**SmartPhones Getting Expensive Day by Day**

Smartphones devices are getting more expensive around the world and across the entire price range. Android smartphones, in the market these days, are mostly priced in the $800-$1400 range, especially the ones that make the hottest whistles and bells. Even on promotion, for a first time subscriber, the Samsung Epic 4G from Sprint is priced at $199 and the high-end HTC smartphones even higher.

The trend may be similar to that in the automotive industry, where there are indications that the balance of market power is shifting toward component suppliers.

Smartphone makers aren't happy about it. But it's getting harder for them to maintain their profit margins because - contrary to conventional wisdom about electronics prices following a downward trajectory - components are getting costlier.

Mobile phones nowadays are getting more and more expensive. Smartphones, as they fondly call it is like a little investment. And just like any other investment, it is only reasonable to take care of it to preserve its value. Just imagine living in this modern age without this device. It is a necessity; it is something that everyone should have.

More storage, more RAM, better cameras, more LTE bands, better battery life, a more modern design - none of these things are without their costs. If we're going to continue to ask that smartphones provide us good value for money and the best feature set possible, it seems inevitable that prices will continue to creep upward. And with companies like Samsung, Google, and very likely Apple trying to raise the ceiling on the ultra-premium segment of the smartphone market, manufacturers focused on value (like OnePlus) will gain more price headroom to work with, as well.

So, sure, many people would like a $300-400 smartphone that focuses on what they deem most important and leaves out what they don't - even if that entails what many people might deem significant compromises. The reality, however, increasingly seems to be that what most enthusiasts want is as few compromises as possible so long as the asking price seems "fair." After all, a phone can be fairly priced at $300, and it can be fairly priced at $500 - but which product is going to leave the customer feeling less like they've settled? That question answers itself, and phones like the OnePlus 5 exist as a result. Compromise is something we'd all prefer to do without, and most of us are probably willing to open our wallets a little wider to avoid it.

Of course, there is now a large variety of manufacturers and handsets for a range of prizes and functions. It is hard to believe that the best handsets of the big names, like Google Pixel, cost more than ever. Perhaps top manufacturers with a well-known brand are just making a profit?