

Apple Captures the Top Spot in the China Smartphone Market in 2023 for the First Time Ever

January 25, 2024. IDC.



Closeup Of A Business Man's Hand Using Cellphone Outdoor

A shift of power that we saw on the worldwide stage also happened in China, the largest smartphone market globally. Apple became the leading smartphone company in China for the first time with record high market share of 17.3% in 2023. According to preliminary data from the International Data Corporation (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, China smartphone shipments totaled 271.3 million units in 2023, which was a decline of 5.0% compared to 2022. This was the lowest volume in a decade, stemming from a soft economic recovery and weak consumer sentiment.

While the Chinese smartphone market remains challenged, it is moving towards recovery with the fourth quarter of 2023 (4Q23) delivering year-over-year growth of 1.2% on shipments of 73.6 million units, marking the end of ten consecutive quarters of year-over-year decline. The resilient high-end consumers in the tier 1-3 cities were the key drivers, fueling demand for flagship products. Meanwhile, demand for low to mid-range devices remained weak, impeding the overall growth of the market as they represent over half the smartphone market in China.

“Apple’s climb to the top spot in 2023, especially in light of renewed competition from Huawei and the soft spending sentiment, marks a tremendous success for

Apple,” said Arthur Guo, senior research analyst in Client System Research for IDC China. “Apple achieved this thanks to timely price promotions in its third-party channels, which stimulated demand.

Meanwhile, Honor maintained its number two position thanks to improvement in its channel partnerships and a well-rounded product strategy, capturing the high end with its successful foldable lineup and the low-to-mid range with several popular models.”

“One key highlight we shouldn’t miss in 4Q23 was the return of Huawei to the Top 5 ranking after more than two years,” said Will Wong, senior research manager for Client Devices at IDC Asia/Pacific. “This will only intensify the competition as no vendors will want to lose a top 5 position in the world’s largest smartphone market.”

China Smartphone Market, Top 5 Companies, Q4 2023 and Q4 2022 Market Share and Year-Over-Year Growth

Company	4Q23 Market Share	4Q22 Market Share	4Q23/4Q22 Growth
Apple	20.0%	20.6%	-2.1%
Honor	16.8%	17.1%	-0.9%
Vivo	15.7%	17.4%	-8.4%
Huawei	13.9%	10.3%	+36.2%
OPPO	13.7%	16.5%	-16.1%
Others	20.0%	18.1%	+11.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	+1.2%

Source: IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, Q4 2023

China Smartphone Market, Top 5 Companies, 2023 and 2022 Market Share and Year-Over-Year Growth

Company	2023 Market Share	2022 Market Share	2023/2022 Growth
Apple	17.3%	16.8%	-2.2%
Honor	17.1%	18.1%	-10.3%
OPPO	16.7%	17.5%	-9.4%
Vivo	16.5%	18.6%	-15.5%
Xiaomi	13.2%	13.6%	-8.5%
Others	19.1%	15.3%	+19.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	-5.0%

Source: IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, Q4 2023