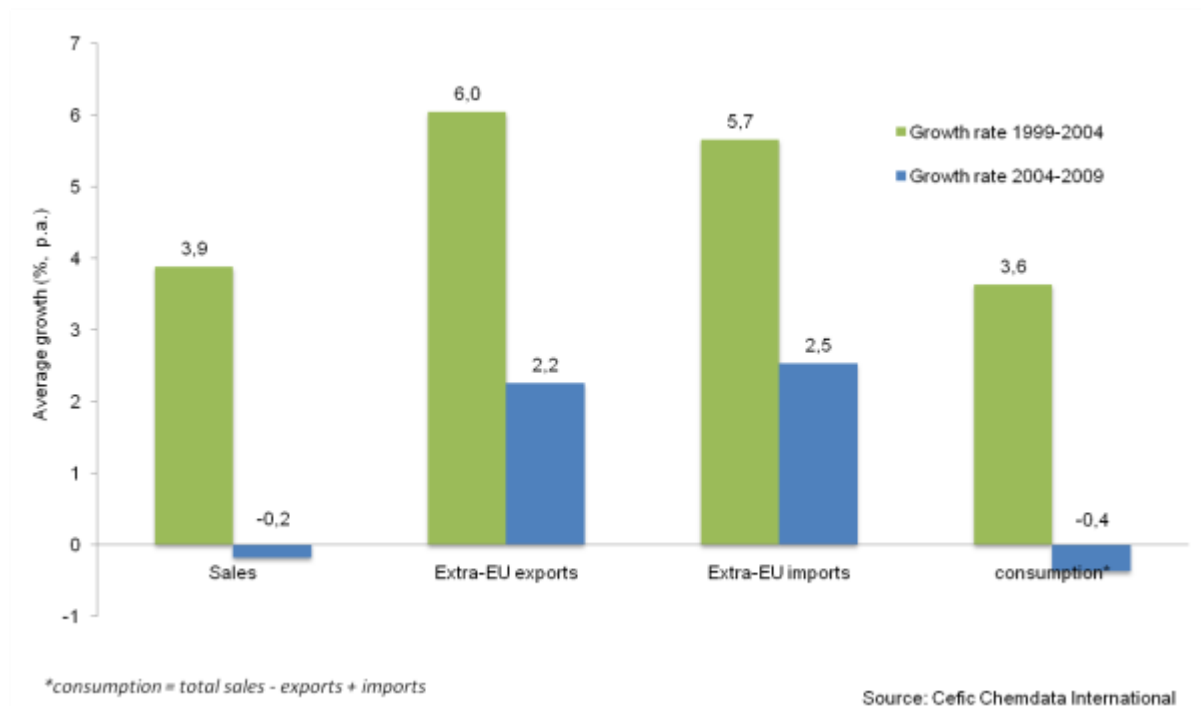




Growth

Production, trade and consumption growth



During the period from 2004 to 2009, chemicals sales and consumption registered a small decline. Chemicals sales declined slightly slower than consumption (-0.2% versus -0.4%). Import growth during the same five-year period experienced a trend rate of 2.5 per cent, slightly exceeding the 2.2 per cent trend rate of export growth.