

Boxboard Europe

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Top stories

Spain cartonboard commentary: FBB, WLC prices steady in February

By Daniela Wortmann - Thursday 26 February

Folding boxboard (FBB) and white-lined chipboard (WLC) prices were largely stable month on month in February, with Fastmarkets keeping its assessments unchanged for the month.

Fastmarkets' assessment for cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Spain was €940-1,190 (\$1,113-1,409) per tonne in February, unchanged from January.

Fastmarkets' assessment for cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Spain was €665-690 per tonne in February, unchanged from January.

February packaging focus: containerboard and cartonboard prices mostly stable

By Andrea Venturini - Wednesday 25 February

RCCM price increase fails: Brown recycled containerboard (RCCM) prices were carried over into February in Europe, despite attempts from paper producers to raise them by €100 (\$118) per tonne for deliveries in February.

According to market participants, good paper availability, the lack of production cost increases and the fact that not all the big players backed the price increase attempt were the reasons for its lack of success. "Apparently, there are enough players who can survive with the current margins," one market source told Fastmarkets in February.

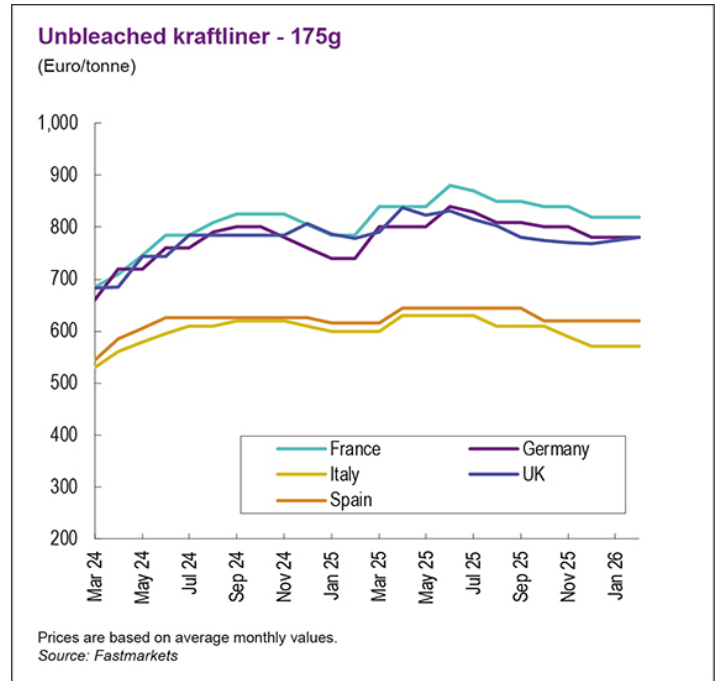
White-top testliner (WTT) prices also remained flat for deliveries in February. At the beginning of the month, a European WTT producer announced its intention to raise prices by €80 per tonne for shipments as of March 1, various market sources told Fastmarkets.

UKL prices also flat: Prices for unbleached kraftliner (UKL) were mostly carried over into February, although one market source mentioned further downward adjustments. Deliveries from the United States to Spain and Italy have decreased following huge capacity curtailment in the country.

Despite this, some market sources mentioned decreases of €20-30 per tonne for March production, deliveries in April-May.

As the delta between UKL and brown RCCM prices has increased quite a lot in recent months, some market sources said more and more customers are replacing UKL with either testliner 1 or kraft substitutes, thus pushing UKL producers to adjust prices downwards.

White-top kraftliner (WTK) and semichemical fluting prices were also carried over into February across Europe in February.



FBB prices steady: Following the decreases in January, prices for folding boxboard (FBB) remained largely steady month on month in February.

The market continued to be oversupplied due to fresh capacity in Europe and Asian producers offering volumes at very competitive prices.

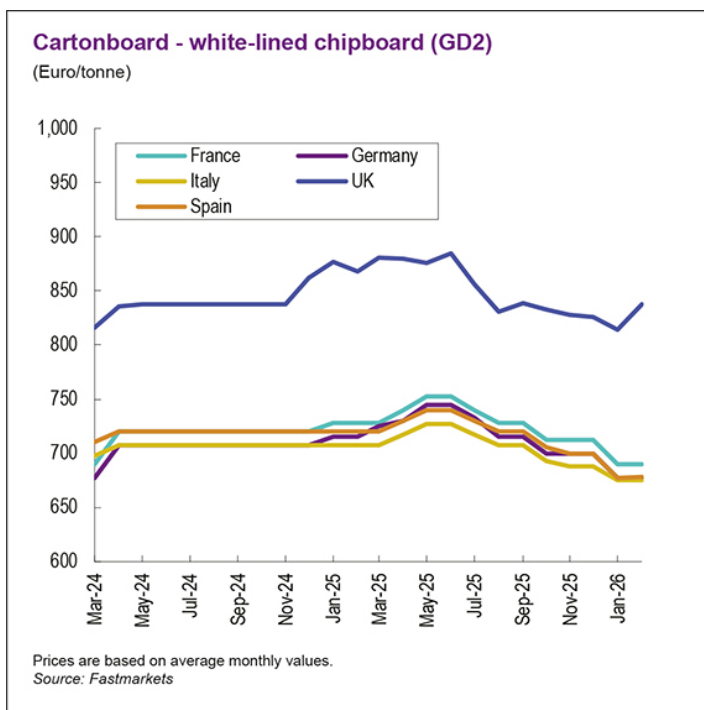
While market insiders told Fastmarkets that big brand owners in Europe were still refraining from those offers, they confirmed that, at a time of high production and labor costs and rising raw material prices, pressure on prices was high. In terms of demand, market participants generally said that order inflow had been quite good in January and, at least partly, in February as well.

"Many customers stopped operating mid-December and only came out of their Christmas break mid-January. Of course they had to restock after that, but I doubt that this trend will continue in the coming months," one said. "Customer confidence is low. People are spending less and often at places that prefer plastic packaging because it's cheaper, at discounters for example," another added.

WLC prices stable: White-lined chipboard (WLC) prices remained unchanged month on month in February. Following the decreases in January amid a phase of restocking on the converting side, market participants said that the atmosphere had smoothed, and manufacturers felt the effect of the overcapacity in the European market on both the WLC and FBB side. "The price gap between FBB and WLC is not that big and there are very attractive FBB offers.

I have to admit that I wouldn't be too surprised if some traditional WLC users were thinking about a change," one market participant said. Also, speculation was rife over potential reorganizations or capacity closures. "Some capacity has to be taken out of the market - voluntarily or involuntarily - sooner or later.

But so far, nobody seems to dare to be the one to get the ball rolling," one market contact said.



Related News Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe

Pro Carton publishes Carbon Footprint Study 2025

- Wednesday 25 February

Pro Carton has published its latest Carbon Footprint Study, providing independently verified data on the climate impact of cartonboard packaging across Europe.

At a time when sustainability claims require greater transparency and comparability, the study offers a robust and credible benchmark for brand owners, retailers and policymakers evaluating packaging materials.

Reliable data builds trust

The study follows recognised European standards, including the CEPI Framework for Carbon Footprints of Paper and Board Products and the CITPA Guidelines for paper-based packaging.

Data was collected from 70 production sites across Europe, representing approximately 60% of European cartonboard production and 16% of folding carton converting. The calculations were carried out by RISE (Research Institutes of Sweden) and independently verified by ifeu – the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research in Heidelberg. This rigorous methodology ensures transparency, consistency and trust.

8% reduction in fossil carbon footprint from 2021-24

Using a cradle-to-gate approach – covering raw material extraction through cartonboard production to the ready-to-fill folding carton – the study shows an 8% reduction in fossil carbon emissions compared to the previous assessment.

Importantly, this progress reflects structural improvements and long-term industrial investments across the value chain rather than short-term compensation mechanisms.

Transparency on emission sources

The analysis provides clarity on where emissions occur. Around 73% of fossil emissions arise during cartonboard production, converting into folding cartons accounts for approximately 21%, while transport represents around 6%.

This level of transparency helps identify where further reduction efforts can have the greatest impact and supports informed decision-making across the packaging value chain.

Bad Heilbrunner Naturheilmittel's nosuga brand launches new range of organic iced teas in Elopak's carton packaging

- Tuesday 24 February

Bad Heilbrunner Naturheilmittel GmbH & Co. KG has launched a new range of organic iced teas under the nosuga brand, offering a "Naturally sweet without any sugar" promise.

The new iced tea brand is aimed at health-conscious consumers seeking organic quality, real tea, and natural recipes without added sugar or artificial sweeteners.

Bad Heilbrunner acquired the nosuga brand from the Frankfurt-based start-up Maintea to strengthen its market position and expand beyond traditional tea and medicinal tea categories. nosuga has been deliberately positioned as a distinct, younger brand designed to build a product range focused on sugar-free enjoyment.

A refined packaging design enhances brand distinction

Four nosuga varieties are launched in aseptic 500ml Pure-Pak cartons including Peach & Black tea, Lemon & Mint, Elderflower & Lemon balm, and Hibiscus Blossom & Blueberry. The aseptic carton technology ensures product safety and extended shelf life while supporting the brand's premium positioning.

“With Elopak’s carton packaging, we have plenty of room for our brand message while ensuring sustainability through recyclability and a lightweight design”

Constanze Kiesel, Brand Director at nosuga

Targeted at health and quality conscious consumers aged 20 to 50 who value less sweet soft drinks without compromising on taste. nosuga is currently

available in selected food retailers across Germany and online, ensuring nationwide access for consumers seeking sugarfree and organic iced teas.

nosuga shows how enjoyment, health, and design can unite when product development and packaging are considered as one. The carton solution not only supports the brand’s sustainability goals but also brings the “truly organic, sugar-free” story visibly to the shelf and securely into consumers’ hands. For retailers and consumers alike, this creates an offering that looks different, tastes different, and is consciously less sweet.

The nosuga team combines expertise from the retail and beverage industries and includes an in-house product developer specializing in beverages. The first four varieties introduced in 2025 mark just the beginning, with more sugar-free innovations in development to drive growth in the organic and zero-sugar iced tea market segments.

Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe Key Attributes

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	950 - 1190	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	950 - 1190
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	950 - 1180	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	950 - 1180
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	670 - 710	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	670 - 710
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	650 - 705	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	650 - 705

Boxboard/Cartonboard Germany Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	950 - 1180	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	950 - 1180
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	650 - 705	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	650 - 705

Boxboard/Cartonboard Spain Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0104	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	940 - 1190	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	940 - 1190
FP-CBB-0105	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	665 - 690	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	665 - 690

Boxboard/Cartonboard France Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	950 - 1190	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	950 - 1190
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	670 - 710	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	670 - 710

Boxboard/Cartonboard Italy Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0102	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	950 - 1190	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	950 - 1190
FP-CBB-0103	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	650 - 700	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	650 - 700

Boxboard/Cartonboard UK Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0094	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Feb 2026	960 - 1145	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	960 - 1145
FP-CBB-0095	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	1109 - 1323	9 (0.75%)	Feb 2026	1109 - 1323
FP-CBB-0096	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Feb 2026	685 - 735	0 (0.00%)	Feb 2026	685 - 735
FP-CBB-0097	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Feb 2026	791 - 849	5.5 (0.68%)	Feb 2026	791 - 849