Written by Marco Attard 16. November 2012

Global Q3 2012 mobile phone sales to end users drop by -3.1% Y-o-Y to total around 428 million units Gartner reports-- with smartphones accounting for 36% of sales with 46.9% Y-o-Y growth.

Despite the decline, Gartner points out a number of "positive signs" for the market during Q3 2012. Demand is improving in both emerging and mature market (as seen through Q-o-Q growth), with new devices driving replacement sales.

Samsung leads the overall mobile market, with sales reaching 98m units with 18.6% Y-o-Y growth and 22.9% market share thanks to strong Galaxy smartphone demand. Meanwhile former leader Nokia slips further with 19.2% mobile market share and sales dropping by -21.9% market share to 82.3m units (still an improvement from earlier Gartner estimates due to increased Asha series sales).

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Worldwide Mobile Device Sales to End Users by Vendor in 3Q12 (Thousands of Units)

| Company | 3Q12 | 3Q12 Market Share | 3Q113 | Q11 Market Share |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| | Units | (%) | Units | (%) |
| Samsung | 97,956.8 | 22.9 | 82,612.2 | 18.7 |
| Nokia | 82,300.6 | 19.2 | 105,353.5 | 23.9 |
| Apple | 23,550.3 | 5.5 | 17,295.3 | 3.9 |
| ZTE | 16,654.2 | 3.9 | 14,107.8 | 3.2 |
| LG Electronics | 13,968.8 | 3.3 | 21,014.6 | 4.8 |
| Huawei Device | 11,918.9 | 2.8 | 10,668.2 | 2.4 |
| TCL Communication | 9,326.7 | 2.2 | 9,004.7 | 2.0 |
| Research in Motion | 8,946.8 | 2.1 | 12,701.1 | 2.9 |
| Motorola | 8,562.7 | 2.0 | 11,182.7 | 2.5 |
| HTC | 8,428.6 | 2.0 | 12,099.9 | 2.7 |
| Others | 146,115.1 | 34.2 | 145,462.2 | 32.9 |
| Total | 427,729.5 | 100.04 | 441,502.2 | 100.0 |

Source: Gartner (November 2012)

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