

Boxboard Europe

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Top stories

Ibema focuses on portfolio differentiation amid global boxboard oversupply; export volume cuts form part of wider strategy

By Caroline Martin - Friday 09 October

Brazilian semi-integrated boxboard producer Ibema has focused its short-term strategy on reducing cash costs and differentiating its product and service portfolio following the closure of its Embu das Artes mill in São Paulo state in May 2026 and the termination of the agreement to acquire the Arapoti facility, in Paraná state, from graphic and packaging paper producer BO Paper in July 2026.

"Closure of the Embu mill was a difficult decision. At the same time, however, the cash-cost curve of that facility showed that making it more competitive would require a significant investment. For that reason, we decided to concentrate future investments on process improvements at the Turvo mill [Paraná state], which is a more modern operation," said Nilton Saraiva, Ibema's chief executive officer.

"Our view is that base boxboard prices are unlikely to increase significantly over the next few years, so we need to focus on efficiency," Saraiva added.

Ibema's current production capacity stands at around 105,000 tonnes per year, encompassing both products already manufactured at the Turvo mill and certain grades previously produced at the Embu facility.

"Given the current domestic market environment, with margins under pressure from increasing competition from Asian paper imports, we believe this is the time to act responsibly in the short term, prioritizing cash generation through cost reductions while continuing to manufacture products through which we have achieved market differentiation," Saraiva said.

According to data compiled by Fastmarkets, [there are currently around 10 million tonnes of boxboard overcapacity worldwide](#), based on average operating rates. Approximately 67% of global overcapacity is concentrated in Asia.

The latest data from the Brazilian Tree Industry (Ibá) association show that boxboard imports totaled 112,000 tonnes from January to August 2026, up by 17.9% year to date.

In the view of Julio Guimarães, Ibema's commercial director, avoiding commoditization is no longer merely a strategic measure for companies operating in the boxboard segment, but rather a necessity.

"Offering recycled boxboard without adding value to the product leaves domestic manufacturers far more exposed to Chinese competition. We have therefore been seeking alternatives to create value not only through product quality but also through the customer experience journey," Guimarães said.

Ibema's export strategy has also been reshaped this year, with the aim of achieving greater profitability through a stronger domestic market focus.

Currently, 80% of the company's boxboard output is sold domestically, while the remaining 20% is exported to regions where it already has an established presence, including countries in Europe and South America.

"The export market is even more challenging than the domestic market. We have chosen to reduce export volumes without disrupting long-established commercial relationships with traditional customers in niche segments where quality, service and sustainability are recognized as differentiating factors," Saraiva said, without indicating when the company expects to return to the 30% export share it previously allocated to overseas markets.

Vertical integration plans

After negotiating the acquisition of BO Paper's Arapoti facility, which has 120,000 tonnes per year of paper production capacity and 60,000 tonnes of mechanical pulp capacity, but terminating the agreement in mid-July, Ibema has maintained its mechanical pulp supply partnership with BO Paper.

"We were unable to reach an arrangement that was beneficial for both parties regarding the Arapoti asset, but the process was conducted very professionally. BO Paper remains our mechanical pulp supplier. I would describe the relationship as an interdependence between the volumes they can offer us and the volumes we require from them, which has resulted in the solid commercial relationship that we intend to maintain," Saraiva said.

At the same time, Ibema continues to invest in expanding its own mechanical pulp production capacity.

"The investments we made around five years ago to expand our forestry base are already delivering results. Our goal now is to increase the share of mechanical pulp in our portfolio. Today, our mechanical pulp production supplies around 20-22% of our portfolio requirements, and this could rise to 25-27%, depending on the mix of products being manufactured," the Ibema CEO said.

The company is currently 90% self-sufficient in thermogroundwood pulp (TGW) and bleached chemi-thermomechanical pulp (BCTMP), while also relying on market bleached pulp to complete the furnish used in its products.

"Our focus now is to overcome the challenges posed by the global oversupply environment in which we operate, directing our efforts and investments toward cash generation through short-term cost reduction projects over the next four years," Saraiva said.

Sappi Europe announces €89/tonne paperboard price increase from November 1

By Daniela Wortmann - Monday 05 October

Sappi Europe has announced a price increase across its paperboard portfolio in response to sustained cost pressures in the industry.

The company said on Monday October 5 that an €89 (\$100) per tonne increase would come into effect for all new orders and deliveries from November 1.

According to Sappi, market conditions require the increase despite productivity and efficiency initiatives, and cost-cutting measures. "This pricing adjustment will enable Sappi to continue providing the high levels of product quality, service excellence and supply security that customers rely on across the company's paperboard portfolio," the company said in a statement.

Ukraine's Kyiv Cardboard and Paper Mill halts production after Russian missile attack

By Evelina Avramaska - Thursday 08 October

Kyiv Cardboard and Paper Mill (KCPM), the largest paper and board producer in Ukraine, stopped production after a missile attack that caused significant damage to its facilities, according to a company announcement on Wednesday October 7.

The mill said this was the third attack on the site in the past six months. Production buildings and warehouses were heavily damaged, while equipment and utility infrastructure were also affected.

The explosions triggered fires, with emergency services continuing firefighting operations at the time of the publication.

"Production has currently been halted. Despite severe material losses, it is important for us is that none of our employees, who acted in accordance with safety instructions, were injured," the mill, owned by Austria's Pulp Mill Holding, said.

The factory did not disclose when operations may resume or provide details on the production volumes affected by the shutdown.

Based in Obukhiv near Kyiv, KCPM has a board production capacity of 240,000 tonnes per year and a corrugated packaging plant with a capacity of 355 million square meters, as well as a production facility for base paper and finished products with an annual capacity of 70,000 tpy of base paper.

KCPM produced 204,268 tonnes of board in 2025, down from 204,468 tonnes the previous year.

UK paper and board production broadly stable at 1.87 million tonnes in January-July 2026

By Sharon Levrez - Monday 05 October

UK production of paper and board (P&B) was broadly stable during January-July 2026, declining by 0.1% year on year to 1,869,181 tonnes, according to the latest figures from the Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI).

Production of corrugated case material increased by 1.4% to 828,960 tonnes, while production of parent reels of tissue rose by 1.7% to 416,733 tonnes. Output of other papers and boards fell by 3.2% to 623,488 tonnes.

Imports were also broadly stable, decreasing by 0.1% year on year to 2,436,505 tonnes. Corrugated case material imports rose by 2.6% to 694,335 tonnes, while imports of parent reels of tissue and other papers and boards declined by 3.2% and 0.9% to 235,391 tonnes and 1,506,779 tonnes respectively.

Export sales increased by 1.9% to 440,236 tonnes in January-July. Corrugated case material exports rose by 44.3% to 108,323 tonnes, while exports of all other paper and board grades declined by 7.0% to 331,913 tonnes. Apparent consumption fell by 0.4% to 3,865,450 tonnes over the period.

UK P&B apparent consumption Jan - Jul 26

	Production		Imports	
	Jan-Jul 26	% change y-o-y	Jan-Jul 26	% change y-o-y
Corrugated case material	828,960	1.43	694,335	2.60
Parent reels of tissue	416,733	1.67	235,391	-3.20
Other papers and boards	623,488	-3.22	1,506,779	-0.90
Total P&B				
	1,869,181			
	-0.12			
	2,436,505			
	-0.10			
	440,236			
	1.89			
Source: CPI				

UK P&B apparent consumption Jan - Jul 26

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 Oct 2026	990 - 1175	0 (0.00%)	Oct 2026	990 - 1175

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0095	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Oct 2026	1162 - 1379	8.5 (0.67%)	Oct 2026	1162 - 1379
FP-CBB-0096	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Oct 2026	715 - 765	0 (0.00%)	Oct 2026	715 - 765
FP-CBB-0097	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Oct 2026	839 - 898	5.5 (0.64%)	Oct 2026	839 - 898