Papierfabrik Louisenthal appoints new board member

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

With effect from 1 July 2025, **Manfred Heim** became a member of the management of German banknote and specialty paper producer **Papierfabrik Louisenthal**. He succeeds **Alfred Kraxenberger**, who will join Louisenthal's parent company **Giesecke+Devrient (G+D)** as Head of Operations, Banknote Solutions division, Currency Technology segment.

UPM and Anker Schiffahrt extend partnership

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Anker-Schiffahrts-Gesellschaft and **UPM** have extended their partnership regarding terminal operations at the port in Emden, Germany. The newly signed agreement is reported to secure services until 31 December 2027, with an option for an additional three years. The terminal operator explains that the partnership between the two companies started more than 30 years ago. Under the renewed agreement, Anker Schiffahrt will continue to handle pulp and other forestry products at the Emden terminal.

Tricor to start up new corrugator in Weeze in mid-July

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Tricor Group has scheduled the commissioning of the new corrugator at its Weeze plant in western Germany to take place on 15 July 2025. The new corrugator has a working width of 2.8 m and can produce up to is 180,000 m2 of corrugated board. The company indicates that the plant will focus on three-flute heavy-duty corrugated board and supply its products to buyers within Germany and abroad. In earlier reports, the investment sum for the project was put at €170m.

Norkse Skog rebuilds PM 1 in Skogn with Andritz

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Norske Skog has entrusted **Andritz** with rebuilding the PM 1 at its Skogn mill in Norway. The company recently announced its intention to produce book paper in addition to newsprint at its Skogn mill from the second quarter of 2026. Now Andritz reports that the two companies jointly developed a comprehensive technology package. After the conversion, PM 1 will be able to flexibly produce both newsprint and the new NOR Book paper grade. Norske Skog runs two more newsprint machines at Skogn with a total capacity of 345,000 tpy.

Encore acquires Heritage Envelopes from Mayer-Kuvert

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

British Encore Group has strengthened its position as the UK's leading envelope manufacturer with the acquisition of Blackburn-based Heritage Envelopes. The transaction was completed on 31 May 2025. Heritage was acquired as a going concern from its previous owner, Germany's Mayer-Kuvert-network GmbH, and will now operate as a subsidiary of Encore. According to Encore, all existing customer and supplier relationships will remain in place, and business operations will continue uninterrupted under the Heritage name. The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The Mayer Group will remain active at the Blackburn site, where its subsidiary Bestpac UK Ltd produces high-quality paper-based packaging.

Mark Sears, current CEO of Bestpac and former CEO of Heritage, said: "This agreement is significant for both parties. It creates space for further growth at Bestpac and enables Encore to expand its envelope volumes."

Encore currently operates sites in Peterlee, Washington and Dewsbury. In 2018, the group acquired Great Northern Envelopes, followed by the launch of a new 9,600 m² logistics centre in Peterlee in 2024. The company employs around 300 people and produces up to 2.5 billion envelopes per year.

Encore did not respond to EUWID's request for further details on Heritage's production capacity or future plans for the Blackburn site.

Metsä Kemi mills restarted after maintenance downtime

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Metsä Group has resumed production at the Kemi pulp mill and the adjacent Kemi paper mill after several weeks of maintenance and repair-related downtime. Production was reportedly resumed on 4 July and it took about two days to start-up the mills, Metsä Group said.

The group's subsidiary Metsä Fibre has used the five weeks of the extended annual maintenance shutdown to replace the pulp mill's evaporation plant that was damaged in March 2024 explosion but had been only provisionally repaired in order to return to production as quick as possible. Other extensive maintenance work has also been carried out at the site. This will enable the Kemi site to resume stable and continuous production and return to full production capacity again, according to the company.

The new Kemi pulp mill was fired up for the first time in the fourth quarter of 2023 and has a total production capacity of 1.5 million tpy, of which approximately 1.1 million tpy is market pulp. The old Kemi pulp mill with a production capacity of 600,000 tpy ceased production in autumn 2023. The demolition of the old mill is ongoing and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

At the adjacent Kemi paper mill, Metsä Board produces coated and uncoated white top kraftliner with a capacity of 465,000 tpy.

RDM concludes talks on Barcelona mill closure

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Italian cartonboard manufacturer Reno de Medici (RDM) has concluded talks with employee representatives at its Castellbisbal plant near Barcelona, Spain, and has reached an agreement with them on the closure of the site. The company had already announced in January that it intended to close the plant. When asked, RDM did not disclose an exact date for ceasing production and the final closure of the site.

According to local media citing the Spanish trade union CCOO, layoffs of the site's 237 employees are planned to take place in stages over the coming weeks and to be completed by February 2026. After the union had criticised the company's lack of transparency in recent weeks, the parties have now reportedly agreed on severance packages and certain insurance benefits. In addition, an employment agency has been appointed to support affected workers.

RDM produces recycled cartonboard in Castellbisbal, mainly for food and pharmaceutical packaging, with a capacity of 190,000 tpy. The company also operates the Paprinsa recycled board mill in Spain, which will continue operating. RDM attributes the closure of Castellbisbal to increasingly challenging market conditions. According to the company, utilisation rates at the site have been too low and costs too high to maintain profitable operations.

German printing industry sentiment brightens in June

Statistical snapshot

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 2 min | Published in issue 28/2025

The mood in Germany's printing and media industry improved noticeably in June 2025, buoyed by significantly more optimistic business expectations. According to the German Printing and Media Industries Federation (Bvdm), the seasonally adjusted business climate index rose by 8.7 per cent compared to the previous month, reaching 92.8 points. This also represents a year-on-year increase of 4.3 per cent. The improvement was supported by both a more favourable assessment of the current business situation and a brighter outlook for the next six months. The business climate index, based on data from the ifo Institute's monthly survey, is considered a reliable leading indicator of production and order trends in the printing and media sector.

Following a setback in May, the current situation index climbed to 86.3 points in June – a month-on-month rise of 3.8 per cent and an increase of 2.8 per cent over June 2024. The share of companies describing their current situation as "good" rose from 6 to 11 per cent year-on-year. However, 37 per cent still rated their situation as "poor", while neutral assessments fell slightly from 58 to 53 per cent.

Despite the more upbeat sentiment, structural challenges continue to weigh on the industry. In particular, the order situation remains a major concern. None of the surveyed companies described their order backlog as "good". While 53.3 per cent rated it as neutral, 45.7 per cent gave a negative assessment – resulting in a net negative balance of -45.7 percentage points. This does mark an improvement over the previous year's -55.5 points, but it underlines the continuing fragility of demand.

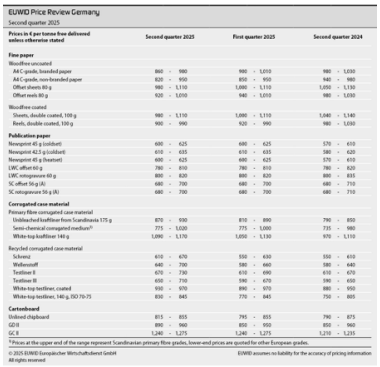
Business expectations for the coming six months recorded even stronger gains. The index of expectations rose by 13.9 per cent month-on-month to a 2025 high of 99.7 points – 5.8 per cent above its level in June 2024. While the majority of companies (78 per cent) foresee no significant change, 12 per cent anticipate an improvement and 10 per cent expect conditions to worsen.

This results in a seasonally adjusted net balance of -8 percentage points – a notable recovery from -31 points in May and the highest level seen so far this year. According to bvdm, this rebound in sentiment is partly due to recent economic stimulus measures aimed at supporting investment and stabilising energy costs. Nevertheless, industry players remain cautious, citing inflationary pressure, digital transformation and rising input costs as ongoing sources of uncertainty.

Demand slump intensifies downward price pressure on woodfree papers in Germany

Prices of primary fibre-based containerboard remain stable in July

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 7 min | Published in issue 28/2025



EUWID Price Review Germany

Second quarter 2025

Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	Second quarter 2025	First quarter 2025	Second quarter 2024
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
A4 C-grade, branded paper	860 - 980	900 - 1,010	900 - 1,030
A4 C-grade, non-branded paper	820 - 950	850 - 950	940 - 980
Offset sheets 80 g	960 - 1,110	1,000 - 1,110	1,050 - 1,130
Offset reels 80 g	920 - 1,010	940 - 1,010	980 - 1,030
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	980 - 1,110	1,000 - 1,110	1,040 - 1,140
Reels, double coated, 100 g	900 - 990	920 - 990	980 - 1,030
Publication paper			
Newsprint 45 g (solidset)	600 - 625	600 - 625	570 - 610
Newsprint 42.5 g (solidset)	610 - 635	610 - 635	580 - 620
Newsprint 45 g (heatset)	600 - 625	600 - 625	570 - 610
LWC offset 60 g	780 - 810	780 - 810	780 - 820
LWC rotogravure 60 g	800 - 820	800 - 820	800 - 835
SC offset 56 g (A)	680 - 700	680 - 700	680 - 710
SC rotogravure 56 g (A)	680 - 700	680 - 700	680 - 710
Corrugated case material			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner from Scandinavia 175 g	870 - 930	810 - 890	790 - 850
Semi-chemical corrugated medium*	775 - 1,020	775 - 1,000	735 - 980
White-top kraftliner 140 g	1,090 - 1,170	1,050 - 1,130	970 - 1,110
Recycled corrugated case material			
Schrenz	610 - 670	550 - 630	550 - 610
Wellenstoff	640 - 700	580 - 660	580 - 640
Testliner II	670 - 730	610 - 690	610 - 670
Testliner III	650 - 710	590 - 670	590 - 650
White-top testliner, coated	930 - 970	890 - 970	880 - 950
White-top testliner, 140 g, ISO 70-75	830 - 845	770 - 845	750 - 805
Cartonboard			
Unlined chipboard	815 - 855	795 - 855	790 - 875
GD1E	890 - 960	850 - 950	850 - 960
GC1E	1,240 - 1,275	1,240 - 1,275	1,210 - 1,235

* Prices at the upper end of the range represent Scandinavian primary fibre grades, lower-end prices are quoted for other European grades.

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The current slump in demand for fine paper – widely attributed by market observers to an unusually early and pronounced summer slowdown – has intensified downward pressure on prices amid ongoing structural shifts in the industry. Paper mills have recently been prioritising capacity utilisation and are increasingly offering discounts on both additional and contracted volumes in an effort to maintain production. Industry experts anticipate a reduction in supply over the coming weeks and months, as more producers implement temporary machine downtime to counterbalance weak order intake. In the recycled graphic paper segment, market sentiment varies considerably between individual grades and applications. Some players report satisfactory business, while others continue to face sluggish sales and limited visibility.

In contrast, prices for primary fibre-based containerboard are expected to remain stable in July. Producers of brown kraftliner describe market conditions as balanced and anticipate that the situation will hold steady over the summer period. However, more cautious voices point to falling pulp prices and unsatisfactory capacity utilisation in the Western European corrugated board industry. These players warn of potential price erosion for kraftliner and semichemical fluting from August onwards.

Crisis mood takes hold in fine paper market segment

The mood in the fine paper segment has deteriorated markedly, with demand for woodfree coated and uncoated grades described as weak in both May and June. Some suppliers even referred to the situation as “miserable,” citing an early onset of the summer lull. Industry experts say the downturn has led to significant downward pressure on prices. In response, paper mills have focused on order acquisition and capacity utilisation and are increasingly offering discounts on both additional and contracted volumes in order to support output levels.

Reports also suggest that special deals have been struck in the paper merchanting segment in Germany. Structural change in this segment is clearly still underway. New partnerships between paper producers and merchants are attracting attention, as they could trigger reactions from other market players.

Most recently, UPM entered into a cooperation agreement with Ovol for the distribution of woodfree coated papers in Germany and Austria. In the same product segment and region, UPM is also working with Antalis. According to EUWID information, UPM's remaining portfolio – particularly its woodfree uncoated grades – is not distributed exclusively through one partner. These papers are available via Ovol as well as through other wholesalers, including Igepa and Antalis.

This situation has not changed with the most recent price round for deliveries from July 2025, often applying to the whole third quarter. In the ongoing competition for machine utilisation and sales volumes, discounts for both coated and uncoated fine papers are being negotiated and granted at varying levels. The extent of price reductions often depended on discounts already established in previous months, players said. Reductions of €20-30/t are not uncommon.

According to one industry expert, conditions for manufacturers of woodfree papers remain critical. The recent drop in pulp prices has provided little relief, with margins still under considerable pressure. In addition, demand for premium paper grades is currently too weak to compensate for the significant volume losses in the offset segment. The HSI (high-speed inkjet) segment is viewed more positively overall, but even here, growing international competition is having an impact.

A widespread complaint in the paper and printing industries concerns the increasingly short lead times for incoming orders, which are making production planning highly challenging.

Industry observers expect supply-side adjustments in the weeks and months ahead. Temporary paper machine shutdowns are likely – not only due to seasonal effects, but also in response to ongoing market weakness. Some experts also believe that further permanent capacity closures in the woodfree segment cannot be ruled out.

In parallel, fine paper supply could tighten as manufacturers are reshuffling their product portfolios in an effort to diversify and become more agile.

A persistent source of concern for European producers is competition from Asia. While not yet dominant across all segments, market participants report that suppliers from Southeast Asia are increasingly active in Germany as well – especially in specific niche markets. Industry experts say these players are steadily building a platform in Europe, gradually expanding their presence.

Recycled graphic paper market remains volatile, demand in niche segments offers hope

The market for graphic recycled paper grades continues to operate in a challenging environment, with demand frequently described as weak. Only a few producers report good capacity utilisation. According to industry experts, paper mills are generally struggling with persistently high input costs for raw materials and energy. A typical summer lull in demand is compounding the situation, leading to growing stock levels. Temporary production stoppages cannot be ruled out under these conditions, sources

say.

In addition to the seasonal downturn, market players cite the rapid pace of digitalisation, which is placing considerable pressure particularly on office paper grades. This is evident in the pricing dynamics of primary fibre-based graphic papers, where manufacturers are currently exposed to intense downward price pressure. So far, however, these developments have not had a visible knock-on effect on recovered paper-based grades. Market players stress that their focus is not necessarily on maximising sales volumes via low prices. The sector's paper mills traditionally pursue long-term business strategies and seek stable pricing rather than reacting with short-term volatility.

Despite recent setbacks due to broader economic weakness in Europe, players remain cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the coming months, particularly in the uncoated segment. They expect business to recover relatively soon, pointing to positive trends in niche markets where demand for recycled fibre-based solutions is even increasing – in contrast to the wider digitisation trend.

In contrast, the coated grades segment remains under significant pressure. The recycled LWC market continues to suffer from chronic oversupply, and producers of recycled LWC grades are finding it difficult to establish a lasting turnaround in pricing. There is a clear intent to curtail low-price contracts, and some suppliers are now considering price increases.

Industry observers also note ongoing efforts by companies to broaden their product ranges. The diversity of available grades in the sector has increased significantly. In recent years, graphic recycled paper producers have expanded their portfolios to include both coated and uncoated printing papers, as well as niche grades for packaging and labelling applications. Even in the mass-market segments, the product portfolio has expanded to include a broader spectrum of whiteness levels, encompassing upgraded LWC as well as uncoated magazine paper grades.

A recent example comes from Austrian manufacturer Lenzing Papier, which is known for its high-whiteness recycled printing papers. The company has announced it is developing packaging solutions, including for the food sector. Lenzing is also pursuing a major investment programme at its main site. The installation of a state-of-the-art deinking plant is a clear indication of the company's confidence in the future of recycled graphic papers. The new facility will also secure raw material availability by enabling the use of various recovered paper grades.

Kraftliner prices stable in July amid balanced supply and demand

Prices for primary fibre-based containerboard are expected to remain stable in July. Kraftliner producers describe the market as balanced and anticipate steady conditions over the summer, supported by satisfactory capacity utilisation and upcoming maintenance outages beginning in late summer.

There is also growing uncertainty among converters regarding US kraftliner imports. Shipments from the US to Europe have already declined in recent months, and potential import tariffs could further reinforce this trend.

However, some market participants remain cautious, pointing to falling pulp prices and weak operating rates in the Western European corrugated sector. Price pressure may intensify, especially in light of declining prices for recycled containerboard. Primary fibre-based containerboard grades are unlikely to remain unaffected, several EUWID respondents suggest. Kraftliner manufacturers, however, dispute this, arguing that kraftliner substitution by recycled grades is largely complete.

The German corrugated board industry continues to struggle with poor capacity utilisation, high inventories, and unsatisfactory margins. Producers report ongoing difficulties in passing on cost increases. One market participant noted that since March, brown kraftliner production costs have risen by €100/t, while contract prices in June rose by only €40/t in most cases. Some suppliers even reported more modest hikes of €20–30/t.

Price increases for white-top kraftliner have been lower this year, averaging around €40/t, but have had little effect in an intensely competitive market. Semi-chemical fluting prices have shown mixed developments, with little overall change in recent weeks.

Europulp reports high pulp port stocks in May

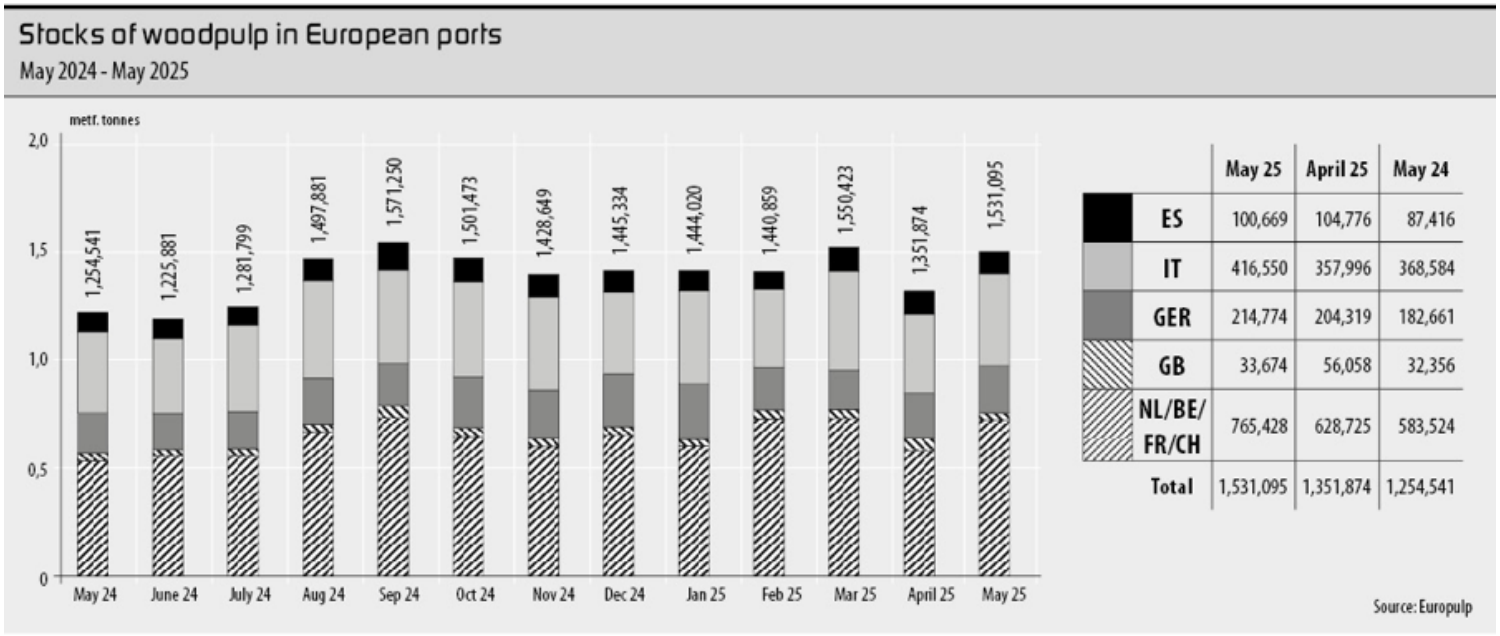
EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Pulp stocks in major European ports rose significantly in May 2025. The total volume stored amounted to 1.53 million t – an increase of 13 per cent compared to the previous months and an increase of 22 per cent year-on-year.

According to Europulp, the increase was particularly strong in ports in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Switzerland. At 765,000 t, stocks in May were around 22 per cent above the April level and around 31 per cent above the previous year's figure. Italy also recorded strong growth in May: stocks here rose by 16 per cent month-on-month and 13 per cent year-on-year to 417,000 t.

Germany reported an increase in pulp port stocks of 5 per cent compared with April and 18 per cent compared with the same month last year, to just under 215,000 t. In Spain, stocks stood at 101,000 t in May 2025, 4 per cent less than in the previous month, but 15 per cent higher than in the same month last year.

The United Kingdom was the only exception in the inventory survey for May. At 34,000 t, pulp ports stocks there stood 40 per cent lower than in April and roughly at the same level as in May last year.



	May 25	April 25	May 24
ES	100,669	104,776	87,416
IT	416,550	357,996	368,584
GER	214,774	204,319	182,661
GB	33,674	56,058	32,356
NL/BE/FR/CH	765,428	628,725	583,524
Total	1,531,095	1,351,874	1,254,541

Global market pulp deliveries stable in May but with different regional dynamics

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 2 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Global deliveries of market pulp amounted to just under 4.36 million t in May 2025. This was 2 per cent above the level of the previous month, April 2025, and almost unchanged from May last year. Capacity utilisation remained constant at 81 per cent compared with April, but was a few percentage points below the previous year's figure (84 per cent).

Deliveries of bleached softwood market pulp rose by 4 per cent month-on-month to 1.69 million t, but remained 8 per cent below the previous year's level. Sales of bleached hardwood market pulp increased by 1 per cent compared with April to 2.53 million t and stood 3 per cent higher y-o-y.

At 949,000 t, deliveries in Western Europe remained virtually unchanged from the previous month, but were down 10 per cent compared with May 2024. Deliveries to North America amounted to 589,000 t in May, 2 per cent less than in the previous month and 9 per cent less y-o-y.

Deliveries to China reached almost 1.40 million t. This represented an increase of 3 per cent on April and almost 6 per cent on May 2024. Deliveries to Latin America rose by almost 10 per cent against April to 324,000 t, but were still 5 per cent below the previous year's figure.

Deliveries to Other Asia/Africa and Oceania amounted to 732,000 t, an increase of 4 per cent compared to both April 2025 and May 2024.

In the first five months of 2025, global market pulp deliveries rose by just under 3 per cent to almost 23 million t. Average capacity utilisation rose slightly year-on-year to 87 per cent.

Sales of bleached softwood pulp declined slightly to 9.11 million t. Deliveries of bleached hardwood pulp increased by 5 per cent to 13.09 million t.

With growth of just under 11 per cent to 8 million t, China was a clear growth driver on the pulp market in the first five months of the year. The market in North America reported a decline of 4 per cent to 3.03 million t, and Western Europe recorded a decline of 5 per cent to 4.91 million t.

In May, market pulp producers' inventories increased by 5 days against April to 49 days of supply and stood 6 days higher y-o-y.

The increase in inventories of bleached hardwood pulp was 4 days on the previous month and 7 days on May 2024. Inventories of bleached softwood pulp reached 46 days of supply and thus were 5 days above the April level and 8 days above the previous year.

World market pulp statistics

May 2025

1,000 t	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024
Shipments	**4,356**	**4,274**	**4,431**
Bleached Softwood	1,686	1,616	1,836
Bleached Hardwood	2,533	2,503	2,458
Unbleached kraft pulp (UKP)	133	153	135
Sulphite	3	3	2
Producer inventories (Days of supply at month-end)	**49**	**44**	**43**
Bleached Softwood	46	41	38
Bleached Hardwood	51	47	47

Compiled data based on a sample of 20 countries (17 current producers and 3 past producers included in the historical data) which together account for 82 per cent of world chemical market pulp capacity.

Source: Pulp and Paper Products Council

Pulp consumption in May at previous year's level

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

At just over 852,000 t, European pulp consumers used almost as much market pulp in May 2025 as in the same month last year. Compared with April this year, consumption was even 8 per cent higher. Users consumed 6 per cent more bleached softwood kraft pulp and 11 per cent more bleached hardwood kraft pulp than in April. However, compared to the same month last year, consumption of bleached softwood kraft pulp was 7 per cent lower in May, while bleached hardwood kraft pulp recorded an increase of 4 per cent.

At around 681,000 t, market pulp consumers had around 2 per cent less material on stock in May than in April, but almost 3 per cent more than in the same month last year. In May, stocks of bleached softwood kraft pulp amounted to almost 222,000 t, standing 1 per cent higher than in April and 7 per cent higher than in May 2024. At just under 427,000 t, users had almost as much bleached hardwood kraft pulp in stock as in May last year, but around 2 per cent less than in April.

At 25 days, inventories were one day lower than in April and roughly at the same level as in May last year.

Inventories and consumption of pulp consumers in Europe

May 2025

tonnes		UNBLEACHED	BLEACHED / SEMI-BLEACHED					
		Sulphite & Kraft	Softwood sulphite	Hardwood sulphite	Softwood kraft	Hardwood kraft	Total	Previous year
Inventories								
April	2025	7,133	27,129	7,140	219,478	437,123	698,003	671,490
May	2025	7,320	16,400	8,471	221,911	426,938	681,040	664,423
Consumption								
April	2025	7,425	32,636	13,057	227,289	509,522	789,929	866,499
May	2025	6,390	28,143	13,582	240,534	563,364	852,013	849,334

NB: Total and previous year total do not include DIP and CTMP, figures are constantly revised.
Each national Association has to provide an estimation for 100% of the national volumes out of their samples (from 80% to 100% depending on the countries).

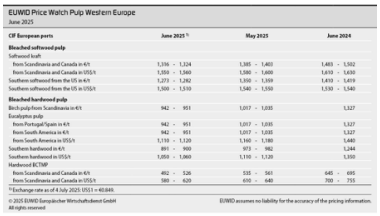
Source: UTIPULP

Market pulp prices point lower again in June

Additional price cuts for BEK and NBSK in negotiation for deliveries in July

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 4 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Demand on the global pulp market is sluggish, and prices remain under pressure amidst ample supply. The European market is no exception, with BEK and NBSK pulp prices falling again in June after price cuts started rolling in May.



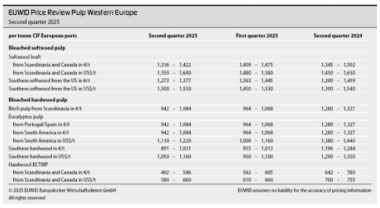
EUWID Price Watch Pulp Western Europe
June 2025

CIF European ports	June 2025 [1]	May 2025	June 2024
Bleached softwood pulp			
Softwood kraft			
from Scandinavia and Canada in €/t	1,116 - 1,324	1,385 - 1,401	1,483 - 1,592
from Scandinavia and Canada in US$/t	1,350 - 1,360	1,580 - 1,600	1,610 - 1,630
Southern softwood from the US in €/t	1,273 - 1,282	1,350 - 1,359	1,413 - 1,419
Southern softwood from the US in US$/t	1,500 - 1,510	1,540 - 1,550	1,530 - 1,540
Bleached hardwood pulp			
Birch pulp from Scandinavia in €/t	942 - 951	1,017 - 1,035	1,327
Eucalyptus pulp			
from Portugal/Spain in €/t	942 - 951	1,017 - 1,035	1,327
from South America in €/t	942 - 951	1,017 - 1,035	1,327
from South America in US$/t	1,110 - 1,120	1,160 - 1,180	1,440
Southern hardwood in €/t	891 - 900	973 - 982	1,244
Southern hardwood in US$/t	1,050 - 1,060	1,110 - 1,120	1,350
Hardwood BCTMP			
from Scandinavia and Canada in €/t	492 - 526	535 - 561	645 - 695
from Scandinavia and Canada in US$/t	580 - 620	610 - 640	700 - 755

[1] Exchange rate as of 4 July 2025: US$/€ = 1.1849.

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Without exception, market players were already discussing fresh price reductions for deliveries in July. However, in the first week of July, new prices had not been finalised everywhere yet.



EUWID Price Review Pulp Western Europe
Second quarter 2025

per tonne CIF European ports	Second quarter 2025	First quarter 2025	Second quarter 2024
Bleached softwood pulp			
Softwood kraft			
from Scandinavia and Canada in €/t	1,316 - 1,422	1,409 - 1,475	1,345 - 1,592
from Scandinavia and Canada in US$/t	1,550 - 1,600	1,480 - 1,580	1,450 - 1,630
Southern softwood from the US in €/t	1,273 - 1,277	1,363 - 1,448	1,290 - 1,419
Southern softwood from the US in US$/t	1,500 - 1,550	1,450 - 1,530	1,390 - 1,540
Bleached hardwood pulp			
Birch pulp from Scandinavia in €/t	942 - 1,084	964 - 1,068	1,280 - 1,327
Eucalyptus pulp			
from Portugal/Spain in €/t	942 - 1,084	964 - 1,068	1,280 - 1,327
from South America in €/t	942 - 1,084	964 - 1,068	1,280 - 1,327
from South America in US$/t	1,110 - 1,220	1,000 - 1,160	1,380 - 1,440
Southern hardwood in €/t	891 - 1,031	915 - 1,013	1,196 - 1,244
Southern hardwood in US$/t	1,050 - 1,160	950 - 1,100	1,290 - 1,350
Hardwood BCTMP			
from Scandinavia and Canada in €/t	492 - 586	562 - 605	642 - 700
from Scandinavia and Canada in US$/t	580 - 660	610 - 660	700 - 755

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Suppliers of market pulp – manufacturers and traders alike – described the market in Europe as weak. Demand for market pulp has been in decline in Europe since the beginning of the year, a trend that is reportedly linked to a downturn in production in a few key sectors of the paper industry, insiders said. Contacts told EUWID that paper manufacturers are operating at below average to poor capacity utilisation and have been repeatedly taking market-related downtime in the last weeks and months. Some paper mills are reportedly completely idled while some other are taking downtime on individual paper machines, depending on the demand situation and the mills' structure. A few companies were even extending stoppages by bringing forward scheduled maintenance work. One paper producer pointed out that those who had not taken downtime to date would use the summer holiday period to do so.

Market pulp remains abundantly available in Europe. Pulp manufacturers have reportedly above-average amounts of pulp on stock, which is also confirmed by the latest statistics. In light of subdued demand and low prices in China, pulp producers remain keenly interested in the European market. Insiders said that this was also evident by rising pulp stocks at major European ports, along with suppliers' willingness to compromise on prices and contract terms as they actively seek ways and means to keep their customers loyal.

Commercial downtime at integrated and semi-integrated paper mills is contributing to the oversupply problem that exists on Europe's pulp market. Since paper producers are making less paper, they have more pulp available that they can offer as market pulp. According to one pulp manufacturer, the challenges had less to do with the amount on offer and more to do with the low price, which is causing a stir on the spot market.

Converters describe their own pulp inventories as normal but higher than at the same time last year. Buyers were not interested in stockpiling and this was unlikely to change as long as pulp remained abundantly available, paper demand was low, and market pulp prices had yet to reach rock bottom, one pulp buyer told EUWID.

For weeks now, this trend has also been reflected in the purchasing behaviour displayed by pulp converters. Generally speaking, buyers were not fully calling off the agreed contract amounts. For one thing, they simply did not need this pulp. For another, contract prices are still too high, even after applying standard discounts, so customers would gladly source what they need on the spot market, where prices are trading at up to $100/t less. Market players also reported growing discussions about the structure of existing supply contracts. Sources active in the European pulp business told EUWID that customers were increasingly making use of mechanisms based on net prices. What is more, they also want the actual movement in prices to be reflected immediately to the contracts without a delay.

In light of this situation, prices for bleached eucalyptus kraft (BEK) pulp in Europe tumbled by another $60/t for June deliveries, settling mostly in the region of $1,110-1,120/t. Negotiations for July deliveries indicate another decrease of $60 in BEK pulp prices, bringing prices to around $1,060/t or slightly less.

In most instances, northern bleached softwood kraft (NBSK) pulp prices dropped by $40/t, resulting in prices of $1,550-1,560/t for June deliveries. More price cuts were under discussion, but they were not all done and dusted in the first week of July. It was not unusual for EUWID sources to quote NBSK pulp prices of $1,520/t or sometimes less for July deliveries.

Pulp manufacturers are well aware that they cannot halt the downward spiral in prices in this environment, but they are keen to maintain control over how much prices fall. Their aim is to ensure that certain price floors are not reached too quickly and, under no circumstances, are breached.

The pulp industry is also taking market-related downtime. Softwood pulp producers, especially, are reviewing or already taking such actions because prices on the global market are low, and the weak US dollar is making revenues and margins even lower when converted into euros. The situation for bleached eucalyptus kraft pulp appears less severe, at least for Latin American suppliers who apparently do not feel the same margin pressure as their counterparts in Europe or in the softwood pulp segment. There are no official announcements of commercial downtime at BEK pulp mills. However, some insiders are calling for a reduction in supply and advocating the closure of older, less profitable mills.

Recovered paper Poland: Market turns in second quarter as prices fall significantly

Further price reductions expected in July despite low collection volumes

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 4 min | Published in issue 28/2025



EUWID Price Watch Recovered Paper Poland
Second quarter 2025

Prices in PLN/€ per tonne free delivered	Second quarter 2025	First quarter 2025	Second quarter 2024
Supermarket corrugated paper/board in PLN/t (1.04)	610 - 740	360 - 580	520 - 780
Supermarket corrugated paper/board in €/t (1.04)	144 - 175	86 - 139	121 - 181
New shavings of corrugated board in PLN/t (4.01)	650 - 780	400 - 620	560 - 820
New shavings of corrugated board in €/t (4.01)	153 - 184	96 - 148	130 - 191
Sorted graphic paper for deinking in PLN/t (1.11)	800 - 850	840 - 900	780 - 1,040
Sorted graphic paper for deinking in €/t (1.11)	189 - 200	201 - 215	181 - 242
White woodfree uncoated shavings in PLN/t (3.18.01)	2,100 - 2,150	2,100 - 2,150	2,190 - 2,330
White woodfree uncoated shavings in €/t (3.18.01)	494 - 506	502 - 514	509 - 541

Exchange rate as of 4 July 2025: 1 PLN = €0.2351
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After several turbulent weeks in spring, the Polish recovered paper market underwent a complete reversal over the course of the second quarter. While prices for supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04) rose rapidly in March and April – with peak levels of more than PLN 700/t (€165) free delivered recorded in May –market tensions had eased after Easter and by June at the latest. After a short period of stability, prices for brown bulk grades generally fell by €30/t in June, with reductions of up to €40/t in some cases. According to market insiders, this movement was part of a broader European trend that did not originate in Poland. At the end of June, insiders were predicting a further decline in July.

According to merchants, the price reductions were taking place against the backdrop of a supply surplus throughout Europe. Volumes that would previously have been sold to Asia from key supplier countries such as the UK, France or Spain had increasingly reached Central Europe in recent weeks due to a lack of export opportunities. At the same time, various packaging paper producers had cut back production output again, insiders told EUWID. Sales in these market segments are reportedly still modest in many countries. However Poland is said to be an exception, with containerboard and corrugated packaging production performing better than elsewhere.

At the end of March, there was still talk of “panicked” paper mills, which had hurriedly stocked up ahead of Easter and the May public holidays for fear of supply bottlenecks. However, by May and June Polish recovered paper consumers appeared to have no further problems with availability or stock levels. At the same time, it was reported that collection volumes remained very low not only in Poland but also elsewhere. Market insiders say that arisings, particularly from commercial and industrial entities, are unlikely to rise noticeably until there is an economic recovery and a lasting improvement in consumer sentiment.

Manufacturers’ recovered paper stocks had returned to normal levels by June, according to industry contacts – but only because less paper was being produced throughout Europe. “If all machines were running at full capacity, there would quickly be shortages again,” warned one market insider, referring to the low collection volumes.

Weaker export demand has also contributed to the improved availability in Poland. Exports of recovered paper from Poland to Ukraine had come to a complete standstill for a time, according to market experts. A Ukrainian paper mill had unexpectedly been forced to shut down, enabling other mills in the country to source raw material on the domestic market, a merchant explained. Sales picked up slightly again in June, insiders said, but only to a limited extent.

Demand from the Far East collapsed in the spring following the steep increases in recovered paper prices seen across Europe. Although prices in Asia are currently said to be only slightly above European levels, transport costs are often making exports unattractive.

A further drop in supermarket corrugated paper and board prices is expected for July. At the end of June, market insiders forecast reductions of €10-20. Provided demand for finished and recovered paper does not fall more sharply than expected for the season, prices could stabilise until autumn. Some market participants warn of potential volatility: “If prices fall too far, there could be another sudden spike in late summer, as was the case in March,” said one observer.

During the second quarter, supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04) prices stood at PLN610-740/t free delivered (€143-174, based on the exchange rate on 4 June 2025). New shavings of corrugated board (4.01) were priced at PLN650-780/t (€153-183) during the same period.

Prices for sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) remained either stable or fell slightly in Poland in the second quarter, after moving little in the first quarter. Market conditions for this grade have been described as much calmer for some time, especially when compared to supermarket paper and board. Collection volumes for newspapers (2.01) and magazines (1.06) are steadily declining, but traders in Poland also report subdued demand. Overall, these factors are balancing out the market.

Free delivered prices for sorted graphic paper for deinking hovered around the €200/t mark both in June and across the second quarter as a whole.

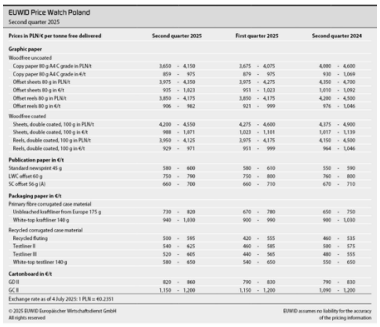
Stability also prevailed for white recovered paper grades. While pulp prices have been falling recently, this trend has not yet been reflected in recovered paper sales. No significant price changes were reported in Poland for white woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01) for the second quarter.

However, other white grades, such as printing waste (3.13), became more expensive in April and May, according to respondents. This was attributed to tight supply alongside lively demand, particularly from paper mills producing white-top testliner.

Muted outlook for Poland’s paper and cartonboard markets in Q3

Slack demand, falling prices and early summer lull hitting suppliers hard

EUWID + 09 July 2025 | ~ 13 min | Published in issue 28/2025



EUWID Price Watch Poland
Second quarter 2025

Prices in PLN/t per tonne free delivered	Second quarter 2025	First quarter 2025	Second quarter 2024
Graphic paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade in PLN/t	3,650 - 4,150	3,675 - 4,075	4,000 - 4,600
Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade in €/t	859 - 975	879 - 975	930 - 1,069
Offset sheets 80 g in PLN/t	3,975 - 4,350	3,975 - 4,275	4,350 - 4,700
Offset sheets 80 g in €/t	935 - 1,023	951 - 1,023	1,010 - 1,092
Offset reels 80 g in PLN/t	3,850 - 4,175	3,850 - 4,175	4,200 - 4,500
Offset reels 80 g in €/t	906 - 982	921 - 999	976 - 1,046
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g in PLN/t	4,200 - 4,550	4,275 - 4,600	4,375 - 4,900
Sheets, double coated, 100 g in €/t	988 - 1,071	1,023 - 1,101	1,017 - 1,139
Reels, double coated, 100 g in PLN/t	3,950 - 4,125	3,975 - 4,175	4,150 - 4,500
Reels, double coated, 100 g in €/t	929 - 971	951 - 999	964 - 1,046
Publication paper in €/t			
Standard newsprint 45 g	580 - 600	580 - 610	550 - 590
LWC offset 60 g	750 - 790	750 - 800	760 - 800
SC offset 56 g (A)	660 - 700	660 - 710	670 - 710
Packaging paper in €/t			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner from Europe 175 g	730 - 820	670 - 780	650 - 750
White-top kraftliner 140 g	940 - 1,030	900 - 990	900 - 1,030
Recycled corrugated case material			
Recycled fluting	550 - 595	420 - 555	460 - 535
Testliner II	540 - 625	460 - 585	590 - 575
Testliner III	520 - 605	440 - 565	480 - 555
White-top testliner 140 g	580 - 650	540 - 650	550 - 650
Cartonboard in €/t			
GD II	820 - 860	790 - 830	790 - 830
GC II	1,150 - 1,200	1,150 - 1,200	1,090 - 1,200

Exchange rate as of 4 July 2025: 1 PLN = €0.2351

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Poland’s paper and cartonboard markets noticeably lost momentum in the second quarter of 2025. Many segments experienced mounting pressure on prices, stagnant demand and an early summer slump. At the same time, structural overcapacity and growing competition from imports, especially from Asia and North America, are weighing heavily on many suppliers. Object-based orders and prices with short-term contracts are gaining importance, while traditional price-fixing models are becoming less relevant.

Planned price hikes for a variety of grades were either not implemented or subsequently reversed. Instead, significant price cuts sometimes surfaced in many segments. Competitive pressure remains intense, and uncertainty continues to cloud the market outlook. Even though the Polish market is still regarded as stable and, thanks to its economic growth, relatively well-positioned compared to the rest of Europe, there are currently few signs of a fundamental recovery.

Fine paper suppliers struggling with overcapacity and import pressure

Clouds gathered on Poland’s woodfree fine paper market in the second quarter. Sources told EUWID that intensifying price competition and the first signs of an early summer lull have put additional strain on the market in recent months, especially for copy paper and coated sheets. The price hikes announced in spring for both coated and uncoated fine paper grades were either never implemented or have since been reversed. Instead, widespread price cuts were the reality. On average, prices dropped by €20-30/t in the second quarter. In a few cases, insiders mentioned concessions of up to €50/t. Structural problems, such as surplus capacity and import pressure from Asia, remain key challenges. The mood among manufacturers and merchants in Poland has turned increasingly subdued.

Observers note that long-term price agreements are becoming increasingly irrelevant. Short-term, object-based negotiations now dominate in Poland. Heightened competition among suppliers and especially merchants is creating additional unrest. The fine paper sector continues to see a drop in order volumes, a trend confirmed by printers in Poland interviewed by EUWID. Market insiders said that there were no firm signs of a turnaround to date.

The second quarter brought mixed trends for woodfree uncoated paper. While a few suppliers attempted to raise prices for offset and office paper by €20-30/t in April, producers and buyers reported that these efforts were largely rolled back in May. Additional pressure then built up in June at the latest, prompting a variety of manufacturers in Poland to make price concessions. In many cases, prices were lowered by €20-30/t, market players told EUWID.

Several paper mills have scheduled maintenance stoppages for late summer or autumn, with manufacturers hoping that this will at least help to stabilise prices over the summer. At the same time, major buyers from Poland report that contract negotiations have just concluded, yielding huge price cuts for the third quarter in some cases. All sources said that the Polish market for uncoated fine paper was extremely strained. Demand is considered solid on the whole, which observers attributed to a relatively strong economic performance in the country. However, the market is marked by intense competition among suppliers.

The downward trend in prices for woodfree coated paper persisted in Poland. While manufacturers announced industry-wide price increases for the spring, May and June saw price concessions of €30/t in many places.

Additional price cuts look to be on the cards for the third quarter. The slump in demand is especially strong for coated grades, with forecasts in this segment especially gloomy. What's more, imports from South Korea continue to gain ground in Poland, further intensifying pressure on European producers.

Publication paper market under pressure, with price cuts expected in the second half

The fundamental trends observed on Poland's publication paper market during the first three months persisted in the second quarter. Market players unanimously report that demand from printers and publishers in Poland has neither improved nor deteriorated, with the structural downward trend in paper consumption remaining in place. There is no mass discontinuation of magazine titles, retail sales are stable, and although the shift to digital persists, aditional substantial declines have not materialised. According to several insiders, the first half of 2025 saw a decrease of at least 10 per cent across all grades, with the drop likely even greater for coated mechanical magazine paper grades.

The paper industry's calls for price hikes from April onwards have failed to gain traction in Poland. Producers attempting to institute at least small price increases were penalised by their customers, who placed orders with competitors instead. Newsprint prices were stable on the whole in the second quarter but showed a slight downward tendency. Magazine paper prices also held steady at the first quarter's level or dipped slightly. Reports of mark-downs of up to €20/t were especially common among buyers purchasing larger volumes.

As the third quarter began, contacts reported that universal price reductions are looming large for the second half of the year. Buyers are pushing for mark-downs of €10-20/t compared with the second quarter for newsprint, SC paper and LWC paper. In the object-based business, which is becoming increasingly important, buyers said that much larger price decreases were possible. In late June, suppliers were still hoping for stability, but they said that they were coming under mounting pressure. As one expert succinctly put it, paper mills are simply lacking orders. Suppliers' negotiating position had deteriorated compared with recent months, as a result, insiders added.

In the newsprint business, market players in Poland are witnessing a growing shift in ordering to imports from Canada. Market insiders told EUWID that these imports were being offered at prices at least €50/t below the European average. Buyers are willing to accept the logistical challenges that come with overseas imports to secure these savings. Industry experts said that Canadian producers and their intermediaries are not only serving major newsprint converters but are increasingly targeting smaller buyers with their offers, as well.

The state of affairs in the magazine paper business remains strained, with things getting worse for LWC paper, in particular. One publication paper supplier said that it now offered hardly any LWC paper in Poland, citing surplus supply in Europe and the related abundant availability and fierce competition among manufacturers.

The closure of the Kabel paper mill had little impact on the Polish market. On the whole, the market continues to experience oversupply, according to one seller who described their position as "being in a dead end." Without price cuts, they would lose sales volumes, but with price cuts, business is barely profitable.

The SC paper segment is proving a little more robust. Sources describe demand here as more stable, especially because of large-volume retail customers. However, the market is driven by object-based business, sometimes at extremely low prices. Buyers report projects priced below €600/t, which indicates extremely fierce competition for large tenders.

For Poland's printing sector, the first half of the year unfolded in line with subdued expectations. Industry insiders said that print volumes and demand for paper from medium-size and large companies were down at least 10 to 15 per cent compared with last year's levels, with a few cases showing even steeper declines.

Recycled containerboard prices under pressure after RCP becomes cheaper

Poland's recycled corrugated case material market has been reeling from falling prices since mid-year at the latest, after enjoying an upward trend in the first five to six months of the year. Back in June, a few manufacturers started granting customers in Poland discounts of €20/t, sometimes issued in the form of credit notes. In early July, prices then crumbled across the board. In most instances, prices dropped by €40 or sometimes by another €20 if a mark-down had already been negotiated in June.

Experts point out that prices had risen in the first half of the year, not because demand had improved but mainly because of margins and the steep climb in recovered paper costs. In Poland, a €80/t hike in February was followed by another €40/t increase in May. However, to all appearances, it seems that May's mark-up, in particular, was only marginally viable in terms of both market acceptance and its long-term viability. This became evident in June at the latest when Polish recovered paper prices tumbled by €30-40/t, immediately prompting a debate over prices.

That said, sources said that the market correction was needed since demand for paper and packaging throughout Europe remained subdued and was still characterised by cautious, uncertain consumption. To this day, Poland is considered an exception. Suppliers described demand for corrugated case material in Poland over the past three months as decent. While some called it "stable but not spectacular," they always added "better than many other markets."

New paper machines in Europe are bringing additional supply pressure to bear in a market that continues to face widespread underutilisation across the continent. Sources in Poland report that short-term volumes are still readily available. With demand remaining weak across many markets in Europe and the seasonal slowdown just around the corner, market insiders are increasingly questioning just how much mills will have to temporary suspend production to gain control of the situation. Speculation is rife that summer discounts and additional market-wide reductions might surface in August.

Polish white-top testliner prices stayed largely the same in the second quarter. Unlike with brown grades, producers failed to institute a second price increase after already raising prices by €40-50/t in the first quarter in most cases.

Brown kraftliner became €40/t more expensive in June. The kraftliner market currently appears to be more robust than the market for recycled grades. Manufacturers stated that demand was a little more stable. At the same time, production cutbacks looming for the second half of the year are fuelling expectations of a tighter market. A variety of producers have announced several shutdowns between August and November. Additionally, availability of US kraftliner has worsened: Imports into southern Europe had declined during the first four to five months of the year, something that was connected to production stoppages in the US and the possibility of stricter tariff policies under President Trump, experts said. Insiders pointed out that any additional tariffs will be payable on the goods' arrival and not at the time of ordering. Sources told EUWID that converters usually opting for US kraftliner were increasingly switching to European alternatives, which is expected to have an indirect impact on the European market as a whole, including Poland.

White-top kraftliner prices stayed the same in the second quarter despite several efforts to the contrary. The mark-ups announced alongside those for unbleached kraftliner did not take hold, and market players do not see signs of any fresh initiatives for July, either.

Moderate growth continuing to play out in the corrugated board and packaging market

In spite of some minor setbacks in May or June, the Polish corrugated board and packaging market remained stable overall in the second quarter. Following a strong start to the year, volumes over the past three months were a few percentage points higher than last year, sources said. The market is reportedly growing at a rate of around two to three per cent, insiders said, adding that this is towards the lower end of the forecast range of three to five per cent. Nonetheless, insiders are optimistic about the prospects for stronger business this autumn.

The reasons behind the weaker-than-expected start to summer remain unclear. Along with the large number of holidays and long weekends, which affected output, the weather has also been cited as a contributing factor. Cooler weather curbed demand for seasonal products, such as BBQ items. It remains to be seen if this marks the start of the summer slump or if July, with its many working days, will compensate for the shortfall. Market insiders said that one thing was clear: Poland continues to stand out positively in a European comparison, while other countries are at or even below last year's levels.

That being said, demand for packaging is not exactly booming in Poland, either. Geopolitical uncertainty and economic challenges in other key countries are putting the dampers on business. Consumer sentiment remains tense throughout Europe. "Either people are going on holiday or they are saving money. Neither scenario generates additional demand for packaging," one market player said, summing up the situation. Additionally, the Polish corrugated industry is struggling with surplus capacity built up in recent years, meaning that many companies are hardly noticing the moderate increase in volumes.

Cartonboard market feels the pinch in Q2, with sales volumes falling noticeably

Mounting pressure on prices and fluctuating demand shaped Poland's cartonboard market in the second quarter. While April still saw a degree of momentum, sales dropped noticeably from mid-May onwards, insiders told EUWID. In June, some manufacturers reported a downright collapse, with one producer describing the situation as a "disaster". In the first three months of the year, Poland had outperformed the European average for both GD and GC cartonboard. After strong business in January, though, sales pointed lower. One cartonboard supplier said that he was especially surprised that June sales were even lower than those recorded in May, which had already been weak because of the holidays.

An improvement is not expected in the next couple of months. Quite a few insiders said that the summer slump appeared to have started earlier than normal. By way of explanation, EUWID sources primarily singled out persistently weak consumer sentiment. Many consumers are tightening their belts and showing a greater preference for store brands, which are more often packaged in plastic than cartonboard. This general restraint is further reinforced by new geopolitical uncertainties, adding additional strain to the market environment.

In the case of GD (white-line chipboard), the price hikes announced for March were, for the most part, successfully implemented in Poland during the second quarter. Market players said that these increases varied from €25 to €30/t, depending on the buyer structure and contract term. A few suppliers that had previously failed to raise their prices renewed their demands during the second quarter, sometimes threatening to suspend deliveries unless buyers accepted the higher prices, according to one player. Contract prices with six-month terms were left unchanged at first but are set to be revised from the third quarter onward, as well.

At the same time, the GD market is experiencing mounting pressure amidst weak capacity utilisation. Availability is plentiful, and it is not unusual for lead times to be just two to three weeks long. In early July, initial discounts from a few manufacturers are reportedly doing the rounds. In the view of suppliers, the only positive effect is the recent downturn in recovered paper prices, although energy costs remain mired in uncertainty.

GC (folding boxboard) prices stayed the same in the second quarter. In the medium term, market players think that new capacity will exert pressure on prices as soon as production is stable in Oulu and cartonboard becomes widely available. Lead times are five to seven weeks long, with supply stable apart from certain grammages.

The Polish folding carton market also failed to meet earlier expectations in the second quarter and was showing a subdued performance on the whole. Sources said that order intake was often lower than in the first few months of this year. Several converters said that they were taking things one step at a time. Market players said that enquiries were placed at short notice, produced immediately and shipped out right away. A variety of folding carton makers told EUWID that they were not working at full steam. Although there were some improvements in seasonal business in a few cases, these gains were not enough to make up for losses in other areas, such as premium drinks, sweets and household products. Slow consumer spending is especially evident in the high-end consumer goods segment, sources said. On the whole, profitability in Poland was still within an acceptable range, but doubts are mounting over how long companies can weather the dry spell. Overcapacity on the market is adding further pressure. As one expert put it, "only end customers are benefitting at the moment."

Cartiere Carrara to build new tissue mill in Italy

EUWID + 08 July 2025 | Valeria Buß | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025



Italian tissue paper and products manufacturer Cartiere Carrara has plans to build a new greenfield tissue mill in Pisticci in southern Italy. The region of Basilicata announced in a statement that the Consortium for the industrial development of the province of Matera (Consorzio per lo Sviluppo Industriale della Provincia di Matera) had signed an agreement with Cartiere Carrara to transfer an area within the Valbasento industrial zone in Pisticci to the company.

The industrial site will cover an area of 136,000 m². According to the region, Cartiere Carrara intends to build a new plant for the production of tissue paper and their conversion into tissue products. The investment sum for the project was put at €42.8m. 50 new jobs are to be created. Cartiere Carrara declined to comment on further details of the project.

Cartiere Carrara describes itself as one of the leading tissue paper manufacturers in Italy and in Europe. The Italian company runs 7 production sites which operate a total of 10 tissue paper machines and 60 converting lines. Its total capacities amount to 300,000 tpy of tissue paper. Cartiere Carrara produces consumer tissue such as toilet paper and kitchen rolls as well as products for the away-from-home market. Its portflio includes both fresh fibre-based and recycled fibre-based tissue products. The company employs around 850 people.

Metsä Group expects negative operating result

07 July 2025 | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Metsä Group expects a negative operating result for the second quarter of this year. In a profit warning the company said that the main reason for this was weak demand for market pulp in Europe and China.

In addition, the tariffs imposed by the USA had a negative impact on purchasing behaviour of paperboard customers in particular. As a result, Metsä Board had to adjust paperboard production more strongly than previously planned.

When publishing its results for the first quarter of this year, Metsä Group still assumed that its comparable operating result for Q2 would be "weaker" than the €81m achieved in the first quarter of the year. According to its latest estimates, the company now expects a negative operating result of €-35m for the second quarter. Metsä Group will publish its half-year results on 31 July 2025.

The tariff dispute with the US will continue to preoccupy the European paper industry. Negotiations between the EU and the US to avert increased tariffs on US imports were still running at the start of the second week of July, with a deadline of 9 July. Currently, a US import tariff of ten percent applies in many cases. Last year, the USA imported more than 700,000 t of cartonboard from Europe, the majority of which were recycled grades.

Metsä Tissue finalises talks on Kreuzau job cuts

04 July 2025 | Frauke Schmidt | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

As part of the planned reorganisation of its tissue paper mill in Kreuzau, Germany, Metsä Tissue has concluded negotiations with the site's workforce. The company announced that the number of job reductions will be lower than initially expected.



Metsä Tissue streamlines operations at the Kreuzau mill

According to a company statement, 93 positions will be cut instead of the originally estimated 123. The reduction will be carried out without compulsory redundancies, Metsä Tissue confirmed.

The planned restructuring includes the closure of one paper machine at the Kreuzau site, a move first announced in January 2025.

"We are firmly committed to the future of the Kreuzau mill," said Tobias Lüning, Senior Vice President West and Country Manager at Metsä Tissue. "With the jointly developed realignment plan and the associated investments, we are laying the foundation for competitive future production."

Kreuzau is one of the largest tissue paper mills in Europe and the biggest within Metsä Group. The site produces tissue paper products based on fresh fibre and has an annual capacity of 113,000 tonnes.

Progroup appoints Vinzenz Heindl as Chief Sales Officer

03 July 2025 | Frauke Schmidt | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Progroup AG has named Vinzenz Heindl as Chief Sales Officer (CSO) with effect from 1 August 2025. The appointment marks another milestone in the company's long-term strategy, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable growth as a family-owned enterprise and to deepening partnerships with its customers.



Vinzenz Heindl wil join Progroup's Executive Board

Vinzenz Heindl previously served as Managing Director of Professionals Academy SPO GmbH, part of JH Holding GmbH – the principal shareholder and majority owner of Progroup AG.

"Vinzenz will bring valuable customer-centred perspectives to the Executive Board," said CEO Maximilian Heindl, who succeeded company founder Jürgen Heindl as Chairman of the Executive Board at the beginning of 2023. "He combines strategic vision with a deep understanding of the market, and a strong commitment to the values that have made Progroup successful. I'm delighted to welcome him to our leadership team."

Commenting on his appointment, Vinzenz Heindl said: "Joining Progroup's Executive Board is a meaningful step for me, both professionally and personally. Many of our customer relationships go back years – in some cases, even decades – and are rooted in trust and genuine connection. I look forward to further strengthening these partnerships and to contributing fresh momentum as we work together on the key issues shaping the future of our industry."

Palm strengthens market position with completion of IP plant acquisition

02 July 2025 | Frauke Schmidt | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Germany's Palm Group has finalised its acquisition of five corrugated packaging plants previously owned by US-based International Paper (IP). The transaction was completed on 30 June 2025, following clearance from the European Commission and the French antitrust authorities.



Palm expands footprint with strategic acquisition in Southern Europe.

With this strategic move, Palm strengthens its position in the European corrugated packaging market and significantly expands its presence across France, Spain and Portugal.

Palm also reaffirmed its commitment to the existing customer base of the newly acquired plants.

Dr Marina Palm, Managing Director of the Palm Group, expressed satisfaction with the timely completion of the deal: “This was made possible thanks to the constructive collaboration of all parties involved.”

She emphasised the strategic relevance of the acquisition: “It marks an important step in our long-term growth strategy. It allows us to enhance our market presence in key regions and to serve our customers with local production facilities.”

“We warmly welcome the employees of the five new sites to the PALM Group and look forward to shaping our shared future together,” Dr Palm added.

PCA to acquire Greif's containerboard business

01 July 2025 | Igor Dugandzic | ~ 2 min | Published in issue 28/2025

Packaging Corporation of America will take over two containerboard mills and eight sheet feeder and corrugated plants from Greif to grow its containerboard products business in North America.



US paper and packaging group Packaging Corporation of America has entered into a definitive agreement to take over the containerboard business of Greif Inc for a purchase price of $1.8bn in cash. The transaction is subject to certain customary conditions and regulatory approvals and is expected to close by the end of September 2025 which corresponds to the end of PCA's third quarter.

PCA plans to finance the transaction with $1.5bn of new debt and cash on hand, the group announced.

The Greif containerboard business consists of two containerboard mills with an annual production capacity of approximately 725,000 t (800,000 sh.t) and eight sheet feeder and corrugated plants across the USA. According to PCA, the business generated approximately $1.2bn in sales and had an EBITDA of $212m for the 12 months ended 30 April 2025.

Packaging Corporation of America is considered the third largest producer of containerboard products in North America. The company operates eight containerboard mills and 86 corrugated products plants and related facilities. In 2024, the company's Packaging segment produced 27.3 billion m² of containerboard, mostly primary fibre-based linerboard and corrugating medium and delivered a total of 6.2 billion m² of corrugated products in the same period, PCA said.

The Thomson Reuters news agency quotes an expert from the US bond analysis company Gimme Credit as saying that PCA's total capacity for containerboard will increase to 5.4 million t (6 million sh.t) following the takeover of Greif's Containerboard business.

The acquisition of Greif is expected to further grow the group's containerboard products business in North America while generating pre-tax benefits of approximately $60m in synergies. The synergies are projected to come from "improved operational and production capabilities and efficiencies at the mills, increased integration, mill grade optimization and lower transportation costs, and are expected to be fully realized within two years after closing," PCA explained.

PCA also boasts a strong position among leading producers of woodfree uncoated paper in the US. Over the past three years, however, the company has converted two fine paper machines at its Jackson, Alabama mill to containerboard production reducing its WFU production capacity. Currently PCA's Paper business, represented by the subsidiary Boise Paper, runs only one paper mill with an annual capacity of approximately 450,000 t (500,000 sh.t).

This article was updated on 9 July 2025.

Cepi ContainerBoard rebrands as Containerboard Europe and launches new website

01 July 2025 | Frauke Schmidt | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

The European association representing containerboard producers has rebranded itself as Containerboard Europe, marking a new phase in the organisation's development. Formerly known as Cepi ContainerBoard, the Brussels-based association says the change reflects its evolving role in supporting and connecting containerboard manufacturers across Europe.



Cepi ContainerBoard rebrands as Containerboard Europe

As part of the rebranding, Containerboard Europe has launched a completely revamped website, designed to offer a more intuitive platform for members and stakeholders. The new website serves as an industry resource hub, providing access to market data, technical information, sustainability initiatives, and updates on relevant developments in the sector.

According to Managing Director Paul van Bezouw, the new name and digital presence signal a strategic shift: "This rebrand marks a new chapter for our association. With a fresh identity and an enhanced digital presence, we are better positioned to support our members and to engage and collaborate more effectively with the broader industry ecosystem."

The website features a modernised design, enhanced insights into the containerboard market, and a dedicated members' portal. The association said the transition reflects its commitment to promoting circular economy principles, innovation, and the continued development of a resilient and sustainable packaging industry in Europe.

IP to restructure NA operations, exit moulded fibre business

30 June 2025 | Frauke Schmidt | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 28/2025

International Paper (IP) has announced a series of restructuring measures in its North American operations, including the closure, conversion and divestment of multiple sites in the US and Mexico.



IP will streamline its North American business

IP said it would exit the moulded fibre business altogether, converting its Reno, Nevada facility to support packaging operations. In addition, International Paper will close its packaging plant in Marion, Ohio, and its recycling facility in Wichita, Kansas. Around 134 positions will be affected across these US sites.

In Mexico, IP is selling its containerboard mill in Xalapa, along with recycling plants in Xalapa and Apodaca, to domestic packaging producer Acabados de Papeles Santinados y Absorbentes.

The restructuring forms part of IP's wider transformation plan, aimed at enhancing focus, agility and long-term competitiveness in the sustainable packaging segment. The company recently announced measures to streamline its corrugated packaging operations in the UK.

IP, which now employs more than 65,000 people globally, reported net sales of $18.6bn in 2024.