

Annual results 2006

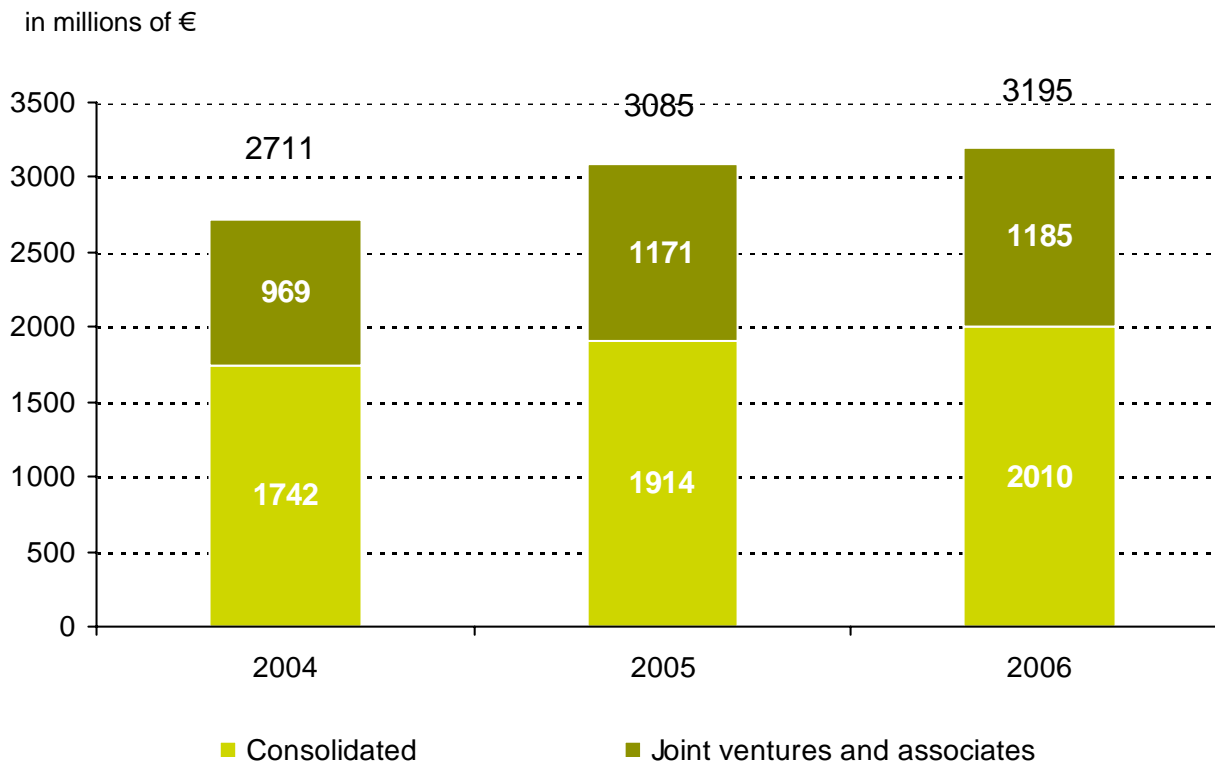
16 March 2007

Bekaert posts strong results in increasingly competitive global markets

- 5% sales growth
- 54% growth for steel cord China
- Mature markets remain challenging
- 8.1% EBIT margin on sales before non-recurring items
- 7.3% EBIT margin on sales
- Record EBITDA of € 262 million
- EPS of € 6.62 compared with € 6.27 (continuing operations)

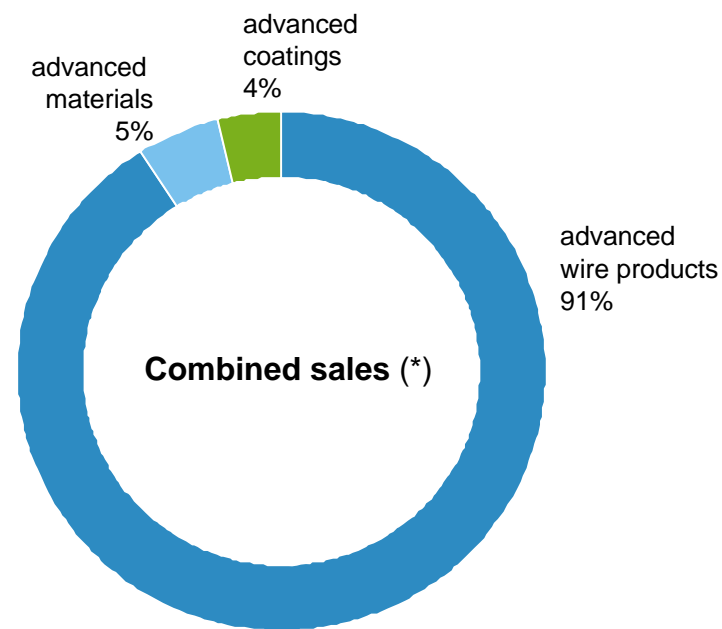
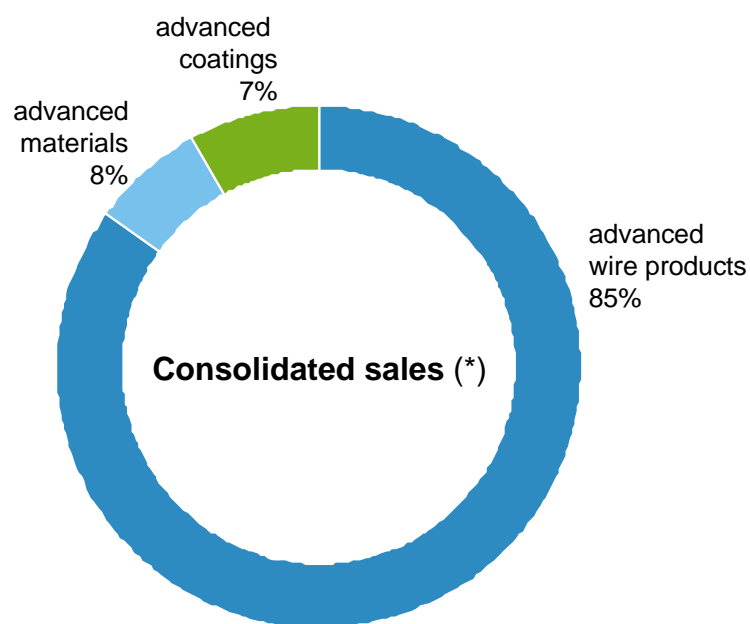
In 2006, Bekaert posted a 5% increase in consolidated sales:

- 1% increase from organic growth
- 4% impact from net movement in acquisitions and divestments



Sales by business segment

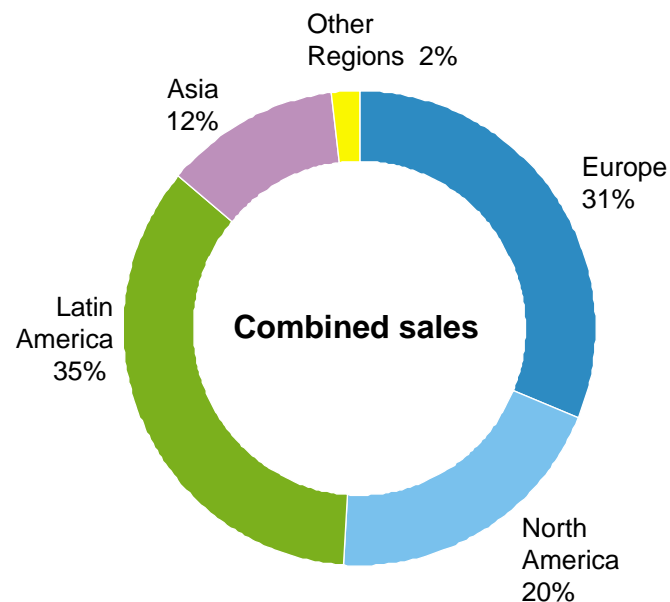
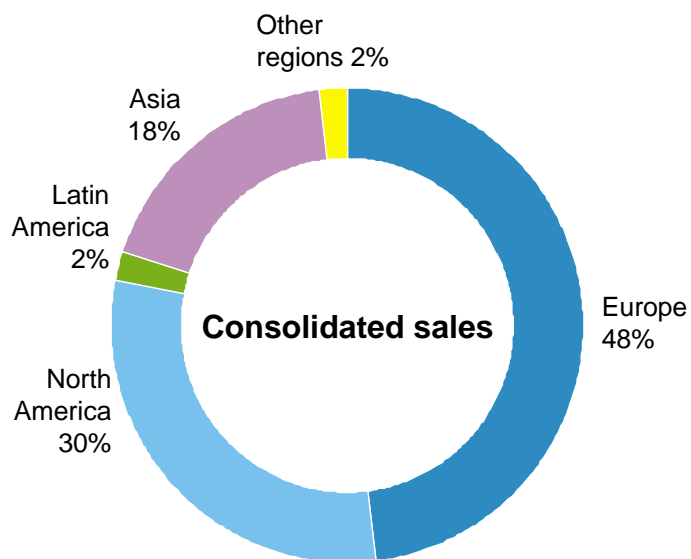
	Consolidated sales		Combined sales	
	in millions of €	variance	in millions of €	variance
Advanced wire products	1 724	+5%	2 890	+5%
Advanced materials	156	+11%	156	+11%
Advanced coatings	136	+3%	136	+3%
Intersegment and others	-6		13	
Total	2 010	+5%	3 195	+4%



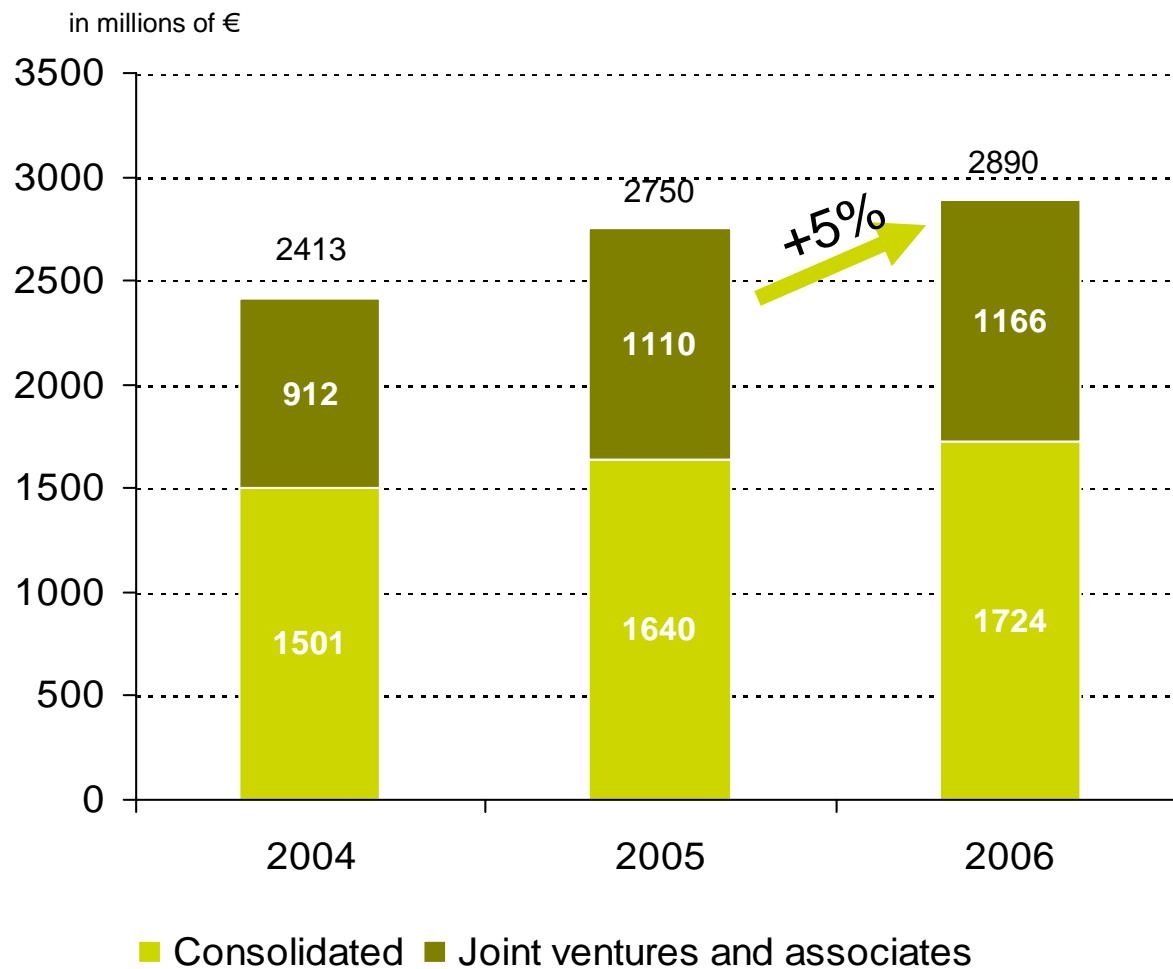
(*) excluding intersegment sales and others.

Sales by geographical area

	Consolidated sales		Combined sales	
	in millions of €	variance	in millions of €	variance
Europe	977	+4%	1 006	-1%
North America	597	-3%	637	-4%
Latin America	32	-3%	1 113	+6%
Asia	369	+26%	386	+30%
Other regions	35	-2%	53	-2%
Total	2 010	+5%	3 195	+4%



Advanced wire products: sales



Steel cord China: +54%, mainly for truck tire reinforcement

- Bekaert strengthened its position, despite heightened competition: in Q4, Bekaert was n°1 in China
- Investment program (€ 100 million) for:
 - expansion in Weihai (Shandong)
 - two new plants in Jiangyin (Jiangsu) and Shenyang (Liaoning)
 - leads to 200 000 tonnes annual production capacity
- Maintained investment level in 2007 as Chinese market shows sustained growth

China: Shougang Concord Century Holdings Ltd

- Bekaert takes minority stake of 19.59%
 - Company is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since 1992
 - Activities include increasing steel cord production (30 000 → 60 000 tonnes)
 - Framework for closer cooperation (services & material supplies)
-
- Speed up joint market introduction of top-quality products
 - Strengthen Bekaert's position in China

Steel cord others

- Demand for steel cord in Europe and North America was lower
- Acquisition of Delta Wire Corporation in Clarksdale (Mississippi): bead wire for tire reinforcement
- Strike at Goodyear severely impacted steel cord plants in the United States
- Decision to close Dyersburg (Tennessee) in anticipation of sustained downturn trend in demand

- In mature markets in Western Europe and North America: weakening demand for wire products (especially in automotive industry)
- Acquisition of Cold Drawn Products Limited, supplier of specialized profile wires in Western Europe for offshore applications
- Strong activities in building products in Europe and Asia
- Other advanced wire products:
 - full effect of acquisition of ECC Card Clothing
 - closure of Huddersfield (United Kingdom)
 - start up of plant in Wuxi (Jiangsu - China)

- Volatility of the raw-materials markets worldwide decreased in 2006
- Wire rod prices generally remained high, driven by increasing global demand of steel
- Prices of other raw materials, such as zinc, rose sharply
- Energy costs increased significantly

Latin America:

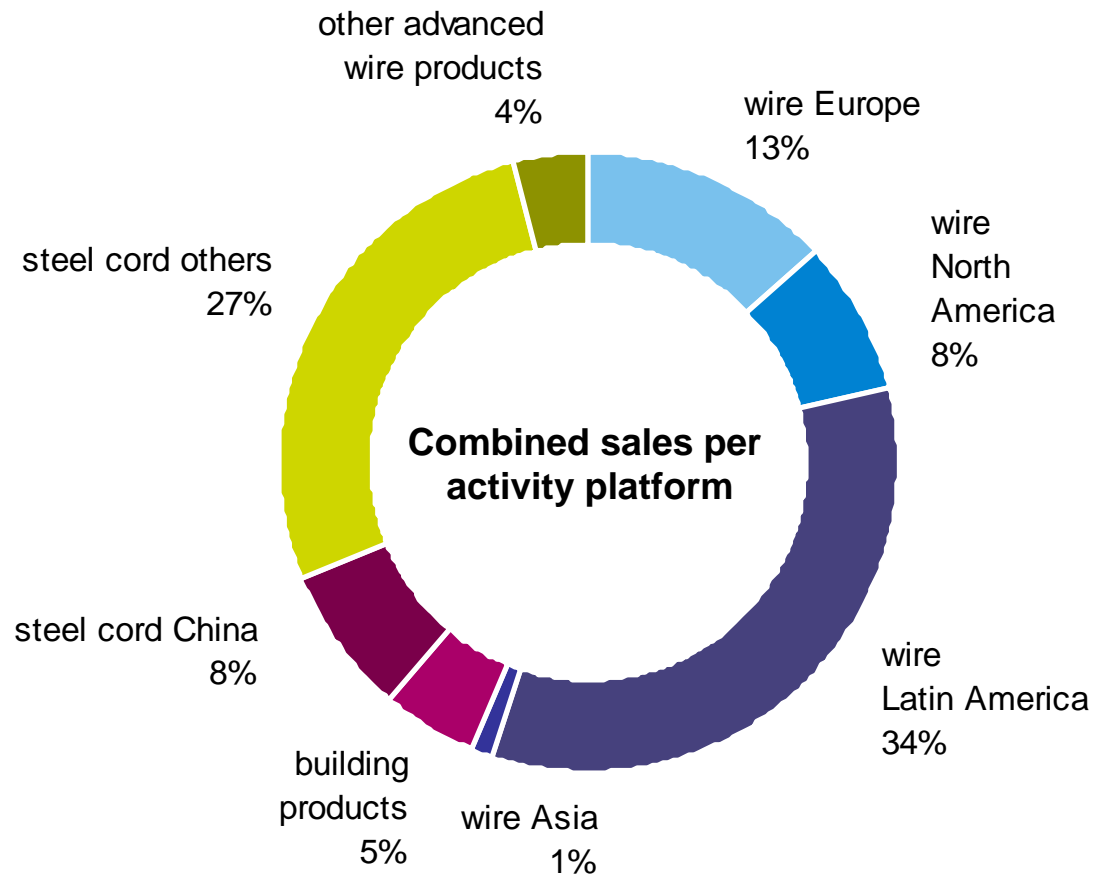
- Higher activity level
- Increased competition from Asian imports and hence sustained pressure on prices
- Positive impact of currency movements, mostly Brazil and Chile

Russia:

- Declaration of intent for the acquisition of Uralkord, steel cord manufacturer supplying about 25% of the Russian market

Advanced wire products:	+5%
wire Europe	+8%
wire North America	-6%
wire Latin America	+7%
wire Asia	+7%
building products	+11%
steel cord China	+54%
steel cord others	-6%
other advanced wire products	+7%

Advanced wire products: combined sales

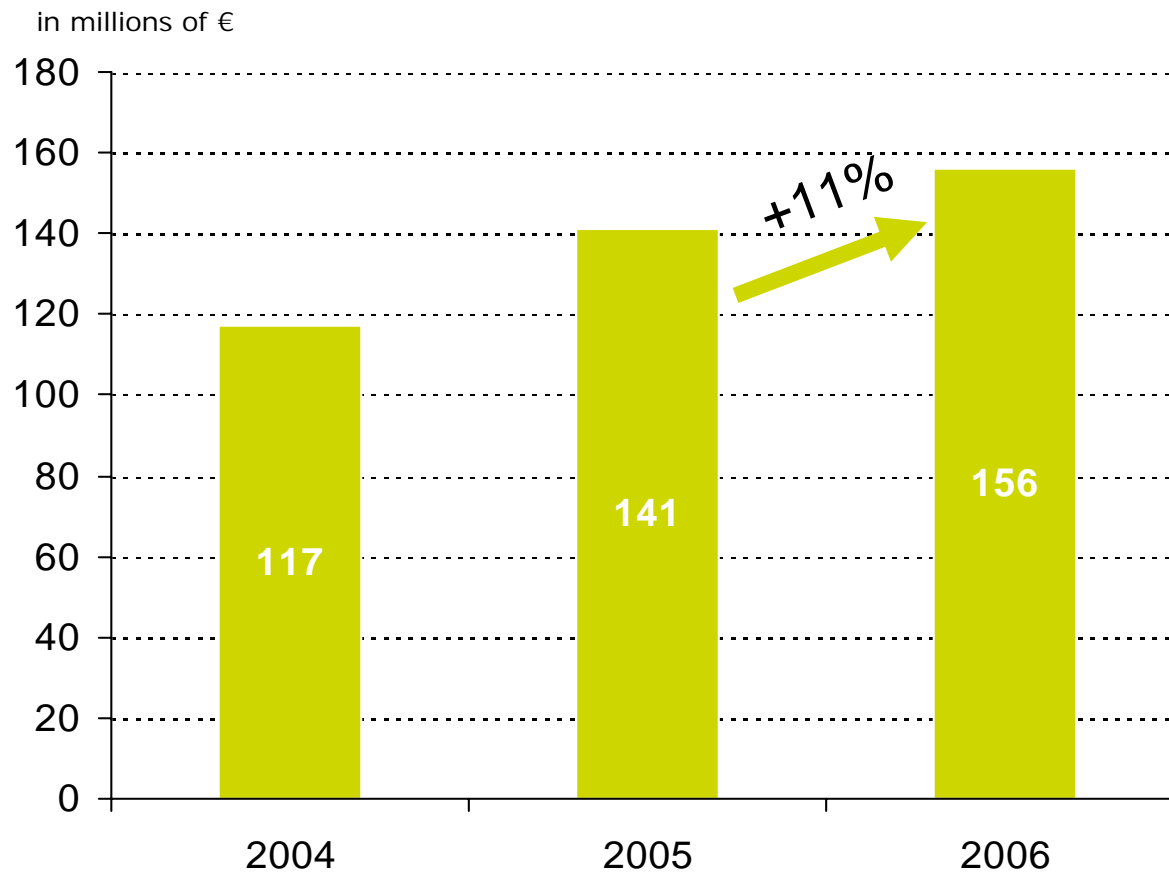


Advanced wire products: financials

in millions of €	2006	2005*
Consolidated sales	1 724	1 640
Operating result (EBIT) before non-recurring items	192	198
Operating result (EBIT)	180	182
Depreciation and amortization	100	91
EBITDA	281	273
EBIT margin on sales	10.4 %	11.1%
EBITDA margin on sales	16.3 %	16.6%
Combined sales	2 890	2 750
Share in the results of the joint ventures	51	57

* The key figures for the business segments were restated following the introduction of a more refined method of allocating results to the various business segments. This did not affect the Group's consolidated figures.

Advanced materials: sales



Combined sales equal consolidated sales as the advanced materials segment has no joint ventures and associates

Fiber technologies:

- Strong organic growth
- Move up the value chain in industrial process filtration:
full effect of the acquisition of Southwest Screens & Filters SA

Combustion technologies:

- Growth strategy in environment-friendly burners for residential heating systems, capitalizing on increasingly environmental regulations
- Acquisition of Aluheat B.V., specializing in the latest technologies for condensing boilers
- Project-based industrial burner system activities had a difficult year

Composites:

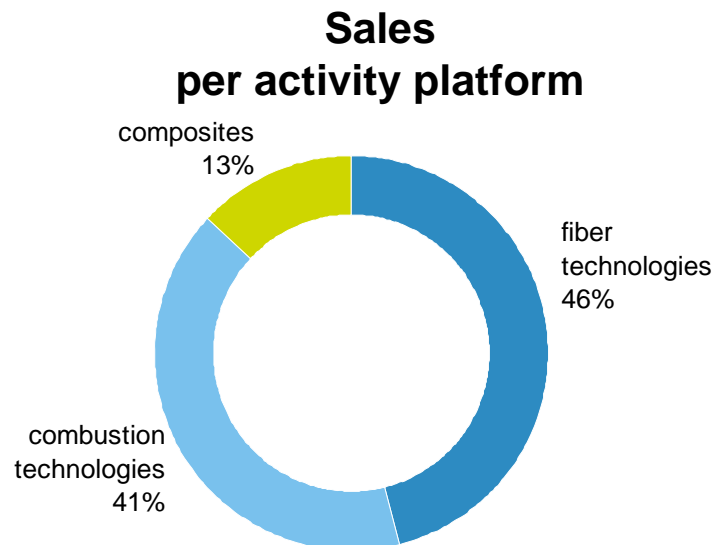
- Bekaert maintained its position in an extremely competitive environment

Advanced materials: **+11%**

fiber technologies **+15%**

combustion technologies **+9%**

composites **+4%**

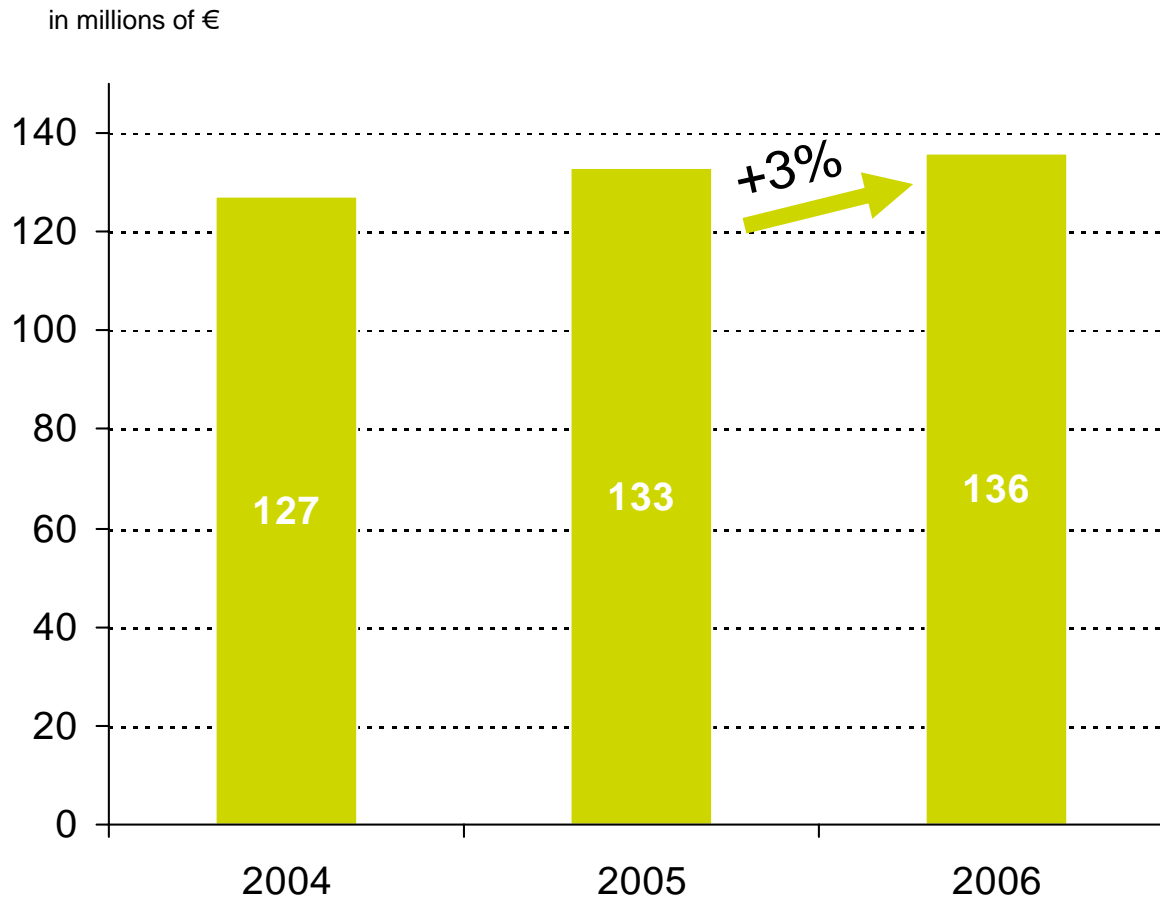


Advanced materials: financials

in millions of €	2006	2005*
Sales	156	141
Operating result (EBIT) before non-recurring items	13	13
Operating result (EBIT)	12	6
Depreciation and amortization	6	14
EBITDA	19	20
EBIT margin on sales	7.7%	3.9%
EBITDA margin on sales	12.3%	14.1%

* The key figures for the business segments were restated following the introduction of a more refined method of allocating results to the various business segments. This did not affect the Group's consolidated figures.

Advanced coatings: sales



Combined sales equal consolidated sales as the advanced materials segment has no joint ventures and associates

Industrial coatings:

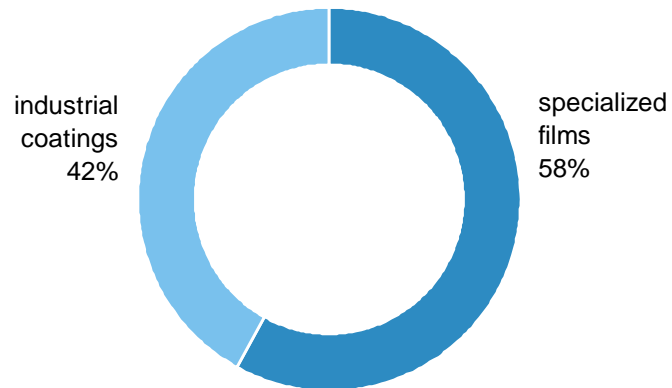
- Difficult first half, pick up in second half

Specialized films:

- Negative impact from currency movements
- Increased sales effort leads to sustained growth in North America and Asia

Advanced coatings:	+3%
industrial coatings	+1%
specialized films	+4%

Sales per activity platform



Advanced coatings: financials

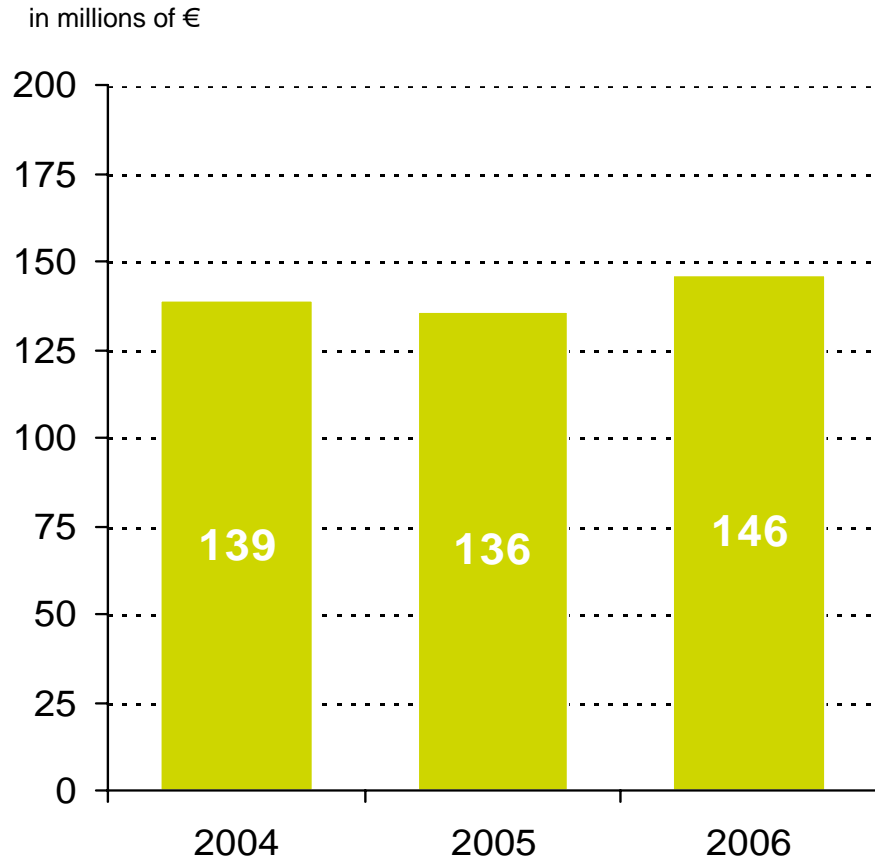
in millions of €	2006	2005*
Sales	136	133
Operating result (EBIT) before non-recurring items	3	3
Operating result (EBIT)	1	-4
Depreciation and amortization	11	18
EBITDA	12	13
EBIT margin on sales	0.6%	-3.2%
EBITDA margin on sales	8.5%	10.1%

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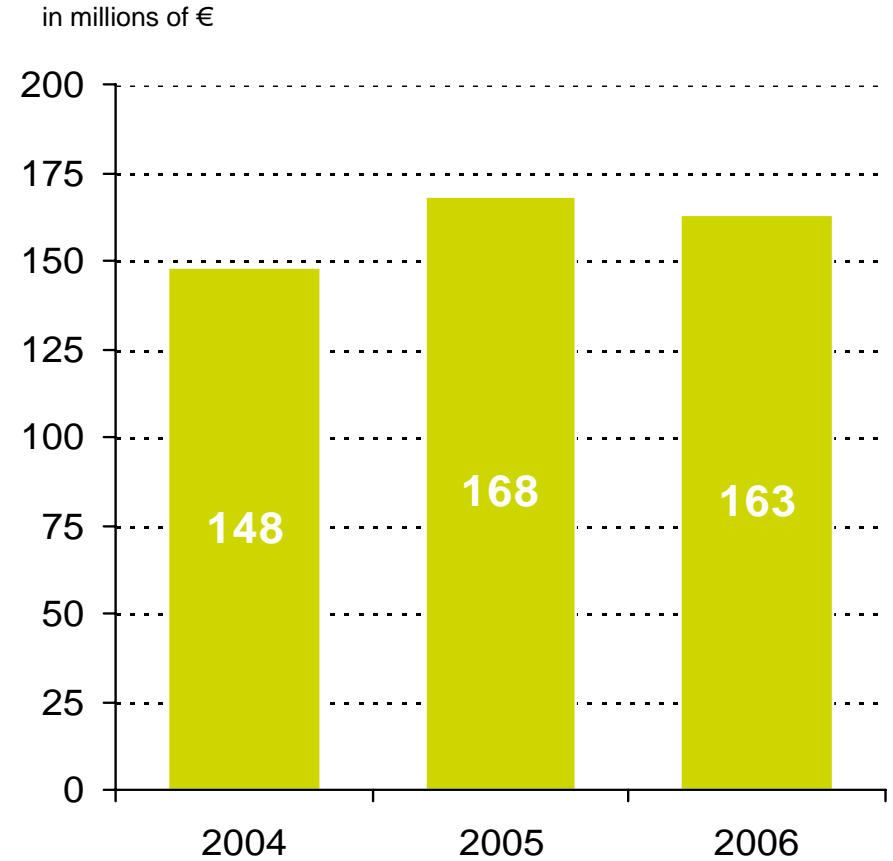
Other activities

- Expanding sales organizations
- Continued high investments in R&D and technological support to the customers
- Further developing of efficient, customer-oriented research in Jiangyin (Jiangsu province, China)
- Higher activity level in engineering: major supplier of equipment for investment programs
- Divestment of 50% share in handling business in Europe

Operating result (EBIT)

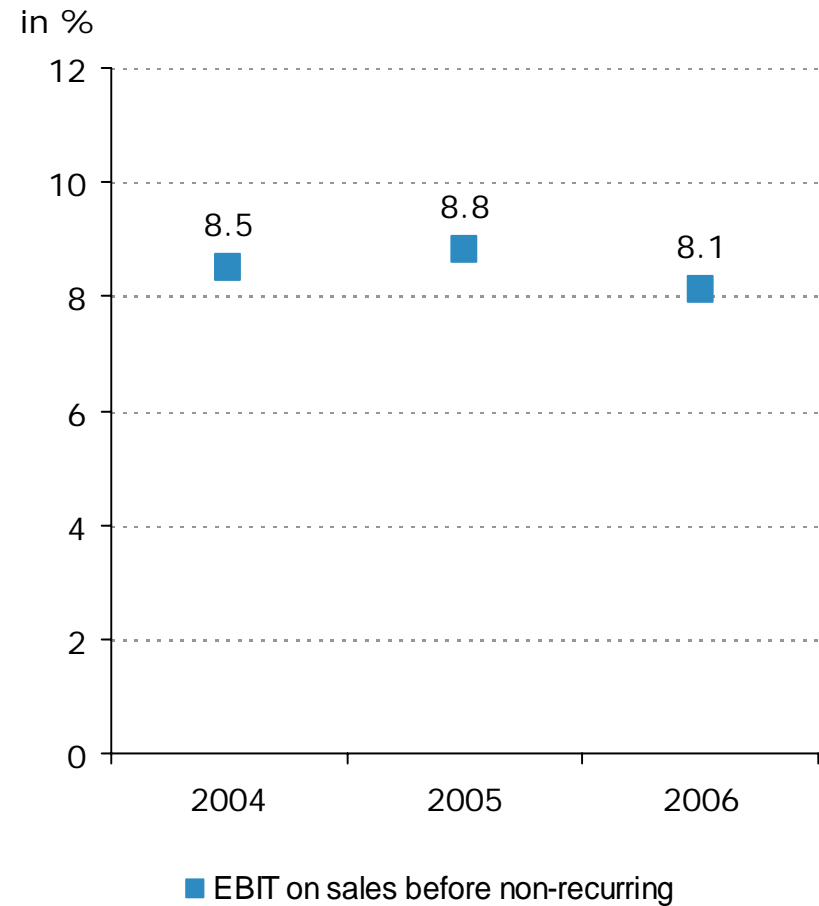
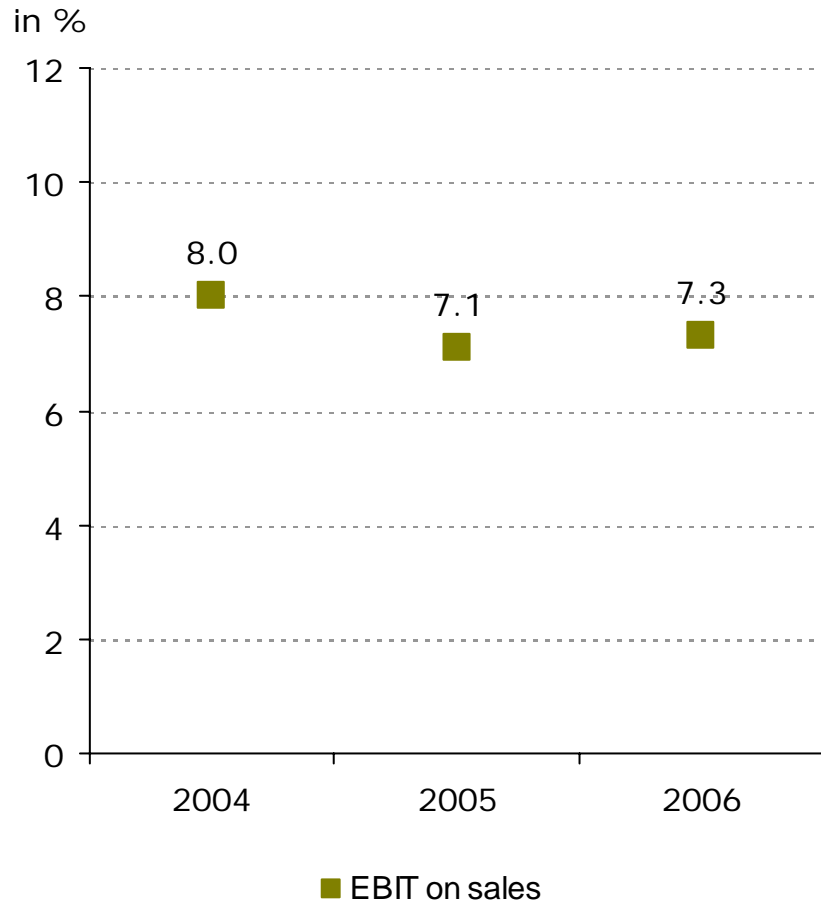


EBIT

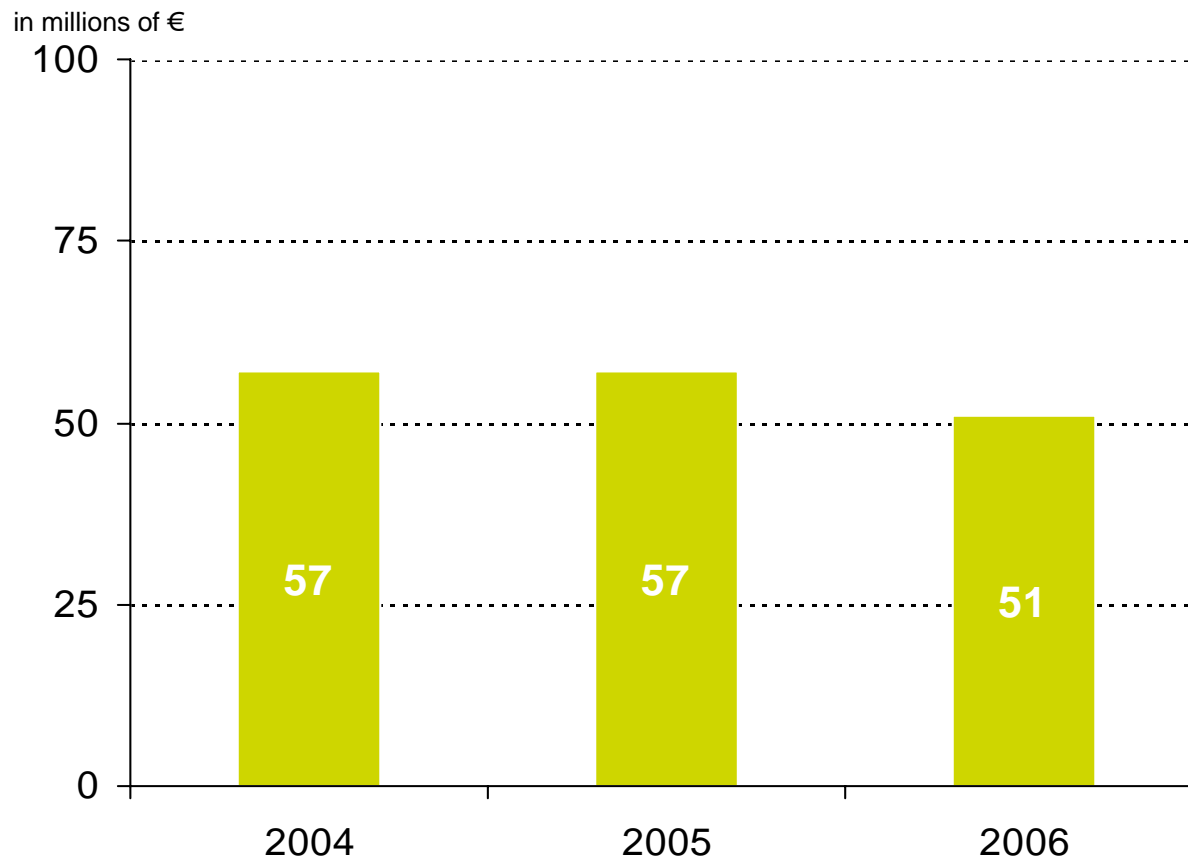


EBIT before non-recurring

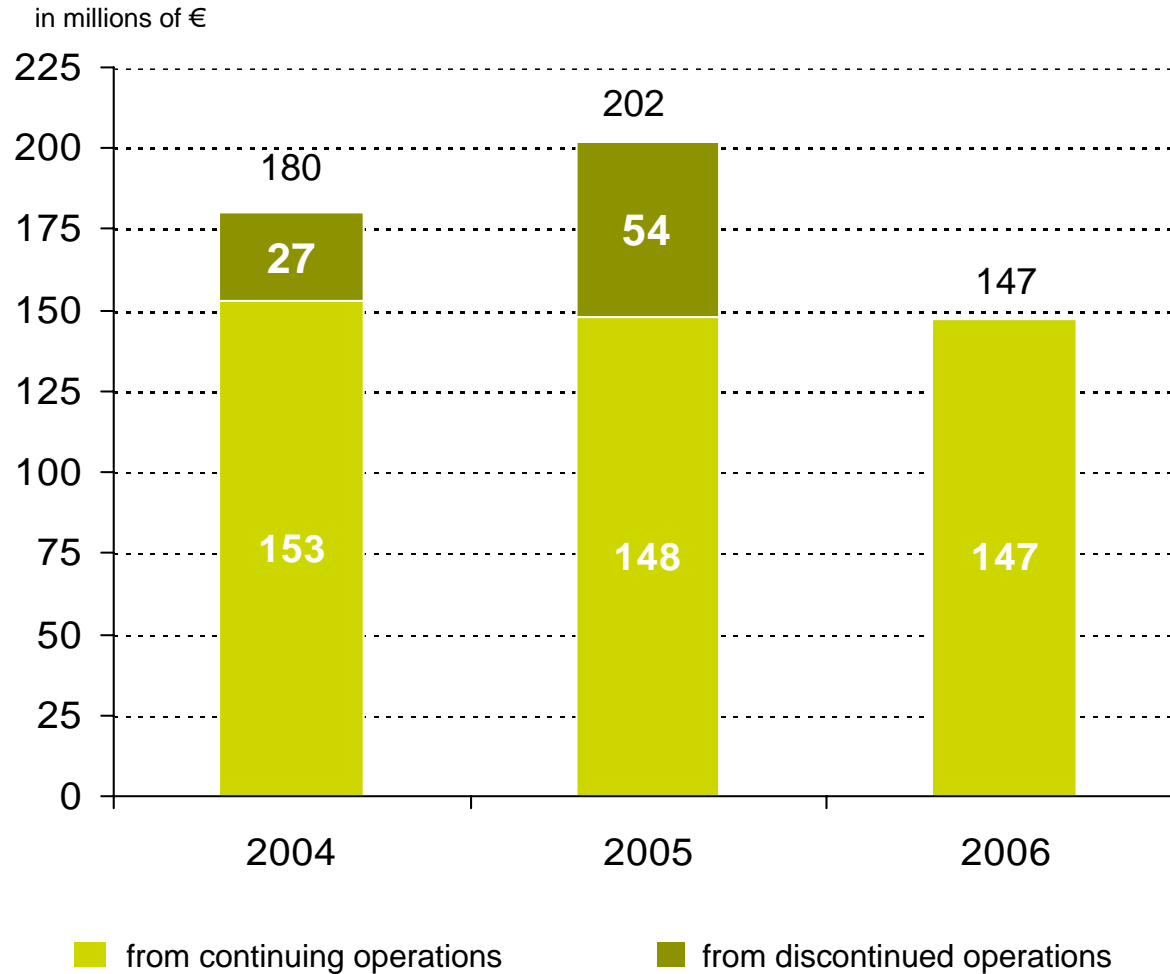
EBIT margin on sales



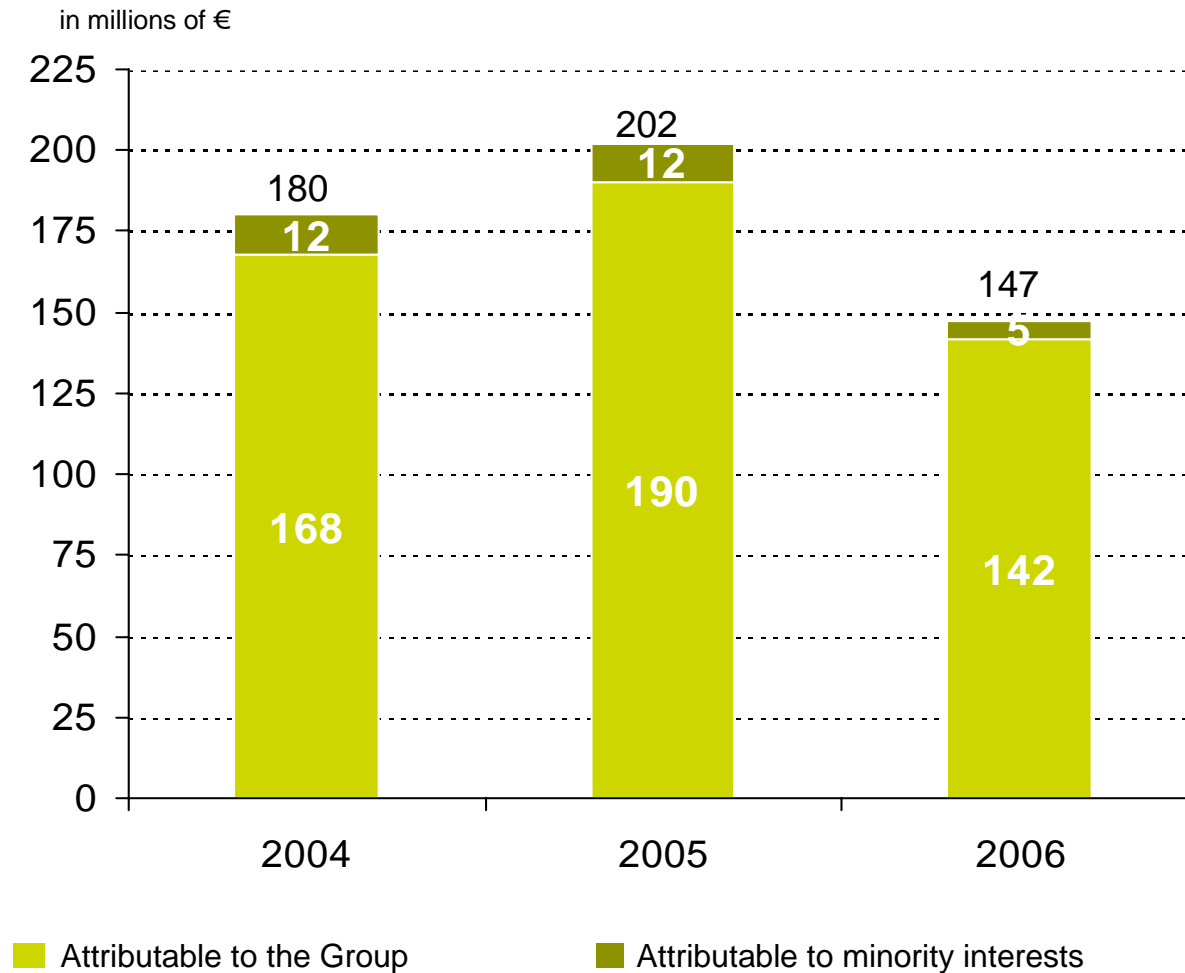
Share in the result of joint ventures and associates



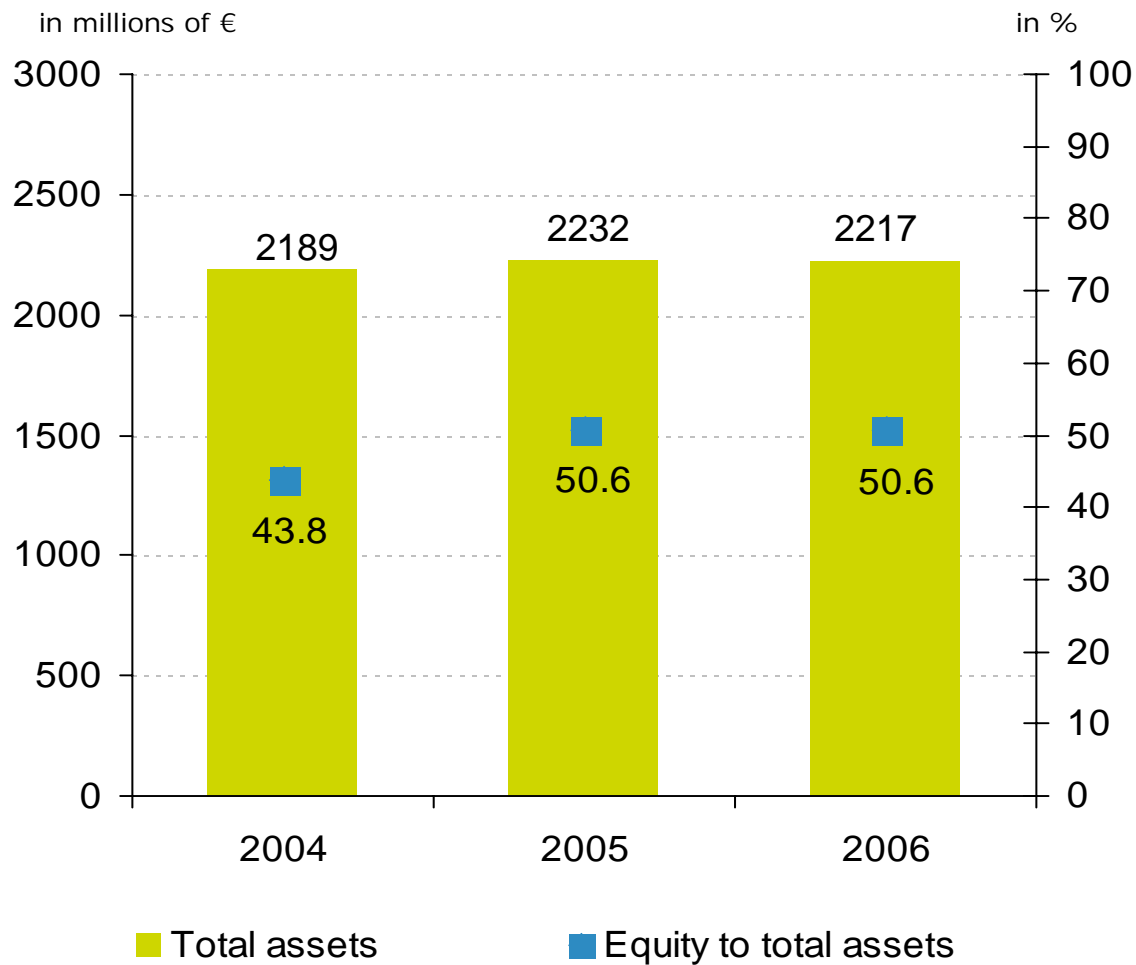
Result from continuing and discontinued operations



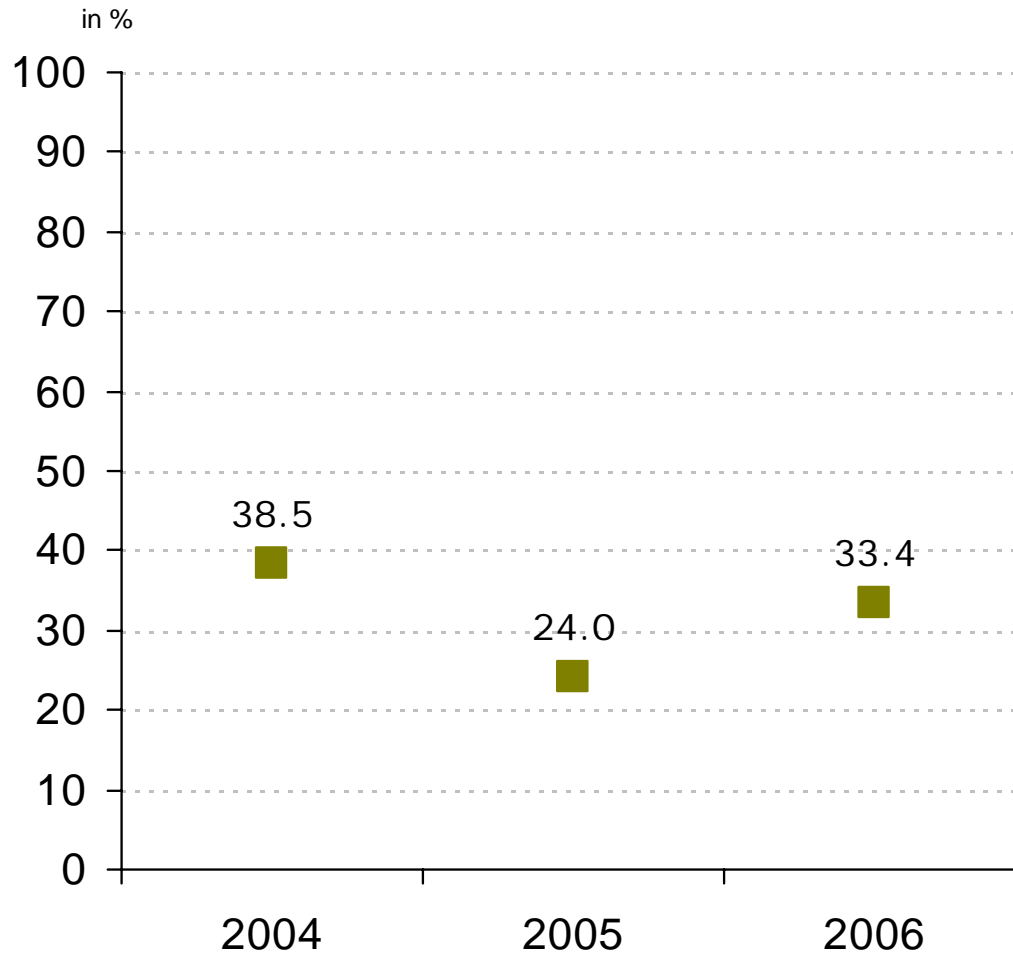
Result for the period



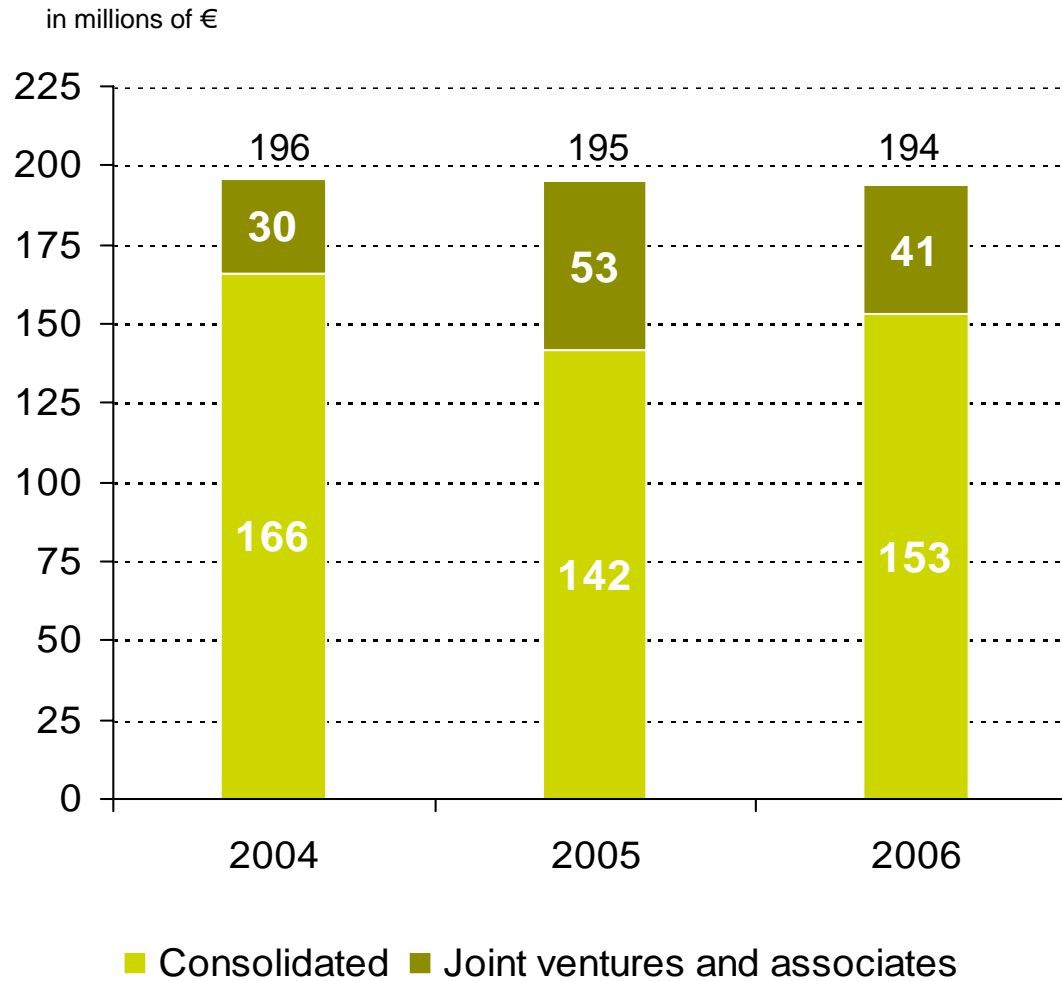
Equity to total assets



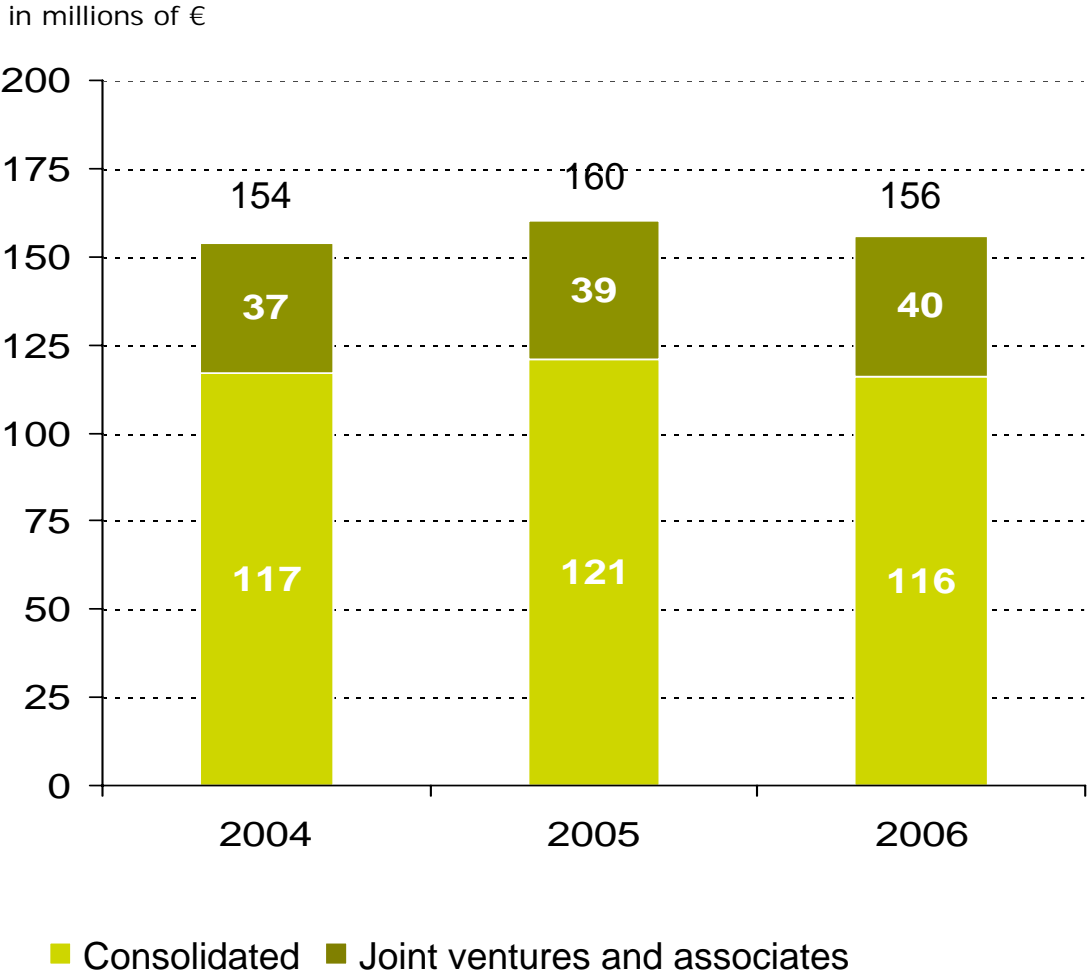
Net debt to equity (gearing)



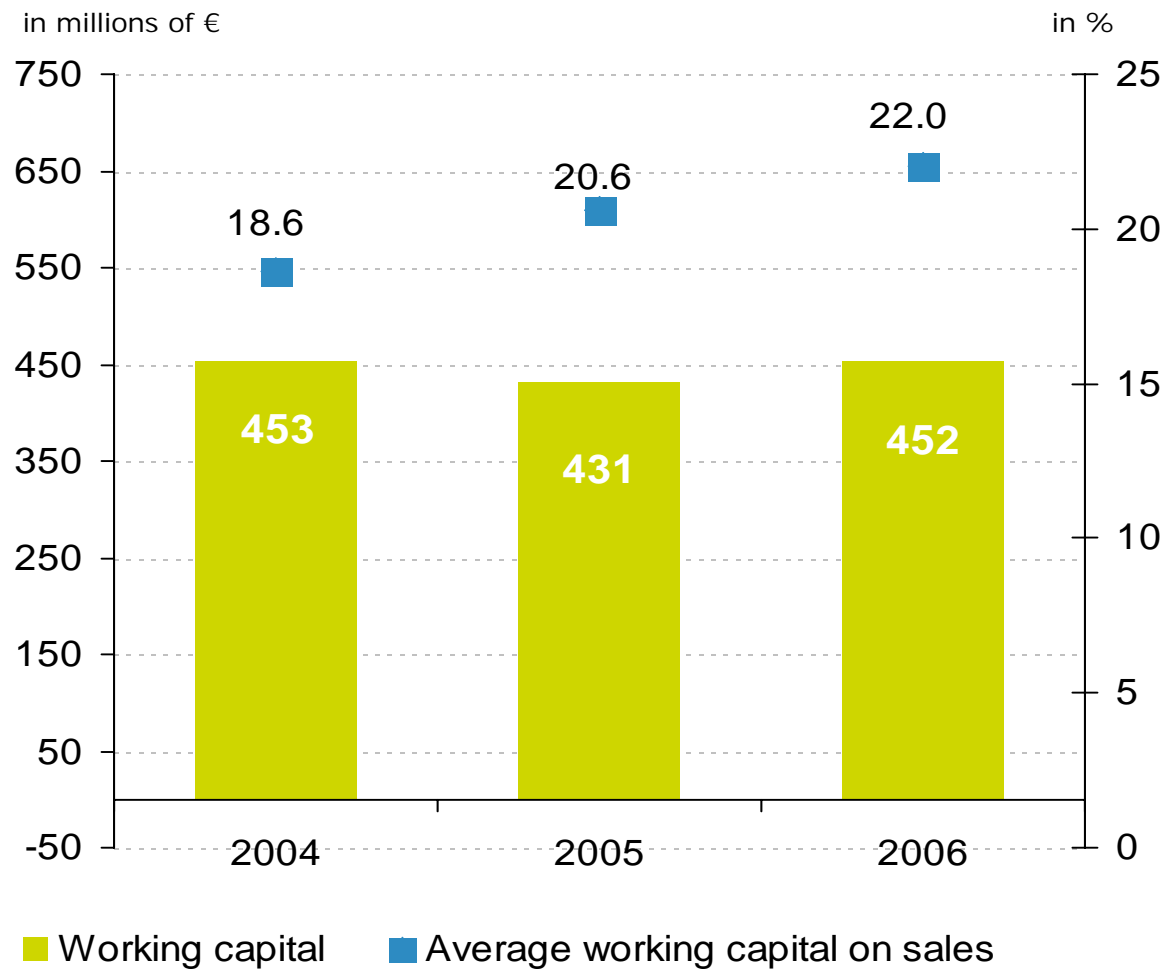
Capital expenditures



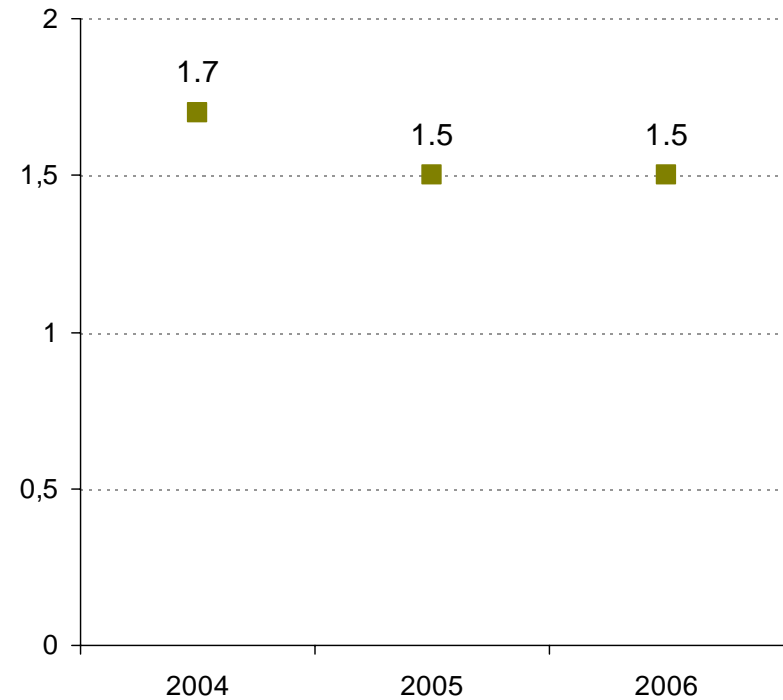
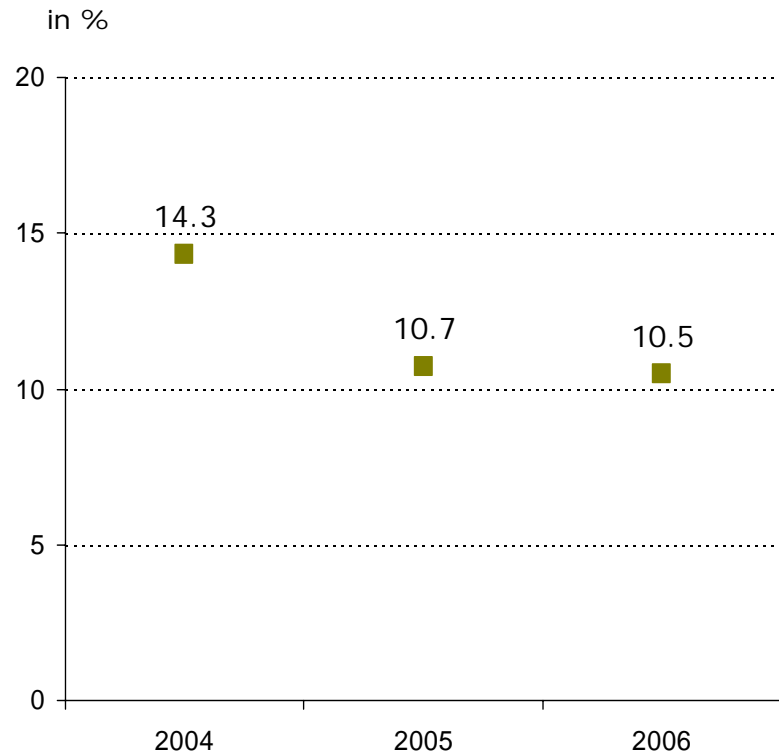
Depreciation and amortization



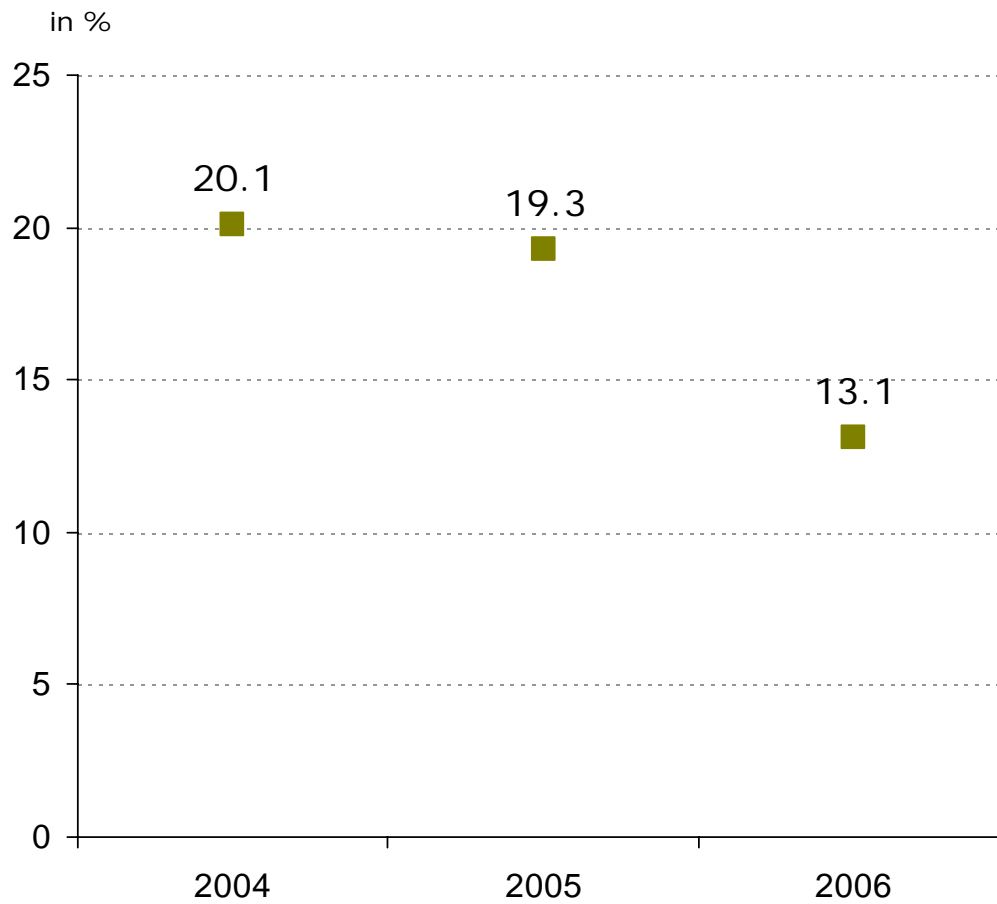
Operating working capital



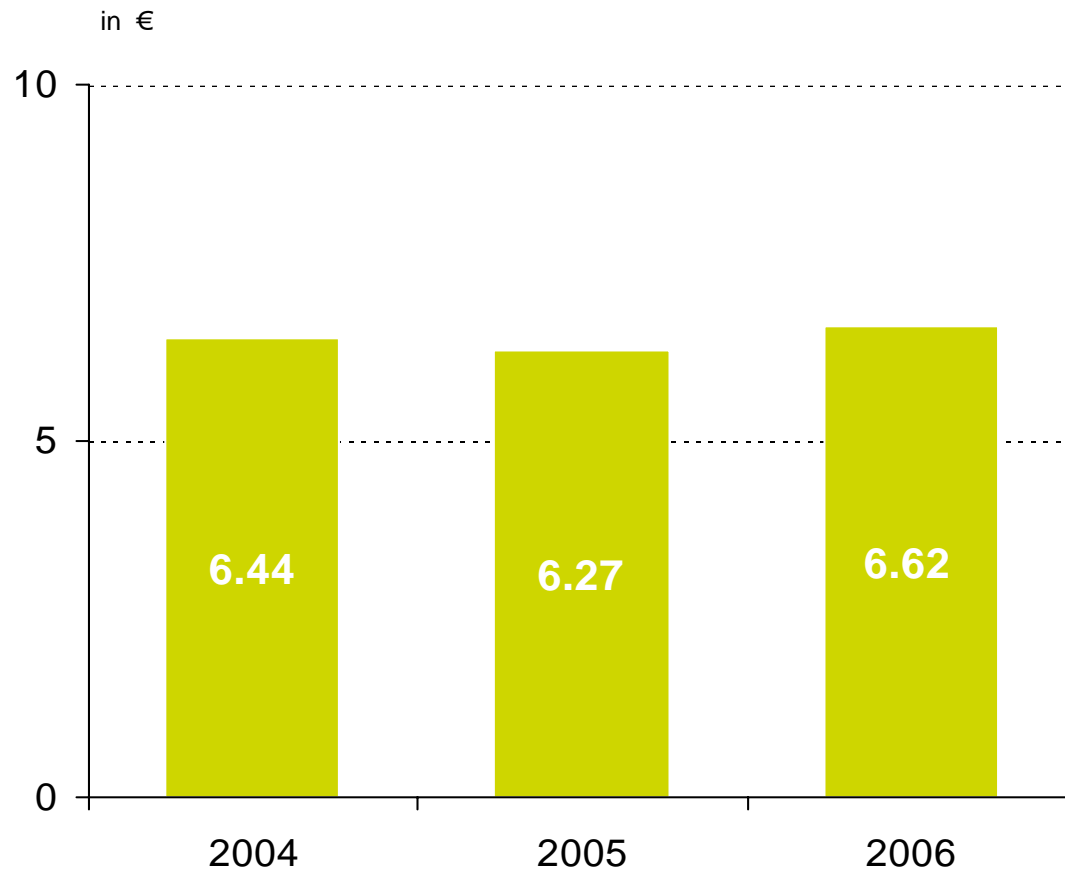
Return on capital employed and asset rotation



Return on equity



Earnings per share



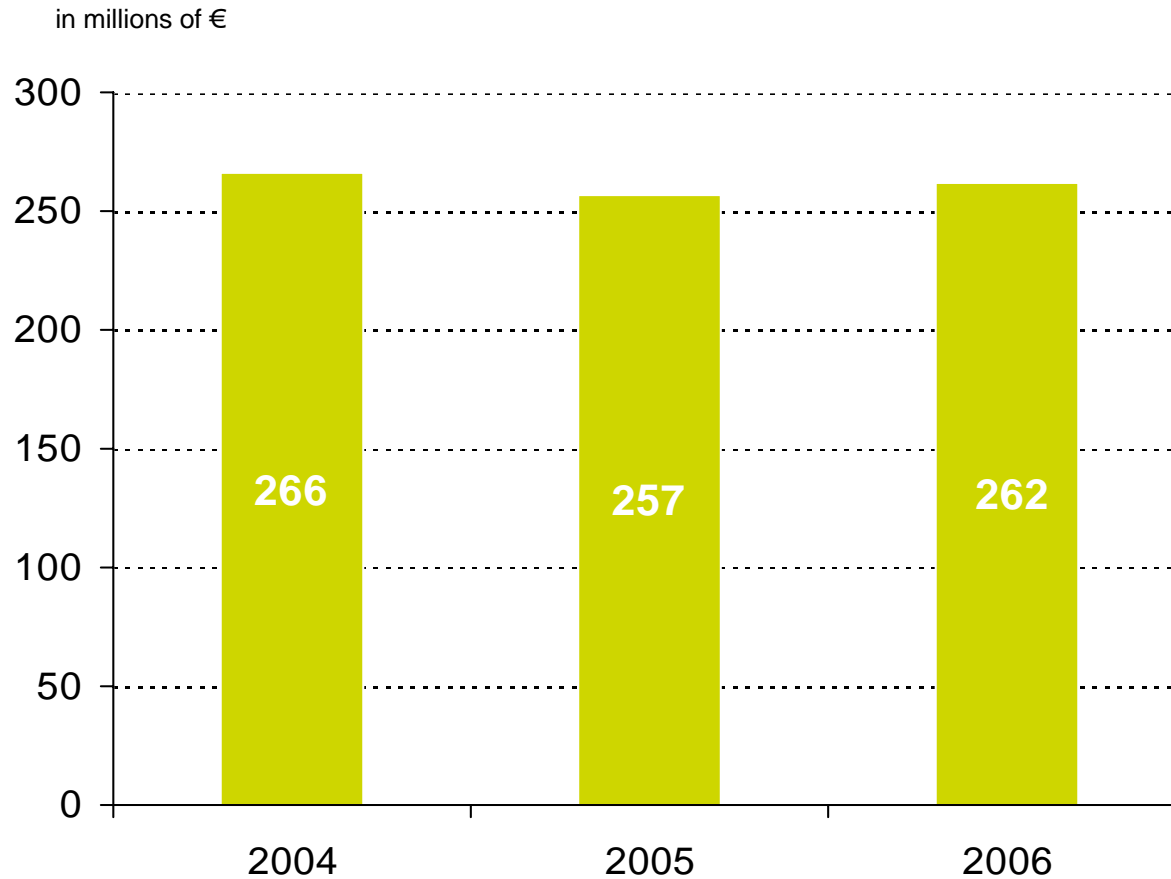
Bekaert purchased a total of 636 656 own shares in 2006 of which 8 890 were delivered and 627 766 cancelled.

In early 2007, Bekaert purchased and subsequently cancelled 546 779 shares.

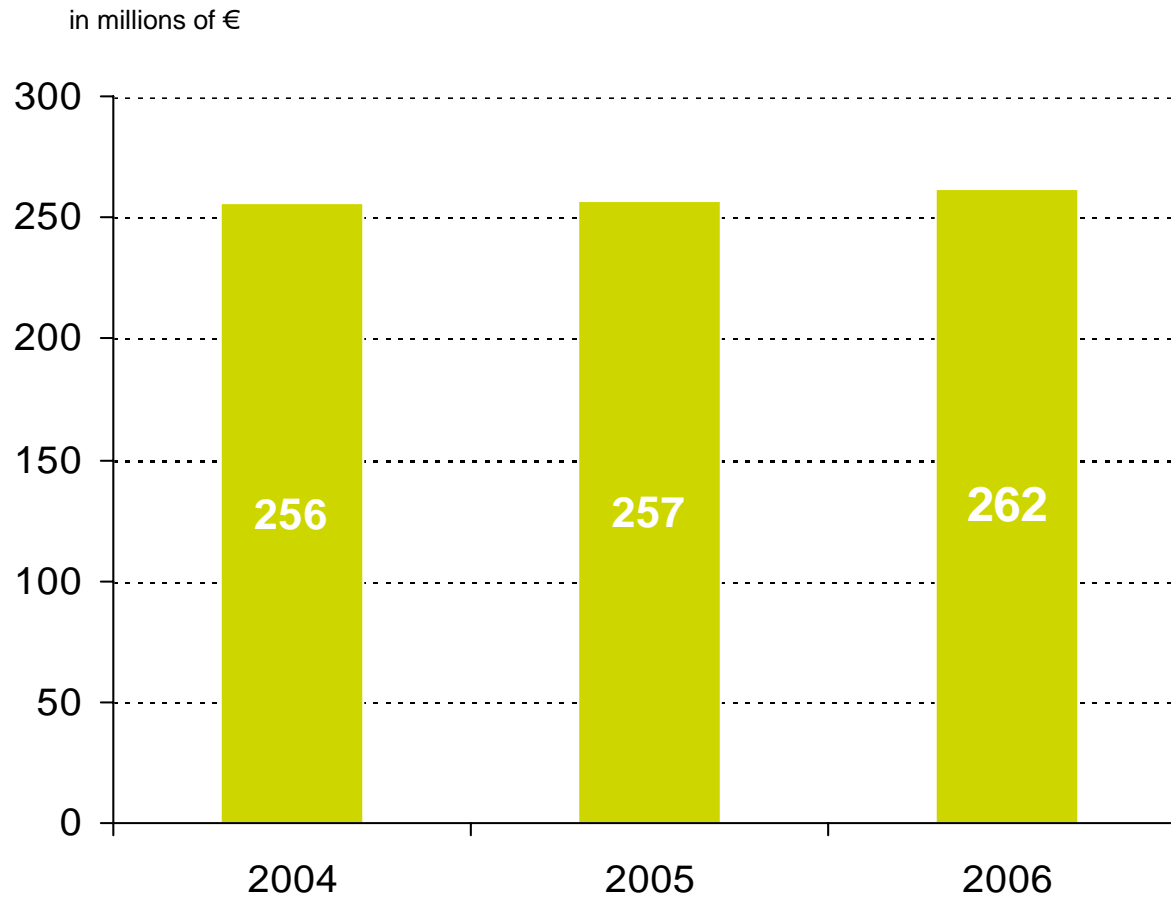
The share capital is now represented by 20 400 000 shares

reduction of number of shares aimed at further
optimizing Bekaert's debt structure

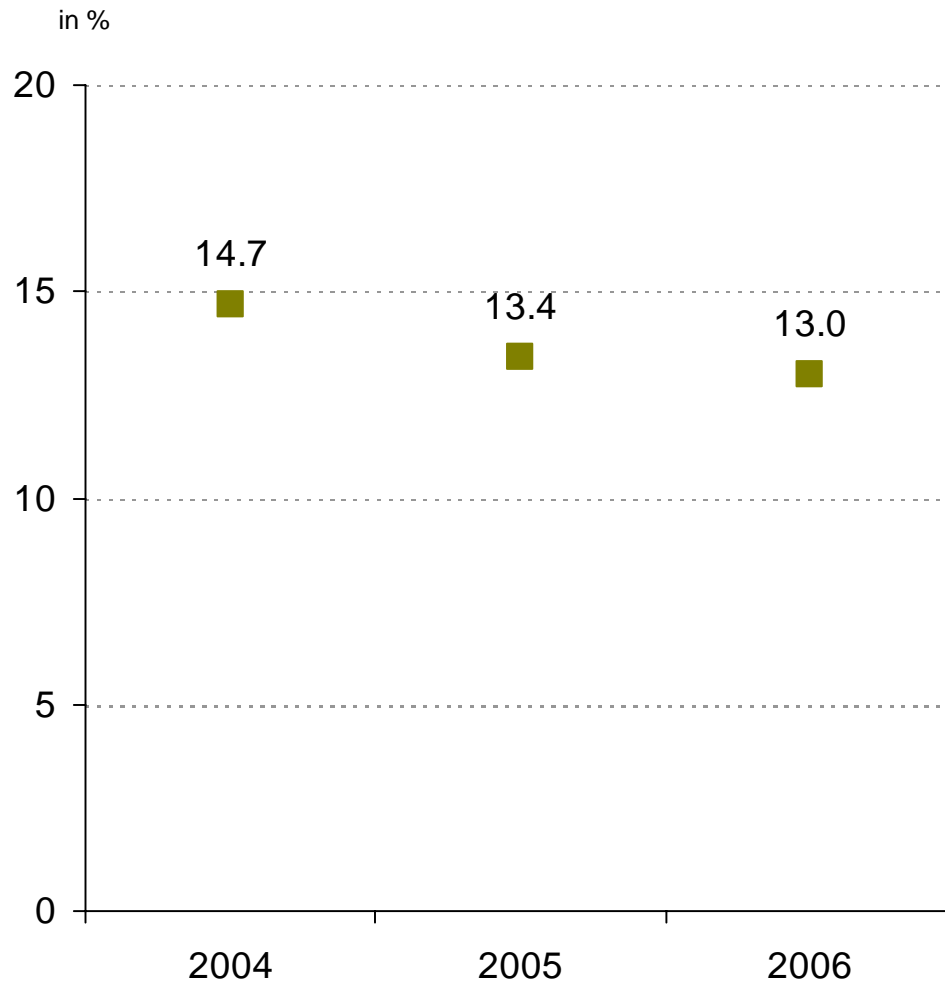
Cash flow attributable to the Group



EBITDA

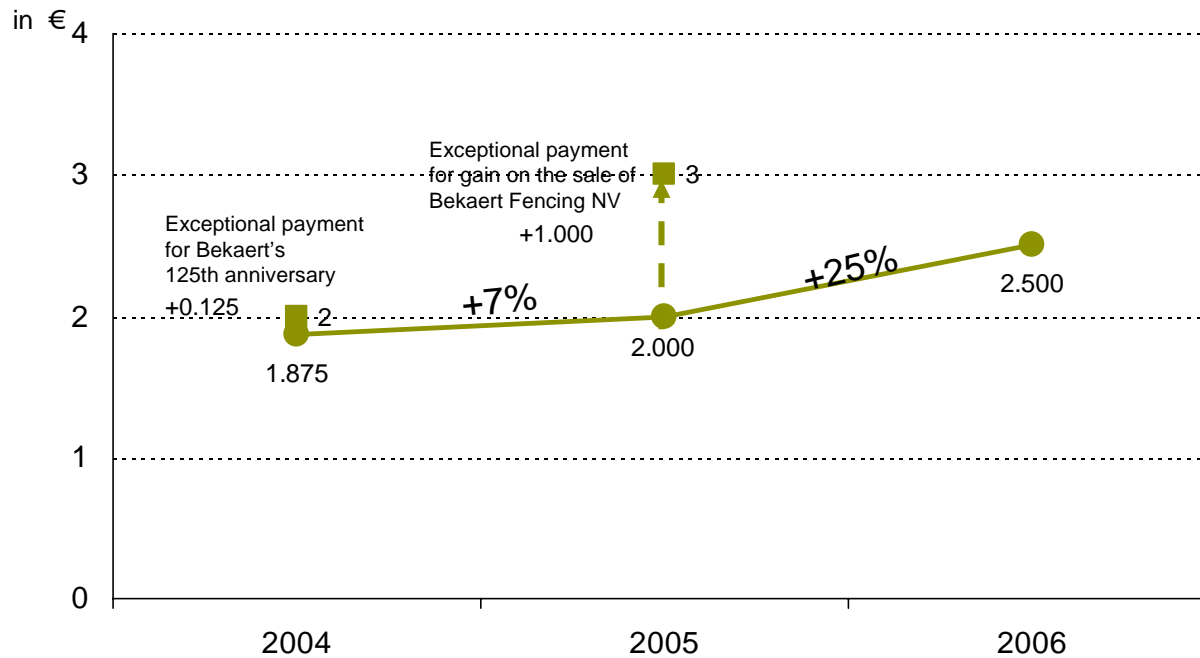


EBITDA margin on sales

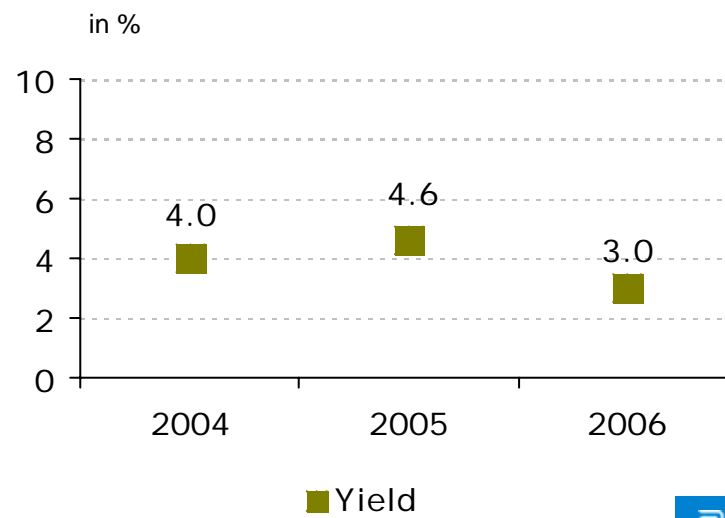
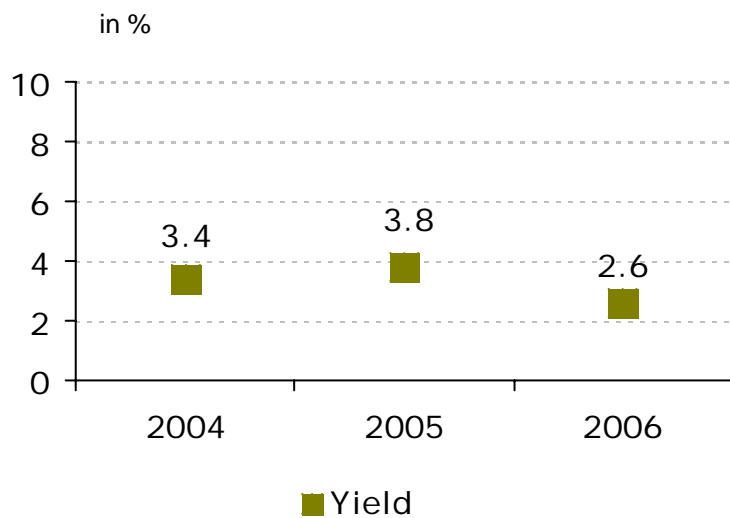
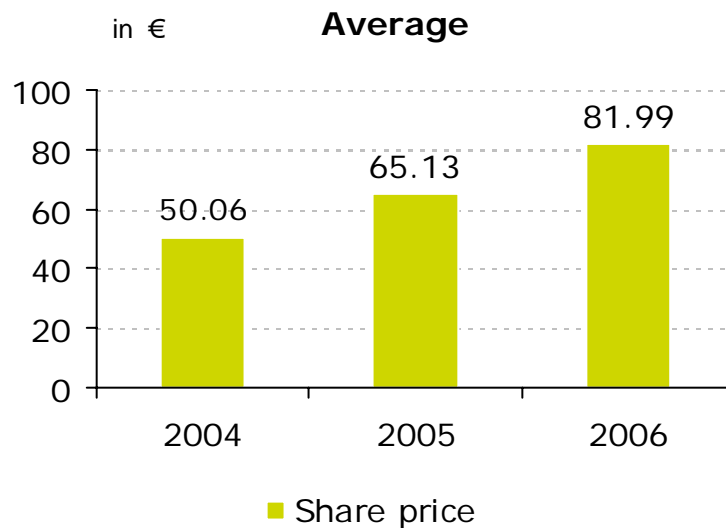
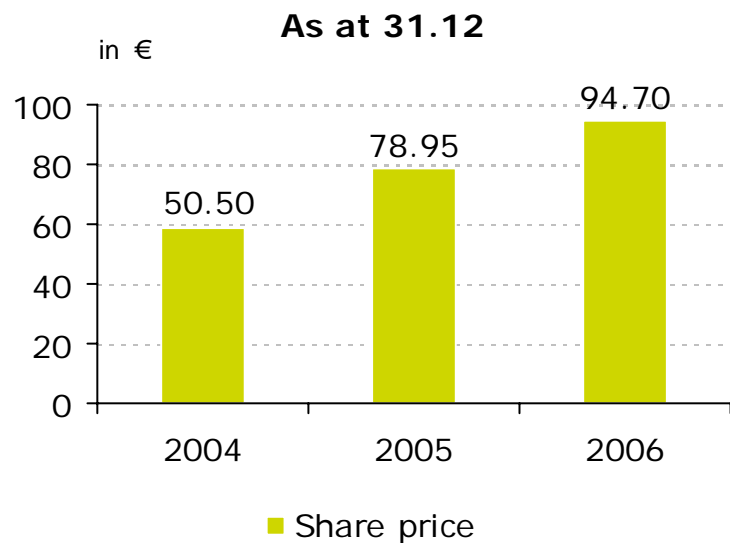


Strong performance in 2006 and confidence in the future

→ Proposed gross dividend of € 2.50 per share,
an increase of the basic amount by 25%



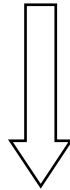
Dividend yield



Bekaert has made a good start in 2007

Raw material prices are expected to become more volatile again this year

Maintained high investment level to participate in the growth in the BRIC countries



Market and technological leadership for sustainable profitable growth

better together