A pack change is not always a price increase

Food control brief for Cedar Kitchen Group
3 November 2026 | One central kitchen and three cafes

Update pack sizes before accepting a price alert. In this fictional case, chicken costs more per kilogram even though its case price falls. Tomatoes cost the same per kilogram despite a higher case price.

The invoice check changes the decision

Ingredient	Previous case	Current case	Previous USD per kg	Current USD per kg	Unit price change
Raw chicken	6 x 2 kg 12 kg / $72	4 x 2.5 kg 10 kg / $66	$6.00000	$6.60000	10.0%
Chopped tomatoes	6 x 2.5 kg 15 kg / $30	6 x 3 kg 18 kg / $36	$2.00000	$2.00000	0.0%

The tomato case price rises 20%, but its weight also rises 20%. Chicken is the genuine unit price increase: $6.00 to $6.60 per kg. Both six-line invoice extracts total $177, which hides the difference in case weights.

What this means at the displayed monthly mix

Measure	USD	Interpretation
Modeled cost exposure	$1,728.00	The increase in ingredient cost at fixed portions, yield and monthly sales.
Quote based opportunity	$1,296.00	Conditional purchasing hypothesis using an unaccepted $6.15 per kg chicken quote.
Residual exposure	$432.00	The remaining increase versus the previous invoice basis if that quote were approved.

The team would verify the chicken quotation before seeking operator approval, then maintain the shared filling and both menu recipes. Correcting the tomato pack prevents a false $288 monthly alert. That correction does not save cash and is not added to the quote opportunity.

These are ingredient-only comparisons. They exclude tax, packaging, freight, labor, overhead and MenuCosting fees. The quotation is unaccepted, the purchasing action is not implemented, and no customer savings or profit result is claimed.

From invoice to recipe cost

Shared recipe: smoky tomato chicken filling. The raw ingredient quantities below produce 12 kg of usable finished filling in the fictional production record DEMO-BATCH-01.

Ingredient	Raw kg per batch	Previous USD per kg	Current USD per kg	Previous batch USD	Current batch USD
Raw boneless chicken	12.00	$6.00000	$6.60000	$72.00000	$79.20000
Chopped tomatoes	3.00	$2.00000	$2.00000	$6.00000	$6.00000
Onions	1.00	$1.20000	$1.20000	$1.20000	$1.20000
Cooking oil by weight	0.25	$4.00000	$4.00000	$1.00000	$1.00000
Spice blend	0.05	$10.00000	$10.00000	$0.50000	$0.50000
Salt	0.02	$0.50000	$0.50000	$0.01000	$0.01000
Batch total	16.32			$80.71	$87.91

Apply the finished yield once. The recorded 16.32 kg raw input gives 12 kg usable output after cooking loss. Dividing batch cost by that usable output gives $6.72583 and $7.32583 per kg of filling. Do not apply another cooking loss deduction.

One shared filling affects two menu recipes

Menu item	Filling kg	Other ingredient USD	Previous item USD	Current item USD	Change per item USD
Chicken wrap	0.120	$1.20	$2.00710	$2.07910	$0.07200
Chicken rice bowl	0.180	$1.80	$3.01065	$3.11865	$0.10800

The wrap uses 120 g of filling and the bowl uses 180 g. Their other ingredient allowances are explicit fixed assumptions of $1.20 and $1.80. Those allowances are held constant to isolate the filling change and are not substantiated by the six sample invoice lines.

Calculations keep full precision until display. The monthly totals on the next page are calculated from the unrounded recipe costs, not by multiplying rounded cents. These ingredient costs are not full production costs or profit margins.

The effect at three cafes

The comparison holds the fictional October 2026 mix, portions, raw quantities and usable yield constant. The displayed volumes are inputs for comparison, not a sales forecast.

Cafe	Wraps	Bowls	Finished filling kg	Batch equivalents	Modeled exposure USD
North Cafe	5,000	3,000	1,140	95.00	$684.00
Park Cafe	4,000	2,500	930	77.50	$558.00
River Cafe	3,000	2,500	810	67.50	$486.00
Total	12,000	8,000	2,880	240.00	$1,728.00

The cafes require 2,880 kg of finished filling, equivalent to 240 batches. Each batch uses 12 kg of raw chicken, so the modeled month requires 2,880 kg of raw chicken. At a $0.60 per kg increase, the modeled exposure is $1,728.00.

The quotation is a decision to verify

Fictional quotation DEMO-QUOTE-1102 offers a 10 kg chicken case for $61.50: $6.15000 per kg. The reduction from the current $6.60 is $0.45 per kg. At 2,880 kg, that is a **$1,296.00 conditional opportunity**, before service fees and implementation costs. It leaves $432.00 exposure versus the previous invoice basis.

The quote has not been accepted. Equivalent specification, quality, delivery terms and availability must be checked before approval. A quote comparison does not establish realized savings, actual incurred loss or a profit forecast.

Owner	Next action	State
MenuCosting team	Verify pack weights before accepting price alerts.	Illustrated validation
Operator approves	Review the team's comparison and verify the chicken quotation before purchasing.	Proposed, not implemented
MenuCosting team	Maintain the shared filling and menu costs, show cafe exposure and follow up.	Illustrated ongoing service

The $288 tomato false alert comes from dividing the new $36 case price by the old 15 kg weight. Correcting it restores the true $2 per kg cost. It is a data correction, not a second saving.

Fictional source records

Supplier: Example Food Supply. Buyer: Cedar Kitchen Group. Both invoice extracts contain one case on each line. The names and records are invented, not anonymized customer data.

Previous invoice DEMO-INV-0901

Date 2026-09-01. Currency USD. Invoice quantity: one case per line.

Ingredient	Cases	Packs per case	Kg per pack	Case kg	Case USD
Raw boneless chicken	1	6	2.00	12.00	$72.00
Chopped tomatoes	1	6	2.50	15.00	$30.00
Onions	1	1	20.00	20.00	$24.00
Cooking oil by weight	1	1	10.00	10.00	$40.00
Spice blend	1	1	1.00	1.00	$10.00
Salt	1	1	2.00	2.00	$1.00
Subtotal					$177.00

Current invoice DEMO-INV-1001

Date 2026-10-01. Currency USD. Invoice quantity: one case per line.

Ingredient	Cases	Packs per case	Kg per pack	Case kg	Case USD
Raw boneless chicken	1	4	2.50	10.00	$66.00
Chopped tomatoes	1	6	3.00	18.00	$36.00
Onions	1	1	20.00	20.00	$24.00
Cooking oil by weight	1	1	10.00	10.00	$40.00
Spice blend	1	1	1.00	1.00	$10.00
Salt	1	1	2.00	2.00	$1.00
Subtotal					$177.00

Source trail: DEMO-BATCH-01 supplies the recorded usable batch output. DEMO-SALES-OCT supplies the fixed monthly item volumes. DEMO-QUOTE-1102 is the unaccepted chicken quotation. The editable workbook exposes the inputs and every calculation.

Physical counts, actual waste, staffing costs and realized profit are not measured. All records and quantities remain fictional. The report describes the original inputs; changing the workbook changes its model, not this PDF.

View the worked example and calculation workbook at menucosting.com