INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO /NEW/

Form 11-K June 24, 2015

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 11-K

FOR ANNUAL REPORTS OF EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE, SAVINGS AND SIMILAR PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (Mark One):

ý ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 OR

... TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

to

For the transition period from Commission file number 1-3157

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY SALARIED SAVINGS PLAN (Full title of the plan) INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY 6400 Poplar Avenue

Memphis, TN 38197 Telephone: (901) 419-9000

(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and

the address of its principal executive office)

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY SALARIED SAVINGS PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	1
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013:	
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits	2
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	<u>3</u>
Notes to Financial Statements	4
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014	<u>17</u>
Form 5500, Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i—Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)	<u>18</u>
All other schedules required by 29 CFR 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rule NOTE: Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 because they are not applicable.	e e
EXHIBIT 23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	
25 Consent of Independent registered I dolle / tecounting I fill	
2	

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Plan Administrator International Paper Company Salaried Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the International Paper Company Salaried Savings Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2014 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's financial statements. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental schedule reconciled to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental schedule. In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, such schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Memphis, Tennessee June 23, 2015

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY SALARIED SAVINGS PLAN STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

(Amounts in thousands)

	2014	2013
ASSETS:		
Investments, at fair value — Plan interest in Master Trust		
Participant-directed investments	\$3,672,439	\$4,194,589
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	58,548	73,503
Participants' contributions	5,480	6,024
Employer's contributions	3,405	3,660
Tex-Corr plan participant balances	490	_
Total receivables	67,923	83,187
LIABILITIES:		
Accrued expenses	854	471
Excess contributions payable	16	_
Total liabilities	870	471
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, at fair value	3,739,492	4,277,305
Adjustments from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive	(20,153) (13,379
investment contracts	(20,133) (13,37)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$3,719,339	\$4,263,926
See notes to financial statements.		

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY SALARIED SAVINGS PLAN STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (Amounts in thousands)

	2014	2013
ADDITIONS:		
Contributions:		
Participants' contributions	\$110,590	\$123,745
Employer's contributions	63,342	70,831
Total contributions	173,932	194,576
Investment income — Plan interest in Master Trust	253,641	593,982
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	2,849	3,310
Net transfers from other plans (Notes 1 and 8)	_	6,372
Total additions	430,422	798,240
DEDUCTIONS:		
Benefits paid to participants	387,056	449,216
Net transfers to other plans (Notes 1 and 8)	585,105	_
Administrative expenses	2,848	3,019
Total deductions	975,009	452,235
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE	(544,587) 346,005
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:		
Beginning of year	4,263,926	3,917,921
End of year	\$3,719,339	\$4,263,926

See notes to financial statements.

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY SALARIED SAVINGS PLAN NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the International Paper Company Salaried Savings Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information about the provisions of the Plan. Participants should refer to the Plan document or the Plan's summary plan description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General—The Plan is a defined contribution plan providing retirement benefits to the salaried employees and certain hourly employees of International Paper Company and its subsidiaries (the "Company") who work in the United States, or who are United States citizens or residents working outside the United States. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

The assets of the Plan are held by State Street Bank and Trust Company (the "Trustee" or "State Street") in the International Paper Company Defined Contribution Plans Master Trust (the "Master Trust"), a master trust established by the Company and administered by the Trustee.

Empower Retirement (the "Recordkeeper") is the recordkeeper for the Plan. J.P. Morgan Retirement Plan Services, the prior recordkeeper, was acquired by Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company ("Great-West") in 2014. Empower Retirement is a division of Great-West.

Eligibility to Participate—An employee is generally eligible to participate in the Plan upon date of hire if the employee is a salaried employee, or a non-bargained hourly employee at a designated location, and is employed on a non-temporary basis. Participation in the Plan is voluntary. New employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan 45 days from the date they become eligible to participate, unless they otherwise decline participation.

Participant Contributions—Participant contributions may be made as before-tax, after-tax or Roth 401(k) contributions, or in any combination, and are subject to certain Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") limitations. The maximum rate of participant contributions is 85% of annual compensation as defined by the Plan. Employees who are automatically enrolled contribute at the rate of 4% of compensation, unless they elect an alternate contribution percentage.

Company Matching Contributions—The Company matches all participant contributions at 70% on the first 4% of compensation contributed to the Plan and 50% on the next 4% of compensation contributed to the Plan.

Retirement Savings Account—The Company makes a Retirement Savings Account ("RSA") contribution equal to 2.75% of compensation for employees hired on or after July 1, 2004. Effective January 1, 2011, employees, whose age is 40 or greater as of the date that their account is credited with RSA contributions, receive 4% of compensation as defined by the Salaried Savings Plan.

Rollover Contributions—The Plan is authorized to accept rollover contributions and direct trust-to-trust transfers of amounts which participants are entitled to receive from other qualified profit-sharing, stock bonus, and savings plans or traditional individual retirement accounts.

Investments—Participants direct the investment of their contributions, company matching and RSA contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers several diversified portfolios and pooled funds, a fixed income option referred to as the Stable Value Fund, an open brokerage window, and the Company's common stock as investment options for participants. Contributions of participants who are automatically enrolled, and the Company matching contribution, are invested in the Tier 1 Smartmix Moderate Fund unless the participant makes alternate investment elections.

Company matching contributions to the Plan are made in cash and are invested in accordance with the participant's investment election.

Effective April 30, 2014, the Plan added the Stock Index Fund investment option which invests primarily in large capitalization domestic equities.

As of January 28, 2014, the Company entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger relating to the spinoff of the xpedx division of the Company (the "xpedx Spinoff"). As a result of the xpedx Spinoff, a new publicly-traded company Veritiv Corporation ("Veritiv") was formed. Shareholders of IP common stock at the close of trading on July 1, 2014 were allocated shares of Veritiv common stock. The Veritiv Stock Fund was established for the sole purpose of

holding such Veritiv shares until affected participants decided to liquidate the ownership interests allocated to them, within the limited period of time specified by the Plan. The Veritiv Stock Fund remained open for trading until December 10, 2014, when any remaining interests not already sold by participants were liquidated by January 13, 2015. The proceeds of the liquidation were allocated to each affected participant's account based on the participant's investment elections then on file for receipt of future contributions.

ESOP Portion of the Plan—The Company Stock Fund, excluding contributions made in the current Plan year, is designated as an employee stock ownership plan ("ESOP"). With respect to dividends paid on shares of Company stock held in the ESOP portion of the Plan, participants are permitted to elect to receive cash payouts of the dividends or to leave the dividends in the Plan to be reinvested in shares of Company stock.

Participant Accounts—Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company matching contributions, RSA contributions and an allocation of Plan earnings, and is charged with benefit distributions, if applicable, and allocations of Plan losses and administrative expenses. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting—Participants are immediately vested in their participant contributions and rollover contributions, plus earnings thereon. Participants become 100% vested in Company matching contributions and RSA contributions, plus earnings thereon, after three years of service.

Participants also are fully vested in amounts contributed by the Company, plus earnings thereon, upon attainment of age 65, termination of employment due to death or disability, or termination of employment due to permanent closure or sale of an employee's work facility. Forfeited balances of terminated participants are used to reduce future Company contributions.

Notes Receivable from Participants—Participants, including participants who are no longer employed by the Company, may borrow from their accounts an amount not to exceed (on a cumulative outstanding basis) the lesser of (1) 50% of the value of a participant's contributions, rollover accounts, and the vested portion of a participant's Company contributions account, less any restricted portions of such accounts or (2) \$50,000 reduced by the excess of the participant's largest outstanding balance of all loans during the 12 months preceding the date the loan is to be made over the outstanding balance of loans on the date such loan is made.

Loans are repaid through payroll deduction, beginning as soon as administratively practicable after the effective date of the loan, with a minimum loan period of one year. The maximum repayment period is five years, unless for the purchase of a principal residence, in which case the maximum repayment period is 10 years. It is permissible to have two loans outstanding at any one time, but only one principal residence loan is allowed at a time. The interest rate is determined by the Plan administrator based on the prime interest rate as published in The Wall Street Journal plus 1%. Interest rates on loans outstanding ranged from 4.25% to 10.50% at December 31, 2014, and from 4.25% to 11.00% at December 31, 2013. For participants who are no longer employed by the Company, loans are repaid by direct payments to the Plan. A loan initiation fee of \$50 is charged to the participant's account for each new loan requested. Withdrawals—A participant may make a general withdrawal in the following order: (1) the value of the after-tax contributions made before the preceding 24-month period and the unmatched after-tax contributions made within the preceding 24-month period with no suspension penalty or contribution suspension; (2) the value of the matched after-tax contributions made during the preceding 24 months with a 3-month suspension penalty period during which no Company matching contributions are made; (3) the value of any rollover account; and (4) the value of certain prior Company matching contributions as detailed in the appendix to the Plan document.

If the total amount available to a participant for a general withdrawal is insufficient to meet his financial needs, a participant who has not attained age 59-1/2 may apply for a hardship withdrawal of vested Company matching contributions and earnings thereon, before-tax contributions and pre-1989 earnings on before-tax contributions. To demonstrate necessity for a hardship withdrawal, a participant's contributions to the Plan are suspended for six months. As an alternative method of demonstrating necessity, a participant may file a certification of financial hardship.

Participants who have attained age 59-1/2 may withdraw the value of before-tax contributions and the value of vested Company matching contributions, in addition to all amounts available under a general withdrawal.

Payment of Benefits—Distributions may be made when a participant retires, terminates employment, or dies. With the exception of the Company Stock Fund, distributions are in cash for the value of the participant's account. Distributions from the Company Stock Fund are made in shares of Company common stock, in cash, or in a combination of shares and cash, as selected by the participant.

Upon termination of employment, a participant may elect a distribution in a lump-sum payment, partial lump-sum payment or through installments over 5 to 20 years. Beginning January 1, 2011, the maximum installment period for new elections is limited to the maximum life expectancy of the participant or the joint life expectancy of the participant and their beneficiary.

The Plan requires an automatic lump-sum distribution to a terminated participant whose account balance is \$5,000 or less. An automatic lump-sum distribution in excess of \$1,000 is automatically distributed to a rollover Individual Retirement Account (IRA) unless the participant timely elects another form of distribution.

Death benefits to a beneficiary are paid in either a lump-sum payment within five years of the participant's death or in installment payments commencing within one year of the participant's death, as elected by the beneficiary. If the beneficiary is

the participant's spouse, the beneficiary may elect to defer the distribution to the date the participant would have been age 70-1/2.

Some participants that have become participants in the Plan due to plan mergers have benefits differing from the general provisions of the Plan. The appendix to the Plan's summary plan description explains these benefits in detail by location. These participants are often allowed to continue certain benefits offered in their previous plans. The contributions available for such withdrawals are only those contributions made under their previous plans and not the contributions or earnings thereon made under the Plan's provisions.

Administrative Expenses—All administrative fees and expenses (except loan and Qualified Domestic Relations Order "QDRO" initiation fees) are charged to the Plan. The Recordkeeper nets the Master Trust administrative expenses of each plan with the investment income or loss of the Master Trust. Plan level expenses are included in administrative expenses in the accompanying statements of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Forfeited Accounts—On December 31, 2014 and 2013, forfeited non-vested accounts were valued at \$56,000 and \$71,000, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, employer contributions were reduced by approximately \$2,066,000 and \$1,862,000, respectively, from forfeited non-vested accounts.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting— The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Use of Estimates— The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition—The Plan's interest in the Master Trust is stated at fair value. Fair value of a financial instrument is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. If available, quoted market prices are used to value investments. The fair value of benefit-responsive contracts is calculated by discounting the related cash flows based on current yields of similar instruments with comparable durations. Pooled accounts are valued at the net asset value of units held by the Plan at year end. Shares of the open brokerage window and the Company's common stock are valued at quoted market prices as of the measurement date.

In accordance with GAAP, the statements of net assets available for benefits present investment contracts at fair value, as well as an additional line item showing an adjustment of fully benefit-responsive contracts from fair value to contract value (Note 3). The statements of changes in net assets available for benefits are presented on a contract value basis.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Management fees and operating expenses charged to the Master Trust for investments in Master Trust investment accounts and the open brokerage window are deducted from income earned on a daily basis and are not separately reflected. Consequently, management fees and operating expenses are reflected as an adjustment to net appreciation (depreciation) in fair market value for such investments.

Risks and Uncertainties—The Master Trust utilizes various investment instruments. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Notes Receivable from Participants—Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent participant loans are recorded as distributions based on the terms of the Plan document.

Payment of Benefits—Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

Excess Contributions Payable—The Plan is required to return contributions to participants in the event certain nondiscrimination tests defined under the Code are not satisfied. For the year ended December 31, 2014,

approximately \$15,500 of contributions were refundable to Plan participants and are included in excess contributions payable in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits.

Derivatives— Investments include various derivative instruments, such as swaps, options, forwards and futures, that are employed as asset class substitutes, or for bona fide hedging or other appropriate risk management purposes, to achieve investment objectives in an efficient and cost-effective manner as follows:

Market Exposure — To gain exposure to a particular market or alter asset class exposures (e.g., tactical asset allocation) quickly and at low cost.

To alter the risk/return characteristics of certain investments. For example, in fixed income accounts, derivatives may be used to alter the duration of the investment portfolio. Investment managers are also permitted to use derivatives to enhance returns by selecting instruments that will perform better than underlying securities under certain scenarios. Foreign Currency Exposure Management — Investment managers may use derivatives, such as currency forwards, in order to manage foreign currency exposures.

The extent to which investment managers are permitted to use derivatives (and the manner in which they are used) is specified within investment manager investment guidelines. Derivative exposure is monitored regularly to ensure that derivatives are used in a prudent and risk-controlled fashion.

Derivative instruments and hedging activities were immaterial for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. Securities Lending—International Paper Company has, via a Securities Lending Authorization Agreement with State Street, authorized State Street to lend its securities to broker-dealers and banks pursuant to a form of loan agreement. During 2014 and 2013, State Street lent, on behalf of the Company, certain securities held by State Street as custodian and received cash, securities issued or guaranteed by the United States government, and irrevocable letters of credit as collateral. State Street did not have the ability to pledge or sell collateral securities absent a borrower default. Borrowers were required to deliver collateral for each loan equal to (i) in the case of loaned securities denominated in United States dollars or sovereign debt issued by foreign governments, 102% of the market value of the loaned securities; and (ii) in the case of loaned securities not denominated in United States dollars or whose primary trading market was not located in the United States, 105% of the market value of the loaned securities.

State Street had indemnified International Paper by agreeing to purchase replacement securities, or return the cash collateral in the event a borrower failed to return a loaned security or pay distributions thereon. There were no losses during 2014 or 2013 resulting from a default of the borrowers.

The cash collateral received on loans is invested, together with the cash collateral of other qualified tax-exempt plan lenders in a collective investment pool called the Quality D Short-Term Investment Fund. As of December 31, 2014, the Quality D Short-Term Investment Fund had an average duration of 102 days and an average weighted final maturity of 36 days. As of December 31, 2013, such investment pool had an average duration of 91 days and an average weighted final maturity of 40 days.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements—In December 2011 and January 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued guidance requiring expanded disclosures, including both gross and net information for derivatives, repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements, and securities borrowing and securities lending transactions that are either offset in the reporting entity's financial statements or those that are subject to an enforceable master netting arrangement or similar agreement. The Plan adopted the new guidance in 2013. The new guidance affects disclosures only and therefore had no impact on the statements of net assets and changes therein.

In May 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2015-07, Disclosure for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent), Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820). ASU 2015-07 requires the categorization by level for items that are only required to be disclosed at fair value and information about transfers between Level 1 and Level 2. In addition, the ASU impacts reporting entities that measure an investment's fair value using the net asset value per share (or an equivalent) practical expedient. The amendments in ASU No. 2015-07 eliminate the requirement to classify the investment within the fair value hierarchy. In addition, the requirement to make specific disclosures for all investments eligible to be assessed at fair value with the net asset value per share practical expedient has been removed. Instead, such disclosures are restricted only to investments that the entity has decided to measure using the practical expedient. The new guidance is effective for public entities reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and early adoption is permitted and will be applied retrospectively. The Plan did not early adopt this guidance as of year-end and is in the process of assessing the impact on the disclosures to the financial statements.

NOTE 3 - MASTER TRUST

The Plan's investment assets are held in a trust account by the Trustee and consist of an undivided interest in an investment account of the Master Trust. Use of the Master Trust permits the commingling of trust assets with the assets of other plans sponsored by the Company for investment and administrative purposes. Although assets of the plans are commingled in the Master Trust, the Recordkeeper maintains supporting records for the purpose of allocating the net gain or loss of the investment account to the participating plans. The net investment income or loss of the investment assets and administrative expenses are allocated by the Recordkeeper to each participating plan based on the relationship of the interest of each plan to the total of the interests of the participating plans.

The Master Trust is subject to master netting agreements, or netting arrangements, with certain counterparties. These agreements govern the terms of certain transactions, and reduce the counterparty risk associated with relevant transactions by specifying offsetting mechanisms and collateral posting arrangements at pre-arranged exposure levels. Since different types of transactions have different mechanics and are sometimes traded out of different legal entities of a particular counterparty organization, each type of transaction may be covered by a different master netting arrangement possibly resulting in the need for multiple agreements with a single counterparty. Master netting agreements are specific to each different asset type; therefore, they allow the Master Trust to net its total exposure to a specified counterparty and settle it through a single payment, in a single currency in the event of a default with respect to any and all the transactions governed under a single agreement with the counterparty. Transactions subject to master netting arrangements include securities lending, interest rate swaps, futures, and options. Assets and liabilities for securities lending agreements are presented separately within Note 3. Any amounts offset within the Master Trust as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 were immaterial.

The net assets of the Master Trust at December 31, 2014 and 2013, are summarized as follows (in thousands): 2014 2013

Master Trust net assets:

At fair value:

Company Stock Fund Master Trust Investment Account