



## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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### **The growth rate is still accelerating - European Semiconductor Market in March 2004**

The market growth is still accelerating in March. The first quarter of 2004 showed a world wide increase of 32.3% over the first quarter 2003, lead by Asia Pacific with 45.8%, followed America (25.1%), Japan (24.7%) and Europe (24.4%).

From an application point of view the main driving products were communication (wireless as well as wired), and PC related products. But also automotive performed better then the rest of the market.

The growth was borne by a very healthy increase of units (+21%) and of significant increase in average selling prices (+9%).

Summarizing the upturn has become more evident in March and a total growth rate for the year 2004 of more then 25% becomes more and more likely.

European Semiconductor sales in March 2004 amounted to US\$ 3.145 billion according to WSTS, up +6.2% on previous month. This corresponds to a +24.4% increase compared to the same month last year. On a year-to-date basis semiconductor sales increased by +24.4% versus the same period in 2003.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ has a slightly reduced but still significant impact on the growth data at this time. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in March were EURO 2.522 billion, an increase of +6.4% versus previous month and an increase of +7.1% versus the same month a year ago. On a year-to-date basis semiconductor sales increased by +7.1% versus the same period in 2003.

On a Worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in March were US\$ 16.275 billion, up +4.4% versus previous month. This results to an increase of +32.3% versus the same month in 2003 and on a year-to-date basis to a growth of +32.3% as well.

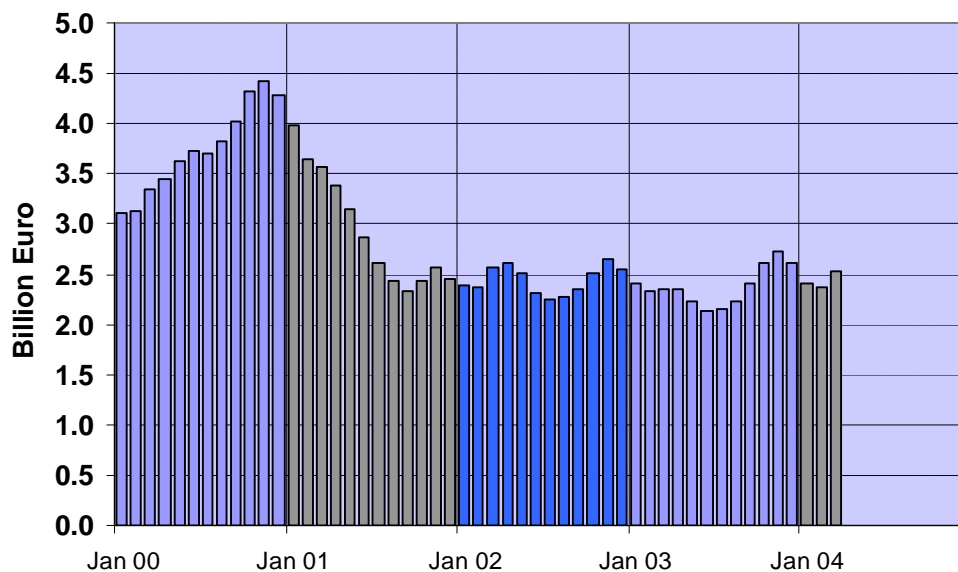
(for more data please see the tables and graphs on following pages)

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	
	Feb 04	Mrz 04	Feb 04	Mrz 04	Feb 04	Mrz 04	Feb 04	Mrz 04
<b>in \$:</b>								
<b>Europe</b>	2.962	3.145	0.7%	6.2%	20.8%	24.4%	22.9%	24.4%
<b>Americas</b>	2.931	3.076	-0.1%	4.9%	20.1%	25.1%	23.5%	25.1%
<b>Japan</b>	3.543	3.591	-1.8%	1.4%	30.2%	24.7%	26.4%	24.7%
<b>Asia Pacific</b>	6.146	6.463	1.3%	5.2%	42.8%	45.8%	48.3%	45.8%
<b>World</b>	<b>15.582</b>	<b>16.275</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>30.8%</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	<b>32.3%</b>
<b>In EURO:</b>								
<b>Europe</b>	2.371	2.522	-1.8%	6.4%	1.7%	7.1%	4.4%	7.1%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.262	1.226	16.7%	13.8%	< Euro against \$ versus prev. Year			

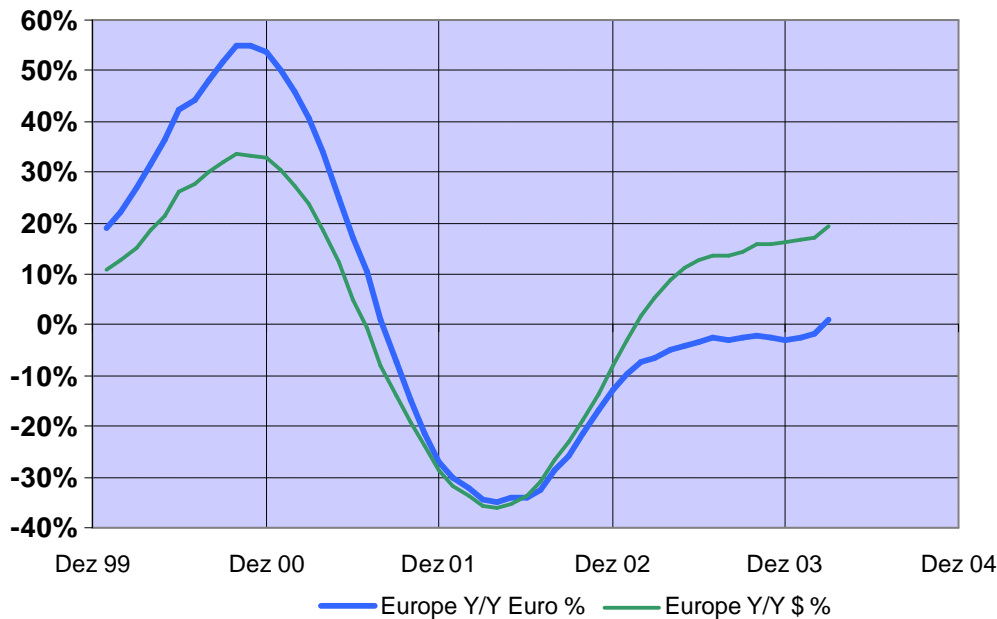
(Unless otherwise indicated, except YTD growth all figures are 3-month-average data.)

### Europe (Euro)



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

## 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 details are available via subscription. For more information please contact the EECA-ESIA office under [secretariat@eeca.be](mailto:secretariat@eeca.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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