EUWID Price Watch UK July 2025 July 2025 July 2025 June 2025 July 2024 Prices in £ per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated €* £ Fine paper Woodfree uncoated Copy paper 80 g A4 B grade 1.000 Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade - 1,067 1,010 Offset sheets 80 g Offset reels 80 g Woodfree coated - 1,010 1.009 - 1.090 Sheets, double coated, 115 q -Reels, double coated, 100 g **Publication paper** Standard newsprint 45 g Standard newsprint 42.5 g Standard newsprint 40 g Improved newsprint 52 g, ISO 68 LWC offset 60 g . SC offset 56 g (A) Corrugated case material Primary fibre corrugated case material Unbleached kraftliner 175 g+, European quality White-top kraftliner 140 g, European quality Recycled corrugated case material Recycled fluting 100 g Recycled fluting 90 g Recycled fluting 85 g Testliner II Testliner III . White-top testliner, grade B, 140 g Cartonboard - 715 GD II - 690 1.010 GC II - 1,010 1,079 - 1,172 - 1,010 * Exchange rate as of 18 July 2025: £1 = €1.16 © 2025 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information. All rights reserved

Downward price pressure expected for containerboard as demand remains weak

Demand for containerboard and corrugated sheets and packaging in the UK remained below expectations in July. EUWID sources attribute this to a combination of ongoing geopolitical tensions, global economic uncertainty, and domestic economic pressures, such as higher National Insurance contributions since April, an increased minimum wage, and persistently high inflation, which stood at 3.6 per cent in July.

The potential for increased demand for corrugated packaging, driven by higher defence spending in Europe, may eventually support demand for corrugated packaging but will require some time to materialise.

The weaker packaging demand has once again led to rising European containerboard inventories. For recycled grades, a year-on-year increase

of around 20 per cent is reported. For kraftliner, the increase is said to be in the high single-digit range. Many producers are responding with temporary machine stoppages, reduced output, or extended maintenance downtime. According to market rumours, machine utilisation in July was below 80 per cent.

With recovered paper prices falling and the second price round for recycled containerboard being reversed on the Continent, a second hike now also seems off the table in the UK. Prices remained stable in July, but signs of growing downward pressure are mounting. The spot market is currently very active, and European suppliers are said to be offering aggressively low prices.

Should the first price round be corrected on the continent, UK prices are likely to follow suit swiftly, one buyer said. Some market observers already anticipate a further price weakening in August, while others note that the UK typically reacts with a one-month delay to continental trends.

Similar developments are being reported for kraftliner. A second price hike is not expected, and pressure to lower prices is building. Some players report already having secured price cuts for August, while others expect kraftliner prices to respond more slowly to developments than prices for recycled grades.

With existing paper overcapacity, many eyes are on Eren Paper's new containerboard machine in Shotton, North Wales, which is scheduled to start up next year. Many market players believe further consolidation in the UK is inevitable. They expect Eren's parent company, Modern Karton from Turkey, to acquire more converters in the UK and are speculating on potential takeover targets. Several insiders also see further consolidation on a European level as unavoidable.

► continued on page 4