Barry Callebaut BI Case Study: From Revenue Strength to Risk Exposure

This 4-page Power BI project analyzes Barry Callebaut's recent financial performance, drawing on market reports, cocoa pricing data, and analyst commentary to explore:

- The collapse in sales volume amidst cocoa inflation
- The divergence between revenue growth and declining demand
- Revised forecasts, market underperformance, and strategic risk exposure
- Analyst sentiment and risk factors shaping investor confidence

The dashboard blends KPI analysis, multi-layered charts, and storytelling commentary — designed for executive stakeholders, portfolio reviewers, and BI demonstration purposes.

"Barry Callebaut cuts outlook as chocolate sales volumes melt away"

10/7/2025 Zurich (AFP) – The world's top industrial supplier of chocolate, Barry Callebaut, revised its financial guidance lower on Thursday as the global chocolate market suffered its worst drop in sales volume in a decade, with high prices weighing on consumers.



Callebaut Performance Snapshot — The Big Picture

This dashboard delivers a strategic overview of Barry Callebaut's performance during a volatile period. It helps decision-makers understand the drivers, risks, and revised outlook shaping the business today.





Diverging Paths

Callebaut vs Market | Revenue vs Volume

Callebaut lagged behind the market in volume performance

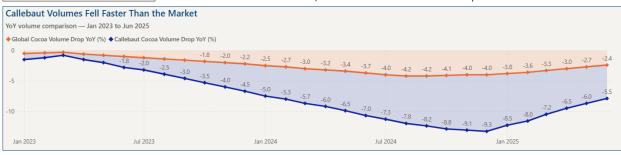
While global chocolate demand declined modestly in 2024, Callebaut's volume drop was more than double, exposing brand-specific pressures beyond macro trends.

Revenue strength came from pricing, not product

Callebaut maintained top-line growth by passing on cocoa inflation. But as volume continued to fall, the limits of pricing power began to emerge by early 2025.

Volume collapse in Q3 & Q4 marked a critical inflection point

The steepest declines came in mid-to-late 2024 — precisely when investor sentiment turned. Without a volume recovery, revenue gains may not be sustainable.





Volume Collapse Under Price Pressure Quarterly volume, price, and performance analysis — Q1 2023/24 to Q4 2024/25

Cocoa prices more than doubled over 12

From £4.550/t in Q1 2023/24 to £10.000/t by Q2 2024/25. cocoa prices surged to historic highs — squeezing margins inflating inventory, and pressuring customer pricing.

Callebaut's volume collapsed as prices peaked

Quarterly volume fell from 582k to 417k tonnes by Q3 2024/25 — a –9.5% YoY decline. This marked the sharpest drop in a decade, outpacing the global market's –6.2%.

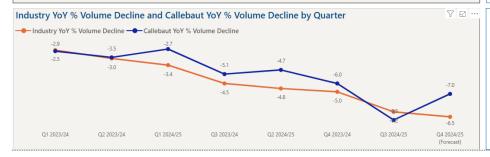
Volumes remain suppressed despite easing prices

. Q4 2024/25 is forecast at 417k tonnes — unchanged from Q3 — even as cocoa prices fall to £9,100/t. This signals demand fragility and limited elasticity in the short term.

Callebaut's trading volume collapsed precisely as cocoa prices peaked and even as prices retreat, volumes remain suppressed. The elasticity is broken.

Q3 2024/25 marked the worst performance in recent history — Callebaut volumes dropped -9.5% YoY, while industry fell -6.2%. Cocoa prices were near all-time highs at £9,425/t





Q4 2024/25: Volume stays low (417k tonnes), YoY decline –7% Cocoa price forecast: £9,100/t Suggests volume recovery is not yet underway, despite easing cocoa prices.

Risk Factors, Market Reactions & Strategic Outlook

NISK Factors			
Risk Factor	Description	Status	Severity
Demand sensitivity	Revenue growth tied to price, not underlying volume	\triangle	High
Dividend sustainability	Not covered by free cash flow	\triangle	Medium
FX & tariff exposure	US tariffs + cocoa region FX volatility increase risk	\triangle	Mediun
High debt leverage	Operating cash flow doesn't cover debt obligations	\triangle	High
Margin compression	Cocoa inflation inflates costs; inventory value rises	\triangle	High
Risk Factor	Description	Status	Severity
Weak volume outlook	Recovery timeline uncertain after steep Q3/Q4 decline	Δ	Mediun

Revised Guidance					
Metric	Previous Outlook	Current Outlook			
EBIT Growth Forecast	Double-digit ↑	Mid-high single ↑			
Metric	Previous Outlook	Current Outlook			
Volume YoY Forecast	Mid-single digit ↓	-7% ↓			
Revenue Growth YoY	Moderate ↑	+49.5% (YTD spike)			

Analysts Sentiment						
JP Morgan	Vontobel	Zurich Cantonal	Baader Bank			
"Weak Q3 lowers visibility on when a return to volume growth is likely."	"High leverage is another major concern."	"Volume decline was worse than feared."	"You're in the black tunnel."			