

Global Pulp, Paper & Forest Products

Pulp Year Ahead 2024: Should be decent as global demand offsets China and capacity

Industry Overview

Pulp forecast increases on better 1H

We raise our global pulp price forecasts heading into 2024. Our new China hardwood (bleached eucalyptus; HW, BHK, BEK) net price forecast is \$627/MT for 2024 up from our prior \$580/MT. Meanwhile, our new China softwood (SW, BSK) net price forecast is \$730/MT, up from our prior \$706/MT. In Europe, our new prices are up +\$70/MT and +\$65/MT to \$997/MT and \$1,226/MT, respectively. It was a pretty "sporty" end to the year as China restocking drove prices much higher. As we enter 2024, momentum has faded but several things should keep pulp prices at acceptable levels for most producers, even if they partially pull back.

Don't expect a collapse, despite capacity

We see prices declining moderately to \$575-600/MT through 3Q on the combination of China's weakness (destocking's conclusion coupled with still-weak paper and board demand), seasonality (as late-winter, early-spring maintenance outages lead to more production into 3Q) and new capacity. Pulp industry followers frequently forecast wipeouts (big declines) when new capacity starts up, like Suzano's Cerrado project carrying 2.6mnMT, and after a large price upswing has occurred. In our past research (see here for our last reforecast) we stated that the declines would be moderate. Among other points, incumbent producers bringing on capacity have proven adept at managing production to demand to prevent flooding the market. Moreover, global growth should be improving, and supply-chain tension in competing fiber prices, specifically recovered paper (RCP; old corrugated cartons [OCC], etc.), should prevent big drops.

Capacity factors to watch...

At present we forecast about 3mnMT of capacity to come on during 2024 versus 2023, with another 1.9mnMT in 2025. As mentioned earlier, the key here is the Cerrado mill, but there is also capacity coming from UPM Paso de los Toros (annualized 2.1mnMT) which started in 2023 but is coming up learning curve and 350kMT from the CMPC Guaiba expansion. While not of the same scale, the retirement of capacity in North America at Georgia Pacific-Perry, WestRock-North Charleston, Pactiv-Canton, International Paper-Pensacola and -Riegelwood will help.

...as well as ROW demand and other indicators

Rest of the world (ROW) demand will need to increase as China restocking has slowed. Through November 2023, North American demand declined 7.3% but we expect 3% growth in 2024. In Europe, demand dropped 16% but we expect 3-3.5% growth in 2024. The stretching of supply chains (and any strains showing in Baltic and other transport indices) will be indicators as to the degree pulp holds up, as will recent increases in RCP - OCC prices are up \$38/ton in the US in the last six months, as an example. Red Sea shipping constraints have not had much impact on pulp based on our trade contacts' views, but we expect this will be inflationary over time. We'll keep monitoring.

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Exhibit 1: Summary of 2024 BofA pulp price forecast changes (US\$/MT)

We boost our 2024 average China hardwood prices by ~\$50/MT

	New	Old	Change
China hardwood	627	580	8.2%
China softwood	730	706	3.4%
Europe hardwood	997	927	7.5%
Furone softwood	1 226	1161	5.5%

Source: BofA Global Research estimates,

Fastmarkets FOFX

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BHK: Bleached Hardwood Kraft

BSK: Bleached Softwood Kraft

Raising China HW to \$627/MT in 2024E

We are baking into our pulp price forecasts some weakness in 1H24 as we have seen the end of the restocking tailwind and should see some weakness close to the Lunar New Year (LNY). On top of that, we would be reaching the startup of the Cerrado project in June, which could have at least psychological effects in the market. However, we expect the drop in prices to be quick and prices should not drop lower than \$575/MT.

Exhibit 2: Summary of BofA pulp price forecasts (Period averages, US\$/MT)

We summarize our new global pulp forecasts

		2022A	1Q23A	2Q23A	3Q23A	4Q23A	2023A	1Q24E	2Q24E	3Q24E	4Q24E	2024E	LT (2025E)
	China - New	792	756	518	532	620	607	648	600	592	669	627	600
	China - Old	792	756	518	532	604	603	614	584	551	571	580	600
Hardwood	% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.7%	5.5%	2.9%	7.5%	17.2%	8.2%	0.0%
пагимоои	Europe - New	1,286	1,337	1,097	835	908	1,044	1,020	976	942	1,048	997	1,000
	Europe - Old	1,286	1,337	1,097	835	848	1,029	930	941	888	950	927	1,100
	% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	1.5%	9.7%	3.7%	6.0%	10.3%	7.5%	-9.1%
	China - New	933	899	707	665	754	756	728	699	709	785	730	700
	China - Old	933	899	707	665	725	749	734	709	676	706	706	700
Softwood	% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	0.9%	-0.8%	-1.4%	4.9%	11.3%	3.4%	0.0%
Sortwood	Europe - New	1,404	1,399	1,307	1,175	1,191	1,268	1,258	1,216	1,182	1,248	1,226	1,150
	Europe - Old	1,404	1,399	1,307	1,175	1,161	1,260	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161
	% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.6%	8.3%	4.7%	1.7%	7.5%	5.5%	-1.0%
	China - New	1,029	984	901	903	877	916	926	931	868	947	918	810
Dissolving Pulp	China - Old	1,029	984	901	870	895	912	895	895	895	895	895	895
	% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	-2.0%	0.4%	3.4%	4.0%	-3.0%	5.8%	2.6%	-9.5%

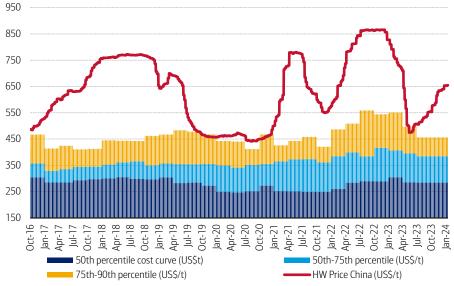
Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Fastmarkets FOEX

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As we saw in 2023, when prices drop much lower than \$550/MT, we see swift capacity adjustments from market pulp data (i.e. Suzano cutting 4% of output to match demand) and Chinese integrated producers (woodchip imports down 21% ytd in November as these high-cost operations switch to market purchases). These factors, coupled with higher costs, led to a 2023-bottom below \$500/MT but which was unsustainable. In turn, this helped explain the quick rebound from these levels during 3Q23. We expect these forces to help shape the 2024 pulp market and support our higher pulp price forecast.

Exhibit 3: China hardwood pulp prices vs cost curve supports (US\$/t)

Prices bounced back fast from the 90th percentile of the RISI cash cost curve



Source: BofA Global Research , Fastmarkets RISI, Fastmarkets FOEX

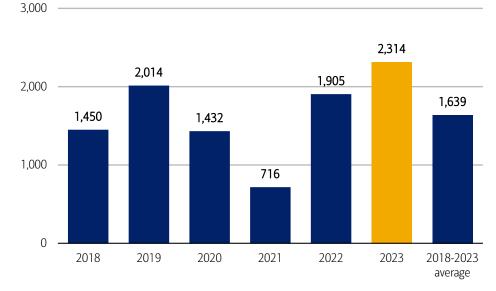


Disruptions have been significant in 2023

These supply adjustments coupled with significant supply disruptions over the past year, led by a confluence of factors including weather-related issues (wildfires and droughts), labor strikes, fiber unavailability and/or higher costs, and economic downtime. In fact, RISI estimates ~2.3mnMT of unplanned supply disruptions in 2023 (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Market pulp unplanned downtime (kMT)

RISI estimates 2.3Mt of supply disruptions in 2023, for its highest level since the series started in 2018



Source: BofA Global Research, Fastmarkets RISI

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On top of that, permanent closures also continue to take place, e.g. Arauco indefinitely suspending its 160kMT/yr USK (Unbleached Softwood Kraft) Licancel mill, International Paper shutting down Riegelwood and Pensacola back in October for a close to ~500kMT hit to pulp supply (~300kMT of fluff and ~200kMT of southern bleached softwood [SBSK], see our report for more details). All in, Hawkins Wright estimates ~3mnMT worth of market pulp mill closures since 2022, versus a ~820kMT of capacity permanently shut down though 2018 and 2020.



Exhibit 5: List of permanent/indefinite market pulp mill closures (kMT)

Hawkins Wright estimates \sim 3mnMT worth of market pulp mill closures since 2022, versus a \sim 820kMT of capacity permanently shut down though 2018 and 2020

Year	Company	Mill/line	Country	Market capacity	Grade	Date of closure
TOTAL	2014-23			(4,555)		
Total 2	022-23			(2,975)		
	GP	Foley	US	(450)	DWP/Fluff	4Q23
	International Paper	Riegelwood	US	(300)	SBSK/Fluff	4Q23
	International Paper	Pensacola	US	(165)	Fluff	3Q23
	Paper Excellence	Espanola	Canada	(160)	NBSK	3Q23
2023	Arauco	Licancel	Chile	(160)	UKP	3Q23
2023	West Rock	Tacoma	US	(60)	UKP	3Q23
	Stora Enso	Sunila	Finland	(375)	NBSK	2Q23
	Canfor	Prince George	Canada	(155)	UKP/NBSK	1Q23
	ND Paper	Old Town	US	(180)	UKP	1Q23
	Canfor	Taylor	Canada	(230)	BCTMP (SW) 1Q23
	Resolute Forest Products	Calhoun	US	(170)	BSKP/NBHK	1Q22
2022	West Rock	Panama City	US	(295)	Fluff	2Q22
2022	West Fraser	Hinton	Canada	(125)	BSKP	4Q22
	Cosmo	Cosmopolis	US	(150)	DWP	4Q22
Total 2	018-20			(820)		
2020	Paper Excellence	Mackenzie	Canada	(240)	NBSK	2Q20
	Paper Excellence	Pictou	Canada	(280)	NBSK	1Q20
2019	Fortress	Thurso	Canada	(180)	DWP	4Q19
2013	SNIACE	Torrelavega	Spain	(60)	DWP	4Q19
2018	Domtar	Plymounth	US	(60)	BSKP/Fluff	2018
Total 2	018-20			(760)		
	Expera Specialty Paper	Old Town	US	(200)	BHKP	4Q15
2015	Verso Corporation	Wickliffe, KY	US	(50)	BHKP	4Q15
	Verso Corporation	Jay, ME	US	(90)	BHKP	4Q15
2014	ENCE	Huelva	Spain	(420)	BEKP	4Q14

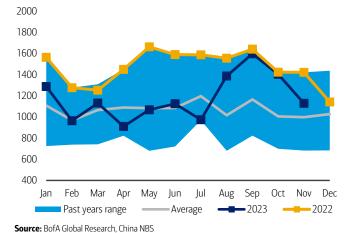
Source: Hawkins Wright, BofA Global Research estimates

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Furthermore, the 21% YTD drop of wood chip imports into China as of Nov imply a reduction of \sim 1.6Mt of pulp production from integrated players or 1.7Mt on an annualized basis (Exhibit 7). Imported wood chip prices in Asia are currently trading at \sim \$188/t (Exhibit 8) which implies that wood costs alone for pulp producers in Asia amount to close to \sim \$420/t.

Exhibit 6: Chinese hardwood chip imports (kMT)

Wood chip imports into China are down 21% YTD as of Nov ...



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Exhibit 7: Estimated Chinese hardwood chip imports effect on its domestic integrated pulp production (kMT)

 \dots implying a reduction of 1.6kMT of pulp production from integrated players or 1.7kMT on an annualized basis

Integrated pulp production delta y/y (Kt)						
2022 YTD woodchip imports (Kt)	16,435					
2023 YTD woodchip imports (Kt)	12,985					
Woodchip imports delta (Kt)	3,450					
Pulp yield	45%					
Delta integrated pulp produced (Kt)	1,552					
Annualized woodchip imports delta (Kt)	3,763					
Pulp yield	45%					
Annualized delta integrated pulp produced (Kt)	1,693					

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, China NBS



Assuming wood costs account for around ~74% of Asian high-cost pulp producer costs, total pulp cash costs on a per ton basis should be close to ~\$565/t. RISI currently estimates the production cost of higher cost integrated pulp capacity in China ranges between \$530-550/t. As China has picked up its woodchip imports, we could expect woodchip prices to move up over the near term. While current prices above \$600/t incentivize integrated producers to restart, we see limited downside prices much below such levels could trigger the integrated producers to return to market pulp.

Exhibit 8: Average imported hardwood chip prices in China (US\$/MT)

Imported wood chip prices in Asia are currently trading at \sim \$190/MT which implies that wood costs alone for pulp producers in Asia amount close to \sim \$420/MT



Source: BofA Global Research, China NBS



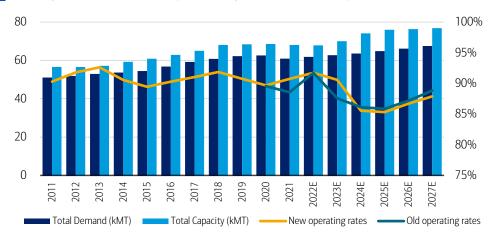
Pulp Project-er #9, October 2023

China saves the day in 2023; Demand to grow 1.4% in 24E

We expect pulp shipments growth to decelerate into 2023E and close the year expanding by $\sim 1.4\%$ y/y, or 880kMT, as China growing at double digits this year should more than offset steep declines for all other regions except LatAm and other Asia/Africa. For 2024, we expect a 1% y/y drop in China as woodchip imports normalize and domestic integrated pulp production rebounds, yet other key regions such as Europe and North America should post a 3-3.5% recovery after a sharp drop this year.

Exhibit 10 shows our global supply/demand (SD) model for pulp following our latest *Pulp Project-er*, project-by-project analysis of supply (see the report for complete details). Overall, operating rates looked to be about 90-91% in 2023, with a drop to 85% in 2024 as supply comes online, primarily from Suzano's 2.550mnMT/yr Cerrado project starting up in June 2024, coupled with the ramp-up of Arauco's 1.560mnMT/yr MAPA, UPM's 2.1mnMT/yr Paso de los Toros, and CMPC's Guaiba expansion of 350kMT/yr (although we believe most of this extra Guaiba volumes should be offset by increased maintenance downtime at other lines), all of which started up in 2023. Supply disruptions should also normalize from a very elevated level in 2023 above 2mnMT.

Exhibit 9: BofA – Global market pulp supply/demand (mnMT) and operating rates (%; LHS) summary Operating rates look to be 90.6% this year, dropping to 85% in 2024 as supply comes online...



Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Fastmarkets RISI, Hawkins Wright, PPPC, Brian McClay & Associates



Exhibit 10: BofA - Global market pulp supply/demand model (kMT)

... primarily from Suzano's 2.550kMT/yr Cerrado project starting up in June 2024, coupled with the ramp-up of Arauco's MAPA and UPM's Paso de los Toros

BofA Market Pulp Supply Demand Model	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Total Demand (kMT)	59,212	60,801	62,206	62,604	60,947	61,838	62,717	63,608	64,861	66,162
% change y/y	4.3%	2.7%	2.3%	0.6%	-2.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	2.0%	2.0%
USA	6,832	6,818	6,964	7,222	6,768	6,903	6,282	6,471	6,438	6,406
Canada	600	636	727	915	1,048	1,069	973	1,002	997	992
West Europe	12,921	13,106	12,634	11,378	11,868	12,105	10,290	10,650	10,596	10,543
East Europe and CIS	3,564	3,744	3,801	3,678	3,942	3,883	3,417	3,519	3,555	3,590
Latin America	3,701	3,631	3,324	3,547	3,553	3,695	3,769	3,882	4,037	4,199
China	20,568	21,414	22,959	24,850	23,232	23,000	27,255	26,982	27,926	28,904
Japan	1,901	1,930	2,002	1,834	1,772	1,949	1,715	1,801	1,783	1,765
Asia/Africa	6,814	7,061	7,580	7,243	6,754	7,125	7,268	7,486	7,711	7,942
Nordic Countries	1,925	2,070	1,856	1,558	1,652	1,685	1,432	1,482	1,475	1,468
Oceania	386	391	359	379	358	422	317	333	343	353
Total Capacity (kMT)	65,035	68,070	68,404	68,554	68,069	67,878	70,014	74,618	76,520	76,815
Net Additional Capacity	2,140	3,035	334	150	(485)	998	2,298	3,037	1,903	295
Net Hardwood additional capacity						1,150	2,327	2,338	1,903	295
Net Softwood additional capacity						(153)	(30)	699	0	0
Delta of unplanned downtime			(564)	582	716	(1,189)	(162)	1,567	0	0
Unplanned Closures/downtime		(1,450)	(2,014)	(1,432)	(716)	(1,905)	(2,067)	(500)	(500)	(500)
Producer Inventories (kMT)	4,751	6,484	6,362	5,244	6,060	6,485	7,186	6,986	6,986	6,986
Producer Inventories (days of supply)	29	39	37	31	36	38	42	40	39	39
Inventory consumption		1,733	(122)	(1,118)	816	425	701	(200)	0	0
Operating rates (%)	91.0%	91.9%	90.8%	89.7%	90.7%	91.7%	90.6%	85.0%	84.8%	86.1%

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Fastmarkets RISI, Hawkins Wright, PPPC, Brian McClay & Associates

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Project-er update suggests potential oversupply in 2024 Fine tuning in estimates marks our *Project-er* supply work this time around

Along with the demand adjustment above, we refined our supply forecasts (details are in the *Pulp Project-er* section that follows).

- The delay of Arauco's 1.56mnMT/yr BHK MAPA project to 1Q23, based on Arauco's reports. With the slower speed of ramp up we remove 683kMT from the project from 2023;
- UPM started up Paso de los Toros in April and has been ramping up the project.
 We expect it to have added 1,024kMT of capacity in 2023, 79kMT above our previous estimate;
- Suzano announced they anticipated the startup of the Cerrado project to June 2024 vs a previous guidance of 2H24, We were already assuming volumes since July, so we maintain our estimates for conservatism;
- We are adding China's Shandong Huatai Paper 700kMT/yr BHK pulp line for its flagship mill in Dongying city at Shandong province. We assume that 400kMT/yr of capacity will be market pulp;
- We add to our model recent closures of mills, including Stora Enso's Sunila, IP Pensacola, GP Foley, Arauco's Licancel, Westrock Tacoma mill. Together they combine for ~1mnMT/yr of capacity, between BSK, UKP and fluff. We also include ND Paper Old Town, which we assume will be closed until 2H24, removing ~350kMT of production between 2023 and 2024 and Mondi integrating around 200kMT of UKP volumes from its Hinton mill, recently acquired from West Fraser in 2027.



Compared to our prior model, our total capacity forecasts decline by ~3.5mnMT in 2023 and by ~1.4mnMT in 2024 – primarily driven by a ~2,067kMT hit from unplanned downtime this year vs our previous forecast of 500kMT, coupled with some indefinite capacity closures and project delays as we detail further below.

Exhibit 11: BofA - Old vs New supply/demand model (kMT)

We are updating our capacity forecasts following the project delays and unplanned closures

		2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
	New	60,947	61,838	62,717	63,608	64,861	66,162
Total Demand	Old	60,468	63,162	64,342	65,495	66,693	67,936
	Change	0.8%	-2.1%	-2.5%	-2.9%	-2.7%	-2.6%
Total Capacity (after	New	68,069	67,878	70,014	74,618	76,520	76,815
unplanned	Old	69,199	69,082	73,459	76,057	77,669	77,924
downtime)	Change	-1.6%	-1.7%	-4.7%	-1.9%	-1.5%	-1.4%
Not additional	New	(485)	998	2,298	3,037	1,903	295
Net additional	Old	(51)	998	3,047	2,598	1,613	255
capacity	Change	851.0%	0.0%	-24.6%	16.9%	18.0%	15.7%
Committee williams in a	New	90.7%	91.7%	90.6%	85.0%	84.8%	86.1%
Capacity utilization	Old	88.6%	91.7%	87.6%	86.1%	85.9%	87.2%
(%)	Change	220 bps	0 bps	300 bps	-110 bps	-110 bps	-110 bps

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \ \textbf{BofA Global Research estimates, PPPC, Fastmarkets RISI, Hawkins Wright, Brian McClay \& Associates \\$

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Exhibit 12 illustrates that between 2022-26E roughly 8.3mnMT of accumulated potential pulp production was removed from our model estimates, most of this in 2023-24 given the abovementioned higher unplanned downtime and some project delays/closures.

Exhibit 12: BofA market pulp supply model – Summary of global capacity changes (kMT)

Between 2022-26E roughly 8.3mnMT of potential pulp production was removed from our model

	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	Accumulated 2022-26
Total pulp capacity - NEW	67,878	70,014	74,618	76,520	76,815	
Total pulp capacity - OLD	69,082	73,459	76,057	77,669	77,924	
Change on capacity forecasts	(1,204)	(3,446)	(1,439)	(1,149)	(1,109)	(8,347)

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, PPPC, Fastmarkets RISI, Hawkins Wright, Brian McClay & Associates

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Exhibit 13 below summarizes the key changes to our supply assumptions by mill/project.

Exhibit 13: Summary of key capacity changes by mill/project (kMT)

Our supply forecast adjustments yield a ~1.4mnMT fewer of capacity in 2023 and ~1.24mnMT in 2024 including fluff and unbleached kraft pulp (UKP)

			2023E			2024E			2025E	
Company	Mill	New	Old	chg	New	Old	chg	New	Old	chg
Bleached Hardwood Kraft (ВНК)									
Arauco	Arauco (Horcones) - MAPA	878	1,560	(683)	1,560	1,560	-	1,560	1,560	-
Huatai Paper (Dongying)	Shandong	=	-	-	70	-	70	360	-	360
UPM	Paso de Los Toros/Durazno	1,024	945	79	1,890	1,890	-	2,100	2,100	-
Total - BHK		1,901	2,505	(604)	3,520	3,450	70	4,020	3,660	360
Bleached Softwood Kraft (B	SSK)									
Canfor Pulp	Prince George (Pulp & Paper) Mill	-	9	(9)	-	9	(9)	-	9	(9)
Metsä Fibre	Kemi Mill	453	497	(43)	1,080	1,080	-	1,080	1,080	-
Stora Enso	Sunila Mill	278	370	(93)	=	370	(370)	=	370	(370)
Total - BSK		731	876	(145)	1,080	1,459	(379)	1,080	1,459	(379)
Fluff										
Daio	Mishima	17	30	(13)	50	90	(40)	50	90	(40)
GP Cellulose	Foley Cellulose Mill (Perry Mill)	115	230	(115)	-	230	(230)	=	230	(230)
International Paper	Pensacola Mill	86	172	(86)	-	172	(172)	-	172	(172)
Total - Fluff		218	432	(214)	50	492	(442)	50	492	(442)
Unbleached Kraft Pulp (UKF	P)									
Canfor Pulp	Prince George (Pulp & Paper) Mill	-	136	(136)	-	136	(136)	-	136	(136)
Arauco	Licancel Mill	75	150	(75)	-	150	(150)	-	150	(150)
Nine Dragons (ND Paper)	Old Town Mill	69	275	(206)	138	275	(138)	275	275	-
WestRock	Tacoma Mill	62	67	(6)	-	67	(67)	-	67	(67)
Total - UKP		205	628	(422)	138	628	(490)	275	628	(353)
Total - all fibers		3,055	4,441	(1,386)	4,788	6,030	(1,242)	5,425	6,240	(815)

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, PPPC, Fastmarkets RISI, Hawkins Wright, Brian McClay & Associates



Appendix

Exhibit 14: BofA – Pulp price forecasts detailed by month/quarter (US\$/MT)
We increase our forecasts for China hardwood net pricing to US\$627/MT in 2024 and US\$600/MT in 2025

		Chin	a (net)			Euro	oe (list)	
	BHKP	change	NBSK	change	BHKP	change	NBSK	change
Average 2021	654	194	853	268	1,008	328	1,196	353
Average 1Q22	639	(14)	850	(2)	1,150	142	1,291	95
Average 2Q22	805	166	985	135	1,245	96	1,381	90
Average 3Q22	862	57	975	(9)	1,368	122	1,480	99
Average 4Q22	860	(2)	922	(53)	1,380	12	1,463	(17)
Average 2022	792	138	933	81	1,286	278	1,404	208
Jan-23	801	(50)	886	(14)	1,380	(0)	1,419	(19)
Feb-23	754	(47)	899	13	1,337	(43)	1,397	(22)
Mar-23	722	(32)	909	9	1,285	(52)	1,376	(21)
Average 1Q23	756	(36)	899	(34)	1,337	52	1,399	(5)
Apr-23	578	(144)	759	(149)	1,221	(64)	1,353	(22)
May-23	482	(97)	698	(61)	1,087	(134)	1,309	(45)
Jun-23	500	19	671	(27)	984	(103)	1,258	(50)
Average 2Q23	518	(238)	707	(192)	1,097	(241)	1,307	(92)
Jul-23	512	12	652	(20)	886	(98)	1,207	(51)
Aug-23	530	18	659	7	818	(68)	1,170	(37)
Sep-23	550	20	681	22	805	(13)	1,149	(21)
Average 3Q23	532	14	665	(42)	835	(262)	1,175	(132)
Oct-23	581	31	740	60	847	41	1,161	12
Nov-23	628	47	764	23	910	63	1,190	29
Dec-23	644	16	756	(7)	983	74	1,231	41
Average 4Q23	620	88	754	89	908	73	1,191	16
Average 2023	607	(185)	756	(177)	1,044	(242)	1,268	(136)
Jan-24	654	34	734	(19)	1,017	109	1,249	58
Feb-24	649	(5)	729	(5)	1,020	2	1,260	10
Mar-24	639	(10)	719	(10)	1,024	4	1,264	4
Average 1Q24	648	41	728	(28)	1,020	(24)	1,258	(10)
Apr-24	620	(19)	710	(9)	1,004	(20)	1,244	(20)
May-24	595	(25)	695	(15)	970	(34)	1,210	(34)
Jun-24	585	(10)	690	(5)	955	(16)	1,195	(16)
Average 2Q24	600	(47)	699	(29)	976	(44)	1,216	(41)
Jul-24	585	0	695	5	935	(20)	1,175	(20)
Aug-24	575	(10)	695	0	919	(16)	1,159	(16)
Sep-24	615	40	735	40	971	53	1,211	53
Average 3Q24	592	(8)	709	10	942	(35)	1,182	(35)
Oct-24	645	30	765	30	1,018	47	1,218	7
Nov-24	675	30	795	30	1,055	37	1,255	37
Dec-24	685	10	795	0	1,071	16	1,271	16
Average 4Q24	669	77	785	77	1,048	106	1,248	66
Average 2024	627	20	730	(26)	997	(48)	1,226	(42)
2025 - LT	600	(7)	700	(56)	1,000	(44)	1,150	(118)

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Fastmarkets FOEX



China paper prices and margins

Exhibit 15: Tissue - average prices in China (RMB/t)

Chinea tissue prices currently at RMB 6,400/t

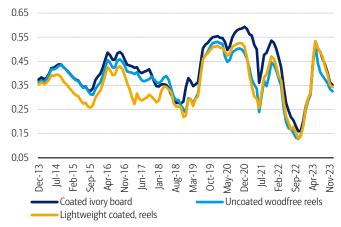


Source: BofA Global Research, SCI

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Exhibit 17: Margin indicator for graphic paper and paperboard

Declining China paper margins should mean pulp purchases and prices decelerate in China

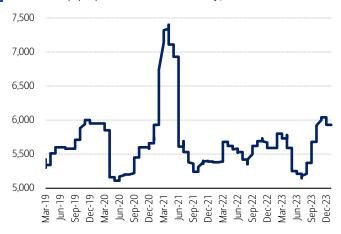


Source: BofA Global Research, FOEX, Fastmarkets RISI, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 16: Coated paper - average price (RBM/t)

China coated paper prices fell 1.8% m/m in early Jan to RMB 5,930/t



Source: BofA Global Research, SCI

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Exhibit 18: China coated paper gross profit rate (%)

Coated paper margins were improving by the end of 2023



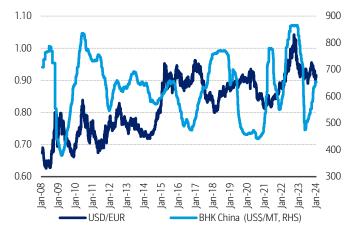
Source: BofA Global Research, SCI



Macro and inventories trends

Exhibit 19: USD/EUR vs. BHK China

BHK China prices are rising while USD/EUR is dropping

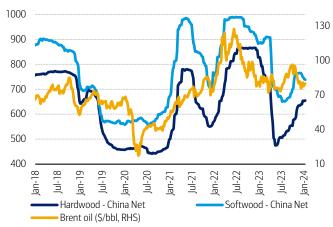


Source: BofA Global Research, FOEX, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 21: China net pulp prices (US\$/MT) vs. Brent oil prices (US\$/bbl)

The correlation between China HW and Brent is at 62%

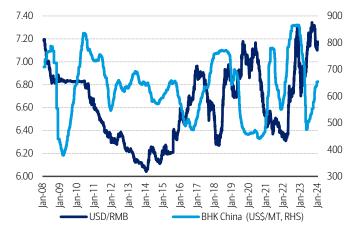


Source: Bloomberg, FOEX

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Exhibit 20: USD/RMB vs. BHK China

BHK China prices are rising with USD/RMB

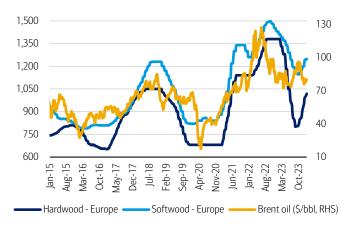


Source: BofA Global Research, FOEX, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 22: Europe net pulp prices (US\$/MT) vs. Brent oil prices (US\$/bbl)

The correlation between Europe HW and Brent is at 78%



Source: Bloomberg, FOEX

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Exhibit 23: Summary table for World Pulp Statistics - Shipments (Kt)

PPPC reported global pulp shipments up 8.3% y/y to 4,722Kt in November

	Nov-23	m/m %	y/y %	2023 ytd	ytd (%)
Total shipments	4,722	5.4%	8.3%	49,632	1.7%
Softwood pulp	1,984	4.6%	4.6%	20,656	0.2%
Hardwood pulp	2,583	6.7%	11.7%	27,231	4.5%
Others	155	-4.9%	1.3%	1,745	-18.6%
By region					
North America	604	-4.1%	-8.4%	6,715	-7.2%
Europe - Total	1,035	2.0%	-8.2%	11,477	-15.3%
LatAm	326	1.0%	2.7%	3,723	3.0%
China	1,944	12.7%	35.5%	18,718	25.3%
Japan	148	-1.3%	-23.2%	1,742	-15.7%
Other Asia & Africa	637	4.4%	8.3%	6,954	-0.3%
Oceania	28	-5.9%	-31.2%	304	-24.3%

Source: BofA Global Research, PPPC



Exhibit 24: Summary table for World Pulp Statistics - Inventories

Producer inventories down one day m/m in Nov to 40 days of supply

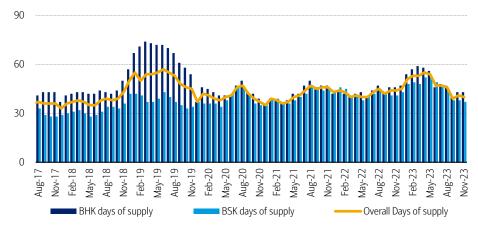
	Nov-23	m/m	y/y
Days of supply	40	-1	-4
Softwood pulp	37	-1	-4
Hardwood pulp	43	0	-3
Shipment-to-capacity (operating rates %)	92%	+700bp	+400bp

Source: BofA Global Research, PPPC

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Exhibit 25: Pulp – producer inventory levels (standard days of supply)

Producer inventories dropped 1 day m/m in Nov to 40 days of supply

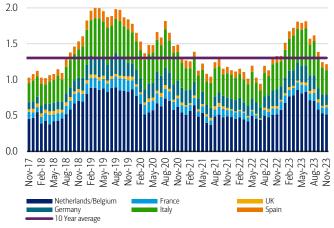


Source: BofA Global Research, PPPC (World-20 report)

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Exhibit 26: Stocks of pulp in European ports

Inventories of woodpulp at European ports down 8.6% y/y and 2.3% m/m in November to 1,216kMT

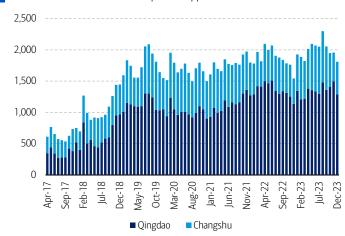


Source: BofA Global Research, Europulp

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Exhibit 27: Stocks of pulp in China ports (Kt)

Inventories at China's two main ports dropped 7.5% m/m in December



Source: BofA Global Research, RISI



Exhibit 28: Utipulp – European pulp consumption and consumer inventories (kMT) European consumer pulp inventories rose 0.8% m/m in December to 747.2kMT

Softwood - Europe	Dec-23	Nov-23	m/m (%)	Dec-22	y/y (%)
Consumption (Kt)	229.7	252.1	-8.9%	250.9	-8.5%
Inventories (Kt)	215.6	219.9	-1.9%	226.3	-4.7%
Inventories (in days of supply)	26	26	0.0%	23	13.0%
Hardwood - Europe	Dec-23	Nov-23	m/m (%)	Dec-22	y/y (%)
Consumption (Kt)	478.2	523.5	-8.7%	442.9	8.0%
Inventories (Kt)	486.7	472.9	2.9%	432.3	12.6%
Inventories (in days of supply)	30	30	0.0%	22	36.4%

Total kraft pulp	Dec-23	Nov-23	m/m (%)	Dec-22	y/y (%)
Consumption (Kt)	757.3	824.4	-8.1%	733.8	3.2%
Inventories (Kt)	747.2	740.9	0.8%	711.8	5.0%
Inventories (in days of supply)	29	29	0.0%	23	26.1%

Source: BofA Global Research, Utipulp



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