Health And Fitness Activity On Mobile Skyrockets In 2020: Installs Up 67% Due To COVID-19 Lockdowns

Adjust’s app data, along with consumer survey findings from Gympass, suggest digital fitness and wellness is here to stay, with Adjust recording a year-over-year increase in sessions of 61% in July.

San Francisco / Berlin, August 19, 2020 -- As gyms and fitness studios closed during COVID-19 lockdowns, consumers have increasingly relied on health and fitness apps to help them stay healthy and maintain fitness routines from home. New data from app marketing platform Adjust shows that in addition to the New Year’s resolution trend of increased installs in early January, COVID-19 lockdowns drew users to health and fitness apps even more, upending the traditional fading of New Years’ resolutions.

Global Use of Health and Fitness Apps

- **Sessions per day**
- **Installs per day**

Based on Health and Fitness apps tracked on the Adjust platform between January and July 2020. Installs and sessions are plotted on different Y scales for clarity.
WOFH (Working Out From Home)

The data shows that daily installs of health and fitness apps across the globe grew progressively throughout March, rising 67% above the 2020 average install rate at the end of March and beginning of April. Sessions, however, didn’t see significant growth until May, indicating that while installs may have accelerated during COVID-19 lockdowns, uptake in using those apps took time to catch on.

Gympass, the world’s largest corporate wellness benefits platform, quickly adapted to help its users stay active while at home. It introduced digital solutions such as on-demand and live-streamed classes, and virtual personal training sessions to help its customers maintain their physical fitness and mental wellbeing.

“In a matter of weeks, we took programs from PowerPoint to reality,” said Rodrigo Silveira, SVP of New Ventures at Gympass. “We looked at wellness with a more holistic approach to create a complete corporate wellness benefit across all of our plans that can be customized to fit individual needs. In partnership with apps like Healing Clouds, Mobills, 8fit, and Wellness Coach, we were able to create a new adaptable model that is here to stay.”

A recent U.S. consumer survey from Gympass affirms that digital wellness is an enduring trend. The findings reveal that a majority (82.8%) of Americans are willing to work out virtually post-pandemic, suggesting they have adapted to this ‘new normal’ long-term as a result of quarantine.

Meanwhile, Adjust’s data shows that although Installs and sessions have started to decrease following their respective peaks, sessions are still trending far higher than in 2019. July installs are up 7% compared to 2019, and sessions have increased by 61%. This suggests not only are apps getting more of a workout, but their users are too.

Interestingly, Sunday is the day of the week when users are focusing most on getting into shape, Adjust finds. By Friday, weekend plans seem to sway users away from health and fitness apps. Sunday has the most sessions globally every week in 2020, while Fridays consistently see the lowest.

“The pandemic and ensuing lockdowns have led many consumers to re-prioritize their lifestyles and their day to day behaviors,” said Paul H. Müller, co-founder and CTO of Adjust. “Our data suggests that this is widely reflected in the health and fitness habits of consumers and points to a longer-lasting trend of people preferring to WOFH (workout from home) rather than going to the gym -- especially as safety measures remain in place in many countries around the world.”
Regional findings

The data also provides insight into regional trends, showing a correlation between use of health and fitness apps as lockdowns were put in place and then gradually eased.

- The United States saw an impressive increase in installs as lockdown restrictions came into place at the end of March, at 58% higher than the 2020 average. Consumers appear to have actively started using apps in May when daily sessions peaked at 25% above average. Daily sessions have slowly declined since, but July performed at 16% above average, suggesting many users are still highly engaged.

- In Germany, installs saw a dramatic spike at the end of March, at 86% higher than the 2020 average. Sessions tripled between January and April, and by May performed at 38% higher than the 2020 average. Despite a slight decline since May, sessions from January to July increased by 67% respectively, indicating a sustained uptake.

- In the United Kingdom, April saw a huge spike of installs - averaging out at 93% higher than the overall 2020 average. Sessions also started increasing steadily from late March to late May, peaking on May 25th, at 80% above the 2020 average. Although sessions have slowly started to decline, July 2020 sessions were double that of 2019.

- Brazil saw a significant increase in installs from the end of April through to mid-May, with the time period performing at 73% higher than the 2020 average. Sessions picked up shortly after installs, with the month of May increasing to 96% above the 2020 average.

- After an initial spike in January, installs in Mexico were highest in the last week of March and first week of April, performing at 54% above the 2020 average. Sessions increased progressively throughout the year, peaking on June 9, at 54% above the 2020 average.
Regional Use of Health and Fitness Apps

U.S.

UK

Germany

Brazil

Mexico

Based on Health and Fitness apps tracked on the Adjust platform between January and July 2020. Installs and sessions are plotted on different Y scales for clarity.
Methodology
The data is based on an analysis of trends seen in installs and sessions in global apps defined under the health and fitness vertical within the Adjust database.

About Adjust
Adjust is a global app marketing platform. Born at the heart of the mobile app economy and grown out of a passion for technology, the company now has 16 offices around the world. Adjust's platform includes measurement, fraud prevention, cybersecurity and marketing automation products. Together, they make marketing simpler, smarter and more secure for the 40,000 apps working with Adjust. Global leading brands including Procter & Gamble, Rocket Internet and Tencent Games have implemented its solutions to secure their budgets and improve results.

About Gympass
With the mission of defeating inactivity, Gympass works with companies to revolutionize the way their employees engage in fitness and wellness, promoting lasting changes in their lives. More than 2,000 companies rely on Gympass' unmatched variety, convenience, and flexibility to improve employee engagement and performance, as well as contributing to overall business success. With over 50,000 fitness partners, 60 wellness apps, and 2,000 personal trainers on the platform, Gympass helps corporations offer personalized long-term programs that inspire their employees to engage, stay motivated, and take advantage of their full potential.

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