

Knauer Kuvert to cease operations

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German envelopes and mailing bags manufacturer Richard Knauer GmbH plans to cease operations at the end of November 2026. Knauer Kuvert told EUWID that the closure was prompted by economic pressures, the absence of a viable succession plan and dwindling volumes of advertising mail sent by post. The envelope and packaging manufacturer added that customers were increasingly shifting business to suppliers in the Czech Republic and Poland. Insolvencies among its customers had also contributed to the decision to discontinue operations.

Knauer Kuvert has set 30 November 2026 as the closure date. The company will subsequently be wound up completely and its machinery sold.

Richard Knauer GmbH is a family-owned business that has manufactured envelopes and mailing bags for around 50 years. Its production equipment includes machinery for sheetfed offset and flexographic printing, as well as hot-foil stamping and embossing.

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Fripa becomes part of tissue paper holding company

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Fripa Papierfabrik Albert Friedrich KG and its subsidiary Fripa Markenvertriebs GmbH have been transferred into the European holding company AF Tissue Expert Group KG, which was founded at the end of 2025. The transaction was entered in the German commercial register on 8 June 2026, with retroactive effect from 31 December 2025.

The AF Tissue Expert Group now comprises five companies with four production sites in Germany, Switzerland and Poland, the company says. In addition to the two Fripa companies, the group includes Tela GmbH, Cartaseta AG and Fabryka Papieru Czerwonak. The companies are owned by the same family.

The new structure is intended to foster closer cooperation and generate synergies, particularly in purchasing, production, technology and organisation. This is expected to strengthen the long-term competitiveness of the companies involved.

Fripa Papierfabrik and Fripa Markenvertriebs GmbH will remain independent legal entities. The company said there would be no changes for customers, suppliers or business partners with regard to contacts or existing business relationships.

The German tissue paper producer has recently implemented several measures aimed at strengthening its competitiveness. These include a new technical building and the construction of a new paper machine at its Miltenberg site.

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Ecorrugated adopts new ownership structure

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UK corrugated packaging producer Ecorrugated has restructured its ownership, according to filings made with Companies House. The filings show that S. Sheard & Son has become a person with significant control (PSC), while Lavelle Corrugated's holding has been reduced from sole ownership to a stake representing more than 25 per cent but not more than 50 per cent of the company's shares and voting rights.

As part of the restructuring, Ecorrugated allotted 50,000 new B ordinary shares on 21 May, doubling its issued share capital to 100,000 shares. The company also adopted new Articles of Association establishing A and B ordinary shares, each carrying full voting and equity rights.

The new Articles also introduce governance arrangements for two shareholder groups, including separate appointments of directors and provisions requiring participation by both shareholder representatives in certain board decisions.

The development follows Lavelle Corrugated's acquisition of Ecorrugated from Stora Enso in October 2024. At the time, Managing Director Paul Lavelle said the transaction would allow the company to pursue its own investment strategy after expected investment under the previous ownership had not materialised.

EUWID contacted Ecorrugated for comment on the background to the restructuring, including the strategic rationale and future plans, but had not received a response by the time of publication.

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Rebuild of Palm Paper's PM 7 to reshape newsprint and RCCM markets

Corrugated case material production to commence as soon as March 2027

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The conversion of Palm Paper's PM 7 at the King's Lynn mill in the UK from newsprint to containerboard production, which was announced in mid-July, marks a noticeable turning point for the European newsprint market. At the same time, the recycled containerboard market will gain substantial new capacity in very lightweight grammages, a move the company believes will leave it strategically well placed. However, this new capacity also coincides with the start-up of Eren Paper's expansion at Shotton, tipping the UK decisively into becoming a net exporter of corrugated case material.

Palm announced on 17 July that it would convert PM 7 at its King's Lynn mill in the UK, which can currently make 400,000 tpy of newsprint, to lightweight, recycled corrugated case material in grammages starting at 60 g/m². The mill's production capacity is set to rise to as much as 700,000 tpy of corrugated case material. The paper machine has a width of 10.6 metres. Palm said it would continue to produce newsprint until the end of 2026, with conversion work on the machine scheduled to begin thereafter.

Voith has been awarded the contract to convert the machine. The company originally designed and built the machine for Palm. Palm describes PM 7 as a "swing machine" which it said already made corrugated case material, meaning some of the technical details of the project have already been settled. From March 2027, once the conversion is complete, the company expects stable corrugated case material production and plans to begin supplying customers. In the UK, Palm owns a corrugated board manufacturer, John Hargreaves, in Stalybridge near Manchester. However, the bulk of King's Lynn's future containerboard output is to be sold on the open market.

Palm's main target customers are in the UK, where domestic grades offer logistical benefits compared with more complex import supply chains. The company also regards the design of its new machine for grammages starting at 60 g/m² as a competitive advantage, and at present still a distinctive feature in the market. Palm said that this approach aligns with current demand trends, as many corrugated board plants are actively seeking to lower today's typical board grammages.

Palm still committed to the newsprint market, which is to change markedly with closure

Palm said that the key factor behind the project is the sharply contracting newsprint market. The company noted that the Western European market for this grade had contracted by 60 per cent over the past decade, adding that this structural decline is expected to continue. Most recently, demand in the UK had been falling by around 10 per cent each year. The firm also sees growing challenges in keeping newsprint production in the UK economically viable. Sourcing enough deinking recovered paper had become more difficult, the company said, adding that UK arisings increasingly had to be topped up with imports. In contrast, availability of lower recovered paper grades used for corrugated case material production is sufficient, Palm says.

Despite the rebuild, the company expressly reaffirmed its commitment to newsprint and stated that it would continue to be a

reliable partner for newsprint buyers through its two paper machines at the Eltmann mill in Germany, which have a capacity of 550,000 tpy. In this regard, the company pointed out that it had invested €100m in Eltmann over the past few years.

When Palm Paper stops making newsprint in King's Lynn, this will bring considerable changes to the European market as a whole. This is the last newsprint machine being operated in the UK, leaving only UPM's Caledonian LWC mill as the very last major printing and writing paper mill in the United Kingdom. The removal of around 400,000 tpy of capacity represents more than 10 per cent of available newsprint capacity in Europe in this segment, which currently stands at roughly 3.5 million tpy, including improved newsprint. Palm is currently still the largest newsprint producer, with close to 1 million tpy of capacity. After the rebuild, Norske Skog will be the newsprint producer with the largest capacity in Europe (more than 800,000 tpy), followed by Palm and UPM with roughly half a million tpy each. The remainder is split among Hyltepaper, Perlen, Stora Enso, Papresa and Holmen.

Until now, the British newsprint market has chiefly been served by Palm Paper, Nordic suppliers and Canadian imports. The King's Lynn facility also exported a portion of its output to customers outside the UK. These streams of goods will change significantly as a result of the project.

The closure of newsprint capacity in King's Lynn is also expected to restore balance between supply and demand on the European market despite the expected additional slump in demand. The newsprint market is already considered not to have too much surplus capacity compared with SC paper and LWC paper.

UK to become a net exporter of corrugated case material

The British corrugated case material market is thus expected to add two new major machines making recycled corrugated case material in the near future.

Over the past three years, some 2 million tpy of recycled corrugated case material capacity had been shut down in Europe, but 3 million tpy had also been added. Now, the start-up of Eren Paper's new machine in Shotton is looming in a move originally slated for the first half of 2026. It will take months until the machine will make paper suitable for sale, which might coincide with the start-up of Palm's rebuilt machine. Eren Paper's new machine has a capacity of 750,000 tpy, with the majority of its output also earmarked for the open market. The start-up of the Eren machine will already turn the British corrugated case material market from a net importer to a net exporter, a development that will only intensify with the project at Palm Paper.

CPI statistics show that the UK had apparent recycled corrugated case material consumption of approximately 2 million t last year. The country produced close to 1.4 million t, with imports reaching about 770,000 t and exports coming to about 130,000 t.

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EU customs duty to reduce imports of small parcels

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The EU has taken measures to address the growing volume of small parcels entering the single market from non-EU countries, mainly through e-commerce. Since 1 July, parcels of goods, such as clothing, jewellery and household goods, which could previously be imported into the EU duty-free up to a value of €150, have been subject to a flat-rate customs duty of €3 per product category. For consumers, the additional costs could quickly add up: if, for example, a phone case, a pair of jeans and a lipstick are ordered together, additional customs charges of €9 would apply.

According to the European Commission, around 4.6 billion e-commerce parcels with an individual value of less than €150 entered the EU in 2024. Of these shipments, 91 per cent originated in China. According to the Commission, this rapid increase is not only putting customs authorities under pressure. It is also creating unfair competition for EU companies, increasing risks for consumers due to dangerous and non-compliant products, and having a major environmental impact because of the sheer number of small parcels.

The introduction of the fixed €3-duty is intended as a short-term measure forming part of a broader package to curb imports of small parcels from third countries. In the longer term, the duty-free threshold is to be abolished: customs duties on consignments entering the EU are to apply from the first euro of the goods' value, bringing the system into line with existing VAT rules. The abolition of the customs duty threshold is scheduled to take effect in 2028.

Berlin-based customs service provider Eclear, which offers Chinese online marketplaces in particular automated handling of customs and VAT processes along the supply chain, expects the introduction of the EU duties to have a significant impact on cross-border e-commerce activity. According to the company, the current volume of more than five billion small parcels per year could fall by up to two thirds.

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High volatility creates difficult trading conditions on the caustic soda market

Exceptional Q2 increases followed by substantial price reductions

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Caustic soda (NaOH) contract prices rose sharply for the second quarter of 2026 but have since fallen substantially again, market sources confirm. The supply situation has also eased, with caustic soda readily available again, supported by imports from overseas. The latest negotiations for third-quarter deliveries have thwarted producers' efforts to improve margins and bring greater stability to the market. There has been no sustained recovery in the chlorine business. Combined with high costs, this is making it difficult to operate production facilities economically, chemical industry representatives complain. They also point to a lack of predictability that is placing a strain on both producers and buyers.

The steep rise in caustic soda prices at the transition to the second quarter of 2026 resulted in considerable regional price differences across Europe. The development was triggered by higher costs in the wake of the war in Iran, followed by a series of temporary production stoppages. Although the impact of these measures on supply differed from one region to another, buyers confirm that caustic soda availability was noticeably restricted throughout Europe at the beginning of the second quarter.

Against this backdrop, suppliers succeeded in implementing increases of €100/t or more in large parts of Central Europe. Prices in supply agreements for 50 per cent caustic soda, calculated on a 100 per cent basis, frequently exceeded €700/t, particularly in Eastern Europe. The spot market saw even steeper increases, which one expert described as "exorbitant".

Prices approach level from first quarter again

An easing in energy markets and renewed imports from overseas subsequently brought NaOH prices back down. The correction first emerged on the spot market before feeding through into quarterly contract negotiations.

Market participants unanimously report considerable price reductions for the third quarter, although the scale of the cuts depended heavily on the respective starting level. Sources also agree that caustic soda prices for deliveries from July have fallen almost, but not entirely, back to first-quarter levels. Most price indications now range from just over €600/t to €700/t.

The caustic soda market therefore remains characterised by high volatility. The steep increase in the second quarter was followed by a substantial decline in the third quarter of 2026.

No lasting stabilisation in sight

The chlor-alkali industry continues to face major challenges. The collapse in demand in many downstream segments is weighing heavily on the economic performance of companies in the sector.

Industry representatives warn that the PVC segment remains in a particularly difficult position. Losses in the PVC business could accelerate plans for further capacity closures. Production facilities that have already been closed, together with further capacity and output reductions that have been announced, are expected to restrict regional caustic soda availability and support elevated price levels.

Many European producers have lost competitiveness, prompting companies to launch savings programmes and step up cost-cutting efforts, said one industry source. At the same time, fierce competition for volumes has intensified among caustic soda producers. The battle for market share contributed significantly to the sharp price reductions agreed for the third quarter of 2026.

The fall in caustic soda prices has provided some relief for buyers in the paper industry, which continue to face considerable cost pressure. In many cases, paper prices remain insufficient to cover production costs.

EUWID Price Watch Western Europe Caustic Soda			
Second quarter 2026			
Prices in € per tonne free delivered	Second quarter 2026		First quarter 2026
			Second quarter 2025
NaOH*	650	- 750	580 - 640
* 50% solution, calculated on a 100% concentration basis			EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information
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German sawdust and woodchip prices rise by €2-4/m³ in new contracts

Supply decreasing due to production curtailments in sawmilling industry

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Negotiations on new sawmill residue contracts for deliveries in the third quarter of 2026 stretched into July in many instances. Final contracts were not signed until shortly before the middle of the month. Delays were mainly attributable to the initially wide differences in price

EUWID Price Watch Sawmill Residues Germany					
July 2026	16 July 2026	5 June 2026	16 April 2026	10 July 2025	% change 2026/2025
Southern Germany					
Woodchips*	21.50 - 26.00	19.50 - 25.00	19.50 - 23.50	15.50 - 18.50	+ 45.6
Sawdust*	24.00 - 26.00	18.80 - 20.50	18.80 - 20.50	12.50 - 15.50	+ 78.6
Northern/Western Germany					
Woodchips*	25.00 - 27.00	20.50 - 25.50	20.00 - 23.50	17.00 - 19.00	+ 44.4
Sawdust*	25.00 - 27.00	19.00 - 25.50	19.00 - 23.50	14.50 - 16.50	+ 67.7
Eastern Germany					
Woodchips*	23.50 - 26.00	20.50 - 23.50	20.50 - 22.50	16.00 - 18.50	+ 43.5
Sawdust*	23.00 - 25.50	19.00 - 21.00	20.00 - 21.50	12.50 - 14.00	+ 83.8
* without bark					
Average prices for sawmill residues sold to industrial clients, ex mill					
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expectations. Several sawmills sat down at the negotiating table with asking prices of over €200/t bone dry ex works. A few companies showed only very little willingness to compromise right up until the end.

The pulp and wood-based panel industries argued that, with these asking prices, they would gradually reaching the limits of what they can afford in their cost calculations. Various companies have therefore cut back their purchasing for sawmill residues even further. The resulting supply gaps are to be addressed by switching to other wood assortments or by curtailing production. Several pulp manufacturers have been buying more industrial roundwood assortments for quite some time, even over greater distances. The particleboard industry is aiming to further increase its input of salvage wood. And in the MDF/HDF industry, a withdrawal from the sawmill residues business can already be observed in scattered instances.

The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the pellet industry is currently in a stronger position due to relatively favourable selling price and delivery developments. Individual companies have therefore accepted higher prices for sawmill residues in order to secure the volumes they require in the coming months, intensifying competition on the market.

The imbalance that has developed between supply and demand for sawmill residues in the last two months is also evident in the fact that one or two sawmilling companies with integrated pellet production facilities have also been purchasing additional volumes of sawdust on the open market themselves since mid- or late June.

Despite resistance from the pulp and wood-based panel industries, prices for sawdust and woodchips rose by an average of €2-4/m³ ex works in the latest contracts. Many deals were concluded with increases of €3/m³, roughly equivalent to around €20/t. The differences recently observed between individual regions in Germany have tended to decrease. Germany's southwest has continued to catch up with other parts of the country. The far northeast is the only area where sawmill residue prices have not increased as sharply yet thanks to available import volumes. With the new contracts, the differences in price between sawdust and woodchips have decreased significantly in all regions, with some buyers paying the same prices for both.

In contracts with the pellet industry, the new prices, especially for sawdust, have frequently been concluded for a term of only one or one and a half months. For woodchip deliveries in particular, the pulp and wood-based panel industry has switched more to quarterly contracts again.

As such, new negotiations are not due again until after the holiday period. It is not being ruled out that the sawmilling industry might ask higher prices again. Buyers have already indicated, however, that they would no longer be able or willing to go along with that. In the next round of negotiations already due at the end of July with buyers in the pellet industry, on the other hand, further price increases might arise, especially if the pace of business on the pellet markets remains as brisk as it is at present.

There have reportedly never been such strong hikes in the summer before. The main reason is seen in the imbalance between supply and demand. The supply of sawdust and woodchips has decreased as a result of the ongoing adjustments in production in the Central European sawmilling industry. Numerous sawmills had already halted production over the bank holidays and bridging days in May, which resulted in a reduction in deliveries of sawmill residues. At least in some regions, the supply of sawmill residues had increased a little again in June. In the last few weeks, however, the slow sawnwood business in Europe and the decline in overseas exports have led to further stoppages, with many sawmills having cut shifts or days of production. A growing number of companies have also made longer-term adjustments. In some instances, production is now only running on three or four days per week.

The company holidays are then due from the end of July, many of which have been extended beyond the original plans. Production will be halted for mostly one to two weeks, and even for up to three weeks where complex maintenance work is required. There has also been recent speculation in the sawmilling industry about significantly longer shutdowns this summer, none of which have materialised, at least not yet.

Capacity utilisation in the particleboard and MDF/HDF industry has deteriorated since the end of May. Particularly in MDF/HDF, stoppages are occurring on repeated occasions by the day. Individual plants are also being taken offline for longer periods. Output in the particleboard industry's has also decreased in the last few weeks. The wood-based panels industry is meanwhile also seeing its first summer shutdowns, some of which are likely to be extended beyond the original schedule. Shutdowns are being rescheduled or extended in the pulp industry as well.

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Paper mills institute higher prices for envelope paper in the second quarter

Mixed trend in shipping bag paper segment

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Paper mills active in Germany's envelope paper market managed to secure price hikes for the second quarter, buoyed by the steep rise in costs in connection with the war in Iran. This is true chiefly of white woodfree envelope paper. In the German market for grey recycled envelope paper, the fallout of the insolvency of the Hainsberg paper mill proved key. The picture for shipping bag paper is once again somewhat mixed when it comes to how far the announced price increases have actually taken hold.

Paper mills and envelope producers confirmed to EUWID that white woodfree envelope paper grades had typically become €30-50/t more expensive in the second quarter on the market in Germany. In some instances, buyers are quoting higher mark-ups, although experts pointed out that this only applied in cases where prices had previously been on the low side. After having tabled their demands for higher prices on deliveries from April back in the first quarter, quite a few suppliers went on to issue fresh announcements for May or June during the second quarter, aiming to push through a second round of increases in quick succession. Yet industry insiders told EUWID that this attempt was not successful.

Envelope producers had managed to see off these fresh demands, citing the weak state of the envelope market. Although there are voices within the paper industry pointing to a second round of hikes, this did not happen across the board, or rather, not all suppliers went along with it.

The bulk of sources reported stable conditions on the price front for grey recycled envelope paper in the second quarter. EUWID's research found that reports of higher prices taking effect from April were the exception rather than the rule. Observers said that concessions were not made. Industry insiders attribute this to the more stable market conditions compared with primary fibre-based envelope papers. What's more, the field of suppliers for recycled envelope paper has narrowed further this year following the insolvency of the Hainsberg paper mill in Germany. This development came after Leipa had already pulled out of the market a few years back.

The situation for brown shipping bag paper is still inconsistent. Some contacts report mark-ups of around €20/t for VP4 shipping bag paper, though not all sources confirm this to the same degree. Others point to stable prices in the second quarter. In such instances, paper producers reportedly plan to launch a fresh attempt to charge more at the start of the third quarter.

Experts reported something similar for shipping bag paper VKP 3, which is largely used in e-commerce packaging. A few EUWID contacts mentioned mark-ups of €30/t from April onwards, while others claim to have pushed the hikes back to July since the market still has room to grow.

Demand leaves something to be desired, PPWR remains the dominant topic

Market players describe demand for envelopes and shipping bags as modest in July. Summer is traditionally the quieter time of

the year for the sector, but insiders see seasonal fluctuations as more pronounced than normal this year. Even in e-commerce, which envelope makers have singled out as a growth market, business still has room to grow. Much of the growth in online retail, as documented for example by the German e-commerce and mail order trade association BEVH, could be traced in no small part to Asian platforms such as Shein and Temu. The gains posted by German firms are often more modest, EUWID's research shows.

The defining topic, shortly before its entry into force in August, is and remains the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). Market players, especially from the envelope segment, are voicing displeasure about what they perceive as an opaque classification of envelopes as packaging. Companies contacted by EUWID regard letters, in the traditional sense, as a means of communication, but not necessarily as packaging subject to the requirements of the PPWR.

EUWID Price Watch Germany Envelope and Shipping Bag Paper			
Second quarter 2026			
Prices in € per tonne	Second quarter 2026	First quarter 2026	Second quarter 2025
White woodfree envelope paper, 80 g	1,730 - 1,990	1,700 - 1,940	1,780 - 1,990
Recycled envelope paper, 80 g	1,320 - 1,470	1,320 - 1,470	1,320 - 1,470
Shipping bag paper VKP 3	1,330 - 1,480	1,300 - 1,480	1,350 - 1,500
Shipping bag paper VP 4	1,290 - 1,450	1,270 - 1,450	1,300 - 1,450
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Germany: Paper mills want to brave the summer lull on the fine paper market

Semi-chemical fluting following in the footsteps of kraftliner with July hikes

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The price increases that surfaced for brown and white-top kraftliner in July represent the final outstanding adjustments, with the vast majority of mark-ups having already taken effect on 15 June. At the same time, there are growing indications from the German market that semi-chemical fluting prices are rising in July, too.

Additional increases in woodfree coated and uncoated paper prices proved out of the question at the start of the third quarter in Germany. After two rounds of talks yielding hikes, paper mills operating at modest capacity utilisation and seasonally slack demand have once again intensified competition among paper suppliers.

Weak demand dampening the mood on the German woodfree paper market

Germany's woodfree coated and uncoated paper market remains strained at the start of the second part of the year. While buyers are pushing for summer discounts, paper mills want to hold on to the price hikes instituted in the second quarter of 2026 over the summer months. Paper industry insiders said that it was important for everyone involved that paper prices stabilise rather than be eroded, making the case for more profitability and predictability.

And indeed, a number of buyers confirm that they have carried June's prices over the summer through to the end of August or end of September. Several observers reported relatively consistent behaviour among market players within the individual market segments, although exceptions were reported. Alternative arrangements are said to exist as well on the market in Germany, for both coated and uncoated paper. Here, market experts point to an uptick in direct business and paper mills' partnerships with paper merchants. The size of the hikes paper mills have managed to push through so far also varies between suppliers. In several cases, the second instalment of the price increase, depending on its size and the starting price level, is said to have evaporated in the transition to the third quarter owing to intense competition and the modest capacity utilisation of some paper mills.

After a good start to 2026, the fine paper business experienced a sharp downturn. In retrospect, market experts now regard strong order intake in March and April, which kept the paper machines running at high utilisation well into May, as an artificial boost. Customers' high stock levels, combined with the seasonal slowdown, culminated in a steep drop in order intake. As a result, intense competition for volumes and orders set in among paper suppliers by June at the latest.

Amid the summer slowdown, paper mills were therefore forced to make concessions. These do not extend right across the market. Nonetheless, critics said the second instalment may effectively have failed. They added that this development is putting pressure on paper merchants with a "volume before price" mentality increasingly coming to the fore. Given this pressure on competition and volumes as well as dwindling demand, experts anticipate structural changes in the German paper wholesale sector. They said that sales teams, site infrastructure and warehousing capacity were geared to far larger volumes than current

business required. Here, too, cutting capacity would make sound economic sense.

Faced with surplus supply of fine paper, experts stress that paper manufacturers still lack a timely solution for reducing capacity. Temporary stoppages of the kind seen in recent weeks – and typical of the summer months – offer little prospect of any lasting, and therefore sustainable, improvement. Critics describe the situation as toxic. After all, demand for graphic paper is falling month after month, adding to the surplus capacity. Hopes of much-needed relief, for example through the joint venture, remained alive, though time was running out. The woodfree paper market is in urgent and immediate need of greater stability.

Semi-chemical fluting prices set to edge higher in July

Just a few outstanding price increases remained in July after prices for brown and white-top kraftliner rose on the German market from mid-June onwards. Market players contacted by EUWID report that further adjustments were made as of 1 July, notably in cases where mills and corrugated board producers had agreed on a two-stage approach. Only in isolated cases are buyers saying that they managed to defer the increases entirely to July during negotiations. That being said, the bulk of the hike is said to have applied since 15 June. Brown kraftliner had reportedly become €60/t more expensive, with white-top kraftliner costing €40/t more.

In conversations with EUWID, paper producers and buyers alike agreed that semi-chemical fluting prices are now following suit in July. Unlike other primary fibre-based grades, semi-chemical fluting saw no movement in price in June. Now, market participants consistently reported increases of €40/t, scheduled to take effect on the German market from either 1 or 15 July onwards.

The key factor prompting the latest hikes for kraftliner, and brown kraftliner in particular, is said to be the persistent tightness in the market. Sources along the supply chain do not yet see kraftliner availability as a worrying bottleneck. At the same time, though, buyers add the caveat that additional deliveries beyond previously allocated volumes are becoming harder to secure, or come with longer lead times. Word from the paper industry is that paper machines continue to operate at good workloads, due in part to capacity being removed in the US. At the same time, (extended) mill maintenance and technical downtime are beginning to make themselves felt, sources added.

On this point, signs are mounting in EUWID's mid-July conversations that a major European kraftliner supplier has postponed the maintenance shutdown of its brown and white kraftliner mill by a year. No official confirmation was available by the time this issue went to press.

Healthy capacity utilisation on the part of paper producers is still not matched by a similarly healthy level of activity in the German corrugated board industry. On the contrary, the buyers surveyed by EUWID expect demand to cool markedly with the summer holidays approaching.

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Prices steady for ordinary recovered paper grades in France despite good availability

Upward price step for sorted graphic paper for deinking

EUWID+ 22 July 2026 | ~ 4 min | Published in issue 30/2026

The recovered paper market in France has seen another month of broadly stable prices. The only price adjustments were upward steps for sorted graphic paper for deinking. Quotes for the ordinary grades were steady at the prior-month level despite good availability. No price movements were observed for the higher grades either.

EUWID Price Watch Recovered Paper France				
July 2026	July 2026	June 2026	May 2026	July 2025
Prices in € per tonne				
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	35 - 45	35 - 45	35 - 45	25 - 35
Supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04)	70 - 80	70 - 80	70 - 80	70 - 80
Old corrugated containers (1.05)	90 - 100	90 - 100	90 - 100	90 - 100
Sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11)	85 - 105	85 - 95	85 - 95	95 - 105
Intra-Europe exports from France (1.11)	85 - 105	85 - 95	85 - 95	110 - 130
Coloured letters (2.06)	135 - 145	135 - 145	135 - 145	165 - 185
Multi-printing (3.18)	170 - 180	170 - 180	170 - 180	195 - 205
White woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01)	335 - 350	335 - 350	335 - 350	370 - 385
Prices in € per tonne ex works, material sorted and in bales.				
© 2026 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH All rights reserved			EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information.	

Several market participants observed a slight increase in the availability of ordinary recovered paper grades in July. This was confirmed in particular by paper mills, some of which had high levels of recovered paper on hand. Other mills said their inventories were normal. But everyone agreed that sourcing recovered paper was not a problem and sufficient material was available.

A few respondents attributed the good availability to slightly lower demand from individual mills. One larger paper mill was idled for several days due to a technical problem, while another reported occasional operation disruptions caused by hot weather.

Apart from that, though, demand for ordinary recovered paper grades was said to be relatively consistent. And this ultimately translated into a rollover in prices. Some downward pressure was noticeable, but this was not sufficient to result in cuts, said one paper producer. He did not want to risk losing volumes to Asian buyers, he explained. Some respondents also pointed out that prices in France were already low compared to other international markets. Others felt that the French market was balanced overall.

As a result, prices for mixed paper (1.02) supermarket paper and board (1.04) and old corrugated containers (OCC; 1.05) were unchanged in July at the previous month's level.

First mark-downs might be seen in August or September

Although July may have been too early for a price reduction, corrections could follow in the coming months. A few respondents believe that slight downward adjustments for ordinary grades are possible in August or September. They pointed to the usual summer shutdowns at some mills and an expected weakening of demand in France in August. And as supply was already quite high, this could intensify downward price pressure.

Others, however, believe stable prices are likely, at least in August. Many paper mills in France would be carrying out their maintenance downtimes later and would continue producing throughout August, EUWID was told. These players therefore do not expect demand to drop off significantly.

They also point out that industrial collection volumes are typically lower in August. Developments will also depend on the export business and how much interest buyers from Asian countries show in the coming months, once the typical summer slowdown begins in Europe.

In July, the export business ticked over as usual. No major changes in the export market, with the typical – albeit not particularly high – volumes going to Asia in July.

Nevertheless, export prices inched higher, supported by stronger activity from Indian buyers, who have been showing more of a presence and offering slightly higher prices on the market lately. Moreover, some shipping companies had slightly reduced their freight rates, respondents noted. As a result, ex works prices for exports of OCC from France to Asia inched a few euros higher in July. Market participants reported quotes of €110-115/t ex works for the grade.

After a prolonged period of price stability, prices for sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) edged higher in July. In France, buyers were paying €10/t more.

Market participants said domestic prices had previously been low compared with other countries. The increase was also needed to maintain the price gap to mixed paper after that grade became €10/t more expensive in April, one supplier said. Moreover, collection volumes of graphic grades typically decline as summer approaches. Export prices for sorted graphic paper for deinking to neighbouring countries were either unchanged or became €5-10/t more expensive.

The market for coloured letters (2.06) returned to normal in July. After one key customer took downtime in May, this mill's recovered paper stocks were still slightly elevated in June, as one supplier noted. In July, the situation normalised again. Market participants reported normal demand and stable prices for coloured letters.

For months now, there has been little change in the market for multi printing (3.10). In July, too, demand was steady and prices were stable, the market survey found. One customer reported that it was slightly tougher to source volumes. On the whole, though, supply and demand were balanced.

Prices for white woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01) were stable in July, as well. A few waste management firms reported that the situation had improved slightly compared with a few months ago. Nevertheless, demand was relatively weak, they added.

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Publication paper prices rise at mid-year point in France

Further adjustments for GC board / Fine paper market in summer mode

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With the start of both the third quarter and second half-year in July, suppliers on the publication paper market in France implemented the previously negotiated price increases. While relatively high mark-ups were achieved for newsprint, producers describe the hikes for SC paper as disappointing. LWC prices were unchanged in July, as these had already risen in the second quarter.

EUWID Price Watch France			
July 2026			
Prices in €/tonne (net delivered unless otherwise stated)			
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025
Free paper			
Woodfree coated			
Coat paper 80 g/m ² 480 g	910 - 960	910 - 960	910 - 1,020
Coat paper 80 g/m ² 480 g	910 - 960	910 - 960	910 - 970
Other news 80 g	940 - 1,020	940 - 1,020	940 - 1,040
Other news 80 g	940 - 960	940 - 960	940 - 970
Woodfree coated			
News, double coated, 100 g	960 - 1,020	960 - 1,020	960 - 1,040
News, double coated, 100 g	920 - 990	920 - 990	920 - 990
Publication paper			
Standard uncoated 40 g	610 - 640	610 - 620	610 - 630
Standard uncoated 40 g	620 - 660	610 - 630	610 - 640
Standard uncoated 100 g, 12 g	650 - 680	640 - 660	610 - 630
LWC, offset 80 g	790 - 820	790 - 820	790 - 810
LWC, uncoated 80 g	840 - 860	840 - 860	770 - 820
SC, offset 80 g	620 - 660	610 - 630	610 - 670
SC, uncoated 80 g	670 - 700	670 - 700	640 - 710
Corrugated case material			
Fluted free corrugated case material	870 - 920	870 - 920	890 - 930
Uncoated fluted 110 g	880 - 910	880 - 910	840 - 900
Seam chemical fluted	880 - 910	880 - 910	840 - 900
Whisper fluted 110 g	940 - 1,020	940 - 1,020	940 - 960
Fluted corrugated case material			
Uncoated fluted 110 g	670 - 700	670 - 700	640 - 680
Seam chemical fluted	680 - 710	680 - 710	640 - 680
Whisper fluted 110 g	720 - 750	720 - 750	720 - 760
Cardboard			
420	810 - 860	810 - 860	840 - 920
420	1,100 - 1,200*	1,100 - 1,200*	1,100 - 1,150

A flat price trend was also seen for fine paper, after prices had ticked higher at various times in April and May and sometimes even as late as June. Market insiders now report that prices were already starting to soften in some cases as of June and only the relatively stable demand was preventing a market-wide downward slide. For the most part, unchanged prices were also reported for corrugated case material. In the French market for cartonboard, where the insolvency of board producer Folbb made some waves, prices for GC board were lifted in new contracts as of 1 July, catching up to the hikes already introduced for free volumes.

Fine paper prices come under pressure after price rises

The most recent round of price adjustments for woodfree coated and uncoated paper produced mixed results. Manufacturers had repeatedly announced increases of varying magnitudes at different times, some of which were implemented in the market. The price rises were concentrated in April and May, with some continuing into June. In July, prices mostly remained at the previous month's level.

Whilst the prevailing view at present is that prices have remained stable in July, some market sources have been observing changing trends in the market since June. Both manufacturers and buyers confirmed that, following the implementation of higher prices, there has been a renewed surge of low-price offers on the market, as manufacturers seek to secure orders. These were very similar to what are traditionally known as summer discounts, except that they appeared relatively early this year.

Market insiders attribute the fact that prices have not immediately slipped back completely to a relatively positive trend in demand, at least for woodfree coated paper. In June, deliveries of coated grades in the French market rose by several percentage points compared with the previous year; deliveries for the first half of the year as a whole thus remained almost unchanged from the 2025 level. Sales of uncoated woodfree paper in France were down by around four per cent year-on-year at the mid-year point.

Despite the relatively stable market trend, market sentiment is not particularly buoyant. Many printers continue to face a difficult market situation and some are struggling financially, which is reflected, for example, in restrictions on credit insurance cover. For both coated and uncoated paper, there is more production capacity in Europe than there is demand, which limits manufacturers' ability to raise prices to a satisfactory level. Paper manufacturers emphasise that the most recent price increases have not been sufficient, and there are vague plans to attempt further price rises in the fourth quarter.

Before that, however, the holiday season must first be weathered, during which prices have often crumbled in the past. Manufacturers stress that they cannot afford summer discounts in view of rising production costs and continuing thin margins; they regard it as a cause for concern that some of their competitors are nevertheless starting to offer summer promotions. If prices continue to erode in August, as they did in June and July, it is all the more likely that manufacturers will attempt to raise prices again in the fourth quarter or in the first quarter of 2027.

Prices for newsprint and SC paper rise at mid-way point of 2026

In France, prices for newsprint and SC paper rose at the beginning of the second half of the year.

In the newsprint market, where prices were already lifted in quarterly contracts from the second quarter, further price hikes have now taken effect at the mid-year point. In half-year contracts, which are quite common in France, price hikes for standard newsprint 42 g were between €30-50/t, with most respondents reporting figures between €30-40/t. Prices are now above the €600 mark and often between €625-650/t.

In the market for SC paper, where there are also quarterly and half-year contracts, the increases have likewise been spread out across the second and third quarters, or have taken effect from the beginning of the half-year. In cases where prices were not already raised in the second quarter, there were hikes of €20/t. In other instances, this increase was split into steps of €10/t in the second and third quarters. There were also some reports of a one-time hike of €12 or €15/t, which producers described as "disappointing." Once again, the new prices are only applicable for the quarter or for the entire second half of the year. The most frequently cited figures for the reference grade SC-A 56 g were €670-700/t.

By contrast, there was no further price movement for LWC at the half-year point. In the second quarter, prices had been raised by as much as €30/t, but then there were no further increases for the third quarter. Typically, quotes are above the €800/t level for the reference grade of 60 g.

Demand is developing in line with the structural trend seen recently, say market insiders. There is seasonal interest from catalogue printers, while circulation figures for periodicals continue to decline. Following a brief phase of stabilisation, demand for paper used in supermarket print advertising is seeing a renewed downward trend.

The newsprint market will be shaken up by the planned closure and conversion of Palm's newsprint machine at the King's Lynn mill in the UK. This project, which will affect more than 10 per cent of the available production capacity for newsprint in Europe, will be a "game changer," market insiders say. When the roughly 400,000 tpy of capacity are removed from the market by the end of this year, insiders anticipate that despite declining newsprint consumption, there will no longer be excess capacity in Europe. Paper producers now believe they will have good opportunities to seek and achieve considerable price hikes in the negotiations for the first quarter or first half of 2027. However, other voices in the market caution that this will further dampen demand for newsprint, at least in the commercial printing sector.

Prices for corrugated case material broadly stable in July

After kraftliner prices had started to increase as of mid-June, the upward price trend for primary fibre-based corrugated case material in France steadied in July. For brown kraftliner, the total price increase amounted to €60/t, while white-top kraftliner typically climbed by €40/t.

Likewise, quotes for semi-chemical fluting were mostly unchanged in July. Recent price hikes in May and June had lifted prices by €40-60/t. Producers who have so far achieved a mark-up of only €40/t are now trying to implement a catch-up increase of €20/t.

The market for kraftliner is described as balanced to firm. Producers confirm they have full order books and well-utilised machines. Delivery times are reportedly as long as 6 or 8 weeks. On the supply side, there is maintenance downtime and supply is rather tight, market insiders say.

The French market for recycled corrugated case material is also seeing stable prices in July. Paper manufacturers say demand is decent, but there is also a certain amount of structural oversupply, so mills need to curtail production on occasion. In the recycled segment as well, machines are being taken offline for scheduled maintenance and technical downtimes. At least in the recent past, there has been no overproduction, say market insiders.

On the cost side, there were also few changes in prices for recovered paper in July, with most players reporting steady prices.

Players currently describe market developments as positive for corrugated board and corrugated case material. The corrugated board market got off to a weak start this year but has improved as the months went on, insiders say. There was reportedly good demand in June, with a few percentage points of market growth compared to the same month of the previous year. Demand over the entire first half-year was up slightly, EUWID was told.

Meanwhile, the summer holiday season has started in France and will, as always, reach its peak in the month of August. Many converters idle operations during this time, companies will typically take a week of plant holidays. Paper producers adapt to this traditional rhythm with their own downtime.

Market players are therefore already turning their attention to September, when France's holiday season ends and economic activity and social life start picking up again. A few of the players surveyed anticipate that this year's "rentrée" will only become apparent in the second half of September, as was the case last year.

Further GC prices adjusted upward, Folbb insolvency shakes up the market

The insolvency of fresh-fibre board producer Folbb was a much-discussed topic on the French cartonboard market in July. At the same time, the price round for GC board continued and further prices were lifted. However, the price hike was not implemented throughout the entire market.

According to market players, some more prices for GC 2 in France were adjusted upward at the start of the new quarter in July. Prior to that, there had been some initial mark-ups, which were sometimes declared as a temporary surcharge and sometimes as a regular price increase. Further adjustments followed for deliveries from 1 or 15 July, especially in instances where contracts had expired on 30 June. Market participants mentioned hikes of €30-40/t.

The adjustments once again took various forms: While suppliers from Nordic countries often declared them as temporary surcharges to cover increased costs for factors such as transports and chemicals since the outbreak of war in Iran, other cartonboard producers simply raised their list prices.

However, the market survey in France also found that the price hike for GC 2, which sellers had only hesitantly started to introduce in recent months, was still not implemented throughout the entire market as of July. One European producer, for example, said they had only increased prices for GC 2 here and there for some customers. Further possible price adjustments would be postponed until the fourth quarter, the producer said. Overall, the price round had been “poorly implemented” in the wider market, the respondent added. Prices were often discussed with customers on a case-by-case basis and producers showed a willingness to compromise when larger volumes were at stake.

Market participants agreed, however, that the temporary surcharges that had already been introduced for GC 2 in France were not being called into question. So far, there has reportedly been no talk about the surcharges being partially rolled back. For August, respondents surveyed by EUWID expect prices for GC 2 to remain stable at the newly achieved, higher level.

The recent announcement of Folbb’s insolvency was also a major topic in the July market survey. Although everyone is aware of the excess capacity in the GC market, the news caught many market participants unprepared. It thus created some upset in the market, a few insiders reported. Since deliveries were cancelled, customers were scrambling for alternatives from other suppliers, they said. Some cartonboard producers confirmed having received inquiries about additional volumes.

Although this provided a few more orders for the affected suppliers in July, respondents believe this will be only a temporary effect. The general demand picture in the GC market has not changed, players told EUWID. In a few cases, and in anticipation of upcoming maintenance downtimes this summer, customers have reportedly ordered slightly higher volumes. Otherwise, demand was described as normal and unspectacular. Delivery times for GC 2 stretch from 4 to 6 weeks.

It was a similar situation in the market for recycled board. Market participants often described demand as stable. It was neither strong nor weak, one producer summarised. Others appeared more satisfied, saying order intake was steady and quite good in the first half of July. Delivery times are still said to be 3 to 5 weeks.

For the most part, there was no further price movement for GD 2 in July. The price round in this market had started earlier and was already over in most cases. Only in instances where contracts had run until the end of June were there catch-up price adjustments in July. Otherwise, since the increases of around €30/t from April, there have been no further price adjustments in either direction. Market participants say there is no serious downward price pressure. After all, the board producers’ cost situation has not changed, commented one packaging producer.

Players surveyed by EUWID anticipate that, as usual, August will be a quiet month on the markets for both recycled and fresh-fibre board. Some cartonboard mills are planning downtimes of up to two weeks, or sometimes even longer, while others scheduled their maintenance shutdowns for later in the year. Customers, too, are planning their summer breaks. However, no price changes are expected for either GD or GC in August.

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RDM enters binding agreement on comprehensive recapitalisation

📌 **EUWID +** 21 July 2026 | Igor Dugandžić | ⌚ ~ 2 min | Published in issue 30/2026

The financially burdened recycled cartonboard producer Reno De Medici is to be stabilised through a substantial reduction in bond debt and €100m of fresh capital. In return, the existing owner linked to US investment firm Apollo will largely lose its economic interest in and control of the company. The recapitalisation is expected to be completed in the final quarter this year.



Facing severe liquidity constraints and high debt burdens, recycled cartonboard manufacturer Reno de Medici is currently undergoing a comprehensive financial restructuring. In mid-July, Reno De Medici (RDM) entered into a binding agreement with its shareholder and a large majority of its noteholders on a comprehensive recapitalisation. The agreement is supported by noteholders representing approximately 85 per cent of the company's outstanding €600m Floating Rate Senior Secured Notes (FRSSN), which are due in 2029.

As part of the transaction, up to €300m of debt – equivalent to up to 50 per cent of the outstanding principal amount of the notes – is to be converted into RDM equity. In addition, the Group is to receive €100m of new senior secured financing through New Money Notes. Accrued interest under the existing notes is also to be waived and subsequently equitised.

The remaining note debt is to be exchanged for new or amended and reinstated notes maturing in October 2031 and October 2033, respectively. At the same time, cash interest payments are to be materially reduced.

The maturity of the company's revolving credit facility is also to be extended to April 2031. However, the lenders under the revolving credit facility must still obtain the required internal approvals and enter into the definitive transaction documentation.

The recapitalisation is to be implemented under Italian insolvency law and remains subject to confirmation by an Italian court. RDM has not provided a specific timetable for the court's decision, while completion of the overall transaction continues to be expected in the fourth quarter of 2026.

New company to take control of RDM

According to Reno de Medici, the recapitalisation will result in a far-reaching change of ownership. The shares in Reno De Medici are to be transferred to a newly incorporated entity controlled by the noteholders participating in the exchange and the providers of the new money notes. The existing shareholder is to receive an instrument entitling it to an initial "5 per cent of the overall economic equity interest". Any additional equity upside will depend on the achievement of a specified value hurdle, the company says.

RDM is currently controlled through Rimini Bidco by funds affiliated with Apollo Global Management. Following the takeover offer in late 2021, Rimini Bidco held approximately almost 96 per cent of the company's share capital and subsequently completed RDM's delisting. Under the proposed recapitalisation, the Apollo funds will thus relinquish control of the cartonboard producer to the participating noteholders and the providers of the new financing.

Reno de Medici has not disclosed what the future ownership structure will look like or who will ultimately control the company.

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Norske Skog still evaluates Saugbrugs PM 6 conversion and restart, final decision postponed

EUWID + 16 July 2026 | Karolina Utracki | ~ 2 min | Published in issue 30/2026

Norske Skog considers restarting paper machine PM 6 at its Saugbrugs mill in Norway, which has been idle since a rockslide in April 2023, and converting it into a swing machine capable of producing both SC paper and kraftliner. A decision on the project, originally scheduled for the second quarter, is now expected in the second half of the year, CEO Geir Drangslund said when presenting the company's second-quarter results.



According to the CEO, PM 6 would replace the two existing SC paper machines, PM 4 and PM 5, which would subsequently be shut down. These machines are old and operate less efficiently. By contrast, Drangslund describes PM 6 as a newer, modern machine that is well suited to such a conversion.

Holmen Braviken serves as a model for the conversion

The CEO estimates the investment required for this type of conversion at around NOK550m, or approximately €47m. New technical solutions developed by equipment suppliers such as Andritz and Valmet have made such a project more economically attractive, he said. As an example, he cites the conversion of PM 52 at Holmen's Braviken mill. Following the conversion completed in early 2025, the machine is now able to produce uncoated magazine and catalogue papers, book paper and lightweight kraftliner.

By operating a single paper machine instead of two at Saugbrugs, Norske Skog expects, among other benefits, lower personnel and energy costs. The number of employees at the site could fall from around 300 at present to approximately 200. According to the company, electricity-cost savings alone could amount to nearly NOK100m (€9m), per year.

Drangslund also points to higher production volumes and what the company considers to be better product quality from PM 6. The combination of increased output and cost savings could improve the site's annual EBITDA by around NOK200m (€18m).

"It will be an extreme improvement of the profitability of Saugbrugs if we execute these plans," Drangslund said. The proposal is still being assessed by the management and a decision is expected during the second half of the year.

Norske Skog Saugbrugs mill currently runs two paper machines with a total production capacity of 210,000 tpy of SC paper from 100 per cent primary fibres. The idled PM 6 is geared for a production capacity of 260,000 tpy.

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Recycled containerboard producer Gemdoub's still in receivership

EUWID+ 16 July 2026 | Valeria Buß | ~ 1 min | Published in issue 30/2026

French recycled corrugated case material producer Gemdoub's remains in receivership. The company's managing director Laurent Grenier told EUWID that the commercial court of Besançon had extended the observation period for another six months until early January 2027. A hearing will then be held at the court to present the company's three-year business plan and decide on the next steps.



Gemdoubs ran into financial difficulties and was [placed in receivership](#) on 7 January 2026. Production at the company's mill in Novillars is said to be running normally.

Mr Grenier expressed optimism about the future of the company and is confident it is on the right track. Gemdoub's efforts to improve the business were progressing according to plan, he said. The company had been reducing internal costs and enhancing productivity and would continue to do so. Gemdoub's also reported improved financial results for the second quarter, not least thanks to the increase in containerboard selling prices in recent months. The company's aim was to emerge from insolvency proceedings in January 2027, Mr Grenier concluded.

New managing director from August

Laurent Grenier also announced that he would retire and leave the company at the end of July 2026. The new managing director will be Marc Emeraud, who joined Gemdoub's in March to ensure a smooth handover, according to Mr Grenier.

Gemdoubs produces brown testliner in grammages of 120-200 g and fluting in grammages of 120-160 g on one paper machine with a capacity of 100,000 tpy. The company is based in Novillars in eastern France and employs 71 people.

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Prices largely static on German recovered paper market

EUWID + 16 July 2026 | ~ 5 min | Published in issue 30/2026

Transport cost uncertainty persists despite improved freight capacity

The German recovered paper market appears broadly calm in July. There is demand from paper mills, but it is far from strong, market participants say. At the same time, arisings remain modest, leaving the market stable and balanced, especially for ordinary grades.



Prices for mixed paper and supermarket paper and board are therefore expected to remain largely unchanged in July.

In June, too, recovered paper prices changed only minimally in most cases. The analysis of the prices reported by recovered paper suppliers and converters for June showed an uptick of €1.00/t for mixed paper (1.02). Supermarket paper and board (1.04) gained €1.50/t, while the used corrugated kraft II (4.03) price rose by €2.00/t.

Sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) increased by €1.50/t. Quotes for coloured letters (2.05/2.06) edged higher by €0.50/t in June, while multi printing (3.10) increased by €1.00/t. White newsprint/magazine paper (3.14/3.15) became €5.00/t more expensive, while an even steeper increase of €8.00/t was reported for white woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01).

Ordinary grades up by as much as €20 in first half of 2026

There was a clear split in pricing trends on the Germany recovered paper market in the first half. While the price changes for brown ordinary grades during the first six months netted out to a double-digit increase, prices for other grades are still similar to the levels seen at the start of 2026. Specifically, the cumulative increase for mixed paper between January and June was €14.50/t. The uptrend was somewhat steeper for supermarket paper and board and used corrugated kraft II, where prices were higher by €24.00/t and €21.50/t, respectively. However, in the previous two years, there had been significantly larger price increases for these grades during the first half-year.

For sorted graphic paper for deinking, the price fluctuations over the past six months have fully balanced out, so quotes at the halfway point are exactly the same as at the beginning of the year. Prices of coloured letters have slipped slightly by a total of €6.00/t so far this year. For multi printing, a slight bump of €2.50/t was recorded from January until June. Similarly, there was minimal movement for white newsprint/magazine paper, with a cumulative decline of €3.00/t, and white woodfree uncoated shavings, with a rise of €2.00/t.

Finished paper exports support paper machine utilisation rates

The situation on the recovered paper market in July is almost unchanged compared with June. Respondents say the German paper industry is still struggling with a difficult market environment, with weak economic activity weighing on paper consumption. However, exports of packaging and graphic papers are helping to boost utilisation rates on paper machines.

Recovered paper arisings of are hovering at typical levels for this time of year and are sufficient to meet demand, the EUWID market survey found. "We are not exactly swamped with the material, but we can get everything that we need," said one paper industry representative.

Waste management companies also report stable offtake for their recovered paper volumes. Considering that the summer holiday season is just getting underway, there is definitely not too much recovered paper in the market, EUWID was told. The availability of freight capacity has improved considerably compared to May, when the many statutory holidays resulted in logistics snarls, and deliveries are becoming more reliable again. Both paper mills and waste management companies are increasingly pushing for lower diesel surcharges in negotiations. However, the expiry of Germany's temporary fuel tax rebate on 1 July has increased transport costs. At the same time, renewed geopolitical tensions and higher oil prices have once again heightened the uncertainty surrounding oil prices.

At the moment, exports of ordinary grades are playing only a limited role in the recovered paper market. The prices being offered by buyers in the Far East still cannot compete with those available on the German market, insiders told EUWID.

The combination of ample recovered paper inventories and weak export demand prompted some initial attempts to reduce prices for recovered paper, but these proved unsuccessful, market insiders say. In early July, some paper producers even secured additional volumes of recovered paper. This comes in response to the start of the school summer holidays in northern Germany, with the southern states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg set to follow in August. Some mills were therefore producing to inventory ahead of the holiday period.

In addition, RCP imports from Germany's eastern neighbours have become more expensive in recent weeks. Prices there have more or less reached the level prevailing in Germany, insiders say.

Against this backdrop, prices for the brown ordinary grades – mixed paper and supermarket paper and board – were broadly stable in July. Only isolated price changes were reported, with both mark-ups and mark-downs amounting to less than €5/t.

By contrast, kraft recovered paper grades trended slightly higher. In many cases, prices have reportedly risen by around €5/t. Momentum here is coming more from the construction sector rather than the packaging industry at the moment, according to market participants.

Strong demand for deinking grades

Demand for sorted graphic paper for deinking was good in July. A few converters had ordered additional deliveries. Over the past two months, prices have risen by as much as €10/t, one market participant told EUWID. The main driver here was good export-market demand for the finished graphic papers made from this grade.

No further price changes were reported in July for the woodfree printed grades, although the market had at least stabilised, market watchers said. They believe this is because paper producers do not want to risk losing any volumes ahead of August and September, when supply is traditionally tighter.

Demand for bright white mechanical grades, including 3.14 and 3.15, has picked up sharply. Booming plasterboard production is supporting consumption, despite the subdued weak construction market. In some cases, there were reportedly even shortages of the recovered paper grades used in this application.

Price increases of €5-10/t were therefore reported for these grades. In individual cases, hikes of as much as €15/t were achieved.

The market for bright white woodfree grades remains markedly weaker, however, with demand for woodfree shavings and comparable qualities still subdued.

In June, a few paper producers had been hoping for recovered paper prices to soften in August, while waste management firms were speculating on rising prices due to lower summer collection volumes. However, the latest geopolitical escalation, rising oil prices and potentially higher transport costs have made both sides of the market much more cautious. Consequently, most respondents expect little change in recovered paper prices in the coming weeks.

Recovered Paper Germany June 2026				
Monthly changes in €/t	June 2026	May 2026	Apr 2026	June 2025
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	+ 1.00	+ 4.50	+ 9.00	- 27.00
Supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04)	+ 1.50	+ 4.50	+ 11.50	- 29.00
Used corrugated kraft II (4.03)	+ 2.00	+ 3.50	+ 9.50	- 28.50
Sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11)	+ 1.50	+ 2.50	+ 2.00	+ 3.50
Coloured letters (2.05/2.06) ¹⁾	+ 0.50	+ 1.50	- 2.00	- 3.50
Multi printing (3.10)	+ 1.00	- 2.50	± 0.00	- 0.50
White newsprint/magazine paper (3.14/3.15)	+ 5.00	+ 0.50	- 1.00	+ 8.50
White woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01)	+ 8.00	+ 0.50	± 0.00	- 0.50
¹⁾ From January 2026, price reports for grade 2.05 will also be included in the assessment for coloured letters. Changes based on free delivered prices within Germany.				
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EUWID price changes for German recovered paper in 2026		
Price change €/t		June 2026 vs December 2025
Mixed paper and board	(1.02)	+ 14.50
Supermarket corrugated paper and board	(1.04)	+ 24.00
Used corrugated kraft II	(4.03)	+ 21.50
Sorted graphic paper for deinking	(1.11)	± 0.00
Coloured letters	(2.06)	- 6.00
Multi printing	(3.10)	+ 2.50
White newsprint	(3.14/3.15)	- 3.00
White woodfree uncoated shavings	(3.18.01)	+ 2.00
The table presents the cumulative price changes for the named grades in the past six months. Prices: free delivered to paper mills in Germany EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information.		

Source: EUWID

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Norske Skog restarts PM 1 in Golbey after production stoppage

📄 EUWID + 15 July 2026 | Valeria Buß | ⌚ ~ 1 min | Published in issue 30/2026

The recycled corrugated case material machine at Norske Skog's mill in Golbey, France is up and running again following a technically related shutdown.

In a letter to suppliers, the company said that a problem at the wastewater treatment plant had forced it to halt production on the PM 1. A spokesperson at the mill told EUWID that production had been down for a total of ten days and had resumed on 10 July.



The containerboard machine at Norske Skog Golbey was down due to a problem at the wastewater treatment plant

The newsprint machine at the Golbey mill was not affected by the incident and continued operations normally.

The PM 1 in Golbey was [commissioned in May 2025](#), and production has since been gradually ramped up. Once operating at full capacity, the former newsprint machine will be able to produce 550,000 tpy of recycled corrugated case material.

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Folbb launches investor process for Baiersbronn cartonboard mill

 EUWID+ | 15 July 2026 | [Konstantin Stoll](#) | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 30/2026](#)

Production is continuing without disruption at Folbb's Baiersbronn cartonboard mill in Germany's Black Forest, despite the company filing for insolvency at the end of June.



Provisional insolvency administrator Dr Jan Markus

Plathner said on 14 July that the mill was operating continuously and that customer orders were being produced and delivered as scheduled.

A structured investor process is running in parallel with efforts to stabilise the business.

Finding an investor had been identified as the preferred solution when the primary fibre cartonboard producer's financial difficulties were announced. According to Dr Plathner, several potential investors have since expressed firm interest. Initial talks are under way and site visits have already taken place.

The company has also secured pre-financing for insolvency payments, ensuring that wages and salaries for its 220 employees can continue to be paid on time for the time being.

Talks also under way for Dutch mill in Eerbeek, production remains suspended

Eric Looijen, the insolvency administrator for the Eerbeek site, told EUWID that talks were under way with a potential buyer.

Production at the Eerbeek mill remains suspended. On 25 June, the competent court converted the company's previously granted suspension of payments into insolvency proceedings. Customer deliveries are continuing from stocks despite the production stoppage, he added.

Dr Plathner stressed that the insolvency proceedings at Folding Boxboard Eerbeek B.V., FOLBB Group's Dutch subsidiary, were separate from those in Baiersbronn. The outcome in Eerbeek would therefore have no bearing on the Baiersbronn mill's ability to continue supplying customers, he said.

FOLBB Baiersbronn produces folding boxboard , with a capacity of around 95,000 tpy. In Eerbeek, the group operates another primary fibre cartonboard mill with a production capacity of 150,000 tpy.

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