



European Semiconductor Industry Association

Latest Semiconductor sales data, for immediate release

Brussels, February 2nd, 2006

Worldwide chip sales up 6.8% in 2005

WSTS data, published today, confirm the organisation's fall forecasts, of another positive growth year in 2005. Due to ongoing outsourcing activities, the European Semiconductor market wasn't able to follow the pace of the World market. Overall, with -0.4% it showed a slightly negative development.

Looking closer at the European market, Microprocessors increased their relative share reaching 22.5% on the total chip billings: WSTS reports a 10% growth in Q4, following an 18% increase in Q3.

Secondly, 2005 has been indeed a good year for Flash memories, which grew 12% over the previous year. Computer and wireless communication applications were certainly amongst the market drivers.

Furthermore the European market in Q4 remains well oriented for consumer and communication specific chips.

On the negative side, DRAM, DSP, MCU, Optoelectronics and discretes mainly contributed to weaken the market.

European Semiconductor sales in December 2005 amounted to US\$ 3.317 billion according to the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS), down 6.1% versus the previous month. This corresponds to a 5.9% decline compared to the same month last year. On a total year basis, semiconductor sales declined in 2005 by 0.4% versus the year 2004.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ had a controversial impact on the growth data in the last months compensating exactly for the first half year. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in December were EURO 2.788 billion, down 4.9% on previous month and up 2.6% versus the same month a year ago. On a Total year basis, semiconductor sales show in 2005 a decline of 0.4% versus 2004.

On a worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in December were US\$ 19.953 billion, down 2.2% versus the previous month. This results in an increase of 8.6% versus the same month in 2004 and on a total year basis it results in a further improved growth rate of 6.8%.

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

About ESIA: The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA), part of the European Electronic Component manufacturers' Association (EECA), represents the European-based manufacturers of semiconductor devices. The semiconductor industry provides the enabling technology, which is at the forefront of the development of the digital economy. The sector supports over 86,000 jobs in a market valued at around €31.6 bn in 2005.

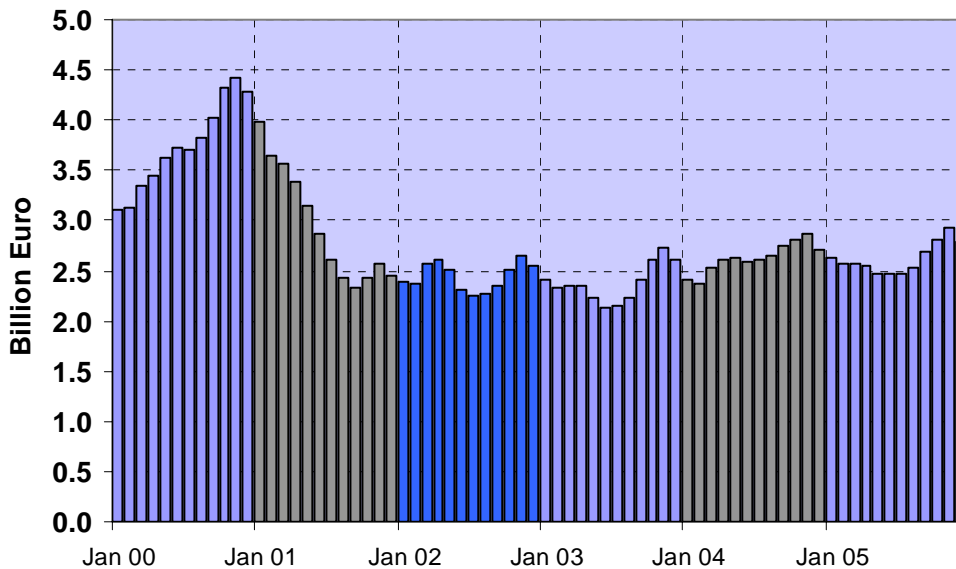
About WSTS: Established in 1986, the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide timely, accurate and authentic semiconductor market data on industry product shipments in a product line format serving the broad marketing and executive needs. In 2005 WSTS members are 74 semiconductor companies from all over the world, representing 85% of the world semiconductor market. More information on the WSTS website at www.wsts.org

Market data by region¹

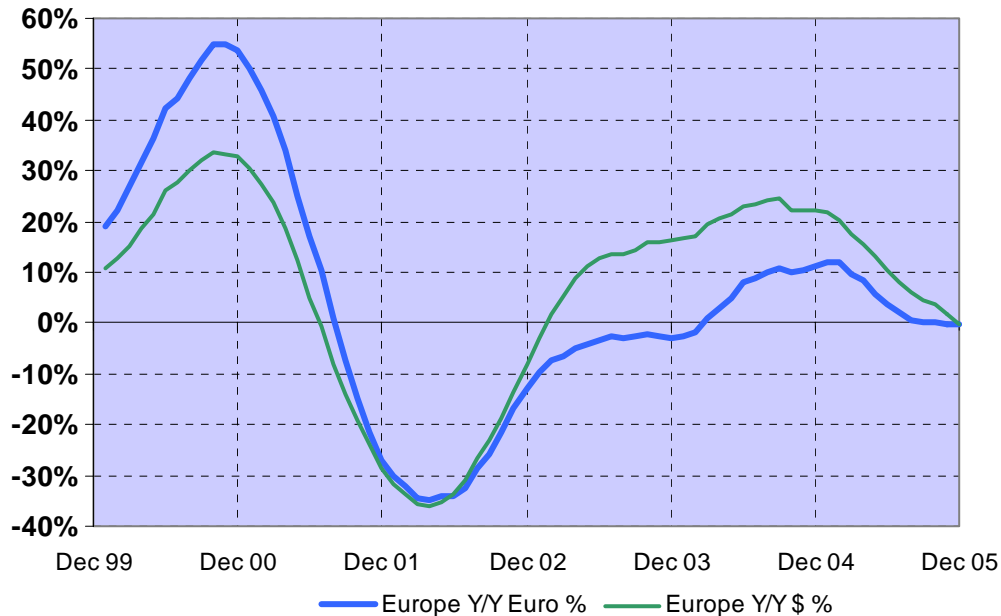
Market data for the 3 month moving average ending:								
Region	sales (in billions)		Month on Month growth		Year on Year growth		YTD growth	
	Nov 05	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 05
in \$:								
Europe	3.531	3.317	3.2%	-6.1%	-2.0%	-5.9%	0.3%	-0.4%
Americas	3.727	3.710	3.7%	-0.5%	8.0%	14.6%	2.5%	4.3%
Japan	3.766	3.620	0.9%	-3.9%	-4.5%	-6.2%	-3.4%	-3.7%
Asia Pacific	9.383	9.307	0.8%	-0.8%	16.7%	20.1%	15.5%	16.5%
World	20.407	19.953	1.7%	-2.2%	7.2%	8.6%	6.2%	6.8%
In EURO:								
Europe	2.931	2.788	4.7%	-4.9%	2.0%	2.6%	-0.9%	-0.4%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.179	1.185	-9.3%	-11.5%	< Euro against \$ versus prev. Year			

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

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



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 is available via subscription. For more information please contact the EECA-ESIA office (email address: EECA-ESIA) or visit our website at <http://www.eeca.org/esia.htm>.

EECA-ESIA is a chartered member of the World Semiconductor Council (<http://www.semiconductorcouncil.org/>) and licensee of WSTS data for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

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