

Boxboard Europe

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Top stories

Packaging Focus September: UKL, RCCM prices rise; FBB, WLC prices unchanged

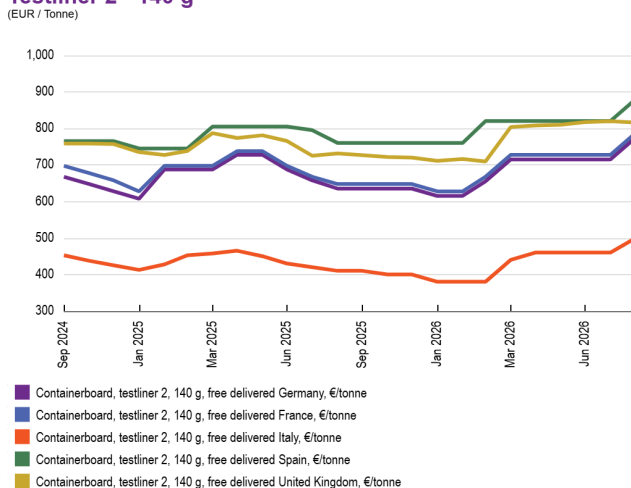
By Andrea Venturini, Daniela Wortmann - Thursday 01 October

Fastmarkets' monthly summary of the European packaging markets showed contrasting developments for containerboard and cartonboard in September. Containerboard prices increased in Central Europe, Italy and partly in Spain, while cartonboard prices remained largely steady month on month.

RCCM prices increase: Prices for recycled containerboard (RCCM) increased by €60 (\$79) per tonne in Germany, France and Poland in September, driven by higher input costs and a tight supply situation. The price increase was split in Italy, with €40 per tonne implemented in September and the remaining €20-40 per tonne expected in October. In Spain, RCCM prices rose by €60 per tonne from mid-September, while they remained flat in the UK.

White-top uncoated testliner prices also increased by €40 per tonne in Germany, France and Poland, while they rose by €35-40 per tonne in Italy. In Spain, they rose by €40-60 per tonne from mid-September. During the month, European RCCM producers reportedly started to receive more inquiries from Latin America, where customers are looking to replace US unbleached kraftliner (UKL) with European UKL and high-performance testliner.

Testliner 2 - 140 g



Source: Fastmarkets

Kraftliner prices also up: Unbleached kraftliner (UKL) prices increased again in continental Europe, for a cumulative increase of €200 per tonne since the beginning of the year. Prices rose by €80 per tonne in Germany, France and Poland in September, while they rose by €40 per tonne in Italy, where a second step is expected to be implemented in October.

Prices remained stable in the UK and Spain, where a similar price increase is expected to be implemented in October.

White-top kraftliner (WTK) prices rose by €60 per tonne in September in Germany, France and Poland, while they rose by €30 per tonne in Italy, and remained flat in the UK and Spain.

Semi-chemical fluting prices were mostly carried over into September with the exception of Italy, where they increased by €15 per tonne on average.

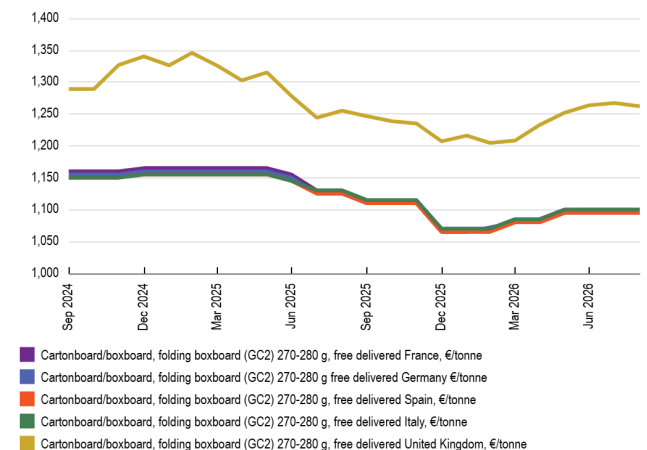
FBB prices remain stable: Folding boxboard (FBB) prices, which rose by an average of €30-40 (\$35-46) per tonne in the second quarter and remained unchanged in July and August, did not move in September either. Market participants reported an uptick in order intake, but rising production costs, overcapacity and undiminished imports from suppliers in Asia created a challenging market environment.

One market participant told Fastmarkets that current FBB price levels were unsustainable and that it was only a question of time until producers would inform customers about plans to increase prices in the final quarter of the year. Meanwhile, at least two manufacturers have announced price increases of up to €100 per tonne from November, and buyers told Fastmarkets they were expecting more.

"The increases are purely cost-driven and I don't think they will go through easily and in one go," one of them said. "There is more than sufficient supply in Europe that is competing with very attractive offers from non-European suppliers. Let's see when and by how much prices will ultimately rise," they added.

Cartonboard - folding boxboard (FBB)

(EUR / Tonne)



Source: Fastmarkets

WLC prices flat for now: On the white-lined chipboard (WLC) side, prices also remained unchanged from the previous month in September.

According to several market participants, business revived somewhat after the end of the main summer vacation period, but ample supply and ever-increasing production and energy costs continued to weigh on manufacturers, and several started to announce price increases for the final quarter of the year.

Germany's WEIG was the first manufacturer that publicly announced plans to raise prices from October 1. The company attributed the move to continued



cost increases for energy, paper for recycling, chemicals and logistics. "The decision is based on a careful assessment of current cost trends and is necessary to ensure the continued efficiency of production and the consistently high delivery and product quality," WEIG said, without specifying an amount for the planned price increase.

A few days later, MM Board & Paper announced a price increase of €75 per tonne across its cartonboard portfolio effective from October. According to the company, the decision came in response to sustained cost inflation and continued margin pressure.

Last but not least, Italy's RDM Group also publicly announced a price increase. The company plans to lift prices by €80 per tonne across its entire WLC portfolio from October.

Market uncertainty, rising costs weigh on European P&P manufacturers' second quarter 2026 results

By Daniela Wortmann - Thursday 01 October

Market uncertainty arising from ongoing trade tensions, escalating geopolitical conflicts and their effects on global macroeconomic conditions, input costs and currency movements continued to weigh on the European pulp and paper (P&P) industry in the second quarter of 2026 and left their mark on the sector's financial performance in the period from April to June.

The results reported by the companies surveyed by Fastmarkets – International Paper/DS Smith (IP/DSS), Metsä Group, MM Group, Norske Skog, SCA, Smurfit Westrock, Södra, Stora Enso, The Navigator Company (Navigator) and UPM – were mostly weaker or roughly on par with the previous year's, and the outlook on the remainder of the business year remained cautious.

IP/DSS results sink: IP/DSS generated net sales of \$6.0 billion in the second quarter, down slightly from \$6.1 billion in the same period last year. The company's loss from continuing operations was \$12 million, compared to a \$75 million profit in the second quarter of 2025. Adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) from continuing operations was \$587 million, down from \$670 million in the same period last year.

According to the company, North American sales increased due to higher prices and volumes, whereas sales in Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) declined amid market softness. It added that its EMEA business focused on cost reductions, transformational investments and preparing for the upcoming business separation.

"Our teams delivered strong second quarter results as execution continued to improve across the company," said International Paper chairman and chief executive officer Andy Silvernail.

"In North America, we improved mill performance and successfully completed the Riverdale machine conversion, while continuing to grow box volumes and remain on track to outperform the market. In EMEA, we accelerated cost-out actions, advanced transformational investments and continued preparing for the separation as previously communicated," he added.

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, the company anticipated continued market softness in EMEA and growth in North America and said its focus remained on cost management and strategic growth initiatives. Its full-year outlook remained positive with targeted EBITDA and operational improvements.

Metsä Group improves profitability: On sales of €2.7 billion (\$3.1 billion), Metsä Group's EBITDA rose to €117 million from €60 million in the second quarter of 2025. The company's operating loss narrowed to €15.7 million from €45.8 million in the same comparison.

According to Metsä Group, cost savings supported the second quarter recovery, and it expects its €300 million savings program to exceed its original target, although lower sales prices and adverse exchange-rate movements offset some benefits.

The company also reported that market conditions remained challenging. Pulp demand was subdued in Europe and China, it said, while paperboard deliveries improved quarter on quarter. Higher oil prices and geopolitical tensions posed additional cost and demand risks, though.

Operational changes in the second quarter included downtime at the company's Joutseno pulp mill, which began at the end of March and continued throughout the review period, the closure of the Suolahti plywood mill and around 200 planned job cuts across the UK, Finland and Estonia.

Metsä Group also opened its €370 million Mariestad tissue mill expansion and launched a program to accelerate the use of artificial intelligence across its value chain.

In its near-term outlook the company said that third-quarter maintenance shutdowns would significantly reduce earnings. "Paperboard conditions improved toward mid-year, tissue demand should remain stable, but pulp, sawn timber, construction-related wood products and greaseproof paper continue to face weak or uncertain demand," it said.

"Metsä Group's second-quarter result improved significantly compared with the corresponding period in 2025, when the new US tariff policy had a particularly severe impact on the profitability of our pulp and paperboard businesses," president and chief executive officer Jussi Vanhanen said. "With the exception of our wood products business, profitability improved across all business operations compared with a year ago, although the level remains clearly insufficient," he added.

MM Group results decrease: MM Group reported year-on-year decreases in its second quarter results. Sales fell to €922 million from €987 million, EBITDA to €96 million from €119 million a year earlier, and operating earnings to €41 million from €57 million.

According to the company, market demand remained subdued, with higher costs for energy, transport, chemicals, and scheduled maintenance affecting performance.

"Overall, we expect the operating environment to remain unfavourable in the second half of 2026, with subdued consumer demand, higher transport, energy, chemical, wood and paper for recycling costs, as well as annual maintenance standstills at MM Kwidzyn and MM Kotka mills which are expected to impact Q3 operating profit by approximately €35 million. However, slightly improving price levels across selected Board & Paper grades, continued growth in selected pharma and consumer packaging applications and a further contribution of more than €100 million from the Fit-For-Future Programme are expected to partly offset cost and market headwinds as well as the impact of the annual maintenance standstills," the company said.

Record RCCM deliveries for Norske Skog: Norske Skog's Packaging Paper segment delivered 122,000 tonnes of recycled corrugated case material (RCCM) in the second quarter, setting a new record and achieving a positive EBITDA margin for the first time in this segment. According to the company, it delivered 52,000 tonnes produced on its Bruck PM3 and 70,000 tonnes produced on its Golbey PM1. It also said that previously announced price increases for RCCM were fully implemented by the end of June 2026.

Norske Skog's Publication Paper segment maintained profitability and market share despite challenging markets and a stronger Norwegian kroner. Deliveries reportedly rose to 280,000 tonnes, up from 274,000 in the first quarter.

All in all, Norske Skog generated sales of 2.6 billion Norwegian kroner (\$271 million) in the second quarter, up from 2.4 billion kroner in the year-earlier period. The company's EBITDA decreased to 73 million kroner from 106 million kroner and its operating loss amounted to 83 million kroner, down from a profit of 74 million kroner, in the same comparison.

"The second quarter confirmed the steady progress in our packaging paper ramp-up, with record containerboard deliveries and the first positive EBITDA margin for the segment. While the stronger NOK and lower other operating



income weighed on reported results, we maintained solid liquidity discipline and strengthened cash during the quarter. With energy refunds received in the second quarter and the NND proceeds expected in the third quarter, we are well positioned to continue the operational improvement programs and develop profitable opportunities across the mills," said Geir Drangslund, chief executive officer of Norske Skog.

SCA results dip: SCA saw its second quarter sales decrease 4% year on year to 5.2 billion Swedish kroner (\$518 million). EBITDA dropped 36% to 1.3 billion kroner, and the company's operating profit by 52% to 724 million kroner.

According to the company, the year-on-year earnings trend was mainly the result of lower selling prices, negative exchange rate effects and higher raw material costs. It added that high fuel prices due to the conflict in the Middle East had a negative impact on earnings in the forest and industrial segments, but contributed to record earnings in the Renewable Energy segment. To address the challenging forest products market, SCA maintained its focus on ongoing measures to control costs and cash flow during the quarter.

"Price increases for kraftliner implemented during the second quarter are expected to have a gradual impact during the second half of the year," the company said in its results statement. It added that its average selling prices increased compared with the preceding quarter and that demand for packaging paper was positively impacted by slightly stronger industrial production and continued strong demand in e-commerce and consumables.

Modest growth for Smurfit Westrock: Smurfit Westrock reported modest sales growth driven by currency effects, but faced margin pressures from higher costs and lower volumes.

At \$8.0 billion, the company's sales were \$91 million higher than in the year-earlier period. It attributed the development to positive foreign currency impacts, which were partially offset by lower selling prices and volumes. Adjusted EBITDA decreased to \$1.1 billion from \$1.2 billion, and the company's operating profit rose to \$309 million from \$251 million.

"I am pleased to report a strong second quarter performance with adjusted EBITDA of \$1,140 million and an adjusted EBITDA margin of 14.2%. The quarter was impacted by significantly higher input costs, particularly freight, which we managed to mitigate through our actions," Tony Smurfit, president and chief executive officer of Smurfit Westrock, said.

He added that, positively, demand for paper remained strong throughout the quarter with a generally excellent supply/demand backdrop, and that the company expects to recover input cost inflation through the second half of the year and beyond.

"Looking ahead, we are very encouraged by the current market backdrop and the significant improvements we have made within our business. With input costs remaining elevated, especially freight, we currently expect third quarter adjusted EBITDA to be approximately \$1.3 billion, and for the full year adjusted EBITDA we expect to be in the range of \$4.9 billion to \$5.1 billion with good momentum through the latter half of 2026 and beyond," Smurfit said.

Headwinds challenge Södra: Södra faced continued market headwinds in the second quarter, which it tried to counter with cost control, efficiency improvements, innovation and sustainability initiatives.

On sales of 7 billion Swedish kroner, down from 7.2 billion kroner in the second quarter of 2025, the company's operating loss widened to 424 million kroner from 389 million kroner. The company attributed the development to weak demand, volatile prices and global imbalances, especially in pulp and sawn timber and said it expected continued weak demand and price volatility although the long-term outlook for sustainable forest products remained positive.

"In our current situation, it is a matter of consistently focusing on the things we can control ourselves. We are taking action across our operations, enhancing efficiency, and growing our business to make us stronger both now and in the long term," said Lotta Lyrå, president and chief executive officer of Södra.

Stable sales for Stora Enso: Stora Enso's second quarter sales were stable year on year at €2.4 billion. According to the company, positive structural changes were offset by lower prices and adverse currency movements.

Adjusted EBITDA increased 15% year on year to €320 million, and the company's operating profit decreased to €16 million from €64 million.

In the second quarter, Stora Enso continued the ramp-up of the new consumer board line at Oulu, with production volumes increasing and full capacity expected in 2027, decided to invest €19 million to increase fluff pulp production at Skutskär, Sweden, with a permanent shutdown of softwood pulp production on fiberline 3 planned for the third quarter, and divested its corrugated board production units in Germany to optimize the asset base.

According to Stora Enso, market conditions remained uncertain due to geopolitical tensions, trade volatility and raw material price fluctuations, and this is not expected to change in the third quarter.

"The second quarter marked another period of disciplined execution in a volatile market environment. We improved operational performance, strengthened customer relationships and advanced several important strategic initiatives. Despite continued market uncertainty, we made progress in building a stronger and more focused Stora Enso," president and chief executive officer Hans Sohlström said.

He added that he was particularly pleased with the progress in Consumer Packaging, where operational performance strengthened further and customer feedback continues to be very encouraging. "We continue to receive positive feedback on both product quality and service, reflecting the dedication of our teams, strength of our customer offering and our significant investments in leading technologies. Creating customer value remains at the heart of our strategy, and it is encouraging to see this translating into stronger customer relationships and faster than market growth," Sohlström said.

Navigator results decrease: Navigator saw its results slide year on year in the second quarter. Sales dropped to €442 million from €490 million a year ago, operating profit to €36 million from €65 million, and EBITDA to €79 million from €101 million.

"The year so far has been marked by a highly volatile business environment, as a result of the worsening geopolitical risks in the Middle East. This scenario has exacerbated the uncertainty in an already challenging operational environment, resulting in a sharp rise in energy prices and repercussions for supply chains, as well as for logistical flows and costs," Navigator said in its results statement.

The company added that in Portugal, business was also hampered by adverse weather phenomena in the first quarter, creating temporary constraints in industrial operations. Combined with lower opening stock levels, these factors limited production capacity and the company's resulting capacity to respond to markets over the period.

In the second quarter, recovery was constrained by scheduled maintenance shutdowns at the Setúbal and Aveiro industrial complexes.

Going forward, Navigator expects geopolitical uncertainty, volatile energy and logistics costs and trade disruption to persist through the second half of 2026.

UPM progresses portfolio change: UPM improved its second quarter results in all businesses and progressed its portfolio change.

The company's sales totalled €2.4 billion, up from €2.3 billion in 2025. Operating profit and EBITDA rose to €217 million from €107 million and to €376 million from €257 million, respectively.

UPM also signed the definitive agreement to create the graphic paper joint venture with Sappi, and advanced the separation of its plywood business into the future WISA Group.

According to president and chief executive officer Massimo Reynaudo, all business segments improved their results compared to the same period last year, with most also outperforming the previous quarter, and increased volumes, margin management and sustained efficiency measures supported

the company's profitability in a business environment that turned inflationary.

"For the Fibres North platform in Finland, the business environment is challenging. Even though pulpwood prices have decreased, profitability remains low. The second quarter earnings were also impacted by the maintenance shutdown at the UPM Pietarsaari mill," Reynaudo said.

"We are planning temporary shutdowns of the UPM Kaukas pulp mill and potentially the UPM Pietarsaari pulp mill, to optimize production and wood sourcing, and ensure profitability," he added.

UPM Communication Papers' business performance was broadly stable, with slightly improved margins.

Mondi earnings drop: Mondi did not report its second quarter results separately, but its statement for the first half of 2026 highlighted challenges and strategic actions amid margin pressures and cost management efforts.

In the period from January to June, the company increased its sales slightly to €4.0 billion from €3.9 billion in 2025. EBITDA decreased to €355 million from €539 million, and the operating loss of €178 million compares to a profit of €303 million a year earlier.

"During the first half of 2026, we made good progress in delivering actions to strengthen Mondi's performance, cash generation and competitiveness, supported by the strength of our quality product offering, high service levels and the agility and commitment of our people. We took strong pricing actions, maintained cost discipline, progressed our plant network optimization program and continued to drive operational excellence across the business," chief executive officer Andrew King said.

He added that heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East caused supply chain disruptions and contributed to higher input costs and that Mondi acted quickly to protect operational continuity, support customers and implement price increases across its packaging and paper products.

"Trading momentum improved through the first half and we enter the second half with higher packaging paper prices, supported by good order books. We expect higher wood costs across Central and Eastern Europe and we continue to manage volatile energy related input costs," King said.

Sappi third quarter results fall: Sappi, whose financial year runs from October 2025 to September 2026, saw its third-quarter results decrease.

On sales of \$1.3 billion, which were stable year on year, the company's operating loss widened to \$177 million from \$5 million, and adjusted EBITDA decreased to \$53 million from \$80 million.

According to Sappi, profitability was pressured by lower selling prices, higher chemical and logistics costs linked to Middle East tensions, and unfavorable exchange rate effects. The company added that demand and pricing for dissolving wood pulp strengthened, supported by favorable viscose staple fibre fundamentals, and that packaging and speciality papers benefited from increased North American paperboard production, while graphic papers remained under structural demand pressure.

Sappi also said that its strategy remains centred on growing packaging and speciality papers, lowering costs, improving operations and protecting financial flexibility amid continuing geopolitical and market uncertainty.

"The quarter demonstrated the benefits of the strategic actions we have been taking across the business. Improved operational performance in North America, together with continued cost discipline across the group, helped to offset some of the impact from weaker selling prices and inflationary pressures," Sappi's chief executive officer Steve Binnie said.

Selected European paper industry financial results: Q2 2026 (€ million) ^{1,2}						
IP/DSS (\$ million) ³	6,004	6,004	-2	18	-81	587
Metsä Group ⁴	1,383	1,573	-3	-16	n.m.	117
MM Group ⁵	922	1,049	-7	41	-27	96
Norske Skog (NOK million) ⁶	2,584	271	8	-83	n.m.	73
SCA (SEK million) ⁷	5,153	518	-4	724	-52	1,303
Smurfit Westrock (\$ million) ⁸	8,031	8,031	1	309	23	1,140
Södra (SEK million) ⁹	6,947	698	-3	-424	n.m.	-10
Stora Enso ¹⁰	2,423	2,756	0	16	-75	320
The Navigator Company ¹¹	442	503	-10	36	-44	79
UPM ¹²	2,440	2,776	2	217	103	376
n.m. = not meaningful						

¹All sales figures are rounded to nearest million. All percentages are rounded to the nearest digit. ²Figures reported in € million unless otherwise indicated. ³Operating profit reported as operating earnings, EBITDA reported as "adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations." ⁴Operating profit reported as "operating result." ⁵Operating profit reported as "adjusted operating profit reported as "adjusted EBITDA." ⁶Reported in NOK, sales reported as "total operating income operating profit as "operating earnings." ⁷Reported in SEK. ⁸Reported in USD, sales reported as sales, EBITDA reported as "adjusted EBITDA." ⁹EBITDA reported as "earnings/loss before depreciation and impairment." ¹⁰EBITDA reported as "adjusted EBITDA," operating profit reported as "operating result." ¹¹EBITDA reported as "operating profits + depreciation + provisions." ¹²EBITDA reported as "comparable EBITDA."

Source: Individual company results.

Investment firms M&G, Arini win EU approval to acquire Italian cartonboard producer RDM from Apollo

By Daniela Wortmann - Monday 28 September

Italy's Reno De Medici (RDM) Group, one of the leading recycled cartonboard producers in Europe, is set to get a new owner.

The European Commission approved the company's proposed acquisition by the UK-based investment firms M&G Investment Management (M&G) and Arini Capital Management (Arini) from its current owner, US-based Apollo Management (Apollo), on Friday September 25. The financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

The proposed transaction was notified to the Commission on September 1 and was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. "The Commission concluded that the notified transaction would not raise competition concerns, given that the companies are not active in the same or closely related markets," the Commission said.

Selected European paper industry financial results: Q2 2026 (€ million) ^{1,2}					
Sales	\$ conversion	Y-o-Y % change 2026/2025	Operating profit	Y-o-Y % change 2026/2025	EBITDA
6,004	6,004	-2	18	-81	587



Cepi appoints Francesca Stevens as new director general following Jori Ringman's departure

By Andrea Venturini - Monday 28 September

The board of the Confederation of European Paper Industries (Cepi) has appointed Francesca Stevens as its new director general.

Stevens takes over the position on Monday September 28, replacing Jori Ringman, who led the association for seven years, since 2019.

From 2020 to 2026, Stevens worked as secretary general of EUROOPEN, the European Organisation for Packaging and the Environment.

"In Brussels, Stevens is a recognized advocate, active on some of the EU's most important policy debates, notably sustainability, circularity, competitiveness and the single market," Cepi said in a statement on Monday September 28.

Based in Brussels, Belgium, Cepi is the main representative body for the European pulp and paper (P&P) industry.

Its mission is to secure P&P industries' competitiveness toward EU policymakers, to represent the paper industry with EU institutions and Brussels-based stakeholders, to improve the image and visibility of the paper industry and other related industries and to be an example of how competitiveness and sustainability can go hand in hand.

"Europe's pulp and paper industry has everything it takes to lead the circular bioeconomy: renewable resources rooted in our communities, world-class industrial capabilities and a strong culture of innovation," Stevens said in a statement.

"Francesca combines a strong command of European policymaking with a deep understanding of industrial value chains. The Cepi board is confident that she will provide a strong, united voice for our industry in Europe," Cepi chairman and Holmen chief executive officer Henrik Sjölund said.

Pankaboard to strengthen cooperation with Polo Paper & Packaging in Central and Southeastern Europe

By Evelina Avramka - Tuesday 29 September

Finnish cartonboard manufacturer Pankaboard has expanded its cooperation with Polo Paper & Packaging to strengthen sales and customer service in Central and Southeastern Europe, the company said in a LinkedIn post on Monday September 28.

Under the move, the Vienna-based trading company will represent the cartonboard producer in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Moldova.

"Together, we can offer customers our full range of speciality cartonboards including high substance folding boxboards, kraftboards and uncoated specialities," Pankaboard said in the LinkedIn post.

Pankaboard, which was founded in 1912, is a producer of niche cartonboards from virgin fibers.

Founded in 1986, Polo Paper & Packaging has a strong presence in Central and Eastern Europe, offering virgin and recycled fiber, paper, board and packaging machinery.

Related News Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe

Valmet launches renewed sizer roll cover portfolio for improved performance and longer running intervals

By Press release - Tuesday 29 September

Valmet has renewed its sizer roll cover portfolio to help board and paper producers improve machine performance, extend running intervals, and achieve more consistent sizing and coating quality. The updated product range with three totally new products introduces new material technologies and application-specific designs that support mills in meeting today's efficiency, sustainability, and cost competitiveness demands.

The Sizer Roll Cover CF product family now includes two new polyurethane covers, Valmet Sizer Roll Cover CF-M and CF-EC, which combine extremely high wear resistance with optimized surface characteristics. Improved material technology enables long regrinding intervals under harsh operating conditions in film and pond sizers. Altogether, the CF cover family offers top performance for container and packaging boards as well as for specialty papers.

The new rubber cover, Valmet Sizer Roll Cover SH-EC, is engineered to give long running intervals with uniform and reliable film transfer, unaffected by hydrophobic sizing agents. The SH-EC cover is especially suitable for containerboard film sizing.

"The covers' wear resistance and surface characteristics have been thoroughly tested in both laboratory and mill conditions. For example, at a mill producing glassine paper, the roll change interval was increased up to threefold while coating quality improved using the new Valmet Sizer Roll Cover CF-M," says Tatu Pitkänen, Global Technology Manager, Roll Covers and Maintenance at Valmet.

Lifecycle support for sizing and coating performance

Selecting sizer roll covers together with Valmet's experts leads to higher production efficiency, improved paper quality, and cost savings. In addition to advanced roll cover technology, Valmet provides a wide range of lifecycle services, including maintenance, process optimization, and digital solutions such as Valmet iRoll, a real-time profile measurement tool.

"Our customers are looking for solutions that deliver stable operation, predictable performance, and longer service life, even under increasingly demanding conditions. With our extensive sizer roll cover portfolio, digital tools, and global service expertise, we help customers improve efficiency, reduce unplanned shutdowns, and maintain consistent end-product quality throughout the equipment lifecycle," says Antti Sutinen, Director, Roll Services and Mill Maintenance Operation at Valmet.

French P&B production rises by 0.6% year on year in January-August

By Daniela Wortmann - Tuesday 29 September

French paper and board (P&B) production rose by 0.6% on a year-on-year basis to 4.37 million tonnes in the January to August 2026 period, according to the latest data from French pulp, paper and board industries confederation Copacel.

Production of graphic paper fell by 1.1% to 504,600 tonnes in the period.

Packaging paper production rose by 1.5% to 3.04 million tonnes, with containerboard output increasing by 4.0% to 2.66 million tonnes; cartonboard declining by 2.5% to 296,800 tonnes; and flexible packaging paper dropping by 35.9% to 87,200 tonnes.

Tissue paper production decreased by 0.7% year on year to 594,500 tonnes for the January-August period.

Pulp production fell by 23.9% year on year to 682,600 tonnes, while paper for recycling consumption went up by 1.7% to 3.40 million tonnes.

French pulp and paper production August, Jan-Aug 2026 (1,000 tonnes)

	Aug-26	Aug-25	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2025	2026/2025 change
Graphic paper	49.0	51.5	504.6	510.4	-1.14%
Packaging	375.5	340.7	3,042.9	2,997.6	1.51%
Containerboard	334.2	307.1	2,658.9	2,557.2	3.98%
Cartonboard	32.4	24.0	296.8	304.3	-2.46%
Flexible packaging paper	8.9	9.6	87.2	136.0	-35.88%
Tissue	75.7	77.6	594.5	598.8	-0.72%
Other paper	23.5	27.6	229.4	239.5	-4.22%
Total P&B	523.7	497.4	4,371.4	4,346.3	0.58%

Pulp production	67.6	115.9	682.6	897.1	-23.91%
Paper for recycling consumption	409.1	394.6	3,395.3	3,337.5	1.73%

Source: Copacel

French pulp and paper production August, Jan-Aug 2026 (1,000 tonnes)

	Aug-26	Aug-25	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2025	2026/2025 change
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Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe Key Attributes

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	980 - 1210	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	980 - 1210
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	700 - 740	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	700 - 740
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	680 - 735	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	680 - 735

Boxboard/Cartonboard Germany Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	980 - 1210	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	980 - 1210
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	680 - 735	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	680 - 735

Boxboard/Cartonboard Spain Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0104	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	970 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	970 - 1220
FP-CBB-0105	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	695 - 720	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	695 - 720

Boxboard/Cartonboard France Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	700 - 740	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	700 - 740

Boxboard/Cartonboard Italy Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0102	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0103	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	680 - 730	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	680 - 730

Boxboard/Cartonboard UK Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0094	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Sep 2026	990 - 1175	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	990 - 1175
FP-CBB-0095	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	1154 - 1370	-5 (-0.39%)	Sep 2026	1154 - 1370
FP-CBB-0096	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Sep 2026	715 - 765	0 (0.00%)	Sep 2026	715 - 765
FP-CBB-0097	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Sep 2026	834 - 892	-3 (-0.35%)	Sep 2026	834 - 892