

Apple extends gains in surging tablet market: survey

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Customers try the iPad at the Apple store on Fifth Avenue in New York in 2011. Apple extended its dominance in the sizzling tablet computer market in the second quarter of 2012, with the iPad grabbing 68 percent of global sales, a survey showed Thursday.

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The preliminary report by IDC showed global tablet sales of 25 million -- up 33.6 percent from the first quarter and 66.1 percent year-over-year.

Apple got a boost from the March release of its newest version of the [iPad](#), and sold 17 million tablets in the second quarter.

Samsung jumped into second place with sales of nearly 2.4 million, up 117 percent from a year earlier.

"Apple built upon its strong March iPad launch and ended the quarter with its best-ever shipment total for the iPad, outrunning even the impressive shipment record it set in the fourth quarter of last year," said Tom Mainelli, an IDC analyst.

"The vast majority of consumers continue to favor the iPad over competitors."

Demand is increasingly strong in sectors such as education, said Mainelli.

"While iPad shipment totals are beginning to slow a bit in mature markets where the device saw early traction, growth in other regions is clearly more than making up the difference," he added.

Amazon rebounded from a sluggish first quarter to sell 1.2 million of its Kindle Fire, which was launched late last year and is sold only in the United States.

Asus was fourth with 855 million tablets sold, a jump of 115 percent from a year earlier.

The data do not include the Google-Asus co-branded Nexus 7, which was launched in July.

IDC said it expects competition in the [tablet market](#) to continue to heat up in the second half of 2012 with new product launches from Amazon, probably Apple, and an influx of Microsoft Windows 8 and Windows RT-based tablets.

"If anything, there's a real risk that people will have too many options from which to choose this holiday season," said Bob O'Donnell of IDC.

"Consumers baffled by the differences between Amazon and [Google](#) versions of Android, or Windows 8 and Windows RT, may well default to market leader Apple. Or they may simply choose to remain on the sideline for another cycle."

Many analysts believe Apple will launch a smaller version of its iPad later this year, and that Amazon will release an upgraded Kindle Fire. Microsoft is set to release its Surface tablet in late October.

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