

Processed versus unprocessed: weight, measure, and convenience

[Family](#)



There are, most likely, several reasons behind the cost increase for the packaged foods, though the bottom line is that we are indeed paying more for convenience than anything. Rather than buy separate ingredients (as in the case of the macaroni salad) and put them together ourselves, we simply go to the store and pay one price for a pre-packaged macaroni salad that someone has already put together for us. The trouble comes in the fact that this person has not done so out of the goodness of their heart - they have been paid to do this, and the cost that we pay for the salad reflects that. Another reason that the price is higher is the packaging. While the material of the packaging itself is probably no different than that of other foods, the bottom line is competition in this instance. The store is competing with other brands and ingredients to have you buy their prepackaged items, regardless of price. Do they want you to buy them? Of course! Therefore they must spend time and money on attractive packaging to make the consumer that is tired and hungry walking through the store say, " Oh. I'll just grab this and we'll have it with dinner."

Project Calculations:

Fruits and Veggies:

Onions white 0. 93 lb @ \$1. 69/lb = \$1. 57

(. 93 lb*16) = 14. 88 oz Cost per ounce \$1. 69/14. 88 = 0. 11

Tangerine; 0. 41 lb @ \$1. 99 /lb = \$0. 82

(. 41 lb*16) = 6. 56 oz Cost per ounce \$1. 99/6. 56 = 0. 30

Banana; 0. 43 lb @ \$0. 69/ lb = \$0. 30

(. 43 lb * 16) = 6. 88 oz Cost per ounce \$0. 69/6. 88 = 0. 10

Average cost per pound (\$1. 69 + \$1. 99 + \$0. 69) / 3 = \$1. 45 per pound

Prepackaged Items:

Macaroni Salad; 0.62 lb @ 3.99/lb = \$2.47

(0.62 lb * 16) = 9.92 oz Cost per ounce: 3.99/9.92 = 0.40

Pasta salad; 0.57 lb @ 5.99/lb = \$3.41

(.57 lb * 16) = 9.12 oz Cost per ounce: 5.99/9.12 = 0.66

Liver 1.10 lb @ 2.49/lb = \$2.74

(1.10 lb * 16) = 17.6oz Cost per ounce: 2.49/17.6 = 0.14

Sausages; 1.14 lb @ 4.49/lb = \$5.12

(1.14lb * 16) = 18.24oz Cost per ounce: 4.49/18.24 = 0.25

Total ounces: 54.88 ounces prepackaged items

Total Cost: \$13.74

Average total cost per ounce: \$13.74 / 54.88 oz. = \$0.25 per ounce

OR

\$4.00 per pound (\$0.25 x 16)