

5.4 BUSINESS PAPERS (*ÜZLETI PAPÍR*)

5.4.1 Introduction

The background to this class of mail is not entirely clear. While business papers were to be accepted internationally according to UPU agreements, it appears that initially they were not accepted internally within the Empire as a separate class of mail:

PTRT 37, 22.07.1888: In an internal agreement between Austria and Hungary, the following is published:

1. Application of international and domestic rules.

Insofar as the following §§ do not contain other provisions, the provisions of the Universal Postal Union Treaty and the separate Conventions relating to it shall apply to letter-post items, postal orders, postal packages in both domestic and international exchange and transit traffic, as well as to letters of credit (*lettres valeurs*) and postal parcels (*colis postaux*) in international exchange and transit traffic. The provisions of these separate treaties shall apply to traffic regulated by separate treaties. For those matters of the aforementioned consignments, which are not regulated either in international conventions or in the following sections, the domestic rules shall apply.

2. Letter traffic.

Letters weighing more than 250 grams, postage-free letters weighing more than 1000 grams, printed matter weighing more than 1000 grams, printed matter packed with samples weighing more than 250 grams, newspapers without attachments weighing more than 500 grams, and finally **business papers shall not be accepted in the internal exchange system.**

Germany also did not recognise them. On the change of currency in 1900, and again in 1910 this was re-emphasised, although clearly arrangements were probably in place for sending business papers to other countries and accepting them from other countries:

PTRT 45, 01.12.1899: Introduction of *filler/forint* currency. There is no mention of ‘business papers’ as a separate class of mail from ‘printed papers’ for internal purposes, but in contrast there is mention under foreign mail with the following statement:

‘Business papers cost 25 *f* for up to 250 grams, and 5 *f* for each additional 50 grams. (Business papers cannot be sent as special letter mail to Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Germany and Montenegro.),

PTRT 17, 19.04.1910: Postal transport of used railway waybills.

In the event that used railway waybills were accepted for transport at the printed matter tariff, I would like to inform the post and telegraph offices that such railway waybills will not receive any discount in domestic traffic and traffic with countries where the type of mail item ‘business paper’ is not imported.

Such mail items sent at the printed matter tariff must therefore be treated as insufficiently prepaid letters or, if they exceed the permitted weight limit, as packages in the aforementioned traffic and delivered to the addressee with the collection of the postage due.

The post and telegraph offices are informed of the decree no. 36.743 published in the **PTRT 29, 21.06.1906.** at the end of the decree, the following should be added: ‘See also decree no. 4287. **PTRT 17, 19.04.1910.**’

PTRT 40a, 26.07.1914: Setting up of field post office, which will be able to handle business papers.

Finally, in 1916, there was an announcement of a ‘new type of mail’:

PTRT 124, 24.09.1916: Business papers.

Based on and in connection with the new postal agreements concluded with Austria and Germany, the following postal tariff and business regulations shall come into force on 1 October 1916 in the territories of the countries of the Holy Hungarian Crown:

1. Business papers, as a **new type of mail in Hungary**, may contain handwritten communications (proceedings, drawings, old letters, copies of musical notes, etc.), but without the character of passionate correspondence.

2. The postage fee for business paper, both in domestic and other traffic, is 5 *fillér* per 50 g., but at least 25 *f*

3. Maximum weight, 2000 g.

5.4.2 Rate tables - Inland

Table 1: Commercial/business papers (*üzleti papír*) – Inland rates – 1916-1944

Date introduced	Rate period	Weight	Rate	Minimum charge		Weight limit
01.10.1916	-	Each 50 g	5 <i>f</i>	25 <i>f</i>		2000 g
01.10.1918 [1]		Each 50 g	5 <i>f</i>	25 <i>f</i>		2000 g
	-	Each 50 g	Minimum			
01.01.1920	1	20 <i>f</i>	1 <i>K</i>			
01.06.1920	2	50 <i>f</i>	2 <i>K</i> 50 <i>f</i>			
01.01.1922	3	50 <i>f</i>	2 <i>K</i> 50 <i>f</i>			
01.08.1922	4	1 <i>K</i>	12 <i>K</i>			
05.10.1922	5	No change to inland rates				
01.11.1922	6	2 <i>K</i>	25 <i>K</i>			
16.04.1923	7	4 <i>K</i>	40 <i>K</i>			
01.07.1923	8	10 <i>K</i>	80 <i>K</i>			
13.08.1923	9	20 <i>K</i>	200 <i>K</i>			
01.10.1923	10	40 <i>K</i>	350 <i>K</i>			
01.01.1924	11	100 <i>K</i>	500 <i>K</i>			
21.02.1924	12	200 <i>K</i>	1000 <i>K</i>			
11.04.1924	13	400 <i>K</i>	1500 <i>K</i>			
01.06.1924	14	500 <i>K</i>	1800 <i>K</i>			
01.01.1925	15	400 <i>K</i>	2000 <i>K</i>			
		250 g	500 g	1000 g		2000 g
01.01.1927	-	16 <i>f</i>	30 <i>f</i>	60 <i>f</i>		90 <i>f</i>
15.10.1930	-	16 <i>f</i>	30 <i>f</i>	60 <i>f</i>		90 <i>f</i>
15.09.1941	-	20 <i>f</i>	-	-		-
01.03.1943	-	40 <i>f</i>	-	-		-
		250 g	500 g	1000 g	1500 g	2000 g
01.07.1943	-	30 <i>f</i>	48 <i>f</i>	80 <i>f</i>	1.60 <i>P</i>	2.40 <i>P</i>

[1] **PTRT 53, 29.05.1918:** War tax charges: For samples of goods intended for domestic use: 5 *f* up to a weight of 50 grams, this fee is not applicable for samples of goods over 50 grams. So *e.g.* for a product sample weighing 43 grams intended for domestic use: regular fee 5 *f*, plus a war surcharge of 5 *f*, a total of 10 *f*. There is no wartime surcharge for goods samples destined for anywhere other than the country.

(There is no mention of ‘business papers’, so it is to be presumed that war tax would not be applied.)

Table 2: Commercial/business papers (*üzleti papír*) – Inland rates – 1945-1946

Start date	Period	Up to 50 g	250 g	500 g	1000 g	1500 g	2000 g
01-05-1945	1	30 <i>f</i>	1 <i>P</i>	1.50 <i>P</i>	2.50 <i>P</i>	5 <i>P</i>	7.50 <i>P</i>
02-07-1945	2	-	-	3 <i>P</i>	5 <i>P</i>	7 <i>P</i>	10 <i>P</i>
16-09-1945	3	-	-	10 <i>P</i>	20 <i>P</i>	[1]	30 <i>P</i>
01-11-1945	4	-	-	60 <i>P</i>	120 <i>P</i>	-	200 <i>P</i>
16-11-1945	5	-	-	120 <i>P</i>	240 <i>P</i>	-	400 <i>P</i>
14-01-1946	6	-	-	600 <i>P</i>	1,200 <i>P</i>	-	2,400 <i>P</i>
01-02-1946	7	-	-	-	3,000 <i>P</i>	-	6,000 <i>P</i>
01-03-1946	8	-	-	-	20,000 <i>P</i>	-	30,000 <i>P</i>
16-03-1946	9	-	-	-	40,000 <i>P</i>	-	60,000 <i>P</i>
26-03-1946	10	-	-	-	60,000 <i>P</i>	-	90,000 <i>P</i>
01-04-1946	11	-	-	-	80,000 <i>P</i>	-	120,000 <i>P</i>
11-04-1946	12	-	-	-	160,000 <i>P</i>	-	240,000 <i>P</i>
23-04-1946	13	-	-	-	500,000 <i>P</i>	-	750,000 <i>P</i>
01-05-1946	14	-	-	-	2 <i>mP</i>	-	3 <i>mP</i>
10-05-1946	15	-	-	-	10 <i>mP</i>	-	15 <i>mP</i>
20-05-1946	16	-	-	-	40 <i>mP</i>	-	60 <i>mP</i>
27-05-1946	17	-	-	-	120 <i>mP</i>	-	180 <i>mP</i>
01-06-1946	18	-	-	-	400 <i>mP</i>	-	600 <i>mP</i>
11-06-1946	19	-	-	-	4 <i>mdP</i>	-	6 <i>mdP</i>
17-06-1946	20	-	-	-	20 <i>mdP</i>	-	30 <i>mdP</i>
24-06-1946	21	-	-	-	400 <i>mdP</i>	-	600 <i>mdP</i>
01-07-1946	22	-	-	-	40 <i>bP</i>	-	60 <i>bP</i>
04-07-1946	23	-	-	-	2,000 <i>bP</i>	-	3,000 <i>bP</i>
08-07-1946	24	-	-	-	10,000 <i>bP</i>	-	150,000 <i>bP</i>
12-07-1946	25	-	-	-	20,000 <i>eaP</i>	-	30,000 <i>eaP</i>
18-07-1946	26	-	-	-	100,000 <i>eaP</i>	-	150,000 <i>eaP</i>
24-07-1946	27	-	-	-	400,000 <i>eaP</i>	-	600,000 <i>eaP</i>
01.08.1946		-	-	60 <i>f</i>	1.50 <i>Ft</i>	-	2.80 <i>Ft</i>

[1] **PTRT 21, 15.09.1945.** This weight step removed with the start of the new rates.

It is believed that at some point around 1968, the business paper rate would have been unified under printed papers.

5.4.3 Foreign rates

Information on early international rates with individual groups of countries is contained within the following PTRTs:

PTRT 20, 24.07.1872: Following new postal agreement between Germany and Spain, the rate for business papers via Germany to Spain is 2 *Nkr* per 50 g (3 *Zoll-Loth*). Rates via France and Italy are unchanged.

PTRT 18, 29.06.1876: I. British India: Hindustan, British Burma, Aden. II. French colonies, namely: a) American: Martinique, Guadeloupe and its dependencies, French Guiana, St. Pierre and Miquelon; b) African: Senegambia and its dependencies, Gabon, Réunion, Mayotte and its dependencies, St. Marie de Madagascar; c) Asian: French settlements in India (Pondichéry, Chaudernayor, Karikai, Malié, and Janaon) and in Cochinchina; d) Australian: New Caledonia and its dependencies, the Marquesas Islands, Tahiti, and the archipelagos under the Protectorate of France. For business papers, 6 *Nkr* for 50 grams each.

PTRT 7, 31.03.1877: The following British possessions and colonies: Mauritius (Ile de France) and its dependencies, the Seychelles Islands, the Bermuda Islands, Guyana (British), the two British possessions in the West Indies, Jamaica and Trinidad, the British colony in Hong Kong, and finally the British possessions in the Far East, Malacca, Penang, Singapore, Labuan, and Ceylon, joined the General Postal Union on April 1, 1877. Business papers rate: 6 *kr* per 50 g.

PTRT 9, 24.04.1877: The Dutch colonies (Java, Sumatra, Celebes, Borneo, the Moluccas, the northwestern part of New Guinea (Papoea), Curaçao and its dependencies, etc.), the Spanish colonies (Cuba, Porto Alegre, Manila, the Canary Islands and the Virgin Islands, etc.) joined the General Postal Union on May 1, 1877; the Portuguese colonies (Goa, Macao, the Cape Verde Islands, Angola, Mozambique, etc.) joined on July 1, 1877; Japan joined on June 1877. For business papers: 6 *kr* for 50 g each;

PTRT 16, 28.06.1878: Business papers rate to Canada: 6 *kr* per 50 g.

PTRT 24, 28.09.1878: As above to Peru: same rate.

PTRT 34, 21.12.1878: The British colonies on the west coast of Africa (Gold Coast, British Senegambia, Lagos, and Sierra Leone), plus British colonies in America: Newfoundland, the Falkland Islands, and British Honduras, joined the General Postal Union on January 1, 1879. Same rate as above.

PTRT 11, 28.03.1879: From 01.04.1879, the UPU resolutions come into force with the introduction of two groups of countries:

Group I: All European countries; from Africa: Algeria (as belonging to France), Egypt, the Spanish settlements in Morocco, then Tunis and Tripoli; from America: the United States of America, Canada, and Newfoundland; from Asia: the possessions of Russia and Turkey located there. Business paper rate: per 50 g, 3 *kr*, minimum 10 *kr*, maximum weight 2 kg, except to Germany where business papers are not permitted.

Group II: Argentina, Brazil, British India, the following British colonies: in Africa, Accra, the Gold Coast, Lagos, Senegambia, Mauritius, and the Sechelt Islands; in America, the Bermuda Islands, Guyana, British Honduras, the Falklands Islands, Jamaica, and Trinidad; in Asia, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and the British colonies in China and Anam; all the overseas colonies of Denmark and Greenland; all the French, Dutch, Portuguese, and Spanish overseas colonies; the American republics of Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, and El Salvador; Japan, and Persia. Business papers rate per 50g, 6 *kr*, minimum 13 *kr*.

PTRT 4, 13.11.1879: Business papers to Uruguay and Argentina via Italy not permitted

PTRT 31, 14.09.1882: Business paper to Australia when transported via Italy are not permitted.

PTRT 22, 08.05.1883: Business papers to Australia and New Zealand via Italy not permitted.

PTRT 29, 19.06.1883: Business papers to the African west coast via Hamburg not permitted.

PTRT 40, 27.08.1884: For printed matter, business papers, and samples to Ascension, Cape Town, and the Colony of Victoria (including Port Natal), then to the west coast of Africa (Badagry, Bonny, Camerones, and Old Calabar), when transported via England, and further to Bolivia, when transported via England a) via Southampton, b) via Liverpool, and finally to New South Wales and New Zealand, also via England via San Francisco, the following rates are to be levied from now on. Namely:

For business papers: up to 50 grams, 18 *kr*; up to 100 g, 26 *kr*; up to 150 g, 34 *kr*; up to 200 g, 44 *kr*; up to 250 g, 55 *kr*, per additional 50 g, 11 *kr* up to a maximum of 2 kg.

To St. Helena, for business papers: up to 50 g, 18 *kr*; up to 100 g, 26 *kr*; up to 150 g, 34 *kr*; up to 200 g, 44 *kr*; up to 250 g, 55 *kr*; per additional 50 g, 11 *kr* to 2 kg maximum

PTRT 42, 03.09.1885: Business papers to Samoa Islands, via England, to 50 g, 18 *kr*; to 100 g, 26 *kr*; to 150 g, 34 *kr*; to 200 g, 44 *kr*; to 250 g, 55 *kr*, each additional 50 g, 11 *kr*, maximum 2 kg; via USA, not permitted.

PTRT 35, 30.12.1885: Business papers rate to Congo state: to 50 g, 13 *kr*, to 100 g, 13 *kr*, to 150 g, 18 *kr*, each additional 50 g, 6 *kr* up to 2 kg.

Table 3: Commercial/business papers (*üzleti papír*) – Foreign rates - 1892-1926

Date introduced	Rate period	Each 50 g	Minimum charge	Notes
01.07.1892 [1,2]		3 <i>kr</i>	10 <i>kr</i>	Removal of sea-post surcharge.
01.01.1900 [3,4]		25 <i>f</i> up to 250 g, then 5 <i>f</i> per 50 g		‘Business papers cannot be sent as special letter mail items to Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Germany and Montenegro.’
01.10.1916 [5]	-	5 <i>f</i>	25 <i>f</i>	Max. 2000 g
01.06.1918 [6]		5 <i>f</i>	25 <i>f</i>	Max. 2000 g
01.01.1920	1	No data	No data	
01.06.1920	2	No data	No data	
01.01.1922	3	1 <i>K</i>	6 <i>K</i>	No mention of reduced rates for convention countries
01.08.1922	4	2 <i>K</i> 50 <i>f</i>	12 <i>K</i>	No mention of reduced rates for convention countries
05.10.1922	5	10 <i>K</i>	50 <i>K</i>	
01.11.1922	6	No data	No data	
16.04.1923	7	20 <i>K</i>	100 <i>K</i>	No mention of reduced rates for convention countries
01.07.1923	8	50 <i>K</i>	250 <i>K</i>	No mention of reduced rates for convention countries
13.08.1923	9	100 <i>K</i>	500 <i>K</i>	No mention of reduced rates for convention countries
01.10.1923	10	150 <i>K</i>	800 <i>K</i>	No mention of reduced rates for convention countries
01.01.1924	11	300 <i>K</i>	1,400 <i>K</i>	ditto
21.02.1924	12	500 <i>K</i>	2,500 <i>K</i>	ditto
11.04.1924	13	800 <i>K</i>	4,000 <i>K</i>	ditto
01.06.1924	14	1,000 <i>K</i>	5,000 <i>K</i>	ditto
01.01.1925	15	-	-	No change?
01.10.1925	16	600 <i>K</i> [7] 800 <i>K</i> [8]	4,000 <i>K</i> [7] 5,000 <i>K</i> [8]	-

[1] **PTRT 34, 18.06.1892:** Removal of sea-post surcharge for long-distance destinations.

[2] **PTRT 40, 19.07.1895:** Business papers can no longer be sent to Montenegro.

[3] **PTRT 45, 01.12.1899:** Business papers are charged 25 *fillér* for up to 250 grams, and 5 *fillér* for every 50 grams. (Business papers cannot be sent as special letter mail to Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Germany and Montenegro.)

[4] **PTRT 39, 14.09.1907:** Business papers. Old letters and postcards sent open in international circulation, which have already served their original purpose, may also be sent as business papers.

[5] Austria, Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina only.

[6] No war tax is applied to 1916 rates.

[7] Austria and Germany only

[8] Rest of the world

Table 4: Commercial/business papers (*üzleti papír*) – Foreign rates - 1927-1946

Date	Period	Rate [1]	Minimum	Rate [2]	Minimum
01.01.1927		4 <i>f</i> per 50 g	32 <i>f</i>	6 <i>f</i> per 50 g	40 <i>f</i>
15.11.1930		4 <i>f</i> per 50 g	32 <i>f</i>	6 <i>f</i> per 50 g	40 <i>f</i>
		Convention		Other foreign	
		Rate	Minimum	Rate	Minimum
15.09.1941 [3]		6 <i>f</i> per 50 g	40 <i>f</i>	8 <i>f</i> per 50 g	50 <i>f</i>
		250 g	500 g	550 g	Further, per 50 g
01.07.1943 [4]		30 <i>f</i>	48 <i>f</i>	88 <i>f</i>	8 <i>f</i>
				Rate	Minimum
15.09.1945 [5]	3			Each 50 g, 8 <i>P</i>	40 <i>P</i>
01.11.1945	4			Each 50 g, 50 <i>P</i>	240 <i>P</i>
16.11.1945	5			Each 50 g, 100 <i>P</i>	500 <i>P</i>

[1] Austria and Germany only

[2] Rest of the world

[3] **PTRT 44, 09.09.1941.** Croatia, Germany, Bohemia Moravia Protectorate, Poland (General Government).

[4] Finland, Germany, Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate, Poland (General Government).

[5] Mail traffic with Yugoslavia opened on 06.08.1945 (letters and postcards only) and expanded on 01.09.1945 (registration, printed matter, samples). Mail traffic with Czechoslovakia began on 08.10.1945 (ordinary and registered letters, postcards, printed matter and samples). Mail traffic to Romania open on 17.11.1945 (letter mail, but unspecified). Mail traffic with United States of North America, Great Britain\ Ireland, France and Poland opened on November 26, 1945. All types of letter mail items may be received in the above states, taking into account the foreign rates of the current postal tariff. Mail traffic with Austria began on 20.11.1945 (letters, postcards, registration only) and was suspended on 01.12.1945.

Table 5: Commercial/business papers (*üzleti papír*) – Foreign rates – 1945-1946

Start date	Period	Per 50 g	Minimum charge	Maximum weight, g
01-05-1945	1	-	-	
02-07-1945 [1]	2	8 <i>P</i>	Not stated	Not stated
16-09-1945 [2]	3	8 <i>P</i>	40 <i>P</i>	-
01-11-1945	4	50 <i>P</i>	200 <i>P</i>	-
16-11-1945	5	100 <i>P</i>	500 <i>P</i>	-
14-01-1946	6	600 <i>P</i>	3,000 <i>P</i>	-
01-02-1946	7	3,000 <i>P</i>	15,000 <i>P</i>	-
01-03-1946	8	15,000 <i>P</i>	80,000 <i>P</i>	-
16-03-1946	9	30,000 <i>P</i>	160,000 <i>P</i>	-
26-03-1946	10	45,000 <i>P</i>	240,000 <i>P</i>	-
01-04-1946	11	60,000 <i>P</i>	320,000 <i>P</i>	-
11-04-1946	12	120,000 <i>P</i>	640,000 <i>P</i>	-
23-04-1946	13	375,000 <i>P</i>	2 <i>mP</i>	-
01-05-1946	14	1.5 <i>mP</i>	8 <i>mP</i>	-
10-05-1946	15	7.5 <i>mP</i>	40 <i>mP</i>	-
20-05-1946	16	30 <i>mP</i>	160 <i>mP</i>	-
27-05-1946	17	90 <i>mP</i>	480 <i>mP</i>	-
01-06-1946	18	300 <i>mP</i>	1,600 <i>mP</i>	-
11-06-1946	19	3 <i>mdP</i>	16 <i>mdP</i>	-
17-06-1946	20	15 <i>mdP</i>	80 <i>mdP</i>	-
24-06-1946	21	300 <i>mdP</i>	1.6 <i>bP</i>	-
01-07-1946	22	30 <i>bP</i>	160 <i>bP</i>	-
04-07-1946	23	1,200 <i>bP</i>	8,000 <i>bP</i>	-
08-07-1946	24	75,000 <i>bP</i>	400,000 <i>bP</i>	-
12-07-1946	25	20 <i>eaP</i>	80 <i>eaP</i>	-
18-07-1946	26	100 <i>eaP</i>	400 <i>eaP</i>	-
24-07-1946	27	400 <i>eaP</i>	1,600 <i>eaP</i>	-
01.08.1946 [3]	-	20 <i>f</i>	1 <i>Ft</i>	2000

Source: Data from Morgan

[1] **PTRT 18, 03.09.1945** Postal traffic with Yugoslavia opens from 01.09.1945.

[2] **PTRT 28, 11.10.1945:** Postal traffic with Czechoslovakia permitted from 08.10.1945.

[3] *Posta Tarifák Adók Illetékek Közlekedési Menetrendek*, No. 41, 05.06.1948. Same as printed paper rates.

No further data from later periods are available.