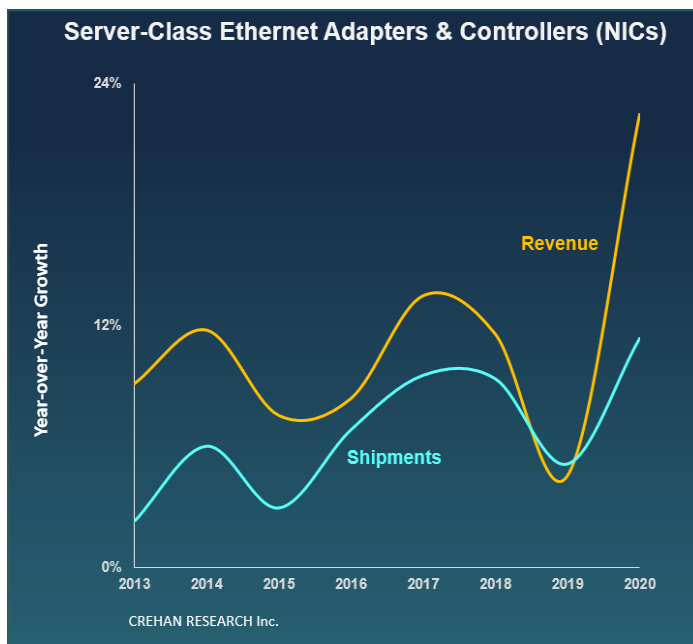


Customers Deployed Seven Million Additional Server-Class Ethernet NIC Ports in 2020, Reports Crehan Research

Revenue Growth Significantly Outpaces Shipment Growth Due to Big Increases in Higher-Speed NIC and SmartNIC Adoption

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, April 5, 2021 — Data center customers deployed seven million more server-class Ethernet Network Interface Card (NIC) ports in 2020 than in 2019, resulting in a new record high for this market, according to a recent report from [Crehan Research](#). Most of the new deployments were 25 gigabit Ethernet (GbE), 50GbE and 100GbE NICs. This, in combination with a strong increase in SmartNIC adoption, drove revenue growth well above the year's robust shipment growth – see accompanying figure.



Even with these strong results in 25GbE, 50GbE and 100GbE NICs as well as SmartNICs, Crehan's report indicates that these technologies are still mostly in the early stages of adoption and should have numerous years of growth ahead.

“More users, deploying more applications requiring more bandwidth, fueled strong demand for both faster and smarter server-class Ethernet NICs,” said Seamus Crehan, president of Crehan Research. “Although there are factors specific to the pandemic that

helped accelerate demand, these are still long-term trends that will continue to drive increased server-class Ethernet NIC deployments.”

Other noteworthy results from Crehan's Server-Class Ethernet Adapter & LOM/Controller (NIC) report include:

- 200GbE NICs started to ship in 2020, with Nvidia currently driving these volumes.
- 100GbE NICs saw particularly strong demand in the latter half of 2020, helped by the arrival of server platforms for artificial intelligence workloads, such as Facebook's Zion. Broadcom and Nvidia were the main drivers of this strong 100GbE NIC growth.
- Intel accounted for the majority of total server-class Ethernet NIC shipments in 2020.

“We have entered a period of increased server-class Ethernet NIC innovation, as vendors and data center operators look for different and creative ways to address the new vectors of bandwidth demand coming from areas such as artificial intelligence, 5G and Edge computing, and disaggregated compute and networking,” Crehan said.

About Crehan Research Inc.

Crehan Research Inc. produces reports with very detailed statistics and information on the data center switch and server-class adapter & LOM/controller (NIC) markets. The company’s reports are supported with rich insights and context to deliver increased value. For more information about Crehan Research Inc., email info@CrehanResearch.com, phone 650-273-8400, or visit www.CrehanResearch.com.

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