

Boxboard Europe

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Top stories

DS Smith to close PM4 at Kemsley Paper Mill, plans to invest \$27 mln in PM6

By Angel Krasimirov - Friday 04 September

DS Smith has announced plans to close one of its paper machines, PM4, at Kemsley Paper Mill in Kent, UK, and invest about £20 million (\$27 million) to modernize and expand the capabilities of its PM6, the company said on Friday September 4.

The investment would allow PM6 to produce new grades of paper at an increased production volume at the UK's largest paper mill, the company said, adding that discussions about timeline and support measures for affected employees are underway and subject to consultation with employee representatives.

"We are announcing a significant investment proposal for the Kemsley Paper Mill to ensure we are delivering the right products to our customers and remain cost competitive. At the same time, we recognise how difficult part of these proposals will be for some of our colleagues and our immediate focus is on supporting them through a formal consultation process," DS Smith's managing director of paper, Rogier Gerritsen, said.

"We are of the view that these proposals would support the realisation of Kemsley Paper Mill's position as a cost-effective, future-ready mill whilst continuing to create long-term value for our people, our customers, and the local community."

The announcement follows several investments at the Kemsley Paper Mill, including a significant upgrade to its fiber preparation line in 2024.

DS Smith runs three machines at the Kemsley mill, whose total capacity Fastmarkets' Asset Database puts at around 937,000 tonnes per year of recycled corrugated case materials, gypsum board and boxboard.

Packaging Focus August: UKL price increase complete, RCCM stable; FBB, WLC prices flat

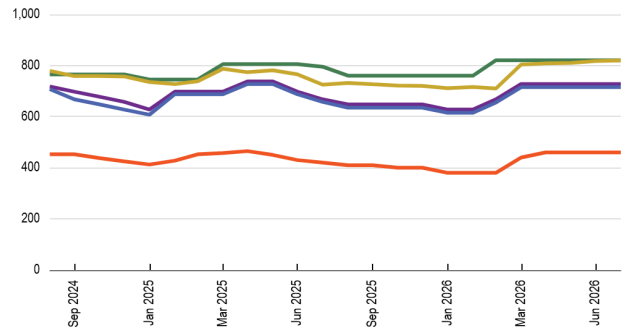
By Andrea Venturini, Daniela Wortmann - Thursday 03 September

RCCM flat: Prices for recycled containerboard (RCCM) remained flat in August in all European markets, despite attempts by some paper producers who asked for a small increase to compensate for higher gas prices in July.

According to market participants, demand improved slightly in August, and the market tightened slightly due to maintenance shutdowns and production curtailments. During the month, Smurfit Westrock and Saica separately announced their intention to increase RCCM prices by €80 (\$93) per tonne from mid-August, citing rising production costs and freight rates behind their decision. RCCM prices rose by €100 per tonne in Germany, France and Poland between March and April, while they increased by €80 per tonne in Italy and by €60 per tonne in Spain. In the UK, RCCM prices rose by £80 (\$108) per tonne in April.

Testliner 2 - 140g

(EUR / Tonne)



— Containerboard, testliner 2, 140 g, free delivered France, €/tonne
 — Containerboard, testliner 2, 140 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne
 — Containerboard, testliner 2, 140 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne
 — Containerboard, testliner 2, 140 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne
 — Containerboard, testliner 2, 140 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne

Source: Fastmarkets

Kraftliner prices on the rise: Unbleached kraftliner (UKL) prices remained stable in the UK, France, Germany and Poland in August, while the second part of the July price increase was implemented in Italy, where UKL prices rose by further €30 per tonne, reaching a total of €60 per tonne over July and August. In Spain, a total increase of €60 per tonne was also implemented over July and August.

White-top kraftliner prices also rose by a total of €40 per tonne over July and August in Italy and Spain, and the same happened with semi-chemical fluting prices in Spain.

During the month, paper producers reported strong order intake due to reduced imports from the US as well as maintenance stops. At the beginning of August, SCA announced its intention to raise UKL prices by €100 per tonne for deliveries as of September.

FBB still unchanged: 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, did not move in August. Market participants reported the usual summer lull and generally confirmed the previous month's prices. "A few manufacturers managed to take advantage of the FOLBB insolvency, for the rest it was a normal mid-summer month," one of them told Fastmarkets.

The FOLBB subsidiaries Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton and Folding Boxboard Eerbeek filed for the initiation of insolvency proceedings in late June. About one month later it was announced that the Dutch mill was to restart production under new ownership. However, the proposed deal fell through. "We regret to announce that the planned restart of the Eerbeek mill has been cancelled," FOLBB said in a statement on social media on Thursday August 20. "As a result, all activities at the Eerbeek site have been suspended with immediate effect," it added.

The investor process for Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton in Germany ended without success as well. On Thursday August 27, the law firm Brinkmann & Partner said that the potential investor had announced that they would not pursue the planned transaction. At the beginning of the following week, local media reported that the Baiersbronn mill would cease production by September 7.

WLC prices steady month on month: On the white-lined chipboard (WLC) side, prices also remained unchanged from the previous month in August. Market participants reported slow order intake and undiminished cost pressure, and several said it was a question of when rather than if they were planning to announce price increases. “The current levels are unsustainable, but WLC producers will be reluctant to announce increases as long as the FBB side remains quiet. The risk that WLC buyers decide to switch to virgin-fiber grades is high,” one manufacturer said.

In mid-August, MM Board & Paper and Italy’s RDM Group surprised the market with the announcement that MM would take over the RDM Arnsberg mill in Germany. The site has the capacity to produce around 230,000 tonnes per year of recycled cartonboard and specializes in liner products. According to MM, the transaction represents an investment in its core business and complements its existing production network. The acquisition remains subject to antitrust approval and is expected to close in the fourth quarter.

French P&B production flat year on year in H1

By Andrea Venturini - Monday 31 August

French paper and board (P&B) production remained stable year on year at 3.85 million tonnes between January and July 2026, according to the latest data from French pulp, paper and board industries confederation Copacel.

Production of graphic paper was down by 0.6% to 456,100 tonnes over the period.

Packaging paper production rose by 0.4% to 2.67 million tonnes, with containerboard output increasing by 3.3% to 2.32 million tonnes. Production of cartonboard dropped by 5.7% year on year to 264,400 tonnes, while flexible packaging paper production plummeted by 38.1% to 78,300 tonnes.

Tissue paper production decreased by 0.4% year on year to 518,900 tonnes during the January-July period.

Pulp production fell by 21.3% year on year to 615,000 tonnes, while paper for recycling consumption rose by 1.5% to 2.99 million tonnes.

French pulp and paper production July, Jan-Jul 2026 (1,000 tonnes)					
	Production				
	Jul-26	Jul-25	Jan-Jul 2026	Jan-Jul 2025	2026/2025 change
Graphic paper	63.3	65.0	456.1	458.9	-0.61%
Packaging	371.6	384.2	2,667.4	2,656.9	0.40%
Containerboard	321.3	326.0	2,324.7	2,250.2	3.31%
Cartonboard	39.0	38.5	264.4	280.4	-5.71%
Flexible packaging paper	11.2	19.7	78.3	126.4	-38.05%
Tissue	74.2	78.4	518.9	521.2	-0.44%
Other paper	29.6	29.5	205.7	211.9	-2.93%
Total P&B	538.7	557.1	3,848.1	3,848.9	-0.02%
Pulp production	70.2	127.8	615.0	781.2	-21.27%
Paper for recycling consumption	405.6	416.7	2,986.2	2,942.9	1.47%
Source: Copacel					

Related News Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe

Germany's WEIG to raise recycled cartonboard prices from October 1

By Daniela Wortmann - Friday 04 September

German recycled cartonboard producer WEIG intends to raise prices from October 1, the company said on Friday September 4. It attributed the move to continuing 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.

The company did not give a specific amount for the planned price increase. “The specific impact will be communicated individually to affected customers within the framework of their respective contractual agreements,” it said.

Asteria Group buys Dutch label maker GT Etiketten & Labels

By Sharon Levrez - Friday 04 September

Belgium-based Asteria Group has bought Dutch label manufacturer GT Etiketten & Labels for an undisclosed sum, the companies announced last week.

The Dutch company, based in Schoonebeek on the Dutch border with Germany, specializes in food labeling, beverage, cosmetics and other markets. Asteria said the acquisition would further strengthen its footprint in the Netherlands, and its location would complement that of existing Dutch production sites.

"GT Etiketten represents exactly the kind of business we want to bring into Asteria: technically strong, flexible and close to its customers," said Ives Declerck, chief executive officer of Asteria Group. "Their expertise adds real value to our capabilities in the Netherlands, while their location strengthens our network geographically."

The move follows other recent acquisitions by Asteria as the group aims to expand its network across Europe. In June 2026, it acquired Mercian Labels, based in Staffordshire, the UK, and in September 2025 it bought another UK company, ProPrint Group, which specializes in self-adhesive and linerless labels as well as cartonboard packaging.

Founded in 1985 as a family business in Heule, Belgium, the group now operates over 40 sites across Europe. Asteria aims to become the leading local partner in the European label and packaging market and a sustainability leader by 2030.

UK P&B production broadly stable at 1.6 million tonnes in H1 2026

By Sharon Levrez - Friday 04 September

UK production of paper and board (P&B) was broadly stable in the first half of 2026, increasing only slightly by 0.14% year on year to 1,607,379 tonnes, according to the latest figures from the Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI).

Production of corrugated case material rose by 2.30% to 708,604 tonnes and production of parent reels of tissue rose by 1.33% to 361,388 tonnes. Production of other papers and boards fell by 3.31% to 537,387 tonnes, however.

UK P&B production, imports, exports Jan-Jun 2026						
	Production		Imports		Exports	
	Jan - Jun 26	% change y-o-y	Jan - Jun 26	% change y-o-y	Jan - Jun 26	% change y-o-y
Corrugated case material	708,604	2.30	578,791	5.61	93,993	47.44
Parent reels of tissue	361,388	1.33	196,784	-4.20	N/A	N/A
Other papers and boards	537,387	-3.31	1,293,332	-0.66	280,692	-8.17
Total P&B	1,607,379	0.14	2,068,907	0.66	374,685	1.43
Source: CPI						

Apparent consumption of P&B rose by 0.30% year on year to 3.3 million tonnes in January-June.

Changes in the Leadership Team of Metsä Board Corporation

By Press release - Thursday 03 September

To accelerate the implementation of Metsä Board's strategy announced on 19 March 2026 and further strengthen its sales and commercial transformation capabilities and future growth, the company has decided to make the following changes to its Leadership Team and commercial organisation, effective 4 September 2026.

Maarten Florizoone, MA (Linguistics), B.Ed., has been appointed SVP, Sales. Florizoone has held various expert and leadership positions in Sales and Supply chain functions within Metsä Board since 2006, most recent position being VP, Sales FBB, Europe. In his new role, he will be responsible for leading Metsä Board's global sales organisation and further strengthening customer partnerships and commercial execution in support of the company's growth ambitions.

Erja Hyrsky, SVP, Commercial Operations, will continue to lead Metsä Board's Commercial Operations, with responsibility for strengthening the company's customer-centric operating model, value proposition development, revenue excellence, marketing and strategic growth initiatives in support of the implementation of the company's strategy.

CEO Esa Kaikkonen states: "As we accelerate the implementation of our strategy, we need greater focus and dedicated leadership in both sales, commercial transformation and future growth. These changes strengthen our

commercial organisation, sharpen accountability and support faster execution of our strategy. I am pleased that Maarten will lead our global sales organisation and that Erja will continue to lead Commercial Operations. Together, their respective organisations will accelerate commercial execution, customer value creation and our ability to build profitable growth.

As of 4 September 2026, the Metsä Board Corporation Leadership Team will consist of

- Esa Kaikkonen, CEO
- Minna Björkman, SVP, Retail Packaging
- Maarten Florizoone, SVP, Sales
- Erja Hyrsky, SVP, Commercial Operations
- Laura Remes, SVP, Production and Supply Chain
- Anssi Tammilehto, CFO
- Camilla Wikström, SVP, HR

Metsä Board will maintain its current external reporting structure.

Italy's A. Merati & C. announces €90/tonne price increase for coreboard, greyboard

By Daniela Wortmann - Wednesday 02 September

A. Merati & C., an independent paperboard manufacturer based in northern Italy, has announced a price increase of €90 (\$104) per tonne on all coreboard and greyboard grades, for both European and overseas markets.

According to the company, the increase is being implemented in two steps. "The first adjustment has already taken effect for deliveries from September 1, while the remaining adjustment will apply to all deliveries from September 15," it said in a statement received by Fastmarkets on Tuesday September 1.

The company attributed the increase to continued cost pressures across several areas of production, further intensified by recent developments in energy, raw material and transportation costs, adding that the measure is aimed at restoring sustainable operating margins and ensuring the continuity and reliability of production and supply.

"The announced price adjustment is based on an average natural gas cost assumption within a range of €55-65/MWh. Should gas prices stabilize above this range, further adjustments to selling prices may become necessary," the company said.

MM Group secures EcoVadis Platinum medal

- Monday 31 August

We are proud to share an important sustainability milestone: MM Group has been awarded the EcoVadis Platinum Medal, placing us among the top 1% of more than 150,000 companies assessed worldwide.

EcoVadis is one of the world's leading sustainability rating platforms, assessing companies across four key areas: Environment, Labour & Human Rights, Ethics, and Sustainable Procurement.

With an overall score of 91 out of 100, MM Group achieved strong results across all four categories:

- Environment: 90/100
- Labour & Human Rights: 95/100
- Ethics: 87/100
- Sustainable Procurement: 88/100

"Reaching EcoVadis Platinum is a milestone we proudly share with our customers, our employees and all interested stakeholders. It confirms that responsible practice is embedded in how we operate and gives the customers we work with an independent assessment they can build on."

For our customers and partners, this independent assessment provides further confirmation that the sustainability data and practices behind our business are credible, current and externally verified.

As regulations such as the PPWR and EUDR reshape the packaging industry and companies increasingly focus on reducing Scope 3 emissions, transparent and independently verified sustainability performance is becoming ever more important throughout the value chain.

The EcoVadis Platinum rating complements MM Group’s CDP Triple A rating for Climate, Forests and Water Security as well as its SBTi-validated climate targets.

Together, these achievements reflect measurable progress across our operations, from decarbonisation and responsible sourcing to designing packaging for circularity.

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 Aug 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	980 - 1210	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1210
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	700 - 740	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	700 - 740
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	680 - 735	0 (0.00%)	Aug 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 Aug 2026	980 - 1210	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1210
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	680 - 735	0 (0.00%)	Aug 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 Aug 2026	970 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	970 - 1220
FP-CBB-0105	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	695 - 720	0 (0.00%)	Aug 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 Aug 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	700 - 740	0 (0.00%)	Aug 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 Aug 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0103	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	680 - 730	0 (0.00%)	Aug 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 Aug 2026	990 - 1175	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	990 - 1175
FP-CBB-0095	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	1159 - 1375	3.5 (0.28%)	Aug 2026	1159 - 1375
FP-CBB-0096	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Aug 2026	715 - 765	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	715 - 765
FP-CBB-0097	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	837 - 895	2 (0.23%)	Aug 2026	837 - 895