

Retail sales of video games dip in January

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(AP) -- An industry group says U.S. retail sales of video game consoles and software dropped 4 percent in January from a year earlier.

Total sales of game software, hardware and accessories, such as [Microsoft](#) Corp.'s Kinect motion-sensing controller, were \$1.14 billion last month, market researcher NPD Group said Thursday. That's down from \$1.18 billion in January 2010.

Hardware sales fell 8 percent to \$324 million from \$353.7 million, NPD said.

[Software sales](#) slipped 5 percent to \$576 million from \$606.8 million. Still, that's a smaller drop than what many analysts were expecting. The month's best-selling game was "Call of Duty: Black Ops" from Activision Blizzard Inc. "Just Dance 2" from Ubisoft came in at No. 2.

Sales of video game accessories rose 6 percent to \$235.1 million.

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