



27 Jan 2022

Smartphone Shipments Declined in the Fourth Quarter But 2021 Was a Growth Year with a 5.7% Increase in Shipments, According to IDC

Related research

- ▶ [2021 U.S. Commercial Smartphone Survey Analysis Report](#)
- ▶ [U.S. Business End-User Computing and Devices Survey, 2021](#)
- ▶ [Navigating the Complex IT](#)

NEEDHAM, Mass., January 27, 2021 – Worldwide smartphone shipments rose 5.7% year-over-year in the fourth quarter of 2021 (4Q21) marking the second straight quarter of growth. Despite a challenging second half of the year, full-year shipments were up 5.7% from 2020, a strong first half. According to preliminary data from the International Data Corporation's [Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker](#), smartphone vendors shipped 1.1 billion smartphones during the holiday quarter (4Q21), which was down 3.2% year-over-year, but better than IDC's forecast. On an annual basis, the market grew 5.7% in 2021, with 4.3 billion smartphones shipped.

PC, Peripherals, and
Smartphone Markets

Contact

For more information,
contact:

Ryan Reith
rreith@idc.com
[+1 508-935-4301](tel:+15089354301)

Nabila Popal
npopal@idc.com
[+1 508-872-8200](tel:+15088728200)

Anthony Scarsella
ascarsella@idc.com
[+1 508-935-4712](tel:+15089354712)

Michael Shirer
press@idc.com
[+1 508-935-4200](tel:+15089354200)

"There's no question the second half of 2021 failed to meet expectations, down 4.5% compared to the second half of 2020," said [Ryan Reith](#), group vice president of [Worldwide Mobile Device Trackers](#). "As we mentioned last quarter, the component shortages started to have meaningful impact on the smartphone market in the second half of the year, and this continues to be the case as we enter 2022. We expect to see supply and logistical challenges continue throughout the year, but we currently believe we'll return to growth in the second quarter of 2022. There is no question that demand is still strong in many markets and we are seeing increasing consumer interest in 5G and new form factors like foldables."

Despite a slight year-over-year decline in shipments, Apple had an impressive quarter once again jumping above Samsung into the top spot. Its strength in smartphones was more than ever in 4Q21. iPhone 13 SKUs were an impressive portion of the quarter driving strong growth in overall iPhone average selling prices. Samsung followed with the second and third spots and it's worth noting these were two of the top 5 that grew shipments year over year in 4Q21. OPPO and vivo also grew. For the full year, all five vendors grew shipments year over year with foldables showing double-digit growth. While Xiaomi had the highest annual growth reaching 21.5%, it had the lowest, just 6.0% growth in 2021. This contrast clearly illustrates the impact of the most from the massive decline of Huawei this year. Apple too had a strong quarter with 15.9% in 2021 for reasons already mentioned as well as due to the supply chain issues in 2021.

"The fact that 2021 would have come in drastically higher if it were not for the supply chain issues adds even more positivity to the healthy 5.7% growth we saw for 2021," said [Ryan Reith](#), research director with IDC's [Mobility and Consumer Device Trackers](#). "The fact that there is significant pent-up demand in almost all regions. Even in China, despite some challenges around weakening consumer demand, the market performed better than the fourth quarter than expected, 5% better to be exact, albeit still a year-over-year decline."

middle of the year, IDC expects this pent-up demand to drive the market in 2022."

Top 5 Companies, Worldwide Smartphone Shipments, Market Share, and Year-over-Year Growth, Q4 2021 (Preliminary results, shipments in millions of units)

Company	4Q21 Shipment Volumes	4Q21 Market Share	4Q20 Shipment Volumes	4Q20 Market Share
1. Apple	84.9	23.4%	87.5	23.4%
2. Samsung	68.9	19.0%	63.7	17.0%
3. Xiaomi	45.0	12.4%	43.3	11.6%
4. OPPO	30.1	8.3%	33.8	9.0%
5. vivo	28.3	7.8%	31.8	8.5%
Others	105.2	29.0%	114.2	30.5%
Total	362.4	100.0%	374.3	100.0%

Source: IDC Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, January 27, 2022

Top 5 Companies, Worldwide Smartphone Shipments, Market Share, and Year-over-Year Growth, Q4 2021

Company	2021 Shipment Volumes	2021 Market Share	2020 Shipment Volumes	2020 Market Share
1. Samsung	272.0	20.1%	256.6	20.0%
2. Apple	235.7	17.4%	203.4	15.9%
3. Xiaomi	191.0	14.1%	147.8	11.5%
4. OPPO	133.5	9.9%	111.2	8.7%
5. vivo	128.3	9.5%	111.7	8.7%
Others	394.3	29.1%	450.5	35.2%
Total	1354.8	100.0%	1281.2	100.0%

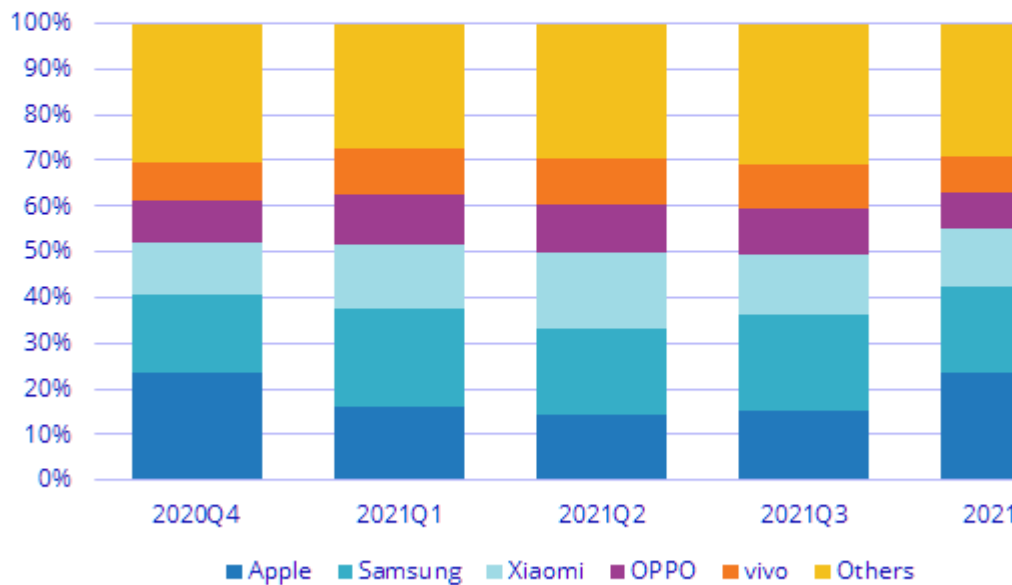
Source: IDC Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, January 27, 2022

Notes:

- Data are preliminary and subject to change.
- Company shipments are branded device shipments and exclude OEM shipments.
- The "Company" represents the current parent company (or holding company) and includes all subsidiaries owned and operated as a subsidiary.
- Figures represent new shipments only and exclude refurbished units.



Worldwide Top 5 Mobile Phone Companies, 2021Q4 Unit Market Share



Source: IDC 2022

[Share the image](#)

About IDC Trackers

IDC Tracker products provide accurate and timely market size, vendor and market share data for hundreds of technology markets from more than 100 countries around the world. Using proprietary tools and research processes, IDC's Trackers are updated on a quarterly and monthly basis. Tracker results are delivered to clients in user-friendly reports.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.