



shareholders
information **2000**

Key figures

in EUR million
@ BEKAERT

BEKAERT GROUP

	2000	1999	1998
Sales	2 726	2 488	2 520
Capital expenditure	151	138	147
Personnel (number employed)	17 202	16 452	16 725

CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

	2000	1999	1998
Sales	1 756	1 765	1 767
Operating profit	114	101	70
Profit for the year	97	85	36
Group profit share	94	80	34
Capital expenditure	105	100	106
Depreciation	138	132	128
Amortisation of goodwill	7	6	4
Research expenditure	34	32	29
Cash flow ⁽¹⁾	232	212	162
Equity	1 096	1 013	893
Net debt	344	246	296
Fixed assets	1 293	1 184	1 125
Balance sheet total	2 140	2 016	1 855
Operating profit / sales	6.5%	5.7%	4.0%
Operating profit / capital employed ⁽²⁾	8.5%	7.9%	5.5%
Profit consolidated companies / sales	3.6%	3.5%	1.1%
Profit / equity (ROE) ⁽³⁾	8.8%	8.5%	3.7%
Equity / total assets ⁽⁴⁾	53.5%	52.7%	50.4%
Net debt / equity	30.1%	23.2%	31.7%
Personnel (number employed)	10 242	10 329	10 926

(1) Cash flow is consolidated net profit of the Group plus depreciation.

(2) Capital employed is the sum of formation expenses, goodwill, tangible and intangible fixed assets and working capital. The ratio is based on average capital employed.

(3) Return on average equity including minority interests.

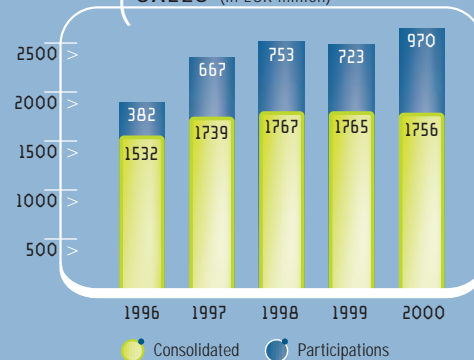
(4) Equity at year-end including minority interests.

(5) Participating interests are companies accounted for by the equity method.

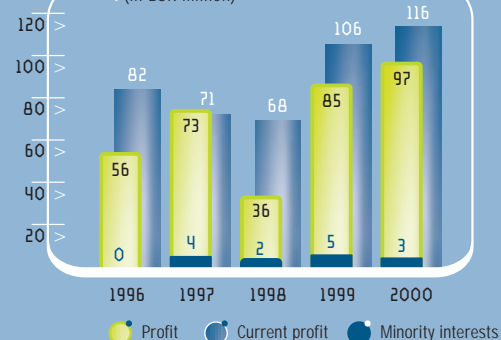
PARTICIPATING INTERESTS ⁽⁵⁾

	2000	1999	1998
Sales	970	723	753
Operating profit	112	82	64
Profit for the year	72	51	36
Share of consolidated profit	34	22	16
Capital expenditure	46	38	41
Depreciation	52	45	37
Equity	301	239	198
Personnel (number employed)	6 960	6 123	5 799

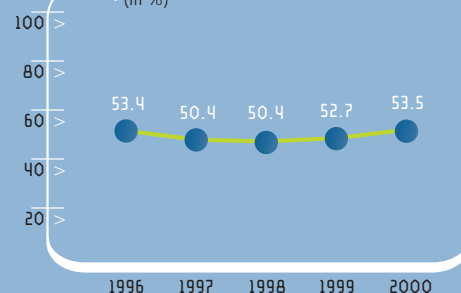
SALES (in EUR million)



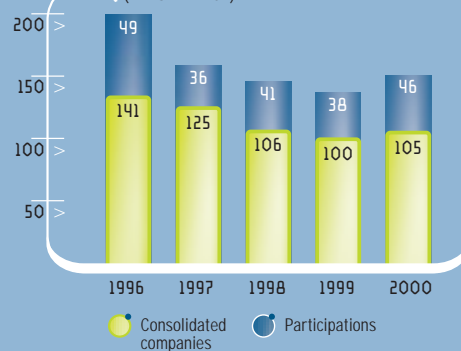
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT (in EUR million)



EQUITY TO TOTAL ASSETS (in %)



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (in EUR million)



Key figures per share

N.V. Bekaert S.A.

@ BEKAERT

During the year 2000, as part of a second stock option plan, 156 432 shares were repurchased and cancelled to avoid future dilution of the Bekaert share. As a result the number of shares decreased from 22 457 320 to 22 300 888 shares. The total number of VVPR strips remained unchanged in 2000.

(SHARES AND VVPR STRIPS IN ISSUE

(31/12/2000)

Shares	22 300 888
VVPR strips	3 551 040

(AVERAGE DAILY TRADED VOLUME

21 127 shares per day
EUR 1.1 million per day

(MARKET CAPITALISATION (31/12/2000)

EUR 1 111.7 million EUR

(QUOTATIONS ⁽¹⁾

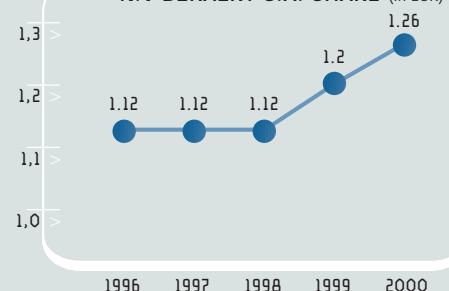
Shares	High (3/1/2000)	EUR 58.50
	Low (10/2/2000)	EUR 42.50
	Weighted average	EUR 50.81
	Closing price (31/12/2000)	EUR 49.85
VVPR strips	31 December 2000	EUR 0.06

(1) on Euronext
Brussels

QUOTATION BEKAERT SHARE IN 2000 (index compared to the Brussels' index)



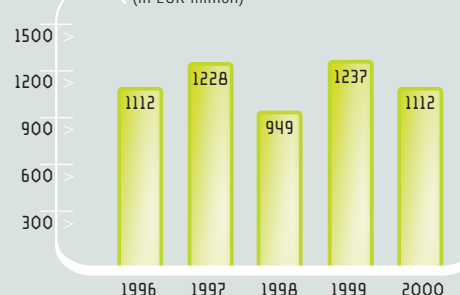
NET DIVIDEND PER N.V. BEKAERT S.A. SHARE (in EUR)



BEKAERT CLOSING PRICE (weekly average)



MARKET CAPITALISATION (in EUR million)



(DATA PER SHARE in EUR

	2000	1999	1998
Group profit	4.20	3.56	1.50
Cash flow	10.40	9.43	7.20
Gross dividend	1.68	1.60	1.49
Net dividend	1.26	1.20	1.12
Net dividend with VVPR strip	1.428	1.36	1.26
Dividend yield	3.4%	2.9%	3.5%
Equity	49.13	45.11	39.78
Share price 31/12/2000	49.85	55.10	42.27

EARNINGS PER SHARE (EPS) (in EUR)





(shareholders)

Information for shareholders

Shares

— Shares in issue

The number of shares in issue decreased by 156 432 last year, from 22 457 320 in 1999 to 22 300 888 in 2000, as a result of the repurchase of shares in connection with a stock option plan. The repurchased shares were cancelled to avoid future dilution of the share price for the existing shareholders, upon exercise of the options. The shares were repurchased at an average price of EUR 52.79.

— Registered and bearer shares

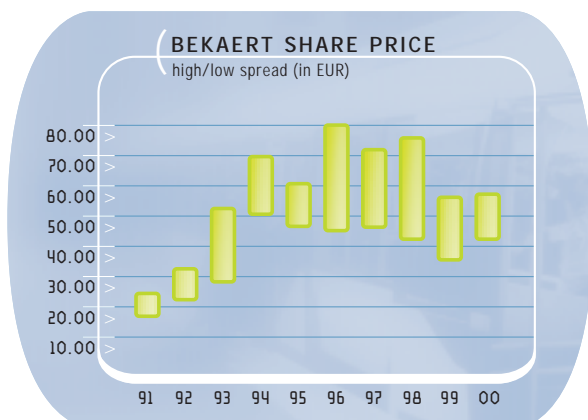
The shares are registered or made out to bearer in multiples of 1, 10, 50, 100 and 1,000. Shareholders wishing to convert from registered to bearer shares and vice-versa should contact Mrs. Hilde Ampe, President Kennedyplein 18, B-8500 Kortrijk (hilde.ampe@bekaert.com - tel. +32 56 23 05 11).

		Number of shares (31 December)		22 300 888	
		Number of VVPR strips (31 December)		3 551 040	
Market		Euronext Brussels Paris Amsterdam			Listing: BRU
Identification					
> Bekaert share	BEK	ISIN: BE0003780948	SVM 3780948	Stock vista:	27261
		Quotation group 70	continuous market	Telecho	106
> Bekaert VVPR strip	BEKS	ISIN: BE0005569406	SVM 5569406	Stock vista:	27262
		Quotation group 28	fixing	Telecho	110
> Reuters BERTt.BR					
Bloomberg BEK.BB					
Index					
	BEL20®	BXS	1.10 %		
	Next150	Euronext	0.76 %		
	IN.flanders®	Tijd	1.79 %		
	Vlam21	Bank Corluy	6.10 %		
	FTSE	EuroMid	0.24 %	Sedol code	5827431
		Eurobloc	0.53 %		

Share price

(SHARE PRICE HISTORY FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS IN EUR

YEAR	VOLUME (daily average) numbers	VOLUME EUR million	QUOTED PRICE 31 December	QUOTED PRICE High	QUOTED PRICE Low	PRICE / EARNINGS High	PRICE / EARNINGS Low	VVPR 31/12
1991	16 990	0.4	22.63	24.64	16.49	15	10	—
1992	18 160	0.6	33.28	33.71	22.73	18	12	—
1993	24 130	1.3	51.81	52.80	33.22	21	13	—
1994	25 320	1.4	56.46	70.59	50.82	23	16	—
1995	35 750	2.1	59.99	61.66	46.11	18	13	—
1996	54 150	2.7	49.95	81.00	44.81	22	12	—
1997	38 570	2.1	54.66	68.67	45.92	23	15	—
1998	34 730	2.1	42.27	77.47	41.89	26	14	—
1999	37 939	2.0	55.10	57.50	34.80	13	8	0.05
2000	21 127	1.1	49.85	58.50	42.50	12	8	0.06



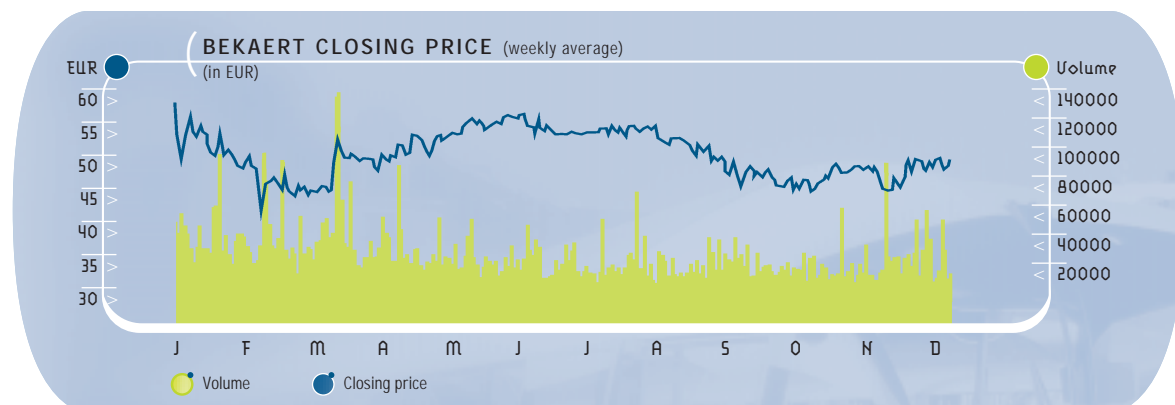
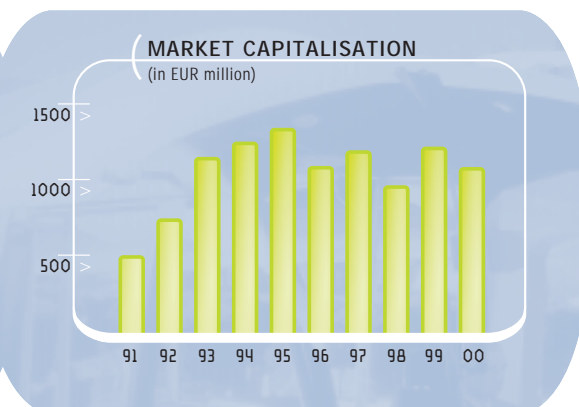
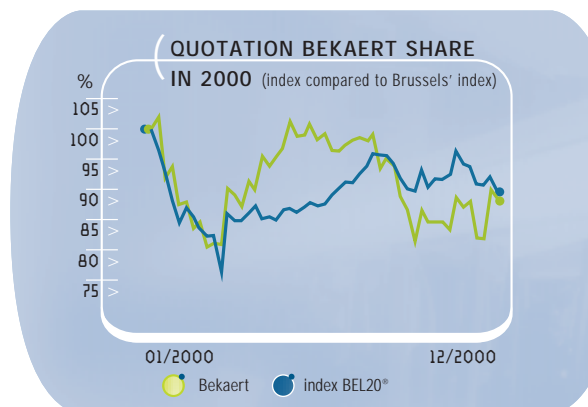
— Market capitalisation, turnover and velocity

Capitalisation 31/12/00	EUR 1 111.7 million
Capitalisation – high	EUR 1 313.8 million
Capitalisation – low	EUR 954.4 million
Annual turnover	EUR 271.7 million
Velocity	24.3 %

— Share price

For the **stock market** in general and Bekaert's shares in particular, 2000 was not a good year. The financial markets are not yet fully persuaded of Bekaert's renewal and growth potential and are adopting a very cautious stance. Despite the good 1999 results and the announcements of our move into promising markets such as solar energy and, in July, of a further improvement in our results, the share price continued to drift downwards, falling by around 10% to a level close to book value. The share's performance matched the Bel20®

index by year-end, but with significant variations over the twelve months. With the coming of Euronext, there were clear signs of a migration into foreign shares on the part of Belgian institutional investors in the early part of the year, but interest by foreign investors in Bekaert picked up in the second half, with the price rising in the last quarter and outperforming the Bel20® index over that period. The highest price, quoted on 3 January 2000, was EUR 58.50 and the lowest, on 10 February 2000, was EUR 42.50. The weighted average price in 2000 was EUR 50.31.



Distribution of shareholdings

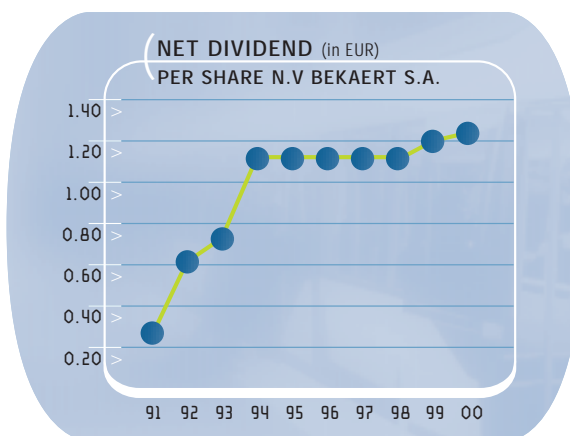
OF THE TOTAL NUMBER of shares, 35 464 were registered as at 31 December 2000. Bekaert has received notification under the Law of 2 March 1989 of holdings representing

39.87% of the share capital. The remainder is spread over institutional and individual investors.

Dividend policy

IT IS THE POLICY of the Board of Directors to propose a profit appropriation to the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders which, insofar as the profit permits, provides a stable or growing dividend while maintaining an adequate level of cash flow in the company for investment and self-financing in order to support the growth. In practice, this means that Bekaert seeks to maintain a pay-out ratio of around 40% of the current consolidated profit over the longer term. The pay-out ratio is 37.2% in 2000 compared to 37.5% in 1999.

Subject to approval, the net dividend will be payable in EUR from 16 May 2001 on presentation of coupon no. 2 at branches of Banque Bruxelles Lambert, Banque Fortis, Banque KBC, Banque Degroof and Banque Artesia in Belgium, Société Générale in France, ABN AMRO Bank in the Netherlands and Union de Banques Suisses in Switzerland.



Dividend = EUR 1.68 gross – EUR 0.42 (25% withholding tax) = EUR 1.26 net.
Net dividend with a VVPR strip = EUR 1.428 net.

Definitions

Added value	> Current operating profit + remuneration, social and pension charges + depreciation and amortisation
Cash flow	> Consolidated net profit of the Group + depreciation
Capital base (autonomy)	> Equity at year-end to total assets
Current	> Excluding all extraordinary results, non-recurring elements of operating result and amortisation of goodwill
Dividend yield	> Gross dividend as a percentage of the share price on 31 December
Equity	> Equity including minority interests
Gearing	> Net debt on equity, including minority interest, at year end
Gross margin	> Current operating profit + operational depreciation
Net debt	> Net debt on 31 December on equity
Participating interests	> Companies accounted for by the equity method (associated companies)
Pay out	> Gross dividend on current consolidated profit (Group share)
Pre-tax interest coverage	> Profit before tax + profit of associated companies + interest + /- extraordinary results divided by interest charge
Price/earnings ratio	> Share price divided by current profit (Group share) per share
ROCE	> Operating profit on average capital employed
ROE	> Profit on the average equity
Velocity	> Turnover on Euronext Brussels at the end of December divided by market capitalisation

Share capital

Year	Shares (in BEF, from 1999 in EUR)	Capital (in BEF, from 1999 in EUR)	Transaction
1880			Formation of family company
1924	300	3 000 000	Formation of public limited company (N.V.)
1929	15 000	15 000 000	Capital increase due to capitalisation of reserves and contribution in cash
1932	15 005	15 005 000	> Merger with S.C. Espérance, Fontaine-L'Évêque
1935			> Conversion to private limited company (P.V.B.A.)
1941	48 000	48 000 000	Capital increase due to contribution in cash and in kind and capitalisation of reserves
1952	48 000	480 000 000	Capitalisation of reserves and increase in nominal value of shares from BEF 1 000 to BEF 10 000
1965	49 200	1 623 600 000	> Capitalisation of reserves and increase in nominal value of shares to BEF 33 000 > Merger with N.V. Bekaert Steelcord, formerly a subsidiary of P.V.B.A. Tréf. L. Bekaert, acquiring 59 % stake through issue of 1 200 shares of BEF 33 000 nominal value
1969	787 200	1 623 600 000	Conversion to public limited company (N.V.) and 16-for-1 share split
1970	807 200	2 800 000 000	Capital increase due to contribution in cash of BEF 70 000 000 under pre-emptive right and capitalisation of reserves of BEF 1 106 400 000 without share issue
1972	1 614 400	2 800 000 000	2-for-1 share split, Bekaert flotation, first quotation on 11 December 1972
1975	1 614 665	2 800 459 775	Conversion of 265 convertible bonds
1976	1 614 910	2 800 884 850	Conversion of 245 convertible bonds
1978	1 640 705	2 845 639 175	Conversion of 25 795 convertible bonds
1979	1 758 313	3 049 689 055	Conversion of 117 608 convertible bonds
1980	1 760 972	3 054 302 420	Conversion of 2 659 convertible bonds
1982	1 890 628	3 279 255 580	Conversion of 129 656 convertible bonds
1983	1 890 628	3 279 255 580	
AFV	355 104	720.744.420	Issue of 355 104 new shares subject to reduced withholding tax ('AFV shares')
	2 245 732	4 000 000 000	
1988	1 890 628	5 682 663 000	Capitalisation of reserves
AFV	355 104	1 067 337 000	
	2 245 732	6 750 000 000	
1994			AFV shares redesignated VVPR shares
1999	22 457 320	170 000 000	> capital increase due to capitalisation of reserves of BEF 107 783 000 and conversion into EUR > issue of strips for shares subject to reduced withholding tax (VVPR shares) and listing of VVPR strips > 10-for-1 share split
2000	22 300 888	170 000 000	Number of shares decreased by 156 432 as a result of a repurchase of shares to avoid future dilution



(Shareholders)

Statement on Corporate Governance

RULES GOVERNING THE ROLE, organisation, responsibilities and functioning of the Board of Directors and the committees appointed by the Board of Directors were drawn up by Bekaert in 1990. The rules were set out in a document known as the 'Charter of the Board', which still sets the guidelines for the proper functioning of the Board of Directors and its committees. Bekaert is aware that the governance of listed companies is an important factor in investment decisions and complies with international accepted rules and with the recommendations of the Committee on Banking and Finance and Brussels Exchanges in this area.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (see table)

The Board of Directors of N.V. Bekaert S.A. consists of 14 members, eight of whom represent the principal shareholders. On 10 May 2000, during the General Meeting of Shareholders, the Board was enlarged by the appointment

of Baron Paul Buysse, who was elected Chairman of the Board. The Chairman is independent of the principal shareholders. Only the Chief Executive Officer, who is entrusted with the day-to-day management of the company, has an executive function. All the other members are non-executive directors. Five members are independent, in the sense that they have no connection with the management or the principal shareholders. The members of the Board of Directors are elected for three-year terms and are eligible for re-election. New candidates are nominated by the Nominations, Compensation and Pensions Committee (NCPC) and their names must be communicated to the Board of Directors at least two months before the General Meeting of Shareholders. Members of the Board of Directors are subject to a minimum age limit of 35. The maximum age limit has recently been raised from 65 to 67. Only in the case of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer is membership of the Board their principal occupation.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Situation as at 31 December 2000

Name	Position	Term expires	Principal employer	Membership of committees
MEMBERS REPRESENTING PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDER				
Baron Léon Bekaert	Director	2003	Director different companies	
Roger Dalle	Director	2001		
Count Charles de Liedekerke	Director	2003	EVP Lafarge S.A. (France)	
François de Visscher	Director	2001	Founding partner de Visscher, Olson & Allen	A&F
Maxime Jadot	Director	2003	Head Investment Banking	SC/NCPC
			Fortis Bank	
Baudouin Velge	Director	2001	Chief Economist VBO/FEB	
Maurice Velge	Director	2001	Chairman Velge Int'l	SC
Thierry Verhaeghe de Naeyer	Director	2001	Partner Gavenco Ltd.	SC
MANAGEMENT				
Rafaël Decaluwé	Chief Executive Officer	2003	N.V. Bekaert S.A.	SC/A&F
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS				
Baron Paul Buysse	Chairman	2003	N.V. Bekaert S.A.	SC/A&F/NCPC
Gary J. Allen	Director	2002	Chairman IMI plc UK	A&F/NCPC
Pol Bamelis	Director	2001	Member of the Board of Management Bayer AG	SC
Baron Jan Huyghebaert	Director	2002	Chairman Almanij N.V.	NCPC
Baron Georges Jacobs	Director	2002	Pres. Exec. Com. UCB	
SC > Strategic Committee A&F > Audit and Finance Committee NCPC > Nominations, Compensation and Pensions Committee				

FUNCTIONING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board met on eight occasions in 2000. As scheduled, six ordinary meetings were convened last year, one of which was held in Sheffield (UK) at the offices of Tinsley Wire Ltd., a wholly owned Bekaert subsidiary. This meeting provided an opportunity for the members of the Board of Directors to visit the plant and meet the local management. Two meetings were held at the offices of the civil-law notary, in connection with the issue of warrants within the limits of the authorised capital. The dates were communicated to all the Board members by the Corporate Secretary at the beginning of the year. The Board's resolutions were arrived at on the basis of consensus. The option envisaged in the Articles of Association of conducting meetings via teleconferencing or videoconferencing was not exercised. In addition to its statutory powers and powers under the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors also makes certain appointments, including that of the Chief Executive Officer, and decides on succession to that post. The Board approves the Group's long-term vision and strategy as proposed by the Chief Executive Officer, decides on major investments and acquisitions and the issue and allocation of share options and warrants, prepares and monitors performance against three-year plans and one-year budgets and draws up the annual accounts.

In implementation of the resolutions of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders on 14 October 1999, share options were granted within the limits of the authorised capital to Belgian managers and vice-presidents in connection with a stock option plan. At the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 4 April 2000 at the offices of the civil-law notary, it was resolved to grant 39,620 warrants to the company's managers, vice-presidents and the Chief Executive Officer at an exercise price of EUR 52.60, excluding pre-emptive rights. At the meeting of the Board of Directors held at the civil-law notary's offices on 26 September 2000 a further 116 812 warrants were granted to managers at an exercise price of EUR 54.00 and to the Chief Executive Officer at an exercise price of EUR 49.85, likewise excluding pre-emptive rights. Owing to the Chief Executive Officer's different status, it was not legally possible to apply the same exercise price to the Chief Executive Officer and the managers. In addition, the exercise period for the warrants issued to the Chief Executive Officer is five years, as opposed to ten years for those issued to the managers. To prevent future dilution of the share price for the existing shareholders as a result of the granting of these share options, 156 432 N.V. Bekaert S.A. shares were repurchased for a total of EUR 8 243 487.34 and cancelled in 2000. The Articles of Association of N.V. Bekaert S.A. were amended in accordance with the resolution of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders as a consequence of the cancellation of the shares.

The Board of Directors approved a second stock option plan in 2000, for the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and senior management of the company and its subsidiaries, whether or

not employed by the company. The purpose of this second plan, which is restricted to fewer than 50 individuals, is to be able to grant options to non-employees on the same terms as employees.

As provided in company law and prescribed by the Charter of the Board, the members of the Board of Directors are expected to keep the Chairman informed of and refrain from participating in the discussion of and decisions on items on the agenda in respect of which a conflict might arise with their personal interests or those of an organisation which they represent. In 2000, Baron Paul Buysse and Mr. Raf Decaluwé refrained from participating in the discussion of and decisions on the granting of share options to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer under the second stock option plan. Since Baron Paul Buysse also holds the office of Chairman, the meeting was chaired as prescribed by the Charter of the Board by the Board's eldest member, Mr. Maurice Velge, when this item was discussed. Mr. Decaluwé also refrained from participating in the discussion of and decisions on the granting of warrants under the first stock option plan.

The agenda, including all relevant information, and the minutes of the previous meeting as well as the minutes of the committees appointed by the Board, are circulated to all members by the Corporate Secretary at least one week before the meeting. This information includes, for example, three-year and one-year plans, investment dossiers, acquisition proposals, analyses of activities and performance by business and against budget, substantial changes to the organisation, the Group's financial position, prospects etc. At each meeting, the Chief Executive Officer reports in detail, both orally and in writing, on the state of affairs. The Chief Executive Officer monitors the activities of the subsidiaries and participating interests. Their executive boards are generally formed from the management, but in a few instances they include a member of the Board of Directors of the parent company, who in that case represents the Chief Executive Officer.

The Board of Directors is assisted by three committees:

— Strategic Committee (SC) (for membership see table)

The Strategic Committee, which met on six occasions in 2000, has six members and is chaired by Mr. Pol Bamelis, an independent non-executive director. Its secretary is the Corporate Secretary. The Committee advises the Board of Directors on group strategy and the management's specific strategic proposals.

The following topics were discussed by the SC in 2000:

- > various alternative growth scenarios for the Group which had been prepared by external consultants;
- > the strategy of Bekaert Advanced Materials and New Business Development;
- > the United Solar Systems Corporation Inc. acquisition;
- > the long-term plans of the Group as a whole and of its individual business units ('Macro Loop X+3').

The minutes of all these meetings were circulated by the Corporate Secretary to all members of the Board of Directors. The SC's recommendations on these topics were presented by the Chairman of the SC to the meetings of the Board of Directors at which these topics were discussed.

— **Audit and Finance Committee (A&F)**

(for membership see table)

The Audit and Finance Committee, which met on three occasions in 2000, has had four members since May 2000. It is chaired by Baron Paul Buysse, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the secretary is the Corporate Secretary. The Committee advises on the Group's financial position, the full-year and interim results, the proposed dividend, the annual report, the Group's indebtedness, the accounting policies, internal financial and operational audits, appointment of the auditor pursuant to the Articles of Association and compliance with his recommendations and advice on appropriate financial procedures for the Group. The meetings of the A&F Committee are held the day before the Board of Directors meets to discuss the relevant topics. The minutes and recommendations of A&F Committee are circulated by the Corporate Secretary to all members of the Board of Directors and the Chairman reports the conclusions and recommendations to the Board.

— **Nominations, Compensation and Pensions Committee (NCPC)**

(for membership see table)

The Nominations, Compensation and Pensions Committee, which met on six occasions in 2000, has four members, three of whom are independent Directors. It is chaired by Baron Paul Buysse, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the secretary is the Chief Executive Officer. Several meetings were dedicated to the enlargement of the Board of Directors and on the succession planning of the Chief Executive Officer. The Committee determines the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer and the allocation of stock options or warrants to the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and the management of the Group. The committee approves the remuneration policy of the Corporate Directors and Officers and also approves the allocation of stock options or warrants for these members. The Chairman formally reports the decisions and recommendations of the NCPC to the Board.

REMUNERATION

The members of the Board of Directors receive a fixed annual fee, plus reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The fixed fee, which amounted to EUR 37 185 in 2000, is subject to approval each year by the General Meeting of Shareholders. With exception of the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer, the members of the Board of Directors receive no allocation of stock options nor any other benefit in kind. The members of the committees appointed by the Board of Directors (SC, A&F, NCPC) receive a fixed fee for each meeting.

The total remuneration, including pensions, paid in 2000 to the Directors of N.V. Bekaert S.A. in respect of their services on the Board, on committees and on the executive boards of subsidiaries amounted to EUR 1.729 million.

DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY

The day-to-day management of the company is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer, who reports to the Board of Directors. He is assisted by a Steering Committee, consisting of himself as chairman and five members responsible for New Business Development, Production, Technology, Personnel and Finance. This Committee, which met on average once per week in 2000, is responsible for developing Group strategy and co-ordinating and evaluating the strategies of the various businesses.

The Bekaert Group Management Council (Executive Council), chaired by the Chief Executive Officer, consists of the members of the Steering Committee, the Business Unit Managers responsible for the operational units, the Corporate Secretary and a number of managers of Group services, totalling 26 top managers. This Council met on five occasions in 2000, two of which were two-day work shops. This Council is a forum for information and discussion of the strategic priorities and significant events affecting the Group. It also functions as the first step in the systematic deployment of the strategic and operational plans down to shop-floor level and monitors the allocation of funds and expenditures within the approved budgets.

POLICY ON PROFIT APPROPRIATION

It is the policy of the Board of Directors to propose a profit appropriation to the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders which provides, in so far as the profit permits, a stable and growing dividend while maintaining an adequate level of cash flow in the company for investment and self-financing. In practice, this means that Bekaert seeks to maintain a pay-out ratio of around 40% of the current consolidated profit over the longer term.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

In order to rationalise the principal shareholders' interests, shares have been transferred by individuals and legal entities to Stichting AK Bekaert. Being principal shareholders and having joint control of Stichting AK Bekaert, they represent, together with Stichting AK Bekaert, 30.02% of the capital of N.V. Bekaert S.A. ●



Bekaert Group – Ten Year Financial Summary

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS in EUR million

> Consolidated balance sheet	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
FIXED ASSETS	965	972	1 053	964	1 002	1 060	1 223	1 125	1 184	1 293
Formation expenses	6	4	3	2	2	2	5	4	4	3
Intangible fixed assets	1	1	2	4	6	9	22	27	28	35
Goodwill	25	21	18	15	23	16	28	37	51	50
Tangible fixed assets	753	746	766	737	758	848	902	850	852	854
Financial fixed assets (associated)	177	195	260	202	207	116	197	198	239	303
Financial fixed assets (other)	3	4	4	4	5	69	70	9	10	48
CURRENT ASSETS	512	528	534	642	645	682	704	730	832	847
Amounts receivable > 1 year	2	2	6	7	21	12	10	5	8	7
Inventories	224	238	246	256	296	280	301	300	321	353
Amounts receivable < 1 year	222	219	237	263	265	270	319	300	358	382
Cash deposit	34	46	18	66	17	32	25	78	61	29
Cash	24	17	21	42	37	74	28	30	58	49
Deferred charges and accrued incomes	4	6	6	8	9	14	22	17	26	27
TOTAL ASSETS	1 477	1 501	1 587	1 606	1 647	1 742	1 927	1 855	2 016	2 140
EQUITY	585	632	688	801	816	857	935	893	1 013	1 096
MINORITY INTERESTS	65	62	66	69	67	73	36	41	49	48
PROVISIONS	186	185	180	172	192	231	221	207	222	231
Pensions and similar rights	87	105	93	81	90	94	111	111	113	114
Other liabilities and charges	42	18	18	13	18	75	43	31	39	46
Deferred taxes	58	61	69	77	84	62	66	65	70	71
CREDITORS	641	622	653	564	572	580	735	714	732	765
Financial debt > 1 year	327	311	251	185	138	221	248	238	246	220
Other > 1 year	2	3	22	20	18	16	22	18	14	11
Financial debt < 1 year	89	75	103	69	115	70	146	166	119	203
Other < 1 year	223	234	277	291	301	273	319	292	353	331
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	1 477	1 501	1 587	1 606	1 647	1 742	1 927	1 855	2 016	2 140

> Balance sheet ratios	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Consolidated companies										
ROE (average)	(2.5)	10.0	7.6	20.1	9.0	6.2	7.6	3.7	8.5	8.8
ROE (current) (average)	5.8	6.7	8.3	8.9	9.3	9.0	7.5	7.1	10.6	10.5
ROCE (current) (average)	4.6	6.1	7.2	10.4	9.9	7.0	7.6	7.1	10.1	9.8
Capital base (autonomy)	44.0	46.2	47.5	54.2	53.6	53.4	50.4	50.4	52.7	53.5
Gearing (Net debt)	54.8	46.6	41.8	16.8	22.6	19.9	35.2	31.7	23.2	30.1
Associated companies										
ROE	12.9	15.4	10.1	7.0	11.1	15.0	7.2	8.1	9.4	11.2
Average shareholding in %	47.8	47.5	44.6	32.6	37.1	39.5	43.8	44.4	45.1	47.2

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

> Profit and loss statement	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
SALES	1 313	1 319	1 347	1 471	1 504	1 532	1 739	1 767	1 765	1 756
Cost of sales			(1 115)	(1 199)	(1 232)	(1 279)	(1 444)	(1 486)	(1 436)	(1 414)
Gross profit			232	272	272	253	295	281	329	342
Selling expenses			(79)	(82)	(82)	(87)	(95)	(98)	(96)	(102)
Administrative expenses			(66)	(71)	(70)	(79)	(83)	(75)	(87)	(97)
Research and developments			(25)	(24)	(26)	(28)	(28)	(29)	(32)	(34)
Other operating revenue			17	12	10	13	24	14	20	19
Other operating charges			(10)	(8)	(8)	(53)	(25)	(23)	(33)	(14)
OPERATING PROFIT	10	57	68	100	96	19	88	70	101	114
Interest and other debt charges	(45)	(36)	(29)	(23)	(19)	(19)	(23)	(30)	(24)	(31)
Revenue from current assets	14	14	8	11	9	4	3	3	3	6
Revenue from financial fixed assets	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Other financial revenue	10	9	10	12	8	17	17	25	15	26
Other financial charges	(10)	(16)	(15)	(22)	(22)	(13)	(16)	(20)	(13)	(20)
Extraordinary revenue	7	46	3	101	4	65	18	4	14	4
Extraordinary charges	(26)	(20)	(4)	(6)	(3)	(31)	(12)	(19)	(12)	(10)
Profit before taxes	(39)	54	42	173	74	42	75	34	85	89
Income taxes	1	(16)	(12)	(24)	(18)	(3)	(16)	(14)	(23)	(26)
Profit of consolidated companies	(39)	38	30	149	56	39	58	20	62	63
Associated companies	22	29	25	14	23	17	14	16	23	34
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT	(16)	67	55	163	79	56	73	36	85	97
Profit of the Group	(16)	65	52	161	75	57	69	34	80	94
Minority interest	0	2	3	3	4	0	4	2	5	3

> Current result	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Operational elements	32	0	0	0	0	50	0	13	16	5
Amortisation of goodwill	3	4	4	3	4	9	4	4	6	7
Current operating result	45	61	72	104	100	78	92	87	124	126
Extraordinary elements	18	(26)	1	(95)	(1)	(34)	(5)	15	(1)	6
Current result before taxes	14	32	46	82	77	67	73	66	106	107
Cur. result of consolidated companies	15	16	35	58	59	64	57	52	83	82
Current consolidated result	37	45	60	72	82	82	71	68	106	116
Group share	38	43	57	69	78	82	67	66	101	112

> Profit and loss account ratios	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Consolidated companies										
Operating profit/sales	0.8	4.3	5.1	6.8	6.4	1.2	5.1	4.0	5.7	6.5
Profit of consolidated companies/sales	(2.9)	2.9	2.2	10.1	3.7	2.5	3.4	1.1	3.5	3.6
Current gross margin/sales	10.0	11.2	12.0	13.2	12.8	11.4	11.8	11.9	14.1	14.6
Current operating profit/sales	3.2	4.3	5.1	6.8	6.4	4.5	5.1	4.9	7.0	7.2
Current profit of consolidated companies/sales	1.1	1.2	2.6	3.9	3.9	4.2	3.3	2.9	4.7	4.7
Pre-tax interest coverage	1.0	2.6	3.3	5.0	6.1	2.3	4.7	3.2	5.5	5.2
Associated companies										
Operating profit as a percentage of sales	17.3	18.8	15.7	16.1	14.0	10.2	9.5	8.5	11.3	11.5

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CASH in EUR million

> Statement of changes in cash	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Consolidated operating profit	10	57	68	100	96	19	88	70	101	114
Depreciation and amortisation	90	93	99	96	95	107	120	129	135	137
Provisions for liabilities and charges	19	(13)	(20)	(21)	(12)	32	(5)	(16)	10	0
CASH-GENERATED										
BY OPERATION	119	138	147	175	180	159	202	183	246	251
Capital expenditures tangible fixed assets	(97)	(84)	(88)	(95)	(115)	(140)	(126)	(111)	(63)	(115)
Changes in working capital	16	(21)	2	(21)	(24)	(8)	(12)	(19)	0	(74)
CASH (USED) IN OPERATION	(81)	(105)	(86)	(116)	(139)	(148)	(138)	(130)	(63)	(189)
OPERATIONAL CASH FLOW	37	32	61	58	41	11	64	53	183	62
New investments/capital increases	(32)	37	(11)	147	(12)	82	(120)	(15)	(21)	(66)
Dividends received	9	10	12	10	8	7	8	4	6	17
Financial results	(32)	(23)	(20)	(13)	(17)	(9)	(15)	(24)	(12)	(14)
Change in indebtedness	(0)	(37)	(48)	(73)	(7)	24	69	25	(76)	35
Gross dividend paid	(9)	(20)	(24)	(35)	(37)	(35)	(35)	(34)	(38)	(42)
Income taxes	0	0	(2)	(5)	(10)	(12)	(12)	(15)	(13)	(26)
Capital paid in by minority interests	12	0	2	4	0	3	2	5	1	1
Currency translation and other items	(2)	4	5	(25)	(18)	(20)	(14)	56	(19)	(8)
Increase (decrease) in cash	(16)	4	(24)	68	(53)	52	(54)	55	11	(41)

> Cash flow	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Profit share of the Group	(16)	65	52	161	75	57	69	34	80	94
Operational depreciation	88	90	93	95	95	106	118	128	132	138
Total cash flow	73	155	145	255	170	163	186	162	212	232

> Current cash flow	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Group share in current net result	38	43	57	69	78	82	67	66	101	112
Depreciation excluding goodwill	85	87	89	91	91	97	114	124	126	131
Total cash flow	123	130	146	161	169	178	181	190	227	243

ADDITIONAL KEY FIGURES

> Additional key figures	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Consolidated										
Gross margin	134	151	165	198	196	185	209	215	256	264
Capital expenditure	112	93	89	102	119	141	125	106	100	105
Amortisation of goodwill	3	4	4	3	4	9	4	4	6	7
Capital employed minus goodwill	988	991	1 000	1 000	1 019	1 113	1 206	1 220	1 236	1 328
Working capital	226	241	234	250	288	306	331	340	352	437
Net debt	357	323	315	146	199	185	342	296	246	344
Added value	576	604	618	658	665	702	737	736	762	749
Personnel	11 720	11 087	10 942	11 007	11 612	11 706	11 351	10 926	10 329	10 242
Remuneration, social and pension charges	441	450	447	458	470	517	525	520	503	486
Participating interests										
Sales	491	525	631	677	721	382	667	753	723	970
Operating profit	85	99	99	109	101	39	63	64	82	112
Profit for year	46	61	56	43	62	43	32	36	51	72
Capital expenditure	40	56	68	44	53	49	36	41	38	46
Depreciation and amortisation	45	49	55	51	47	23	31	37	45	52
Equity Group's share	173	192	250	201	206	116	197	198	239	301
Personnel	4 393	5 234	5 596	5 755	6 065	4 454	5 906	5 799	6 123	6 960

RATIOS PER SHARE

Ratios per share	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Earnings consolidated companies	(1.72)	1.68	1.33	6.64	2.49	1.74	2.60	0.89	2.78	2.85
Net earnings (EPS)	(0.71)	2.90	2.32	7.15	3.32	2.52	3.07	1.50	3.56	4.20
Current net earnings (CEPS)	1.68	1.92	2.53	3.09	3.46	3.64	2.99	2.93	4.51	5.03
Cash flow (CFPS)	3.24	6.92	6.48	11.37	7.57	7.24	8.30	7.20	9.43	10.40
Current cash flow	5.48	5.78	6.51	7.16	7.52	7.94	8.06	8.45	10.11	10.86
Gross dividend	0.33	0.83	0.99	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.60	1.68
Net dividend	0.25	0.62	0.74	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.20	1.26
Net dividend with VVPR strip	0.26	0.66	0.74	1.30	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.36	1.428
Book value	26.00	28.10	30.70	35.70	36.30	38.20	41.70	39.80	45.10	49.13

Stock Exchange ratios	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Price/ Book value	0.87	1.18	1.69	1.58	1.65	1.31	1.31	1.06	1.22	1.02
Price/Earnings (31 December)	14	17	20	18	17	14	18	14	12	10
Price/cash flow	4.1	5.8	8.0	7.9	8.0	6.3	6.8	5.0	5.5	4.6
Dividend yield	1.5	2.5	1.9	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.7	3.5	2.9	3.4
Dividend pay-out ratio	23	46	41	50	48	43	52	52	38	37

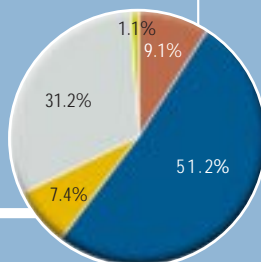
KEY FIGURES BY SEGMENT

Key figures by segment	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Consolidated companies										
Wire tonnage	738	772	800	898	735	674	716	641	676	645
Wire sales	831	820	806	881	716	606	737	628	638	592
Wire capital expenditure	54	33	36	37	41	49	59	38	38	41
Wire personnel	6 749	6 629	6 574	6 423	5 641	4 759	4 595	3 683	3 295	3 210
Merchant Products tonnage					151	253	259	304	313	299
Merchant Products sales					174	308	318	436	424	377
Merchant Prod. Cap. expend.					10	13	12	13	15	15
Merchant Products personnel					1 267	2 154	2 102	2 612	2 460	2 289
Steel Cord tonnage	218	249	261	298	332	313	353	353	349	373
Steel Cord sales	436	456	482	512	535	514	581	580	573	637
Steel Cord capital expenditure	47	47	50	64	53	65	38	37	30	38
Steel Cord personnel	3 712	3 231	3 137	3 231	3 359	3 397	3 243	3 111	3 057	3 182
BAM sales	-	-	-	33	46	53	62	62	88	115
BAM capital expenditure	-	-	-	3	10	9	14	8	7	9
BAM personnel	-	-	-	107	161	318	393	412	660	674
Participating interests										
Wire and MP tonnage	211	238	325	349	368	412	805	882	930	935
Wire and MP sales	163	163	226	230	272	287	586	660	617	851
Wire and MP capital expenditure	11	12	16	19	16	19	23	32	33	35
Wire and MP personnel	2 285	3 020	3 375	3 592	3 817	3 715	5 276	5 159	5 467	6 150
Steel Cord tonnage	148	165	171	190	210	45	38	52	53	57
Steel Cord sales	303	337	381	417	420	85	67	84	84	96
Steel Cord capital expenditure	29	43	52	23	35	30	12	7	5	3
Steel Cord personnel	2 030	1 966	2 002	1 972	2 039	689	570	569	586	548
BAM sales	-	-	-	8	9	9	13	18	23	23
BAM capital expenditure	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	2	1	8
BAM personnel	-	-	-	58	66	50	60	71	70	262
Group										
Sales (in billion)	1.80	1.84	1.98	2.15	2.23	1.91	2.41	2.52	2.49	2.73
Tonnage (in 000 tonnes)	1 315	1 424	1 557	1 735	1 796	1 697	2 171	2 232	2 321	2 309
Capex (in million)	152	149	157	146	172	191	161	147	139	151
Personnel	16 113	16 321	16 538	16 762	16 677	16 161	17 257	16 725	16 452	17 202

SALES GEOGRAPHICALLY 2000

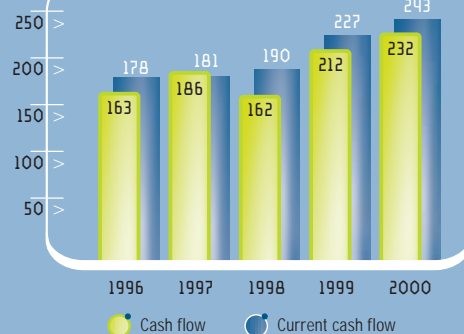
Consolidated companies

- > E.U. 51.2%
- > Rest Europe 7.4%
- > North America 31.2%
- > Latin America 1.1%
- > Rest world 9.1%



CASH FLOW

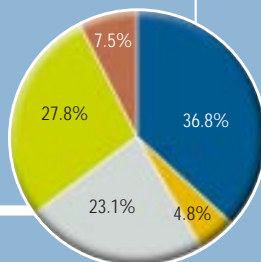
(in EUR million)



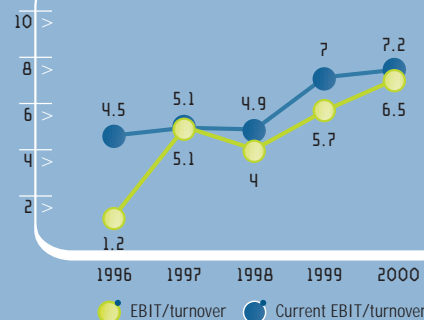
SALES GEOGRAPHICALLY 2000

Consolidated companies and participations

- > E.U. 36.8%
- > Rest Europe 4.8%
- > North America 23.1%
- > Latin America 27.8%
- > Rest world 7.5%



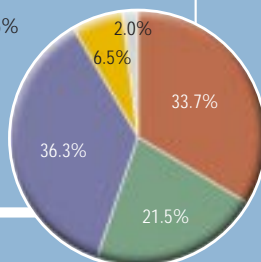
OPERATING PROFIT AS % OF SALES



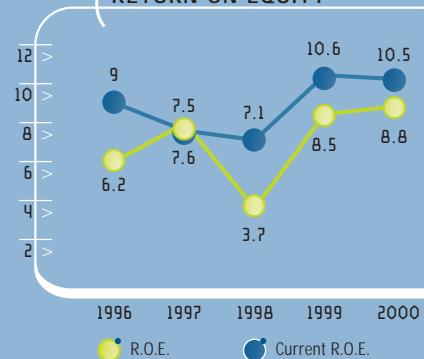
SALES BY BUSINESS SEGMENT 2000

Consolidated companies

- > Wire 33.7%
- > Merchant Products 21.5%
- > Steel Cord 36.3%
- > BAM 6.5%
- > Others 2.0%



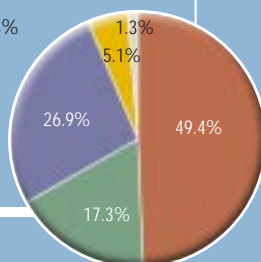
RETURN ON EQUITY



SALES BY BUSINESS SEGMENT 2000

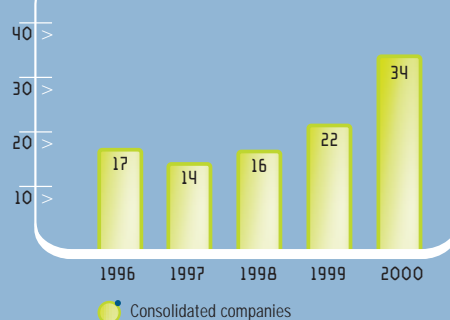
Consolidated companies and participations

- > Wire 49.4%
- > Merchant Products 17.3%
- > Steel Cord 26.9%
- > BAM 5.1%
- > Others 1.3%



PROFIT OF PARTICIPATING INTERESTS

(in EUR million)



Investor Relations

— Financial analysts and institutional investors

Several group and individual meetings were held with financial analysts and investors. These meetings, held in Belgium, Luxembourg, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, provided information on financial results and corporate strategy. There was also an analysts' day, with visits to several plants. A further analysts' day is scheduled for 4 December 2001.

The Group's annual report for the 2000 financial year is available on the Internet from 17 April 2001, in Dutch, French and English, at www.bekaert.com and can be downloaded as an Adobe™ .pdf file. Shareholders, investors and other interested parties wishing to receive the Group's annual report, the annual accounts of N.V. Bekaert S.A. or other information published by the Group may contact:

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Investor Relations



Annual report 2000



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Coordination > Anne Parez, Corporate Public Relations Officer
Concept > Link nv, Waregem
Printing > Lannoo, Belgium

(Financial calendar)

17 April 2001

9 May 2001

16 May 2001

27 July 2001

7 March 2002

19 April 2002

8 May 2002

15 May 2002

2000 annual report available on Internet

General Meeting of Shareholders

Dividend payable (coupon no. 2)

Announcement of 2001 half year results

Announcement of 2001 results

2001 annual report available on Internet

General Meeting of Shareholders

Dividend payable (coupon no. 3)

Financial analysts

Teleconference on 2001 interim results

Analysts' day at Bekaert

Analysts' meeting on 2001 results

30 July 2001

4 December 2001

7 March 2002