

Fine paper producers under pressure to increase their prices on German market

Kraftliner suppliers launch new round of talks about higher prices

With the energy price crisis escalating, woodfree paper producers are coming forward with fresh announcements of plans to charge more – on top of the hikes already sought for deliveries from April onwards. Despite surplus supply and a structural decline in demand for printing and writing paper, paper producers say they need to pass higher costs on to their customers and that these new demands must be enforced rigorously.

In late March, discussions in the containerboard and corrugated industry centred on the hikes announced across all kraftliner grades. Buyers report receiving notices for price increases of €80-100/t in most cases. Paper mills stress that these hikes are necessary, arguing that kraftliner margins had already been under pressure

before the Iran war and the subsequent surge in costs.

Paper mills intensify efforts to raise fine paper prices

Several manufacturers of uncoated and coated woodfree paper have sounded the bell for ano-

ther round of price increases. Industry observers view this as underlining paper mills' resolve to implement the announced hikes by April at the latest and signalling further paper price increases in the coming weeks.

In talks about second-quarter prices, suppliers have raised both separate energy surcharges and shorter contract terms, underscoring the highly strained situation of paper mills. Buyers confirmed that they had little leeway in talks.

Price negotiations were often finalised in the last week of March resulting in increases of €40-50/t, depending on the starting price level. Quite a few buyers said that a range of options is being put forward, mostly depending on the volume, order date and delivery date, and varying from one producer to another. They criticised the stance adopted by the paper industry, especially

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EUWID Price Watch Germany

March 2026

Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025
Fine paper			
Woodfree uncoated			
A4 C-grade, branded paper	780 - 850	780 - 850	900 - 1,000
A4 C-grade, non-branded paper	770 - 800	770 - 800	850 - 950
Offset sheets 80 g	890 - 960	890 - 960	1,000 - 1,110
Offset reels 80 g	870 - 900	870 - 900	940 - 1,010
Woodfree coated			
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	870 - 950	870 - 950	1,000 - 1,110
Reels, double coated, 100 g	850 - 900	850 - 900	920 - 990
Publication paper			
Newsprint 45 g (coldset)	575 - 590	575 - 590	600 - 625
Newsprint 42.5 g (coldset)	585 - 600	585 - 600	610 - 635
Newsprint 45 g (heatset)	570 - 590	570 - 590	600 - 625
LWC offset 60 g	770 - 800	770 - 800	780 - 810
SC offset 56 g (A)	660 - 675	660 - 675	680 - 700
SC rotogravure 56 g (A)	660 - 680	660 - 680	680 - 700
Corrugated case material			
Primary fibre corrugated case material			
Unbleached kraftliner from Scandinavia 175 g	850 - 870	850 - 870	870 - 890
Semi-chemical corrugated medium ¹⁾	775 - 980	775 - 980	775 - 1,000
White-top kraftliner 140 g	1,070 - 1,150	1,070 - 1,150	1,050 - 1,130
Recycled corrugated case material			
Schrenz	580 - 590	540 - 550	610 - 630
Wellenstoff	610 - 620	570 - 580	640 - 660
Testliner II	640 - 650	600 - 610	670 - 690
Testliner III	620 - 630	580 - 590	650 - 670
White-top testliner, coated	890 - 910	890 - 910	890 - 970
White-top testliner, 140 g, ISO 70-75	770 - 785	770 - 785	830 - 845
Cartonboard			
Unlined chipboard	775 - 795	775 - 795	795 - 825
GD II	850 - 900	850 - 900	870 - 930
GC II	1,140 - 1,175	1,140 - 1,175	1,240 - 1,275

¹⁾ Prices at the upper end of the range represent Scandinavian primary fibre grades, lower-end prices are quoted for other European grades.