



European Semiconductor Industry Association

Latest Semiconductor sales data, for immediate release

Brussels, April 28th, 2006

First Quarter of 2006 follows industry expectations

Semiconductor shipments to Europe showed a moderate sequential decline, in line with the worldwide trend and the seasonal behaviour for the first quarter of the year. This result also corresponds to the latest WSTS forecasts released last Autumn.

The overall market performance was for the most part influenced by the decrease in sales of Microprocessors, down sequentially from Q4 2005, but also declining in comparison to the first quarter of last year.

In Europe and other regions Flash memory products slowed down in Q1 2006. However this relative slow down should be viewed against the extremely positive outlook for flash memory over the past year. There was high demand for Application specific integrated circuits in this quarter, particularly for the automotive and the consumer sectors. Chips for communication applications reported an overall positive result. A moderate growth was recorded for Digital Signal Processors and DRAM.

European Semiconductor sales in March 2005 amounted to US\$ 3.240 billion according to the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS), up 4.1% versus the previous month. This corresponds to a 4.0% decline compared to the same month last year. On a total year basis, semiconductor sales declined in 2006 as well by 4.0% 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 March were EURO 2.690 billion, up 3.5% on previous month and up 4.6% versus the same month a year ago. On a Total year basis, semiconductor sales show in 2006 a growth of 4.6% versus 2005.

On a worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in March were US\$ 19.697 billion, up 2.3% versus the previous month. This results in an increase of 7.3% versus the same month in 2005 and on a year-to-date basis it results as well in a growth rate of 7.3%.

(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.

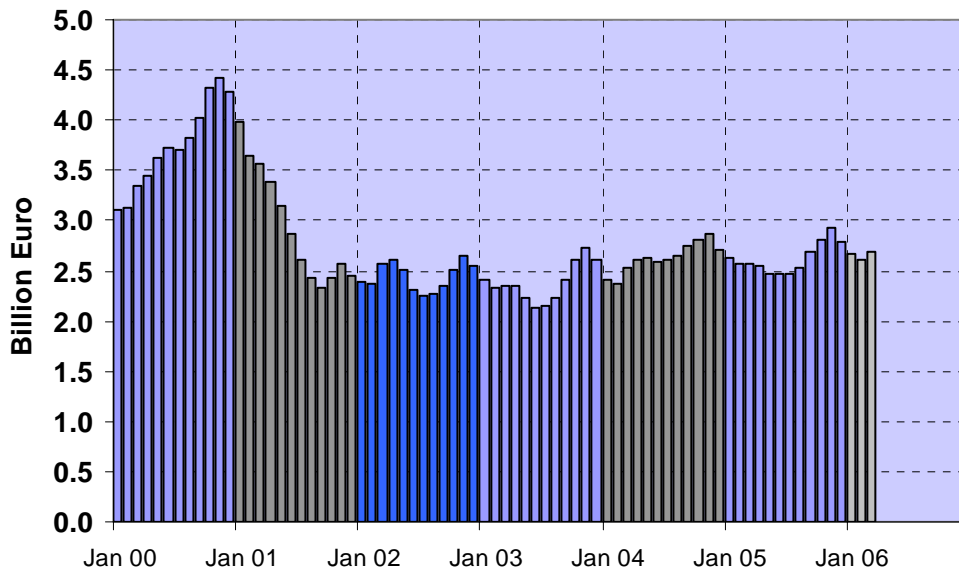
About WSTS: Established in 1986, the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide timely, accurate and authentic semiconductor market data on industry product shipments in a product line format serving the broad marketing and executive needs. In 2005 WSTS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

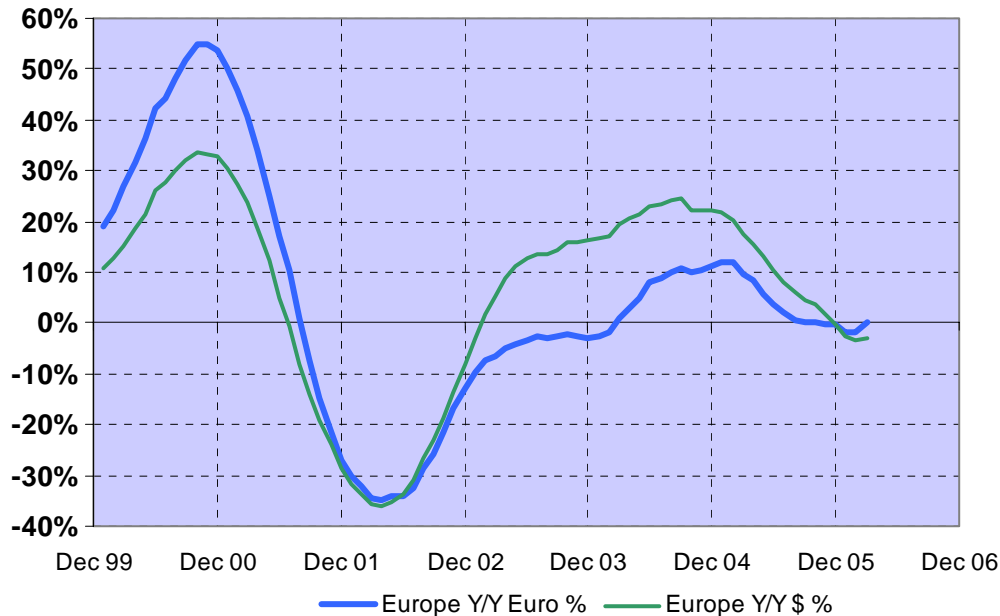
Market data for the 3 month moving average ending:								
Region	sales (in billions)		Month on Month growth		Year on Year growth		YTD growth	
	Feb06	Mar 06	Feb06	Mar 06	Feb06	Mar 06	Feb06	Mar 06
in \$:								
Europe	3.113	3.240	-2.4%	4.1%	-7.9%	-4.0%	-8.3%	-4.0%
Americas	3.717	3.731	0.2%	0.4%	18.3%	14.9%	15.7%	14.9%
Japan	3.642	3.789	-0.3%	4.0%	-3.9%	-1.1%	-2.8%	-1.1%
Asia Pacific	8.786	8.937	-3.4%	1.7%	14.4%	13.0%	8.3%	13.0%
World	19.258	19.697	-2.0%	2.3%	7.1%	7.3%	4.1%	7.3%
In EURO:								
Europe	2.600	2.690	-2.8%	3.5%	1.5%	4.6%	-0.5%	4.6%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.196	1.204	-8.2%	-8.9%	< 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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