

GD board producer FM Cartiere suspends operations and reviews conversion options

 **EUWID** + 10 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | Published in issue 41/2025

Production at recycled board producer FM Cartiere in Italy has been standing still since the start of October. The company says that, being in a "strong financial and asset position", it can meet all its obligations and that it plans for a restart of production at the Momo mill in the first quarter next year after the completion of an "industrial reconversion and business relaunch project.



Italian recycled board producer FM Cartiere, a Cartiera Fornaci company, has activated a temporary layoff procedure under the national extraordinary wage compensation fund (CIGS) for all 88 employees at its Momo mill, effective 1 October. Production has been halted since then, giving rise to uncertainty and speculation about the future of the site.

In a letter to customers and business partners, the company has now confirmed the suspension of production activities and outlined its plans for the future. According to FM Cartiere, soaring raw material and energy costs, combined with the ongoing decline in coated recycled board prices since late 2024, have made the current business model economically unsustainable. FM Cartiere is now evaluating an industrial conversion and strategic realignment to make operations more efficient and competitive.

“Consequently, given the company’s strong asset and financial position, which allows us to fully meet all its obligations towards employees, suppliers, and other stakeholders, we have decided to temporarily suspend our operations in order to evaluate and implement the necessary investments for an industrial reconversion and business relaunch project,” writes the company.

The planned conversion and redevelopment project is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2026, enabling a rapid restart of production under a new operating model and market positioning, the company says.

FM Cartiere has not yet disclosed what products it intends to manufacture following the conversion. The company stated that it will keep the public informed about the progress of the project.

Located in Momo, in Italy’s Piedmont region, the mill operates a 2.62 m board machine with a nominal production capacity of up to 80,000 tpy.

Until now, FM Cartiere has produced various grades of recycled board in basis weights ranging from 270 to 550 g/m², particularly GD board.

Fourstones starts up new tissue paper machine in Scotland

 **EUWID +** 09 October 2025 | [Frauke Schmidt](#) | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

UK tissue producer Fourstones Paper Mill has commissioned its new PM 6 tissue paper machine at the Sapphire Mill site in Scotland. The company confirmed that the project has now been completed and the new machine is fully operational.

The start-up follows several months of planning, construction, testing and safety checks, Fourstones said.



Fourstones has started up the new machine which can produce both recycled and primary fibre tissue.

According to the company, the new unit is designed to produce tissue parent reels for the UK converting market and will strengthen the company's supply chain integration. The PM 6 will enable shorter lead times for domestic converters and provide a stable UK-made alternative to imported tissue, helping to lower transport-related carbon emissions per tonne and support wider industry sustainability goals.

The machine uses both primary and recycled fibres as raw materials. "PM 6 was initially designed to be a virgin machine, shortly after the initial start up we integrated our recycled stock preparation system allowing us to quickly swap between both material helping us respond quickly to market demands as needed," Kevin Duxbury, Head of Marketing at Fourstones, told EUWID. This adaptable approach allowed the company to respond quickly to changes, aligning production with customer demand to maintain efficiency, Mr Duxbury added.

The new PM 6 features modern technology including a Crescent Former, a fabricated steel Yankee cylinder and a high-temperature drying hood. With a trimmed width of 2.75 m and a design speed of 1,700 m/min, the machine is engineered for consistent product quality and high efficiency, according to Fourstones.

With the addition of PM 6, annual production capacity at the Sapphire Mill will double to more than 64,000 t, allowing Fourstones to better meet the growing demand for UK-manufactured sanitary papers. The investment has also led to the creation of over 25 full-time jobs at the Sapphire Mill site, including positions for manufacturing operatives and engineers. These roles will support the operation and maintenance of PM 6.

Fourstones said that the new paper machine is part of a broader investment programme in 2025 aimed at enhancing product quality, production reliability and service levels. The company emphasised its ongoing commitment to developing UK-made

sanitary paper products and maintaining a strong, sustainable domestic production base.

Lenzing refines strategy to strengthen competitiveness in a challenging market

Strategic review of Indonesian site and job cuts and investments in Austria

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | 🕒 ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Austria's Lenzing AG has refined its corporate strategy to sharpen its competitive edge amid persistent challenges in the global textile and nonwovens markets. The Austrian fibre producer said the updated plan would reinforce its focus on high-margin specialty segments, enhance operational efficiency, and optimise its global asset base.

The Management Board of the Austrian fibre producer has decided to initiate a review of strategic options, including a potential sale of its production site in Indonesia. The move is intended to support Lenzing's strategic focus on higher-margin, high-performance branded fibres.

In this context, Lenzing expects to record impairment losses of up to €100m in 2025 on non-current assets, particularly property, plant and equipment. The company said the non-cash impairment will have a negative impact on consolidated Ebit and net income but will not affect Ebitda.

600 job cuts planned in Austria

To further enhance operational efficiency, the group is implementing additional cost-saving measures, including a headcount reduction at its headquarters in Lenzing. Around 300 positions, mainly in administrative functions, are to be cut, with about 250 of them to be completed by the end of 2025. The aim is to make the company's administrative areas leaner and more efficient, which is expected to result in annual savings of at least €25m from 2026.

At the same time, Lenzing plans to strengthen its international presence in Asia and North America, moving closer to customers in key textile and nonwovens markets. This internationalisation drive will lead to a further reduction of around 300 positions at the Lenzing site by the end of 2027. Together, both measures are expected to generate annual savings of more than €45m, fully effective by the end of 2027.

To safeguard the competitiveness and profitability of its Austrian sites, Lenzing has also prepared an investment package for the Lenzing and Heiligenkreuz sites. More than €100m are to be invested at both locations by the end of 2027.

The goal of this investment is to strengthen the site's role as a hub for specialty fibre innovation, while additional partnerships and

projects are being prepared at Lenzing to advance the group's premiumisation strategy.

Lenzing's Management Board confirmed its outlook for the 2025 financial year, expecting Ebitda "above the previous year's level."

Based on the refined strategy and defined measures, Lenzing aims for an Ebitda of around €550m by 2027, assuming stable market conditions and geopolitical stability.

Tissue: Grigeo Group acquires Huchtemeier Papier

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Lithuanian Grigeo Group has entered the German market by acquiring German company Huchtemeier Papier. The group reported that its subsidiary Grigeo Hygiene, which makes sanitary paper and products, has bought 100 per cent of the shares of Huchtemeier Papier. According to the company, the move marks Grigeo Group's expansion from its existing markets in the Baltic countries and Poland into Western Europe. The purchase price was not disclosed.

According to Tomas Jozonis, CEO of Grigeo Group, the transaction will open up new markets for growing production volumes while preserving the group's independence. "This is a strategic move that opens up the largest European market for us – Germany, as well as Austria, where Huchtemeier Papier has a strong position. For our hygiene paper segment, this step will allow us to expand our logistics chain and ensure long-term partnerships with local customers," said Mr Jozonis. Huchtemeier Papier will continue to operate as an independent business unit and will retain its name, management and competencies.

The acquisition enables Grigeo to continue its growth strategy in the tissue segment. Last year, Grigeo Hygiene took over an integrated tissue plant from Polish manufacturer Głucholaskie Zakłady Papiernicze (GZP) with one tissue machine and five converting lines. In summer 2025, the company announced that it would build a new tissue machine in Grigiškės, Lithuania as part of a €100m-plus investment package aimed at doubling the group's production capacity to 140,000 tpy.

The Grigeo Group specialises in producing fibreboard, containerboard and tissue. The group reportedly employs over 1,000 people and generated annual sales of €213m in the 2024 fiscal year.

Huchtemeier Papier reported sales of €92m in the 2024 financial year. The company supplies wholesalers and specialist retailers with sanitary paper and napkins, and industrial customers with semi-finished goods. Huchtemeier generated 73 per cent of its sales in Germany, Austria and Poland.

Stora Enso in talks on job cuts in Finland and Sweden

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Stora Enso has begun negotiations with employees regarding the elimination of 61 positions at its Imatra plants in Finland. The job cuts are the result of planned restructuring measures at the Finnish industrial complex. The goal is to improve competitiveness and efficiency through greater flexibility, streamlining and customer focus. In addition, new ways of working are to be found and synergies within Stora Enso exploited, a company spokeswoman explained.

The measures appear all the more necessary as the macroeconomic and geopolitical situation remains uncertain, which is reflected in subdued and unstable market demand, according to Stora Enso.

Stora Enso employs 923 people at its industrial complex in Imatra, where it produces pulp and consumer board, including liquid packaging board, food service board and folding boxboard. Production capacity is 1.23 million tpy of consumer board and 1.3 million tpy of pulp, of which around 200,000 t is market pulp.

At its Varkaus site in Finland, Stora Enso is negotiating the elimination of 23 jobs as a result of the restructuring of the business areas at this location. These negotiations affect all office and commercial staff as well as all employees of the former wood products business area based in Varkaus. Talks with the employee side began in September and are still ongoing.

In Varkaus, Stora Enso produces containerboard with a capacity of 410,000 tpy. The containerboard business unit also includes a pulp mill with a capacity of 335,000 tpy and a recovered paper processing plant. Stora Enso Varkaus produces brown and white-coated kraftliner as well as unbleached market kraft pulp (UKP).

Stora Enso is also negotiating a total of 60 job cuts at the pulp and board mill in Skoghall and the Gruvön sawmill in Sweden. These measures aim at improving competitiveness and efficiency against the backdrop of macroeconomic uncertainties and their negative impact on market demand, a company spokesperson explained.

40 out of 60 positions are to be cut at the Skoghall mill, where the company produces liquid packaging board and coated unbleached kraftboard with a production capacity of 1 million tpy and 310,000 tpy of CTMP market pulp.

Ahlstrom reports solid half-year results

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Ahlstrom, the Helsinki-based manufacturer of fibre-based specialty materials, has reported improved financial results for the first half of the year. Ahlstrom returned to net profit (€16.0m) in the first six months of its financial year, compared with a loss of €22.4m in the same period last year. With sales of €1.48bn (First half 2024: €1.52bn), Ebitda of €206.7m (€177.0m) and operating profit of €114.4m (€75.6m) were achieved.

The company attributes its stronger financial performance to disciplined pricing and cost control, which helped to improve the Ebitda margin to 16.5 per cent of net sales. The market environment was demanding, the company commented, as uncertainties regarding US tariffs and the development of consumer demand dampened the momentum of customer activity. The product portfolio was realigned with a stronger focus on speciality materials, while capital expenditure was scaled back to a more sustainable level.

Ahlstrom regards portfolio enhancement as a cornerstone of its strategy and advanced this with the takeover of Pixelle Specialty Solutions' Stevens Point site in the USA in June, a manufacturer of high-quality materials for food, consumer packaging and e-commerce applications. The transaction is a strategic addition to the company's access to the US market. In parallel, the new Ahlstrom Performance Materials business area has been created, enabling improved resource allocation and operational efficiency.

Other key developments in the company's recent history include the divestment of its Abrasive business to decor paper producer Munksjö, the commissioning of the new parchmenter at the Saint Séverin plant in France, and the launch of the new filtration media production line at the Turin plant in Italy.

Ahlstrom results				
million €	April - June		January - June	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Key figures				
Sales	744.8	779.8	1,484.2	1,515.2
EBITDA	107.3	93.4	206.7	177.0
Operating result	60.1	37.3	114.4	75.6
Net result	8.2	-14.1	16.0	-22.4
Business area review				
Filtration and Science				
Sales	198.0	197.2	397.9	382.9
Comparable EBITDA	46.1	49.0	89.3	91.1
Protective Materials				
Sales	206.8	211.4	422.7	407.2
Comparable EBITDA	28.8	31.2	64.5	62.8
Food & Consumer Packaging				
Sales	189.6	176.8	362.6	343.8
Comparable EBITDA	33.3	25.4	61.1	47.3
Performance Materials Cluster				
Sales	164.8	185.5	330.9	354.8
Comparable EBITDA	10.5	12.0	15.3	20.7
Source: Ahlstrom				

Stora Enso completes forest land divestment in Sweden

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Forestry and forest products company Stora Enso has completed the sale of approximately 175,000 hectares of forests in Sweden. The transaction, announced in May, has an enterprise value of SEK9.8bn, approximately €900m.

As previously announced, the forest areas have been transferred into a newly founded company in which Stora Enso will hold a 15 per cent stake. The sales agreement also includes a 15-year supply contract with which the Swedish group secures the wood supply for its business units Sweden, according to the company. There is an option to extend the wood supply contract for another 15 years, Stora Enso said.

The Swedish Soya Group, which belongs to the family-run holding company Rederi AB Soya owned by the Wallenius-Kleberg family, has acquired 40.6 per cent of the new company, while a consortium led by Meag, the asset manager of German insurer Munich Re, has taken a 44.4 per cent stake.

The area sold represents approximately 12 per cent of Stora Enso's total forest holdings in Sweden. Stora Enso intends to use the proceeds to reduce the company's net debt and strengthen its financial position. After the sale, Stora Enso will continue to own more than 1.2 million hectares of forest land in Sweden with a fair value of approximately €5.6bn as of 30 September 2025.

As Meag reports in connection with the acquisition, the acquired areas are FSC and PEFC certified forest holdings in several districts in central Sweden. According to Meag, the acquisition is in line with the company's investment strategy of building diversified forest and forestry portfolios in established markets for its clients. Meag owns and manages forest lands in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Finland and Sweden, among other places.

CIB supports modernisation of Irving's Saint John mill

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) has completed financing of a CAD660m loan to Irving Pulp & Paper to support extensive modernisation of the company's pulp mill in western Saint John, New Brunswick/Canada.

The mill's CAD1.5bn "NextGen" modernisation project, which was made possible by the partnership with CIB, consists of replacing technology from the 1970s to improve productivity and maintain the plant's competitiveness within the sector, according to a statement issued by CIB. The project includes the installation of a new recovery boiler, a steam turbine and a generator for up to 145MW of renewable energy.

Surplus energy generated at the plant will be fed into the province's grid under a power purchase agreement with NB Power, with about 50 megawatts used to power the plant's operations. In the long term, emissions per tonne of kraft pulp will be reduced by 50 per cent.

In the spring of this year, Irving Paper, a subsidiary of JD Irving Group, announced that it would permanently cut production at the Saint John paper mill by half. The company justifies the decision with high prices for industrial power.

Irving Paper operates a TMP plant with production capacity for 300,000 tpy and two PMs with total capacity for up to 420,000 tpy of SC paper at the Saint John mill.

US paper industry wants changes to EUDR despite EU's postponement plans

 **EUWID+** 08 October 2025 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

The US paper industry welcomes the EU Commission's plans to postpone the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) by another year. At the same time, the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) urges the EU to amend and adapt the regulation.

The EUDR continues to pose a significant trade risk to the paper industry in the United States, as the AF&PA has already criticised in previous statements on the issue. Heidi Brock, President and CEO of the association, sees the delay in the start of implementation as an opportunity to "address more fundamental problems with the EUDR beyond IT system limitations."

In its current form, the EU Deforestation Regulation remained a non-tariff trade barrier for US forest product exports into the EU, the AF&PA CEO added. Additional changes are needed to address this regulation and the disproportionate and unworkable obligations on the US pulp and paper industry, which is recognised by the EU as a negligible risk to global deforestation," Ms Brock commented.

AF&PA fears technical barriers to trade for US pulp and paper mills due to the EUDR's new reporting requirements, which might affect export goods worth a total of around \$3.5bn for the EU market.

Essity launches new steam storage system at Mannheim tissue plant

 **EUWID+** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Tissue paper and products manufacturer Essity commissioned a new steam storage system at its Mannheim plant in the south-west of Germany in September 2025. The aim of the project is to significantly reduce emissions and improve the overall energy balance of the paper mill, the company says.

The installation is expected to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by between 11,000 and 13,000 t, marking another step towards the group's long-term sustainability and climate targets. Essity is investing €3.4 m in the project.

The steam storage tank is used in pulp production and enables the mill to store excess steam generated during periods of low demand. The stored steam can later be drawn when production needs increase, allowing for more stable and flexible energy management.

The Mannheim plant is Essity's largest site in Europe. It produces pulp from both wood and straw and around 283,000 tpy of sanitary paper on five PMs. The company notes that the new energy system will further enhance the plant's sustainability profile and competitiveness in a challenging market environment.

Ahlstrom completes sale of Abrasives business to Munksjö

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Ahlstrom has completed the divestment of its Abrasives business unit to Munksjö, following the offer announced in July 2025. The transaction marks a further step in Ahlstrom's transformation towards becoming a leading sustainable specialty materials company.

The deal includes the Abrasives operations and personnel, as well as the Arches plant in France, which Ahlstrom and Munksjö have shared since 2022. Munksjö, established in 2022 after the separation of Ahlstrom-Munksjö's décor paper business, is a major manufacturer of decorative paper solutions.

Ahlstrom CEO Helen Mets said the divestment would strengthen the specialty focus of the company's portfolio and support its strategy of sustainable innovation.

Munksjö CEO Manfred Bracher added that the acquisition would expand the company's portfolio and reinforce its technology base for long-term growth.

The parties did not disclose financial details of the transaction.

Mondi reports lower third quarter earnings amid continued weak demand

 **EUWID** + 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Mondi reports a sharp drop in earnings for the third quarter of 2025 as the global packaging and paper markets continued to face weak demand and falling prices. The group posted underlying Ebitda of €223m for the three months to 30 September, including a €20m forestry fairvalue gain.

According to the company, subdued demand, lower selling prices and planned maintenance shuts weighed on performance, particularly in the Corrugated and Flexible Packaging divisions. The converting businesses performed broadly in line with the previous quarter, while Uncoated Fine Paper saw a “significant” decline in sales volumes and margins due to intense competition and lower prices for paper and pulp.

Mondi expects the challenging trading environment to persist through the remainder of 2025, citing fragile demand-side confidence, oversupply in key markets and selling prices below Q3 averages.

“Our focus remains on managing what we can control,” said CEO Andrew King. “We are sharpening our emphasis on margin management, cost optimisation and continuous improvement to navigate the current headwinds and drive free cash flow.”

Effective 1 October 2025, Mondi has reorganised its operations into two main business units – Corrugated Packaging and Flexible Packaging. The Uncoated Fine Paper operations are now combined with Corrugated Packaging, creating a larger business unit designed to streamline decision-making, achieve cost savings and leverage synergies across pulp and paper mills.

The integration of the recently acquired Schumacher Packaging Group is “progressing well,” Mondi said. Additional cost synergies of €10m have been identified, bringing the total expected to €32m over three years. The company expects the combination to deliver benefits from a broader geographic footprint and vertical integration.

Following several years of major capital spending, Mondi said it is nearing the end of its current investment cycle, with all major expansion projects now operational. The company’s focus has shifted to achieving full productivity ramp-up and improving returns.

Due to current market conditions, the net incremental contribution from these projects to FY 2025 Ebitda is expected to be around €30m. Mondi continues to expect mid-teen through-cycle returns once the projects are fully optimised.

Hinton sack kraft project delayed

Mondi has postponed its planned investment in a new sack kraft paper machine at its Hinton pulp mill in Canada, citing the market environment. The project remains strategically attractive, and the group said it retains the option to move forward when conditions improve. Current capital expenditure is focused on maintenance and cost optimisation.

While near-term profitability remains constrained by weak markets, Mondi believes it is well positioned for future growth once demand and pricing recover. "Our leading positions in attractive packaging markets, combined with a cost-advantaged and integrated asset base, ensure we are ready to capture opportunities when conditions improve," Mr King said.

Outnature and Leipa to install straw fibre preparation plant at Schwedt mill

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 |  ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

In Germany, alternative fibre supplier Outnature and recycled paper manufacturer Leipa will cooperate to promote the use of straw fibre in paper production. The companies plan to install a straw fibre preparation plant – made by Valmet and enhanced by Outnature – at Leipa's site in Schwedt.

Leipa plans to use the straw fibre at its Schwedt site in eastern Germany in combination with recycled fibre. Currently, Leipa processes over one million t of recovered paper annually at the Schwedt site to produce recycled paper for packaging and graphic applications. The partnership with Outnature opens up opportunities for even more sustainable paper production, says Antonio Bellante, CEO of Leipa. In addition, the collaboration offers Leipa the opportunity to expand its product portfolio. Leipa wants to produce a white-top kraftliner substitute paper as its first marketable product based on straw fibre. Market entry is planned for the fourth quarter of 2026.

Outnature, a subsidiary of German recycling and waste management company Prezero and part of the Schwarz Group, is considered a pioneer in the use of flowering plant *silphium perfoliatum* as an alternative source of raw material for the paper industry. With the investment at Leipa's Schwedt mill the company is expanding its portfolio to include straw fibre. Straw obtained as a by-product of agricultural grain processing offers a variety of advantages as a raw material for fibre production, the company writes in a press release. Straw fibres have excellent strength properties and have a low CO₂ footprint thanks to short transport routes. "Straw is excellent to close the gap between loss of quality and demand for primary wood fibres," explained Michail Ginsburg, managing director of Outnature.

Together with Leipa, Outnature aims to "unleash the potential of regionally available agricultural by-products and promote overall social benefits for customers, farmers and natural cycles," he added.

Board24 upgrades Preston and Coalville sites

 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

As part of an ongoing investment programme, UK-based Board24 has carried out modernisation measures at its Preston site in northern England and at Coalville in the Midlands. The aim is to replace ageing equipment, improve efficiency, quality and reliability, and create additional capacity. This is expected to reduce downtime and increase production volumes.

The most extensive investments were made at the Preston facility, where corrugator 3 was equipped with new single facers and splicers. According to Frank Hay, Group Managing Director of Board24 and Cases24, this has raised average running speed by 19 per cent, reduced downtime by 254 hours per year and cut waste by 0.54 per cent. Further measures included voltage optimisation and the introduction of new paper grades to broaden the product portfolio.

At the Coalville site, investments focused on replacing outdated infrastructure and improving efficiency in areas such as electrical infrastructure, effluent management, temperature process control, starch application and preparation.

Board24's newest site, Eurocentral in Motherwell, Scotland, was opened in February 2024 following the relocation from Larkhall. It houses one of the most modern corrugators in the UK, with a capacity of 100 million m². The plant can produce a range of corrugated board types including B, C, M, E, BC, MB and EB flutes. It is also equipped with state-of-the-art material handling systems and was designed to complement the company's other sites.

In total, Board24 operates five corrugators at three sites with an overall capacity of more than 500 million m². According to the company, the coordinated modernisation programme has strengthened production reliability and enhanced supply security for customers.

Board24 is part of the Logson Group of companies with an annual sales revenue of £400m and 1,200 employees.

German folding cartons producer Edelmann Group to trim capacity

 **EUWID+** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

German folding cartons manufacturer Edelmann Group is planning to trim production capacities and has announced job cuts at its headquarters in Heidenheim, Germany. The company says it wants to prepare itself in the best possible manner for future challenges by adapting its structures and strategic orientation and drive forward further development.

Overall, the measures provide for reducing output and axing around 100 out of a total of 650 jobs in Heidenheim, the company said at the beginning of October. The job cuts will take place by the middle of next year and will be spread over all departments, an Edelmann spokesman said in response to a query from EUWID.

The packaging producer states that the measure will make the location more competitive in the long term through specialisation. The focus of production will be on premium folding cartons – a segment in which Edelmann is striving for a “market-leading position”, the company told EUWID. Product groups that do not fit this specialisation would therefore not be pursued further.

The Edelmann Group produces folding cartons, package inserts and labels for the beauty care, healthcare and consumer brands segments at 12 locations in Germany, Poland, Hungary, India, Brazil and Mexico.

Tosctoeec upgrades TM 3 at Papeterie Le Bourray

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Italy's paper machinery and engineering company **Toscotec** will completely rebuild tissue machine TM 3 at the French **Papeterie Le Bourray** mill. Toscotec will upgrade the Yankee Dryer Section for higher drying capacity, improved efficiency and better environmental performance through reduced energy consumption. The rebuild project is said to start up by March 2026.

Barry-Wehmiller in the US appoints new CEO

 **EUWID+** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Barry-Wehmiller, US provider of corrugated, sheet, and paper converting solutions as well as packaging automation, announces that **Kyle Chapman** will take charge as CEO effective immediately, in addition to his current role as President. **Bob Chapman**, who has served as CEO since 1975, will continue to serve as Chairman of the Board and remain majority shareholder.

Patrick Walczak new CSO of Leipa Group

 **EUWID+** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Leipa Group has appointed **Patrick Walczak** as its new Chief Sales Officer (CSO). He will take charge on 1 October 2025 and be responsible for strategic and operational development of paper-related sales activities, including foreign subsidiaries, in the Leipa Group. Mr Walczak has served as Senior Vice President Global Sales at BW Papersystems in recent years.

Sylvamo becomes new FEPE member

 **EUWID+** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

US printing and writing paper producer **Sylvamo** is the newest member of **FEPE**, the European association for envelopes and lightweight e-commerce packaging. The association announced the company's membership on 1 October. Sylvamo operates two fine paper mills in Europe, located in Nymölla, Sweden, and Saillat, France.

Polish paper and board markets see falling prices in third quarter

Seasonal uptick unsatisfactory so far / modest outlook for Q4

 08 October 2025 |  ~ 16 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Poland’s economy remains robust in 2025, but the tailwinds are not strong enough for many companies in the country’s paper, board and packaging industries to fully fill capacities. As in many other markets, the Polish market in the third quarter is shaped by seasonal weakness, limited EU export opportunities, imports from Asia and generally abundant supplies.

EUWID Price Watch Poland				
Third quarter 2025				
Prices in PLN/t per tonne free delivered				
	Third quarter 2025	Second quarter 2025	Third quarter 2024	
Graphic paper				
Copy paper 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Copy paper 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	
Other sheets 80 g/m ² 447 g/m ²	3,450 - 3,500	3,400 - 3,500	4,000 - 4,000	

Paper and board producers did not experience much cost relief from falling prices for pulp and recovered paper, as they immediately had to pass along most of these decreases to their customers. Prices fell in all relevant segments of the market, with multiple drops in some instances. The most intense pressure this summer was seen in the markets for recycled corrugated case material and woodfree fine paper but also for GC board. Ultimately, the market balance was tipped in favour of buyers, with widespread availability and significant price reductions. The outlook for the final quarter of the year remains modest: At best, industry representatives expect a stabilisation at the current price levels.

Downward price trend for fine paper accelerated in summer

On the Polish market for woodfree papers, the downward trend not only continued but actually accelerated over the summer. For the past year, quotes for uncoated and coated grades have been falling every quarter. The pressure in Poland was more intense than in other markets, said respondents at the end of September. This is felt most in the copy paper and coated paper segments.

According to market participants, prices briefly stabilised in spring but started falling again at the beginning of the third quarter, typically a time of low demand. However, the approaches taken by market players could differ significantly. For a single grade, the reductions varied markedly depending on the producer, customer, conditions and the previous price level. Over the past three months, the cuts were sometimes only €30/t and sometimes as much as €100/t. This broad range shows that prices are currently being hammered out in intense individual discussions.

As a consequence of this downward spiral, by September at the latest, the €1,000 mark was now out of reach in Poland – even for coated sheets in the indent business. “Nowadays, you might even call them daily prices, that’s how fast the downward slide was,” said one supplier of woodfree coated papers. Special agreements and spot deals as well as low-priced imports from South Korea (coated sheets) and China (offset sheets) further accelerated this downtrend.

Any cost savings due to falling pulp prices were passed along “two- or threefold” by the paper mills to their customers, reports one observer. The weak half-year financial results of major suppliers underscore the difficult situation faced by paper producers. Nobody in the industry is optimistic things will improve by the end of the year. At present, price increases are not being discussed anywhere in Europe.

Following the summertime price drop, the €1,000 mark, which had previously been undercut in some cases for coated sheets, became unattainable for the entire market.

Compared with June, the cumulative reductions totalled around €50/t, or sometimes more. The growing pressure from South Korean imports intensified the downward trend in the coated segment. The market-wide quotes for coated sheets in September were between €950-980/t, while coated reels were usually selling for €880-900/t or sometimes slightly more.

There were also significant price cuts for woodfree uncoated paper in the third quarter. Producers were unable to achieve their goal of keeping prices stable over the summer. The reductions for copy paper were especially hefty, often amounting to €50/t or more compared with June. Consequently, prices in the office paper segment have reached the lowest level seen in a long time, EUWID was told.

Between July and September, prices for offset papers tumbled by around €20-50/t. While the declines for offset reels appear moderate at first glance, that segment in particular appears to be very heterogeneous with a broad range of prices. New players entered the market with extremely aggressive prices. This led to outliers significantly below the prevailing price level – figures of less than €800/t were mentioned.

All this occurred against the backdrop of a “dramatically weak” summer, commented one supplier. In Poland, deliveries declined by a high single-digit or sometimes low double-digit percentage. Whereas the Polish market used to be more robust, deliveries are now falling at the same pace seen in Western Europe. The slump this time was especially pronounced for coated reels. This segment is feeling the effects of the structural decline in demand for print and paper. For some time now, many traditional woodfree coated paper applications have been produced on sheet paper because of today’s smaller print runs, explained one market participant.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, there were some nascent signs of the normal seasonal upturn. However, given the existing capacity overhang, this will not be sufficient to shift the balance towards a seller’s market, industry experts say. “Yes, September was somewhat better than the summer, but actually we would need three times as much business to get capacity utilisation back up to a reasonable level,” said one supplier.

The forecasts for the coming months are pessimistic. "There is no predictability anymore, it is extremely difficult to plan budgets for next year," said one major supplier. Some companies are therefore preparing five different budget versions in parallel for the coming year.

Weak demand for publication papers in Q3, capacity reductions provide little relief

Demand for publication papers in Poland was extremely weak in the third quarter. Suppliers report cancellations of contracts and volumes, a lack of tenders and new projects, and a generally subdued order situation. They attribute this to the normal seasonal development, structural declines in the print business and imports with aggressive pricing, in particular newsprint from Canada. Although business appeared to pick up somewhat in September, paper machines are still underutilised, which is squeezing earnings at many producers.

The lack of momentum is especially evident in the coated paper segment. Uncoated grades such as newsprint and SC paper are seeing slightly more stable acceptance levels. Players feel that capacity reductions in Europe are hardly providing any relief. Buyers from Poland say they do not notice any negative impacts on availability or procurement of goods. Supply continues to outstrip demand, which puts buyers in a stronger position.

Experts are sceptical that the announced capacity adjustments at UPM and Sappi can change this situation. Those volumes were reportedly already shifted to other sites, and the companies themselves stress that there will be no negative impact on deliveries to their customers. The Polish market was barely affected by the insolvency of German paper manufacturer Kabel, insiders say. Polish producers were reportedly not positively impacted by the company's exit.

At many printing firms in Poland, the mood is likewise subdued after the summer quarter. Observers describe uncertainty and difficult market conditions shaped by changes of ownership, restructurings, sales rumours and the overall weakness in the printing industry.

In this tense situation, suppliers of publication paper are trying to lock in existing contracts and volumes. This also means that, despite a few attempts, there was no room to negotiate upward price adjustments this year. Instead, market participants report that prices softened or were stable at best.

The price declines in the third quarter compared with the second quarter were somewhere between €5-20/t, depending on the grade, supplier and conditions. When it came to determining prices, suppliers reportedly took quite differing approaches: Some were strict and stepped away from low-priced deals, whereas others made very cheap offers below the prevailing market price level.

Prices for 45 g newsprint in Poland fell in the third quarter to €560-590/t, representing decreases of €10-20/t compared with the previous quarter. Prices below €550/t were occasionally reported for European goods. Some suppliers took a more rigorous stance and made only smaller concessions, and in some cases said they were no longer agreeing to deals with rock-bottom prices. For lightweight grammages, such as 42.5 g and 40 g, most prices were slightly below €600/t, and even a bit lower for larger volumes.

Canadian imports remain an important factor for pricing in this segment. Buyers in Poland can now pay less than €500/t CIF for Canadian 45 g newsprint, insiders say. According to the latest survey, it seems that not every buyer is willing to accept the disadvantages associated with such purchases, including long delivery times, delays and uncertainty about customs processing. Some customers have now adapted their purchasing strategy and reduced their orders from Canada in favour of European goods.

For LWC, prices in Poland fell by around €5-15/t in the third quarter compared with the second quarter. Quotes for standard grades sometimes slid well below the €800 mark. At times, buyers were even rejecting quotes for €760/t as too high. The price pressure in this segment is especially strong in Poland, which experts attribute in part to the weak demand. The catalogue business – traditionally one of the main uses of LWC – has contracted significantly in recent years. And in the print advertising business, customers are often switching to alternative grades.

For SC paper, prices in the third quarter in Poland slipped below the €700/t level. In most cases, SC-A was fetching between €660-685/t, while SC-B cost around €15-20/t less than that. A few lower prices were also reported.

After the weak half-year results, paper mills actually need to be raising their prices for newsprint and magazine paper in the fourth quarter. However, the negotiations so far suggest that conditions will remain unchanged at best, or that prices will possibly decrease minimally. Individual attempts to implement moderate mark-ups were unsuccessful. At the same time, though, customers were not applying any noticeable price pressure in negotiations.

Looking ahead to 2026, producers are under growing pressure to act. Rising energy costs will push them to take a more decisive approach to pricing initiatives. Sellers have already started to signal this to their customers in Poland, but are being met with resistance.

Failed attempt at price hikes for recycled CCM in October

The market for corrugated case material in Poland saw prices tumble in the summer. For recycled corrugated case material in particular, there were several price cuts in a row, which started in June and continued until September. Things were slightly calmer in the kraftliner segment: There was only one price correction in the third quarter and it was smaller than the cumulative total of the individual steps for the recycled containerboard grades.

Demand showed a typical summer pattern, according to producers. Order activity was solid in July, while August marked the nadir of the quarter. In September, order intake stabilised again, although there were diverging views on the strength of the recovery. A few respondents described a moderate uptick, but others said growth was more pronounced and exceeded expectations. Overall, market participants describe the developments as unspectacular but stable. The main demand driver is still the Polish domestic market, supported by stable consumer spending. By contrast, momentum from the export business and industrial segments remained lacklustre.

For the fourth quarter, suppliers expect seasonally solid business but no major upswing. Especially in the recycled corrugated case material segment, there is still an imbalance between supply and demand. Industry insiders are therefore speculating about plant closures and insolvencies.

Compared to other European countries, in Poland the price erosion in the market for recycled corrugated case material started earlier and with greater pressure from buyers. According to the EUWID survey, the cuts added up to as much as €100/t and sometimes more, while in neighbouring countries they usually amounted to €90/t. Market participants said the first price reductions in Poland started in June, with decreases of €20. In July, there was either a widespread reduction of around €40/t or a second step of €20. This was followed by further cuts of €30/t in August and another €20-30/t in September.

This meant that in total, there could have been as many as four downward corrections. In order to gain market share, suppliers with new capacities often granted larger concessions than established producers. One EUWID respondent summed up the situation: "In general, the steps were 40, 30, 20. But then there were also the special deals, the summer deals, the commissioning rebates, or whatever they might have been called."

Following the steep price erosion in Poland this summer, producers attempted to quickly turn things around. Papermakers' first announcements of price hikes were therefore initially only intended for the Polish market. Several companies announced mark-ups of as much as €120/t for deliveries of recycled corrugated case material as of 1 October.

However, it is already becoming apparent that as quickly as the storm blew in, it disappeared again. Because this time, converters put up enormous resistance to this massive price increase. Moreover, key suppliers did not join in the price initiative and instead assured their customers of unchanged prices in October.

Players in the industry agree that hikes are economically necessary, but the demand does not lend the support needed to achieve them. In addition, players have widely diverging interests right now. Some paper producers fear that price hikes could create too much risk of a market shakeout or shifting volumes, given the many new capacities and new players. In theory, if most suppliers had agreed with their customers to an increase of around €80/t, others could have then taken a tactical approach and offered smaller mark-ups to secure larger volumes for the coming year.

In the white-top testliner segment, there was more moderate price movement in summer. In August, prices fell by €20-30/t before stabilising in September. Buyers have indicated that the huge price delta to brown testliner provides scope for further price reductions.

For the fourth quarter, industry experts expect prices for recycled corrugated case material to hold steady at the current level. A trend turnaround is unlikely before early 2026, EUWID was told.

Developments on the market for brown kraftliner were also steadier. After a hike of €40/t in June, prices retreated by €20-30/t in the third quarter, ultimately leaving a slight mark-up after the last round. Converters believe a further correction is possible by the end of the year. Demand in this segment is said to be more stable as export deals create additional security. Moreover, some producers are planning maintenance downtimes in October or November. So far, buyers have not seen any bottlenecks.

Quotes for white-top kraftliner have been unchanged since June in Poland.

Stable demand for corrugated board and packaging, rising cost pressure

In the third quarter, the Polish market for corrugated board and packaging appeared somewhat choppy. After a lively July, demand tapered off in August, and then was surprisingly strong in September. Experts estimate that the Polish corrugated industry has recorded growth of 3-5 per cent so far this year. Although this seems moderate compared to other years, Poland is still doing well in comparison to its European peers. For October, producers expect stable demand at the September level. A boom in the fourth quarter is unlikely, but seasonal effects should lead to decent business, EUWID was told.

However, other respondents offer a less favourable perspective. They report having experienced sub-optimal business performance during the summer months, primarily due to excess capacity and intensified price competition within the corrugated board and packaging sector. Some market participants have expressed reservations about the reliability of official statistics, citing an apparent stagnation rather than growth. It is believed by industry experts that some sheet feeders have gained market share as a result of a recent period of particularly aggressive pricing.

The trend in the corrugated packaging market reflects Poland's humming economy. The country saw continued economic growth in the third quarter of 2025, primarily driven by private consumption. Experts stress that the demand for corrugated packaging is mainly coming from the domestic market. The stable food retail sector and deliveries of consumer goods ensure solid baseline capacity utilisation. Export-oriented segments are barely seeing any uplift, as deliveries to the eurozone remain weak.

Despite the rosy picture, market participants are worried about their earnings. Margins in the corrugated board business have been shrinking since the pandemic. New contract tenders for 2026 suggest lower packaging prices, although paper costs could rise again eventually, experts predict. In Poland, companies face the additional burdens of higher wages and increased costs.

Pressure on GC and GD board leads to reductions in third quarter

On the Polish cartonboard market, the third quarter played out much like the rest of 2025 so far –without any significant rebound. According to industry insiders, the summer slowdown was particularly severe this year. Some companies re-reported declines of as much as 20 per cent in July and August compared with the previous year. While July was still a solid month for some, demand then collapsed even more dramatically in August. There was a slight rebound in September, but players remain sceptical about the rest of the year. Some sellers loudly expressed their dissatisfaction with their incoming orders so far for October and November.

Thanks to stable domestic consumption, the situation of the folding cartons industry in Poland in the third quarter was somewhat better than in other regions. However, the weak foreign demand is definitely noticeable, as one industry expert said.

In particular, recycled board lost a lot of momentum in the reporting period and was seeing weaker demand. The business with fresh-fibre board proved to be somewhat more resilient, which is attributed to the specific customer structure, especially demand from the pharmaceutical industry.

Prices for GC board were under considerable pressure this past summer. Market participants say the price erosion started in some cases as early as May or June, but then became apparent everywhere in the third quarter. The price reductions varied depending on the supplier, but averaged around €50/t. Sometimes the cut was below this figure, but in other cases, as much as €100/t was trimmed. The reasons for this are the new production volumes at Stora Enso in Oulu, cheap imports from Asia and insufficient demand in Europe. The larger mark-downs were often for project-related deals, which account for a significant share of the market in Poland.

For fresh-fibre board, market participants also expect further downward pressure and ongoing price declines in the coming months. If the EU does not manage to effectively restrict the import offers from China, some observers believe price levels of GC 2 might slip below €1,000/t. According to reports, GC board from China is currently being delivered to Poland for less than \$600 CIF.

The pricing situation for GD board was also described as less than satisfactory. The hikes of up to €30/t implemented in spring lasted only briefly in some cases. Over the summer, a few producers subsequently had to lower prices again by €20-30/t for their customers. The willingness of cartonboard producers to rescind the spring price hike was largely dependent on the individual machine utilisation rates in the mills, the EUWID survey found. While some buyers in Poland received price reductions, other customers continue to pay the conditions agreed in April.

For the fourth quarter, respondents expect that other converters will also demand concessions. Yet, producers do not have much room to manoeuvre after their weak half-year results and given the high costs.

German recycled cartonboard prices trending downwards as Q3 wraps up

Paper mills cautious in raising recycled corrugated case material prices

 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 5 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Producers have tabled a €100/t hike for brown recycled corrugated case material to offset soaring costs.

However, far from all manufacturers are on board.

Many market players showed restraint up to the start of October and intended to continue monitoring the situation.

EUWID Price Review Germany				
Third quarter 2025				
Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	Third quarter 2025	Second quarter 2025	Third quarter 2024	
Fine paper				
Recycled uncoated				
AI-C grade, bonded paper	800 - 940	840 - 900	860 - 1,030	
AI-C grade, non-bonded paper	790 - 890	820 - 900	840 - 900	
Other grades 80 g	820 - 1,030	860 - 1,110	1,020 - 1,130	
Other grades 90 g	890 - 960	920 - 1,010	960 - 1,030	
Recycled coated				
Green, double coated, 100 g	920 - 1,030	960 - 1,110	1,040 - 1,140	
Pink, double coated, 100 g	960 - 1,050	990 - 1,090	1,060 - 1,160	
Publication paper				
Newsprint 40 g (offset)	580 - 610	600 - 620	600 - 630	
Newsprint 40 g (offset)	580 - 620	610 - 630	610 - 640	
Newsprint 40 g (offset)	580 - 610	600 - 620	600 - 630	
LWC, offset 60 g	710 - 800	730 - 810	760 - 820	
LWC, uncoated 60 g	690 - 820	700 - 830	760 - 810	
SC, offset 60 g	670 - 800	680 - 790	740 - 770	
SC, uncoated 60 g	670 - 800	680 - 790	740 - 770	
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unlined (incl. chipboard) 175 g	870 - 930	870 - 930	830 - 890	
Same chemical corrugated caseboard ¹	790 - 1,020	770 - 1,020	770 - 1,000	
White top surface 180 g	1,090 - 1,170	1,090 - 1,170	1,040 - 1,130	
Recycled corrugated case material				
Uncoated				
Uncoated	860 - 930	830 - 870	810 - 830	
Uncoated	860 - 900	840 - 790	840 - 890	
Uncoated	820 - 890	870 - 730	870 - 710	
Uncoated	860 - 870	830 - 710	830 - 690	
White top surface coated	830 - 870	830 - 870	810 - 850	
White top surface, 180 g, 100/10/15	810 - 840	810 - 840	790 - 800	
Chipboard				
Uncoated chipboard	810 - 850	810 - 850	810 - 850	
GD 1	890 - 940	890 - 940	850 - 940	
GD 2	1,020 - 1,070	1,040 - 1,070	1,010 - 1,070	

¹ Prices at the ex-mill of the single respective French producer of this grade, based on prices of the French producer.

© EUWID reserves the right to alter the prices of this publication without notice.

Market players feel that higher prices for recycled corrugated case material (RCCM) were simply out of the question in the current demand environment. Although order intake has picked up a little since the holiday lull, demand is not much better than in the early summer. Expectations for the traditionally very strong months of October and November are also muted. Compounding matters, market supply is plentiful.

As the final quarter of the year began, EUWID interviews revealed that recycled cartonboard prices were heading lower in Germany. Sources said that the spring price increases for GD 2 board and unlined chipboard had been negotiated down in many cases. The situation in the folding boxboard (FBB) market was less clear-cut as early October arrived. While some report stable prices for GC 2 board, others claim to have secured additional concessions in light of surplus capacity and slack demand.

News of plans to raise recycled corrugated case material prices meets with scepticism

A handful of brown recycled corrugated case material suppliers have outlined their intention to raise October prices by €100/t. Talks are still in the early stages, with many market players still cautious until the start of October and wanting to wait and see how things evolve, since they believe that the market does not support higher prices.

Manufacturers stated that these announcements were driven by soaring costs, in particular. Insiders anticipate that negotiations will drag on well into October. Suppliers are bracing themselves for huge resistance from converters. However, they stressed that price rises were urgently needed, but many doubt that they will be implemented all at once. Some insiders say that a few suppliers have already agreed to offer September prices in October.

EUWID sources also think that a phased solution with several increments might be possible, although its impact might be diluted if the hikes are spread over a longer period, especially with low-priced spot lots still doing the rounds.

Order intake has picked up in September after the holiday-related lull, but it was reportedly not much better than in early summer. Hopes for the usually very strong months of October and November are subdued. Corrugated board producers, which themselves are facing severe pressure on prices, are voicing frustration: "Anybody trying to raise prices now will pay the price when it comes time for annual talks." The consistent price cuts "without real necessity" had forced converters to enter into ongoing price talks with their customers in recent months.

Observers primarily view current calls for price increases as a means of countering additional price cuts, given surplus capacity and the weak state of the economy. In September, prices for brown RCCM grades had fallen by around €20/t across the board.

No announcements have been made to date for white corrugated case material grades. Market players are convinced, though, that higher prices will follow if brown recycled corrugated case material becomes more expensive. That said, price trends for white-top testliner have recently been far less volatile than for brown grades. White grades continue to lose market share. Insiders reported that consumer preference for white packaging was declining noticeably. More and more major shippers were reportedly switching to brown linerboard grades, also for cost reasons.

Recycled cartonboard prices decline at the start of Q4

As the final quarter of the year gets underway, demand does not appear to have picked up noticeably on the cartonboard and folding box market in Germany. Insiders in the cartonboard industry told EUWID that demand has not improved noticeably despite the end of the summer holidays. Similarly, early October feedback from the folding box industry points to subdued sentiment, which was illustrated by machines not operating at capacity and fierce competition over volumes and prices.

Several insiders attribute the lack of noticeable market recovery to the lingering effects of an extended summer lull. Yet, other sources think that demand has simply returned to its true level after the summer holidays, even though this means stability at a lower level. Experts remarked that the industry had to adjust to this "new normal", while others continue to hope for a lasting recovery.

As the final quarter of the year began, EUWID interviews revealed that recycled cartonboard prices had headed lower on the German market. As previously reported, GD 2 and unlined chipboard suppliers are under pressure to make price concessions from the recent decline in recovered paper prices. Experts told EUWID that buyers from the folding box industry had thus succeeded in rolling back the price hikes instituted for GD and unlined chipboard in spring, in full or in part. Contacts pointed out that price negotiations for deliveries from October were still ongoing in some places. However, the general trend towards lower prices was already evident, observers added. Sources on both sides of the market continued to describe lead times for GD 2 and unlined chipboard as remaining short.

As early October arrived, there was still no consensus in the market about the direction in which GC 2 prices were headed. Some market players indicated stable prices after mark-downs over the summer. At the same time, folding box producers claimed to have secured additional concessions in light of surplus capacity and slack demand. Reports on how much prices have fallen vary, though, with no firm figures available as EUWID researched this report.

For their part, suppliers said that they could scarcely afford price concessions and only demonstrated a willingness to negotiate when absolutely necessary to secure material.

Machine stoppages had reportedly not noticeably affected the availability of GC 2. "It makes no difference at all," one industry source said, citing surplus capacity.

Downbeat mood in the native starch industry after latest price round

Paper mills pass along pressure to starch factories

 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 5 min | Published in issue 41/2025

The latest price round to establish conditions for deliveries of native starches in the fourth quarter of

EUWID Price Watch Native Starch Western Europe			
Third quarter 2025			
Prices in €/per tonne	Third quarter 2025	Second quarter 2025	Third quarter 2024
Potato starch	860 - 1.050	860 - 1.050	860 - 1.050
Corn starch	420 - 430	430 - 430	440 - 500
Wheat starch	475 - 485	475 - 475	475 - 485

2025 took place against the backdrop of massive downward price pressure. Starch producers and paper mills are both having problems utilising their production facilities and, given the supply overhang, are struggling with intense competition. Companies in both industries are therefore trying to optimise their business dealings, which includes reducing costs and attempts to implement price hikes. However, in the current market environment it is difficult to achieve higher prices.

Oversupply shapes the markets for native starches as well as modified cereal, potato and pea starches. The price round for the fourth quarter was arduous for both sides and not only because the tone has become gruffer. According to industry representatives, starch producers are feeling serious margin pressure. Nevertheless, industry players’ attempts to raise prices had already quickly fizzled out during the price round for the third quarter of 2025. Now, in the fourth quarter, the efforts to achieve higher prices and better margins not only proved fruitless once more: This time, prices for native starches tumbled yet again – for all grades and in all regions.

Buyers cite good harvest as argument

During the contract negotiations, starch buyers often pointed to the good harvest for many crops used in starch production. Not only was the supply of starch products thus assured given the existing capacities, but the lower raw material prices also made it cheaper to produce starch, they argued. In this situation, the paper industry was keen to achieve lower prices. Buyers often demanded price cuts.

At the same time, it appears that demand for native wheat and corn starch has not reached the desired and expected growth levels. It is a similarly difficult picture for modified starches, such as potato and pea starch. Some players are pinning their hopes on the packaging industry’s interest in highly modified starches for barrier coating applications. On the other hand, there is a structural demand decline for other specialties as well as from the graphic papers industry. Moreover, due to the sluggish economy

in Germany and Europe and contrary to previous forecasts, many paper mills in the packaging segment are struggling and have been forced to temporarily or permanently reduce their production.

According to statistics from the German paper industry association, deliveries of graphic paper by German producers in the first eight months of this year declined by 17 per cent to 2.31 million t. Over the same period, deliveries within Germany were even weaker, falling 19 per cent to 1.15 million t. The market for paper, board and corrugated board for packaging applications did see an increase in overall deliveries (up 0.4 per cent to 8.4 million t) and domestic deliveries (up 0.8 per cent to 3.6 million t), but growth remained subdued.

Starch factories complain red ink inevitable

The starch industry definitely put up some resistance in the price round for the fourth quarter, market experts say. Although sellers were usually able to moderate the most extreme pricing positions of the paper mills, the resulting mark-downs mean that red ink will be inevitable, starch producers complain. Starch suppliers' oft-repeated threat to temporarily reduce or even permanently close production in future could not sway the outcome. The trend on the overall market is not playing out as expected, says one expert.

The negotiations for fourth-quarter deliveries typically resulted in further price cuts. For both native wheat as well as corn starch, prices fell by €10-20/t, or occasionally by as much as €30/t, compared with the previous quarter. Native corn starch continues to have the usual – albeit occasionally shrinking – price gap to wheat starch.

The EUWID market survey found that fourth-quarter prices for native wheat starch were rarely above €430/t, with figures between €410-420/t mentioned often. Industry insiders insist the €400 mark is a lower limit that must not be breached. However, for large acceptance volumes, this was not always possible and quotes of €395/t definitely exist, EUWID was told. Starch factories say they feel compelled to ensure the utilisation of their facilities. To do so, some suppliers were also willing to make concessions, insiders reported.

Experts therefore expect the situation to become critical. The weakness in the packaging industry has put the brakes on long-term growth in starch demand. And players unanimously agree that the food segment has also seen better days. As a result, starch factories need to reduce their fixed costs on an ad hoc basis, and some say this is the companies' primary goal right now. There are a number of signals that these businesses can no longer be operated profitably, EUWID was told. Many starch producers are curtailing production in order to counteract the oversupply and trim their losses.

Much like many paper mills, starch producers are extremely determined to reduce costs. Their consolidation and restructuring measures can include headcount reductions, temporary downtimes and capacity closures.

Pressure also felt in potato starch market

Competition and shrinking exports in the potatostarch market coincided with a good harvest. Availability in the industry is good, not least due to an increase in the area of land under cultivation. As a result, producers can calculate with lower costs, which increases the price pressure from buyers. After all, modified potato starch competes with products based on pea, corn and wheat starch, which are cheaper.

In this context, potato starch producers were under pressure as they negotiated their contracts: The end result was that prices below €800/t for deliveries as of October are not unusual. Consequently, experts definitely expect some turbulence in this segment in the coming months as well as in 2026.

Fragile balance on Polish recovered paper market following turbulent first half-year

Recovered paper demand fails to gather pace in autumn

 08 October 2025 |  ~ 4 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

Following a turbulent first half of the year which saw recovered paper prices in Poland first skyrocket then recede, the market gradually calmed down in summer. But the calm is deceptive, as surveyed market players report. One respondent describes the situation as tense.

Collection volumes remain low, but are enough to meet equally weak demand from European paper mills. However, experts warn that if there is a sudden change – whether due to misjudged purchasing or unexpected surge in demand – the limited amount of raw materials may not be sufficient and might trigger another price explosion as last spring.

EUWID Price Watch Recovered Paper Poland				
Third quarter 2025				
Prices in PLN/€ per tonne free delivered	Third quarter 2025		Second quarter 2025	Third quarter 2024
Supermarket corrugated paper/board in PLN/t (1.04)	510 -	560	610 -	740 - 600 - 780
Supermarket corrugated paper/board in €/t (1.04)	120 -	131	144 -	175 - 139 - 181
New shavings of corrugated board in PLN/t (4.01)	550 -	600	650 -	780 - 560 - 820
New shavings of corrugated board in €/t (4.01)	129 -	141	153 -	184 - 130 - 191
Sorted graphic paper for drinking in PLN/t (1.1)	450 -	500	500 -	850 - 950 - 1,040
Sorted graphic paper for drinking in €/t (1.1)	199 -	223	189 -	200 - 221 - 242
White woodfree uncoated shavings in PLN/t (3.18.01)	2,100 -	2,150	2,100 -	2,150 - 2,150 - 2,300
White woodfree uncoated shavings in €/t (3.18.01)	493 -	504	494 -	506 - 500 - 534
Exchange rate as of 2 October 2025: 1 PLN = 40.2346				
EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information.				
© 2025 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH				
All rights reserved				

The downward trend for supermarket paper and board (1.04), which had started in June, persisted into July in Poland, taking prices down by another €20-30/t. Slight price declines were still observed in August in some cases. Overall, cumulative reductions between June and August amounted to around €60/t. Market participants report that prices for supermarket paper and board had subsequently bottomed out. Ex-works prices hovered around the €100 mark, which corresponds to around €120/t free delivered prices depending on the route and transport costs on the Polish domestic market.

Reports indicated no further price cuts on the Polish market in September. On the contrary, some paper mills in Poland have increased their purchase prices by around €10/t to quickly replenish low inventories. However, the majority of customers saw no need for action and did not make any changes. There has as yet been no real demand stimulus coming from the packaging paper industry.

Collections still low

Recovered paper collection volumes remained low in September. Many retailers had hoped that more recovered paper would be available again after the summer holidays and the start of the new school year, but this has not been the case. At the same time, demand also remained weak for the most part. Several paper mills in Poland and neighbouring countries took maintenance downtimes or reduced production during the summer months, keeping supply and demand in balance.

However, this balance is fragile, many market observers underscore. Already in September, a certain nervousness was felt when first one, then at least one other Polish paper mill raised buying prices for supermarket paper and board slightly. Merchants reported that this immediately caused unrest in the market. The memory of spring, when prices spiked by up to €80/t within a very short time, is still fresh. With the current low arisings, the market could “quickly topple again”, according to insiders, should demand pick up in the short term.

For October, most players are currently expecting stable prices for supermarket paper and board. Several respondents point out that although recovered paper orders for the month could be somewhat larger, there are no signs of a radical trend reversal so far. No real upward impulse is expected in Far East exports either. Much therefore depends on how the order situation in the European paper industry develops. So far, the usual seasonal revival in autumn has been absent throughout the entire supply chain. An economic upswing in the important European countries, especially in Germany, would be urgently needed to get the paper and packaging markets moving again, insiders say.

Just minor price changes for deinking and high grades

The Polish market for sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) remained largely stable in the third quarter. Merchants report that prices mostly remained at previous months' levels, but in individual cases also trended slightly higher. At the end of September, prices for grade 1.11 therefore spanned a wide range. Paper mills that only need small quantities were “just barely” able to stock up on recovered paper at prices at the lower end of this range. Overall, respondents describe the segment as quiet, especially compared to the market for supermarket paper and board.

There was also little change on the market for white recovered paper grades, which saw only minor, primarily exchange-rate-related adjustments. Euro prices for white woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01), which are almost exclusively exported to Eurozone markets, fell by about €10/t between July and August before stabilising in September. Prices for the grade stood at around €490-500/t free delivered at the end of September. Sellers report that supply and demand are in equilibrium. Printers reportedly continue to generate only limited volumes and demand from paper mills is limited.

For the third quarter of 2025, the price range for supermarket paper and board (1.04) stood at PLN510-560/t (approximately 120-131 €/t, exchange rate on 2 October 2025). New shavings of corrugated board (4.01) were traded at PLN550-600/t (€129-141/t) free delivered. Prices for sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) ranged between PLN850 and PLN950/t (€199-223/t) free delivered, while those of white woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01) remained stable at PLN2,100-2,150/t (€493-504/t) free delivered.

Demand for label paper in Germany continued to flag in the third quarter

 **EUWID** + 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

After an already disappointing second quarter, sentiment among companies active in Germany's label paper market deteriorated further in the third quarter of 2025. Demand for wet-strength paper grades remained particularly weak, with some companies describing order volumes as “disastrous.”

However, some paper producers have sought to provide reassurance, noting that July was still relatively good. August was then said to have been quieter than usual and September's order intake also left something to be desired. Insiders described machine utilisation as “still just about acceptable.”

There was unanimous agreement that the market was witnessing fierce price competition, not just for wet-strength papers, but also for non-wet-strength grades.

Subdued demand is still being attributed to weak consumer spending and, for wet-strength label papers in particular, the ongoing slump in the beer market. “You would think no one was drinking beer anymore,” commented one label printer. Compounding matters, drink cans are making a comeback in Germany, further reducing demand for beer bottle labels, though this currently concerns only relatively small volumes, insiders say.

Talking about non-wet-strength label papers, industry experts mainly cited the weakness in the branded product business as the main reason for weak demand. Order intake from the private label segment to printers had been comparatively more stable.

Experts told EUWID that recycled label papers generally mirrored the market dynamics of fresh fibre grades. Here too, demand was very subdued in the third quarter, with the outlook for the fourth quarter offering little optimism.

Reports suggest that several paper producers responded by taking downtime in August and September. However, these stoppages were not always down to a lack of orders but sometimes due to long-planned maintenance work.

As EUWID researched this report in late September, sources were quoting lead times of 10 days in some cases, with stock goods said to be available almost immediately, according to multiple sources. However, lead times for special grades or non-stock items ranged from two to four weeks.

In terms of pricing, both paper types saw quotations largely carried over from the second to the third quarter of 2025.

In late September, negotiations between label paper suppliers and printing companies for the fourth quarter were not yet put to bed across the board. However, much pointed towards continued price stability.

EUWID Price Watch Label Paper Germany			
Third quarter 2025			
Prices in € per tonne free delivered	Third quarter 2025	Second quarter 2025	Third quarter 2024
Wet-strength and alkali-resistant 70-80 g (reels)	2,250 - 2,380	2,250 - 2,380	2,250 - 2,380
Non wet-strength 70-100 g (reels)	2,030 - 2,150	2,030 - 2,150	2,010 - 2,170
© 2025 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH All rights reserved		EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information.	

EU thermal paper producers file anti-subsidy complaint

 **EUWID +** 08 October 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

European thermal paper manufacturers, represented by the European Thermal Paper Association (ETPA) have filed a complaint to the European Commission against what they consider to be unfair imports of thermal paper from China. The European thermal paper industry, which is largely located in Germany, France, Finland and Spain, is calling on the European Commission to impose countervailing duties as the future of the European industry is jeopardised by subsidised lightweight thermal paper (LWTP) from China, says ETPA.

ETPA members therefore urge the Commission to investigate and take action against “the influx of highly subsidised imports of lightweight thermal paper from China” and safeguard the European industry from “unfair competition.”

According to ETPA, Chinese imports of light-weight thermal paper have allegedly surged by over 500 per cent in market volume from 2022 to the first quarter of 2025. In addition, a persistent decrease in Chinese LWTP prices from 2023 has forced European producers to also decrease their sales prices, the association explained.

The complaint document handed over by the EU thermal paper industry is said to document numerous unfair subsidies provided by the Chinese government, including direct financial support, tax advantages and supply of raw-materials at below-market prices.

According to the association, the imposition of countervailing duties on Chinese imports would restore the level playing field for all players in the market.

Containerboard producer Wizpaper in receivership

 **EUWID +** 07 October 2025 | [Valeria Buß](#) |  ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

French corrugated case material producer Wizpaper is in financial difficulties and in search of a buyer. The company was placed in receivership on 1 October by the commercial court of Lille Métropole in northern France, reported law firm Cornet Vincent Ségurel, which represents Wizpaper and its holding company Be Paper in the proceedings. Be Paper itself is subject to a safeguard procedure, the law firm says.



Cornet Vincent Ségurel notes that the main goal is to preserve business operations and jobs at the Wizpaper mill. "We will do everything in our power to ensure the long-term viability of the paper mill," said Henri Bréban, President of Be Paper. The receivership is to give time to potential buyers to take over the paper mill and to protect the group's other companies, which specialise in paper converting.

Wizpaper runs one paper mill in Saint-Omer in northern France, which has a capacity of 180,000 tpy of lightweight recycled corrugated case material. Henri Bréban had acquired the site from Sequana in 2018 following which the mill's fine paper machine was [rebuilt to containerboard production](#). Packaging firm Express Packaging and reel cutting company Express Découpe, both located nearby, are also part of the Be Paper group. The group has a total of close to 500 employees, the press release says.

Cornet Vincent Ségurel reports that Wizpaper has been suffering from inflation, high energy costs and a marked slowdown in paper demand for months now. In August, the company also had to deal with a major power failure. Paper production had to be stopped as a result. "These difficulties have severely weakened the company's financial situation, despite the efforts to modernise the mill and improve competitiveness that have been made since its creation," the law firm notes. Now, Be Paper wants to find viable solutions for Wizpaper.

UPM to idle LWC paper production at Kaukas mill during Q4

06 October 2025 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

After announcing such plans in July this year, UPM has now taken the final decision to idle paper production at its Kaukas pulp and paper mill in Finland. The company reported that employee consultation processes had now been completed and that the site's PM 1 would be permanently closed during the fourth quarter.



UPM's Kaukas mill will no longer produce LWC paper

According to UPM, this will take 300,000 tpy of LWC paper capacity from the market and reduce the number of employees in Kaukas by 220. The company's pulp, sawn timber and biofuels production and R&D activities at the site are unaffected by the move and will continue as before. However, UPM is currently taking a longer-than-expected maintenance downtime at the Kaukas pulp facility until 11 October in order to adjust pulp production to current demand,

UPM had [announced its intention to close LWC paper production at Kaukas](#) at the end of July. The company also said it would shift its LWC paper production in Finland to the Rauma mill for better cost efficiency. As reasons for these moves, UPM cited declining global demand for graphic paper due to digitalisation, macroeconomic challenges and changing consumer habits. Capacity utilisation is expected to improve thanks to the closure.

Players in the publication paper market repeatedly call for capacity reduction measures in order to reduce overcapacity. UPM has taken steps this year not only in Finland but also in Germany. The company [plans to shut down its Ettringen mill](#), with implementation of the move still pending. The Ettringen mill can produce up to 270,000 tpy of paper. It specialises on SC paper production but can also make newsprint.

Sappi is also [considering to shut down one machine at its Kirkniemi mill](#) in Finland. The affected PM 2 produces LWC and MWC with a capacity of 175,000 tpy.

Metsä Group and Metsä Board to cut jobs and reduce costs

02 October 2025 | [Igor Dugandzic](#) | 🕒 ~ 3 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

As part of their respective cost-saving programmes, Metsä Group and its subsidiary Metsä Board plan to restructure tasks and operations, and reduce workforce across several operating countries. Together, they will cut several hundreds of jobs, the majority of which will be eliminated at operations in Finland. Statutory negotiations with employee representatives are said to be initiated in accordance with each country's legislation.



Profitability at Metsä Board and Metsä Group is hit by higher raw material costs and weaker demand amid global trade uncertainties.

According to preliminary assessments, Finnish forest industry group Metsä Group intends to reduce 800 jobs, 540 of them in Finland. The group cited weaker demand amid global trade uncertainties, higher raw material costs and unfavourable exchange rates as factors weighing on profitability.

Metsä Group's €300m cost-savings and profit improvement programme places special focus on reducing procurement and logistics costs, as well as improving efficiency in the wood supply chain.

In addition, the group stressed the need to restructure and streamline operations, while underlining that "the negotiations will not include permanent closures of production units."

"We operate in a capital-intensive business in which lower utilisation rates due to weak demand combined with clearly higher costs create an unsustainable equation that must be addressed," said Jussi Vanhanen, President and CEO of Metsä Group.

Cost provisions related to the cost savings and profit improvement programme will be recorded in the result for the last quarter of the year, Metsä Group said.

Metsä Group employs about 9,600 people globally, including 5,600 in Finland. According to the Finnish daily *Helsinki Times*, the preliminary breakdown of planned reductions in Finland includes around 140 jobs in Espoo, 70 in Äänekoski, 60 in Kemi, 40 in Simpele, 35 in Lappeenranta and Joutseno, and a further 190 spread across other locations.

The planned reductions at Metsä Board, a listed company part of Metsä Group, are included in these figures, Metsä Group announced.

Metsä Board plans to cut up to 315 permanent positions, 155 of them in Finland. Statutory negotiations in Finland are scheduled to begin no earlier than 7 October.

"The change negotiations are based on production-related, financial, and operational restructuring reasons. The aim is to adjust the company's cost structure, improve cash flow, enhance business operations, and strengthen the conditions for sustainable growth," writes Metsä Board. One-off costs related to the possible changes will be recorded as items affecting comparability, and more detailed reporting will be provided after the negotiations are concluded.

Metsä Board stops pre-engineering investments at Husum and Kyrö mills

As part of the €200m cost savings and profitability improvement programme, Metsä Board will also shelve pre-engineering investments at the Husum mill in Sweden and the Kyrö mill in Finland. At the mill in Husum, the Metsä Board and Metsä Tissue were looking at the conversion of the PM 2 from the production of white-top kraftliner to food service packaging and siliconised greaseproof papers. The investment at the Kyrö mill involved a project to improve the current performance of the current barrier board and expand its application areas. At the same time, the development of Metsä Group's new business projects such as the Muoto (moulded fibre packaging), Kuura (textile fibres from softwood pulp) or bio-based CO₂ capture project will continue according to each project's individual plan and schedule, the group announced.

VPK starts new corrugator in Erembodegem and ups capacity

02 October 2025 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)



VPK upgrades Erembodegem site

Belgium's packaging group VPK Packaging continues to invest in its Belgian sites. After recently installing a new casemaker at the Oudegem site, replacing two older machines, the company now started up a new corrugator at its Erembodegem plant. The corrugator has a width of 2.8 m and replaces the previous 2.5 m machine, VPK says. The

investment is aimed at improving performance and increasing production capacity at the site.

VPK wants to further expand the Erembodegem site in the near future, aiming at raising corrugated board capacity from 100 million m² to 170 million m². To achieve this, the company plans, amongst others, to "activate the dormant volume on the rotary die-cutter". "We aim to increase finishing capacity to 120 million m² – an important intermediate step toward our goal of 170 million m² for the Erembodegem site," the company said in a press release.

Felix Schoeller to invest €13m in German production sites

26 September 2025 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

German specialty paper manufacturer Felix Schoeller plans to invest €13m over the next two years to enhance efficiency and sustainability at its German production sites. The investment package includes four projects in Osnabrück, Weißenborn, Günzach, and Titisee-Neustadt.

The largest share, €9m, is allocated to the Osnabrück plant, the company's headquarter. Felix Schoeller will upgrade the site's PM 1. This is expected to increase output of the

machine by around 20 percent and broaden the offering of

the mill. As part of the company's structural reorganisation, products and grades from the German Penig site, which was recently closed, were already transferred to Osnabrück earlier this year. The Osnabrück mill currently has a capacity of 120,000 tpy of decor paper, photo paper and release liner products, amongst others.

Felix Schoeller also plans to invest €4m in sustainability projects. In Weißenborn, a steam accumulator will be installed, reducing CO₂ emissions and improving energy efficiency. The mill has a capacity of 105,000 tpy of imaging papers.

At the Titisee-Neustadt site, the company will install a heat exchanger on PM 18. The paper machine's produces decor and barrier papers with a capacity of 30,000 tpy.

In Günzach, the wastewater treatment plant will be modernised. This mill houses three paper machines with a total capacity of 60,000 tpy. The portfolio includes laminate papers, intensive-coloured papers, among other products, and also offers small batch sizes.

The investment package is designed to significantly boost competitiveness from 2027 onwards, Felix Schoeller says.



After the closure of the Penig mill, decor paper producer Felix Schoeller has now announced investments in its other German sites

UPM announces strategic review of Plywood business

23 September 2025 | 🕒 ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 41/2025](#)

UPM has announced that it will initiate a strategic review of its UPM Plywood business area. The sale of the division is one of the possibilities. However, the company notes that a range of possibilities would be considered, including a potential separation from UPM for example through a divestment, a partial demerger or an initial public offering. The review is expected to be concluded by the end of 2026.



The group explains that it wants to assess options for maximising the long-term potential of the Plywood business in a evolving market environment. "The decision to initiate a strategic review of UPM Plywood reflects our commitment to position each UPM business for long-term success," said Massimo Reynaudo, President and CEO of UPM.

The UPM Plywood business area offers plywood and veneer products for construction, vehicle flooring, LNG shipbuilding, parquet manufacturing and other industrial applications. In the first half of 2025, the division booked an operating profit of €8m, down from €26m one year before. Over the past twelve months, earnings have declined gradually

