

Tablet market extends slide as consumer habits shift

May 4 2017



Credit: Petr Kratochvil/Wikipedia

The tablet craze from a few years ago showed more signs of fading this year, with most major producers reporting sales declines, market surveys showed Thursday.

IDC reported an 8.5 percent drop in global [tablet](#) shipments to 36.2 million. This was the 10th straight quarterly decline for tablets, IDC said.

A separate survey by Strategy Analytics pegged the decline for the quarter at 10 percent.

IDC analyst Ryan Reith said the sizzling growth in tablets from 2010 to 2013 following the launch of the first iPad is now history, and that many consumers are finding they can do without tablets, relying instead on smartphone or new slimmer laptop PCs.

"The rate at which the tablet market grew from 2010 to 2013 was unlike many other consumer-oriented device markets we've seen before," Reith said.

"However, it appears for many reasons consumers became less eager to refresh these devices, or in some instances purchase them at all. We continue to believe the leading driver for this was the increased dependency on smartphones, along with rather minimal technology and form factor progression."

IDC said Apple led the market with a 24.6 percent share in first quarter despite a 13 percent sales drop.

Samsung sales fell 1.1 percent but retained the number two spot at 16.5 percent.

China's Huawei was the only major vendor to show growth—reporting a 31.7 percent jump, garnering a 7.4 percent share, after introducing new "detachable" tablets powered by Microsoft Windows, IDC said.

IDC estimated that Amazon, which does not report detailed sales figures, sold 2.2 million tablets for a six percent market share, a drop of 1.8 percent.

Lenovo held the number five spot with a market share of 5.7 percent for the Chinese electronics giant, according to IDC.

Strategy Analytics, which reported similar market shares, said the

growth had evaporated for Microsoft and its Surface tablets after a number of strong quarters.

"Sales performance for Windows tablets has been fantastic over the last several years but the hero of this segment is missing in action," said Eric Smith of Strategy Analytics.

The Strategy Analytics survey found that sales of Windows tablets, which include Microsoft Surface devices, fell two percent from a year ago to 6.3 million units, which gave the operating system a [market](#) share of 15 percent.

© 2017 AFP

Citation: Tablet market extends slide as consumer habits shift (2017, May 4) retrieved 25 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-05-tablet-consumer-habits-shift.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.