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Analyst: MCU prices will keep declining

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SAN FRANCISCO — Average selling prices (ASPs) for microcontrollers declined across all categories in 2006 and are expected to continue doing so, according to a report released Friday (April 6) by market research analyst Semico Research Corp.

Overall, the MCU market showed a slight recovery in 2006, growing 3 percent to reach \$12.4 billion, according to [Semico](#) (Phoenix). The dollar growth was driven by growth in parts at [32-bit](#) or greater, the firm said.

Overall unit growth of MCUs was 19.5 percent in 2006, according to Semico.

"Tremendous unit growth for 16-bit MCUs was largely responsible for the overall growth in 2006," said Tony Massimini, chief of technology and micro logic at Semico. "This high growth for 16-bit MCU shipments was due primarily to IC cards and industrial control. The [16-bit](#) segment will continue to show strong growth, surpassing [8-bit](#) unit sales in 2011."

Semico said flash MCUs account for the largest share of MCU revenues, capturing over 58 percent in 2006. The [flash](#) MCU market will continue to grow to reach more than \$12.3 billion in 2011, the firm said.

The IC card MCU segment surpassed flash MCU in unit sales for the first time in 2006, Semico said, with more than 2.9 billion units sold. Over the next five years, IC card MCU is expected to grow faster and represent more than 46 percent of the total MCU market, Semico said.

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