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## **New Data on U.S. High-Tech Sector Shows Importance of Semiconductor Industry to Economic Growth and Productivity**

### ***Tech Industries that Depend on Semiconductors Added Nearly 100,000 High-Wage Jobs in 2007***

**San Jose, CA – April 2, 2008** – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today pointed to a new report on trends in the high-tech industry as another demonstration of the importance of semiconductors to U.S. job growth and productivity.

AeA's *Cyberstates 2008: A Complete State-by-State Overview of the High-Technology Industry* shows that in 2007, the high-tech industry, which depends on semiconductors, continued growing, adding 91,400 net jobs for a total of 5.9 million in the United States. This marks the third straight year of high-tech job growth (139,000 jobs added in 2006 and 87,400 jobs added in 2005).

"*Cyberstates 2008* demonstrates that semiconductors are America's lifeline," said SIA President George Scalise. "By enabling computers to process more information at faster speeds and lower costs, semiconductor technology fuels job growth and furthers our high standard of living."

The high-tech jobs enabled by the semiconductor industry pay extremely well, with the average high-tech wage being 87 percent higher than the average private sector wage. In 47 states the average high-tech wage is at least 50 percent higher than the average private sector wage, and in four states this differential is over 100 percent.

SIA cited this report as further evidence that Congress should act this year on the unfinished components of the innovation agenda that would allow the semiconductor industry to continue producing good-paying jobs in America. That agenda, which has the bipartisan support of Congressional leaders and the President, includes: enhanced Federal support for basic research, reform of high-skilled immigration rules to attract and retain more highly educated foreign-born professionals and securing a permanent and strengthened R&D tax credit. All these recommendations are part of the *Gathering Storm* report, the President's American Competitiveness Initiative and the Democratic Innovation Agenda.

"The AeA report is one among many studies that have shown the critical importance of the semiconductor industry to the U.S. economy," continued Scalise. "Congress should take note of the economic importance and technological impact of our industry and pass these critical reforms without delay this year. This will allow us to keep innovating and producing for America."

### ***About the SIA***

The SIA is the leading voice for the semiconductor industry and has represented U.S. semiconductor companies since 1977. Collectively, the chip industry employs a domestic workforce of 216,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at [www.sia-online.org](http://www.sia-online.org).