

Board Converting News

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FBA: Shipments Shrink In July

Industry shipments of corrugated products decreased 6.9 percent in July, from 31.94 bsf in 2015 to 29.729 bsf in 2016, the Fibre Box Association (FBA) reported. This was largely due to the fact there were two less shipping days in July 2016.

Average weekly shipments increased 2.4 percent and year-to-date shipments from the end of July 2015 to the end of July 2016 increased by 0.3 percent.

Containerboard consumption in July decreased, from 2.590 million tons in 2015 to 2.446 million tons in 2016, or 5.6 percent. Year-to-date containerboard consumption is up 1.2 percent over 2015.

Containerboard inventories at corrugator plants decreased 0.4 percent, from 2.111 million tons in June to 2.102 million tons in July. Weeks of supply decreased from 3.5 to 3.4 or 2.9 percent, from June to July.

“Containerboard inventories have risen in each of the past six years in July, but this year’s 50,000-ton increase at mills and box plants was less than the five-year (76,000 tons) or ten-year (83,000 tons) average increase for July,” noted Dick Storat in his *Scoring Boxes*

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Ferguson Box Co. Makes The Right Moves

by Jackie Schultz

Although it has been more than a decade since Ferguson Supply & Box Manufacturing Co. relocated to its current 185,000-square-foot facility on Quality Drive in Charlotte, North Carolina, Paige Fer-



Paige Burgess, President, and Jamey Helms, General Manager, of Ferguson Box Co. in Charlotte, North Carolina.

guson Burgess, President, still likes to refer to the facility as “our new building.” The move was a significant milestone for the sheet plant, which goes by the name Ferguson Box Co. Burgess says by relocating, the company consolidated three locations into one custom designed building and added 30 percent more capacity.

The manufacturing area facilitates a streamlined workflow with seven machine lines and 24 dock doors. Asked if she would change anything if she could do it all over again, Burgess says, “No. We built this facility and laid it out just like we wanted.”

Jamey Helms, General Manager, agrees. He joined the company just as it was preparing to relocate. “We’re a lot more efficient than we were at the other location because it was a hodgepodge of conveyors

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Please contact:

Tom Vilardi at 732-502-0500 ext. 304
email: tvilardi@nvpublications.com

Robyn Smith at 910-553-4055
email: rsmith@nvpublications.com

Len Prazych at 518-366-9017
lprazych@nvpublications.com

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"Ferguson has always benefitted from the city's economic health. Even when the recession hit in 2008 we've been a bit insulated because this area has so much manufacturing," Burgess says.

She attributes Ferguson's success to high quality customer service. "My dad always said customers were No. 1 and that



The Martin DRO four-color rotary diecutter was purchased prior to the relocation to drive growth in graphics packaging.

has never changed, even today. I make sure I have a relationship with them so that they know if they need boxes I'm going to make sure they get them. Everyone in the company knows that good customer service is important to me, so everyone joins together in making this happen each day."

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