## Metsä Board's pre-silent newsletter Q4 2025

Published on 16 December 2025



### FINANCIAL REPORTING

### Next silent period and publishing of FY 2025 Results, local time

Silent period 1 January – 5 February (noon), 2026

Financial statements bulletin 2025 Thursday, 5 February 2026 at 12.00 pm

Result presentation, webcast Thursday, 5 February 2026 at 15.00 pm

## Financial reporting in 2026, local time

Interim report for January-March Wednesday, 29 April 2026 at 12.00 pm

Half-year report for January-June Thursday, 30 July 2026 at 12.00 pm

Interim report for January-September Thursday, 29 October 2026 at 12.00 pm

### RECENT EVENTS AND NEWS

#### Main events in Q4 2025 (until 15 December)

As part of its EUR 200 million cost savings and profitability improvement programme, Metsä Board carried out change negotiations covering all personnel in Finland and in other operating countries. The negotiations, driven by production-related, financial and operational restructuring needs, led to a total reduction of 310 positions. The change negotiations, including the impact through Metsä Group's shared services, are expected to result in annual cost savings of approximately EUR 30 million. (EUR 14 million one-off cost to be booked in Q4'25 under items affecting comparability).

In addition, the company decided to discontinue pre-engineering for three major investment projects due to insufficient profitability in the current market situation.

Release on 2 October 2025: Metsä Board initiates change negotiations and discontinues the pre-engineering of investments to strengthen the company's profitability, cash flow, and competitiveness

Release on 12 November 2025: Metsä Board's change negotiations concluded in Finland

Release on 8 December 2025: Metsä Board's change negotiations have concluded in all operating countries

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Metsä Board has completed a EUR 60 million modernisation project at its Simpele paperboard mill, enhancing the quality of folding boxboard and supporting the company's goal of fossil-free production. The investment increased the mill's annual FBB capacity by 10,000 tonnes, bringing the total capacity to 310,000 tonnes per year.

Release on 17 October 2025: Metsä Board completes EUR 60 million modernisation at Simpele mill – Launches enhanced MetsäBoard Classic FBB

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Metsä Board decided no longer provide quarterly result guidance due to market volatility. However, the company will continue to provide a verbal description of its short-term outlook. In conjunction with this, the company revised its <u>disclosure policy</u>.

Release on 23 October 2025: Metsä Board updates its disclosure policy and discontinues issuing result guidance for the time being

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#### Other relevant news in Q4 2025 (until 15 December)

Release on 20 October 2025: Metsä Board signed EUR 250 million sustainability-linked revolving credit facility

Release on 24 October 2025: CFO of Metsä Board Corporation to change

On 17 November: Moody's changed Metsä Board's outlook from stable to negative. Long term rating was kept in Investment grade at Baa3. Read Moody's <u>release</u>.

#### NEAR-TERM OUTLOOK AND CONSENSUS ESTIMATES

The near-term outlook provided in Metsä Board's <u>Interim Report for January–September</u> 2025 can be found in <u>here</u>. Metsä Board does not currently issue separate result guidance for the next quarter.

Metsä Board has analyst coverage from <u>eight (8) brokerage firms</u>. A consensus forecast, maintained by an external service provider (Vara Research), is available in <u>here</u>.

## FAQ in Q4 2025

#### Why did you stop providing result guidance in interim reports?

We have, for the time being, discontinued providing result guidance for the next quarter due to the highly volatile and unpredictable market environment. At the same time, we have expanded our verbal description of the near-term outlook. We aim to communicate changes in the operating environment and their impact on Metsä Board with a 3–6 month perspective, while also assessing company-specific factors for the next quarter. Our goal is to ensure that the market continues to have a clear and comprehensive view of the expected performance for the upcoming quarter.

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## What measures is Metsä Board taking to improve leverage (net debt/EBITDA)? Does the company have a rating commitment?

The main factor behind the increase in leverage has been the weak profitability development (EBITDA). To address this, Metsä Board has launched an ambitious transformation program targeting an annual EBITDA improvement of EUR 200 million. The company will provide regular updates on the program's progress in its interim reports. As part of the ongoing transformation program and strategic review, the company is also conducting a thorough assessment of its balance sheet structure.

It is worth noting that Metsä Board's net debt on September 2025 was at a very reasonable level—EUR 338 million—decreasing by almost EUR 100 million from June 2025. Although Metsä Board does not have a formal public rating target/commitment, the actions focused on improving profitability, strengthening cash flow, enforcing strict capital discipline, and reducing investments are expected to support leverage returning toward the target level of below 2.5.

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## What is Metsä Board's current net electricity position, and what can be expected for the sales trend of free emission allowances in the coming years?

Metsä Board is nearly self-sufficient in electricity. In addition to its own electricity generation, the company covers its electricity needs through purchases from PVO and Metsä Fibre. In 2025, external market purchases of electricity accounted for less than 5 percent of total consumption, approximately 50,000 MWh.

Under the revised EU ETS regulations, the free allocation of emission allowances has reduced. Starting in 2026, mills where over 95% of energy-related emissions are covered by renewable sources will no longer be eligible for free allocation. Therefore Metsä Board's sales of unused emission allowances have also declined in recent years. In 2025, sales amounted to approximately EUR 10 million, and for next year we estimate them to be at roughly the same level – assuming current market conditions.

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# What are the main drivers for Metsä Board's Q4'25 result, and what can be expected from Q1'26?

Paperboard demand has during Q4 remained muted - boosted by seasonality - which negatively impacts results: delivery volumes will slightly decline and market-related downtime at mills have continued. In addition, US tariffs, FX headwinds as well as higher energy and fixed costs weigh on profitability. On the positive side, maintenance activity has been lower. Negotiations with insurers regarding the Kemi mill incident are nearing completion, and potential compensation could support Q4 results. Working capital release has progressed better than anticipated, strengthening cash flow.

Visibility remains challenging, making firm guidance for Q1 difficult. However, there are no major maintenance activities planned for Q1. While FX headwinds persist, lower wood costs should partly offset the impact. Actions from the transformation programme will gradually start to show, though financial effects will remain modest in the early stages. We will provide a more detailed verbal outlook alongside the FY2025 result.

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## **INVESTOR RELATIONS AND CONTACT DETAILS**

## **Investor activity**

Past and upcoming investor events can be found on Metsä Board's <u>Investor calendar</u> on our <u>IR website</u>.

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