



# Specialty Crops Market News Division U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update

Agricultural Marketing Service

---

Volume I – Number 35

Issued Weekly

Friday, August 27, 2021

---

## **Update for Week of August 22-28, 2021**

This report provides trend analysis of the volume and prices of Seasonal Perishable commodities. Volume represents current week and prices represent open (spot) market sales by first handlers on product of generally good quality and condition unless otherwise stated and may include promotional allowances or other incentives. The charts provide graphic representation of the volume and prices of the major commodities this week based on seasonal volume.

---

Predictions that vaccines would provide a swift path back to normal life are suffering grave setbacks this week, as the US caseload and death counts approach numbers on par with last summer's peak. A combination of vaccine hesitancy, the emergence of super-contagious vaccine resistant strains, and people's efforts to resume a normal life without consideration for social distancing or masks have all contributed to rising case numbers, with hospital beds in some locations completely filled. So far, no local or state governments have announced a return to widespread restaurant and business shutdowns, but several localities are again mandating universal indoor masking and multiple school districts across the country are having to shut down temporarily as the majority of their students are required to quarantine due to exposure to the virus in the classroom. Restaurant traffic has taken a hit as people are more reluctant about indoor dining. Suppliers to the restaurants and schools are closely watching and increasingly worried about restrictions being put back in place.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to decrease slightly, though demand remains strong with higher prices on all sizes except 84s. Trading was moderate to very active with a wide range in prices reported. The last report has been issued for Peruvian imports arriving through the ports of Miami, Philadelphia, and New York, with movement expected to decrease as the season winds down. Current supplies from Peru were in too few hands to establish a market. Movement from the South District California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was fairly active to active, with prices higher on all sizes aside from organic 60s and 70s. Demand remains strong, especially on larger sizes.

Michigan blueberries movement is expected to continue seasonal decrease. Trading was fairly active at higher prices with quality continuing to be variable. Movement of blueberries from Oregon and Washington is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was moderate with prices higher for seasonally tightening supplies. Shipments are approaching equal amounts of fresh picked and supplies out of controlled atmosphere storage. Late varieties are being harvested including rabbit eyes and post Draper varieties. Quality remains generally good, and some fruit is being diverted to freezers. High freight rates and fruit from competing growing areas are limiting shipment and sales. Movement from British Columbia Canada crossing through Northwest Washington is expected to decrease slightly with Elliot, Aurora and Last Call varieties being harvested. Trading was moderate at higher prices. Peruvian imports arriving through both Southern California and through the Philadelphia and New York City areas movement via boat is expected to increase. Trading active on both coasts at higher prices.

Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas are expected about the same, with trading fairly active to active. Prices were much higher on large and higher on others due to good demand. Quality remains variable and most supplies are

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
- [Movement Report Details](#)
- [Generating Custom Reports](#)

For assistance please contact: [jeff.main@usda.gov](mailto:jeff.main@usda.gov)

[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

still reserved for contracts or previous commitments. Mexican cucumber crossings through Otay Mesa are expected to decrease slightly. Trading was active early and moderate later, with prices trending higher through the week. Supplies of large cucumbers remain light demand is moderate to fairly good. A wide range in quality is creating a dual market situation with higher prices and strong movement on good quality product, while poor quality cucumbers were showing a lack of demand. Movement out of Michigan is expected to remain about the same, with moderate trading at higher prices on selects and others generally unchanged. Movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to decrease as the season winds down. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged, though no FOB price report is currently being issued. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same, with some harvests curtailed due to wet fields as conditions are assessed after Tropical Storm Fred. Current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market.

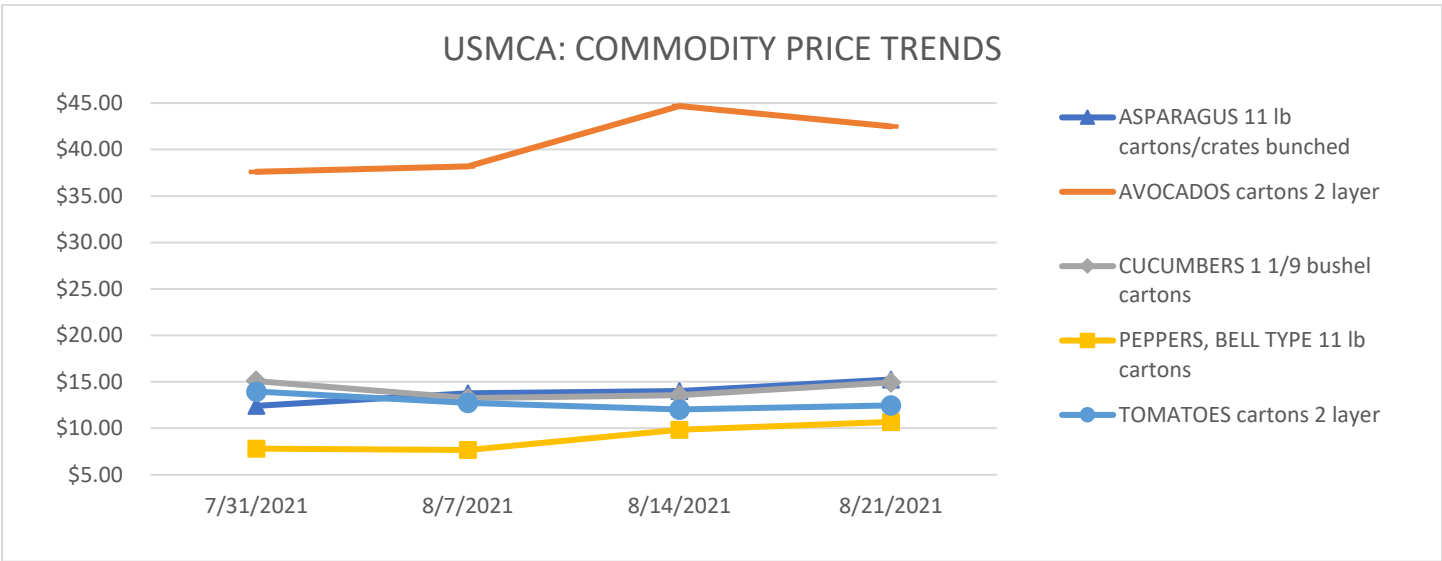
Movement of green bell peppers out of the San Joaquin Valley, California is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly active later with prices generally unchanged. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active on light supplies of green bell peppers, which are in too few hands to quote. Movement of Michigan bell peppers is expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly active at higher prices. Movement out of South District California is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active with prices generally unchanged. There is currently no F.O.B. price report being issued due as supplies are in too few hands. Movement out of Western North Carolina expected remain about the same as harvests this week were curtailed due to wet fields from Tropical Storm Fred. Trading was moderate at higher prices.

Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Volumes are slightly higher compared to last week, but sales demand remains steady. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas is expected about the same with early trading moderate and fairly active later at much higher prices. Demand has improved to fairly good for all sizes and packs with most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to increase, although some Tennessee harvests were again curtailed early in the week due to rain and wet fields caused by Tropical Storm Fred. Trading was fairly active at higher prices due to good demand. Supplies out of Virginia remain very light. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was active with prices slightly higher. Supplies are light and in few hands. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of tomatoes out of Alabama is expected to increase. Demand was good for light to fairly light supplies at higher prices. Tomato movement out of Michigan is expected to increase as there are currently too few open market sales to establish a market. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same, with harvests curtailed due to wet fields as producers assess conditions after Tropical Storm Fred. Current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market.

The following table provides a four-week price trend of the highest traded commodities this week.

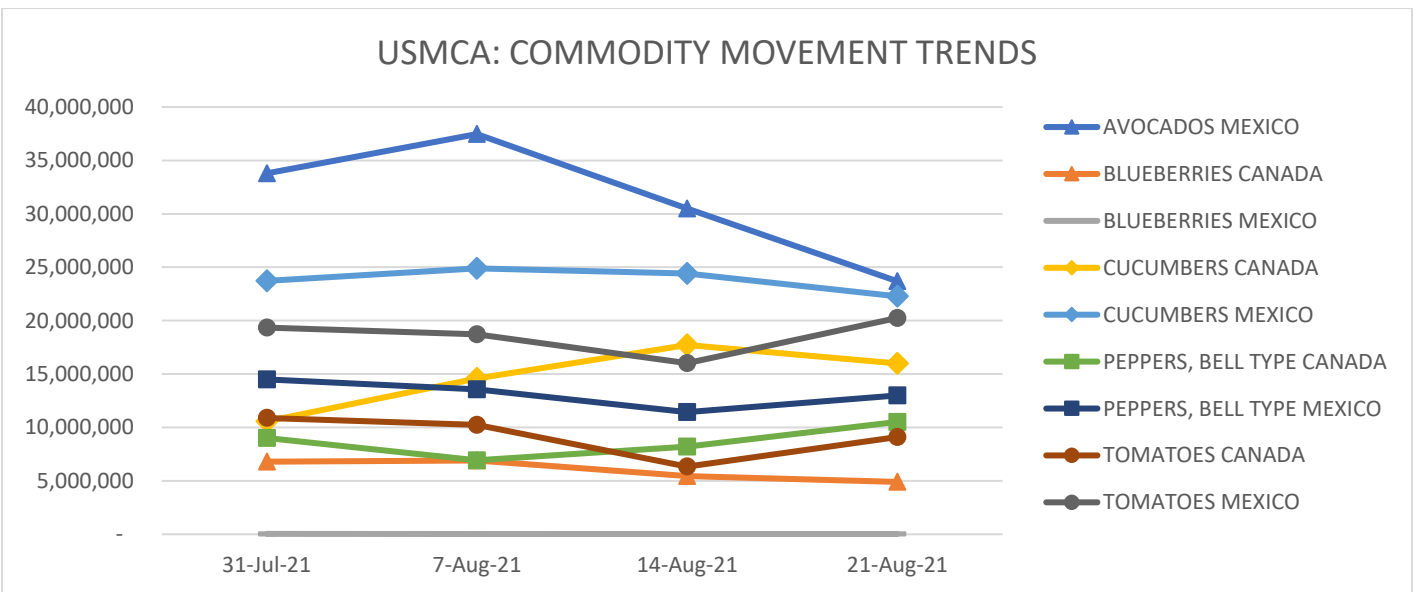
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	7/31/2021	8/7/2021	8/14/2021	8/21/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 12.42	\$ 13.78	\$ 14.00	\$ 15.25
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 37.61	\$ 38.18	\$ 44.68	\$ 42.50
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 15.08	\$ 13.25	\$ 13.55	\$ 14.94
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 7.81	\$ 7.67	\$ 9.84	\$ 10.69
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 13.96	\$ 12.74	\$ 12.03	\$ 12.45

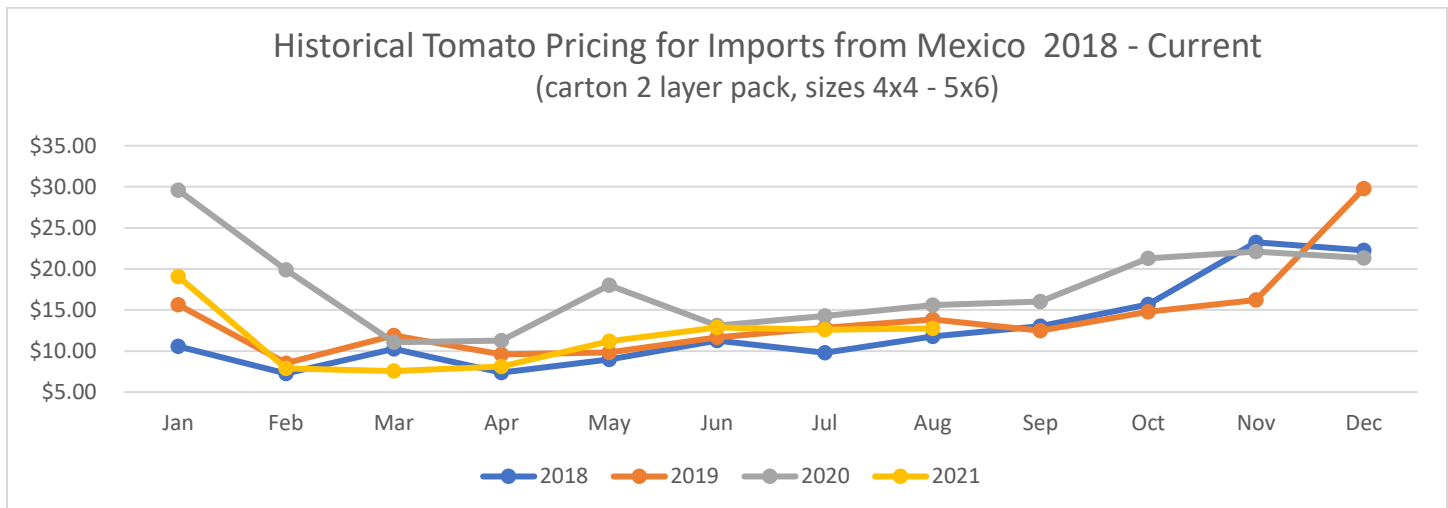


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	31-Jul-21	7-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	33,802,690	37,464,319	30,491,888	23,686,535
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	6,794,292	6,905,063	5,453,735	4,901,000
	MEXICO	34,601	22,093	22,590	25,107
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	10,573,224	14,599,873	17,720,715	15,983,889
	MEXICO	23,716,402	24,891,465	24,419,132	22,275,760
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	9,005,302	6,928,632	8,196,342	10,521,779
	MEXICO	14,497,326	13,573,920	11,435,444	12,983,714
TOMATOES	CANADA	10,886,218	10,240,735	6,334,946	9,092,485
	MEXICO	19,343,413	18,726,020	16,019,448	20,253,531



The following chart, *Historical Tomato Pricing for Imports from Mexico*, is a four-year view of Mexican tomato prices at shipping point. Tomatoes are shown as they are the most consistently traded year-round. They have the highest volume of product moving between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, along with a high level of market coverage of tomatoes by USDA Market News.



To be regarded as "seasonal and perishable," agricultural products must meet the following conditions: (1) the products are fresh or chilled products falling under the following HS2002 tariff codes: 0701, 0702, 0703, 0704, 0705, 0706, 0707, 0708, 0709, 0803, 0804, 0805, 0806, 0807, 0808, 0809, 0810; (2) the products are marketed in raw form for consumption without "further processing" ("further processing" refers to e.g. crushing, juicing, canning, or any other process that transforms the product from its raw form); and (3) the products normally are marketed within eight weeks after harvesting.

For information on the imported volume and prices of the remaining Seasonal and Perishable commodities listed below please visit: <https://www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-home>

- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks, and other alliaceous vegetables
- Cabbages, cauliflower, kohlrabi, kale, and similar edible brassicas
- Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) and chicory (*Cichorium* spp.)
- Carrots, turnips, salad beets (salad beetroot), salsify, celeriac, radishes, and similar edible roots
- Cucumbers, including gherkins
- Leguminous vegetables, shelled or unshelled
- Other vegetables, fresh or chilled: asparagus, eggplants, celery, mushrooms and truffles, peppers (*Capsicum* or of the genus *Pimenta*), spinach, artichokes, olives, pumpkins, squash, and gourds
- Bananas and plantains
- Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes, and mangosteens
- Citrus fruit
- Grapes
- Melons (including watermelons) and papayas (papaws)
- Apples, pears, and quinces
- Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines), plums (including prune plums) and sloes
- Other fruit: strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, mulberries, loganberries, black, white, or red currants and gooseberries (other than kiwifruit), cranberries, blueberries, and other fruits of the genus *Vaccinium*, kiwifruit, durians, persimmons,
- Other berries; tamarinds