Sales in Other rose by €57 million compared with 2018 to €2,898 million. This was mainly due to the remaining activities of BASF’s paper and water chemicals business, which were not part of the transfer to Solenis and are reported under Other.

At minus €688 million, income from operations before special items in Other was down €227 million from the prior-year figure. This was largely attributable to valuation effects for our long-term incentive program.

Financial data – Other*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Million €</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>+/-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>2,898</td>
<td>2,841</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from operations before depreciation and amortization and special items</td>
<td>(521)</td>
<td>(335)</td>
<td>(56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from operations before depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)</td>
<td>(483)</td>
<td>(378)</td>
<td>(28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortizationb</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from operations (EBIT)</td>
<td>(667)</td>
<td>(506)</td>
<td>(32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special items</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>(45)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBIT before special items</td>
<td>(688)</td>
<td>(461)</td>
<td>(49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which costs for cross-divisional corporate research</td>
<td>(397)</td>
<td>(414)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>costs of corporate headquarters</td>
<td>(231)</td>
<td>(249)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other businesses</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>192%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreign currency results, hedging and other measurement effects</td>
<td>(89)</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miscellaneous income and expenses</td>
<td>(44)</td>
<td>(147)</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assetsc</td>
<td>27,585</td>
<td>26,856</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments including acquisitionsd</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>(61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and development expenses</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>(1)%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Information on the composition of Other can be found in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements from page 220 onward.

b Amortization of intangible assets and depreciation of property, plant and equipment (including impairments and reversals of impairments)

c Contains assets of businesses recognized under Other as well as reconciliation to assets of the BASF Group including the disposal groups for the oil and gas business and the construction chemicals business

d Additions to intangible assets and property, plant and equipment
Oil and gas business

The price of a barrel of Brent crude oil averaged $64 in 2019 (previous year: $71). Gas prices on the European spot markets declined significantly compared with the previous year.

Discontinued oil and gas business until April 30, 2019

Wintershall's earnings were presented in income after taxes from discontinued operations until the merger of Wintershall and DEA on May 1, 2019. This figure included the income after taxes of the former Wintershall companies (€237 million) and the deconsolidation gain of €5,684 million.

Until April 30, 2019, Wintershall produced 19 million barrels of oil equivalent (BOE) and condensate, and around 44 million BOE of gas. Most of this was produced in Russia (around 36 million BOE) and Norway (around 12 million BOE). In Norway, production was expanded at the Aasta Hansteen gas field, which is operated by Equinor. Wintershall was awarded new exploration licenses in Norway and Argentina in early 2019. In the first four months of 2019, one successful exploration well was drilled in Norway.

Equity-accounted oil and gas business from May 1, 2019

Since May 1, 2019, BASF has reported its share of Wintershall Dea’s adjusted net income in EBIT before special items and in EBIT of the BASF Group, presented under Other. Adjustments include, in particular, effects from the remeasurement of the assets and liabilities of the former Wintershall. Adjustments will be made for additional depreciation charges and the results of any asset sales. The company contributed minus €86 million to the BASF Group’s EBIT in the period from May 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019.

Wintershall Dea conducts production, development and exploration activities in the following countries:
- Egypt (production, development, exploration)
- Algeria (production, development)
- Argentina (production, development, exploration)
- Brazil (exploration)
- Denmark (production, exploration)
- Germany (production, development, exploration)
- Libya (production, exploration)
- Mexico (production, development, exploration)
- Netherlands (production, exploration)
- Norway (production, development, exploration)
- Russia (production, development)
- United Arab Emirates (development, exploration)
- United Kingdom (production, development, exploration)

Between the merger on May 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019, Wintershall Dea produced 151 million BOE,1 of which around 109 million BOE of gas.

In the second quarter of 2019, Wintershall Dea sold its German oil storage activities. In the fourth quarter of 2019, Wintershall Dea sold shares in the Aguada Federal and Bandurria Norte blocks in Argentina, as well as its shares in the Polarled pipeline and the Nyhamna terminal in Norway.

Investment projects that were already underway continued as planned. These include, in particular, the Nova and Dvalin projects operated by Wintershall Dea in Norway. The two fields are being developed by means of a subsea tieback, with production facilities on the seabed connected to existing platforms. The drilling phase commenced for Dvalin and production is expected to start in 2020. In Russia, the Achim Development joint venture operated with Gazprom, in which Wintershall Dea holds a 25.01% interest, started the field development of blocks 4A and 5A in the Achimov Formation. Another investment focus is Egypt, especially the Nile Delta.

The Achimgaz joint venture with Gazprom drilled the last of a total of 108 production wells. The company can now produce at a plateau rate of 10 billion cubic meters of gas per year as planned.

Wintershall Dea drilled 18 exploration wells1 in the period from May to December 2019. Of these, 12° were dry wells and were written off.

Wintershall Dea is also active in gas transportation. This includes interests in GASCADE Gastransport GmbH, OPAL Gastransport GmbH & Co. KG, and Nord Stream AG. Wintershall Dea is involved in the financing of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project but does not hold an interest in the company.

In September 2019, Wintershall Dea placed its inaugural bonds worth €4 billion.

1 Includes companies accounted for by Wintershall Dea in full and using the equity method
Discontinued construction chemicals business

On December 21, 2019, BASF and an affiliate of Lone Star, a global private equity firm, signed an agreement on the sale of BASF’s construction chemicals business. The signing of the agreement has an immediate effect on the reporting of BASF Group. Retroactively as of January 1, 2018, sales and earnings of the former Construction Chemicals division are no longer included in sales, EBITDA, EBIT and EBIT before special items of the BASF Group. Until closing, the income after taxes of the construction chemicals business will be presented in the income after taxes of BASF Group as a separate item (“Income after taxes from discontinued operations”). The assets and liabilities of the construction chemicals business were reclassified to a disposal group as of the end of the fourth quarter of 2019, and will be presented under Other until closing of the transaction, which is expected in the third quarter of 2020, subject to the approval of the relevant competition authorities.

Sales in the construction chemicals business rose by €98 million compared with 2018 to €2,553 million. The increase was attributable to positive currency effects and higher prices, especially for the former construction systems business. This was partly offset by slightly lower sales volumes due to a decrease in the construction systems business.

In North America, sales rose considerably due to positive currency effects and higher prices. Sales rose slightly in Europe, primarily as a result of higher prices. We also improved sales slightly in Asia Pacific. This was driven by favorable currency developments and higher sales volumes. Sales in South America, Africa, Middle East rose slightly. Higher prices and positive currency effects more than offset the significant decline in volumes.

Income from operations (EBIT) before special items was €130 million, €57 million above the 2018 figure. This was mainly attributable to margin growth on the back of higher prices. EBIT declined by €7 million to €52 million. Income after taxes of the discontinued construction chemicals business decreased by around €10 million to €24 million. The decrease was mainly driven by special items in connection with the planned divestiture.

(1) For more information on the earnings contribution from the discontinued construction chemicals business, see Note 2.5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements from page 215 onward.