Integrated reporting

This integrated report documents BASF’s economic, environmental and social performance in 2019. We show how sustainability contributes to BASF’s long-term success and how we as a company create value for our customers, employees, shareholders, business partners, neighbors and the public.

Further information

The following symbols indicate important information:

You can find more information in this report.

You can find more information online. The content of these links are voluntary disclosures that were not audited by the auditor.

The content of this section is not part of the statutory audit but has undergone a separate audit with limited assurance by our auditor.

The content of this section is voluntary, unaudited information, which was critically read by the auditor.

The BASF Report online

HTML version with additional features: basf.com/report

Content and structure

Integrated BASF Report serves as U.N. Global Compact progress report
Sustainability reporting in accordance with Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards
Financial reporting according to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the German Commercial Code and German Accounting Standards (GAS)

The BASF Report combines the major financial and sustainability-related information necessary to thoroughly evaluate our performance.

We select the report’s topics based on the following reporting principles: Materiality, sustainability context, completeness, balance and stakeholder inclusion. In addition to our integrated report, we publish further information online. Links to this supplementary information are provided in each section.

Our sustainability reporting has been based on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards since 2003 and, since the BASF Report 2017, the “Comprehensive” option of the Global Reporting Initiative standards.

We have been active in the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) since 2014 in order to discuss our experiences of integrated reporting with other stakeholders and at the same time, receive inspiration for enhancing our reporting. This report addresses elements of the IIRC framework by, for example, providing an illustrative overview of how we create value or demonstrating the relationships between financial and sustainability-related performance in the sections on the segments. The information in the BASF Report 2019 also serves as a progress report on BASF’s implementation of the 10 principles of the United Nations’ Global Compact and takes into consideration the Blueprint for Corporate Sustainability Leadership of the Global Compact LEAD platform.
Material topics along the value chain, which we identified in internal strategic discussion processes, ongoing global data analysis and dialog with shareholders, form the focal points of reporting and define the limits of this report.

For more information on our selection of sustainability topics, see page 36 onward and basf.com/materiality
For a visualization of BASF's business model based on the IIRC framework, see How We Create Value on page 23 and basf.com/how-we-create-value
For more information on our control and risk management system, see page 139 onward
The 2019 BASF Online Report can be found at basf.com/report
For more information on the Global Reporting Initiative, see globalreporting.org
For more information on the Global Compact, see globalcompact.org and basf.com/en/global-compact
The GRI and Global Compact Index can be found at basf.com/en/gri-gc

Data

- Relevant information included up to the editorial deadline of February 24, 2020
- Report published each year in English and German

All information and bases for calculation in this report are founded on national and international standards for financial and sustainability reporting. The data and information for the reporting period were sourced from the expert units responsible using representative methods. The reporting period is the 2019 business year. Relevant information is included up to the editorial deadline of February 24, 2020. The report is published each year in English and German.

BASF Group’s scope of consolidation for its financial reporting comprises BASF SE, with its headquarters in Ludwigshafen, Germany, and all of its fully consolidated subsidiaries and proportionally included joint operations. Shares in joint ventures and associated companies are accounted for, if material, using the equity method in the BASF Group Consolidated Financial Statements and are thus not included in the scope of consolidation.

The section “Employees” refers to employees active in a company within the BASF Group scope of consolidation as of December 31, 2019. All disclosures in this chapter include the employees of the discontinued construction chemicals business.

Our data collection methods for environmental protection and occupational safety are based on the recommendations of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC). In the section “Environmental Protection, Health and Safety,” we report all data including information on the emissions and waste of the worldwide production sites of BASF SE, its fully consolidated subsidiaries, and proportionally consolidated joint operations. BASF SE subsidiaries that are fully consolidated in the Group financial statements in which BASF holds an interest of less than 100% are included in full in environmental reporting (previously: included on a pro rata basis). The emissions of proportionally consolidated joint operations continue to be disclosed pro rata according to our interest. Work-related accidents at all sites of BASF SE and its subsidiaries as well as joint operations and joint ventures in which we have sufficient authority in terms of safety management, are compiled worldwide regardless of our interest and reported in full. Unless otherwise indicated, further data on social responsibility and transportation safety refers to BASF SE and its consolidated subsidiaries.

For more information on companies accounted for in the Consolidated Financial Statements, see the Notes from page 201 onward
The Consolidated Financial Statements begin on page 185
The list of shares held can be found at basf.com/en/corporategovernance

Forward-looking statements and forecasts

This report 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. Such risk factors include those discussed in Opportunities and Risks on pages 139 to 147. We do not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements contained in this report above and beyond the legal requirements.