

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, April 27, 2003

European Semiconductor Market in March 2003

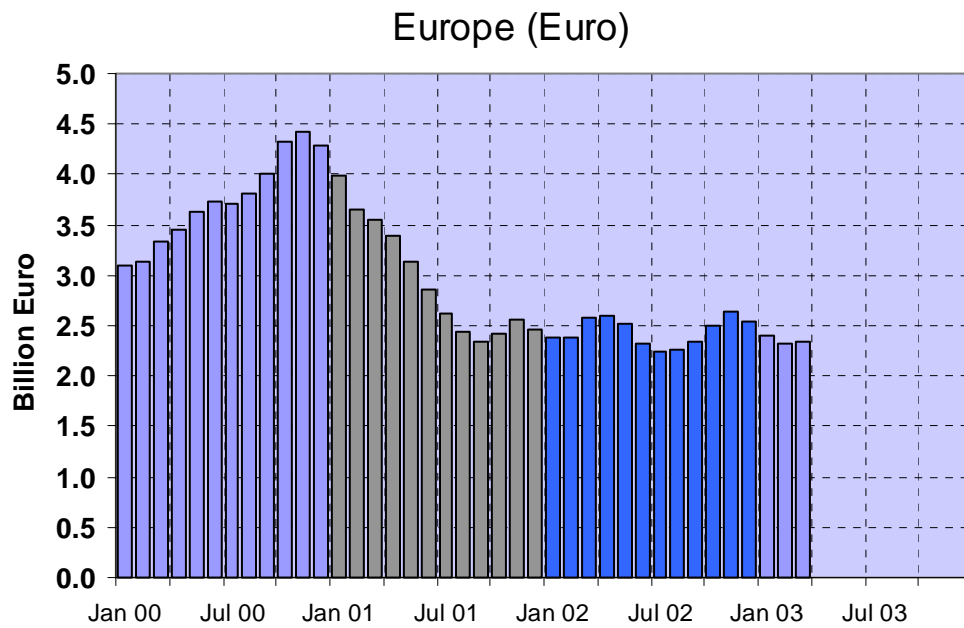
European Semiconductor sales in March 2003 amounted to US\$ 2.511 billion according to WSTS. This corresponds to a +11.3% increase compared to the same month last year. Year-to-date, semiconductor sales increased by +11.3% versus the same period last year. Monthly sequential growth (i.e. March compared to February) was +2.8%.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ has a significant impact on the growth data at this time. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in March were EURO 2.339 billion, a decline of -9.1% versus the same month a year ago. On a year-to-date basis, semiconductor sales decreased by -9.1% versus the same period last year. Monthly sequential growth in January was +0.7%.

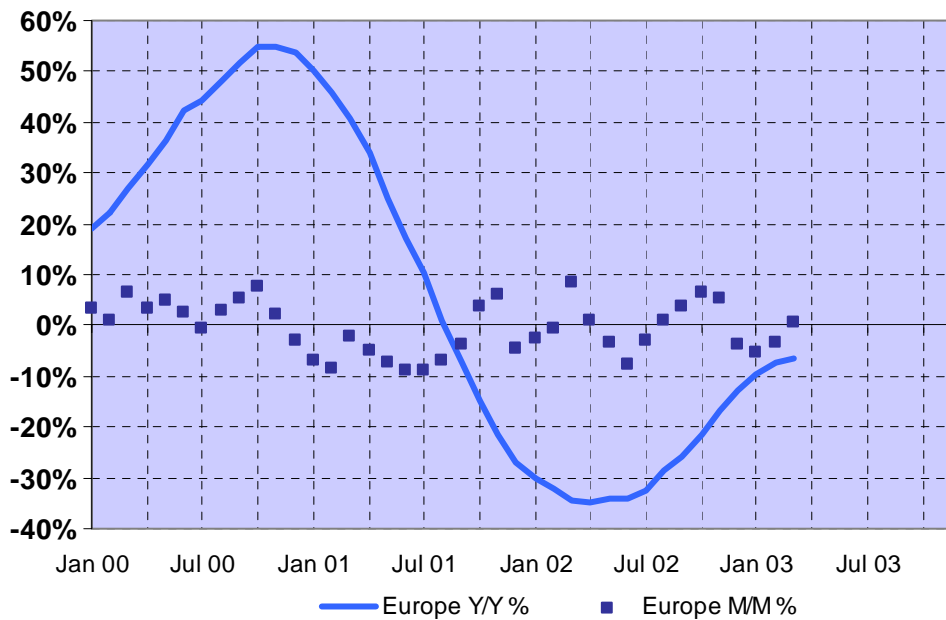
On a Worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in March were US\$ 12.131 billion, a +13.0% growth versus the same month a year ago. On a monthly sequential basis, this corresponds to an increase of +2.6% and on a year-to-date basis to a growth of +13.0%.

Market data for the 3 month moving average ending:								
Region	sales (in billions)		Year on Year growth		Month on Month growth		YTD growth	
	Feb 03	Mrz 03	Feb 03	Mrz 03	Feb 03	Mrz 03	Feb 03	Mrz 03
in \$:								
Europe	2.443	2.511	16.5%	11.3%	-1.0%	2.8%	18.8%	11.3%
Americas	2.410	2.402	-4.4%	-8.0%	-5.2%	-0.3%	-6.0%	-8.0%
Japan	2.687	2.815	34.1%	33.5%	-0.8%	4.8%	34.3%	33.5%
Asia Pacific	4.285	4.403	25.8%	17.2%	-5.1%	2.8%	20.9%	17.2%
World	11.824	12.131	17.9%	13.0%	-3.3%	2.6%	16.7%	13.0%
In EURO:								
Europe	2.323	2.339	-2.2%	-9.1%	-3.5%	0.7%	-2.7%	-9.1%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.081	1.077	24.5%	22.8%	< Variation Euro against \$ versus prev. Year			

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



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



European Semiconductor sales growth in %
Month over previous month (M/M) and yearly growth trend (Y/Y)
(3-month-average and 12-month-average data – measured in Euro)

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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