

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
Form 6-K
August 08, 2002

6-K UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

August 8, 2002

BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

BASF CORPORATION
(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Carl Bosch Strasse 38, LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY 67056
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F

Form 20-F ☒ Form 40-F ☐
--- ---

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes ☐ No ☒
--- ---

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the Registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- .

Page 1

"This Report on Form 6-K contains a press release dated August 08, 2002 on BASF Aktiengesellschaft's Second-Quarter Results as well as the report on the Second-Quarter Results dated August 08, 2002"

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Current Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

Date: August 08, 2002

By: /s/ Kurt Leidner

Name: Kurt Leidner
Title: Director Communications
Ludwigshafen site

By: /s/ Christian Schubert

Name: Christian Schubert
Title: Director Communications
BASF Group

August 8, 2002

Michael Grabicki
P 247e
Phone: +49 621 60-99938
Fax: +49 621 60-20129
michael.grabicki@basf-ag.de

BASF CONFIRMS ITS CONFIDENT OUTLOOK FOR 2002

- >> Higher earnings from stable sales in the second quarter
- >> Improved earnings in the Chemicals, Plastics & Fibers and Performance Products segments
- >> Outlook 2002: EBIT before special items higher than in 2001

"We are not idly waiting for an upturn, but are acting now. The structural measures that we were early in implementing are showing their effects. Our cost-reduction program is proceeding according to plan. Our strategy is the right one." This was Dr. Jurgen F. Strube's summary of BASF's second-quarter results.

At E8.4 billion, sales were maintained at the previous year's level. EBIT (income from operations) before special items of E822 million was almost 10 percent higher than in the second quarter of 2001 EBIT before special items was also higher than in the first quarter of 2002. Compared with the same period in 2001, BASF also regained ground in terms of cumulative sales, which amounted to E16.6 billion in the period from January to June 2002. When sales from the pharmaceuticals business are excluded this is only 3.7 percent less than in the strong first half of 2001. In the first six months of this year, EBIT before special items was E1.6 billion, or 4.3 percent less than in the same period in 2001.

Earnings per share were E0.86 in the second quarter of 2002 compared with E0.02 in the same period of 2001. This reflects the much lower level of special items in the second quarter of 2002.

In terms of performance, BASF shares were number 2 in Germany's DAX index and in the EURO STOXX index in the first six months of 2002. Strube interpreted this as a sign of the confidence placed in BASF to succeed in the face of difficult conditions and despite the persistently weak economic climate.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

"In 2002 overall, we aim to achieve higher EBIT before special items than in 2001 on the basis of a roughly similar level of sales," said Strube, summarizing his expectations for 2002. Factors of uncertainty continued to be global security and its effects on oil prices, continuing stock market turbulence and consumer confidence.

The moderate upturn in business that BASF started experiencing in March continued in the second quarter and was supported by good volume demand in particular. The strongest improvement in earnings was seen in the Chemicals, Plastics & Fibers and Performance Products segments. The Agricultural Products division was particularly negatively affected by poor weather conditions in North America. Earnings in the Oil & Gas segment were down on 2001 due to a lower oil price.

TREND REVERSED IN EUROPE, NAFTA AND ASIA; SOUTH AMERICA UNDER PRESSURE

In Europe, the NAFTA region and Asia, BASF is once again seeing an upward trend in its business.

In Europe, BASF posted total sales in the second quarter of E4.4 billion, or 1 percent less than in the same quarter of 2001. By comparison, sales declined by 16 percent in the first quarter of this year. EBIT before special items in Europe was E679 million in the second quarter, or 15 percent lower than in the same period in 2001. The oil and gas business contributed 39 percent to earnings.

Business picked up in the NAFTA region. Sales were slightly higher in the second quarter than in the first quarter and were 6 percent up on the second quarter of 2001. EBIT before special items was E77 million in the second quarter. BASF is confident that it can achieve a turnaround in North America for the full year.

In South America, sales declined by 26 percent in the second quarter. The difficult situation experienced in the first quarter therefore remains unchanged. Earnings also declined further and the company posted a loss of E29 million in this region in the second quarter.

In Asia Pacific, BASF performed better than in the second quarter of 2001, with sales up 11 percent on last year. In particular, this increase in sales stemmed from the Plastics & Fibers segment and the Petrochemicals division. Earnings were E105 million higher compared with the same period in 2001.

COMPETITIVE POSITION STRENGTHENED THROUGH RESOLUTE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Strube stressed that BASF would adhere to its long-term strategy of adding value through growth and innovation. In doing so, the company will expand profitable business areas, strengthen its long-term competitiveness, optimize its Verbund structures and invest in growth markets. In addition, BASF will adapt its structures and processes to make them more flexible and closer to the market. Efforts to permanently reduce fixed costs are proving successful, said Strube.

In the previous year, BASF already made cost savings of E250 million. In the first six months of 2002 further plants and sites were closed in the course of restructuring measures. These include a vitamin E plant in Wyandotte, Michigan, and a Styrodur plant in Antwerp, Belgium.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

In Europe, BASF is restructuring its plasticizers production. Plants in Tarragona, Spain, will be shut down and the company will supply its markets from world-scale plants in Feluy, Belgium, and Ludwigshafen, Germany.

On this basis, BASF intends achieving its goal of reducing costs by €1 billion by the end of 2003.

BASF is the world's leading chemical company. It aims to increase and sustain its corporate value through growth and innovation. BASF offers its customers a range of high-performance products, including chemicals, plastics, coatings systems, dispersions, agricultural products, fine chemicals as well as crude oil and natural gas. BASF's distinctive approach to integration, known in German as "verbund," is its strength. It enables the company to achieve cost leadership and gives it a decisive competitive advantage in the long term. BASF acts in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. In 2001, BASF had sales of €32.5 billion (circa \$29 billion) and over 90,000 employees worldwide. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA), New York (BF), Paris (BA) and Zurich (BAS). Further information on BASF is available on the internet at www.basf.com.

The following information will be available on the Internet from today (August 8, 2002):

INTERIM REPORT (FROM 7:30 A.M. CEST)
WWW.BASF.DE/INTERIMREPORT

PRESS RELEASE (FROM 7:30 A.M. CEST)
WWW.BASF.DE/PRESSRELEASE

SPEECH BY DR. JURGEN F. STRUBE - LIVE TRANSMISSION (FROM 10:00 A.M. CEST)
WWW.BASF.DE/PCON

SPEECH BY DR. JURGEN F. STRUBE - PRINTED VERSION (FROM 10:00 A.M. CEST)
WWW.BASF.DE/PRESSCONFERENCE

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD PHOTOS OF BASF FROM THE INTERNET AT: WWW.BASF.DE/PRESSPHOTOS

Klaus Peter Lobbe, member of BASF's Board of Executive Directors, will report on business performance and outlook in the NAFTA region at 4:00 p.m. CEST. Visit [HTTP://RICHMEDIA.CONFERENCING.COM/BASF](http://RICHMEDIA.CONFERENCING.COM/BASF) for more information

If you have technical questions regarding the use of our Internet pages, please contact Jurgen Schwerdtfeger on +49 621 60-99400.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This release contains forward-looking statements under the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections of BASF management and currently available information. They are not guarantees of future performance, involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict and are based upon assumptions as to future events that may not prove to be accurate. Many factors could cause the actual results, performance or achievements of BASF to be materially different from those that may be expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include those discussed in BASF's Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements contained in this release.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Second-Quarter Results
August 8, 2002

EBIT before special items in the second quarter
up almost 10 % on the previous year

Improved earnings in Chemicals, Plastics & Fibers and Performance Products;
difficult environment for Agricultural Products

Outlook for 2002: Increase in EBIT before special items expected

BASF Group

Million euro	2nd Quarter		Change	1st Quarter		Change
	2002	2001	in %	2002	2001	in %
Sales	8,379	8,329	0.6	16,618	17,618	(5.7)
Income from operations before special items	822	751	9.5	1,640	1,713	(4.3)
Income from operations (EBIT)	817	304	168.8	1,631	1,093	49.2
Income from operations before depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	1,411	1,016	38.9	2,843	2,415	17.7
Extraordinary income	-	-	-	-	6,010	-
Income before taxes and minority interests	825	201	310.4	1,663	6,842	(75.7)
Net income	502	11	.	1,058	6,204	(82.9)
Earnings per share						
- ordinary E	0.86	0.02	.	1.81	0.55	229.1
- extraordinary E	-	-	-	-	9.61	-

Sales and earnings

Sales: Sales in the second quarter increased slightly by 0.6 % to euro 8,379 million compared with the same period in 2001. This was primarily due to a significant increase in sales volumes. The level of selling prices, however,

Page 1

continued to remain significantly below last years level. Currency effects resulted in particular from the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, South American currencies and the Japanese yen against the euro. Overall, BASF regained ground in the first six months compared with the same period in 2001: Excluding sales of euro 364 million from the pharmaceuticals business in the first quarter of 2001, the decline in sales in the first half of 2002 was only 3.7 %.

Factors influencing sales in comparison with previous year
in %

	2nd Quarter	1st Half
Volumes	+9.1	+4.6
Prices	(8.2)	(8.5)

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Currency	(1.8)	(0.6)
Acquisitions/divestitures*	+1.5	(1.2)
Total	+0.6	(5.7)

*) Including discontinued operations

Earnings: Second-quarter income from operations before special items climbed by 9.5 % due to improved earnings in the Chemicals, Plastics & Fibers and Performance Products segments despite a renewed increase in the price of raw materials. A positive contribution was made by the restructuring and cost-reduction measures introduced in 2001. As a result of the strong second quarter, earnings in the first half of 2002 declined by only 4.3 % compared with the same period in 2001. Earnings were negatively affected above all by lower average prices for crude oil and increased competition in the North American market for agricultural products.

Compared with the same periods in 2001, income from operations after special items was significantly higher in the second quarter and first half of 2002 due to a much lower level of special items. The financial result in the second quarter was positive. Due in particular to the earnings posted by Basell, income from financial assets increased

Page 2

significantly to euro 77 million following a loss of euro 27 million in the previous year. The interest result of minus euro 69 million was at the same level as in the previous year. Second-quarter income before taxes and minority interests net of special items increased 28 %. The average tax rate was 36 % in the second quarter and 33 % in the first six months. Net income of euro 502 million in the second quarter and euro 1,058 million in the first half of 2002 even exceeded the level in the successful year 2000.

Special items

	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
Million euro	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001

Special items

- in income								
from operations	(4)	(173)	(5)	(447)		(14)		(442)
- in financial								
result	114	-	-	-		(5)		(68)
Total	110	(173)	(5)	(447)		(19)		(510)

Outlook

For 2002 as a whole, we anticipate sales at the previous years level and improved income from operations before special items. In view of the level of incoming orders, we currently expect a slight increase in sales and a significant increase in income from operations before special items in the third quarter of the year compared with the same period of 2001. Improved margins as a result of the sales price increases made in some business areas at the end of the second quarter will contribute toward this.

Page 3

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Segments									
Million euro	Sales			Income from operations before special items			Income from operations		
	2002	2001*	Change in %	2002	2001*	Change in %	2002	2001*	Change in %
2nd Quarter									
Chemicals	1,398	1,163	20.2	161	121	33.1	161	104	54.8
Plastics & Fibers	2,243	2,159	3.9	211	70	201.4	211	62	240.3
Performance Products	2,077	2,112	(1.7)	210	127	65.4	210	(54)	.
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	1,495	1,523	(1.8)	130	165	(21.2)	127	151	(15.9)
Oil & Gas	879	981	(10.4)	292	378	(22.8)	292	378	(22.8)
Other**	287	391	(26.6)	(182)	(110)	(65.5)	(184)	(337)	45.4
thereof exploratory/ biotechnology research costs	-	-	-	50	44	13.6	50	44	13.6
	8,379	8,329	0.6	822	751	9.5	817	304	168.8
1st Half									
Chemicals	2,601	2,285	13.8	272	230	18.3	270	205	31.7
Plastics & Fibers	4,218	4,313	(2.2)	309	163	89.6	306	137	123.4
Performance Products	4,060	4,199	(3.3)	325	252	29.0	329	53	520.8
Agricultural Products & Nutrition	3,037	3,611	(15.9)	364	464	(21.6)	358	375	(4.5)
Oil & Gas	2,105	2,424	(13.2)	576	754	(23.6)	576	754	(23.6)
Other**	597	786	(24.0)	(206)	(150)	(37.3)	(208)	(431)	51.7
thereof exploratory/ biotechnology research costs	-	-	-	99	111	(10.8)	99	111	(10.8)
	16,618	17,618	(5.7)	1,640	1,713	(4.3)	1,631	1,093	49.2

Page 4

*) Previous year's figures adjusted to take account of organizational changes.

**) Provisions for structural measures not yet allocated were included in the second quarter of 2001. In addition, the figures contain earnings/ losses (-95, in previous year -33) from foreign currency financial indebtedness which is not allocated to the segments as well as currency positions which are macro-hedged. Their positive market values will only be realized at maturity in the course of the year.

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Chemicals

Sales in the Chemicals segment rose 20.2 % in the second quarter to euro 1,398 million (volumes +28.3 %, prices/currency -11.7 %). The new steam cracker in Port Arthur, Texas, which started up at the end of 2001 contributed to the large increase in volumes. Second-quarter income from operations before special items was euro 161 million, euro 40 million or 33 % higher compared with the same period of the previous year. Sales in the Inorganics division in the second quarter did not quite reach the same level as in 2001. Earnings were improved despite the negative impact of scheduled shutdowns and inspection of plants in Ludwigshafen and Antwerp. Earnings in catalysts developed positively. In the Petrochemicals division, good volume demand in the second quarter led to high steam cracker capacity utilization and to an improvement in margins. Sales and earnings therefore increased. In the Intermediates division, sales in the second quarter were at the previous years level. Earnings declined due to increases in the cost of some raw materials.

Page 5

Sales by division

Million euro	2nd Quarter 1st Half					
	Change		Change			
	2002	2001*	in %	2002	2001*	in %
Inorganics	182	186	(2.2)	351	377	(6.9)
Petrochemicals	766	525	45.9	1,376	1,017	35.3
Intermediates	450	452	(0.4)	874	891	(1.9)

*) Previous years figures adjusted to take account of organizational changes.

Plastics & Fibers

In the Plastics & Fibers segment, second-quarter sales increased by 3.9 % to euro 2,243 million (volumes +9.6 %, prices/currency -6.5 %). Sales in the first half of 2002 were 2.2 % lower than in the same period of 2001. Income from operations before special items in the second quarter was euro 211 million, compared with euro 70 million in the same period of the previous year. High capacity utilization rates in all divisions and good demand were the main reason for the increase. Sales in the Styrenics division increased 5 % and income from operations improved compared with the very weak second quarter of the previous year. This was mainly due to price adjustments to reflect severe increases in the cost of raw materials, in particular for polymers, and the cost-reduction measures introduced in 2001. In the Performance Polymers division, higher sales volumes and price increases - in particular for fiber intermediates - led to higher second-quarter sales. A reduction in fixed costs as a result of restructuring measures and good capacity utilization improved earnings. Business continued to develop positively in the Polyurethanes division in the second quarter. In particular, sales were boosted due to higher sales volumes for basic materials in Asia and the NAFTA region. The higher utilization of capacities established in recent years resulted in an

Page 6

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

increase in earnings.

Sales by division

Million euro	2002	2nd Quarter 1st Half			2002	2001*	Change in %
		2001*	Change in %	2002			
Styrenics	888	846	5.0	1,630	1,703	(4.3)	
Performance Polymers	628	612	2.6	1,169	1,223	(4.4)	
Polyurethanes	727	701	3.7	1,419	1,387	2.3	

*) Previous years figures adjusted to take account of organizational changes.

Performance Products

Second-quarter sales in this segment did not quite reach the previous years level and declined 1.7% to euro 2,077 million (volumes +5.1 %, prices/ currency -7.3 %). In the second quarter, income from operations before special items climbed 65 % to euro 210 million. Among other things, this was due to improved volumes in most business areas as well as cost reductions following restructuring measures. Second-quarter sales in the Performance Chemicals division were at the same level as in 2001. Earnings improved due to positive business development in almost all business areas and the improvement of our cost structure. In the Coatings division, sales declined by 4.5 % in the second quarter. Reasons for this decline included lower sales in South America as a result of the weakness of local currencies. Nevertheless, second-quarter earnings in 2002 were considerably higher than in the same period of 2001. There was increased demand in the Functional Polymers division in the second quarter. Earnings were considerably higher than in the weak second quarter of 2001.

Page 7

Sales by division

	2nd Quarter 1st Half					
		Change				Change
Million euro	2002	2001*	in %	2002	2001*	in %
Performance Chemicals	856	857	(0.1)	1,704	1,719	(0.9)
Coatings	567	594	(4.5)	1,098	1,167	(5.9)
Functional Polymers	654	661	(1.1)	1,258	1,313	(4.2)

*) Previous years figures adjusted to take account of organizational changes.

Agricultural Products & Nutrition

Sales	Income from operations before	Income from operations
-------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Million euro	2002	2001	Change in %	special items			2002	2001	Change in %
				2002	2001	Change in %			
2nd Quarter									
Agricultural									
Products	1,003	1,038	(3.4)	108	133	(18.8)	108	126	(14.3)
Fine Chemicals	492	485	1.4	22	32	(31.3)	19	25	(24.0)
Pharmaceuticals*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,495	1,523	(1.8)	130	165	(21.2)	127	151	(15.9)
1st Half									
Agricultural									
Products	2,041	2,270	(10.1)	321	418	(23.2)	321	335	(4.2)
Fine Chemicals	996	977	1.9	43	45	(4.4)	37	10	270.0
Pharmaceuticals*	-	364	-	-	1	-	-	30	-
	3,037	3,611	(15.9)	364	464	(21.6)	358	375	(4.5)

*) The pharmaceuticals business was sold to Abbott Laboratories on March 2, 2001.

Agricultural Products: Sales in the second quarter were below the previous years level. The main reasons for this were unfavorable weather conditions in the United States and a resulting increase in competitive pressure

Page 8

in the herbicides business. Our business was also negatively impacted by the weak economic situation in South America. We increased sales in Europe and Asia. Growth in the area of fungicides, in particular the F 500 range, as well as the realization of additional synergies were unable to offset a decline in income from operations before special items, which decreased by 18.8 % in the second quarter and by 23.2 % in the first six months compared with the same periods of 2001.

Fine Chemicals: The slight increase in demand continued. Volume growth was seen in all business areas with the exception of cosmetics raw materials. Due to weaker prices for vitamins, sales increased only 1.4 % in the second quarter and close to 2 % in the first half of 2001 compared to the previous year. Income from operations before special items remained below the previous years level in the second quarter and almost achieved the previous years level in the first six months.

Oil & Gas

In the Oil & Gas segment, sales in the second quarter declined by 10.4 % compared with the same period in 2001 to euro 879 million (volumes +14 %, prices/currency - 24 %). Volumes increased in the natural gas business. The sales decline is primarily due to a decrease in the average price of crude oil by approximately \$2.3/barrel. In addition, sales were negatively affected by the weakening of the U.S. dollar against the euro. Compared with the same period of 2001, second-quarter income from operations was 22.8 % lower at euro 292 million. Earnings from the oil business declined, while earnings from the natural gas business improved. Foreign income taxes for oil production, which are non-compensable with German taxes, amounted to euro 101 million in the second quarter

Page 9

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

(2001: euro 157 million) and euro 183 million in the first six months of 2002 (2001: euro 278 million). These are included in tax expenses.

Regions		Sales			Income from operations before special items			Income from operations		
Location of company		Change			Change			Change		
Million euro	2001	2000	in %	2001	2000	in %	2001	2000	in %	
2nd Quarter										
Europe	4,826	4,877	(1.0)	679	802	(15.3)	678	605	12,1	
- thereof										
Germany	3,297	3,372	(2.2)	483	599	(19.4)	482	500	(3.6)	
North America (NAFTA)	2,261	2,179	3.8	77	(70)	.	73	(100)	.	
South America	331	456	(27.4)	(29)	29	.	(29)	29	.	
Asia, Pacific Area, Africa	961	817	17.6	95	(10)	.	95	(10)	.	
	8,379	8,329	0.6	822	751	9.5	817	304*	168.8	
1st Half										
Europe	9,726	10,736	(9.4)	1,446	1,751	(17.4)	1,445	1,528	(5.4)	
- thereof										
Germany	6,802	7,411	(8.2)	1,051	1,226	(14.3)	1,050	1,113	(5.7)	
North America (NAFTA)	4,381	4,385	(0.1)	105	(83)	.	97	(257)	.	
South America	640	884	(27.6)	(35)	40	.	(35)	37	.	
Asia, Pacific Area, Africa	1,871	1,613	16.0	124	5	.	124	5	.	
	16,618	17,618	(5.7)	1,640	1,713	(4.3)	1,631	1,093*	49.2	

*) Including provisions for structural measures not yet allocated.

Page 10

Sales based on location of customer

		2nd Quarter			1st Half		
		Change			Change		
Million euro	2002	2001	in %	2002	2001	in %	
Europe	4,428	4,490	(1.4)	8,993	9,936	(9.5)	
- thereof							
Germany	1,686	1,756	(4.0)	3,580	4,045	(11.5)	
North America (NAFTA)	2,251	2,124	6.0	4,339	4,279	1.4	
South America	405	550	(26.4)	785	1,074	(26.9)	
Asia,							

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Pacific Area,

Africa	1,295	1,165	11.2	2,501	2,329	7.4
	8,379	8,329	0.6	16,618	17,618	(5.7)

Business with customers located in Europe picked up in the second quarter; sales were only 1.4 % lower compared with the previous year. In particular, the segments Plastics & Fibers and Chemicals had higher sales in Europe. In the second quarter, business in Europe accounted for 83 % of the income from operations of the BASF Group. Although earnings declined in the Oil & Gas segment, they still accounted for 39 % of earnings in Europe. Income from operations before special items declined 15.3 % to euro 679 million. In the NAFTA region, sales increased by 6 % in the second quarter despite a decline in the average exchange rate of the dollar against the euro by about 5 %. This sales increase was largely due to the new steam cracker in Port Arthur, Texas. Income from operations before special items continued to improve and was euro 77 million, compared with a loss of euro 70 million in the same period of 2001. In South America, sales fell drastically in the second quarter as a result of the economic crisis in Argentina and the rapid devaluation of the Brazilian real. The decline in sales particularly affected the Agricultural Products and Coatings divisions. Income from operations was

Page 11

negative in the second quarter. This was partially caused by devaluation losses in Argentina due to the further decline in the exchange rate of the peso. In the Asia, Pacific Area, Africa region, sales increased by 11.2 % in the second quarter. Business grew in Korea in particular. Income from operations improved considerably as a result of the increased contribution to earnings of the site in Kuantan, Malaysia, due to currency translation effects, as well as growth in styrenics in Korea.

Employees

Since the end of 2001, the number of employees has declined by 1,832, in particular due to the restructuring measures started last year. The decline in the various regions was as follows: Europe 899, NAFTA 523, South America 388. Personnel costs declined in the second quarter by 3.7 % to euro 1,527 million and in the first six months of 2002 by 4.2 % to euro 3,005 million.

Number of employees

	2nd Quarter		1st Half		Year 2001
	2002	2001	2002	2001	
End of period	90,713	92,249	90,713	92,249	92,545
Average	90,941	92,312	91,435	95,896	94,744

Finance

Cash provided by operating activities was euro 823 million in the first six months of 2002; the increase of euro 543 million compared with the same period in 2001 was due to the improvement in earnings. In current assets, funds employed in inventories were lower, both compared with the end of the year and with the first six months. Since the end of the year, however, funds employed in

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

accounts receivable increased as a result of business growth and seasonal effects. The level of receivables has been reduced compared with the first half of 2001. Cash outflows

Page 12

were related to payments for fines and claims for damages relating to antitrust violations in the vitamins business which occurred several years ago, as well as the implementation of the restructuring measures decided upon last year. Cash used in investing activities amounted to euro 838 million. As planned, expenditures for tangible and intangible fixed assets were reduced and were euro 280 million lower than in the previous year. A net total of euro 684 million was raised through financing activities, in particular through the issue of commercial paper. Since the end of 2001, financial indebtedness has increased by euro 1,141 million to euro 3,976 million. In the same period, liquid funds increased by euro 551 million to euro 1,294 million.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow 1st Half

Million euro	2002	2001
Net income*	1,058	334
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,222	1,355
Changes in net current assets	(1,120)	(1,246)
Miscellaneous items	(337)	(163)
Cash provided by operating activities	823	280
Expenditures for tangible and intangible fixed assets	(1,021)	(1,301)
Acquisitions/divestitures, net	-	7,281
Financial investments and other items	183	272
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(838)	6,252

Page 13

Proceeds from capital increases	38	87
Changes in financial indebtedness	1,448	(5,096)
Dividends	(802)	(1,236)
Cash provided by (used in) financing activities	684	(6,245)
Net changes in cash and cash equivalents	669	287
Cash and cash equivalents as of beginning of year and other changes	338	604
Cash and cash equivalents	1,007	891
Securities held as current assets	287	387
Liquid funds	1,294	1,278

*) Excluding extraordinary income in previous year

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Forward-looking statements

This report contains forward-looking statements under the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections of BASF management and currently available information. They are not guarantees of future performance, involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict and are based upon assumptions as to future events that may not prove to be accurate. Many factors could cause the actual results, performance or achievements of BASF to be materially different from those that may be expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include those discussed in BASF's Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. [The Annual Report on Form 20-F is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.] We do not assume any obligation to update the forward- looking statements contained in this report.

Page 14

Financial Statement of BASF Group (abridged version)

Consolidated Statements of Income

Million euro	2nd Quarter		Change	1st Quarter		Change
	2002	2001	in %	2002	2001	in %
Sales, net of natural gas taxes	8,379	8,329	0.6	16,618	17,618	(5.7)
Cost of sales	5,536	5,634	(1.7)	11,013	11,765	(6.4)
Gross profit on sales	2,843	2,695	5.5	5,605	5,853	(4.2)
Selling expenses	1,231	1,283	(4.1)	2,442	2,669	(8.5)
General and administrative expenses	177	138	28.3	348	321	8.4
Research and development expenses	282	293	(3.8)	594	670	(11.3)
Other operating income	148	204	(27.5)	333	523	(36.3)
Other operating expenses	484	881	(45.1)	923	1,623	(43.1)
Income from operations	817	304	168.8	1,631	1,093	49.2
Expense/income from financial assets	77	(27)	.	77	(58)	.
Interest result	(69)	(76)	9.2	(45)	(203)	77.8
Financial result	8	(103)	.	32	(261)	.
Income from ordinary activities	825	201	310.4	1,663	832	99.9
Extraordinary income	-	-	-	-	6,010	-

Page 15

Income before taxes and minority interests	825	201	310.4	1,663	6,842	(75.7)
--	-----	-----	-------	-------	-------	--------

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Income taxes	294	200	47.0	557	635	(12.3)
Minority interests	29	(10)	.	48	3	.
Net income	502	11	.	1,058	6,204	(82.9)
Earnings per share						
– ordinary E	0.86	0.02	.	1.81	0.55	229.1
– extraordinary E	–	–	–	–	9.61	–
Number of shares in millions (weighted)	583	614	(5.0)	583	611	(4.6)

Consolidated Balance Sheets

Assets	June 30		Change	Dec. 31	Change
Million euro	2002	2001	in %	2001	in %
Intangible assets	3,441	4,140	(16.9)	3,943	(12.7)
Property, plant and equipment	13,512	14,128	(4.4)	14,190	(4.8)
Financial assets	3,322	3,205	3.7	3,360	(1.1)
Fixed assets	20,275	21,473	(5.6)	21,493	(5.7)
Inventories	4,421	5,018	(11.9)	5,007	(11.7)
Accounts receivable, trade	6,341	7,190	(11.8)	5,875	7.9
Miscellaneous receivables	2,742	3,034	(9.6)	2,384	15.0
Deferred taxes	1,209	1,313	(7.9)	1,373	(11.9)
Liquid funds	1,294	1,278	1.3	743	74.2
Current assets	16,007	17,833	(10.2)	15,382	4.1

Page 16

Total assets	36,282	39,306	(7.7)	36,875	(1.6)
--------------	--------	--------	-------	--------	-------

Stockholders' equity and liabilities

Million euro	June 30		Change	Dec. 31	Change
	2002	2001	in %	2001	in %
Subscribed capital and capital surplus	4,408	4,407	0.0	4,408	0.0
Retained earnings and other equity	12,549	14,547	(13.7)	12,754	(1.6)
Minority interests	395	368	7.3	360	9.7
Stockholders equity	17,352	19,322	(10.2)	17,522	(1.0)
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	3,858	3,936	(2.0)	3,953	(2.4)
Provisions for taxes and other provisions	5,066	6,256	(19.0)	6,188	(18.1)
Provisions	8,924	10,192	(12.4)	10,141	(12.0)
Financial indebtedness	3,976	2,922	36.1	2,835	40.2
Accounts payable, trade	2,417	2,662	(9.2)	2,491	(3.0)
Other liabilities	3,613	4,208	(14.1)	3,886	(7.0)

Edgar Filing: BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT - Form 6-K

Liabilities	10,006	9,792	2.2	9,212	8.6
Total stockholders equity and liabilities	36,282	39,306	(7.7)	36,875	(1.6)

The interim financial statements have not been audited.

Page 17

Publisher:

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
Corporate Department Communications
67056 Ludwigshafen
Germany

You can find HTML versions of this and other publications from BASF on our homepage at www.basf.com.

You can also order reports:

- by telephone: +49 62160-0
- by fax: +49 6021 704-431
- by e-mail: medien-service@basf-ag.de
- on the Internet: www.basf.com

Important dates

November 14, 2002

Interim Report

Third Quarter 2002

March 18, 2003

Financial Results 2002

April 29, 2003

Interim Report

First Quarter 2003

May 6, 2003

Annual Meeting, Mannheim

August 7, 2003

Interim Report

Second Quarter 2003

Contacts

Corporate Media Relations:

Michael Grabicki

Phone: +49 621 60-99938

Fax: +49 621 60-20129

Investor Relations:

Carolin Weitzmann

Phone: +49 621 60-48230

Fax: +49 621 60-22500

General inquiries:

Phone: +49 621 60-0

Fax: +49 621 60-42525

Internet: www.basf.com

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
67056 Ludwigshafen
Germany