Commissioning of Progroup’s new containerboard machine in Stockstadt could be delayed

EUWID + 22 October 2026 Kristin Trede | Published in issue 44/2026



German corrugated packaging group Progroup is sticking to its plans to build a new containerboard machine at the former Sappi site in Stockstadt, Germany. However, in view of the challenging economic environment, commissioning could be delayed. The PM was originally scheduled to start up in 2030.

According to information reported by the daily newspaper *Main-Echo*, which the company confirmed to EUWID, the dismantling of the existing machinery is being delayed for technical reasons. In addition, the further development of the economy will be crucial to the project timeline. For an investment of this scale, it must be ensured that the machine operates at a high capacity utilisation rate from the outset, a Progroup spokesperson said, adding that economic conditions would need to improve for this to happen.

The start of production in 2030 therefore appears uncertain. Progroup nevertheless reiterated its commitment to the project, stating that the site remains part of its long-term growth strategy. The priority was not speed, but ensuring the project was economically viable and sustainable, the company said.

Dismantling work is well advanced, with the pulp mill and power plant having already been dismantled, according to the company.

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Faller Packaging drops plans to build new folding carton facility in Germany

EUWID + 26 October 2026 Konstantin Stoll | Published in issue 44/2026

German folding carton manufacturer Faller Packaging is not moving forward with its plans to build a new plant at its Waldkirch headquarters in Germany, the company confirmed to EUWID. The project originally envisaged building a new folding carton facility on the Inried industrial estate to replace two existing plants.



Faller Packaging wanted to replace two outdated plants in Waldkirch with a new folding carton facility

By way of explanation for the decision to drop the plans, Faller Packaging cited “unchanged market conditions.” In a statement, the firm said that it was currently engaged in a transformation process, as part of which it was reviewing plans for the Waldkirch site, as announced back in July. Faller told EUWID that it was also reviewing its production network and its locations to strengthen its long-term competitiveness and lay the foundations for further growth.

“Persistently challenging market conditions mean we need to revise our plans for the site. After careful consideration, we have therefore decided not to go ahead with the new plant in Inried,” said Faller Packaging CEO Dagmar Schmidt. The folding carton producer will work with the town of Waldkirch to decide what to do next with the land purchased specifically for the project.

In recent years, the folding carton plant project has faced successive delays. Built in 1956 and 1970, the two existing Waldkirch plants have reached “the end of their useful life” due to their outdated equipment and ageing buildings, Michael Faller said back in spring 2024.

Faller Packaging manufactures folding cartons, packaging leaflets and self-adhesive labels for the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. The company currently operates eight sites across Germany, Poland, Denmark and Hungary, with a workforce of around 1,500.

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Mercer Rosenthal pulp mill ramping up after downtime

EUWID + 27 October 2026 Igor Dugandžić | Published in issue 44/2026



Mercer International has provided EUWID with an update on the situation at its Rosenthal pulp mill in Germany. At the end of week 43 the company said that the mill was in the start-up process after several weeks of downtime. In response to a follow-up enquiry at the start of week 44, a company spokesperson said the mill was "still ramping up", without providing further details.

Rosenthal pulp mill in eastern Germany is geared for an annual production capacity of 360,000 t of softwood kraft pulp.

Pulp production at Rosenthal has been suspended since early September, when the mill began an extended maintenance shutdown initially scheduled to last four weeks. However, problems with wastewater discharge into the River Saale during the scheduled restart on 1 October forced the company to halt the process.

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Quarterly prices for newsprint and SC paper rise in France

First price hikes for GD board / Fine paper prices mostly unchanged in October

EUWID + 28 October 2026 | Published in issue 44/2026

In the French publication paper market, quarterly prices for newsprint and SC papers have risen, albeit not always to the extent demanded by manufacturers. On the cartonboard market, GD board producers started implementing price hikes, while negotiations are still ongoing in the GC segment, with prices stable in October.

EUWID Price Watch France
October 2026

Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
Copy paper 80 g A4 B grade	880 - 970	880 - 970	880 - 980
Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade	820 - 920	820 - 920	820 - 930
Offset sheets 80 g	920 - 990	920 - 990	910 - 1,000
Offset reels 80 g	850 - 940	850 - 940	850 - 930
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	930 - 1,010	930 - 1,010	950 - 1,020
Reels, double coated, 100 g	890 - 950	890 - 950	890 - 950
Publication paper			
Standard newsprint 45 g	615 - 660	615 - 640	600 - 630
Standard newsprint 42 g	625 - 670	625 - 650	610 - 640
Improved newsprint ISO 68, 52 g	655 - 700	655 - 680	650 - 680
LWC offset 60 g	790 - 820	790 - 820	760 - 800
LWC rotogravure 60 g	800 - 830	800 - 830	770 - 810
SC offset 56 g (A)	670 - 715	670 - 700	660 - 700
SC rotogravure 56 g (A)	670 - 715	670 - 700	660 - 700
Corrugated case material			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner 175 g+	950 - 1,050	950 - 1,050	770 - 880
Semi-chemical fluting	660 - 770	660 - 710	620 - 690
White-top kraftliner 140 g	990 - 1,110	990 - 1,110	880 - 990
Recycled corrugated case material			
Recycled fluting 100 g	730 - 765	730 - 765	590 - 625
Recycled fluting 90 g	740 - 780	740 - 780	600 - 640
Testliner 2	750 - 790	750 - 790	610 - 650
Testliner 3	740 - 775	740 - 775	600 - 635
White-top testliner, grade B, 140 g	760 - 820	760 - 820	700 - 770
Cartonboard			
GD 2	830 - 995	830 - 960	820 - 950
GC 2	1,100 - 1,295 [1]	1,100 - 1,295 [1]	1,120 - 1,300

[1] Prices include temporary surcharges of up to €35/t.

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Prices for woodfree coated and uncoated paper – for which manufacturers had also demanded price rises in October – remained largely unchanged in October. According to the producers' plans, these increases are now due to take effect in November. Prices for corrugated case material also remained largely stable, with prices for semi-chemical fluting only now being raised in the wake of the September increases for the other grades.

Costs are forcing fine paper manufacturers to continue their efforts to raise prices

Producers of woodfree coated and uncoated paper are coming under increasing cost pressure, triggered primarily by higher energy prices. However, paper manufacturers point out that it is not only gas and oil prices that directly or indirectly affect production costs in paper manufacturing; rising transport costs are also a factor.

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These cost increases vary greatly depending on the location of the mill, but all manufacturers are affected. Paper producers are therefore constantly attempting to raise their selling prices. A number of manufacturers of both coated and uncoated grades had called for price increases in October. According to EUWID sources, however, these have mostly not yet taken effect in October. Both producers and buyers confirm that deliveries in October are largely taking place at the same prices as in September.

This includes widely differing prices for the same grade. Market sources confirmed that relatively high prices continue to coexist with offers and actual purchases at prices of €100/t or more below those levels. Market insiders report that even the announcements of higher prices have done nothing to change this situation. The only effect the price announcements appear to have had is to stabilise prices, which had come under pressure over the summer and had given up some of the price increases achieved in April and May.

EUWID Price Review France
Third quarter 2026

Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	Third quarter 2026	Second quarter 2026	Third quarter 2025
Recovered paper (prices ex works)			
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	25 - 45	35 - 45	25 - 35
Supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04)	60 - 80	70 - 80	70 - 80
Old corrugated containers (1.05)	80 - 100	90 - 100	90 - 100
Sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11)	95 - 105	85 - 95	95 - 105
Intra-Europe exports from France (1.11)	85 - 105	85 - 95	100 - 130
Coloured letters (2.06)	135 - 145	135 - 145	165 - 185
Multi printing (3.10)	170 - 180	170 - 180	195 - 205
White woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01)	335 - 350	335 - 350	370 - 385
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
Copy paper 80 g A4 B grade	880 - 990	900 - 990	890 - 1,020
Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade	820 - 940	840 - 940	840 - 970
Offset sheets 80 g	920 - 1,030	930 - 1,030	920 - 1,040
Offset reels 80 g	850 - 950	870 - 950	850 - 970
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	930 - 1,050	950 - 1,050	950 - 1,060
Reels, double coated, 100 g	890 - 990	910 - 990	890 - 990
Publication paper			
Standard newsprint 45 g	615 - 640	600 - 620	600 - 630
Standard newsprint 42 g	625 - 650	610 - 630	610 - 640
Improved newsprint ISO 68, 52 g	655 - 680	640 - 660	650 - 680
LWC offset 60 g	790 - 820	790 - 820	760 - 810
LWC rotogravure 60 g	800 - 830	800 - 830	770 - 820
SC offset 56 g (A)	670 - 700	670 - 700	660 - 710
SC rotogravure 56 g (A)	670 - 700	670 - 700	660 - 710
Corrugated case material			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner 175 g+	870 - 1,050	810 - 970	770 - 910
Semi-chemical fluting	660 - 710	600 - 710	620 - 700
White-top kraftliner 140 g	940 - 1,110	900 - 1,050	880 - 990
Recycled corrugated case material			
Recycled fluting 100 g	670 - 765	670 - 705	590 - 665
Recycled fluting 90 g	680 - 780	680 - 720	600 - 680
Testliner 2	690 - 790	690 - 730	610 - 690
Testliner 3	680 - 775	680 - 715	600 - 675
White-top testliner, grade B, 140 g	720 - 820	720 - 780	700 - 790
Cartonboard			
GD 2	830 - 960	800 - 960	840 - 970
GC 2	1,100 - 1,295[1)]	1,100 - 1,295[1)]	1,120 - 1,330

[1)] Prices include temporary surcharges of up to €35/t.

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Given the state of supply and demand on the fine paper markets, such a development is hardly surprising. Whilst there were still signs of stabilisation at the start of this year, the trend has since reverted to the pattern that has been the norm for years. In September, shipments of woodfree coated paper in Europe were around nine per cent below the previous year's level; for the first nine months of 2026, the figure stands at a four per cent decline. For uncoated grades, deliveries for September are reported to be around 8 per cent lower, with a cumulative decline of approximately five per cent for the year.

As early as the start of the year, there was overcapacity of more than one million tonnes per annum in each of the uncoated and coated paper segments in Europe. Since then, there have been no significant capacity closures, and demand has continued to decline. The urgently needed adjustment to production capacity is expected to take place once a decision has been made on the proposed joint venture between Sappi and UPM. Market players anticipate that, at that point, there will be some positive developments, at least in the coated paper sector. This could then happen in the first quarter of next year at the earliest.

Quarterly prices for newsprint and SC paper rise, LWC sees only marginal increases

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Negotiations on newsprint and SC paper prices for the fourth quarter resulted in price increases in France. Many contracts in France are on a half-yearly basis; in these cases, prices remained unchanged. For three-month contracts, however, newsprint manufacturers in particular were able to secure higher prices due to a relatively favourable market situation, whilst prices for SC paper also rose, albeit to a slightly lesser extent.

The European newsprint segment has the least overcapacity within the publication paper market, and with the planned rebuild of the paper machine at the Palm Paper King‘s Lynn mill in the UK, the market will be reasonably balanced at the start of the new year. According to market sources, this was evident during price negotiations. Manufacturers entered negotiations with what they considered to be moderate demands for increases, mostly of €30/t, and were able to secure a large proportion of these. The reported increases for Q4 range from €20 to €30.

Manufacturers of SC paper made similar demands, but in most cases only increases of 10-20 € were accepted. One manufacturer demanded an energy surcharge in addition to the price increase, but was unable to secure its acceptance. Another producer is demanding high energy surcharges, though it remains unclear whether these will be implemented.

Implementing higher prices of any kind is more difficult in the SC paper segment than in newsprint, as there is still some overcapacity. Underutilisation is driving up production costs per tonne of paper, putting manufacturers under financial pressure.

There had also been calls for price increases for LWC papers, but, according to market insiders, these were, firstly, not very extensive and, secondly, were in some cases put forward without a sense of real urgency. It is acknowledged that manufacturers have a genuine need for higher prices. However, there is too much overcapacity in the market, which is reflected in the manufacturers’ capacity utilisation figures, which currently do not exceed 70 per cent.

The main focus in the market is now on prices for the first quarter or the first half of 2027. Here, paper manufacturers intend to take a major step forward, particularly with regard to newsprint and SC paper, and say the will enter negotiations with demands for substantial increases. Energy-related cost surcharges are also possible, in which case they could apply to LWC as well.

Most CCM prices remain unchanged in October

Following significant increases since March this year, the trend in prices for corrugated case material paused in October. Prices for both brown recycled grades and kraftliner remained at the previous month’s levels. Only for semi-chemical fluting were prices raised in the wake of the increases for the other grades; increases of 50-60 €/t are reported, effective at various times for deliveries in October and November.

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There have been reports of price increases for coated white-top testliner in October. White-top kraftliner prices are also reported to have increased in October, although some of the increases are not expected to take effect until November.

Some white-top testliner producers sought an additional €20/t increase to bring their price rises in line with those achieved for brown grades, but their efforts were unsuccessful in October. Manufacturers explain that this final additional price increase is necessary because they are facing the same cost and margin problems as producers of brown grades. Further attempts are to be made in this regard for November deliveries.

Manufacturers of recycled corrugated case material have repeatedly highlighted their cost situation, in which energy and transport have been major cost drivers in recent months and continue to be so. Now, in October, the rising cost of paper for recycling has been added to the mix. In October, prices for ordinary recovered paper grades were up by as much as €20/t, and the future trend in energy prices remains entirely uncertain. One producer explained that, given these overall developments, margins are barely any better than they were at the start of the year.

There has also been little movement in demand for recycled corrugated case material. As far as records show, the market for corrugated board in Europe has recorded modest growth of around one per cent this year compared with the previous year. This is too little to fully utilise the more than ample paper production paper capacity available. However, output appears to remain under control, as stock levels fell slightly in September and are now well below the previous year’s level.

Market insiders report that the new output capacity at Norske Skog Golbey is currently exerting hardly any supply pressure. The machine is still far from running at full capacity; there have been technical shutdowns.

Comments on kraftliner continue to suggest a balanced market. Manufacturers are operating at good capacity utilisation, and demand is considered strong. Imports from the USA into Europe have declined compared with the previous year. Market insiders expect kraftliner prices to remain stable until the end of the year.

Price hikes for GD board, GC set to follow

Rising costs for energy and other factors had prompted cartonboard producers in September to announce price increases, sometimes with short notice. On the French white-lined chipboard (WLC) market, a large share of GD 2 prices have now been adjusted. Prices for folding boxboard (FBB) were still stable in October, but mark-ups are slated to take effect later.

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Producers in the GD board market were successful in implementing part of their pricing plans in October. Participants from both sides of the market reported that many quotes for GD 2 in France had risen by €30-40/t. Suppliers had originally announced hikes of €70-80/t, sometimes effective as early as deliveries from 1 October. However, this timing could only be achieved in some cases. In other cases, insiders mentioned various implementation dates during the month, such as 12, 19 or 26 October.

Yet, prices for some customers were still stable this month and are to be adjusted later. One supplier explained that was the case, for example, where prices were fixed until the end of October.

In September, a few producers had been eyeing the possibility of lifting GD prices in two steps, in October and November. But the latest reports from the market suggest that many have given up on this idea. Some suppliers signed quarterly contracts with their customers valid until the end of the year, so no further adjustments are planned for November in these cases. Others agreed on prices until further notice, but doubt that a further step can be implemented already in November. Only one buyer among EUWID contacts said he expects a second mark-up in November.

Nevertheless, cartonboard producers feel this price round is not yet entirely over. Many are planning a further price step for GD 2 in January to complete the full increase announced in September. Some customers have been forewarned, but they did not comment on the plans, as that is still some way off.

Demand for GD was relatively normal for this time of year and not bad overall, market participants told EUWID in October. The tenor was that demand was better than in August and September but generally not exceptional. Many respondents described delivery times for GD 2 as stable or occasionally slightly longer, amounting to 2-5 weeks.

It was a similar demand picture on the French market for folding boxboard. October was somewhat better than September. “But the market is not growing,” commented one market player. Nevertheless, some cartonboard suppliers recently noticed an uptick in demand resulting from the closure of the two Folbb mills, which had brought them additional orders. Moreover, a different GC producer had production problems over the summer and market participants report that these delivery problems were still ongoing in October. Players are closely watching the latest developments at this producer, and there are many questions about its future.

Against this backdrop, delivery times for GC 2 became slightly longer in October. They were already long for deliveries from Nordic countries. Now, some European mills also reportedly have lead times of 6-8 weeks.

In October, there were not yet any pricing changes in the market for GC board. Producers here, too, had announced substantial price hikes of between €50-100/t last month. But from the outset, they were aiming for a later implementation date – at the end of October, in November or even December.

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At the time of the EUWID market survey in the penultimate week of October, many of the negotiations had not yet concluded. One market participant said the price talks had developed differently, depending on the customer, and many individual solutions were required. For example, it was not yet clear if and how the existing energy surcharge that his company had implemented would be calculated against the new price hike, he explained. However, all suppliers want to implement the announced new hike in the form of an increase to list prices.

Several market players speculated that the first price steps for GC would not be seen before mid-November. Insiders also often mentioned later dates, ranging from late November to December or even January. Customers were under pressure because they might be unable to adjust their own sales prices until the new year, so they were trying to push back the implementation date as late as possible, explained one producer. Some customers had signed half-year contracts valid until the end of 2026 and expect that these will remain untouched. However, by the turn of the year at the latest, a price hike would be inevitable owing to the extreme cost increases, several producers stressed.

France: pulp and paper production

January - September 2026

1,000 t	September			Jan - Sep	
	2026	2025	%	2026	%
Total paper and board	**538.6**	**550.4**	**- 2.1**	**4,910.6**	**+ 0.3**
thereof:					
Graphic paper	60.2	59.5	+ 1.3	564.8	- 0.9
thereof uncoated woodfree	35.7	36.1	- 1.2	315.1	+ 1.3
Packaging paper and board	374.6	389.0	- 3.7	3,417.5	+ 0.9
Corrugated case material	324.5	333.0	- 2.5	2,983.4	+ 3.2
Paper for flexible packaging	10.9	14.6	- 25.3	98.1	- 34.9
Cartonboard	39.2	41.5	- 5.5	336.0	- 2.9
Sanitary paper	74.4	73.4	+ 1.4	669.5	- 0.4
Total Pulp	**73.4**	**113.3**	**- 35.2**	**756.0**	**- 25.2**
Recovered paper consumption	**399.8**	**428.6**	**- 6.7**	**3,795.1**	**+ 0.8**

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French prices for ordinary recovered paper grades rise sharply in October

Gap to export prices narrows but remains considerable

EUWID + 28 October 2026 | Published in issue 44/2026

French recovered paper prices have made up ground. Prices for the ordinary grades rose substantially in October, bringing them closer to levels charged in export business to Asia and in some other European countries. Coloured letters were sought-after, with prices also rising. By contrast, prices for other woodfree grades and sorted graphic paper for deinking stayed the same.

EUWID Price Watch Recovered Paper France
October 2026

Prices in € per tonne	Oct 2026	Sep 2026	Aug 2026	Oct 2025
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	45 - 55	25 - 35	25 - 35	25 - 35
Supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04)	80 - 90	60 - 70	60 - 70	70 - 80
Old corrugated containers (1.05)	100 - 110	80 - 90	80 - 90	90 - 100
Sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11)	95 - 105	95 - 105	95 - 105	85 - 95
Intra-Europe exports from France (1.11)	95 - 105	95 - 105	95 - 105	100 - 110
Coloured letters (2.06)	145 - 155	135 - 145	135 - 145	155 - 175
Multi printing (3.10)	170 - 180	170 - 180	170 - 180	185 - 205
White woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01)	335 - 350	335 - 350	335 - 350	360 - 375

Prices in € per tonne ex works, material sorted and in bales.

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Prices for ordinary recovered paper grades in France had recently been well below those charged in Germany, for instance, or in export business with Asia. August had seen a price cut in France that failed to materialise in other European countries. This left French prices lagging behind those in other markets. In October, mixed paper and board (1.02), supermarket paper and board (1.04) and old corrugated containers (OCC; 1.05) therefore became €20/t more expensive in France.

Market players contacted by EUWID primarily attributed this substantial hike to the price gap that had opened up with other markets. Prices for exports to the Far East continued to increase, with demand reportedly good. Several sources said that higher OCC prices had been unavoidable in France to prevent the price gap from becoming too wide and to keep material in the country.

German buyers also remained active in France, although somewhat less so than in September. Despite October's hike, ordinary recovered paper grades still cost less in France than in Germany.

All of this took place against a backdrop of what sources continued to describe as decent domestic demand for ordinary recovered paper grades. Some recycled corrugated case material mills in France took scheduled downtime for maintenance in late September or October or recently experienced production problems, leading them to buy a little less recovered paper. Some buyers also still had relatively large stocks of recovered paper from September,

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although inventory levels dwindled during the course of October. However, other buyers purchased the normal amounts in October and faced no production constraints of any kind. Additionally, competition from other countries meant that buyers generally remained somewhat alert to the need to secure their recovered paper supplies.

Export business lively in October

All things considered, waste management companies had no trouble finding buyers for their material in October. Several said that they could readily sell everything that was collected. Insiders described demand for OCC from the Far East as good in October, and some contacts had increased export volumes a little. Exporters suspect that buyers in some Asian countries want to secure as much recovered paper as possible ahead of the renewal of their import licences.

Prices for exports to the Far East climbed again in October, with market players quoting hikes of up to €10/t. OCC prices climbed as a result, reaching €125-135/t ex works or even €140/t in a few cases. Along with decent demand, the favourable euro-dollar exchange rate reportedly drove the increase.

In the penultimate week of October, merchants contacted by EUWID still saw no signs of demand from Asia easing. “It looks as though demand will remain good,” one contact remarked. With Chinese New Year and Ramadan approaching in the new year, this source forecast that companies will bring forward orders over the next few weeks to cover demand during those periods. However, prices might have reached their peak.

Several market players expect prices for ordinary recovered paper grades to hold steady in November in France, too. Buyers could not envisage another increase, with one saying that costs were already high. A couple of insiders anticipated that export business would subside sooner or later and felt that French prices might ease in December. Conversely, some waste management companies did not rule out another price increase in November, pointing out that there was still a considerable gap between French prices and those on the Far East export market and in other European countries.

It was all quiet on the market for sorted graphic paper for deinking (1.11) in October. Demand was normal and stable in France, with prices staying the same. Hardly anything had changed on the export front, either. Stora Enso’s Langerbrugge plant suffered a fire in October, prompting the newsprint machine to be taken offline. Sources noted that this had so far had no impact on recovered paper prices.

Coloured letters become more expensive

Coloured letters (2.06) remained sought-after in October, with buyers from the French tissue industry and Asia looking for material. After a long period of stability, prices increased this month. Market players said that this grade had become €10/t more expensive.

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By contrast, multi printing (3.10) prices stayed the same in October. In just a few cases, prices that had been on the low side beforehand were adjusted upwards, although this was the exception. One buyer told EUWID that suppliers had attempted to raise their prices, but ample supply meant that there was no need to pay more.

Insiders in some cases gave differing assessments of demand for white woodfree uncoated shavings (3.18.01). One merchant found that it was a little easier to sell this grade in October, while others said that they were still struggling to find buyers. Prices held steady at September's level in October.

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Newsprint prices rise again in Italy from October onwards

First price hikes for GD / Kraftliner and recycled containerboard cost more

EUWID + 28 October 2026 | Published in issue 44/2026

Even though demand is largely weak and capacity utilisation disappointing in many market segments, most paper and board producers are attempting to charge more to cover rising production costs. Their level of success mainly hinges on supply conditions and competitive pressure in the respective markets. The trajectory in brown kraftliner prices over the past few months illustrates how tighter availability can influence pricing.

EUWID Price Watch Italy
October 2026

Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
Copy paper 80 g A4 B grade	900 - 970	900 - 970	890 - 970
Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade	780 - 870	780 - 870	780 - 870
Offset sheets 80 g	880 - 960	880 - 960	890 - 950
Offset reels 80 g	790 - 870	790 - 870	780 - 870
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	930 - 1,010	930 - 1,010	920 - 1,000
Reels, double coated, 100 g	860 - 920	860 - 920	830 - 910
Publication paper			
Standard newsprint 45 g	620 - 645	595 - 625	570 - 600
Standard newsprint 42 g	630 - 655	605 - 635	580 - 610
Improved newsprint ISO 68, 52 g	640 - 665	615 - 645	600 - 620
LWC offset 60 g	740 - 790	740 - 790	720 - 760
SC offset 56 g (A)	640 - 680	630 - 660	620 - 650
SC offset 52 g (A)	650 - 690	640 - 670	630 - 660
Corrugated case material			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner 175 g+, European quality	780 - 810	740 - 770	630 - 660
White-top kraftliner 140 g, European quality	860 - 900	840 - 900	780 - 830
Recycled corrugated case material			
Recycled fluting, European quality	470 - 490	455 - 470	350 - 370
Testliner 2, European quality	510 - 530	495 - 510	390 - 410
Testliner 3, European quality	480 - 500	465 - 480	360 - 380
White-top testliner, grade C, 140 g, European quality	570 - 590	560 - 580	500 - 530
Medium, Italian quality	420 - 435	400 - 420	310 - 320
Testliner 4, Italian quality	430 - 445	410 - 430	320 - 330
Cartonboard			
GD 2	590 - 700	590 - 670	580 - 650
GD 3	570 - 640	570 - 610	550 - 590
GC 2	930 - 1,110 [1)]	930 - 1,110 [1)]	950 - 1,120

[1)] Prices include temporary surcharges of up to 30 €/t.

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Price talks on Italy's paper and board market yielded wildly mixed results in October. Kraftliner and recycled corrugated case material manufacturers secured additional price hikes, with GD board and newsprint also becoming more expensive. On the other hand, attempts to charge more for woodfree paper were largely unsuccessful. Coated magazine paper prices stayed at the existing level, while SC paper prices either held steady or increased somewhat, depending on the agreement. GC board prices are also stable, with talks focusing on orders and/or deliveries from November onwards.

Fine paper producers fail to secure much-needed price hike in October

Woodfree coated and uncoated paper manufacturers have so far had little success in implementing higher prices on the Italian market in October. Sources told EUWID that most business was still being conducted at September's levels. However, some manufacturers

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have reportedly achieved increases of €30-40/t with smaller customers and for certain transactions in business with wholesalers. These hikes appear to be more common for coated paper than for uncoated woodfree paper grades.

Slow demand remains the main factor shaping the Italian woodfree paper market in October. Paper mills are still said to have largely unsatisfactory order books, with order backlogs reportedly ranging from a fortnight at worst to four weeks at best. Nonetheless, some manufacturers are trying to keep lead times relatively long. A few producers are also trying to hold the line on prices rather than accepting every order. At the same time, a few mills have reportedly already prepared for a potential loss of business and have made arrangements for temporary production stoppages. A variety of manufacturers had already cut their output more than the usual seasonal amount in August and September. Some of them are now worried that higher prices could leave fresh gaps in their order books.

EUWID Price Review Italy
Third quarter 2026

Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	Third quarter 2026	Second quarter 2026	Third quarter 2025
Recovered paper (prices ex works)			
Mixed paper and board (1.02)	80 - 90	80 - 90	85 - 110
Supermarket corrugated paper and board (1.04)	85 - 95	85 - 95	90 - 110
Old corrugated containers (1.05)	95 - 105	90 - 105	95 - 120
New shavings of corrugated board (4.01)	110 - 120	110 - 120	110 - 135
Magazines (1.06)	105 - 125	105 - 120	130 - 155
Newspapers (2.01)	150 - 165	150 - 165	165 - 190
White woodfree letters (3.05)	285 - 305	285 - 305	310 - 330
White newsprint (3.14)	290 - 305	290 - 305	300 - 335
White woodfree shavings (3.18)	395 - 420	395 - 420	425 - 455
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
Copy paper 80 g A4 B grade	900 - 990	910 - 1,000	900 - 1,000
Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade	780 - 890	790 - 900	790 - 920
Offset sheets 80 g	880 - 980	900 - 990	900 - 1,000
Offset reels 80 g	790 - 890	800 - 900	790 - 920
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	930 - 1,040	950 - 1,050	930 - 1,050
Reels, double coated, 100 g	860 - 940	860 - 950	840 - 950
Publication paper			
Standard newsprint 45 g	595 - 625	565 - 615	580 - 610
Standard newsprint 42 g	605 - 635	575 - 625	590 - 620
Improved newsprint ISO 68, 52 g	615 - 645	590 - 635	610 - 630
LWC offset 60 g	740 - 790	720 - 790	730 - 770
SC offset 56 g (A)	630 - 660	620 - 660	630 - 660
SC offset 52 g (A)	640 - 670	630 - 670	640 - 670
Corrugated case material			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner 175 g+, European quality	700 - 770	620 - 710	640 - 690
White-top kraftliner 140 g, European quality	800 - 900	770 - 860	790 - 850
Recycled corrugated case material			
Recycled fluting, European quality	415 - 470	400 - 430	350 - 400
Testliner 2, European quality	455 - 510	440 - 470	390 - 430
Testliner 3, European quality	425 - 480	410 - 440	360 - 410
White-top testliner, grade C, 140 g, European quality	530 - 580	530 - 560	510 - 540
Medium, Italian quality	365 - 420	350 - 380	310 - 340
Testliner 4, Italian quality	375 - 430	360 - 390	320 - 350
Cartonboard			
GD 2	590 - 670	560 - 670	600 - 670
GD 3	570 - 610	530 - 610	560 - 610
GC 2	930 - 1,110 [1)]	930 - 1,110 [1)]	970 - 1,120

[1)] Prices include temporary surcharges of up to 30 €/t.

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Competition appears to be especially fierce for uncoated woodfree paper, with numerous suppliers holding widely differing views on pricing and competing for available orders. This heated competition has now pushed prices so low that Asian suppliers can offer little or no price advantage over some European producers for offset reels and, in some cases, for copy paper. With prices much the same, European paper producers had the advantage of significantly shorter lead times, one source pointed out to EUWID. However, other European manufacturers are apparently trying to hold on to higher prices for branded products and premium grades, using margins on this business to offset pressure on prices and earnings elsewhere.

The situation remains tricky for paper producers as a result. Weak capacity utilisation and fierce price competition are coinciding with still high manufacturing costs, especially for mills heavily reliant on natural gas. Compounding matters, logistics is expensive, and the future direction in pulp prices remains uncertain. For now, manufacturers have been unable to secure the improvement in their revenues that they were seeking.

Newsprint prices somewhat higher again in Italy

Publishing houses and printers in Italy have had to dig deeper into their pockets again for newsprint since October. Insiders told EUWID that prices had climbed by €15-25/t at the start of the fourth quarter.

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Magazine paper producers had less success in negotiating higher prices for deliveries from October onwards. Coated magazine paper prices generally stayed the same. As had happened at the start of the third quarter, erratic demand and a strong spot market stood in the way of higher LWC prices. One supplier stressed that the question was whether, and to what extent, business in this segment could still be described as contract business.

Price talks in the uncoated magazine paper business about deliveries from October onwards yielded mixed results. On the one hand, some commercial printers and publishing house buyers reported a €20-25/t hike for SC paper, while some suppliers put the actual increase at roughly €15-20/t. Yet, other sources quoted unchanged prices for SC paper, depending on the amount purchased, the previous price and, more rarely, on contract duration.

Quite a few paper suppliers are disappointed with the outcome of price talks in Italy. Newsprint manufacturers especially had hoped to secure larger increases, with some of them initially seeking mark-ups of €50/t or €80/t. Some newsprint manufacturers, however, are focusing on the success of the latest price round. Manufacturers are proceeding in small steps and have managed to raise prices for standard and improved newsprint by a total of €50/t this year despite the continuing structural decline, they point out.

Several publication paper producers stressed that this was not enough and, as so often, underlined the need for additional price increases amidst hefty costs, for instance for energy and logistics. In recent years, numerous newsprint and magazine paper machines had been closed or converted to make packaging paper because business was unprofitable. One paper manufacturer warned that more capacity might be closed unless revenues improved markedly.

For their part, representatives of the printing industry warn that further price increases could accelerate the structural downturn in demand. Customers are already responding at short notice by reducing order volumes or cancelling orders, with paper manufacturers ultimately suffering the consequences.

Kraftliner and recycled containerboard prices edge higher again in October

Conversations about costs, prices and availability continued to dominate business on Italy’s corrugated case material market in October. After securing a portion of their originally proposed hikes in September, kraftliner and recycled corrugated case material manufacturers leveraged the situation at the start of the fourth quarter to push through a second instalment of increases, primarily for brown grades. White-top testliner and white-top kraftliner prices stayed the same in some cases, depending on the outcome of the first price step in September.

Brown kraftliner suppliers followed up September’s increase, which mostly stood at €40/t, with a second mark-up of a similar size. As a result, Italian prices have leapt by up to €80/t in September and October combined.

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In the penultimate week of October, EUWID sources reported that the brown kraftliner market remains tight, although the supply situation was apparently less strained than it was a few weeks ago. Some insiders attributed this to the autumn season for fruit and vegetable trays winding down, while others highlighted persistently weak industrial production. The widespread replacement of kraftliner with substitutes and suitable recycled liner grades, including testliner 1 and testliner 2, is also thought to be a contributing factor.

Nonetheless, suppliers in Italy are succeeding in commanding high prices for European kraftliner. Companies needing kraftliner had little choice but to pay the asking price, sources said. After all, Italian corrugated board producers could no longer turn to cheaper imports as they did in the past. Imports of US kraftliner have fallen markedly since around April, and unbleached kraftliner from Brazil and the US is priced at around €760-780/t CIF, which on a free delivered-basis is on par with European material, or even higher in some cases.

Italian brown recycled corrugated case material prices increased by another €10-20/t in October. Buyers are now paying around €60/t more for European grades and €50-55/t more for Italian grades testliner 4 or medium than they were in July or August.

Paper suppliers generally describe order books and incoming orders as good, but the overall situation was rarely said to be satisfactory. Most paper mills are busy but say that they are battling rising costs and have to invest more time in production and logistics planning to maximise the return on every tonne produced. As the final week of October began, it remained unclear whether this might go hand in hand with additional price hikes for recycled containerboard grades before the year’s end. Suppliers would say only that, at current energy, logistics and raw material prices, paper mills have no choice but to pass on a substantial share of rising costs along the value chain as quickly as possible.

While the information provided by EUWID contacts on price developments in September and October largely tallies, their estimates of the cumulative upturn in corrugated case material prices in Italy since the start of the second quarter vary considerably. The gap is especially pronounced for brown kraftliner, although a certain range is also evident for brown recycled grades.

Some contacts report that brown kraftliner prices have leapt by as much as €200/t since April. Increases of this magnitude were not confined to companies forced to switch suppliers as overseas deliveries declined, sources noted. Others put the increase since April at only €140/t.

Insiders told EUWID that brown recycled paper grades had become €100-140/t more expensive in Italy since the start of the second quarter.

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Among corrugated board companies, some are baffled, while others expressed grudging admiration for the paper industry's ability to secure its asking prices month after month in the current climate. After all, Italy's corrugated board and packaging industry had seen virtually no growth over the first three quarters, leaving businesses in a far from comfortable position.

Speaking to EUWID, several converters said that they were unable to run their machines at the desired levels, prompting them to cut shifts or halt production for individual days. One converter complained that high paper prices were putting corrugated board producers under greater pressure, with lower output intensifying the squeeze on margins.

Corrugated board and packaging manufacturers are thus both working on price increases of their own, but weak demand and fierce competition are preventing them from achieving the full increases they want. Prices were reportedly edging higher, but the market currently allows only modest rises. The risk of losing orders was simply too great, one integrated packaging producer pointed out. In this vein, a few independent producers are complaining about multinational groups failing to reflect their costs adequately in their prices and of using lower prices to maintain or expand their market share.

GD board prices rise, as GC price hikes remain under discussion

Companies active on Italy's cartonboard market reported the first hikes for GD board in October. Several white-lined chipboard (WLC) manufacturers managed to implement their plans, at least in part, and increased prices from the start or middle of the month. Manufacturers had reportedly secured around half of the announced hikes. Buyers and sellers active in Italy thus reported prices that were €30-40/t higher than in September.

However, not all GD manufacturers were already charging more for October deliveries. In the penultimate week of October, suppliers and buyers were still mentioning deliveries at unchanged prices. A variety of sources believe that more volumes and orders will be concluded at the new prices in November.

As expected, GD board manufacturers entered the fourth quarter with not particularly strong activity levels, but order backlogs are said to be at the customary levels of two to a maximum of three weeks. One producer said that four weeks would, of course, be preferable, as they would make price increases easier to secure. Another stressed that rising costs were driving the increase. Recycled board mills had been unprofitable for some time as energy, recovered paper and chemical prices climbed, leaving capacity utilisation a secondary consideration, another board manufacturer stressed.

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The price increase for GD comes at a bad time for carton producers. Few converters had anticipated that producers would be successful, so they had not factored the additional costs into negotiations about their own fourth-quarter prices. One folding carton manufacturer complained that some companies now have to pay higher GD prices even for orders already placed, as long as delivery was scheduled after the hike took hold.

Italian GC board prices did not alter in October, with manufacturers so far making only slow progress in their efforts to raise their prices. The majority of European folding boxboard (FBB) suppliers unveiled plans to charge more from the start or middle of November. Yet, market players said that there was still a need for quite a bit of negotiation. Some already anticipate protracted talks. One folding carton manufacturer is confident that the cartonboard industry is primarily seeking to build pricing pressure to secure better terms at the start of the year.

Suppliers and converters have been keeping a close eye on potential changes in the supplier landscape since the German-Dutch cartonboard producer Folbb became insolvent last summer. One hot topic at the moment is the situation at another European GC board producer. With substantial surplus capacity in Europe, buyers are less worried about future cartonboard availability than about ongoing market consolidation and the risk of becoming increasingly reliant on individual suppliers.

In the meantime, major producers are adjusting their product ranges and preparing for mounting competition for customers and market share in the GC board market. They are introducing new cartonboard grades to better meet buyers' requirements and target prices. At the same time, they are investing in service and logistics to respond quickly and strengthen their presence close to key customers and markets.

The recent case of Folbb had demonstrated that major European producers could offer both reliable supply and the service customers expect, while still retaining enough spare capacity to cover disruptions at other suppliers. Order books for some machines and mills still stretch beyond five or six weeks. When logistics are working, though, customers can generally expect to receive their board within that timeframe, market sources said.

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Publication paper producers unsatisfied with outcome of price round in Germany

Tight brown kraftliner supply fails to trigger further price hikes

EUWID + 28 October 2026 | Published in issue 44/2026

Despite securing price hikes, publication paper producers remain dissatisfied with the latest price round in Germany. Printers are struggling with high paper costs and declining orders, while producers warn that their own cost burdens threaten the viability of production. Technical problems and high costs have led to output curtailments, yet low operating rates in some segments continue to prompt special deals.

In the German market for brown kraftliner, it appears prices are holding steady in October. Despite the ongoing tight availability, no further price hikes occurred. However, producers of semi-chemical fluting were able to introduce catch-up adjustments in October to match those already introduced for other fresh-fibre grades.

Publication paper producers and printers under increasing economic pressure

In the market for newsprint, LWC and SC paper in Germany, producers and buyers are looking back on a difficult round of price negotiations. Talks were often intense and took comparatively long to conclude, according to market participants. Paper mills reportedly sought to implement price increases for fourth-quarter deliveries in virtually all cases, but encountered resistance. Representatives of the printing industry say the existing price level already represents the “pain threshold” for advertisers and publishing houses. They are convinced that further price hikes would lead to a reduction in print volumes.

Paper producers, meanwhile, believe price hikes are unavoidable. Given the current and expected cost structures, many paper mills in Europe can no longer operate profitably, they say. Market experts expect conditions to be even more challenging in the coming year, while paper industry representatives are signalling considerable price hikes for virtually all publication paper grades in 2027.

Some market participants regard the recently discussed separate energy cost surcharges as a possible precursor to further price demands. These surcharges are described as the last remaining option for paper mills. Nevertheless, the difficult cost situation has forced producers to consider this option, and some market players have already announced such surcharges. Market insiders say that although energy cost surcharges have considerable potential to cause alarm, they have apparently met with little acceptance so far.

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Many players in the printing sector expressed a lack of understanding about the scale of the price hikes targeted for newsprint as of October. The envisaged increases were said to be as much as €50/t. Representatives of the paper industry stress that mills are moving into the red. They also repeatedly point to restricted availability, which they believe supports their price demands.

The driving factors here include the upcoming conversion of the paper machine in King's Lynn at the end of the year and unexpected production disruptions and difficulties in arranging substitute deliveries. Even the restart of the PM at the former Papresa mill as well as portfolio expansions – in particular at the Caledonian mill – would not entirely reduce these supply risks, say industry representatives.

Buyers, however, note that demand for newsprint is shrinking and report that supply is currently sufficient, which also enables substitute deliveries. During the latest price round, the paper producers' demands could thus be tempered, EUWID was told. As a result, paper producers had to scale back their demands during the latest negotiations, sources say. Market participants broadly agree that prices increased by around €20/t, although some quote figures slightly below or above this level. Increases for heatset grades in particular are reported to have reached €30/t or more in some cases.

Once again, many producers were focused on object or special deals, arguing that the prices agreed under these arrangements were no longer appropriate as are seeking to bring them into line with regular contract prices. As a result, newsprint and SC paper prices are converging. In some cases, the price gap is reportedly unusually small.

This is because the price round for magazine paper proved difficult, not least because of a boarder availability as well as existing longer-term agreements, it is learnt. In instances where contracts remain valid during the fourth quarter, discussion frequently focused on supply agreements from January. Both producers and buyers confirm that potential price increases were discussed.

In the LWC segment, market participants report stable prices or only marginal price increases amid low operating rates. Overall, this has resulted in a slight shift within the existing price range. Some paper mills reportedly announced further increases while price talks were still underway, which they intend to implement at various points before the end of the current quarter.

For SC paper, market insiders report considerable differences in the approaches taken by individual mills. In most cases, players report price changes as of October ranging between €0-20/t, depending on the volume, starting level and supplier. Experts do not report any differences here between offset and rotogravure grades.

Given these developments and persistently high costs, suppliers of uncoated and coated magazine and catalogue papers see an urgent need for substantial price increases. Representatives of the printing industry, however, warn

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against placing excessive financial pressure on customers. Further price increases are only bound to accelerate the ongoing structural demand decline, which is the main cause of the current oversupply, they believe. Print customers would also react quickly to rising prices, for example, by cancelling orders. A further deterioration in demand would also prove disastrous for paper producers, they say.

Other market insiders say the intense competition among printers is adding to the industry's financial pressures. Printers have largely exhausted their opportunities to reduce costs and improve profitability through technological innovation and greater production efficiency, EUWID was told.

They point out that the effectiveness of leaflets and other printed advertising materials has long been demonstrated and that these products should not simply be regarded as environmentally harmful. Nevertheless, price all too often remains the decisive factor in awarding contracts, further aggravating the industry's liquidity problems.

Against this backdrop, market participants agree that risks are mounting in both the paper and printing industries. Some describe the situation as a severe test for both sectors. Many companies are fighting for survival, while intense competition and mounting cost pressures have created an increasingly difficult market environment.

Market participants argue that companies must increasingly focus on profitable business rather than volumes alone. Experts point to the long-established fact that maximising paper machine or printing press utilisation does not necessarily guarantee that production will cover its costs, let alone generate a profit.

According to representatives of publication paper producers, the latest cost increases are simply too substantial to absorb. Paper mills appear determined to push through further price increases in an effort to restore profitability.

Further kraftliner price hikes remain off the table for now

Following the substantial €80/t increase for brown kraftliner in September, prices appear to have remained stable in October. Although EUWID respondents point out that monthly price adjustments would be unusual, producers may yet depart from established pricing patterns.

Given the tight supply for brown kraftliner, converters recently expressed concern that suppliers might take advantage of the situation to push for another increase in the near future. Converters report isolated attempts to implement a further increase of €20/t in early October, similar to developments in the recycled containerboard market. However, these attempts were unsuccessful. By the end of calendar week 43, there appeared to be no concrete plans to announce further increases anytime soon.

Regarding availability, companies report that budgeted volumes are being delivered as agreed, especially if the orders are placed well in advance. Nevertheless, hardly any additional kraftliner volumes appear to be available

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towards the end of October.

By contrast, producers of genuine semi-chemical fluting were able to implement their planned catch-up hike in October. Although negotiations took longer than that for brown and white-top kraftliner, the increase eventually agreed on varied more widely, ranging from €40 to €60/t.

The white-top kraftliner market is broadly following the trend seen for brown kraftliner, with no significant differences in pricing developments. Following the increase of around €60/t in September, prices remained unchanged in October. By the end of calendar week 43, producers had also made no separate announcements of further price increases.

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Ranheim Paper & Board to close Dutch packaging plant in Almelo

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In response to the challenging economic situation, the Dutch subsidiary of Norwegian company Ranheim Paper & Board announced its intention to close down the Almelo plant in the Netherlands. The company told EUWID that it had already completed the required consultation process with approximately 40 employees concerned. Ranheim expects the closure process to be completed in the first quarter of 2027.

According to the company, the decision was taken in view of the persistently difficult situation of the Almelo plant, which primarily produces solid board packaging for the fish and meat industries. EUWID was told that in spite of various measures taken, order intake and business development failed to improve to a sufficient extent that would secure the site’s financial viability in the long run.

The company announced that it would guarantee its customers and suppliers a well-structured transition process. All of the plant’s business partners had already been informed, reported Ranheim, adding that its aim was to reliably fulfil existing obligations and limit the closure’s effects on its customers as far as possible.

Ranheim Paper & Board, part of Austria’s Fundermax group, acquired the packaging plant in Almelo from Hubregtse Group in 2023.

In Norway, Ranheim produces recycled corrugated case material, coreboard and greyboard on two machines at its mill in Trondheim. The company puts the mill’s capacity at more than 120,000 tpy. Solid board packaging producer West Pack Emballasje is also part of the Norwegian group.

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Mercer responds to media reports, Chapter 11 is just one option for financial restructuring

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Forest products company Mercer International is pressing ahead with negotiations on its planned financial restructuring. In this process, the company is considering a prepackaged Chapter 11 filing under US bankruptcy law as one possible route for implementing its planned financial restructuring. However, an out-of-court agreement with bondholders remains an alternative, the company said in response to an EUWID enquiry. “Whether such a restructuring will be settled out of court or through a prepackaged Chapter 11 has yet to be decided,” a spokesperson for Mercer stated.

The comments follow a Bloomberg report on 21 October that Mercer was laying the groundwork for a possible Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing in the US. According to the report, which cited people familiar with the matter, the company could seek bankruptcy protection in the coming weeks, potentially filing in Texas.

Mercer reiterated to EUWID that negotiations with its bondholders had “proceeded very well”. The company has been negotiating the principal terms of a comprehensive recapitalisation and a significant capital infusion with an ad hoc group representing more than 75 per cent of the nominal value of its outstanding bonds due in 2028 and 2029. The proposed transaction is intended to address upcoming debt maturities, improve liquidity and strengthen Mercer’s balance sheet by substantially reducing its debt and associated interest expenses.

Operating subsidiaries not expected to be part of restructuring

Mercer also stressed that its operating subsidiaries were not expected to be included in the financial restructuring, regardless of whether an agreement is implemented out of court or through a Chapter 11 process.

“We anticipate that this capital restructuring will not involve Mercer’s operating subsidiaries,” the company said. Its pulp, lumber and mass timber operations would continue business as usual, serving customers and meeting obligations to suppliers, contractors and employees. Mercer added that it also did not expect any resulting agreement to affect its relationships with or obligations to these stakeholders.

In its latest Form 8-K filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on 2 October, Mercer disclosed that it had decided not to make an interest payment of approximately $25.8 million due on 1 October on its 2028 bonds, opting instead to use the 30-day grace period provided under the bond terms. Mercer said that using the grace period did not constitute an event of default.

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Packaging producer Straub starts up new facility

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German corrugated packaging manufacturer Straub Verpackungen has commissioned a new production facility at its headquarters in Bräunlingen in southern Germany following three years of construction. The new plant was officially inaugurated on 16 October. The company says the investment runs into several tens of millions of euros.

The new production building provides around 24,000 m² of production space. Since September, it has been used to print corrugated packaging and prepare it for dispatch. The expansion is intended to increase Straub's converting capacity and ease the workload of its existing production facilities in Bräunlingen and Blumberg. At the same time, the company's logistics operations are expected to become more efficient.

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Sofidel completes upgrade of Roanne tissue mill

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Italian tissue manufacturer Sofidel has completed the modernisation of tissue machine PM 1 at its Roanne mill in France. The machine is now fully operational again following extensive technical modifications.

The upgrade included the renewal of the Yankee system, the paper producer reports. The company also overhauled the winding section and associated hydraulic systems, electric drives and steam controls.

The drying section was also modernised. Italian machinery supplier Toscotec had already reported the completion of the main modifications and the successful restart of PM 1 in November 2025.

The upgrade is aimed at increasing production efficiency while reducing the mill’s energy consumption and environmental impact. In November 2025, Sofidel’s Chief Technical Officer Davide Mainardi put the expected annual reduction in CO_2 emissions at around 1,200 t.

The Sofidel Group operates in 13 countries across Europe and North America and employs more than 9,500 people. It has an annual tissue production capacity of around 2 million t. In the 2025 financial year, Sofidel generated sales revenue of approximately €4bn.

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Saxony grants funding for Wepa‘s fibreboard plant

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The German state of Saxony will support the Honext x Wepa joint venture with €9.85m, the state ministry of economic affairs announced. The tissue products manufacturer Wepa and Spanish fibreboard specialist Honext Material are planning to build a production plant for recycled fibreboard in Kriebstein in Saxony with a total investment of €39m in the project. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is also supporting the project, as announced in May. According to the state ministry, the EIB is providing a loan of €22.4m.

The new plant is to be built adjacent to Wepa’s existing paper mill in Kriebstein. Two fibreboard production lines are planned. According to the state ministry, this is the first plant of its kind in Europe.

The fibreboard panels will be made entirely from processed recycled fibre and supplementary fibre materials from sanitary paper production. The new plant is expected to recycle around 40,000 tpy of residual materials from paper production. Additives such as glue will not be used. The fibreboard panels are intended for applications in interior design, acoustic solutions and trade fair structures. They will be sold in Europe under the Honext brand.

The German Wepa group employs over 4,500 people at 15 European production sites and is one of Europe’s three largest tissue paper manufacturers. At the Kriebstein plant, the company employs around 275 people and produces handkerchiefs and facial tissues. Honext Material, based in Barcelona, develops technologies for processing cellulosic industrial waste into fibreboard for architecture and interior design.

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Insolvent Tullau Pappen to cease operations at both mills

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Less than two months after the Heilbronn Local Court in Germany ordered preliminary insolvency proceedings for German board producer Tullau Pappen Karl Kurz, the company is now facing closure. Preliminary insolvency administrator Tibor Braun confirmed to EUWID in late October that operations at both Tullau Pappen sites are to be shut down even before formal insolvency proceedings are opened. Production had previously continued without interruption at both the Rosengarten-Tullau mill and Pappenfabrik Trauchgau in Halblech.

According to Mr Braun, the decisive factor for the closure at the plants was a shortage of CO2 emission allowances, which prevented the restructuring of the producer of coreboard and greyboard. As energy-intensive businesses, both plants are required to surrender emission allowances by 30 September each year to cover their emissions in the preceding year. However, due to their insolvency, the companies were unable to meet this obligation for the 2025 financial year, the insolvency administrator explains. The production facilities subject to emissions regulations are scheduled to be shut down in calendar week 44, EUWID was told.

The insolvency administrator also reported that substantial restructuring measures had already been implemented at the mill. Inital talks had also been held with potential investors. Nevertheless, “all efforts to preserve jobs and continue business operations have failed,” Mr Braun concluded.

Until now, Tullau Pappen has produced coreboard and greyboard at two plants with a combined production capacity of around 40,000 tpy. The company describes itself as one of Germany’s leading suppliers of coreboard. At the Rosengarten-Tullau plant, it produces coreboard on one machine, while Pappenfabrik Trauchgau operates a Fourdrinier machine at its Halblech mill.

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