“Video games are the future. From education and business, to art and entertainment, our industry brings together the most innovative and creative minds to create the most engaging, immersive and breathtaking experiences we’ve ever seen. The brilliant developers, designers and creators behind our games have and will continue to push the envelope, driving unprecedented leaps in technology impacting everyday life for years to come.”

—Michael D. Gallagher, president and CEO, Entertainment Software Association
WHO IS PLAYING

OVERVIEW

63% of U.S. households are home to at least one person who plays video games regularly (3 hours or more per week)

There are an average of 1.7 gamers in each game-playing U.S. household

65% of U.S. households own a device used to play video games

“Games as a form of media will undoubtedly have taken on a range of new meanings in ten years, but play will always be the engine that drives their engagement. I think we’ll see playful systems underlying new designs in human centered activities like healthcare, communications, and of course, learning.”
—Katie Salen, Chief Design and Research Officer, Institute of Play

48% of U.S. households own a dedicated game console

OverVIEW

GAMER DEMOGRAPHICS

The average game player age is 35 years old

AGE of Game Players
27% under 18 years
29% 18-35 years
18% 36-49 years
26% 50+ years

GENDER of Game Players
59% male
41% female

The most frequent FEMALE GAME PLAYER is on average 44 years old
and the average MALE GAME PLAYER is 35 years old

Women age 18 or older represent a significantly greater portion of the game-playing population (31%) than boys age 18 or younger (17%)

THERE IS AN EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE VIDEO GAMERS IN AGE:

The average number of years gamers have been playing video games: 13
Who is Buying

The average age of the most frequent game purchaser is 38.

Of the most frequent game purchasers:

- **40%** Female Purchasers
- **60%** Male Purchasers

52% of the most frequent gamers feel that video games provide more value for their money than:

- **23%** DVDs
- **14%** Music
- **10%** Going to the movies

Of the most frequent game purchasers, most:

- **41%** Purchase new video games without having tried them
- **31%** Download the full game off the company's website
- **30%** Purchase after downloading the trial version or demo

95% of the most frequent game purchasers who own dedicated game consoles purchase video games for them.

At Play

48% of the most frequent gamers play social games.

Top devices most frequent gamers use:

- **56%** PC
- **53%** Dedicated game console
- **36%** Smartphone
- **31%** Wireless device
- **17%** Dedicated handheld system

Top three types of video games that the most frequent gamers play most often on their wireless or mobile devices:

- **38%** Puzzle/board game/card game/game shows
- **6%** Action
- **6%** Strategy

Gamers who own dedicated game consoles use them for other entertainment media, in addition to playing games:

- **50%** Watch movies
- **34%** Watch TV shows
- **28%** Listen to music
- **21%** Live and other content

Gamers who are playing more video games than they did three years ago are spending less time:

- **49%** Playing board games
- **37%** Watching TV
- **37%** Going to the movies
At Play

HOW WE PLAY

54% of the most frequent gamers play with others, including:

- 40% Friends
- 21% Family members
- 17% Parent(s)
- 15% Spouse/partner

The most frequent gamers who play multiplayer and online games spend an average of

- 6.5 Hours per week playing with others online
- 4.6 Hours per week playing with others in-person

51% of the most frequent gamers play a multiplayer mode at least weekly

53% of the most frequent game players feel video games help them connect with friends and 42% feel video games help them spend time with family

OF THE MOST FREQUENT GAMERS 75% BELIEVE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES PROVIDES MENTAL STIMULATION OR EDUCATION

36% of the most frequent gamers play on their smartphones

eSPORTS AND VIRTUAL REALITY

50% of the most frequent gamers are familiar with eSports

Most popular ways to follow eSports:

- 45% Social media posts
- 43% Video clips
- 40% Cable TV
- 38% Stream coverage

55% of the most frequent gamers are familiar with virtual reality; among those,

- 40% say they will likely purchase VR within the next year

58% of the most frequent gamers who are familiar with VR intend to play video games on VR
**At Play**

**PARENTS AND GAMES**

86% of parents are aware of the ESRB rating system

97% of parents believe the ESRB rating system is accurate

Source: Hart Research Associates, ESRB ratings awareness and use survey, 2012 (commissioned by ESRB)

**PARENTS CONTROL WHAT THEIR KIDS PLAY**

93% of parents believe that the parental controls available in all new video game consoles are useful. Further, parents impose time usage limits on video games more than any other form of entertainment:

- 79% of parents place limits on video game playing
- 74% of parents place time limits on Internet usage
- 73% of parents place time limits on TV viewing
- 65% of parents place time limits on movie viewing

**OF THE GAMES RATED BY ESRB IN 2015:**

- 37% received an E (Everyone) rating
- 23% received an E10+ (Everyone 10+) rating
- 29% received a T (Teen) rating
- 11% received an M (Mature) rating

91% of the time parents are present at the time games are purchased or rented

9 out of 10 require their children to ask permission or are present when their child buys or rents a video game

95% always or sometimes pays attention to video games played by their child

68% of parents say video games are a positive part of their child's life

62% of parents whose children are gamers play computer and video games with their children at least weekly

**Top 5 reasons parents play games with their kids:**

1. It’s fun for the entire family: 88%
2. Because they’re asked to: 76%
3. It’s a good opportunity to socialize with their child: 76%
4. It’s a good opportunity to monitor game content: 59%
5. They enjoy playing video games as much as their child does: 57%

“These tools have become so powerful that a few pediatricians are now rethinking the American Academy of Pediatrics screen time guidelines. Why? Because so many parents are having positive, nurturing, bonding experiences with their kids and their iPads.”

—Greg Toppo, reporter, USA Today
### Top 20 Selling VIDEO GAMES of 2015

**BY UNITS SOLD**

RATING

1. **CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS III** (M)
2. **MADDEN NFL 16** (E)
3. **FALLOUT 4** (M)
4. **STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT 2015** (T)
5. **NBA 2K16** (E)
6. **GRAND THEFT AUTO V** (M)
7. **MINECRAFT** (E 10+)
8. **MORTAL KOMBAT X** (M)
9. **FIFA 16** (E)
10. **CALL OF DUTY: ADVANCED WARFARE** (M)
11. **BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT** (M)
12. **LEGO: JURASSIC WORLD** (E)
13. **BATTLEFIELD HARDLINE** (M)
14. **HALO 5: GUARDIANS** (T)
15. **SUPER SMASH BROS.** (E)
16. **THE WITCHER 3: WILD HUNT** (M)
17. **DYING LIGHT** (M)
18. **DESTINY: THE TAKEN KING** (T)
19. **NBA 2K15** (E)
20. **METAL GEAR SOLID V: THE PHANTOM PAIN** (M)

*Source: The NPD Group/Retail Tracking Service*

### Top 20 Selling COMPUTER Games of 2015

**BY UNITS SOLD**

RATING

1. **THE SIMS 4** (T)
2. **FALLOUT 4** (M)
3. **THE SIMS 3: STARTER PACK** (T)
4. **THE SIMS 4 GET TO WORK EXPANSION PACK** (T)
5. **STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT 2015** (T)
6. **ELDER SCROLLS V: SKYRIM** (M)
7. **FALLOUT ANTHOLOGY** (M)
8. **GRAND THEFT AUTO V** (M)
9. **WORLD OF WARCRAFT: WARLORDS OF DRAENOR EXPANSION PACK** (T)
10. **STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT 2015** (T)
11. **THE SIMS 3: PETS** (T)
12. **THE SIMS 3 SEASONS EXPANSION PACK** (T)
13. **DIABLO III: REAPER OF SOULS** (M)
14. **DIABLO III** (M)
15. **THE SIMS 3: ISLAND PARADISE EXPANSION PACK** (T)
16. **THE SIMS 3: UNIVERSITY LIFE EXPANSION PACK** (T)
17. **THE SIMS 3: SUPERNATURAL EXPANSION PACK** (T)
18. **STAR CRAFT II: WINGS OF LIBERTY** (T)
19. **SIM CITY 2013** (E 10+)
20. **WORLD OF WARCRAFT: BATTLE CHEST 2013** (T)

*Source: The NPD Group/Retail Tracking Service*
"Games are super flexible in the creation of personal learning pathways and we will soon see their adaptability in play much more widely in schools and among employers. I can imagine, too, that educators and health professionals will turn to games to tune-up and practice their skills much more frequently, from surgeons to pilots to teachers."

—Michael Levine, founding director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop
ABOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE ASSOCIATION

The Entertainment Software Association (ESA) conducts business and consumer research, and provides analysis and advocacy on issues like global content protection, intellectual property, technology, e-commerce and the First Amendment in support of interactive software publishers. ESA owns and operates E3 and represents video game industry interests on federal and state levels.

To learn more, visit TheESA.com and follow us on Twitter: @RichatESA or @ESAGovAffairs.

### ESA MEMBERS AS OF APRIL 2015

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Other Resources

Learn more about the ESA and its programs at www.theESA.com.

ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE RATING BOARD | WWW.ESRB.ORG
The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) is a non-profit, self-regulatory body established in 1994 by ESA. ESRB independently assigns computer and video game content ratings, enforces advertising guidelines and helps ensure responsible online privacy practices for the interactive entertainment software industry.

ACADEMY OF INTERACTIVE ARTS & SCIENCES | WWW.INTERACTIVE.ORG
The Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences (AIAS) was founded in 1996 as a not-for-profit organization to recognize outstanding achievements in interactive entertainment. The AIAS conducts the annual D.I.C.E. Awards to promote and acknowledge exceptional accomplishments in the field. In 2002 the Academy created the D.I.C.E. Summit dedicated to exploring approaches to the creative process and artistic expression as they uniquely apply to the development of interactive entertainment.

INTERNATIONAL GAME DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION | WWW.IGDA.ORG
The International Game Developers Association (IGDA) is the largest non-profit membership organization serving individuals who create video games. The IGDA advances the careers and enhances the lives of game developers by connecting members with their peers, promoting professional development and advocating on issues that affect the developer community. These core activities advance games as a medium and game development as a profession.

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The NPD Group provides market information and business solutions that drive better decision-making and better results. The world’s leading brands rely on us to help them get the right products in the right places for the right people. Practice areas include automotive, beauty, consumer electronics, entertainment, fashion, food / foodservice, home, luxury, mobile, office supplies, sports, technology, toys and video games.

VIDEO GAME VOTERS NETWORK | WWW.VIDEOGAMEVOTERS.ORG
The Video Game Voters Network (VGVN) is a grassroots organization of voting-age gamers who organize and take action in support of computer and video games. Since its creation in 2006, more than 500,000 grassroots activists have joined the VGVN.

ESA Foundation | www.esafoundation.org
Created by the American entertainment software industry, the ESA Foundation works to make a positive difference in the lives of America’s youth by providing scholarships to the next generation of industry innovators and supporting charitable organizations and schools that leverage entertainment software and technology to create educational opportunities. ESA Foundation is primarily supported by proceeds from its signature annual fundraiser, “Nite to Unite – for Kids” and other charitable initiatives.