

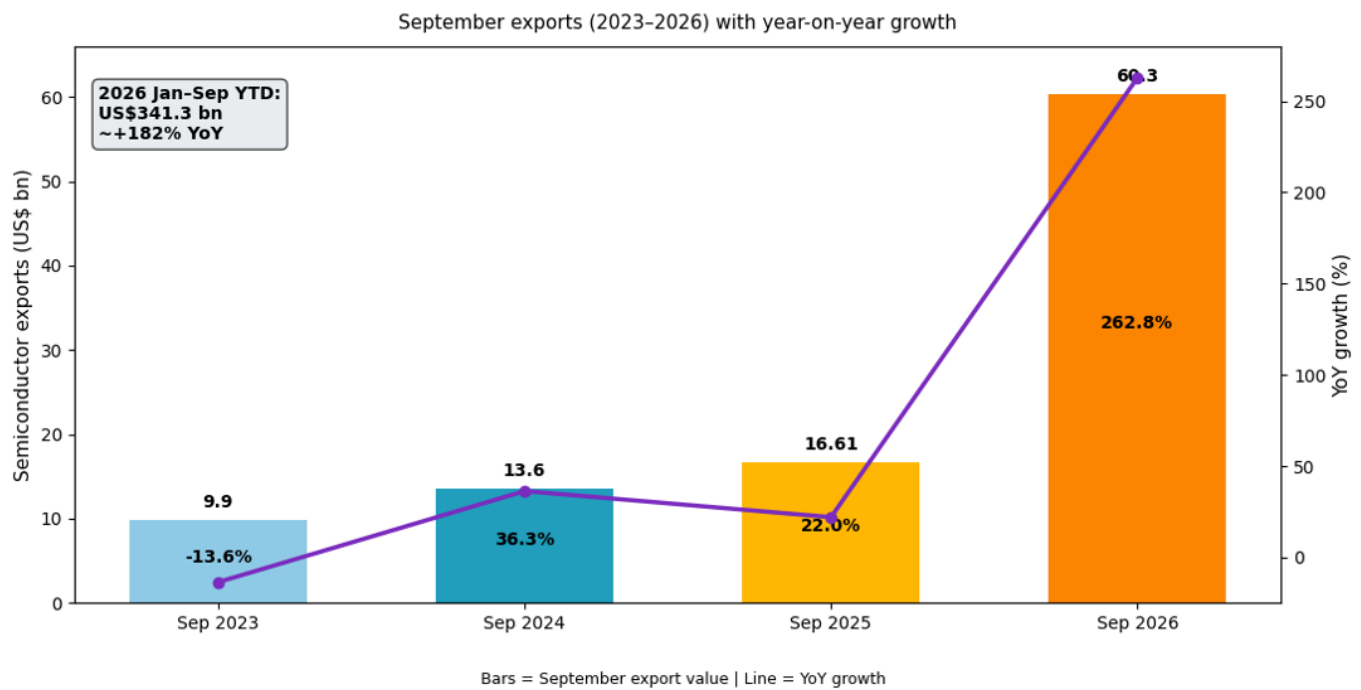
NEWS | TECHNOLOGY

South Korea exports jump 83.5% to record \$120.9B on AI chips

On a September-to-September basis, South Korea's chip exports are showing a massive boom.

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | October 1, 2026

South Korea Semiconductor Exports



South Korea Exports Hit Record \$120.9B on AI Chip Boom

South Korea's exports rose 83.5% from a year earlier to a record \$120.9 billion in September, driven by a surge in chip shipments. It is the clearest sign yet of how much

money the AI memory boom is generating.

South Korea's Chip exports rose **262.8%** to \$60.3 billion, the first time they have topped **\$60 billion in a month.**

In only nine months of 2026, Korea has exported almost twice the value of chips it exported during all of 2025, and about 2.4× the entire 2024 total.

Imports rose 26% to \$71.09 billion, leaving a trade surplus of \$49.85 billion, while auto exports fell 5%.

Exports for January to September reached \$814.5 billion, already more than last year's record full-year total.

The trade minister now expects annual exports to reach \$1 trillion, but warned that rising protectionism and tensions in the Middle East remain major risks.

Read online: <https://worldbusinesswatch.com/news/13/195/south-korea-exports-jump-83-5-to-record-120-9b-on-ai-chips.html>

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