



European Semiconductor Industry Association

## ***Latest Semiconductor sales data, for immediate release***

Brussels, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006

### **Chip sales in February: seasonal trend at work**

WSTS data, published today, are in line with the historical seasonal market developments. They confirm the prospect of a moderate decline in Q1 from Q4 2005, as anticipated in the latest WSTS forecast published in October, with a likely negative contribution from Microprocessors. The relative strength of MPU in February is essentially balancing the unusual weakness observed in January.

The European market decreased in February, but meanwhile, Europe was the only regional market place where the month-on-month trend slightly improved from January.

Looking closer at the European market by product family in February, the decline continued for Logic ICs (except automotive ASSP), DSP, MPU, DRAM and Flash memory. On the positive side, the market for Discrete, Analog ICs overall, specific ICs for Automotive and industrial applications is trending up, reflecting the improving outlook of the European economy.

European Semiconductor sales in February 2006 amounted to US\$ 3.107 billion according to the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS), down 2.5% versus the previous month. This corresponds to a 8.1% decline compared to the same month last year. On a total year basis, semiconductor sales declined in 2006 by 8.6% versus the year 2005.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ has an increasing controversial impact on the growth data in the recent months. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in February were EURO 2.595 billion, down 3.0% on previous month and up 1.3% versus the same month a year ago. On a Total year basis, semiconductor sales show in 2006 a decline of 0.9% versus 2005.

On a worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in February were US\$ 19.219 billion, down 2.2% versus the previous month. This results in an increase of 6.8% versus the same month in 2005 and on a year-to-date basis it results in a growth rate of 3.8%.

(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.

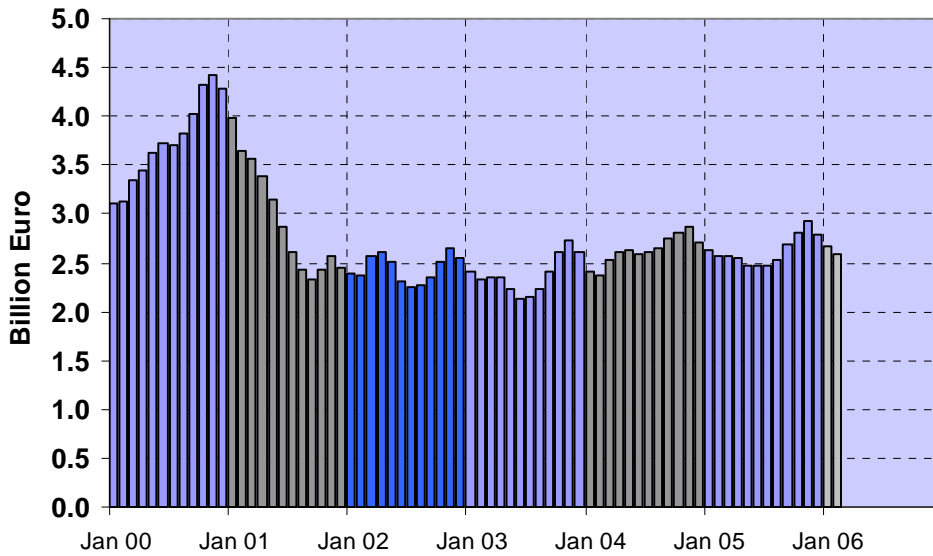
**About WSTS:** Established in 1986, the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide timely, accurate and authentic semiconductor market data on industry product shipments in a product line format serving the broad marketing and executive needs. In 2005 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](http://www.wsts.org)

## Market data by region<sup>1</sup>

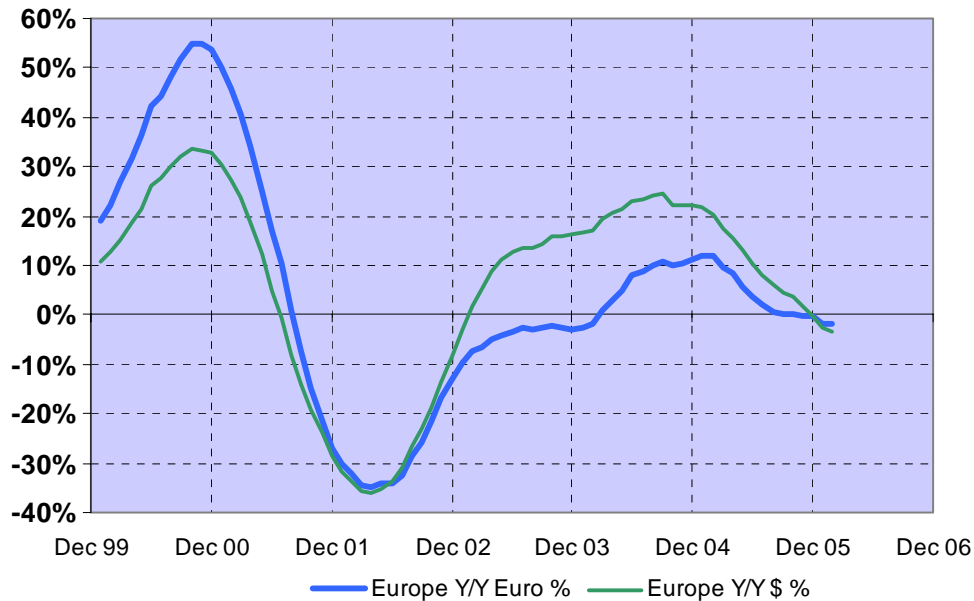
Market data for the 3 month moving average ending:								
Region	sales (in billions)		Month on Month growth		Year on Year growth		YTD growth	
	Jan 06	Feb06	Jan 06	Feb06	Jan 06	Feb06	Jan 06	Feb06
<b>in \$:</b>								
<b>Europe</b>	3.188	3.107	-3.9%	-2.5%	-8.2%	-8.1%	-11.2%	-8.6%
<b>Americas</b>	3.708	3.700	0.0%	-0.2%	15.9%	17.7%	8.4%	14.8%
<b>Japan</b>	3.652	3.637	0.9%	-0.4%	-5.5%	-4.1%	-3.8%	-3.0%
<b>Asia Pacific</b>	9.108	8.775	-2.1%	-3.6%	16.2%	14.3%	4.6%	8.0%
<b>World</b>	<b>19.656</b>	<b>19.219</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>In EURO:</b>								
<b>Europe</b>	2.676	2.595	-4.0%	-3.0%	1.4%	1.3%	-4.2%	-0.9%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.214	1.196	-7.3%	-8.2%	< 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](mailto: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.

For more information, please contact:

PR Contact:

**Martin Spät**

**EECA-ESIA Director**

Bruxelles – Belgium

**Tel:** +32 2 706 8600

email : [Martin Spät](mailto:Martin.Spaet@eeca.org)

About data:

**Patrice Vaslot**

**WSTS Vice Chairman Europe**

c/o STMicroelectronics

Paris, France

**Tel:** +33 1 58 077 763

email : [Patrice Vaslot](mailto:Patrice.Vaslot@st.com)