# ESSENTIAL VIDEO GAME NEWS



FRENCH PEOPLE
AND VIDEO GAMES





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# FOREWORD FROM THE GENERAL DELEGATE



been a great year played so much in France. We have never played so better way of assessing the

This is a two-point increase over 2020. Video games preferred digital pastime for the foreseeable future.

The trends we saw developing in 2020, which we

2020 was not a parenthesis, but rather a watershed

So, one preconceived notion this Essential Video over. In fact, quite the opposite. 2021 showed that video games have successfully generated "loyalty" commitment and involvement. In 2021, 58% of French is 7 points more than in 2020. In other words, there

as a family, just as they did in 2021.

an antidote to the stress and isolation caused by the pandemic. And this is reason enough for video games video game players spontaneously told us that video

#### FOREWORD FROM THE GENERAL DELEGATE

We have also highlighted the role of video games This trend, which was observed last year, is expected to continue in 2021. 77% of parents play with their children, mostly to "share an activity with them" and because "it's fun". This is an increase of 11 points in

This trust on the part of the youngest video game players and their parents can be attributed in large part to the safe and healthy environment that we have successfully created through the development of video games. Of course, more work is still needed to protect the youngest players and we need to make "responsible video game" is now largely a reality, and this is backed up by what parents and children tell us.

the critical question of parental control! In 2019, 32% of parents were aware of these systems and used them, in 2020, it was 37% and in 2021, 48% of parents information campaigns we have relentlessly carried out over the last few years and the arrival of "new and digital culture. At a point in time when Europe, like the French authorities, is increasing its demands world, the video games sector can demonstrate that

Attracting an ever-growing player audience raises The tremendous dynamic experienced in 2021, the the continuous expansion of its audiences, and its social dimension make it more important than ever for us to take positive action to promote responsible video games that reflect the challenges of the times.

**CHAPTER 1** 

# PROFILES OF FRENCH



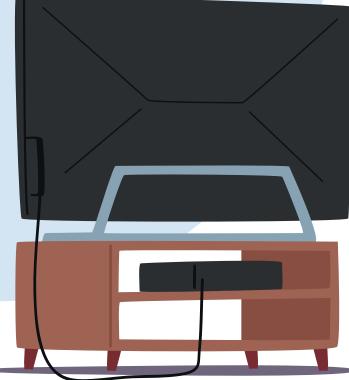


Data collected and analysed by Médiamétrie for SELL with the aim of measuring and understanding the uses and profiles of video game players in France.

Survey carried out online from 6th to 27th September 2021 with a sample of 4,016 people aged 10 and over, representing web users living in France.

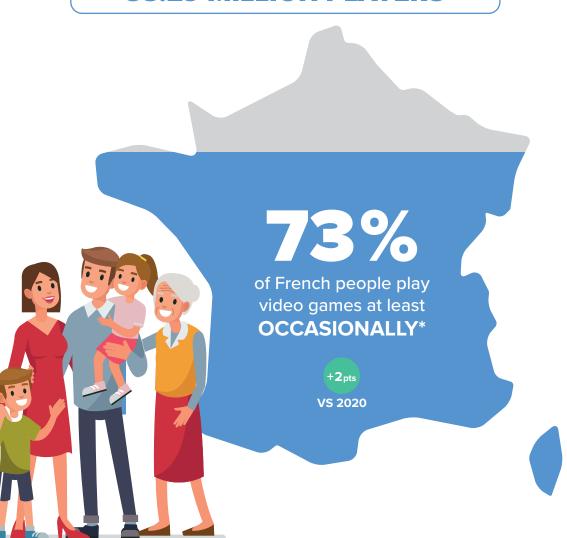
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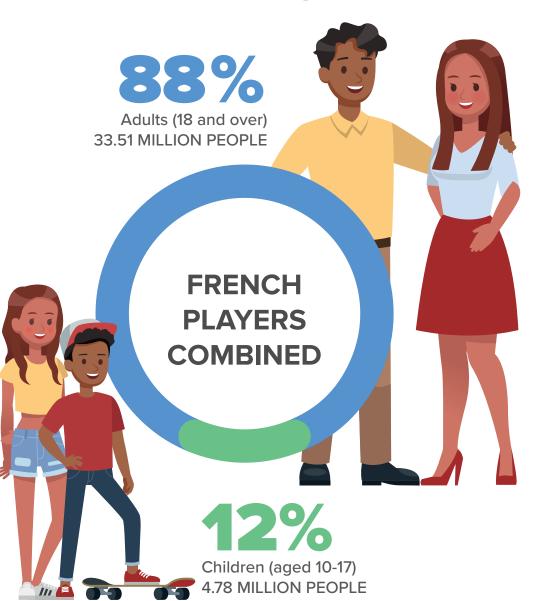


# VIDEO GAMES IN FRANCE

**38.29 MILLION PLAYERS** 

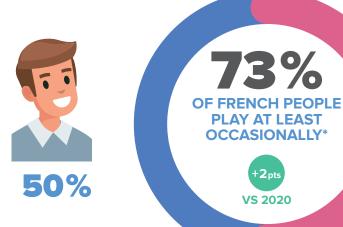


# VIDEO GAMES IN FRANCE



## **PROFILES OF**

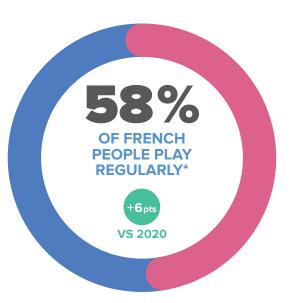
# **FRENCH PLAYERS**





### PROFILE OF A REGULAR **FRENCH PLAYER**







Men

**AVERAGE AGE OF PLAYERS** 

Women 38

Men 39

**AVERAGE AGE OF REGULAR PLAYERS\*** 

Women 37





71% **OF ADULTS PLAY VIDEO GAMES** 



15<sub>pts</sub> VS 2020

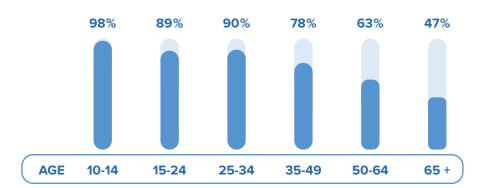


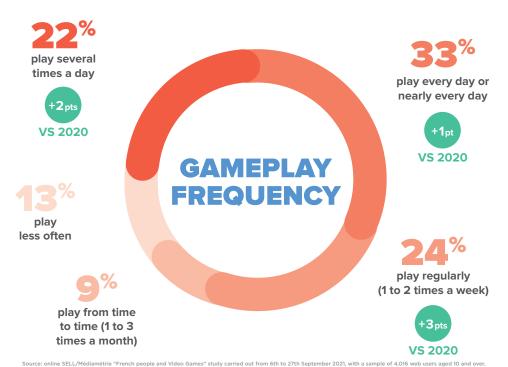
**1 OUT OF 3 ADULTS PLAYS EVERY DAY OR NEARLY EVERY DAY** 

### **FRENCH PLAYERS**

PERCENTAGE OF PLAYERS

BY AGE GROUP





### **FRENCH PLAYERS**

BREAKDOWN OF PLAYERS

BY SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY









### BREAKDOWN OF PLAYERS BY EDUCATION

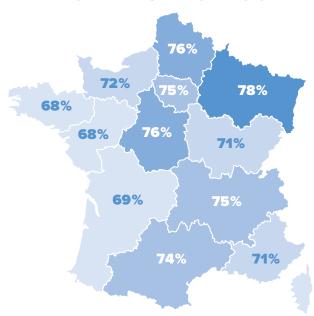
AT LEAST 1
QUALIFICATION
85%

A LEVELS
OR MORE
68%

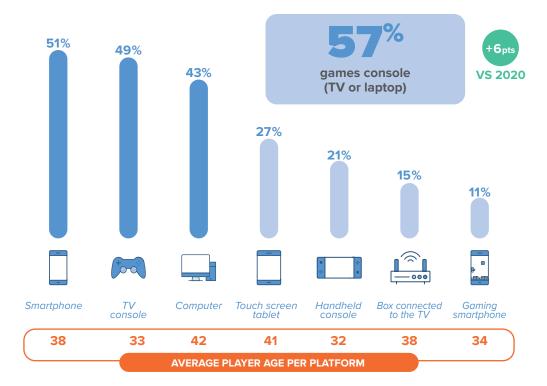
3 YEARS HIGHER EDUCATION OR MORE 24%

+5 YEARS HIGHER EDUCATION OR MORE

### RATE OF PLAYERS IN EACH REGION

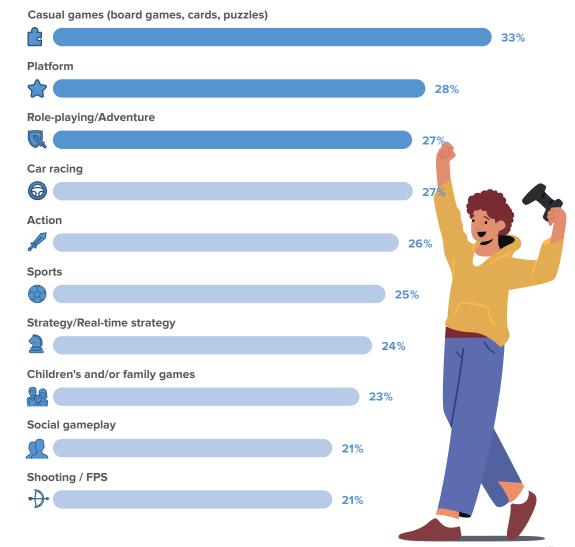


## **DEVICES USED**TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES



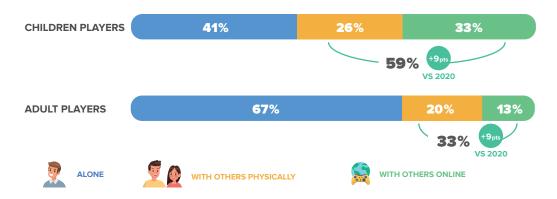
# NUMBER OF DEVICES USED FOR PLAYING VIDEO GAMES 1 device 38% 2 devices 29% 3 devices 18%

# **TOP 10 TYPES OF VIDEO GAMES**IN FRANCE IN 2021



# **SOCIAL ASPECT**OF VIDEO GAMES

**PLAYING ALONE OR WITH OTHERS** 



### MORE THAN A THIRD OF VIDEO GAME PLAYERS



Source: online SELL/Médiamétrie "French people and Video Games" study carried out from 6th to 27th September 2021, with a sample of 4,016 web users aged 10 and over

# **SOCIAL ASPECT**OF VIDEO GAMES



of video game players feel like they belong to a community



53%
OF CHILDREN
HAVE THIS FEELING



27%
OF ADULTS
HAVE THIS FEELING







OF PLAYERS WHO FEEL THAT THEY ARE PART OF A COMMUNITY...

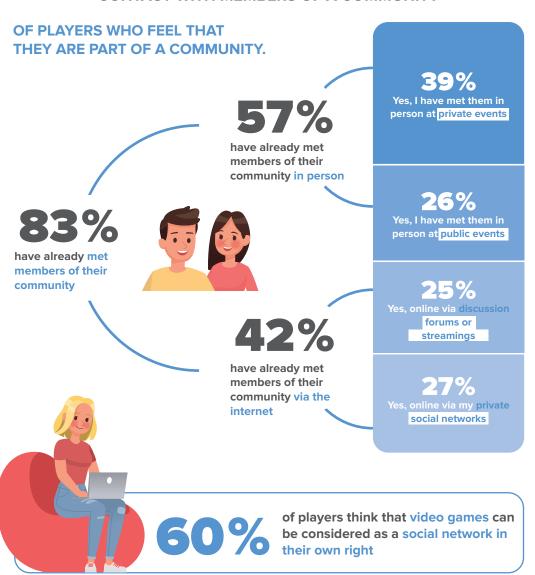
89% CONSIDER IT TO BE WELCOMING AND WELL-INTENTIONED

CONSIDER THAT IT GOES BEYOND VIDEO GAMES AND UNITES ITS MEMBERS AROUND OTHER SHARED INTERESTS OR SUBJECTS

0% INDICATE THAT IT HAS ENABLED THEM TO MAKE FRIENDS THAT THEY WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE MET

# **SOCIAL ASPECT**OF VIDEO GAMES

**CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY** 



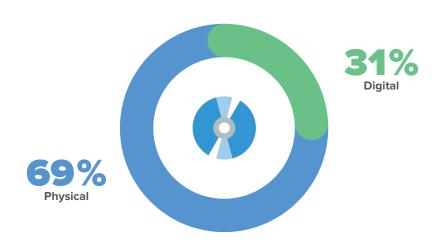
Source: online SELL/Médiamétrie "French people and Video Games" study carried out from 6th to 27th September 2021, with a sample of 4,016 web users aged 10 and over

# DATA AND PURCHASING BEHAVIOUR

### PREFERRED PLACE TO BUY VIDEO GAMES

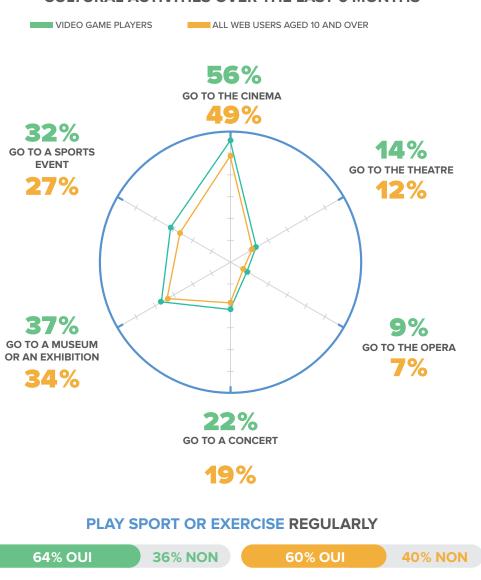


### PREFERRED FORMAT OF VIDEO GAMES PURCHASED



# **CULTURAL**HABITS OF PLAYERS

### **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST 6 MONTHS**



### MULTIMEDIA HABITS OF PLAYERS

OLUTUDAL AOTIVITIES

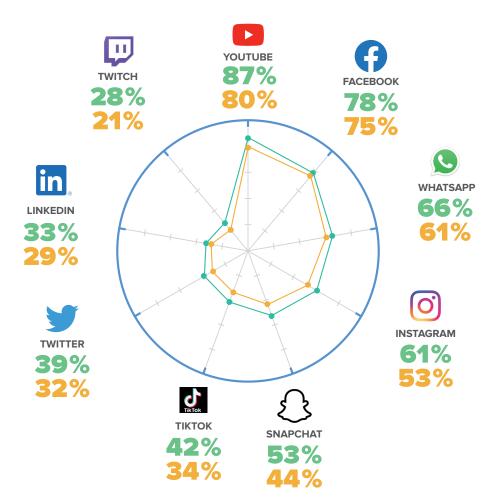
ALL INTERNET USERS	OVER THE LAST 7 DAYS	VIDEO GAME PLAYERS
82%	WATCH STREAMED VIDEOS OR VOD/SVOD	85%
73%	WATCH VIDEOS OTHER THAN ON STREAMING OR ON DEMAND	<del>[</del> 76%
88%	LISTEN TO MUSIC	<b>9</b> 90%
98%	WATCH TELEVISION	98%
93%	LISTEN TO THE RADIO	93%
99%	SURF THE WEB	99%
97%	USE SOCIAL MEDIA	97%
82%	WATCH VIDEOS OF LIVE EVENTS ON THE WEB	<b>2</b> 84%
85%	LISTEN TO MUSIC ON A STREAMING SERVICE	86%

### **PLAYERS** AND SOCIAL MEDIA

**USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA** 

VIDEO GAME PLAYERS

ALL WEB USERS AGED 10 AND OVER



Source: online SELL/Médiamétrie "French people and Video Games" study carried out from 6th to 27th September 2021, with a sample of 4,016 web users aged 10 and over

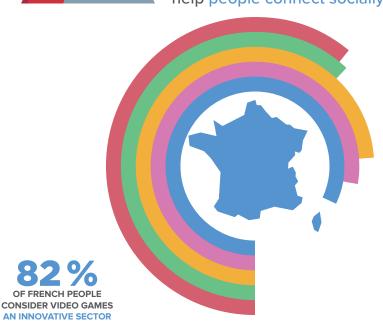
### **FRENCH PEOPLE** AND VIDEO GAMES



61 % t9pts VS 2020



of players consider that video games help people connect socially.



THINK THAT MVIDEO **GAMES HELP DEVELOP SKILLS** 

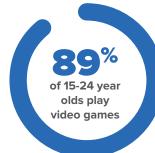
THINK THAT VIDEO **GAMES ARE CREATED BY ARTISTS** 

**CONSIDER PLAYING** VIDEO GAMES A LEISURE ACTIVITY FOR THE WHOLE **FAMILY** 

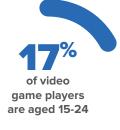
**CONSIDER VIDEO GAMES TO BE** A POSITIVE ACTIVITY

# **GENERATION Z (15-24 ANS)**AND VIDEO GAMES

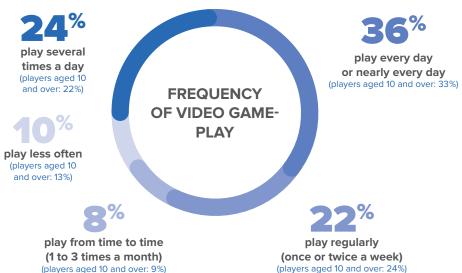
### **6.64 MILLION PLAYERS**



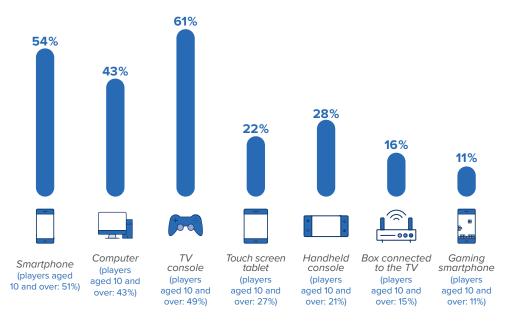




20 AVERAGE AGE



### **DEVICES USED**TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES



### **FAVOURITE VIDEO GAME GENRES**

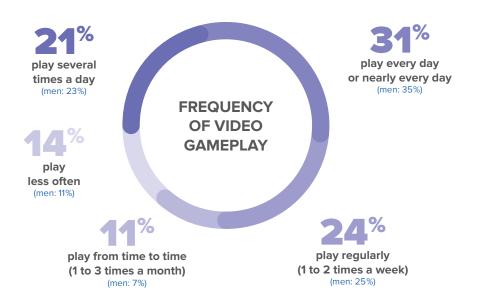


## **WOMEN**AND VIDEO GAMES

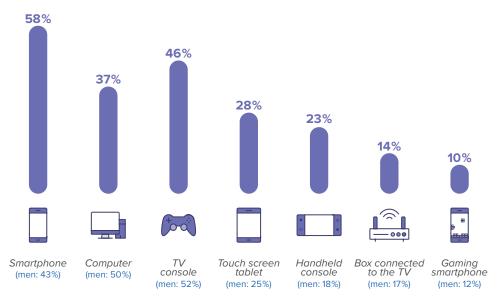
### **19.1 MILLION FEMALE PLAYERS**



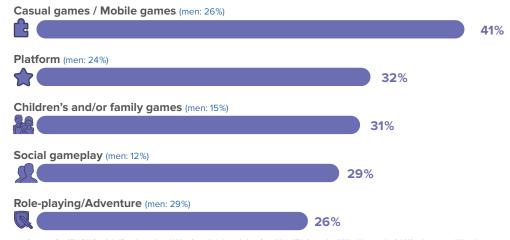




### **DEVICES USED**TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES

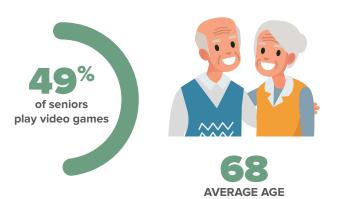


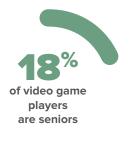
### **FAVOURITE VIDEO GAME GENRES**

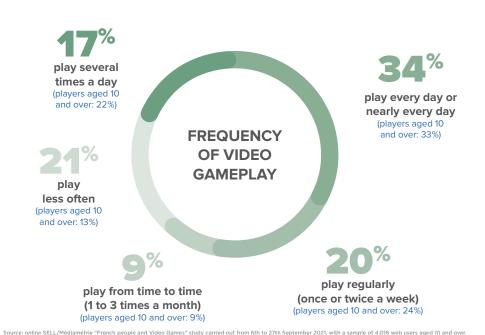


# SENIORS (60+ YEARS) AND VIDEO GAMES

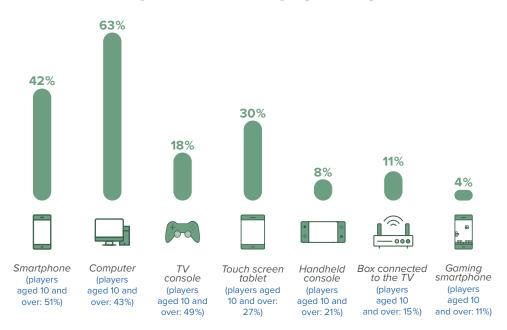
### **6.94 MILLION PLAYERS**







### **DEVICES USED**TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES



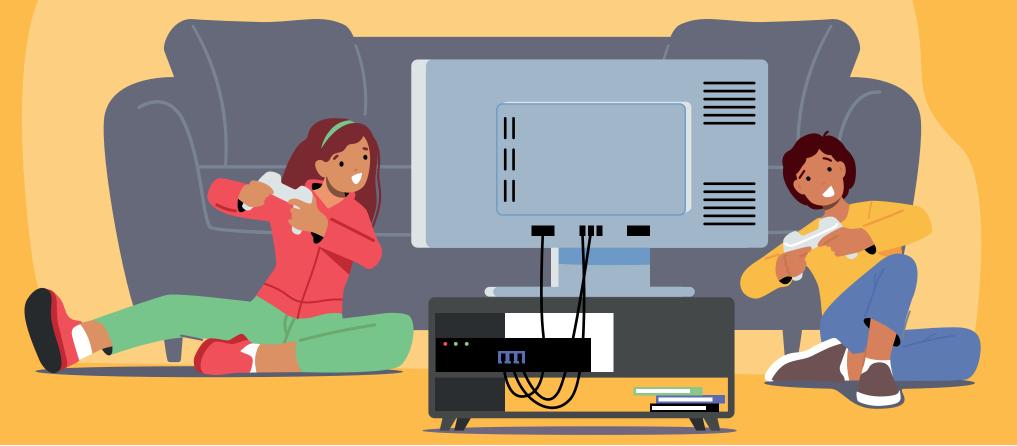
### **FAVOURITE VIDEO GAME GENRES**



**CHAPTER 2** 

# VIDEO GAMES AND YOU

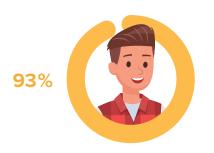




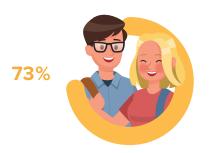
**VIDEO GAMES AND YOU VIDEO GAMES AND YOU** 

### **REASONS** FOR PLAYING VIDEO GAMES

PLAYING VIDEO GAMES ENABLES YOU TO ...



**HAVE FUN** 



SHARE A PLEASANT MOMENT WITH OTHER PEOPLE



TAKE PART IN A COMPETITIVE ACTIVITY WITH A CHALLENGE OR AN OBJECTIVE...



**GET AWAY FROM THINGS, GET A BREAK FROM THE DAILY ROUTINE** 



TRAIN IN A PARTICULAR ACTIVITY TO PROGRESS, LEARN AND IMPROVE



**52%** 

Source: online SELL/Médiamétrie "French people and Video Games" study carried out from 6th to 27th September 2021, with a sample of 4,016 web users aged 10 and over

PARTICIPATE IN AN ACTIVITY THAT BENEFITS FROM THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL AND DIGITAL ADVANCES

### THE REASONS WHY PLAYERS STARTED **TO PLAY**

39%

23%

**59%** 

TO HAVE FUN

28%





TO TRY SOMETHING NEW



TO PASS THE TIME



**BECAUSE MY CLOSE FRIENDS AND FAMILY** WERE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES



TO ESCAPE DAILY ROUTINE

14%



TO HAVE AN ADVENTURE, FOR THE IMMERSION IN THE GAME

# BENEFITS OF VIDEO GAMES IN YOUR LIFE

IMPACT OF VIDEO GAMES ON THE PLAYER'S LIFE



REDUCES BOREDOM THAT YOU CAN SOMETIMES EXPERIENCE



**59%** 

50%

65%

FIGHTS AGAINST STRESS OR PRESSURE



CREATES OR MAINTAINS A BOND WITH OTHER PEOPLE



BRINGS YOU PLEASURE, MAKES YOU HAPPIER



FIGHTS AGAINST ANXIETY, APPREHENSION, WORRY



REDUCES ISOLATION THAT YOU CAN SOMETIMES EXPERIENCE

# EASE AND APPRECIATION IN TERMS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

73%

of adult video game players consider that video games help them to be more comfortable and confident with new technologies

**27%** 

**AND AMONGST THEM** 

92%

consider that video games have helped them get more out of the use of new technologies which equates to 67% of adult players



Source: online SELL/Médiamétrie "French people and Video Games" study carried out from 6th to 27th September 2021, with a sample of 4,016 web users aged 10 and over

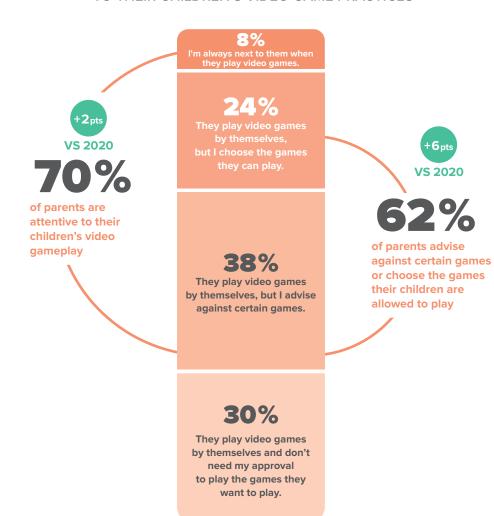
8% no **CHAPTER 3** 

# RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY



### PARENT BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS VIDEO GAMES

HOW ATTENTIVE PARENTS ARE
TO THEIR CHILDREN'S VIDEO GAME PRACTICES



A RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY

A RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY

### WHY DO PARENTS

### PLAY VIDEO GAMES WITH THEIR CHILDREN?

To share an activity

For fun

42%

Their children ask them to

42%

Because they like to game

29%

To check game content

17%



of parents say they play with their children at least occasionally

### HOW OFTEN PARENTS

PLAY VIDEO GAMES WITH THEIR CHILDREN

Often 15%

Regularly 26%

Occasionally 35%

Rarely 14%

Never 10%

# PARENT BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS VIDEO GAMES

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF PARENTAL CONTROL

92%

say they are aware of it



48%

+11 pts

**VS 2020** 

know about parental control and use it

8%

do not know about parental control

44%

know about parental control but do not use it

### KNOW ABOUT THE PEGI SYSTEM



A RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY
A RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY

### THE ACT OF BUYING

### AND THE PEGI RATING SYSTEM

ATTITUDE TO THE PEGI RATING SYSTEM

### **PARENTS**

PAY ATTENTION TO THE PEGI SYSTEM



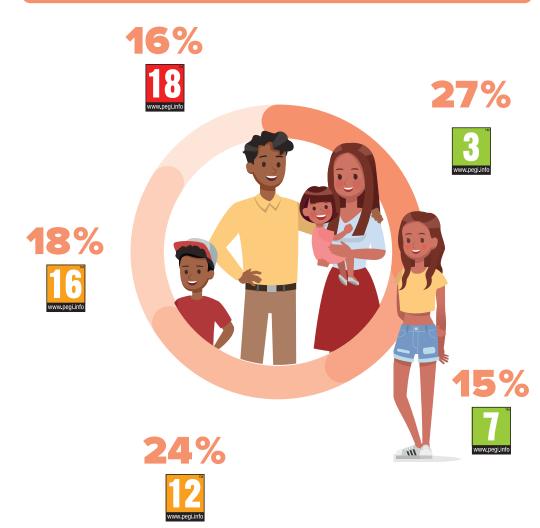
### **CHILDREN**PAY ATTENTION TO THE PEGI SYSTEM



Source: online SELL/Médiamétrie "French people and Video Games" study carried out from 6th to 27th September 2021, with a sample of 4,016 web users aged 10 and over.

### PEGI ANALYSIS OF THE 2020 OFFER

**PHYSICAL + VIRTUAL MARKETS** 

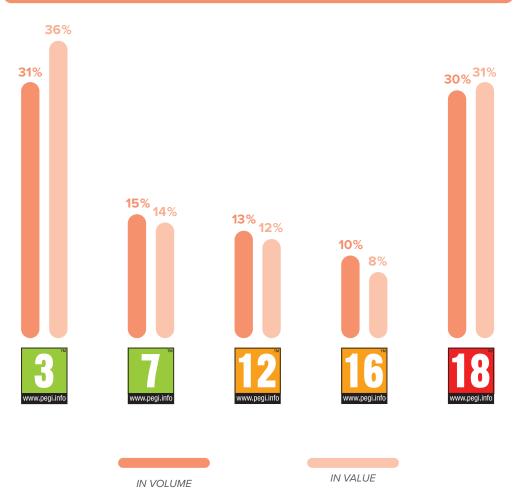


A RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY

A RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY

### PEGI SALES ANALYSIS, MARKET SHARE IN 2020

### **PHYSICAL + VIRTUAL MARKETS**



# TO HELP PARENTAL CONTROL

TO HELP FAMILIES ESTABLISH RULES FOR PLAYING VIDEO GAMES,
ALL PLATFORMS HAVE A PARENTAL CONTROL SYSTEM. THIS PARENTAL CONTROL,
WHICH IS PART OF ALL CONSOLES AND COMPUTERS, ENABLES PARENTS
TO SUPERVISE THE GAMES THEIR CHILDREN PLAY.

For several years, console manufacturers (Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo), Mac and Windows operating systems and also Google and most mobile terminals have been offering simple and effective solutions. Just a few minutes are required to configure the parental control and benefit from all its functions. These systems block access to games above a certain age or category in the PEGI rating system. They also control online purchases, limit web browsing, keep track of the time spent playing and can limit online interaction.

These systems strive to protect young audiences from content and behaviour unsuitable for their age. Nevertheless, it is essential for parents to keep an eye on what video games their children are playing, find out information about the games and take an interest in this hobby, playing, chatting with their children and more. The website PédaGoJeux. fr—Video games explained to parents is a mine of information: understand the video game world, get information about the most talked about games, understand the PEGI symbols, best practices, etc.

HERE IS A LIST OF DIFFERENT EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE THAT HAS AN INTEGRATED PARENTAL CONTROL SYSTEM.











Microsoft Xbox

Microsoft Xbox One Microsoft Xbox Serie Nintendo Wii Nintendo Wii U Nintendo Switch Sony PlayStation 3 Sony PlayStation 4 Nintendo DS

intendo DS intendo 3DS endo Switch Lite Sony PSP PlayStation Vita MOBILES phones using

Windows operation

System

Windows operation

MacOS

**WEB BROWSE**Google Chro

Google Chrome pple Safari/WebKit Mozilla Firefox

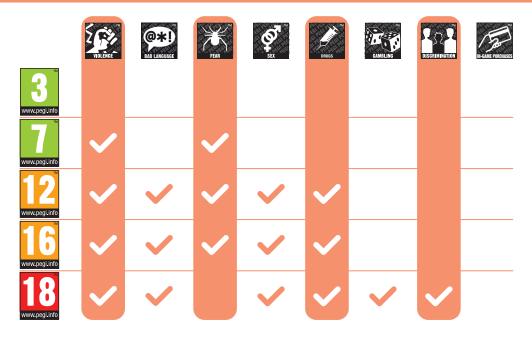
### PEGI **PAN EUROPEAN GAME INFORMATION**

THE PEGI AGE RATING SYSTEM (PAN EUROPEAN GAME INFORMATION) GIVES PARENTS THROUGHOUT EUROPE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ENLIGHTENED DECISIONS BEFORE PURCHASING A VIDEO GAME.

Launched in spring 2003, PEGI has replaced a certain number of national age ratings through unique labels that are now used in most European countries. The system enjoys the support of the leading console manufacturers, including Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo, and also video game publishers and developers throughout Europe. It is also used for all new apps available from the Google Play Store. The age rating system was created by the ISFE - the Interactive Software Federation of Europe.

#### WHAT DO THE LABELS MEAN?

The PEGI labels appear on the front and back of the cover, indicating one of the following age ratings: 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18 (age). They provide a reliable indication of the game's content with regard to the protection of minors. The age rating does not take into account the difficulty of the game or the skills required to play it. The descriptors (see below) on the back cover indicate the main reasons why a game has a specific age rating.



### **THE LABELS**

**38 COUNTRIES** 

**NEARLY 35.000** RATIFIED GAMES AND **MILLIONS OF APPS** 

FEDERATING 2600 **MEMBER COMPANIES** 



Suitable for all ages. Mild violence in a comical context. Fantasy characters. No inappropriate content.





Unrealistic. Implicit violence, cartoon, fun. Frightening scenes for young children.



Realistic violence towards human characters. Sports action with presence of blood. Foul language, drug use. Representation of criminal activity.





This game contains bad language.





This game contains violent scenes





This game shows nudity and/or sexual behaviour or makes sexual references.





This game encourages and/or teaches aamblina.



**CHAPTER 4** 

# THE UNION OF VIDEO GAME PUBLISHERS



### **WHO WE ARE**

THE SELL, THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING VIDEO GAME PUBLISHERS IS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION FOUNDED IN 1995 AND MADE UP OF BUSINESSES FROM THE VIDEO GAME SECTOR SPECIALISED IN PUBLISHING.

With 25 members, including 20 publishers and three associate members, SELL is the spokesperson for video game businesses in contact with organisations, media, families and players. Publishers are specialists in video game promotion. They find and support talented studios and provide the distribution, marketing and advertising resources for their creations.

As such, SELL's vocation is to federate these partners and encourage their work on agreed actions, expressing the richness, creativity and responsibilities of this industry. Its main missions are to promote video games and raise all players' and their families' awareness of best practices, so they can enjoy playing with peace of mind.



SELL SELL

### **OUR MISSIONS**

#### REPRESENTING THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

As an industry spokesperson, SELL's primary vocation is to defend the interests of its members and, more generally, all of the video game sector. It is the key contact with public authorities, politicians and also innovative and cultural ecosystems.

To achieve this, SELL has invested in several organisations and working groups.

Interministerial working group made up of the General Directorate for Enterprise (DGE), the CNC, the National Video Game Union (SNJV), SELL and Ubisoft.

**CNC**: member of the Commission for Diversity in the Cultural Sector.

CSA: member of the Child Protection Commission.

Strategic Guidance for the National Digital Council.

ISFE (Interactive Software Federation of Europe):

member of the Board of Directors.

France Esports: member of the Board of Directors.



### INFORMING, PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE INITIATIVES

Since its beginnings, SELL has been committed to a corporate social responsibility initiative to inform and protect the consumer.

**PEGI**: Created in 2003, PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is the European rating system for video games. It provided information on the content of each game and indicated a minimum advised playing age.





PédaGoJeux: PédaGoJeux is a collective created in 2008 by bringing together people from public bodies, the video games industry and associations. SELL is one of its founding members and works hard to develop it. The collective has the mission to raise awareness and help people understand video games. PédaGoJeux guides parents by providing advice and information on the tools that will help them better support their children in this leisure activity, and supervise their gameplay. Every year SELL implements extensive information and awareness-raising campaigns on good practices. To extend the scope of PédaGoJeux actions, it is developing a network of ambassadors across the entire country: state or charity organisations working in the fields of family awareness and information.

SELL places CSR at the heart of its initiatives: inclusion, diversity, digital sobriety and accessibility are priorities. The year 2020 will have marked an increase in the actions implemented by our association.

The health crisis has led to a change in the way video games are viewed. As an increasingly popular 21st century medium and a leading sector among the major cultural industries, the video games industry also faces many challenges.

New issues have emerged in recent years that we must continue to address collectively.

Through the support of leading associations on these issues, the SELL wishes to affirm its commitment to a more diverse, inclusive and accessible industry.

We want to increase this dynamic and implement concrete actions for our members. The signing of the Charter for the Promotion of Diversity in December 2020 is a good example of a concrete action taken by the whole eco-system, with the support of the public authorities, that we intend to continue with the implementation of pledges and commitments.

Digital sobriety is a subject of growing attention on which we are mobilized to better understand the impact of our industry, to better respond to this major challenge. SELL is currently working on the publication of a Guide detailing the challenges faced by the sector and presenting all of the levers for action, and good practices.

Video games are a universal and intergenerational leisure activity that help to bridge the digital divide. Similarly, accessible video games must become the norm.

2020 will have been a pivotal year for the image of video games and the sector's commitment to these fundamental issues. 2021 will allow us to pick up speed!

48

SELL SELL

### STRUCTURING MARKET INFORMATION

SELL works with partners to provide the whole ecosystem with reliable studies on the video game market, player profiles and also player purchasing and use. Several panels are used to carry out this analysis.

GSD Panel, Game Sales Data (distributors and digital) – ISFE/Sparkers; GameTrack Panel (consumers) – ISFE/IPSOS;

App Annie Panel (mobile) – ISFE; Other surveys: "The French and video games" – SELL/Médiamétrie.



#### PROMOTING VIDEO GAMES



SELL's mission is to promote video games, the industry's innovations and creativity with the general public, national and European stakeholders and also the media. It carries out these promotional actions through regular communication and most importantly via two essential annual events:

IDEF: Interactive & Digital Entertainment Festival. Created in 2006, this professional event is organised by SELL for French stakeholders in the video game and interactive leisure activity market. It takes place every year in the early summer. Developers, publishers, prop managers and distributors come together for business meetings to structure the end of the year.

Paris Games Week - Since 2010, Paris Games Week has been inviting all video game players and their families and friends to come and celebrate the wealth, creativity and innovation of an entire industry. The 2019 edition welcomed 317,000 visitors and 194 exhibitors in the 80,000m<sup>2</sup> of the Porte de Versailles exhibition centre.

It has quickly become a must-attend event in the French video game calendar, and every year it changes to reflect the evolution of a fast-growing industry, thanks in particular to the presence of major stakeholders such as console producers, publishers, design studios and accessory manufacturers. Noted and praised for its unique atmosphere and the quality of its entertainment, the show now brings together a community of passionate players who come to enjoy a festive and immersive experience.

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# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# THE MEMBERS OF SELL

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John Bert Focus Entertainment

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Philippe Lavoué Nintendo

Guillaume de Fondaumière Quantic Dream

**Emmanuel Grange**Sony Interactive Entertainment

Patrick Bellaiche and Michel Magne Take-Two Interactive

> Bénédicte Germain Ubisoft

Yves Elalouf Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment



















































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