

Sales Sentiment for Electronic Components Continues to Struggle in October Survey Results

ECIA's Electronic Component Sales Trend (ECST) October Survey Results

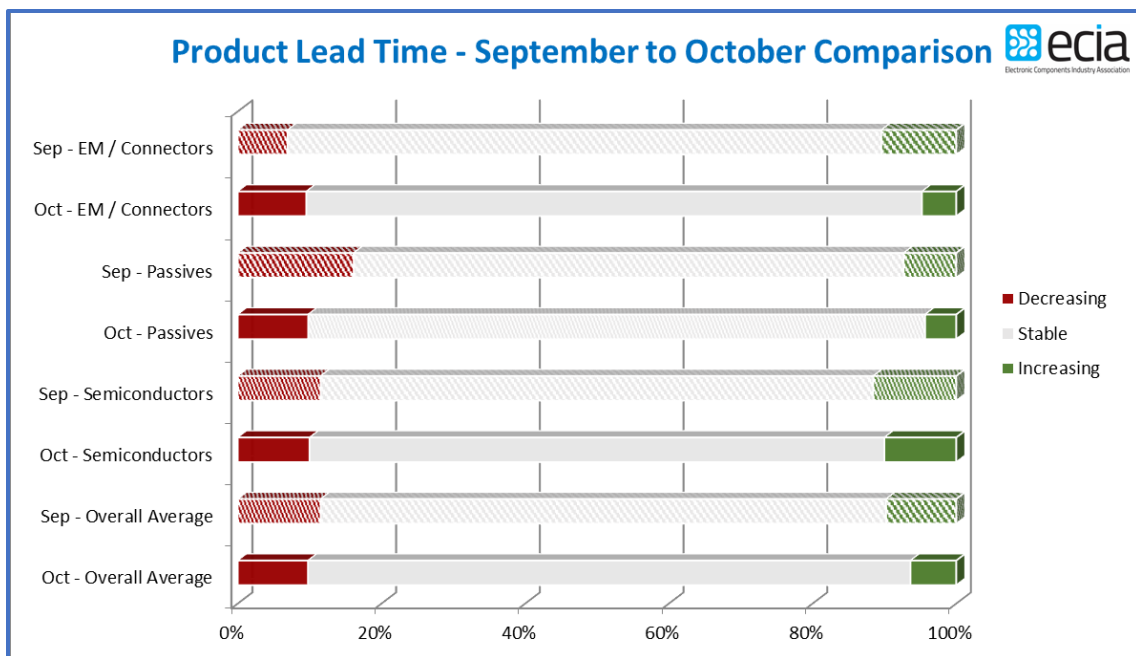
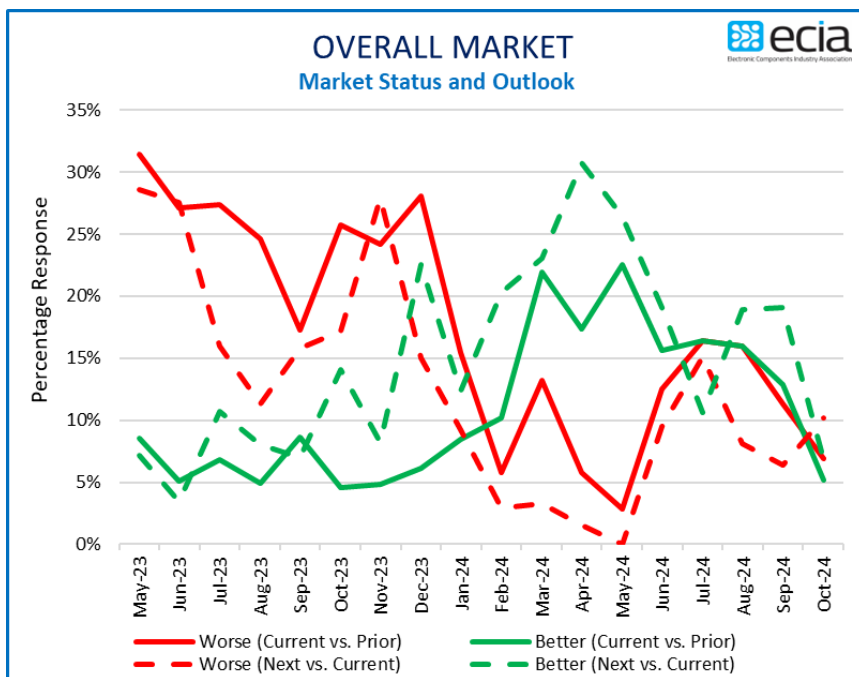
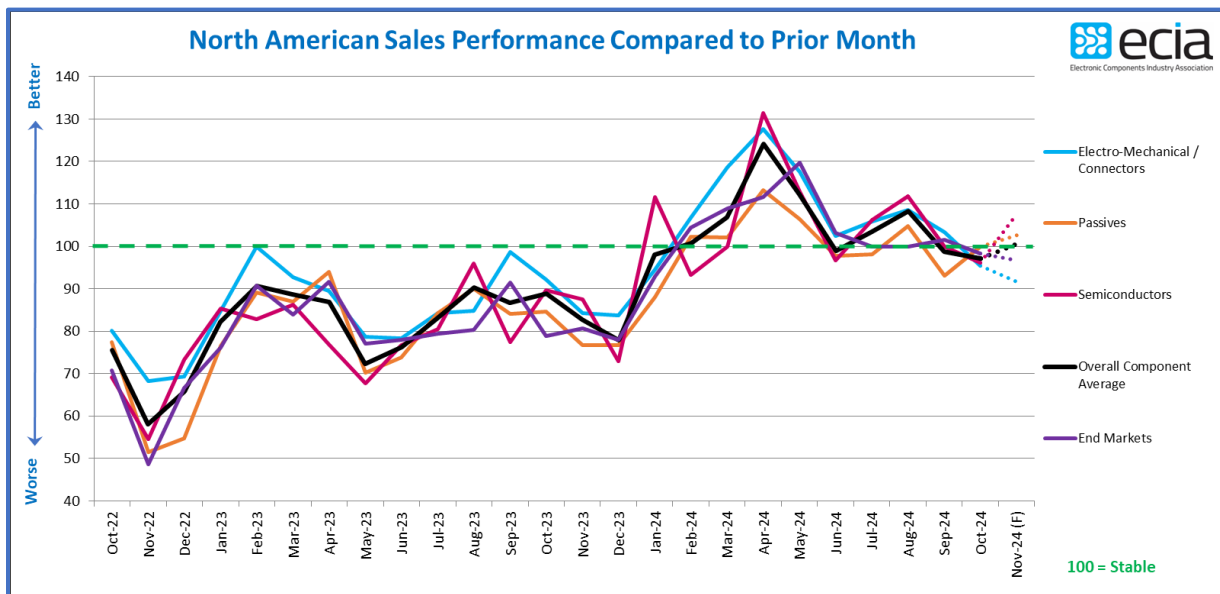
Dale Ford, Chief Analyst

Sales sentiment for electronics components seems to be mired in the doldrums with October sentiment as measured by the Electronics Components Sales Trend survey (ECST) struggling to remain essentially neutral at 97.1 compared to September. While the November outlook calls for a small bump of 3.5 points to 100.6, to borrow a phrase from a song, "the thrill is gone." Many of the conversations at ECIA's recent Executive Conference expressed opinions very much in line with the results of the latest survey and perhaps even more glum. There is no indicator of improved expectations looking through the end of 2024 and beginning 2025.

In a bit of a surprise, the Electro-Mechanical/Connector segment continues to see a continued slide every month since its peak at 127.6 in April. This segment has typically delivered the strongest performance compared to other segments, but it has now dropped substantially below Passives and Semiconductors. The average score reported for Electro-Mechanical/Connectors for October is 95.3 and the outlook calls for a continued decline to 91.6 in November. Passive components saw a bump of 6.8 points up to 99.9 in the October results with continued expectations of improvement to 102.6 in November. Semiconductors suffered a decline of 3.8 points to 96.2 in October. However, survey participants in this segment are ever the optimists and project improvement to 107.7 in November. Unfortunately, their expectations have been dashed fairly regularly in recent actual survey results. The industry continues to face the dual challenge of resolving stubborn inventory issues along with responding to weak demand in almost all end markets.

The index score for the overall end-market for electronic components remains in neutral territory as it dipped below 101.6 in September down to 98.3 in October. The most encouraging results were delivered by the Computer, Medical, and Mobile Phone segments with strong improvements in their scores that boosted them to 100 and above in the index. Industrial Electronics and Avionics/Military/Aerospace suffered substantial drops in their scores but still managed to maintain an overall score above 100 in October. There is little to cheer about in the November outlook for end markets as almost all segments project a decline in their score and only Computers and Avionics/Military/Aerospace forecast to reach 100 or above in the index.

Lead time stability continues to dominate in the supply chain in the October results.



The ECST survey provides highly valuable and detailed visibility on industry expectations in the near-term through the monthly and quarterly surveys. This “immediate” perspective is helpful to participants up and down the electronics components supply chain. In the long-term, ECIA shares in the optimism for the future as the continued introduction and market adoption of exciting innovative technologies should motivate both corporate and consumer demand for next-generation products over the long term.

The complete ECIA Electronic Component Sales Trends (ECST) Report is delivered to all ECIA members as well as others who participate in the survey. All participants in the electronics component supply chain are invited and encouraged to participate in the report so they can see the highly valuable insights provided by the ECST report. The return on a small investment of time is enormous!

The monthly and quarterly ECST reports present data in detailed tables and figures with multiple perspectives and covering current sales expectations, sales outlook, product cancellations, product decommits and product lead times. The data is presented at a detailed level for six major electronic component categories, six semiconductor subcategories and eight end markets. Also, survey results are segmented by aggregated responses from manufacturers, distributors, and manufacturer representatives.