

School Year 2026 Cheese Pricing Process

We have updated the USDA process of cheese valuations to be used on the Summary End Product Data Schedules (SEPDS) for the purpose of rebating or discounting finished product prices for USDA Foods. The value will be a 24-month weighted average based on the pounds purchased and prices paid by USDA for Purchase Orders in the date range, 10/2022 - 09/2024. A 24-month weighted average was set to use more current data to arrive at the average price and to provide for stable valuation in a volatile market.

The mozzarella will be valued separately from other cheeses. A processed cheese hybrid price has been set using 24 months of data from the Cheese Natural American FDB Barrel -500lb (110242), Cheese Process Yellow Slice (100018) and Cheese Blend American Skim (100036). We then calculated the 24-month weighted average for Cheese Mozzarella Part Skim Unfrozen Processor Pack UNWRAPPED (110244) and Cheese Mozzarella Part Skim Unfrozen Processor Pack WRAPPED (111791).

Therefore, the average weighted price for SY 2026 is **\$1.8444 for mozzarella and for all \$1.9915 other cheese**. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Staley at 703-305-4373.