

Computer shipments sink under weight of strong dollar

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Worldwide shipments of personal computers sank in the recently ended quarter with a strong US dollar weighing down sales, market tracker Gartner reported on Thursday.

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The category includes desktop, laptop and notebook computers, but not devices in the booming mobile market.

The global PC market has been hit with price increases of around 10 percent throughout the year due to the sharp appreciation of the US dollar against local currencies, according to Gartner analyst Mikako Kitagawa.

"In the third quarter of 2015 this continued to be a major cause for weaker demand in those regions," Kitagawa said.

Regions where the strong dollar curtailed PC shipments included Europe, Japan, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, according to Gartner.

PC shipments in the US and Asia/Pacific were "more stable," the analyst noted.

The launch of Microsoft's new Windows 10 operating system in the quarter appeared to have a minimal impact on PC shipments, according to Gartner.

Microsoft focused heavily on computers already in people's hands being upgraded to Windows 10. The US software titan was likely to make promoting new Windows-powered computers a priority in the all-important year-end holiday shopping season.

A recent Gartner survey indicated that about half of consumers who took part intend to buy a new PC in the coming year.

Kitagawa expected a "soft recovery" for PC sales to begin in the current quarter and a more stable year ahead.

Chinese computer maker Lenovo had a leading 20.3 percent share of the PC market in the third quarter, while US-based Hewlett-Packard is second with 18.5 percent, according to Gartner estimates.

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