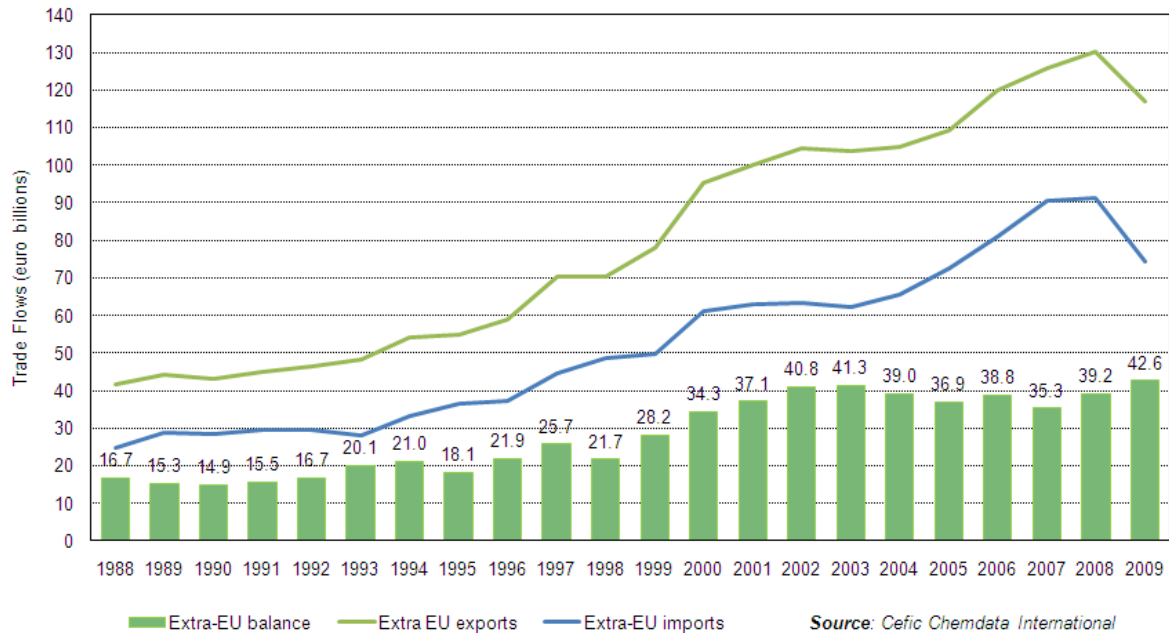




## International Trade

### Extra-EU chemicals trade balance



As a historically important player in the global chemicals market, the EU chemical industry has been in a position to benefit from trade opportunities. In 2009, the EU generated an extra-EU trade surplus of €42.6 billion, which represents about €3.4 billion more compared with 2008. As a consequence of the economic crisis, extra-EU chemical exports – those exports sent outside of the EU internal market – declined in 2009 by 10.2 per cent. Imports to non-EU area, fell by 18.4 per cent.