

Sony back at top of console sales after eight years

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An employee of an electronics chain promotes the release of Sony's PlayStation 4 video game console, in Tokyo, on February 22, 2014

Sony have topped worldwide sales of video game consoles for the first time in eight years, a newspaper reported on Saturday, pipping struggling rival Nintendo and signalling the Playstation manufacturer's comeback.

Sony Computer Entertainment (SCE) sold 18.7 million PlayStation 4 (PS4) systems and other [game consoles](#) for the fiscal year to March, the

Nikkei business daily said, to Nintendo's 16.31 million units.

The release of the PS4 in the United States and other markets in November propelled Sony's fortunes after a disappointing response to the console's predecessor, the PS3.

Almost seven million PS4's were sold, but Sony's overall sales of hardware, including the portable PlayStation Vita, still fell some 20 percent for the fiscal year, the report said.

's console sales slid 31 percent as the portable 3DS system failed to entice gamers while the new Wii U also fared poorly, it added.

Sony last topped the console sales list in March 2006 but sales of the PS3 came in below expectations and struggled against's Wii and DS series.

Nikkei said Sony was expected to stay at number one for the rest of the year as Nintendo has few noteworthy releases planned.

Microsoft's sales rose 16 percent to 11.6 million thanks to the rollout of the popular Xbox One towards the end of 2013, the report added.

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