

Consumer Insights



GenAI revolution: Understanding ChatGPT's early adopters

In the latter part of 2022, generative artificial intelligence (genAI) captivated global audiences with its ability to interact seamlessly with users. A recent Visa Business and Economic Insights (VBEI) consumer survey found that almost 17 percent of Americans report having already used the first open-access chatbot to go viral, ChatGPT.

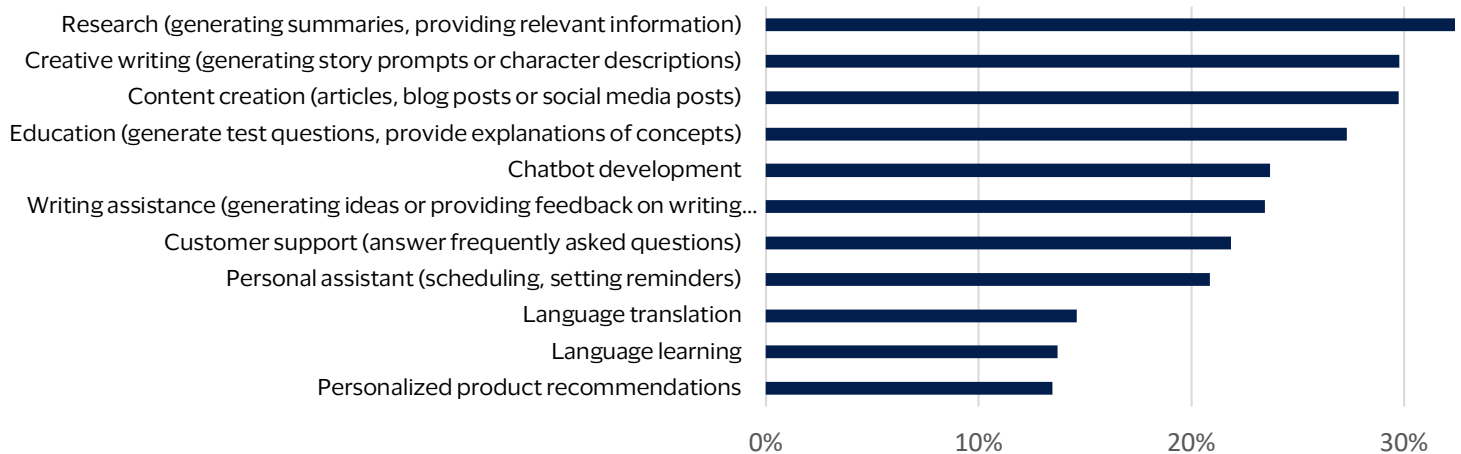
Examining ChatGPT user preferences and behaviors yields insights into areas such as user demographics and common traits, the types of tasks consumers perform with AI, and how consumers might expect the businesses they shop with to leverage AI tools, among others.

Decoding ChatGPT's multifaceted utility

A substantial portion of users seek information from ChatGPT, with 32 percent using it to gain knowledge and another 30 percent employing it for creative writing. This inclination towards personalized, 'intelligent' interactions suggests that users value it highly despite a more complex engagement process relative to internet search engines (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1: ChatGPT use cases

Question: What do you use generative AI for? (Check all that apply)



Sources: Visa Business and Economic Insights analysis and Kantar

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Key Points:



17 percent of Americans have reported using ChatGPT



A substantial portion of consumers leverage ChatGPT for research and writing projects



AI promises to redefine the customer service experience by enhancing personalized recommendations



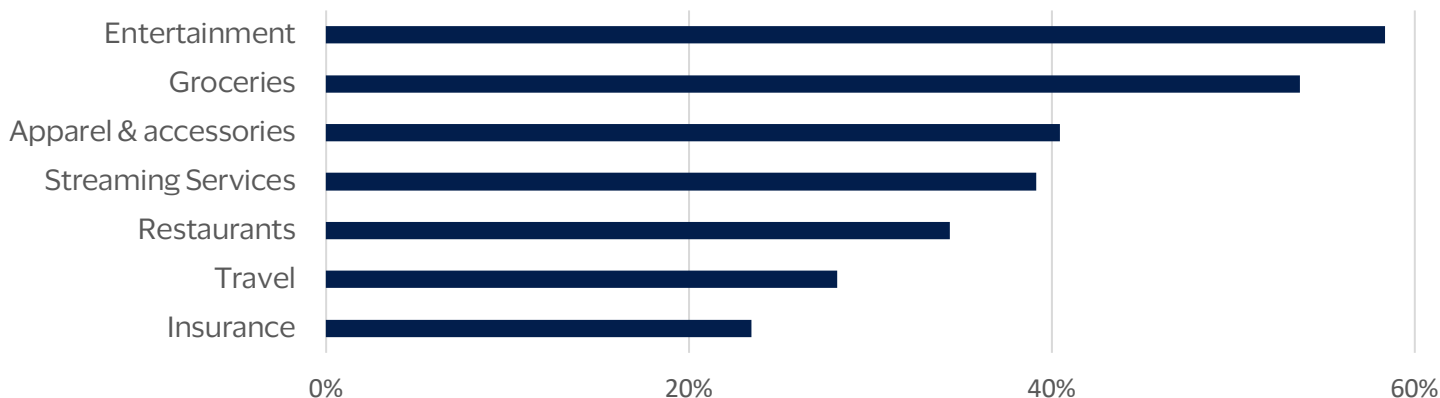


Decoding ChatGPT’s multifaceted utility (cont.)

Entertainment emerges as a formidable contender in the AI-driven ecosystem, capturing the interest of 58 percent of users, followed closely by consumables such as groceries (54 percent) and apparel (41 percent).

Fig. 2: ChatGPT personalized product recommendations

Question: In what categories have you used AI for personalized product recommendations? (Check all that apply)



Source: VBEI U.S. Quarterly Consumer Survey, October 2023

Delineating user segments: The tapestry of engagement

Through our proprietary research and third-party data, we uncovered a complex landscape of early adopters all looking to AI to satisfy their diverse use cases. Grouping users according to their needs can help frame the conversation. We segmented users into four distinctive categories^{1,2} based on their engagement patterns (Fig. 3):

Broad utilization users: These are the most engaged generative AI users. They employ ChatGPT for a variety of tasks and see a place for AI in their daily lives.

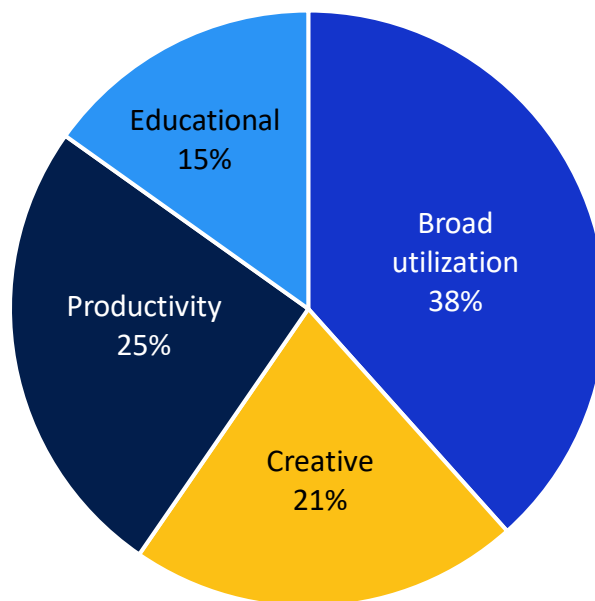
Creative aficionados: Often younger in demographics, these users may be at the forefront of using ChatGPT to harness generative AI’s capabilities of creative expression.

Productivity enthusiasts: This segment is drawn to AI’s promise of efficiency, seeking tools to help them be more productive when doing tedious tasks.

Educational & linguistic scholars: This group comprises users from diverse demographic backgrounds and academic pursuits, united by their quest for knowledge and education.

Fig. 3 : ChatGPT: Four key user segments

Question: if you have already used ChatGPT, what have you used it for?



Source: VBEI U.S. Quarterly Consumer Survey, October 2023

	Broad Users	Creative Aficionados	Productivity Enthusiasts	Educational & Linguistic Scholars
% using ChatGPT weekly	42%	47%	36%	45%

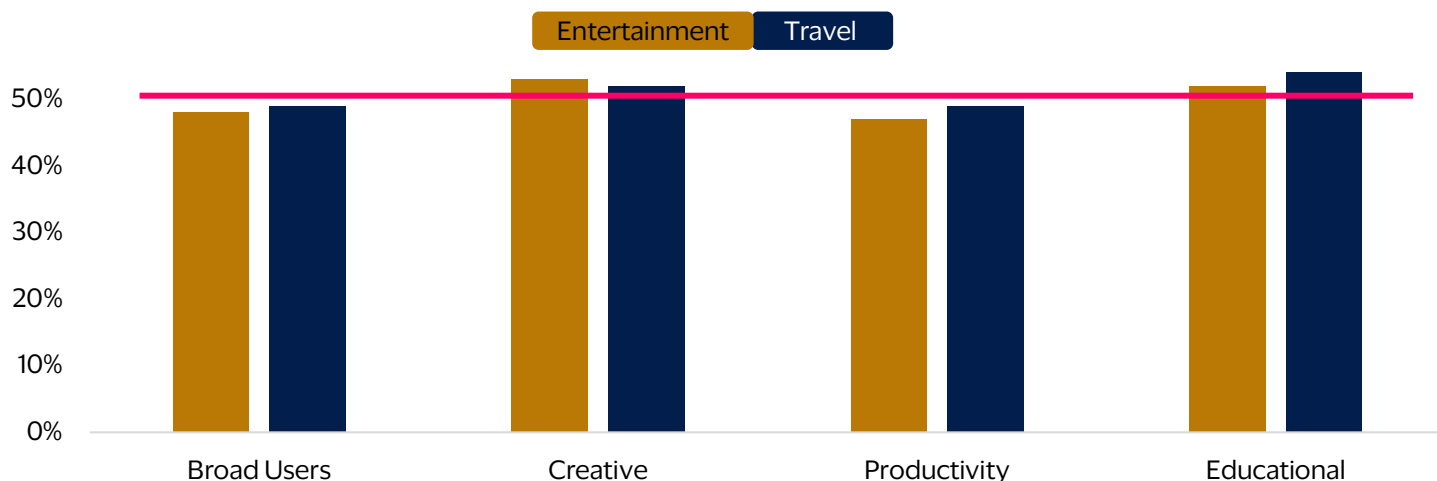


User vs. non-user consumer preferences

While all ChatGPT user segments indicate similar preference rates across industries when it comes to communicating with an AI chatbot vs. a live person, entertainment and travel stand out, with over half of all creative and education users preferring an AI tool to a live person (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4: AI chat program preferences vs. live person

Question: Do you prefer to communicate with a live person or an AI chat program if you need assistance?



Across segments, users are more inclined to practice confrontational consumerism and/or engage in consumer activism by changing their purchase behaviors or championing ethical, environmental and social causes, for example (Fig. 5).

Compared to non-users, AI users tend to be much more digitally savvy and adept at using in-store contactless/mobile/digital wallet payment options, biometric payment methods, and are more likely to own an electric vehicle (Fig. 6).

Fig. 5: Purchase decision preferences based on business' support of social causes

Question: How often do you make purchase decisions to intentionally support businesses that are ... responsible?

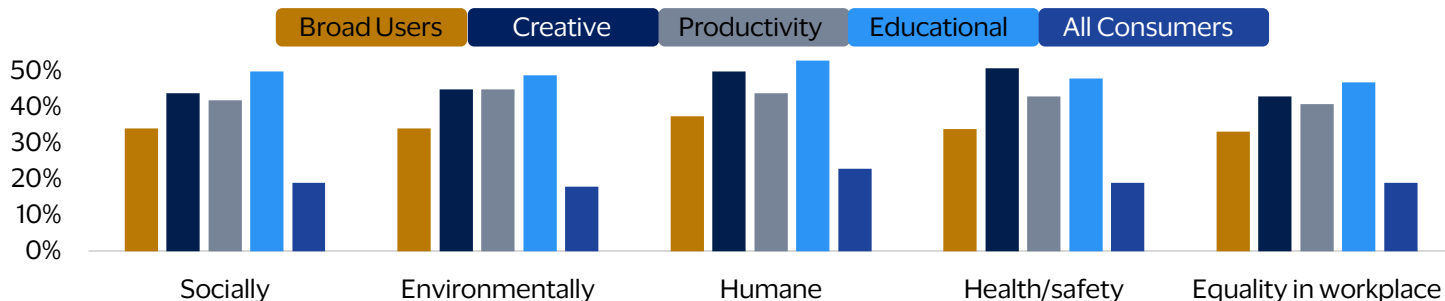
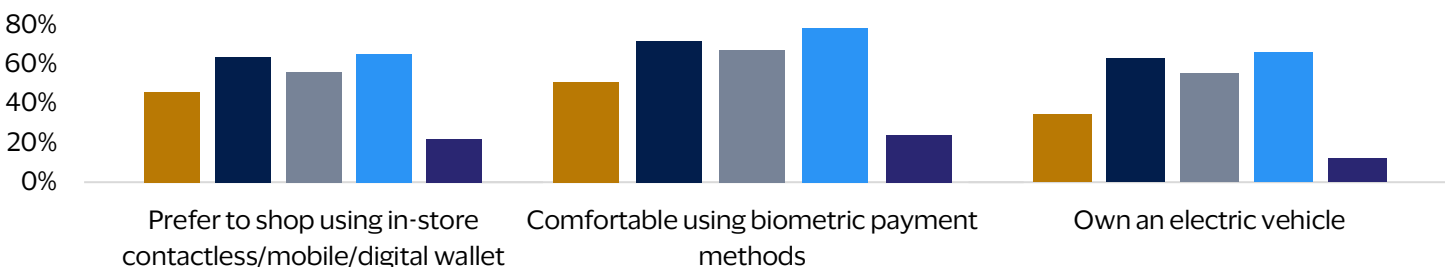


Fig. 6: Payment preferences and electric ownership by segment



Source for fig. 4-6: VBEI U.S. Quarterly Consumer Survey, October 2023



Implications

These user segments are not demographically monolithic²—the needs that define them apply across gender and age groups. Understanding these segments can help businesses and marketers tailor their AI products and services to meet the needs and expectations of their target customers and increase their adoption and satisfaction rates.

Financial institutions:

- **Increasing emphasis on personalized engagement:** Growing consumer affinity for AI is recalibrating the way financial services companies interact with their customers. Organizations may use AI to provide valuable, data-driven insights on a consumer's financial history, spending habits, and future goals. Such tools could help guide smarter investment strategies and savings plans that are customized by the individual based on their risk tolerance and financial objectives.
- **Enhancing security with digital payments:** AI underscores the need for a diversified digital payment environment that encompasses contactless and mobile modalities. For everyday banking, customers use contactless cards issued by banks. AI algorithms monitor these transactions to detect any unusual patterns or potentially fraudulent activity, ensuring the security of customer funds.
- **Elevating financial acumen:** AI's educational features present an opportunity for institutions to bolster financial literacy. AI can help customers improve their financial habits by providing insights into their spending patterns and offering tailored advice to help them reach their financial goals.
- **Championing responsible investing:** The tilt towards responsible investing calls for robust ESG-centric investment avenues. AI can provide personalized investment advice to customers based on their individual ESG preferences. For example, it could recommend a green energy fund to a customer who is particularly concerned about climate change, or a fund focused on companies with strong gender diversity for a customer who prioritizes social equality.

Merchants:

- **Infusing AI into customer experiences:** AI promises to redefine customer service paradigms, accentuating personalized recommendations. For example, if a customer frequently purchases mystery novels, the AI might recommend newly released books in that genre. Or if a customer has been browsing winter coats but hasn't made a purchase, the AI could suggest popular or highly-rated coats.
- **Keeping up with digital payment trends:** A dynamic digital payment infrastructure that includes contactless and mobile options remains paramount. Based on a customer's purchase history and payment preferences, AI can suggest relevant products and offer discounts or loyalty rewards at the point of sale.
- **Upholding transparency:** Merchants are increasingly responding to heightened consumer scrutiny by finding ways to offer insights into product origins and ethical considerations. AI can provide customers with detailed product information. For example, when a customer scans a product's QR code with their smartphone, the AI system can display information about where the raw materials for that product were sourced, how the product was manufactured, and the carbon footprint associated with its production and transportation.
- **Fostering global conversations:** Merchants can use AI's translation capabilities to transcend language barriers and open a global dialogue with their customer base. As an example, AI can analyze customer feedback and reviews from different regions and translate feedback written in various languages, allowing global retailers to gain valuable insights into the needs and preferences from customers around the world.



Footnotes

1. Visa Business & Economic Insights analysis of Prosper data.
2. Berndt, K., Spire, K. and Batalla, D. Ipsos (2023). Want to understand early adopters of generative AI? <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/want-understand-early-adopters-generative-ai>

Accessibility notes

Fig. 1: A horizontal bar chart showing a range of tasks that some consumers report using genAI to perform. Among consumers that use genAI, 32 percent use it for research, 30 percent for creative writing, 30 percent for content creation, 27 percent for education, 24 percent for chatbot development, 24 percent for writing assistance, 22 percent for customer support, 21 percent for personal assistance, 15 percent for language translation, 14 percent for language learning, and 14 percent for personalized product recommendations.

Fig. 2: A horizontal bar chart showing the share of consumers using genAI for personalized product recommendations, grouped by industry. Fifty-eight percent turn to genAI for recommendations on entertainment, 54 percent for groceries, 41 percent for apparel and accessories, 40 percent for streaming services, 34 percent for restaurants, 28 percent for travel and 23 percent for insurance.

Fig. 3: A pie chart displaying four ChatGPT user segments based on their use cases. Broad utilization users are the highest at 38 percent, followed by productivity enthusiasts at 25 percent, creative aficionados at 21 percent, and educational and linguistic scholars at 15 percent.

Fig. 4: A bar graph comparing the four user segments' preferences for communicating with an AI chatbot versus a live agent when they require assistance with entertainment and/or travel purchases. Among broad utilization users, 48 percent prefer an AI chat program for entertainment and 49 percent prefer AI chat for travel assistance; among creative aficionados, 53 percent and 52 percent prefer AI chat, respectively; among productivity enthusiasts, 47 percent and 49 percent prefer AI chat; and among educational and linguistic scholars, 52 percent and 54 percent prefer AI chat.

Fig. 5: A group of five bar graphs showing consumers' purchasing preferences based on their intentional support of companies that espouse certain values, including environmental and social responsibility, the humane treatment of animals, worker health and safety, and/or workplace equality. Nineteen percent of all adult consumers prefer to buy from socially responsible companies, compared to 34 percent of broad utilization users, 44 percent of creative aficionados, 42 percent of productivity enthusiasts, and 50 percent of educational and linguistic scholars. A company's environmental responsibility sways the purchase decisions of 18 percent of all consumers, compared to 34 percent of broad utilization users, 45 percent of creative aficionados and productivity enthusiasts, and 49 percent of educational and linguistic scholars. Twenty-three percent of all consumers consider the humaneness of a company before making a purchase, compared to 38 percent of broad utilization users, 50 percent of creative aficionados, 44 percent of productivity enthusiasts, and 53 percent of educational and linguistic scholars. Worker health and safety is a consideration for 19 percent of all consumers, compared to 34 percent of broad utilization users, 51 percent of creative aficionados, 43 percent of productivity enthusiasts, and 48 percent of educational and linguistic scholars. Workplace equality factors into the buying decisions of 19 percent of all consumers, compared to 33 percent of broad utilization users, 43 percent of creative aficionados, 41 percent of productivity enthusiasts, and 47 percent of educational and linguistic scholars.

Fig. 6: A group of three bar charts showing payment preferences and electric vehicle ownership rates of all consumers compared to the four genAI user segments. Twenty-two percent of all adult consumers said they prefer to shop in-store using a contactless/mobile/digital wallet payment solution, compared to 46 percent of broad utilization users, 64 percent of creative aficionados, 56 percent of productivity enthusiasts, and 65 percent of educational and linguistic scholars. Twenty-four percent of all adult consumers reported comfort with using biometric payment methods, compared to 51 percent of broad utilization users, 72 percent of creative aficionados, 68 percent of productivity enthusiasts, and 79 percent of educational and linguistic scholars. Nine percent of all adult consumers own an electric vehicle, compared to 27 percent of broad utilization users, 50 percent of creative aficionados, 44 percent of productivity enthusiasts, and 53 percent of educational and linguistic scholars.



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