

Boxboard Europe

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Metsä Board stops production at 210,000 tpy Tako FBB mill as planned

By Sharon Levrez - Tuesday 17 June

Metsä Board stopped production at its Tako folding boxboard (FBB) in Tampere, Finland, on Tuesday June 17, when its BM 1 board machine was shut down, the company said.

The closure is in line with the plans announced in March 2025 to close the mill by the end of the second quarter of 2025, following the conclusion of change negotiations that began in January.

“The decision to close the mill has been a difficult one, and we have aimed to support our personnel in the best possible way during this transition. For example, internal recruitment days have helped Tako employees find new roles within Metsä Group,” Timo Ahonen, the mill’s vice president, said. “We still hope that more job opportunities will be found, depending on individuals’ ability to relocate.”

Tako had the capacity to produce 210,000 tonnes per year of FBB, and accounted for some 13% of Metsä’s annual production capacity, according to Fastmarkets’ Asset Database. Metsä said that production of Tako products had been transferred to the company’s Kyro mill in Kyröskoski, Finland.

Following the end of production, cleaning work and preparations for dismantling the production equipment inside the mill have begun. The dismantling of machines and production equipment is planned to take place during 2026. Machines, equipment, pipes and tanks will be emptied and cleaned by the end of 2025.

The closure of the Tako mill comes at a time when there is ample capacity in the European cartonboard market. Tako was one of the most expensive mills to run in Europe, according to Fastmarkets data.

The mill’s closure is unlikely to do much to resolve the overcapacity in the market, according to market participants. This quarter also saw the ramp-up of a new consumer board line at Stora Enso’s Oulu mill in Finland. The new line will produce FBB and coated unbleached kraft (CUK), with an annual capacity of 750,000 tonnes. Commercial deliveries are expected in the coming weeks, while full capacity is expected to be reached at some time in 2027.

Related News Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe

French P&B production falls 1.7% YOY in January-May

By Andrea Venturini - Friday 20 June

Paper and board (P&B) production in France slipped by 1.7% year on year to 2.75 million tonnes between January and May 2025, according to the latest data from French pulp, paper and board industries confederation Copacel.

Production of graphic paper dropped by 1.5% to 328,300 tonnes during the period, with uncoated woodfree production sinking by 8.2% to 178,300 tonnes.

Production of packaging paper decreased by 3.4% on a year-on-year basis to 1.90 million tonnes during the first five months of the year. Containerboard production fell by 2.4% year on year to 1.61 million while production of flexible packaging and cartonboard decreased by 11.3% and 7.3% to 89,400 tonnes and 206,700 tonnes respectively.

Tissue paper production increased by 6.2% year on year to 371,600 tonnes.

Pulp production dropped by 2.0% year on year to 554,800 tonnes, while paper for recycling consumption slipped by 1.3% to 2.12 million tonnes.

French pulp and paper production May, Jan-May 2025 (1,000 tonnes)				
	May-25	May-24	Jan-May 25	Jan-May y-o-y % change
Graphic paper	66.8	66.6	328.3	▼ 1.5
Packaging	405.5	416.1	1904.7	▼ 3.4
Containerboard	346.1	351.6	1608.6	▼ 2.4
Cartonboard	41.7	42.9	206.7	▼ 7.3
Flexible packaging paper	17.7	21.5	89.4	▼ 11.3
Tissue	76.1	70.4	371.6	▲ 6.2
Other paper	31.4	31.2	150.1	▲ 0.9
Total P&B	579.8	584.3	2754.7	▼ 1.7
Pulp production	132.1	126.2	554.8	▼ 2.0
Paper for recycling consumption	437.8	451.3	2119.5	▼ 1.3
Source: Copacel				

Italian P&B production slightly up y-o-y in Q1

By Andrea Venturini - Wednesday 18 June

Italian paper and board (P&B) production rose by 1.7% year on year to 2.1 million tonnes during the first three months of the year, according to the latest data from the Italian association of pulp, paper and board producers, Assocarta.

Apparent consumption of newsprint dropped by 15.5% on a year-on-year basis to 75,563 tonnes during the first quarter. Meanwhile, production of coated mechanical paper sank by 5.6% to 50,274 tonnes over the period, while woodfree paper production fell by 5.6% to 180,516 tonnes.

Production of tissue paper also slipped by 1.5% to 412,624 tonnes, while apparent consumption dipped by 3.5% to 200,575 tonnes.

For packaging, containerboard production increased by 9.8% year on year to 719,028 tonnes, while apparent consumption increased by 5.5% to 1.2 million tonnes.

Pulp apparent consumption was stable at 733,444 tonnes during the first quarter, while that of paper for recycling (PfR) improved by 8.2% year on year to 1.4 million tonnes. Apparent collection of PfR rose by 3.7% to 1.8 million tonnes during the period.

Italian pulp and paper production, imports, exports and apparent consumption Q1 2025 (1,000 tonnes)								
	Production		Imports		Exports		Apparent consumption	
	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change
Total paper and board	2,071	▲ 1.7	1,369	▼ 3.0	882	▼ 5.7	2,557	▲ 1.9
Newsprint	0	n.m.	76	▼ 15.4	n.m.	n.m.	76	▼ 15.5
Uncoated mechanical	n.a.	n.a.	45	▼ 8.8	7	▲ 9.3	n.a.	n.a.
Coated mechanical	50	▼ 5.6	59	▲ 15.0	67	▼ 10.5	42	▲ 42.2
Uncoated woodfree	n.a.	n.a.	115	▲ 9.0	60	▼ 32.7	n.a.	n.a.
Coated woodfree	180	▲ 5.9	76	▲ 3.9	93	▼ 11.4	163	▲ 2.2
Sanitary and household paper	413	▼ 1.5	18	▼ 2.3	230	▲ 0.2	201	▼ 3.5
Containerboard	719	▲ 9.8	530	▼ 10.5	68	▼ 46.3	1,180	▲ 5.5
Corrugated medium	413	▲ 22.9	186	▼ 10.8	30	▼ 56.2	569	▲ 19.6
Liner	306	▼ 4.1	344	▼ 10.3	38	▼ 34.7	611	▼ 5.0
Cartonboard	n.a.*	n.a.*	266	▲ 6	122	▲ 48.4	n.a.	n.a.
Other packaging grades	536**	▲ 6.5	171	▲ 2.9	219	▲ 5.9	631***	0.1
Other paper & board	61	▲ 1.5	14	▼ 8.2	16	▲ 10.4	89	▼ 1.5
Pulp	n.a.*	n.a.*	772	▼ 1.2	39	▼ 18.8	733	0
	Apparent collection		Imports		Exports		Apparent consumption	
	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change	Q1 2025	2025/2024 % change
Paper for recycling	1,812	▲ 3.7	74	▼ 5.4	516	▼ 7.8	1,369	▲ 8.2
n.a. = not available n.m. = not meaningful. Source: Assacarta								
*Istat, the Italian national statistical agency, does not provide this production figure because of privacy laws.								
**The figure includes cartonboard production.								
***The figure includes cartonboard apparent consumption.								

Swedish port strikes, lockouts expand; Labour Court sides with union again

By Eva Nyman - Wednesday 18 June

Strikes at Swedish ports will resume on Thursday June 19 as the Swedish Dockworkers Union and Ports of Sweden struggle to reach a collective agreement.

Early last week, the union, which represents part of the workers employed at Swedish ports, announced industrial actions targeting specific companies for limited periods of time between June 18 and June 25.

Later the same week, the union updated its list of industrial actions, which are now scheduled from Thursday June 19 to Friday June 27. The actions also include tactics other than strikes, such as bans on hiring and overtime.

Ports of Sweden has answered by announcing lockouts during the same period. This time, the organization — which represents employers — is using a mix of mirrored lockouts, which will take place at the same time as the strikes, and longer lockouts.

The two parties had previously organized strikes and lockouts between May 21 and June 9.

Impact on P&P industry limited: Sources in the European pulp and paper (P&P) industry polled by Fastmarkets have not reported any adverse impact on their shipments due to the strikes so far.

“It was communicated to some extent internally: ‘Watch out, this is happening, this might have a ripple effect on fiber procurement, availability of shipping’. But I haven’t heard anything from customers or fiber procurement. I think it was handled in advance,” one source said.

Some logistics companies, such as DHL Freight and DSV, have informed customers that the strikes will increase lead times.

Labour Court sides with union: The conflict concerns a new collective agreement. Ports of Sweden already signed one with the Swedish Transport Workers’ Union (Transport), which also represents Swedish port workers.

The Swedish Dockworkers Union, however, has refused to sign the same agreement because it is seeking enhanced protection for union workers and employee representatives, as well as improvements for temporary agency staff, it said.

Ports of Sweden argues that the Swedish Dockworkers Union is trying to replace the collective agreement it has signed with Transport and that it is using the strikes for pressure in a legal dispute.

Ports of Sweden has taken the matter to the Swedish Labour Court twice. Both times – first on Monday May 26 and most recently on Wednesday June 18 – the court issued preliminary rulings against Ports of Sweden, finding the union’s actions lawful.

As a result, the court will not block the union from carrying out the most recent set of industrial actions.

Mediation through the Swedish National Mediation Office is scheduled to continue on Tuesday June 24, according to Ports of Sweden.

Mondi to showcase sustainable premium papers at Édition Spéciale by LUXE PACK Paris 2025 from July 1 - 2

- Tuesday 17 June

Sustainability has been a defining driver of innovation and shaping the future of luxury packaging

- Mondi spotlights sustainable premium packaging with PERGRAPHICA, IQ BOARD, IQ GRASS + PACKAGING and NAUTILUS SuperWhite
- Join Mondi at Édition Spéciale by Luxe Pack on 1–2 July at stand G11 and explore keynotes, conferences and workshops focused on sustainability and luxury packaging

Mondi is proud to return to Édition Spéciale by LUXE PACK, France’s trade show exclusively dedicated to sustainable luxury packaging, taking place on 1 and 2 July at Carrousel du Louvre in Paris. At stand G11, Mondi will showcase a portfolio of high-value, high-performance paper ranges tailored to the evolving needs of premium brands, reaffirming its position as a trusted partner in sustainable and premium packaging innovation.

Sustainably made, circular by design

The Mondi papers showcased at Édition Spéciale by Luxe Pack are produced at the Mondi Neusiedler mill in Austria and are optimally suited for luxury packaging. The pulp used, as in all Mondi uncoated fine papers, is sourced exclusively from sustainably managed forests, either owned by Mondi or carefully selected global partners.

All Mondi paper brands produced in Austria, Slovakia and South Africa are Cradle to Cradle Certified at the Bronze level, confirming compliance with circular economy principles across sourcing, production and use. In addition, Mondi has also maintained Platinum status in EcoVadis’ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ratings for the ninth consecutive year, placing the Group among the top 1% of companies assessed worldwide.

“Our return to Édition Spéciale by LUXE PACK reaffirms the trust and recognition we’ve built in the luxury packaging space,” says Bernhard Cantzler, Marketing & Sales Director at Mondi Uncoated Fine Paper. “It reflects our ongoing commitment to purposeful design, tactile excellence and sustainability in premium packaging.”

Feel the Full Spectrum of PERGRAPHICA

At the heart of Mondi's participation is Full Spectrum Feels, the new PERGRAPHICA campaign that celebrates the full spectrum of creative possibilities offered by its premium uncoated design papers. This campaign invites designers, brand owners, premium printers and converters to explore PERGRAPHICA's paper range, offering four shades of white in smooth and rough surfaces, and a broad palette of 31 rich and dark PERGRAPHICA colours in grammages ranging from 80 to 400 g/m². Full Spectrum Feels goes beyond visual appeal, demonstrating how the right paper choice can deepen emotional impact, enhance design expression and add lasting value to premium printed projects.

At Mondi's stand, brand owners can explore how the PERGRAPHICA range can help them express their brand identity through its signature look, feel, and shades. Designed to make a lasting impression, PERGRAPHICA papers offer a sensory experience from the very first touch —ranging from bold to elegant visual effects with outstanding print quality and results with premium finishing techniques such as hot foiling, embossing, and laser engraving.

PERGRAPHICA is ideal for luxury packaging, corporate design, and premium publishing and boasts excellent converting properties, including impeccable creasing and folding. Its extensive portfolio delivers consistently high print quality and outstanding finishing properties, designed for both sustainability and performance.

Mondi papers for premium packaging

Alongside PERGRAPHICA, visitors will also discover Mondi's broader range of uncoated fine paper brands that seamlessly blend sustainability, performance, and visual elegance for premium packaging that reflects responsible brand values.

IQ BOARD delivers excellent printability and dimensional stability, with a smooth, rigid surface that enhances premium finishing techniques and ensures visual consistency. IQ GRASS + PACKAGING, made with up to 30% grass fibres, brings a naturally distinctive look and feel, ideal for brands that want their sustainability commitment to be seen and felt. NAUTILUS SuperWhite, with its impressive whiteness and fully recycled content, offers an uncompromising solution for brands seeking high-performance sustainability without compromising visual appearance.

At Mondi Uncoated Fine Paper, we support luxury brands in creating packaging that is both premium and sustainable, combining texture, tone, print performance and recyclability to bring their vision to life. We are here to show that sustainability and luxury don't just coexist; they thrive together," adds Bernhard.

Metsä Board to showcase lightweight paperboards and 360 Services at FACHPACK 2025 in Nuremberg from September 23 - 25

- Monday 16 June

Metsä Board, a leading European producer of fresh fibre paperboards and part of Metsä Group, will present its premium lightweight paperboards and 360 Services at FACHPACK 2025, on 23–25 September in Nuremberg, Germany (Hall 4A, Stand 116).

Visitors to the stand can learn about Metsä Board's ongoing EUR 60 million investment at the Simpele mill, where a new state-of-the-art coating line is set to start up in October 2025. This upgrade will bring significant benefits in print quality, enabling high-performance food and pharmaceutical packaging that stands out on store shelves. In addition, the use of fossil-free energy in production at the Simpele mill is expected to rise to 98% from 89% by the end of 2025, supporting Metsä Board's 2030 fossil-free targets.

Packaging materials are often included in a brand owner's Scope 3 emissions, making them an important consideration in overall packaging strategies. At FACHPACK, Metsä Board's experts will be available to discuss how different material choices can influence packaging performance and carbon footprint, presenting third-party verified case studies from various end-use areas to illustrate how data-driven decisions can support broader packaging objectives.

"FACHPACK is a key European event for engaging with packaging professionals and exploring the latest technologies and trends. At Metsä Board, we believe that advancing packaging sustainability and performance requires close collaboration across the entire value chain—from forest to end use. We support our customers through tools such as life cycle assessments, packaging lightweighting strategies, and design partnerships. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our stand to explore how our folding boxboards, white kraftliners, and food service boards can help meet their packaging goals", said Marjo Halonen, VP Communications at Metsä Board.

Metsä Board

Metsä Board is a producer of lightweight and high-quality folding boxboards, food service boards and white kraftliners. The fresh wood fibres we use in our products are a renewable and recyclable resource, that can be traced back to Northern European forests. We aim to have completely fossil-free mills and raw materials by 2030. We promote a culture of diversity, equality and inclusion.

Metsä Board is listed on the Nasdaq Helsinki. In 2024 our sales totalled EUR 1.9 billion, and we have around 2,300 employees. Metsä Board is part of Metsä Group, whose parent company Metsäliitto Cooperative is owned by over 90,000 Finnish forest owners.

Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe Key Attributes

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, France	01 Jun 2025	1020 - 1310	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	1020 - 1310
FP-CBB-0100	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, Germany	01 Jun 2025	1020 - 1300	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	1020 - 1300

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0099	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, France	01 Jun 2025	710 - 795	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	710 - 795
FP-CBB-0101	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, Germany	01 Jun 2025	700 - 790	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	700 - 790

Boxboard/Cartonboard Germany Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0100	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, Germany	01 Jun 2025	1020 - 1300	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	1020 - 1300
FP-CBB-0101	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, Germany	01 Jun 2025	700 - 790	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	700 - 790

Boxboard/Cartonboard Spain Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0104	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, Spain	01 May 2025	1010 - 1300	0 (0.00%)	May 2025	1010 - 1300
FP-CBB-0105	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, Spain	01 May 2025	710 - 770	10 (1.37%)	May 2025	710 - 770

Boxboard/Cartonboard France Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, France	01 Jun 2025	1020 - 1310	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	1020 - 1310
FP-CBB-0099	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, France	01 Jun 2025	710 - 795	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	710 - 795

Boxboard/Cartonboard Italy Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0102	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, Italy	01 Jun 2025	1020 - 1290	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	1020 - 1290
FP-CBB-0103	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, Italy	01 Jun 2025	690 - 765	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	690 - 765

Boxboard/Cartonboard UK Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0094	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, UK	01 Jun 2025	1005 - 1210	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	1005 - 1210
FP-CBB-0095	Coated duplex (GC2), 270-280 g, UK, EUR	01 Jun 2025	1193 - 1437	12.5 (0.96%)	Jun 2025	1193 - 1437
FP-CBB-0096	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, UK	01 Jun 2025	705 - 785	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2025	705 - 785
FP-CBB-0097	White-lined chipboard (GD2), 300 g, UK, EUR	01 Jun 2025	837 - 932	8.5 (0.97%)	Jun 2025	837 - 932