Global chip sales in Q3 2026 explained: what SIA and WSTS reported

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Short answer: the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) said on 3 November 2026 that global semiconductor sales were $517.7 billion in the third quarter of 2026, up 24.1% on the second quarter. September sales were $172.6 billion, up 146.8% on September 2025 and 7.9% on August, according to World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS) data. It is a primary industry figure for judging demand across the technology supply chain.

TL;DR The short version

- SIA reported Q3 2026 global chip sales of $517.7 billion, up 24.1% on Q2, based on WSTS data.
- September sales were $172.6 billion, up 146.8% year on year, with the Americas growing fastest.
- Monthly figures are three-month moving averages in current dollars, and the release does not attribute growth to AI or any one segment.

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What was reported?

- Q3 2026 global sales of $517.7 billion, up 24.1% from Q2 2026.
- September 2026 sales of $172.6 billion, up 146.8% year on year and 7.9% month on month.
- SIA CEO Michael Robbins said sales grew by more than 20% quarter to quarter for the third consecutive quarter.

How to read the numbers

- Monthly figures are compiled by WSTS and represent a three-month moving average, so they smooth swings and lag turning points.
- Sales are in current dollars and reflect prices and mix as well as unit volume.
- The release does not break out product categories, so it does not say what drove the growth.

Regional picture in the release

- Year on year in September: Americas up 191.7%, Asia Pacific/All Other 141.4%, China 124.9%, Europe 102.5%, Japan 73.4%.
- Month on month: Americas 11.0%, Japan 8.7%, Europe 8.1%, Asia Pacific/All Other 6.9%, China 4.2%.

Limitations and open questions

- This is an association press release. Detailed data and forecasts are paywalled in the WSTS package and the SIA Databook, which we did not read.
- It does not attribute growth to AI or any single segment, so any such link is an inference.
- Very high year-on-year rates partly reflect comparison with a weaker base.

How to use the data, step by step

1. Compare the regional split against your own supply exposure.
2. Check lead times and pricing from your component suppliers.
3. Treat moving averages as trend indicators, not signals for next month.
4. Revisit capacity and procurement plans each quarter.

What it means for technology buyers and finance teams

A sustained market expansion raises the odds of tighter supply and higher component prices in categories with constrained capacity. See IEA World Energy Outlook 2026 on chokepoints and critical minerals and FinOps for engineers.

Frequently asked questions

- **Who publishes the figures?** SIA announces them, using WSTS data.
- **What is the Q3 2026 total?** $517.7 billion, up 24.1% on Q2.
- **Are the monthly numbers exact?** They are three-month moving averages, per the release.

Related reading

- IEA WEO 2026: chokepoints and critical minerals
- IEA WEO 2026: electricity demand and data centres
- FinOps for engineers
- Cloud Architecture Practitioner

Sources and currency

Sources were read on 23 November 2026. Products, rules and standards change, so check the linked originals before you rely on any detail.

> Related credential: Cloud Architecture Practitioner. Explore the exam facts and syllabus.

Sources and further reading

1. Semiconductor Industry Association. Global Semiconductor Sales Increase 24.1% from Q2 2026 to Q3 2026. 3 November 2026.

semiconductors.org/global-semiconductor-sales-increase-24-1-from-q2-2026-to-q3-2026.

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