

# News Release

P348/21e  
October 27, 2021

## **BASF with continued strong performance in Q3 2021**

- **Considerable sales growth of 42% to €19.7 billion**
- **EBIT before special items increases significantly to €1.9 billion**
- **2021 outlook for sales raised to between €76 billion and €78 billion and for EBIT before special items to between €7.5 billion and €8.0 billion**

BASF Group's strong business development continued in the third quarter of 2021. Demand for BASF's products remained solid over the summer months. "This enabled us to continue to grow profitably," said BASF's Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Dr. Martin Brudermüller, who presented the results of the third quarter together with Chief Financial Officer Dr. Hans-Ulrich Engel. "Compared with the third quarter of the previous year, we increased prices by 36 percent and volumes by 6 percent," Brudermüller said.

At €19.7 billion, sales were €5.9 billion higher than in the prior-year quarter. This was largely attributable to higher prices in all segments, especially in Chemicals, Surface Technologies and Materials. The sales growth was also due to a significant increase in volumes in almost all segments.

At €1.9 billion, income from operations (EBIT) before special items was €1.3 billion higher than the level of the third quarter of 2020. This was mainly driven by the significantly higher EBIT before special items in the Chemicals segment. The significant earnings increases in the Materials and Industrial Solutions segments as well as in Other also lifted earnings. By contrast, earnings contributions from the Agricultural Solutions, Surface Technologies and Nutrition & Care segments

declined considerably. “With strong earnings contributions from the Chemicals and Materials segments, the earnings mix in the third quarter of 2021 was comparable with the second quarter of 2021,” said Brudermüller. “Our downstream businesses are still confronted with further rising raw material, energy and freight costs. Price increases in most downstream businesses could only partially offset these higher costs.”

Special items in EBIT amounted to minus €43 million in the third quarter of 2021. Expenses resulted primarily from restructuring measures, divestitures and integration costs. Other income had an offsetting effect. Special items in the previous year were minus €3.2 billion, mainly from impairments in all segments as well as restructuring measures.

EBIT amounted to €1.8 billion, considerably above the figure of minus €2.6 billion reported in the prior-year quarter. This figure includes income from integral companies accounted for using the equity method, which rose by €144 million to €200 million, due largely to the higher earnings contribution from BASF-YPC Company Ltd., Nanjing, China.

Compared with the third quarter of 2020, income from operations before depreciation, amortization and special items (EBITDA before special items) increased by €1.2 billion to €2.8 billion and EBITDA rose by €1.7 billion to €2.7 billion.

At €1.3 billion, net income was €3.4 billion higher than in the prior-year quarter. Earnings per share amounted to €1.36 in the third quarter of 2021 (third quarter 2020: minus €2.31). Earnings per share adjusted for special items and amortization of intangible assets amounted to €1.56 (third quarter 2020: €0.60).

Cash flows from operating activities amounted to €1.9 billion in the third quarter of 2021, €204 million below the figure for the prior-year quarter. Free cash flow was €1.1 billion, which reflects a €287 million decrease from the figure from the prior-year quarter due primarily to lower cash flows from operating activities.

### **BASF Group outlook for 2021**

The global economy continued to recover in the third quarter of 2021 following the sharp decline in economic activity in the previous year. However, growth momentum slowed compared with the previous quarter due to supply bottlenecks in many value

chains of the manufacturing sector. Further pandemic-related disruptions in production and logistics in Asia intensified the scarcity of precursors worldwide. The global automotive industry was especially affected by a chip shortage that led to significant drops in production. In addition, power cuts in some provinces of China had a negative impact on production, especially in energy-intensive industries. Global demand for consumables and consumer durables remained stable despite the burden of rising energy prices on companies as well as on end users.

BASF assumes that supply bottlenecks will continue to negatively impact global economic recovery in the fourth quarter of 2021. The assessment of the global economic environment in 2021 has therefore been slightly adjusted (figures for industrial and chemical production rounded to the nearest half percentage point; previous forecast in parentheses):

- Growth in gross domestic product: +5.3% (+5.5%)
- Growth in industrial production: +6.0% (+6.5%)
- Growth in chemical production: +6.0% (+6.5%)
- Average euro/dollar exchange rate of \$1.20 per euro (unchanged)
- Average annual oil price (Brent crude) of \$70 per barrel (\$65 per barrel)

Based on the BASF Group's sustained good business performance and the anticipated continuation of solid demand, especially in the Chemicals and Materials segments, the forecast for the 2021 business year was raised in accordance with market expectations (previous forecast from the Half-Year Financial Report 2021 in parentheses):

- Sales growth to between €76 billion and €78 billion (between €74 billion and €77 billion)
- EBIT before special items of between €7.5 billion and €8.0 billion (between €7.0 billion and €7.5 billion)
- Return on capital employed (ROCE) of between 13.2% and 14.1% (between 12.1% and 12.9%)
- Increase in Accelerator sales to between €21.5 billion and €22.5 billion (between €21.0 billion and €22.0 billion)

- Stabilization of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at between 20.5 million metric tons and 21.5 million metric tons (unchanged)

Receive up-to-date news releases from BASF via push notification on your smartphone. Register for our news service at [basf.com/pushnews](https://www.basf.com/pushnews).

#### About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. More than 110,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €59 billion in 2020. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the U.S. Further information at [www.basf.com](https://www.basf.com).

On October 27, 2021, you can obtain further information from the internet at the following addresses:

#### Quarterly Statement (from 7.00 a.m. CEST)

[basf.com/quarterlystatement](https://www.basf.com/quarterlystatement)

(English)

[basf.com/quartalsmitteilung](https://www.basf.com/quartalsmitteilung)

(German)

#### News Release (from 7.00 a.m. CEST)

[basf.com/pressrelease](https://www.basf.com/pressrelease)

(English)

[basf.com/pressemitteilungen](https://www.basf.com/pressemitteilungen)

(German)

#### Live Transmission (from 8.00 a.m. CEST)

[basf.com/pcon](https://www.basf.com/pcon)

(English)

[basf.com/pressekonferenz](https://www.basf.com/pressekonferenz)

(German)

#### Speech (from 8.00 a.m. CEST)

[basf.com/pcon](https://www.basf.com/pcon)

(English)

[basf.com/pressekonferenz](https://www.basf.com/pressekonferenz)

(German)

#### Live Transmission – Telephone Conference for analysts and investors (from 10.00 a.m. CEST)

[basf.com/share/conferencecall](https://www.basf.com/share/conferencecall)

(English)

[basf.com/aktie/telefonkonferenz](https://www.basf.com/aktie/telefonkonferenz)

(German)

#### Photos

[basf.com/pressphotos](https://www.basf.com/pressphotos)

(English)

[basf.com/pressefotos](https://www.basf.com/pressefotos)

(German)

#### Current TV footage

[tvservice.basf.com/en](https://tvservice.basf.com/en)

(English)

[tvservice.basf.com](https://tvservice.basf.com)

(German)

**Forward-looking statements and forecasts**

This release contains forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current estimates and projections of the Board of Executive Directors and currently available information. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of the future developments and results outlined therein. These are dependent on a number of factors; they involve various risks and uncertainties; and they are based on assumptions that may not prove to be accurate. BASF does not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements contained in this release above and beyond the legal requirements.