

2024 State of Advertising Perceptions & Attitudes in Canada

February 2025



Numerator Surveys provides integrated analysis to accelerate your growth – by connecting you to consumers and their known behaviours.

WHO YOU NEED

Access to verified shopping behaviours to reach your consumers no matter how scaled or targeted

WHAT YOU NEED

Innovative methodologies and tools to answer a broad range of your business questions

HOW YOU NEED IT

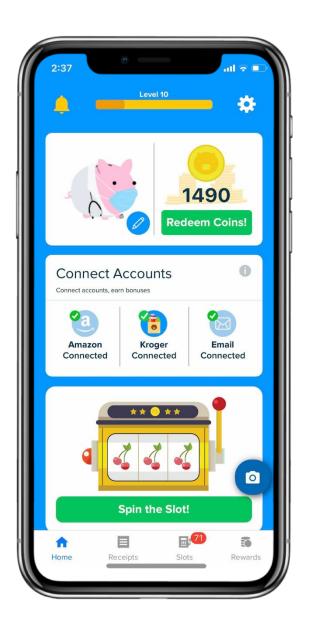
Integrated analysis with flexible service levels and products



Our modern Consumer Panel has higher engagement and compliance.

Gamified consumer apps and proprietary passive collection technology create unprecedented participation and scale

- Al recognition enables scale and accuracy
- 2-way interaction with panelists to understand opinions and attitudes
- Fully compliant with privacy regulations



10 seconds for receipt capture vs. 10+ minutes

10x trips per panelist captured vs Nielsen Homescan

Detailed receipts data

Retailer, Basket, Items, Payment Method and DATE/TIME all captured

Improved Shopper Info

Demographics, Psychographics and Dynamic



Our OmniPanel Has More Shoppers

Numerator

80k+

active panelists

Legacy

18k+

static panelists (Increasing to 20K in April 2025)

8.5

Weekly trips

10X

More shopping trips per month



More Data Points











Current demographic profiles for 99.9% of static panelists

Robust psychographic (500+) and media consumption (150+) attributes

Complete household profiles for over 90% of static panelists







Background & Research Objectives

Ad Standards is interested in conducting survey research among the general population in Canada to understand consumer current attitudes toward advertising. This presentation covers:

- General ad perceptions
- Trust and acceptability of ads
- Awareness and impact of ad regulations in Canada

Research Methodology

SAMPLE

Representative Sample of Canadian Consumers

• 2021: n=1,604

• 2024: n=1,716

Generations:

	2021	2024
Generation Z	n=76	n=221
Millennials	n=399	n=433
Generation X	n=586	n=525
Boomers+	n=543	n=537

^{*} Note, results in 2024 weighted at the total level to ensure trending to 2021

METHODOLOGY

 Mobile survey fielded September 30, 2024, to October 11, 2024



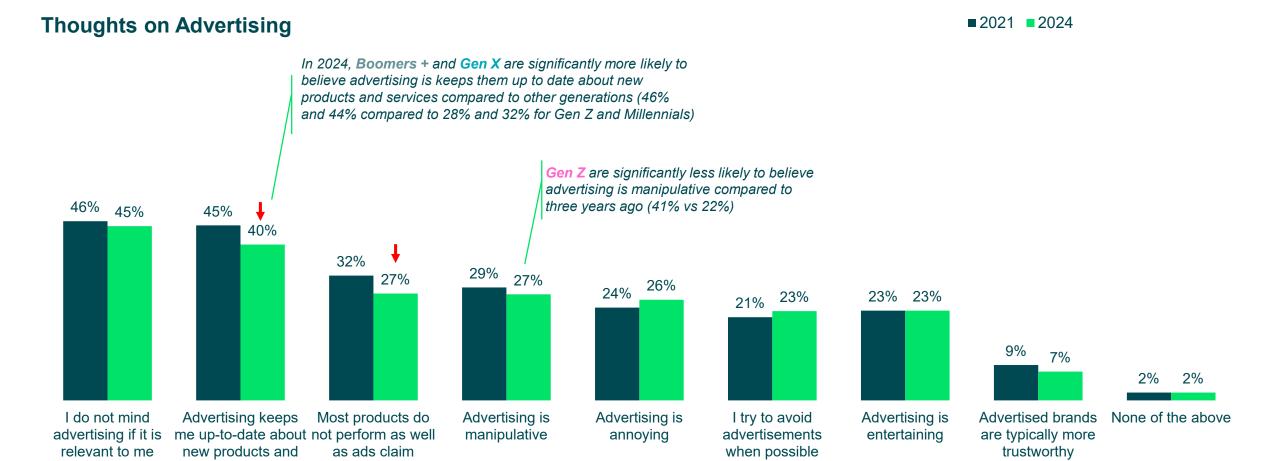






General Ad Perceptions

Consumers value relevant and informative advertising



Source: Numerator Survey, Q4_As a reminder, when answering the questions in this survey, please exclude political advertising related to any election or political candidate. Also, unless otherwise noted, when we reference "advertising" please think about all forms, such as ads you may have read, seen, or heard in any format or media. Which of the following describes your thoughts on advertising?

Numerator N

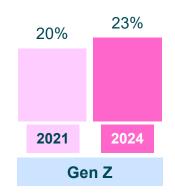
services

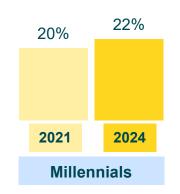
1 in 5 consumers continue to have favourable impressions of advertising, and 1 in 4 find advertising helpful

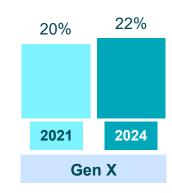
Impressions of Advertising

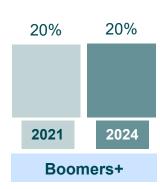
(T2B – Extremely + Very favourable)



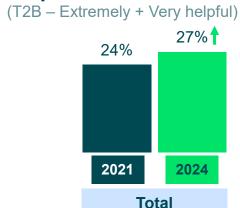


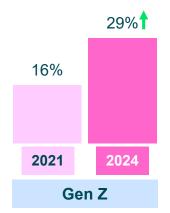


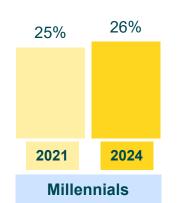


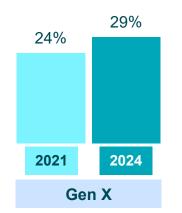


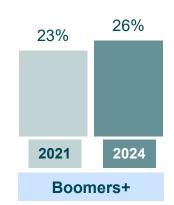
Helpfulness of Advertising in Purchase Decisions











Source: Numerator Survey, Q5_Generally speaking, how favourable is your impression of the advertising you read, see or hear? Please consider only advertising in Canada. / Q6_Generally speaking, how helpful is the advertising you read, see or hear when considering purchasing a product or service?

Rase: Total (2021/2024) (n=1604/4 716) Generation 7 (2021/2024) (n=76/221) Millennials (2021/2024) (n=309/433) Generation 7 (2021/2024) (n=76/221) Repression 7 (202



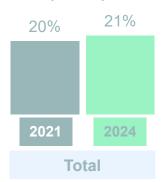
Base: Total (2021/2024) (n=1,604/1,716), Generation Z (2021/2024) (n=76/221), Millennials (2021/2024) (n=399/433), Generation X (2021/2024) (n=586/525), Boomers+ (2021/2024) (n=543/537) / Arrows indicate significant difference at 95% LOC

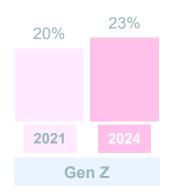
1 in 5 consumers continue to have favourable impressions of advertising, and 1 in 4 find advertising helpful

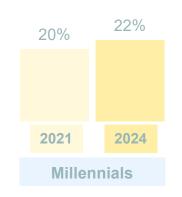
Gen Z is increasingly finding advertising helpful in making purchase decisions

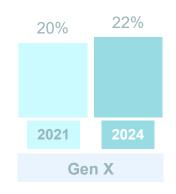
Impressions of Advertising

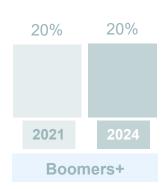
(T2B – Extremely + Very favourable)



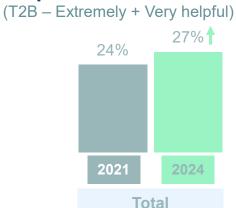


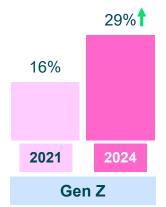


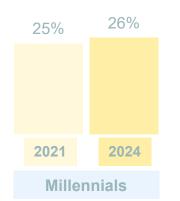


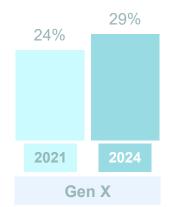


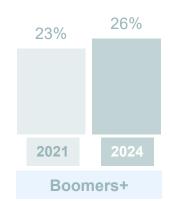
Helpfulness of Advertising in Purchase Decisions





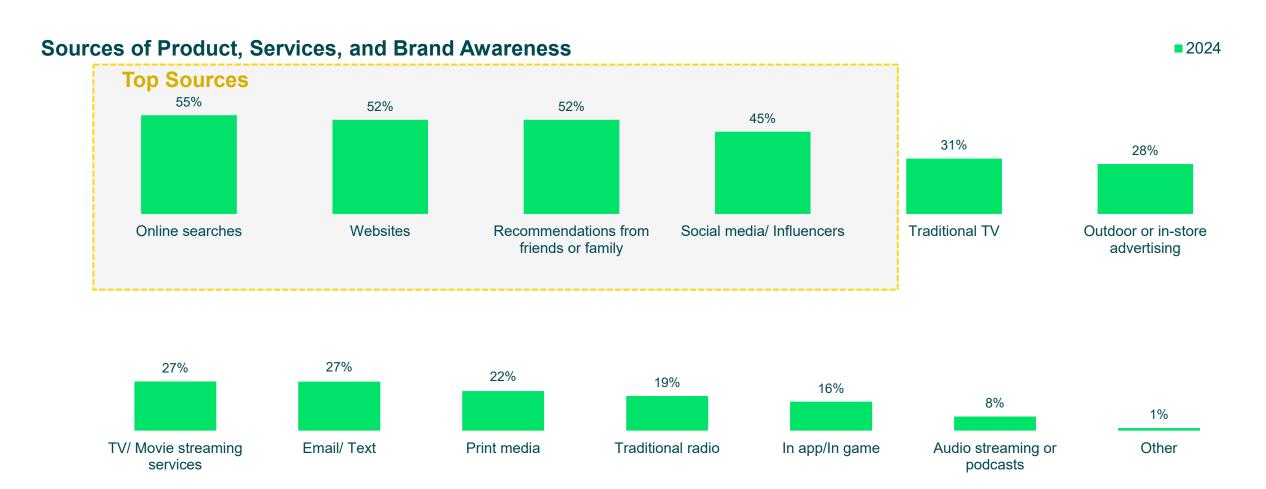








Digital (e.g. online searches, websites, social) drive consumer discovery





Younger generations are more likely to favour digital channels, especially social media

Sources of Product, Services, and Brand Awareness

	Gen Z (a)	Millennials (b)	Gen X (c)	Boomers + (d)
	2024	2024	2024	2024
Online searches	54%	60% d	56% d	48%
Websites	50%	49%	58% abd	49%
Recommendations from friends or family	44%	47%	57% ab	54% ab
Social media/Influencers	57% cd	55% cd	46% d	34%
Traditional TV	12%	19% a	33% ab	43% abc
Outdoor or in-store advertising	26%	25%	28%	30%
TV/Movie streaming services	21%	27%	29% a	28%
Email/Text	22%	28%	26%	28%
Print media	7%	14% a	21% ab	33% abc
Traditional radio	7%	17% a	23% ab	20% a
In app/In game	19% d	20% d	17% d	10%
Audio streaming or podcasts	13% cd	11% d	■ 7% d	■ 4%
Other	0%	2%	2%	1%



Younger generations are more likely to favour digital channels, especially social media, while more mature generations still rely on traditional media

Sources of Product, Services, and Brand Awareness

	Gen Z (a)	Millennials (b)	Gen X (c)	Boomers + (d)
	2024	2024	2024	2024
Online searches	54%	60% d	56% d	48%
Websites	50%	49%	58% abd	49%
Recommendations from friends or family	44%	47%	57% ab	54% ab
Social media/Influencers	57% cd	55% cd	46% d	34%
Traditional TV	12%	19% a	33% ab	43% abc
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TV/Movie streaming services	21%	27%	29% a	28%
Email/Text	22%	28%	26%	28%
Print media	7%	14% a	21% ab	33% abc
Traditional radio	7%	17% a	23% ab	20% a
In app/In game	19% d	20% d	17% d	10%
Audio streaming or podcasts	13% cd	11% d	■ 7% d	4%
Other	0%	2%	2%	1%



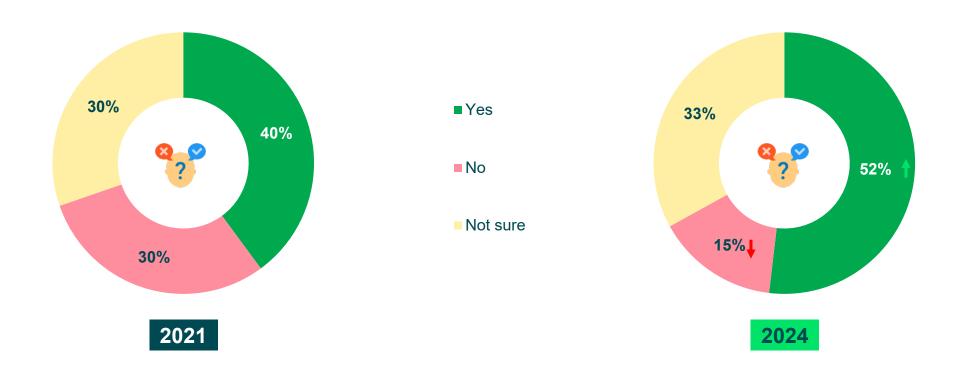




Trust and Acceptability of Ads

There has been a significant rise in consumers who believe they have engaged with a misleading ad (untruthful, inaccurate, misleading) vs 2021

Experience with Misleading Advertising





Across generations, more people report they have come across a misleading ad

Experience with Misleading Advertising

	Generation Z		Millennials		Generation X		Boomers+	
	2021	2024	2021	2024	2021	2024	2021	2024
Yes	49%	52%	41%	58% ↑	40%	54%↑	38%	45% ↑
No	32%	19% ₩	31%	19% ₹	30%	12%	29%	13% 👃
Not Sure	20%	29%	29%	23% 🕴	30%	34%	34%	42% 🕇



Trust in Advertising Across Media Channels

(Top 2 Box: Extremely + Very truthful/accurate)

	Total	Gen Z (a)	Millennials (b)	Gen X (c)	Boomers+ (d)
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Recommendations from friends or family	58%	55%	59%	60%	55%
Online searches	26%	32% cd	31% cd	24%	20%
Traditional radio	21%	27% d	23% d	21% d	16%
Print media	21%	24% d	21%	22%	18%
Websites	19%	24% d	22% d	19% d	14%
Outdoor or in-store advertising	19%	19%	22% d	19%	16%
Traditional TV	17%	23% d	18% d	18% d	14%
TV/Movie streaming services	17%	19% d	22% cd	17%	12%
Email/Text	15%	20% cd	19% cd	13%	12%
Audio streaming or podcasts	15%	22% cd	20% cd	13% d	9%
Social media/Influencers	13%	24% cd	20% cd	11% d	6%
In app/In game	10%	14% d	14% d	10% d	7%



Perceived Truthfulness of Advertising Across Categories

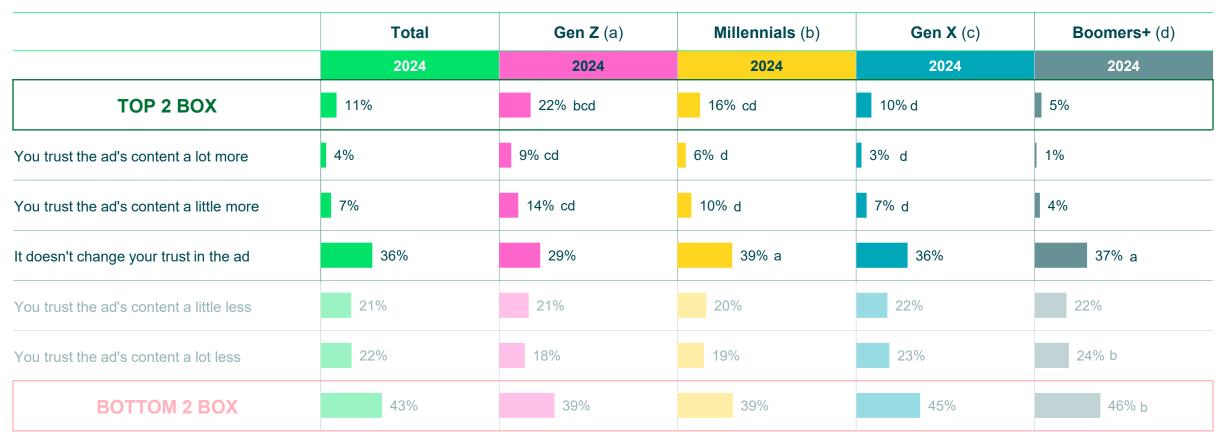
(Top 2 Box: Extremely + Very truthful/accurate)

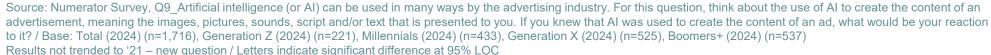
	Total	Gen Z (a)	Millennials (b)	Gen X (c)	Boomers+ (d)
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Grocery stores	31%	39% cd	33%	30%	27%
Prescribed medications and vaccines	30%	36% bc	27%	27%	32%
Brick-and-mortar retail stores	26%	29%	27%	27%	23%
Food and beverage	24%	32% cd	26% d	24%	21%
Over-the-counter health products	24%	33% cd	27% d	22%	21%
Financial services including banks and insuranc	23%	31% bcd	23%	21%	23%
Alcoholic beverages	23%	27% d	26% d	23%	19%
Food-related service	23%	29% cd	27% d	22%	18%
Alternative treatment practitioners and therapies	23%	26%	26% d	23%	20%
Energy	19%	28% bcd	20%	17%	16%
Automotive & cars	17%	25% cd	20% d	18% d	13%
Online retailers	17%	19% d	22% cd	17% d	12%
Gambling, casinos, online gambling	13%	21% cd	16% d	13% d	8%



Younger generations view Al generated content more positively than other generations

Perceptions of Al-Generated Ad Content

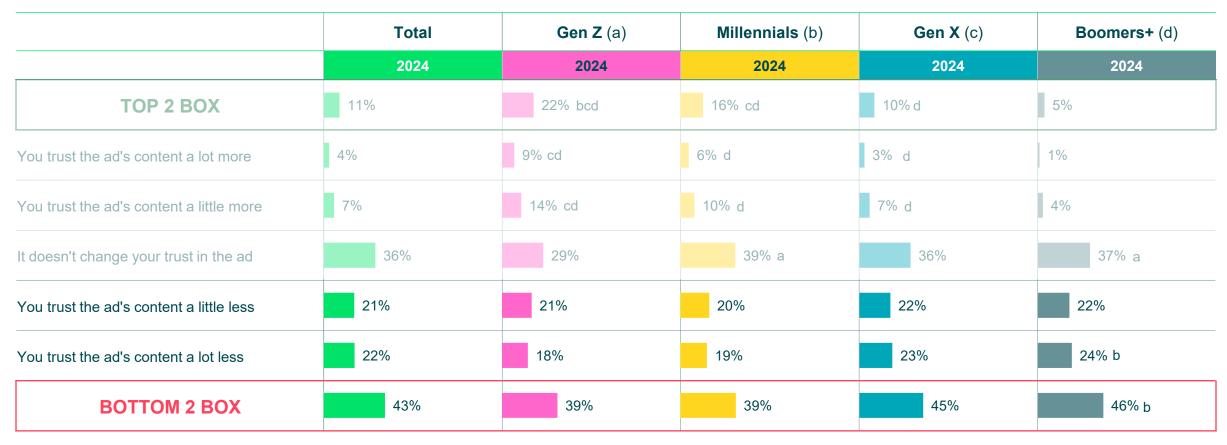


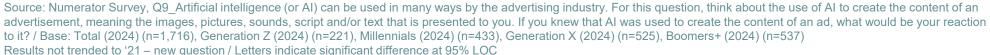




Younger generations view AI generated content more positively than other generations, but as a whole AI content is less trusted

Perceptions of Al-Generated Ad Content

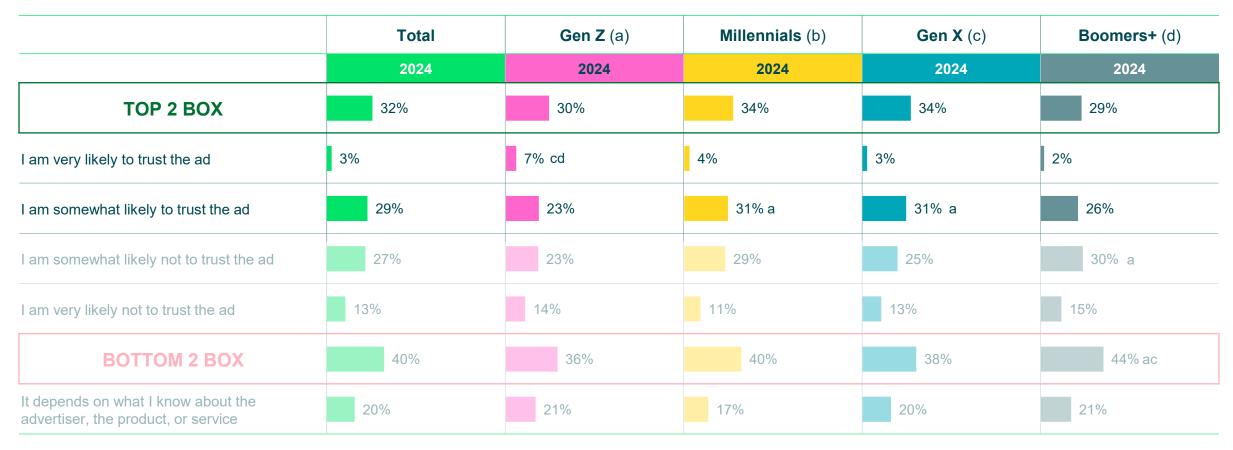






Only about 1/3 of consumers trust environmental claims in ads

Perceptions of Environmental Claims in Ads

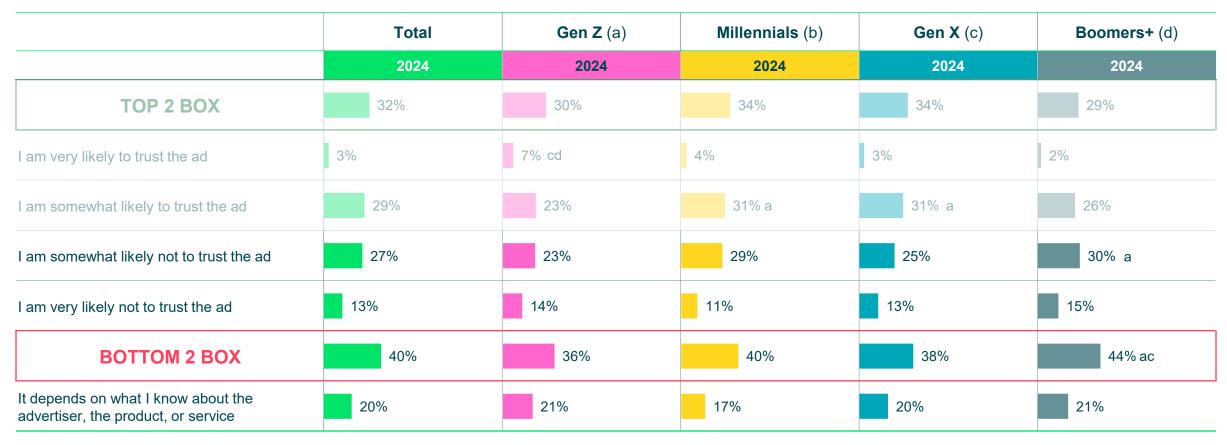


Source: Numerator Survey, Q10_When you read, see or hear an ad claiming that the advertiser's product or service is in some way environmentally friendly, how likely (if at all) are you to trust the ad?



Only about 1/3 of consumers trust environmental claims in ads, more remain skeptical or unsure

Perceptions of Environmental Claims in Ads



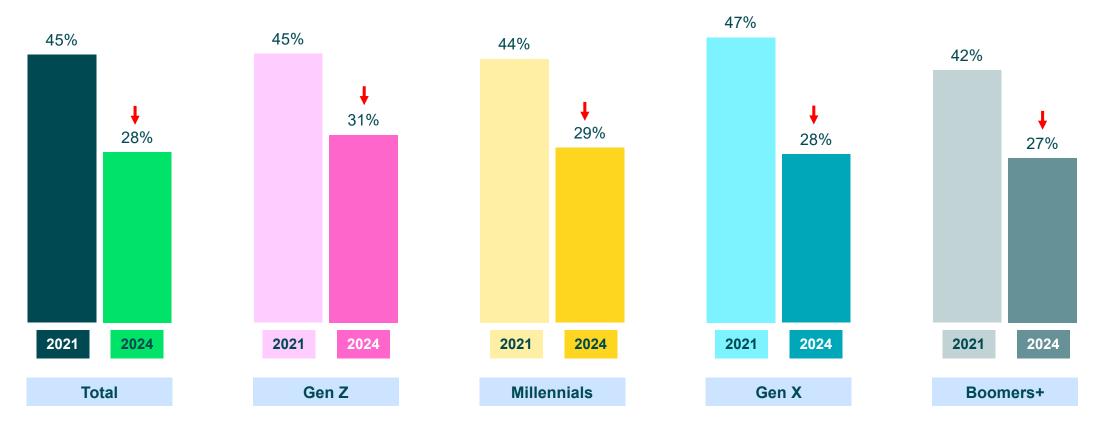
Source: Numerator Survey, Q10_When you read, see or hear an ad claiming that the advertiser's product or service is in some way environmentally friendly, how likely (if at all) are you to trust the ad?



Perception of acceptability of Canadian advertising in terms of truthfulness and accuracy has decreased across all age groups

Acceptable Canadian Advertising Content

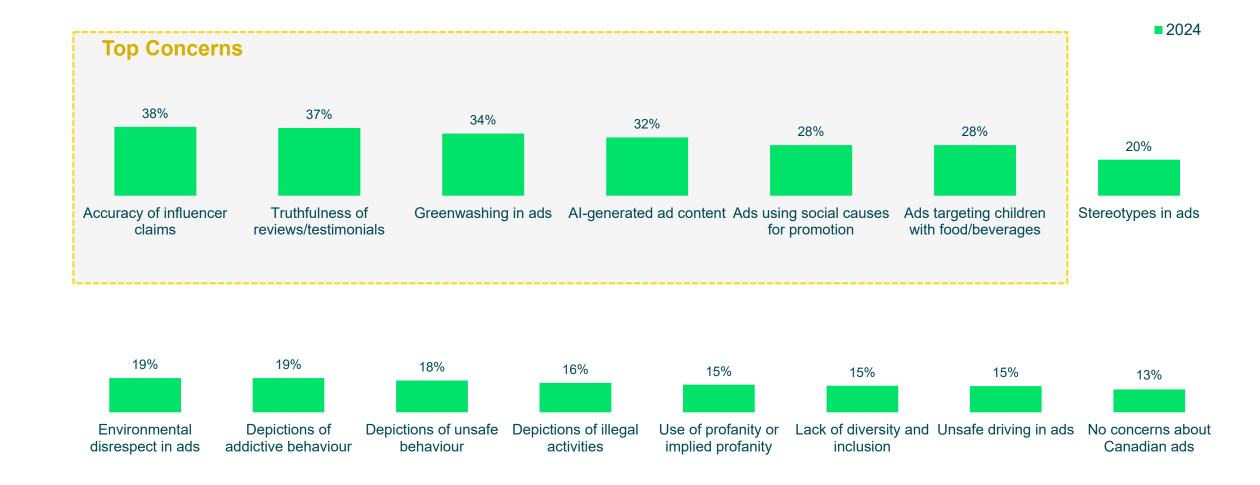
(Top 2 Box: All + Most)







Consumers' Top Concerns About Advertising





Consumers' Top Concerns About Advertising by Demographic

	Total	Gen Z (a)	Millennials (b)	Gen X (c)	Boomers+ (d)
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Accuracy of influencer claims	38%	29%	33%	41% ab	41% ab
Truthfulness of reviews/testimonials	37%	30%	28%	41% ab	44% ab
Greenwashing in ads	34%	27%	32%	35% a	37% a
Al-generated ad content	32%	26%	30%	29%	39%
Ads using social causes for promotion	28%	21%	26%	27%	32% ab
Ads targeting children with food/beverages	28%	19%	26% a	26% a	34% abc
Stereotypes in ads	20%	19%	18%	21%	21%
Environmental disrespect in ads	19%	19%	17%	17%	23% bc
Depictions of addictive beahviour	19%	17%	17%	19%	22%
Depictions of unsafe behaviour	18%	19%	16%	17%	20%
Depictions of illegal activities	16%	12%	12%	16%	21% abc
Use of profanity or implied profanity	15%	15%	12%	14%	20% bc
Lack of diversity and inclusion	15%	19% d	16%	14%	13%
Unsafe driving in ads	15%	16%	11%	14%	18% b
No concerns about Canadian ads	13%	16%	11%	12%	13%



Misleading ads risk losing consumers as many stop purchasing and may escalate their response further

Consumer Actions Against Misleading Ads

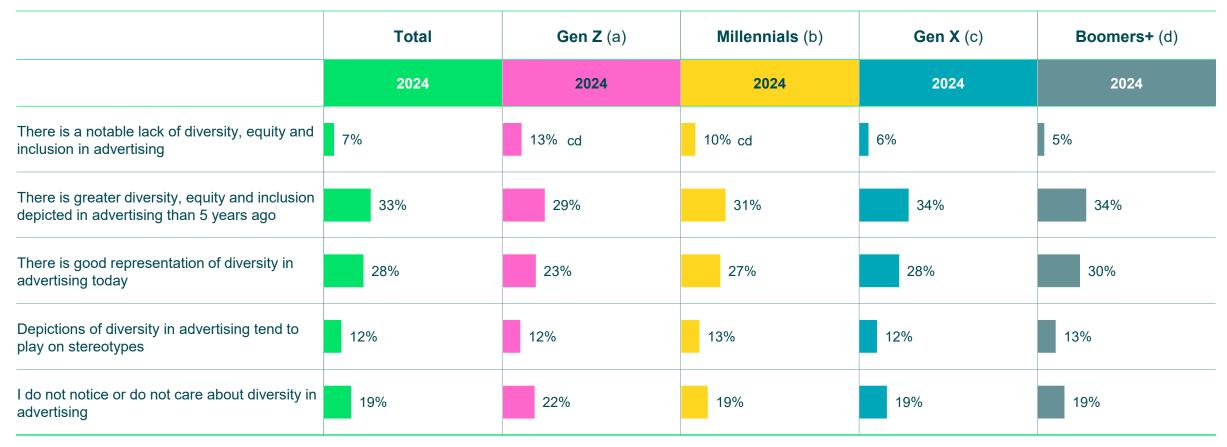
	Total	Generation Z	Millennials	Generation X	Boomers+
YES	44%	45%	44%	45%	44%
NO	56%	55%	56%	55%	56%

	Total	Gen Z (a)	Millennials (b)	Gen X (c)	Boomers+ (d)
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Yes, I stopped buying the company's product or service	29%	29%	29%	28%	29%
Yes, I contacted the company to complain	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%
Yes, I've filed a complaint about advertising	8%	9%	7%	9%	8%
No, because I didn't know who to contact or what to do about it	26%	24%	24%	27%	29%
No, because I didn't have time or interest to follow up about it	29%	31%	33% d	28%	26%



Consumers generally believe advertising is more diverse now than five years ago, although younger generations are more likely to believe there is still a lack of diversity compared to older generations

Perceptions of Diversity in Advertising







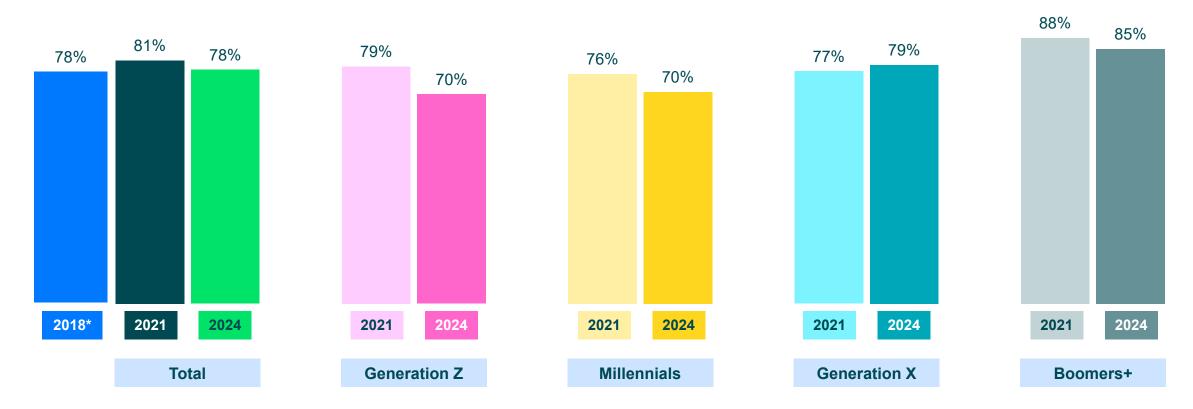


Awareness and Impact of Ad Regulations in Canada

Most consumers recognize the importance of advertising regulations, though this opinion is held higher among older generations

Importance of Ad Rules and Regulations

(Top 2 Box: Extremely + Very Important)



Source: Numerator Survey, Q17_In your opinion, how important is it to have rules and regulations that advertisers must follow? Would you say that it is...

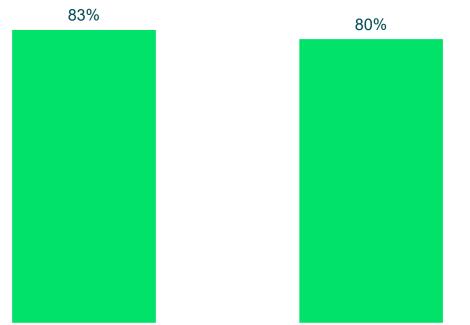
Base: Total (2018/2021/2024) (n=1,581/1,604/1,716), Generation Z (2021/2024) (n=76/221), Millennials (2021/2024) (n=399/433), Generation X (2021/2024) (n=586/525), Boomers+ (2021/2024) (n=543/537)



Consumers believe all parties play an important role in advertising standards

Entities Responsible for Advertising Standards

(Top 2 Box: Primary + Somewhat responsible)

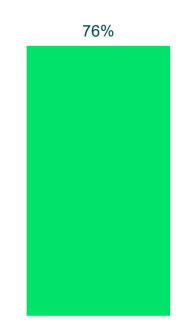


The companies/brands that pay to advertise The companies that carry the advertising

The companies that carry the advertising (e.g., TV networks, radio stations, publishers, website or platform owners)



The government



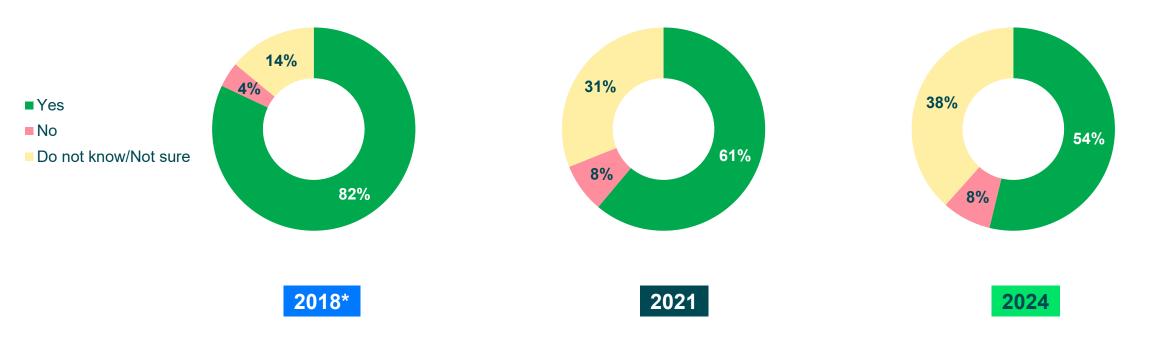
A non-governmental advertising industry regulatory body



2024

More than half of consumers are aware of advertising regulations in Canada, however, there has been a decline in this awareness, with more people unsure about the rules compared to previous years

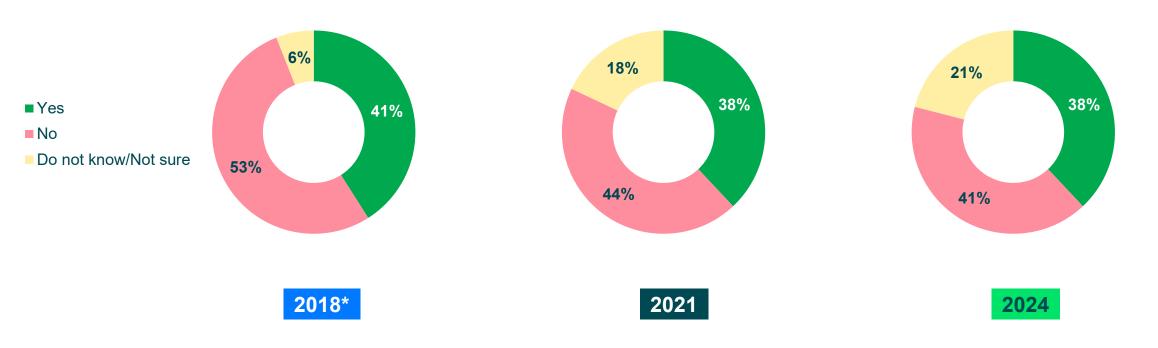
Knowledge of Advertising Rules and Regulations in Canada





Knowledge of the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards is low across all generations, with many supporting it but still unsure about its specifics

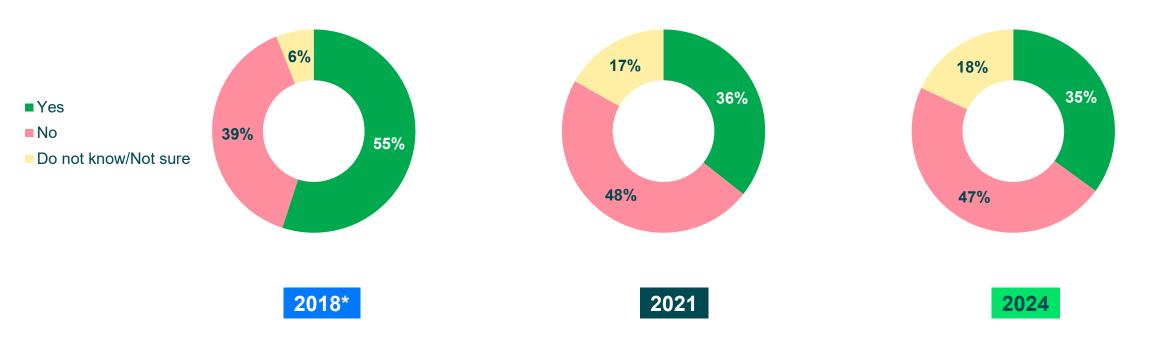
Awareness of the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards





Awareness of Ad Standards is even lower, with many consumers still unaware of the organization, suggesting an opportunity for increasing visibility

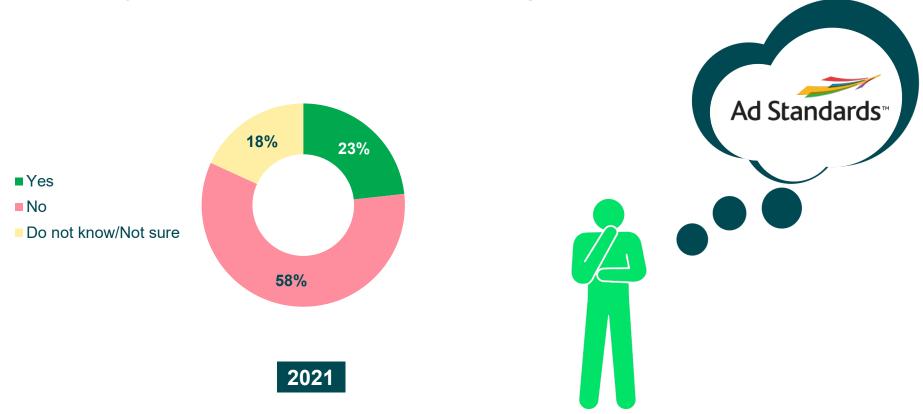
Awareness of Ad Standards (Advertising Standards Canada)





Given the lower familiarity with Ad Standards, it is not surprising that members of the public are largely unfamiliar with the process for administering complaints

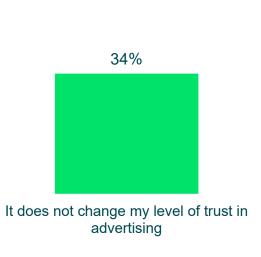
Familiarity with Ad Standards Complaint Handling



Knowing about the Ad Standards process boosts trust in advertising, with most consumers believing it makes ads more truthful and accurate

Impact of Awareness of Complaint Process on Ad Trust

Net: Positive boost in trust 54% 45% 9% I am likely to trust that significantly more I am more likely to think that at least some advertising is truthful, accurate and not more advertising is truthful, accurate and misleading not misleading



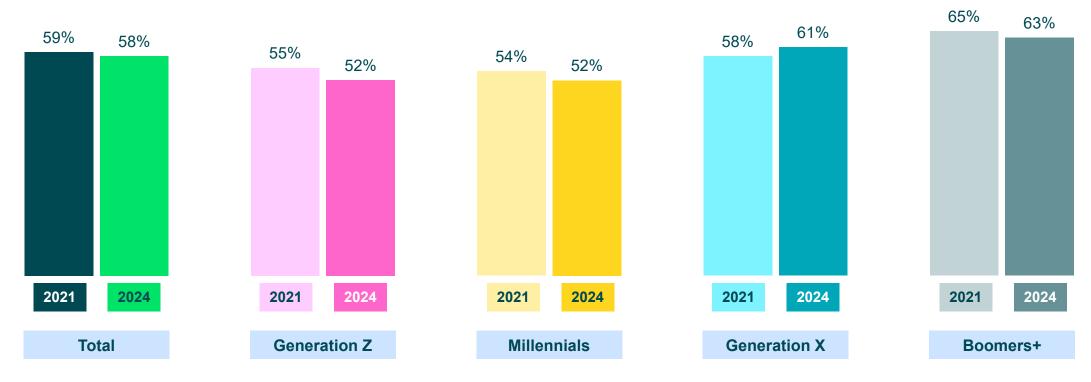


2024

Consumers across all generations are more likely to trust an advertisement if they know the advertiser is a member of Ad Standards

Trust in Ads from Ad Standards Members

(Top 2 Box: Much + Somewhat more likely to trust the ad)

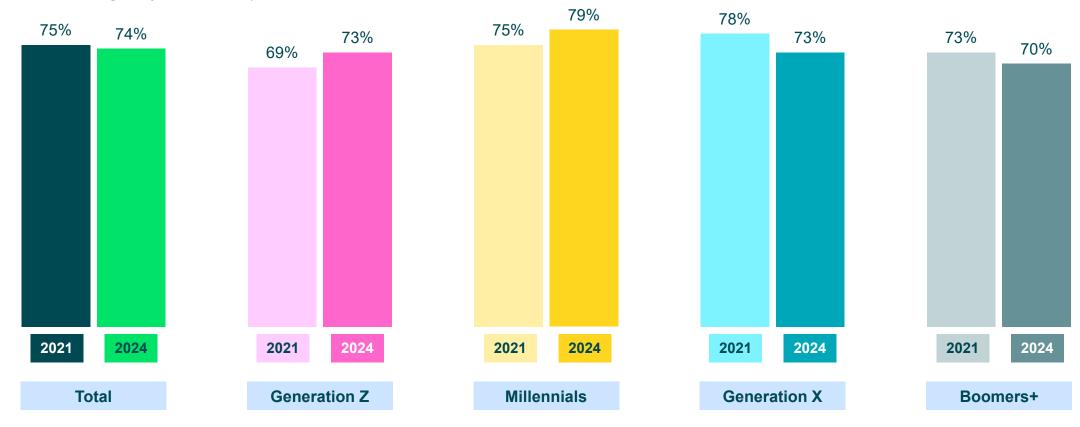




Consumers agree that Ad Standards continues to perform well against expectations for upholding advertising standards

Rating of Ad Standards' Performance

(Top 3 Box: Outstanding, Very Good, Good)









Summary Conclusions

Key Takeaways From Ad Standards

- Trust is key, but declining not unique to advertising. Building trust is more important than ever before.
- **Knowing about Ad Standards** including knowing about our work under the *Canadian Code of Advertising Standards* **builds trust**. That is our mission: to build trust in advertising through fostering truthful, fair and accurate advertising.
- There's **a need for greater awareness** of what Ad Standards does. This survey helps us understand consumers' perspectives.
- Watch for a new consumer awareness campaign coming forward in 2025-2026.



For those looking for ways to build trust...

Ad Standards has resources both in place and in development.

- Our year-on-year surveys show consumers are more likely to trust ads from an Ad Standards member.
- Influencer Disclosure Guidelines are regularly refreshed and will be reviewed again in 2025 for updates.
- Watch for further thought leadership on Al in advertising, as Ad Standards participates as a founding member of the International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation's Global Think Tank
- Environmental claims/greenwashing Stay tuned for more from Ad Standards as the Competition Bureau moves forward with their updated guidelines.



About Ad Standards

We are:

- an advertising self-regulatory organization
- a national organization
- independent of government or any corporation
- not-for-profit
- distinct in our mandate from industry associations
- Canada's member of the International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS)







THANK YOU!





Catherine Bate President & CEO Ad Standards catherine.bate@adstandards.ca

Tony Moguel Sr. Manager, Survey

