Summary of Financial Results FY2018

May 13, 2019

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc (TSE 4182)

(Millions of yen, rounded down)

1. Consolidated Financial Results for the Fiscal Year 2018 (from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019)

(1)Summary of Income Statement (April 1, 2018- March 31, 2019)

	FY2017	FY2018	Change (%)
Net Sales	635,909	648,986	2.1
Operating income	62,741	41,386	(34.0)
Ordinary income	80,711	69,199	(14.3)
Net income attributable to owners of the parent	60,531	55,000	(9.1)
Comprehensive income	67,636	54,318	(19.7)
Net income per share (Yen)	281.39	257.46	

Note: Equity in earnings of affiliates: FY2017 JPY18,277 million; FY2018 JPY28,408 million

(2) Financial Position

	As of Mar. 31, 2018	As of Mar. 31, 2019
Total assets	785,687	804,038
Net assets	519,144	553,282
Shareholders equity	467,363	502,961
Equity Ratio(%)	59.5	62.6
Book value per share (Yen)	2,187.99	2,354.25

(3) Cash Flows

	FY2017	FY2018
Cash flow from operating activities	90,720	64,042
Cash flow from investing activities	(33,614)	(42,761)
Cash flow from financing activities	(33,038)	(31,396)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	90,304	80,379

2. Dividends

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019 (forecast)
Interim dividend per share (Yen)	24.00	35.00	35.00
Year-end dividend per share (Yen)	35.00	35.00	35.00
Annual Dividend per share (Yen)	59.00	70.00	70.00
Total dividend payment	12,655	14,954	
Dividend payout ratio (consolidated, %)	21.0	27.2	43.6
Dividend to net assets ratio (consolidated, %)	2.8	3.1	

3. Consolidated Business Forecasts for FY2019 (April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020)

	First Half	Full Year	Y/Y Change (%)
Net Sales	320,000	650,000	0.2
Operating income	18,000	40,000	(3.4)
Ordinary income	18,000	45,000	(35.0)
Net income attributable to owners of the parent	14,000	34,000	(38.2)
Net income per share (Yen)	65.95	160.67	

4. Number of Shares Outstanding (Common Stock)

	FY2017	FY2018
Number of shares outstanding at term end (including treasury stock)	231,739,199	231,739,199
Number of shares of treasury stock at term-end	18,135,027	18,099,472
Average number of shares	215,117,047	213,630,153

Reference: Outline of Non-consolidated Financial Results

1. Non-consolidated Financial Results for the Fiscal Year 2018 (from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019)

(1) Non-consolidated Operating Results

	FY2017	FY2018	Change (%)
Net Sales	364,433	375,129	2.9
Operating income	31,287	23,122	(26.1)
Ordinary income	54,149	41,329	(23.7)
Net income	41,386	34,690	(16.2)
Net income per share (Yen)	192.39	162.39	

(2) Non-consolidated Financial Position

	As of Mar. 31, 2018	As of Mar. 31, 2019
Total assets	455,869	457,427
Net assets	275,255	291,198
Shareholders equity	275,255	291,198
Equity Ratio(%)	60.4	63.7
Book value per share (Yen)	1,288.62	1,363.04

- 1. These financial statements are exempt from audit procedure.
- 2. Forecasts, etc., recorded in this document contain forward-looking statements that are based on management's estimates, assumptions and projections at the time of publication. A number of factors could cause actual results to differ materially from expectations.

Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Consolidated Balance Sheets

1. Consolidated Balance Offeets	(Millions of yen, rounded down)		
	As of Mar. 31, 2018 As of Mar. 31, 2019		
ASSETS	710 01 111011 011, 2010	710 01 Mar. 01, 2010	
Current assets			
Cash and deposits	101,090	91,130	
Trade notes and accounts receivable	165,606	155,507	
Short-term investments securities	121	23	
Merchandise and finished goods	57,958	67,681	
Work in progress	11,044	13,308	
Raw materials and supplies	34,750	38,262	
Other	14,847	13,965	
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(1,170)	(1,033)	
Total current assets	384,249	378,845	
Noncurrent assets			
Property, plant and equipment			
Buildings and structures, net	80,823	81,630	
Machinery, equipment and vehicles, net	81,359	78,700	
Land	38,458	39,826	
Lease assets, net	469	377	
Construction in progress	12,347	20,522	
Other, net	7,260	7,435	
Total property, plant and equipment	220,717	228,492	
Intangible assets			
Goodwill	3,911	3,841	
Lease assets	14	5	
Software	2,141	2,187	
Other	2,343	2,579	
Total intangible assets	8,411	8,614	
Investments and other assets			
Investment securities	161,391	177,011	
Long-term loans receivable	2,632	2,831	
Deferred tax assets	2,094	2,510	
Assets for retirement benefits	1,221	1,174	
Other	5,522	5,101	
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(555)	(543)	
Total investments and other assets	172,308	188,086	
Total noncurrent assets	401,437	425,193	
Total assets	785,687	804,038	

Consolidated Balance Sheets (continued)

	(Millions of yen, rounded down)		
	As of Mar. 31, 2018	As of Mar. 31, 2019	
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade notes and accounts payable	88,720	80,089	
Short-term loans payable	71,155	58,749	
Accrued expenses	16,591	20,493	
Lease obligations	100	97	
Income taxes payable	4,133	3,439	
Provision for bonuses	5,422	5,539	
Provision for directors' bonuses	-	2	
Provision for environmental improvements	10	129	
Provision for loss on business withdrawal	66	17	
Provision for business structure improvements	-	19	
Provision for loss on liquidation of subsidiaries and affiliates	144	505	
Asset retirement obligations	1,522	113	
Other	18,968	19,223	
Total current liabilities	206,835	188,420	
Noncurrent liabilities			
Bonds payable	10,000	10,000	
Long –term loans payable	25,328	26,615	
Lease obligations	378	290	
Deferred tax liabilities	10,080	9,521	
Provision for directors' retirement benefits	339	337	
Provision for loss on guarantees	1,088	2,358	
Provision for environmental improvements	217	164	
Provision for business structure improvements	1,048	1,017	
Provision for loss on business withdrawal	58	-	
Provision for loss on liquidation of subsidiaries and affiliates	577	72	
Other provision	220	218	
Projected benefit obligations	4,592	5,247	
Asset retirement obligations	2,420	2,324	
Other	3,355	4,166	
Total noncurrent liabilities	59,707	62,336	
Total liabilities	266,543	250,756	
NET ASSETS			
Shareholders' equity			
Capital stock	41,970	41,970	
Capital surplus	34,578	34,298	
Retained earnings	399,033	439,080	
Treasury stock	(19,966)	(19,930)	
Total shareholders' equity	455,616	495,418	
Accumulated other comprehensive income			
Valuation difference on available-for-sale securities	17,261	13,023	
Deferred gains or losses on hedges	(0)	1	
Revaluation reserve for land	222	222	
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(7,614)	(6,327)	
Remeasurements of defined benefit plans	1,878	623	
Total accumulated other comprehensive	11,747	7,542	
Non controlling interest	51,780	50,321	
Total net assets	519,144	553,282	
Total liabilities and net assets	785,687	804,038	

2. Consolidated Statements of Income

	(Millions of you, it	sanasa down)
	FY2017	FY2018
Net sales	635,909	648,986
Cost of sales	481,326	512,857
Gross profit	154,583	136,129
Selling, general and administrative expenses	91,841	94,742
Operating income	62,741	41,386
Non-operating income		
Interest income	485	642
Dividend income	2,096	2,200
Equity in earnings of affiliates	18,277	28,408
Other	3,546	3,443
Total non-operating income	24,405	34,694
Non-operating expenses		
Interest expense	1,069	1,018
Personnel expenses for seconded employees	1,449	1,430
Loss on disposal of noncurrent assets	1,389	988
Rent expenses	1,264	1,634
Other	1,261	1,810
Total non-operating expenses	6,435	6,882
Ordinary income	80,711	69,199
Extraordinary income		
Gain on sales of investment securities	1,926	989
Gain on sales of noncurrent assets	548	714
Gain on reversal of asset retirement obligations	-	650
Insurance income	-	116
Compensation income	407	-
Total extraordinary income	2,882	2,471
Extraordinary losses		
Provision for loss on guarantees	1,088	1,267
Loss on valuation of investment securities	8,297	690
Loss on disposal of noncurrent assets	274	646
Loss on business withdrawal	236	-
Loss on liquidation of subsidiaries and affiliates	162	-
Amortization of goodwill	102	-
Impairment losses	11	-
Total extraordinary losses	10,172	2,604
Income before income taxes, etc.	73,421	69,066
Income taxes, etc.	7,487	9,087
Net income	65,933	59,979
Net income attributable to non-controlling interests	5,402	4,979
Net income attributable to owners of the parent	60,531	55,000
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(Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income)

	FY2017	FY2018
Net income	65,933	59,979
Other comprehensive Income		
Valuation difference on available-for-sale securities	(827)	(4,212)
Deferred gains or losses on hedges	(0)	1
Foreign currency statements translation adjustment	2,102	(2,232)
Remeasurements of defined benefit plans	2,204	(1,812)
Share of other comprehensive income of associates accounted for using equity method	(1,775)	2,594
Total other comprehensive Income	1,702	(5,661)
Comprehensive income	67,636	54,318
Comprehensive income attributable to owners of the parent	60,555	50,795
Comprehensive income attributable to non-controlling interests	7,080	3,522

3. Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

	FY2017	FY2018
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Income before income taxes, etc.	73,421	69,066
Depreciation and amortization	27,027	27,451
Loss on sale/disposal of property, plant and equipment	1,094	870
Amortization of goodwill	370	260
Equity in earnings of affiliates	(18,277)	(28,408)
Impairment loss	11	-
Gain on reversal of asset retirement obligations	-	(650)
Insurance income	(29)	(173)
Decrease (increase) in allowance for doubtful accounts	4	(137)
Increase in net defined benefit liability	43	(682)
Interest and dividend income	(2,581)	(2,842)
Interest expences	1,069	1,018
Gain on sale of short-term investments and investments in securities	(2,146)	(1,041)
Gain on valuation of short-term investments and investments in securities	8,327	837
Decrease in trade notes and accounts receivable	(28,607)	8,059
Decrease in inventories	(9,759)	(15,750)
Decrease in trade notes and accounts payable	21,357	(7,290)
Increase (decrease) in accrued consumption taxes	1,085	(1,141)
Increase (decrease) in provision for directors' retirement benefits	33	68
Increase (decrease) in provision for loss on withdrawal from business	236	(107)
Increase (decrease) in provision for loss on liquidation of subsidiaries and associate	s 162	(144)
Increase (decrease) in provision for loss on guarantees	1,088	1,270
Other, net	1,016	5,779
Sub total	74,948	56,313
Interest and dividend received	2,545	2,804
Dividend received from affiliates accounted for by the equity method	20,008	12,323
Interest paid	(974)	(1,020)
Income taxes paid	(5,838)	(6,552)
Insurance received	29	173
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	90,720	64,042

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

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	FY2017	FY2018
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		
Purchase of noncurrent assets	(36,546)	(37,409)
Proceeds from sales of noncurrent assets	2,141	891
Purchase of investment securities	(1,548)	(5,039)
Proceeds from sales of investment securities	4,949	648
Payments of loans receivable	(722)	(493)
Collection of loans receivable	80	445
Proceeds from sales of shares of subsidiaries resulting in change in scope of consolidation	on 804	939
Other, net	(2,773)	(2,743)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(33,614)	(42,761)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		
Net increase (decrease) in short-term loan payable	(7,300)	(10,599)
Proceeds from long-term loans payable	10,359	16,773
Payment of long-term loans payable	(14,143)	(17,893)
Purchase of treasury stock	(7,010)	(6)
Cash dividends paid	(9,927)	(14,953)
Cash dividends paid to non-controlling interests	(2,024)	(1,751)
Payments from changes in ownership interests in subsidiaries that do not result in change	e (2,883)	(2,859)
in scope of consolidation	` ′	<u> </u>
Other, net	(108)	(105)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(33,038)	(31,396)
Effect of exchange rate change on cash and cash equivalents	(939)	190
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	23,127	(9,925)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	67,177	90,304
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	90,304	80,379

4. Segment Information

					(Mi	llions of yen, i	rounded down)
				FY2017			
	Natural Gas Chemicals	Aromatic Chamials	Specialty Chemicals	Information & Advanced Materials	Other	Adjustment s	Consolidated
Sales:							
Sales to third parties	167,035	212,050	203,561	52,735	526	-	635,909
Inter segment sales	7,697	1,102	1,534	39	79	(10,454)	-
	174,733	213,152	205,096	52,774	606	(10,454)	635,909
Ordinary income	14,277	24,570	37,988	5,566	261	(1,952)	80,711
Segment aseets	182,960	214,587	232,967	76,921	31,174	47,075	785,687
Others:							
Depreciation and amortization	5,145	8,527	9,170	3,595	19	568	27,027
Amortization of goodwill	-	241	0	-	129	-	370
Interest income	70	190	212	27	0	(17)	485
Interest expenses	89	644	650	107	7	(429)	1,069
Equity in earnings of affiliates	9,391	(121)	7,930	899	177	-	18,277
Investment in affiliates accounted for by the equity method	56,916	457	22,344	10,318	3,548	(88)	93,496
Capital expenditures	6,076	11,301	11,004	1,937	0	640	30,959

					(Mi	llions of yen, r	rounded down)
				FY2018			
	Natural Gas Chemicals	Aromatic Chamials	Specialty Chemicals	Information & Advanced Materials	Other	Adjustment s	Consolidated
Sales:							
Sales to third parties	180,554	211,123	204,634	51,986	686	-	648,986
Inter segment sales	7,770	593	1,099	9	127	(9,601)	_
	188,325	211,717	205,734	51,996	814	(9,601)	648,986
Ordinary income	22,665	13,961	28,206	4,480	480	(594)	69,199
Segment aseets	204,278	211,795	238,546	72,484	30,606	46,326	804,038
Others:							
Depreciation and amortization	5,512	8,734	8,710	3,616	19	858	27,451
Amortization of goodwill	-	260	-	-	-	-	260
Interest income	81	218	265	38	0	36	642
Interest expenses	76	772	633	109	7	(582)	1,018
Equity in earnings of affiliates	19,402	7	7,875	783	340	-	28,408
Investment in affiliates accounted for by the equity method	74,222	464	22,230	10,520	4,178	800	112,417
Capital expenditures	5,792	14,630	14,406	2,303	0	2,146	39,279

FY2017 Outline of Consoliodated Results

(Billions of yen, rounded down)

$\overline{}$	(Billions of yen,						
		FY2017	FY2018	Change	Change (%)		FY 2019 forecast
Ne	t sales	635.9	648.9	13.0	2.1		650.0
	Natural Gas Chemicals	174.7	188.3	13.5	7.8		182.6
	Aromatic Chemicals	213.1	211.7	(1.4)	(0.7)		208.6
	Specialty Chemicals	205.0	205.7	0.6	0.3		214.9
	Information and Advanced Materials	52.7	51.9	(0.7)	(1.5)		52.1
	Other and Adjustment	(9.8)	(8.7)	1.0	-		(8.4)
Op	perating income (loss)	62.7	41.3	(21.3)	(34.0)		40.0
	Natural Gas Chemicals	5.4	3.3	(2.0)	(37.9)		4.7
	Aromatic Chemicals	25.6	14.6	(10.9)	(42.8)		15.6
	Specialty Chemicals	29.6	21.2	(8.3)	(28.2)		19.0
	Information and Advanced Materials	4.2	3.9	(0.3)	(7.6)		3.6
	Other and Adjustment	(2.2)	(1.8)	0.3	-		(3.0)
No	n-operating profit	17.9	27.8	9.8	54.8		5.0
Or	dinary income	80.7	69.1	(11.5)	(14.3)		45.0
	Natural Gas Chemicals	14.2	22.6	8.3	58.7		4.8
	Aromatic Chemicals	24.5	13.9	(10.6)	(43.2)		14.5
	Specialty Chemicals	37.9	28.2	(9.7)	(25.7)		23.7
	Information and Advanced Materials	5.5	4.4	(1.0)	(19.5)		4.1
	Other and Adjustment	(1.6)	(0.1)	1.5	-		(2.2)
Ex	toraordinary income and loss, net	(7.2)	(0.1)	7.1	-		3.0
Inc	come before income taxes, etc.	73.4	69.0	(4.3)	(5.9)		48.0
Ne	t income attributable to owners of the parent	60.5	55.0	(5.5)	(9.1)		34.0

1	Other	Informa	tion 1
4.	Other	HHOHHI	ILIOII I

		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019 Forecast
Investments	Full year	30.5	35.0	30.9	39.2	50.0
(Billions of yen)	1H	14.9	13.7	13.9	18.6	25.0
Depreciation & amortization	Full year	26.7	25.6	27.0	27.4	29.0
(Billions of yen)	1H	13.1	12.2	13.1	13.5	14.0
R&D expenditures	Full year	18.9	19.2	18.9	18.6	21.0
(Billions of yen)	1H	9.2	9.6	9.5	9.1	10.5
Number of Staff	Year-end	8,176	8,034	8,009	8,276	8,508
ROA (Ordinary income)		5.9%	8.4%	10.6%	8.7%	5.5%
ROE (Net income)		9.0%	12.0%	13.6%	11.3%	6.7%

5.Other Information 2

	FY2	2014	FY2	2015	FY2	016	FY2	2017	FY2	.018	FY2019
	Re	sult	Forecast								
	First half	Second half	Full year								
Exchange Rate (JPY/USD, Average)	103	117	122	118	105	112	111	111	110	112	110
Exchange Rate (JPY/EUR, Average)	139	139	135	130	118	119	126	133	130	127	125
crude oil (Dubai) (USD/BBL)	104	63	56	36	43	51	50	62	73	65	70
Methanol (USD/MT, Asian average spot price)	432	358	301	230	230	327	296	381	408	335	350
Mixed Xylene (USD/MT)	1,100	730	740	630	660	680	650	725	845	730	800
Bisphenol A	1,600	1,200	950	850	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,600	1,200	1,200
(USD/MT)*	~2,000	~1,900	~1,500	~1,100	~1,200	~1,400	~1,300	~1,700	~1,900	~1,800	~1,700
Polycarbonate	2,500	2,300	2,100	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,500	2,900	2,700	2,100	2,000
(USD/MT)*	~2,700	~2,700	~2,650	~2,400	~2,500	~2,800	~2,900	~3,900	~3,800	~2,800	~2,500

^{*}Describe the minimum and maximum values during the period

Note: Methanol price forecasts are expressed for the following periods.

FY2014:

1H:January-June

2H:July-December

FY2015-FY2019:

1H:April-September

2H:October-March

Qualitative Information

Consolidated Business Results for This Period Overview of Results

(Billions of yen)

	FY2017	FY2018	Change
Net sales	635.9	648.9	13.0
Operating income	62.7	41.3	(21.3)
Ordinary income	80.7	69.1	(11.5)
Net income attributable to owners of	60.5	55.0	(F. F.)
the parent	00.5	55.0	(5.5)

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019, the world economy continued to show signs of a slow recovery. However, concerns about trade friction, the deceleration of China's economic growth and the volatility of financial and capital markets reinforced existing economic uncertainty.

The Japanese economy saw gradual but overarching recovery thanks to continued improvement in employment and private income, overcoming recent stagnation in some export and production areas as well as the impact of increased costs for manufacturing and logistics brought about by labor shortage.

The management environment surrounding the MGC Group saw such changes as increases in raw material and fuel prices. However, the market prices of key products including polycarbonates and purified isophthalic acid saw the end of a prolonged high and began to decline. The Group's performance was particularly impacted by this market price decline in the second half of the fiscal year. As such, the MGC Group continued to face harsh conditions.

Against this backdrop, the MGC Group adhered to the Group Vision of "Creating values to share with society" in a bid to improve its corporate value. In the first fiscal year of the MGC Advance 2020 Medium-term Management Plan, the Group moved ahead with the plan's basic policies: "strengthening the earning power of existing businesses with a focus on core businesses," "creating and developing new businesses" and "implementing investment strategies to form an optimal business portfolio."

The MGC Group achieved growth in net sales compared with the previous fiscal year, primarily because of the market prices of methanol, which, despite a downward trend from last November onward, remained higher than the levels recorded in the same period of the previous fiscal year. Also contributing were strong overall sales volumes. Operating income fell compared with results for the previous fiscal year. While sales volumes of special polycarbonates increased, the market prices of purified isophthalic acid and polycarbonates fell significantly. Furthermore, the profitability of foamed plastics has deteriorated due to hikes in raw material and fuel prices.

Despite increased equity in earnings of affiliates associated with the Group's overseas methanol producing companies, ordinary income decreased year on year due to the decline in operating income.

Consequently, net income attributable to owners of the parent decreased year on year. This was mainly due to the decline in operating income despite a decrease in extraordinary losses from the previous fiscal year in which the Group posted a loss on valuation of investment securities in connection with a shale gas and LNG project in Canada.

As announced* in the fiscal year under review, MGC's equity method affiliate JSMC and Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) reached an agreement regarding the Saudi Methanol Company (AR-RAZI), whose joint venture agreement was set to expire on November 29, 2018. Based on this agreement, JSMC will sell 50% of its shares in AR-RAZI (this represents 25% of all AR-RAZI shares) to SABIC for US\$150 million to reduce its shareholding ratio to 25:75. In addition, JSMC has decided to continue the joint venture status of AR-RAZI until November 29, 2038.

As for the expected impact on MGC's consolidated financial performance, the transfer of shares is expected to generate a total loss of around ¥5.0 billion. However, MGC recorded only the originally projected ¥1.7 billion in tax-related expenses as equity in earnings (losses) of affiliated companies for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019, as the approval of governmental authorities charged with ensuring fair competition in the relevant countries had yet to be obtained and, accordingly, mandatory procedures associated with the transfer of the aforementioned shares had not been completed as of the end of said fiscal year.

The decrease in JSMC's shareholding for AR-RAZI will subsequently be recorded in MGC's equity in earnings (losses) of affiliated companies. However, for the fiscal year under review, MGC calculated equity in earnings (losses) of affiliated companies related to JSMC at the pre-sale 50:50 shareholding ratio for the period after November 29, 2018, when the former joint venture agreement was set to expire, taking into account that the transfer of shares had yet to be approved.

Due to the same reasons, MGC's operating results for the fiscal year under review do not include amortization costs associated with the US\$1,350 million to be paid by JSMC to SABIC as consideration for the continuation of the joint venture status.

* Announced via the two MGC news releases entitled "Notice about the Methanol Joint Venture in Saudi Arabia of JSMC, a MGC's Equity Method Affiliate" and "Notice about the Continuation of the Joint Venture in Saudi Arabia of JSMC, a MGC's Equity Method Affiliate" dated December 4, 2018 and March 22, 2019, respectively.

Results by Business Segment

Natural Gas Chemicals

(Billions of yen)

	FY2017	FY2018	Change
Sales	167.0	180.5	13.5
Operating income	5.4	3.3	(2.0)
Ordinary income	14.2	22.6	8.3

The methanol business grew in revenue due to an increase in methanol market prices compared with the previous year. Methanol and ammonia-based chemicals had higher revenue due mainly to an overall increase in sales volumes. Earnings from these chemicals, however, decreased year on year, due to higher raw material prices and a drop in neopentyl glycol market price as well as rises in repair expenses and other fixed costs.

Crude oil and other energy sources achieved prior-year-level earnings. Despite a crude oil price increase, crude oil sales volume dropped.

Aromatic Chemicals

(Billions of yen)

	FY2017	FY2018	Change
Sales	212.0	211.1	(0.9)
Operating income	25.6	14.6	(10.9)
Ordinary income	24.5	13.9	(10.6)

Specialty aromatic chemical products posted growth in both revenue and earnings compared with the same period of the previous fiscal year. The negative impact of higher raw material and fuel prices was more than offset by solid sales of meta-xylenediamine and aromatic aldehydes. General-purpose aromatic chemical products suffered significantly lower earnings. Negative influences included lower market prices and higher raw material and fuel prices, which together caused the profitability of purified isophthalic acid to deteriorate.

Foamed plastics saw a decline in earnings primarily due to higher raw material and fuel prices.

Specialty Chemicals

(Billions of yen)

	FY2017	FY2018	Change
Sales	203.5	204.6	1.0
Operating income	29.6	21.2	(8.3)
Ordinary income	37.9	28.2	(9.7)

Although higher sales volumes helped drive up sales of inorganic chemicals, lower earnings were posted due to increasing competition in liquid chemicals used for semiconductor and LCD displays, as well as higher fixed costs in connection with the launch of a new production facility in North America.

The engineering plastics business saw a sales volume increase for special polycarbonates used in smartphone camera lenses. However, earnings decreased due to the deteriorating profitability of polycarbonates as well as a lower sales volume for films used in flat panel displays.

Information & Advanced Materials

(Billions of yen)

	FY2017	FY2018	Change
Sales	52.7	51.9	(0.7)
Operating income	4.2	3.9	(0.3)
Ordinary income	5.5	4.4	(1.0)

Electronic materials recorded earnings that are virtually on par with the previous fiscal year. Despite firm sales volume in the first half, this result was mainly attributable to the lower sales volume of mainstay BT materials for semiconductor packaging due to declining demand for materials for smartphones and those used in memory devices in the second half. Oxygen absorbers such as AGELESSTM saw a drop in earnings, primarily due to increasing competition in Japan.

Consolidated Business Forecasts

(Billions of yen)

	Net sales	Operating income	Ordinary income	Net income attributable to owners of the parent
FY2018 Results (A)	648.9	41.3	69.1	55.0
FY2019 Forecasts (B)	650.0	40.0	45.0	34.0
Change (B – A)	0.1	(1.3)	(24.1)	(21.0)

Going forward, the economic outlook remains unclear due to such uncertainties as developments related to trade friction and the volatility of financial and capital markets.

With regard to operating results forecasts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, MGC expects operating income to edge down slightly from the fiscal year under review. Moreover, equity in earnings of affiliated companies, ordinary income, and net income attributable to owners of the parent are expected to decrease year on year. In particular, MGC's equity in earnings of affiliates associated with the aforementioned methanol business in Saudi Arabia will significantly decrease due to such factors as the projected decrease in JSMC's equity in AR-RAZI following the transfer of AR-RAZI shares, the loss that will be recorded in connection with said share transfer, and amortization costs associated with cash to be paid by JSMC to SABIC as consideration for the continuation of the joint venture status.

These performance forecasts assume exchange rates of ¥110=\$1 and ¥125=€1.

(End)