

The True Cost of Shipping To Puerto Rico

The Jones Act does not prevent foreign-flagged vessels traveling from other countries from going directly to Puerto Rico.

On average nearly two-thirds of the vessels that call on the Port of San Juan in Puerto Rico are foreign-flagged vessels.

- Domestic vessels
- International vessels

VESSEL CALLS TO SAN JUAN:

American-Flagged Vessels **796**

Foreign-Flagged Vessels **1318**

Total Vessel Calls 2,114

(January 1, 2016 - November 9, 2017) Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center



SAN JUAN

JACKSONVILLE

152-Count Ziploc Sandwich Bags

\$4.46

\$4.46

30-count Band-Aid Brand Fabric Adhesive Strips

\$2.78

\$2.78

4-Count Charmin Ultra Strong Toilet Tissues

\$4.25

\$4.25

40-Count Glad Tall Kitchen Drawstring Trash Bags

\$9.33

\$7.57

Hamilton Beach Toaster

\$10.00

\$14.96

A Tale of Two Baskets

- As depicted in the chart to the right, consumer prices in Puerto Rico are consistent or lower than in Miami, Jacksonville and Orlando.
- The cost of ocean shipping is a tiny fraction of the consumer price to Puerto Rico. A can of soup that retails in Puerto Rico for \$1.81 costs just \$.04 to ship. If consumer goods are sometimes more expensive in Puerto Rico, it is not because of the Jones Act.
- Consumers buy goods from retailers and grocers, not from shipping companies. Retailers buy the goods from shippers and determine the price of the goods to make a profit. This price mark up reflects labor and real estate costs as well as supply, demand and profit margin for retailers. These costs are not affected by the Jones Act.



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