

September's ECIA Industry Pulse Survey Outperforms Expectations, Sustains Stable Positive Sentiment

ECIA's Industry Pulse: Electronic Component Trends and Sentiment September 2026

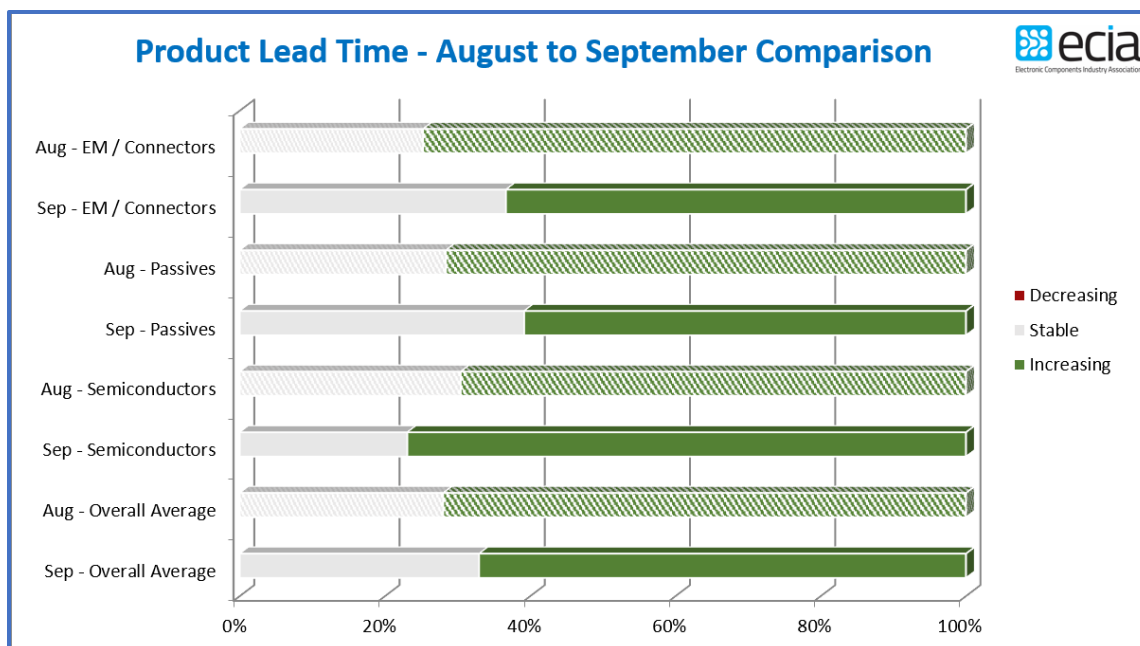
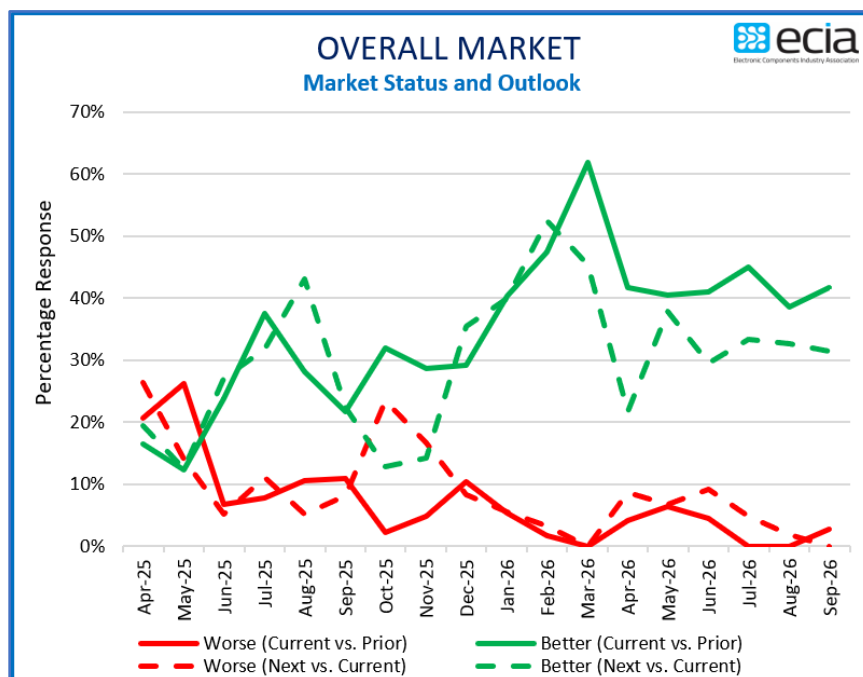
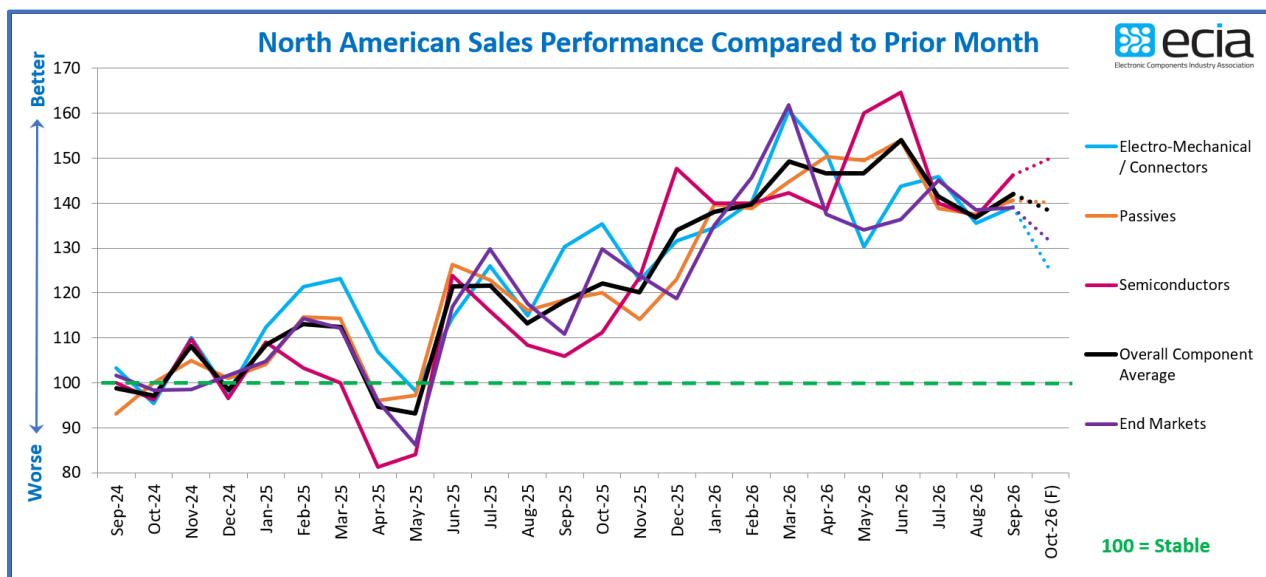
Dale Ford, Chief Analyst

The results of the September ECIA Industry Pulse survey delivered a very pleasant upside, as every component segment and the end-market measure outperformed expectations from the August survey. The overall component index average improved from 136.7 in August to 142.0 in September, beating expectations by 6.6 points. The overall end-market results remained fairly stable between August and September, beating expectations by 8.1 points. The overall outlook for October sees the index declining by 3.7 points to 138.3. However, this decline is driven by an anomalous and suspicious forecast for Electro-Mechanical components. The forecast for Electro-Mechanical components predicts a decline of 14.4 points, down to 124.8. This is uncharacteristic for Electro-Mechanical components, as they typically perform better than the other segments. Semiconductor index results are predicted to improve to 150.0 while Passives are stable at 140.1. It may be that unusually weak participation by Manufacturers in this survey has resulted in skewed results for Electro-Mechanical components. Both participation by Manufacturers and the Electro-Mechanical index performance will be scrutinized in the October survey.

Once again, the results for end-market sentiment mirror the component scores, as overall sentiment improved slightly from 138.5 in August to 138.9 in September. The forecast for October predicts overall end-market segment sentiment will fall by 7.5 points to 131.4. However, the August survey results predicted the end-market index would fall by 7.7 points in September. Hopefully, the October results will also beat expectations. The sentiment measured for every end-market in the September actuals and October outlook registers between "Solidly" and "Strongly" above the 100-point growth threshold. This is enabled by a leap in sentiment measured for Mobile Phones in September. Individual end-market scores range from 104.5 for Consumer Electronics at the bottom to 150.0 for Avionics/Military/Space at the top. The broad-based strength seen across all markets is a highly encouraging indicator for strong sales opportunities for all suppliers.

The index scores from Distributors and Manufacturer Representatives both align fairly closely to the overall score for both September and October. The unusually weak participation by Manufacturers in the latest survey does not allow a reasonable comparison of their results to the overall average. Increasing lead time pressure reported for Passive Components and Electro-Mechanical components saw a notable easing between August and September. However, they still remain high with between 61% and 63% reporting increasing pressure and none reporting declining pressure. On the other hand, Semiconductor lead time pressure grew more intense in September, with the percentage reporting increasing pressure growing from 72% to 77%. Once again, while much attention has been given to the pressure on lead times for DRAM and Data Flash Memory ICs, it is notable that lead time pressure is being experienced across all product categories. Relief from supply chain imbalances has not materialized.

The results of the September Industry Pulse survey are consistent with both the measured Q2 financial results and outlook from leaders of major companies as well as anecdotal evidence heard from many executives.



The Industry Pulse 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 Industry Pulse 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 this report. The return on a small investment of time is enormous!

The monthly and quarterly Industry Pulse 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.