The 60-pound field box was the cheapest container to pack. Packing a given quantity of tomatoes in it cost only 34 percent as much as it did in the lug box. There was no container cost to the packinghouse, and in some cases the packing was done by day-labor. No return-freight cost for boxes is included in this comparison. The 60-pound nailed box, while costing more per unit to pack than the lug box, contained more fruit and cost only 70 percent as much as the lug box for the same quantity. Costs of container, materials and piece-labor were less per pound of contents.

If container costs are excluded, packing tomatoes in 60-pound field boxes cost 71 percent as much as in lugs for the same quantity, and 60-pound nailed boxes cost 89 percent as much.

The number of firms from which tomato packing costs were obtained was not large enough to provide a satisfactory analysis of all factors affecting costs in individual houses. Total volume of tomatoes packed per season is one of the factors (Table 7).

TABLE 7.—TOTAL VOLUME OF TOMATOES PACKED AND COST OF PACKING IN VARIOUS TYPES OF CONTAINER, 16 PACKINGHOUSES, 1950-51.

Volume Group	Average Volume	Packing-houses	Total Packing Cost per Unit			
No. of Packages of Tomatoes			30-lb. Lug Box	60-lb. Field Box*	60-lb. Nailed Box	60-lb. Wire-bound Box
		number	cents	cents	cents	cents
Under 100,000	72,924	8	100	65	118	121
100,000-199,999	127,719	4	92	54	109	....
200,000-299,999	273,136	4	79	51	106	96
Ave. or Total	136,676	16	89	56	114	97

* Excludes cost of containers.

For the eight houses packing less than 100,000 volume containers of tomatoes, total packing costs average 100 cents per lug box, or 12 percent more than the average of all firms. For the four packinghouses with over 200,000-box volume, the packing cost for lug boxes was only 79 cents per box, or 11 percent less than the average. Total packing cost for lug boxes in the highest-cost group was 26 percent more than in the lowest-cost group.