

THE INFLUENCING FACTORS OF CONSUMERS' PURCHASE INTENTION FOR APPLE SMARTWATCHES IN GUANGZHOU,

CHINA

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This Independent Study has been Approved as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Business Administration

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ABSTRACT

In the digital information era, smartwatches have gradually become popular worldwide with the iterative advancements in mobile internet technology and hardware devices. Smartwatches have gained significant consumer popularity by leveraging features like fitness guidance and health monitoring. The success of Apple Smartwatches lies in its seamless integration of minimalist design, health ecosystems, and emotional marketing, satisfying both tech enthusiasts' pursuit of specifications and general users' preference for "effortless technology," thereby achieving a transformation from a "functional tool" to a "life companion."

This study reviews the stimulus-organism-response theory and consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches. The study examines the impact of four factors: perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value, on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.

A quantitative research method was adopted, with 400 questionnaires distributed and 303 valid responses received. The effective rate was 75.75%. The findings reveal that perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value positively influence consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches. Based on the study, the following recommendations are proposed for Apple smartwatches: (1) Focus on real-world scenario value to enhance perceived usefulness through functional innovation and precision marketing; (2) Build effortless interaction experiences to lower decision-making barriers via usability optimization; (3) Implement a dynamic value anchoring pricing strategy to balance high-end brand image with market accessibility.

Keywords: purchase intention, Apple Smartwatch, influencing factors

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DECLARATION

I, Gao Yi Ming, hereby certify that the work embodied in this independent study entitled "The Influencing Factors of Consumers' Purchase Intention for Apple Smartwatches in Guangzhou, China" is result of original research and has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.



(Gao Yi Ming) March 2, 2025

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

In recent years, smartwatches have emerged as a critical component of the global consumer electronics market. According to market research firms, the smartwatch market reached approximately 30 billion in 2020, with a projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13.78 billion (Ometov et al., 2021). As smartwatch technology advances and consumer demands for health monitoring, fitness tracking, communication, and other functionalities rise, these devices are increasingly becoming indispensable tools in modern life (Verhoef et al., 2021).

Smartwatches, now serving as fashion accessories, have evolved into essential daily companions for consumers through their expanding capabilities. From health metrics tracking, exercise monitoring, and notification alerts to mobile payments, navigation, and integrated smart features, these devices have transformed from simple timekeeping tools into comprehensive intelligent platforms. In 2022, global smartwatch shipments surpassed 200 million units, with North America and Europe leading the market, while China also experiences rapid growth (Friess et al., 2022).

The formation of consumer purchase intention in the smartwatch market is influenced by multiple factors, including perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, perceived value, and brand influence. According to Davis' (1989) Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), perceived usefulness and ease of use are pivotal determinants of technology adoption. Consumers prioritize products that demonstrably enhance quality of life while maintaining user-friendly operation (Dehghani et al., 2018).

Apple's inaugural launch of the Apple Watch in 2014 coincided with the exploratory phase of the wearable device market. The first-generation model integrated fashion-forward design with basic health features but faced limitations such as short battery life and iPhone dependency. Subsequent iterations addressed these issues: The Series 3 introduced cellular connectivity, while the Series 4 added ECG monitoring with FDA approval. These technological breakthroughs not only elevated user experiences but also propelled the legitimization of health-related functionalities.

Market demands and competitive landscapes significantly shaped Apple's R&D trajectory. Early markets were dominated by fitness trackers, but Apple redefined smartwatch use cases by integrating health monitoring, communication, and ecosystem synergy. As consumer appetite for health features grew, Apple prioritized sensor accuracy, algorithmic optimization, and medical certifications, transitioning from athletic accessories to medical-grade devices.

In ecosystem integration, the Apple Watch extends IOS's ecosystem, seamlessly

connecting with IPhone, Air Pods, and other devices, reinforcing user loyalty. Features like "Actionable Notifications" and "Smart Stack" exemplify Apple's scenario-driven interaction logic, solidifying its role as a central hub within the Apple ecosystem.

Despite its market leadership, Apple faces declining innovation momentum and market share erosion. Patent disputes, supply chain pressures, and competition from Android alternatives compel Apple to innovate in materials, interaction modalities, and non-invasive health monitoring. The Apple Watch's development trajectory reflects a dynamic equilibrium among technological pre-research, market demands, and ecosystem closure. Its success stems not only from hardware innovation but also from redefining the "watch" concept—evolving from a timekeeping device into a fusion of health manager, communication hub, and fashion accessory. Future prospects suggest further convergence between consumer electronics and medical devices as health technologies integrate deeper into lifestyle scenarios. The Apple Watch may continue to blur boundaries, potentially establishing new paradigms at the intersection of wearable technology and healthcare.

1.2 Questions of the Study

This study aims to explore the factors influencing consumers' purchase intention for smartwatches, with a particular focus on how perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value jointly affect consumer purchasing decisions. While existing literature provides theoretical support for understanding consumer purchasing behavior, research specifically targeting smartwatches as a distinct consumer category remains relatively limited. To address this gap, the present study adopts the Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) theoretical framework:

- (1) Does perceived usefulness affect consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches?
- (2) Does perceived ease of use affect consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches?
- (3) Does price perception affect consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches?
- (4) Does perceived value affect consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study conducts an in-depth analysis of factors affecting consumers' intention

to purchase smartwatches. By systematically categorizing the determinants of Apple smartwatch consumers' purchase intention into four dimensions: perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value. The research pursues the following objectives:

- (1) To explore the effect of perceived usefulness on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.
- (2) To explore the effect of perceived ease of use on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.
- (3) To explore the effect of price perception on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.
- (4) To explore the effect of perceived value on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study conducted a survey of Chinese consumers who express purchase intent for Apple smartwatches, capturing variables including gender, age, education level, occupation, monthly income, current ownership of Apple smartwatches, and plans for purchasing within the next year in Guangzhou. The research examined perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value of Apple smartwatches. Additionally, it integrated an analysis of product features and global market trends to identify vulnerabilities in current strategic planning, proposing corresponding control measures and improvement recommendations. To ensure broad coverage and efficient data collection, this study employed Questionnaire Star, a widely recognized online survey tool praised for its user-friendly interface, operational simplicity, and robust data analysis capabilities.

1.5 Significance of the Study

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This study addresses critical research gaps in the specific consumer category of smartwatches. While existing literature primarily focuses on consumer products such as smartphones and smart home devices, systematic theoretical frameworks and comprehensive empirical analyses remain underdeveloped for emerging wearable devices like smartwatches. By integrating the Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) theory, this research proposes a novel perspective that expands the application scope of

consumer behavior theories. It enhances academic understanding of adoption and purchasing decision-making mechanisms for smart products, offering new research directions and frameworks for related disciplines such as marketing, consumer behavior, and technology management. The innovative focus on perceived value as a mediating variable represents a significant theoretical contribution. Building on existing consumer behavior research, this study explores the impact of multiple factors—perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value—on purchase intention, thereby establishing new theoretical pathways. Against the backdrop of proliferating smart devices, these findings provide valuable references for research on analogous consumer categories and advanced behavioral studies on other smart hardware products. The study not only enriches theoretical systems but also offers actionable strategic insights for practitioners.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

As smartwatches increasingly become indispensable in daily life, understanding the drivers of consumers' purchase intention is crucial for manufacturers. Beyond aesthetics and brand loyalty, consumers evaluate smartwatches based on perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value—factors that collectively shape purchasing decisions. Through in-depth analysis of these determinants, firms can identify core decision-making criteria and optimize product design accordingly. For instance, if perceived usefulness significantly influences purchase intention, manufacturers may prioritize enhancing functional features like health monitoring and communication capabilities. Conversely, if perceived ease of use is critical, improving interface design and operational simplicity would better align with user habits. Price sensitivity remains a pivotal factor in smartwatch purchasing decisions. By analyzing consumer price perceptions, companies can refine pricing strategies to balance market competitiveness and profitability. As brand loyalty grows, understanding how perceived value affects purchasing decisions will help firms build distinctive brand advantages in saturated markets. These findings also inform policy formulation. By recognizing consumer decision-making drivers, governments can design smart product policies that accommodate user needs and preferences, fostering a more favorable market environment. Policymakers may further leverage these insights to promote green smart products or incentive innovative, eco-friendly purchases through subsidies, driving sustainable development in the smartwatch industry.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Smartwatch: A wearable device capable of basic communication, health monitoring, payment, navigation, and other functions, typically connected to smartphones via Bluetooth, characterized by high intelligence.

Perceived Usefulness: The degree to which consumers believe a product or technology enhances their work or life efficiency. In the context of smartwatches, this reflects consumers' perceptions of improved health management, communication, and other performance aspects.

Perceived Ease of Use: The degree to which consumers find a product or technology easy to use. For smartwatches, this pertains to operational simplicity and intuitive design.

Price Perception: Consumers' subjective evaluation of a product's price, which is often associated with perceived value, quality, and market competition. It plays a critical role in purchase decisions, determining willingness to pay.

Perceived Value: Consumers' comprehensive assessment of a product or service, encompassing price, quality, functionality, and other dimensions. It determines whether a product is deemed attractive within a consumer's budget and needs.

Purchase Intention: The likelihood of consumers purchasing a product or service within a specified time frame, manifested as interest, and decision-making potential.

Chapter 2 Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature related to consumers' purchase intention of smartwatches, providing a theoretical foundation for the variable relationships and research hypotheses of this study. The literature review covers the key factors influencing consumers' purchase intention, including perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value. Through a systematic review of existing literature, this chapter provides theoretical support for each variable in the research model, helps determine the relationships between these variables, and lays the groundwork for subsequent hypothesis testing.

2.2 Literature Review

2.2.1 Smartwatches

With the development of information technology and the influence of commercial factors, smartwatches have emerged in the burgeoning wearable device market and become the focus of public attention. A search on CNKI using the keyword "smartwatch" revealed 1,111 journal articles without any time limit. Scholars mainly discuss the development of smartwatches, the transformations they bring to the industry, and the current status and trends of wearable devices. Representative studies include: Li (2020) pointed out that with the advent of 5G networks and the upgrade of Bluetooth to version 5.0, advancements in communication technology have brought more possibilities to smart wearable. However, as technology continues to improve and smartwatch functions diversify, battery life has become a major concern, and battery technology may limit the development of smartwatches.

Zhao et al. (2017) argued that with the development of science and technology, smartwatches are no longer mere decorative items; they have transformed people's lifestyles and habits in a technological form. Smartwatches play a crucial role in payment, exercise, sleep, and other aspects of people's lives. Their technological development and functional changes will continue to transform people's lives and bring more intelligent experiences.

Peng et al. (2017) defined wearable devices as those that can be worn directly on the body or have special functions. The rise of smart wearable has driven the development of smartwatches, smart clothing, and medical wearable devices. In the future, smart wearable can be integrated with the internet to provide human health data using transmission functions. Additionally, smart wearable can be fashion products and provide services to consumers by improving the accuracy of their transmission functions.

Song (2014) noted that wearable devices currently face some functional and privacy issues. Furthermore, four future development directions for wearable devices were proposed, including industrial chain integration, tapping rigid demands, improving product design, and designing products for specific industries.

Guo (2014) believed that 2014 was a year of rapid growth for smartwatches, which became a hot product in the market and brought huge business opportunities to industry insiders, inspiring them to develop more new products and applications and make greater contributions to the fields of e-health and healthcare.

Cai (2013) argued that smartwatches have brought changes to the mobile phone industry. Major manufacturers like Samsung and Huawei saw the opportunity after Apple started selling smartwatches, making smartwatches a target for IT giants and intensifying competition in this market.

2.2.2 Consumers' Purchase Intention

The concept of purchase intention originates from consumer behavior research, where academic circles generally categorize it under the consumer purchase decision-making phase. While no unified definition exists, Mullet and Karson (1985) posited that purchase intention reflects a consumer's subjective attitude toward a product, which may be influenced by external factors. Dodds et al. (1991) defined it as the likelihood or subjective probability of a consumer purchasing a specific product. Other scholars characterized purchase intention as a consumer's plan to purchase a particular item.

Most scholarly research on purchase intention focuses on its influencing factors, categorized into individual and external dimensions. Individual factors such as age, gender, and income serve as bases for consumer segmentation. For instance, Zang and Zhang (2018) examined heterogeneous consumer behaviors based on asset structures, while Yang (2023) analyzed the impact of digital payment on online spending by gender.

External factors encompass product utility, quality, price, brand, and social reputation. Tong et al. (2015) investigated the influence of entrepreneurs' public and private virtues on purchase intention, finding that private virtues significantly enhance purchase intention, whereas public virtues require quality cues to do so. Fei and Xiao (2020) studied the effect of sharp visual features in mobile app icons on consumer preferences, revealing that such features negatively impact preferences by evoking perceived threats. Li and Shao (2023) applied Theory of Planned Behavior and Norm

Activation Theory to analyze factors influencing eco-friendly apparel purchases, discovering that personal norms most strongly drive purchase intention, while perceived aesthetic risks negatively moderate the transition from intention to actual behavior.

Han et al. (2023) explored the impact of perceived quality and match uncertainties, as well as e-commerce return policies, on live-streaming purchase intentions from the lens of streamer and product types. Zhong et al. (2024) examined promotional strategies on food delivery purchase intention, concluding that coupons exert the greatest influence compared to discounts and service fee reductions. Xiong and Shu (2023) investigated the effect of negative on new energy vehicle adoption, demonstrating that highly negative reviews amplify negative impacts on purchase intention, with perceived risk mediating this relationship, and proposed targeted intervention strategies for automakers.

2.2.3 Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) Theory

The early research by experts on the origin of human behavior originated from psychology. John B. Watson proposed the "behaviorism" theory and established behaviorist psychology (Malone, 2014). He divided complex human behavior into two parts: stimulus and response. The complexity of human behavior is a response after being stimulated, thus forming the S-R (stimulus-response) model. The S-R model focuses on the regular patterns between stimuli and individual responses but overlooks the mediating role of the individual's internal perceptual state. In 1974, based on early psychological research, Mehrabian and Russell (1974) introduced the concept of "organism" into the early "stimulus-response" model and proposed the Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) theory. According to the SOR theory, the response (R) of complex human behavior comes from changes in the organism's cognition or emotion (O) under the action of external stimuli (S). The theoretical model is shown in Figure 2.1.

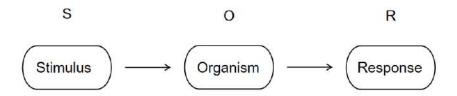


Figure 2.1 SOR Theory Source: Mehrabian & Russell, 1974

The SOR model originated from foreign research in the field of psychology. Later, its research scope was effectively expanded by scholars at home and abroad, and many scholars now apply the SOR theory in their research. Belk (1975) was the first scholar to apply the SOR theory to the study of consumer behavior. He believed that external stimuli can be transmitted through internal cognitive processes, thereby stimulating specific motivations or intentions in consumers and further influencing their behavior. Quoquab et al. (2019) used the SOR model to study issues in the fast-food industry and found that halal labeling has a significant positive impact on customer loyalty, with perceived reputation and perceived trust playing a mediating role.

Piligrimiene et al. (2020) applied the SOR model to study sustainable consumption phenomena. In their research, they categorized perceived efficiency and perceived responsibility as internal factors, and policies and social environment as external factors. They found that both internal and external factors have a significant positive impact on sustainable consumption, and the impact of internal factors is higher than that of external factors. In a study on social shopping communities, Zhang et al. (2017) used the SOR model to explore how technical features influence consumers' purchase intention. The results showed that both social technical features and self-referential technical features have a significant positive impact on consumers' purchase intention, with cognitive trust and emotional trust playing a mediating role, and emotional trust having a stronger effect on purchase intention than cognitive trust. Based on the SOR theory, Li et al. (2021) studied the impact of consumption promotion policies on consumers' purchase intention for new energy vehicles. The study found that the impact of charging policies, road rights policies, publicity policies, and car purchase policies on purchase intention decreases in that order, with perceived value and perceived risk playing a mediating role.

Wang and Ming (2021) attempted to apply the SOR theory in their study of the national identity of tourists in the Long March National Cultural Park. The empirical analysis showed that tourism experience positively affects tourism emotions, which in turn positively affects cultural attachment and functional attachment, thereby enhancing tourists' national identity. Zhang et al. (2021) used the SOR model to explore the impact of perceived personalized advertising on consumer attitudes.

This theoretical model is widely used in the study of consumers' purchase intention and purchase behavior. Its external stimulus variables, mediator variables, and response variables can be categorized as follows: external stimulus variables (S) include shopping environment, product price, user acceptance, actual product value, perceived ease of use, perceived usefulness, customer perceived cost, brand attitude, etc. Mediator variables (O), also known as mechanism variables, mainly include perceived quality, perceived value, perceived risk, consumer motivation, etc. Among these, consumer motivation is the most common. Most scholars believe that consumer motivation is the main variable influencing consumers' purchase behavior. Response

variables (R), also known as outcome variables, mainly include purchase intention, purchase behavior, and other outcomes commonly used to study consumer purchase behavior in the online shopping environment. Research focuses on which stimulating factors can prompt consumers to make a purchase.

2.2.4 Perceived Usefulness

Perceived usefulness refers to the degree to which users believe that using a particular technology can enhance their efficiency. In the context of smartwatches, consumers may perceive functions such as health monitoring and fitness tracking as capable of improving their quality of life (Lee & Chen, 2022). This construct significantly influences consumers' perceived value. Meanwhile, "perceived ease of use" denotes users' assessment of how effortless it is to operate a specific technology (Xiang & Chae, 2021). Enhancing ease of use reduces learning costs for consumers and strengthens their acceptance of the product. Research indicates that "perceived ease of use" directly affects consumer attitudes and indirectly influences "perceived value" by boosting "perceived usefulness" (Venkatesh & Bala, 2008).

The relationship between perceived usefulness and perceived value has received considerable attention in consumer behavior research. When making purchase decisions, consumers focus not only on product functionality but also on factors such as user experience, price reasonableness, and brand influence. As a critical measure of product utility, perceived usefulness reinforces positive evaluations of product value.

If consumers believe that payment technologies can elevate transaction efficiency and convenience, they further recognize the high value of such technologies and increase their willingness to adopt them. Functions like health monitoring and information integration in smartwatches, when deemed beneficial for enhancing quality of life, elevate consumers' overall value assessment of the product. In e-commerce and mobile application studies, perceived usefulness has also been validated as a key determinant of purchase intention. Intelligent recommendation features on online shopping platforms, for instance, improve shopping efficiency—a conclusion equally applicable to technological products like smartwatches. When users perceive a product's features as practical and effective, their value recognition for the product increases.

In the context of smartwatch adoption, the perceived usefulness-perceived value nexus explains consumer purchasing behavior. For consumers who view health tracking, telemedicine, and other smartwatch functions as conducive to improving personal health, perceived usefulness not only directly shapes technology acceptance but also indirectly facilitates purchase decisions by elevating perceived value. Extensive literature supports the positive impact of perceived usefulness on perceived value, particularly in technological products and smart devices. For

smartwatches-multifunctional wearable devices-perceived usefulness not only affects functional evaluations but also amplifies perceived value, ultimately influencing purchase decisions.

2.2.5 Perceived Ease of Use

Perceived ease of use refers to consumers' perception that a technology is simple, and intuitive, and reduces learning costs and operational burdens. In the context of smartwatches, intuitive interface design, seamless interactive experiences, and convenient feature configurations shape users' immediate impressions of the product. Perceived value, meanwhile, is a subjective evaluation formed by consumers after weighing a product's benefits against its costs. When assessing product value, consumers prioritize functionality but also consider ease of use. If a product is straightforward and requires minimal effort to adapt, consumers are more likely to attribute higher value to it (Smith & Lee, 2023).

Existing research demonstrates that perceived ease of use has a significant positive impact on perceived value. Studies on smart wearable reveal that when consumers find smartwatch interfaces user-friendly and feature transitions smooth, they are more receptive to such products and perceive them as good value. Similarly, users who find a platform easy to navigate and operate often rate its overall service highly (Johnson & Thomas, 2022).

Research on mobile payments and smart home domains further supports this viewpoint. The ease of use of mobile payment systems directly influences consumers' value perception of payment tools. For smartwatches—integrated wearable devices with multifunctionality—a fluid operating system and logical feature configurations reduce users' cognitive load, fostering greater value acceptance. In health-monitoring wearable, perceived ease of use not only improves user experience but also strengthens continued usage intent and purchase likelihood by elevating perceived value. Aligned with smartwatch characteristics, perceived ease of use determines consumers' willingness to try the product and directly influences their overall value judgment. An intuitive interface and effortless operation minimize user frustration during interaction, while the practical benefits of perceived functionality drive higher value recognition. Thus, perceived ease of use is a critical factor in smartwatch adoption and a key driver of elevated perceived value.

2.2.6 Price Perception

Price perception is a critical factor influencing consumer purchasing decisions. While lower prices generally increase purchase intent, in the smartwatch market, price perception extends beyond mere cost considerations to encompass dimensions such as

cost-effectiveness, brand value, and psychological expectations. Consumers evaluate smartwatch prices by synthesizing product functionality, quality, and market positioning. Even when prices are high, willingness to purchase may remain strong if consumers perceive the price as reasonable. For instance, if a smartwatch demonstrates clear advantages in technological innovation, health monitoring, or battery life, consumers may still find it valuable despite its premium cost, thereby boosting purchase intent.

Premium brands can cultivate the perception that "high price equals high quality," enhancing consumers' price acceptance. Compared to lesser-known brands, consumers are more willing to pay a premium for smartwatches from brands like Apple or Samsung, as they associate these names with superior product experiences and after-sales support. Pricing strategies such as short-term discounts or bundled offers also shape psychological expectations. Such tactics can reinforce consumers' recognition of product value, nudging them toward purchase decisions (Smith, 2023). For price-sensitive consumers prioritizing cost-effectiveness, acceptable price ranges are narrower, and they gravitate toward products balancing functionality and affordability. While price perception indeed affects smartwatch purchasing decisions, the relationship is not simplistic—"lower price equals higher intent." Instead, a rational pricing strategy integrated with brand influence, functional value, and promotional tactics more effectively drives consumer acceptance and purchase propensity.

2.2.7 Perceived Value

In defining perceived value, Monroe (2003) posited that customers' perceived value is rooted in product attributes and utility benefits, generally representing an equilibrium between perceived costs and utility. It serves as the core of user experience, shaping purchase intent and driving purchasing behaviors. Gallarza et al. (2011) viewed perceived value as a dynamic, subjective, multidimensional, and comparative judgment formed during product acquisition and service consumption. This construct encompasses price value and quality value, varying across individuals and even fluctuating for the same individual toward identical products or services, reflecting individual heterogeneity.

Most scholars dissect perceived value into sub dimensions, categorizing it into perceived quality value, hedonistic value, emotional value, and social value. For instance, Li et al. (2017) segmented customer-perceived value into product-related, service-related, and social value dimensions in their study of online purchasing decisions. They asserted that heightened levels of these values positively influence purchase intent, with greater perceived value elevating consumer willingness to pay. Such insights not only enhance consumer value recognition and decision-making quality but also encourage firms to prioritize customer-centrist value propositions in product development and marketing strategies, fostering competitive advantages. Zhao

and Wang (2021) examined the impact of live-streamer characteristics on consumers' purchase intentions, bifurcating perceived value into emotional and functional dimensions. Perceived emotional value encompasses trust, satisfaction, and identity, while functional value relates to quality perceptions and information richness. Their research suggests that perceived value mediates consumer trust, ultimately triggering purchasing behaviors.

From a branding perspective, Xie and Hou (2022) classified perceived value into quality, value, and emotional subsets. Quality perceptions align with product performance meeting or exceeding expectations, value perceptions gauge benefit-cost alignment, and emotional perceptions capture consumption-related affective states. Xu and Li (2018) linked perceived value to tourism consumption intent, framing it as a value judgment derived from psychological and rational analyses of economic, material, and emotional gains versus time, monetary, and opportunity costs. Enhancing perceived value, they argue, stimulates travel purchasing behaviors. Ding and Wang (2019) conceptualized perceived value as a balance between benefits (gains from product/service acquisition) and sacrifices (losses incurred). When benefits outweigh sacrifices, perceived value increases, reinforcing repurchase intent; conversely, diminished value deters purchasing behaviors.

2.3 Overview of Apple Smartwatches

Apple Smartwatches currently comprises three series tailored to diverse user needs. The Apple Watch SE serves as an entry-level option, emphasizing cost-effectiveness with basic health monitoring (e.g., heart rate tracking, fall detection), workout tracking, and GPS capabilities, including LTE connectivity. However, it lacks blood oxygen monitoring, ECG, and an always-on display, with prices starting at approximately CNY 2,000. The Apple Watch Series 9 represents the flagship model, powered by the advanced S9 chip, supporting gesture controls (e.g., pinch-to-zoom interactions), and featuring a 2,000-nit peak brightness screen for enhanced outdoor visibility. It integrates blood oxygen monitoring, ECG, wrist-based temperature sensing (for female health tracking), and an always-on display, priced from around CNY 3,000. The Apple Watch Ultra 2 targets professional outdoor users, boasting a titanium case, sapphire crystal, 100m water resistance, IP6X dust-proof rating, dual-frequency GPS, dive mode, an 86-decibel emergency siren, and up to 36 hours (72 hours in low-power mode) of battery life, making it suitable for extreme sports scenarios, with pricing starting at CNY 6,500.

The core competitiveness of the Apple Watch lies in its deep integration of health and fitness features. Health monitoring includes ECG, blood oxygen saturation tracking, irregular heart rhythm alerts, and temperature-based female health cycle tracking. Sleep analysis differentiates deep, core, and REM sleep stages, while fall/car crash detection automatically triggers emergency calls. For fitness, the watch supports over 100

workout modes, provides real-time metrics, and motivates users through the "Activity Rings" system (calories burned, stand hours, exercise minutes). It also recommends recovery time based on heart rate variability. In smart ecosystems, it seamlessly connects with Iphone for calls, messages, smart home control, Apple Pay, and localized Siri. The 2023 watch OS 10 update introduced customizable widgets, cycling power meter support, and mindfulness mood tracking, expanding utility.

Design balances aesthetics and functionality. Case materials include lightweight aluminum, premium stainless steel (Series 9), and rugged titanium (Ultra 2), with strap options ranging from sporty silicone to Milanese loops and leather. The LTPO OLED display enables a 1Hz refresh rate for power efficiency, while the Ultra series features crack-resistant sapphire crystal. Users can personalize interfaces with thousands of watch faces and complications (e.g., weather, calendar, workout stats) to suit diverse scenarios.

The Apple Watch appeals to a broad audience. Health-conscious users manage chronic conditions via continuous heart, blood oxygen, and sleep data monitoring. Fitness enthusiasts leverage advanced modes for running, swimming, and diving, with Ultra 2's durability suited for outdoor adventures. Professionals rely on efficient notifications, scheduling, and mobile payments. Its deep integration into the Apple ecosystem solidifies its role as a productivity-enhancing accessory for iPhone users.

As a benchmark in smartwatches, the Apple Watch enhances quality of life through precise health insights, robust fitness support, and seamless iOS integration. While battery life remains an area for improvement, iterative innovations (e.g., wrist temperature sensing, gesture controls) and customizable designs maintain its market leadership.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

This study examines the factors influencing consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches, ultimately synthesizing an integrated analytical framework of these influences. The model is shown in Figure 2.2.

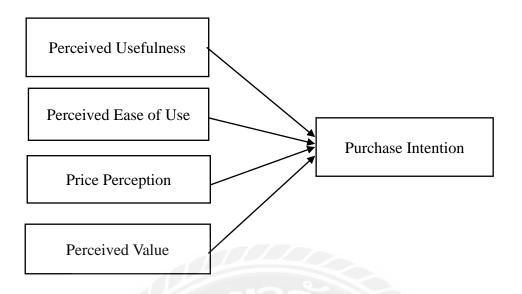


Figure 2.2 Conceptual Framework

Chapter 3 Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The research adopted a survey-based approach combined with quantitative methods to examine purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches. The process included questionnaire design, data collection, statistical analysis, and result interpretation. The survey instrument measures four constructs: Perceived Usefulness, Perceived Ease of Use, Price Perception, and Perceived Value, reflecting their influence on purchase intention. A 5-point Likert scale was employed, and collected data underwent rigorous statistical analysis to validate hypotheses and model relationships. This framework ensured methodological rigor while capturing the multidimensional nature of consumer decision-making in the smart wearable sector.

3.2 Population and Sample

The study focuses on Chinese consumers who demonstrate purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches in Guangzhou. This population encompasses diverse demographics including gender, age, educational background, occupation, monthly income, current ownership of Apple Smartwatches, and plans for purchasing within the next year. The sample, randomly selected from this population via the online platform "Wenjuanxing", represented the broader population for analysis. To ensure robustness and reliability, a sample size of 400 was determined.

3.3 Hypothesis

Through factorial analysis, this study validates the specific impacts of perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches. This framework aims to offer theoretical and practical guidance for improving purchase intention. The following hypotheses are proposed:

- H1: Perceived usefulness has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.
- H2: Perceived ease of use has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.
- H3: Price perception has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.

H4: Perceived value has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.

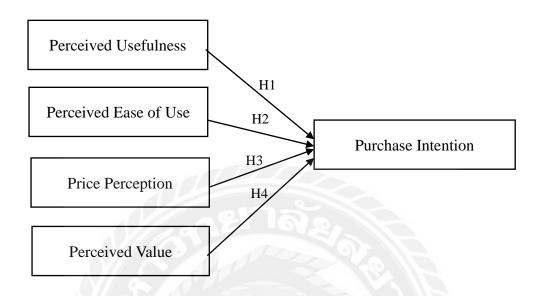


Figure 3.1 Hypotheses

3.4 Research Instrument

The framework of the questionnaire is primarily grounded in Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) Theory.

Perceived Usefulness includes 6 items based on Davis' (1989) Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), measuring respondents' perceptions of the practical utility of smartwatches in areas such as daily life, health management, fitness tracking, work efficiency, and task organization.

Perceived Ease of Use adopts the 6-item scale from Davis (1989), focusing on respondents' evaluations of learning costs, interface design, operational convenience, feature navigation, and overall usability challenges to assess the device's accessibility.

Price Perception incorporates Zeithaml's (1988) price cognition framework, with 6 items assessing perceptions of price reasonableness, cost-effectiveness, acceptance of brand premiums, and sensitivity to price fluctuations.

Perceived Value utilizes Sweeney & Soutar's (2001) value scale, comprising 6 items to gauge perceptions of functional benefits, health management value, price-experience alignment, convenience, and overall cost-benefit ratios.

Purchase Intention follows Dodds et al.'s (1991) measurement approach, using 6 items to evaluate purchase propensity, planning, social influence (friend/family recommendations), upgrade motivations, and brand loyalty.

The survey consists of 30 items, divided into two sections:

Demographics (4 items): Collect basic information on gender, age, education level, occupation, monthly income, ownership of Apple Smartwatch and plans to purchase an apple smartwatch within the next year.

Purchase Intention (26 items): Focusing on factors affecting Apple Smartwatch Consumers' purchase intention, structured into four dimensions, perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value, as shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Measurement Items

Measurement Item		
Perceived Usefulness		
I think smartwatches can improve the efficiency of my daily life.	Q1	
Using a smartwatch can help me manage my health better.	Q2	
Smartwatches can help me better track and record my exercise data.	Q3	
I think smartwatches can improve my efficiency and organization at work.	Q4	
The reminder function provided by the smartwatch is very helpful for me to	Q5	
manage my daily affairs.		
Overall, I think smartwatches are a very useful tool.	Q6	
Perceived Ease of Use		
Learning how to use the smartwatch was easy for me.	Q7	
I find the interface design of the smartwatch simple and clear.	Q8	
There is no technical barrier for me to operate the smartwatch.	Q 9	
Switching between the functions of the smartwatch is easy and quick.	Q10	
I can easily complete daily tasks (e.g. answering calls, checking messages,		
etc.) with the Smartwatch.		
Overall, I find the smartwatch very easy to use.	Q12	
Price Perception		
I think the price of the smartwatch is reasonable.	Q13	
The price of the smartwatch is in line with my expectations of its performance.		
The price of the smartwatch is competitive compared to other similar products.		
I think the price of the smartwatch is in line with its brand value.		
I would still consider buying a smartwatch if it was slightly more expensive		
but had superior features.		

I think the price of the smartwatch is reasonable relative to the technology and	Q18	
innovation it offers.		
Perceived Value		
I think the functionality of smartwatches gives me high value.	Q19	
The smartwatch provides me with an efficient health management tool.	Q20	
I think the experience of using a smartwatch is more valuable than the price.	Q21	
Using a smartwatch gives me value for money.	Q22	
Smartwatches make my life easier and more efficient.	Q23	
I think smartwatches offer me good value for money.	Q24	
Purchase Intention		
I have a strong desire to buy a smartwatch.	Q25	
I would buy a smartwatch as soon as my financial situation permits.	Q26	
Smartwatches are a priority in my future electronics purchasing plan.	Q27	
I would consider buying a smartwatch if a friend or family recommended it.	Q28	
I would be more likely to buy a smartwatch if it introduced new features.		
I would prioritize purchasing smartwatches from reputable brands.	Q30	

3.5 Reliability and Validity Analysis of the Scale

3.5.1 Questionnaire Reliability Analysis

Reliability analysis is a statistical process that evaluates the consistency or stability of test scale results to reflect the extent to which measured constructs represent the target attributes. The more uniformly respondents answer items within a construct, the stronger the data's representativeness and the higher the reliability. This analysis validates the questionnaire design, identifies problematic items, and prevents misclassification errors. Cronbach's alpha assesses the internal consistency of test items, where higher values indicate greater consistency among items. Subscale reliability coefficients above 0.7 are considered good, values between 0.6 and 0.7 are acceptable, and overall scale reliability should exceed 0.8 to demonstrate strong internal consistency.

Table 3.2 presents the pre-test reliability results using Cronbach's Alpha to evaluate the measurement reliability of each construct. All dimensions scored above 0.8, indicating high internal consistency. Perceived ease of use (0.891) and perceived usefulness (0.884) showed the strongest reliability, confirming their effective measurement of respondents' perceptions of smartwatch usability and practical utility. Price perception (0.883) demonstrated comparable consistency, reflecting stable attitudes toward price reasonableness and value-for-money. Perceived value (0.825) exhibited moderate consistency in assessing functional-price alignment, while Purchase intention (0.836) reliably captured respondents' purchasing dispositions. The

satisfactory reliability across all dimensions ensures the validity of measurement outcomes and supports robust data interpretation

Table 3.2 Variable Reliability Test

		Corrected	le Renability Test		
Influencing	Item	Item-Total Cronbach's Alpha if		Cronbach's	
Factor		Correlation	Item Deleted	Alpha	
	Q1	0.723	0.824		
	Q2	0.755	0.854		
Perceived	Q3	0.721	0.865	0.994	
Usefulness	Q4	0.751	0.861	0.884	
	Q5	0.798	0.892		
	Q6	0.767	0.871		
	Q7	0.774	0.866		
	Q8	0.702	0.844		
Perceived	Q9	0.765	0.823	0.891	
Ease of Use	Q10	0.757	0.847	0.891	
	Q11	0.744	0.861		
	Q12	0.721	0.887	A.	
	Q13	0.774	0.887		
	Q14	0.711	0.888		
Price Perception	Q15	0.703	0.812	0.002	
	Q16	0.741	0.843	0.883	
	Q17	0.755	0.883		
	Q18	0.707	0.887)	
	Q19	0.749	0.854		
	Q20	0.758	0.837		
Perceived	Q21	0.774	0.824	0.825	
Value	Q22	0.702	0.813	0.823	
	Q23	0.798	0.874		
	Q24	0.741	0.871		
	Q25	0.778	0.887		
	Q26	0.742	0.827		
Purchase	Q27	0.781	0.838	0.927	
Intention	Q28	0.742	0.838	0.836	
	Q29	0.781	0.872		
	Q30	0.729	0.874		

3.5.2 Questionnaire Validity Analysis

Table 3.3 KMO and Bartlett's Test

KMO Measure of Samplin	0.891	
	Approximate Chi-Square	2561.6
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	df	34
	P	P<0.001

Based on the results of the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity, a decision was made to proceed with factor analysis. Factor analysis can only be conducted when the KMO value exceeds 0.7. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was performed on the questionnaire to determine the common factor indicators and the cumulative total variance explained by each factor, which was used to assess the discriminant validity and convergent validity of the questionnaire. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity indicated that a KMO value above 0.9 is highly suitable for factor analysis, between 0.8 and 0.9 is suitable, between 0.7 and 0.8 is adequate, between 0.6 and 0.7 is not suitable, and below 0.5 is unsuitable for factor analysis. As shown in Table 3.3, the KMO value of the scale is 0.891, which is greater than 0.7. The chi-square approximation value is 2561.6, with P < 0.001, indicating that the scale is suitable for factor analysis.

Factors with characteristic roots greater than 1 were extracted, and these factors explained a cumulative total variance of 67.729%. We also considered the factor analysis results after rotation using the varimax method. The calculation results of the rotated component matrix indicated that there was good discriminant validity among the factor items. Therefore, the validity of the questionnaire scale is acceptable.

3.6 Data Collection

This study selected Chinese consumers with purchase intention for Apple smartwatches as the research subjects, with data collection conducted from March to April 2025. The questionnaires were distributed and collected mainly through the online platform Wenjuanxing, with responses gathered online. A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed. During the questionnaire recovery process, the research team conducted rigorous checks to eliminate invalid questionnaires, including those that were incomplete or showed obvious inconsistencies. A total of 303 valid responses were collected, resulting in a questionnaire recovery rate of 75.75%. Through this process, the research team successfully obtained a large amount of valuable data, which allowed for an in-depth analysis of the factors influencing consumers' purchase intentions for Apple smartwatches.

3.7 Data Analysis

3.7.1 Descriptive Statistics

The software used in the descriptive statistics included Excel and SPSS, and the statistical analysis on the mean, standard deviation, percentage, normal distribution, kurtosis value, and skewness value were mainly conducted on the demographic characteristics of sample. Descriptive statistics provided basic support for further analysis of the data.

3.7.2 Factor Analysis

Exploratory factor analysis was conducted on the survey data through SPSS to extract common factors and determine the common dimensions of purchase intention management. The reliability and validity of the constructed model were determined, which provided a theoretical basis for the improvement of the purchase intention management system.

3.7.3 Multiple Regression

Multiple regression was used to analyze the relationship between purchase intention and perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, perceived value, allowing the researcher to model how multiple factors collectively influence an outcome while controlling for the effects of other predictors. This statistical technique enables the estimation of individual coefficients for each independent variable, quantifying their unique contributions to the dependent variable and facilitating predictions or explanations of the outcome based on the combined influence of the predictors.

Chapter 4 Findings and Discussion

4.1 Findings

4.1.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The data presents frequency and percentage statistics on various demographic characteristics of the respondents, including gender, age, education level, occupation, monthly income, ownership of an Apple Smartwatch, and plans to purchase an Apple Smartwatch within the next year.

Table 4.1 Descriptive Statistical Analysis of Respondents

Variable	Options	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	151	49.8
1/63	Female	152	50.2
Age	Under 18 years old	72	23.8
	18-25 years old	59	19.5
6	26-35 years old	73	24.1
	36-45 years old	54	17.8
Al we i	46 years old and above	45	14.9
Education Level	High school or below	73	24.1
	College diploma	64	21.1
	Bachelor's degree	63	20.8
	Master's degree	71	23.4
	PhD or above	32	10.6
Occupation	Student	91	30.0
	Working professional	87	28.7
	Freelancer	89	29.4
	Other	36	11.9
Monthly Income	Below 3,000 yuan	66	21.8
	3,000-4,999 yuan	48	15.8
	5,000-9,999 yuan	76	25.1

	10,000-19,999 yuan	58	19.1
	20,000 yuan and above	55	18.2
Ownership of Apple Smartwatch	Yes	224	73.9
	No	79	26.1
Plans to Purchase an Apple	Yes	103	34.0
Smartwatch within the Next Year	No	125	41.3
	Unsure	75	24.8
Total		303	100.0

In terms of gender distribution, the proportion of males and females is nearly equal, with males accounting for 49.8% and females for 50.2%, indicating a balanced gender distribution in the sample. Regarding age, the respondents are concentrated between 18 and 35 years old, with the highest percentage in the 26-35 age group (24.1%), followed by the 18-25 age group (19.5%). The proportion of respondents above 36 years old is relatively small, with those aged 46 and above accounting for only 14.9%. This suggests that the sample is heavily skewed towards younger respondents, aligning with the primary consumer demographic for Apple Smartwatch usage and purchases.

In terms of education level, the majority of respondents have a relatively high level of education, possessing a college degree or above. Those with a high school diploma or below account for 24.1%, those with a college degree account for 21.1%, and those with a bachelor's or master's degree account for 20.8% and 23.4% respectively. Relatively few respondents hold a doctoral degree or above (10.6%). This data indicates that the overall educational level of the sample population is relatively high, which may be consistent with the consumer characteristics of Apple Smartwatch.

Occupationally, the proportions of students, employed professionals, and freelancers are relatively close, accounting for 30%, 28.7%, and 29.4% respectively. Among them, the student group has the highest proportion, indicating that younger individuals occupy an important position in smartwatch consumption. In terms of monthly income, the distribution is relatively balanced, with the largest proportion concentrated in the 5,000-9,999 yuan range (25.1%) and the 3,000-4,999 yuan range (15.8%). Lower-income groups (below 3,000 yuan) and higher-income groups (20,000 yuan and above) account for a smaller proportion, at 21.8% and 18.2% respectively.

Regarding ownership of Apple Smartwatches, 73.9% of respondents indicated that they own one, showing a high degree of popularity of Apple Smartwatches within this group. As for plans to purchase an Apple Smartwatch within the next year, approximately 34% of respondents expressed intentions to purchase, 41.3% stated that they would not, and 24.8% were uncertain. This reflects a certain degree of uncertainty

in the market demand for Apple Smartwatches, with some consumers yet to make a definitive purchasing decision.

Overall, the respondent sample covers a wide range of age, education, occupation, and income levels, demonstrating good representativeness. Especially in terms of ownership and purchase intention related to Apple Smartwatches, the data provide valuable foundational information for further research and market analysis.

4.1.2 Correlation Analysis

Table 4.2 Correlation between Variables

	Perceived	Perceived	Price	Perceived	Purchase
	Usefulness	Ease of Use	Perception	Value	Intention
Perceived	1				
Usefulness	1	ACI			
Perceived	0.188**	911			
Ease of Use	0.188				
Price	0.280**	0.239**	1		
Perception	0.280	0.239			
Perceived	0.520**	0.152**	0.251**		
Value	0.520	0.132	0.231	4	ì
Purchase	0.467**	0.346**	0.426**	0.456**	1
Intention	0.407	0.340	0.420	0.430	1

NOTE: *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001

In this study, a Pearson correlation analysis was conducted to examine the relationships among various variable dimensions. The research data revealed Pearson's Correlation coefficients of the variables. Perceived usefulness generally exhibited significant positive correlations with other variables. The correlation coefficient between perceived usefulness and perceived value was 0.520, indicating a strong positive relationship between the two, with perceived usefulness having a notable impact on perceived value. The correlation coefficient between perceived usefulness and purchase intention was 0.467, also suggesting a strong influence of perceived usefulness on purchase intention. The correlation coefficient between perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness was 0.188, which, although relatively weak, was still significant, implying a certain positive correlation between perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use.

Price perception also showed significant positive correlations with both perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. The correlation coefficient between price perception and perceived usefulness was 0.280, and between price perception and perceived ease of use was 0.239, indicating that price perception has a certain degree of influence on both factors. The correlation coefficient between price

perception and perceived value was 0.251, demonstrating a relatively obvious positive correlation between them. The correlation coefficient between perceived value and purchase intention was 0.456, showing a strong positive relationship between perceived value and purchase intention.

Overall, there were strong correlations among perceived usefulness, perceived value, and purchase intention, particularly in terms of purchase intention, where perceived usefulness and perceived value had significant impacts.

4.1.3 Multiple Regression Analysis

Table 4.3 Multiple Regression Analysis

Item	Unstd. B	Std. Beta	t	Sig.	VIF	F
С	0.742		7.163	0.000		44.47
Perceived Usefulness	0.754	0.702	6.240	0.000	1.037	
Perceived Ease of Use	0.671	0.673	6.631	0.000	1.053	
Price Perception	0.632	0.647	6.671	0.000	1.441	
Perceived Value	0.671	0.657	6.663	0.000	1.163	
R Square	0.755					
Adjusted R Square			0.769	14		

NOTE: **P*<0.05, ***P*<0.01, ****P*<0.001

When analyzing the factors influencing consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches, we can draw some key conclusions from the provided regression analysis results.

The standardized regression coefficient (Std. Beta) for perceived usefulness is 0.702, indicating a significant positive impact of perceived usefulness on purchase intention. The standardized regression coefficient for Perceived ease of use is 0.673, suggesting that perceived ease of use is also an important positive influencing factor. The standardized regression coefficient for price perception is 0.647, demonstrating a positive influence of price perception on purchase intention. The standardized regression coefficient for perceived value is 0.657, indicating that perceived value similarly has a positive impact on purchase intention.

The significance levels of all independent variables are 0.000, far below the usual significance levels (such as 0.05 or 0.01), suggesting that the impact of these independent variables on purchase intention is statistically significant. The Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values for all independent variables are less than 2, indicating that there is no serious multicollinearity among the independent variables. The R Square (coefficient of determination) is 0.755, indicating that the independent variables in the model can explain 75.5% of the variability in the dependent variable.

The Adjusted R Square, which considers the impact of the number of independent variables on the model's explanatory power, is 0.769, still relatively high, indicating that the model has a good fit.

In summary, perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value are important factors influencing consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches. These factors all have significant positive impacts on purchase intention, and the model as a whole has good explanatory power and fit.

Therefore, according to the results of the data analysis, perceived usefulness has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches, which supports Hypothesis 1. Perceived ease of use has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches, which supports Hypothesis 2. Price perception has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches, which supports Hypothesis 3. Perceived value has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches, which supports Hypothesis 4.

4.2 Discussion

4.2.1 Perceived Usefulness has a Significant Effect on Consumers' Purchase Intention for Apple Smartwatches

Perceived usefulness is a core variable in the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), referring to the degree to which users believe that using a particular technology product or service can enhance their life efficiency or meet specific needs. In the field of smart wearable devices, perceived usefulness directly influences consumers' value judgments about products and subsequently drives purchasing decisions. Apple Watch, as a highly integrated product, manifests its perceived usefulness primarily in scenarios such as health management, sports tracking, intelligent interaction, and ecosystem collaboration.

Apple Watch significantly enhances users' perceived usefulness through precise health monitoring technology. User surveys indicate that health features are the primary motivation for consumers to purchase Apple Watch (accounting for 48%), far exceeding design aesthetics (22%) and brand influence (18%) (Statista, 2023). In medical scenarios, Apple Watch's fall detection feature has successfully triggered over 1 million emergency calls (Apple public data, 2022), further validating the role of functional practicality in shaping user trust.

Apple Watch enhances users' perceived value through refined sports functions. Among marathon enthusiasts, 72% of users believe that Apple Watch's pace reminders and heart rate zone monitoring significantly improve training efficiency. The Ultra 2

series expand its reach among outdoor sports enthusiasts through dual-frequency GPS and dive mode (suitable for depths of up to 40 meters), with its professional features increasing perceived usefulness by 35% among target users (compared to non-outdoor users).

By accurately identifying user needs (such as health essentials), designing scenario-based functions (sports and life efficiency), and building technical credibility, Apple Watch converts perceived usefulness into a core driver of purchase intention. When consumers perceive smartwatches as having practical value (e.g., health monitoring, sports tracking, information reminders), it enhances their recognition of the product's overall value. This suggests that enhancing the functionality and practical applications of smartwatches is a crucial means of increasing consumers' perceived value. When designing and marketing products, companies should emphasize the practical benefits that smartwatches can bring to users, rather than just technological innovations.

4.2.2 Perceived Ease of Use has a Significant Effect on Consumers' Purchase Intention for Apple Smartwatches

Perceived ease of use is one of the core competitiveness of Apple Watch. Its low-threshold experience built through intuitive design, ecosystem integration, and functional optimization not only attracts new users but also enhances the loyalty of existing users. If consumers perceive the Apple Watch as easy to operate (such as intuitive interaction and seamless connectivity), they will form a positive attitude, thereby enhancing their purchase intentions.

Insufficient ease of use may lead users to abandon the product due to operational frustration or even generate negative word-of-mouth. Apple reduces user anxiety through preset optimized settings (such as displaying key information on the default watch face) and progressive functional guidance (such as beginner tutorials). By deeply synergizing watchOS with IOS (such as sharing Apple IDs and unified notification centers), Apple reduces uers' cognitive burden in cross-device operations, creating a barrier of ease of use that is difficult to replicate in the Android camp. Market feedback and consumer evaluations have repeatedly mentioned the ease of use of Apple Watch as a major advantage. Consumers praise its intuitive operating interface, seamless integration with the Apple ecosystem, and innovative functional design, all of which enhance their purchase intentions.

Perceived ease of use has significantly influenced Apple Watch consumers' purchase intention through various aspects such as theoretical models, product design, empirical research, and market feedback. The advantages of Apple Watch in ease of use, such as its intuitive user interface, seamless ecosystem integration, and innovative interaction methods, have all enhanced consumers' purchase intentionl..

Reducing users' learning costs and operational burdens can not only directly increase purchase intentions but also expand market coverage through word-of-mouth effects. In the future, with the development of AI assistants (such as a smarter Siri) and adaptive interface technologies, ease of use will reshape the consumer decision-making logic for smart wearable devices even more deeply.

4.2.3 Price Perception has a Significant Effect on Consumers' Purchase Intention for Apple Smartwatches

Price perception has a significant impact on smartwatch consumers' purchase intentions. Price perception is a subjective judgment of product prices by consumers, involving a comprehensive assessment of price reasonableness, value matching, and payment costs. In the smartwatch market, the impact of price perception on purchase intentions is particularly significant, especially for high-end brands like Apple, where the interaction mechanism between pricing strategies and consumer psychology has typical research value.

Consumers typically evaluate the reasonableness of product pricing based on internal reference prices (experience, competitor prices, or psychological expectations). Apple establishes a price anchor through high pricing for flagship models (such as Apple Watch Ultra 2 at around 6,500 yuan), making mid-range models (Series 9 at around 3,000 yuan) and entry-level models (SE at around 2,000 yuan) appear to have "better value for money" in comparison. This strategy leverages consumers' dependence on high-price anchors to indirectly reduce the resistance to price perception for mid- and low-priced products.

When consumers compare Apple Watch with Android smartwatches (such as Samsung Galaxy Watch or Huawei Watch), although Apple's price is higher, its ecosystem exclusivity (only supports iPhone) and medical-grade health features (such as ECG) are seen as "reasonable premiums," thereby reducing horizontal price sensitivity. In the intelligent hardware market, price is not just a cost label but a core carrier of brand value and consumer psychological games. The key to success lies in constructing a cognitive equation of "perceived benefits > perceived costs" rather than simply pursuing low-price competition.

4.2.4 Perceived Value has a Significant Effect on Consumers' Purchase Intention for Apple Smartwatches

Perceived value is consumers' subjective utility evaluation of a product or service, measuring the trade-off between "benefits" and "losses" felt by consumers during the purchase process. Perceived value directly influences consumers' purchase intentions. When consumers believe that the perceived value of a smartwatch is higher than its cost,

their purchase intentions will significantly increase. If a smartwatch has precise health monitoring functions and rich sports modes, consumers will perceive it as meeting their needs and be willing to purchase it. If the design of the smartwatch aligns with consumers' aesthetics, is comfortable to wear, or the brand image resonates with their values, consumers will develop purchase intentions due to emotional resonance. If the smartwatch is a high-end brand that reflects status or has social functions (such as sharing sports data), consumers will be willing to purchase it due to social identity. If the price of the smartwatch is reasonable or consumers perceive it as having higher cost-effectiveness than other brands, their purchase intentions will also increase.

Smartwatches provide high perceived value in multiple ways, thereby enhancing consumers' purchase intentions. Smartwatches can monitor health data such as heart rate, blood oxygen, and sleep in real time, helping consumers understand their health status. This functional value is highly attractive to health-conscious consumers. Personalized watch faces, diverse strap options, and exquisite designs of smartwatches meet consumers' needs for fashion and individuality, enhancing emotional value. The seamless connection of smartwatches with mobile phones, smart homes, and other devices provides a convenient life experience, enhancing social value.

Smartwatches with different market positions vary in perceived value, thereby affecting the purchase intentions of different consumer groups. For example, the Apple Watch Ultra and Huawei GT3 Pro emphasize superior design, high-end materials, and comprehensive health monitoring functions, mainly attracting consumers who pursue quality and status symbols. Perceived value significantly influences smartwatch consumers' purchase intentions through multiple dimensions such as functional value, emotional value, social value, and cost value. Smartwatch manufacturers can enhance consumers' perceived value by improving product functions, optimizing user experience, strengthening brand image, and reasonable pricing, thereby stimulating purchase intentions and expanding market share.

Table 4.4 Hypothesis Test Results

NO.	Hypothesis	Result
H1	Perceived usefulness has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.	Supported
H2	Perceived ease of use has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.	Supported
Н3	Price perception has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.	Supported
H4	Perceived value has a significant effect on consumers' purchase intention for Apple Smartwatches.	Supported

Chapter 5 Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

The primary objective of this study is to examine the key factors influencing consumers' intention to purchase Apple Watches. This exploration focuses on the roles of perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, price perception, and perceived value in the consumer decision-making process. By examining the relationships among these variables through a combination of quantitative methods, this study aimed to answer how consumers make purchasing decisions amid multiple factors such as functionality, price, brand, and ecosystem. The research also sought to uncover the major obstacles consumers face in the actual purchasing process, providing a theoretical basis for companies to improve products and optimize marketing strategies.

In product development and marketing promotion, enterprises should emphasize enhancing the practical utility and functional completeness of products, highlighting core advantages such as health management, work efficiency improvement, and ecosystem compatibility. Pricing strategies should reflect the high added value of the product while also considering consumers' sensitivity to price reasonableness. This study enriches the theoretical system of consumer behavior in the field of smart devices and provides solid empirical evidence for understanding how multiple factors jointly influence consumers' purchase intentions. Overall, this study reinforces the importance of product functionality and reasonable pricing strategies in enhancing consumers' perceived value and purchase intention in the emerging smartwatch market. It also offers practical references and theoretical guidance for enterprises to optimize product design, formulate precise marketing strategies, and enhance brand competitiveness.

5.2 Recommendation

(1) Focus on "Real-World Scenario Value" to Enhance Perceived Usefulness through Functional Innovation and Precision Marketing

To truly captivate consumers, smartwatch companies must delve into "real-scene value" and employ a dual-drive approach of functional innovation and precision marketing to make consumers truly feel the indispensability of their products. In the realm of health management, this means moving beyond simple heart rate monitoring and step counting to focus on disease early warning and medical-grade services. For instance, companies can develop AI-based disease early warning systems for precise screening of potential health risks such as atrial fibrillation and sleep apnea, and collaborate with authoritative medical institutions to provide users with professional

ECG data interpretation and medical advice. The ECG function of the Apple Watch has played a crucial role in multiple instances where users experienced sudden cardiac issues, and the word-of-mouth spread of such "life-saving features" is far more convincing than any technical specifications. Addressing the mental health issues stemming from high-pressure modern lifestyles, smartwatches can integrate real-time stress monitoring, breathing exercise guidance, and other functions, helping users regulate their emotions through biofeedback mechanisms and making technology a truly "invisible guardian" of physical and mental health.

In terms of strengthening the efficiency tool attribute, smartwatches need to evolve from "information display" to "intelligent decision-making assistants." Taking schedule management as an example, traditional reminder functions can only send notifications at preset times, while smartwatches can combine geographical location data to automatically pop up meeting agendas when users are near the meeting venue and even intelligently adjust reminder times based on traffic conditions. For idea recording scenarios, speech recognition technology allows users to dictate their thoughts at any time, with the smartwatch automatically converting them into text and synchronizing them to the cloud for "seamless recording." Furthermore, the in-depth application of NFC technology can expand the physical scene coverage of smartwatches, such as integrating door access cards, car keys, and payment tools into one, sparing users the embarrassment of "fumbling through their bags for cards."

The key to precision marketing lies in replacing technical specifications with scenario-based storytelling. Marketing materials for smartwatches should focus on core scenarios such as "24/7 health companion" and "efficiency life hub," conveying value through user stories, doctor interpretations, KOL experiences, and other forms. For example, companies can produce a series of micro-movies showcasing users' complete usage journey from heart rate monitoring during morning runs, and mobile payments during commuting, to sleep analysis at night. They can invite cardiovascular experts to interpret how health data aids in disease prevention. Collaborating with sports brands to hold offline marathon experience events allows users to feel the charm of the product in real-life scenarios. Leveraging social media to initiate topics like "My Smartwatch Saved My Life" encourages users to share their experiences with health warning functions, fostering fission. This marketing combination of "experience first, story infiltration" can effectively enhance consumers' perception of product usefulness and drive purchase decisions.

(2) Build "Effortless Interaction" Experiences to Lower Decision-Making Barriers Via Usability Optimization

The development of smartwatches should focus on minimalist interaction design, making operations "intuitive" and truly achieving a "zero-burden" user experience. Firstly, companies must deeply simplify the core functional pathways, placing high-frequency operations such as heart rate monitoring and sports mode activation

directly on the home screen to avoid users getting lost in multi-layered menus. At the same time, companies can innovatively introduce natural interaction methods like gesture control, such as shaking the wrist to skip songs and using two fingers to tap for quick operations. These design inspirations stem from users' daily behaviors and can effectively reduce cumbersome clicking processes. Apple's two-finger tap function is a model, that simplifies operations that originally required multiple clicks into a gentle pinch of the fingertips. This philosophy of simplifying complexity is key to enhancing the user experience.

Secondly, smartwatches should not exist as isolated devices but rather as seamless connectors within the smart ecosystem. By enabling automatic pairing with smartphones when nearby, syncing lyrics display on the watch when headphones are playing music, and other functions, cross-device data interoperability and scenario linkage can be achieved. This "invisible connection" significantly enhances user fluidity. Providing personalized preset templates for different groups is equally important, such as defaulting to enlarged fonts enabling fall alerts for the elderly, and prioritizing schedule and email reminders for business professionals. This "one-of-a-kind for each person" customized design can lower the user setup threshold. Additionally, constructing a "zero-cost" learning system is crucial. Companies can help users master product functions subtly through 30-second short video tutorials, built-in interactive guides, or even fun tips shared by community users, making the use of smart technology as natural as breathing.

(3) Implement a "Dynamic Value Anchoring" Pricing Strategy to Balance High-End Brand Image with Market Accessibility

Smartwatch companies need to adopt tiered pricing strategies to accurately match the needs of users at different consumption levels, maintaining a high-end image while expanding market penetration. High-end models should anchor the positioning of "professional-grade health devices," supported by breakthrough technology or material innovations to justify high premiums. For example, the Apple Watch Ultra's dive-level waterproof capabilities and titanium case not only meet extreme sports demands but also become status symbols. Such hardcore configurations need to be reinforced through extreme scenario test videos and endorsements by professional athletes to enhance value perception. For price-sensitive groups, "youth editions" or "basic versions" should be introduced, retaining core health monitoring functions (such as heart rate and sleep analysis) while using lightweight materials (like aluminum alloy instead of titanium) and modular designs to reduce production costs, driving prices down to the 1500 yuan range to attract student groups and first-time users. The key is to differentiate functional gradients rather than quality differences-ensuring that all versions have consistent sensor accuracy, with price differences only reflected through software algorithms or additional services (such as exclusive watch faces, and priority customer service).

The core of reshaping price perception lies in upgrading smartwatches from "consumer electronics products" to "personal health management terminals." Companies need to establish "long-term value anchors" by visually demonstrating the return on investment in health through data comparisons. For example, calculating the cost-effectiveness of the watch's health monitoring functions (about 2000 yuan) over a three-year usage period compared to traditional medical testing fees (such as 24-hour dynamic electrocardiograms costing about 1500 yuan per test). At the same time, subscription-based value-added services can be launched, such as obtaining AI-generated professional health reports for 10 yuan per month or unlocking exercise courses, converting one-time expenses into ongoing service revenue, and cultivating user long-term dependency.

Promotion strategies need to balance brand tone and market coverage, avoiding direct price reductions that harm the high-end positioning. "Implicit discounts" can be adopted: launching trade-in programs where users can trade in old watches for discounts on new ones, promoting iterative consumption while maintaining the price system; bundling health ecosystem services, such as offering three months of gym membership or one year of critical illness insurance with the purchase of a watch, enhancing the overall sense of value; and providing 24-month interest-free installment plans for younger groups to lower payment thresholds. "Member Day" limited-time benefits can also be created, such as offering free battery replacement services during the user's birthday month each year, enhancing user stickiness. Through a combination of value reconstruction and flexible promotions, smartwatch companies can effectively expand the mass market while maintaining brand premiums.

5.3 Further Study

Future research can be expanded in terms of sample selection, not being confined to a single region or specific group, but rather considering cross-regional and cross-cultural comparative studies. It is worth exploring whether there are differences in consumers' evaluations of perceived usefulness, ease of use, price perception, and perceived value across different contexts. Future studies can incorporate individual characteristics such as age, income, and technology acceptance levels to investigate the moderating effects of these variables in consumer decision-making, thereby revealing more detailed behavioral patterns. Current research employs questionnaires for data collection, but there are still limitations in terms of the dimensions of information captured. In the future, methods such as situational experiments, simulated decision-making, and longitudinal tracking can be introduced to observe how consumers' sensitivity to factors such as price and functional complexity changes over time in actual purchase decisions, thus better explaining the differences between questionnaire results.

Research suggests incorporating more variables into theoretical construction in the future, such as brand loyalty, social influence, ecosystem integration, and other factors, to explore whether these factors have mediating or moderating effects on consumers' perceived value and ultimate purchase intention. Considering consumers' concerns about data security, privacy protection, battery life, and other aspects, future research can also focus on how these indicators of technology and service quality interact with traditional perception factors to influence consumers' final decisions. As smartwatches and other wearable device technologies continue to advance, the market environment and consumer perceptions are also constantly evolving. Therefore, it is recommended that subsequent research adopt a dynamic and long-term tracking research design to observe trends in consumer decision-making processes, providing a basis for companies to formulate more forward-looking market strategies.



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Appendix

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your participation in this questionnaire survey. The survey will be conducted anonymously, and your relevant information will be kept confidential. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Part I:

Please fill in the following basic information:

1. Your gender:

A Male

B Female

2. Your age:

A Under 18 years old

B 18-25 years old

C 26-35 years old

D 36-45 years old

E 46 years old and above

3. Your education level:

A High school or below

B College diploma

C Bachelor's degree

D Master's degree

E PhD or above

4. Your occupation:

A Student

B Working professional

C Freelancer

D Other

5. Your monthly income:

A Below 3,000 yuan

B 3,000-4,999 yuan

C 5,000-9,999 yuan

D 10,000-19,999 yuan

E 20,000 yuan and above

6.Do you own a smartwatch?

A Yes

B No

7.Do you plan to purchase a smartwatch within the next year?

A Yes

B No

C Unsure

Part II: Please judge to what extent you agree with the following statement; choose the most appropriate option, and mark the corresponding number " $\sqrt{}$." The questionnaire used a Likert scale, ranging from 1 to 5 in which one indicates strongly disagree, two indicates relatively disagree, three indicates neutral, four indicates relatively agree, and five indicates strongly agree

Measuring Item	Strongly	Relatively	Neutral	Relatively	Strongly
	Disagree	Disagree		Agree	Agree
Perceived Usefulness					
I think smartwatches can					
improve the efficiency of					
my daily life.					
Using a smartwatch can					
help me manage my health					
better.					
Smartwatches can help me	700				
better track and record my					
exercise data.		11			
I think smartwatches can	OF OF				
improve my efficiency and					
organization at work.	<i>\$</i> 3				
The reminder function		2	100		
provided by the smartwatch				*	
is very helpful for me to					
manage my daily affairs.				- /\\	
Overall, I think					
smartwatches are a very					
useful tool.			9//	(A)	
Perceived Ease of Use	UA	MVE)) *	
Learning how to use the					
smartwatch was easy for					
me.					
I find the interface design of					
the smartwatch simple and					
clear.					
There is no technical barrier					
for me to operate the					
smartwatch.					
Switching between the					
functions of the smartwatch					
is easy and quick.					
I can easily complete daily					
tasks (e.g. answering calls,					
checking messages, etc.)					

with the Smartwatch.					
Overall, I find the					
smartwatch very easy to					
USC. Dries Dougentien					
Price Perception					
I think the price of the smartwatch is reasonable.					
The price of the smartwatch is in line with my					
1					
performance.					
The price of the smartwatch					
is competitive compared to					
other similar products.					
I think the price of the smartwatch is in line with	0				
	ane				
its brand value. I would still consider		D.			
	COLOR.		160		
buying a smartwatch if it	10 P				
was slightly more expensive	<i>F</i> =				
but had superior features.					
I think the price of the					
smartwatch is reasonable				*- \	
relative to the technology			N JA		
and innovation it offers.				7 /// -	
Perceived Value				// /A ^V	
I think the functionality of				/A 0 '	
smartwatches gives me high	III				
value.		IA P.			
The smartwatch provides					
me with an efficient health					
management tool.					
I think the experience of					
using a smartwatch is more					
valuable than the price.					
Using a smartwatch gives					
me value for money.					
Smartwatches make my life					
easier and more efficient.					
I think smartwatches offer					
me good value for money. Purchase Intention					
I have a strong desire to buy a smartwatch.					
a smartwatch.					

I would buy a smartwatch as			
soon as my financial			
situation permits.			
Smartwatches are a priority			
in my future electronics			
purchasing plan.			
I would consider buying a			
smartwatch if a friend or			
family recommended it.			
I would be more likely to			
buy a smartwatch if it			
introduced new features.			
I would prioritize			
purchasing smartwatches			
from reputable brands.			

