



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

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Update for Week of September 19-25, 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.

The number of container ships waiting for berthing space to unload cargo at Southern California ports reached a record 73 early this week before falling slightly. A pilot program to expand cargo pickup hours to 24/7 access in response to this historic cargo surge has helped reduce the backlog somewhat as ports continue to break records for numbers of containers processed monthly. Some shippers seeking alternatives to the busiest ports are finding that even smaller, less heavily trafficked ports in other parts of the country are overwhelmed, as well as being ill-equipped to handle larger ships and the huge volumes of cargo they contain. In addition, switching course to these alternative ports adds travel time and additional fuel and labor costs. The shipping season for the holidays in North America is already underway, and the backup and lack of certain supplies and services is expected to continue to stress shippers of both perishable and non-perishable goods from overseas.

Mexican avocado crossings through Texas movement expected to increase seasonally. Trading was moderate on all sizes with demand on larger fruit finally moderating as availability has improved with the arrival of better weather. Prices were lower on 40s, 48s, and 60s and about steady to higher on others. Avocados from the South District of California movement is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices on most sizes generally unchanged, aside from 48s which were slightly higher. Supplies are light as the end of the harvest season is near.

Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through the Philadelphia and New York City areas movement via boat is expected to increase. Trading was very active with prices unchanged. Blueberry movement from British Columbia Canada crossings through Northwest Washington is expected to decrease as most shippers have finished for the season. Light supplies are in too few hands to establish a market and the last report has been issued. Movement of blueberries from Oregon and Washington is expected to continue to decrease seasonally. Trading was active at higher prices. Most current movement is coming out of controlled atmosphere storage. Quality is reported as variable. Peruvian imports arriving through Southern California movement via boat is expected to increase as ports are now working around the clock to get product offloaded. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Mexican blueberries crossing through Arizona, California, and Texas movement is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was active with demand and prices expected to weaken as more volume becomes available.

Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas are expected about the same, with active trading on light supplies. Prices were slightly higher, and demand remains good. Quality remains variable and most supplies are reserved for contracts or previous commitments. Mexican cucumber crossings through Otay Mesa movement expected to decrease slightly. Trading on very light available supplies was very active to active. Prices were much higher on large and slightly higher on

For more information on:

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

For assistance please contact: jeff.main@usda.gov

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

others. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. 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. Movement out of Michigan is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. The last report has been issued. Cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies remain in too few hands to establish a market, with the first F.O.B. price report expected by the first week of October. Current quality is reported as variable. Cucumbers out of Central and South Florida remain in too few hands to establish a market. Light shipments have begun, with the first F.O.B. report of the season expected to be issued next week. Movement is expected to increase as more shippers get fully underway. Cucumbers out of South Georgia movement is expected to increase as more shippers begin harvest. Trading was moderate and the first report has been issued though current supplies are insufficient to establish a market.

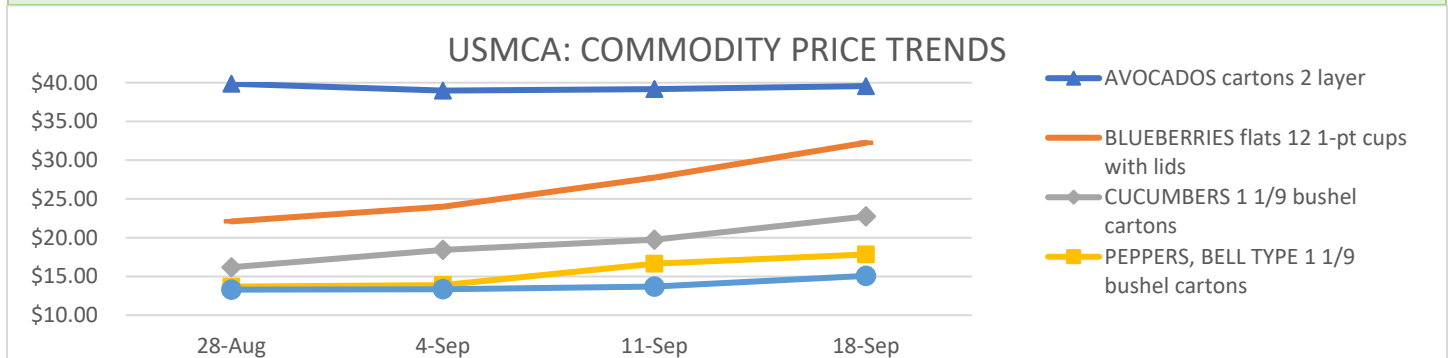
Movement of green bell peppers out of the San Joaquin Valley, California is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active with prices much higher. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was slow with prices slightly lower. Most available supplies of green bell peppers remain reserved for contracts or previous commitments, though industry sources indicate supplies of all sizes of choice green bell peppers are adequate. Demand remains good. Movement of Michigan bell peppers is expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate at lower prices. Movement out of South District California is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly active later at much higher prices. Supplies remain in too few hands to establish a market and no F.O.B. price report is currently being issued. Movement out of Western North Carolina expected to begin decreasing seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices on fair quality generally unchanged and others slightly higher.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas is expected about the same with fairly active trading. Prices were higher on 4x5-5x6 size and slightly higher on others. Demand remains fairly good for all sizes and packages. Most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was active on light supplies. Prices on large were slightly higher and higher on others. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement out of Eastern Tennessee is expected to remain about the same at higher prices. Harvests were curtailed throughout the week due to rain, wet fields, and cool temperatures. Available supplies light. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was active at lower prices. Most of the current shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments, with few tomatoes available for open market sales. Movement of tomatoes out of Alabama is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active with prices generally unchanged. Harvests were curtailed through much of the week due to rain, wet fields, and cool temperatures. Growers report that the season may be curtailed if they get more rain. Available supplies were very light with some growers expected to start new fields next week. Tomato movement out of Michigan is expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly active at higher prices. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to decrease seasonally over the next two weeks. Trading was active at higher prices.

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

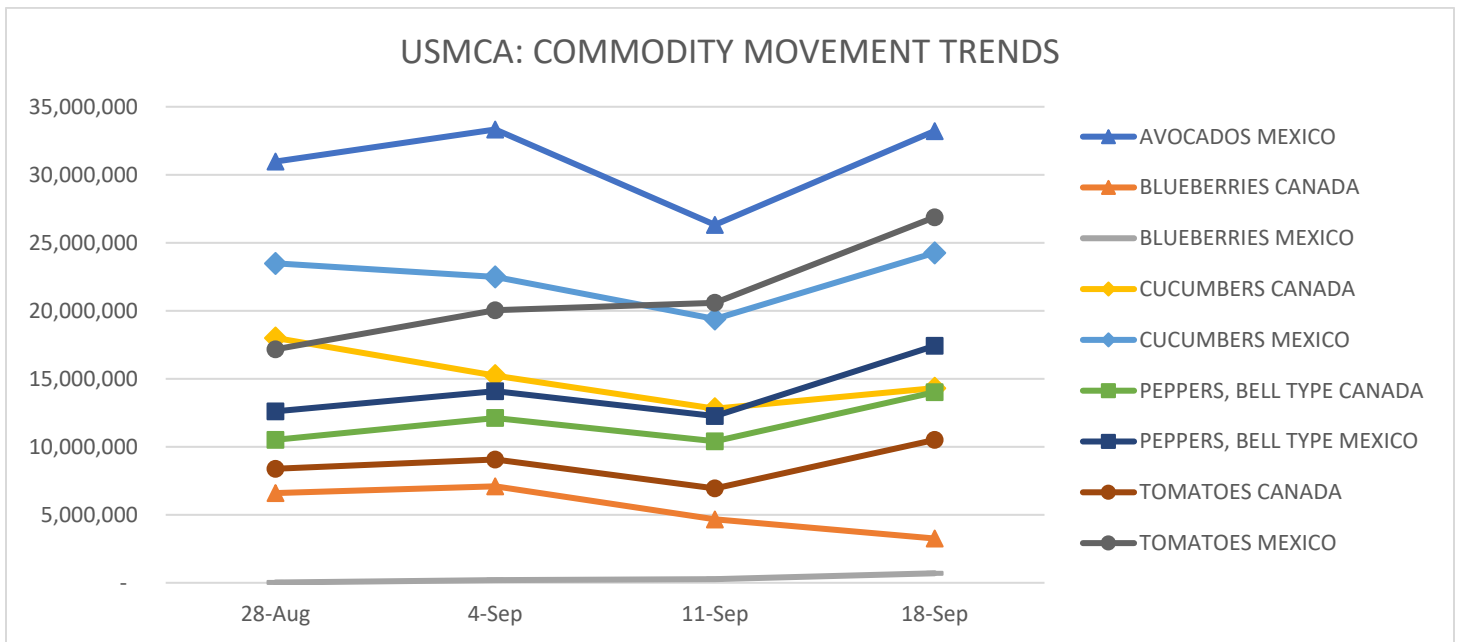
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	28-Aug	4-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 39.87	\$ 38.98	\$ 39.17	\$ 39.56
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 1-pt cups with lids	\$ 22.10	\$ 24.00	\$ 27.75	\$ 32.25
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 16.18	\$ 18.43	\$ 19.74	\$ 22.74
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 13.69	\$ 13.89	\$ 16.64	\$ 17.84
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 13.29	\$ 13.35	\$ 13.68	\$ 15.07

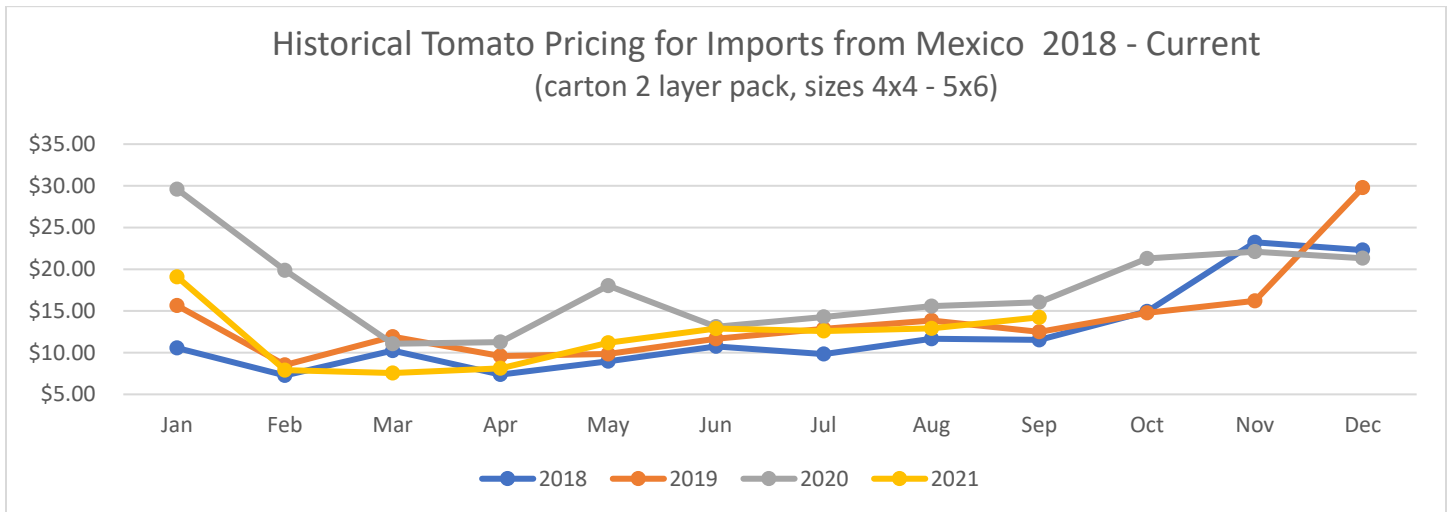


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	28-Aug	4-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	30,977,387	33,330,782	26,320,048	33,218,443
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	6,599,501	7,094,142	4,664,637	3,256,833
	MEXICO	22,869	200,984	273,970	700,015
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	18,003,447	15,233,513	12,803,445	14,313,219
	MEXICO	23,488,561	22,493,648	19,399,261	24,264,698
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	10,514,756	12,119,067	10,407,522	14,015,365
	MEXICO	12,604,736	14,087,627	12,258,412	17,421,136
TOMATOES	CANADA	8,382,775	9,062,102	6,939,170	10,506,138
	MEXICO	17,168,645	20,043,467	20,589,854	26,878,186



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