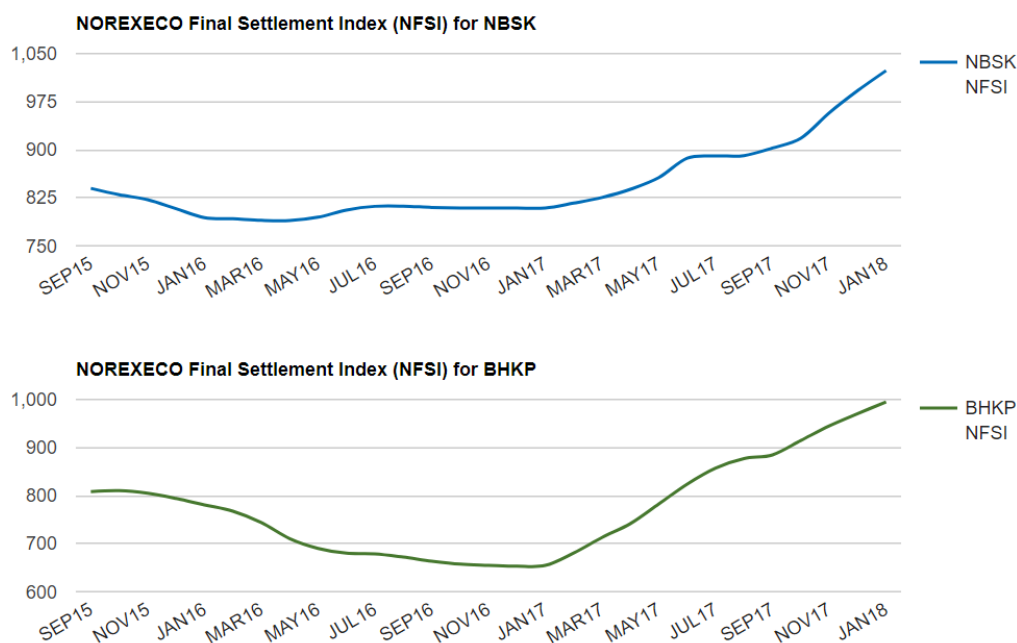




Pulp&Paper • News&Trends • Your February Newsletter

Pulp Price Increase Again in February

Pulp manufacturers announce further price hikes for February deliveries in Western Europe. [Ence](#) announced a price rise of 20\$/ton on its prices for BEKP from February, setting its new list price in Europe at 1,020\$/ton. Softwood pulp manufacturers in northern Europe are struggling with raw material supply as the unusually warm winter makes it difficult to harvest pulpwood. Pulp inventories could not be replenished, and pulp supply is still very tight. In the hardwood pulp segment some converters said they saw first signs of a weakening market in China and hope for this trend to spread to Europe in the coming months.



Pulp Price Upward Trend In 1Q18

The price of pulp is yet to reach its maximum level and should continue to rise in the first quarter of 2018, said [Fibria](#) commercial director Henri Philippe Van Keer. "We do not see [a price] fall in the first quarter of this year," he said.

According to him, demand for pulp remains firm in China, despite the pre-New Year momentum, which seasonally slows the Chinese economy. Europe, meanwhile, has an above-normal demand for pulp and paper due to the winter. NBKP rose 6% in December to about \$950/ton and jumped 40% in 12 months to its highest since June 2011.

China's Tissue Industry Consolidation

China's tissue giant [Vinda](#) expects further industry consolidation as Beijing tightens environmental protection controls. The company forecasts 700,000 ton of production capacity will shut down in 2018, a rise from last year's 600,000 ton. The country has started to levy an "environment tax" from January 1 on enterprises and public institutions that produce noise, air and water pollution, and solid waste from their operations.

While bigger firms like Vinda may be less hit by the tax as they have the means to upgrade their facilities to reduce the discharge of pollutants, smaller players especially local factories, face a bleaker picture, according to analysts.

K-C Cutting 5,000 Jobs Amid Pressure on Prices
[Kimberly-Clark](#), the maker of Huggies and Kleenex, will lay off as much as 13% of its staff in an effort to reduce costs. The group has a cost savings target of more than US\$1.5bn between 2018 and 2021. The move will hit "all of the company's business segments and organisations in each major geography", with 10 manufacturing plants earmarked for sale or closure. They have three UK manufacturing sites in Barrow-in-Furness, Flint and Northfleet.

- [Voith](#) successfully concluded the start-up of two complete double-width machines in Brazil for [Suzano](#)
- [Accrol](#) drops dividend amid interim loss. 1H18 (Oct-17) pretax loss of £6.0m from a profit of £3.1m the prior year
- [Pro-Gest Group](#) and [Lamacart](#) form a waste paper recycling joint venture
- [OMET](#) innovation makes a further step forward and presents the new version of the FV line (FV.6), the high-performing vacuum folding solution especially dedicated to the production of dispenser napkins
- [Prinzhorn Group](#) plans to double in size by 2030. Installation of a 480,000 tpy fluting and testliner paper machine in Turkey by 2020

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