

# Canalys expects fewer than 2 million foldable smartphones will ship in 2019

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**Foldable phones have arrived, in the shape of the Samsung Galaxy Fold and Huawei Mate X. More vendors will soon follow with their own takes on foldable displays, but 2019 will not be**



Canalys expects fewer than 2 million foldable smartphones will ship in 2019 - via @Canalys  
<https://tinyurl.com/y44olv49>

**the year that foldable phones go mainstream. They will remain exclusively ultra-luxury devices, and Canalys expects fewer than 2 million foldable phones will ship worldwide in 2019.**



“Foldable phones are now in mass production, and vendors have set realistic expectations for

their sales performance,” said Canalys Senior Director Nicole Peng. “Samsung and Huawei will account for the majority of foldable smartphones shipped in 2019. But high shipment numbers are not the priority. The goal is to capture consumer awareness, and each vendor wants to prove it can achieve the greatest technological advances with its new industrial designs.”

“Cost is the key factor that will hinder adoption,” said Canalys Senior Analyst Ben Stanton. “The ‘fold-out’ design (with the screen on the outside, as used on the Mate X) will eventually lend itself to cheaper devices, as manufacturers won’t need to include as many cameras, nor a second ‘outside’ screen (which the Samsung has), and the bend on the flexible screen won’t need to be as tight. But these devices will come too late to affect this year’s shipment numbers significantly. In 2019, vendors offering foldable phones must ensure excellent quality and durability. Any early teething problems or breakages will sour the foldable form-factor before it has had a chance to get going.”

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**fewer than  
2 million** foldable  
smartphones will  
ship in **2019**

Source: Canalys forecasts, Smartphone Analysis, February 2019



For more information, please contact:

**Canalys EMEA: +44 118 984 0520**

Ben Stanton: [ben\\_stanton@canalys.com](mailto:ben_stanton@canalys.com) +44 118 984 0525

Kelly Wheeler: [kelly\\_wheeler@canalys.com](mailto:kelly_wheeler@canalys.com) +44 118 984 0529

**Canalys APAC (Shanghai): +86 21 2225 2888**

Nicole Peng: [nicole\\_peng@canalys.com](mailto:nicole_peng@canalys.com) +86 21 2225 2815

Mo Jia: [mo\\_jia@canalys.com](mailto:mo_jia@canalys.com) +86 21 2225 2812

**Canalys APAC (Singapore): +65 6671 9399**

Rushabh Doshi: [rushabh\\_doshi@canalys.com](mailto:rushabh_doshi@canalys.com) +65 6671 9387

Shengtao Jin: [shengtao\\_jin@canalys.com](mailto:shengtao_jin@canalys.com) +65 6657 9303

**Canalys Americas: +1 650 681 4488**

Vincent Thielke: [vincent\\_thielke@canalys.com](mailto:vincent_thielke@canalys.com) +1 650 656 9016

Marcy Ryan: [marcy\\_ryan@canalys.com](mailto:marcy_ryan@canalys.com) +1 650 681 4487

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Americas: Suite 317, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301, US | tel: +1 650 681 4488

APAC: Room 310, Block A, No 98 Yanping Road, Jingan District, Shanghai 200042, China | tel: +86 21 2225 2888

APAC: 133 Cecil Street, Keck Seng Tower, #13-02/02A, Singapore 069535 | tel: +65 6671 9399

EMEA: Diddenham Court, Lambwood Hill, Grazeley, Reading RG7 1JQ, UK | tel: +44 118 984 0520

email: [inquiry@canalys.com](mailto:inquiry@canalys.com) | web: [www.canalys.com](http://www.canalys.com)