



Top Pain Points in Customer Service

Industry and Generational Data

Source: Forrester survey of 5000 consumers

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ALL INDUSTRIES

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

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34%	CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
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31% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

17% OTHER FACTORS





ALL INDUSTRIES

Note: Percentage figures refer to the percentage of respondents citing an issue as a top pain point

- Consistency of answers: Worst: Government (56%), Best: Online retail (33%)
- Agents not knowing the answer: Worst: Offline retail and technology (47%), Best: Property, casualty and life insurance (25%)
- Findability of answers on website: Worst: Online retail (40%), Best: Technology (27%)
- Younger consumers less forgiving of agents that are not knowledgeable
 - 40% for Gen Y did not find agents to be knowledgeable vs. only 23% for seniors
 - Only 9% of Gen Y consumers found non-knowledge issues as the main roadblock to service vs. 35% of seniors





Industry data







BANKING

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

29% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

37.7% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

36.1% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

18.7% OTHER FACTORS





CELL PHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

34.9% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

45.5% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

29.8% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

13.3% OTHER FACTORS





CABLE, INTERNET, OR TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

32.5% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

45.2% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

26.8% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

17.7% OTHER FACTORS





GOVERNMENT

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

35.6% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

56.2% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

26.9% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

17.9% OTHER FACTORS





HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

31.3% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

35.6% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

29.4% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

23.8% OTHER FACTORS





INSURANCE (HEALTHCARE)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

37.6% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

37.8% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

34.5% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

16.2% OTHER FACTORS





INSURANCE (PROPERTY, CASUALTY, AND LIFE)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

25.4% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

41.3% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

33.2% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

20.8% OTHER FACTORS





RETAIL (CLICK-AND-MORTAR)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

47.2% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

42.6% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

31.1% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

10.7% OTHER FACTORS





RETAIL (ONLINE)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

31.2% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

33.1% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

39.9% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

14.9% OTHER FACTORS





TECHNOLOGY

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

46.6% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

47% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

26.7% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

10% OTHER FACTORS





UTILITIES

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

39.4% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

36% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

26.9% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

20.5% OTHER FACTORS





Generational data







GEN Y (18-34)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

40% CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER

48% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

31% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

9% OTHER FACTORS





GEN X (35-48)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

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39%	CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
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- 43% DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS
- 32% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE
- 11% OTHER FACTORS





YOUNGER BOOMERS (49-58)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

26%	CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
37%	DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS
35%	CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE
21%	OTHER FACTORS





OLDER BOOMERS (59-67)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

24%	CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
33%	DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS
28%	CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE
32%	OTHER FACTORS





SENIORS (68+)

What was the biggest pain point when you contacted a company for customer service? (Select up to 2 answers)

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23%	CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
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27%	DIFFERENT CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS

28% CAN'T FIND ANSWER ON WEBSITE

35% OTHER FACTORS

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