

Metsä Board Interim report 1.1.–31.3.2024





Metsä Board's comparable operating result in January–March 2024 was EUR 32 million

January–March 2024 (compared to 1–3/2023)

- Sales were EUR 483.7 million (542.1).
- The comparable operating result was EUR 31.5 million (88.7), or 6.5% of sales (16.4).
 Operating result was EUR 23.0 million (88.4).
- Comparable earnings per share were EUR 0.06 (0.19), and earnings per share were EUR 0.04 (0.19).
- Comparable return on capital employed was 5.7% (13.9).
- Net cash flow from operations was EUR -7.9 million (126.4).

Events in January-March 2024

- Demand for Metsä Board's fresh fibre paperboards picked up notably from the previous quarter. The average price of folding boxboard decreased.
- Demand for market pulp was boosted by paper and paperboard producers' higher capacity utilisation rates in Europe. The average prices of market pulp improved, especially in Europe.
- Political strikes by Finnish trade unions from 11 March to 8 April 2024 stopped raw material transports and halted export ports. Due to the strikes, Metsä Board's paperboard and BCTMP production stopped for 2–3 weeks at all the mills in Finland. The company expects the negative impact of the strikes to be around EUR 25 million in the first half of the year.
- Cash flow from operations weakened by a rapid increase in working capital. Cash flow for the review period includes a dividend of EUR 9.8 million (1–3/2023: 83) from the associated company Metsä Fibre.
- On 21 March 2024, a gas explosion occurred at the evaporation plant of the associated company Metsä Fibre's Kemi bioproduct mill, which also affects production at Metsä Board's paperboard mill. The bioproduct mill's downtime caused by the explosion is expected to last until the end of June.
- Metsä Board decided not to go ahead with the Kaskinen folding boxboard mill investment.
 The costs of pre-engineering, EUR 7.6 million, were recognised in the January–March operating result as an item affecting comparability.

- Metsä Board's Annual General Meeting was held on 26 March 2024. The Annual General Meeting resolved that a dividend of EUR 0.25 per share, or a total of approximately EUR 89 million, be paid to the shareholders. The dividend was paid on 9 April 2024.
- CDP recognised Metsä Board with the highest A-level score for transparency on climate change and water security. The company received a grade A- in the forest assessment. The rating was complemented by a place on the CDP Supplier Engagement Leaderboard.

Events after the review period

On 24 April 2024, Metsä Board made an investment decision to renew the folding boxboard machine at Simpele. The investment will enable the replacement of fossil fuels in paperboard production, increase production efficiency and improve the quality of folding boxboard. In addition, the renewal will increase production capacity by 10,000 tonnes, which will bring Simpele's production capacity of folding boxboard to about 310,000 tonnes/year. The investment will start immediately and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2025. The investment value is around EUR 60 million, spread over the period 2024-2026. Simpele mill produces high-quality lightweight folding boxboard, mainly for food and pharmaceutical packaging.

Result guidance for April-June 2024

Metsä Board's comparable operating result in April– June 2024 is expected to be weaker than in January– March 2024.

Metsä Board's CEO Mika Joukio:

"We had a positive start to 2024, with demand for fresh fibre paperboards picking up notably. Demand for paperboards has been boosted by restocking in the value chain and the normalisation of market balance, especially in Europe. We expect the positive momentum to continue in the coming months.

Due to the trade unions' political strikes in March, we were forced to stop production at all our Finnish mills, as raw material transports to mills were halted and port closures prevented customer deliveries. Depending on the mill, the production shutdowns lasted for 2–3 weeks, taking place in March–April. Naturally, this was an unfortunate setback, as order inflows had just picked up after prolonged weak demand. We estimate that the

strikes caused us profit losses of roughly EUR 25 million, around half of which were allocated to the first quarter.

Despite the strikes, our January–March paperboard delivery volumes increased by a fifth from the previous quarter, totalling 364,000 tonnes. The volumes increased in both folding boxboard and white kraftliners. No planned annual maintenance shutdowns took place in the review period, and this also increased paperboard production volumes. Our first-quarter sales amounted to EUR 484 million, and our comparable operating result was EUR 32 million. Our financial position remained strong.

At the end of the review period, a gas explosion occurred at the evaporation plant of Metsä Fibre's Kemi bioproduct mill. The bioproduct mill's production shutdown will also affect the production of white kraftliner at Metsä Board's paperboard mill, which is part of the Kemi integrated mill. The bioproduct mill's downtime caused by the explosion is expected to last until the end of June. However, we plan to continue producing white kraftliner during the repair work at a lower than normal production level.

We decided not to invest in a new folding boxboard mill in Kaskinen. The pre-engineering indicated that the project's overall cost would have been significantly higher than the original estimate, and the project would not have met the financial targets set for it. Instead, we will launch programmes for new product options as well as growth and development investments at our existing mills to implement our strategy of growing in fibrebased packaging materials and renewing our industrial operations. The programmes will support our target of fossil free production by the end of 2030. We will also continue to develop packaging solutions that reduce the use of plastic, especially in food and food service packaging.

We are currently focusing on making full use of the growth investments completed in Husum and Kemi last year. Both investments strengthen our leading position in folding boxboard and coated white kraftliners in our main market areas in Europe and North America. Our customers appreciate high quality, and we aim to be their preferred supplier of premium fibre-based packaging solutions."

Key figures

	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Q1	Q1	Q4	Q1-Q4
Sales, EUR million	483.7	542.1	422.6	1,941.9
EBITDA, EUR million	57.0	113.4	25.1	214.6
comparable, EUR million	57.8	113.7	26.0	216.0
EBITDA, % of sales	11.8	20.9	5.9	11.1
comparable, % of sales	12.0	21.0	6.2	11.1
Operating result, EUR million	23.0	88.4	-0.2	120.8
comparable, EUR million	31.5	88.7	0.7	122.2
Operating result, % of sales	4.8	16.3	0.0	6.2
comparable, % of sales	6.5	16.4	0.2	6.3
Result before taxes, EUR million	20.1	87.7	1.4	120.9
comparable, EUR million	28.6	88.2	2.3	122.6
Result for the period, EUR million	14.8	75.5	0.9	101.6
comparable, EUR million	21.7	75.9	1.8	103.8
Earnings per share, EUR	0.04	0.19	0.01	0.27
comparable, EUR	0.06	0.19	0.01	0.27
Return on equity, %	3.0	13.8	0.2	4.7
comparable, %	4.4	13.9	0.3	4.8
Return on capital employed, %	4.3	13.9	0.3	5.0
comparable, %	5.7	13.9	0.4	5.1
Equity ratio 1), %	64	62	67	67
Net gearing 1), %	9	0	7	7
Interest-bearing net liabilities/comparable EBITDA, 12m rolling	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.7
Shareholders' equity per share 1), EUR	4.93	5.48	5.35	5.35
Interest-bearing net liabilities 1), EUR million	176.2	8.6	144.0	144.0
Total investment, EUR million	23.9	57.4	228.7	228.7
Net cash flow from operations, EUR million	-7.9	126.4	124.3	342.8
Personnel 1)	2,263	2,280	2,240	2,240

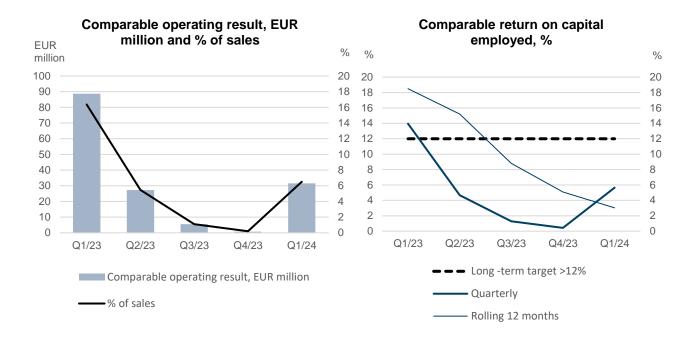
¹⁾ at the end of the period

Delivery and production volumes

	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
1,000 tonnes	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q1-Q4
Delivery volumes						
Folding boxboard	242	188	228	235	255	906
White kraftliner	123	111	112	118	126	467
Metsä Board's market pulp 1)	115	120	107	83	83	394
Metsä Fibre's market pulp 2)	171	191	200	132	161	684
Production volumes						
Folding boxboard	279	179	209	208	263	859
White kraftliner	121	133	101	104	113	450
Metsä Board's pulp 1)	318	235	209	254	298	996
Metsä Fibre's pulp 2)	177	201	160	140	184	685

¹⁾ Includes chemical pulp and high-yield pulp (BCTMP).

²⁾ Equal to Metsä Board's 24.9% holding in Metsä Fibre.



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Sales and result

January-March 2024 (compared to 1-3/2023)

Metsä Board's sales were EUR 483.7 million (542.1). Folding boxboard accounted for 56% (61) of sales, while 25% (24) of sales came from white kraftliner, 14% (12) from market pulp, and 4% (3) from other operations.

The comparable operating result was EUR 31.5 million (88.7), and the operating result was EUR 23.0 million (88.4). Items affecting comparability totalled EUR -8.5 million, comprising a write-down of EUR -7.6 million for the prefeasibility study of the Kaskinen folding boxboard mill and EUR -0.8 million for the write-down of Metsä Fibre's Merikarvia sawmill and other items.

Total deliveries of paperboards were 364.000 (381.000) tonnes, of which 66% was delivered to the EMEA region, 31% to the Americas, and 3% to the APAC region. Metsä Board's deliveries of market pulp were 115.000 (83.000) tonnes, of which 77% was delivered to the EMEA region, and 23% to the APAC region.

The comparable operating result was weakened by lower average prices of folding boxboard and market pulp. Paperboard delivery volumes remained quite stable, while the delivery volumes of market pulp increased from the comparison period.

Unused emissions allowances were sold for a total of approximately EUR 5 million (20).

Except for wood costs, production costs were down from the comparison period. Wood costs increased due to higher stumpage prices in Finland and Sweden.

Exchange rate fluctuations, including hedges, had a positive impact of around EUR 6 million on the operating result compared to the comparison period.

The associated company Metsä Fibre's share of Metsä Board's comparable operating result in January–March was EUR -5.5 million (28.6). Metsä Fibre's result was weakened by the lower sales prices of pulp, higher wood costs and depreciation, which increased from the comparison period.

The company expects the political strikes in Finland to have had a negative impact of EUR 10–15 million on the review period's comparable operating result. This estimate also includes the impact of Metsä Fibre's share of the result.

Financial income and expenses totalled EUR -2.9 million (-0.7), including foreign exchange rate differences from trade receivables, trade payables, financial items and the valuation of currency hedging instruments, totalling EUR -2.1 million (-0.8).

The result before taxes was EUR 20.1 million (87.7). The comparable result before taxes was EUR 28.6 million (88.2). Income taxes amounted to EUR 5.4 million (12.3).

Earnings per share were EUR 0.04 (0.19). The return on equity was 3.0% (13.8), and the comparable return on equity was 4.4% (13.9). The return on capital employed was 4.3% (13.9), and the comparable return on capital employed was 5.7% (13.9).

Operating result in January–March 2024 in brief (compared to 10–12/2023)

The comparable operating result in January-March was EUR 31.5 million (0.7). The comparable operating result improved, especially due to the higher paperboard delivery volumes. Moreover, no planned annual maintenance shutdowns took place in the first quarter. Total costs remained quite stable. Profitability was supported by improved production efficiency, especially concerning Husum's folding boxboard. The comparable operating result was weakened by the lower average prices of folding boxboard and the political strikes in Finland. Unused emissions allowances were sold for approximately EUR 5 million (10-12/2023: 10). Metsä Fibre's share of Metsä Board's comparable operating result in January-March was EUR -5.5 million (-4.5). Metsä Fibre's result improved thanks to the higher sales prices of market pulp. In turn, the result was weakened by the lower sales prices of other end products and the decline in pulp delivery volumes.

Political strikes in Finland

The political strikes organised by the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK began on 11 March 2024 and ended on 8 April 2024. The strikes were organised to protest against the labour market reforms and social security cuts planned by the Finnish Government. Because of the strikes, raw material transports to the mills were halted, and customer deliveries were interrupted, as Finland's export ports came to a standstill. Metsä Board's BCTMP mills in Joutseno and Kaskinen and the Kemi paperboard mill were shut down on 17 March 2024. Simpele, Kyro, Tako and Äänekoski paperboard mills were shut down on 25 March 2024. The production losses from the strikes are expected to total 50,000 tonnes of paperboard and 30,000 tonnes of

BCTMP. Mainly caused by production and sales losses, the negative impact on Metsä Board's comparable operating result is estimated to total EUR 25 million. Of this, approximately EUR 10–15 million is expected to have affected the January–March results. This estimate also includes the impact of the associated company Metsä Fibre's share of the result.

Shutdown at the Kemi integrated mill

On 21 March 2024, a gas explosion occurred at the evaporation plant of Metsä Board's associated company Metsä Fibre's Kemi bioproduct mill. The explosion did not cause any human injuries. Metsä Board's Kemi paperboard mill, which produces white kraftliner, is part of the Kemi integrated mill. The paperboard mill did not suffer damage in the explosion, but the production of unbleached pulp used in the kraftliner production, depends on the chemical cycle of Metsä Fibre's bioproduct mill. The repair of the damaged units of the evaporation plant at the bioproduct mill is expected to last until the end of June, when production at the mill can start. To ensure the original capacity and life cycle of the evaporation plant, the damaged units will be replaced with new units, the installation of which is expected to take place in the last quarter of the year.

Metsä Board is preparing to start paperboard production with dried pulp and at a lower than normal production level during the repair work. In addition, some of the coated kraftliner production will be moved to Husum. The production and sales losses from the accident, as well as their financial impact, are significant. The full impact will become more precise as the repair work progresses, and the production restart will be specified. Metsä Board and Metsä Fibre have property damage and business interruption insurance policies in accordance with established practice.

Market development

The table below shows the deliveries and market prices of paperboard grades important for Metsä Board in Europe, the market prices of paperboards in the United States, and the development of the PIX market prices of pulp in Europe and China. The changes in market prices have been calculated from the average prices of the period under review. Sources: Fastmarkets FOEX, Fastmarkets RISI, CEPI Cartonboard, CEPI Containerboard.

	Q1/24 vs Q1/23	Q1/24 vs Q4/23					
Paperboard deliveries, Cepi members							
Folding boxboard, Europe	increased clearly	increased clearly					
White kraftliner, Europe	increased clearly	increased clearly					
Market prices of paperboards in local currencies							
Folding boxboard, Europe	decreased clearly	decreased clearly					
White kraftliner, Europe	decreased clearly	decreased					
Solid bleached board, USA	decreased clearly	decreased					
Food service board, USA	decreased	decreased					
-1% < stable < +1%, increased (decreased): +1+2% (-1%2%), increased clearly (decreased clearly): > +2% (< -2%)							

Market prices of pulp, PIX, USD

Long-fibre pulp, Europe, %	-5	11
Short-fibre pulp, Europe, %	-16	23
Long-fibre pulp, China, %	-18	-2
Short-fibre pulp, China, %	-13	6

Business operations and their development

Metsä Board produces recyclable and premium fresh fibre paperboards and is Europe's largest producer of folding boxboard and white kraftliners. Metsä Board's folding boxboard is mainly used in consumer product packaging such as food and pharmaceutical packaging. The end uses of white kraftliners are mainly related to the various packaging needs of the retail sector. The total annual paperboard capacity is approximately 2.3 million tonnes. Metsä Board's main market areas are Europe and North America.

In addition to paperboard, Metsä Board produces chemical pulp and bleached mechanical pulp (BCTMP), which are used in its own paperboard production but are also sold as market pulp. Metsä Board owns 24.9% of its associated company Metsä Fibre, a global leader in the production of softwood market pulp.

Metsä Board covers its energy consumption with its own production and supplementary purchases from the market. Most of the electricity consumption is covered by the company's own production and by electricity purchased from Pohjolan Voima and Metsä Fibre. Metsä Board has a 2.6% holding in Pohjolan Voima, from which it purchases electricity at cost price.

Paperboard sales

Metsä Board's paperboard deliveries in January–March totalled 364.000 tonnes (1-3/2023: 381.000).

Deliveries of folding boxboard were 242.000 tonnes (255.000), of which 74% (72) was delivered to the EMEA region, 22% (23) to the Americas, and 4% (4) to the APAC region. Deliveries of white kraftliners were 123.000 tonnes (126.000), of which 52% (58) was delivered to the EMEA region, 47% (41) to the Americas, and 1% (0) to the APAC region.

In 2023, the decline in demand for consumer products and the adjustments to inventories in the value chain considerably reduced the demand for fresh fibre paper-boards. In the EMEA region, the paperboard market balance was affected by the rapidly increasing import volumes from Asia.

In early 2024, demand for fresh fibre paperboards picked up clearly from the low levels in 2023. Demand for paperboards has been increased by restocking in the value chain and by the market balance returning to normal, especially in Europe.

The political strikes in Finland restricted Metsä Board's customer deliveries at the end of the review period. Their impacts will continue to be felt in the second quarter.

Metsä Board's North American inventories are in the ports of Baltimore and Jacksonville. In March, a bridge

collapsed in the Port of Baltimore after being struck by a cargo ship. Because of the accident, Metsä Board's North American paperboard deliveries had to be rerouted.

The average price of Metsä Board's folding boxboard decreased in the first quarter compared to the average price in 2023. The average price of white kraftliners remained quite stable.

Market pulp sales

Metsä Board's market pulp deliveries totalled 115,000 tonnes (83,000) in January– March, with the EMEA region accounting for 67%, and the APAC region for 33%.

The associated company Metsä Fibre's total pulp deliveries amounted to 686.000 tonnes (647.000). Metsä Fibre's pulp deliveries are allocated approximately 50/50 between the APAC and EMEA regions.

Demand for pulp improved in the early part of the year, especially in Europe, thanks to the higher utilisation rates of paper and paperboard producers. In China, demand was seasonally decreased by the Chinese New Year, during which the production of paper and paperboard mills is restricted.

The average market pulp prices (PIX) declined from the comparison period. However, compared to the previous quarter, market prices (PIX) improved, especially in Europe.

The supply of long-fibre market pulp was restricted by the political strikes in Finland, the capacity shutdowns carried out in 2023 and global bottlenecks in logistics.

Paperboard, pulp and BCTMP production

The production volume of folding boxboard and white kraftliner totalled 400.000 tonnes (376.000), while the combined production volume of pulp and BCTMP amounted to 318.000 tonnes (298.000).

No planned annual maintenance shutdowns took place during the review period. In the comparison period, Metsä Board's paperboard, BCTMP and pulp production was reduced to match the weaker demand situation.

The political strikes organised in Finland 11 March–8 April 2024 halted raw material transports to mills and product transports to ports. The strikes forced Metsä Board to stop production at all its paperboard and BCTMP mills in Finland for 2–3 weeks. The company estimates that the production losses caused by the strikes totalled around 50,000 tonnes of paperboard and 30,000 tonnes of BCTMP.

Cash flow

Net cash flow from operations in January–March 2024 was EUR -7.9 million (1–3/2023: 126.4). Working capital increased by EUR 70.3 million (an increase of 46.1 million).

Cash flow from operations was weakened by a rapid increase in working capital. Cash flow includes a dividend of EUR 9.8 million from the associated company Metsä Fibre (1–3/2023: EUR 83 million). In the comparison period, cash flow was also supported by the production adjustments made to prevent an increase in inventories.

Balance sheet and financing

Metsä Board's equity ratio at the end of the review period was 64% (31 December 2023: 67), and the net gearing ratio was 9% (7). The ratio of interest-bearing net liabilities to comparable EBITDA in the previous 12 months was 1.1 (0.7).

At the end of the review period, interest-bearing liabilities totalled EUR 441.6 million (31 December 2023: 438.1). Non-euro-denominated loans accounted for 1.8% of loans and floating-rate loans for 15.8%, the rest being fixed-rate loans. The average interest rate on liabilities was 2.6% (2.6), and the average maturity of noncurrent liabilities was 2.8 years (3.1). The average duration of loans was 27.7 months (30.6). During the review period, the company agreed with the banking group to defer the maturity date of the EUR 100 million bank loan by 18 months from the beginning of 2025 to July 2026.

At the end of the review period, interest-bearing net debt totalled EUR 176.2 million (31 December 2023: 144.0).

At the end of the review period, the available liquidity was EUR 465.3 million (31 December 2023: 556.2), consisting of the following items: liquid assets and investments of EUR 265.3 million; and a syndicated credit facility (revolving credit facility) of EUR 200.0 million. Of the liquid assets, EUR 262.3 million consisted of short-term deposits with Metsä Group Treasury, and EUR 3.0 million was cash funds and investments. Other interest-bearing receivables amounted to EUR 0.0 million. In addition to items reported as liquidity, the liquidity reserve is complemented by a EUR 200 million commercial paper programme, Metsä Group's internal undrawn short-term credit facility of EUR 150 million (undrawn part 147.4 million) and undrawn pension premium (TyEL) funds of EUR 229.7 million.

The fair value of other non-current investments was EUR 215.0 million at the end of the review period (31 December 2023: 254.4). The change in value was related to the change in the fair value of Pohjolan Voima Oyj's shares.

At the end of the review period, an average of 8.7 months of the net foreign currency exposure was hedged, including the hedging of the balance sheet position of trade receivables and trade payables.

Metsä Board has investment grade credit ratings from S&P Global and Moody's Investor Service. Metsä Board's rating by S&P Global is BBB-, with a stable outlook. The company's rating by Moody's is Baa2, with a stable outlook.

Investments

Investments during the financial year totalled EUR 23.9 million (1–3/2023: 57.4), with growth and development investments accounting for 58%, and maintenance investments for 42%. Of total investments, the company's own property, plant and equipment amounted to EUR 21.4 million (57.3), and leased property, plant and equipment to EUR 2.6 (0.1).

In 2023, two significant investments were completed at the Kemi and Husum paperboard mills, which will increase Metsä Board's annual paperboard capacity by approximately 240,000 tonnes. As part of the Kemi investment programme, Metsä Board will purchase a modernised production line for unbleached pulp from Metsä Fibre for use in paperboard production. The production line's annual capacity is roughly 180,000 tonnes. The total value of the Kemi and Husum investments is EUR 340 million.

Metsä Board Group companies are parties to legal proceedings concerning disputes related to obligations and liabilities under delivery contracts for major investment projects. In addition, these investment projects involve outstanding disputes, which may also lead to the initiation of new arbitration or litigation.

Renewal of the Husum port concept

Due to the growing logistics volumes of the Husum integrated mill, the Husum port concept will be renewed. The value of investments is around EUR 20 million. The investments are expected to be completed during 2024.

ERP project

As part of Metsä Group, Metsä Board is modernising its information (ERP) systems. The project will gradually improve Metsä Group's operational efficiency and ability to create new data-driven functions, primarily for business management and customer support. For Metsä Board, the design phase started in 2021, and the system is expected to be implemented by the end of 2025. In 2023, Metsä Group's common financial system was implemented. Metsä Board's share of the total project value is at least EUR 80 million, most of which will be booked as investments during 2024 and 2025.

Planned investments

Metsä Board announced on 21 March 2024 that it will not invest in the Kaskinen folding boxboard mill. Instead, the company will launch programmes for new product options as well as growth and development investments at its existing mills. These programmes will further improve the competitiveness of the mills and products and support the company's target of fossil-free production by the end of 2030. Metsä Board will regularly report on the progress of the investments in its interim reports and, if necessary, in separate releases.

At the Husum integrated mill in Sweden, Metsä Board will start a programme to introduce new products on the current white kraftliner production line (BM2). The aim is to find new innovative solutions for the growing food and food service packaging segment. The company continues to plan the renewal of the fibre line at the Husum pulp mill.

The investment programme to modernise the Simpele board mill includes renewals in the mechanical pulp production, in the pre-drying and coating section of the paperboard machine as well as in the finishing area. The programme also includes a new power plant. At the Kyro board mill, an investment programme will be launched to improve the performance of the current barrier board and expand its end-use areas. The total estimated investment cost of the Simpele and Kyro paperboard mills is EUR 250 million over the next 10 years.

Personnel

At the end of March 2024, the number of personnel was 2,263 (31/03/2023: 2,280), of whom 1,263 (1,224) were based in Finland. In January–March, Metsä Board employed 2,256 people on average (1–3/2023: 2,270). Personnel expenses in January–March totalled EUR 50.0 million (53.6).

In November 2023, Metsä Board conducted change negotiations on possible temporary layoffs at the company's paperboard and BCTMP mills in Finland. The possible layoffs would last for a maximum of 90 days, and they could be implemented in several sets during 2024. Temporary layoffs will be implemented if production has to be adjusted to match low delivery volumes. No layoffs took place in the first quarter.

Shares and trading

Metsä Board has two series of shares. Each series A share entitles its holder to twenty (20) votes at a General Meeting of Shareholders, and each series B share entitles the holder to one (1) vote. All shares carry the same right to receive a dividend. Metsä Board's shares are listed on the Nasdag Helsinki.

At the end of March 2024, the closing price of Metsä Board's B share on the Nasdaq Helsinki was EUR 7.02. The share's highest and lowest prices were EUR 7.66 and EUR 6.57 respectively. Correspondingly, the closing price of the A share was EUR 8.16; the share's highest and lowest prices were EUR 9.62 and EUR 7.42, respectively.

In January–March, the average daily trading volumes of the B and A shares on the Nasdaq Helsinki were around 415,600 shares and 2,600 shares respectively. The total trading volume of the B share was EUR 186 million, and the total trading volume of the A share was EUR 1 million.

At the end of March 2024, the market value of all Metsä Board shares was EUR 2.5 billion, of which the market value of the B shares and the A shares accounted for EUR 2.3 billion and EUR 0.3 billion respectively.

Metsä Board's major shareholder Metsäliitto Cooperative holds approximately 52% of Metsä Board's shares and approximately 69% of votes. As Metsä Board is an entity controlled by Metsäliitto Cooperative, Metsäliitto Cooperative's ownership also includes 477,890 of the company's own shares held by Metsä Board.

Foreign and nominee-registered investors held approximately 9% (11) of all shares (source: Euroland).

Sustainability

Climate change mitigation and adapting the business to a low-carbon future are at the core of Metsä Board's strategy and operational business. The company aims for entirely fossil free production and products by the end of 2030. In accordance with the principles of the circular economy, the company focuses on the sustainable use of forests and the resource efficiency of processes, generating as little waste and emissions as possible, and keeping materials in circulation for extended periods. Resource efficiently produced lightweight, recyclable and/or compostable products also provide alternatives to plastic.

Key sustainability figures

	2024	2023	2023	Target
	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4	2030
Total recordable incident frequency TRIF ¹⁾	2.2	5.3	6.1	0
Women in management positions ²⁾ , %	21	22	21	>30
Share of certified wood fibre, %	92	90	91	>90
Share of fossil free energy of total energy consumption 3), %	-	-	90	100
Direct fossil-based CO ₂ emissions, tonnes (Scope 1)	48,782	59,366	181,096	0
Indirect fossil-based CO ₂ emissions ⁴⁾ , tonnes (Scope 2)	-	-	2,261	0
Energy efficiency improvement ⁵⁾ , %	-2.7	+0.1	-5.8	+10
Reduction in process water use ⁵⁾ , %	-1.0	-7.9	+3.5	-35

- 1) Per million hours worked.
- 2) Management level VP/SVP/CEO, and management IPE level.
- 3) Reported annually.
- 4) Market-based, reported annually.
- 5) Change from the base year of 2018, per tonne produced, rolling 12 months.

Some of the figures have been revised from the previously reported figures.

Occupational safety and equality

Metsä Board aims for zero accidents at work. All Metsä Board production units comply with the ISO 45001 management system and common occupational safety standards. Occupational safety is developed through proactive safety work, training and investments, for example. The focus areas are personal risk assessment, and improving hand safety and crane safety.

Diversity, equality and inclusion are promoted through the *Metsä for all* vision and measured with the set targets. One of the targets is to increase the share of women at management level to at least 30%. The aim is also to increase the share of women at all organisational levels.

Share of certified wood fibre

Metsä Board's target is that at least 90% of the wood fibre it uses is certified. All the wood used by Metsä Board comes from Northern European forests. All the countries from which wood is procured impose a statutory obligation to renew forests after regeneration felling. Metsä Group, which is responsible for Metsä Board's wood supply, has targets to promote the biodi-

versity of forest nature and the sustainable use of forests in accordance with the principles of regenerative forestry.

Greenhouse gas emissions, and energy and water use

Metsä Board's goal is to phase out the use of fossilbased energy altogether by the end of 2030, at which point the company's direct and indirect fossil-based carbon dioxide emissions (Scope 1 and 2) will drop to zero. To achieve this, the company has a transition plan, which includes production unit-specific measures and the necessary investments. The vast majority of the company's greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy generation required to produce pulp, BCTMP and paperboard. Metsä Board's reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions have been approved by the Science Based Targets initiative and they meet the strictest require-ments of the Paris Agreement, which aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C degrees. For the value chain (Scope 3), Metsä Board will update its target in 2024.

By the end of 2030, the company also aims to improve energy efficiency by 10% and reduce process water use by 35% per tonne produced compared to 2018.

Other main events

Metsä Board again achieved the position on the A List in CDP's Climate change and Water security assessments. In the Forests assessment the company scored an A-. Metsä Board was also selected to the CDP Supplier Engagement Leaderboard for its work to engage with suppliers to jointly mitigate climate change. The sustainability targets and other sustainability topics are discussed in more detail on the company's website at https://www.metsagroup.com/metsaboard/sustainability/

R&D and innovation

In the circular economy of fibre packaging materials, Metsä Board's mission is to produce high-quality fresh fibre paperboards in the most resource-efficient way possible, help replace fossil-based materials and reduce the carbon footprint of packaging.

One of the focus areas in Metsä Board's R&D work is to further reduce the weight of paperboards without compromising other properties and to develop barrier solutions.

In addition to the fossil free energy used in production, resource efficiency and lightness of paperboard plays an important role in reducing the carbon footprint. Metsä Board's goal is that in the future, the consumption of wood, energy and water per produced tonne of paperboard will be lower than in current production.

Another focus area for product development is the development of bio-based barrier coatings, especially for food packaging. Metsä Board has an ongoing biobarrier programme, the starting point of which is that the solutions and polymers developed for paperboards will be based on fossil free raw materials by the end of 2030. The development of barrier solutions is also part of Fortum and Metsä Group's EUR 50 million ExpandFibre programme to promote the bio-cycle economy.

Resolutions of Annual General Meeting and issue authorisations

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Metsä Board Corporation was held on 26 March 2024. All the proposals made by the Board of Directors to the AGM were supported.

The AGM resolved that a dividend of EUR 0.25 per share would be distributed for the 2023 financial year. The dividend was paid on 9 April 2024.

The AGM resolved to remove the requirement of publishing the notice of the AGM in a national newspaper. The AGM also resolved to remove the Article on the matters to be included on the agenda of an AGM and the Article on the auditor altogether as unnecessary provisions.

The AGM resolved to keep the remuneration of the members of the Board of Directors unchanged so that the Chair would be paid EUR 99,000, the Vice Chair EUR 85,000, and ordinary members EUR 67,000 per year. The AGM resolved that half the annual remuneration would be paid in the company's Series B shares to be acquired from public trading. The transfer of such shares is restricted for a two-year period. In addition, it was resolved to increase the meeting fees to EUR 1,000 (previously EUR 800) for each meeting of the Board of Directors and its Committees attended. Meeting fees shall be paid in cash. Furthermore, the Chair of the Audit Committee will be paid an additional monthly remuneration of EUR 900.

The AGM confirmed the number of members of the Board of Directors as nine (9) and elected the following persons as members of the Board of Directors: Raija-Leena Hankonen-Nybom M.Sc. (Economics), Erja Hyrsky M.Sc. (Economics), Ilkka Hämälä M.Sc. (Technology), Mari Kiviniemi M.Soc.Sc. (Economics), Jussi Linnaranta, M.Sc. (Agriculture and Forestry), Jukka Moisio M.Sc. (Economics), Mikko Mäkimattila, M.Sc. (Agriculture and Forestry), Juha Vanhainen, M.Sc. (Process Technology) and Leena Craelius, M.Sc. (Economics). The term of office of the members of the Board of Directors expires at the end of the next Annual General Meeting.

At its organising meeting the Board of Directors elected Ilkka Hämälä as its Chair and Jussi Linnaranta as its Vice Chair. The Board of Directors further resolved to organise into committees as follows: Raija-Leena Hankonen-Nybom was elected as Chair of the Audit Committee with Leena Craelius, Mari Kiviniemi, Jukka Moisio and Juha Vanhainen as members while Ilkka Hämälä was elected as Chair of the Nomination and HR Committee with Erja Hyrsky, Jussi Linnaranta and Mikko Mäkimattila as members.

The AGM resolved to authorise the Board of Directors to decide on the issuance of shares, the transfer of treasury shares and the issuance of special rights referred to in chapter 10, section 1 of the Finnish Companies Act. The authorisation applies to Series B shares. By virtue of the authorisation, the Board of Directors may issue new shares or transfer treasury shares up to a maximum of 35,000,000 shares, including shares that may be issued by virtue of special rights referred to in chapter 10, section 1 of the Finnish Companies Act. The number of shares corresponds to approximately 10% of all shares in the company. The authorisation is effective until 30 June 2025.

The AGM resolved to authorise the Board of Directors to decide on the repurchase of the company's own Series B shares. The number of the company's own shares to be repurchased under the authorisation will not exceed 1,000,000 Series B shares, which corresponds to approximately 0.3% of all shares in the company. The authorisation is effective until 30 June 2025.

Near-term risks and uncertainties

The uncertainty surrounding global development and growth continues. The higher cost level and the resulting rise in interest rates have slowed down economic growth worldwide and especially in Europe. Consumers' low confidence in the economy and weaker purchasing power have reduced the demand for consumer products. If prolonged, the situation may further reduce the demand for fresh fibre paperboards and market pulp and negatively affect Metsä Board's profitability.

Most of Metsä Board's production is located in Finland. Finland has a history of labour disputes in both the forest industry and the distribution chain of forest industry products. These may have a negative impact on production volumes and customer deliveries and weaken the company's competitiveness and profitability.

The continuity of the mills' production and the company's other operations could be affected by serious accidents, cyberattacks and malware, for example. If such interruptions continue for a long time, the resulting financial losses may be substantial and result in the permanent loss of customers.

The growth of the paperboard business and the introduction of new products to the markets depend on the success of sales. Increasing sales on a global scale also involves cost and exchange rate risks. In addition, the acceptability and taxation of various packaging materials involve regulatory risks.

An imbalance in demand and supply on the paperboard or pulp market could influence the demand for and pricing of Metsä Board's products. Paperboard imports from Asia have increased, especially to Turkey, the Middle East and South America, and if they increase faster than demand, they could also cause an imbalance in other market areas significant to Metsä Board.

Business is also being developed by modernising production technology, running efficiency programmes and conducting product development. If the costs of development projects and investments are significantly exceeded, their completion is delayed, or their productive or commercial objectives are not met, this could negatively affect the company's profitability.

Difficulties in wood supply and significant price fluctuations could have an adverse impact on the continuity of production and Metsä Board's profitability. Significant or unforeseen fluctuation in the prices of other important production inputs such as energy and chemicals, and problems related to their availability, could erode profitability, threaten business continuity and jeopardise the implementation of development investments.

Disruptions in global transport chains, a decrease in the availability of transport capacity or an increase in market prices could have a negative impact on the company's profitability. The prolongation of the conflict in the Middle East and the unstable security situation in

the Red Sea could have a negative impact on the ocean transport of Metsä Board's and Metsä Fibre's products and thus the company's profitability.

Negative developments in trade policy or global trade – including sanctions, import duties and other trade restrictions between countries – could directly or indirectly affect demand for Metsä Board's products and the company's profitability. In particular, deteriorating relations between China and the EU could have a negative impact on the demand for Metsä Board's and its associated company Metsä Fibre's products in China, thus weakening the companies' profitability.

Climate risks mainly concern forests and the use of energy and water. Regulation may steer the future use of forests. Increased regulation aiming to mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions may, furthermore, increase costs and result in substantial change requirements applicable to production technology. Climate change may increase extreme weather phenomena such as storms, floods and droughts, causing interruptions in the mills' production or limit the availability of wood raw material.

The weaker cash position or slower payments of Metsä Board's customers may have an impact on the company's cash flow and lead to credit losses.

Changes in the market price of pulp have a significant impact on Metsä Board's profitability. A 10% decline (increase) in the price of market pulp would have an approximately EUR 40 million negative (positive) impact on the company's annual operating result.

The US dollar strengthening by 10% against the euro would have a positive impact of approximately EUR 70 million on Metsä Board's annual operating result. Correspondingly, the Swedish krona strengthening by 10% would have a negative impact of approximately EUR 50 million. The British pound strengthening by 10% would have a positive impact of approximately EUR 10 million. The impact of weakened exchange rates would be the opposite. The sensitivities do not include the impact of hedging.

The forward-looking estimates and statements in this interim report are based on current plans and estimates. For this reason, they contain risks and other uncertainties that may cause the results to differ from the statements concerning them.

Further information about long-term risks and risk management can be found in the 2023 Report of the Board of Directors and on pages 16–18 of Metsä Board's Annual review.

Near-term outlook

The good demand for fresh fibre paperboards seen in the beginning of the year is expected to continue in the second quarter. Demand is supported by restocking activities in the value chain. The overall demand for consumer products will continue to be influenced by the trend in consumers' purchasing power and general purchasing behaviour.

Metsä Board's paperboard delivery volumes are expected to increase slightly in April–June compared the previous quarter (1–3/2024: 364,000 tonnes). The sales prices in local currencies are expected to remain stable.

More annual maintenance shutdowns will take place at the mills in April–June compared to the previous quarter.

Total costs, excluding pulp costs, are expected to remain stable.

Average pulp prices are expected to improve clearly from the first quarter. The global market situation for long-fibre pulp will remain tight, as supply is limited by the repair works at the Kemi bioproduct mill, pulp producers' annual maintenance shutdowns and bottlenecks in global logistics. The demand and price situation for sawn timber is expected to improve slightly on a seasonal basis in the second quarter of the year.

In April—June 2024, exchange rate fluctuations, including the impact of hedges, will have a slightly positive impact on the operating result compared with January—March 2024 and a slightly positive impact compared with April—June 2023.

The negative result impact caused by the political strikes in Finland is expected to be roughly at the same level in April–June as in January–March, EUR 10–15 million. In April–June, the negative result impact caused by the gas explosion in Kemi is expected to amount to EUR 30–40 million. The estimate will be specified as a more precise schedule for the repair work and production restart becomes available. Metsä Board and Metsä Fibre have property damage and business interruption insurance policies in accordance with established practice, for which compensations are recognised later and are not included in the estimate. The estimates concerning the strikes and the gas explosion in Kemi include the impact of Metsä Fibre's share of the result.

Annual maintenance shutdowns in 2024

The main annual maintenance shutdowns expected in 2024. Changes to plans are possible.

Main annual maintenance shutdowns

Q1/2024	-
Q2/2024	Kemi integrated mill: Metsä Board and Metsä Fibre
Q3/2024	Husum integrated mill
Q4/2024	-

Events after the review period

On 24 April 2024, Metsä Board made an investment decision to renew the folding boxboard machine at Simpele. The investment will enable the replacement of fossil fuels in paperboard production, increase production efficiency and improve the quality of folding boxboard. In addition, the renewal will increase production capacity by 10,000 tonnes, which will bring Simpele's production capacity of folding boxboard to about 310,000 tonnes/year. The investment will start immediately and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2025. The investment value is around EUR 60 million, spread over the period 2024-2026. Simpele mill produces high-quality lightweight folding boxboard, mainly for food and pharmaceutical packaging.

Result guidance for April-June 2024

Metsä Board's comparable operating result in April– June 2024 is expected to be weaker than in January– March 2024.

METSÄ BOARD CORPORATION

Espoo, 25 April 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Further information:

Henri Sederholm, CFO, tel. +358 10 465 4913 Katri Sundström, VP, Investor Relations, tel. +358 10 462 0101

A webcast and a conference call for analysts and investors in English will be held on the same day at 3:00 p.m. EEST. CEO Mika Joukio and CFO Henri Sederholm will present the results. The webcast and conference call can be followed online on the company's website at https://metsaboard.videosync.fi/q1-2024

Participation in the conference call requires registration through the following link: https://palvelu.flik.fi/teleconference/?id=50047147. After the registration, the participant will be provided with a phone number, a User ID and a Conference ID to access the conference. By participating in the conference call, the participant agrees that personal information such as name and company name can be collected.

Financial reporting in 2024

Interim Report for January–March 2024: 25 April 2024 Half-year financial report for January–July 2024: 1 August 2024

Interim Report for January–September 2024: 24 October 2024

Metsä Board Corporation's Annual General Meeting was held on 26 March 2024.

Calculation of key ratios

Result before income tax, financial income and expenses, exchange gains

Operating result = and losses, and share of results from associated companies and joint ventures

EBITDA = Operating result before depreciation, amortisation and impairment losses

Return on equity (%) = (Result before income tax – income taxes) per (Shareholder's equity (aver-

age))

Return on capital employed

(%)

= (Result before income taxes + net exchange differences and other financial expenses) per (Balance total – non-interest bearing liabilities (average))

Equity ratio (%) = (Shareholder's equity) per (Balance total – advance payments received)

Net gearing ratio (%) = (Interest-bearing net liabilities) per (Shareholder's equity)

Interest-bearing net liabilities = Interest-bearing liabilities - cash and cash equivalents and interest-bearing re-

ceivables

Investments in owned and leased fixed assets and investments in business

Total investments =

combinations

Earnings per share = (Profit attributable to shareholders of parent company)

per (Adjusted number of shares (average))

Shareholders' equity per share = (Equity attributable to shareholders of parent company)

per (Adjusted number of shares at the end of the period)

(Total traded volume per share (EUR)) per (Average adjusted number of

Adjusted average share price = shares

traded during the financial year)

Market capitalisation = (Number of shares) x (market price at the end of period)

Comparable key ratios

According to the guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), alternative performance measures are key figures concerning historical or future financial performance, financial standing, or cash flows that are not determined by the financial reporting framework applied by the company. Metsä Board's financial reporting framework consists of the IFRS standards in the form in which they were adopted by the EU in line with Regulation (EC) No. 1606/2002. With the exception of earnings per share, which have been defined in standard IAS 33 (Earnings per Share), the key figures presented in this financial report meet the ESMA's criteria for alternative performance measures.

Metsä Board believes that the presentation of alternative performance measures provides users of financial statements with a better understanding of the company's financial performance and standing, including its use of equity, operational profitability and ability to service debt.

The reconciliation of the comparable key figures is presented in this financial report. Metsä Board considers

that the key figures derived in this manner improve the comparability of reporting periods.

None of these key figures with items affecting comparability eliminated are key figures used in IFRS reporting, and they cannot be compared with other companies' key figures identified by the same names. Items affecting comparability include material gains and losses on disposals of assets, impairment and impairment reversals in accordance with IAS 36 "Impairment of Assets", corporate divestments and acquisitions, adjustment measures and other restructuring measures and their adjustments, costs arising from extensive and unfore-seeable interruptions in production, and the compensation received for them, as well as items arising from legal proceedings.

Metsä Board considers comparable key figures to better reflect its operational performance, as they eliminate the effect on the result of items and business transactions arising outside normal business operations.

Unaudited condensed consolidated statement of comprehensive income

		2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Note	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Sales	2, 6	483.7	542.1	1,941.9
Change in stocks of finished goods and work in progress		54.9	22.3	-57.0
Other operating income	2, 6	9.8	24.9	79.9
Material and services	6	-396.8	-416.8	-1,429.5
Employee costs		-50.0	-53.6	-199.5
Share of result of associated company	6	-6.4	28.3	24.2
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment losses		-33.9	-25.0	-93.8
Other operating expenses		-38.3	-33.7	-145.4
Operating result	2	23.0	88.4	120.8
Share of results of associated companies and joint ventures		0.0	0.0	0.0
Net exchange gains and losses		-2.1	-0.8	2.6
Other net financial items	2, 6	-0.8	0.2	-2.5
Result before income tax		20.1	87.7	120.9
Income taxes	3	-5.4	-12.3	-19.3
Result for the period		14.8	75.5	101.6

		2024	2023	2023
EUR million Not	te	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss				
Actuarial gains/losses on defined pension plans		0.0	-0.3	-1.0
Financial assets valued at fair value through other comprehensive income	8	-39.4	9.8	-87.8
Share of other comprehensive income of associated company			0.2	-3.4
Income tax relating to items that will not be reclassified		7.9	-1.9	18.5
Total		-31.6	7.9	-73.6
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss				
Cash flow hedges		-20.7	2.1	8.2
Translation differences		-27.6	-13.6	-2.8
Share of other comprehensive income of associated company		-2.8	1.3	-5.7
Income tax relating to components of other comprehensive income		4.1	-0.4	-1.6
Total		-46.9	-10.6	-1.9
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-78.4	-2.7	-75.6
Total comprehensive income for the period		-63.7	72.7	26.1
Result for the period attributable to				
Shareholders of parent company		13.1	67.9	94.8
Non-controlling interests		1.7	7.5	6.8
Total		14.8	75.5	101.6
Total comprehensive income for the period attributable to				
Shareholders of parent company		-59.5	67.6	20.7
Non-controlling interests		-4.2	5.1	5.4
Total		-63.7	72.7	26.1
Earnings per share for result attributable to shareholders of parent company (EUR/share)		0.04	0.19	0.27

Unaudited condensed balance sheet

EUR million	Note	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023	31 Dec 2023
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Goodwill		12.2	12.2	12.2
Other intangible assets		10.4	6.7	16.1
Tangible assets	4	1,197.4	1,130.1	1,230.4
Investments in associated companies and joint ventures		531.0	561.3	549.9
Other investments	8	215.0	355.3	254.4
Other non-current financial assets	6, 8	5.5	8.6	7.8
Deferred tax receivables	2	7.9	9.0	9.5
		1,979.4	2,083.2	2,080.4
Current assets				
Inventories		438.4	522.5	394.4
Accounts receivables and other receivables	6, 8	304.6	386.8	288.8
Cash and cash equivalents	6, 8	265.3	440.4	291.6
		1,008.3	1,349.6	974.7
Total assets		2,987.6	3,432.8	3,055.1
Total assets		2,307.0	3,432.0	3,033.1
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Shareholders' equity				
Equity attributable to shareholders of parent company		1,747.8	1,942.3	1,897.0
Non-controlling interests		151.4	178.3	155.6
Total equity		1,899.3	2,120.6	2,052.6
Non-current liabilities				
Deferred tax liabilities		124.4	149.8	139.2
Post-employment benefit obligations	2	7.4	10.5	10.1
Provisions	5	1.7	2.0	1.7
Borrowings	8	421.7	433.4	421.0
Other liabilities	8	8.0	4.3	8.7
		563.3	600.0	580.7
Current liabilities	_	0.0	4.0	4.4
Provisions	5	0.3	4.6	1.4
Current borrowings	6, 8	19.8	17.9	17.1
Accounts payable and other liabilities	6, 8	504.9	689.6	403.4
		525.1	712.1	421.8
Total liabilities		1,088.4	1,312.2	1,002.5
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities		2,987.6	3,432.8	3,055.1

Unaudited consolidated statement of changes in shareholders' equity

EUR million	Share capital	Trans- lation diffe- rences	Fair value and other re- serves	Reserve for in- vested unres- tricted equity		Retained earnings	Total	Non-con- trolling interests	Equity total
Shareholders' equity 1 January 2023 Comprehensive income for the period	557.9	-64.0	283.9	208.9	-7.8	1,103.2	2,082.0	173.2	2,255.2
Result for the period						67.9	67.9	7.5	75.5
Other comprehensive income net of tax total		-11.1	11.0			-0.2	-0.3	-2.4	-2.7
Comprehensive income total Related party transac- tions		-11.1	11.0			67.7	67.6	5.1	72.7
Dividend						-205.8	-205.8		-205.8
Disposal of own shares					2.3	-2.3			
Share based payments						-1.4	-1.4		-1.4
Shareholders' equity 31 March 2023	557.9	-75.1	294.9	208.9	-5.5	961.3	1,942.3	178.3	2,120.6

EUR million	Share capital	Trans- lation diffe- rences	Fair value and other re- serves	Reserve for in- vested unres- tricted equity		Retained earnings	Total	Non-con- trolling interests	Equity total
Shareholders' equity 1 January 2024 Comprehensive income for the period Result for the period	557.9	-66.0	209.1	208.9	-5.5	992.6	1,897.0	155.6 1.7	2,052.6
Other comprehensive income net of tax total		-21.7	-50.8			0.0	-72.6	-5.8	-78.4
Comprehensive income total Related party transactions		-21.7	-50.8			13.1	-59.5	-4.2	-63.7
Dividend						-88.8	-88.8		-88.8
Disposal of own shares					1.8	-1.8			
Share based payments						-0.9	-0.9		-0.9
Shareholders' equity 31 March 2024	557.9	-87.7	158.2	208.9	-3.7	914.3	1,747.8	151.4	1,899.3

Unaudited condensed consolidated cash flow statement

		2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Note	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Result for the period		14.8	75.5	101.6
Total adjustments	7	44.3	-10.3	27.3
Change in working capital		-70.3	-46.1	105.8
Net financial items	7	11.8	85.3	84.0
Income taxes paid		-8.5	22.0	24.1
Net cash flow from operations		-7.9	126.4	342.8
Investments in intangible and tangible assets		-21.7	-57.9	-218.4
Disposals and other items	6, 7	4.8	20.3	58.6
Net cash flow from investing		-16.8	-37.6	-159.7
Changes in non-current loans and in other financial items	6	0.3	-1.8	-14.6
Acquisition of treasury shares				-7.8
Paid dividend	7			-221.9
Net cash flow from financing		0.3	-1.8	-244.3
Changes in cash and cash equivalents		-24.4	87.0	-61.2
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	6	291.6	356.2	356.2
Translation difference in cash and cash equivalents		-1.8	-2.8	-3.5
Changes in cash and cash equivalents		-24.4	87.0	-61.2
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	6	265.3	440.4	291.6

Appendices to unaudited report

Note 1 – Background and basis of preparation

Metsä Board Corporation and its subsidiaries comprise a forest industry group whose main product areas are fresh fibre cartonboards and linerboards. Metsä Board Corporation, the parent company, is domiciled in Helsinki, and the registered address of the company is Revontulenpuisto 2, 02100 Espoo, Finland. Metsä Board's ultimate parent company is Metsäliitto Cooperative.

This financial report has been prepared in accordance with IAS 34, Interim Financial Reporting, and it should be read in conjunction with the 2023 IFRS financial statements. The effects of foreign exchange changes on the review period operating result vis-à-vis the comparison period result have been calculated based on estimated review period net cash flows in relevant currencies and taking the realised effects of foreign exchange hedges into account.

The same accounting policies have been applied as in the 2023 IFRS financial statements with the following exception:

Depreciation of machinery and equipment during the financial year has been adjusted between the quarters when applicable to correspond with the distribution of the economic benefit of the asset between quarters. The Refinitiv FX closing rate has been used as the EUR/RUB valuation rate representing the market rate at the time.

The standard changes applied in the 2024 financial year will not have a significant impact on the group's financial statements.

All amounts in the financial report are presented in millions of euros unless otherwise stated.

This financial report was authorised for issue by the Board of Directors of Metsä Board on 25 April 2024.

Note 2 – Segment information

The Corporate Management Team is the chief operational decision maker monitoring business operations performance based on the operating segments. Metsä

Metsä Board's business operations consist solely of the folding boxboard, fresh fibre linerboard and market pulp businesses. Metsä Board reports on its financial performance in one reporting segment.

Geographical distribution of sales

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
EMEA	325.8	370.5	1,289.4
Americas	130.1	143.3	516.0
APAC	27.9	28.2	136.5
Total	483.7	542.1	1,941.9

Reconciliation of comparable figures

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Operating result	23.0	88.4	120.8
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment losses	33.9	25.0	93.8
EBITDA	57.0	113.4	214.6
Items affecting comparability:			_
Other operating income			-2.7
Share of results of associated companies	0.8	0.3	4.1
Total	0.8	0.3	1.4
EBITDA, comparable	57.8	113.7	216.0
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment losses	-33.9	-25.0	-93.8
Items affecting comparability:			
Impairment charges and reversals of impairments	7.6		
Operating result, comparable	31.5	88.7	122.2
Share of results of associated companies and joint ventures	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net financial items	-2.9	-0.7	0.1
Items affecting comparability:			
Financial items	0.0	0.1	0.3
Result before income tax, comparable	28.6	88.2	122.6
Income taxes	-5.4	-12.3	-19.3
Income taxes related to items affecting comparability	-1.5		0.5
Result for the period, comparable	21.7	75.9	103.8

Additional information about the reconciliation

Items affecting operating result comparability in 2024 totalled EUR -8.5 million, comprising a write-down of EUR -7.6 million for the prefeasibility study of the Kaskinen folding boxboard mill and EUR -0.8 million for the write-down of Metsä Fibre's Merikarvia sawmill and other items.

Items affecting operating result comparability in 2023 totalled EUR -1.4 million. They comprised Metsä Board's capital gains of EUR 2.7 million from the sale of a land area unrelated to business operations, and items related to the business of the associated com-pany Metsä Fibre: A write-down related to the closure of the old Kemi pulp mill; translation differences from discontinued operations in Russia; the loss on sale of fixed asset items, and other items, totalling EUR -4.1 million.

[&]quot;+" sign items = expense affecting comparability

[&]quot;-" sign items = income affecting comparability

Note 3 - Income taxes

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Taxes for the current period	-3.2	-12.4	-12.8
Taxes for the prior periods	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Change in deferred taxes	-2.2	0.1	-6.4
Total income taxes	-5.4	-12.3	-19.3

Note 4 - Changes in property, plant and equipment

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Carrying value at beginning of period	1,230.4	1,107.9	1,107.9
Investments in owned property, plant and equipment	19.4	56.2	211.5
Investments in leased property, plant and equipment	2.6	0.1	5.7
Decreases	-0.4	0.1	-2.5
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment losses	-25.9	-24.7	-92.4
Translation difference	-28.7	-9.4	0.3
Carrying value at end of the period	1,197.4	1,130.1	1,230.4

Note 5 - Provisions

EUR million Res	tructuring	Environmen- tal obliga- tions	Other provisions	Total
1 January 2024	1.1	2.0	0.0	3.2
Translation differences			0.0	0.0
Utilised during the year	-1.1			-1.1
31 Mar 2024		2.0	0.0	2.1
Non-current Non-current		1.7	0.0	1.7
Current		0.3		0.3
Total		2.0	0.0	2.1

Non-current provisions are expected to be utilised within five years

Note 6 – Related party transactions

Related parties include Metsä Board's ultimate parent company Finnish Metsäliitto Cooperative, other subsidiaries of Metsäliitto, associated companies and joint ventures. The members of the Board of Directors and Metsä Group's Executive Management Team and Metsä Board's Corporate Management Team, as well as their close family members, are also included in related parties.

Metsä Board enters into a significant number of transactions with related parties for the purchases of inventories, sale of goods, corporate services and financial transactions. Arm's-length pricing has been followed in product and service transactions undertaken and interest rates set between Metsä Board and the related parties.

Transactions with parent and sister companies

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Sales	32.6	38.8	121.8
Other operating income	1.8	1.6	6.3
Purchases	210.1	203.7	673.8
Share of result from associated company	-6.4	28.3	24.2
Dividend income		0.0	0.0
Interest income	2.5	3.3	9.4
Interest expenses	0.1	0.1	0.3
Accounts receivable and other receivables	42.3	83.4	51.4
Cash and cash equivalents	234.5	427.4	278.4
Accounts payable and other liabilities	154.8	177.5	70.4

Metsä Fibre's net result is included in the "Share of result from associated company" operating result line item, and transactions with Metsä Fibre are included in transactions with sister companies.

Metsä Fibre paid a dividend of EUR 9.8 million to Metsä Board in the review period (82.8).

Cash and cash equivalents include interest-bearing receivables comparable to cash funds and available from Metsä Group's internal bank Metsä Group Treasury Oy.

Transactions with associated companies and joint ventures

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Sales	0.3		0.5
Purchases		0.0	0.1
Accounts receivable and other receivables	0.2	0.1	0.2

Note 7 - Notes to the consolidated cash flow statement

Adjustments

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Taxes	5.4	12.2	19.3
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment charges	33.9	25.0	93.8
Share of result from associated companies and joint ventures	6.4	-28.3	-24.2
Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	-3.6	-20.3	-59.1
Finance costs, net	2.9	0.7	-0.1
Pension liabilities and provisions	-1.1	-0.2	-4.7
Other adjustments	0.4	0.7	2.2
Total	44.3	-10.3	27.3

Income taxes paid

Income taxes paid in 2023 include Metsä Board Oyj's advance tax refund of EUR 34.7 million for the 2022 financial year.

Net financial items

Net financial items in the consolidated cash flow statement include a dividend of EUR 9.8 million paid by Metsä Fibre (82.8).

Disposals and other items

Disposals and other items reported in 2024 were EUR 4.8 million in total. They consisted of proceeds amounting to EUR 5.0 million from emissions right sales and other items amounting to EUR -0.2 million.

Paid dividend

The paid dividend in 2023 included dividends paid by the parent company of EUR -205.8 million and dividends paid to non-controlling owners from the Husum pulp company of EUR -22.9 million.

Disposals and other items reported in 2023 were EUR 58.6 million in total. They consisted of proceeds amounting to EUR 55.0 million from emissions right sales, EUR 3.7 million from the sale of a non-business-related land area, and other items amounting to EUR - 0.1 million.

Note 8 - Financial instruments

Classification of financial assets and liabilities and their fair values

Financial assets 31 March 2024

EUR million	Fair value through profit and loss	Fair value through other comprehen- sive income	Amortised cost	Total carrying amount
Other non-current investments	1.4	213.6		215.0
Other non-current financial assets			4.1	4.1
Accounts receivable and other receivables			285.8	285.8
Cash and cash equivalents			265.3	265.3
Derivative financial instruments	0.2	12.2		12.3
Total carrying amount	1.5	225.8	555.2	782.5
Total fair value	1.5	225.8	555.2	782.5

Financial liabilities 31 March 2024

EUR million	Fair value through profit and loss	Fair value through other comprehen- sive income	Amortised cost	Total carrying amount
Non-current interest-bearing financial liabilities		-	421.7	421.7
Other non-current financial liabilities			0.5	0.5
Current interest-bearing financial liabilities			19.8	19.8
Accounts payable and other financial liabilities			452.6	452.6
Derivative financial instruments	0.9	12.3		13.3
Total carrying amount	0.9	12.3	894.6	907.9
Total fair value	0.9	12.3	883.6	896.9

Classification of financial assets and liabilities and their fair values

Financial assets 31 March 2023

EUR million	Fair value through profit and loss	Fair value through other comprehen- sive income	Amortised cost	Total carrying amount
Other non-current investments	1.3	353.9	·	355.3
Other non-current financial assets			5.9	5.9
Accounts receivable and other receivables			336.1	336.1
Cash and cash equivalents			440.4	440.4
Derivative financial instruments	2.9	44.2		47.1
Total carrying amount	4.2	398.2	782.4	1,184.8
Total fair value	4.2	398.2	782.3	1,184.7

Financial liabilities 31 March 2023

EUR million	Fair value through profit and loss	Fair value through other comprehen- sive income	Amortised cost	Total carrying amount
Non-current interest-bearing financial liabilities			433.4	433.4
Other non-current financial liabilities			0.5	0.5
Current interest-bearing financial liabilities			17.9	17.9
Accounts payable and other financial liabilities			607.5	607.5
Derivative financial instruments	0.6	34.2		34.8
Total carrying amount	0.6	34.2	1,059.3	1,094.1
Total fair value	0.6	34.2	1,048.5	1,083.3

Accounts receivable and other receivables do not include advance payments, accrued tax receivables and periodisations of employee costs.

Accounts payable and other financial liabilities do not include advance payments, accrued tax liabilities and periodisations of employee costs.

In Metsä Board, all interest-bearing liabilities are valued in the balance sheet at amortised cost, based on the effective interest method. Fair values in the table are based on the present value of the cash flow of each liability or assets calculated by market rate. The discount rates applied are between 2.0 and 4.2% (1.3 and 3.7). The fair values of accounts and other receivables and accounts payable and other liabilities do not materially deviate from their carrying amounts in the balance sheet.

Other non-current investments at fair value based on Level 3

	2024	2023	2023
EUR million	Q1	Q1	Q1-Q4
Carrying value at beginning of period	254.4	345.4	345.4
Total gains and losses in other comprehensive income	-39.4	9.8	-91.1
Purchases			0.0
Carrying value at end of the period	215.0	355.3	254.4

Financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value have been categorised in accordance with IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures.

Level 1

Fair value is based on quoted prices in active markets.

Level 2

Fair value is determined by using valuation techniques that use market information.

Level 3

Fair value is not based on observable market data but the company's own assumptions.

The fair values of natural gas and fuel oil derivatives are determined using public price quotations in an active market (Level 1).

The fair values of currency forwards and options are determined using the market prices of the closing date of the reporting period. The fair values of interest rate swaps are determined using the present value of expected payments, discounted using a risk adjusted discount rate, supported by market interest rates and other market data on the closing date of the reporting period (Level 2).

For financial instruments not traded on an active market, the fair value is determined by valuation techniques. Judgement is used when choosing the different techniques and making assumptions, which are mainly based on the circumstances prevailing in the markets on each closing date of the reporting period (Level 3).

The valuation and measurement principles are described in more detail in the Annual Report.

The most significant asset at fair value not traded on an active market is the investment in Pohjolan Voima Oyj shares classified as a financial asset at fair value through other comprehensive income. The value of an investment is determined based on the present value of discounted cash flows.

The WACC used in Pohjolan Voima Oyj share valuation was 5.45% (31 December 2023: 5.35). The acquisition cost of shares in Pohjolan Voima Oyj is EUR 28.3 million (28.3), and fair value EUR 213.6 million (253.0).

The carrying value of other investments is expected to change by EUR -8.4 million, and EUR 8.8 million should the rate used for discounting the cash flows change by 0.5 percentage points from the rate estimated by management. The carrying value of other investments is expected to change by EUR 57.5 million should the energy prices used in calculating the fair value differ by 10% from the prices estimated by management.

Fair value hierarchy of financial assets and liabilities as of 31 March 2024

EUR million	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial assets at fair value				
Other non-current investments			215.0	215.0
Derivative financial assets	2.0	10.4		12.3
Financial liabilities measured at fair value				
Derivative financial liabilities	3.6	9.7		13.3
Financial assets not measured at fair value				
Cash and cash equivalent		265.3		265.3
Financial liabilities not measured at fair value				
Non-current interest-bearing financial liabilities		411.4		411.4
Current interest-bearing financial liabilities		19.2		19.2

Fair value hierarchy of financial assets and liabilities as of 31 March 2023

EUR million	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial assets at fair value		-		
Other non-current investments			355.3	355.3
Derivative financial assets	2.8	44.3		47.1
Financial liabilities measured at fair value				
Derivative financial liabilities	11.1	23.7		34.8
Financial assets not measured at fair value				
Cash and cash equivalent		440.3		440.3
Financial liabilities not measured at fair value				
Non-current interest-bearing financial liabilities		422.2		422.2
Current interest-bearing financial liabilities		17.8		17.8

Derivatives 31 March 2024

	Nominal					
EUR million	value		Fair value		Fair	value
		Derivative assets	Derivative labilities	Fair value net	Fair value through profit and loss	Fair value through other com- prehen- sive income
Interest rate swaps	50.0	1.4		1.4		1.4
Interest rate derivatives	50.0	1.4		1.4		1.4
Currency forward contracts	1,172.8	7.4	8.3	-0.9	-0.7	-0.2
Currency option contracts	555.0	1.6	1.4	0.2		0.2
Currency derivatives	1,727.8	9.0	9.7	-0.7	-0.7	0.0
Oil derivatives	21.5	2.0	0.0	2.0		2.0
Natural gas derivatives	10.8		3.6	-3.6		-3.6
Commodity derivatives	32.3	2.0	3.6	-1.6		-1.6
Derivatives total	1,810.1	12.3	13.3	-0.9	-0.7	-0.2

Derivatives 31 March 2023

	Nominal					
EUR million	value		Fair value		Fair	value
		Derivative assets	Derivative labilities	Fair value net	Fair value through profit and loss	Fair value through other com- prehen- sive income
Interest rate swaps	100.0	2.6		2.6		2.6
Interest rate derivatives	100.0	2.6		2.6		2.6
Currency forward contracts	2,001.2	38.3	23.2	15.1	0.7	14.4
Currency option contracts	496.6	3.4	0.5	2.8		2.8
Currency derivatives	2,497.7	41.7	23.7	17.9	0.7	17.2
Oil derivatives	26.0	0.2	3.5	-3.4		-3.4
Natural gas derivatives	30.6	2.7	7.6	-4.9	1.6	-6.5
Commodity derivatives	56.6	2.8	11.1	-8.2	1.6	-9.8
Derivatives total	2,654.4	47.1	34.8	12.3	2.3	10.0

Note 9 - Commitments and guarantees

EUR million	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023	31 Dec 2023
Guarantees and counter-indemnities	0.5	1.6	1.6
Other commitments		3.8	
Total	0.5	5.4	1.6

Commitments related to property, plant and equipment

EUR million	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023	31 Dec 2023
Payments due in following 12 months	66.7	100.4	69.7
Payments due later	0.7	1.4	0.8
Total	67.3	101.8	70.5

Commitments related to property, plant and equipment mainly concern the development programme of the Kemi mill and an investment to increase Husum's folding boxboard capacity.

Note 10 - Events after the review period

On 24 April 2024, Metsä Board made an investment decision to renew the folding boxboard machine at Simpele. The investment will enable the replacement of fossil fuels in paperboard production, increase production efficiency and improve the quality of folding boxboard. In addition, the renewal will increase production capacity by 10,000 tonnes, which will bring Simpele's production capacity of folding boxboard to about 310,000 tonnes/year. The investment will start immediately and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2025. The investment value is around EUR 60 million, spread over the period 2024-2026. Simpele mill produces high-quality lightweight folding boxboard, mainly for food and pharmaceutical packaging.