

Papacks secures industrial hemp supply for the production of packaging

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German company Papacks Sales, which specialises on the production of moulded fibre packaging made out of hemp, continues on its growth path. Following a partnership with US Element 6 Dynamics announced a year ago, another step will now follow in Europe. Papacks reports it has secured raw material supply on an industrial scale thanks to its cooperation with Ukrainian supplier Ukrainian Hemp. In spite of the challenging circumstances resulting from the war, Ukrainian Hemp managed to install its own converting unit in Ukraine and to start cultivating more than 5,000 ha of industrial hemp, Papacks said.

Tahsin Dag, Papacks founder and CEO, told EUWID that the aim was to attain an annual industrial hemp availability of up to 500,000 t in the medium term. Currently, Ukrainian Hemp runs one facility with around 20 employees in Cherkasy, which is to be expanded in cooperation with Papacks to include up to five production modules.

The company clarifies that it is currently not Papacks itself but rather specialised paper mills that turn the hemp biomass into convertible fibre material. Reasons of logistics and process technology are primarily responsible for this procedure, explains the company.

Papacks plans to launch the first products made from industrial hemp in late 2025. These will include a transport box for the fish industry as well as various inlay components for specialty packaging, among other products.

Many paper and packaging businesses are not willing to invest at present

Mr Dag explained that end products made from hemp were superior to conventional raw materials used for producing moulded fibre packaging in almost all regards, e.g. with a view to their carbon footprint, their fibre quality, their pulp yield per hectare and their resource conservation.

Hemp fibres – be it as a moulded components or as paper – were completely recyclable and could easily be disposed of via the existing paper recycling stream and, thanks to their long fibres, even increased the quality of the recycled paper, Mr Dag said. Therefore, hemp fibres were recyclable without any limitations, the CEO added. Moreover, packaging made from hemp fibres meet the requirements of the EU packaging regulation (PPWR) and of international standards of food and pharmaceutical.

Current challenges rather concerned industrial compatibility, reported Mr Dag. Industrial-scale processing requires special

machinery, or at least adjustments of existing equipment. He added that many paper and packaging companies were presently not yet prepared to make such investments.

Another aspect was the regulatory past of industrial hemp, Mr Dag said. In spite of the fact that it did not contain THC, international logistics of hemp products had so far been a big challenge, he explained, either due to customs regulations, safety checks or classifications that used to equate hemp with the THC-containing “drug plant” for a long time. However, these obstacles had largely been removed in the last years, reported the CEO.

First US production facility to be completed this year

In May 2024 Papacks announced its collaboration with US Element 6 Dynamics, which aims at constructing ten integrated production plants for moulded and thermoformed packaging made from industrial hemp in the US. This partnership is currently doing business as a joint venture named RENW.

According to current plans, the first production facility is scheduled to be completed in the course of this year. The other nine plants are reported to have entered the planning and evaluation phase.

Papacks has around 120 employees and currently operates production facilities in Arnstadt and Cologne in Germany and Appingedam in the Netherlands.

SCA reports growth in sales and earnings in Q1 2025

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Swedish forest products company SCA recorded a 13 per cent year-on-year increase in first quarter sales to SEK5.16bn, driven by higher selling prices and delivery volumes in wood products and pulp. Ebitda rose by 3 per cent to SEK1.65bn. SCA pointed to higher raw material costs compared to the previous year, but the company could largely offset the negative impact of rising costs, thanks to a high degree of self-sufficiency – primarily in wood raw materials, but also in energy and logistics – as well as strict cost management. Operating profit rose by 4 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2024 to SEK1.12bn, while net profit increased by 1 percent to SEK800m.

Cash flow from operating activities fell in the first quarter of 2025 to SEK485m, compared to SEK677m in the same quarter of the previous year or SEK1.27bn in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Global pulp demand remained solid in the opening quarter of 2025, and NBSK pulp producers were able to implement price increases in Europe and the USA. Thanks to higher deliveries and better prices for NBSK pulp, divisional revenue rose by 9 per cent to SEK1.94bn, while operating profit fell by 4 per cent compared to the same quarter of 2024 to SEK148m. Higher selling prices for NBSK had a positive effect on earnings while there was a negative impact from higher wood raw material costs and lower selling prices for CTMP, the company specified.

In the containerboard business, sales rose by 2 per cent to SEK1.67bn despite a 7 per cent decline in deliveries. Ebitda increased 70 percent year-on-year to SEK239m, and the containerboard division posted an operating profit of SEK41m after reporting an operating loss of SEK54m in Q1 2024.

Weak growth in the European manufacturing sector had a negative impact on demand for packaging papers while demand in e-commerce and for consumer goods increased, the company explained. Compared to the previous quarter, SCA's deliveries rose in Q1 2025, but were below the volumes reached in Q1 2024.

SCA recorded a decline in containerboard prices compared to the previous quarter, but succeeded in slightly raising prices again towards the end of the first quarter and expects these increases to be better reflected in the second quarter.

The company says determined efforts to gradually increase production at the plants where SCA has made strategic investments are progressing and are expected to gradually generate higher production volumes and better cash flow in the coming years. Market conditions remain challenging, partly because higher tariffs and new trade barriers created uncertainty and risks.

SCA results		
million SEK	January - March	
	2025	2024
Key figures		
Sales	5,161	4,558
EBITDA	1,651	1,596
Operating result	1,119	1,077
Net result	800	789
Business area review		
Forest		
Sales	2,486	2,169
EBITDA	879	970
Operating result	815	910
Wood		
Sales	1,498	1,093
EBITDA	236	111
Operating result	165	44
Deliveries, 1,000 m ³	524	403
Pulp		
Sales	1,940	1,774
EBITDA	320	323
Operating result	148	154
Deliveries, 1,000 t	257	233
Containerboard		
Sales	1,674	1,635
EBITDA	239	141
Operating result	41	- 54
Deliveries kraftliner, 1,000 t	235	252
Renewable Energy		
Sales	603	636
EBITDA	134	177
Operating result	116	158
Deliveries own wind power, GWh	49	45
Source: SCA		

UPM reports lower Q1 profits on stable sales

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UPM closed the first quarter of the new financial year with stable sales and lower profits than in the same quarter in 2024. Lower average prices and increased costs put Ebitda in the first three months down to €421m (Q1 2024: €489m), operating profit fell to €198m (€354m) and net profit to €143m (€279m). Sales remained almost stable at €2.65bn (€2.64bn). Extraordinary charges and impairments resulting from the planned closure of the Ettringen plant in Germany, totalling €62m, reduced profits in the first quarter. In addition, restructuring expenses for the Communications Papers division totalled €11m. The division was the only one to post an operating loss. Paper deliveries in Communications Papers also declined due to market conditions. UPM says that demand for graphic paper in Europe was 8 per cent lower in the first quarter of 2025 than in the previous year.

The pulp businesses (UPM Fibres), now UPM's largest business area, benefited from the gradual recovery in demand in China. Average sales prices were stable or slightly higher in Europe compared to the fourth quarter of 2024. The division's deliveries, sales and profits developed positively and account for more than half of the company's operating profit in the first quarter.

Despite higher sales, UPM Raflatac was unable to maintain its profits from the same quarter of the previous year due to lower prices and higher costs, which could not be offset by higher deliveries. The acquisition of British manufacturer and distributor of graphic solutions Metamark (annual sales: £65m) was positive for the division. Raflatac also benefited from the growing market for self-adhesive labelling materials.

The Speciality Papers division also recorded a slight drop in profits, but otherwise performed "robust", also thanks to lower production costs.

UPM Biochemicals is set to start up its biorefinery in Leuna. UPM expects commercial production to start in the second half of this year and explains that there is still interest from customers for the plant's products. There are potential sales opportunities that represent several times the plant's annual production.

The escalating international trade conflict since the end of the first quarter is spreading uncertainty in the markets, UPM comments on the current tariff dispute between the USA and its major trading partners. The direct impact of the tariffs on UPM's business is relatively limited and it is expected that tariffs can be passed on to prices. However, the uncertainties associated with the tariff policy could affect trade in general, unsettle consumers and disrupt supply chains. The scale of the trade dispute also poses the threat of exchange rate changes, the company says.

UPM results

million €	January - March	
	2025	2024
Key figures		
Sales	2,646	2,640
Comparable EBITDA	421	489
Operating result	198	354
Net result	143	279
Business area review		
UPM Fibres		
Sales	1,010	861
Comparable EBITDA	202	193
Operating result	126	108
Pulp deliveries, 1,000 t	1,433	1,185
UPM Energy		
Sales	173	210
Comparable EBITDA	51	88
Operating result	49	87
Electricity deliveries, GWh	2,743	2,945
UPM Raflatac		
Sales	434	409
Comparable EBITDA	49	60
Operating result	27	51
UPM Specialty Papers		
Sales	374	397
Comparable EBITDA	59	72
Operating result	43	51
Paper deliveries, 1,000 t	368	387
UPM Communication Papers		
Sales	664	802
Comparable EBITDA	65	95
Operating result	-22	100
Paper deliveries, 1,000 t	731	879
UPM Plywood		
Sales	103	98
Comparable EBITDA	12	16
Operating result	6	10
Plywood deliveries, 1,000 m ³	120	110
UPM Other Operations		
Sales	166	153
Comparable EBITDA	-12	-20
Operating result	-25	-34

Source: UPM

Source: UPM

Heinzel Group reports robust results for 2024

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Austrian Heinzel Group has recently published its results for the 2024 financial year, reporting progress in strategic growth and sustainability. "A key milestone was the start-up of PM 6 at the Steyrermühl site, which was integrated into the group as of 1 January 2024," said group CEO Sebastian Heinzel. In addition, the company exited SC paper production and started the PM 11 conversion project at the Laakirchen mill in Austria in late 2024. The rebuilt PM 11 kicked off production of recycled corrugated case material in early April 2025, expanding the group's packaging paper production capacity by 470,000 tpy. Investments in property, plant, and equipment amounted to €107.8m, according to Heinzel.

The Heinzel Group produced 1.31 million t of pulp and paper in 2024. Deliveries totalled 3.17 million t and included own production as well as traded products.

Group appoints new CFO

Effective 1 June, Heinzel has appointed Daniela Lorenzer as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the group. Together with CEO Sebastian Heinzel and COO Karl Achleitner, who joined on 1 September 2024, she will be part of the new top management team.

Heinzel Group results		
million €	2024	2023
Key figures		
Sales	2,164.4	2,116.9
Operating result	29.0	60.4
Net result from continued operations	7.9	38.5
Net result from discontinued operations	-17.5	-37.5
Production (1,000 t)	1,306	1,420
Market pulp	425	443
Paper	881	978
Deliveries (1,000 t)	3,166	3,342
Heinzel products	1,281	1,433
Trades goods	1,885	1,910
Source: Heinzel		

Insurance settlement ups Norske Skog's earnings in Q1

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Norske Skog has ended the first quarter of 2025 with clearly better results than in the same period last year and in the preceding quarter. Net profit reached NOK401m after a loss of NOK328m in last year's first quarter. Ebitda and operating profit also increased significantly to NOK612m and NOK489m respectively. Sales went up 38 per cent year-on-year to NOK3.1bn.

One main factor driving up earnings was the insurance payout following a rock slide at the Saugbrugs mill, Norske Skog says. The company received a final settlement amounting to NOK560m. However, increased market shares for both publication paper and packaging paper also played their part, Norske Skog believes. Despite low utilisation rates especially in the newsprint and magazine paper industries, deliveries remained high, it added.

Norske Skog delivered 273,000 t of publication paper from its European operations in the first quarter, which was 18,000 t less than in the fourth quarter of 2024 due to an unplanned shutdown at the Skogn mill, but 10,000 t more than in the first quarter of 2024. Capacity utilisation also increased year-on-year from 85 per cent to 91 per cent.

The results of the Publication Paper Europe division were very positive on the whole. The division moved back to the black, with operating result increasing from a loss of NOK42m in the first quarter last year to a profit of NOK562m this year. Besides the insurance payout, Norske Skog also cited slightly higher selling prices due to product mix effects and lower fixed costs.

Norske Skog's publication paper business in Australasia, by contrast, improved its performance year-on-year, but still recorded losses in the first quarter. It was reported as discontinued operations as a sales process was initiated in December and the last remaining publication paper mill in the region – the Boyer LWC paper mill – was sold in April 2025.

Packaging paper business not yet operating profitably

Norske Skog was quite satisfied with the performance of its packaging paper division, although the business still recorded losses in the first quarter. Despite excess capacity in the market, the company was able to increase deliveries, it says. Norske Skog entered the containerboard market in 2022 with the commissioning of the rebuilt paper machine at the Bruck mill. The PM is now nearing full capacity, which the company expects to reach during the first half of the year.

According to Norske Skog, the business booked losses mainly because quarterly fixed costs of NOK60-65m were shifted from the publication paper to the packaging paper division as one of the two PMs at the Golbey mill has been rebuilt for containboard production. The rebuilt machine is expected to be commissioned at the end of April or the first days of May.

Average selling prices for recycled containerboard were slightly lower in the first quarter compared to the fourth quarter of 2024, Norske Skog adds. However, price increases were announced and implemented towards the end of the quarter and are expected to have full impact in the second quarter.

But recovered paper prices are also anticipated to grow in the second quarter. On the whole, Norske Skog expects an uncertain and volatile operating environment with pressure on profitability in the coming months. The company therefore wants to place particular emphasis on reducing production costs and working capital.

Final decision for Saugbrugs yet to be taken

At the Saugbrugs mill, Norske Skog is still considering two options after a rockslide damaged the site's SC paper machine PM 6 in 2023. The company is considering to convert the machine and start producing BCTMP (bleached chemi-thermomechanical pulp) at the site. However, repairing and restoring the PM 6 for SC paper production is also still a possibility. Both project studies are currently under review, Norske Skog says. A final decision is to be taken during the first half of the year.

Norske Skog results		
million NOK	January - March	
	2025	2024
Key figures		
Sales	3,101	2,250
EBITDA	612	150
Operating profit	489	-91
Net result	401	-328
Business area review		
Publication Paper Europe		
Sales	2,778	2,058
EBITDA	649	166
Operating result	562	-42
Production, 1,000 t	274	272
Deliveries, 1,000 t	273	262
Capacity utilisation, %	91	85
Publication Paper Australasia*		
Sales	444	438
EBITDA	-21	-74
Operating result	-30	-86
Packaging Paper		
Sales	255	177
EBITDA	-35	-7
Operating profit	-67	-35
Production, 1,000 t	47	40
Deliveries, 1,000 t	48	38
Capacity utilisation, %	100	86
Other activities		
Sales	208	158
EBITDA	-2	-9
* Discontinued operations, sale was closed in April 2025		
Source: Norske Skog		

Stora Enso to reorganise business divisions

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Stora Enso plans to introduce a new organisational structure with seven profit-and-loss (P&L) responsible business divisions to reflect the realigned focus on its core renewable packaging business. Following implementation, the group's renewable packaging business will comprise four business divisions with P&L responsibility that account for roughly 60 per cent of Stora Enso's 2024 full-year sales, viz. Food Service / Liquid Board, Cartonboard, Containerboard and Packaging Solutions.

The group's remaining businesses accounting for approximately 40 per cent of Stora Enso's 2024 full year sales continue to be divided into three P&L responsible business areas: Biomaterials, Wood Products and Forest. In addition to their respective businesses, they support Stora Enso's renewable packaging products through wood sourcing and their important supply of raw material.

The new flatter and streamlined organisation will increase customer focus, drive operational efficiency with increased integration, reduce complexity and enhance the group's performance culture, Stora Enso explains.

To strengthen operational and supply synergies, sawmills and building solutions sites in the Nordic countries will operationally belong to their respective geographically closest board or pulp production site. Central European building solutions sites and sawmills will remain in the Wood Products business area. Customers of the Wood Products business area will continue to be served by its global sales and customer service network.

The new planned organisation removes one management layer and represents a further decentralisation of P&L responsibility closer to customers and operations. As a consequence of the change, Stora Enso will have seven P&L responsible business areas. Within the business areas, there are a total of 21 P&L responsible business units. The businesses will be served by efficient group-wide functions.

Stora Enso's new organisational structure will take effect on 1 July 2025. The group will, however, retain its current external reporting structure for the business divisions.

First quarter results improved compared to previous year

In the first quarter of 2025, Stora Enso posted improved results compared to the same quarter last year. Ebitda increased to €320m (Q1 2024: €298m), operating profit to €171m (€141m) and profit after taxes to €107m (€77m). Quarterly sales rose to €2.36bn (2.16bn). Stora Enso explained in its comments on the results that this was due to higher prices and sales volumes, more

favourable exchange rates and the company's efforts to reduce costs and increase value added to offset higher fibre costs. All business areas reported positive adjusted Ebit for the first time since the third quarter of 2022, the company said.

In its largest business area, Packaging Materials, Stora Enso reported slightly improved demand, albeit still at a relatively low level, particularly in Europe. However, higher sales prices had a positive impact. The Packaging Solutions division increased its deliveries, sales and operating profit. However, price pressure due to overcapacity had a negative impact here. Results in the Biomaterials business area remained stable despite lower pulp prices, lower sales and higher variable costs.

Stora Enso results		
million €	January - March	
	2025	2024
Key figures		
Sales	2,362	2,164
Adjusted EBITDA	320	298
Operating result	171	141
Net result	107	77
Business area review		
Packaging Materials		
Sales	1,159	1,100
Adjusted EBITDA	131	128
Operating result	60	47
Packaging Solutions		
Sales	239	224
Adjusted EBITDA	22	18
Operating result	5	-4
Biomaterials		
Sales	392	374
Adjusted EBITDA	72	90
Operating result	41	58
Wood Products		
Sales	418	349
Adjusted EBITDA	10	1
Operating result	1	-10
Forest		
Sales	836	659
Adjusted EBITDA	93	80
Operating result	76	63
Other		
Sales	49	57
Adjusted EBIT	-14	-11
Source: Stora Enso		

April brings little change to prices on Germany's fine paper market

Second round of talks this year in progress for kraftliner

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German fine paper prices saw little action in April, with price increases unveiled by manufacturers taking hold in only exceptional cases. As expected, April was proving to be a transitional month. Some negotiations were not set to take place until May due to reasons including the Easter holidays. Pressure on the cost front is raising the risk that fine paper producers will pull the ripcord and limit their portfolios.

Kraftliner manufacturers have launched the second round of price talks this year. Initial estimates suggest that higher prices will apply on the German market – for at least unbleached kraftliner – with effect from 1 May. That being said, prices are not expected to climb as much as producers wanted. The corrugated board industry apparently recorded a slight growth in sales volumes in the first three months of this year. Sources said that e-commerce had picked up steam again, with all other areas showing marginal improvements. Companies felt that the fact that demand had not cooled further was a positive step, raising hopes of another improvement in the weeks and months ahead.

Fine paper producers embroiled in a tug-of-war over prices

Woodfree coated and uncoated paper manufacturers are struggling to raise prices as they grapple with cost pressure on the one hand and surplus supply on the other. They are currently targeting mark-ups of 5-10 per cent or €40-60/t during April. So far, though, little has happened. As expected, April is turning out to be a transitional month. Market players fear that their plans might “fizzle out” if it takes several weeks for higher prices to take hold or a few competitors ditch their demands.

For their part, buyers told EUWID that they had already had a few orders for May and June confirmed at unchanged or even lower prices. Sources said that, so far, discussions following announcements of price increases had been held with just a fraction of suppliers. The Easter holidays were among the reasons why some talks were not scheduled to take place until May. The vast majority of buyers think that price hikes are possible here and there but do not believe that they will be sustained in the long term. Customers certainly acknowledged paper mills' need to charge more, especially as cost pressure throughout the entire value chain was making companies less willing to compromise and raising the risk that fine paper producers would pull the rip cord and limit their portfolios. Other buyers want to sit back and wait with ordering since, they claimed, they could always source paper at short notice.

Paper producers told EUWID that stable prices had generally been set in stone until the end of April at most, with no agreements extending beyond then. Quarter-long contracts were hardly on the table. Insiders said that demand had picked up slightly in recent weeks in advance of higher prices taking hold.

Paper manufacturers are concerned about the tariff war. A package of tariffs announced by the US President, which has been postponed for 90 days, might cause chaos in global paper markets and intensify cut-throat competition. Tariffs of 20 per cent are set to apply to imports from the EU in the future. Last year, Europe shipped more than 500,000 t of fine paper to the US with coated fine paper exports from Germany making up 165,000 t alone.

On the other hand, the German coalition government agreement brokered by the CDU, CSU and SPD parties could provide positive momentum. The printing industry association Bvdm described the coalition party's commitment not to introduce any additional advertising bans as a step that strengthened the freedom of advertising. The printing industry anticipates favourable impacts on brochure and insert advertising. The printing industry association also welcomed a planned reduction in energy costs by capping grid fees and abolishing the gas storage levy. However, the association raised questions about how the coalition parties were handling collective bargaining autonomy. The paper industry is also critical of this point. As an energy-intensive sector, though, the paper industry welcomed planned reductions in energy costs.

Tariffs might lead to shifts in kraftliner shipments

Kraftliner producers have followed in the footsteps of recycled corrugated case material manufacturers by announcing a second round of price hikes this year. Some insiders told EUWID that all primary fibre-based containerboard grades were affected, although semi-chemical fluting was not explicitly mentioned in the notices. Over the past two decades, semi-chemical fluting has only gone it alone on the price front in exceptional cases and generally follows developments in brown and white-top kraftliner prices, according to experts. Companies said that there was a high level of reliance on "real" semi-chemical fluting and little opportunity for substitution in a few areas. Yet, manufacturers were not capitalising on this. That being said, they had already had to cede significant amounts of substitutes for semi-chemical fluting.

Brown and white-top kraftliner producers were still in price hike discussions with their customers in the last week of April. Initial estimates suggest that at least unbleached kraftliner will become more expensive with effect from 1 May. None of the experts interviewed by EUWID expects prices to rise by the full amount sought by producers, which was mostly in the region of €60/t. Kraftliner manufacturers simply pointed to their "full order books" and "unsatisfactory margins." There was only a limited number of European producers on the kraftliner market, leaving customers with few options to move around orders in order to avoid digging deeper into their pockets, insiders said. As this issue went to press, it was unclear if brown kraftliner prices would also edge higher or if producers would wait to see what happens to white recycled corrugated case material prices.

Kraftliner in grammages of more than 150 g has been placed on the list of products that the US plans to hit with tariffs and that will be subject to counter-tariffs from Europe. The EU plans to introduce counter-tariffs of 25 per cent on these imports. As previously mentioned during reporting on the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), the amount of US kraftliner imported into Germany is

relatively small in terms of the whole. Recent figures, however, showed that Italy imported around 200,000 t from the US. These quantities could become significantly more expensive for customers and may eventually be shifted to European suppliers, giving rise to a battle for kraftliner in Europe, EUWID sources suspect. At this point, companies could only speculate whether the tariffs might fuel panic buying, noting that demand was good but not overwhelming.

“Good” corrugated board demand does not mean the same as it did before the pandemic

German corrugated board companies have adapted to circumstances over the last few years. In interviews, sources told EUWID that demand and the market were rather good and satisfactory. When asked about the specific trend in volumes, all companies reported growth of 0.5 per cent to less than 1 per cent in the first quarter. Before the pandemic, the industry would have been highly dissatisfied with such figures and described them as more than unsatisfactory. Given the current realities, though, market players were largely satisfied. Growth is not especially strong in any of the different sectors. E-commerce business has reportedly picked up again, while others showed marginal improvements and contributed to the overall outcome in this period. A few companies said that, even if demand was stronger, they were unable to process more orders because of staffing shortages affecting the corrugated board industry, too.

Businesses welcomed the fact that demand had not fallen any further, raising hopes of an improvement in the weeks and months ahead. However, the tariff war between the US and the rest of the world shattered these hopes. Corrugated board is not an “export product”, but anything that is not purchased, and therefore not packaged, has a negative impact on transport packaging manufacturers, one respondent says. Hardly anyone was willing to speculate on how strongly tariffs could affect the corrugated board industry.

Firms in the corrugated board industry are concerned that China might look for alternative sales avenues because of high US tariffs. A few platforms are already delivering tens of thousands of tonnes of products to Germany each day, in a sign of what might be to come and how much might not be bought within Europe instead. As things currently stood, though, everything remained up in the air, insiders said.

Kraftliner would be affected by potential tariffs and counter-tariffs, which might have an indirect impact on the German market, as well. During talks related to the EUDR, it was already clear that German companies used kraftliner from the US, although these imports played a minor role in terms of overall demand. As noted above, the situation would be much more challenging for Italian companies if Europe imposed counter-tariffs on kraftliner imports. Italian buyers would have to shift their orders to European suppliers, which might have knock-on effects on demand, pricing and thus German corrugated board manufacturers, as well. Corrugated board manufacturers are not mentioning any problems with the supply of recycled corrugated case material and do not expect any impact if counter-tariffs are imposed.

Price plans unveiled by containerboard mills are viewed as a double-edged sword. On the one hand, corrugated board companies' margins are already under severe pressure and have no leeway for additional costs. On the other hand, price hikes for corrugated case material prevented corrugated board packaging prices from falling any further. Price wars waged by packaging producers in

recent months with the goal of drumming up business had recently pushed average prices on the corrugated board market lower and lower, industry insiders reported.

German government cuts economic growth forecast

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Germany's economy is forecast to continue stagnating in 2025. In its spring projection, presented by Robert Habeck, the acting Minister of Economic Affairs, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) lowered Germany's growth forecast to 0.0 per cent in 2025, down from its previous forecast of 0.3 per cent. In 2026, the BMWK expects the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to increase slightly by 1.0 per cent. Before, the prognosis was 1.1 per cent growth in 2026.

On the occasion of the federal press conference held on 24 April, Mr Habeck underlined that the major reason for this development lay in Donald Trump's trade policy and its implications for Germany. He added that further factors explaining the lower prognosis included the phase of political and economic uncertainty caused by the end of the coalition government of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), the Free Democratic Party (FDP), and The Greens in November 2024. After the coalition between the SPD and The Greens, which is currently still acting in Germany, had lost its majority in parliament, hardly any initiatives were put into practice in order to counter stagnation by legislative and other appropriate measures, Mr Habeck said. However, he attributed the decline primarily to the consequences the US taxes would have for Germany's highly export-oriented economy.

Paper sector is a good economic indicator

Germany's paper industry also depends on the development of the economy as a whole. "I think the paper industry is a good economic indicator for what happens in Germany at present. We can see that the economic situation has remained tense. This is why the prevailing sentiment is challenging as well," Hans-Christoph Gallenkamp, president of Die Papierindustrie, the association of German paper mills, said in a statement to the *ZDF heute journal* television news programme broadcast.

UK recovered paper market shows extreme price movement in April, has mixed expectations for May

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The British recovered paper market was especially volatile in April – in particular for the ordinary grades mixed paper and board (1.02) and old corrugated containers (1.05). At the beginning of the month, there were already considerable price increases relative to March’s levels, often as much as £10-15/t. This upward trend then turned into a real price rally as the month progressed.

EUWID Price Watch Recovered Paper UK				
April 2025				
Prices in £ per tonne	April 2025	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024
	£	€*	£	£
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	55 - 90	64 - 105	35 - 70	40 - 65
Mixed paper and board (1.02), export	55 - 95	64 - 111	50 - 83	55 - 75
Old corrugated containers (1.05)	120 - 128	140 - 150	95 - 110	85 - 108
Old corrugated containers (1.05), export	115 - 132	135 - 154	100 - 115	105 - 115
Magazines (1.06) [†]	95 - 140	111 - 164	95 - 140	90 - 135
Sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) [†]	85 - 110	99 - 129	85 - 110	70 - 90
Newspapers (2.01) [†]	95 - 130	111 - 152	95 - 130	90 - 130
Sorted office paper (2.05)	160 - 175	187 - 205	160 - 170	140 - 155
Multiphase	165 - 180	193 - 211	155 - 170	140 - 165
White newspaper (3.14)	200 - 230	234 - 269	190 - 220	190 - 230
White woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01)	380 - 420	445 - 491	360 - 400	370 - 400

* Exchange rate as of 25 April 2025: £1 = €1.17

[†] includes exports and non-paper applications

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Prices ex works, material sorted and in bales

EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information.

In April, peak prices of up to £135-140/t were being charged for grade 1.05, while the highest prices for grade 1.02 were around £100/t, according to market participants. The highest prices were being paid by paper producers from Continental Europe and Turkey. On occasion, British paper producers were paying as much as £130/t.

In the second half of the month, the market started to shift noticeably. Numerous European paper producers had scaled back or idled their production over the Easter holidays while complaining about recovered paper prices “getting out of hand”. Inventories of recovered paper were quite full, according to insiders. Consequently, some orders were cancelled. Suppliers said they then had difficulty finding new takers for the freed-up volumes – especially since demand from Asia was also declining. Thus, some sales were made at prices of less than £100.

High prices push Asian paper producers out of the market

Producers from India and Southeast Asia, on the other hand, backed off early on when the market prices rose above levels they were willing to pay. Chinese buyers largely suspended purchasing for their mills outside of China. This was attributed to the ongoing uncertainty in the tariff conflict with the USA, which had prompted many factories in China to scale down or halt production. Customers from Indonesia were the only overseas buyers still placing larger orders for recovered paper.

For supermarket paper and board (1.04) , prices in April ranged from £105-120/t.

There are mixed expectations for the month of May: Some experts anticipate a return to March levels, which would represent a dramatic drop in prices. They point to lower US recovered paper prices as well as weak demand from Asia and Europe.

Others believe prices could be slightly below the level achieved at the end of April, meaning around £115-120 for old corrugated containers (1.05) and £80-90 for mixed paper and board (1.02).

These respondents note there will be numerous bank holidays in Europe in May, including two in the UK. Moreover, the available volumes remain below expected levels. The volumes collected under contracts with retail chains have dropped off by 15-18 per cent, according to one market participant. Against this backdrop and given their plans to raise prices for finished paper, many paper producers are likely to attempt to keep recovered paper prices stable in May, EUWID was told.

However, the geopolitical uncertainty means the market environment remains extremely volatile. "It has rarely been so difficult to forecast the price trend," one insider told EUWID.

Deinking grades stable but under pressure

On the market for the deinking grades used in graphic paper production, there were opposing tendencies in April: The market for finished paper was weak, while recovered paper prices were rising sharply. Ultimately, though, buyers were able to keep prices largely stable. The majority of market participants viewed the price surge as temporary. A few suppliers deliberately avoided price increases so as not to jeopardise longstanding customer relationships. However, if quotes for mixed paper stay at the levels recently reached, price hikes for sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) would be unavoidable in order to guarantee continuous and cost-covering production, EUWID was told.

Rising prices for woodfree grades and pulp substitutes

In the market for woodfree grades and pulp substitutes, prices ticked higher in April. Sorted office paper (2.05) and multigrade rose by £5-10/t. For multigrade in particular, exports to Germany resulted in price hikes and then domestic converters – worried about the growing competition from abroad – followed suit.

Industry experts expect prices to stay at the current high levels in the coming weeks or even to rise further, as a result of the bank holiday effect and low collection volumes. An uptick in document destruction activity following the start of the UK's new fiscal year in April could relieve supply pressures. However, these volumes are not expected to hit market for a few weeks, and due to continued digitalisation, the quantities of printed material to be destroyed are significantly lower than they were in past years.

UK recovered paper exports

tonnes	January		%
	2025	2024	Change
Total EU 27	56,207	52,103	+ 7.9
France	10,208	9,342	+ 9.3
Germany	12,048	12,245	- 1.6
Netherlands	20,664	21,201	- 2.5
Total other Europe	973	58,445	- 98.3
Turkey	839	58,445	- 98.6
Total Asia	277,012	263,530	+ 5.1
China	121	51	+ 139.3
India	106,837	94,923	+ 12.6
Indonesia	29,665	21,507	+ 37.9
Malaysia	56,291	68,173	- 17.4
Thailand	30,248	29,979	+ 0.9
Vietnam	50,704	46,385	+ 9.3
Total South America	120	-	-
Total Africa	-	-	-
Total North America	-	-	-
Total Australasia	-	-	-
Total Exports	334,313	374,078	- 10.6

Source: CPI

UK market sees mostly unchanged prices for publication paper and fine paper in April

Brown CCM more expensive / Stable contract prices for cartonboard

 30 April 2025 | ⌚ ~ 11 min | [Published in issue 18/2025](#)

On the market for publication paper in the United Kingdom, negotiations to determine prices in the second quarter ended with little or no changes. The market was not strong enough to implement some paper producers’ envisaged price hikes. At the same time, producers could not acquiesce to calls for price cuts because their margins are already razor thin. Some producers of woodfree coated and uncoated paper had announced a mark-up on deliveries as of April, but have not yet had any success. They intend to continue negotiations.

By contrast, higher prices took effect on the British market for corrugated case material in April. With a time lag to the continental markets, prices for both brown recycled grades and brown kraftliner moved higher. Contract prices for GD (white-lined chipboard) and GC (folding boxboard) board were unchanged in April, but market insiders report one-time discounts and special conditions in both segments.

Prices for woodfree coated and uncoated paper unchanged for now

The price hike announced by some paper producers for April on the market for coated and uncoated fine paper in the UK has so far failed to bear fruit. According to market insiders, prices have not been raised, at least not yet. Price demands were sometimes postponed to the month of May and some negotiations were still ongoing, insiders reported.

One paper producer stressed that a price hike was necessary given the upward cost trend.

EUWID Price Watch UK				
April 2025				
Prices in £ per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	April 2025	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024
£	£	£*	£	£
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	830 - 890	871 - 1.041	830 - 890	890 - 940
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	790 - 860	854 - 1.026	790 - 860	860 - 910
Other news 80 g	880 - 920	1.025 - 1.076	880 - 920	920 - 990
Other news 80 g	880 - 890	906 - 1.030	880 - 890	890 - 900
Woodfree coated				
News, double coated, 100 g	880 - 940	1.041 - 1.130	880 - 940	940 - 960
News, double coated, 100 g	880 - 890	906 - 1.026	880 - 890	890 - 920
Publication paper				
Standard newspaper 40 g	480 - 510	502 - 587	480 - 510	440 - 480
Standard newspaper 40 g	480 - 520	573 - 606	480 - 520	450 - 500
Standard newspaper 40 g	500 - 520	585 - 625	500 - 520	440 - 510
Improved newspaper 32 g, 50x68	530 - 560	620 - 655	530 - 560	480 - 530
LWC offset 80 g	680 - 760	772 - 819	680 - 710	680 - 730
SC offset 90 g (S)	580 - 630	679 - 714	580 - 620	630 - 640
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unbleached kraftliner 150 g, European quality	730 - 750	840 - 881	670 - 730	670 - 690
White-top kraftliner 180 g, European quality	780 - 840	916 - 989	780 - 840	730 - 790
Recycled corrugated case material				
Recycled fluting 180 g	550 - 605	649 - 709	560 - 605	480 - 530
Recycled fluting 180 g	550 - 610	649 - 714	560 - 610	480 - 510
Recycled fluting 80 g	560 - 620	661 - 723	570 - 620	480 - 520
Testliner 8	570 - 620	675 - 731	580 - 620	580 - 590
Testliner 8	550 - 605	649 - 709	560 - 605	480 - 530
White-top testliner, grade B, 140 g	640 - 680	740 - 796	640 - 680	620 - 670
Cartonboard				
GD1	630 - 710	725 - 827	630 - 710	630 - 730
GC 1	930 - 1.030	1.088 - 1.182	930 - 1.030	960 - 1.030
* Exchange rate as of 23 April 2025, £1 = €1.17				
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EUWID Price Review UK				
First quarter 2025				
Prices in £ per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	First quarter 2025	Fourth quarter 2024	Third quarter 2024	Second quarter 2024
£	£	£	£	£
Recycled paper (prices on weight)				
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	35 - 70	45 - 75	12 - 35	35
Mixed paper and board (1.02), export	45 - 85	40 - 80	22 - 60	60
Old corrugated containers (1.02)	75 - 110	70 - 100	35 - 60	60
Old corrugated containers (1.02), export	85 - 115	70 - 100	40 - 60	60
Magnesium (1.00)	85 - 130	80 - 140	40 - 110	110
Sorted graphic paper for printing (1.02)	85 - 110	90 - 120	50 - 70	70
Newsprint (1.02)	85 - 140	80 - 140	40 - 70	70
Standard office paper (2.00)	110 - 170	100 - 160	110 - 140	140
Multipurpose	140 - 170	140 - 160	110 - 140	140
White newspaper (1.08)	180 - 220	180 - 220	180 - 220	220
White newspaper (double) (1.08, 0.10)	200 - 400	300 - 400	300 - 400	400
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	830 - 910	840 - 1.000	830 - 900	900
Copy paper 80 g 84 grade	790 - 880	810 - 870	880 - 910	910
Other news 80 g	880 - 920	880 - 1.010	870 - 930	930
Other news 80 g	880 - 890	890 - 890	890 - 890	890
Woodfree coated				
News, double coated, 100 g	880 - 940	910 - 1.010	880 - 970	970
News, double coated, 100 g	880 - 890	890 - 910	890 - 910	910
Publication paper				
Standard newspaper 40 g	480 - 510	480 - 510	480 - 480	480
Standard newspaper 40 g	480 - 520	480 - 520	480 - 480	480
Standard newspaper 40 g	500 - 530	500 - 530	480 - 510	510
Improved newspaper 32 g, 50x68	530 - 560	530 - 560	480 - 530	530
LWC offset 80 g	680 - 710	680 - 710	680 - 710	710
LWC offset 80 g	680 - 710	680 - 710	680 - 710	710
SC offset 90 g (S)	580 - 620	600 - 640	600 - 640	640
SC newspaper 50 g (S)	580 - 640	600 - 640	600 - 650	650
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unbleached kraftliner 150 g, European quality	670 - 730	670 - 730	670 - 680	680
White-top kraftliner 180 g, European quality	780 - 845	780 - 890	730 - 815	815
Recycled corrugated case material				
Recycled fluting 180 g	550 - 605	545 - 595	480 - 510	510
Recycled fluting 180 g	550 - 610	545 - 600	480 - 515	515
Recycled fluting 80 g	550 - 620	550 - 610	480 - 525	525
Testliner 8	520 - 625	545 - 615	480 - 510	510
Testliner 8	550 - 615	545 - 595	480 - 510	510
White-top testliner, grade B, 140 g	640 - 680	620 - 720	620 - 690	690
Cartonboard				
GD1	630 - 725	630 - 725	620 - 730	730
GC 1	930 - 1.035	930 - 1.035	930 - 1.040	1.040
* Exchange rate as of 23 April 2025, £1 = €1.17				
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Other market players commented that the market situation is currently not conducive to a price hike. Especially on the market for woodfree coated paper, it appears it will be very difficult to implement a mark-up right now, comments one market player.

The pricing situation remains very heterogeneous, according to respondents on the British market. Besides official prices, which are definitely still being paid, there are regular offerings with considerably lower prices. For C-grade A4 copy paper, for example, spot offers reportedly start at above £700/t, while list prices at the upper end of the bracket are well above the £800 mark. Low-priced offers are reportedly available from European producers as well as for imported goods from Asia, as players battle to secure orders. There is similarly fierce competition amongst merchants because they also have excess capacity, market insiders confirm.

In April, demand for coated as well as uncoated fine paper did not live up to paper producers' hopes. This was especially true on the market for woodfree coated paper, where order intake across Europe is still lower than existing capacity. The overall market trend for woodfree papers in Europe saw another contraction in the first quarter of this year. For woodfree coated paper, the drop in demand was into the double-digit percentage range. Interest in copy paper was down sharply, with deliveries tumbling by around 10 per cent across Europe. In this respect, the UK was no exception in the first quarter.

This downward trend is attributable not only to the long-term structural changes in the paper market but also the recent economic uncertainty and weak consumer confidence. The problems resulting from the trade conflict between the USA and Europe are not contributing to any optimism in the market, noted one player. Nobody knows exactly how the tariff dispute will play out and nobody has any planning certainty, which is like poison for industrial companies, one paper producer told EUWID.

Publication paper prices in Q2 mostly unchanged despite excess capacity

During the transition from the first to the second quarter, there was little or no price movement on the market for publication paper in the UK. In most cases, quotes for newsprint, LWC and SC paper are the same as in the first three months of the year. There are a few half-year contracts where prices were not touched at all anyway. In these cases and also in quarterly contracts, experts say the next real opportunity to adjust prices will be at the mid-year point.

In the market for newsprint – the most stable publication paper segment – there have not been any major price changes yet, even though the competitive situation has shifted as a result of the trade conflict with the USA, according to players in the UK say. Other players in the market are predicting growing supply-side pressure from Canadian producers. Competitive prices for standard newsprint 42.5 g remain around £500/t free delivered. Some paper producers did attempt to raise newsprint prices, but in most cases were unsuccessful.

There were also calls for higher prices from some producers of SC paper. These were absolutely necessary to cover higher costs, primarily for energy and fibre, producers argued. Here, there were some smaller upward price adjustments in individual cases, but no widespread price increase was reported. On the contrary, the current overcapacity is putting pressure on prices and consequently a few relatively high prices have disappeared from the market.

Overcapacity is even more significant in the LWC segment, which continues to have the most excess capacity of all European publication paper markets. Across Europe, average capacity utilisation here is currently estimated to be 65-70 per cent at most. Given this market constellation, smaller price concessions were also granted here in some instances.

The insolvency of papermaker Kabel did have some influence over price negotiations but ultimately did not play a deciding role in the outcome. However, it may have helped producers to fend off some buyers' calls for price reductions, say market insiders.

The longstanding structural contraction continues on the market for publication paper in the UK. According to figures published by industry data provider ABC, circulation figures for most of the national newspapers in the UK in March of this year were down considerably compared with the same month of 2024. Only the free newspaper Metro was able to maintain its print run. The other major national newspapers that still report figures to ABC recorded circulation declines of between 10-20 per cent. It is a similar situation for magazines in the UK. Of the 164 print titles tracked by ABC, only 13 were able to increase their circulation numbers in 2024 compared with 2023, while six magazines kept the figures steady. At the other end of the range, a few print magazines were forced to trim their print runs by 10 per cent or more. For the full year 2024, ABC reports that total circulation of magazines in the UK amounted to 18.7 million copies, compared with 21 million copies one year earlier.

Price hikes for brown CCM now take effect on British corrugated market

The demand trend on the British market for corrugated case material and corrugated products was generally positive in April, although a few players reported varying rates of capacity utilisation. Looking back, market participants evaluate the January to Easter period as promising.

In April, the Easter holidays caused a temporary dip in demand. May is also expected to be a quieter month, as UK bank holidays occur at the beginning and end of the month.

While numerous paper mills in Continental Europe slowed or halted production over Easter – partly to avoid inventory build-up and partly because of surging recovered paper prices – production at British mills was uninterrupted. Overall, the supply situation for corrugated case material remains unproblematic. Supply continues to outstrip demand.

In April, British producers were able to implement price increases for brown recycled corrugated case material – a step that took place much earlier on the European continent. Prices rose by around £50/t as of mid-March, or by 1 April at the latest.

In the white-top testliner segment prices stayed flat. One supplier announced a price hike for May, while other market participants reported that negotiations were still ongoing. The range of mark-ups being discussed was between £25-30/t and as much as £50/t. Only rarely did higher prices take effect already in April.

Higher prices for brown kraftliner were implemented in many cases – either as of 1 April or from mid-month. In certain instances, the increase was carried out in two steps of £25/t each. Industry players criticised that US suppliers were offering their products at significantly lower prices on the European market “for no good economic reason.” The price gap to European kraftliner is reportedly £100-150/t.

In the white-top kraftliner segment, potential price increases were either postponed until May or are not being discussed at the moment.

A second price step for brown grades, as is being discussed or was already implemented in Continental Europe, is currently not a topic on the British market. One market expert said musing about such a move was “irresponsible” in light of the existing excess capacity.

Moreover, other industry insiders expressed doubt about the sustainability of the price increases that were already implemented. In addition to existing and forecast excess capacity, market participants point to the US import tariffs (already introduced and looming) and potential retaliatory measures by the EU. The uncertainty about the extent of the measures is already having a negative impact on investments and growth expectations. One expert commented: “Even just the uncertainty about potential tariffs is poisonous for the development of the market.”

Like the base paper segment, the British market for corrugated sheets and packaging also saw mixed developments in April. Some market participants say that demand has been slowing noticeably since March.

But other companies report a very good order situation. This could be explained by the announced price increases for paper, some experts believe. Several players said one reason for the uptick in demand was that consumer goods manufacturers were trying to quickly ship off deliveries to the United States before the new US tariffs took effect.

On the whole, most of the companies surveyed said they were slightly above their – often conservatively calculated – budget figures for spring.

In April, there were once again differing approaches among producers of sheets and packaging to dealing with the paper price hikes. Some converters said they had not yet received any information from their suppliers about price increases for sheets.

Others said they had been informed that prices were being lifted by 4-6 per cent. In many cases, packaging producers do not want to pass along the rising sheet prices to their customers. The amounts are too small to make a good argument for raising prices, and the risk of losing a customer is too high, EUWID was told.

Yet other suppliers also announced a price hike of 5-7 per cent as of mid-May for corrugated boxes. These companies expect the market development to remain positive in the second quarter.

Independent producers were sometimes highly critical of how their integrated competitors were behaving. The latter are putting volumes before margins and are sometime actually even lowering prices for packaging right now, EUWID was told. "They are raising paper prices and lowering box prices at the same time," one industry insider contends.

Uncertainty and low demand shape UK cartonboard market

The British market for cartonboard has been very quiet recently – not only because of Easter and the associated school holidays but also due to the ongoing global economic uncertainty.

Compared with the previous year, demand remained stable. As in other EU countries, converters' activity levels are nevertheless below expectations. Market insiders report that board producers are increasingly being forced to temporarily halt production facilities. Capacity utilisation on GC (folding boxboard) and GD (white-lined chipboard) machines is at 80 per cent or lower.

Business is stable in the food and consumer goods segments, but the luxury market remains challenging. The underlying problems include lacklustre consumer sentiment as well as fears of potential import tariffs in the USA. While producers of whisky and other expensive spirits have signalled they would be able to bear the 10 per cent tariff, this is often not feasible for companies making less expensive products, such as cosmetics.

A temporary uptick in market activity in the UK was attributed mainly to company insolvencies as well as the takeover of Kentmere Packaging by Grenadier. Moreover, less cartonboard from Spain is currently making its way to the island, while deliveries from Serbia are increasing. Some market players also report "aggressive" behaviour by Turkish suppliers.

Delivery times remain unchanged at 3-4 weeks for GD and 4-5 weeks for GC, or occasionally as much as 7 weeks. Apart from that, almost everything is immediately deliverable.

Contract prices for GD and GC board were unchanged in April. Nevertheless, buyers say they have no problem getting one-time discounts or special conditions. Especially for GD, many players believe adjustments are needed to reflect high costs, but there is currently no leeway to implement corresponding price increases. The only price increases were in contracts valid Europe-wide with multinational converters, which meant that price increases of €20-30 per tonne were also implemented in the UK for GD 2.

In the GC segment, nobody currently expects prices to rise in the short term. The existing oversupply is already apparent and is likely to grow in the coming months, believes one industry insider.

As a result of the potential US tariffs, more cartonboard – both fresh and recycled fibre-based board – that was originally intended for the US market will likely stay in Europe, players say. Simultaneously, Asian producers could attempt to divert their excess volumes to the European market. This could put serious pressure on some mills and producers resulting in capacity closures. The danger is that there might not be sufficient capacity in Europe when the Asian economy picks up again and the exported volumes return back to these markets, it is believed.

The market outlook is also muted by a higher minimum wage applicable in the UK since the beginning of April as well as increased corporate contributions for the health system. The impacts of these additional costs will only become apparent in a month or two, according to market observers. It is already clear, however, that many companies are already under massive pressure to lower their costs, especially costs for materials.

UK key market data			
January 2025			
in tonnes	January		
	2025	2024	%
Production			
Corrugated case materials	124,954	123,166	+ 1.5
Recycled Fluting	57,526	60,971	- 5.7
Testliner	67,428	62,195	+ 8.4
Parent reels of tissue	58,169	61,915	- 6.1
Other papers and boards, incl. printing and writing paper	95,888	99,305	- 3.4
Total paper and board	279,011	284,386	- 1.9
Apparent Consumption			
Packaging paper and board	312,348	287,345	+ 8.7
Corrugated case materials	212,833	197,007	+ 8.0
Kraftliner and SC Fluting	30,849	30,493	+ 1.2
Recycled Fluting	72,926	70,329	+ 3.7
Testliner	109,058	96,185	+ 13.4
Cartonboard and other board for packaging	82,558	75,113	+ 9.9
Packaging papers	16,956	15,224	+ 11.4
Parent reels of tissue	88,746	102,840	+ 13.7
Printings and writings	108,042	114,594	- 5.7
Uncoated mechanical	15,471	17,105	- 9.5
Uncoated woodfree	45,564	52,142	- 12.6
Coated mechanical	24,166	22,975	+ 5.2
Coated woodfree	22,841	22,373	+ 2.1
Other papers and boards	47,800	48,225	- 0.9
Total paper and board	556,935	553,005	+ 0.7
Exports			
Corrugated case materials	9,363	16,909	- 44.6
Recycled Fluting	3,604	8,860	- 59.3
Testliner	5,759	8,049	- 28.5
Parent reels of tissue	627	188	+ 233.5

Other papers and boards, incl. printing and writing paper	45,483	53,210	- 14.5
Total paper and board	55,473	70,307	- 21.1
Imports			
Corrugated case materials	97,242	90,750	+ 7.2
Kraftliner and SC Fluting	30,849	30,493	+ 1.2
Recycled Fluting	19,004	18,218	+ 4.3
Testliner	47,389	42,039	+ 12.7
Parent reels of tissue	31,204	41,114	- 24.1
Other papers and boards, incl. printing and writing paper	204,952	207,061	- 1.0
Total paper and board	333,398	338,925	- 1.6
Fibre			
Woodpulp mill usage			
Sulphate Bleached Softwood	22,765	27,341	- 16.7
Sulphate Bleached Hardwood	31,527	31,919	- 1.2
Other grades of woodpulp	20,826	19,465	+ 7.0
Woodpulp imports			
Sulphate Bleached Softwood	15,189	32,413	- 53.1
Sulphate Bleached Hardwood	35,326	35,399	- 0.2
Other grades of woodpulp	2,347	2,012	+ 16.6
Recovered paper			
Mill usage	225,840	227,565	- 0.8
Collection	547,580	593,087	- 7.7
Source: CPI			

Natron-Hayat to rebuild PM 1 and introduce new mix kraft paper grade

 **EUWID** + 28 April 2025 | [Igor Dugandzic](#) |  ~ 2 min

Southeast European sack and kraft paper producer Natron-Hayat will rebuild the company's PM 1 at the mill in Maglaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to increase the machine's production capacity and strengthen its kraft paper offering for e-commerce, retail, industrial and protective packaging applications.



Kraft and sack kraft paper producer Natron-Hayat has a strong focus on European paper markets.

In collaboration with the technology company Valmet Natron-Hayat will install a new headbox and rebuild the press section of the PM 1, while integrating all components through Valmet's automation platform, the company announced.

According to the company, the modernisation project is entering into final preparation phase and will be implemented between May and mid-June this year.

The upgrade will increase the operational and energy efficiency of the PM 1, improve paper quality, and increase production capacity of the PM 1 from 30,000 to up to 50,000 tpy. It will also allow the company to introduce a new mix kraft paper grade for e-commerce, retail, industrial, and protective packaging applications. The mix kraft paper grade will be produced with a recycled fibre content ranging from 20 to 100 per cent and offered in basis weights of 60-90 g/m², the company says.

"This investment not only strengthens Natron-Hayat's role as a reliable European partner in the field of kraft paper, but also reflects the company's ongoing focus on modernisation and steady development in papermaking technology," the company explains.

Natron-Hayat has been part of Turkey's Hayat Holding since 2005. The integrated pulp and paper mill in Maglaj runs one unbleached pulp line and one recycled fibre line, and houses three paper machines producing sack kraft paper, machine-glazed (MG) kraft paper and recycled corrugated case material. The company also runs converting and finishing activities offering paper sacks, paper bags, corrugated board, and polyethylene (PE) coated paper, among other things.

Natron-Hayat is member of CEPI Eurokraft and Eurosac. The company is selling into 70 markets world wide with a strong focus on paper markets and customers in Europe and Turkey where the company generates 85 per cent of its sales.

VPK Group takes over Italian packaging company Open Imballaggi

25 April 2025 | [Igor Dugandzic](#) | 🕒 ~ 1 min

Belgium-based paper, board and packaging company VPK Group continues its expansion on the packaging market in Italy. The group announces the acquisition of Open Imballaggi, an independent family-owned corrugated packaging producer located in Calcinate near Bergamo.



With the acquisition of Open Imballaggi VPK is strengthening its footprint in the corrugated packaging market in Italy.

According to VPK, this strategic acquisition will complement the group's existing operations Italy and strengthen its "geographical footprint in one of Europe's largest packaging markets."

Open Imballaggi has a staff of 70 people and runs one sheet plant with a capacity to produce 40 million m² of corrugated packaging. The company reportedly serves 700 customers across multiple industries and generates €30m in annual sales.

In 2023, VPK Group expanded its production base to Italy when [the group acquired a majority stake in Italy's corrugated board and packaging producer Zetacarton](#). At the start of 2024, the group also announced a [JV with the Italian corrugated board and packaging company lemme Packaging](#).

VPK is privately owned group of companies with an annual turnover of €2bn, employing more than 7,500 people across 70 locations in 21 countries. The group's product offering includes recycled corrugated case materials, corrugated sheets and packaging, coreboard and cores, as well as solid board packaging.

Norske Skog completes sale of Boyer publication paper mill

25 April 2025 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 18/2025](#)



Norske Skog's Boyer mill is its last remaining publication paper mill in Australasia

Norske Skog has concluded the sale of its Boyer newsprint and LWC paper mill in Tasmania to Boyer Capital, a local private equity investment company. The new owner will continue operations at the mill and is willing to invest and develop it for the future, Norske Skog said in a press release. In earlier reports, the purchase price was put at NOK190m, based on the enterprise value.

The Boyer mill has a production capacity of 150,000 tpy of newsprint and 135,000 tpy of LWC. The sale of the site marks Norske Skog's exit from the publication paper market in Australasia. The Boyer mill was its last remaining mill in the region after it closed down its Tasman paper mill in 2021 and sold it to Oji Fibre two years later.

PM at Golbey mill ready for start-up end of April or early May

In recent years, Norske Skog has been scaling back its activities in the publication paper market and diversifying its operations. In 2023, the company entered the market for recycled corrugated case material by rebuilding its newsprint machine in Bruck, Austria.

Now, the start-up of its second recycled containerboard machine at the Golbey mill in France is imminent. The PM, which was rebuilt from newsprint to containerboard production, will be commissioned at the end of April or early May, Norske Skog announced. It has a capacity of 550,000 tpy. A second machine at the Golbey mill still produces newsprint with a capacity of 330,00 tpy.

UPM Plywood starts change negotiations in Finland

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UPM plans to reorganise its Plywood business in Finland and has started negotiations on possible job cuts.

The company explained that the aim of the planned changes is to secure the competitiveness of the UPM Plywood business in a challenging operating environment. The changes are to develop UPM Plywood's operating model, to support organisational renewal and provide opportunities for job rotation and skills development, the company says.

The potential measures will affect about 100 senior employees and directors of UPM Plywood in Finland, UPM says, adding that preliminary estimates indicate that the changes could lead to the dismissal of about 15 senior salaried and directors for financial and production-related reasons. In addition, the plan could lead to changes in work organisation, including work content and the distribution of positions within UPM Plywood.

UPM Plywood's Finnish mills have been on strike since March this year. The strike is about wage and salary increases, which UPM and Industrial Union have not yet been able to agree on. Two attempts at mediation have failed.

Only UPM Plywood's Finnish plywood mills are affected by the strike, the plywood mill in Estonia is excluded from the dispute. UPM Plywood mills in Finland employ 1,000 people covered by the collective agreement with the Industrial Union.



