



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, October 29, 2003

Upturn gains momentum -

European Semiconductor Market in September 2003

The September data show a further significant improvement in the semiconductor market, providing evidence for the raised estimations of the recent 2003 market forecast by WSTS. The upturn gains momentum - not only in volume but also in units. The driving forces remain more or less the same: The most significant drivers have been PC, wireless applications and Chip Card ICs whereas the European industry has a dominant role in the World. In wired communication the downturn seems to bottom out now.

Please note: For the first time the data contain now micromechanical actuators in addition to sensors. This innovative new product category has entered a significant volume already and is expected to experience a high growth in the coming years. It adds alone an additional 1,6% growth for Europe and an additional 1,7% for the World (in comparison with last year).

European Semiconductor sales in September 2003 amounted to US\$ 2.717 billion according to WSTS, up +6.6% versus previous month. This corresponds to a +17.3% increase compared to the same month last year. Year-to-date, semiconductor sales increased by +14.1% versus the same period last year.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ has a very significant impact on the growth data at this time. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in September were EURO 2.417 billion, an increase of +8.2% versus previous month and an increase of +2.8% versus the same month a year ago. On a year-to-date basis, semiconductor sales stidecreased by -4.7% versus the same period last year.

On a Worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in September were US\$ 14.441 billion, up +6.5% versus previous month. This results to an increase of +17.5% versus the same month in 2002 and on a year-to-date basis to a growth of +14.7%.

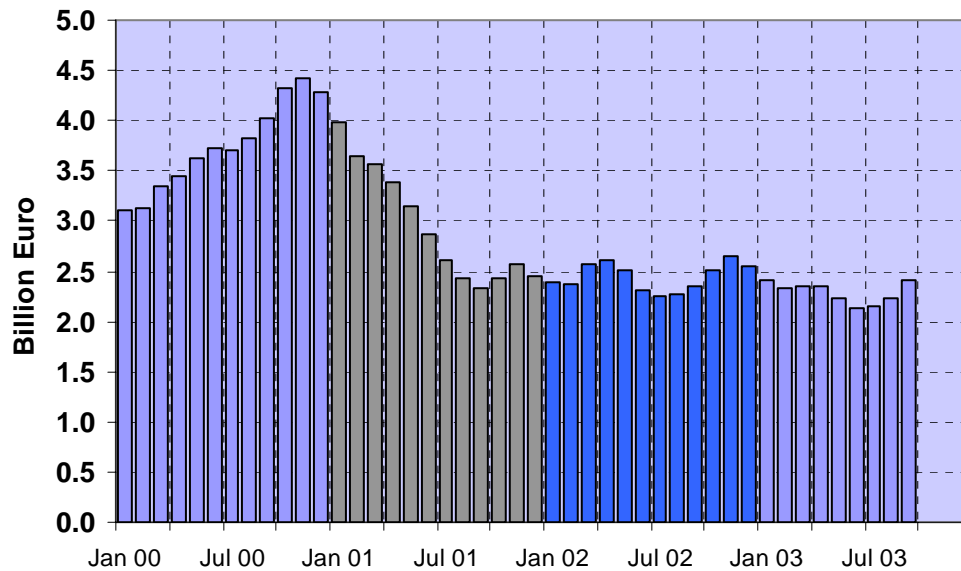
(for more data please see the tables and graphs on following pages)

Data Table:

Market data for the 3 month moving average ending:								
Region	sales (in billions)		Month on Month growth		Year on Year growth		YTD growth	
	Aug 03	Sep 03	Aug 03	Sep 03	Aug 03	Sep 03	Aug 03	Sep 03
in \$:								
Europe	2.549	2.717	2.7%	6.6%	15.1%	17.3%	14.2%	14.1%
Americas	2.609	2.751	2.2%	5.4%	1.1%	4.5%	-2.3%	-1.1%
Japan	3.210	3.359	1.4%	4.6%	16.6%	18.8%	24.9%	25.3%
Asia Pacific	5.197	5.614	7.1%	8.0%	18.7%	24.4%	16.8%	18.7%
World	13.565	14.441	3.9%	6.5%	13.7%	17.5%	13.7%	14.7%
In EURO:								
Europe	2.233	2.417	3.9%	8.2%	-1.6%	2.8%	-5.5%	-4.7%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.113	1.122	13.8%	14.0%	< Euro against \$ versus prev. Year			

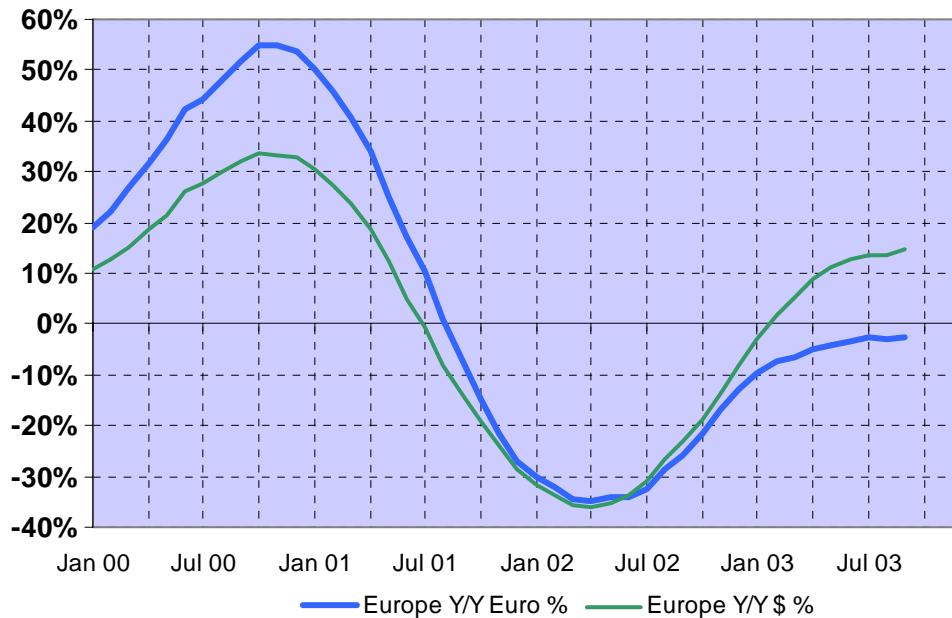
(Unless otherwise indicated, all figures are 3-month-average data.)

Europe (Euro)



Monthly European Semiconductor sales in billion Euro
(3-month-average data)

Growth Trend Dollar versus Euro



European Semiconductor sales growth in %
Annualized growth trend (Y/Y) in Euro and Dollar
(12-month-average data)

WSTS monthly data in full product detail are available via subscription. For more information please contact the EECA-ESIA office under secretariat@eeeca.be

About EECA and ESIA

The European Electronic Component Manufacturers Association (EECA) is an association grouping of four autonomous industry associations with members coming from the manufacturing and related industries as well as from national associations. Their goal is to promote and defend the vital interests of the European Electronic Components Industry and to support its competitive position in the global marketplace. The four associations are European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA), European Display Industry Association (EDIA), European Passive Components Industry Association (EPCIA), European Packaging and Interconnection Industry Association (EPIA). EECA is a chartered member of the World Semiconductor Council. More information can be found at <http://www.eeca.org>.

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