



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, June 1, 2004

A strong start for Q2 -

European Semiconductor Market in April 2004

The April market data are confirming the prospect of a robust growth in Q2. They come as a strong support to the WSTS Spring forecast just released today, which calls for a mid-single digit growth over Q1, and for a 28.4% growth in total year 2004 over 2003. The year-on-year growth has accelerated in all regions, pushing the worldwide market growth largely over 30%. The market in April was especially strong for DRAM (the memory chips primarily used in computers), display drivers, application specific consumer ICs, and image sensors (used in digital still cameras and mobile phones). Other products generally followed their seasonal trend. From a production point of view, the latest SICAS report also confirmed the tightening manufacturing capacity in Q1, showing overall fab capacity utilization rates of 93.4%, with both leading edge manufacturing (below 0.16µm) and wafer foundry reaching saturation levels at 99%.

The semiconductor market is set for further good news through the next months.

European Semiconductor sales in April 2004 amounted to US\$ 3.215 billion according to WSTS, up +2.3% on previous month. This corresponds to a +26.4% increase compared to the same month last year. On a year-to-date basis semiconductor sales increased by +25.4% versus the same period in 2003.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ has again reduced but still significant impact on the growth data at this time. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in April were EURO 2.612 billion, an increase of +3.6% versus previous month and an increase of +11.0% versus the same month a year ago. On a year-to-date basis semiconductor sales increased by +9.1% versus the same period in 2003.

On a Worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in April were US\$ 16.943 billion, up +4.1% versus previous month. This results to an increase of +36.6% versus the same month in 2003 and on a year-to-date basis to a growth of +34.3%.

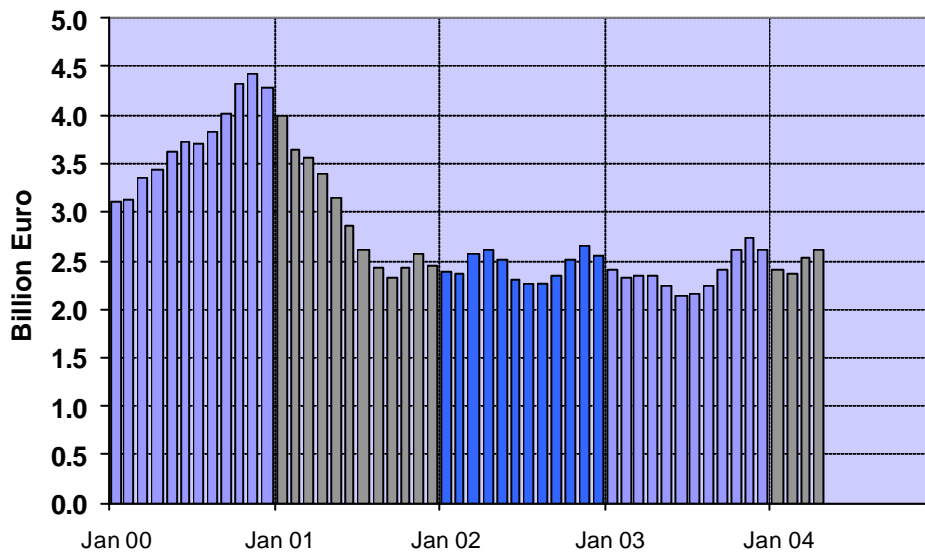
(for more data please see the tables and graphs on following pages)

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	
	Mrz 04	Apr 04	Mrz 04	Apr 04	Mrz 04	Apr 04	Mrz 04	Apr 04
in \$:								
Europe	3.144	3.215	6.2%	2.3%	24.4%	26.4%	24.4%	25.4%
Americas	3.076	3.189	4.9%	3.7%	25.1%	30.4%	25.1%	26.4%
Japan	3.591	3.649	1.4%	1.6%	24.7%	26.9%	24.7%	26.5%
Asia Pacific	6.463	6.890	5.2%	6.6%	45.8%	52.0%	45.8%	48.5%
World	16.275	16.943	4.4%	4.1%	32.3%	36.6%	32.3%	34.3%
In EURO:								
Europe	2.522	2.612	6.4%	3.6%	7.1%	11.0%	7.1%	9.1%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.226	1.206	13.8%	11.0%	< Euro against \$ versus prev. Year			

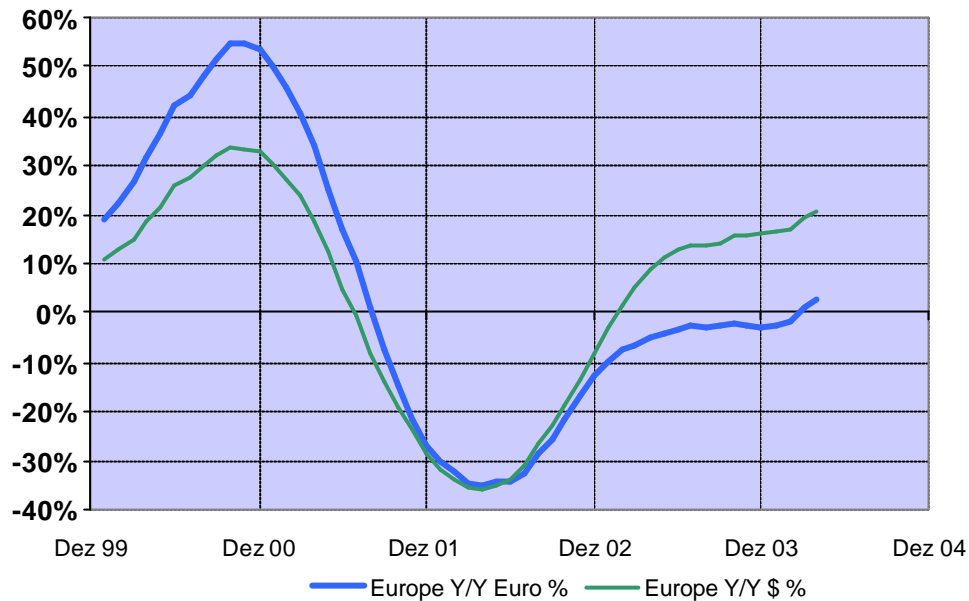
(Unless otherwise indicated, except YTD growth all figures are 3-month-average data.)

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

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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