

Rondo Ganahl CHP project enters EIA review

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Austrian paper and packaging producer Rondo Ganahl is continuing to pursue its plans for a residual waste-fired power plant at Frastanz site in Austria. The company applied for approval under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act to the Vorarlberg provincial government in October 2025. At the end of February 2026, the company filed revised project documentation along with the environmental impact statement (EIA). The documents are available for public inspection from 12 March to 27 April. During this period, comments and objections may be submitted. The EIA decision on the project is expected in early 2027.

According to the application, Rondo Ganahl is planning a combined heat and power generation plant as well as a standby boiler, with a total capacity of 41 MW and annual electricity generation of 60 GWh.

Information provided on the project website indicates a maximum fuel requirement of 122,000 t per year, but regular operation is expected to require around 82,000 t of fuel. The higher volume of 122,000 t stated in the application represents a technical upper limit used as a basis for the environmental assessment.

The plant will use non-hazardous waste, refusederived fuels, and non-waste-based as well as biogenic solid fuels. Part of the fuel is to be sourced from residues generated in the company's own paper production. Some of these materials are currently transported to Germany or Switzerland for energy recovery.

With the new CHP plant, Ronda Ganahl aims to significantly reduce the use of fossil fuels at the Frastanz site. According to company information, natural gas consumption could fall by around 90 per cent once the new facility is in operation.

The Frastanz plant employs 245 people and has a capacity to produce 180 million m² of corrugated board and packaging annually.

Valmet Chief Financial Officer Katri Hokkanen will leave the company

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Valmet's Chief Financial Officer **Katri Hokkanen** will leave the company to pursue an opportunity outside of Valmet. She will continue in her current position to lead Finance and be an active member of Valmet's Executive Leadership team until the end of September 2026. She has been with Valmet for nearly twenty years and has served as Chief Financial Officer for almost four years.

Jan Lif new Secretary General at Cepi Eurokraft

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Cepi Eurokraft has appointed **Jan Lif** as its new Secretary General with effect from March 2026. He took over the position from **Elin Gordon** who had held the role for a total of eleven years before deciding to take the next step in her professional career, the association said. Mr Lif has almost 30 years of experience in the cartonboard and paper packaging sector, holding several senior positions at Stora Enso, among others.

James Cropper Paper & Packaging appoints Andrew Cockerill as Business Development Manager

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British paper manufacturer **James Cropper Paper & Packaging** has announced the appointment of **Andrew Cockerill** as Business Development Manager, as the company expands its reach across the UK and European corrugated and speciality paper markets. Mr Cockerill, who has held positions at DS Smith, Corrboard UK, Cartonneries Gondardennes, and Winfibre UK, will focus on developing the company's corrugated and speciality paper offering.

Changes in Duni Group's Management Team

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Duni Group has announced that **Nicklas Lauwell**, Chief Officer Business Area Food Packaging Solutions and member of the Management Team, has decided to leave the group to pursue a role as Club director for the football club IFK Göteborg. Mr Lauwell's last day with Duni Group will be no later than 30 June 2026. The process to appoint a successor has been initiated.

Melitta to permanently close Neu Kaliss specialty paper mill

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German company Neu Kaliss Spezialpapier (NKS), which is part of the Melitta group, has discontinued production. The paper mill's PM 6 manufactured the final reel on 23 March 2026. The Melitta group, which announced the cessation of production in mid-January, justified this step by referring to the strong decline in demand for wallpaper nonwovens, its main product area, explaining that the decline could not be offset by new developments in other segments either.

NKS specialised in the production of wallpaper nonwovens and specialty paper for the construction and automotive industries, among others. According to company information, the mill also featured a 55 cm-wide pilot paper machine for product development, producing paper in the 20-180 g/m² basis weight range, which was recently also available for hire by other companies for their own product innovations.

The closure affects around 120 jobs. According to the company, the NKS paper mill generated sales of €25.83m in 2023.

Intertrade Hellas launches new tissue machine in Greece

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Greek tissue products manufacturer Intertrade Hellas has commissioned a new tissue machine (PM 2) at the Oinofyta mill near Athens. According to Italian plant manufacturer Toscotec, who installed the machine, the PM 2 has a width of 5.6 m and a working speed of up to 2,200 m/min and can produce up to 80,000 tpy of tissue paper. The tissue paper produced is used for applications such as toilet paper, napkins and paper towels.

By expanding its tissue production capacities, Intertrade Hellas aims to strengthen its position in the European tissue market. The company, who was originally only active in tissue converting, entered the tissue paper market in 2021. At the time, the company commissioned its first tissue machine at the Oinofyta mill, which has a capacity of 65,000 tpy.

Intertrade Hellas operates another two mills in Acharnes and Metamorfosi, both in Greece. The company sells tissue products under the Softex and Servin brands as well as various private label products.

MM Board & Paper's results come under pressure as year progresses

Potential impact of the Iran war on Middle Eastern packaging plants

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Board and folding carton manufacturer Mayr-Melnhof (MM) reports that its 2025 financial year was once again marked by persistently weak market conditions and structural overcapacity in Europe. Commenting on the group's results, CEO Peter Oswald said that, overall, MM managed to hold its ground in this environment and increase its operating result. However, significantly higher tax expenses weighed on group profits.

Overall, sales revenues decreased by 4.8 per cent to €3.89bn. Adjusted Ebitda remained largely stable at €418.2m (2024: €418.5m). Pre-tax results rose clearly by 27.4 per cent to €145.7m (€114.3m), although the increase was primarily attributable to income from the divestment of TANN, he explains. Taxes on income and profits rose to €68.7m, mainly due to the reversal of tax loss carry forwards of the MM Board & Paper division. As a result, MM's net profit for the year 2025 dropped to €77m, compared with €110.5m in 2024.

MM Board & Paper reports largely flat demand in cartonboard markets

After moving sideways until the second quarter of 2025, cartonboard markets came under increasing pressure as the year progressed, MM reports regard to its Board & Paper division. Pressure on volumes intensified particularly in primary fibre-based cartonboard, driven by additional European capacity, export volumes from Europe that are no longer shipped to the US as well as rising import pressure from Asia continued to intensify volume pressure. By contrast, conditions in recycled fibre-based cartonboard remained relatively stable, the group said.

MM also recorded a non-cash impairment requirement for assets of the MM Board & Paper division. The impairment loss of €70.5m relates to the MM Kolicevo board mill in Slovenia, as previously announced in February 2026.

Divisional sales revenues declined slightly to €1.93bn (€1.95bn) due to price effects, while the division's adjusted Ebitda climbed by 27.2 per cent to €115m (€90.3m).

The division reported a negative operating result of €-70.5m, compared with €-19.2m a year earlier, thereby widening the loss. Total production volumes remained broadly stable at 3.14 million t (3.15 million t). Cartonboard and total pulp output were largely unchanged year on year at 1.76 million t and 875,000 t, respectively. Market pulp production rose by 6.3 per cent to 126,000 t,

while internally converted pulp volumes declined by 2.2 per cent to 749,000 t.

MM also highlighted ongoing investment projects at its production sites in Kwidzyn, Poland and Kotka, Finland, aimed at significantly reducing the plants' carbon footprint. At its Kwidzyn pulp, paper and board mill, a new pulp digester scheduled for completion by the end of 2026 is expected to reduce energy consumption and cut CO₂ emissions by around one third. At the Kotka mill, two electric boilers are planned, with installation scheduled for spring 2027.

Subdued demand for folding cartons in Europe persisted in 2025

In folding carton converting, MM reports declining sales volumes across numerous end markets, while demand in Europe remained weak. Both factors led to intense competition and increasing pressure on margins.

Sales revenues of MM's Food & Premium Packaging division fell by almost 10 per cent to €1.54bn (€1.70bn), primarily reflecting the divestment of the TANN business, according to MM. Adjusted Ebitda also decreased, coming in at €228.2m (€258.3m).

Operating profit, however, rose significantly to €276.7m (€179.4m), driven by a non-recurring contribution of around €125m from the divestment of the TANN Group. Excluding this effect, the division's operating result came to €128.8m (€139.4m). Demand and order intake in the MM Pharma & Healthcare Packaging division showed a rather heterogeneous development in 2025. While the packaging manufacturer saw solid growth in the United States, individual markets in western and central Europe remained characterised by weakness due to intense competition and strong margin pressure.

At €618.3m (€615.7m), sales revenues remained largely stable at the level of the preceding year, while the adjusted Ebitda increased by 11 per cent to €77.7m (€69.9m). The operating profit, however, dropped substantially to €17.4m (€29.8m) at the end of the year.

Iran war puts focus on MM's two Middle East packaging plants

The Iran war is beginning to cast a shadow over MM's business in the Middle East, with the group assessing potential risks to its regional operations. MM says it is monitoring the potential impact of the Iran war on the packaging plants operated by its MM Food & Premium Packaging division in the region, adding that operational disruptions cannot be ruled out.

MM operates two sites in the Middle East which together accounted for around 2 per cent of group sales revenue and roughly 6 per cent of adjusted Ebitda in 2025. One of these is the Mayr-Melnhof Print and Packaging Tehran plant in the south of the Iranian capital, a leading producer of cigarette packaging in the country, according to MM. The second site, MM Packaging Jordan, is located south of Amman and has been part of the MM group since 2017. It produces packaging for the pharmaceutical, food and household goods industries as well as for the tobacco sector, and also supplies customers in neighbouring export markets across the Middle East and North Africa.

Mayr-Melnhof results

million €	October - December		January - December	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Key figures				
Sales	906	1,010	3,885	4,079
Adjusted EBITDA	98	123	418	419
Operating result	-57	43	146	114
Net result	-90	58	77	111
Business area review				
MM Board & Paper				
Sales*	451	477	1,930	1,954
Adjusted EBITDA	28	40	115	90
Operating result	-74	12	-71	-19
Production, 1,000 t	768	791	3,138	3,145
Cartonboard	421	417	1,758	1,763
Paper	133	134	505	497
Pulp	214	240	875	885
Market pulp	27	35	126	119
MM Food and Premium Packaging				
Sales*	351	435	1,538	1,702
Adjusted EBITDA	55	69	228	258
Operating result	35	49	277	179
Production, in million m ²	514	762	2,541	3,103
MM Pharma and Healthcare Packaging				
Sales*	149	146	618	616
Adjusted EBITDA	17	14	78	70
Operating result	5	3	17	30
Production, in million m ²	207	208	897	918

*including internal sales

Source: Mayr-Melnhof

KCPM paper mill in Kyiv damaged by missile strike

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Kyiv Cardboard and Paper Mill (KCPM), a subsidiary of Austria's Pulp Mill Holding, was the target of a major missile attack on 14 March 2026. Production and administrative buildings, equipment and technical infrastructure at the site were severely damaged. Thanks to the safety measures at the mill, no employees were killed or injured in the attack, the company said.

The producer of sanitary papers, cartonboard and corrugated case material confirmed to EUWID that large parts of the manufacturing operations had to be halted due to the missile damage. The company stressed that all necessary measures were being undertaken to clear up the debris and assess the extent of damage. Measures to resume production are also being planned. Although the damage is significant, some parts of production continue to operate.

"In acknowledgment of the high level of social responsibility vis-à-vis our employees, customers and partners, the owner of Kyiv Cardboard and Paper Mill, Dr Heinz Zinner, has decided to swiftly provide additional funds for all rebuilding works," the company said.

Two production facilities offline

KCPM was already able to resume production to a limited extent on 18 March. "We are currently continuing the production of toilet paper and corrugated packaging," the company told EUWID. The two machines for corrugated case material and cartonboard are still idled because the building is damaged. The two production facilities were undergoing scheduled maintenance. A new Yankee cylinder, including hood, is being installed on PM 2, which makes containerboard.

In the meantime, both the investment volume as well as the time needed to rebuild the damaged buildings and facilities are still unclear. First, the company will get an expert assessment of the condition of the buildings, which will form the basis to determine if and to what extent repairs are possible, KCPM said.

The company said it had not received any support from the Ukraine government so far. Since the beginning of the war, KCPM real estate as well as company shares have been seized as part of several proceedings. This made it significantly more difficult to access the necessary financing, the company said. The parent company Pulp Mill Holding says it is evaluating further steps and wants to do everything possible to enable KCPM "to return to normal production and secure the jobs of around 3,000 employees as well as maintain the supply of important everyday products to the Ukrainian population."

In 2025, KCPM produced around 50,000 t of tissue paper, some of which was processed into around 350 million rolls of toilet

paper. It also produced 155,000 t of corrugated case material and cartonboard, of which a significant share was converted into around 276 million m² of corrugated packaging.

KCPM's production capacity was originally designed to manufacture up to 220,000 tpy of corrugated case material and cartonboard, of which around 100,000 tpy can be coated. It also has capacity for 90,000 tpy of sanitary and household paper from recycled and fresh fibres as well as up to 335 million m² of packaging.

Arauco advances construction of Sucuriú pulp mill in Brazil

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Chilean forestry and pulp group Arauco reports substantial progress in the construction of its new Sucuriú pulp mill in the federal state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. In its annual report for the 2025 financial year, the company states that overall project completion had reached around 43 per cent as of 31 December 2025.

According to Arauco, key advances were made in the installation of the boilers, evaporation plant, lime kiln, fibreline and drying sections. The company also reported the arrival of the first imported equipment for the recovery boiler and the laying of the foundation stone for the mill's railway connection.

Arauco reiterated that start-up of the Sucuriú pulp mill remains scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2027.

The pulp mill project started in April 2025. The mill near Inocência is planned to produce 3.5 million tpy of bleached eucalyptus pulp once fully ramped up. Arauco placed the investment volume at \$4.6bn. Valmet is responsible for the tasks of planning, procurement, installation and commissioning. Reports indicate that the new mill will be the world's largest pulp mill built in a single phase.

Wuzhou Special Paper plans to start up new pulp mill in Q1 2027

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The new pulp mill of Chinese specialty paper producer Wuzhou Special Paper is scheduled to start up in the first quarter of 2027, according to current plans announced by engineering company Andritz, which has been contracted as the main supplier for the new mill. The order covers the core areas of a pulp mill, including the fiberline, chemical recovery, power generation, and decarbonisation technologies.

Wuzhou Special Paper announced construction of the new mill about a year ago. It will be built in Jiujiang, Jiangxi province, and is designed to have a capacity of 600,000 tpy. Wuzhou Special Paper put the investment sum for the project at RMB2.94bn (around €370m) and said that 450 new jobs would be created.

With the additional pulp capacity, Wuzhou Special Paper aims to become more independent of pulp imports. The company plans to use the pulp produced at the new mill internally for its own paper production.

Wuzhou Special Paper produces specialty papers for a wide range of applications. The company describes itself as a leading manufacturer of food packaging paper and one of the largest producers of glassine and tracing paper in China.

Rottneros amends loan amid earnings pressure

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As of 26 March 2026, Rottneros had utilised loan facilities amounting to SEK296m. In addition, SEK75m has been made available under a revolving credit facility (RCF) as part of the amended agreement. Overdraft facilities remain unchanged at SEK225m, the company said in a press release.

The original loan agreement was signed at the end of 2024. At that time, Rottneros refinanced its long-term debt through loan facilities totalling SEK400m, with annual amortisations of SEK69m. In addition, revolving credit facilities of up to SEK150m and overdraft facilities of SEK225m were agreed.

The terms of the loan agreement were updated in July 2025. Among other changes, the original debt-to-equity covenant was replaced by a liquidity covenant and a profitability target. As disclosed in the company's 2025 annual report, Rottneros did not meet the profitability target for the fourth quarter ended 31 December. The company obtained a waiver from its lenders for the relevant period. However, Rottneros assessed that profitability would not recover to such an extent to meet the temporary covenants in the coming quarters, and engaged in talks with its lenders to renegotiate the terms of the credit agreement with the aim of strengthening the financial position and securing the Group's long-term operations, the company explained.

Rottneros operates two pulp mills in Sweden with a combined production capacity of more than 400,000 tpy. The chemi-thermomechanical pulp (CTMP) mill in Rottneros has an annual capacity of 165,000 t. Due to weak market conditions for CTMP, production at the mill remained significantly below capacity last year, reaching 98,000 t, with Rottneros' total CTMP sales volumes of 105,000 t. The Vallvik mill has a production capacity of 240,000 tpy of bleached and unbleached softwood kraft pulp. Total deliveries reached nearly 230,000 t in 2025, with production of 233,000 t.

With net sales of SEK2.54bn (2024: SEK 2.71bn), Rottneros reported a negative Ebitda of -SEK253m (SEK179m) for the year and a net loss of -SEK452m (SEK20m). The Group's cash and cash equivalents totalled SEK67m (SEK19m) at the end of 2025. Interest-bearing liabilities totalled SEK407m (SEK412m) and net debt came at SEK339m (SEK393m).

Fibre Excellence calls for review of feed-in tariffs by the administrative authority

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Financially troubled French pulp manufacturer Fibre Excellence has lodged a preliminary administrative appeal seeking a review of state-regulated feed-in tariffs for electricity generated from biomass. Fibre Excellence noted that this procedure, which allows companies in France to challenge administrative decisions, was a prerequisite for any potential referral to the administrative court and gave the state the opportunity to make a fresh decision without judicial intervention. The company aimed to receive a written response to its demands, saying that it faced the risk of insolvency by mid-April if no solution was found.

For a few months now, Fibre Excellence has been complaining that state-regulated feed-in prices for electricity generated in-house are too low in France. In view of the steep rise in wood costs, the company is calling for feed-in tariffs to be adjusted as a matter of urgency. The French government recently pledged Fibre Excellence financial support amounting to €150m, tied to certain conditions. However, the plan that has been put forward only partly addressed the existing problems and did not offer a lasting solution to the crucial issue of electricity remuneration, Fibre Excellence has now stated.

State could be held liable

Fibre Excellence is holding the state responsible for part of its financial losses and is targeting the government's decision on feed-in tariffs for possible legal challenge. Notably, the company criticised the award of a new contract to a single player, which it claimed constituted unlawful state aid because it was granted without prior approval from the European Commission. Fibre Excellence also took issue with the state's refusal to adjust the formula used to calculate the feed-in tariff to reflect movements in wood prices, even though this was provided for by law, according to the company.

These failings had caused financial damage of more than €52m at the group's two locations by the end of 2025, Fibre Excellence stated. The company is therefore calling on the government to revise the tender conditions for biomass power contracts, amend the calculation formula and state its position on a previously proposed transitional arrangement. Unless an agreement is reached by 14 April, the company faces insolvency and says it will have no choice but to turn to the administrative court, which might order the requested changes and award Fibre Excellence damages.

Fibre Excellence operates two mills in France. Its Saint-Gaudens mill can make up to 280,000 tpy of bleached softwood and hardwood pulp, while its Provence mill in Tarascon can manufacture up to 220,000 tpy of unbleached softwood pulp. Both mills were shut down for a fortnight each in succession in March after the company reported bottlenecks in its wood supply.

Caustic soda manufacturers pushing for price hikes in second quarter negotiations

Chlorine industry fears new energy crisis and financial losses

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The caustic soda (NaOH) market in Europe is facing a complex situation. NaOH manufacturers have announced substantial price hikes for the second quarter of 2026 in response to massive increase in prices on energy markets. They argument that they earn too little in the chlorine business in general and that business expectations have deteriorated, also because of the Iran war. Suppliers also refer to limited market supply due to several maintenance shutdowns. On the other hand, buyers, e. g. from the paper industry, report normal caustic soda supply and do not expect any bottlenecks.

Caustic soda (NaOH) suppliers say they are forced to hand down increased costs through a massive price hike. Several manufacturers had already pointed out a tense situation in the chemical industry at the beginning of March. For deliveries from April 2026, no rollover of first quarter prices is envisaged, they underline.

At the turn of the year, buyers had taken advantage of market conditions with abundant market supply and moderate demand to reduce prices for deliveries in the first quarter. In this context, asking prices for caustic soda slipped below the €600/t mark for larger and medium volumes by the truckload. Talking to EUWID, buyers reported a price frame of €580-620/t in Central Europe. Lower prices were also reported.

In other regions, especially in Southern and Western Europe, NaOH reportedly trades above the indicated range. Still, many agreements for the first three months of the year were subject to discounts. Even in the course of January and February, the spot market offered abundant quantities, which created downward price pressure. The situation only changed with the start of the Iran war, gaining enormous momentum with the escalation of the conflict in the Persian Gulf in the course of the last few weeks.

Massive demands for the second quarter

A price correction is direly necessary in order not to further jeopardise the profitability of companies, NaOH suppliers stress in the run-up to price negotiations for the second quarter. The chlorine and caustic soda industry has lost money over several quarters leaving no buffers to cushion the price explosion in energy markets and the enormous cost increases, industry representatives underscore.

Several suppliers are therefore demanding surcharges in the triple digit range from April, mentioning figures from €100-300/t.

Some suppliers are also said to have announced a rigorous approach. Only the duration of the agreements offers room for manoeuvring, it is said. Instead of fixing prices for a quarter, players often talk about monthly prices.

While some respondents expect tough and, above all, protracted negotiations since resistance to price hikes is expected especially from the pulp and paper industry, others do not assume that a transitional phase for higher prices is necessary from 1 April.

Negotiations on terms and conditions for deliveries in the second quarter gathered pace at the end of March, but had not yet been completed at the time of going to press.

Supply in Europe is changing, caustic soda availability becoming tighter

While demand is comparatively stable, industry experts expect NaOH supply to be lower in the second quarter. Chlorine production is currently limited, either due to planned measures or high energy prices, market experts explain.

As to expectations of limited supply, sceptics argue that even modest capacity utilisation of electrolysis plants in recent months, according to Eurochlor statistics, has not yet created undersupply in the NaOH market: In the fourth quarter of 2025, utilisation was below 65 per cent compared to an average of 67 per cent last year. The most recent figure, for January 2026, stood at 65 per cent.

NaOH industry representatives reply that availability in Europe is also becoming tighter due to the lack of deliveries from Eastern Europe and especially overseas. NaOH supply from overseas was good at the turn of the year and in the first two months of 2026. Cheap deliveries from the United States in particular often served as an argument for buyers who tried to fend off price hike demands by the NaOH industry in Europe in the past. The same argument reportedly also worked in negotiations for first quarter contracts in many places. However, the supply situation has changed in the context of the global crisis, say sources. In addition, the business climate has deteriorated significantly in several segments where chlorine derivatives are used. In the construction industry in Germany, for example, business expectations saw the sharpest decline since March 2022, reports Ifo Institute for Economic Research. The automotive industry also has reduced demand.

Slower demand and the currently high energy prices, which are being felt by energy-intensive industries in particular, could lead to further production curtailments. Spot buyers especially will feel the impact, according to experts. But even customers with longer-term contracts are not safe from the supply crunch. The bottom line is that a lot will probably happen in the entire industry. The difficult situation can be seen in the numerous instances of austerity programs, closures and insolvencies, which goes hand in hand with capacities cuts and consequently supply in Europe, they say. Other representatives from the chemical industry also warn that customers must brace for change.

EUWID Price Watch Western Europe Causlic Soda											
First quarter 2026											
Prices in € per tonne free delivered			First quarter 2026			Fourth quarter 2025			First quarter 2025		
NaOH*			580 - 640			610 - 660			610 - 660		
* 50% solution, calculated on a 100% concentration basis						EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information					
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Titanium dioxide producers plan to raise prices, Q4 earnings plummet

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Titanium dioxide prices are expected to stabilise again, at the very least, in the first quarter of the current year. US manufacturers Chemours and Tronox had already announced price increases at the end of last year, but their implementation is likely to be delayed for some time since the market climate remains tricky.

Major titanium dioxide manufacturers experienced a significant deterioration in their earnings in the 2025 financial year, amidst rising costs and a tough price environment. Tronox Holdings and Kronos Worldwide both reported that their operating and net profits slipped into the red in the fourth quarter. Chemours reported a steep decline in adjusted Ebitda from its Titanium Technologies division. On a group-wide scale, the group reported a net loss for the period.

In terms of sales revenues, Chemours' business division performed the worst, with a 11 per cent year-on-year slump in the fourth quarter. Sales volumes and prices both fell by 6 per cent, whilst currency effects had a slightly positive impact of 1 per cent. Sales volumes were down by 8 per cent compared with the third quarter, while prices and exchange rates remained unchanged.

Tronox and Kronos sold significantly more than in the fourth quarter of 2024, although both companies faced dwindling prices. The fourth quarter was actually the strongest single quarter of 2025 in terms of sales volumes for Tronox, with a 13 per cent growth. Prices were 8 per cent lower than the previous year, whilst exchange rates had a positive impact of 3 per cent. In a year-on-year comparison, revenues were 8 per cent higher. Sales volumes rose by 9 per cent compared with the third quarter. With prices declining by 4 per cent and exchange rates remaining virtually unchanged, the upturn in sales volume led to a 5 per cent growth in sales revenues.

Kronos ranked between Chemours and Tronox in the fourth quarter. Sales volumes rose by 7 per cent in a year-on-year comparison, whilst exchange rates improved by 3 per cent. Negative effects arose from prices (-8 per cent) and the product mix (-3 per cent). Taking these opposing factors into account, this resulted in a 1 per cent decline in revenue.

Decor paper producers calling for price hikes to offset rising energy and logistics costs

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In what remains a rather difficult market climate, Central European decor paper manufacturers are likely to respond in different ways to the renewed rise in energy and logistics costs, caused primarily by the Iran war. Felix Schoeller informed its customers as early as 17 March that it would be introducing a temporary surcharge across all product ranges with effect from 1 April. This surcharge is to be listed separately on invoices and adjusted every four weeks in line with developments in gas prices. The company did not specify the exact amount in the announcement, but unconfirmed reports suggest that it might be in the region of 3-4 per cent for decor paper. However, Munksjö reportedly does not intend to levy separate surcharges, but instead factor higher costs into the price hikes now scheduled for second-quarter deliveries. Other decor paper manufacturers have yet to spell out their plans, but likewise intend to invoice more. In addition to rising energy and logistics costs, these adjustments are intended to offset rising pulp prices. Titanium dioxide prices have seen hardly any changes recently, following last year's cuts. The price increases already floated by a few suppliers from the end of the fourth quarter onwards have therefore not yet been implemented in the decor paper sector.

After a rather subdued start to the year, decor paper producers experienced a slight upturn in order intake and sales volumes from mid-January onwards, which stayed at that level into March. All things considered, sales volumes are likely to remain at last year's similarly subdued levels, with no improvement recorded.

Decor paper production has been relatively normal following lengthy shutdowns over the Christmas and New Year period. All manufacturers are planning to take commercial downtime over the Easter period, with these stoppages set to be extended slightly due to somewhat weaker demand and inventory building in recent weeks. A few paper machines are expected to stand idle for up to a week as a result.

Sack kraft paper producers pushing for higher prices from April

Q1 2026 saw price reductions for brown and white grades alike

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The fallout of the war in Iran and paper mills' calls for higher paper prices are colouring the German and European sack kraft paper market as the first quarter draws to a close. Information obtained by EUWID indicated that producers of both brown and white grades had issued the first announcements in February, with hikes to take effect from 1 April. The magnitude of their demands varied, but most fell in a range between 8 and 12 per cent, market players along the supply chain told EUWID. Since the outbreak of the war in Iran, the paper industry has been pushing these demands with renewed vigour, as conversations with market players in the final week of March made clear.

Buyers of sack kraft paper report that paper manufacturers are taking a decidedly hard line in contract talks. EUWID sources agreed that customers refusing to pay higher prices are simply not getting any paper for the time being. Paper mills pointed to higher energy, wood and logistics costs as the main reasons behind their firm stance. At the time of EUWID's research, there was still no clear picture of how talks would ultimately play out.

However, it was already becoming apparent that producers seem to be moving away from the usual quarterly pricing. Market sources mentioned that some agreements had already been inked either "until further notice" or, at most, on a monthly basis. This approach allows paper mills to retain the option of responding quickly to any further cost increases.

Suppliers interviewed by EUWID in the last week of March indicated that order books had been decent of late and paper machines were operating at good workloads. Sources attributed this to factors including inventory-building by the paper sack industry in the expectation of price increases from April onwards. Paper sack manufacturers are also experiencing a slight improvement in order intake in late March, in line with normal seasonal patterns. Insiders said that demand from the construction, chemical, cement and animal feed sectors was tending to strengthen, although machine utilisation rates at packaging manufacturers still leave room for improvement.

Prices for sack kraft paper head lower in Q1

Insiders on both sides of the market confirm that the price demands for brown and white sack kraft paper grades are a response to the steady reductions seen in previous quarters. Prices across Europe have also declined again in the first quarter of 2026, albeit

with regional differences, EUWID interviews revealed.

All things considered, prices for brown and white sack kraft paper grades typically dropped by €20-30/t from January onwards. In isolated cases, observers also mentioned price cuts of up to €50/t for white grades where earlier adjustments had been more limited. In other cases, only price peaks were being capped. That being said, the bulk of insiders put the price cut at €20-30/t in the first quarter.

Paper sack producers face rising PE costs

Sack kraft paper converters also told EUWID that they were facing mounting cost pressure for plastics used in the production of multi-ply paper sacks. In March, packaging manufacturers had sometimes been confronted with mid-three-digit hikes for polyethylene. Experts attributed this development to market disruption caused by the Iran war and looming supply bottlenecks in the plastics sector. Contacts are now making mention of day-to-day or even half-day agreements, with prices increasingly being fixed at short notice.

EUWID Price Watch Europe Sack Kraft Paper			
First quarter 2026			
Prices in € per tonne	First quarter 2026	Fourth quarter 2025	First quarter 2025
Sack kraft paper, brown, 70- 90 g, semi-extensible	850 - 1,020	870 - 1,050	870 - 1,030
Sack kraft paper, white, 70-90 g, semi-extensible	1,170 - 1,340	1,190 - 1,370	1,150 - 1,350
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Cores and coreboard producers attempting to raise prices on the German market

 **EUWID** + 01 April 2026 | 🕒 ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

Price hikes are being announced in many paper and board markets these days – and coreboard is no exception. In some cases, the demands would have been presented to the market anyway in light of producers' weak margins, but now they are sometimes ascribed to the knock-on effects of the conflict in the Middle East. Those coreboard producers who have approached their customers are aiming for hikes as of 1 April.

While the timing is quite consistent, the size of the planned hikes can vary markedly. Moreover, not all of the relevant players have sent pricing announcements, as some prefer to wait and see how the situation develops. But the majority of companies have announced price increases ranging from €30-100/t. At the time of the EUWID market survey, the outcome of the negotiations was still unclear, but insiders believe that the figures at either end of the targeted range are unlikely.

At the beginning of the year, both sides of the market had anticipated that it would be difficult to maintain coreboard prices at the existing levels and avoid reductions, say EUWID respondents. Now, the situation has changed as a result of the closure of Schulte's Düsseldorf site and the planned relocation of some parts of its production to Trebsen. Even though Schulte was not primarily focused on producing coreboard for industrial cores, there are now some volumes that customers need to shift elsewhere. As insiders explain, cores producers were simply happy to find a producer who can meet their needs in the near term and were therefore not interested in diving straight into talks about price reductions. This had helped support the overall market, meaning prices had not declined, EUWID was told.

In general, cores producers report less-than-satisfactory activity levels. Incoming orders from producers of corrugated case material were still stable, but there had been a "catastrophic" drop-off in demand from the graphic paper industry with double-digit percentage declines, EUWID was told. The performance of other markets is also said to be below expectations.

Despite their insufficient capacity utilisation, producers of cores very quickly followed suit with their own calls for price increases, in order to pass along the planned adjustments for coreboard to their customers. Transport costs in particular are a critical issue, as shipments of cores contain a lot of air.

EUWID Price Watch Germany Coreboard			
March 2026			
Prices in € per tonne free delivered	27 March 2026	19 December 2025	31 March 2025
Coreboard 250 J/m ² , 0.7 mm	590 - 650	590 - 650	610 - 650
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Fine paper producers under pressure to increase their prices on German market

Kraftliner suppliers launch new round of talks about higher prices

 01 April 2026 | ⌚ ~ 5 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

With the energy price crisis escalating, woodfree paper producers are coming forward with fresh announcements of plans to charge more – on top of the hikes already sought for deliveries from April onwards. Despite surplus supply and a structural decline in demand for printing and writing paper, paper producers say they need to pass higher costs on to their customers and that these new demands must be enforced rigorously.

In late March, discussions in the containerboard and corrugated industry centred on the hikes announced across all kraftliner grades. Buyers report receiving notices for price increases of €80-100/t in most cases. Paper mills stress that these hikes are necessary, arguing that kraftliner margins had already been under pressure before the Iran war and the subsequent surge in costs.

Paper mills intensify efforts to raise fine paper prices

Several manufacturers of uncoated and coated woodfree paper have sounded the bell for another round of price increases. Industry observers view this as underlining paper mills’ resolve to implement the announced hikes by April at the latest and signalling further paper price increases in the coming weeks.

In talks about second-quarter prices, suppliers have raised both separate energy surcharges and shorter contract terms, underscoring the highly strained situation of paper mills. Buyers confirmed that they had little leeway in talks.

EUWID Price Watch Germany				
March 2026				
Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
A4 C-grade, bleached paper	780 - 800	780 - 800	900 - 1.000	
A4 C-grade, non-bleached paper	770 - 800	770 - 800	800 - 900	
Other news B0 g	890 - 940	890 - 940	1.000 - 1.100	
Other news B0 g	870 - 900	870 - 900	940 - 1.000	
Woodfree coated				
News, double coated, 100 g	870 - 900	870 - 900	1.000 - 1.100	
Recy, double coated, 100 g	800 - 900	800 - 900	920 - 990	
Publication paper				
Newsprint 42 g (offset)	570 - 590	570 - 590	600 - 620	
Newsprint 42 g (offset)	580 - 600	580 - 600	600 - 620	
Newsprint 42 g (offset)	570 - 590	570 - 590	600 - 620	
LWC offset 50 g	770 - 800	770 - 800	780 - 800	
LC offset 50 g (A)	860 - 875	860 - 875	880 - 790	
LC offset 50 g (B)	860 - 880	860 - 880	880 - 790	
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unbleached kraftliner from Scandinavia 170 g	800 - 870	800 - 870	870 - 890	
Seam chemical corrugated medium 7	770 - 980	770 - 980	770 - 1.000	
White top kraftliner 140 g	1.070 - 1.100	1.070 - 1.100	1.050 - 1.100	
Recycled corrugated case material				
Unbleached	580 - 590	540 - 550	600 - 630	
Washed	610 - 620	570 - 580	600 - 640	
Testliner B	640 - 650	600 - 610	670 - 690	
Testliner B	620 - 630	580 - 590	600 - 670	
White top testliner coated	890 - 910	880 - 890	890 - 970	
White top testliner, 140 g, ISO 70-75	770 - 780	770 - 780	800 - 840	
Containerboard				
Unbleached	770 - 780	770 - 780	780 - 820	
GD 4	800 - 900	800 - 900	870 - 930	
GD 4	1.140 - 1.170	1.140 - 1.170	1.140 - 1.270	
Prices at the upper end of the range represent Scandinavian primary fibre grades, lower end prices are quoted for other European grades.				
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EUWID Price Review Germany				
First quarter 2026				
Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	First quarter 2026	Fourth quarter 2025	First quarter 2025	
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
A4 C-grade, bleached paper	780 - 800	780 - 800	900 - 1.000	
A4 C-grade, non-bleached paper	770 - 800	770 - 800	800 - 900	
Other news B0 g	890 - 940	890 - 940	1.000 - 1.100	
Other news B0 g	870 - 900	870 - 900	940 - 1.000	
Woodfree coated				
News, double coated, 100 g	870 - 900	870 - 900	1.000 - 1.100	
Recy, double coated, 100 g	800 - 900	800 - 900	920 - 990	
Publication paper				
Newsprint 42 g (offset)	570 - 590	580 - 600	600 - 620	
Newsprint 42 g (offset)	580 - 600	590 - 610	610 - 630	
Newsprint 42 g (offset)	570 - 590	570 - 600	600 - 620	
LWC offset 50 g	770 - 800	770 - 800	780 - 800	
LC offset 50 g (A)	860 - 875	870 - 890	880 - 790	
LC offset 50 g (B)	860 - 880	870 - 890	880 - 790	
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unbleached kraftliner from Scandinavia 170 g	800 - 870	870 - 900	870 - 890	
Seam chemical corrugated medium 7	770 - 980	780 - 1.000	770 - 1.000	
White top kraftliner 140 g	1.070 - 1.100	1.080 - 1.170	1.050 - 1.100	
Recycled corrugated case material				
Unbleached	580 - 590	560 - 580	590 - 630	
Washed	610 - 620	590 - 610	580 - 640	
Testliner B	640 - 650	600 - 610	670 - 690	
Testliner B	620 - 630	580 - 600	600 - 670	
White top testliner coated	890 - 910	880 - 890	890 - 970	
White top testliner, 140 g, ISO 70-75	770 - 780	770 - 820	770 - 840	
Containerboard				
Unbleached	770 - 780	770 - 820	780 - 820	
GD 4	800 - 900	870 - 930	870 - 930	
GD 4	1.140 - 1.170	1.140 - 1.270	1.140 - 1.270	
Prices at the upper end of the range represent Scandinavian primary fibre grades, lower end prices are quoted for other European grades.				
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Price negotiations were often finalised in the last week of March resulting in increases of €40-50/t, depending on the starting price level. Quite a few buyers said that a range of options is being put forward, mostly depending on the volume, order date and delivery date, and varying from one producer to another. They criticised the stance adopted by the paper industry, especially what they viewed as a “premature” and purely cost-driven price hike in a dwindling market already characterised by surplus supply and uncertainty. Print buyers were reportedly reviewing their allocation to print advertising. Any additional reduction in advertising spending would hit the entire paper and printing sector at its core, sources claimed. At the same time, further price increase initiatives are being pursued. Against this backdrop, the mood in the market has weakened.

In February, paper mills reported decent order books and were not overly pessimistic about the weeks ahead. Although some one-off effects were observed ahead of announced fine paper price increases, business remained stable, market sources said. Order intake picked up during the month and remained strong at the beginning of March. “It was clear that some orders from paper merchants and printers were driven by precautionary stock-building,” one insider noted. Even so, paper machines were running at good capacity utilisation, sources told EUWID.

Shipments from Asia declined in March, further tightening the market. Market participants emphasise that import availability remains highly uncertain, which could support domestic paper mills.

However, the analysis of the current and medium-term conditions in the graphic paper sector remain unchanged. The latest energy crisis has noticeably heightened uncertainty among companies. The Iran war and its repercussions are fuelling fears of a renewed economic downturn, and expectations are continuing to deteriorate.

Nonetheless, paper industry representatives see no alternative to their current approach. Conditions for energy-intensive industries have worsened markedly and are now considered critical. Paper manufacturers are under pressure from rising production costs and from suppliers anticipating potential shortages.

One expert added that companies are fully aware of the situation facing merchants and printers, who are themselves struggling with weakening demand and are voicing concerns. Yet, he said, there was little to be gained from delaying the price increase, as costs were already rising sharply. The hike in paper prices had long been overdue, he said, noting that many companies had been operating at a loss and that the move did not amount to profiteering. One source added that, in the current situation, there was little distinction between short-term crisis measures and longer-term strategy.

Higher prices under discussion for all kraftliner grades

After German kraftliner prices stayed the same in March, containerboard manufacturers and converters are in talks about plans to implement higher prices from 1 April. During March, paper mills had put forward proposals to raise prices for brown and white-top kraftliner and semi-chemical fluting. EUWID learned that buyers in the corrugated board industry are facing hikes of €80-100/t in most cases.

Following price increases for brown recycled corrugated case material in March, experts had expected kraftliner prices to follow soon, initially only for brown grades. Some buyers are therefore surprised to now be negotiating prices for all kraftliner grades at this stage.

Although new price increase demands have also been made for white-top testliner, sources said that 1 April is the target date for implementation. Some converters favour a gradual rollout for kraftliner in April and May, whereas paper industry insiders stress the need for swift implementation.

Market sources attribute the situation in part to the fast-moving developments linked to the war on Iran. Paper mills report renewed cost pressure, and sources said that they were justifying their plans for higher prices by pointing to rising energy and transport costs. However, EUWID did not hear any mention of temporary energy surcharges in its interviews. Insiders add that kraftliner producers had already faced margin pressure before the war, making price increases necessary.

According to insiders, kraftliner machines continue to operate at solid capacity utilisation levels. Sources in the corrugated board industry do not currently expect supply shortages. At the same time, both producers and converters point to early indications of a seasonal increase in demand from the fruit and vegetable segment.

Iran war drives freight costs higher, increases volatility on UK recovered paper market

Softening prices for deinking grades / Pressure on brown ordinary grades

 01 April 2026 | ⌚ ~ 5 min | Published in issue 14/2026

Like many other segments of the economy, the British market for recovered paper is also feeling significant ripple effects from the Iran conflict. In March, the main issue was sharply rising freight costs – for both road haulage and shipping to Asia. Market participants say surcharges were suddenly imposed for inland transports as well as maritime shipping, which immediately sparked discussions about who should bear the additional costs.

EUWID Price Watch Recovered Paper UK				
March 2026				
Prices in £ per tonne	March 2026	March 2026	Feb 2026	March 2025
	£	€*	£	£
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	45 - 65	52 - 75	45 - 60	35 - 70
Mixed paper and board (1.02), export	55 - 68	64 - 79	55 - 68	50 - 83
Old corrugated containers (1.05)	75 - 87	87 - 101	77 - 87	95 - 110
Old corrugated containers (1.05), export	82 - 92	95 - 107	82 - 95	100 - 115
Magazines (1.06) ¹⁾	90 - 115	104 - 133	90 - 120	95 - 140
Sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) ¹⁾	80 - 90	93 - 104	80 - 95	85 - 110
Newspapers (2.01) ²⁾	95 - 105	110 - 122	95 - 110	95 - 130
Sorted office paper (2.05)	115 - 125	133 - 145	115 - 130	160 - 170
White woodfree letters (3.05) ²⁾	250 - 270	290 - 313	250 - 270	-
Multigrade	130 - 150	151 - 174	130 - 160	155 - 170
White newsprint (3.14)	170 - 200	197 - 232	170 - 200	190 - 220
White woodfree uncoated drawings (3.18.01)	280 - 345	325 - 400	280 - 345	360 - 400

¹⁾ Includes exports and non-paper applications

²⁾ From January 2026 onwards, the grade White woodfree letters (3.05) will be additionally covered by EUWID.

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The situation on the freight market is described as extremely volatile. As of mid-March, mark-ups of \$100-200 per 40-foot container were being mentioned for shipping routes to Asia, but later on, the figures reached as much as \$600.

Despite these increases, insiders say freight rates are generally still bearable because they started off at low levels. In their view, the biggest problems are posed by high volatility and the possibility that shipping companies may impose surcharges while cargo is on the water. The latter scenario can make individual deals economically unattractive or even lossmaking. Against this backdrop, many exporters could not or did not want to sign contracts and preferred to wait on the sidelines.

As a result, one market participant reports seeing an increased willingness to divert more recovered paper volumes to Continental Europe. However, hauliers have also significantly raised their freight fees, so even though this sales market is more predictable, it is not necessarily more attractive.

Prices for OCC soften towards end of month

Demand for ordinary grades of recovered paper for packaging applications has held broadly steady so far. Several packaging paper producers even reported a noticeable uptick in their activity levels in March, both in the UK as well as in Europe. It is possible that buyers are trying to build up inventories in advance of expected price increases for both paper and logistics.

In this context, one British producer had reportedly secured additional recovered paper volumes at relatively high prices, while a growing number of inquiries were being received from paper producers based in Continental Europe. "Three weeks ago, they were still saying they don't need anything," commented one market participant.

Demand from Asia is still quite good, the market survey found. One explanation for this is that the Gulf states had been previously supplying larger volumes of recovered paper to Asia, especially India. Now that the Strait of Hormuz is effectively closed to shipping, the paper mills need to find alternative sources of supply – though it remains to be seen whether this will be Europe or other parts of the Asia-Pacific region. Turkish paper producers, who had recently been purchasing significantly higher volumes in the UK, are now considerably less active.

The price trend for old corrugated containers (1.05) was very volatile: After picking up early in March, OCC prices were sliding considerably towards the end of the month. For April, some market participants expect the level of £90/t will no longer be achievable and the majority of contracts will contain prices around £10 lower.

The market trend for mixed paper and board (1.02) was more stable but is expected to follow the trajectory of OCC in April. The prices quoted for export grades sent to Continental Europe were £70-75/t for supermarket corrugated paper and board and £115-125/t for fruit boxes (used corrugated kraft).

Price cuts for deinking grades milder than announced

There was also considerable movement in the deinking segment. In March, one major British customer had announced price reductions of £15/t for sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11), newspapers (2.01) and magazines (1.06). This initially led to volumes being shifted to other – usually foreign – sales channels. However, since the affected mill has its own sorting capacities and sources additional material from North America, the company's fibre supply remained stable.

As the month progressed, a key buyer in Continental Europe also jumped on the bandwagon and lowered prices. Simultaneously, the increase in road haulage rates – especially to the European Continent – was compounding pressure on sellers, so they ultimately accepted the price reductions, although the cuts were smaller than originally announced. Depending on the grade, declines of around £5-10/t were observed. In some cases, price concessions were also incorporated into the contract conditions, for example, delivery of loose rather than baled material, which usually equates to a price difference of around £10/t.

Weak demand for woodfree grades / New capacities might reverse market trend

The supply of white woodfree grades remained high in March, while demand from the packaging and tissue paper industry was still modest. Producers of white-top packaging paper and board, in particular, appeared to have only minimal need for recovered fibre. In addition, Essity's new recovered paper processing complex at the Prudhoe site has already started operating, but is still in the optimisation phase with "teething problems", so it is not a noticeable driver of demand yet.

But the situation could change in the medium term, say industry insiders, pointing to Northwood's planned restart of the mothballed Kimberly-Clark mill in Flint. Operations there are currently expected to resume in the third or fourth quarter of 2026 at the earliest. As soon as these capacities as well as the Prudhoe mill are fully utilised, the market could really pick up again, EUWID was told.

A few market participants even anticipate supply tightening as soon as late May or early June. Then, at the latest, prices for sorted office paper (2.05) and multigrade could stabilise.

Demand for pulp substitutes was once again weak. There are reports of ongoing price pressure as well as occasional mark-downs of £10-15/t in this segment.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about how the market will develop in April. The only certainty is that freight costs will rise further – but the exact magnitude and how these increases will be spread throughout the supply chain are still unknown. The demand picture is also difficult to forecast. While some market participants expect inventory build-up in the short term, a further increase in energy prices could put a damper on paper production.

UK recovered paper exports			
tonnes	January - December		% Change
	2025	2024	
Total EU 27	791,847	858,189	- 7.7
France	138,646	150,792	- 8.1
Germany	225,151	286,158	- 21.3
Netherlands	273,453	284,297	- 3.8
Total other Europe	409,570	369,221	+ 10.9
Turkey	408,448	367,807	+ 11.0
Total Asia	2,788,219	2,554,236	+ 9.2
China	908	2,436	- 62.7
India	1,380,657	914,247	+ 51.0
Indonesia	257,739	273,925	- 5.9
Malaysia	529,150	584,935	- 9.5
Thailand	242,634	186,946	+ 29.8
Vietnam	343,681	549,360	- 37.4
Total South America	317	1,372	- 76.9
Total Africa	52	395	- 86.8
Total North America	64	17	+ 270.4
Total Australasia	510	1,223	- 58.3
Total Exports	3,990,578	3,784,652	+ 5.4
Source: CPI			

Geopolitical developments trigger a wave of price announcements on UK paper markets

Skyrocketing freight rates make imports from Asia unreliable and expensive

 01 April 2026 | ⌚ ~ 11 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

The economic consequences of the Iran conflict, with rising oil and gas prices and the threat of further cost increases for industrial firms, have prompted paper and board manufacturers across all market segments to demand price increases or to push ahead with the price plans they had already drawn up before the crisis. In the newsprint sector, negotiations were still ongoing in the last week of March regarding price increases demanded by manufacturers for deliveries from April onwards, and the same applied to the fine paper market. In both segments, it is assumed that some increases will be implemented, though the extent of these has not yet always been determined.

Demand for corrugated case material and corrugated products remained strong in March. Even shortly before the end of the month, it was still unclear when and to what extent planned paper price increases would come into effect. Some sources confirm increases of £80 from 1 April. Manufacturers of cartonboard have also announced hikes or surcharges in the UK due to higher energy prices. Experts fear that such price increases could further squeeze recycled board out of the UK market.

Manufacturers of fine paper are strongly calling for price increases

The crisis in the Middle East, with its tangible impact on oil and gas supplies, has significantly bolstered paper manufacturers' efforts to secure higher selling prices. As in many market segments, producers of woodfree coated and uncoated paper have also announced price increases in the UK. They are often in the range of £40-50/t, for both coated and uncoated grades.

EUWID Price Watch UK				
March 2026				
Prices in £ per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	March 2026	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025
	£	€*	£	£
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	760 - 820	882 - 951	760 - 820	830 - 890
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	770 - 790	824 - 876	770 - 790	790 - 830
Other news 80 g	800 - 860	945 - 106	810 - 880	880 - 920
Other news 80 g	730 - 800	847 - 929	730 - 800	800 - 860
Woodfree coated				
News, double coated, 100 g	820 - 890	951 - 1021	820 - 890	890 - 960
News, double coated, 100 g	770 - 820	885 - 951	770 - 820	880 - 930
Publication paper				
Standard uncoated 40 g	480 - 510	557 - 592	480 - 510	480 - 510
Standard uncoated 40 g	480 - 520	568 - 603	480 - 520	480 - 520
Standard uncoated 40 g	500 - 520	568 - 603	500 - 520	500 - 520
Improved uncoated 32 g, 50/48	530 - 560	610 - 650	530 - 560	530 - 560
LWC offset 80 g	480 - 490	566 - 603	480 - 490	480 - 490
VC offset 80 g	570 - 590	661 - 684	570 - 590	580 - 620
Corrugated case material				
Fibreless case material				
Unbleached kraftliner 170 g, European quality	690 - 720	809 - 885	690 - 720	670 - 730
White top kraftliner 180 g, European quality	800 - 870	934 - 1,005	800 - 870	780 - 840
Recycled case material				
Recycled fluting 180 g	590 - 570	590 - 607	590 - 570	590 - 600
Recycled fluting 180 g	590 - 590	590 - 611	590 - 590	600 - 600
Recycled fluting 80 g	510 - 590	597 - 684	510 - 590	510 - 620
Testliner B	520 - 590	600 - 680	520 - 590	520 - 620
Testliner B	590 - 570	590 - 607	590 - 570	590 - 600
White top kraftliner, grade B, 140 g	640 - 690	742 - 809	640 - 690	640 - 690
Cartonboard				
CC1	580 - 650	688 - 754	580 - 650	620 - 710
CC 2	880 - 1,000	1,021 - 1,168	880 - 1,000	890 - 1,030
* Exchange rate as of 22 March 2026: £1 = €1.16				
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EUWID Price Review UK			
First quarter 2026			
Prices in £ per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	First quarter 2026	Fourth quarter 2025	First quarter 2025
Recovered paper (prices as varied)			
Mixed paper and board (1,000)	40 - 45	40 - 45	35 - 70
Mixed paper and board (1,000, export)	30 - 40	30 - 40	40 - 70
Old uncoated container (1,000)	70 - 87	70 - 87	70 - 110
Old uncoated container (1,000, export)	70 - 85	70 - 85	80 - 110
Magnesium (1,000)	80 - 120	80 - 122	80 - 130
Standard grade paper for drinking (1,000)	80 - 85	80 - 85	80 - 110
Newspapers (1,000)	90 - 110	90 - 112	80 - 140
Standard office paper (200)	110 - 132	110 - 140	110 - 170
White woodfree paper (1,000)	200 - 270	200 - 270	140 - 170
Multipaper	130 - 160	130 - 160	160 - 220
White uncoated (1,000)	170 - 200	170 - 200	160 - 220
White woodfree uncoated drinking (1,000)	280 - 340	280 - 340	300 - 400
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	760 - 820	760 - 820	830 - 890
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	770 - 790	770 - 790	790 - 830
Other news 80 g	810 - 880	810 - 870	880 - 920
Other news 80 g	730 - 800	730 - 800	800 - 860
Woodfree coated			
News, double coated, 100 g	820 - 890	820 - 890	890 - 960
News, double coated, 100 g	770 - 820	770 - 820	880 - 930
Publication paper			
Standard uncoated 40 g	480 - 510	480 - 510	480 - 510
Standard uncoated 40 g	490 - 520	490 - 520	490 - 520
Standard uncoated 40 g	500 - 520	500 - 520	500 - 520
Improved uncoated 32 g, 50/48	530 - 560	530 - 560	530 - 560
LWC offset 80 g	480 - 490	480 - 490	480 - 490
VC offset 80 g	570 - 590	570 - 600	580 - 620
Corrugated case material			
Fibreless case material			
Unbleached kraftliner 170 g, European quality	690 - 720	690 - 720	670 - 730
White top kraftliner 180 g, European quality	800 - 870	800 - 870	780 - 840
Recycled case material			
Recycled fluting 180 g	590 - 570	590 - 570	590 - 600
Recycled fluting 180 g	590 - 590	590 - 611	600 - 600
Recycled fluting 80 g	510 - 590	510 - 590	510 - 620
Testliner B	520 - 590	540 - 590	520 - 620
Testliner B	590 - 570	590 - 607	590 - 600
White top kraftliner, grade B, 140 g	640 - 690	640 - 700	640 - 690
Cartonboard			
CC1	580 - 650	580 - 660	620 - 720
CC 2	880 - 1,000	880 - 1,010	910 - 1,010
* Exchange rate as of 22 March 2026: £1 = €1.16			
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Market participants report that producers have often been very firm in their stance and have shown little willingness to compromise on either the scale of the increase or the effective date. In most cases, the price increase is to come into effect on 1 or 7 April or later, though some producers have already demanded higher prices from mid-March onwards. Two manufacturers state that they had already implemented price surcharges for some of their deliveries in March. This is confirmed by other market sources, though it is also pointed out that the vast majority of price increases will not take place until April.

Even in the last week of March, the final word on the extent of the demanded increase did not appear to have been spoken. Alongside statements from manufacturers that they are remaining firm on their 40-50 £/t demands, there are also indications that an increase of 20-30 £/t might be the outcome. In any case, hardly any market participants doubted that a price increase would go through. Paper manufacturers are also expected to announce further price increases if the crisis in the Middle East persists and oil and gas prices remain high or rise further.

The current round of price increases is cost-driven. The current balance of supply and demand would hardly justify a price rise. Cost pressure on paper manufacturers has increased and are eroding margins. So far, this has mainly been the case with transport and logistics costs, with further cost increases looming as the conflict drags on.

In terms of demand, the market for woodfree coated and uncoated paper in the UK has flattened out somewhat in March after initially benefiting from orders placed possibly in anticipation of the impending price increase. Although there are still voices among manufacturers suggesting that demand is currently satisfactory, other players in the market interviewed tend to indicate that demand has weakened compared to recent months. January and February were good, March was quieter, and April threatens to be even quieter given the Easter holidays, explained one market insider.

Publication paper manufacturers view higher prices in Q2 as imperative

The energy crisis that has been simmering for weeks now and the associated rise in costs are piling the pressure on publication paper producers to institute price increases in the second quarter. Even before the outbreak of war in Iran, paper industry sources indicated that manufacturers would enter talks seeking higher prices, and these demands have only hardened over the past few weeks.

In the third week of March, one paper manufacturer told EUWID that they had initially sat down at the negotiating table seeking to charge around £20/t more for newsprint, but that was no longer enough. Other insiders said that paper producers wanted to charge up to £30-40/t more, citing rising costs, especially for transport and logistics. These factors are not only affecting European producers, but also North American suppliers that traditionally play a role in the UK and now feel compelled to push through much higher prices for newsprint in view of Europe's comparatively modest prices and rising transport costs.

For their part, buyers are, of course, pushing back against paying more, often arguing that sizeable hikes would further erode print volumes. Anything above £20/t risked triggering a reduction in paper consumption, sources said. Paper manufacturers countered that their very survival was at stake.

Manufacturers are seeking to charge more for magazine paper with effect from 1 April, with the amounts in question going up to £30-40/t. Producers highlighted the fact that costs have been rising for weeks. But even without rising costs, the industry urgently needed higher prices, they said, citing very poor financial results that some companies had recorded in recent months.

While all paper producers need to charge more, they appear to be pursuing their targets with differing levels of resolve. Quite a few producers are reportedly taking a hard line, whereas others are showing a little more willingness to compromise, insiders told EUWID.

The fact that manufacturers' current price hike plans are driven entirely by costs is evident when looking at demand trends in the UK. Market players reported that consumption of all publication paper grades continued to decline, in some cases more rapidly in the UK. Although production capacity has been and continues to be shed, sources noted that there was still an excess of publication paper volumes and capacity in Europe.

Despite all of this, some paper manufacturers have already made up their minds that they will table additional hikes in the next round of talks for the third quarter or the second half of the year. This is considered all the more likely the longer that the conflict in the Middle East and its economic ramifications persist.

Uncertainty over April price increases for containerboard remains high

Demand on the UK market for corrugated packaging and containerboard softened slightly in March, while the situation surrounding planned price increases for April remained unclear even towards the end of the month.

Over the first quarter as a whole, however, demand for corrugated packaging developed solidly, which was also reflected in correspondingly good demand for containerboard. Paper manufacturers report that their sales volumes were in line with or even above budget. Capacity utilisation at paper mills in the UK is said to have risen to around 85 to 90 per cent in March. However, it remains unclear whether the stronger demand was driven by genuine consumption or by stockbuilding.

Price increases for containerboard implemented on the European mainland in March were initially not under discussion in the UK, but were closely monitored. Talks about possible price increases primarily served to prepare the market for later adjustments, it is said.

Over the course of the month, plans became more concrete: after individual producers had initially announced price increases for brown recycled containerboard – in some cases without specifying the level or timing – a growing number of suppliers informed customers of planned increases of £80 to £85/t from 1 April, often across their entire product range.

Some market participants assume that the increases will be implemented as announced. "There was no discussion – more of a 'take it or leave it' approach," one observer reported.

Others point out that, following the announcements, in some cases no further exchange with suppliers took place. They expect a more gradual implementation – for example initially around £50/t – as well as possible delays until mid-April or, particularly for kraftliner, until 1 May. “It is remarkable how little clarity there is so close to the end of the month,” said one industry representative.

It is generally considered normal for the UK market to follow price movements on the continent with a time lag. However, the restraint currently shown by paper producers in the UK market could also be linked to the “Eren effect”: the Turkish Modern Karton subsidiary Eren Paper is planning to start up a new PM with a capacity of 750,000 tpy at its Shotton site in North Wales in the middle of the year.

After partly double-digit demand growth at the beginning of the year, some manufacturers of corrugated sheets and packaging reported a slight slowdown in March. This is considered unusual, as business typically picks up ahead of Easter.

As a result, lead times for sheets have normalised again: after peaks of up to six weeks, they are now in some cases back at the usual level of three to five working days, according to market participants.

The announced paper price hikes are a key concern for the corrugated board and packaging industry. Normally, increases in paper prices are one of the few ways to adjust prices for boxes. Depending on the underlying price and level of implementation, the currently announced price hikes for corrugated case materials correspond to an increase in packaging prices of around 4 to 6 per cent, with some sources even mentioning up to 10 per cent.

However, while higher paper costs are usually translated into higher sheet prices without delay, it is often more difficult to pass these costs on to packaging buyers, and this process is often subject to a time lag. Companies with index-based quarterly or half-year contracts are under particular pressure, as they must initially absorb higher paper prices themselves until the next adjustment at the beginning of July. In addition, it remains uncertain whether the increases can be fully implemented in the market.

“Under these circumstances, cost savings will have to move back into focus,” said one market observer. In addition to rising energy and operating costs, the increase in the UK minimum wage from 1 April is placing particular strain on smaller converters.

Many market participants are concerned that they will face higher paper and packaging prices, as well as weakening demand, in April. The rise in oil prices is fuelling inflation and dampening consumption. At the same time, ongoing uncertainty itself is acting as a brake on market development.

Iran war expected to dampen demand for cartonboard in the UK

The Iran war has also not spared the UK cartonboard market. Following a slight improvement in the first quarter, demand weakened noticeably in March. Both manufacturers and merchants report slower order intake and hesitant call-offs of volumes. Market participants attribute this, among other things, to rising petrol and diesel costs, which are already dampening consumer expectations.

In this environment, lead times to the UK remain short: for GD board they start at around two and a half weeks, while for GC board they are around four to five weeks.

Prices initially remained stable in March. At the same time, activity on the spot market declined, leading market participants increasingly to expect a possible trend reversal.

Over the course of the month, several European suppliers informed customers of planned adjustments. While some – particularly non-energy self-sufficient producers – are working with short-notice surcharges, in some cases already from 16 March, others are relying on conventional price increases.

The announced adjustments are often in the range of around 10 per cent. Other suppliers are more cautious, citing increases of £25 to £30 per tonne. UK buyers are currently supported by the slightly stronger pound sterling against the euro.

Asian suppliers are primarily affected by rising sea freight rates and have also announced or implemented price increases, though mostly below 10 per cent. Due to their lower starting price level, these offers remain attractive, as one buyer emphasised. What could instead encourage customers to return to European suppliers is the issue of supply chain security, another expert noted.

Market participants are increasingly focusing on inflationary effects and their potential impact on consumer spending. Despite government relief measures, the higher burden from energy prices is likely to dampen demand for consumer goods in the UK once again.

Against this backdrop, price increases are being viewed critically, particularly in the GD board segment, which has already lost significant market share to cheaper GC board as a result of the new EPR legislation in the UK. “Price increases could put additional pressure on recycled board,” one market participant said.

At the same time, alternative plastic-based packaging solutions are expected to be even more affected by cost increases. Initial price increases for PE-coated cartonboard grades are emerging and are significantly higher than those for uncoated cartonboard.

Against the backdrop of high uncertainty and volatility, fibre-based packaging could nevertheless gain in importance – despite rising prices. “If this conflict highlights anything, it is the relevance of fossil-free production and a functioning circular economy,” one market participant commented.

UK key market data						
December 2025						
in tonnes	December			January - December		
	2025	2024	%	2025	2024	%
Production						
Corrugated case materials	107,904	101,751	+ 6.0	1,391,657	1,435,852	- 3.1

Recycled Fluting	48,984	48,937	+ 0.1	670,667	710,455	- 5.6
Testliner	58,920	52,814	+ 11.6	720,990	725,397	- 0.6
Parent reels of tissue	57,386	51,469	+ 11.5	701,386	713,856	- 1.7
Other papers and boards, incl. printing and writing paper	79,657	86,780	- 8.2	1,082,448	1,137,597	- 4.8
Total paper and board	244,947	240,000	+ 2.1	3,175,491	3,287,305	- 3.4
Apparent Consumption						
Packaging paper and board	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	3,704,169	3,613,647	+ 2.5
Corrugated case materials	182,083	177,940	+ 2.3	2,429,097	2,433,695	- 0.2
Kraftliner and SC Fluting	24,248	26,766	- 9.4	389,931	389,088	+ 0.2
Recycled Fluting	61,732	59,487	+ 3.8	840,821	860,794	- 2.3
Testliner	96,103	91,687	+ 4.8	1,198,345	1,183,814	+ 1.2
Cartonboard and other board for packaging	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	1,013,582	973,763	+ 4.1
Packaging papers	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	261,489	206,189	+ 26.8
Parent reels of tissue	84,992	80,860	+ 5.1	1,096,346	1,110,605	- 1.3
Printings and writings	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	1,233,227	1,376,666	- 10.4
Uncoated mechanical	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	187,828	201,163	- 6.6
Uncoated woodfree	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	497,992	584,196	- 14.8
Coated mechanical	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	308,080	313,712	- 1.8
Coated woodfree	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	239,327	277,596	- 13.8
Other papers and boards	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	566,202	606,944	- 6.7
Total paper and board	513,518	505,046	+ 1.7	6,599,945	6,707,862	- 1.6
Exports						
Corrugated case materials	10,340	6,529	+ 58.4	132,341	142,901	- 7.4
Recycled Fluting	3,622	2,194	+ 65.1	44,819	61,614	- 27.3
Testliner	6,718	4,335	+ 55.0	87,522	81,287	+ 7.7
Other papers and boards, incl. printing and writing paper	44,365	44,442	- 0.2	591,172	592,113	- 0.2
Total paper and board	54,705	50,971	+ 7.3	723,513	735,014	- 1.6
Imports						
Corrugated case materials	84,519	82,718	+ 2.2	1,169,781	1,140,745	+ 2.5
Kraftliner and SC Fluting	24,248	26,766	- 9.4	389,931	389,088	+ 0.2
Recycled Fluting	16,370	12,744	+ 28.5	214,973	211,953	+ 1.4
Testliner	43,901	43,208	+ 1.6	564,877	539,704	+ 4.7
Parent reels of tissue	27,862	29,462	- 5.4	398,243	397,394	+ 0.2
Other papers and boards, incl. printing and writing paper	210,895	203,837	+ 3.5	2,579,942	2,617,433	- 1.4
Total paper and board	323,276	316,017	+ 2.3	4,147,966	4,155,572	- 0.2
Fibre						
Woodpulp mill usage						

Woodpulp mill usage

Sulphate Bleached Softwood	22,726	21,858	+ 4.0	283,726	306,634	- 7.5
Sulphate Bleached Hardwood	32,333	24,475	+ 32.1	385,136	347,704	+ 10.8
Other grades of woodpulp	16,923	14,885	+ 13.7	214,335	214,892	- 0.3

Woodpulp imports

Sulphate Bleached Softwood	19,417	17,305	+ 12.2	234,982	238,482	- 1.5
Sulphate Bleached Hardwood	35,508	42,209	- 15.9	431,359	448,061	- 3.7
Other grades of woodpulp	2,176	2,039	+ 6.7	29,564	25,264	+ 17.0

Recovered paper

Mill usage	203,615	200,343	+ 1.6	2,491,411	2,625,122	- 5.1
Collection	548,854	508,520	+ 7.9	6,394,384	6,297,272	+ 1.5

Source: CPI

Five European associations join call for Diwass postponement

31 March 2026 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

Eight European associations from the recycling and waste management, glass, copper and plastics industries had called at the end of January for an additional transition period for the digitalisation of administrative procedures related to transfrontier shipments of waste.

Five more organisations have now joined that appeal in a new letter to EU Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall.

They represent the European steel industry (Eurofer), the non-ferrous metals sector (European Metals), the paper and pulp industry (CEPI), extended producer responsibility systems for packaging (Expra) and plastics recovery systems (EPRO).

In the new letter, the 13 signatories repeat their call for postponing the mandatory use of the new Diwass (Digital Waste Shipment System) platform for the digital exchange of documents. The European Commission and the member states should agree that, during a transition period of at least one year, alternative means of providing documents should continue to be permitted.

Under the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR), the mandatory use of the system will take effect on 21 May. However, the European Commission, as operator of the platform, has fallen behind schedule with the technical preparations for the launch, and various questions surrounding its use remain unresolved.

The associations also renewed their call to repeal the requirement to submit the Annex VII form for shipments not subject to the notification procedure two working days before the start of the transport. In their view, this deadline is impractical and imposes disproportionate logistical constraints and administrative burdens on operators. They also argue that it should be permissible to enter estimated waste quantities before departure and only add the actual quantities after weighing at the recipient facility.



Under the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR), the mandatory use of Diwass will take effect on 21 May.

Omnifiber suspends recycling project for paper-based composite packaging in Germany

 **EUWID** + 30 March 2026 | [Stefan Lang](#) | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)



Up to 170,000 tonnes of beverage cartons and other paper-based composite packaging waste a year were to be recycled at Omnifiber's planned facility.

Omnifiber has put its planned recycling project for composite paper packaging and beverage cartons in Schmöln, Germany on hold. Citing disagreements between the financing banks and the leasing company involved, the company said that the project would not be realised as originally planned.

Omnifiber announced the plans to build the recycling plant in October 2025, with commissioning expected to start in the second half of 2026. The project had been developed

over the past three years together with partners from industry, plant engineering, government and public administration.

"We very much regret this development. Given tightening regulatory requirements for the recycling of composite packaging, Omnifiber could have made an important contribution to expanding recycling capacity," said managing director Markus Hildebrandt.

The plant was to process beverage cartons and other composite packaging materials from Germany's "yellow bin" source-separated household packaging waste collections. A processing capacity of around 170,000 tpy had been planned, with an option to expand annual throughput to up to 235,000 tpy. According to the company, it had planned to invest a sum in the tens of millions of euros.

Omnifiber open for strategic partners

The company said technical and commercial planning for the plant had been completed and that the necessary environmental permit is in place, adding that it could also take the project forward at another location.

Omnifiber is open to strategic partnerships and to further developing or potentially selling the project rights. Initial talks are already under way, Mr Hildebrandt said.

The project was intended to create additional industrial recycling capacity for composite paper packaging in Germany, where capacity for post-consumer liquid paperboard packaging has declined in recent years. Following the closure of the Delkeskamp paper mill in Nortrup in 2022 and the Heinzel mill in Raubling in May 2024, the Niederauer Mühle paper mill is now the only remaining recycler of beverage cartons in Germany. There is still no significant domestic processing capacity for paper-based composite household packaging.

Omnifiber continues to see a need for additional recycling capacity, especially in light of new obligations that will be introduced under the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) and national legislation in Germany. A recent government draft would introduce a minimum recycling quota of 80 per cent for beverage cartons and a 70 per cent quota for other types of composite packaging if adopted.

Mr Hildebrandt said higher recycling targets for composite packaging would need to be matched by a parallel expansion of industrial infrastructure. Without further investment in suitable facilities, a growing gap could emerge between regulatory targets and available recycling capacity.

UPM and Sappi notify EU Commision of their JV plans

27 March 2026 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

UPM and Sappi notified the European Commission of their plans to form a joint venture on 19 March 2026.

The European Commission subsequently launched a market consultation and set 28 April 2026 as the deadline for a preliminary decision on how to proceed further with the merger control proceedings.



Domtar to halt production at Coosa Pines fluff pulp mill

 **EUWID** + 27 March 2026 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

Forest products company Domtar will idle operations at its US fluff pulp mill Coosa Pines in May amid challenging markets conditions and high costs.

Domtar has announced its decision to indefinitely idle production at the company's Coosa Pines mill in US state of Alabama.



What does the future of Domtar's Coosa Pines fluff pulp mill look like? (symbolic image)

The company attributes the decision to challenging market conditions and the difficulty of running a maintenance- and operating cost-intensive mill under such conditions.

The aged assets of the Coosa Pine mill were "underscoring the need for this strategic decision," Domtar said. The company was taking steps for an orderly wind-down of production and was committed to supporting employees through career transition resources and benefits guidance during this period, Domtar added.

Coosa Pines mill was founded as a newsprint mill in the 1950s and has been producing pulp since 1976. The mill has a production capacity of 270,000 tpy of fluff pulp and employs 275 people.

Domtar was acquired by Paper Excellence in November 2021. In October 2024, the group rebranded as Domtar, with the combined operations of legacy Paper Excellence, Domtar and Resolute Forest Products now doing business under the Domtar name.

Over the past few years, the Paper Excellence (Domtar) group has taken several significant decisions affecting its production footprint, especially in the pulp segment in Canada: The company divested its 325,000 tpy Dryden NBSK-pulp mill in Ontario in 2023 to the US tissue producer First Quality Enterprises. The Espanola pulp and paper mill in Ontario, which featured a production capacity of 280,000 tpy of NBSK market pulp and 60,000 tpy of specialty paper, was idled indefinitely in 2023 and sold to the industrial assets redeveloper BMI Group in October 2025.

Towards the end of last year, Domtar also permanently closed the 380,000 tpy Crofton NBSK pulp mill in British Columbia.

Sappi announces further price increases for all paper grades

25 March 2026 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

Sappi has announced plans to implement an additional price increase across all paper grades.



Following its recent price increase announcements Sappi says it will implement further increases of €40/t for its mechanical coated reels, €50/t for all of its woodfree products and €65/t for all its packaging and specialty products range.

The increases are to be applied from 15 April 2026 onwards.

The company also says the evolving situation in the Middle East may require additional measures such as temporary surcharges, should cost developments continue to escalate.

Martin Taylor becomes Managing Director of VPK Packaging UK & Ireland

25 March 2026 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 14/2026](#)

Belgian paper and packaging group VPK has named [Martin Taylor](#) as Managing Director of its UK & Ireland operations.

VPK said the appointment underlines the strategic importance of the UK and Irish markets, where the group operates several sites supplying locally produced corrugated packaging to customers in sectors such as fast-moving consumer goods, beverages, retail and e-commerce.



Martin Taylor, Managing Director VPK Packaging UK & Ireland

According to the company, Mr Taylor has more than 25 years of senior leadership experience in the food, fresh produce, dairy and packaging sectors. His background includes responsibility for multi-site manufacturing operations as well as business transformation initiatives.

[Patrick Leclercq](#), Divisional CEO Corrugated Board at VPK Group, said: "Martin is a highly experienced leader with a deep understanding of manufacturing, operations, and customer-focused growth. His experience across food and packaging, combined with his people-first leadership style, makes him ideally placed to lead our UK and Ireland business into its next phase."

Mr Taylor said: "I am delighted to be joining VPK at such an exciting time for the business. VPK has a strong reputation for manufacturing excellence, sustainability, and customer focus. I would also like to recognise the work Paul Barber has done as Interim Managing Director, supporting the business and its people through this period and helping ensure a smooth transition."

Valmet to streamline footprint in Sweden and Poland

24 March 2026 | [Nouredine Guimouza](#) | 🕒 ~ 1 min | Published in issue 14/2026

Finnish engineering company Valmet has announced extensive cost-cutting measures. These include both the shutdown of production at its Sundsvall mill and job reductions across several sites. Overall, up to 355 positions are affected by the plans.



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Valmet plans to streamline its operations in the Biomaterial and Solutions unit.

In a press release, Valmet said it had initiated change negotiations within its Global Supply unit concerning the proposed shutdown of manufacturing operations in

Sundsvall. The company is also consulting employee representatives on planned operational adjustments at its Gothenburg facility in Sweden and at its site in Jelenia Góra, Poland. According to the company, the plans could affect up to 170 positions in Sundsvall, up to 55 in Gothenburg and up to 130 in Jelenia Góra.

The company aims to optimise its manufacturing footprint as part of its "Lead the Way" strategy and its broader programme to enhance supply-chain efficiency. Through its Global Supply unit, Valmet is targeting cost savings of around €100m by 2030, mainly through procurement and logistics improvements as well as production optimisation. The currently announced footprint measures are expected to generate annual net cost savings of approximately €20m once fully implemented, with the full run-rate anticipated by early 2027.

According to the company, the Biomaterial Solutions and Services business area supplies complete production lines, key process islands, machine sections and lifecycle services to the pulp, paper, packaging, tissue and energy industries. The unit is divided into three segments: Pulp, Energy and Circularity; Packaging; and Paper and Tissue. Valmet employs around 18,500 people worldwide and operates in 40 countries. In the 2025 financial year, the company generated net sales of €5.2bn.

