

Gartner: Premium Smartphone Sales Slow Down in Q2

Written by Marco Attard
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According to Gartner, global Q2 2016 smartphone smartphones total 344 million units-- a 4.3% Y-o-Y increase, if one seeing slowdown as customers prefer to wait for upcoming hardware launches in H2 2016.

Overall mobile phone sales for the quarter are down by -0.5% Y-o-Y, with only Samsung and 4 Chinese companies, Huawei, Oppo, Xiaomi and BBK Communication Equipment, showing growth.

Table 1

Worldwide Smartphone Sales to End Users by Vendor in 2Q16 (Thousands of Units)

Company	2Q16 Units	2Q16 Market Share (%)	2Q15 Units	2Q15 Market Share (%)
Samsung	76,743.5	22.3	72,072.5	21.8
Apple	44,395.0	12.9	48,085.5	14.6
Huawei	30,670.7	8.9	26,454.4	8.0
Oppo	18,489.6	5.4	8,073.8	2.4
Xiaomi	15,530.7	4.5	15,464.5	4.7
Others	158,530.3	46.0	160,162.1	48.5
Total	344,359.7	100.0	330,312.9	100.0

Source: Gartner (August 2016)

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Samsung also leads in smartphones, with Q2 2016 market share reaching 21.8% thanks to a strong device portfolio helping it win share previously occupied by Chinese vendors in emerging markets. Apple follows with a -7.7% Y-o-Y sales decline, the result of saturation in all mature markets, as well as the "worst" sales decline in Greater China and Asia/Pacific to date.

However Apple sees best performance in Eurasia, Sub-Saharan Africa and E. Europe-- Gartner says Q2 2016 sales in the regions are up by over 95% Y-o-Y.

Making the rest of the top 5 vendors are Chinese companies, namely Huawei (8.9% share), Oppo (5.4%) and Xiaomi (4.7%).

Table 2

Worldwide Smartphone Sales to End Users by Operating System in 2Q16 (Thousands of Units)

Operating System	2Q16 Units	2Q16 Market Share (%)	2Q15 Units	2Q15 Market Share (%)
Android	296,912.8	86.2	271,647.0	82.2
iOS	44,395.0	12.9	48,085.5	14.6
Windows	1,971.0	0.6	8,198.2	2.5
Blackberry	400.4	0.1	1,153.2	0.3
Others	680.6	0.2	1,229.0	0.4
Total	344,359.7	100.0	330,312.9	100.0

Source: Gartner (August 2016)

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In terms of operating systems Android continues to lead, with Q2 2016 market share reaching 86.2%, an increase from Q2 2015 share of 82.2% the result of increased demand for both mid-to lower-end smartphones from emerging markets and premium handsets from the likes of Samsung, Huawei and Oppo. On the other hand Apple share is down to 12.9%, while the rest (Windows, Blackberry and others) share what little scraps remain.

"Google is evolving the Android platform fast, which allows Android players to remain at the cutting edge of smartphone technology," Gartner concludes. "Facing a highly commoditised smartphone market, Google's focus is to further expand and diversify the Android platform with additional functionalities, like virtual reality, enabling more-intelligent experiences and reach into wearables, connected home devices, in-car entertainment and TV."

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