

History of the Oji Group's Value Creation

Since its founding in 1873, the Oji Group has been growing through the expansion of business fields. While keeping abreast of the trends of the times, we have tackled changing social needs and evolved our business structure. Further, we have supported Japan's diversifying lifestyles through paper. In the early 1900s, we achieved the domestic production of printing and communications media such as newsprint and printing paper. During the country's rapid economic growth, we began producing corrugated containers, household paper, and other household and industrial materials. In the 1990s, we promoted the recycling of recovered paper as a solution to the issue of municipal refuse. In recent years, aiming for contribution to a sustainable society, we have been actively rolling out the technologies cultivated in our domestic business to the global market. We were quick to expand overseas business and transformed our business structure to one focusing on household and industrial materials. As a result of these efforts, our output ratio of paperboard to paper reversed for the first time in 2020. In FY2021, we achieved record-high profits, and we will continue to take steps toward further growth.

1873
Birth of the Modern Paper Manufacturing Industry
The origin of the Oji Group dates back to the establishment of Shoshi Kaisha, a paper manufacturing company, advocated by Eiichi Shibusawa, the founder of the modern Japanese economy.



From the collection of the Shibusawa Memorial Museum
Shibusawa advocated that "paper and printing businesses are the source of civilization." He held on to his great ambition to supply domestic paper.

1910
Establishment of Domestic Supply Structure
We established the Tomakomai Mill in a fishing village in Hokkaido, which had abundant resources such as forests and water as well as vast and flat land, which are required for paper manufacturing, and started producing newsprint.



We worked on unimaginably difficult construction such as building a latest hydroelectric power plant at Waterfall Nassou on the undeveloped shore of Lake Shikotsu.

1950s
Efforts toward New Technologies
With a view to producing high-quality paper quickly and in large quantities, we turned to a continuous digester, which was unproven at that time but highly productive. We introduced the equipment at the Kasugai Mill.



Tomakomai Mill for newsprint and Kasugai Mill for woodfree paper contributed to our growth. Kasugai Mill even became a pioneer of urban factories.

1970s
Lifestyle Changes and Paper Diversification
Demand for paper was only growing, and people started to have high expectations for the material, which found its way into products other than newsprint and printing paper.



Paper materials such as box-board, thermal paper, and household paper have come to play an active role in various situations that support daily life.

1990s
Response to Environmental Issues
Attention was drawn to issues that are directly related to people's lives, such as resource saving, energy saving, and urban waste treatment.



Light-weighted newsprint became common, and in the household paper field, we succeeded in volume reduction of box tissues. In addition, due to advances in recovered paper utilization technology, the recovered paper utilization ratio exceeded 50%.

2000s
Shift in the Business Structure
Paper production volume has been declining since 2008. This unprecedented crisis created an opportunity for shifts in the business structure.



Demand for paperboard as a packaging material was strong. The production ratio of paper and paperboard gradually changed.

2010s
Further Global Deployment
We actively developed the overseas business with a focus on Southeast Asia. The overseas sales ratio reached approximately 30%.



We have newly established corrugated container and folding carton factories in Malaysia, Cambodia and India, among other countries, to meet vigorous local demand.

