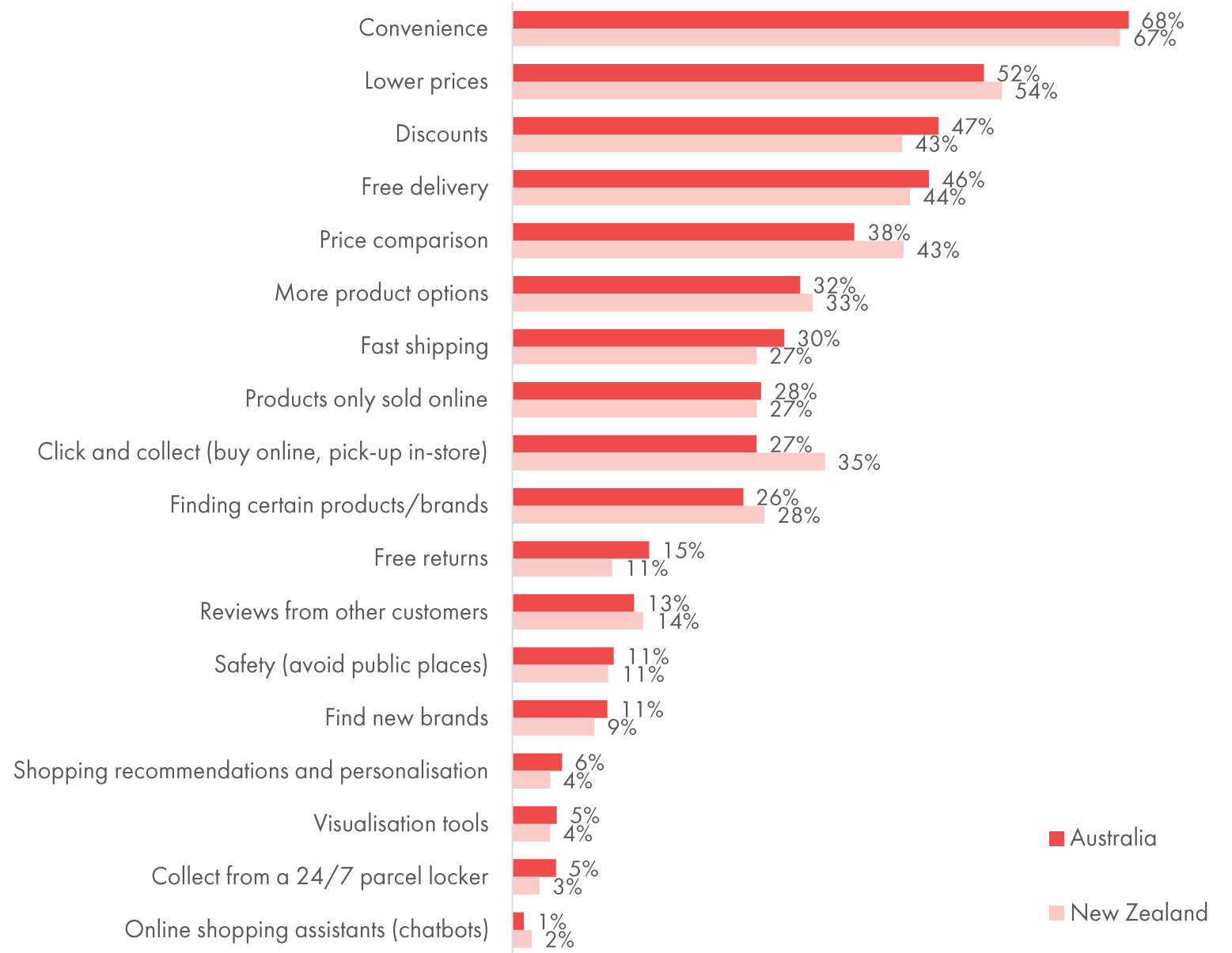


# online purchasing drivers

## Convenience is the #1 reason for purchasing online in both Australia and New Zealand.

Pricing and free delivery also dominate the top key drivers for online shopping in both markets.

Click and collect and price comparison are more prominent drivers of purchasing online for New Zealanders than for Australians.



# time poor 18-49s are prepared to pay more for convenience



**58%**

**australia**

**57%**

**new zealand**

**18-49's agree**

**I am prepared to pay more for products  
that make my life easier**

42% of Australians age 50+ and  
34% of New Zealanders age 50+ agree

# brand choice drivers

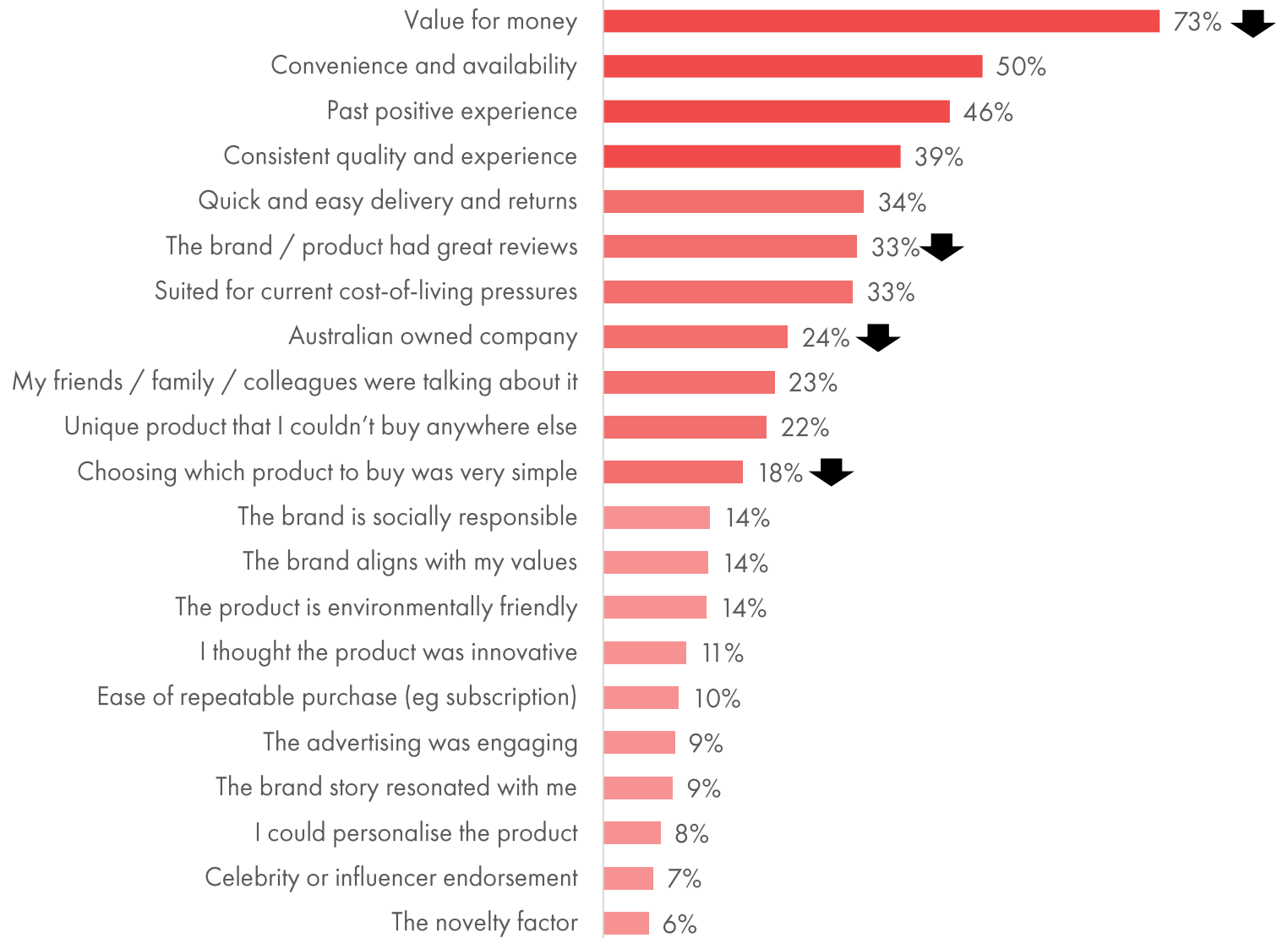
## Value for money continues to be the key driver for buying brands online for Australian shoppers.

However, value for money has declined on previous years (down -4% pts on last year and down -11% pts on 2022) and must be delivered in combination with other brand drivers including convenience, positive experience and consistent quality (and competitive pricing).

While most brand drivers have declined slightly on last year, being an Australian owned company (-8% pts), purchase simplicity (-7% pts) and great reviews (-6% pts) have declined more significantly.

Brands must deliver great customer experience, adjust to suit current cost of living pressures, deliver on hygiene factors such as simplicity and ease and amplify communication of unique brand proof points.

## drivers for buying brands online amongst **australian** online shoppers



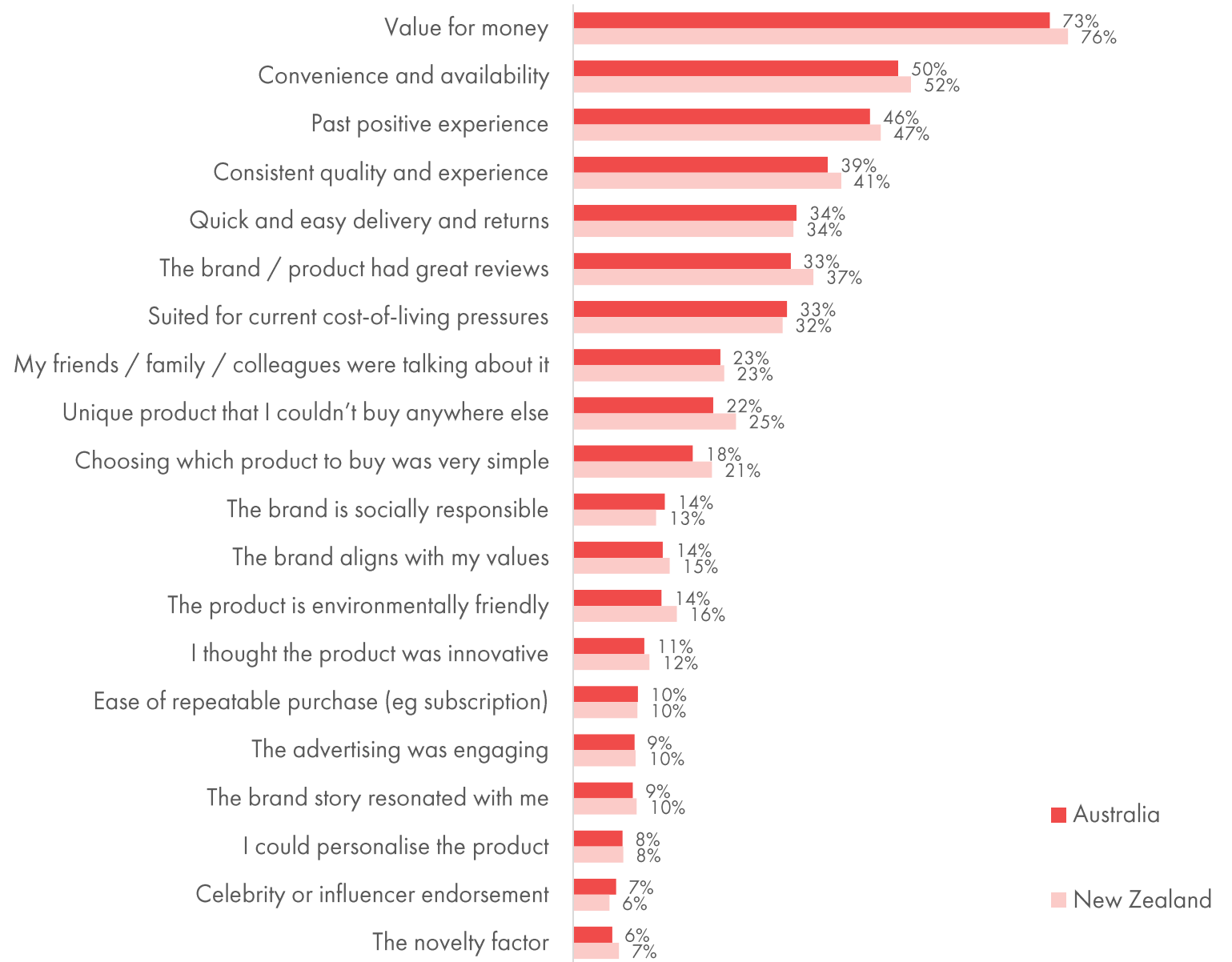
# brand choice drivers

## Value for money is the key brand driver for brand choice in Australia and New Zealand.

The ranking of drivers is very similar for Australian and New Zealand online shoppers.

Value, convenience, customer experience and price are key drivers for online shopping choices and retailers should look for new ways to demonstrate these aspects.

Brands should amplify communication of brand proof points on brand values, innovation, product volume and range, uniqueness, reputation and social responsibility.



## purchasing ethical and sustainable brands is important to online shoppers



**46%** **39%**  
australia new zealand

Purchasing from **ethical** brands is important to me  
(% agree)



**46%** **42%**  
australia new zealand

I prefer to buy from brands that I know are **sustainable**  
(% agree)

# product delivery subscription services

**24% of Australian and 20% of New Zealand online shoppers are currently subscribed to a product delivery service such as meals, cleaning products, toilet paper, wine etc.**

The level of Australian subscriptions have not changed year on year.

Those currently subscribed are more likely aged 18-39 and are more frequent online shoppers.

## subscription to a product delivery service

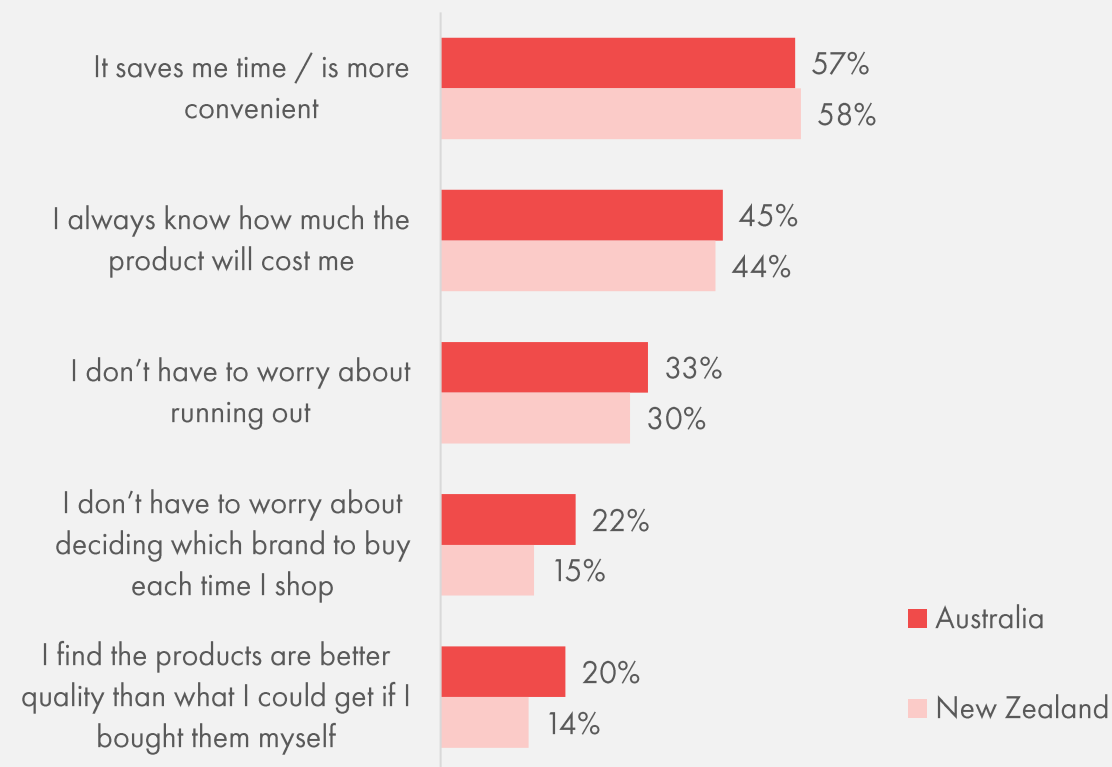


# benefits of product delivery subscription services

**Amongst online shoppers currently subscribed to a product delivery service (eg. meals, cleaning products, toilet paper, wine etc), convenience is still the major driver.**

In the Australian market with current economic conditions, convenience and not having to worry about running out have declined slightly as drivers since last year, while control over cost has been maintained and not having to decide a brand in the shop has slightly increased as drivers since last year.

## what subscribers like about product delivery services



# online shopping drivers

**Retailers must look to win over online shoppers with added value and relevant shopping experiences that are suited to the current economic climate and deliver truly life enhancing convenience.**

- Consumers seeking convenience, value and competitive prices continue to drive demand for online products.
- Convenience remains the #1 reason for purchasing online but stands out less as a driver in recent years.
- With cost of living pressures there is a heightened consumer quest for lower prices and discounts but also convenience and ease (fast shipping, free and easy returns).
- Click-and-collect options are a greater attraction to provide convenience benefits for New Zealand shoppers than for Australian shoppers.
- Retailers should look for new ways to demonstrate value and convenience and amplify communication of brand proof points on brand values, innovation, product volume and range, uniqueness, reputation and social responsibility.

## Top drivers for purchasing online:

- Convenience
- Lower prices
- Discounts
- Free delivery
- Price comparison

## Top drivers for brand choice online:

- Value for money
- Convenience & availability
- Positive experience
- Consistent quality
- Quick delivery & returns
- Great reviews



background

online shopping behaviour

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## 04. cost of living impact

# cost of living impact on online shopping



**75%**  
Australia

**80%**  
New Zealand

“cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping”

## Cost of living impacts on shopping behaviour:

### More

Time spent researching

Brand, product and retailer switching

Delaying purchases

Usage of shopper loyalty/rewards

### Less

Spending on non-essentials

Frequency of shopping



Readily available information and easy research process will increase shopper confidence

**78%**  
Australia

**80%**  
New Zealand

Cost of living pressured shoppers agree ‘If I’m buying a brand for the first time, I **always research** it before making the purchase’

# there is continued caution in spending due to current and potential future cost of living pressures



**71%**

**australia**

**70%**

**new zealand**

“potential for further interest rate rises means I’m more cautious about spending”



**75%**

**australia**

**80%**

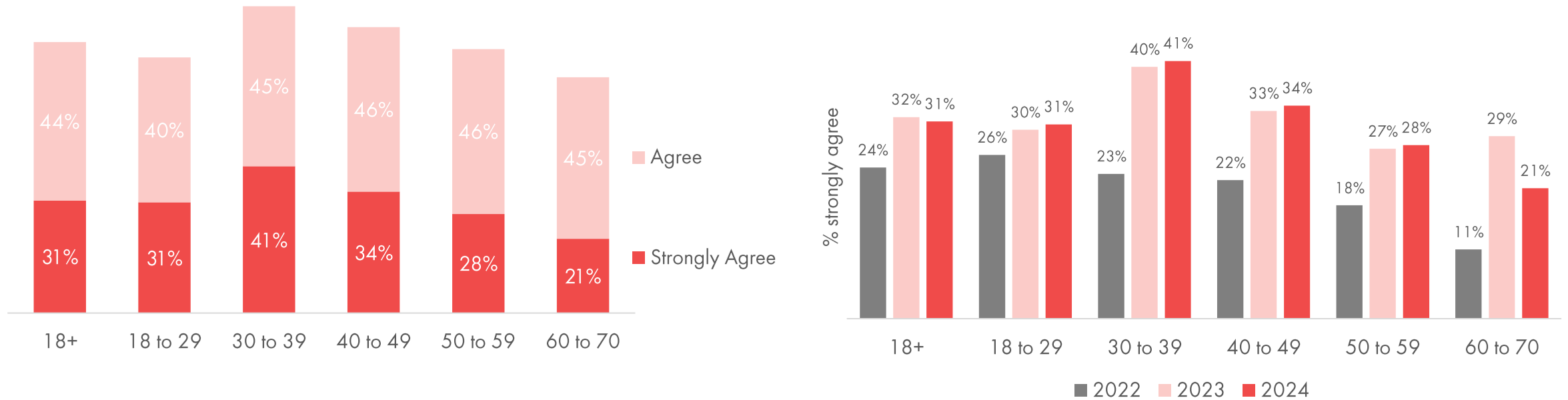
**new zealand**

“cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping”

# 75% of Australian online shoppers agree

“cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping”

This sentiment is most felt and has intensified amongst 30 to 49’s.  
86% of 30-39’s agree (up from 80% last year) and 80% of 40-49’s agree (up from 76% last year).

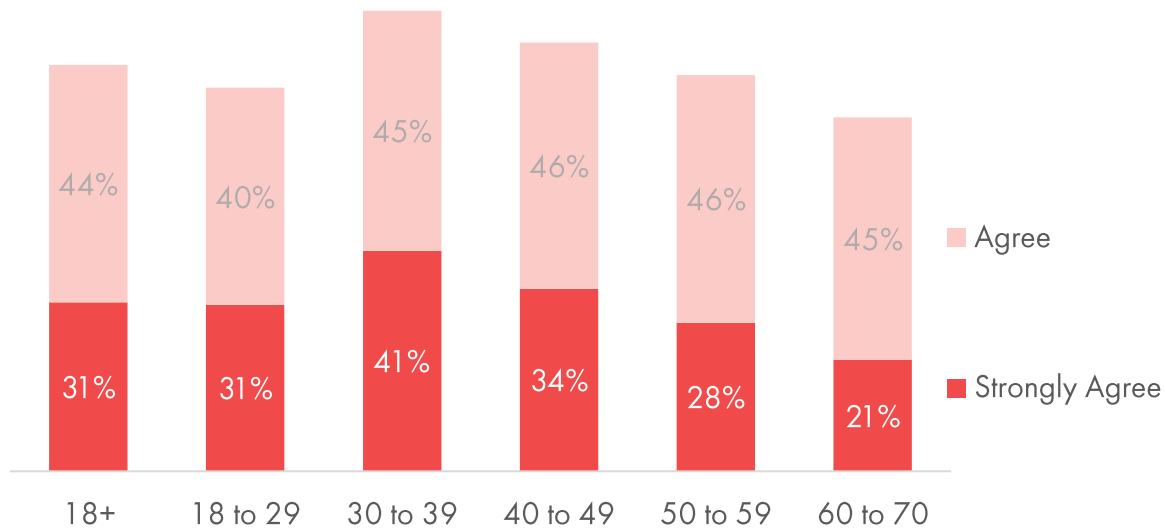


## most online shoppers agree

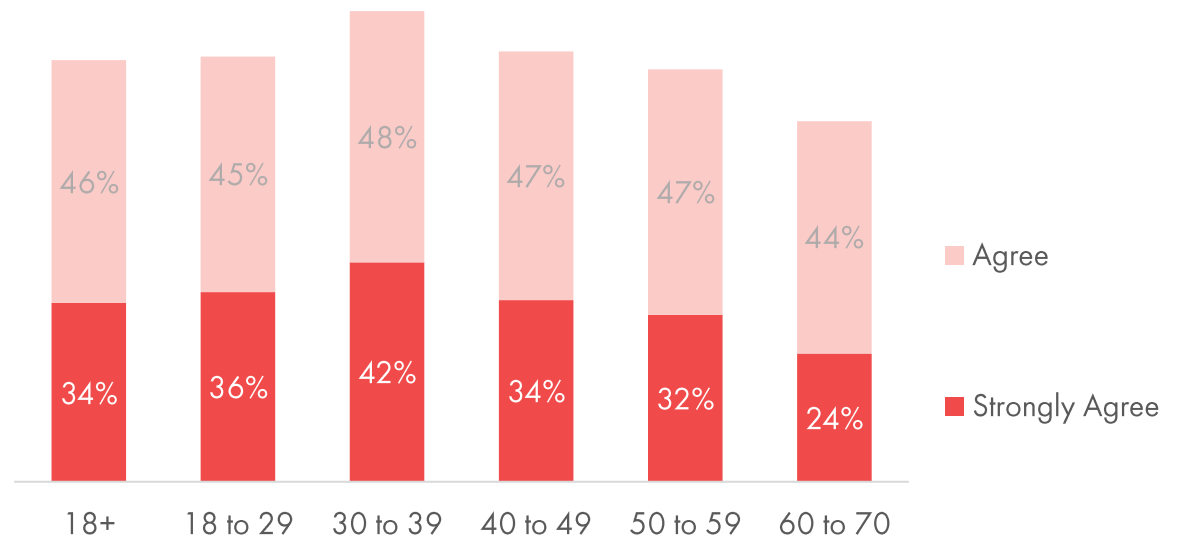
“cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping”

This sentiment is most felt amongst 30 to 39’s (86% agree in Australia and 90% agree in New Zealand).  
18-29’s in New Zealand are more likely to agree with the sentiment than in Australia (71% in Australia agree, compared to 81% in NZ).

australian online shoppers



new zealand online shoppers



# cost-of-living impacts on Australian shopping behaviour

Continued similar impact has been experienced since last year.

## more

- time spent researching
- brand, product and retailer switching
- delaying purchases
- usage of shopper loyalty/ rewards

## less

- spending on non-essentials
- frequency of shopping

## % increased shopping behaviour amongst Australians due to current rises in cost of living

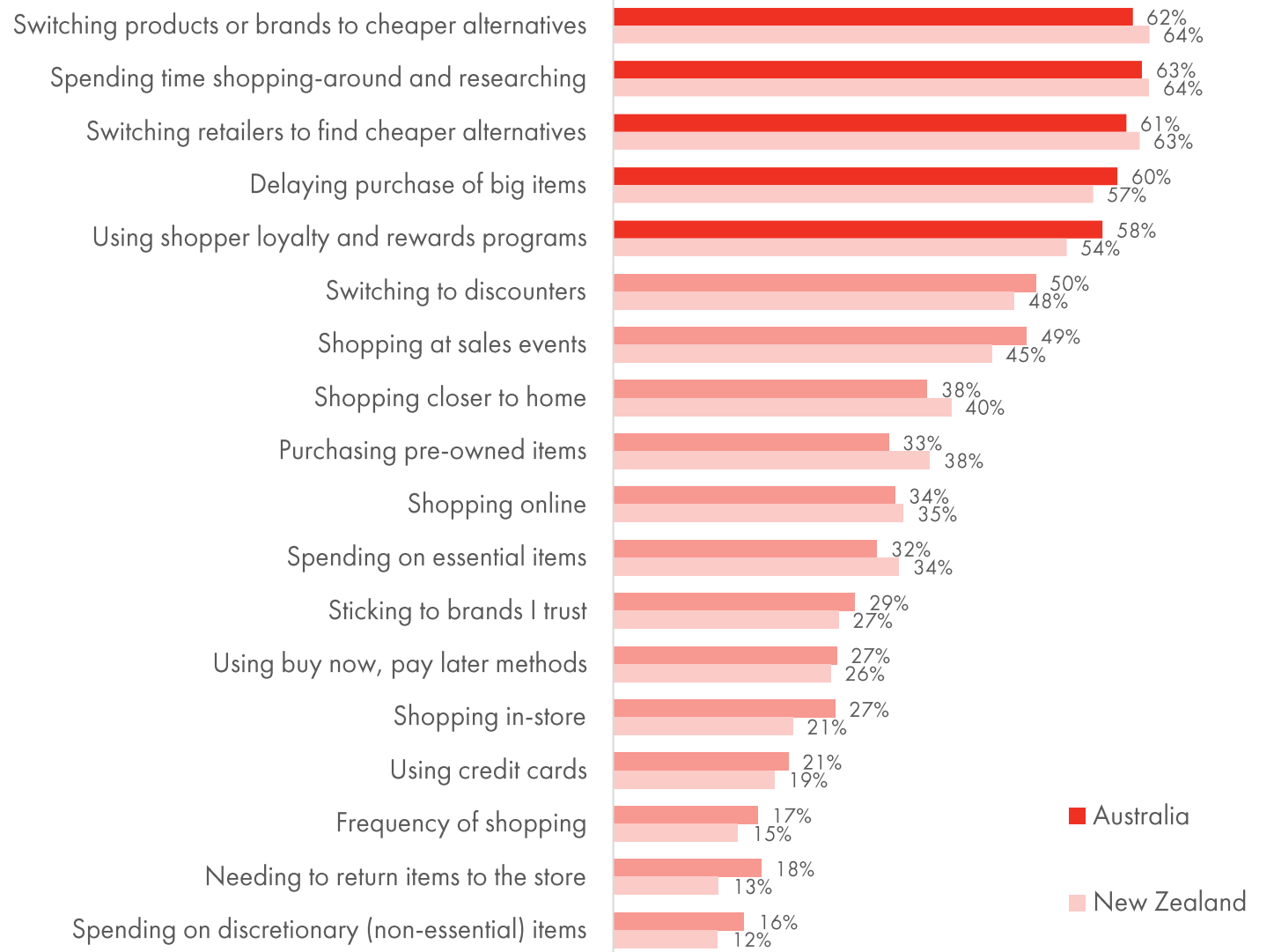


# cost of living impacts on shopping behaviour

**Australian and New Zealand shoppers have increased time spent researching along with brand, product and retailer switching, delaying purchases and usage of shopper loyalty/rewards due to current rises in cost of living.**

New Zealand shoppers are more likely than Australian shoppers to have increased their purchasing of pre-owned items and less likely to have increased their in-store shopping due to cost of living pressures.

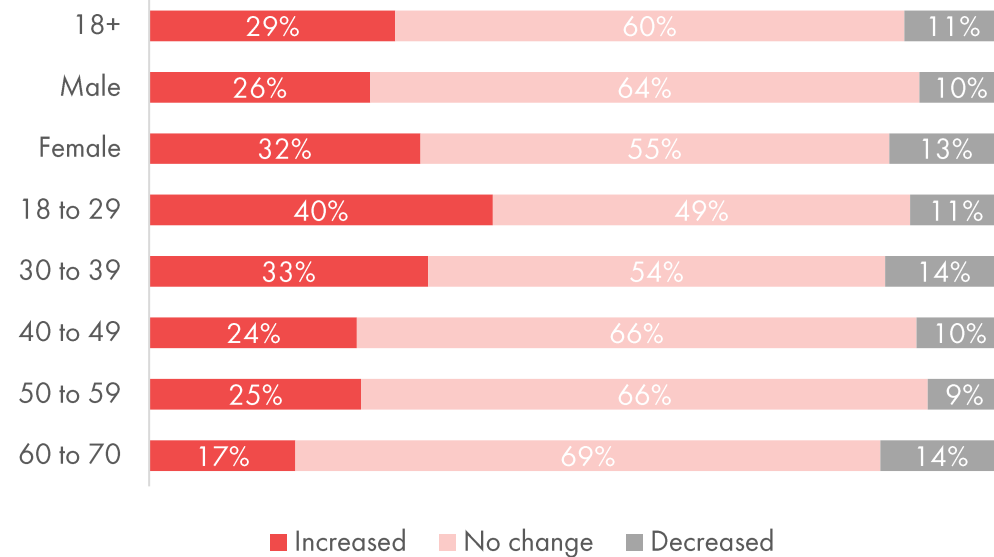
## % increased shopping behaviour due to current rises in cost of living



# brand trust is essential in maintaining loyalty and preventing brand switching

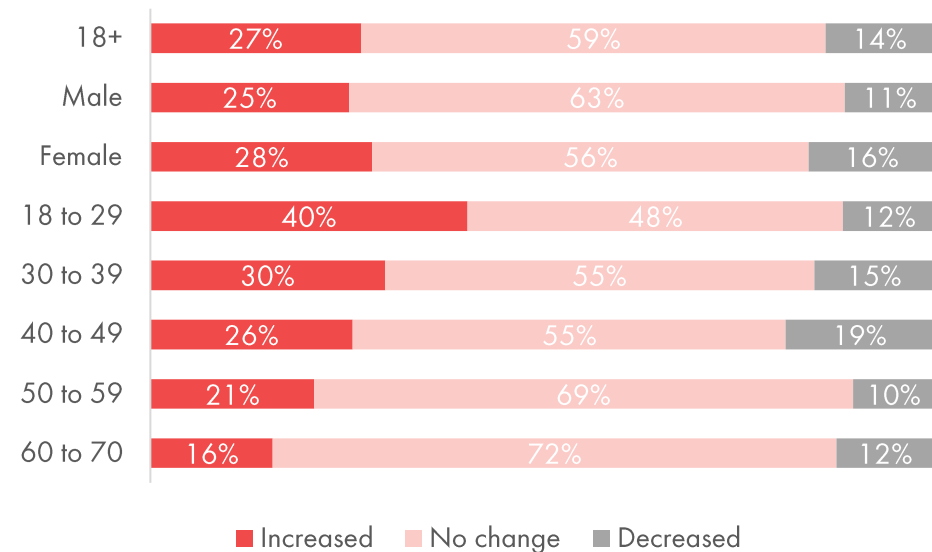
## changes in 'sticking to brands I trust' since recent rises in costs of living

### australia



Most Australian online shoppers have not changed or have increased purchase of brands they trust, with only 11% moving away from brands they trust.

### new zealand



Most New Zealand online shoppers have not changed or have increased purchase of brands they trust, with 14% moving away from brands they trust.



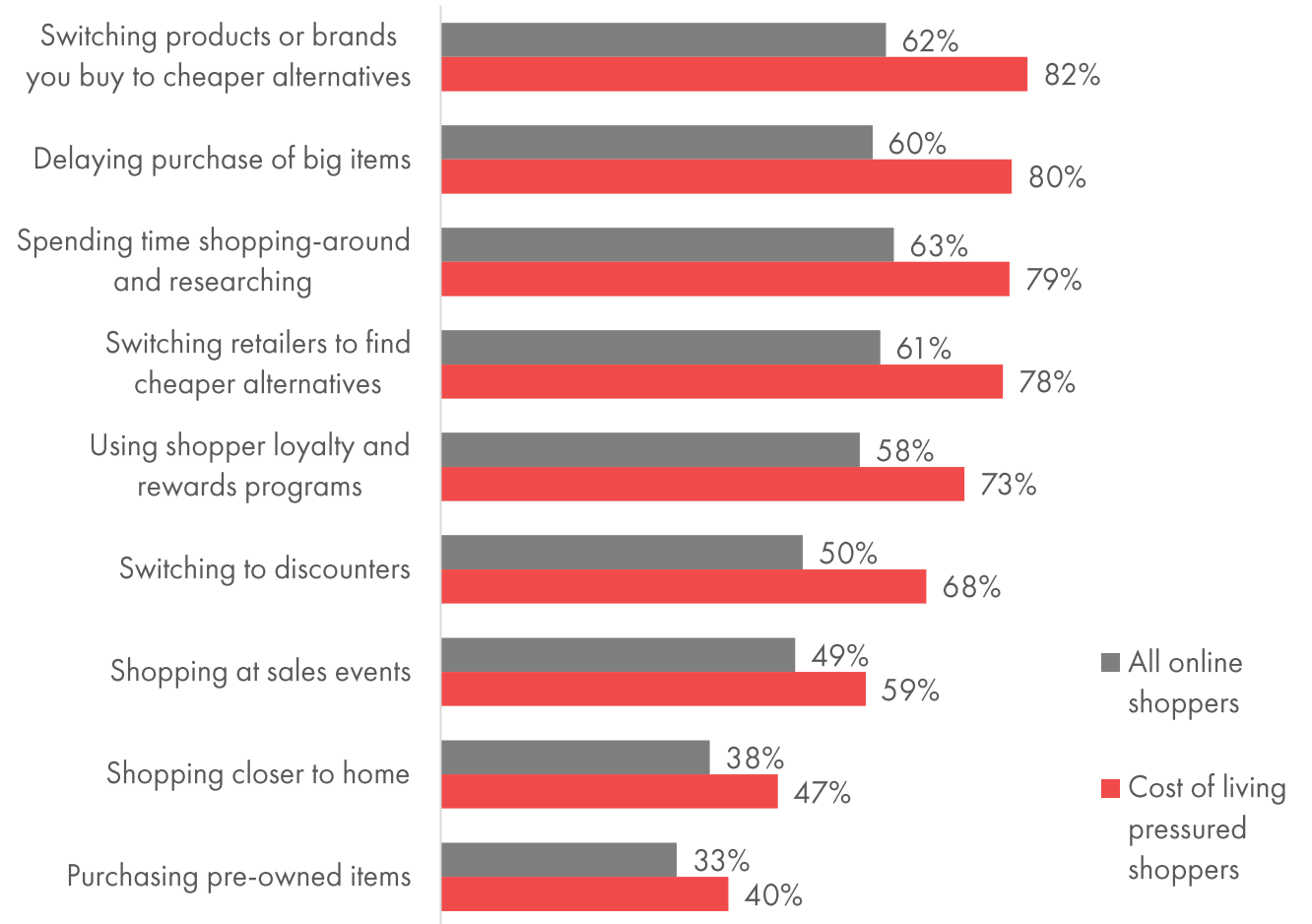
# cost-of-living impacts on shopping behaviour

**82% of the most cost of living pressured online shoppers have increased switching products or brands to cheaper alternatives.**

Australian online shoppers who are most cost of living pressured are more likely to have increased a range of shopping behaviours including brand, produce and retailer switching.

Compared to all online shoppers, the group of online shoppers who strongly agree “cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping” (31% of Australian online shoppers), are more likely to have impacted shopping behaviour.

% increased shopping behaviour amongst **australian** online shoppers due to current rises in cost of living



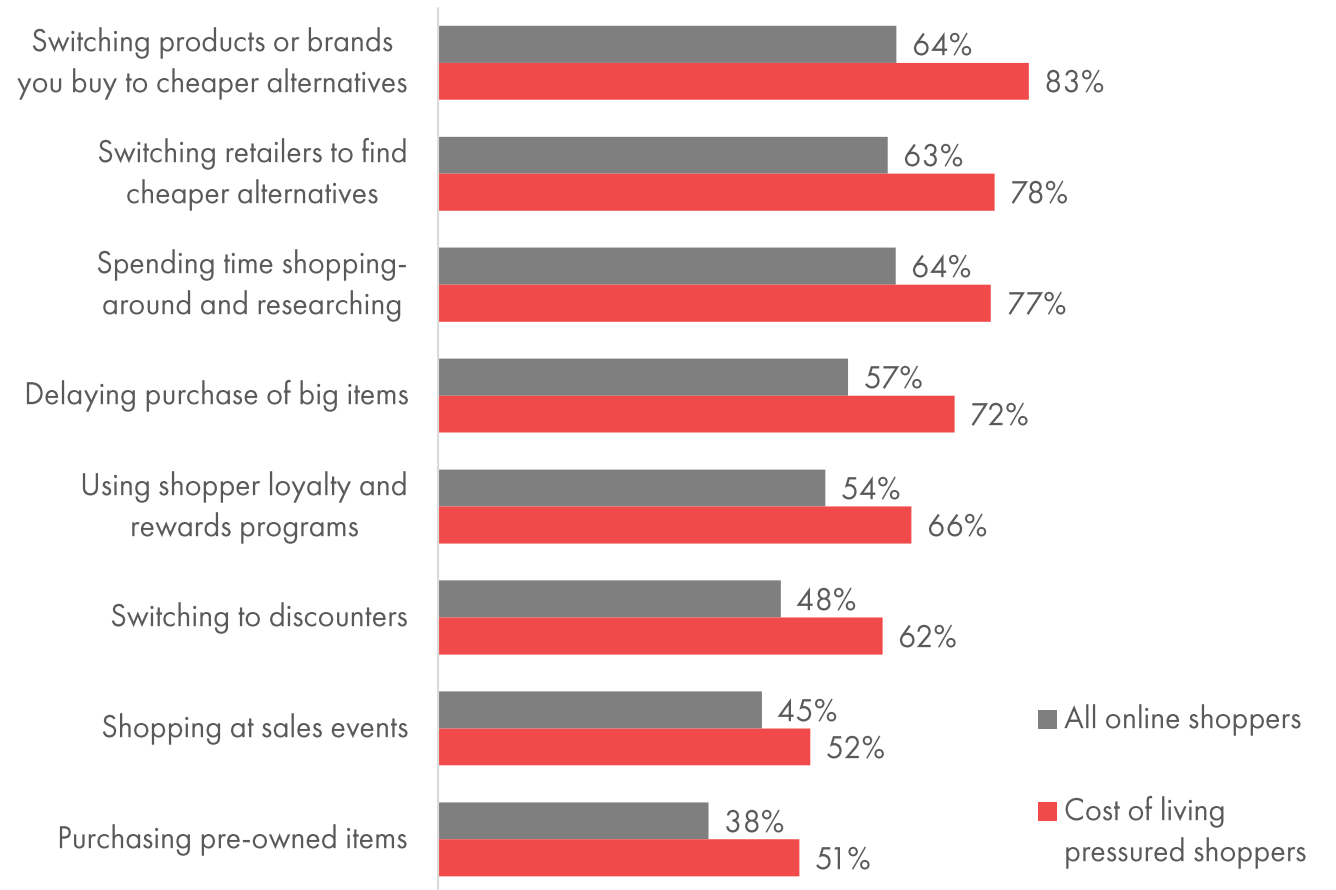
# cost-of-living impacts on shopping behaviour

**83% of the most cost of living pressured online shoppers have increased switching products or brands to cheaper alternatives.**

New Zealand online shoppers who are cost of living pressured are more likely to have increased a range of shopping behaviours including brand, produce and retailer switching.

Compared to all online shoppers, the group of online shoppers who strongly agree “cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping” (34% of New Zealand online shoppers) are more likely to have impacted shopping behaviour.

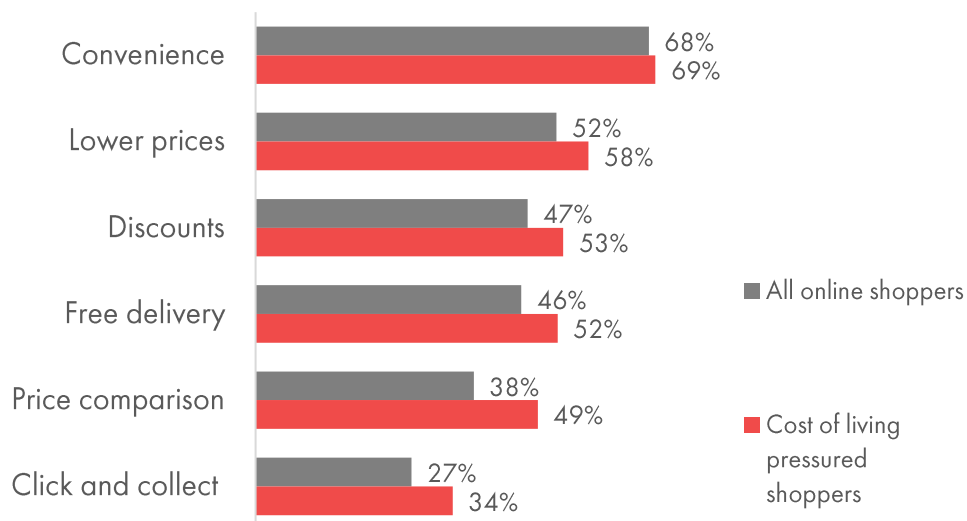
**% increased shopping behaviour amongst new zealand online shoppers due to current rises in cost of living**



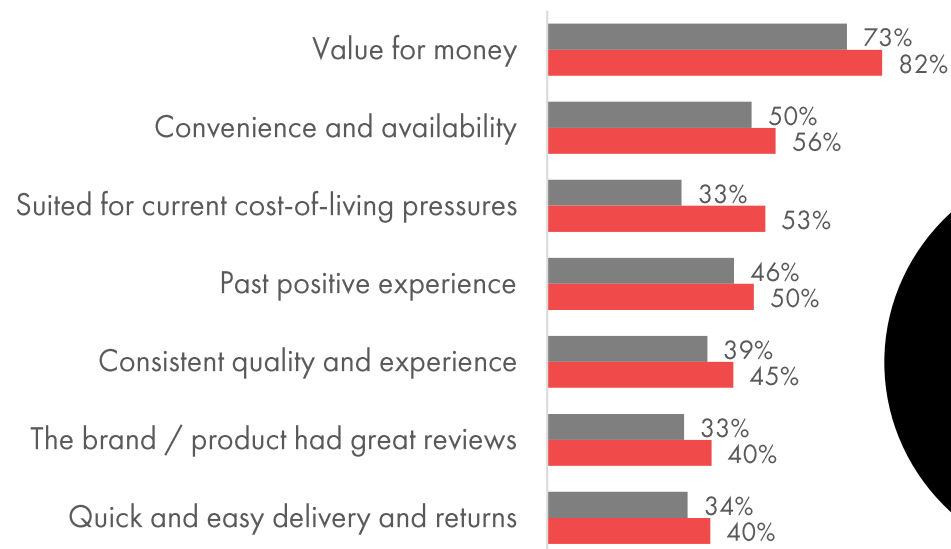
# online purchase and brand choice drivers for australians most impacted by cost of living pressures

Outside of demonstrating value and using pricing levers, retailers can amplify convenience (particularly in the form of delivery, click and collect options), as well as consistent quality and customer experience, to drive online purchasing and brand choice amongst cost of living pressured shoppers (those 31% of online shoppers who strongly agree “cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping”).

## online purchasing drivers



## brand choice drivers

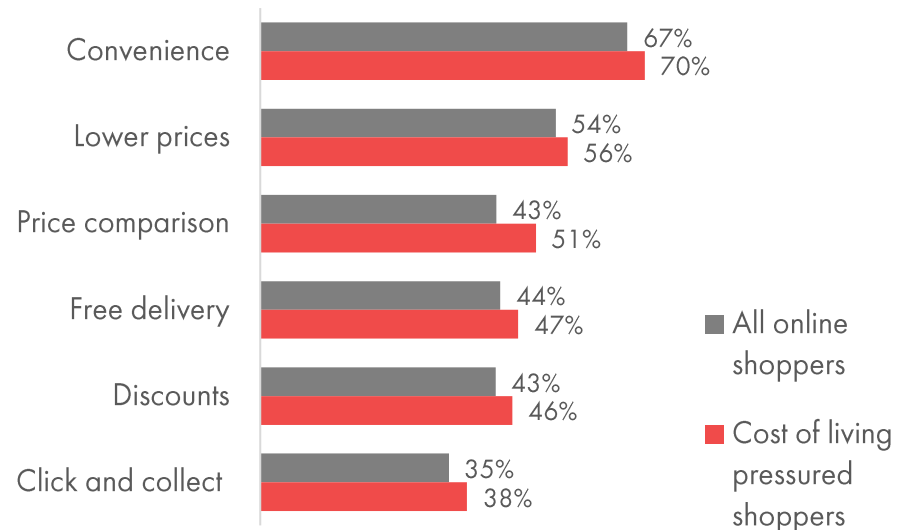


**53%**  
of Australian online shoppers will pay more for convenience

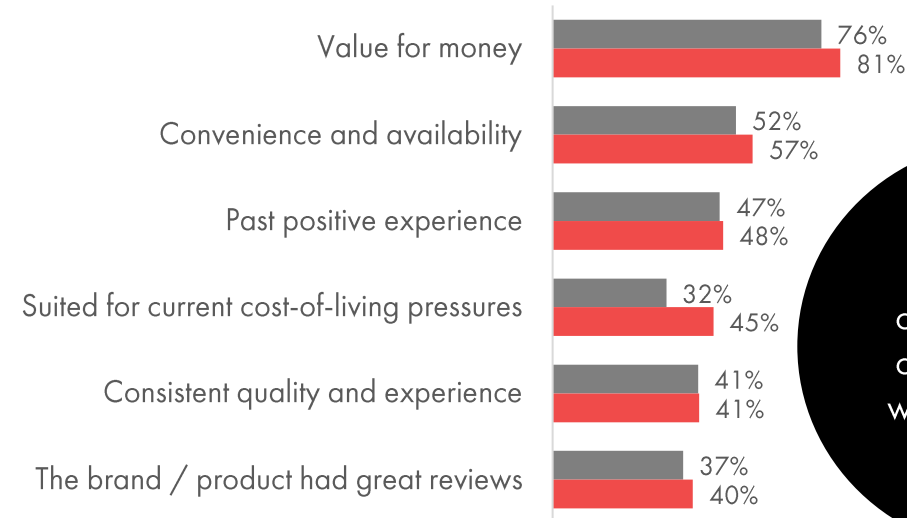
# online purchase and brand choice drivers for new zealand shoppers most impacted by cost of living pressures

Outside of demonstrating value and using pricing levers, retailers can amplify convenience (particularly in the form of delivery, click and collect options), as well as consistent quality and customer experience to drive online purchasing and brand choice amongst cost-of-living pressured shoppers (those 34% of online shoppers who strongly agree “cost of living pressures mean I don’t have as much to spend on less essential retail shopping”).

## online purchasing drivers



## brand choice drivers



**48%**  
of new zealand  
online shoppers  
will pay more for  
convenience

# having information readily available and an easy research process will increase shopper confidence



**72%**

australia

**72%**

new zealand

If I'm buying a brand for the first time, I **always research** it before making the purchase

78% AU cost of living pressured shoppers &  
80% NZ cost of living pressured shoppers



**63%**

australia

**64%**

new zealand

Have increased **spending time shopping-around** and researching due to the current rises in costs-of-living

79% AU cost of living pressured shoppers &  
77% NZ cost of living pressured shoppers

# cost of living impact

**Online shoppers are embracing more considered spending behaviour, making careful changes to keep their budgets under control. Retailers need strategies to overcome consumer hesitancy and possible brand, product and retailer switching.**

- Concerns over the cost of living remain elevated.
- Significant numbers of online shoppers are switching products and brands to cheaper alternatives due to cost of living pressures.
- Due to the current rises in cost of living, Australian and New Zealand shoppers have also increased time spent researching along with brand, retailer switching, delaying purchases and using shopper loyalty/ rewards programs.
- New Zealand shoppers are more likely than Australian shoppers to have increased their purchasing of pre-owned items due to cost of living pressures.

**Generation gap in online shopping behaviour driven by economic conditions.**

- Sentiments around cost of living pressures and caution with spending are most felt and have intensified amongst 30 to 49's.
- 18 to 49 are far more likely to have increased switching products and brands to buy cheaper alternatives than online shoppers aged 50+.

**Retailers should enhance their value proposition and loyalty programs, as well as focus on brand trust and customer experience and support.**

- Building and maintaining brand trust is exceptionally important as most online shoppers have not changed or have increased purchase of brands they trust.
- Online shoppers are spending more time shopping around, so having information readily available and an easy research process will increase shopper confidence.

background

online shopping behaviour

online shopping drivers

cost of living impact

discovering products and brands

retail marketing

retail data exchange

## 05. discovering products and brands

# discovering products and brands

Shoppable ads are emerging as a way to discover and purchase directly within the online ad

In Australia **62%** of 18-39's are aware of this type of advertising and **23%** have purchased this way

Search remains key to discovering brands when shopping online

Top sources used by online shoppers for product inspiration:



Search



Retailers and online stores



Friends & family



Online marketplaces



Social media



Price comparison sites

Social media is key to millennial and gen z online shoppers

**59%**

Australia

**47%**

New Zealand

18-39's agree social media is now an important part of how I find products I go on to buy



# sources of inspiration and discovery

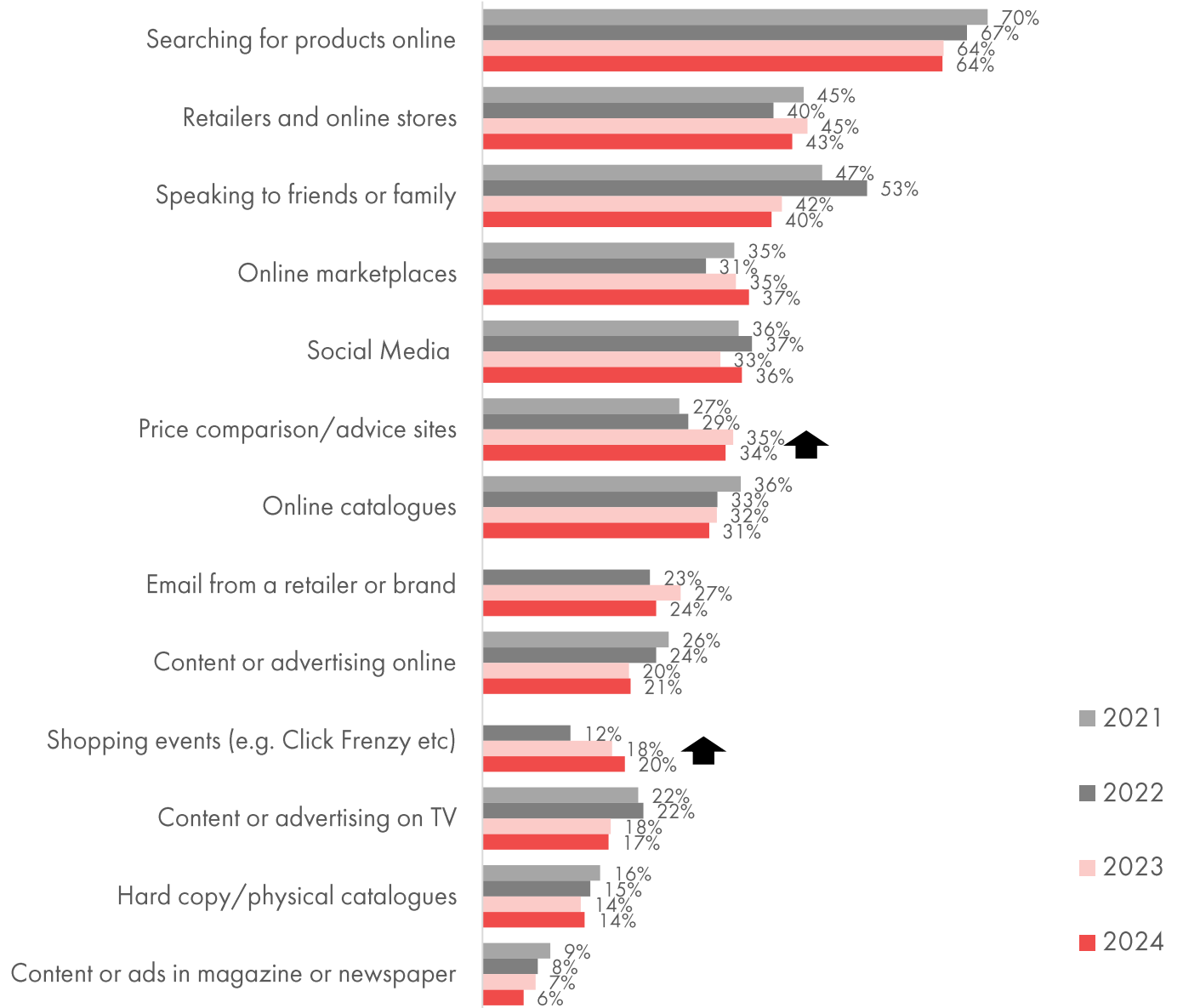
**Search remains key to discovering brands when shopping online, particularly for over 50's (71%).**

Social Media plays a greater role for 18-29's (58%) and 30-39's (46%).

Price comparison/advice sites have been more important over the last 2 years.

Shopping events such as Click Frenzy and Vogue online shopping night have increased as a source of inspiration.

sources used by **australian** shoppers for product inspiration and discovery



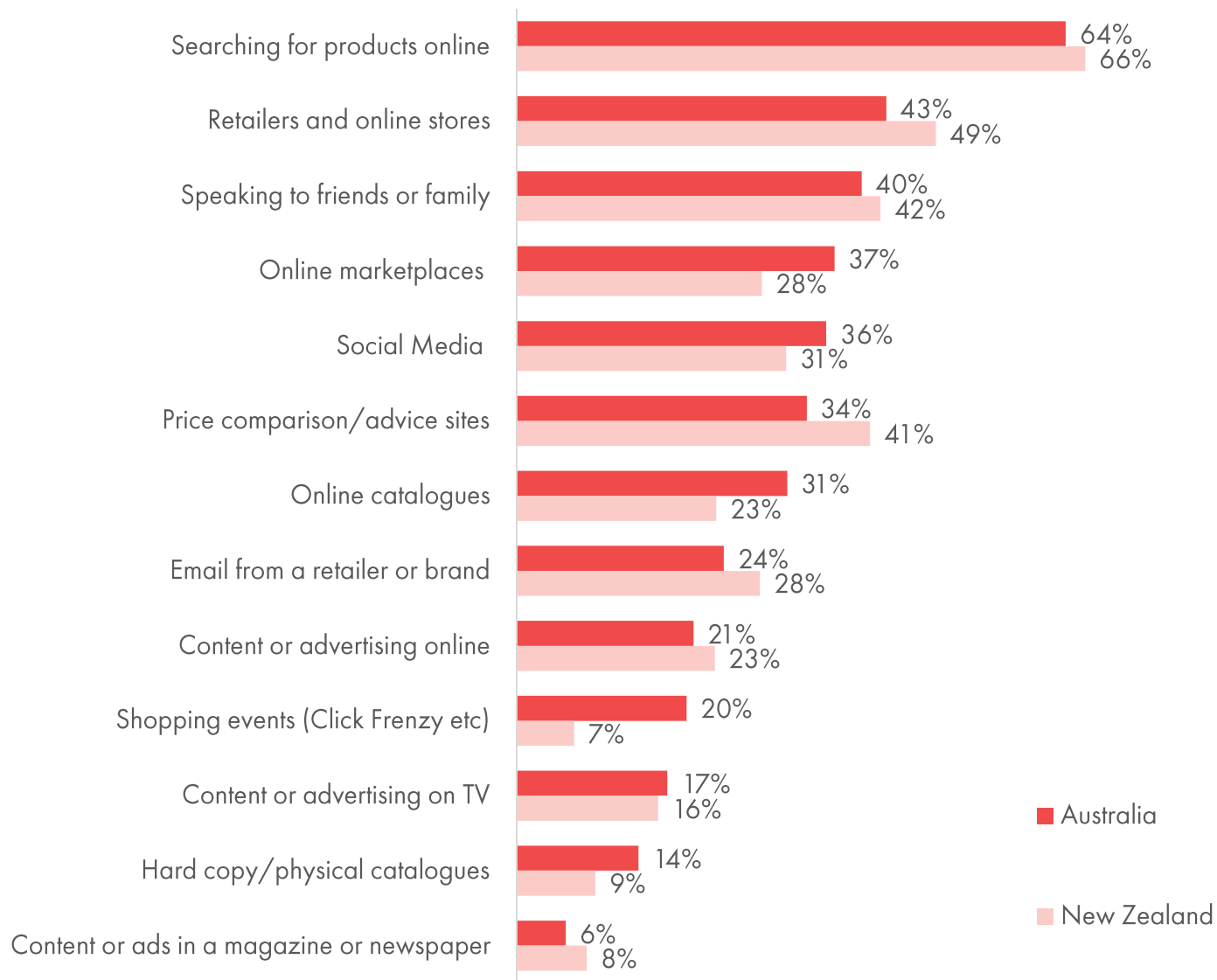
# sources of inspiration and discovery

## Search is key to discovering brands when shopping online, particularly for over 50's.

Social Media plays a greater role for 18-29's (58% AU and 52% NZ) and 30-39's (46% AU and 41% NZ).

For New Zealand online shoppers, retailers and online stores and price comparison & advice sites are greater sources of discovery than for Australian online shoppers.

For Australian online shoppers, shopping events, online catalogues and online marketplaces have a greater role in product discovery.



## social media and influencers key to millennial and gen z online shoppers



**59%**

**australia**

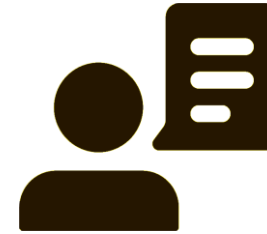
**47%**

**new zealand**

**18-39's agree**

**social media is now an important part of  
how I find products I go on to buy**

63% of Australians 18-29; 55% 30-39  
54% of New Zealanders 18-29; 40% 30-39



**52%**

**australia**

**39%**

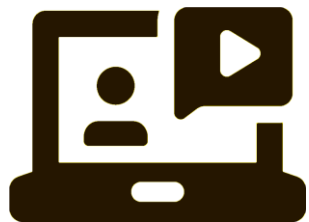
**new zealand**

**18-39s agree**

**influencers on social media are a useful  
source to help me discover new products**

56% of Australians 18-29; 48% 30-39  
43% of New Zealanders 18-29; 34% 30-39

# millennial and gen z online shoppers get excited by new brands and will tell others about them



**57%**

**australia**

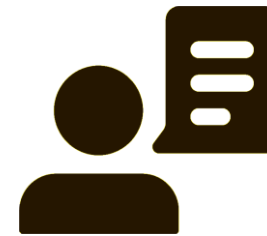
**52%**

**new zealand**

**18-39's agree**

**I get excited about trying new brands**

60% of Australians 18-29; 55% 30-39  
55% of New Zealanders 18-29; 50% 30-39



**68%**

**australia**

**61%**

**new zealand**

**18-39s agree**

**If there is a brand I love, I tend to tell everyone about it**

70% of Australians 18-29; 65% 30-39  
64% of New Zealanders 18-29; 57% 30-39

# discovering products and brands

## There are many ways that various segments of online shoppers discover products and brands.

- It is important for retailers and brands to show up in these various avenues to discovery as online shoppers are spending more time shopping around comparing features, prices, and reviews.
- Search remains key to discovering brands when shopping online.
- Millennials and Gen z are generally more excited by new brands and social media is a key way they come across new products and brands. Influencers and content creators play a significant role in shaping purchasing decisions.
- For Australian online shoppers, shopping events such as Click Frenzy and Vogue online shopping night have increased as a source of inspiration.
- For New Zealand online shoppers, retailers and online stores and price comparison & advice sites are greater sources of discovery than for Australian online shoppers.
- Continuing investment in advertising across multiple channels, particularly for brand building, is the proven key to long term business success and coming out of economic downturn strongly.

background

online shopping behaviour

online shopping drivers

cost of living impact

discovering products and brands

**retail marketing**

retail data exchange

## 06. retail marketing

# retail marketing

**6 in 10** online shoppers have read or looked at content produced and distributed by retailers, including:



Websites



Mobile apps



Emails



Catalogues



Social posts



Online video

**9 in 10** online shoppers are signed up to at least one shopper rewards program (92% in AU and 89% in NZ)

45% of Australian online shoppers and 43% of New Zealand online shoppers have 4 or more cards

**58%**  
of Australian  
online shoppers

**54%**  
of New Zealand  
online shoppers

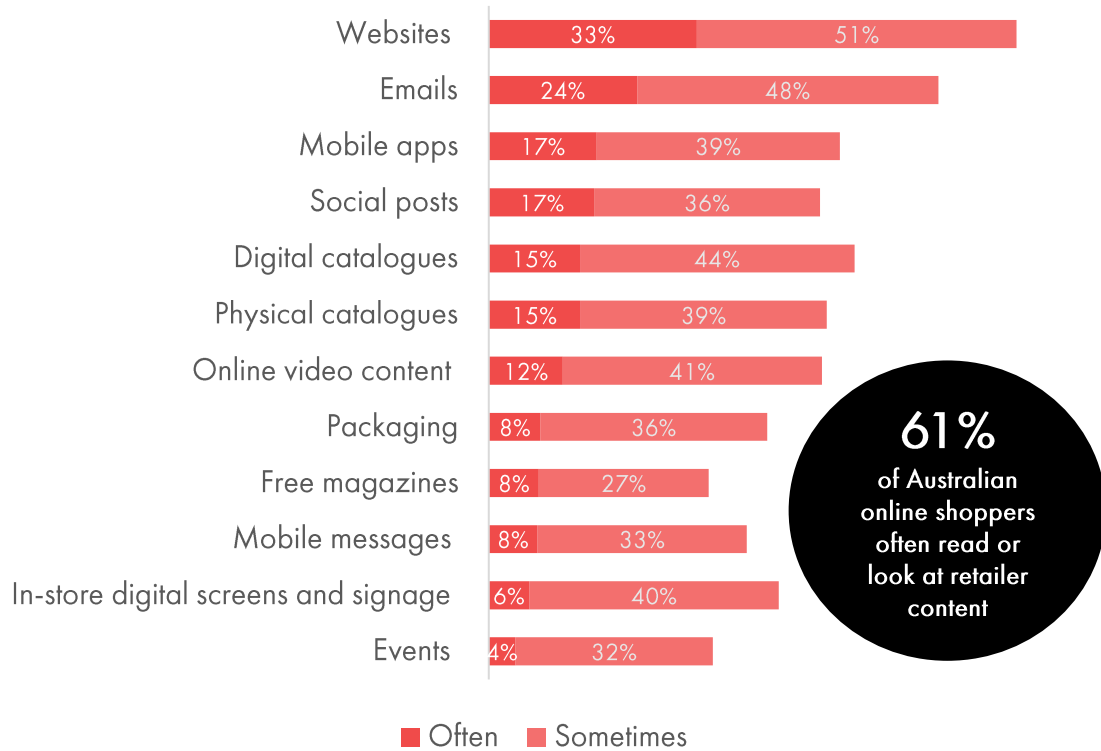
have increased their usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs since the recent rise in costs of living

# retailer communications consumed

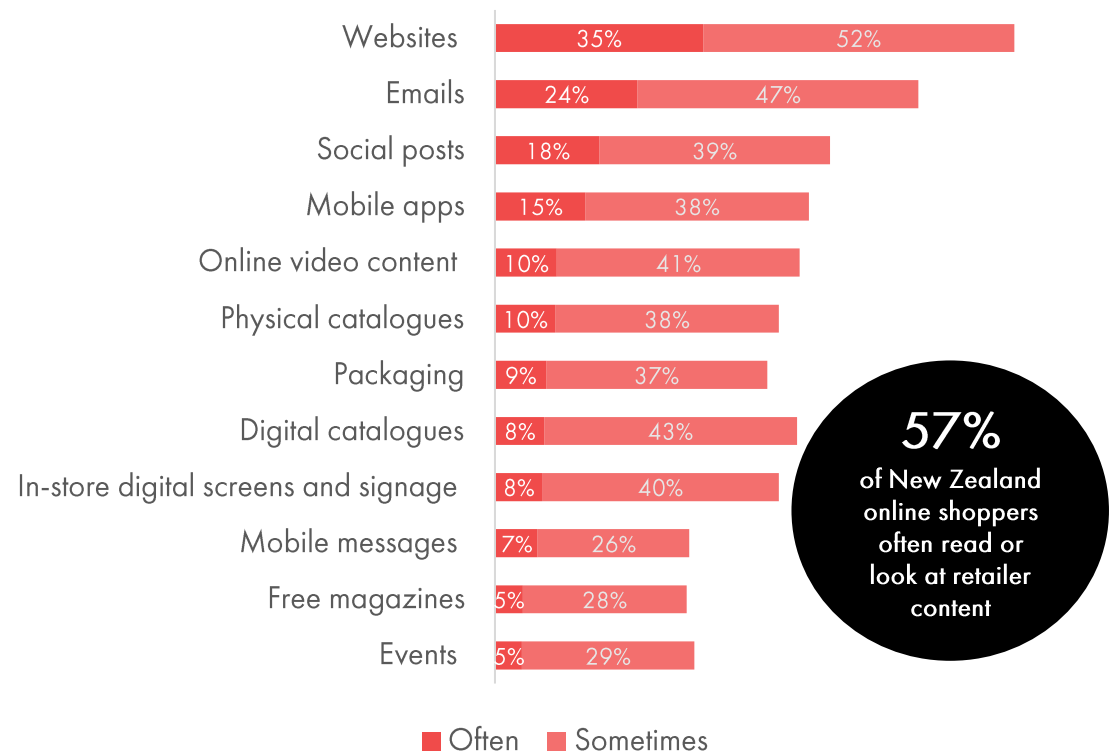
**Around 6 in 10 online shoppers have read or looked at content produced and distributed by retailers.**

Retailer websites and apps, emails and social posts are the most consumed content from retailers. Australian online shoppers are more likely than New Zealand online shoppers to consume retailer content in mobile messages or digital catalogues, whereas New Zealand online shoppers are more likely to consume websites and social posts.

## Australia



## New Zealand





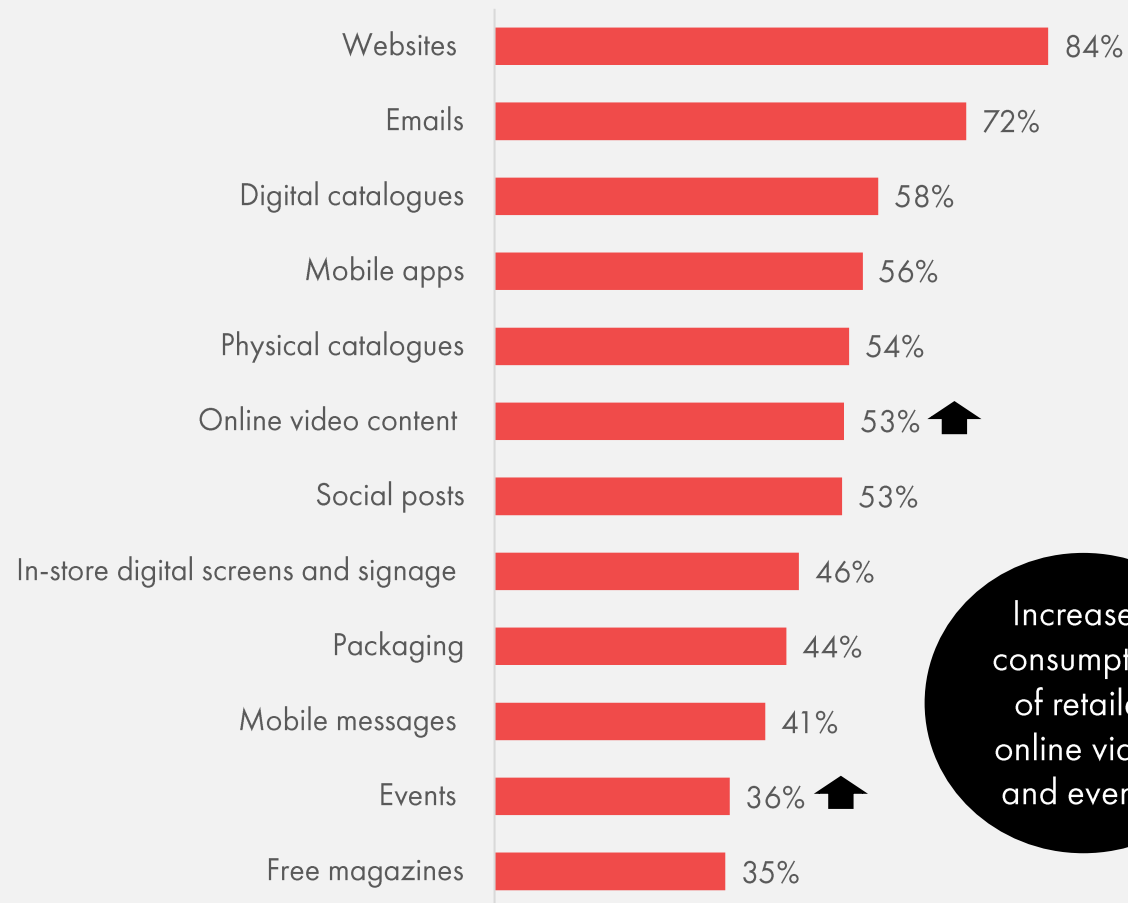
# australian retailer communications consumed

**There is a dominance of digital touchpoints which also provide rich behavioural data for retail marketers.**

Over the last 4 years there has been gradual increase in consumption (often/sometimes) of online video content (from 44% in 2022 to 53% in 2024) and events (from 28% in 2021 to 36% in 2024).

The usage of physical catalogues and free magazines have declined over the 4 years.

## retailer content **australian** online shoppers often/sometimes read or look at



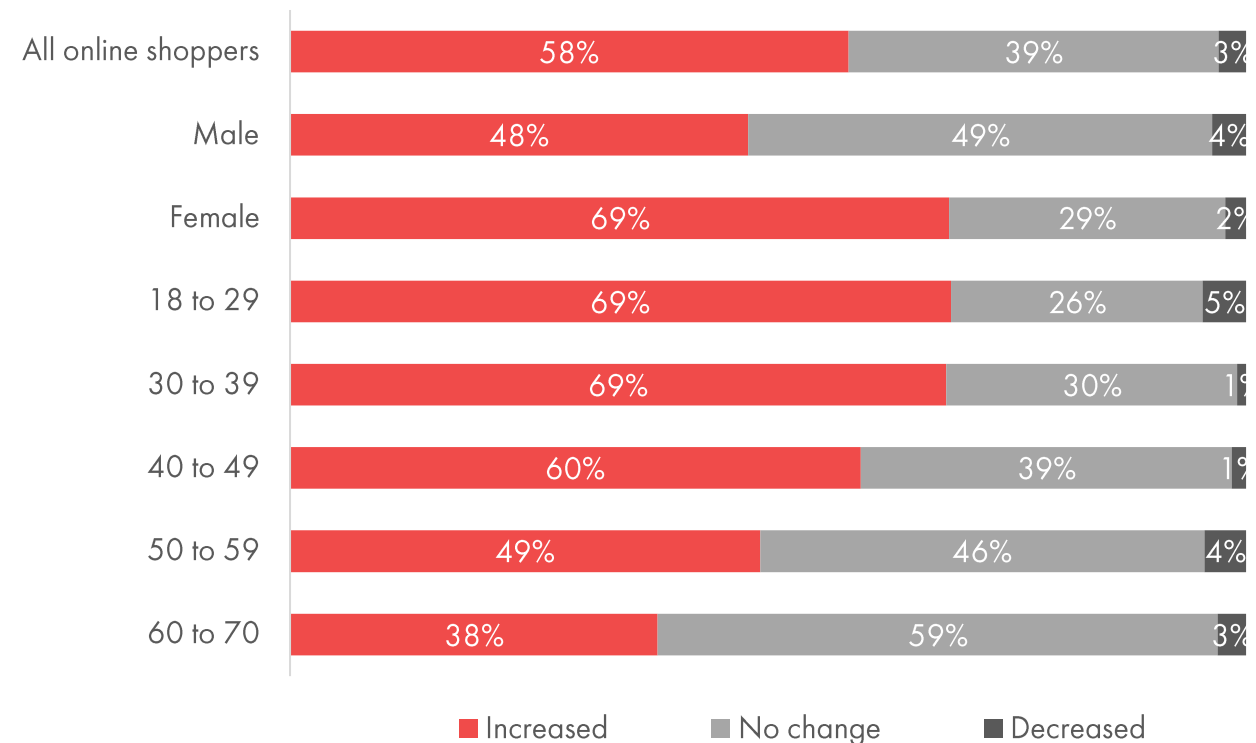
Increased consumption of retailer online video and events.

# cost-of-living pressures driving increased usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs

**58% of Australian online shoppers have increased their usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs since recent rise in costs of living.**

7 in 10 (69%) Australian online shoppers aged 18-39 and female online shoppers have increased their usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs.

## australian online shopper usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs since recent rises in costs of living

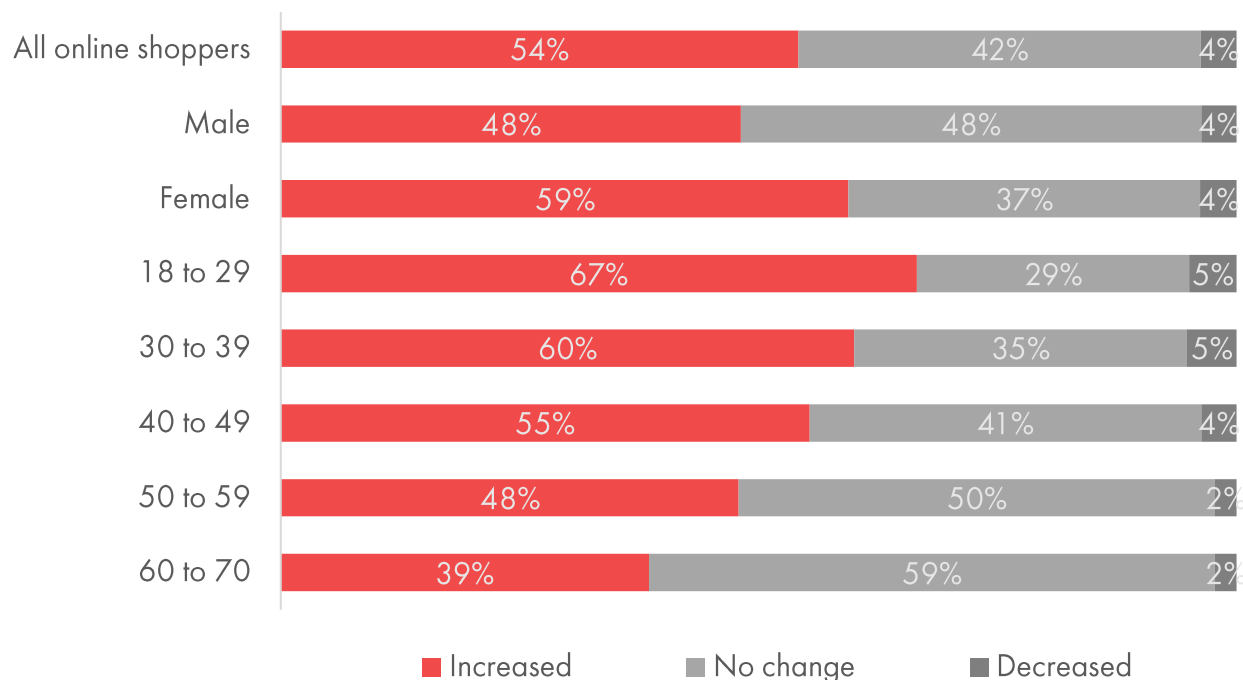


# cost-of-living pressures driving increased usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs

**54%** of New Zealand online shoppers have increased their usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs since recent rise in costs of living.

67% of New Zealand online shoppers aged 18-29 and 59% of female online shoppers have increased their usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs.

## new zealand online shopper usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs since recent rises in costs of living



# retail loyalty and rewards programs

**9 in 10** online shoppers are signed up to at least one shopper rewards program (92% in AU and 89% in NZ).

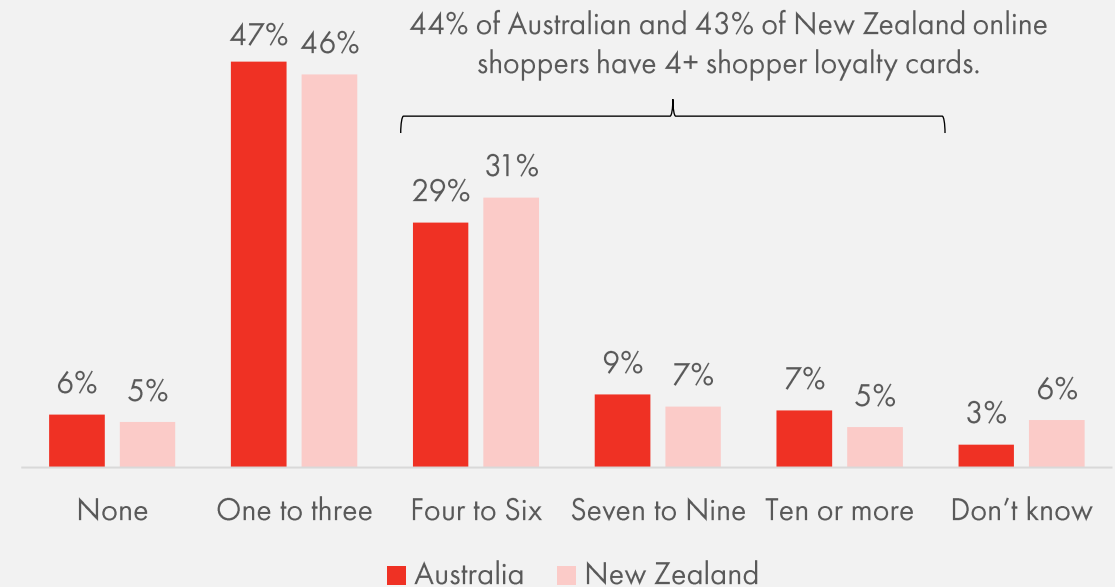
**45% of Australian online shoppers and 43% of New Zealand online shoppers have 4 or more cards.**

Heavy rewards program users (4 or more cards) are more likely:

- Female: 53% of Australian females and 51% in New Zealand females
- Age 40-49: 57% of Australian 40-49's and 45% of New Zealand 40-49s.
- Frequent online shoppers: 54% of Australians shopping online at least weekly and 52% in New Zealanders shopping online at least weekly.

**58% of Australian online shoppers and 37% of New Zealand online shoppers are subscribed to a retail loyalty program where they pay a fee to join** for example Amazon Prime, eBay Plus, Wesfarmers OnePass, Woolworths Delivery Unlimited, Costco Membership etc.

number of retail loyalty programs or shopper rewards cards signed up to



# cashback website or app accounts

**44% of Australian online shoppers and 29% of New Zealand online shoppers have set up a cashback website or app account.**

With these cashback accounts shoppers receive money back when making purchases with a retailer via the cashback site or app for example Cashrewards, Shopback, Kickback, Super-Rewards etc.

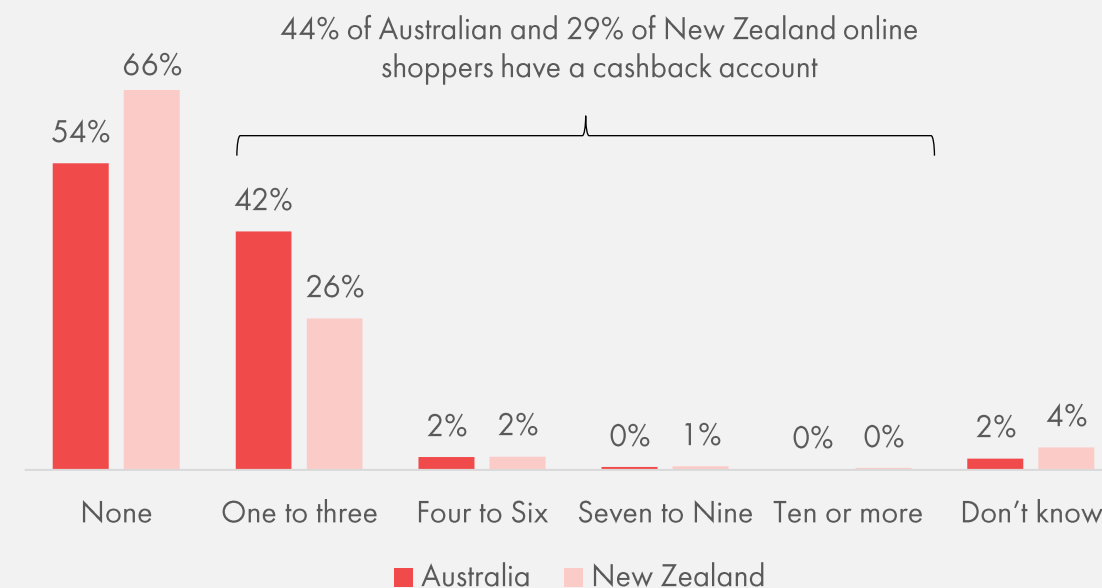
## In Australia -

- Online shoppers with cashback accounts are more likely female (55%), aged 30-39 (59%) and frequent online shoppers (59% of those who shop online weekly)

## In New Zealand –

- Online shoppers with cashback accounts are more likely aged 18-39 (40%) and frequent online shoppers (34% of those who shop online weekly).

## number of cashback accounts set up



# popular retail loyalty, rewards and cashback online brands

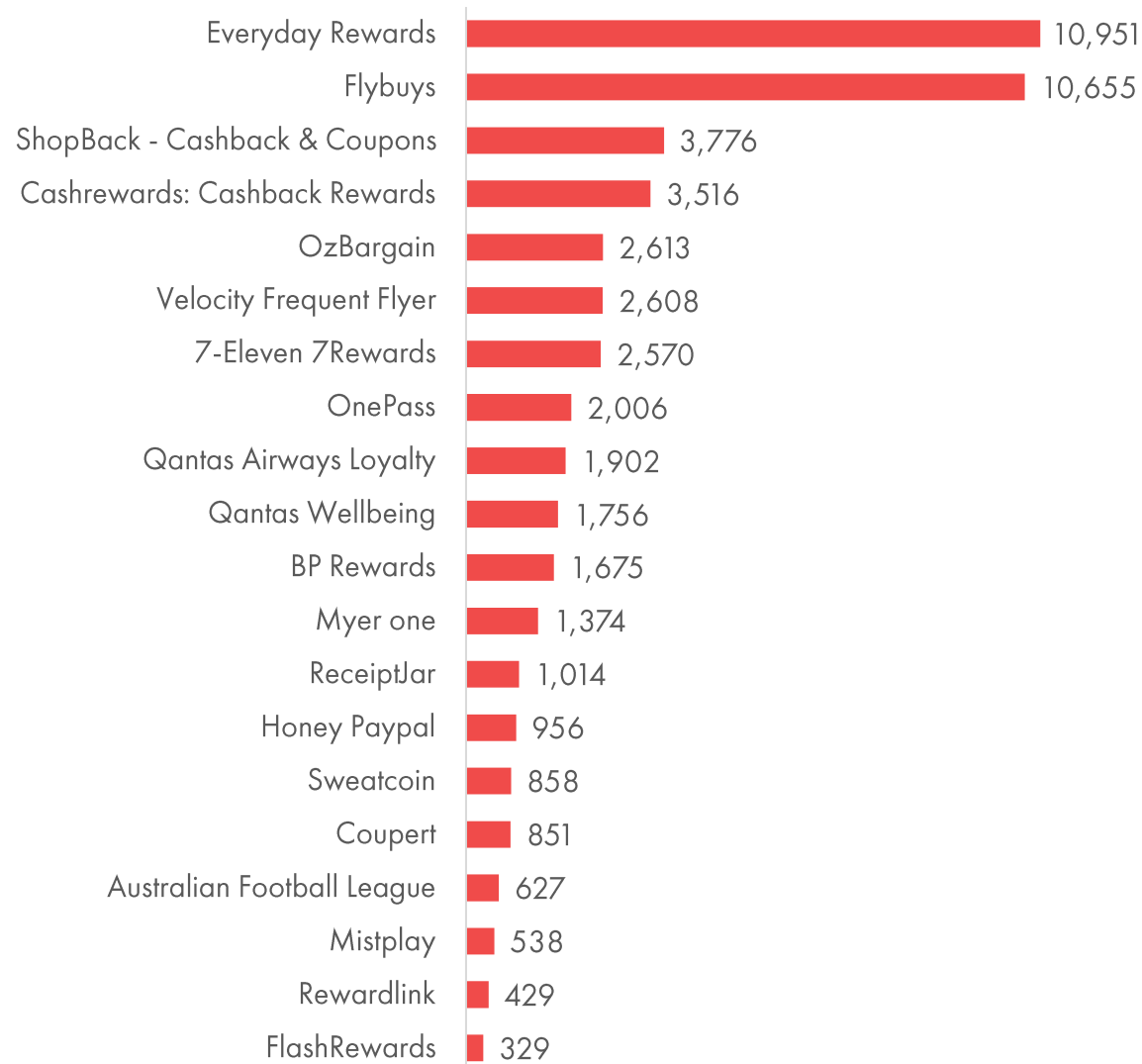
## 18.6 million

Australians aged 14+ visited a voucher, reward or loyalty points website or app in June 2024.

Australians visit a range of retail loyalty, rewards and cashback websites and apps with Woolworths Everyday Rewards (10.95 million) and Coles Flybuys (10.65 million) being most popular.

## selected retail loyalty, rewards and cashback brands

audience (000s) aged 14+ in June 2024



# retail marketing

## **Retail media helps consumers discover products that match their interests and needs.**

- Around 6 in 10 online shoppers have read or looked at content produced and distributed by retailers, most commonly retailer websites and apps, social posts and emails. Over the last 4 years there has been gradual increase in consumption of retailer online video content and retailer events.
- There is a dominance of digital touchpoints which also provide rich behavioural data for retail marketers.

## **Loyalty programs offer shoppers a variety of benefits designed to encourage continued shopping and provide the data for retailers to tailor promotions and recommendations.**

- Cost of living pressures have increased the usage of shopper loyalty and rewards programs with the number of online shoppers signed up to paid programs also increasing.
- 9 in 10 online shoppers are signed up to at least one shopper rewards program with high proportions of online shoppers signed up to multiple cards.

background

online shopping behaviour

online shopping drivers

cost of living impact

discovering products and brands

retail marketing

retail data exchange

## 07. retailer data exchange



# retailer data exchange

Retailers need to ensure they are using clear communication around the data value exchange and transparency on how their data is used to make shoppers more comfortable providing their data.

**3/4** of online shoppers think it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that retail businesses provide clear information about how they use shoppers' personal information



**8 in 10** online shoppers do understand that their data is used for targeting advertising and marketing

Nearly all online shoppers are willing to share some type of personal data with retail businesses in exchange for benefits

Nearly **9 in 10** will share their email address

Benefits tied to personal financial compensation are valued the most for the exchange of personal data with retail businesses:



Discounts



Free Delivery



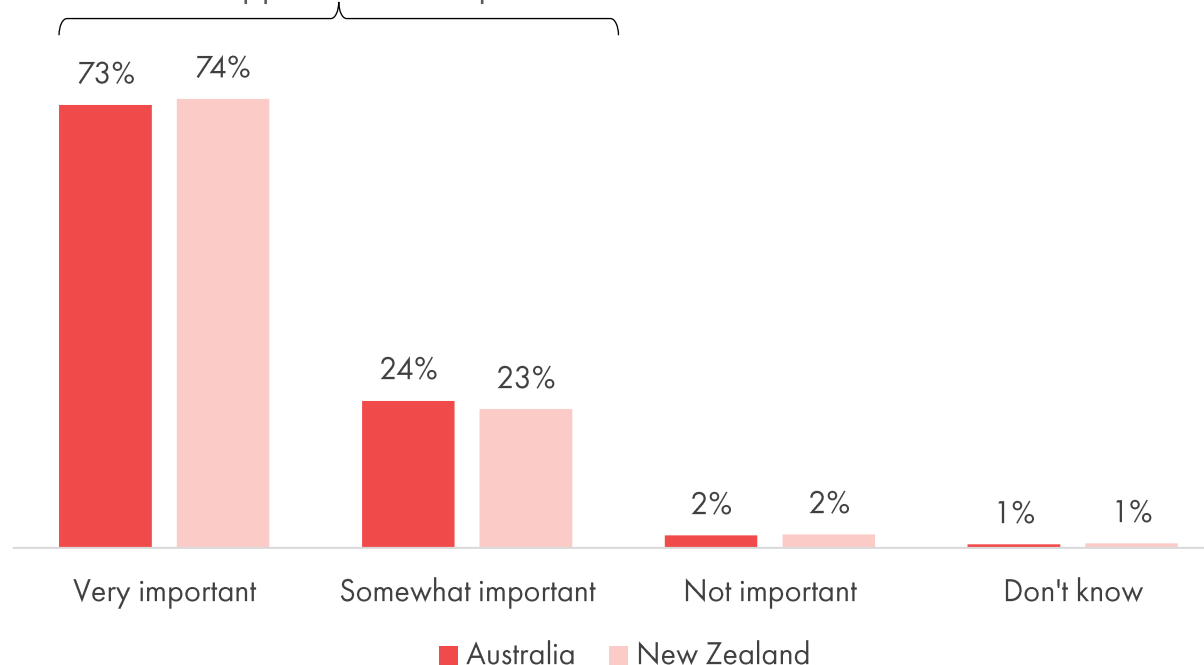
Reward points

## providing clear information on how retailers use shopper information is critical

It is critical that retail businesses provide clear information about how they use shoppers' personal information, nearly three-quarters of online shoppers think this is very important.

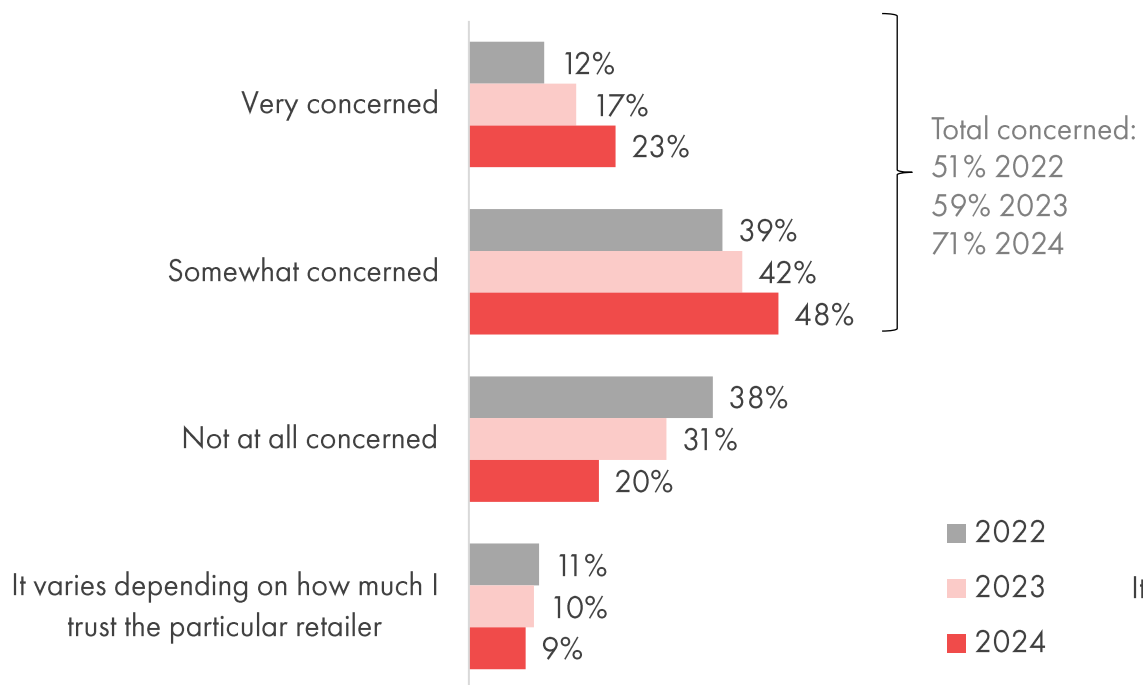
### importance of retail businesses providing clear information about how they use shoppers' personal information

97% of Australian and New Zealand online shoppers think its important

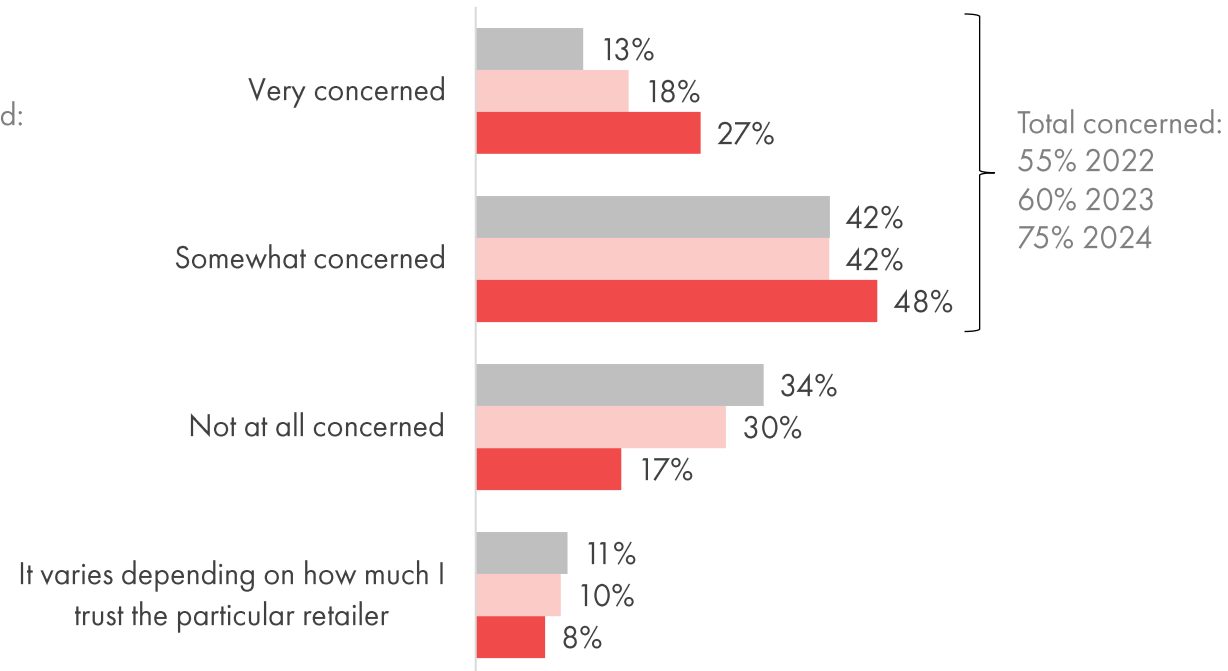


# concern with how retailers use australian shopper data has significantly increased over the last year

level of concern about how retailers use data provided via loyalty cards



level of concern about how retailers use data provided via any transaction



# trust and transparency are key for retailers collecting shopper data

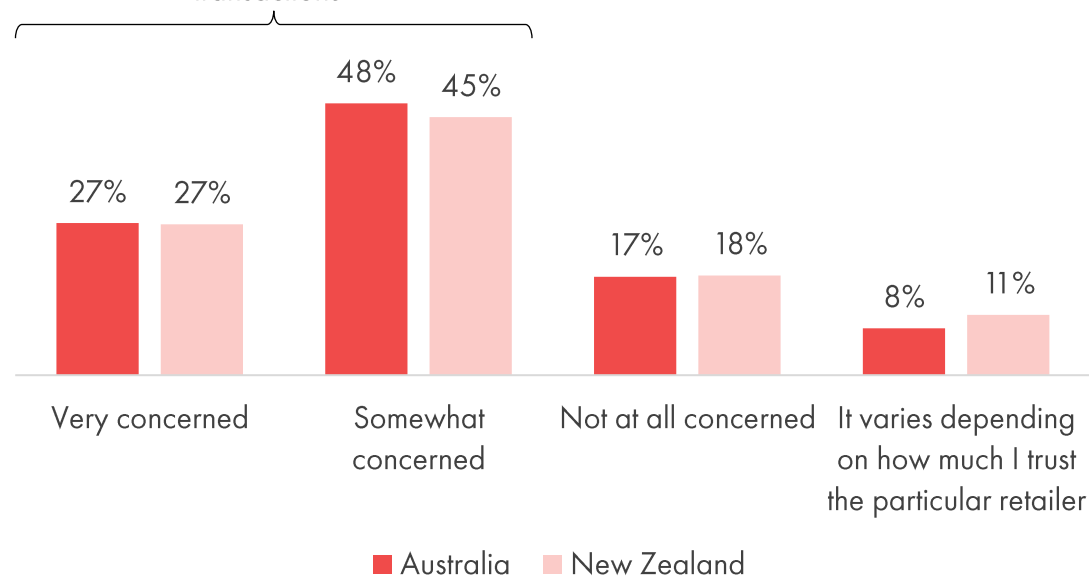
## level of concern about how retailers use data provided via loyalty cards

71% of Australian and 68% of New Zealand online shoppers are concerned about how retailers use their data provided via loyalty programs/reward cards



## level of concern about how retailers use data provided via any transaction

75% of Australian and 72% of New Zealand online shoppers are concerned about how retailers use their data provided via transactions



# trust and transparency key for retailers collecting shopper data

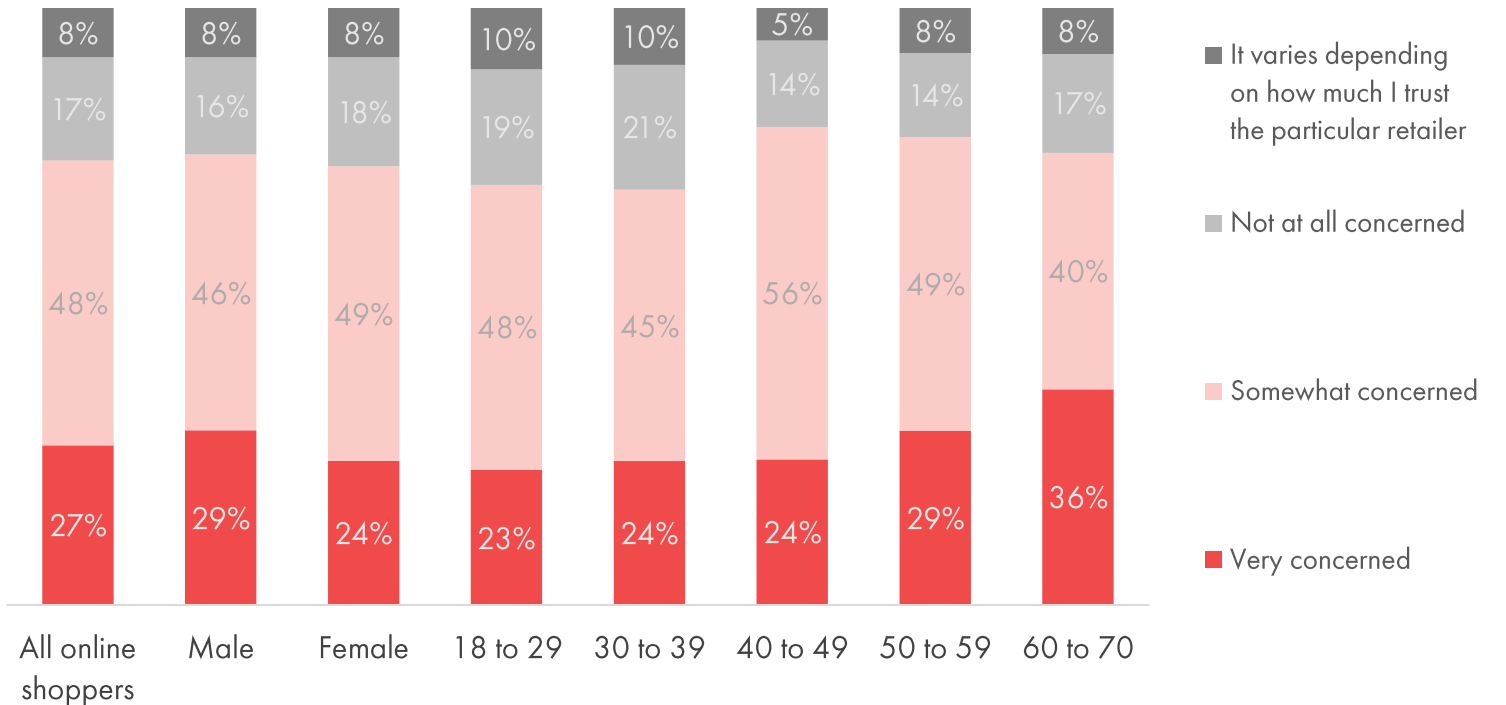
**75% of Australian online shoppers are concerned about how retailers use the data they collect via transactions.**

A further 8% say it depends on the trust they have with the particular retailer.

Those aged over 40 years are more concerned than those aged under 40 years.

80% of 40-49's are concerned about how retailers use their data.

**australian online shoppers**  
level of concern about how retailers use shopper data via transactions



# trust and transparency key for retailers collecting shopper data

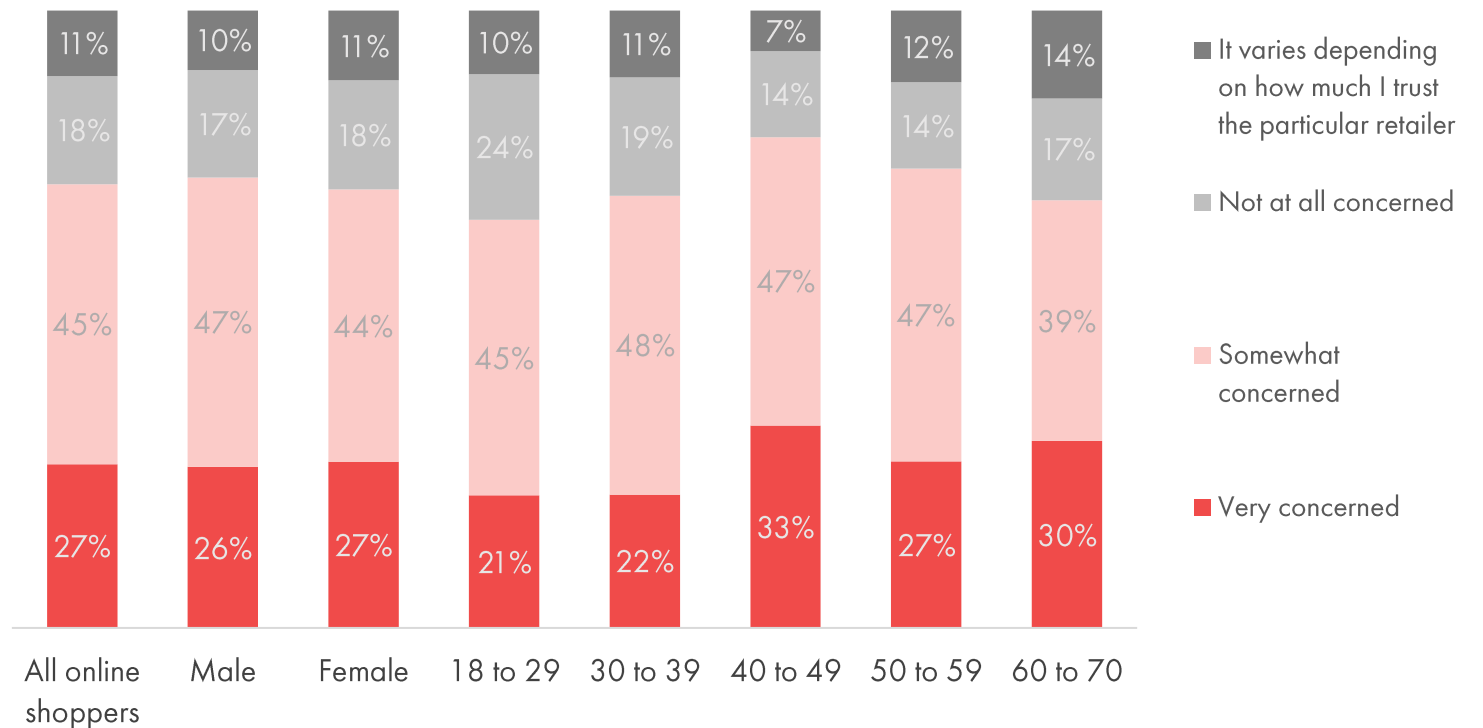
**72% of New Zealand online shoppers are concerned about how retailers use the data they collect via transactions.**

A further 11% say it depends on the trust they have with the particular retailer.

Those aged over 40 years are more concerned than those aged under 40 years.

80% of 40-49's are concerned about how retailers use their data.

**new zealand online shoppers**  
level of concern about how retailers use shopper data via transactions



# retailer data usage

## Most Australian online shoppers do understand that their data is used for targeting advertising and marketing.

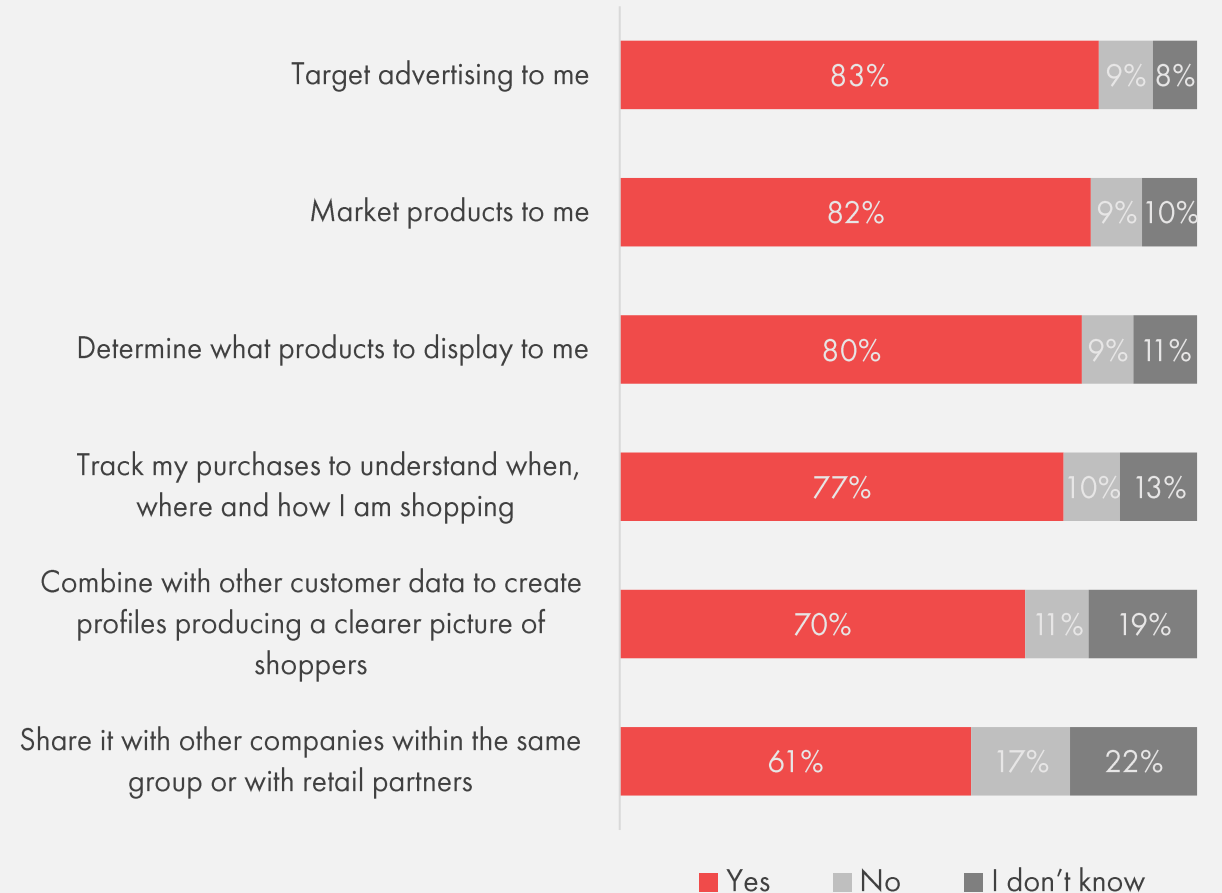
However, 22% of online shoppers don't know whether retailers share their data with other companies.

Understanding on these aspects has remained stable over the previous years of survey data.

Online shoppers do value personalisation (49% of weekly online grocery shoppers would pay more to personalise products to suit them) and most understand that retailers use their data to determine what products to display to them.

Retailers need to ensure they are using clear communication around the data value exchange and transparency on how their data is used, to make shoppers more comfortable to provide their data.

## what do **australian** shoppers think retailers do with their data?



# retailer data usage

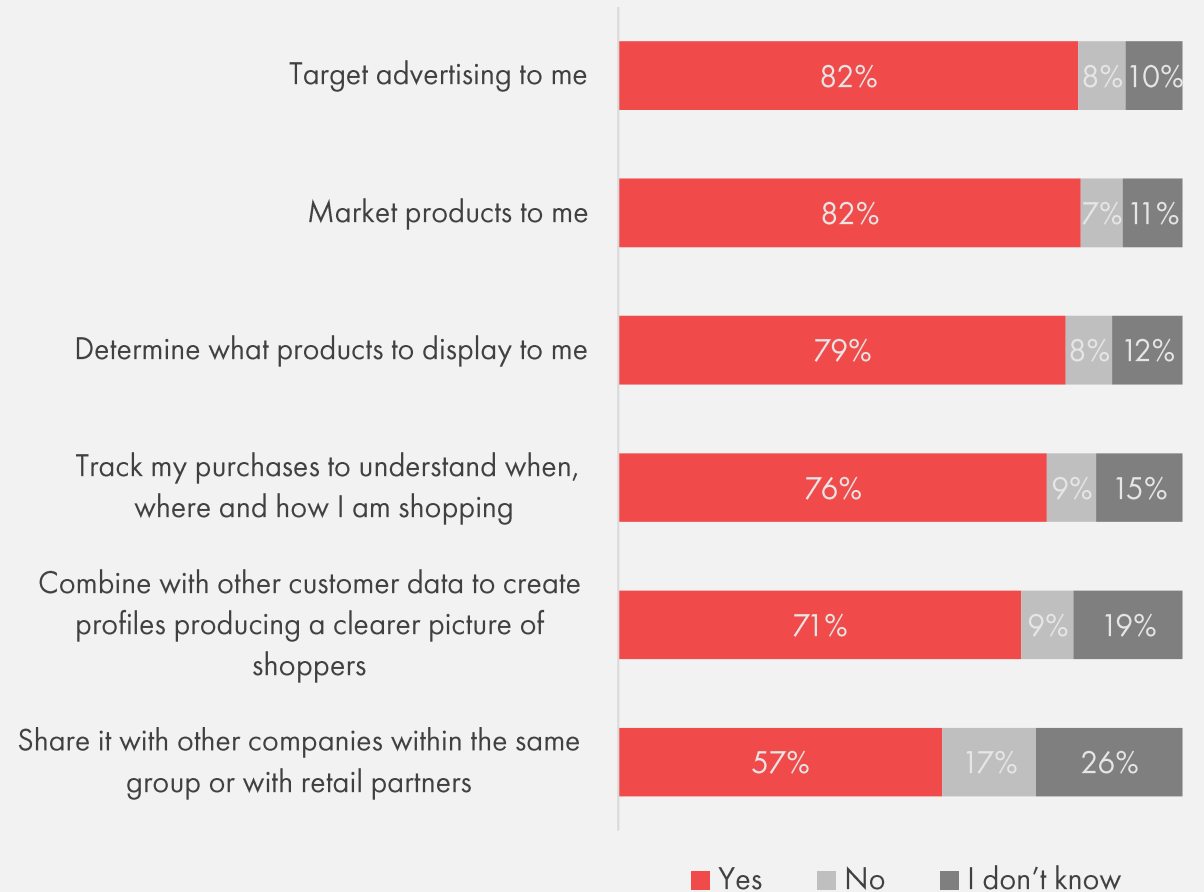
**Most New Zealand online shoppers do understand that their data is used for targeting advertising and marketing.**

However, 26% of online shoppers don't know whether retailers share their data with other companies.

Online shoppers do value personalisation (40% of those buying groceries online regularly would pay more to personalise products to suit them) and most understand that retailers use their data to determine what products to display to them.

Retailers need to ensure they are using clear communication around the data value exchange and transparency on how their data is used, to make shoppers more comfortable to provide their data.

## what do **new zealand** shoppers think retailers do with their data?





# retailer data value exchange

**Nearly all online shoppers are willing to share some type of personal data with retailers in exchange for benefits such as discounts, free delivery or rewards points.**

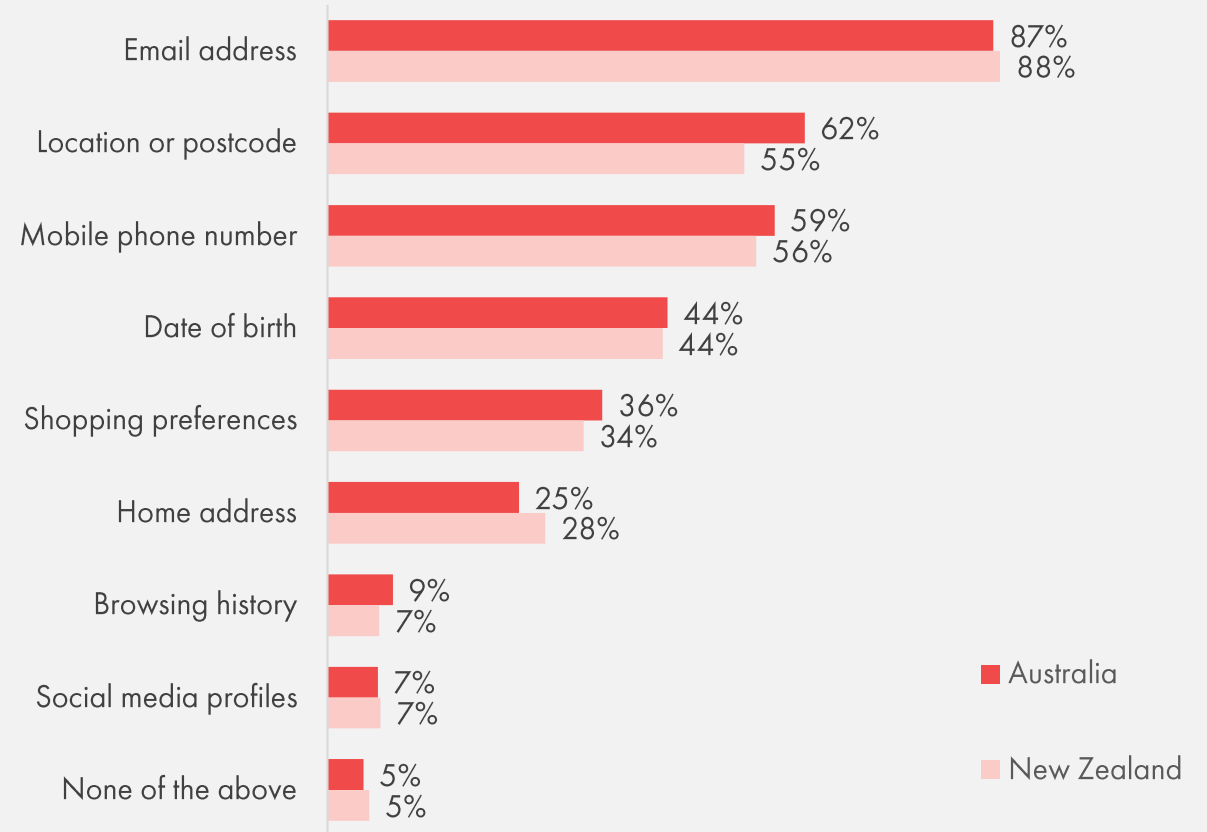
An email address is the data point online shoppers are far more willing to share with retailers.

The types of personal data shoppers are willing to share is similar across markets, except for sharing location. New Zealand shoppers are less likely than Australian shoppers to be willing to share their location data.

Retailers need to ensure they are using clear communication around the data value exchange and transparency on how their data is used, to make shoppers more comfortable to provide their data.

This question was added to the Australian survey for the first time in wave 4, no trend data is available.

## personal data shoppers are willing to share with retail businesses in exchange for benefits



# retailer data value exchange

## Benefits tied to personal financial compensation are valued the most for the exchange of personal data with retail businesses.

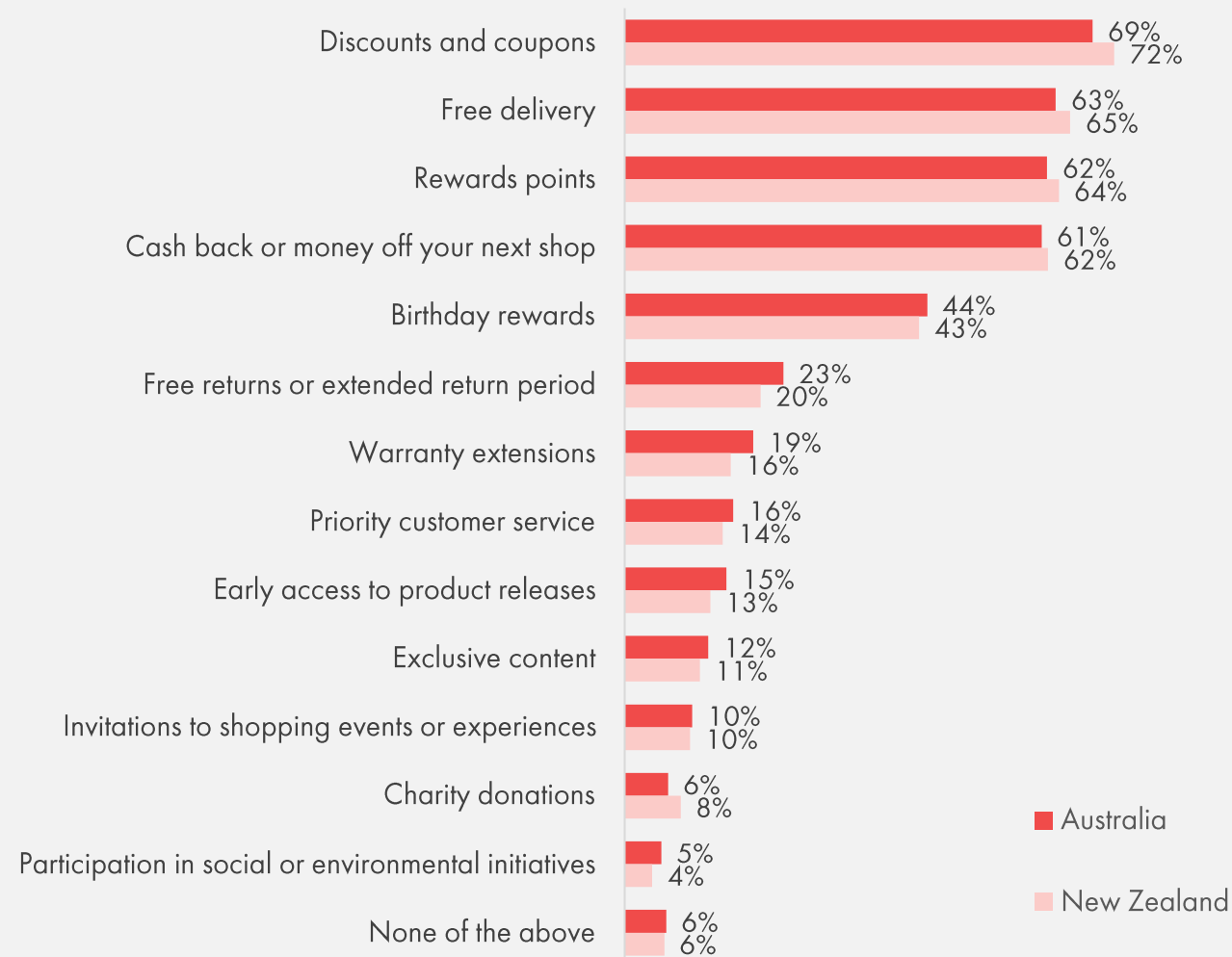
Online shoppers are more willing to share their data with retailers in return for discounts, coupons, free delivery, rewards points and cash back.

Australian shoppers are slightly more open to seeing value in some of the mid-tier benefits such as free returns or extended return period and warranty extensions.

Retailers need to ensure they are using clear communication around the data value exchange and transparency on how their data is used, to make shoppers more comfortable to provide their data.

This question was added to the Australian survey for the first time in wave 4, no trend data is available.

## benefits valued as compensation in exchange for the personal data shared with retail businesses



# retailer data exchange

**Trust and transparency are key for retailers collecting shopper data as online shoppers concerns about how retailers use their data have increased significantly over the last year.**

- Most online shoppers are concerned about how retailers use their data. In Australia, where this has been measured for the previous two years, concern has increased significantly.
- Nearly all online shoppers think it is important for retail businesses to provide clear information about how they use shoppers' personal information.
- In particular information on how retailers share their data with other companies needs more transparency as a high proportion of online shoppers don't think or don't know whether retailers share their data with other companies.

**Driving impactful customer experiences is dependent upon a value exchange between retailer and shopper.**

- Most online shoppers do understand that their data is used for targeting advertising and marketing. Most also understand that retailers use data to determine what products to display to them. Personalisation is valued by shoppers (some segments of online shoppers would pay more for personalised products) and can lead to a better shopping experience.
- Nearly all online shoppers are willing to share some type of personal data with retail businesses in exchange for benefits (most are willing to share an email address).
- Benefits tied to personal financial compensation (discounts, coupons, free delivery, rewards points cashback) are valued the most for the exchange of personal data with retail businesses.
- Retailers need to ensure they are using clear communication around the data value exchange and transparency on how their data is used, to make shoppers more comfortable to provide their data.

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