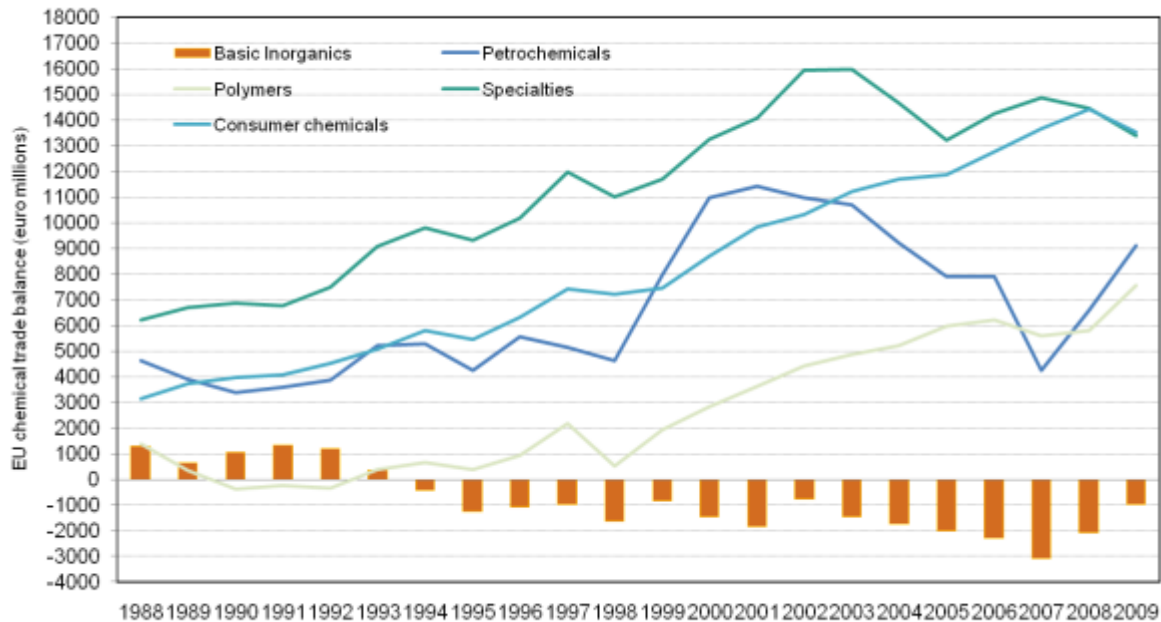




International Trade

EU chemicals trade surplus: sectoral breakdown



Source: Cefic Chemdata International

The EU chemicals trade surplus in 2009 amounted to €42.6 billion. Consumer chemicals accounted for 32 per cent of the EU chemicals trade surplus with a trade surplus of €13.5 billion. Specialty chemicals are the second strongest sector on the world markets, with €13.4 billion, followed by petrochemicals at €9.1 billion and polymers at €7.6 billion. Basic inorganics experienced a trade deficit of €1 billion, the only sector during 2009 with a trade deficit.

The sectoral analysis shows specialty chemicals and consumer chemicals continue to lose ground. The trade surplus in these sectors decreased by (7.5 per cent) and (6.2 per cent) respectively in 2009 compared to 2008. However, petrochemicals and polymers in 2009 registered an increase in their trade surplus of 38 per cent and 31 per cent respectively.