



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

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Update for Week of October 17-23, 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.

Despite setting a new record of over 100 ships anchored offshore waiting for unloading berths at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach this week, shippers report that offshore produce is making its way to markets in greater volumes. The ports are among the busiest in the world and the delays caused by the backups have a ripple effect throughout the world. It is important to note that September 2021 was a record-breaking month for west coast ports in many aspects, as the month was the busiest and highest volume ever recorded for imports. Import volumes through Los Angeles were up 26% compared to 2020. Conversely, export volumes dropped 42%, to the lowest levels seen since 2002, exacerbating the ongoing problem of empty containers causing congestion around ports. Elsewhere, watching some of the world's largest container ships berth and unload at ports such as Savannah, GA has become a point of interest for locals and tourists alike. These ports are normally busy in their own right but are being called upon to deal with the west coast overflow and are handling ships much larger than their usual traffic.

Mexican avocado crossings through Texas expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly active with a wide range in prices tightening up later in the week. Prices generally trending higher on larger sizes as heavy volumes continue. Demand moderate as more fruit than expected was harvested.

Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through the Philadelphia and New York City areas movement via boat is expected to decrease as the season is past peak. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Peruvian imports arriving through Southern California movement via boat is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was active with prices firm. Shippers report that new regulations making every container subject to phytosanitary inspections upon arrival have added to the unloading and delivery delays, along with the lack of automation at the Los Angeles area ports. Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected about the same. Trading was slow early and very slow later at lower prices. Demand continues trending lower as more competing product from Peru becomes available on the market and as Mexican berry quality is reported as variable.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally with high temperatures in the growing region. Trading was moderate on large and fairly slow on other sizes, with fairly heavy volumes and lower prices than other growing areas. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected about the same, with moderate trading on light available supplies. Prices on most sizes were generally unchanged, with large slightly lower and most available supplies still reserved for contracts or previous commitments. Mexican cucumber crossings through Otay Mesa are expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was active early and moderate later. Prices 24s and 36s much lower and others lower as shippers drop their prices to compete with Nogales product. Cucumbers out of South Georgia movement expected to increase. Trading was moderate at higher prices.

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.](#)

Cool weather and rain early in the planting and growing cycles has caused a slow start to the Georgia vegetable harvest. Cucumbers out of Central and South Florida movement is expected to increase slightly. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to as the season has ended, and the last report has been issued. Light harvest has begun out of Western District Florida. No report is currently being issued as supplies are in too few hands to quote.

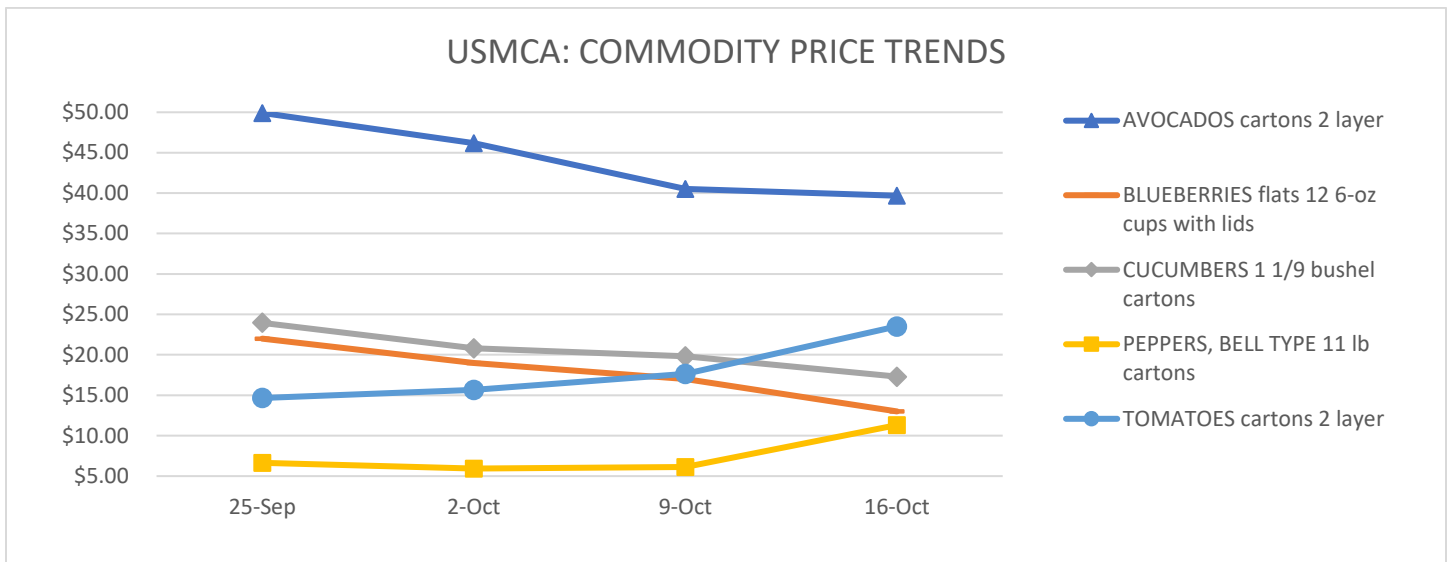
Movement of green bell peppers out of the San Joaquin Valley, California expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was fairly slow early and fairly active later at slightly higher prices. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active with prices much higher. Most available supplies of green bell peppers remain reserved for contracts or previous commitments, with good demand on all sizes although most available peppers are choice. Green bell pepper movement out of South District California is expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow early and fairly active later with prices generally unchanged. Supplies remain in too few hands to establish a market and no F.O.B. price report is currently being issued. South Georgia green bell pepper movement is expected to increase. Trading was moderate at higher prices. Cool, wet weather early in the planting and growing cycles followed by extreme heat have caused the Georgia pepper harvest to get off to a slow start. Harvest of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley, California expected to increase seasonally. Trading fairly active and quality is reported as generally good.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and active later on light available supplies. Prices were higher, with most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Demand remains good for all sizes and packages. Tomato movement out of Central District California expected about the same. Trading was active on light available supplies. Prices were generally unchanged, with most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement out of Eastern Tennessee expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was active at higher prices on light available supplies. Most growers have finished for the season, though light shipments are expected to continue out of the region. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was very active early and active later on light available supplies. Prices were higher and most current shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Demand was very high due to limited volumes. Movement of tomatoes out of Alabama is expected to decrease seasonally as most round tomato growers have finished for the season and vine ripers should finish within the next week. Supplies remain light with active trading and prices generally unchanged. Wet fields and rain curtailed some harvests late in the week. Light shipments expected to continue. Movement out of Florida West District is expected to increase seasonally. Current supplies are light and in few hands. Trading was active with a wide range in price reported. Prices are relatively high due to light supplies expected through the season and good demand. A shorter than usual season is expected due to rain during planting followed by heat at night. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to continue seasonal decrease as most shippers are finished for the season. No F.O.B. report is currently being published and the last report has been issued. For tomatoes out of Central Florida, light harvest is expected by the end of the week, with more growers starting within the next 14 days.

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

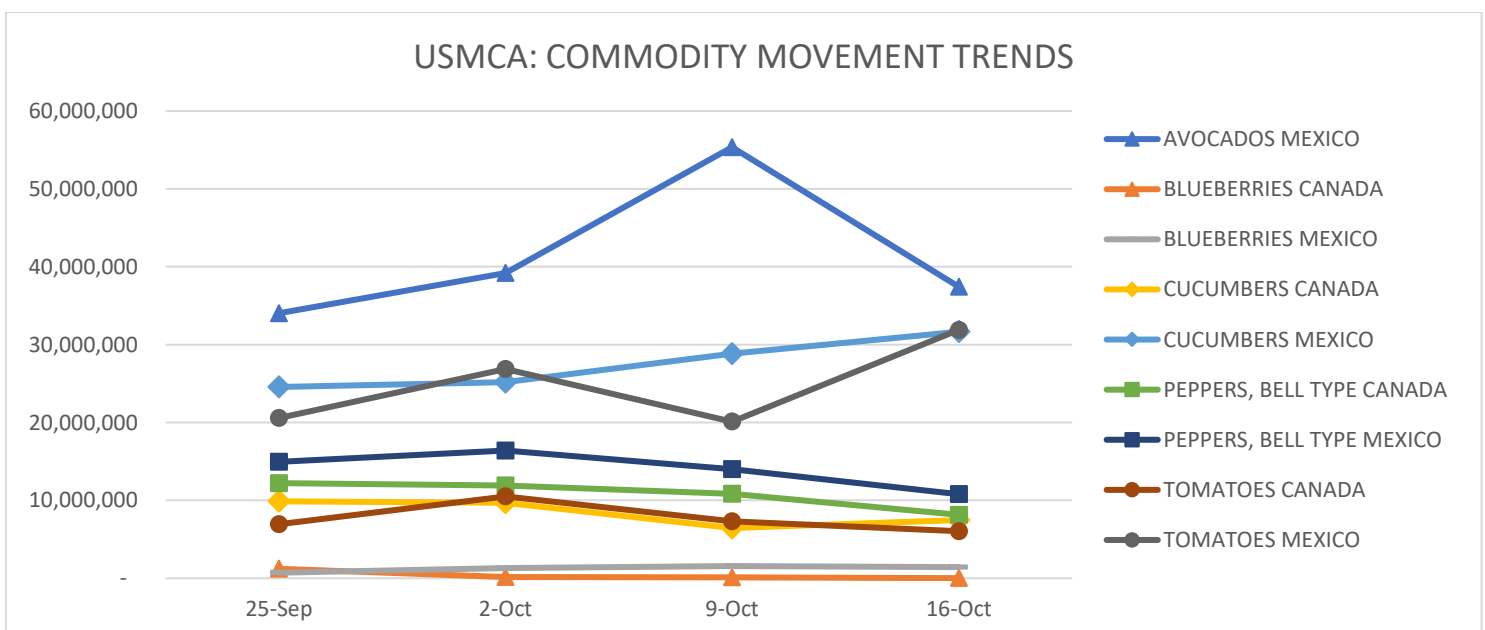
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	25-Sep	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 49.92	\$ 46.18	\$ 40.54	\$ 39.68
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 22.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 13.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 23.95	\$ 20.83	\$ 19.83	\$ 17.31
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 6.63	\$ 5.94	\$ 6.13	\$ 11.31
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 14.66	\$ 15.66	\$ 17.66	\$ 23.52

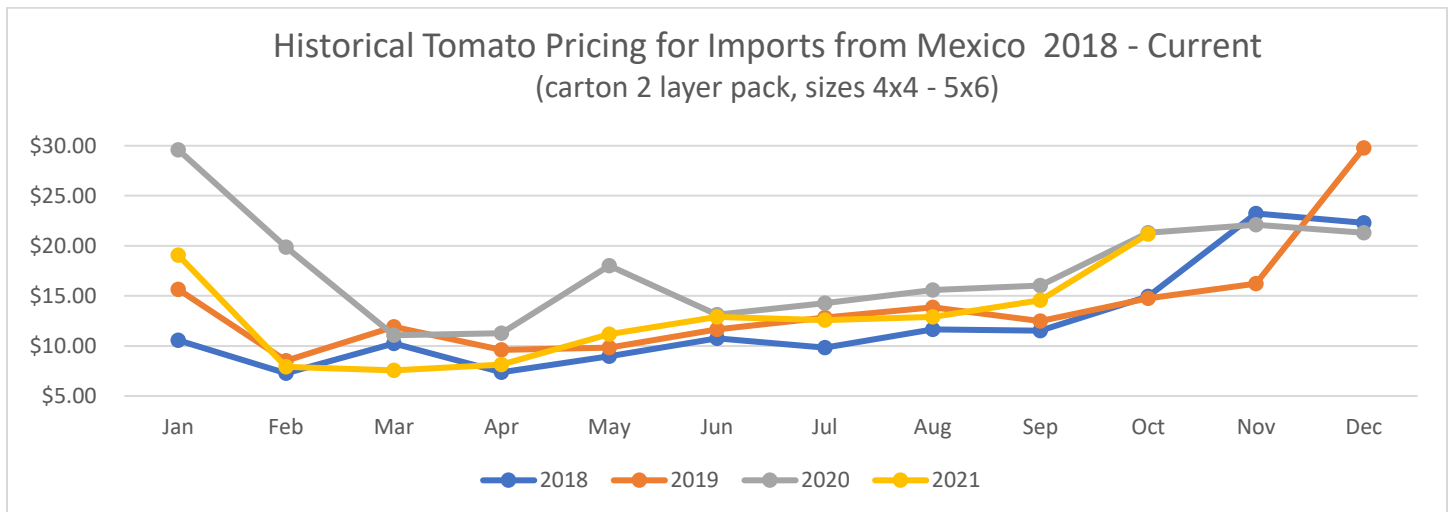


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	25-Sep	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	34,035,313	39,186,215	55,353,851	37,421,934
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	1,213,135	173,861	124,826	14,927
	MEXICO	714,977	1,307,313	1,565,057	1,428,940
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	9,880,715	9,681,603	6,453,182	7,474,479
	MEXICO	24,563,957	25,172,217	28,822,784	31,656,983
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	12,214,463	11,905,166	10,835,480	8,150,074
	MEXICO	14,961,221	16,402,672	13,995,977	10,793,678
TOMATOES	CANADA	6,939,170	10,506,138	7,311,735	6,045,175
	MEXICO	20,589,854	26,878,186	20,109,419	31,894,597



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