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This report looks at the following areas:

- · How the rising cost of living is impacting the health and fitness club market
- Recent company activity and new innovations in the market
- Consumers' perceptions of key players in the health and fitness club industry
- Health and fitness club membership levels and future interest in joining a gym
- Consumers' preferred membership/subscription types
- Consumers' perceptions of alternative operators

The continued rise of the low-cost gym sector is driving the growth of the health and fitness clubs market. The number of budget gyms reached an all-time high of 869 in 2023, up from 645 in 2018. The affordability of these clubs has cemented their appeal amidst the ongoing cost of living crisis, whilst the flexible nature of monthly contracts and no/low joining fees have also contributed to their success.

70% of members say they have experienced price rises at private health and fitness clubs in the last 12 months. With the cost of living crisis impacting consumers and brands alike, operators have had to pass rising utility costs onto members. Moving forward, brands should offer a variety of plans at different price points, to continue to appeal to consumers of all financial situations.

Alternative operators pose the greatest threat to the traditional health and fitness club model. ClassPass and Gympass have disrupted the market in recent years, by offering a credit-based system for consumers to enjoy various gyms on an ad-hoc basis. Brands offering contract-based memberships need to focus on providing flexibility and value to members, in order to remain favourite and trusted brands.

The UK's ageing population means that brands have a significant opportunity to target a relatively unexplored segment. Older consumers are keen to



"Despite the ongoing cost of living crisis and increases to the price of gym memberships, consumers continue to prioritise services that benefit their health and wellbeing. However, in order to sustain growth, operators need to cater to less affluent and older consumers – both of which offer huge opportunities for operators."

– Jennie Bryans, Leisure Analyst

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prioritise their health, particularly as they get older, and brands need to ensure they are capturing this segment of the market. Many older consumers will appreciate guidance and support within health clubs, as well as tailored sessions and events during quieter hours for them to enjoy.

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- David Lloyd Leisure (part of Deuce Midco Limited)

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