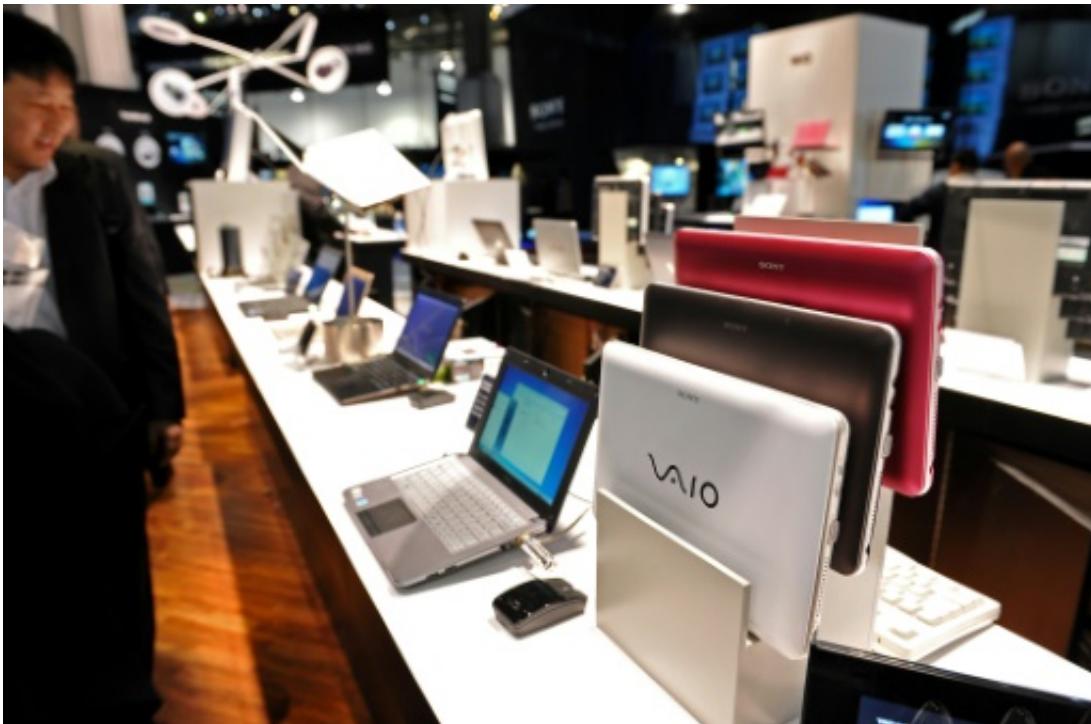


PC market woes show no sign of easing

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Global PC sales are still falling, and will likely remain on the decline through 2016, a market tracker said Monday.

The research firm IDC said it expects worldwide [personal computer sales](#) to slide 10.1 percent in 2015 and predicted a 3.1 percent drop for 2016, which would be a fifth consecutive down year.

The market is "expected to stabilize by the end of 2016 and grow slightly" in the following three years, helped by replacement of older machines, IDC said.

The market suffered a 2.1 percent drop in 2014 after a 9.8 percent slump the prior year and a four percent dip in 2012.

PC sales have been hit by a variety of factors including a shift to [mobile devices](#) like tablets and smartphones. Over the past year, a strong dollar and economic and political turmoil in parts of the world.

But over time, consumers and enterprises will eventually need to upgrade their PCs and adopt the new Windows 10 operating system.

"Despite the substantial shift in spending and usage models from PCs toward tablets and phones in recent years, very few people are giving up on their PC—they are just making it last longer," said Loren Loverde, an IDC analyst.

Microsoft recently dropped technical support for Windows XP and will likely do so in the near future for Windows 7, which will force many users to upgrade.

"The [free upgrade](#) to Windows 10 enables some users to postpone an upgrade a little, but not indefinitely," Loverde said.

"Some consumers will use a free OS [upgrade](#) to delay a new PC purchase and test the transition to Windows 10. However, the experience of those customers may serve to highlight what they are missing by stretching the life of an older PC, and we expect they will ultimately purchase a new device."

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