

GPI starts commercial operations at Waco mill

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Graphic Packaging International's (GPI) recycled paperboard mill in Waco, Texas, produced its first commercially saleable rolls in October 2025. The facility was opened ahead of schedule and is described by GPI as the "world's most efficient and highest-quality recycled paperboard manufacturing facility outside the Kalamazoo facility in Michigan". At the Kalamazoo site, GPI invested \$600m in a new coated recycled board (CRB) machine which came into operation in 2022. The \$1bn investment in Waco is designed to support GPI's transition to more sustainable and cost-efficient production. Full output of 450,000 tpy is expected within 12-18 months, while start-up costs are estimated at \$65-75m.

Concurrently, GPI discontinued operations at Middletown, Ohio, in May 2025 and will permanently close the East Angus mill in Québec on 23 December 2025. Taken together, these closures will nearly offset the new Waco capacity, leaving a net increase of less than 70,000 t of CRB, which is not expected to affect overall market balance, said GPI.

International division benefits from European investments

In Europe, GPI strengthened its production base with a major upgrade at its Poznań, Poland, plant. The company invested in six new high-tech systems to expand capacity and enhance efficiency in premium beauty and food packaging. The facility now offers increased capabilities, including multiple varnish options, inline cold foiling and advanced anti-counterfeit coding. For food and private-label customers, new automation, robotics and process-optimised lines are designed to support high-volume, low-waste and cost-efficient production.

Weaker Americas performance weighs on Q3 results

In the third quarter of 2025, GPI's net sales declined by 1 per cent to \$2.19bn, reflecting lower prices and volumes in the Americas, partly offset by stronger deliveries in the International division. Overall packaging shipments fell by about 2 per cent.

Sales in the Food and Household segments remained stable, while Beverage and Foodservice packaging were weaker. The Health & Beauty segment continued to perform strongly. GPI's adjusted Ebitda decreased to \$383m from \$433m in Q3 2024, mainly due to lower prices and volumes as well as higher input and inflationary costs.

In the Americas division, net sales fell reflecting weaker pricing and volume trends, with higher commodity costs further pressuring margins. The availability of low-priced bleached fresh-fibre board negatively impacted GPI's deliveries in the region, the company stated.

In contrast, the International division achieved higher sales driven by conversions to sustainable consumer packaging solutions, volume growth and favourable currency effects, partially offset by lower pricing and product mix.

For the full year 2025, GPI expects net sales of \$8.4-8.6bn and adjusted Ebitda of \$1.4-1.45bn. The guidance revision reflects a weaker-than-ex-pected year-to-date performance, production adjustments to align output with demand (about \$15m impact) and ongoing market volatility and uncertainty, said Michael Doss, the company's President and CEO.

GPI operates more than 100 facilities, 69 of which are in the USA, 36 in Europe, 9 in the APAC region.

Falling pulp and paper prices weigh heavily on The Navigator Company's third-quarter results

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The Navigator Company recorded a substantial drop in earnings in the first nine months of 2025. Falling prices for paper and pulp significantly impacted profitability. Sales fell by 5 per cent to €1.49bn (Jan-Sept 2024: €1.57bn). Operating profit fell by 45 per cent to €174m (€317m), while net profit halved to €118m (€241m). In the third quarter, Navigator generated sales of €470m (€503m), an operating profit of €37m (€91m) and a net profit of €33m (€83m).

The company refers to a challenging market environment in the reporting period. Falling pulp prices, especially in China, weaker demand for fine paper and continuing price pressure in Europe weighed on business. The average BHKP net price in China was \$502/t in the third quarter, around 15 per cent below the previous year's figure, while the average list price stood at \$1,180/t (-12 per cent) in Europe. Sales prices for woodfree uncoated paper also fell by 8 per cent.

Navigator also reported higher logistics and financial costs, but lower energy and chemical prices. Production in Setúbal was temporarily restricted after the fire in July, resulting in a loss of around 25,000 t of pulp. The consequences were limited because stocks were reduced and operations resumed in full in mid-August, according to the company's report.

The decline in earnings was partially offset by cost reductions, efficiency programmes and stable sales volumes in tissue and packaging papers. Production costs for pulp and tissue reached their second-lowest level since mid-2021 at the end of the third quarter, while paper costs were at their lowest in two years, according to the report.

In its largest business area, printing and writing paper, Navigator sold 959,000 t (+1 per cent) in the first nine months. Navigator says demand in Europe fell by 6 per cent, but its market share rose slightly to 26 per cent. Capacity utilisation was 87 per cent, slightly higher than in the previous year.

In the pulp business, Navigator sold 258,000 t of market pulp in the first nine months of the year, 7 per cent less than in 2024. The main reason for this decrease in deliveries was the production outage in Setúbal.

Tissue remained a growth driver. Navigator sold 177,000 t in the reporting period, with sales rising by 17 per cent. The integration of the British subsidiary Navigator Tissue UK and synergies between the Iberian and British sites had a positive effect.

In the packaging paper segment, sales volume rose by 7 per cent in the nine-month period. According to Navigator, the conversion

of PM 3 in Setúbal should make it one of the four largest European manufacturers of lightweight packaging paper.

Investment volume in the first nine months amounted to €160 million, around 60 per cent of which was spent on sustainability and efficiency projects. These include a new chemical recovery plant and the conversion of lime kilns to biomass in Setúbal, Aveiro and Figueira da Foz.

The company expects a slight market recovery in the fourth quarter, particularly for pulp, tissue and packaging papers. Navigator believes pulp prices in China have bottomed out and are picking up again. The market for printing and writing paper, by contrast, remains tense and continues to be characterised by a structural decline in demand and further capacity closures in Europe, the company explains.

The Navigator Company results				
million €	July - September		January - September	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Key figures				
Sales	470	503	1,489	1,569
EBITDA	84	133	300	431
Operating result	37	91	174	317
Net result	33	83	118	241
Deliveries, 1,000 t				
Market pulp deliveries	90	96	258	277
Paper deliveries	316	275	959	948
Tissue deliveries	58	62	177	155
Source: The Navigator Company				

Low pulp prices impact Altri's third-quarter results

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Portuguese pulp producer Altri continued to face an unfavourable environment in the global pulp market in Q3. The company points in particular to significantly lower average pulp prices, a weakened macroeconomic backdrop following changes in US trade policy, and stronger competitive pressure from China. Additional pulp capacity and improved access to raw materials in China are said to have prevented any meaningful price recovery, even though demand showed some positive signals during the quarter.

Against this background, Altri's sales fell by 20 per cent year-on-year to €165m in the Q3 of 2025 (Q3 2024: €207m). Ebitda dropped to €12m, well below the prior-year figure of €56m. The company posted a net loss of -€1.7m for the quarter, compared with a profit of €28m in Q3 2024.

In the market for bleached hardwood kraft pulp (BHKP), price developments remained clearly negative. The European PIX benchmark fell to €884/t, 15 per cent below the previous quarter and 30 per cent below Q3 2024. BHKP prices in US dollars decreased by 12 per cent compared with Q2; the September level stood at \$1,000/t.

Global demand for BHKP, by contrast, developed positively, increasing by 8.8 per cent in the first nine months of the year, driven mainly by China, the rest of Asia/Africa and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, this improvement was not sufficient to offset the negative factors of additional local capacity in China and only sluggish growth in global paper markets, Altri notes.

Demand for dissolving pulp remained 1.2 per cent below the previous year's level in the first eight months. Altri attributes this to uncertainty surrounding US trade policy on textiles from Asia, which had led to significant declines in the first half of the year. The market stabilised in Q3, and net prices in China moved slightly above \$800/t.

For Q4, Altri expects a cautious recovery in paper-grade pulp prices. With uncertainty around US measures easing, global demand is showing more momentum. Prices in China and Europe fell to low points over the summer but have recently seen slight improvements.

The group intends to continue focusing on cost optimisation in 2025. Its ongoing diversification projects are progressing as planned, e. g. the conversion of the Biotek mill to dissolving pulp by the end of 2026 and the project for the recovery and utilisation of bio-based chemicals at the Caima site, scheduled for completion in H1 2026.

Altri results

million €	July - September		January - September	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Key figures				
Sales	165	207	538	670
Cellulosic fibres	128	173	433	561
EBITDA	12	56	69	180
Operating result	0,2	41	35	134
Net result	-1.7	27	12	90
Business area review				
Pulp production, 1,000 tonnes	275	263	811	815
BHKP, 1,000 tonnes	241	231	716	727
DWP, 1,000 tonnes	34	32	95	88
Pulp deliveries, 1,000 tonnes	271	253	806	828
BHKP, 1,000 tonnes	244	220	712	728
DWP, 1,000 tonnes	27	33	94	100

Source: Altri

Woodland Pulp takes market-related downtime

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US pulp producer Woodland Pulp has temporarily halted hardwood and softwood pulp production at its mill in Baileyville, Maine, due to falling pulp prices and a challenging market situation. This highlights once again the difficult conditions in the global pulp market, which has already prompted numerous producers worldwide to implement temporary shutdowns.

The market-related production downtime at Woodland Pulp is taking place from 20 November until mid-December, various local newspapers report, citing information provided by the company. The restart of operations is planned for 17 December. The tissue mill operated by St. Croix Tissue at the same site will continue operating as normal during this period, according to media reports.

The decision to take a market-related downtime was not influenced by the additional tariffs imposed on Canadian paper and forest products by the Trump administration, but is based solely on the current situation in the pulp market, a company spokesperson is quoted saying. In this context, Woodland Pulp had to temporarily lay off around 150 employees. The company did not respond to EUWID's request for a comment.

The Woodland Pulp mill in Baileyville was part of US pulp and paper manufacturer Domtar until 2010, before it was acquired by the investment company IGIC for \$60m. At that time, the mill produced exclusively hardwood pulp and had an annual capacity of 395,000 t.

Woodland Pulp can currently produce approximately 450,000 tpy of which some 70,000 t are consumed by the affiliate company St. Croix Tissue. The company did not only increase its production capacity but also diversified its product portfolio to include bleached softwood kraft pulp.

Ahlstrom maintains stable earnings in weak markets

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Ahlstrom ended the first nine months of this year with earnings that were broadly in line with last year's level. The fibre-based speciality materials producer reported comparable Ebitda of €370m for January to September (2024: €343m), with operating profits rising to €131m (€111m). Ahlstrom once again booked a post-tax loss of €39m (-€47m). Group sales revenues reached €2.22bn (€2.26bn).

Ahlstrom's results received a strong boost from the acquisition of Pixelle Specialty Solutions' Stevens Point mill in the US. According to the company, the transaction had a notably positive impact on Ebitda, which would otherwise merely have been flat. Market conditions in the reporting period continued to be weak.

Ahlstrom reports that, despite the challenging market backdrop, it managed to increase sales revenues by 4 per cent. In addition, the company said that disciplined pricing and tight cost control allowed it to preserve its margins.

Shortly after the end of the reporting period, Ahlstrom completed the sale of its Abrasives business to Munksjö as part of its strategy to focus on core activities. As a strategic acquisition in the attractive market for laboratory and life science products, it purchased the US company EBF in Greenville, South Carolina.

Ahlstrom results				
million €	July - September		January - September	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Key figures				
Sales	743	743	2,227	2,258
Operating result	16	36	131	111
Net result	-55	-24	-39	-47
Business area review				
Filtration and Science				
Sales	191	182	589	656
Comparable EBITDA	48	46	137	137
Protective Materials				
Sales	191	199	613	606
Comparable EBITDA	30	35	95	97
Food & Consumer Packaging				
Sales	228	172	591	516
Comparable EBITDA	43	27	104	74
Performance Materials Cluster				
Sales	145	177	476	531
Comparable EBITDA	7	17	23	37
Source: Ahlstrom				

Stora Enso restructures and sets new financial targets

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Stora Enso will adopt a new financial reporting structure as of 1 January 2026 as part of its increased focus on renewable materials and packaging. The company has also set itself new financial targets.

From the beginning of next year, Stora Enso will have only four business areas: Consumer Packaging, consisting of the cartonboard, foodservice and packaging solutions segments; Integrated Packaging, consisting of the corrugated and packaging solutions segments; Biomaterials (pulp, lignin, biobased materials and chemicals), and Other (including wood and energy).

Swedish forest holdings and Central European sawmills and building materials businesses, which are currently undergoing a strategic review, will be integrated into the group's "Other" segment in the future. The wood products sites in Northern Europe that are not part of the recently announced strategic review will be integrated into the Packaging and Biomaterials divisions to align them with the profit and loss responsibilities of the divisions. Stora Enso also recently announced that its Swedish forest holdings will be spun off into a separate company, which is expected to take place in the first half of 2027.

Stora Enso has set new financial targets of an adjusted Ebit margin of at least 10 per cent, revenue growth of over 4 per cent, net debt to adjusted Ebitda of more than 1 per cent and a payout ratio exceeding 50 per cent.

Weak pulp markets hit Suzano's Q3 earnings

Suzano warns of supply-demand imbalance in global pulp market

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Brazilian forest products group Suzano, the world's largest pulp company, is convinced that the global pulp market has reached a critical point. Persistently low sales prices are putting a massive strain on the industry, as producers grapple with high production costs and a structural imbalance between supply and demand, the company explained in a webcast accompanying its third-quarter results. At multiple points, Suzano described the current market situation as "completely unsustainable."

For more than a year now, the industry has been grappling with conditions that have left many producers operating at a loss. The net price of bleached hardwood kraft pulp (BHKP) has hovered around the \$600/t mark for 13 months. According to Suzano, pulp mills representing roughly 15 per cent of global BHKP capacity are presently operating in the red, with softwood pulp manufacturers facing even greater pressure. European mills are especially affected, reflecting their higher cost base.

Market-driven downtime is already becoming more frequent as a result: the number of unplanned stoppages at mills making bleached pulp rose by 40 per cent between July and October 2025 compared with the first half of the year. Just recently, one Brazilian firm announced that it would convert additional capacity from paper grade pulp to dissolving pulp. Northern European producers, especially those in Finland, have also taken downtime. Another significant adjustment on the supply side is likely, the group added.

Suzano added that some relief on the demand side was coming from China. The market there had been marked by caution at the start of the third quarter, with many buyers initially drawing down their inventories. However, demand picked up during the quarter as geopolitical tension eased. What's more, low global market prices meant that Chinese paper producers were relying more on imported pulp rather than running their own, higher-cost pulp lines.

Mixed trends are emerging in the rest of the world. According to Utipulp, European hardwoodpulp consumption declined by 6 per cent compared with the prior-year period in the third quarter. However, demand in North America was relatively robust, primarily thanks to the tissue sector, Suzano added.

BHK prices started to stage a gradual recovery in the third quarter, Suzano said. Market sentiment also improved somewhat, thanks to pulp being excluded from US tariff measures against Brazil and greater transparency about how tariffs will affect the global paper and packaging sector. Nevertheless, prices remained under pressure between July and September. In China, average market prices for hardwood pulp were another 9 per cent lower than the previous quarter, while they dropped as much as 12 per

cent quarter-on-quarter in Europe. The gap between hardwood and softwood pulp prices became much wider in some regions and at times exceeded \$400/t in Europe, fuelling substitution effects. On the whole, Suzano continues to report a clearly oversaturated pulp market and believes that only noticeable capacity closures will restore it to a state of balance.

Suzano's Ebitda and net profit down year-on-year

The impact of these challenging market conditions is clearly visible in Suzano's third-quarter financials. Group sales dipped slightly to BRL12.15bn (Q3 2024: 12.27bn). Ebitda tumbled lower in a year-on-year comparison to reach BRL4.86bn (6.41bn). Net profits thus plunged to BRL1.96bn (3.24bn). While Suzano was still able to reap the rewards of currency effects and strengthened its financial earnings in the third quarter of 2024 because of exceptional effects, the group's earnings were now much lower.

According to the company, the weak performance of its pulp operations was the main reason for the downturn in the group's earnings. Suzano increased pulp deliveries by 20 per cent year-on-year to 3.165 (2.635) million t, but the average export price for bleached eucalyptus kraft (BEK) pulp fell to net \$524/t. At the same time, the company managed to cut its manufacturing costs again by taking steps to improve efficiency: its cash cost (excluding maintenance stoppages) decreased by 7 per cent to BRL801/t.

Suzano is cautiously optimistic about what the final quarter of 2025 has in store. The group has already managed to institute several moderate price hikes on the back of stronger order intake, especially from China. Rising raw material costs faced by competitors in China and Europe are also likely to underpin market fundamentals.

Nonetheless, Suzano warns against having overly high expectations. The latest price hike has been very tentative so far, and "my optimism is somehow limited," stressed Leonardo Grimaldi, Executive Vice President of Suzano's pulp business. As long as the surplus supply does not decline significantly, the upside potential for pulp prices will also remain limited, with further capacity closures seen as the most likely lever for a market shakeout.

Suzano results				
million R\$	July - September		January - September	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Key figures				
Sales	12,153	12,274	37,002	33,226
EBITDA	4,859	6,413	15,330	17,689
Net result	1,961	3,237	13,322	-308
Pulp sales in 1,000 t	3,165	2,635	9,085	7,581
Paper sales in 1,000 t	436	360	1,237	1,005
Source: Suzano				

Polish industry collective sees wood processors under pressure and contradicts government report

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Polish wood, paper and furniture industry collective Koalicja na Rzecz Polskiego Drewna has criticised a recent report published by the country's ministry of climate and environment on the situation of the forestry and timber sector. The report paints a picture of stable prices, growing demand and improved conditions in the industry, which, according to the industry collective, does not reflect actual market conditions. The statement criticises that the ministry's report highlights individual successes of the state forests rather than depicting the overall situation of the sector.

The development is particularly difficult in the pulp and paper industry. The collective refers to an evaluation by the Polish Bank Pekao, which determines that the aggregate financial result of the Polish paper industry deteriorated for the second year in a row in 2024 and stood 18 per cent lower year-on-year. Overall, the result is almost 40 per cent below the record result for 2022, the collective adds. Paper and board producers are said to be particularly affected. The dip in financial figures is mainly a result of weaker demand for paper both in Poland and in the EU, as reflected in declining sales volumes and lower prices.

At the same time, companies in the segment are burdened by high costs. The statement cites sharp increases in prices of raw materials, including wood, as well as energy and wages. Against this backdrop, and despite increased production and export volumes, the economic situation in the industry deteriorated, particularly in the manufacture of pulp and paper. Companies in this product group (PKD 17.1) saw an even sharper decline in earnings than the industry as a whole. The Bank Pekao report speaks of a 70 per cent decline compared to the record year of 2022.

Member associations of the collective add that development of wood prices is a key burden factor for Polish pulp and paper producers. While the ministry speaks of a "stabilization of prices" in 2024, the organizations describe this assessment as misleading. The average price of wood in 2025 was PLN279/m³, reflecting an overall increase of 44 per cent compared to 2019 (PLN194/m³), the collective writes. Member associations criticize that state forests leverage their monopoly-like position and "administratively fix" wood prices, regardless of demand development. For industry companies operating on global markets, such price increases cannot be compensated for by higher sales prices.

According to the statement, the availability of wood is also declining. While the ministry reports an increase in sales for 2024, the association puts timber sales for 2025 at 38 million m³, following 40.2 million m³ in the previous year, and announces even lower volumes for 2026. The dip also affects paper and board production, as the industry is dependent on predictable raw material

availability.

The collective further criticizes the ministry's raw materials policy, which is guided by moratoriums, additional protected areas and other usage restrictions. This policy has a "price-forming and destabilising character" and affects the competitiveness of companies, including the paper-producing industry, which is heavily dependent on stable and sufficiently available supply of wood. The associations explain that the sector could face considerable difficulties in the coming years without a reliable raw materials strategy.

Koalicja na Rzecz Polskiego Drewna represents individual companies as well as organizations from the Polish furniture, sawmill, board and paper industry. The collective aims to support the development of the Polish timber industry, promote sustainable forestry and strengthen wood as an ecological raw material.

Global wood pulp to become \$240bn-market by 2030

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According to a recent study by the US market research institute Allied Market Research, the global market for wood pulp will grow significantly over the next few years, from \$165bn in 2020 to \$242.1bn by 2030, corresponding to an average annual growth rate of 3.9 per cent. The research institute attributes the development primarily to increasing demand from the packaging paper and tissue industries. Manufacturers and brand-owners are increasingly relying on sustainable, paper-based packaging solutions to replace plastic packaging. Continued expansion of e-commerce, growing consumption of tissue and personal hygiene products, and growing urbanisation also has a positive impact on wood pulp demand.

According to the study, the packaging segment accounted for the largest market share in 2020, representing around two-fifths of the global wood pulp market. This segment is expected to maintain its leading position until 2030, driven by strong demand for wood fibre and paper-based packaging solutions in the food, beverage, personal care, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries. The “paper” segment, in which the study authors include newsprint, books, magazines as well as tissue, is also expected to grow steadily, driven primarily by the increasing use of sanitary and household paper.

In terms of fibre type, hardwood dominated the global market in 2020 with a share of around 60 per cent. Allied Market Research writes that this category will continue to record the highest growth rate during the forecast period, estimated at 4.3 per cent annually. Hardwood pulp is preferred for the production of fine paper, sanitary paper and packaging paper with smooth finishing. Consumption of softwood pulp, which is especially used to add strength to cartonboard and corrugated case materials, shows slower growth during the forecast period, but softwood pulp remains an important raw material due to its properties.

From a regional perspective, the Asia-Pacific region was the largest sales market in 2020, with a market share of over 40 per cent. China, Japan and India are among the principal growth drivers, according to the study. For North America, Allied Market Research expects average growth of 3.5 per cent annually, driven by investments in sustainable packaging solutions and modernisation of existing pulp lines. Europe remains a stable but mature market with slightly above-average demand in niche applications. Latin America and the Middle East/Africa have a smaller market volume, but are also expected to grow, especially in export products based on eucalyptus pulp.

The study cites increasing requirements for environmental and forestry standards, which entail stricter requirements for wastewater, chemical use and logging, as key challenges to the wood pulp industry. More stringent regulations are increasing production costs and slowing down capacity expansions in some regions. Limited availability of certified fibrewood and growing sustainability expectations placed on brand companies are also among the biggest market risks, according to the study.

Despite these factors, the market dynamics remain positive. Allied Market Research believes that manufacturers who invest in sustainable processes, recycling and alternative fibre sources will benefit in the long term. The global wood pulp market will remain on a stable growth trajectory supported by a continuous shift towards environmentally friendly paper and packaging products.

Wuzhou Special Paper taps Valmet to convert publication paper machine to RCCM

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Chinese paper company Wuzhou Special Paper has commissioned Finnish engineering group Valmet to convert an existing publication paper machine to recycled corrugated case material (RCCM) production at the company's plant in Hubei, China. The conversion will reportedly extend the service life of the machine and increase Wuzhou Special Paper's production capacity. Commissioning is planned for early 2027. The order value has not been disclosed.

Prior to the conversion, the paper machine produced SC paper with a capacity of approximately 450,000 tpy. Once the conversion is complete, it will have a capacity of 600,000 tpy of recycled fluting and testliner, a Valmet spokesperson said in response to an inquiry, but did not provide any information on the basis weight range.

According to Wuzhou Special Paper, the investment is part of the company's strategy to expand capacity and strengthen its position in the packaging market. Once the conversion is completed, the machine will be the widest corrugated case material production line in China with a wire width of 11.3 m, Valmet said.

Founded in 2008 and based in Quzhou City, China, Wuzhou Special Paper Group is primarily engaged in the production and distribution of specialty paper. According to the information provided, the company is one of the largest manufacturers of glassine and tracing paper in China.

Wuzhou Special Paper had increased its investments in pulp production over the last years. In spring 2025, it announced the construction of a new pulp mill with a capacity of 600,000 tpy at its Jiujiang site in Jiangxi Province. At the end of 2024, the company had already commissioned a new CTMP production line in Jiujiang. According to the supplier Andritz, the fibre line has a production capacity of 1,500 tpy, making it the largest single-line CTMP plant in the world.

Continued downtime at Kruger's Corner Brook mill

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Production at Kruger Inc's newsprint subsidiary Corner Brook Pulp and Paper (CBPP) Mill in Newfoundland and Labrador Province is down with the outage continuing until further notice. According to CBPP's parent company Kruger, water levels in the Grand Lake Reservoir are still too low to operate the Deer Lake Power plant at the capacity required to supply the mill with sufficient energy.

Production at the Corner Brook newsprint mill has been standing still since 3 November. CBPP is reportedly proactively managing the needs of the customers and continues supplying paper from stock. The company said it is continuously evaluating options for alternative energy supply. However, sourcing electricity from external providers would result in significantly higher operating cost and is therefore not a viable solution for the mill as the market situation for newsprint continues to be weak, a spokesperson for Kruger explained.

CBPP mill operates two paper machines with an installed capacity of 240,000 tpy of standard and specialty newsprint grades made from thermomechanical pulp. In the summer of 2025, Kruger unveiled a CAD700m investment project for the Corner Brook mill which includes the option to diversify production to other paper grades. A final decision on the project, which would also require involvement from both local and provincial governments, is still pending.

Chinese Sun Paper Nanning commissions new fibre line

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Chinese paper manufacturer Sun Paper Nanning commissioned a new Valmet-supplied chemical pulp line at its integrated industrial complex in Nanning, Guangxi, at the end of September. According to information provided by the Finnish engineering company, Valmet supplied the main equipment and process design for continuous cooking, sorting, brown stock washing, oxygen delignification, and a three-stage ECF bleaching process, among other things.

Austrian technology group Andritz was also involved in the large-scale pulp mill project, which is part of phase 2 of the Nanning mill expansion project. The systems supplied include equipment for chemical recovery, wood processing, and pulp drying, Andritz said.

Sun Paper Nanning was founded in 2022 as a subsidiary of Shandong Sun Paper Industry. The Nanning site is designed for a capacity of more than 5 million tpy of pulp and paper. The overall project is being realised in two phases and includes capacities for bleached and unbleached chemical pulp, mechanical pulp, packaging papers, and specialty papers. According to information given earlier, the total investment volume amounts to around €2.5bn.

Elopak expands its new US plant in Little Rock

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Norwegian beverage packaging manufacturer Elopak is planning to install a third production line at its new US plant in Little Rock, Arkansas, with a total investment of \$30m. The plant, which was officially opened in spring 2025, marks Elopak's first proprietary facility in the USA.

Originally, the Little Rock site was designed with a single production line, as announced in June 2023. However, due to strong demand in the US market, Elopak revised its plans in early 2025 and committed to a second line, which is expected to be operational by 2026 and generate an additional \$110m in sales.

Elopak now plans to accelerate capacity expansion with an investment of another \$30m for a third line – around a year earlier than originally planned, according to the financial report for the third quarter of 2025. Elopak said that the Little Rock plant achieved its first profitable quarter, which created a sound basis for further expansion of production. The new third line will focus on producing smaller sizes of Pure Pak carton packs, for example for school milk.

IP to close two packaging sites in the USA

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International Paper (IP) has announced further site closures in the US following the recent shutdown announcements in Europe. The company said it would idle its packaging sites in Compton, California, and Louisville, Kentucky, by January 2026. The closures will affect 125 employees in Compton and 93 in Louisville. IP produces corrugated packaging at the two facilities.

The company is currently implementing a comprehensive restructuring of its Central and Eastern European operations. In mid-November, the closures of five DS Smith sites in Germany and one facility in France were announced. Since the acquisition of DS Smith by IP, these sites have been part of the US packaging group. International Paper recently said that all sites in Europe were currently under review.

Germany: Still no signs of demand rebound for packaging paper in November

Further mark-downs for cartonboard but price stability for CCM

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At the end of November, business is still not living up to expectations in the packaging paper and board markets in Germany. And players do not anticipate any substantial changes in the demand situation before the end of the year, either. November was significantly weaker than October, EUWID respondents said. Quotes for recycled corrugated case material remain stable for now, despite the difficult market conditions.

It appears the market for unlined chipboard (greyboard) in Germany has become somewhat chaotic. On the one hand, there are reports of price reductions owing to excess supply. On the other hand, converters say that they are having procurement problems due to machine idling by producers, which is leading to price increases. Some players believe that prices may be up for negotiation not only in December, but further concessions could apply for the 2026 contracts. This is also expected for GD and GC board.

Price stability for RCCM in November

At the end of November, the level of demand on the German market for recycled corrugated case material (RCCM) was relatively stable but subdued, according to industry insiders. Respondents from both sides of the market told EUWID they are not expecting any substantial changes in the demand situation in the final weeks of this year. Therefore, their focus is on the annual talks for 2026, which were in full swing at the end of November and start of December. Producers of brown and white recycled corrugated case material surveyed by EUWID say they are aiming to keep prices stable until at least the end of the year, or if possible, into the new year.

Paper suppliers stress, though, that cost pressure means they have no leeway to make any further concessions. "Nobody is earning money anymore," commented one insider. However, paper producers also feel pressure from the corrugated industry. For their part, RCCM buyers and converters point to the price pressure and prevailing overcapacity.

Market players report that prices for both brown recycled corrugated case material grades and white-top testliner were broadly stable in November.

Insiders from the corrugated board industry told EUWID that production capacity utilisation was not satisfactory. Volumes in October were still decent for the most part, but this trend did not continue into November, insiders said. They attributed this partly

to the ongoing weak demand from end consumers. By contrast, demand from the food industry was relatively stable. Respondents from the corrugated board industry said they had been hoping for more business from the e-commerce sector towards the year-end holidays.

This sluggish business is also reflected in the paper industry, where availability of both brown and white recycled corrugated case material is reportedly sufficient and delivery times are short.

Downward price pressure for cartonboard continues as producers lament weak orders

The market for unlined chipboard (greyboard) in Germany has become somewhat chaotic. Some players told EUWID that prices had been reduced in November and further cuts were planned for December, while other respondents reported rising prices with some customers. The trigger for both trajectories is identical and is attributed to the actions of one market participant. Those reporting further mark-downs for unlined chipboard in November, which includes both producers and customers, say this downtrend was set off by offers on the market that undercut everyone else. Producers seeing an upward trend, on the other hand, say they are receiving new orders because of excessive downtimes and the resulting lack of reliability and planning certainty. Suppliers in the latter group were thus able to increase their prices for some orders.

The one thing all players have in common is the impression that order books are far too thin for this time of year. Although unlined chipboard is not an especially seasonal market, this industry has experienced some uptick around the Christmas holidays in the past. The persistently weak trend since summer is now influencing volume planning for 2026. After the first half of 2025, players believed they had reached a “bearable baseline,” which would continue for the time being. In the meantime, though, EUWID respondents are no longer sure if 2026 will bring stable sideways development or if the market will weaken further. Moreover, pricing agreements for unlined chipboard have ever-shorter terms. Some players therefore expect that prices may be up for negotiation not only for December but that further concessions may be introduced in the agreements for 2026.

On the white-lined chipboard (GD) market in Germany, it is expected that the annual talks for 2026 will lead to lower prices for GD 2 at the start of the new year. The negotiations are still ongoing, but the direction of the outcome seems clear. Here, too, the order situation in the current phase of the year is disappointing, respondents say.

Folding boxboard producers (GC) had continuously made concessions in recent weeks and did not present any written demands for the new year, so it looks like it will be impossible to keep prices stable as of 1 January 2026. So far, a market-wide trend is not discernible, but no companies are saying they expect price stability at the start of 2026.

Folding boxboard deliveries from Asia continued to be mentioned by EUWID respondents. It is also cited by buyers in the negotiations, mainly to put pressure on Scandinavian suppliers, even though there is not actually that much use of Asian board.

Market participants are also increasingly noticing that prices of Asian goods are highly volatile. Rock-bottom prices apply only for brief periods, EUWID was told. It remains to be seen if and how the pending implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will affect the GC board segment. Overall, the folding cartons industry currently reports a high number of tenders on the

market. Tenders are occurring on ever-shorter cycles and include demands that various EUWID respondents described as “absurd” or “unreal.”

EUWID Price Watch Germany			
November 2025			
Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
A4 C-grade, branded paper	780 - 870	790 - 880	970 - 1,010
A4 C-grade, non-branded paper	770 - 820	780 - 830	930 - 960
Offset sheets 80 g	910 - 980	910 - 990	1,040 - 1,130
Offset reels 80 g	880 - 920	880 - 930	970 - 1,030
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	890 - 970	900 - 990	1,040 - 1,120
Reels, double coated, 100 g	860 - 900	870 - 910	960 - 1,000
Publication paper			
Newsprint 45 g (coldset)	580 - 600	580 - 600	600 - 630
Newsprint 42.5 g (coldset)	590 - 610	590 - 610	610 - 640
Newsprint 45 g (heatset)	575 - 600	575 - 600	600 - 630
LWC offset 60 g	770 - 800	770 - 800	780 - 820
SC offset 56 g (A)	670 - 690	670 - 690	680 - 710
SC rotogravure 56 g (A)	670 - 695	670 - 695	680 - 710
Corrugated case material			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner from Scandinavia 175 g	870 - 900	870 - 900	850 - 870
Semi-chemical corrugated medium ¹⁾	795 - 1,000	795 - 1,000	775 - 1,000
White-top kraftliner 140 g	1,090 - 1,170	1,090 - 1,170	1,070 - 1,150
Recycled corrugated case material			
Schrenz	560 - 580	560 - 580	570 - 590
Wellenstoff	590 - 610	590 - 610	600 - 620
Testliner II	620 - 640	620 - 640	630 - 650
Testliner III	600 - 620	600 - 620	610 - 630
White-top testliner, coated	930 - 950	930 - 950	910 - 950
White-top testliner, 140 g, ISO 70-75	810 - 825	810 - 825	790 - 805
Cartonboard			
Unlined chipboard	795 - 825	795 - 825	815 - 855
GD II	870 - 930	870 - 930	850 - 950
GC II	1,200 - 1,225	1,200 - 1,225	1,210 - 1,235
¹⁾ Prices at the upper end of the range represent Scandinavian primary fibre grades, lower-end prices are quoted for other European grades.			
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Demand dip for thermal papers shapes industry in fourth quarter

Imports from China exacerbate situation / Restructuring in the wings

 03 December 2025 |  ~ 4 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

The thermal paper industry is not fundamentally in poor shape at present, but companies remain cautious. Paper mills and converters continue to face pressure to consolidate and transform. Europe's ongoing economic weakness is also dampening any pre-Christmas optimism. Market participants expect noticeable changes in 2026. Thermal paper manufacturers emphasise that margins must improve. In turbulent market constellations, profitability deteriorates significantly – and in a structurally shrinking market, this pressure becomes even more acute.

Manufacturers of thermal paper segment are under pressure as demand and capacity utilisation are weak. Growth in 2022 was followed by a crash in demand in 2023, from which market have not recovered to date; so low demand and weak capacity utilisation continued through 2025, too. The ticket and POS segments have been hit particularly hard.

For the POS sector, industry players expect a contraction of at least 5 per cent, in some cases more than 10 per cent – largely as a result of ongoing digitalisation. For 2026, industry insiders do not expect a sudden slump in demand, but they rather foresee another slight decline in the POS business. The industry must adapt to permanently lower volumes, insiders commented.

A different picture emerges for labels: despite the persistently weak economic and consumer climate, market participants are reporting a slight recovery in 2025. The label business remains stable and, depending on application, is even shows mild growth.

As in the packaging industry, players are hoping for further growth momentum but warn against overly optimistic expectations. The recovery in label applications is expected to continue in 2026, largely driven by innovation.

Consolidation pressure versus growth potential

Against this backdrop, paper mills and converters are under pressure to improve profitability. Underutilisation and high costs have already led to closures, capacity reductions, and acquisitions – and these drivers remain relevant. At the same time, companies are examining ways to expand existing markets. This requires portfolio adjustments and realignment of production capacities. Some mills are exploring opportunities in inkjet grades or flexible packaging papers.

Experts point out that barrier papers have become a megatrend in the industry, and the sector considers itself sufficiently well

positioned through investments and suitable product offerings to respond to shifting demand.

In the traditional POS business, demand continues to migrate towards phenol-free products. Outside the EU, BP-S-containing papers remain in use, but demand for phenol-free alternatives is also increasing globally. Global suppliers have meanwhile also adapted their offerings accordingly.

Tariffs are a necessary protective measure, not protectionism

Experts consistently describe a market shaped by intense consolidation and transformation pressure, compounded by high raw material and logistics costs as well as fierce competition.

Potential relief measures, such as lower industrial power prices, are considered little more than “a drop in the ocean”.

Consequently, the thermal paper industry faces substantial challenges heading into 2026, stakeholders agree.

European thermal paper producers are also confronted with rising import pressure, particularly from China, which is significantly affecting market structures. Finished goods in both the POS and label sectors in particular are creating competitive strain for domestic manufacturers. The European Thermal Paper Association (ETPA), which represents EU producers with mills located largely in Germany, Finland, France and Spain, speaks of unfair competition stemming from state-subsidised production and export incentives.

In response, ETPA members have launched an initiative pushing for countervailing duties on thermal paper imports from China. According to ETPA, the European Commission opened an anti-subsidy investigation on 7 November 2025, which experts see as a signal that punitive tariffs are now within reach.

Even with tariffs, Chinese suppliers are expected to continue to aim to secure business in Europe. Insiders note that tariffs on Chinese deliveries are increasingly discussed in other world regions as well, and are not interpreted as protectionism, but as a reaction to unfair competition.

European thermal paper producers brace for further restructuring and price battles

European paper mills and processors are currently having a hard time staying profitable, market experts agree. Despite restructuring measures already implemented, the overall situation remains tense. Restructuring, job cuts and capacity reductions remain on the agenda, market experts emphasize.

Industry players stress that cost-covering prices are essential for stabilisation. However, this has not been achievable in all cases, even though a sharper price decline was avoided. And despite massive demands for price increases, thermal papers prices eased slightly over the course of 2025.

Suppliers of thermal papers concede that price increases are difficult to implement in the current environment. Due to the prevailing oversupply, price pressure is expected to remain in late 2025. The increases announced in spring 2025 have contributed

to stabilisation, and several paper mills are now preparing further price hikes for the first half of 2025 in order to achieve and defend viable price levels.

At least temporary stabilisation in German sawdust and woodchips prices

Upcoming sawmill stoppages might quickly reverse trend

 03 December 2025 |  ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

After the unusually steep increases seen in contracts concluded by mid-October 2025 for October or fourth quarter deliveries, prices for sawdust and woodchips in Germany have changed only marginally. At the beginning of November, some of the lower prices reported in individual cases were adjusted upward to match the now relatively uniform average level observed in various regions. Similar adjustments could emerge in December, as well.

Further price movements have been limited by the high number of quarterly contracts which kept prices fixed until year-end or, in some cases, into January. Although individual sawmills have recently tabled higher asking prices, in some cases well above current levels, they have largely been unable to push them through.

Negotiations for deliveries in January or the first quarter are expected to begin only shortly before Christmas. Several buyers also want to postpone talks until early January in order to gain a clearer picture of the supply situation. Key factors include the level of production activity in the sawmilling industry and the resultant supply of sawmill residues, price developments in the pellet markets and pellet manufacturers' negotiation latitude, changes in stock levels, and the options for switching towards alternative assortments of industrial roundwood.

Given the ongoing tightness in roundwood supply and the difficult situation on the sales markets, the sawmilling industry is expected to shut down production at the end of the third week of December and resume operations only in early January or during the second week of January. Many mills will be standing idle for three weeks; even longer stoppages might also result from earlier shutdowns or later restarts.

The pellet industry has improved its supply of sawmill residues in recent weeks through active purchasing. Mills equipped with suitable conditioning technology have also built up substantial stocks of woodchips and industrial roundwood, which are in some cases sufficient to bridge temporary gaps in supply. Current demand from pellet manufacturers have decreased slightly due to weather-related restrictions in production.

The fire at the Erndtebrück pellet plant near Siegen, Germany, has had little impact so far, while the start-up of the Kerkingen pellet facility has removed significant volume of sawdust from the market.

Overall, the pellet markets appears to be slowing down. Prices are no longer rising as fast, and demand is returning to normal. Nonetheless, pellet producers’ procurement strategies will remain a decisive factor for the next round of sawdust price negotiations. For woodchips, is remains to be seen to what extent reduced purchasing among pulp and paper companies will free up volumes in the weeks ahead.

EUWID Price Watch Sawmill Residues Germany					
November 2025					
€/loose m ³	27 Nov 2025	16 Oct 2025	09 Sep 2025	11 Nov 2024	% change 2025/2024
Southern Germany					
Woodchips*	19.50 - 21.50	19.50 - 21.00	16.00 - 18.50	14.00 - 16.50	+ 34.4
Sawdust*	20.00 - 22.00	20.00 - 22.00	14.00 - 16.50	11.30 - 12.80	+ 74.3
Northern/Western Germany					
Woodchips*	20.00 - 22.00	20.00 - 22.00	17.00 - 19.00	15.50 - 18.50	+ 23.5
Sawdust*	21.00 - 22.50	21.00 - 22.50	16.00 - 18.00	13.70 - 15.20	+ 50.5
Eastern Germany					
Woodchips*	19.50 - 21.00	19.50 - 21.00	16.00 - 18.50	14.50 - 16.50	+ 30.6
Sawdust*	20.00 - 21.00	20.00 - 21.00	14.00 - 16.00	11.30 - 12.80	+ 70.1
* without bark					
Average prices for sawmill residues sold to industrial clients. ex mill					
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COPACEL: AI offers advantages and opportunities, risks and obstacles remain to be considered

 **EUWID** + 03 December 2025 |  ~ 3 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

“Artificial intelligence (AI) represents an opportunity for the paper industry,” summarised Christian Ribeyrolle, President of the French paper industry association COPACEL, at the “Industry and AI: Revolution or Evolution?” conference held as part of the Paper Days organised by the paper technology association ATIP on 27 and 28 November 2025. The introduction of AI technology has already begun, and it is already becoming integrated into the complex and highly automated industrial environment of the paper industry. However, the opportunities are also accompanied by obstacles and risks in terms of the profitability of investments in AI, cyber security and data protection, as well as training and the necessary skills, Christian Ribeyrolle continued.

Process optimisation, maintenance, safety: AI already brings advantages in some areas

Among the most important advantages that AI can offer in the complex processes of paper production, COPACEL cites improvements in process optimisation. AI enables the continuous analysis of thousands of data points from machines, far beyond what a person operating the machine could ever record. AI has already been used in several plants to optimise boiler control and sheet drying. This has resulted in reduced energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.

AI can also help to avoid unplanned technical downtime, thereby enabling significant savings, according to the association president in his summary. By analysing vibrations, temperatures and noises, AI can predict failures before they occur. This improves machine availability and optimises spare parts management.

Thirdly, AI can make a valuable contribution to the safety of operating personnel in production facilities in the paper industry. AI can identify risk situations, analyse movements in the machine area, check the presence of personal protective equipment or support operating personnel in sensitive tasks. It increases safety without complicating daily work.

Profitability and data security are risks; the paper industry needs investment capability

Of the obstacles encountered in introducing AI, however, three are of particular concern to industrial companies. French paper manufacturers see uncertainties regarding the profitability of AI. The costs of using AI are anything but negligible, the association president points out. In addition to the actual software components, there are costs for installing new sensors and networks, for technical support and for training teams. However, the real obstacle for the association is not so much the costs as the financial uncertainties. AI does not guarantee a return on investment, as its performance depends heavily on the quality of the data, the

level of digitalisation at the site and the type of processes. Financing a process whose future profitability is uncertain must be carefully considered, according to Christian Ribeyrolle.

Cybersecurity and data protection pose further risks and obstacles for the paper industry. AI requires greater networking of IT systems, which exposes paper mills to the risk of cyber attacks and problems with handling confidential data, explains the association president. Process data and manufacturing parameters are sensitive information that represent a real competitive advantage. Entrusting this data to external solutions, even if they are secure, gives rise to legitimate concerns.

Thirdly, there is the issue of employee training and skills. AI is changing the way we work, requiring hybrid skills that combine process knowledge, data analysis and IT. There are few employees who have these skills, and many workers are afraid of AI because it involves new tools, new interfaces and, in some cases, a new language. Without adequate support, this new technology could be perceived as too complex or unsettling, the association points out.

Addressing the French authorities and the public sector, COPACEL points out that the French paper industry is caught between massive regulatory investments, increasing administrative complexity and one of the highest tax burdens in Europe. "For our industry, already facing significant energy constraints, aggressive competition and a need for rapid modernisation, each additional percentage point of levies reduces margins and hinders the ability to invest, particularly in the field of AI", Mr Ribeyrolle concluded. "To take the next technological step, our mills need visibility, stability and favourable tax conditions."

Cost efficiency and sustainability becoming more important for players in the tissue market in Germany

 **EUWID** + 03 December 2025 |  ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

There was stable to slightly higher demand for tissue paper products on the German market in October and November, which is the typical seasonal uptick in ordering. Moreover, some players in the market said they were noticing a noticeable rebound in the private-label segment. A number of producers reported seeing higher demand in the away-from-home (AFH) segment in particular.

Overall, the tissue market in Germany is showing slight decreases. Over the January-September 2025 period, figures from industry association Die Papierindustrie showed German companies recorded year-on-year declines of 3.4 per cent in production and 3.9 per cent in deliveries.

Some producers claim to have benefited from lower pulp prices, others say their purchase prices for pulp have been moving sideways with occasional slight dips. However, given the ongoing high energy costs, this did not significantly change the overall cost level, they said. Market participants also said they had not received the “proffered planning stability” at the EU level, also with respect to regulations such as the EUDR. The reforms promised by the new German federal government had also not materialised this autumn. These uncertainties are inhibiting companies’ willingness to invest in exploring alternative energy sources and raw materials.

Tissue manufacturers want to make production more efficient and sustainable

The tissue and hygiene paper industry in Europe is in the midst of a reorientation phase. Although customer demand is relatively stable, some producers believe that the constantly changing market environment necessitates adjustments to structures to meet future customer requirements. Some are currently revamping their production equipment and their strategies. To this tune, German producer Fripa started construction work on a new PM 8 at the Miltenberg mill in October.

Finnish producer Metsä Tissue has completed the announced capacity expansion at its paper mill in Mariestad, Sweden, and started full production. In addition, there have been various modernisation measures at the site as part of the group’s “future mill” strategy. At the beginning of the year, Metsä announced the closure of a paper machine as well as job cuts at its paper mill in Kreuzau, Germany.

In October, Essity announced an extensive cost-saving and efficiency programme, including job cuts, aimed at sustainably securing the group’s profitability. At the same time, the company is investing several million euros in the modernisation of its paper mill in

Ortmann, Austria. Sofidel wants to divest its business in Hungary, while it continues to expand capacity in North America.

Cost efficiency and sustainability will become increasingly important, market players say. Some note that companies have been slow to recognise this shift, and not all are equally equipped to implement the necessary efficiency measures. Individual producers therefore hope to benefit from consolidation and to withstand competitive pressure by focusing more strongly on sustainable – and ultimately less costly – production.

German recovered paper exports down 10 per cent

 **EUWID+** 03 December 2025 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

Germany has exported less recovered paper so far this year than in 2024. According to provisional figures from the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), exports of “paper or board for recycling” fell by more than 9 per cent in the first nine months of the year to 1.15 million t. Over the same period, imports increased by 2 per cent to 3.81 million t. Germany thus remains a net importer of recovered paper with an import surplus of 2.66 million t.

Destatis puts the total value of Germany’s recovered paper exports from January to September 2025 at €187m. This corresponds to an average export value of €163/t, compared with €159/t in the prior-year period. The increase was consistent with the rise in recovered paper prices at the start of the year recorded in EUWID’s monthly market reports. Since May, however, prices have been falling again.

In volume terms, the sharpest decline in the first three quarters was observed in exports to France, which dropped by 62,000 t or 19 per cent. Shipments to Austria and the Netherlands were also significantly lower. By contrast, deliveries to Thailand – while still low in absolute terms – were more than eight times higher than last year, and exports to India rose by two thirds.

On the import side, shipments from the Czech Republic to Germany stood out with an increase by more than one fifth. Imports from the United Kingdom, however, fell by almost one third.

Germany: imports and exports of recovered paper

tonnes

EXPORTS

January - September

	2025	2024	Change in %
Netherlands	275,998	330,009	-16
Austria	274,066	330,267	-17
France	255,549	317,220	-19
Switzerland	85,841	82,683	4
Belgium	74,714	64,963	15
Turkey	37,076	28,568	30
India	21,285	12,935	65
Thailand	18,336	2,213	729
Italy	17,009	25,023	-32
Poland	15,062	14,200	6
Rest of the world	71,738	57,324	25
Total	1,146,675	1,265,405	-9
thereof EU-27	946,176	1,112,318	-15

IMPORTS

January - September

	2025	2024	Change in %
Netherlands	880,753	811,369	9
Poland	817,240	792,661	3
France	391,594	418,610	-6
Denmark	337,116	320,859	5
Czech Republic	327,059	267,969	22
Belgium	204,279	249,256	-18
Austria	169,333	148,545	14
Switzerland	168,898	163,655	3
United Kingdom	113,753	163,822	-31
Sweden	106,995	100,233	7
Rest of the world	297,260	303,893	-2
Total	3,814,281	3,740,870	2
thereof EU-27	3,424,728	3,341,385	2

Source: Destatis; calculations by EUWID

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Feldmuehle to exit self-administered insolvency proceedings

 **EUWID +** 01 December 2025 | [Elena Gross](#) |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

German label and specialty paper producer Feldmuehle expects to exit the self-administered insolvency proceedings by the end of this year.

The company informed customers and suppliers of the development on 28 November. According to the communication, the creditors' committee reviewed and approved the company's restructuring plan on 27 November.



Feldmuehle will exit insolvency proceedings by the end of the year

This represents a key step towards [concluding the proceedings](#) in a timely manner. The decision, Feldmuehle notes, confirms the viability of the [measures taken](#) and strengthens the company's outlook for a stable and sustainable future.

[In a LinkedIn post](#), Feldmuehle emphasised that production continues, customers are being supplied without interruption and the business will remain operational.

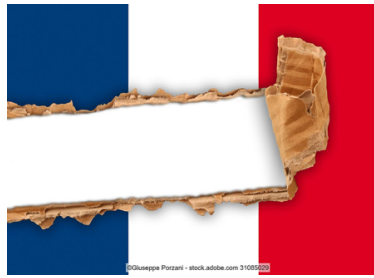
The paper mill filed for the opening of self-administered insolvency proceedings with the Pinneberg District Court on 27 May 2025, and the court formally opened the proceedings on 1 August. In September, Feldmuehle introduced a number of restructuring measures and reorganised its sales operations. Key elements of the programme included adjustments to production capacities, changes in management structures and modifications to the shift system.

Feldmuehle employs around 200 people at its Uetersen mill near Hamburg.

France plans to introduce EPR for commercial packaging starting in 2026

 **EUWID** + 28 November 2025 | [Valeria Buß](#) | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

Starting on 1 January 2026, France plans to expand extended producer responsibility (EPR) to include commercial and industrial packaging, referred to as "professional packaging".



This step has now been formally set out in Decree 2025-

1081, issued on 17 November and based on France's Anti-waste and Circular Economy Law (AGEC). Up to now, EPR rules have only applied to household packaging and, since 2023, to packaging used in the food-service sector. The new rules will cover all packaging "used by businesses that is not yet subject to extended producer responsibility," according to the Ministry for Ecology. The expansion has been under discussion for some time and was originally scheduled to take effect at the start of 2025.

Corrugated board association calls for delay

The French corrugated board association Carton Ondulé de France has warned of the economic and social repercussions of the planned expansion of EPR rules. The association pointed out that 80 per cent of paper and board packaging made in France would fall within the scope of the new rules. According to its statement, the expanded EPR scheme would impose additional costs on the sector estimated at between €74m and €93m, at a time when consumption is already declining.

Carton Ondulé de France also criticises the fact that the draft EPR specification was drawn up without real consultation and lacked transparency. It remained unclear who would ultimately be deemed the "producer" and thus held liable. The association further noted that the sector already achieves a recycling rate of 97 per cent for industrial packaging and uses more than 90 per cent recycled fibres in production, factors that were not taken into account. While the debate about costs was legitimate, the government must avoid creating unnecessary financial burdens, the association said. Higher costs only make sense if "every euro collected is channelled into recycling capacity and additional recycled tonnage," remarked Philippe Durand, president of Carton Ondulé de France. "We support producer responsibility that is sensible, effective and proportionate. Imposing what are effectively tax-like levies on an industry today [...] weakens a French asset and accelerates deindustrialisation," Mr Durand added.

Against this backdrop, Carton Ondulé de France is calling on the government to postpone the implementation of the decree until the definition of "producer" has been clarified at the European level. A delay would allow the development of a harmonised EPR system aligned with EU objectives, the association stated.

Fedrigoni's Varone plant at a standstill due to fire

 **EUWID +** 28 November 2025 | ⌚ ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)

There has been a fire at the Varone mill of Italian paper manufacturer Fedrigoni, located at Riva del Garda in Northern Italy.



The company said the fire broke out on the morning of 27 November on the roof of the paper mill during maintenance

work. It spread over 800 m² but was quickly extinguished. No one was injured and there was no damage inside the factory, the company said.

Production has been temporarily halted and is expected to resume as soon as possible. Fedrigoni stated that the "measures provided for this type of event" are currently being implemented. The company expects that, following the necessary checks, workers will be able to return to their jobs by Saturday morning at the latest.

The Varone plant produces specialty paper for graphic applications and woodfree uncoated paper on two machines with a capacity of 50,000 tpy.

European Parliament votes to exempt print products from EUDR

 **EUWID** + 27 November 2025 | [Konstantin Stoll](#) | ⌚ ~ 3 min | [Published in issue 49/2025](#)



If the members of the European Parliament have their way, print products such as books, magazines and newspapers will no longer fall under the scope of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). At its meeting on 26 November in

Strasbourg, the Parliament voted in favour of the proposed amendment 65, which would delete the entry "ex 49" from Annex I of the Regulation. With this change, the EUDR rules would no longer apply for "printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry, manuscripts, typescripts and plans, of paper." This amendment was approved by a majority of 449 votes, with 202 MEPs voting against it and 7 abstaining.

Three associations representing German news publishers (MVFP, BDZV and BVDA) released a statement welcoming the European Parliament's vote on this exemption: "Parliament has recognised that finished print products are neither drivers of deforestation nor belong within the scope of a Regulation aimed at ensuring that raw materials do not contribute to global deforestation," they said.

The publishers' associations therefore called on the Commission and the European Council to confirm this exemption and enshrine it in law.

In a reaction statement, however, the German association of printing and media companies (BVDM) noted there was still no agreement with EU member states on the exemption and it was therefore unclear whether this change would actually be implemented.

Intergraf questions compliance of imported goods

The European printing industry association Intergraf warns that a potential exemption for finished print products could create a loophole in the EU's efforts to combat global deforestation. The association stressed that the sector had not requested such an exemption, but rather had called for adjustments to make due-diligence obligations workable for printers and their customers.

According to Intergraf, the exemption would have concrete consequences: All paper used by European printing houses – whether sourced in the EU or imported – would continue to fall fully under the EUDR. Imported printed products, however, would no longer be covered by the regulation. Intergraf argues that this would “create a significant environmental gap and undermine consumer trust”.

EU Parliament paves way for one-year postponement

Further, the Parliament also voted at its 26 November meeting to postpone the application of the EUDR by one year, which would give companies additional time to comply with the rules.

In its common position agreed last week, the European Council also proposed that the application date be moved back until 30 December 2026. The Parliament vote had a majority in favour (402 votes), with 250 opposed and 8 abstentions.

If this amendment goes through, major market operators would need to comply with the rules by 30 December 2026, while micro and small enterprises would have until 30 June 2027. "This additional time is intended to guarantee a smooth transition and to allow the implementation of measures to strengthen the IT system that operators, traders and their representatives use to make electronic due diligence statements," the Parliament said in a press release. Moreover, the MEPs requested the Commission conduct a simplification review by 30 April 2026 to assess the law's impact and administrative burden.

The MEPs also support the idea of simplifying due diligence requirements. "The onus on submitting a due diligence statement should fall on the businesses who first introduce the relevant product onto the EU market" and not downstream operators and traders, according to the press release. The changes would also reduce the obligations for micro and small operators, which would only have to submit a one-off simplified declaration.

Final text version to be decided in trilogue process

For the postponement to become finalised, the Parliament, Council and Commission must now agree in the trilogue negotiations on the final wording of the Regulation. The amended version would then be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

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Labour unrest at Cartiere Carrara's Pratovecchio tissue mill

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The employees of the Pratovecchio mill of Italian tissue manufacturer Cartiere Carrara have declared a state of labour unrest (stato di agitazione). This is a form of mobilisation in Italy that can lead to a strike, but does not automatically do so. According to a statement by the Snalv



Confasal trade union, this status is in effect until 30 November – with the possibility of extension. The company management is called upon to respond to the employee's concerns by then. "We reserve the right to call a strike and block overtime if the matter is not resolved," the statement says.

According to Snalv, this action comes as a result of Cartiere Carrara failing to provide answers to long-standing unresolved issues. The employees complain of insufficient workplace safety, staff shortages, stressful shifts, and uneven distribution of bonuses at the national level. The company reportedly presented some proposals on 28 October, but these were deemed inadequate.

Cartiere Carrara is an integrated tissue manufacturer with a long tradition in Italy and operates seven mills in the country. The company runs 10 tissue machines and 60 converting lines, with a capacity of 300,000 tpy of tissue paper.

