

A long-exposure photograph of a multi-lane highway at night, showing blurred streaks of light from cars moving in both directions. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and the headlights of the vehicles, creating a sense of motion and depth. The image is overlaid with a dark blue geometric shape on the left side, which contains the text.

COVID-19: CONSUMER & DEALER SENTIMENT TOP 10 TRENDS

Updated: July 28, 2020

COVID-19 Top 10 Trends

1

Concern over COVID-19 rises as new cases spike. A growing number of consumers do not anticipate a return to “normal” until next year or beyond.

2

Usage of various types of mobility beyond personal vehicles is unchanged even as much of the country is reopened.

3

The overall number of in-market shoppers has declined. Delay in purchase has dropped slightly after peaking during “Shelter in Place”.

4

More than half of shoppers are still reluctant to visit dealers in person and are more likely to complete purchase steps online due to COVID-19.

5

Delay in service has dropped since “Shelter in Place”, but some continue to delay due to COVID-19.

6

“Touchless” experiences can help conquest new service customers, with 3 in 4 owners more likely to choose a dealer who offers Service Pickup & Delivery.

7

Many dealers are still not requiring their customers to come into the dealership. However, this percentage is dropping over time.

8

Franchise dealerships are starting to discontinue critical “touchless” services such as Digital Retailing and Service Pickup & Delivery.

9

Low inventory levels are a challenge for dealers, and retail prices are now at pre-COVID levels or higher for many of them.

10

Dealership staffing levels are starting to bounce back, but there is a growing uncertainty among dealers about when or if business will return to “normal”.

Concern Over COVID-19 Rises as New Cases Spike

% OF CONSUMERS CONCERNED WITH COVID-19
(EXTREMELY / VERY)

57%

Early Outbreak
(March)*

71%↑

Shelter in Place
(Late March - April)*

65%↓

Reopening
(May - Mid June)*

69%↑

Summer Spike
(Late June - July)*

*Specific survey field dates in appendix



A Growing Number of Consumers Do Not Anticipate a Return to “Normal” Until Next Year or Beyond

% OF CONSUMERS WHO SAY IT WILL BE 2021 OR LATER BEFORE LIFE IS BACK TO “NORMAL”

14%↑

Shelter in Place
(Late March - April)*

32%↑

Reopening
(May - Mid June)*

47%↑

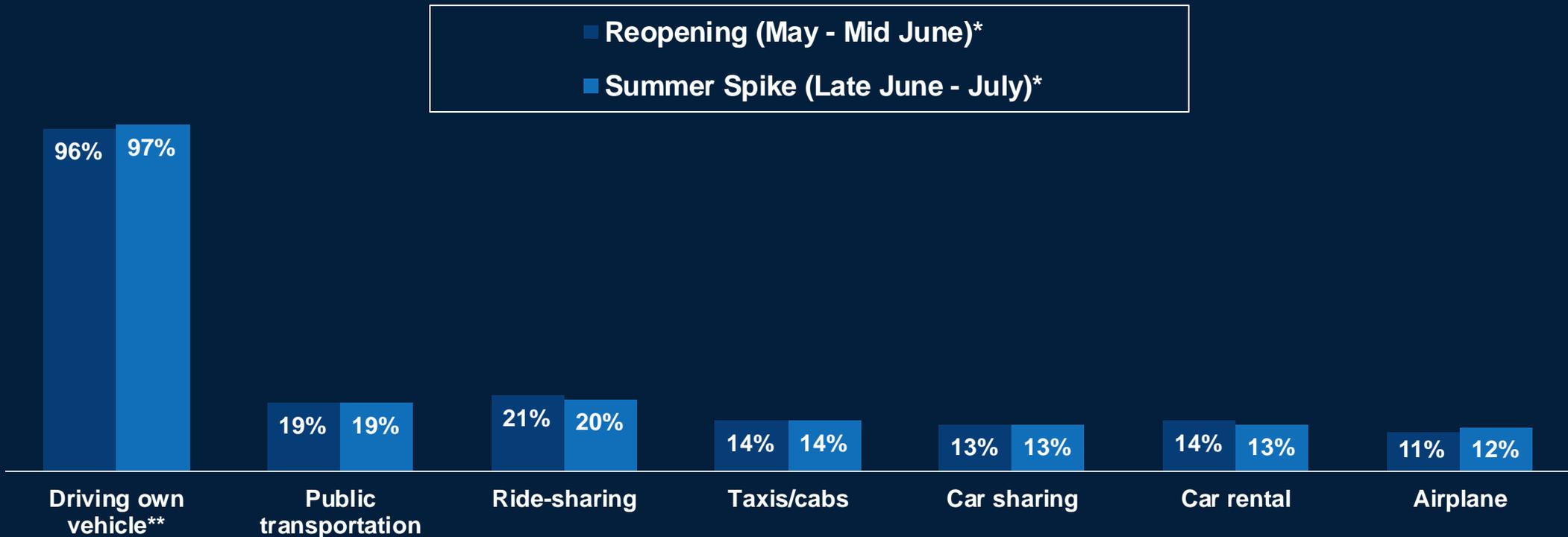
Summer Spike
(Late June - July)*

**Specific survey field dates in appendix*



Usage of Various Types of Mobility Beyond Personal Vehicles is Unchanged Even as Much of the Country is Reopened

PAST MONTH TRANSPORTATION USAGE



↓↑ Indicates significant difference since last wave
*Specific survey field dates in appendix
**Among vehicle owners

The Overall Number of In-Market Shoppers Has Declined Since “Shelter in Place”

% OF CONSUMERS IN-MARKET TO PURCHASE A VEHICLE WITHIN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

20%

Early Outbreak
(March)*

20%

Shelter in Place
(Late March - April)*

17%↓

Reopening
(May - Mid June)*

16%

Summer Spike
(Late June - July)*

**Specific survey field dates in appendix*



Delay in Purchase Has Dropped Slightly After Peaking During “Shelter in Place”

% OF SHOPPERS DELAYING PURCHASE DUE TO COVID-19

17%

Early Outbreak
(March)*

34%↑

Shelter in Place
(Late March - April)*

33%

Reopening
(May - Mid June)*

29%

Summer Spike
(Late June - July)*

**Specific survey field dates in appendix*



Half of Shoppers Are Still Reluctant to Visit Dealers in Person Due to COVID-19

% OF SHOPPERS LESS LIKELY TO VISIT A DEALERSHIP IN-PERSON DUE TO COVID-19

41%

Early Outbreak
(March)*

60%↑

Shelter in Place
(Late March - April)*

54%↓

Reopening
(May - Mid June)*

51%

Summer Spike
(Late June - July)*

**Specific survey field dates in appendix*



Over Half of Shoppers Continue to Be More Likely to Complete Purchase Steps Online Due to COVID-19

% OF SHOPPERS MORE LIKELY TO COMPLETE STEPS OF THE PURCHASE ONLINE DUE TO COVID-19

63%

Shelter in Place
(Late March - April)*

57%↓

Reopening
(May - Mid June)*

56%

Summer Spike
(Late June - July)*

70%

of shoppers want to do more of the purchase steps online compared to the last time they purchased a vehicle



*Specific survey field dates in appendix

Delay in Service Has Dropped Since “Shelter in Place”, But Some Continue to Delay Due to COVID-19

% OF OWNERS DELAYING SERVICE DUE TO COVID-19

16%

Early Outbreak
(March)*

36%↑

Shelter in Place
(Late March - April)*

28%↓

Reopening
(May - Mid June)*

25%↓

Summer Spike
(Late June - July)*

**Specific survey field dates in appendix*



“Touchless” Experiences Can Help Conquest New Service Customers

SERVICE PICKUP & DELIVERY SUMMER SPIKE (LATE JUNE - JULY)*

72% of consumers are likely to choose one dealer over another based on them offering this service

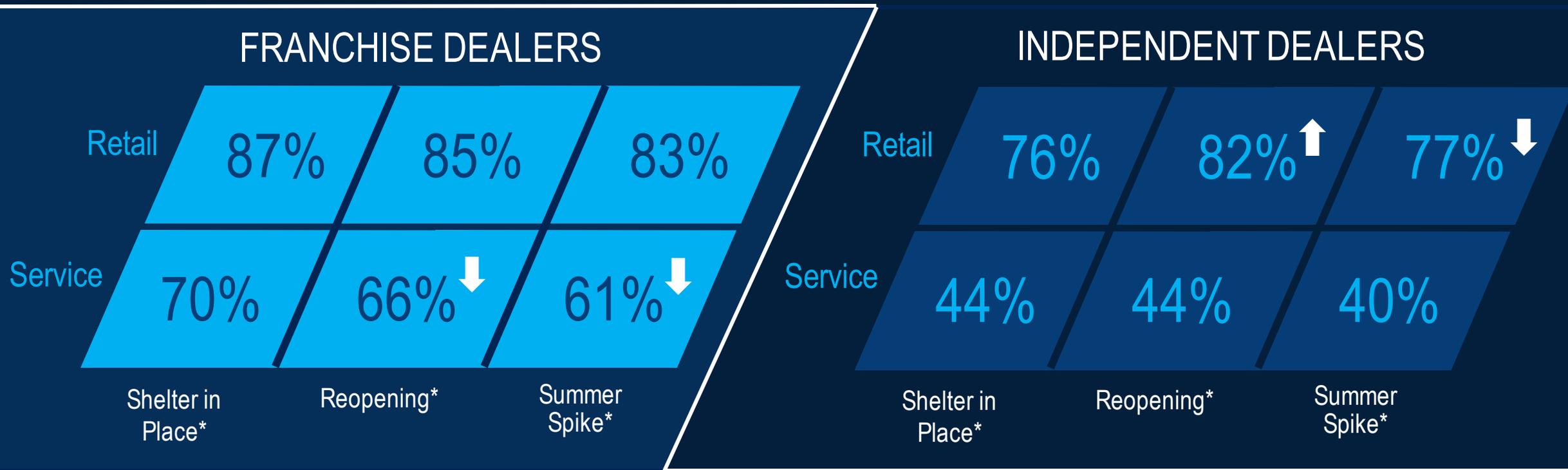
55% of consumers who do not currently service their vehicle at a dealership would be more likely to consider a dealer who offered this service

*Specific survey field dates in appendix



A Majority of Dealers Are Still Not Requiring Their Customers to Come Into the Dealership. However, This Percentage is Dropping Over Time.

**% OF DEALERS CONDUCTING BUSINESS
BEYOND THEIR PHYSICAL LOCATION**

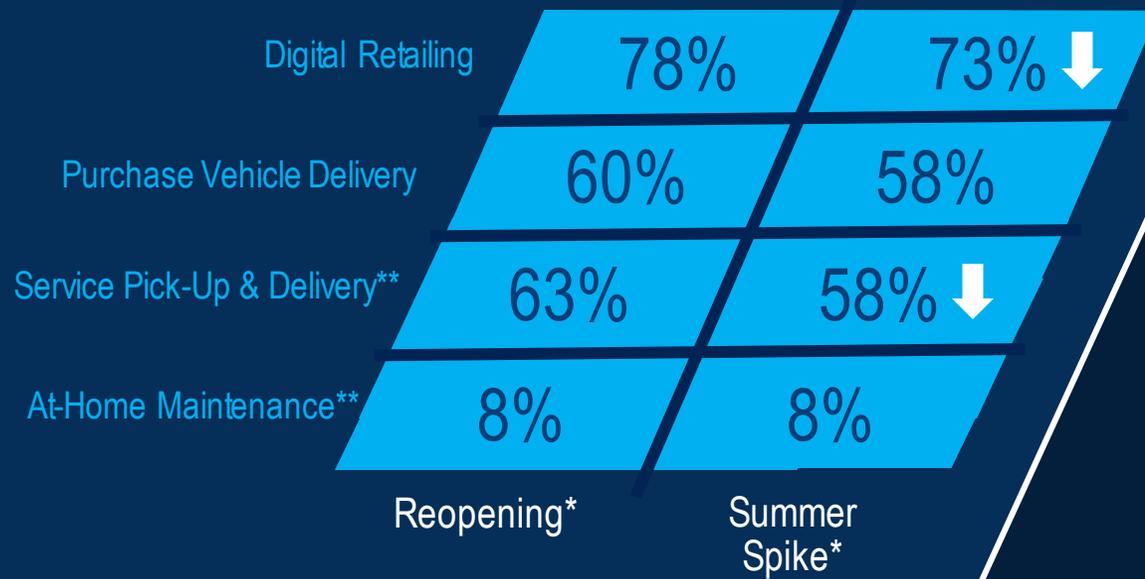


↓↑ Indicates significant difference since last wave
*Specific survey field dates in the appendix

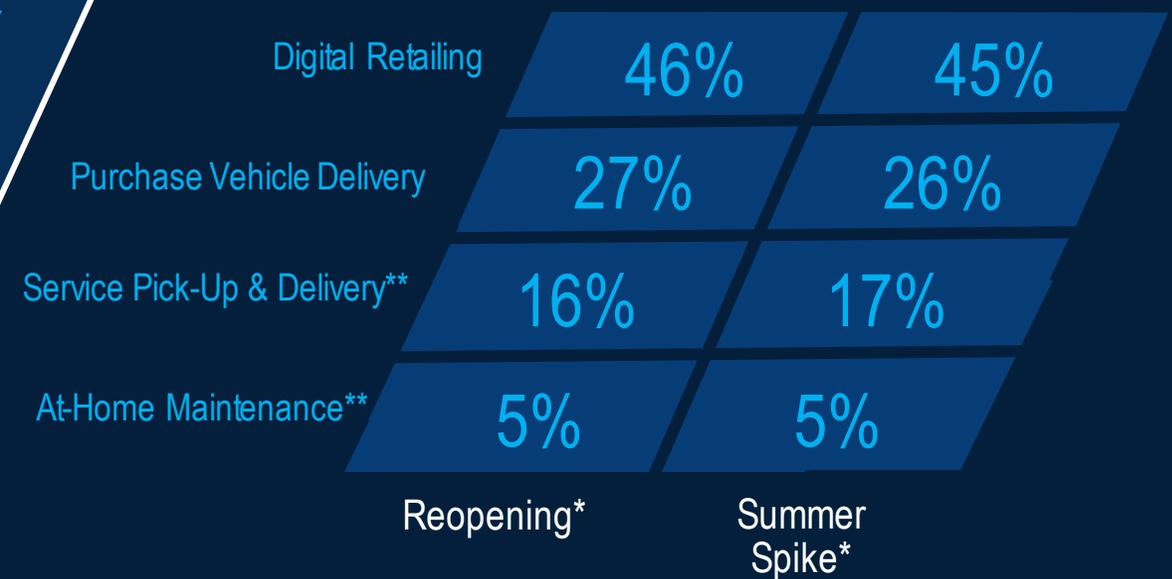
Franchise Dealerships Starting to Discontinue Critical “Touchless” Services

% OF DEALERS OFFERING THESE SERVICES...

FRANCHISE DEALERS



INDEPENDENT DEALERS



↓↑ Indicates significant difference since last wave
 **Base: total dealers
 *Specific survey field dates in appendix

Low Inventory Levels Are a Challenge for Dealers

CURRENT INVENTORY LEVELS COMPARED TO PRE-COVID

SUMMER SPIKE (LATE JUNE – JULY)*

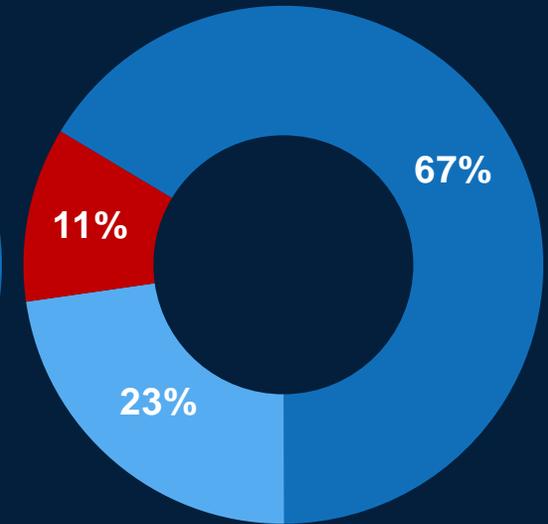
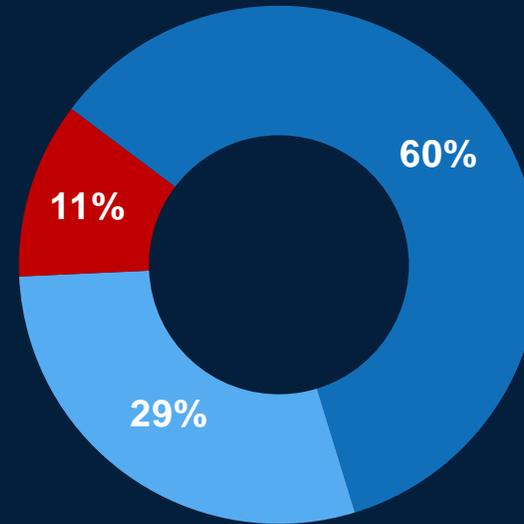
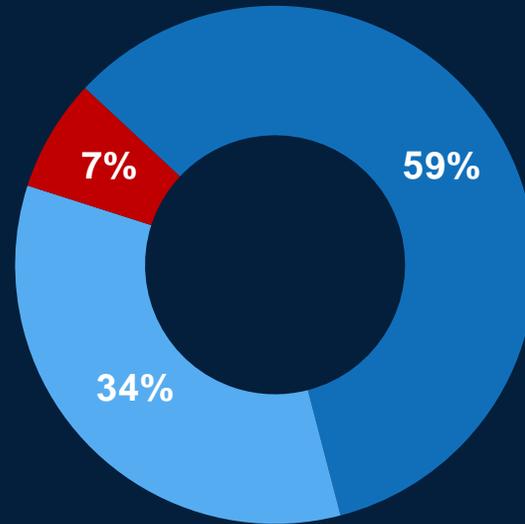
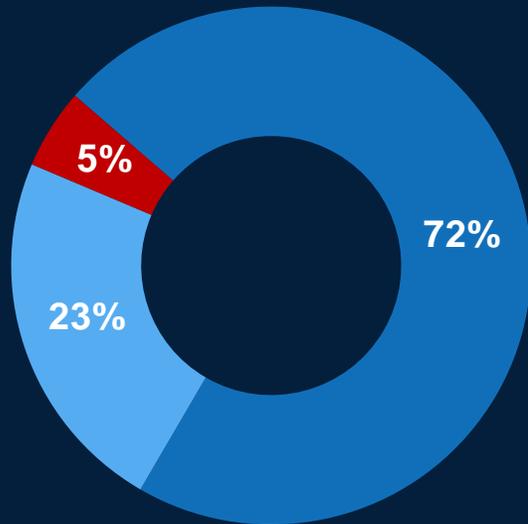
NEW

CPO

USED

Franchise

Independent

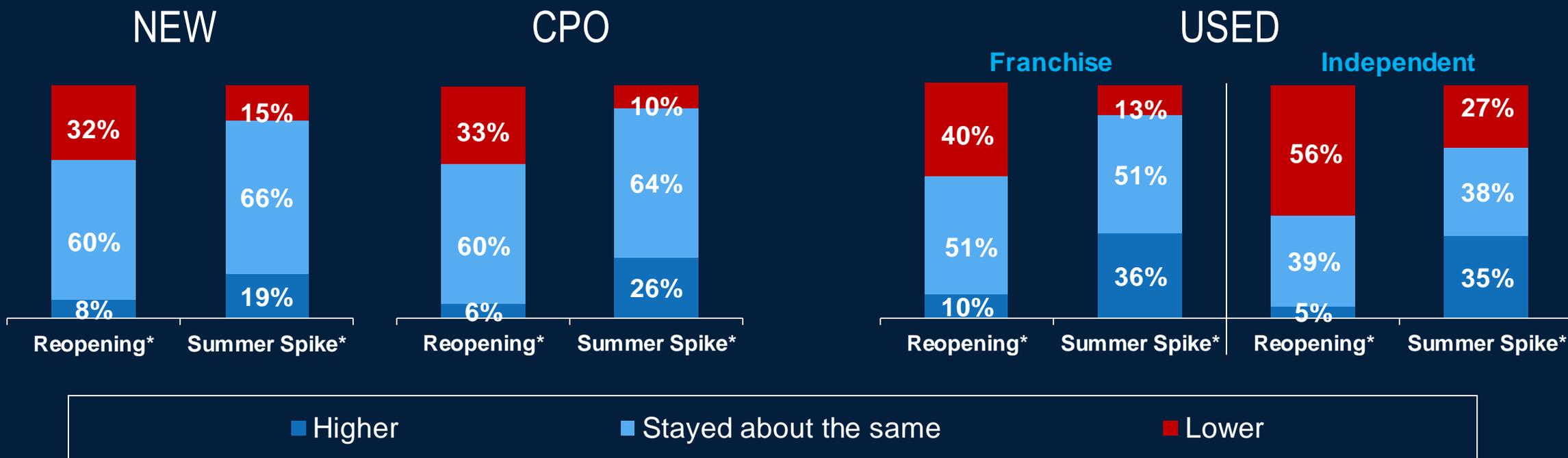


■ Lower ■ Stayed about the same ■ Higher

*Dates: Specific survey field dates in appendix

Retail Prices for Used Vehicles More Impacted by COVID-19

RETAIL PRICES COMPARED TO PRE-COVID



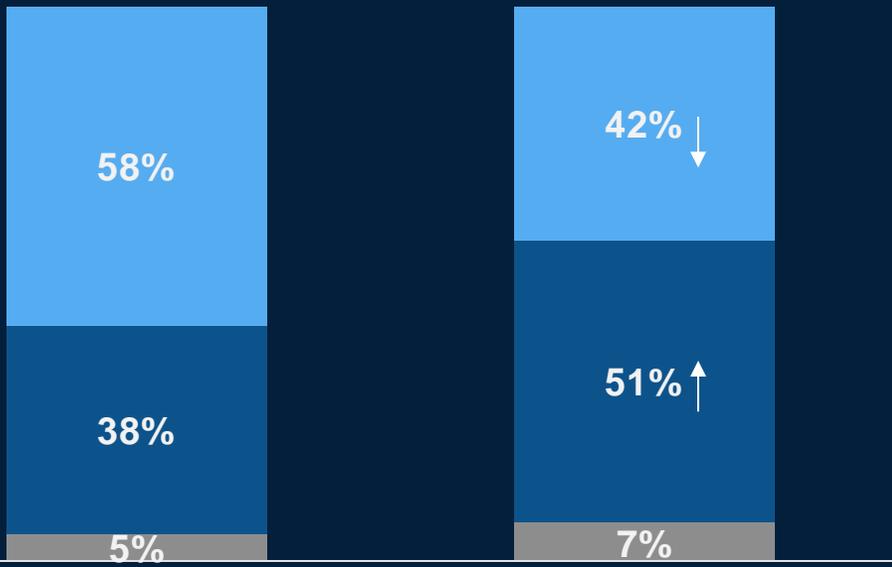
*Dates: Specific survey field dates in appendix

Note: No significance testing because question changed between waves

Dealership Staffing Levels Are Starting to Bounce Back

CHANGE IN DEALERSHIP STAFF

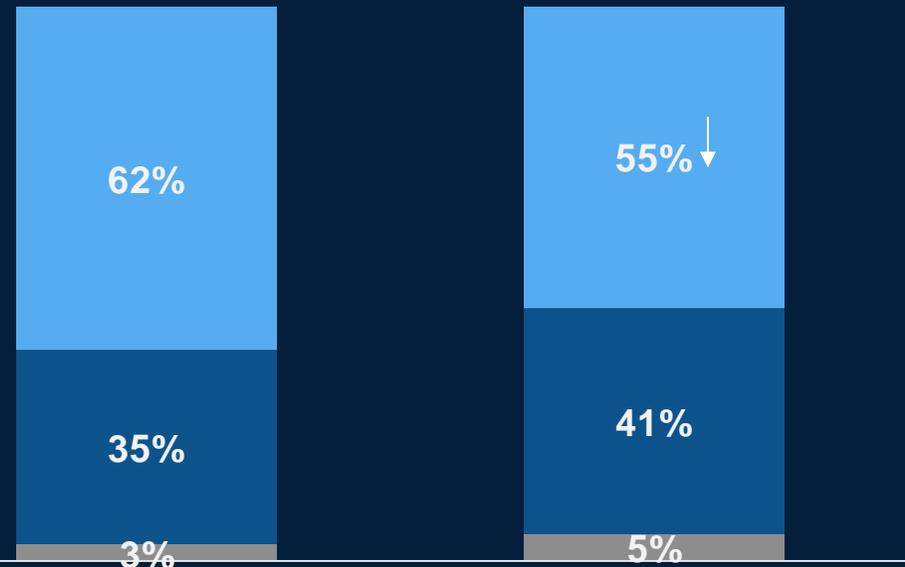
FRANCHISE



Reopening*

Summer Spike*

INDEPENDENT



Reopening*

Summer Spike*

■ Increase

■ Stay the Same

■ Decrease

↓↑ Indicates significant difference since last wave *Dates: Specific survey field dates in appendix

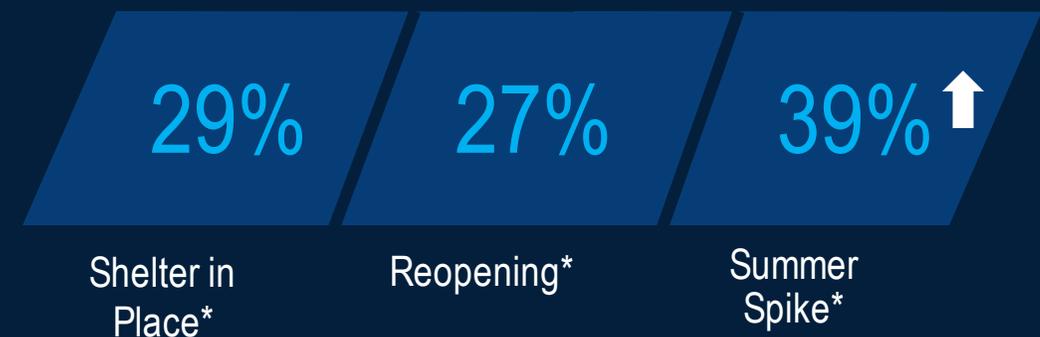
Summer Spike Causes Uncertainty to Grow Among Dealers About When or if Business Will Return to “Normal”

% OF DEALERS UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHEN OR IF BUSINESS WILL RETURN TO “NORMAL”

FRANCHISE DEALERS



INDEPENDENT DEALERS



↑↓ Indicates significant difference since last wave
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2020 Cox Automotive COVID-19 Consumer & Dealer Impact Studies

We surveyed a nationally representative sample of US consumers ages 18+ during the following timeframes:

- Early Outbreak - Wave 1: March 5-6, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 2: March 13-14, 2020 (n=999); Wave 3: March 20-22, 2020 (n=1,000)
- Shelter in Place - Wave 4: March 27-28, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 5: April 3-4, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 6: April 10-11, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 7: April 17-18, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 8: April 24-25, 2020 (n=1,000)
- Reopening - Wave 9: May 1-3, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 10: May 15-16, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 11: May 29-30, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 12: June 12-13, 2020 (n = 1,000)
- Summer Spike – Wave 13: June 26-27, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 14: July 10-11, 2020 (n=1,000); Wave 15: July 24-25, 2020 (n=1,000)

We surveyed a sample of automotive dealers about their general level of concern:

- Shelter in Place - Wave 5: April 15-17, 2020 (n=691); Wave 6: April 22-24, 2020 (n=642)
- Reopening - Wave 7: April 29-May 1, 2020 (n=648); Wave 8: May 11-15, 2020 (n=555); Wave 9: May 26-29, 2020 (n=470); Wave 10: June 8-12, 2020 (n=700)
- Summer Spike – Wave 11: June 22-26, 2020 (n=725); Wave 12: July 6-10, 2020 (n=782); Wave 13: July 20-24, 2020 (n=794)

The objective of this research was to understand the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on US Consumers & Dealer attitudes and behaviors:

- Awareness & Familiarity of COVID-19
- Level of Concern over COVID-19
- Impact on Everyday Behaviors & Business Operations
- Impact on Current Auto Shoppers & Commuters
- Actions to Mitigate Any Negative Impact