Slovakia Pulp Overseas Market Analysis Report

Target Country: Slovakia | Main Category: Pulp | Update Date: June 29, 2026

Slovakia Pulp Core Conclusions

Slovakia's pulp market features a "concentrated domestic production + import supplement" structure, with Mondi SCP holding an absolutely dominant position. Global pulp price fluctuations in 2026 will transmit to Slovakia, putting cost pressure on imported hardwood and recycled pulp. Pulp self-sufficiency stands at about 65%–70%; softwood pulp has export advantages, while hardwood and recycled pulp gaps are filled by neighboring EU countries. Key risks include the expansion of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), high energy costs, and geopolitical impacts on supply chain stability.

- Annual pulp production in Slovakia approx. **560,000 tons** (led by Mondi SCP)
- Pulp imports approx. **300,000–350,000 tons/year**, exports approx. 150,000–200,000 tons
- Pulp self-sufficiency rate approx. **65%–70%**, high import dependency for hardwood pulp
- EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) expands to pulp & paper sector in 2026 Policy Risk

Source: Mondi Group 2025 Annual Report; Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2025 Industrial Data; Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) Q1 2026 Report

Supply & Demand Fundamentals

Slovakia's pulp supply–demand structure is centered on integrated domestic production. The Mondi SCP Ružomberok mill has an annual capacity of 560,000 tons of pulp, of which about 70% is used internally for papermaking and 30% is sold externally or exported. National total pulp consumption is about 750,000–800,000 tons per year, with the deficit covered mainly by imports from neighboring Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, and others. Downstream consumption is dominated by packaging paper and tissue.

Indicator	Value	Unit
Domestic pulp production	56	10,000 tons/year
Pulp imports	32	10,000 tons/year
Pulp exports	18	10,000 tons/year
Apparent consumption	70	10,000 tons/year

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic; Mondi SCP capacity announcement (2025)

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2025 Industrial Statistics; Mondi Group 2025 Sustainability Report

China Market Overview

China, the world’s largest pulp importer, imported about 35.3 million tons in 2025. In the first half of 2026, the pulp futures main contract fluctuated in the range of 5,100–5,600 yuan/ton, with hardwood pulp spot prices at 5,100–5,400 yuan/ton and softwood pulp at 6,200–6,600 yuan/ton. Port inventories remain high, with Qingdao port pulp stocks around 1.4 million tons. Domestic paper mill operating rates are about 75%–78%, with moderate demand recovery.

- China pulp imports: approx. **35.3 million tons** in 2025 (General Administration of Customs)
- Hardwood pulp spot price: **5,100–5,400 yuan/ton** (June 2026)
- Softwood pulp spot price: **6,200–6,600 yuan/ton**, YoY ↓3.2%
- Major source countries: Brazil (30%), Indonesia (15%), Chile (10%), Canada (8%)

Source: Shanghai Futures Exchange pulp futures data (June 2026); China General Administration of Customs 2025 Import/Export Statistics; SCI99 Pulp Weekly (June 2026)

Slovakia Market Overview

The Slovak pulp market is centered on Mondi SCP, whose Ružomberok plant is one of Central and Eastern Europe's largest pulp-paper integrated bases. Local softwood pulp prices are influenced by Nordic pulp prices, with a CIF of about €780–820/ton in Q2 2026. Hardwood pulp is mainly imported, with a CIF of approx. €720–760/ton. The largest import source is the Czech Republic (about 25%), followed by Poland (20%) and Austria (15%).

Pulp Grade	Local Price (€/ton)	Import Share
Softwood pulp (NBSK)	780–820	35%
Hardwood pulp (BHKP)	720–760	55%
Recycled pulp	380–440	70%

Source: EUWID Pulp Price Index (June 2026); Slovak Customs Statistics

Source: EUWID European Pulp Price Report (June 2026); Customs Directorate of the Slovak Republic 2025 Trade Data

Product Segment Structure

Slovak pulp imports are dominated by hardwood and recycled pulp, together accounting for about 75% of imports. Softwood pulp imports are smaller due to sufficient domestic capacity at Mondi SCP. By application, packaging paper (sack kraft, kraft paper) consumes about 40% of the pulp, tissue 25%, printing & writing paper 20%, and other specialty papers 15%.

Subcategory	Annual Imports (10,000 tons)	Share	Main Sources
Bleached hardwood pulp	14–16	45%	Austria, Poland
Recycled pulp	9–11	30%	Czech Republic, Germany
Bleached softwood pulp	5–7	18%	Finland, Sweden
Mechanical/CTMP	2–3	7%	Czech Republic, Poland

Source: Slovak Customs Statistics (2025); CEPI trade data

Source: Customs Directorate of the Slovak Republic 2025 Classified Trade Statistics; CEPI 2026 Trade Report

Key Downstream Product Supply & Demand

Slovakia's core downstream pulp products are packaging paper (sack kraft, kraft paper) and tissue. Mondi SCP produces about 300,000 tons of sack kraft paper annually, mainly for European markets. Tissue production is around 120,000 tons per year, with Metsä Tissue Slovakia being a major producer. Packaging paper exports account for about 60%, while tissue is mainly for domestic consumption. Packaging paper demand is driven by e-commerce growth, with supply and demand largely balanced in 2026.

- Sack kraft/kraft paper output: approx. **300,000 tons/year**, 60% exported
- Tissue paper output: approx. **120,000 tons/year**, mainly domestic
- Corrugated board output: approx. **220,000 tons/year**, tight balance
- Containerboard price index: YoY **↑2.8%** (Q2 2026)

Source: Mondi Group 2025 Annual Report; Slovak Paper Industry Association Q1 2026 data; EUWID Containerboard Price Index (June 2026)

Intermediates & Raw Material Values

Core raw materials for pulp production are wood (chips) and chemicals. Slovakia's forest coverage is about 41%, with ample wood chip supply; local softwood chip prices are approx. €85–95/ton. For China, imported wood chip CIF is about US$160–180/ton. Energy cost is a key variable for Slovak pulp production – natural gas prices in 2026 have risen about 15% compared to 2025, pushing up production costs.

Raw Material/Intermediate	Slovakia Price	China Reference Price
Softwood chips	85–95 €/ton	160–180 $/ton (import)
Hardwood chips	70–80 €/ton	140–155 $/ton (import)
Caustic soda (NaOH)	380–420 €/ton	2,800–3,200 yuan/ton

Source: Slovak Forestry Institute 2025 wood price report; Longzhong Information Chemical Raw Materials Weekly (June 2026)

Source: National Forest Centre of Slovakia 2025 Wood Price Statistics; Longzhong Information June 2026 Chemical Raw Materials Weekly; Argus Media European Natural Gas Price Index

Trade & Macro Indicators

Slovakia's 2025 GDP was about €138 billion, with a growth rate of 2.1%. The paper and pulp industry accounts for about 2.8% of manufacturing output. The EUR/CNY exchange rate ranges between 7.75–7.85, which is favorable for Chinese paper chemical exports. As an EU member, Slovakia enjoys the EU free trade agreement network, with zero tariffs on pulp and related products within the union.

Macro Indicator	Value	Trend
GDP (2025)	€138 billion	+2.1%
Paper industry output share	2.8%	Stable
EUR/CNY exchange rate	7.78	Narrow fluctuation
EU intra-union pulp tariff	0%	Unchanged

Source: National Bank of Slovakia; Eurostat (Q1 2026)

Source: National Bank of Slovakia 2025 Macroeconomic Report; Eurostat Q1 2026 data; European Central Bank exchange rate data (June 2026)

Risks & Opportunity Windows

Slovakia's pulp market faces multiple risks: EU CBAM expansion to the paper industry increases compliance costs; natural gas price volatility raises production costs; labor shortages in Central and Eastern Europe constrain capacity expansion. Opportunities include cooperation potential between China and Slovakia in paper chemicals and paper product trade; Slovakia's abundant forest resources give sustainable pulp capacity long-term competitiveness; Mondi SCP's softwood pulp exports can serve as a supplementary high-end pulp source for China.

- **Risk:** CBAM expansion to paper industry, carbon cost expected increase of **€8–15/ton pulp**
- **Risk:** Natural gas price up approx. **15%** YoY in 2026, pushing energy costs higher
- **Opportunity:** China-Slovakia paper chemicals trade value grew **↑12%** in 2025
- **Opportunity:** Slovak softwood pulp exports to Asian markets gradually expanding

Source: European Commission CBAM Implementation Guidelines (2026); Slovak Ministry of Economy 2026 Energy Report; China General Administration of Customs 2025 China-Slovakia trade statistics

Data Sources Summary

- Mondi Group 2025 Annual Report and Sustainability Report
- Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2025 Industrial Statistics
- Customs Directorate of the Slovak Republic 2025 Trade Data
- China General Administration of Customs 2025 Import/Export Statistics
- National Bank of Slovakia 2025 Macroeconomic Report
- Eurostat Q1 2026 data
- Argus Media European Natural Gas Price Index
- European Commission CBAM Implementation Guidelines (2026)
- Shanghai Futures Exchange Pulp Futures Data (June 2026)
- EUWID European Pulp and Containerboard Price Indices (June 2026)
- Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) 2026 Trade Report
- Longzhong Information, SCI99 Pulp Weekly (June 2026)

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