

Outnature starts construction of straw fibre plant for kraftliner substitute at Leipa's Schwedt site

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Prezero subsidiary Outnature has started construction on a straw fibre preparation plant located at Leipa Group's paper mill site in Schwedt, Germany. Outnature and Leipa had first announced the joint project in autumn 2025. The new stock preparation facility will process straw fibres that Leipa will reportedly use in combination with recovered paper to produce a kraftliner substitute with a coated white top layer. The corrugated case material incorporating straw fibres will be sold under the new brand name "Leipa Synergy."

First market-ready product expected in Q2 2027

With the start of construction, the first phase of realising this project has begun, announced Outnature in a press release on 23 July. The company said it was investing a low double-digit million euro sum to install the straw fibre processing plant.

Leipa reportedly updated an existing building at the Schwedt site to house the new facility. Using a thermomechanical pulping process, the finished plant is expected to produce around 7,000 tpy of straw fibres from agricultural residues sourced from the surrounding region, Outnature said in the press release.

Production is slated to start up in the first quarter of 2027. The first market-ready product of Leipa Synergy is expected at the end of the second quarter of 2027.

Outnature sees potential in alternatives to conventional primary fibres

The new plant will reportedly focus on, among other things, optimising the fibre properties of corrugated case material. Outnature explains that straw fibres offer very high strength values, enabling the upgrading of conventional packaging papers made from recovered paper. The two partners are using the renewable raw material as a strategic alternative to primary wood fibres, according to the press release. This would strengthen the independence of supply chains and conserve ever-scarcer natural resources, Outnature added.

At the Schwedt site, the German Leipa Group manufactures graphic papers as well as recycled corrugated case material. The company's product portfolio in the packaging paper segment includes brown and white-top testliner, and recycled medium. Leipa puts its total capacity for recycled corrugated case material at around 700,000 tpy.

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Miquel y Costas confirms 130m investment programme

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Spanish speciality paper producer Miquel y Costas has confirmed plans to invest €130m between 2027 and 2029. The largest share of the investment programme is earmarked for production technology upgrades at its Tortosa and Besòs mills, where the projects are intended to expand the company's product portfolio.

All in all, the programme comprises €47m for technological upgrades, €33m for the renewal and modernisation of infrastructure, €30m for sustainability projects and €20m for automation and digitalisation and will run from 2027 to 2029.

While Miquel y Costas will continue to maintain a significant position in papers for the tobacco industry, the group said its industrial strategy is focused on growth in higher value-added specialty papers and cellulose-based materials. Priority segments include specialty papers for the food and beverage sector, luxury packaging and laminates. However, Miquel y Costas did not disclose any specific capacity changes.

The investments will also support environmental programmes, circular economy projects and decarbonisation measures while helping to reduce production costs. Miquel y Costas has already invested €215,000 in a new photovoltaic plant for on-site power generation at its Tortosa site. The plant has a capacity of 325.6 kWp. Approximately €32,000 stem from the EU's Next Generation EU programme. The available project documentation does not indicate whether the installation forms part of the new investment programme.

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Norske Skog makes progress in packaging paper, currency effects and special items weigh on Q2 results

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Currency effects and special items weighed on the consolidated second quarter result, nudging the group's Ebit and net profit into the red. Operationally, however, positive development continued, especially in the packaging paper business. The division more than doubled its sales revenue compared to the same quarter of the previous year and posted slightly positive Ebitda for the first time. The company benefited from healthy capacity utilisation at the two containerboard sites in Bruck, Austria and Golbey, France as well as price hikes.

Norske Skog attributes the positive Ebitda margin development mainly to an increase in deliveries of recycled containerboard to 122,000 t. At the same time, material costs per tonne produced fell as a result of improved operational efficiency and active energy management, according to Norske Skog.

In the analysts conference, Norske's management attributed the strong sales development to several factors. In some cases, customers reple-nished their inventories. At the same time, Norske Skog benefited from maintenance shutdowns and market-related production cuts undertaken by competitors. In addition, there is high demand for the containerboard grades produced at the Bruck and Golbey mills.

For the coming months, the company expects recovered paper prices to remain stable. So far, there has been no significant pressure from customers to reverse the recently implemented price increases for recycled containerboard. The company's management also referred to the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties in the context of the Iran conflict.

Ramp-up of PM 1 in Golbey is progressing on schedule. Capacity utilisation at the PM in the second quarter stood at 53 per cent, Norske Skog stated, adding that full capacity utilisation is targeted for the first half of 2027.

According to the company, PM 1 in Golbey already incurs lower cash costs than the containerboard machine in Bruck. However, the Austrian site generates additional revenue from waste-to-energy activities, which makes both plants similarly competitive overall.

Norske Skog remains committed to its medium-term target of an Ebitda margin of 20 per cent in the packaging paper business. However, the company stressed that this target presupposes a "normal market environment". Under current market conditions, such a margin is not yet achievable. However, Norske Skog's management still considers the target to be realistic with expected recovery by 2029/30.

Norske Skog is concurrently working on other measures to improve the competitiveness of its paper mills. In Bruck, the company is reviewing construction of a battery storage system to reduce electricity costs and generate additional revenue from grid services. In Golbey, it is investigating a significant expansion of its biogas project. The annual feed-in of green biogas could increase from currently 16 GWh to 70-90 GWh and generate additional revenue.

Profitability despite difficult market environment for publication paper

The publication paper division remained profitable in the second quarter despite the difficult market environment. However, the division's Ebitda of NOK86m was only about half the previous year's figure. Appreciation of the Norwegian currency negatively impacted earnings, which was slightly offset by higher selling prices and increased sales, Norske Skog reported. At the same time, the segment benefited from lower timber prices, which the company expects to fall further in the course of the year. In contrast, wage adjustments at the sites led to higher personnel costs.

As regards the graphic paper market, management referred to the European Commission's pending decision on the proposed transaction between UPM and Sappi. The wait is causing a certain restraint in the market, irrespective of which paper manufacturers must continue to work on measures to improve their competitiveness. In addition, Norske Skog referred to rumours of possible further capacity closures in the European newsprint market, without providing specific details.

Norske Skog results				
million NOK	April - June		January - June	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Key figures				
Sales	2,584	2,389	5,461	5,491
EBITDA	73	106	525	718
Operating profit	-83	74	324	564
Net result	-165	78	170	479
Business area review				
Publication Paper				
Sales	1,931	2,029	4,222	4,807
EBITDA	86	172	562	821
Production 1,000 t	275	272	552	545
Deliveries 1,000 t	280	266	554	539
Packaging Paper				
Sales	516	224	914	434
EBITDA	1	-52	-26	-87
Production, 1,000 t	126	51	232	98

Deliveries, 1,000 t	122	47	228	95
Source: Norske Skog				

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Stora Enso reports stable Q2 sales but lower profit as price hikes for pulp and CCM show positive effect

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In a market environment that remained challenging, Stora Enso recorded subdued demand in many markets in the second quarter of 2026. Geopolitical tensions caused additional uncertainty: The conflict in Iran contributed to an increase in costs of energy, logistics and other intermediate inputs, CEO Hans Sohlström sums up.

Group revenue remained broadly stable in the second quarter at €2.42bn while adjusted Ebitda rose by 15 per cent to €320m. However, operating profit lost 75 per cent year-on-year and the group's net income ended in the red at €11m. The ramp-up of the new board machine in Oulu had a particularly positive effect on sales and Ebit in the second quarter, Stora Enso emphasises in its balance sheet report.

New board machine in Oulu boosts results in the second quarter

In the Consumer Packaging division, which includes the production of primary fibre-based cartonboard grades (GC, SBS, CKB and LPB), sales rose to €985m, mainly due to increased volumes from the cartonboard machine in Oulu. The ramp-up of the BM 6 with a target capacity of 750,000 tpy is progressing. Stora Enso continues to expect the plant to reach full capacity in 2027.

In the third quarter, the company plans an extended maintenance shutdown in Oulu, during which systems to increase efficiency will be installed on the board machine. The planned shutdowns at the board mills in Anjalankoski, Fors, Imatra and Skoghall are to take place in the fourth quarter, as in the previous year.

Adjusted Ebitda increased by 63 per cent due to the gradual increase in volumes in Oulu. The group also cited improved volumes and lower variable costs in the division, although these gains were partly offset by unfavourable selling prices and exchange rate effects.

Stora Enso continues to see uneven demand for cartonboard in the second quarter and only speaks of strong order intake for certain, unspecified board qualities. External cartonboard deliveries rose by 4 per cent year on year to 767,000 tonnes.

Stora Enso withdraws from corrugated board production in Germany

Stora Enso reports consistently declining key figures for the Integrated Packaging division, which includes the production of corrugated case material and corrugated packaging. Lower volumes in the European corrugated packaging market led to a decrease in sales revenues by 4 per cent to €599m in the second quarter. The focus for the corrugated division was therefore on securing and improving margins through price increases. The business segment posted an operating loss of €3m compared with an operating profit of €25m in the previous year.

Against this background, Stora Enso completed the sale of the German corrugated board and packaging plants to Dunapack Packaging, part of the Austrian Prinzhorn Group. As a result, Gaster Wellpappe, Wellpappe Sausenheim and PTI plants have been part of Dunapack Packaging since 1 July, marking Stora Enso's withdrawal from corrugated board and packaging

production in Germany. In addition, the group continued to assess the future of the corrugated packaging plant in Ostrołęka, Poland in Q2.

Stora Enso reports an improved demand for fresh fibre-based corrugated case materials in the Integrated Packaging division with simultaneous price increases for kraftliner grades. These also contributed to the Group's higher adjusted Ebit, as did higher pulp prices. External deliveries of corrugated case materials rose by 5 per cent to a total of 362,000 t.

Demand for softwood pulp remains weak, while hardwood pulp is more stable

In the Biomaterials division, which includes Stora Enso's pulp operations, the company sees a continued weak market for softwood pulp in the second quarter. In contrast, the markets for fluff and hardwood pulp are comparatively more stable. The division's sales improved slightly to €410m.

With an investment of €9m, Stora Enso also announced that it would expand the production of fluff pulp at its Skutskär site in Sweden. As part of this, the production of softwood pulp on 100,000 tpy fibre line 3 in Skutskär is to be permanently discontinued in the third quarter of 2026.

Stora Enso results				
million €	April - June		January - June	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Key figures				
Sales	2,423	2,426	4,781	4,789
Adjusted EBITDA	320	279	628	599
Operating result	16	64	101	235
Net result	-11	15	24	122
Business area review				
Consumer Packaging				
Sales	985	953	1,956	1,847
Adjusted EBITDA	124	76	240	181
Operating result	48	4	107	55
Integrated Packaging				
Sales	599	626	1,172	1,211
Adjusted EBITDA	70	72	137	132
Operating result	-3	25	-2	46
Biomaterials				
Sales	410	407	763	822

Sales	410	407	703	622
Adjusted EBITDA	103	77	179	171
Operating result	31	38	66	100
Other				
Sales	631	658	1,272	1,303
Adjusted EBITDA	29	61	75	118
Operating result	-54	4	-66	38
Source: Stora Enso				

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SCA sees signs of improving balance in NBSK pulp market

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Swedish forest products group SCA sees signs that the global softwood pulp market is moving closer to a better balance between supply and demand. President and CEO Ulf Larsson pointed to Canfor's announced closure of the Northwood pulp mill and further production curtailments, particularly in Finland, and sees them as indications that producers are beginning to respond to the persistently weak market.

An increasing number of producers are apparently unable to operate economically at current price levels. Mr Larsson therefore views the latest capacity adjustments as a signal that the NBSK market may have reached its low point. The changes represented "a clear message that we have reached the bottom", he said during the presentation of SCA's second-quarter results.

As a further indication, Mr Larsson referred to the reaction of Chinese pulp futures following Canfor's announcement. According to the CEO, futures prices increased by around \$20/t immediately after the closure was announced. Should current market conditions for softwood pulp persist, SCA expects further production curtailments and capacity closures in the industry.

SCA's assessment is consistent with the continued weakness described in its second-quarter report. Demand for pulp remained weak in Europe and the US, while European NBSK prices were stable during the quarter. Prices in the US initially increased slightly but declined again towards the end of the quarter. Global producer stocks remained unchanged.

SCA rules out NBSK pulp production curtailments

SCA does not currently plan to reduce NBSK production at its Östrand mill. Mr Larsson pointed to the site's modern and efficient production facility and its comparatively competitive cash-cost position. SCA also benefits from a high degree of integration and self-sufficiency in wood raw material, energy and logistics.

At the same time, the company is pursuing a more flexible production strategy for chemi-thermomechanical pulp (CTMP) at Ortviken. SCA had already reduced CTMP output in the spring and could implement further production interruptions depending on market conditions and electricity prices. Short-term stoppages are comparatively easy to carry out in CTMP production, Mr Larsson explained.

He added that the softwood pulp market had moved closer to balance. However, he did not specify when the market might return to equilibrium, stressing that the adjustment required would ultimately depend on demand. Market estimates suggested that around 300,000 t might have to be removed from inventories to restore balance, although he cautioned that the actual volume could be higher or lower.

Nevertheless, if current conditions continued, further capacity closures would be necessary, particularly among producers with high cash costs. Canadian mills appeared especially exposed, although European producers were also facing pressure from elevated woodfibre costs, said the company's CEO.

In the longer term, Mr Larsson remains confident about the prospects for NBSK. Softwood pulp would remain a scarce product because of the limited availability of suitable coniferous wood raw material, he said.

SCA has scheduled extensive maintenance work at the Östrand NBSK pulp mill during the third quarter and at the beginning of the fourth quarter. The financial and production effects of the maintenance programme are expected to be spread across both quarters.

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SCA posts significant decline in Q2 operating earnings

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Swedish forestry and paper group SCA saw significant declines in the second quarter of 2026 compared to the same period last year, especially in operating profit. While revenue decreased only moderately, Ebitda and Ebit were substantially lower than the previous year's figures. Lower selling prices, negative currency effects and higher raw material costs in particular weighed on business development, the company said. SCA's forestry and industrial operations were additionally burdened by higher fuel prices arising from the Middle East conflict. In contrast, the renewable energies segment developed positively. In view of the continued challenging market environment, the company continues to focus on cost control and cash flow management.

For the third quarter, SCA expects relief on the cost side. The company expects wood prices – its largest cost block – to recede by another 3-5 per cent in the third quarter following the quarter-on-quarter decline of around 2-3 per cent in the second quarter. Chemical costs are expected to remain broadly stable. In contrast, energy prices remain difficult to predict, the company says. SCA expects that the price increases for kraftliner implemented in the second and at the beginning of the third quarter will gradually be reflected in earnings in the second half of the year.

Weaker pulp and containerboard business in Q2

In the pulp segment, operating profit declined significantly compared with the previous year's second quarter. SCA attributes the decline mainly to lower selling prices for NBSK and negative currency effects. On the other hand, higher deliveries and lower raw material costs had a positive effect. Demand for softwood pulp remained weak in Europe and North America in the second quarter. While NBSK prices were largely stable in Europe, they initially rose slightly in the US, but declined again at the end of the quarter.

Operating profit also declined for the containerboard business unit compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Lower selling prices, negative currency effects and the maintenance shutdown at the Obbola kraftliner mill burdened the division. On the other hand, lower raw material costs had a positive impact. Compared with the previous quarter, the segment also benefited from higher selling prices.

As to the kraftliner market, SCA's CEO Ulf Larsson was cautiously optimistic. Demand was currently robust, with increasing signs of a true market recovery, he said. While it could not be clearly ruled out that part of the demand was due to advanced orders ahead of the announced price hikes, continued healthy order intake and stable demand from the retail as well as industrial sectors suggested that market recovery was based on a broader foundation, Mr Larsson observed.

SCA expects that price hikes for kraftliner will have a positive impact in the second half of the year. Mr Larsson did not want to forecast further price increases at this time.

According to the CEO, the price differential between kraftliner and testliner has reached an all-time high of around €280/t. Nevertheless, no significant increase in substitution had been observed so far, Mr Larsson said. If a broad substitution of kraftliner with testliner were technically possible, it would have already taken place in view of the high price differential, he reasoned. Extensive capacity closures in North America, estimated at 3-4 million tpy, contributed to the positive market

situation, according to the CEO.

SCA results				
million SEK	April - June		January - June	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Key figures				
Sales	5,153	5,380	9,893	10,541
EBITDA	1,303	2,033	2,410	3,684
Operating result	724	1,504	1,267	2,623
Net result	523	1,088	903	1,888
Business area review				
Forest				
Sales	2,480	2,542	5,027	5,028
EBITDA	866	1,070	1,750	1,949
Wood				
Sales	1,524	1,733	2,827	3,231
EBITDA	89	310	138	546
Deliveries, 1,000 m ³	500	568	951	1,092
Pulp				
Sales	1,735	1,794	3,358	3,734
EBITDA	107	261	147	581
Deliveries, 1,000 t	268	242	524	400

Deliveries, 1,000 t	200	272	327	322
Containerboard				
Sales	1,828	1,819	3,563	3,493
EBITDA	135	451	239	690
Deliveries kraftliner, 1,000 t	254	236	512	471
Renewable Energy				
Sales	519	494	1,181	1,097
EBITDA	217	87	423	221
Deliveries own wind power, GWh	71	17	153	66
Source: SCA				

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Saica Group begins integrating Thimm, EU Commission clears takeover

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The European Commission has no objection to the planned takeover of Thimm group by Spanish Saica group. The EU's competition authority cleared the acquisition on 23 July 2026. The transaction covers the corrugated board and packaging activities of Thimm group in Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania, explains the Spanish paper and packaging group. Saica announced that it would now start the integration process.

The Commission concluded that the notified transaction did not raise competition concerns in view of the narrow market position of the companies emerging from the proposed merger. The competition authority therefore approved the acquisition under the simplified procedure.

The deal comprises a total of nine Thimm corrugated board plants in Alzey, Wolnzach, Eberswalde, Castrop-Rauxel and Northeim (in Germany), Tychy and Skarbimierz (in Poland), Všetaty (in the Czech Republic) and Sibiu (in Romania) as well as the German preprint plant in Ilseburg.

The French site Garancières-en-Beauce, located south of Paris, is not part of the transaction, Thimm said in response to a query from EUWID. The French facility and the preprint plant in Ilseburg are operated by Thimm's subsidiary Christiansen Print, which specialises in web pre-printing and paper finishing. The company will decide on the future direction of business activities at Garancières-en-Beauce after the transaction is completed, a spokeswoman explained.

Saica significantly expands production capacity for corrugated board

Saica says the acquisition will expand its corrugated board production capacity by up to 1.2 billion m². The transaction will also bring around 2,500 additional employees to the Spanish group.

"This operation is a very important milestone for us, it is a further step in Saica's business growth strategy with the aim of further developing our infrastructure and services in Central and Eastern Europe. It is part of the company's development plans defined by Saica 2025, the strategic plan of the company," said Susana Alejandro, president and CEO of Saica Group.

Thimm and Saica announced plans to sell the independent corrugated board manufacturer based in Northeim on 12 May 2026. The companies agreed not to disclose the purchase price.

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Modern Karton formally opens PM 6 in Zonguldak

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Modern Karton has formally inaugurated its new recycled containerboard production facility in Zonguldak, Turkey on 10 July. The ceremony took place almost eleven months after the PM 6 produced its first paper reel.

Modern Karton said the facility represented an investment of \$850m and had an annual production capacity of 650,000 t. The new machine has raised the company's total paper production capacity to 2 million tpy. The site was expected to employ around 300 people once it was operating at full capacity.

The facility produces containerboard entirely from recovered paper and is equipped with highly automated production technology, according to the company. Voith had previously put the machine's capacity at up to 640,000 tpy, while earlier information available to EUWID had indicated a capacity of 600,000 tpy.

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Jardin Corrugated relocates to larger Ely facility

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UK corrugated packaging producer **Jardin Corrugated** has relocated its operations to a new 13,000 m² manufacturing facility at a nearby business park in Sutton, near Ely. The Logson Group subsidiary said the move was necessary to support continued business growth and its expansion plans for the next five years. In addition to transferring its existing machinery, Jardin has installed a new flat-bed die-cutter, expanding its converting capabilities, as well as new material-handling lines.

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Minhan Paper orders second OCC line from Andritz

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Vietnamese paper manufacturer **Minhan Paper** has ordered a second complete OCC recycling line from **Andritz** for its mill in Hung Yen province. Start-up of the new line is scheduled for the first half of 2027. The mill is to produce fluting at a capacity of 700 tpd. The broke handling system will have a capacity of 100 tpd. Minhan Paper started up its first Andritz OCC line at the Hung Yen mill in August 2025. That line also has a design capacity of 700 tpd and produces testliner and fluting from imported and locally sourced OCC.

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Germany: Surcharges for fresh-fibre board under pressure amid summer slowdown

Unchanged prices for brown and white recycled CCM grades in July

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Prices held steady in July on the German market for brown and white grades of recycled corrugated case material. Paper mills continue to report good bookings, but the picture is not quite as rosy in the corrugated board industry. Nevertheless, the demand trend in the corrugated board sector is neither predictable nor reliable during the summer months, say market experts.

Given the recent slowdown in demand for folding cartons, pressure is growing to reverse the surcharges that board mills have gradually introduced for GC 2 on the German market since April. Folding carton producers had already made initial attempts to push back against the surcharges in May and June, EUWID was told. However, sources said that suppliers were responding in different ways.

Limited price pressure for recycled CCM amid good mill utilisation

In July, producers of recycled corrugated case material in Germany continue to have good capacity utilisation. By mid- or late July, some mills reported that their order books were already largely filled for August. Production of brown recycled corrugated case material (CCM) is reportedly running at such high levels that corrugated board producers sometimes struggle to secure additional volumes at short notice. By contrast, the situation for white-top testliner remains much more subdued, according to suppliers.

Papermakers' high operation rates are not being matched to the same extent in the corrugated sector. In recent months, paper producers and their customers have already offered differing assessments of the market development in Germany. While a few containerboard mills said they had been fully booked or sold out early in the month, corrugated board producers painted a more mixed picture, with capacity utilisation at their plants varying considerably. This divergence persisted in July, too.

Once again, customers in the corrugated industry described the market in July as decent overall – or at least stable at a subdued level. However, the staggered school holidays across Germany made summer demand difficult to predict and production hard to plan.

Paper suppliers cited export contracts as one reason for the high activity levels. Simultaneously, customers were often taking much of the output as it was produced, leaving mills with little scope to build inventories, several respondents said.

Both buyers and sellers confirmed unchanged prices for both brown recycled corrugated case material as well as coated and uncoated white-top testliner in July. Individual attempts by customers to achieve reductions of price hikes implemented in the first half-year were usually blocked by paper mills, who cited their good bookings situation and ongoing cost pressure. This was confirmed to EUWID by representatives from both sides of the market.

Paper industry players counter that, actually, they would rather need to increase prices again, given the creeping upward price trend for ordinary grades of recovered paper in recent months as well as the ongoing high transport and energy prices.

This point was stressed in particular by suppliers of white-top testliner, who had been previously unable to raise their prices by anywhere near the amounts achieved by producers of brown grades.

Suppliers reduce surcharges for GC 2 but not in all cases

In the German market for primary fibre-based cartonboard, market participants are feeling the effects of the start of the summer holiday season in Germany and across Europe. A few buyers and sellers of cartonboard reported a “massive summer slump,” while others believe the slowdown in order intake is typical for this season but not necessarily more extreme than in previous years.

In the wake of the insolvency of the Folbb group's two cartonboard mills, competitors are apparently trying to acquire contracts. There are reports about some cartonboard machines having better capacity utilisation as a result. However, this will not be sufficient to change the existing oversupply of GC board, market insiders stress.

In light of the softening demand for packaging, there is also mounting pressure on the surcharges for GC 2 that cartonboard producers have gradually implemented in the German market since April. The industry's main argument for introducing these charges was the need to offset increased energy prices.

One high-capacity producer, however, had cited higher transport costs as the justification for the surcharges, which were sometimes only implemented as of June, say market experts. Other board mills put the focus on general cost increases rather than just energy prices in their negotiations, EUWID was told.

Respondents had already reported initial attempts by folding carton producers to have the surcharges withdrawn in May. These efforts have intensified at the start of the third quarter, although suppliers are responding in different ways.

While some GC 2 suppliers stressed they had no leeway to roll back the mark-ups, other players reported there was definitely some willingness to negotiate. EUWID has received reports of increases being reduced from an initial €30/t to €15-20/t from July. Some buyers also said they had accepted lower increases after negotiations brought the original demand of €30/t down to €20/t. At the same time, some large-volume customers continued to accept surcharges of up to €40/t from July.

In the German market for recycled board, the pricing situation seems broadly stable overall right now. If GD 2 producers reported price movements, these were merely adjustments in cases where half-year contracts expired at the end of June, in order to bring prices in line with the step of €20-30/t implemented in April. Quarterly contracts remained unchanged, with no new pricing plans announced by July.

Cartonboard producers surveyed by EUWID reported little downward pressure on prices. They said they were firmly resisting calls for reductions, citing high transport costs and steadily rising recovered paper prices since February. The same is true for unlined chipboard, for which no widespread price movements were reported in July.

In general, capacity utilisation on GD machines at the end of July is said to be above expectations, though the mills noted that their planning for 2026 was conservative. Nevertheless, the summer slowdown is apparently not as noticeable as it was last

year, for example. This was partly attributed to the developments at a major supplier, which had prompted customers to shift volumes.

During EUWID's June market survey, producers of unlined chipboard had already reported a significant decline in customer demand. They said the situation remained unchanged in July.

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Recovered paper prices broadly stable in Italy, with only occasional mark-ups

Exports help offset occasional softness in domestic demand

 29 July 2026 | ⌚ ~ 5 min | [Published in issue 31/2026](#)

The Italian recovered paper market showed mixed trends in July. On the one hand, with the summer break approaching, domestic demand for ordinary recovered paper grades was already starting to soften here and there. On the other hand, waste

management firms and merchants reported somewhat better export opportunities, especially to India. Overall, though, it was a relatively stable month with only scattered mark-ups reported for old corrugated containers (OCC). There were sometimes small price increases for deinking grades in July, while the market for higher recovered paper grades was once again very calm.

EUWID Price Watch Recovered Paper Italy				
July 2026				
Prices in €/per tonne	July 2026	June 2026	May 2026	July 2025
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	80 - 90	80 - 90	80 - 90	95 - 110
Supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04)	85 - 95	85 - 95	85 - 95	95 - 110
Old corrugated containers (1.05)	95 - 105	90 - 105	90 - 105	105 - 120
New shavings of corrugated board (4.01)	110 - 120	110 - 120	110 - 120	125 - 135
Magazines (1.06)	105 - 125	105 - 120	105 - 120	135 - 155
Newspapers (2.01)	150 - 165	150 - 165	150 - 165	170 - 190
White woodfree letters (1.05)	285 - 305	280 - 305	285 - 305	320 - 330
White newspaper (3.14)	290 - 305	290 - 305	290 - 305	310 - 335
White woodfree shavings (3.18)	395 - 420	395 - 420	395 - 420	430 - 455

Prices on works, material sorted and in bales.

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On the whole, the market for ordinary recovered paper grades changed little in July compared to the previous month. Most corrugated case material mills continued to run without interruption and the supply of recovered paper was sufficient. As a result, many market participants reported stable prices for mixed paper and board (1.02), supermarket paper and board (1.04) and old corrugated containers (OCC; 1.05) in July, describing supply and demand as relatively balanced.

At the same time, there were some instances where prices for OCC rose slightly in July. A few waste management firms said they were able in some cases to raise prices for this grade by €/5/t. A handful of customers confirmed that sellers were sometimes asking higher prices. One of them noted there had been some upward price momentum at the beginning of the month due to rising prices in the Far East export market. He had then had to pay slightly more for volumes that were needed immediately, but was subsequently able to buy material at stable prices for the rest of the month. One representative of a waste management company also pointed out that collection volumes of OCC in the company's region were relatively weak. However, the mark-ups and especially the peak prices were limited to certain regions in northern Italy and were not always accepted by buyers, EUWID was told. On the other hand, some of the lowest prices seen previously were no longer available in July.

By contrast, mixed paper showed no signs of an upward trend in July. On the contrary, market participants unanimously reported that the grade was readily available. "Nobody wants to buy mixed paper," said one supplier, and other players confirmed that supply was abundant. Some insiders attributed this to lower demand from the cartonboard industry, where there were reportedly a few production stoppages.

In general, the paper and board producers in Italy surveyed by EUWID did not report any problems with sourcing recovered paper. "If I needed more, I could buy more," said one buyer. Players said their inventories of ordinary recovered paper grades were at average levels. Some were deliberately keeping stocks low, partly because of the fire hazard and partly because of the typical production stoppages planned for August when less recovered paper will be needed. A few market participants

therefore reported that individual mills in Italy had already started purchasing slightly less recovered paper in July. But the good export opportunities – especially for OCC – reportedly offset this decline.

Slightly higher export prices

Recovered paper exporters benefited in July from Indian buyers' renewed interest in Italian material. At the beginning of the month, these customers were approaching merchants with attractive offers, EUWID was told. Several Italian waste management companies took advantage of this opportunity and upped their export volumes. Others were more focused on countries such as Indonesia, but also described demand as good.

Export prices likewise climbed modestly. Market participants reported increases of up to €5/t at most. For OCC from Italy, Asian buyers were usually paying €105-115/t ex works in July. Some attributed this uptick to the stronger demand from India, while others also pointed to slightly lower freight rates offered by some shipping companies.

A few exporters expressed optimism that there would be sufficient orders from the Far East to keep their order books well filled throughout the month of August, even though downtimes of mostly 1-2 weeks or longer are often planned at Italy's paper and board producers. They therefore expect stable prices for ordinary recovered paper grades in Italy next month. Some paper mills also pointed to the planned August production downtime and the resulting weaker demand. They do not completely rule out the possibility of a slight price reduction in the coming month. However, some believe that such a step, if it comes, is more likely to happen in September.

Improving demand for magazines

On the market for deinking grades, the price increase that slowly appeared to be materialising for magazines (1.06) over the past months was now implemented by some players. The suppliers surveyed by EUWID in July said they were receiving a few more inquiries from their customers. A few market participants consequently reported price increases of €5/t, while others continued to see stable prices for this grade. The price range has widened slightly, with quotes in the southern part of the country still lower.

By contrast, prices for newspapers (2.01) were unchanged from June. This market was generally more stable than that for magazines, said one market participant. Another noted that demand from the insulation sector was seasonally weaker. However, prices in this segment were already higher than those paid by paper mills.

There was again little change in the market for higher grades in July. Demand was still at typical levels and prices for white woodfree letters (3.05), white newsprint (3.14) and white woodfree shavings (3.18) were all trading at June levels.

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Billerud reports an increase in profit, Q2 still in the red

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Billerud has improved its results in the second quarter of 2026 compared with the first quarter, but remains in the red for both the quarter and the first half of the year, and also below the previous year's results. With revenue of SEK9.83bn, Billerud reported an adjusted Ebitda of SEK661m, an operating loss of SEK58m and a net loss of SEK64m in Q2.

Billerud notes that this represents a significant improvement on Q1 of this year, which is mainly attributed to higher selling prices, cost-cutting measures and product portfolio optimisation. Billerud also points out that it has had to contend with inflationary pressures and supply chain difficulties as a result of the war in the Middle East.

The company reports that market conditions in Europe remained challenging in Q2 due to subdued demand and an oversupply of paperboard materials. Uncertainties in the supply chain persisted as a result of the war in Iran. The company has increased its prices for graphic, label, sack and kraft papers, as well as for corrugated base paper. It has also announced further price increases, which are due to be implemented in Q3.

In North America, by contrast, market conditions remained solid across all product categories, with demand at normal levels, according to Billerud. As a local supplier, the company explains, it is well positioned there. Due to cost pressures resulting from higher oil prices, prices for most paper grades have been increased. Market pulp prices rose during the quarter as well.

For the third quarter, Billerud expects market conditions in North America to remain favourable. Developments in the European region remain subject to uncertainty for the company, but it anticipates slightly improved market conditions. In both regions, the company expects positive effects on pricing, whilst input costs are expected to remain largely unchanged overall.

Billerud results				
Key figures	April - June		January - June	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Key figures				
Sales	9,834	10,244	19,659	21,345
Adjusted EBITDA	661	912	1,186	2,300
Operating result	-58	188	-287	826
Net result	-64	55	-283	470
Business area review				
Region Europe				
Sales	5,877	6,481	12,068	13,611
EBITDA	465	333	586	1,387
Deliveries, 1,000 t	610	626	1,270	1,296
Region North America				
Sales	3,103	2,891	5,851	6,081
EBITDA	399	622	852	1,302
Deliveries, 1,000 t	355	337	404	470

Deliveries, 1,000 t	233	237	474	477
Source: Billerud				

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UBA: Most water-based dispersions contain plastic

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The German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) has made clear that the majority of water-based barrier dispersions applied in paper and board packaging are technically synthetic polymer coatings, so they count as plastic coatings. When applying the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD), the agency treats fibre-based single-use food packaging with functional barriers as normally covered by the Directive, with the associated labelling and other obligations applying accordingly.

This only applies to single-use items intended for out-of-home use. Where fibre-based packaging is coated with aqueous dispersions and does not qualify as a single-use plastic product under the German Single-Use Plastics Fund Act (EWKFondsG), the levy position remains unchanged. What the UBA does question is the “plastic-free” claim, insisting on labelling practices that do not misrepresent the fact that plastic components are present.

Since the UBA notes that a very broad range of dispersions is used in practice, every request for a ruling on whether a product counts as a single-use plastic item is assessed individually and with care.

In view of the ongoing development of the SUPD and the growing importance of microplastics, the UBA is also calling on manufacturers and companies placing items on the market to use the claim “plastic-free” with particular care, since products with water-based dispersions can also generate microplastics.

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International Paper appoints two new board members

 29 July 2026 | ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 31/2026](#)

International Paper has appointed **Katherine Collins** and **Lori J. Ryerkerk** to its board of directors, effective 1 October 2026. Ms Collins previously held senior roles at Putnam Investments and Fidelity. Ms Ryerkerk was most recently Chairman, President and CEO of US chemicals and specialty materials producer Celanese. **Kathryn Sullivan** and **Ahmet C. Dorduncu** will retire from the board at the end of 2026. Dr Sullivan has been a director since 2017, while **Mr Dorduncu** joined the board in 2011.

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Kraftliner prices rise on the Italian market in July

Newsprint prices increase in Q3, while fine paper prices come under pressure

EUWID + 29 July 2026 | ~ 14 min | Published in issue 31/2026

Producers of brown kraftliner have used the particular market situation to bring their prices in Italy closer to the levels prevailing in other European countries.

According to producers, however, the July increase will not be the last. Restricted availability of supply from Europe and overseas, combined with expectations of good demand in the autumn, is strengthening suppliers' position.

EUWID Price Watch July			
Prices in Euro unless otherwise indicated			
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025
Fine paper			
Newsprint coated			
Coated paper 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 1,000	920 - 1,000
Coated paper 40 g, Canada	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other coated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other coated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Newsprint uncoated			
Uncoated paper 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 1,000	920 - 1,000
Uncoated paper 40 g, Canada	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other uncoated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other uncoated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Coated paper			
Coated paper 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 1,000	920 - 1,000
Coated paper 40 g, Canada	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other coated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other coated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Uncoated paper			
Uncoated paper 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 1,000	920 - 1,000
Uncoated paper 40 g, Canada	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other uncoated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other uncoated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Coated paper			
Coated paper 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 1,000	920 - 1,000
Coated paper 40 g, Canada	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other coated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000
Other coated 40 g	900 - 950	880 - 950	920 - 1,000

In the newsprint market, producers implemented a further price increase for deliveries from July. Prices for magazine paper, by contrast, remained largely unchanged by the middle of the month, apart from some half-year contracts. In a weak market, fine paper prices in Italy are coming under increasing pressure. Market participants have occasionally reported price reductions extending beyond the usual summer discounts.

The Italian market for primary fibre-based cartonboard remained weak and well supplied in July. Against this background, no uniform price trend emerged at mid-year. Rather than a clear market movement, customer-specific agreements largely shaped the market in July.

Weak demand puts pressure on fine paper prices

From suppliers' perspective, conditions on the Italian fine paper market deteriorated considerably in July. While the price increases implemented in the spring were still widely regarded as consolidated in June, market participants are now reporting growing pressure on selling prices for woodfree uncoated and coated papers.

Weak demand and low operating rates at many European paper mills have significantly weakened producers' position in price negotiations. According to market participants, July was even quieter than June. Several Italian paper merchants also reported weaker business than in July last year.

Inventory building in the second quarter also contributed to subdued ordering activity. Many customers had increased their stocks during the second quarter, in some cases before the spring price rises, and have since held sufficient volumes. Given weak consumption, these inventories are being run down more slowly than expected, leaving little need for additional purchases, according to market sources.

Under these conditions, producers were unable to implement a further price increase in July. Instead, paper buyers sought to take advantage of the changed market situation and, in some cases, negotiate concessions for deliveries from July that went well beyond the usual modest summer discounts.

Fine paper producers had previously attempted to raise prices for woodfree coated and uncoated papers by a further €20-30/t following the spring increases. However, in view of weak demand and the available supply from Europe and Asia, these demands had largely disappeared from the market, respondents reported. There was also no longer any talk of additional cost-related surcharges, as had been considered by individual paper mills.

Given low capacity utilisation at the start of the third quarter, some suppliers showed greater flexibility and frequently accepted their customers' demands. The aim was to stimulate demand and secure additional orders ahead of summer maintenance and holiday-related production interruptions, one paper producer explained.

This development was initially supported by producers' expectations of cost relief. With energy costs moderate at the end of the second quarter and pulp prices expected to decline in the third quarter, some paper mills are said to have at least considered passing part of the potential cost benefits on to their customers, according to sources in Italy.

Towards the end of July, however, the cost trend reversed. The sudden flare-up of the conflict in the Gulf region and the rapid renewed rise in gas prices partly undermined previous expectations of cost relief. One paper producer used this development as a reason to announce a price increase of 4 to 6 per cent for deliveries of woodfree uncoated paper from September. So far, however, no other suppliers have followed suit. Several market participants told EUWID that they doubted a new price round could be implemented broadly in the near term given weak demand and the prevailing competitive pressure.

Buyers facing higher newsprint prices from July onwards

The Italian newsprint paper market has experienced small increases as the second half began. Sources told EUWID that newsprint prices have typically risen by €15 or €20/t. Larger hikes were less common and only seen in cases where prices held steady in the second quarter. Insiders noted that such increases primarily involved half-year contracts with publishers.

EUWID sources mostly painted a picture of stable prices for magazine paper as the second quarter ended and the third quarter began. Customers that had not paid more for coated and uncoated magazine paper during the second quarter now had to swallow a hike of up to €20/t for deliveries from July onwards at the latest.

Even though official statistics do not indicate that European newsprint producers are enjoying particularly good capacity utilisation, manufacturers are still busy mid-year. The majority of suppliers surveyed by EUWID described raising prices at the start of the third quarter as a logical step: Paper producers have leveraged the stronger demand environment and uncertainty on the part of customers about supply from their own paper mills to bolster their negotiating hand and ultimately improve their margins by charging more, sources said. Some suppliers also feel that they are in a stronger position following Palm's announcement of plans to convert a newsprint machine in the UK to make packaging paper, meaning that it will deliver newsprint only from Germany from next year onwards.

Buyers interviewed by EUWID generally painted a similar picture of the market and prices as the third quarter began. For instance, they had to factor in delivery delays for newsprint shipments from France and Germany. In addition, newsprint imports from Canada remain limited and still well below last year's level, despite efforts by individual suppliers. Even so, from buyers' point of view, supply in Italy remains good and unproblematic. Some purchasers were thus surprised to find that manufacturers still managed to push through further price increases around mid-year.

Some EUWID contacts criticised current prices, complaining that spending more on paper procurement will weigh on volume

development in the second half of the year. One printer added that advertising flyer business was usually stronger in the second half than in the first, but some clients were already considering reducing the volume of printed flyers.

Buyers are thus doing everything they can to limit the burden of higher prices. One printer reported having reduced the number of suppliers to secure a better price by concentrating larger volumes with the remaining providers. One publishing house buyer told EUWID that it was using a mix of quarterly and half-yearly contracts to optimise procurement prices, adding that volumes were shifted from one supplier to another, depending on the situation and price.

The SC paper business picked up noticeably in Italy around mid-year after a poor start to the year. Some contacts attributed this to current pricing. It is not unusual for SC-B paper to cost almost the same as newsprint, while SC-A can easily compete with improved newsprint at prices of around €650/t. That appears to have revived customer interest, with buyers once again willing to choose higher-grade paper for certain print projects.

Coated magazine paper suppliers have also managed to benefit to a lesser extent. As a rule, the higher the quality and the more specialised the paper, the better for suppliers. By contrast, standard paper with a higher share of recycled fibre was unable to stand out and remained caught up in fierce competition. From suppliers' perspective, price negotiations are difficult as a result. One paper producer complained that prices had to be renegotiated for every single order. Another also criticised the aggressiveness with which some suppliers tried to win business.

In the LWC segment, market players are awaiting the outcome of the planned merger between UPM and Sappi of their related business areas. Without that certainty, it was hardly possible to plan with any degree of accuracy, buyers noted.

Kraftliner costs more in Italy too

Developments on Italy's corrugated case material market gathered pace as the second quarter ended and the third quarter began. This generally affects the kraftliner segment, where manufacturers have pushed for and secured another price hike for deliveries in July. Market players reported increases mostly in the region of €20-30/t for brown kraftliner, which all customers had to pay to European suppliers.

As a result of the July increase, customers in Italy are now paying €80-90/t more for unbleached European kraftliner than they did in April, and in some cases even more. Even shortly before the traditional August holiday period, price increases for brown kraftliner remain a subject of heated discussion in Italy. Some suppliers aim to raise prices again for deliveries in August or September at the latest, following the trend in other European markets where selling prices for brown kraftliner are said to have already risen by a total of €120/t in two price rounds.

Manufacturers are confident that they can achieve their targets, as the Italian brown kraftliner market remains firmly in suppliers' hands. Heavy capacity cutbacks in the US, compounded by production problems and unscheduled downtime at some mills, have significantly reduced the volumes available for export to Europe since the start of the year. Even integrated companies with paper mills on both sides of the Atlantic are said to be struggling to secure enough kraftliner for their converting plants in some European regions and have had to source from other suppliers. Compounding matters, insiders are reporting de-livery delays for Brazilian kraftliner, as well as longer maintenance and upgrade shutdowns in Europe. Taken together, these factors have had a major impact on the supply of unbleached kraftliner and tightened availability considerably.

Against this backdrop, the situation looks straightforward from the point of view of European brown kraftliner suppliers. One

supplier told EUWID that anyone unwilling to pay more would simply not get any paper. Only customers who do not need kraftliner at the moment can avoid the hike in July, or possibly August. By September at the latest, they will have to pay a higher price, one converter said.

Unlike brown kraftliner, talks about white-top kraftliner and semi-chemical fluting prices are not progressing quite so smoothly or easily, manufacturers report. Sources put the mark-ups at €0/t to €20/t in July. As a result, prices have mostly risen by €30-40/t for semi-chemical fluting and €40-50/t for white-top kraftliner since April.

Market players said that this is because supply is not limited in these two segments and is more than enough to meet current demand. In addition, high kraftliner prices are prompting customers to look more closely at alternative grades, which is intensifying competition at a time when demand is subdued. Describing the problem, one paper producer pointed out that some suppliers were worried about capacity utilisation and were reluctant to raise their prices too much.

Insiders mostly described the state of affairs on Italy's recycled corrugated case material market as stable in July. For a short time at the start of the third quarter, it looked as if prices would start to crumble. With the renewed outbreak of hostilities in Iran and the Gulf region, and the further rise in gas and fuel prices, producers have no longer been willing to concede to customers' calls for lower prices.

Paper manufacturers are viewing energy-price developments with great concern. Some suppliers are therefore not ruling out another attempt to raise prices for September deliveries if cost pressure remains high in the coming weeks. However, most market players on both sides see little room for such plans. Supply is simply too abundant and demand overall too weak. At the end of July, some converters said they had already agreed on unchanged prices for September deliveries. One corrugated board producer also stressed that there had never been any talk of a price increase for August or September deliveries.

In August, both paper mills and corrugated board and packaging plants in Italy will carry out their usual summer shutdowns. Production stoppages of around a fortnight are generally planned. A small number of paper mills that were already idle in June or July for rebuilds, or that are planning a rebuild in September, are expected to keep producing through August. Market players do not expect this to have any particular impact on supply. What is more worrying is the demand situation among customers in the corrugated board and packaging industries, a paper producer said. Some customers are likely to stay offline for longer in August than originally planned because of the weak order situation for September, this source added.

Mixed price trend for GC board, GD prices hold largely firm in July

The Italian market for primary fibre cartonboard presented a mixed picture in July. Demand for GC board generally remained weak, with EUWID receiving confirmation of this from both producers and converters. Nevertheless, some cartonboard producers reported being more than well booked in July, with order backlogs of five to eight weeks. Taking into account planned grade changes or forthcoming maintenance and investment-related downtime, both of which required advance production, order backlogs on individual cartonboard machines could be even longer, one producer stressed.

Despite the sometimes lengthy lead times quoted by some board mills, supply of GC board in Italy remained ample. In addition to volumes available from European production, this was supported by a broad range of imported cartonboard from China, Indonesia and India. Market participants in Italy agreed that the insolvency of the Folbb Group and the associated temporary production stoppage at its Eerbeek mill in the Netherlands had so far done little to reduce available supply.

The good supply situation and subdued demand maintained pressure on European suppliers and gave buyers considerable room for negotiation at the start of the third quarter. As a result, discussions between producers and customers for deliveries from July focused less on general price targets and more on individual solutions for specific customers and orders.

Producers were primarily interested in generating orders and keeping capacity utilisation high over the summer, respondents reported. A mutually acceptable solution would then be sought on prices. This applied particularly to larger customers with good credit ratings, where suppliers wanted to defend market share and secure longer-term business relationships.

There was therefore no uniform price trend for GC 2 board in July, especially when the surcharges introduced in the spring are taken into account. Some suppliers are said to have reduced their existing cost-related surcharges to just €15 or €20/t. Others continued to insist on surcharges of €30/t and made considerable efforts to defend existing conditions at the beginning of the third quarter. Still other producers raised their prices for deliveries from July for the first time, by €20-25/t.

The intense competitive pressure had prevented the spring price adjustments from being consolidated uniformly. At the same time, however, there had been no general withdrawal of the surcharges either, a folding carton producer told EUWID. Different price levels and supplier strategies therefore continue to coexist on the Italian market for GC 2. According to market participants, the conditions that can be achieved increasingly depend on the individual supplier, the customer, the volumes ordered and the operating rate of the relevant board mill.

Demand on the Italian GD board market was generally described by producers in July as “good” or “satisfactory” and “in any case better than for GC”. Some market participants were also satisfied with their order books shortly before the summer break. Although available supply of recycled cartonboard continues to exceed current demand, the existing overcapacity is said to be less severe than in the GC segment, one supplier explained.

Under these conditions, there were no widespread price reductions in Italy at the start of the third quarter. As previously reported, some suppliers are said to have partly reduced the increases implemented in the spring or granted concessions to strategically important customers in July. However, market participants did not observe any broad withdrawal of the surcharges.

GD board producers also point to the unfavourable cost situation facing mills despite all efforts to improve efficiency and productivity. It had been very important to defend the current price level beyond June, one cartonboard producer explained, referring to the renewed increase in gas and diesel prices from mid-July.

Several market participants agreed that the ability of GD prices in Italy to remain stable despite the existing pressure was also due in no small part to customer behaviour. The difficult situation facing some producers and uncertainty about their future and continued market presence were prompting buyers to act more cautiously and secure existing supply relationships.

Kennedy Smith cuts shift requirements after installing new Rapida press

🏠 EUWID + 29 July 2026 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | Published in issue 31/2026

Scottish folding carton producer and packaging printer **Kennedy Smith** has reduced the number of shifts required to maintain its production volume from six to three following the installation of a new Koenig & Bauer sheetfed offset press. The press has replaced two older machines at Kennedy Smith's facility in Ayrshire.

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Beaver Paper to increase prices

 29 July 2026 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 31/2026](#)

US sublimation media producer **Beaver Paper**, which is part of the Koehler Group, is increasing prices for deliveries as of 1 August 2026. The mark-ups will be 6-8 per cent, and the adjustment is driven by considerable cost increases for raw materials and energy, the company says. Moreover, it cited considerable cost pressure in global freight and logistics structures.

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Koehler Paper announces price increase for thermal paper

📄 **EUWID +** 29 July 2026 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 31/2026](#)

Koehler Paper has announced it is raising its prices for thermal paper by 8 per cent, effective immediately for all new orders. The company says this move comes in response to continued high cost pressure across the entire value chain, especially the ongoing price increases for raw materials.

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Folding Boxboard Eerbeek relauches and focuses on barrier board as a growth market

EUWID + 29 July 2026 | ~ 2 min | Published in issue 31/2026

Cartonboard producer Folding Boxboard Eerbeek B.V., previously a subsidiary of the Folbb Group and in insolvency proceedings since the end of June, is resuming operations under new ownership. On 25 July, the company officially announced that the Dutch board mill would resume operations and regain full control over its management and future development.



GC board production at the Dutch Eerbeek plant has been suspended since the end of June. Activity is now set to resume under new ownership.

In recent weeks, entrepreneurs Richard Getkate and Siegfried Hohmann, together with investors, staff, customers and suppliers, have been working intensively to bring about the company's relaunch, the board producer explains. As a result, 180 jobs out of the previous workforce of around 220 have been secured.

Board production will now be ramped up again in several phases. The mill did not specify an exact restart date in the information provided to EUWID. Initial plans envisage resuming operations "as soon as possible" on a three-shift system, followed by a transition to four-shift operation. In the long term, the plant is set to return to full five-shift operation.

Plans for product expansion in barrier board and investment in the plant

"We see great potential for sustainable cartonboard packaging and are convinced that Eerbeek can continue to play an important role in the European cartonboard industry over the next ten to fifteen years," commented the new investors. Investments are also planned for the coming years to improve the sustainability of the plant's energy systems, manage energy costs more effectively and modernise the site.

The company has identified particular growth potential in the barrier cartonboard sector and plans to expand its product portfolio through investments in the development of new barrier products and applications over the coming years. The company already considers itself well positioned in this sector with its existing range of barrier cartonboard grades.

At the end of June, the Eerbeek cartonboard mill found itself in financial difficulties. On 25 June, the competent court converted the previously granted suspension of payments into insolvency proceedings. As a result, the company halted production until further notice. At the same time, Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton GmbH, also part of the Folbb Group, had filed for insolvency. Unlike in Eerbeek, however, production at the German site continued without interruption for the time being.

At the Eerbeek mill, the company operates a board machine designed for primary fibre cartonboard (GC 1 and GC 2) with a capacity of around 150,000 tpy.

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Wildfires force Smurfit Westrock and Schades to halt production at mills in France

EUWID + 28 July 2026 | Valeria Buß | ~ 2 min | Published in issue 31/2026

The severe wildfires currently raging in southwestern France are also affecting the paper industry. Smurfit Westrock has halted production at its kraftliner mill Cellulose du Pin in Facture, while the Schades Group was forced to temporarily close its facility in Bordeaux.



Smurfit Westrock's mill in Facture is located around 50 km southwest of Bordeaux, in the area most severely affected by the fires. The company said it had temporarily suspended all operations at the site because the surrounding area had been evacuated. "We have taken the necessary measures to protect our colleagues and our assets, and we will resume operations as soon as it is safe to do so, in line with guidance from local authorities," the company said in a statement.

The Cellulose du Pin mill produces brown as well as white-top kraftliner on two paper machines. A company spokesperson put the mill's total capacity at 550,000 tpy.

The French facility of the Schades Group is located in central Bordeaux. The company's German headquarters told EUWID that operations at the site were also suspended due to evacuation measures. Schades is a manufacturer of labels and paper rolls. In addition to its French facility, the company operates two sites each in Germany and the UK as well as one facility each in Denmark, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and Turkey.

Gascogne Mimizan not affected

The Mimizan mill of paper manufacturer Gascogne Papier, located around 110 km south of Bordeaux, has reportedly not been affected by the wildfires so far. An employee confirmed that operations are continuing. At Mimizan, Gascogne produces MG kraft papers on four machines with a total capacity of 150,000 tpy.

French emergency services have been battling severe wildfires across the country for weeks. The area around Bordeaux has been particularly affected, with flames spreading rapidly in recent days due to dry conditions, high temperatures and strong winds. According to statements by the prefecture of the Gironde department on 27 July, the fire has already destroyed 42,000 hectares of land and 220,000 people have been evacuated. The prefecture said the fire had been "stabilised" but not yet fully contained. It could still take weeks or even months before the blaze was fully extinguished, said David Annotel, spokesperson for the national firefighters' association, in an interview with French television channel France Info.

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Dunapack to acquire EL Pack's corrugated operations

27 July 2026 | [Frauke Schmidt](#) | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 31/2026](#)

Dunapack Packaging Hellas, part of Austria's Prinzhorn Group, plans to acquire EL Pack's corrugated packaging operations in Greece. An agreement to this effect has been signed, Dunapack announced on [LinkedIn](#).



The transaction covers the plants in Patras, Kapandriti and Thiva, which employ around 250 people. Completion remains subject to regulatory approval and is expected in the second half of 2026.

EL Pack's main plant in Patras has an annual production capacity of more than 80 million m² of corrugated products, according to the company's website. The Kapandriti site operates two corrugated board production lines, while the Thiva plant has three converting lines.

EL Pack's recycled packaging paper mill in Damasta and its recovered paper business, Fthiotis Recycling, are not included in the transaction. The Damasta mill produces more than 35,000 tpy of recycled liner and fluting and has until now formed part of EL Pack's vertically integrated production system.

EL Pack generated sales of €41m and an operating profit of €1.5m in 2024. Both figures were substantially below the previous year's levels.

Dunapack Packaging Hellas currently operates a corrugated packaging plant in Schimatari, Voiotia, and has been part of the Prinzhorn Group since 2016. Between 2017 and mid-2022, the company implemented two [investment](#) programmes at the site. These included a new corrugator, additional and upgraded converting machinery, extensions to the buildings and an expansion of raw-material and finished-goods storage capacity.

The acquisition will significantly expand Dunapack's presence in the Greek market. According to Prinzhorn, the combination of EL Pack's local market expertise with Dunapack Packaging's regional network and integrated business model is expected to create additional growth opportunities.

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Insolvent Coldenhove in talks with potential buyers

📄 EUWID + 23 July 2026 | Valeria Buß | ⌚ ~ 1 min | Published in issue 31/2026

Insolvent specialty paper producer Coldenhove has entered talks with potential buyers for its mill in Eerbeek, the Netherlands. According to insolvency administrator Bavo König, 18 potential buyers have come forward, nine of which have been granted access to the digital dataroom and the company's documents. Discussions with the various parties on how to proceed were now underway, he said. Due diligence processes are expected to follow. Mr König said there was no real deadline for selecting a buyer, but he expected to have a clearer picture by mid-August.



Coldenhove is looking for a buyer after filing for insolvency in early May

Coldenhove has [entered insolvency proceedings](#) on 6 May 2026. In the view of Dutch trade union CNV, it was primarily the decline in demand, combined with rising energy costs, that pushed the company into financial distress. Paper production at the Eerbeek site has been standing still since 4 May, according to Mr König. The mill's 110 employees have already been laid off. The company did not have the money to pay them, the insolvency administrator said. Only when they were fired, the government could take care of paying their salaries under the Dutch wage guarantee scheme (loongarantieregeling), he added.

Coldenhove operates one mill in Eerbeek, where it produces specialty materials, mainly transfer paper for sublimation printing. The site's portfolio also includes sterile barrier paper for medical applications as well as other specialties such as printable kraft paper and lightweight packaging.

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Canfor to close Northwood pulp mill for good

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

Canfor will permanently close its Northwood pulp mill in Prince George, British Columbia, in late 2026. The shutdown will affect about 300 employees and remove roughly 300,000 tpy of NBSK (Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft) pulp capacity from the market.



The company cited weak global pulp prices, excess production capacity and ongoing difficulties securing fibre. Canfor said the mill had been operating at unsustainable losses and that it did not expect market conditions to improve.

The facility will be wound down gradually and is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Canfor's Northwood mill houses two fibre lines with a total production capacity close to 600,000 tpy. [One pulp line was indefinitely idled in August 2024](#), leaving one operating line before the announced full closure.

Since 2022, Canfor has closed around 1.1 million tpy of pulp capacity at Taylor, Prince George and Northwood mills.

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