



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

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Update for Week of August 29 – September 04, 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.

This week's weather impacting the eastern US was evidence that September is indeed right at the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season. No sooner had grower-shippers begun to see fields dry out enough to harvest after last month's Tropical Storm Fred, than Hurricane Ida arrived with landfall near New Orleans. Harvests were curtailed in Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina this week as the remnants of Ida caused rain and wet fields. Further north, rains from Ida caused flash flooding in New York City and other areas recently inundated by Tropical Storm Henri. The high water and flooding impacted trade on the markets, most notably in NYC, and for shippers seeking to offload product in the markets. The Pacific hurricane season has to date had less direct impact on the western US this year, although several storms have caused damages and loss of life in some areas of Mexico. Wildfires continue to be an issue in several states, affecting growing areas, communities, and wilderness from northern California up to Washington state. The exceptionally long wait times for unloading berths at major ports including Los Angeles and Long Beach are at all-time highs. This impacts all aspects of the market, from product quality, condition and value, to availability of product in the marketplace. A recent report in the media indicated that as many as 48 vessels were said to be anchored awaiting unloading. The delays are largely blamed on insufficient labor at the port and continuing driver and related transportation issues.

Michigan blueberry movement is expected to decrease sharply as the season ends. Trading was moderate at higher prices with quality of fruit variable. Movement of blueberries from Oregon and Washington is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly active later at higher prices. Shipments are approaching equal amounts of fresh picked and supplies out of controlled atmosphere storage. Late varieties are being harvested including rabbit eyes. Quality remains generally good, but supplies are declining with some light showers being reported in coastal growing areas. Movement from British Columbia Canada crossing through Northwest Washington is expected about the same with Draper, Liberty, and Elliot varieties being harvested. Trading was moderate early and fairly active later at higher prices. Seasonally cooler temperatures and light showers were reported this week. High freight rates and fruit from competing growing areas continue to hamper sales to both coasts. Peruvian imports arriving through Southern California movement via boat is expected to increase, despite possible delays due to unloading backlogs at the ports. Trading was very active at higher prices. Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through Philadelphia and New York City areas movement via boat is expected to increase. Active trading at higher prices was reported.

Mexican cucumber crossings through Otay Mesa are expected to increase. Trading was moderate early and active later, at higher prices. Demand has improved ahead of the Labor Day holiday weekend, but most present shipments are still from prior bookings or previous commitments. Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas are expected about the same, with active trading on light supplies. Prices were higher on large and slightly higher on others. Quality is variable

For more information on:

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

and most supplies are still reserved for contracts or previous commitments though demand remains good. Movement out of Michigan is expected to remain about the same, with moderate trading and prices generally unchanged. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged, though no FOB price report is currently being issued. The first report has been issued for Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona. Movement is expected to increase seasonally with current supplies in too few hands to establish a market. The first F.O.B. price report is expected by the end of the month. Current quality is reported as variable. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same as most shippers are finished for the season. Current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market and the last report has been issued. The first report has been issued for cucumbers out of Central and South Florida. Light shipments are expected to begin within the next 14 days, with the first F.O.B. report of the season expected to be issued by the end of the month.

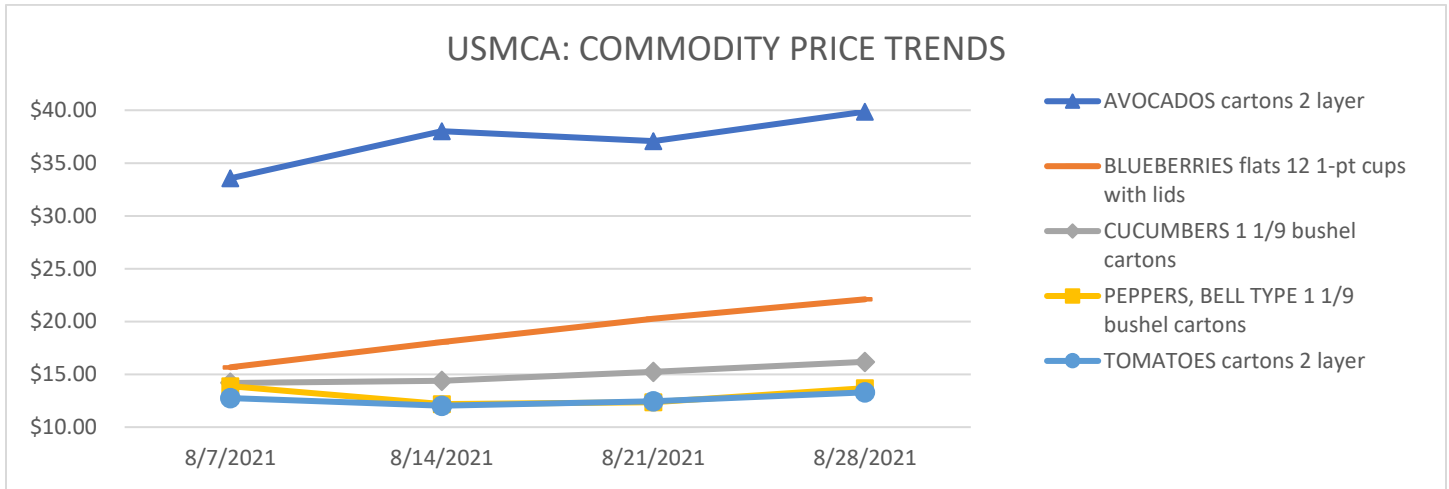
Movement of green bell peppers out of the San Joaquin Valley, California is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and moderate later with prices much lower. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active early and moderate later. Supplies of green bell peppers improved slightly this week but remained in too few hands to quote a market. Most available supplies of peppers are reserved for contracts or previous commitments. Movement of Michigan bell peppers is expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Movement out of South District California is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and moderate later with prices generally unchanged. There is currently no F.O.B. price report being issued as supplies are in too few hands. Movement out of Western North Carolina expected remain about the same as some harvests were curtailed due to wet fields from last month's storm and more rain from the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices.

Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading was very active on large and active on others with prices generally unchanged. Sales remain steady with most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas is expected about the same with trading fairly active at slightly lower prices. Demand was fairly good for all sizes and packs with most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement out of Eastern Tennessee is expected to increase at higher prices, with supplies out of Eastern Shore Virginia insufficient to establish a market. Tennessee harvests were curtailed from Tuesday until at least Thursday to rain and wet fields, this time caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Trading was active on 6x6s and fairly active on others with good demand. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Supplies are light but steady and quality remains good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of tomatoes out of Alabama is expected about the same. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Demand remained good as rain and wet fields from Hurricane Ida curtailed harvests Tuesday and Wednesday. Tomato movement out of Michigan is expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same, with harvests again curtailed due to rain and wet fields from the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Trading was moderate with supplies increasing slightly since last week.

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

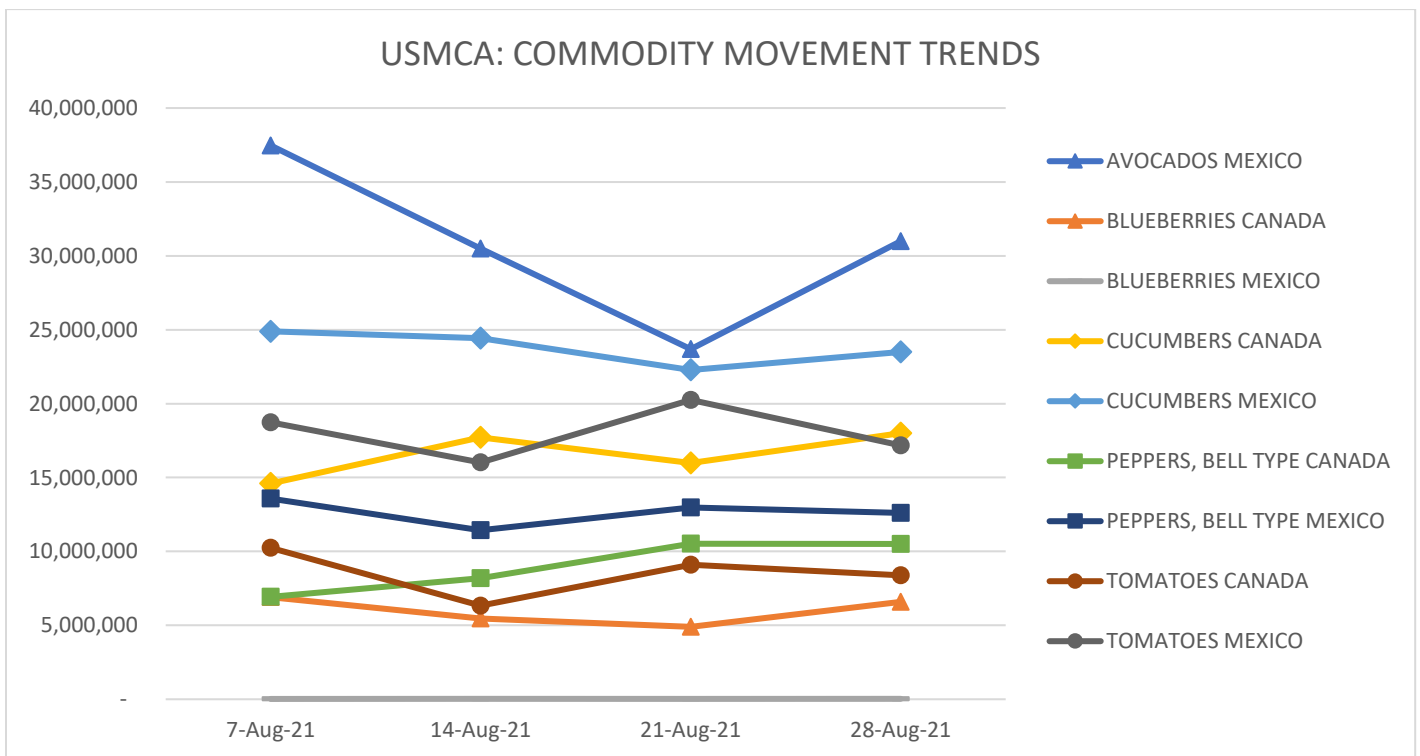
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	8/7/2021	8/14/2021	8/21/2021	8/28/2021
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 33.56	\$ 38.03	\$ 37.09	\$ 39.87
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 1-pt cups with lids	\$ 15.67	\$ 18.05	\$ 20.25	\$ 22.10
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 14.18	\$ 14.39	\$ 15.24	\$ 16.18
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 13.88	\$ 12.18	\$ 12.35	\$ 13.69
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 12.74	\$ 12.03	\$ 12.45	\$ 13.29

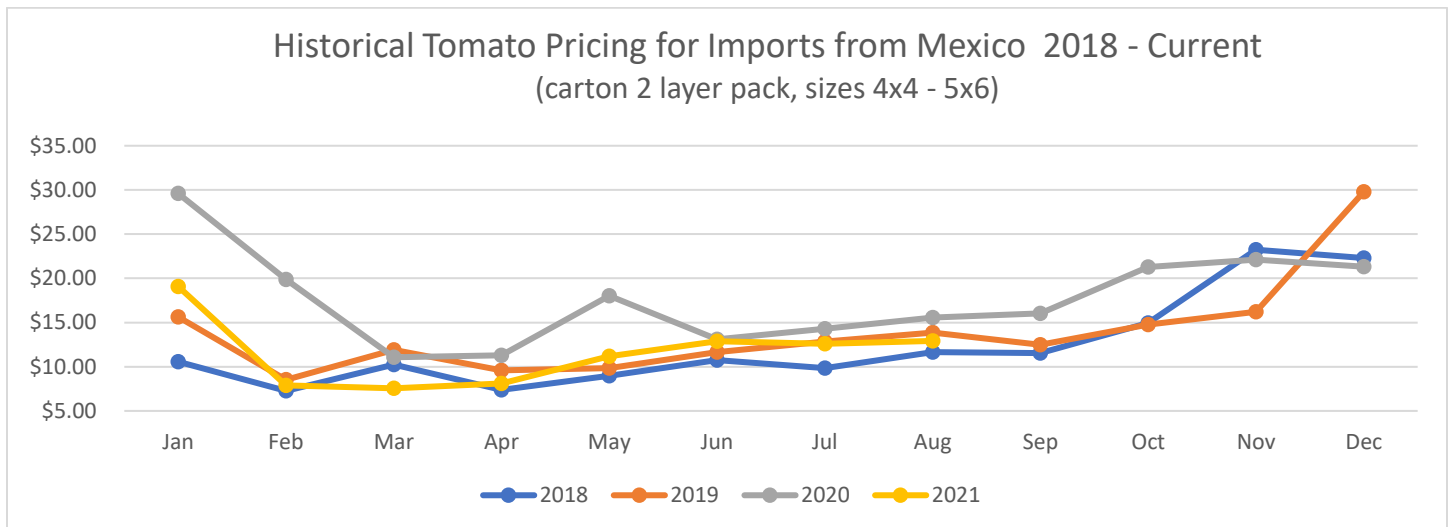


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	7-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	37,464,319	30,491,888	23,686,535	30,977,387
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	6,905,063	5,453,735	4,901,000	6,599,501
	MEXICO	22,093	22,590	25,107	22,869
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	14,599,873	17,720,715	15,983,889	18,003,447
	MEXICO	24,891,465	24,419,132	22,275,760	23,488,561
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	6,928,632	8,196,342	10,521,779	10,514,756
	MEXICO	13,573,920	11,435,444	12,983,714	12,604,736
TOMATOES	CANADA	10,240,735	6,334,946	9,092,485	8,382,775
	MEXICO	18,726,020	16,019,448	20,253,531	17,168,645



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