The global ultrasound equipment market in 2018

Global ultrasound revenues totaled $6,644.1 million in 2017 and grew 7.6% from 2016, representing the largest year-over-year market growth rate in several years.

The healthiness of the American and Asia-Pacific markets drove global revenue growth during 2017.

The United States and China, the two largest sub-regional ultrasound markets in the world, experienced double-digit revenue growth. IHS Markit expects continued healthiness in the global ultrasound market in 2018, but revenue growth will not reach the same rate as it did in 2017.

Market slowdowns are forecast for China, Japan, and the United States in 2020, and these sub-regions accounted for over 50% of global ultrasound revenues in 2017.

The global ultrasound market’s growth rate will fall to 2% in 2020 before increasing back to 3.4% year-over-year growth rate in 2021.

2017 Global market for ultrasound unit shipments

The global market for ultrasound equipment was dominated by cart systems, with cart revenues accounting for 71% of total unit shipments in 2017.

Compact ultrasound equipment accounted for 29% of global unit shipments in 2017. Compact systems captured additional share of the market in unit shipment terms compared with 2016, and compact systems will continue gaining share during the forecast period. Increasing awareness and interest in compact ultrasound equipment drove shipments of these systems in 2017.

Growth for these products was mostly driven by demand from the Asia-Pacific market where procuring basic ultrasound equipment remained a top priority in 2017.

High-end cart unit shipments grew 13% year-over-year, making this segment the fastest growing of all cart categories in 2017. The healthiness of the North American and Chinese markets in 2017 boosted unit shipments for high-end cart systems.

Handheld ultrasound equipment unit shipments grew the most of any product category from 2016 to 2017. The introduction of several new products to the market in 2017 combined with the increasing demand for point-of-care ultrasound drove growth for this segment.
2017 Global market for ultrasound unit shipments

There were no changes to market share rankings for the top ten suppliers from 2016 to 2017. Philips Healthcare was the second-largest supplier for ultrasound equipment in 2017 and accounted for 19% of global revenues, which was consistent with its share in 2016. Toshiba Medical, now Canon Medical, was the third-largest supplier in 2017. Toshiba Medical lost almost 1% of its market share from 2016 to 2017, but new product launches should boost the company’s global revenues in 2018.

2017 Global market shares for ultrasound equipment

GE Healthcare maintained its position as the top supplier for ultrasound equipment, capturing 29% of global revenues in 2017.

Learn More

Ultrasound Equipment Report - 2018

This report is the first of four reports for the 2018 Ultrasound Intelligence Service by IHS Markit. This report covers the world market, including segmentations by region, for ultrasound equipment that is used in public and private hospitals, diagnostic imaging centers, veterinaries, and private physicians’ offices. Only sales revenues and unit shipments from new equipment (commercially available models only) are included in the data with projections until 2022.