

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



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 \$1.58 costs just \$.03 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.

San Juan

Jacksonville

Sugar

\$5.98

\$5.98

Cooking Oil

\$2.98

\$2.98

Rice

\$3.48

\$3.48

Eggs

\$2.67

\$3.66

Cereal

\$3.98

\$3.98



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