



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, February 2, 2004

Strong growth in 2003 -

European Semiconductor Market in December 2003

With the December WSTS data the year 2003 ended at 166.4 Bio.\$, representing a growth of +18.3% and slightly ahead of earlier forecasts. This number provides a solid base and a reasonable chance to come close to the year 2000 record level in 2004 when adding the forecasted growth rate within this year.

The demand for semiconductors was strong across nearly all product areas and saw an extraordinary growth in some specific areas such as flash memories and sensors. Driving electronic applications fueling the growth were Computer, Automotive and Wireless communications. In the regions highest growth was enjoyed in Japan leading with +27.7% followed by Asia/Pacific with +22.8%. Europe followed with +16.3% ahead of Americas with +3.4%.

At short term trends the December data were slightly below November but showing just the usual seasonal pattern rather than a change in the upturn trend.

European Semiconductor sales in December 2003 amounted to US\$ 3.105 billion according to WSTS, down -1.4% versus previous month. This corresponds to a +22.1% increase compared to the same month last year. Year-to-date, semiconductor sales increased by +16.3% versus the same period last year respectively total year 2003.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ continues to have a very significant impact on the growth data at this time. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in December were EURO 2.608 billion, a decrease of -4.5% versus previous month and an increase of +2.7% versus the same month a year ago. On a year-to-date basis, respectively versus total year, semiconductor sales decreased by -2.8% versus the same period last year respectively total year 2002.

On a Worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in December were US\$ 16.033 billion, down -0.5% versus previous month. This results to an increase of +28.0% versus the same month in 2002 and on a year-to-date basis respectively total year to a growth of +18.3%.

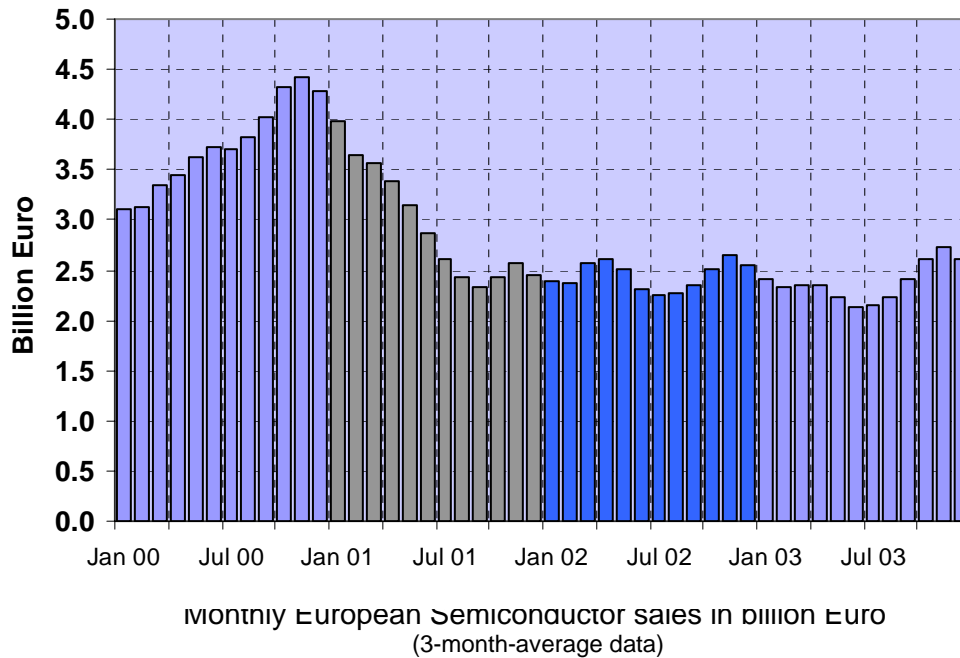
(for more data please see the tables and graphs on following pages)

Data Table:

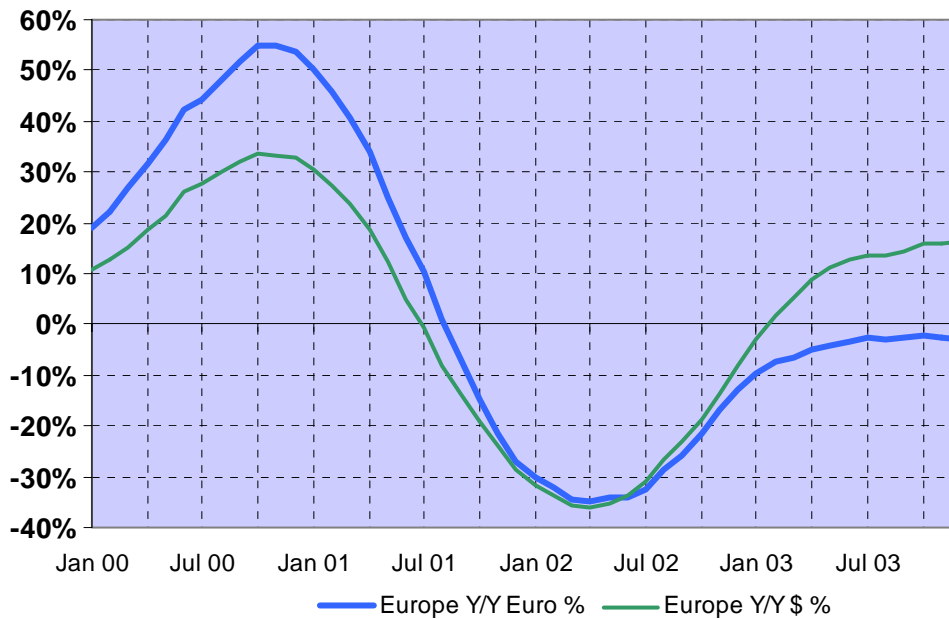
Market data for the 3 month moving average ending:								
Region	sales (in billions)		Month on Month growth		Year on Year growth		YTD growth	
	Nov 03	Dez 03	Nov 03	Dez 03	Nov 03	Dez 03	Nov 03	Dez 03
in \$:								
Europe	3.148	3.105	6.3%	-1.4%	20.7%	22.1%	16.2%	16.3%
Americas	3.055	3.032	4.0%	-0.7%	13.4%	16.8%	2.2%	3.4%
Japan	3.719	3.715	4.5%	-0.1%	30.6%	33.9%	26.7%	27.7%
Asia Pacific	6.194	6.180	3.7%	-0.2%	32.4%	34.0%	21.6%	22.8%
World	16.117	16.033	4.5%	-0.5%	25.6%	28.0%	17.3%	18.3%
In EURO:								
Europe	2.730	2.608	4.6%	-4.5%	3.4%	2.7%	-2.9%	-2.8%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.173	1.229	17.3%	20.4%	< Euro against \$ versus prev. Year			

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

Europe (Euro)



Trend Growth in Dollar versus Growth in 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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