

Fibre Excellence still awaiting state aid decision for Chapelle Darblay project

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It is still unclear whether the Chapelle Darblay rebuild project will go ahead. Pulp producer Fibre Excellence has been planning for years to convert the former newsprint mill into a production site for corrugated case material with a capacity of 400,000 tpy. But the financing is not yet secured, as the company requires state aid in the form of a loan. The French government has not yet approved this assistance and without the state aid, the project may fail.

Métropole Rouen Normandie, an association of local authorities, together with the city of Grand-Couronne as well as labour union GCT have now penned a letter to Marc Ferracci, French Minister for Industry and Energy. The signatories to the letter stress the urgency and necessity of advancing with the project. "Everything is ready – all that is missing is the €27m, which we applied for from BPI [the French public investment bank] more than one year ago," according to the letter. Fibre Excellence had already signalled it would abandon the project if the French government did not quickly respond, according to the letter signatories. The total investment for the rebuild project is said to be €274m, of which €70m would be capital provided by the pulp maker.

Fibre Excellence had previously said it wanted to have clarity on the situation by the end of December 2024, which was originally the deadline for the state to give its approval. However, owing to the political uncertainty in France and the change of government, Fibre Excellence then said it was prepared to wait a further five months before making a decision. At the time, the state had assured the company it would do everything possible to secure the necessary financing as soon as the political situation allowed.

The sense of urgency is partly due to the high ongoing costs Fibre Excellence is incurring during this waiting period, as it must pay to maintain the machinery and lease the site. Waste management group Veolia still owns the Chapelle Darblay facility. The plan was for Fibre Excellence to acquire it from Veolia once the lease expired at the end of 2024, but the firm currently does not have the money for an acquisition.

The rebuild plans for the Chapelle Darblay mill were first presented more than three years ago. Originally, Veolia was going to directly invest in the project and jointly undertake the rebuild measures. Later, however, the waste management group decided against ownership and will instead be involved only as a partner. The two companies have agreed that Veolia would supply the plant with recovered paper for an initial period of 10 years after its start-up.

Sappi's Q2 results remain "below expectations"

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Operating results fell short of expectations in the second quarter, fine and packaging paper manufacturer Sappi says in its comments on the company's interim results. The Group achieved EBITDA before exceptional items of \$90m (2024: \$183m), an operating profit of \$2m (\$70m) and a net loss of \$20m (\$29m). Quarterly sales remained at \$1.35bn (\$1.35bn).

Sappi Europe reports an operating profit before exceptional items of \$4m (\$11m) in the second quarter on sales of \$550m (\$580m).

Market conditions were difficult for Sappi in all segments, marked by increased uncertainty due to potential global trade tensions and a general economic slowdown, which put selling prices under pressure. Sales volumes nevertheless remained stable compared to the previous year, with sales volumes for packaging and speciality papers recovering slightly. Sappi sees this as evidence of the long-term potential of these markets.

Sappi says its European business came under pressure due to the ongoing macroeconomic weakness and the considerable oversupply on the paper markets. While sales volumes remained relatively stable compared to the previous year, margins were negatively impacted by lower sales prices. Sales volumes for graphic paper remained stable compared to the previous year. In a structurally declining demand, Sappi gained market share.

However, the segment was subject to price pressure and average prices fell by 3 per cent compared to the previous year. Strong competition due to oversupply in the industry, imports from Asia and the expectations of the downstream industry with regard to better passing on of costs, particularly for pulp, were the decisive factors, Sappi says. This dynamic continues to weigh on overall profitability despite stable volumes.

The packaging and speciality paper segment continued to face headwinds in Europe due to subdued demand in the downstream industries. Sales volumes of wet-strength label paper continued to grow, but this was offset by weak demand for paperboard and flexible packaging paper. Overall sales volumes remained stable and prices increased compared to the previous year, leading to improved profitability in the segment.

Variable costs were 1 per cent lower than the previous year due to lower pulp and wood costs. Fixed costs rose 3 per cent due to higher personnel costs.

Sappi results

million US\$	January - March		October - March	
	2025	2024	2024/2025	2023/2024
Key figures				
Sales	1,347	1,352	2,710	2,624
EBITDA*	90	183	292	339
Operating result	2	70	123	-23
Net result	-20	29	50	-97
Business area review				
Europe				
Sales	550	580	1102	1148
Adjusted EBITDA	27	35	64	63
Operating result*	4	11	18	13
Deliveries, 1,000 t	491	495	956	989
North America				
Sales	440	439	898	828
Adjusted EBITDA	29	51	100	97
Operating result*	5	29	52	52
Deliveries, 1,000 t	362	361	733	681
South Africa				
Sales Pulp and Paper	340	319	674	620
Sales Forestry	17	14	36	28
Adjusted EBITDA	47	89	140	144
Operating result*	7	72	76	132
Deliveries Pulp and Paper, 1,000 t	386	384	757	741
Deliveries Forestry, 1,000 t	304	227	598	462

* excluding special items

Source: Sappi

Hamburger Dunaújváros invests in sustainability

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Valmet has secured two orders from Hamburger Containerboard Dunaújváros to support the long-term development of the Hungarian site. The deliveries include an upgrade of the additive feeding system and the installation of a redundant steam reduction station. Both projects are scheduled for implementation during the mill's annual shutdown in autumn 2025.

The additive feeding system will be fitted with a new calcium hydroxide silo and redundant lines to improve acid gas removal and enhance the plant's environmental performance. The new setup is designed to ensure non-stop service and boost storage capacity with the addition of a 100 m³ silo. The second project supports Hamburger Containerboard's ambition to participate in Hungary's growing electricity reserve market. To offer capacity for the automatic Frequency Restoration Reserve (aFRR) while maintaining steam supply for containerboard production, the mill will install a high-pressure steam reduction station for turbine bypass.

Valmet's deliveries include equipment engineering, manufacturing, and automation upgrades, along with project management, site supervision, and commissioning.

Hamburger Hungaria, part of the Prinzhorn Group, operates two containerboard production lines in Dunaújváros with a combined annual output of 700,000 tonnes. The mill also runs a Valmet CFB boiler for process steam and electricity generation.

Lenzing Papier invests in deinking plant

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Austrian company Lenzing Papier is investing in a new deinking plant which is scheduled to start in the third quarter of 2025. With the investment, the supplier of premium recycled paper wants to set new standards in recovered paper processing. The new system reportedly enables more efficient removal of printing inks and significantly improves the quality of the recycled material.

As part of the investment project, Lenzing Papier is replacing its existing waste paper plant with a Voith Ecocell plant. This has a capacity to process 100,000 tpy of recycled fibre, with an option to expand to 120,000 tpy. It will mainly process deinking paper grades and wet-strength papers. Lenzing has not disclosed the investment volume.

Downstream processes in the paper mill have been modernised in the past two years in a forward-looking measure due to progressive deterioration of waste paper quality, Lenzing Papier explains in a press release. The investment will increase flexibility in the choice of raw materials.

“We’re not just talking about recycling here – we’re talking about upcycling at the highest level. Our goal is to create a product from recovered paper that exceeds the quality of the raw material,” explains Ernst Brunbauer, Managing Director of Lenzing Papier.

Mondi expands bag capacity at Krapkowice site in Poland

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Mondi is expanding its capacity for paper-based e-commerce packaging with the installation of a new production line at its Krapkowice plant in Poland. The line increases output of the company's "recycle Mailerbag" product range, a recyclable paper mailer developed as an alternative to plastic packaging. The investment follows a previous Mailerbag capacity expansion at the same site, announced in 2024.

The recycle Mailerbag range now includes four formats tailored to different product sizes and protection needs: (Bottom Gusset Bag for irregularly shaped goods, Side Gusset Bag for small to medium-sized items, Block Bottom Bag for larger, bulky products and Protective Mailer with integrated cushioning for fragile contents). All Mailerbag variants are recyclable in standard paper waste streams across Europe, according to Mondi.

The Krapkowice site forms part of Mondi's flexible packaging operations. Alongside Mailerbags, the company offers a range of paper-based e-commerce packaging including corrugated boxes and paper fill form seal solutions.

Papirnica Vevče orders web inspection system from Valmet

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Finnish technology group Valmet will deliver a Valmet IQ Web Inspection System (WIS) to Papirnica Vevče d.o.o., a paper mill located in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The system will be used to enhance paper web quality monitoring and represents the first order using Valmet's new high-performance area cameras.

According to Valmet, the new WIS features high-resolution imaging capabilities at fast web speeds and includes both reflection and transmission inspection geometries for enhanced detection of surface and internal defects. The package also includes the Valmet IQ Winder control system for optimised winding and coating operations.

Papirnica Vevče focuses on producing high-quality papers for labels, flexible packaging, and specialty applications. As part of the Brigl & Bergmeister group, the mill contributes to an annual production capacity of approximately 200,000 tpy across the company's sites in Slovenia and Austria.

Sluggish consumption dampens demand for packaging paper and board in Germany

Hopes for uptick in orders dashed again in May

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The rebound in order intake that producers of corrugated case material and cartonboard were direly hoping for did not materialise in May. Market players are very worried that the summer slowdown could come early this year. In an environment shaped by numerous global geopolitical uncertainties, German consumer spending remains sluggish. Price increases took effect for brown recycled corrugated case material grades in May. Prices for GD 2 board held steady following adjustments in April.

EUWID Price Watch Germany				
May 2025				
Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
AK-C-grade, bleached paper	880 - 970	880 - 960	960 - 1,030	
AK-C-grade, non-bleached paper	850 - 930	820 - 900	940 - 990	
Other grades 80 g	1,080 - 1,110	1,080 - 1,110	1,080 - 1,110	
Other grades 90 g	940 - 1,010	940 - 1,010	940 - 1,010	
Woodfree coated				
Stone, double coated, 100 g	1,080 - 1,110	1,080 - 1,110	1,040 - 1,120	
Stone, double coated, 150 g	920 - 960	920 - 960	940 - 1,000	
Publication paper				
Neoprene G 2 (standard)	400 - 425	400 - 425	370 - 410	
Neoprene G 2.5 (special)	410 - 435	410 - 435	380 - 420	
Neoprene G 3 (standard)	400 - 425	400 - 425	370 - 410	
LWC offset 60 g	760 - 810	760 - 810	760 - 820	
LWC uncoated 60 g	860 - 880	860 - 880	860 - 890	
SC offset 80 g (A)	480 - 700	480 - 700	480 - 710	
SC uncoated 80 g (B)	480 - 700	480 - 700	480 - 710	
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unlined testliner free (cardboard 175 g)	870 - 900	870 - 890	790 - 810	
Seam chemical corrugated medium ¹⁾	770 - 1,020	770 - 1,000	750 - 940	
White top testliner 160 g	1,080 - 1,170	1,080 - 1,170	1,010 - 1,070	
Recycled corrugated case material				
Seamless	450 - 470	410 - 450	330 - 410	
Watermark	480 - 730	440 - 660	360 - 440	
Testliner 1	710 - 730	470 - 490	410 - 470	
Testliner 2	480 - 710	430 - 470	360 - 430	
White top testliner, coated	740 - 870	630 - 670	480 - 610	
White top testliner, 160 g, 50/70/75	830 - 865	830 - 845	730 - 760	
Cartonboard				
Unlined standard	810 - 855	810 - 855	790 - 845	
GD 1	890 - 960	890 - 960	850 - 940	
GD 2	1,240 - 1,275	1,240 - 1,275	1,210 - 1,255	

¹⁾ Prices at the upper end of the range represent "Standardboard paper" grades. Lower end of prices represent "Economyboard paper" grades.

²⁾ EUWID cannot be held liable for the accuracy of the published information.

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¹⁾ Prices at the upper end of the range represent foodservice primary fibre grades, lower end prices are quoted for other European grades.
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However, there were also attempts to implement a second price step for GD in Germany. Some increases were realised for unlined chipboard in May, but these are reportedly catch-up adjustments to bring prices in line with the step that already occurred in April. On the market for primary fibre-based fibre board, producers are primarily aiming to hold onto order volumes while simultaneously defending current price levels.

No trend turnaround in order intake for recycled corrugated case material

The month of May did not bring the upswing in order intake which producers of recycled corrugated case material had been hoping to see. Despite the bank holidays, the situation had at least not deteriorated, said EUWID respondents, while some even noticed slight tailwinds. German customers appear to be somewhat busier these days than in 2024, according to market insiders. And the cost of paper for recycling, which has been putting a lot of pressure on paper mills since the start of the year, has stabilised after spiking in April. Market players expect recovered paper prices to decline (slightly) in the coming months.

Against this backdrop – even though producers stress that costs for energy, logistics and recovered paper remain high – observers expect there will be no further attempts to adjust prices for brown recycled corrugated case material in the near future. In May, a price hike of €40/t took effect throughout the market. An upward step for white-top testliner might follow in June, but these negotiations are reportedly as tough as the talks for brown papers were in April. Observers believe that, at least for uncoated

white-top testliner, producers will be able to implement a price hike of roughly the same size as that introduced for the brown grades.

Capacity management must take on an even greater role going forward, industry insiders insist. The closures carried out so far are not sufficient to bring the market back into balance, they say. Even measures such as slowing production speeds or taking temporary downtime on selected machines represent more of a scattershot approach, they contend. And the situation is unlikely to get any easier now that new paper machines in France, Italy and Austria with a total production capacity of almost 1.5 million t have entered the market. "Some players are going to fall by the wayside," market watchers predict.

The German corrugated industry is struggling. Although deliveries in 2024 were up by 1 per cent compared with the previous year, sales revenues fell by around 8 per cent, according to industry association VDW. The sector has been unable to pass along cost increases. And the picture is not much rosier in many other Western European countries; only Eastern Europe appears slightly stronger. Owing to the numerous geopolitical uncertainties worldwide, consumption remains subdued.

GC producers struggle for sufficient capacity utilisation amid slow market

In May, the German market for cartonboard and folding cartons predominately moved sideways at a low level. There was no significant upturn in demand for either primray fibre-based board or recycled grades and market insiders are still waiting for tangible impetus to drive a rebound. Respondents from both sides of the market say there is definitely room to improve the utilisation of production capacities and they report muted order intake. Considering the current state of the market, EUWID respondents from both the cartonboard and folding cartons industries are very worried that a summer slump could set in early this year.

On the market for recycled board, EUWID respondents say that order intake for GD 2 in particular has recently become weaker or is at least stable. Deliveries are somewhat higher than in April, but not all board factories are seeing the same level of follow-up ordering from producers of folding cartons producers, say insiders. Since GD 2 is available on short notice, buyers are increasingly ordering volumes "reactively rather than proactively," explained one supplier. Consequently, producers are dissatisfied with their bookings on GD machines. Nonetheless, during the EUWID market survey in late May there was no talk of manufacturers taking downtime. However, if demand does not pick up markedly in the near future, some board producers are considering reacting selectively and temporarily removing capacities, according to market players. With lead times of 2-3 weeks, GD 2 is still available quickly.

By comparison, suppliers of unlined chipboard (greyboard) continue to have relatively good activity levels. In this segment, delivery times are reportedly unchanged at 3-4 weeks. Some converters of unlined chipboard also report having "quite decent" bookings.

After prices for GD 2 board rose in April by €20-30/t in reaction to the upward price trend for recovered paper, quotes here remained stable in May. A handful of producers have been signalling they want a second price step for GD 2 and unlined chipboard in the near future, but other suppliers had not yet joined in these plans at the time of the EUWID survey. There were reports of increases of €20-30/t for unlined chipboard that took effect in May, but these are apparently catch-up adjustments to the step

already reported in April.

On the market for primary fibre-based board, industry insiders say that board factories are primarily trying to hold on to their order volumes while simultaneously defending the current price level. Owing to the excess capacities in the market for GC 2, capacity utilisation on board machines is not good, according to insiders. They expect this problem will intensify due to the new machine in Oulu. Moreover, demand remains limp from the confectionery, cosmetics, pharma and food segments.

Against this backdrop, GC producers said in late May they felt pressure from converters to make price concessions. There are reports about buyers putting out tenders in the market with which they want to achieve special prices or discounts. In the contract business, where quite a few agreements are valid until the end of June or end of September, producers of GC 2 are nevertheless feeling margin pressure. They stress the need to raise cartonboard prices in order to operate profitably.

Overcapacity is hampering new projects in the market for corrugated case material

Several projects cancelled or postponed, flanked by plant closures

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The lack of consumer enthusiasm continues to determine the market situation for corrugated case material (CCM) even if a slight upward trend is noticeable. Cepi Containerboard preliminary figures for 2024 indicate that European containerboard deliveries (all grades) increased by 4.3 per cent compared with 2023 to almost 31 million t. Brown recycled grades accounts for the largest share of European demand at around 75 per cent, followed by brown primary fibre grades (just under 10 per cent) and white recycled paper (also just under 10 cent). Most papers are used in packaging for the food industry.

Despite increasing geopolitical and economic uncertainty the upward trend is expected to continue in 2025, albeit at a slower pace. Currently, however, low utilisation rates of paper machines is flanked by rising costs for raw materials, logistics and energy, which does not make it any easier for manufacturers of recycled CCM in an industry fraught with overcapacity. Against this background, it is not surprising that several announced expansion projects that were supposed to cater to anticipated growth are being cancelled or postponed. In addition, several plants have been closed.

Golbey's converted PM in start-up phase

At the end of May, **Norske Skog's** converted PM 1 was in the start-up phase at the company's French site in **Golbey**. The machine will increase Norske Skog's recycled containerboard capacity by 550,000 tpy (testliner and recycled fluting), taking the group's total CCM capacity to 760,000 tpy. The PM has a history of postponements: the launch was originally planned for the fourth quarter of 2023, then for the second half of 2024, then finally for March 2025.

At the beginning of May, paper and packaging manufacturer **Mondi** commissioned its converted containerboard machine at its **Duino** mill in Italy. At full capacity, the PM can produce 420,000 tpy of recycled containerboard.

Already at the beginning of April, **Heinzel** started up its converted PM in **Laakirchen**, Austria. The goal is reportedly to reach the PM's rated capacity of 470,000 tpy by 2026. PM 11 has a working width of 8.9 m and an operating speed of 1,600 m/min and mostly produces lightweight grades.

Additional capacities of over 1 million tpy to be added by end of 2025

The launch of DS Smith's new PM is planned for the end of the year at the **Porcari** plant near **Lucca** in Italy. It will replace an older PM at the site with a capacity of 175,000 tpy of recycled containerboard. The new PM will have a capacity of 450,000 tpy and produce lightweight brown testliner and recycled fluting in the 70-135 g/m² weight range. The project had been under discussion since 2018, but was repeatedly deferred and put on hold.

Eren Paper's new containerboard machine in **Shotton**, UK, is also expected to be commissioned at the end of 2025 and ramped up in 2026. The PM will produce up to 750,000 tpy of recycled containerboard in grammages between 70 and 100 g/m². With a design speed of 2,000 m/min and a screen width of 10.9 m, it will be the largest and fastest machine of its kind in the UK as well as one of the largest in Europe.

Spanish containerboard producer **Matías Gomá Tomás** wants to increase output of its containerboard machine in **La Riba**. After the rebuild, capacity of the PM will increase by 10 per cent to 110,000 tpy. Commissioning is planned for the fourth quarter of 2025.

Spanish **Hinojosa Packaging Group** is also planning a small capacity increase of 20,000 tpy through the rebuild of the PM 1 at its mill in **Alquería**, Spain in the first quarter of 2026.

Progroup's project at the Stockstadt plant in Germany is further afield. A new PM is to be built by 2030. No information has yet been given on the machine's capacity.

Despite a lack of funding, the **Chapelle Darblay** project in France, which envisages building a new containerboard PM at the disused site, has not yet been abandoned. **Fibre Excellence** has currently leased the site from waste management company **Veolia**. A new 400,000 tpy containerboard machine is to be built at the plant in the Grand-Couronne region in France. A decision on implementation is expected shortly.

Hamburg Containerboard abandons project in Turkey

Due to the current competitive situation and market overcapacity, **Hamburger Containerboard** has abandoned the project at the Turkish site in **Kütahya**, around 250 km southeast of Istanbul. The plan was to install a PM with capacity for 480,000 tpy of recycled containerboard.

Varel has cancelled a project in **Wilhelmshafen**, Germany (new PM with 600,000 tpy), likewise **Julius Schulte** in **Trebsen** (new PM with 700,000 tpy).

The conversion of **Stora Enso's** PM in **Langerbrugge**, Belgium has been postponed indefinitely.

Closures add up to approximately 1 million tpy

Recent years have seen the closure of **Stora Enso's De Hoop** mill in the Netherlands (annual capacity 380,000 tpy) in 2023, as well as one of four paper machines at **Stora Enso's Ostrołęka** site (120,000 tpy) in Poland and the French **Alfa d'Avignon** (75,000 tpy recycled brown CCM) paper mill. **Papeterie Saint-Michel** in France was liquidated in October 2024. Saint-Michel housed two paper

machines with a combined capacity for 75,000 tpy of recycled containerboard. Heinzl Group closed the Raubling paper mill at the end of 2024 (240,000 tpy). Production of recycled containerboard was already discontinued in autumn. The end of the **Meldorf** paper mill in **Tornesch**, Germany came at the end of 2024 (90,000 tpy recycled CCM). One of **Smurfit Westrock's** PMs in **Roermond**, the Netherlands, was shut down at the end of March 2025 (40,000 tpy recycled CCM).

Local producers concerned about capacity expansion in non-European countries

Capacity expansion in Turkey and the Middle East is also worrying local paper manufacturers. As early as in March 2025, **Kipas Kagit** in **Söke**, Turkey, commissioned a new PM with a capacity of 650,000 tpy of recycled containerboard. Based on current information, machine start-ups with a total capacity of more than 900,000 tpy are planned in 2025 in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Major capacity increases in the European corrugated case material industry as of May 2025					
Company	Plant	Planned changes	Net capacity increase (tpy)	Grade	Start-up
Norske Skog	Golbey, France	Rebuild PM 1	550,000	Testliner, Recycled fluting	May 2025
Mondi	Duino, Italy	Rebuild	420,000	Recycled corrugated case material	May 2025
Modern Karton/Eren Paper	Shotton, UK	New PM	up to 750,000	Recycled corrugated case material	End of 2025
DS Smith	Lucca, Italy	Replacing PM 1	275,000	Testliner, Recycled fluting	End of 2025
Matías Gomá Tomás	La Riba, Spain	Rebuild	10,000	Recycled corrugated case material	Q4 2025
Hinojosa Packaging	Alquería, Spain	Rebuild	20,000	Recycled corrugated case material	Q1 2026
Veolia/Fibre Excellence	Chapelle Darblay, France	Rebuild	400,000	Recycled corrugated case material	n. a.
Progroup	Stockstadt, Germany	New PM	n. a.	Recycled corrugated case material	By 2030
n. a. = not available; EUWID assumes no liability for the correctness or the completeness of the above data					
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Supply of sawmill residues currently exceeding demand in Germany

Higher pressure on sawdust prices, less on prices for MDF/pulp woodchips

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Supply on German sawmill residues markets has increased continuously in the course of the last few weeks whereas consumption, by the pellet industry in particular, has dropped simultaneously. After supply of sawmill residues has still been said to be rather below average, the situation

has turned again towards a slightly excessive supply. In negotiations on supplementary volumes and on follow-up contracts, prices for both sawdust and MDF/pulp woodchips have come under pressure again in recent weeks. Market players report that pressure on sawdust is turning out to be generally higher than on woodchips. In current contracts for sawdust, buyers succeeded in pushing through price cuts to the tune of around €1.50-2.00/m³ or €10-15/t. Price reductions for woodchips have so far turned out to be still a little less pronounced at €0.70-1.50/m³ or €5-10/t.

In the run-up to the forthcoming negotiations on quarterly contracts in June, recipients have announced their intention to reduce their purchase prices by at least €3-4/m³ or around €20-30/t. This would then more or less correspond to the reductions already achieved in one-month and follow-on contracts. Irrespective of the adjustments made to date, Germany's west remains the region with the highest price level in the country.

Contrary to initial fears, the German sawmilling industry's supply of roundwood has improved so far this quarter. Cutting activity rose further in May. Most businesses continued production operations on the bridging days between bank holidays and weekends, and in some instances cutting continues on Saturdays, too. The end of short-time working at the Ante group and the resumption of cutting at Ziegler Holzindustrie have contributed to a greater supply of residual wood in some regions.

Only in a few cases, however, has the greater supply been offset by an increase in consumptionamongst buyers. Stocks of residual wood have built up at a number of individual sawmilling facilities again. For some weeks now, the pellet industry in particular has been withdrawing production capacity from the market on various occasions owing to poor trade prices and demand.

EUWID Price Watch Sawmill Residues Germany					
May 2025					
€/loose m³	30 May 2025	17 April 2025	13 March 2025	31 May 2024	% change 2025/2024
Southern Germany					
Woodchips*	16.00 - 19.50	16.50 - 20.50	16.50 - 19.50	13.50 - 16.50	+ 18.3
Sawdust*	13.50 - 17.50	14.00 - 19.50	16.00 - 18.00	8.00 - 11.00	+ 63.2
Northern/Western Germany					
Woodchips*	18.50 - 20.50	19.00 - 21.50	18.00 - 21.00	14.00 - 17.50	+ 21.9
Sawdust*	16.50 - 19.00	18.00 - 20.00	17.50 - 19.50	12.50 - 15.00	+ 29.1
Eastern Germany					
Woodchips*	17.50 - 19.50	18.50 - 21.00	17.00 - 20.00	14.00 - 15.00	+ 27.6
Sawdust*	15.00 - 16.50	17.00 - 18.50	16.50 - 18.50	10.00 - 12.50	+ 40.0
* without bark					
Average prices for sawmill residues sold to industrial clients, ex mill					
EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information					
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Owing to the altered supply situation, pulp producers have also reduced their purchase prices for woodchips. Here, besides higher supply, buyers are also arguing that pulp prices have fallen recently. The boost seen in demand from manufacturers of peat substitutes, which was still evident in the first quarter has also flattened out again due to seasonal factors. From what market players are saying, the €20/m³ mark is no longer being reached in the majority of new MDF/pulp woodchips contracts with German customers. Current contracts appear to span a range of €18-19/m³ or €130-140/t bone-dry ex works.

Volumes and prices for woodchip exports to Scandinavia have also dropped in the past few weeks. In addition to pulp producers, power-station operators have throttled back their purchasing as well. The main reason for this is the slump in gas prices, which fell by almost 25 per cent from February to the end of May. According to information from exporters, around €20-21/m³ FOB is currently still obtainable in export to Scandinavia. This price level is probably still only of interest to suppliers located favourably in terms of freight charges. West German sawmilling companies' and residual-wood merchants' exports to the Benelux countries, on the other hand, are still stable in terms of volume and are at a higher price level for woodchips as well as sawdust than in sales on the domestic market. On an ex-works basis, woodchip prices here are still peaking above the €20/m³, and sawdust is only slightly lower. A similar price level has also applied for woodchip exports that have been running for some considerable time from Germany's southwest to buyers in France.

Buyers have used oversupply on the sawdust markets caused by the stoppages in the pellet industry and more intensive cutting in the sawmilling sector to reduce their purchase prices in new contracts. Here, prices in the south for deliveries until the end of June are an average of €14-16/m³ or €100-115/t bone-dry ex works. In contrast, over €18/m³ is still being obtained in the west. In the rest of Germany, quoted prices are in the region of €16-17/m³. Despite most recent adjustments, this still puts sawdust prices at an average of roughly 40 per cent above last year's level. After the further decline in trade prices for loose A1 pellets in May, sawdust buyers in the pellet industry have announced their intention to get further price cuts to what will then be significantly below €100/t for deliveries from July onwards.

In view of a currently adequate, sometimes good supply of roundwood in the sawmilling industry and an at least satisfactory orders position, there are no signs of any reduction in cutting activity in the weeks ahead and therefore not in the supply of residual wood either. As regards the buyer side of the market, however, there is going to be variation in demand for residual wood over the next few weeks. Some say further cuts in production are likely to occur in parts of the pellet industry. The pulp and wood-based panel industries have not announced any stoppages or cuts in output, at least until the beginning of the summer holidays.

Construction starts on Model Factory Paper building in Düren

 **EUWID+** 04 June 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)

Construction of the research building of the **Model Factory Paper (MFP)** has started at the new Düren Innovation Quarter. The new building will give MFP its own premises. The building with around 5,400 m² houses four laboratories and a large technical centre. Innovationsquartier Düren GmbH (IQ.DN), sister company of the city's economic development agency (WIN.DN) and the building's owner, has received around €40m from the structural transformation fund of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia for the new building. Since 2020, IQ.DN, WIN.DN and MFP have raised around €68m in total in funding for planning, construction, infrastructure and research.

German manufacturer of advertising displays and packaging pod GmbH files for insolvency

 **EUWID+** 04 June 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)

German manufacturer of advertising displays and packaging **pod GmbH** is insolvent. On May 23, the Braunschweig District Court opened preliminary insolvency proceedings against the company. Business operations of the Braunschweig-based company will continue normally during the preliminary insolvency proceedings. All orders will be produced and delivered as agreed, and new orders are “possible at any time,” the company says. The aim is to find a restructuring solution to preserve the company. pod GmbH employs 32 people and generates annual sales of around €4m.

Andritz delivers shoe press to LM's Malaysia site

 **EUWID +** 04 June 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)

Andritz has commissioned a PrimePress X shoe press for **Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing Ltd.** at its mill in Banting, Malaysia. The shoe press, designed for 1,250 N/mm, is integrated into the PM 26, which produces testliner with a basis weight of 70 to 160 g/m². The commissioning of the shoe press will result in significant energy savings, improved machine runnability, especially at lower basis weights, and improved end-paper strength, Andritz says. The Sepang mill is designed for an annual output of 700,000 tpy of paper and 550,000 tpy of pulp at full capacity.

Lenzing appoints Georg Kasperkovitz as new Chief Operations Officer

 **EUWID+** 04 June 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)

Lenzing AG is strengthening its Managing Board with the appointment of **Georg Kasperkovitz** as Chief Operations Officer (COO), effective 1 June 2025. With over 15 years of international management experience – including roles at Mondi plc, Rail Cargo Austria, and McKinsey – Mr Kasperkovitz brings extensive operational and transformation expertise to the role. His appointment expands the Managing Board to four members.

Andreas Krafft takes over position as COO at Klingele Paper & Packaging Group

 **EUWID+** 04 June 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)

Andreas Krafft joins the management of Germany's Klingele Paper & Packaging Group as Chief Operation Officer (COO) in the Packaging division from June 2025. He will take charge of worldwide operational management of the group's corrugated board and processing plants, the company writes.

Germany imports more recovered paper again after 2024 low

 03 June 2025 | [Christoph Schmidt](#) |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)

Germany’s recovered paper trade saw modest recovery in the first quarter of 2025, after export volumes hit an all-time low last year. According to newly released figures from the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), exports of "paper or board for recovery" rose by 3 per cent year-on-year to around 410,000 tonnes for the January to March period.

Imports also increased by three per cent in the same period, reaching approximately 1.16 million tonnes. This continued to position Germany as a net importer of recovered paper with a surplus of 746,000 tonnes.

A particularly sharp rise was recorded in exports to Thailand, which more than quintupled year on year from 2,200 to 11,800 tonnes. Shipments to Vietnam and India also rose significantly, each climbing by more than 40 per cent. Exports to Turkey nearly doubled compared with those in the first quarter of 2024.

On the import side, deliveries from the Czech Republic stood out with an increase of approximately 60 per cent, reaching around 100,000 tonnes. In contrast, imports from Belgium and the United Kingdom declined by more than one quarter each.

The total value of recovered paper and board imported into Germany in the first quarter amounted to €174m, while the value of exports stood at €59m. The average value per tonne for both imports and exports rose year on year, consistent with the price increases that have been documented in EUWID’s [monthly market reports](#).

Germany: imports and exports of recovered paper			
	EXPORTS		Change in %
	2025	2024	
Netherlands	111,042	112,781	-2
Austria	89,564	89,614	0
France	80,551	85,229	-5
Switzerland	28,532	23,800	20
Belgium	20,066	23,057	-13
Turkey	18,811	9,658	95
Vietnam	11,997	8,373	43
Thailand	11,824	2,213	434
India	8,218	5,848	41
Italy	6,175	10,104	-39
Other countries	22,750	25,644	-11
Total	409,529	396,382	3
thereof EU-27	321,881	337,325	-5
	IMPORTS		Change in %
	2025	2024	
Netherlands	267,804	252,532	6
Poland	251,726	241,956	4
France	118,102	134,034	-12
Denmark	109,954	108,910	1
Czech Republic	99,824	62,772	59
Switzerland	58,145	54,497	7
Belgium	57,292	81,530	-30
Austria	53,073	50,844	4
Sweden	30,555	25,627	19
UK	25,297	34,719	-27
Other countries	83,478	75,083	11
Total	1,155,250	1,122,505	3
thereof EU-27	1,041,492	1,013,058	3

Source: Destatis; calculations by EUWID EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of information.

Weig enters US market for recycled cartonboard

03 June 2025 | [Frauke Schmidt](#) | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)

German packaging manufacturer Weig is entering the North American market. The move is being spearheaded by its business unit Weig Europack and will be implemented in close partnership with US-based sales agent Sharp International.

Sharp International will act as Weig Europack's exclusive distributor in North America. The company operates a network of warehouses located in Montreal, New York, Savannah and Houston. Sharp International holds full sales rights for the region for Weig cartonboard grades Pirol, Kiwi, Ibis and Unipack/UnipackF.



Weig launches a partnership with Sharp International to enter the north American market

Weig's market entry is driven by increasing demand in the United States for sustainable packaging materials, particularly in the consumer goods, cosmetics and pharmaceutical sectors, Weig said. Medium-sized converters in the US are increasingly seeking European suppliers to diversify away from dominant domestic players. At the same time, regulatory and brand pressure to use environmentally responsible materials with traceable sustainability credentials is mounting, Weig announces.

"The US is a highly attractive market with a stable economic foundation," said Mike Petersen, Head of Weig Europack. "With this expansion, we are not only broadening our international presence but also creating valuable momentum for our innovation efforts in Europe."

Weig operates two cartonboard mills with a total capacity of 550,000 tpy GD board and liner, and GT board. The company also has a carton production facility and its own recycling division.

30 May 2025 | Alexander Ungemach | ⌚ ~ 1 min | Published in issue 23/2025

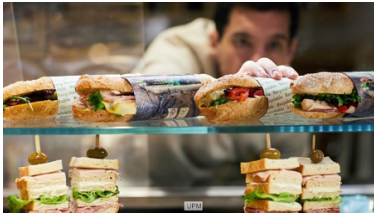
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Production at the Uetersen facility is currently on hold but is expected to resume on 6 June.

Feldmuehle's product portfolio includes wet-strength and alkali-resistant label papers, as well as specialty packaging papers. The company's strong order backlog and the future viability of its products are considered positive indicators and give hope for the successful restructuring and continuation of operations.

UPM Specialty Papers invests in Tervasaari mill and increases capacity

28 May 2025 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 23/2025](#)



UPM Specialty Papers has announced that it will invest over €10m in the modernisation of its Tervasaari specialty paper mill in Valkeakoski, Finland. The investment will allow the company to boost capacity and improve production stability in its specialised products, such as glassines and flexible

packaging papers, UPM says in a statement. The project includes a paper machine drying section rebuild and related steam system upgrade. It is expected to be completed at the end of 2026.

The Tervasaari mill currently has a capacity of 300,000 tpy of glassine papers and packaging papers and employs 310 people. UPM explains that glassines are typically used in labels, double-sided tapes and other industrial end-uses. The company's products include a wide range of shades and basis weights. For flexible packaging UPM offers recyclable papers, including barrier, barrier base, and C1S (coated one side) packaging papers.

UPM Specialty Papers is part of the UPM group. The company employs 2,000 people and operates a total of four mills: two in Finland and one each in Germany and China. These mills are reported to have a combined capacity of around 2 million tpy. In 2023, UPM Specialty Papers booked sales of €1.5bn.

