

The Chart Page

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Who's Up in the Chip Wars?

The United States has retaken and maintained a lead in the global semiconductor market, and US industry employment shot

up after 1993. So reports SEMATECH, the US semiconductor industrial consortium.

The US market share of merchant chip sales, after bottoming out in 1988, rebounded strongly through 1994. Despite a small drop in 1995, the US still boasted more than forty-three percent of the worldwide market, compared to Japan's thirty-seven percent (chart 1).

After 1990, the US also recovered its lead in sales of chip-making equipment and accounted for 49.7 percent of the worldwide market in 1995, while Japan's sales hovered at 42.9 percent (chart 2).

Employment in the US semiconductor industry surged in 1993-95, registering an overall gain of eighteen percent (chart 3). In 1992, the US semi-

conductor industry built or announced plans for only four factories. It plans to build fourteen new factories in 1997 (chart 4).

Source: SEMATECH Annual Report 1995 (March 1996).

