April 2013

North American Electronics Business Slowing

U.S. consumer confidence was up in February. Except for EMS sales, PCB and semiconductor sales registered negative growth in February 2013. The three-month moving averages were down as well, as shown in the graph below.

IPC’s PCB book-to-bill ratio posted a strong recovery reaching 1.06 in February 2013. The book-to-bill ratio leads sales in the PCB industry by three to six months. The three-month rolling average of new orders for electronic products, also a leading indicator, was down in February after a brief uptick in the last quarter of 2012.

Note on the graph:
All indices are based on the same baseline of the average month in 2000=100, and reflect a three-month rolling average.

Sources: IPC statistical programs for the EMS and PCB industries; SIA for semiconductor data; U.S. Census Bureau for U.S. new orders for computer and electronic products.

This information is provided by IPC — Association Connecting Electronics Industries®. Other industry data can be found at www.ipc.org.