

EUWID Price Watch UK

May 2026

Prices in £ per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	May 2026 £	May 2026 €*	April 2026 £	May 2025 £
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
Copy paper 80 g A4 B grade	790 - 860	908 - 989	790 - 850	830 - 890
Copy paper 80 g A4 C grade	740 - 830	851 - 955	740 - 820	790 - 860
Offset sheets 80 g	850 - 890	978 - 1,024	840 - 890	880 - 920
Offset reels 80 g	770 - 830	886 - 955	760 - 830	800 - 880
Woodfree coated				
Sheets, double coated, 115 g	870 - 940	1,001 - 1,081	860 - 930	890 - 940
Reels, double coated, 100 g	820 - 870	943 - 1,001	810 - 860	800 - 860
Publication paper				
Standard newsprint 45 g	500 - 530	575 - 610	500 - 530	480 - 510
Standard newsprint 42.5 g	510 - 540	587 - 621	510 - 540	490 - 520
Standard newsprint 40 g	520 - 550	598 - 633	520 - 550	500 - 530
Improved newsprint 52 g, ISO 68	550 - 580	633 - 667	550 - 580	530 - 560
LWC offset 60 g	690 - 720	794 - 828	690 - 720	660 - 700
SC offset 56 g (A)	590 - 610	679 - 702	590 - 610	580 - 610
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unbleached kraftliner 175 g+, European quality	720 - 770	828 - 886	695 - 720	720 - 755
White-top kraftliner 140 g, European quality	805 - 910	926 - 1,047	805 - 875	785 - 875
Recycled corrugated case material				
Recycled fluting 100 g	585 - 655	673 - 753	585 - 655	555 - 605
Recycled fluting 90 g	585 - 660	673 - 759	585 - 660	555 - 610
Recycled fluting 85 g	595 - 670	684 - 771	595 - 670	565 - 620
Testliner II	605 - 675	696 - 776	605 - 675	575 - 625
Testliner III	585 - 655	673 - 753	585 - 655	555 - 605
White-top testliner, grade B, 140 g	640 - 725	736 - 834	640 - 690	640 - 700
Cartonboard				
GD II	600 - 670	690 - 771	560 - 650	620 - 715
GC II	880 - 1,030	1,012 - 1,185	880 - 1,000	930 - 1,010

* Exchange rate as of 29 May 2026: £1 = €1.15

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is not already addressed in any conditions imposed by the European Commission.

Kraftliner and white-top liner prices rise in May and June

Containerboard producers continue to report good demand on the UK market. Inventories are said to be lower than a year ago, although production levels have also declined somewhat. According to market participants, the healthy demand reflects not only stock-building ahead of announced price increases but also improved consumption.

Despite longer lead times for recycled containerboard grades, no supply shortages were reported. Any difficulties were said to be related primarily to logistical bottlenecks rather than material availability.

The round of price increases that had already begun on the European mainland continued in the UK. After producers succeeded in implementing increases of around £80/t for brown recycled

containerboard in April, further rises for brown kraftliner followed from May, or in some cases from June. These generally amounted to £50/t, although increases of up to £70/t were reported in individual cases. Insiders say the higher prices have triggered further substitution effects.

Prices for white-top testliner and white-top kraftliner are also set to increase, typically by £30-35/t and in some cases by as much as £50/t. The higher prices apply from May or June deliveries. In some cases, however, negotiations are still ongoing, while in others no price discussions have taken place so far, meaning that prices remain unchanged into June.

Neither the planned start-up of the new machine at Eren's Shotton mill nor the forthcoming closure of Smurfit Westrock's PM in Birmingham had any noticeable impact on the market in May. While the Birmingham machine is expected to close in July or August, opinions differ regarding the start-up of the new machine in Shotton. Eren continues to

target a start-up in the second half of 2026, whereas several market participants expect production to begin only during 2027.

Instead, greater attention has been paid to Saica's planned acquisition of German packaging producer Thimm. Market participants expect the transaction to result in changes to European containerboard supply chains, which could also affect the UK market and create opportunities for new supplier relationships.

While demand for containerboard remained robust in May, most corrugated board and packaging producers reported a noticeable slowdown in their own business activity. This trend became visible in some cases as early as mid-April and at the latest during May. The weaker market environment is attributed to subdued consumer sentiment and sluggish growth in the UK economy.

Nevertheless, converters have announced further price increases. Prices for sheets are general-

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