

# PUBLICATION PAPER PRICE FORECAST

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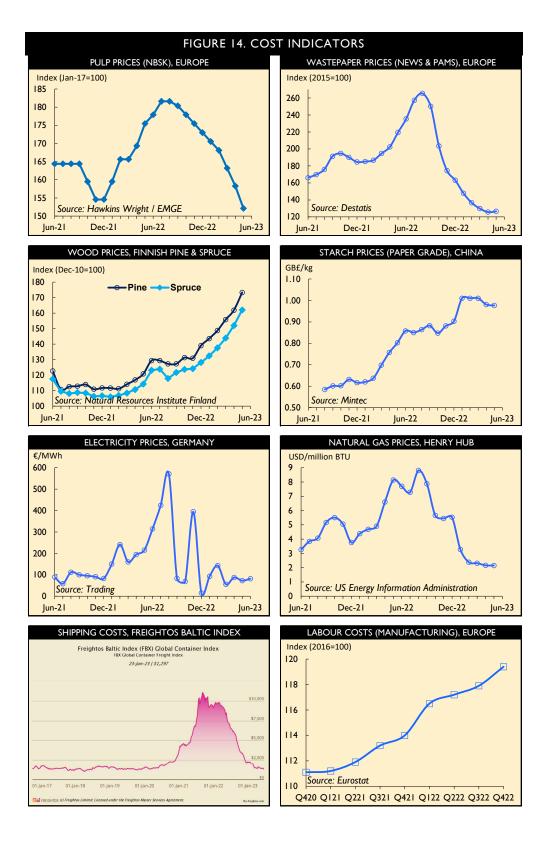


#### Executive Summary

- The collapse in W. European paper demand is continuing, with falls for January-May 2023 of -20 to -30% for Newsprint and Magazine Papers, and even worse for Coated Woodfrees (-39%).
- The price/inventory bubble burst in late-22/early-2023 and operating ratios, delivery times, buyers' stock levels and prices are now all falling.
- Wholesale gas, wastepaper and international shipping prices have fallen most of the way back to pre-crisis levels, and there are early signs of possible bottoming out (e.g. in gas and wastepaper). Costs for road freight and market pulp are also falling. However, inflation in general is proving rather stubborn and lower costs are not feeding through to end-user prices (e.g. for consumer energy or groceries) as quickly as many players would like.
- Regarding paper mill capacity changes since our last report, Norske Skog suffered a landslide in April that heavily damaged its Saugbrugs mill. As a result, the mill's 260,000-tpa supercalendered (SC) PM 6 will not be able to produce paper for an extended period, although the mill's 100,000-tpa SC PM 4 continues to operate.
- Stora Enso has also announced the closure of its 250,000-tpa
   Uncoated Mechanical (Book Paper) PM3 at Anjala in Q4, following
   failed attempts to divest the mill as part of its planned exit from
   Graphic Papers. The 185,000-tpa PM2 will continue to produce both
   Coated and Uncoated Mechanical (Book) Paper.
- Despite recent capacity reductions, demand is falling much more steeply and the market is heavily oversupplied, with Op. Rates at genuinely unusual levels (70% and below, some even below 60%).



#### Cost Indicators





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