MOBILE GAMING – US – 2023

Mobile gaming presents great opportunities, but new regulations and tough competition require knowledge of the latest trends and strategies to ensure success.





Mobile Gaming - US - 2023

This report looks at the following areas:

- Defined mobile gaming segment by both motivation and device/frequency
- Mobile trends impacting the video game industry
- Who plays mobile games and how their spending has trended over recent years
- How changes to games affects churn and what changes demographics are willing to tolerate
- Lifespan of mobile games on player devices and which demographics will quit a game first
- Players preferences for mobile gaming including who sees mobile as their primary gaming device
- · Player attitudes toward mobile game discovery, spending and privacy in the gaming space



Mobile gaming presents great opportunities, but new regulations and tough competition require knowledge of the latest trends and strategies to ensure success.

Overview

67% of adults played video games on their mobile devices in the past three months, and mobile is known as the widest spread gaming option globally. The Apple brand leads as the go-to product of choice with 54% of players, while Samsung branded mobile products follow at 44%. However, from an operating system perspective, Android is the more widely adopted with 57% of gamers using a form of Android OS, compared to 54% for iOS.

The mobile gaming industry's revenue is expected to increase by +0.8% in 2023 despite policy changes implemented by Apple and Google that have impeded user acquisition, indicating

BUY THIS REPORT NOW €4400.00 | £3695.00 | \$4995.00*

store.mintel.com

Americas: +1 (312) 932 0400 China: +86 (21) 6032 7300 Germany: +49 (0) 211 3399 7411 India: +91 22 4445 1045 Singapore: +65 6653 3600

Thailand: +66 2 821 5122 UK: +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 that the industry will remain resilient despite the constraints. A surge in mobile advertising expenditure in Q1 2023 further demonstrates the industry's strength and stability.

BUY THIS REPORT NOW €4400.00 | £3695.00 | \$4995.00*

store.mintel.com

Americas: +1 (312) 932 0400 China: +86 (21) 6032 7300 Germany: +49 (0) 211 3399 7411 India: +91 22 4445 1045 Singapore: +65 6653 3600

Thailand: +66 2 821 5122 UK: +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

Report Content

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- · What you need to know
- · Consumer trends: key takeaways
- · Global video game market size
- · Market predictions
- Opportunities

CONSUMER INSIGHTS

Consumer fast facts

Spending on mobile games

- · In-game spending rebounds from last year's declines
 - Graph 1: monthly spending on mobile games, 2020-23
- Ad engagement rewards that compare favorably to a players' personal spending will be looked upon more favorably
 - Graph 2: mobile game spending, by generation, 2023
- · Skipping the Amazon Appstore on Android could mean missing revenue
 - Graph 3: mobile game spending, by mobile brands used, 2023

Spending on mobile gaming content

- · Mobile game spending gains wider adoption despite inflation
 - Graph 4: participation in mobile gaming activities in the past year, 2023
- Paying upfront to get the latest and greatest games is for younger players
 - Graph 5: purchased a mobile game that costs money in the past year, by age and gender, 2023
- · As expected, free games appeal to gamers of all ages
 - Graph 6: downloaded a free mobile game in the past year, by age and gender, 2023
 - Graph 7: purchased a video game subscription in the past year, by age and gender, 2023
- Reap rewards from engaging with console and PC gamers on mobile
 - Graph 8: participation in mobile gaming activities in the past year, by gamer segments, 2023

Mobile game abandonment

- Cost is a secondary concern for players as long as games are fun
 - Graph 9: reasons for mobile game abandonment, 2023
- · Player motivations can help explain and combat game abandonment
 - Graph 10: mobile game abandonment, by gamer segments, 2023

- Players who engage most frequently can demand new content and change, which may be off-putting to other players if not carefully considered
 - Graph 11: mobile game abandonment, by mobile gaming frequency, 2023

Mobile game lifespans

- · Mobile games that beat the odds and become popular are rare and worth the effort to partner with
 - Graph 12: time it takes to decide if a game is a good fit or worth playing after downloading and playing for the first time, 2023
- · Quick decisions and short play sessions are hallmarks of busy women gamers
 - Graph 13: time it takes to decide if a game is a good fit or worth playing after downloading and playing for the first time, men vs women, 2023
- · Social gamers will play longer, increasing opportunities for ad views
 - Graph 14: time it takes to decide if a game is a good fit or worth playing after downloading and playing for the first time, by gamer segments, 2023

Mobile game preferences

- · Mobile gamers preference for mobile secures the format's dominant place in the industry
 - Graph 15: mobile game preferences, 2023
- Pulling console and PC players to mobile may be easier with new tech, but it may ignore the larger following of mobileonly devotees
 - Graph 16: my mobile device is my primary gaming device, by age and gender, 2023
- Mobile offers access to hard-to-reach players who might not otherwise game
 - Graph 17: I don't mind if a game is only playable on mobile, by age and gender, 2023
- Most gamers are willing to experiment with their own tastes, but that can be used to enhance discoverability and reinforce sharing with friends
 - Graph 18: mobile gaming preferences, by gamer segments, 2023

Attitudes toward mobile game discovery

- · App store reviews don't ring true for all gamers equally
 - Graph 19: attitudes toward app stores, by age, 2023
- Mobile gaming advertising creates buzz among younger gamers
 - Graph 20: attitudes toward mobile game discovery, by age, 2023

Attitudes toward mobile game spending

- · Games deserve to be profitable but they should be fun enough to sell
 - Graph 21: attitudes towards mobile game spending, by financial situation, 2023
- Young men are more likely to support PC and console gaming on mobile, but it could be many players' first introduction
 - Graph 22: I like to support my favorite PC and console game developers when they produce mobile games, by age and gender, 2023

- Graph 23: I would be more willing to spend money on mobile games that I could also play on PC or console, by age and gender, 2023
- · PC and console shared progression with mobile is a win for parents
 - Graph 24: attitudes toward mobile game spending, moms vs dads, 2023

Attitudes toward mobile game privacy

- · Support for enhanced mobile privacy is strong across OS types
 - Graph 25: attitudes toward mobile game privacy, by OS used, 2023
- · Permission requests are too vague about their intent and limitations
 - Graph 26: attitudes toward mobile game privacy, by age, 2023

COMPETITIVE STRATEGIES

Launch activity and innovation

- A titanium gaming-powerhouse, movie-camera phone?
- · Spooky gaming franchise turns to new interactive narrative streaming series on mobile just in time for Halloween

Marketing and advertising

- Mobile games own the "Fastest to reach 150 million downloads" list
- \$60 prices will shock gamers used to freemium
- Unity's pricing blunder is a sign of deep disfunction within the game engine company's business model

Opportunities

- Popular mobile titles may be primed to grow into broader transmedia franchises
- · Players flock to mobile games with console quality
- · Niantic continues to specialize in location data-based gaming revenue

THE MARKET

Market context

• US economic indicators continue to trend positive even as costs remain high

Market overview

- Global video gaming revenue grows again after a short dip in 2022
 - Graph 27: global video game industry revenue, 2019-25
- 2.6% year-over-year growth does little to alter device shares globally
 - Graph 28: global video game industry revenue share, by device, 2023
- US inflation ratchets back up after reaching a relative low, though it's nowhere close to 9.1% in June 2022
 - Graph 29: Consumer Price Index change from previous period, 2020-23

Market drivers

- · Success in the mobile gaming advertising relies heavily on user acquisition
- Google antitrust case could impact mobile gaming
- · Netflix prepping to move beyond mobile gaming

Market share/brand share

- · Candy Crush remains the top grossing mobile app in the US
 - Graph 30: top mobile games by revenue, 2022
- Mobile gaming dominates advertising spend in the US
 - Graph 31: top gaming brands by advertising spend, 2023
- Video game advertising spend hits a new peak in Q1 2023
 - Graph 32: video game industry advertising spend, by quarter, 2021-23
- · Top spend and impression creatives are often free-to-play mobile games

APPENDIX

- Market definition
- Consumer research methodology
- Generations
- Abbreviations and terms

The consumer

- · Gaming device usage
 - Graph 33: device usage, 2023
- · Mobile brands used for gaming
 - Graph 34: mobile brands used for gaming
- OS used for mobile gaming
 - Graph 35: OS used for mobile gaming
- Gaming frequency
 - Graph 36: gaming frequency, 2023
- · Mintel gamer segments motivations
- · Mintel gamer segments motivations breakdown
 - Graph 37: gamer segments, 2023
- · Gamer segments Achievers and Explorers
- Gamer segments Socializers and Competitors
- · Mintel gamer segments age profile
 - Graph 38: gamer segments, by age, 2023
- · Mintel gamer segments gender profile
 - Graph 39: gamer segments, by gender, 2023

Mobile Gaming – US – 2023

- Mintel gamer segments device and frequency breakdown
 - Graph 40: gamer segments devices and frequency, 2023
- Mintel gamer segments device and frequency profiles
 - Graph 41: gamer segments devices and frequency, by age 2023
 - Graph 42: gamer segments devices and frequency, by gender, 2023

Disclaimer

This is marketing intelligence published by Mintel. The consumer research exclusively commissioned by Mintel was conducted by Kantar Profiles (See Research Methodology for more information).

Terms and Conditions of use

Any use and/or copying of this document is subject to Mintel's standard terms and conditions, which are available at http://www.mintel.com/terms

If you have any questions regarding usage of this document please contact your account manager or call your local helpdesk.

Published by Mintel Group Ltd

www.mintel.com

Help desk

UK	+44 (0)20 7778 7155
US	+1 (312) 932 0600
Australia	+61 (0)2 8284 8100
China	+86 (21) 6386 6609
India	+91 22 4090 7217
Japan	+81 (3) 6228 6595
Singapore	+65 (0)6 818 9850