

## PRICE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SPECIFICATIONS

# Graphic Papers – Europe

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## KEY CONCEPTS

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Each price assessment is...

RISI's assessment of the **open market price** based on **actual market data** gathered from a **broad, systematic survey** of market participants that has been **rigorously evaluated** to produce an assessment.

Open market price: Price for regular business excluding one-off/spot, internal transfers and transactions whose price is not negotiated, i.e. prices determined by a formula based on published prices from RISI or other source. (See "Grade detail and specifications" below)

RISI price assessors consider a range of market data, including actual transaction prices, bids and offers, trigger prices and supporting data. (See "Assessment Calculation" below)

Survey has thorough representation of the market and includes both buyers and sellers, and a range of players from small to large. (see "Data collection process" below)

Assessment procedures include evaluation, verification, weighting and aggregation, plus confirmation of the assessment by a supervising editor. (See "How prices are assessed" below)

## About this methodology

RISI Indices is the division of RISI responsible for price assessments. This document describes the procedures RISI Indices uses to determine its European graphic paper assessments. As of mid-2015, this methodology has been strengthened by application of the Principles for Oil Price Reporting Agencies published by IOSCO, the International Organization of Securities Commissions ([www.iosco.org](http://www.iosco.org)).

RISI has *voluntarily* chosen to adapt these principles to the markets we cover even though our markets fall outside of the governance of IOSCO and the Principles. That's because these guidelines represent the internationally recognized gold standard in price assessment. By adapting and implementing these principles, RISI demonstrates its commitment to providing the highest degree of reliability in price reporting.

For more on the Principles and how RISI has applied them, see "Implementation of IOSCO's Principles for Oil Price Reporting Agencies" at [www.risi.com/iosco](http://www.risi.com/iosco).

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## HOW PRICES ARE ASSESSED

RISI indices creates price assessments in accordance with this methodology document and our internal Price Assessment Procedures Manual.

### Who assesses prices

Prices are assessed by a European team of graphic papers editors, who are part of RISI Indices group, separate from RISI Analytics group involved in forecasting. Standards for training, experience and skills required for editors involved in price assessment, as well as supervision of editors, are described in the RISI Indices Price Assessment Procedures Manual.

### Data collection process

RISI Indices makes price assessments based on a systematic survey of active market participants to find out agreed transaction prices and volumes as well as price offers made or received, and other supporting information such as supply and demand conditions.

The amount and type of information that a respondent provides each month varies across individuals and companies; data from respondents providing more complete information is weighted more heavily in the final assessment. Price data are also weighted roughly according to tonnage.

### Data providers

The survey includes both buyers and sellers, ensuring that the survey pool is balanced and representative of the overall market. An exception is assessments for Spain, which are primarily based on supplier data, with limited data from buyers. See "Grade Detail and Specifications" section below for details for each grade.

All market participants are encouraged to submit price data and supporting market information for inclusion in the assessment.

RISI encourages organizations to submit all their pricing data, especially all the concluded transactions. Depending on market liquidity, RISI reserves the right to also base its prices on bids, offers, deals heard, trigger prices and market participants' assessment or indication of prevailing values.

RISI welcomes organizations to submit transaction data from authorized back office functions. RISI may sign Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA) with any data provider, if requested to do so, in order to maximize the number of data points collected for inclusion in the assessment or index calculation.

For more on RISI's Data Submitter Policy, please see [here](#).

### How data are provided

Each price period, the price assessor contacts data providers and collects data via phone interviews and emails.

## Assessment calculation

### Types of data considered

The following types of data are considered when producing price assessments.

- Transaction prices
- Bids and/or offers made or received
- Trigger prices
- Participants estimates of market levels
- The change in price levels from previous periods
- Other market information such as prices in related markets, supply and demand fundamentals etc.

RISI has clear specifications for all the price points that it covers. All the reference units, such as currency and volume, are in line with recognized conventions in the pulp and paper markets.

### Guidelines on the use of judgement

When assessing market prices, greater weighting is generally given to actual concluded transaction data. Next in terms of importance come bids and offers made or received. RISI does not set a minimum threshold for the amount of transaction data needed to produce assessments.

In the absence of sufficient transaction data, bids and offers or other actual price information, RISI reserves the right to use other factors to determine the assessment. These include:

- market participants' trigger prices;
- market participants' reports of the change in prices from previously assessed periods;
- market fundamentals such as changes in inventory levels, shipments, operating rates and export volumes;
- relative values of similar commodities in the same region;
- relative values of the same commodity in different regions;
- changes in the value of the commodity's primary feedstock or primary derived product(s).

In very opaque markets, where little actual market data is available, price developments may at times not be immediately apparent. If RISI price assessors detect this, their market assessments in the next reporting period would generally reflect the price change. This is in line with RISI's policy of acting on new information as it becomes available.

### Criteria for exclusion of data

Data are excluded from the assessment in the following cases:

- The price of a transaction is indexed to published prices from RISI or another source. A transaction price is considered "indexed" when it is entirely determined according to a formula based on a published price assessment, whether that assessment is from RISI or any other source.
- The transactions don't meet the assessment specifications. (See "Grade Detail and Specifications" section below.)
- The transaction has special circumstances that, in the price assessor's judgment, render it unrepresentative of the broader market and/or not repeatable. (This type of exclusion is rarely used.)

### Weighting of data

- Higher-quality data are weighted more heavily than lower-quality data. Higher-quality data includes:
  - Data with more detail, e.g. prices reported as separate transactions with accompanying volume rather than an overall average price.
  - Data whose credibility is supported by answers to the assessor's follow-up questions.
  - Data from contacts with a history of reliability. Contacts are deemed more reliable if they:
    - Provide information that is corroborated by other sources
    - Provide complete and detailed information
    - Provide information regularly and consistently over time
    - Report price information that goes against their natural interests (e.g. a buyer reporting higher prices or a producer reporting lower prices)
- Data are weighted according to the type of information.

Larger transactions are given more weight than smaller ones. However, the weighting of any single data provider's data is limited so that it doesn't dominate the assessment.

## Assessments based on up/downcharges

Some assessments for non-benchmark basis weights are derived by applying a standard up- or downcharge to the benchmark grade. For instance, 56-g is the benchmark grade for SC. Assessments for 52-g and 60-g SC are calculated by applying a standard upcharge (for 52-g) or downcharge (for 60-g) to the 56-g price.

Standard up- and downcharges are generally updated once per year based on data from market participants.

Assessments determined via up/downcharge from a benchmark grade are noted in the “Grade Details and Specifications” section below.

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## CONTROLS AND COMPLIANCE

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### Ensuring consistency and quality of assessments

RISI Indices has in place a number of procedures to ensure the consistency and quality of price assessments, including:

- **Sign-off:** Prior to publication, each price assessment is reviewed by a senior price assessor other than the assessor primarily responsible for the assessment to ensure the assessment is accurate and has followed proper procedures.
- **Quality assurance audit:** A supervising editor is responsible for overseeing all price assessments. The supervisor will periodically do a detailed review of decision-making for a given price assessment, reviewing price assessments in relation to assessments from similar markets, ensuring that the methodology has been followed consistently and that judgment has been applied appropriately.
- **Market review:** On an annual basis, Indices staff reviews markets and methodologies to ensure that assessment methodologies and the assessments they produce are appropriate for the market.
- **External audit:** In accordance with the standards of IOSCO’s PRA Principles, Category 1 price assessments (see “Grade Detail and Specifications” below for categories by assessment) are audited to ensure that assessments comply with this methodology and with IOSCO’s PRA Principles.

### Independence and freedom from conflicts of interest

Please see RISI Indices’ Conflicts of Interest Policy ([www.risi.com/conflicts](http://www.risi.com/conflicts)). Key points include:

#### *Independence of RISI*

RISI has no affiliation with buyers or sellers of forest products and therefore no vested interest in either higher or lower prices.

#### *Absence of financial interest*

RISI is free of ownership or other ties that would give it a financial interest in the movement of prices we report. RISI prohibits its employees who conduct price assessments from having a financial interest (excluding passive investments like mutual funds) in companies whose values are directly and substantially affected by prices on which they report.

#### *Separation from forecasting*

RISI Indices is a separate business unit from RISI Analytics, which carries out RISI’s forecasting activities, ensuring that forecasting of future prices doesn’t influence assessment of actual prices.

### Confidentiality

Our data providers are essential to our work, so RISI Indices goes to great lengths to keep price survey data confidential. Confidential data include both the data collected and the names of individuals and companies who provide data. RISI’s policy is to neither confirm nor deny the participation of any individual or company in our price surveys at any time, either directly or indirectly.

This confidentiality is essential to ensure the highest number of data contributors as well to ensure that contributing data to RISI cannot be used as a means for market players to unfairly communicate to each other.

RISI Indices' Confidentiality and Data Protection policy ([www.risi.com/confidentiality](http://www.risi.com/confidentiality)) explains full details around how price assessors protect the confidentiality of their contacts and data. Each year, price assessors are trained in data protection procedures and must sign a compliance agreement.

## Antitrust compliance

All price assessment methodologies from RISI Indices are explicitly designed to comply with antitrust rules. See RISI Indices' Antitrust Compliance Policy ([www.risi.com/antitrust](http://www.risi.com/antitrust)) for further details.

## Disclaimer of warranty

Although RISI collects information from sources who are believed to be reliable, RISI does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy or completeness of its price assessments. Actual transaction prices will often vary from the assessed level. Under no circumstances shall RISI nor any of its subsidiaries, parent corporations and affiliates, and all of their respective officers, directors, owners, employees, agents, licensors, representatives, licensors and suppliers (collectively, the "RISI Parties"), be liable for any loss or damage caused by your reliance on information obtained through the RISI services. It is your responsibility to evaluate the information, opinion, advice, or other content available through the RISI services.

## Changes and feedback

### Changes to methodology and specifications

RISI Indices periodically reviews the markets it covers to ensure that our methodology and specifications are still appropriate for that market.

Understanding that some RISI Indices price assessments are used in long-term contracts, RISI Indices seeks to minimize changes that will affect the continuity of its price assessment over time.

Prior to implementing any material changes to the methodology and specifications, these changes will be announced in draft form and open for comment from all stakeholders. RISI Indices will review all comments and seek to balance the views of all players as much as possible while ensuring the reliability of price assessments.

Based on comments received, RISI Indices will finalize the changes and announce them to the market, specifying exactly what will change and when.

### Corrections and non-market adjustments

Publication of price errors can occasionally happen for reasons that may include technical, input errors or incorrect application of the methodology. To minimize the inconvenience to our subscribers, RISI aims to investigate each error as soon as it becomes aware of it and to publish a correction promptly. If the correction is substantial, a Coverage Note will be published on the RISI website and an email will be sent to subscribers with an explanation of the reason for the correction.

RISI will publish a correction of a price only where it has established undeniably that there has been an error. RISI price assessments are produced based on the best data available at the time of the assessment. It will not retroactively change a price based on new information or additional submission of data received after a respective pricing session has closed.

Occasionally, in very opaque markets, price developments may not become apparent for some time. If this happens, RISI reserves the right to adjust a price series upwards or downwards to bring it back in-line with market values. Such cases should not be considered corrections but rather non-market price adjustments. A retroactive correction of the price history would not normally be made. RISI has a very structured process for such non-market adjustments, similar to that for changes to methodologies and specifications. They would only be implemented after industry consultation. Ample notice would be given of the proposed adjustment and stakeholders would have the chance to send their feedback.

### Feedback and complaints

RISI Indices welcomes feedback on its price assessment methodology as well as on specific price assessments published. We greatly value such feedback and the dialog that it generates.

In general, such feedback is most effectively dealt with by the editor directly in charge of the price assessment in question. We invite you to speak with or email any of your existing contacts within the editorial team, or view a list of contacts at [www.risi.com/EditorialContacts](http://www.risi.com/EditorialContacts).

If working with the editor does not adequately address your issue, please view our procedures for submitting complaints at [www.risi.com/complaints](http://www.risi.com/complaints).

## GRADE DETAIL AND SPECIFICATIONS

These are specifications that apply to all graphic paper grades. Specifications unique to each grade are detailed below.

Where published	<p>PPI Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter (pdf)</li> <li>• Online (interactive database)</li> </ul>
Frequency	<p>Monthly (Germany, UK, France, Italy)</p> <p>Quarterly (Spain) : Prices are reported in the last month of each quarter. When prices are reported, monthly prices for that quarter are reported retroactively. For instance, no prices are published in January or February. In March, prices for January, February and March are published.</p>
Schedule	See <a href="http://www.risi.com/schedule">www.risi.com/schedule</a>
Assessment window	Assessments reflect prices agreed in the month to the date that the assessment is published and don't reflect any agreements on price changes that will take effect in the future.
Transaction types reflected	<p>Open market transactions in ongoing supply relationships (i.e. excluding internal transfer prices and spot transactions) only between manufacturers and traders.</p> <p>Open market transactions are defined as those whose price is arrived at through negotiation, so excluded are "indexed" transactions, i.e. transactions whose price is determined by a formula based on published prices (whether from RISI or other source).</p>
Price levels reflected	<p>Reference prices, i.e. the price negotiated each month that may serve as a basis from which customer-specific discounts are given based on the customer's volume or long-term relationship with a supplier</p> <p>Assessments are presented as a range in which the bulk of transactions take place.</p>
Arms-length transactions	Only transactions between unaffiliated parties are reflected.
Point in supply chain	<p><i>Newsprint, mechanical, coated woodfree:</i>                      Seller: Producer or merchant                      Buyer: Printer or publisher</p> <p><i>Uncoated woodfree copy:</i>                      Seller: Producer                      Buyer: Merchant, office supplier or retailer</p>

	<p><i>Uncoated woodfree offset:</i>  Seller: Producer  Buyer: Merchant or printer</p>
Delivery terms	Free delivered to buyer's facility unless otherwise noted.
Normal terms of payment	Price estimates assume normal and customary payment terms. Where discounts are offered for faster payment (e.g. typical terms in Germany of 3% discount for payment within 14 days for SC and coated mechanical offset reels), prices do not reflect these discounts.
Currency/units	Euro/tonne except for UK prices, which are £/tonne
IOSCO categories	<p>Uncoated woodfree A4 Copy (B Grade), 80 g – Germany: Category 1  All others: Category 2  See implementation of IOSCO's Principles for Price Reporting Agencies (<a href="http://www.risi.com/iosco">www.risi.com/iosco</a>) for definition of categories.</p>

## Newsprint

Grade	Location	RISI Price ID	Currency	Frequency	Notes
<b>Standard Newsprint</b>					
40 g	France	454	EUR	m	Calculated via full-yield formula <sup>1</sup>
	United Kingdom	432	GBP	m	Calculated via full-yield formula <sup>1</sup>
42 g	France	1155	EUR	m	
	Spain	1354	EUR	q	Monthly prices are published retroactively.
42.5 g	Germany	1176	EUR	m	Calculated via full-yield formula <sup>1</sup>
	United Kingdom	1149	GBP	m	
45 g	France	2	EUR	m	
	Germany	1	EUR	m	
	Italy	4	EUR	m	
	Spain	126	EUR	q	Monthly prices are published retroactively.
	United Kingdom	3	GBP	m	
<b>Improved (68 ISO)</b>					
52 g	United Kingdom	1250	GBP	m	



<sup>1</sup> The full-yield formula in general is as follows: To find the price  $P_a$  of grammage  $a$  based on the price  $P_b$  of grammage  $b$ ...

$$P_a = P_b / a * b$$

RISI uses the 45g price as the basis for this formula in all markets.

## Uncoated mechanical

Grade	Location	RISI Price ID	Currency	Frequency	Notes
<b>Supercalendered-A (SC-A) Rotogravure Reels</b>					
52 g	Italy	444	EUR	m	Assessments based on standard upcharge from 56-g
	United Kingdom	435	GBP	m	
56 g	Germany	5	EUR	m	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
	Italy	442	EUR	m	
	Spain	127	EUR	q	
	United Kingdom	7	GBP	m	
	France	6	EUR	m	
<b>Supercalendered-A (SC-A) Offset Reels</b>					
52 g	Italy	445	EUR	m	Assessments based on standard upcharge from 56-g
	United Kingdom	436	GBP	m	
56 g	France	10	EUR	m	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
	Germany	9	EUR	m	
	Italy	443	EUR	m	
	Spain	128	EUR	q	
	United Kingdom	11	GBP	m	

## Coated mechanical

All assessments cover paper made primarily from virgin fiber, not recycled fiber.

Grade	Location	RISI Price ID	Currency	Frequency	Notes
<b>Rotogravure Reels</b>					
80 g	Germany	468	EUR	m	
	Italy	446	EUR	m	
<b>Offset Reels</b>					
70 g	Italy	447	EUR	m	
80 g	Germany	469	EUR	m	
<b>Lightweight Coated (LWC) Rotogravure Reels</b>					
54 g	Germany	465	EUR	m	Assessments based on standard upcharge from 60-g
57 g	Germany	464	EUR	m	
60 g	France	14	EUR	m	
	Germany	13	EUR	m	
	Italy	16	EUR	m	
	Spain	130	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
United Kingdom	15	EUR	m		
<b>Lightweight Coated (LWC) Offset Reels</b>					
54 g	Germany	467	EUR	m	Assessments based on standard upcharge from 60-g
57 g	Germany	466	EUR	m	
60 g	France	18	EUR	m	
	Germany	17	EUR	m	
	Italy	20	EUR	m	
	Spain	129	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
United Kingdom	19	EUR	m		

## Uncoated woodfree

Grade	Location	RISI Price ID	Currency	Frequency	Notes
<b>A4 Copy (B Grade)</b>					
80 g	France	34	EUR	m	
	Germany	33	EUR	m	
	Italy	36	EUR	m	
	Spain	133	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
	United Kingdom	35	GBP	m	
<b>A4 Copy (C Grade)</b>					
80 g	France	519	EUR	m	
	Germany	518	EUR	m	
	Italy	662	EUR	m	
	Spain	684	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
	United Kingdom	517	GBP	m	
<b>Offset Reels</b>					
80 g	France	22	EUR	m	
	Germany	21	EUR	m	
	Italy	663	EUR	m	
	United Kingdom	23	GBP	m	
70 g	Spain	132	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
<b>Offset Sheets</b>					
70 g+	Italy	32	EUR	m	
80 g	France	30	EUR	m	
	Germany	29	EUR	m	
	Spain	131	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
	United Kingdom	31	GBP	m	

## Coated woodfree

Grade	Location	RISI Price ID	Currency	Frequency	Notes
<b>Reels</b>					
80 g	Germany	470	EUR	m	
90 g	Germany	37	EUR	m	
	Spain	134	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
100 g	France	39	EUR	m	
	Germany	38	EUR	m	
	Italy	41	EUR	m	
	United Kingdom	40	GBP	m	
<b>Sheets</b>					
90 g	Germany	471	EUR	m	
100 g	France	43	EUR	m	
	Germany	42	EUR	m	
	Italy	46	EUR	m	
115 g	Spain	135	EUR	q	Monthly prices for Spain are published retroactively.
	United Kingdom	44	GBP	m	

## REVISION HISTORY

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Changes to methodology and specifications will be tracked here.

### September 2018 – Changes to European newsprint, SC-A assessments

Removes 48.8-g from list of assessments for France, Germany and Spain. Removes 60-g SC-A rotogravure reels and 60-g SC-A offset reels from list of assessments for UK, France, Germany and Italy.

### February 2018 – Adds reference to Data Submitter Policy

Adds reference to Data Submitter Policy.

### January 2018 – Changes to UK assessments, information on corrections and non-market adjustments

Removes 48.8-g from list of UK assessments. Basis for the yield formula used to assess UK 40g Newsprint changed to 45g from 42.5g. Adds paragraphs on corrections and non-market adjustments.

### October 2017 – Comment added on compliance regime

Comment added on page 5 regarding RISI's current transition to a new compliance regime in the light of its purchase by Euromoney.

### January 2017 – Changes to Newsprint yield formulas

Basis for the yield formula used to assess UK 48.8g and 40g Newsprint changed from 45g to 42.5g.