

# Nintendo first-half profit up 25% on Switch console sales

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Huge sales of games including 'Mario Tennis Aces' and 'Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze' helped boost Nintendo's bottom line

Nintendo said Tuesday its net profit jumped by more than a quarter for the six months to September as blockbuster game titles from the "Donkey Kong" and "Mario" series helped boost demand for its popular

Switch console.

But growth slowed in the July-September period, missing market expectations, with no major software releases during the quarter to drive sales.

The Kyoto-based game giant reported [net profit](#) for the six months to September of 64.6 billion yen (\$574 million) on sales of 388.9 billion yen, which were up 4 percent.

For the year to March, it maintained its optimistic annual targets, expecting a net profit of 165 billion yen on sales of 1.2 trillion yen.

"Nintendo Switch hardware continued to be quite popular, reaching 5.07 million units sold" in the April-September period, it said.

The firm has set a target of 20 million units sold by the end of this fiscal year in March 2019.

Nintendo's latest portable console the Switch has become a huge global seller, helped by the release of innovative, family-friendly titles that have wowed critics and gamers alike.

Software sales so far this year were driven by "Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze", which has sold well over a million copies since its release in May, while "Mario Tennis Aces", released in June, has sold more than two million units.

"Sales of other popular titles that were released during previous fiscal years and titles released by other software publishers continued to grow, bringing the total number of million-seller titles during this period to nine," Nintendo said.

Nintendo shares plunged 15 percent this month on concerns about its outlook as well as the recent global sell-off in tech stocks.

"But Nintendo is still expected to stay on course for growth for the rest of the fiscal year as promising lineups, including Pokemon Go-related titles, are coming up," said Hideki Yasuda, an analyst at Ace Research Institute in Tokyo.

"The result was within expectations as no major software was released" in this quarter, he told AFP.

Nintendo is hoping for hits with several new [software](#) titles coming out later this year, including "Pocket Monster Let's Go! Pikachu / Let's Go! Eevee", following the success of its smash hit Pokemon Go.

Among other promising titles include "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate" to be released in December, and "Super Mario Party", which hit the shelves in October.

"Like its rivals, Nintendo's full-year earnings greatly depend on performance in the year-end shopping season," said Yasuo Imanaka, an analyst at Rakuten Securities in Tokyo.

"We want to see whether the company can show results in December," Imanaka told AFP.

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