### Samsung phone sales in the last years

This report aims to give an insight of the total amount of sold phones made by Samsung in the last eight years. The growth of the market and its consequences will be discussed.

**Development**

Smartphones have become indispensable nowadays and the market has seen a considerable growth in recent years, especially in countries like China. According to a graph from Statista, Samsung sold 2,4 million units in the first quarter of 2010 and had its peak in the first quarter of 2014 with 88,5 million phones being sold. In the third quarter of 2018, Samsung sold 72,2 million phones, which is a decline in comparison to the last years, however, Samsung still has the largest sales of smartphones worldwide. The reason for this decline is the growth of Chinese smartphone vendors which are able to sell their phones for lower prices than Samsung is able to do.

**Consequences**

The working conditions of some Samsung’s suppliers are catastrophic. For example, the workers had to work up to 16 hours a day with only one rest day per week. [1] Another problem is the mining of rare earths like tantalum or metals like cobalt, which are needed for some parts of smartphones. Child labour and very low safety standards are the normal state in developing countries like Congo, which is the origin of most of these minerals. In Congo, there are civil wars in some regions of the country. Therefore, it is possible that the purchase of Samsung smartphone indirectly supports the wars in these regions.[2]

**Resources**

[1] <https://www.businessinsider.com/samsung-factory-working-conditions-2012-11?IR=T>

[2] <https://www.welt.de/wirtschaft/webwelt/article151650363/Nach-diesem-Handyrohstoff-buddeln-Kinder-metertief.html>

Graph: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/299144/samsung-smartphone-shipments-worldwide/>

