

**FEBRUARY 15, 2012**

## IC Companies Close 49 Wafer Fabs from 2009-2011

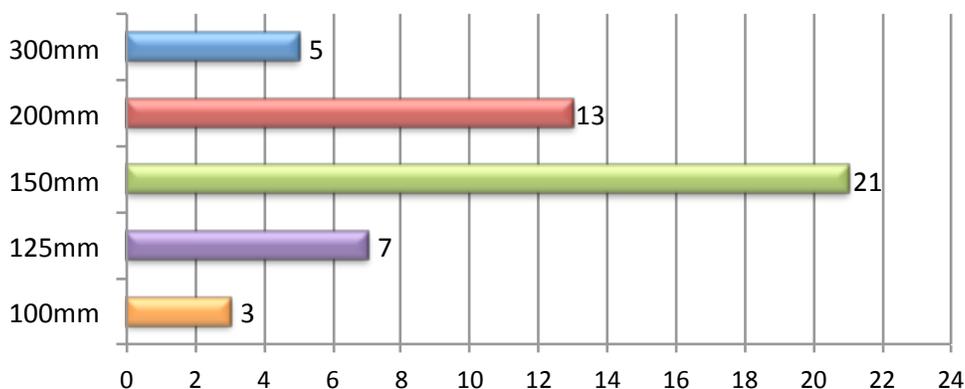
*Japan and North America with most closures, 150mm wafer fabs account for 43% of closures.*

Data recently compiled and released in IC Insights' *Global Wafer Capacity 2011-2012* report, shows that 49 semiconductor wafer fabs were closed between 2009-2011. Since mid-2007, the IC industry has been paring down its older capacity (i.e.,  $\leq 200\text{mm}$  wafers). The decline in  $\leq 200\text{mm}$  capacity picked up speed in 2009 and continued through 2010 and 2011 as suppliers closed or upgraded fabs that were manufacturing using smaller wafers in order to produce devices more cost-effectively on larger wafers. It is worth noting that a few of the fabs are being refurbished for production on larger wafers or for production of "non-IC" products. In the coming years, more companies are expected to shutter older fabs as they transition to the fab-lite business model or become completely fabless. As seen in Figure 1, most of the fab closures from 2009-2011 were 150mm wafer fabs (43%). The distribution of those 49 according to wafer size are: 21 for 150mm, 13 for 200mm, 7 for 125mm, 5 for 300mm, and 3 for 100mm. With Qimonda going out of business in early 2009, its 300mm wafer fabs became the first of their kind to cease commercial operations.

### MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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**Fab Closures by Wafer Size, 2009-2011**



Source: IC Insights

**Figure 1**

Regionally, according to the *Global Wafer Capacity 2011-2012* report, Japan and North America each had 17 wafer fab closures, followed by Europe with 12 and South Korea with 3 (Figure 2). One of the wafer fab closures in Japan was a 300mm IC fab operated by Sony. However, this fab is being retrofitted and will return to service to produce image sensors for the company. The Qimonda wafer fab in Sandston, Virginia, was the only 300mm wafer fab closed in North America (2009) during this time. At the other end of the spectrum, a total of three 100mm wafer fabs were closed in the three-year span. These included fabs owned by DALSA in Bromont, Ontario, Canada, ON Semiconductor in Piestany, Slovak Republic, and Diodes in Oldham, England.



**Figure 2**

## Report Details

IC Insights' *Global Wafer Capacity 2011-12* report features **78 pages** and **61 charts/tables** of IC wafer capacity analyses and forecasts along with two addendums: a **72-page addendum** of 300mm wafer manufacturer profiles; and a **24-page addendum** of detailed IC fab specifications. Individual subscribers can obtain access to the data for \$4,190. For those interested in providing the data to multiple users within a company, a multi-user company-wide use license is available for \$6,990.

### About IC Insights

IC Insights, Inc., based in Scottsdale, Arizona USA, is dedicated to providing high-quality, cost-effective market research for the semiconductor industry. Founded in 1997, IC Insights offers coverage of global economic trends, the semiconductor market forecast, capital spending and fab capacity trends, product market details, and technology trends, as well as complete IC company profiles and evaluations of end-use applications driving demand for ICs.

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