

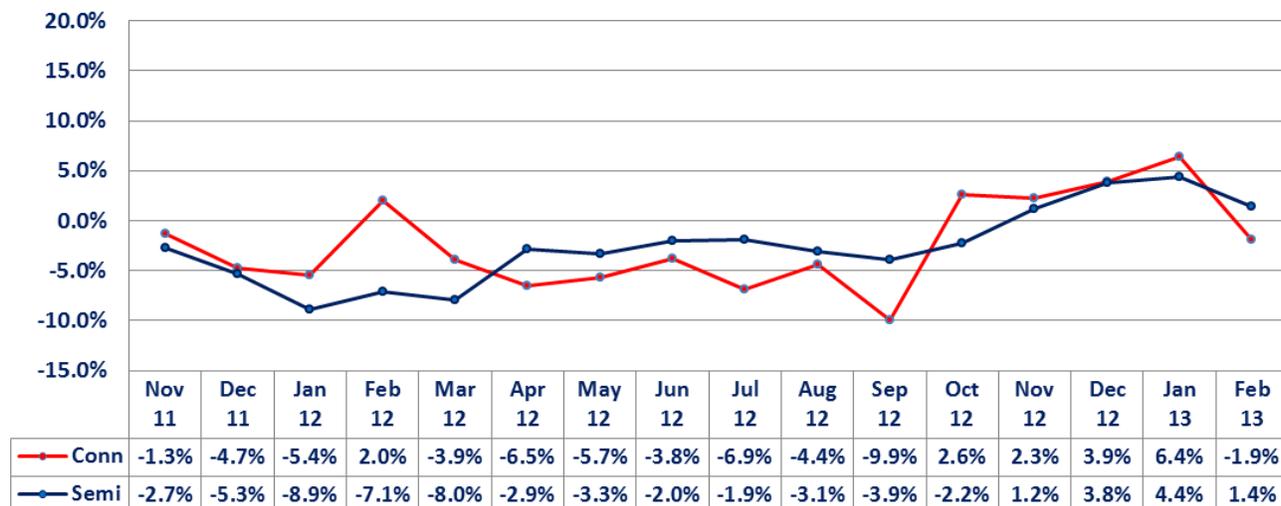
## Semiconductor Sales Grow +1.4% YOY in February 2013

The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) reported February sales of \$23.3 billion, up +1.4% from February 2012 but down -3.6% sequentially from January. This is the fourth consecutive month of growth for the semiconductor industry. Semiconductor sales are up +2.9% year-to-date over the same period in 2012.

As a comparison, February 2013 connector sales were down -1.9% versus February 2012. The connector industry sales are up +1.8% year-to-date over 2012.

The following graph compares semiconductor sales performance to the connector industry.

### Monthly Sales Performance Year-Over-Year



- The semiconductor industry has now achieved sales in four consecutive months. Normally we consider three or four months of consecutive growth as a clear indication that the industry is exiting from a recessionary environment. However, the growth is very modest, reminding us that we continue to operate in a lethargic and perhaps fragile economic environment.
- Connector industry sales have increased modestly in four of the past five months. The -1.9% decline in February was disappointing. We were hopeful for a long series of increasing year-over-year sales growth. However, we do expect March 2013 to achieve year-over-year growth and start us on a new string of monthly increases in sales.

The following table displays year-to-date performance by geographic region for both components.

**February Sales Performance  
Year-To-Date**

	<b>Semiconductors</b>	<b>Connectors</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>-14.2%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
<b>Asia Pacific</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

Europe has the same performance for both industries. Japan performance is very different for the two industries.

Semiconductor sales are forecast to grow 4.5% in 2013 to \$304 billion. Connector industry sales are forecast to growth 4.2% in 2013 to \$49 billion.