

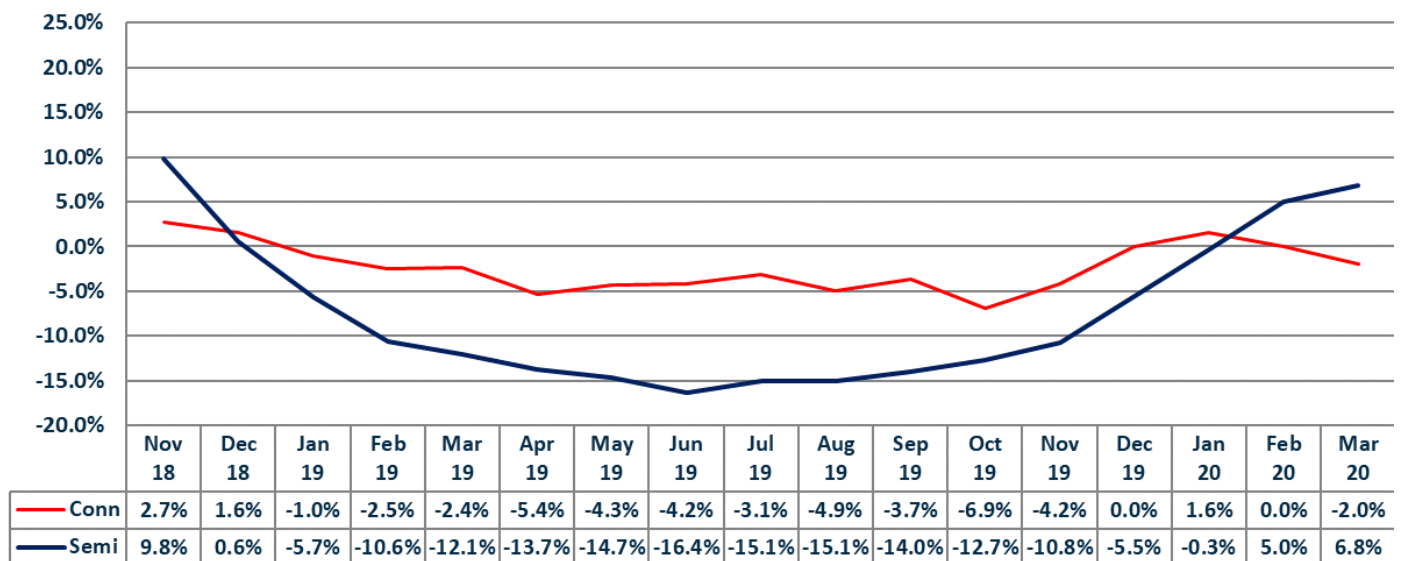
## Semis up +6.8% in March But April and May Will Probably Decline

The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) reported March sales of \$34.9 billion, up +6.8% from prior year, and up +1.0% sequentially. Regionally for March, the SIA reported that the Americas grew +21.8% YOY, Japan was up +1.1%, China increased 4.4%. Asia Pacific/Other decreased by -32.4%, Europe was down -1.2%. The overall grow was only the second achieved by the industry since December 2018.

Connector industry sales, measured in US dollars, were down -2.0% to the prior year and decreased -0.9% sequentially. Regionally for March, YOY sales increased +3.8% in Japan, and +4.5% in China. North America declined -3.8%, Asia Pacific was down -2.7% and ROW decreased -7.2%.

The following graph compares semiconductor sales performance to the connector industry since September 2018.

Monthly Sales Performance  
Year-Over-Year



The full impact of COVID-19 sales contraction is still not showing up significantly in the performance of either component. In fact, semis grew YOY in March, which was not expected. It begs the question, which product is a leading indicator for the other in these unusual times!

The following table displays year-to-date performance, measured in US dollars, by geographic region for both components.

**Sales Performance  
2020 March YTD**

	<b>Semiconductors</b>	<b>Connectors</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>
<b>Asia Pacific/Other</b>	<b>-11.9%</b>	<b>-4.8%</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>

Source SIA & Bishop

Semi sales performance has now surpassed connector sales for two months, but the outcome of this comparison is very much up in the air. What lies ahead for both industries will depend on the success of all countries in curtailing the growth rate of COVID-19 and restarting their economies after the unprecedented shutdown of businesses worldwide.