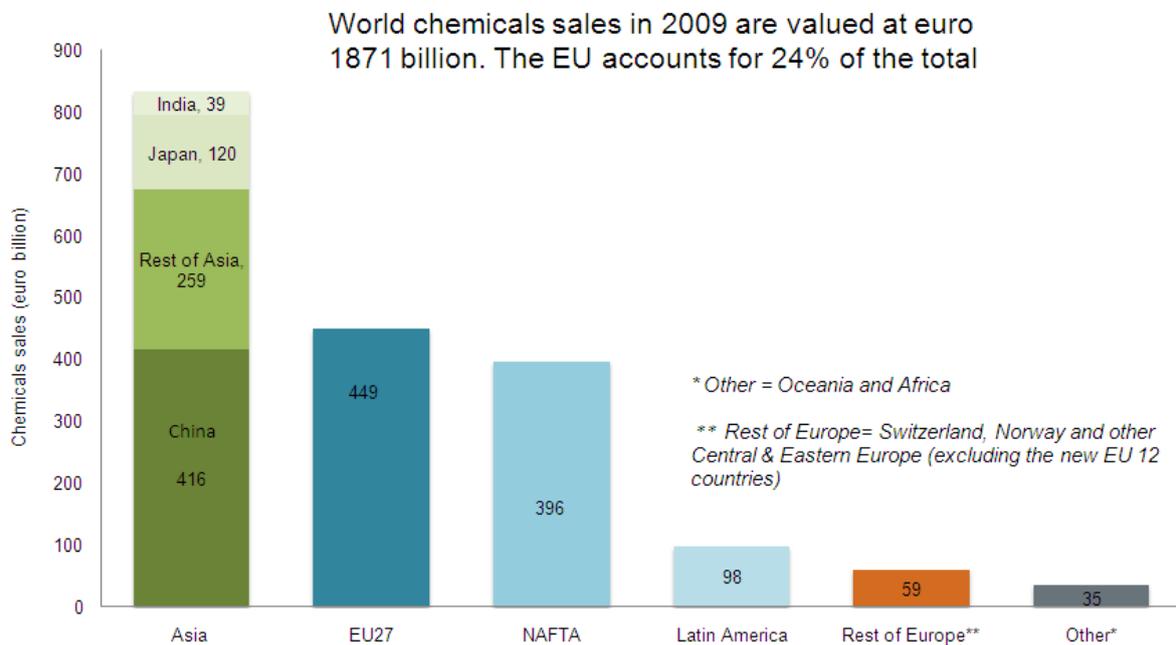


Chemical Industry Profile

World chemicals sales: geographic breakdown



Source: Cefic Chemdata International

The European chemical industry can still be portrayed as vibrant and strong. Worldwide competition is getting fiercer, however, as world chemicals sales in 2009 were valued at €1871 billion, a steep decline of 8.4 per cent compared with 2008 due to the spill-over effects of the economic and financial crisis.

The €449 billion EU chemical industry is still in a strong position, but has lost its top ranking in terms of sales to Asia, mainly due to the rise of China. Taken together, the European Union, Asia and North American Free Trade Area, account for 89.7 per cent of world turnover.