



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

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## **Update for Week of November 14 – 20, 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.

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Thanksgiving preparations are in full swing across the country, as grower-shippers scramble to find adequate transportation to try and ensure that their product can arrive at markets and in stores on time for the holiday. With celebrations centered around a traditional meal featuring many specialty crops items, it is crucial that shipments arrive early enough but not too early for the perishable specialty crops commodities. Reports in the media highlight that consumers are buying more electronics, clothing, toys, and other gifts ahead of the upcoming holiday season; further increasing the competition for the currently limited shipping capacity. Backlogs at major ports are clearing up slowly thanks to various mitigation efforts and better coordination among dock workers, shipping lines, railroads, truckers, and port authorities. The number of empty containers on docks at the Port of Los Angeles has been reduced by 25% since the end of October, and the amount of cargo sitting at the port more than 9 days has decreased by 29%, which is ahead of the implementation of escalating fines this week.

Mexican avocado crossings through Texas are expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly slow with prices on organic generally unchanged and others lower. Harvest was paused Monday for a holiday in Mexico, but supplies remained adequate for the limited demand. This light demand, along with improved supplies from earlier in the season, is expected to lead to continuing lower prices.

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 moderate with prices generally unchanged. Quality reported as mostly good despite being late in the season. Peruvian imports arriving through Southern California movement via boat is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was slow with prices generally unchanged. Unloading backlogs at the port which were causing condition issues on berries are slowly clearing as mitigation efforts continue. Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase. Trading was very slow at slightly lower prices. Quality is reported as variable, and some sales are being booked open with prices to be established later.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase slightly. Trading was moderate to active. Prices have improved, ranging from higher to much higher. Demand has increased due to the holiday pull, although both volumes and prices remain impacted by truck shortages and high freight rates. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected about the same, with fairly slow trading early improving to moderate later. Prices were generally unchanged, with quality reported as variable. Mexican cucumber crossings through Otay Mesa are expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was fairly slow early and active later. Prices on 36s

For more information on:

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

higher and others much higher as demand for decreasing supplies picked up ahead of the holiday. Shippers expect to finish for the season within the next two to three weeks. Cucumbers out of Central and South Florida movement is expected to increase. Trading was moderate at much higher prices. Demand was fairly good for fairly light supplies. Cucumbers out of South Georgia movement expected to decrease seasonally as some shippers have finished for the season. Trading was moderate at higher prices. Quality remains generally good although cool weather is slowing harvest volumes. Very light movement of cucumbers via boat out of Central America (Honduras) into South Florida ports has begun and the first report has been issued. Shipments are expected to remain light until mid-December when more shippers will begin. No F.O.B. price report is currently being issued as supplies are insufficient to quote.

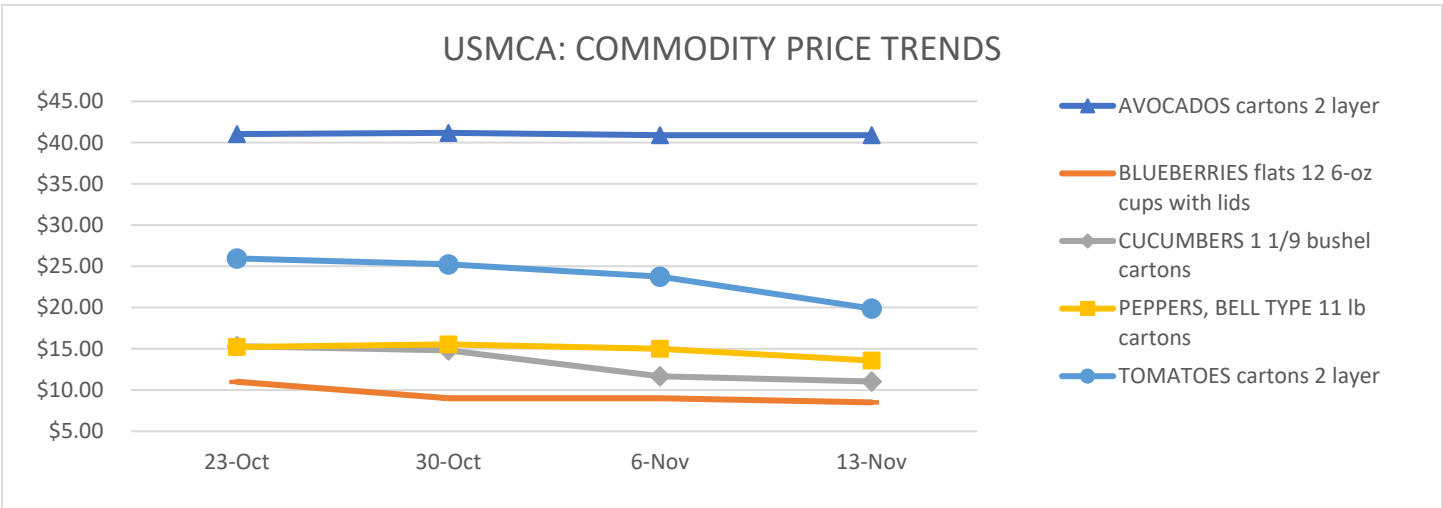
Movement of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley, California expected to increase seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices mixed but generally higher on larger peppers, lower on smaller. Quality is reported as generally good. South Georgia green bell pepper movement is expected to decrease seasonally as cool weather sets into growing areas and slows harvests. Trading was moderate at higher prices in response to decreasing volumes. Movement of Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona, is expected to increase seasonally. Current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market and the first F.O.B. price report is expected to be issued the week of November 21. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase as more shippers begin the season. Trading was fairly active at slightly higher prices. Supplies remain light due to cooler temperatures, with demand fairly good. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active at lower prices. Supplies of green bell peppers light with most reserved for contracts or previous commitments.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow early and moderate later. Prices were slightly higher on 4x5 and 5x5 sizes, with others generally unchanged. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Morning harvests were curtailed several times during the week due to cool temperatures, rain, and wet fields. The cool weather, along with rains earlier in the planting season, is also delaying crop maturity somewhat and lighter supplies are expected next week as a result. Trading was moderate at higher prices, with fairly good demand. Movement out of Florida West District is expected to decrease as remaining growers will finish the season this week. Trading was moderate with slightly higher prices on light supplies. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales Arizona expected to increase seasonally. Current supplies in too few hands to establish a market, with the first F.O.B. report is expected the week of November 21. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was active at lower prices. Demand was fairly active with supplies moving steadily and prices expected to increase in response. Most current shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments.

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

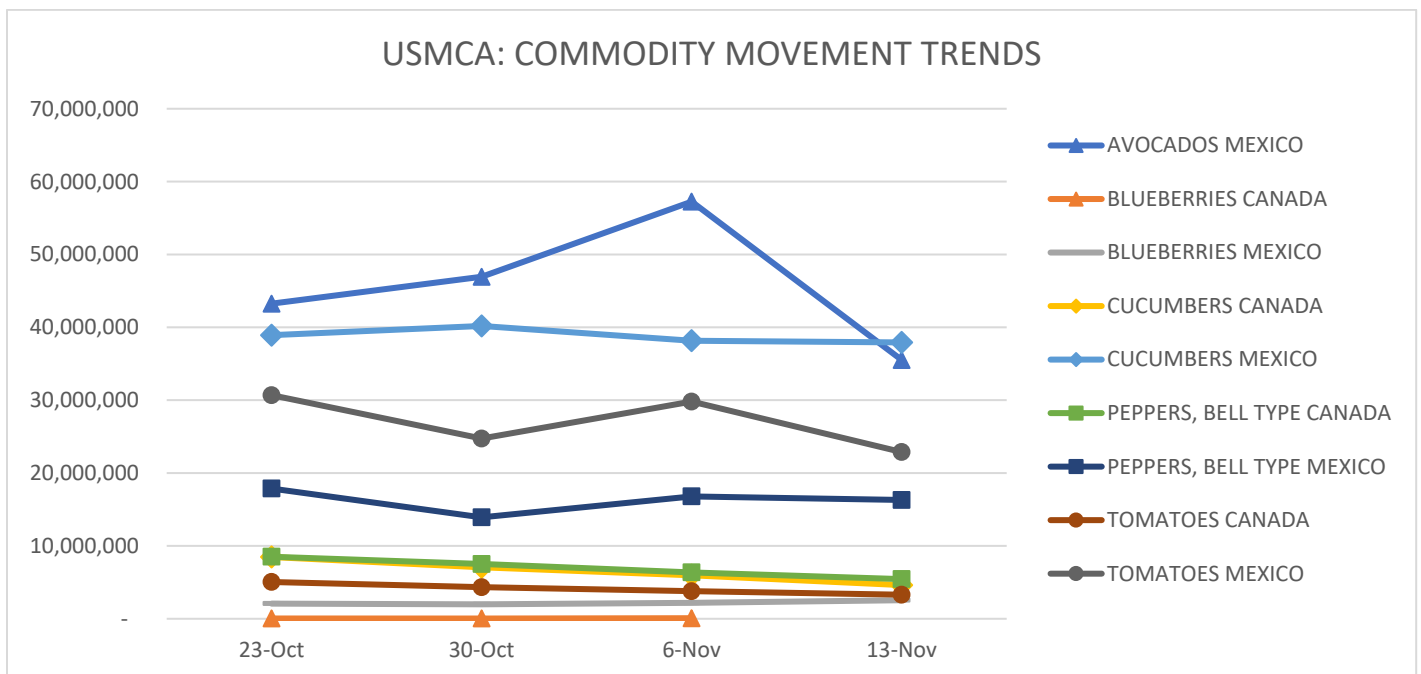
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	23-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	13-Nov
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 41.04	\$ 41.18	\$ 40.89	\$ 40.89
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 11.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 8.50
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 15.31	\$ 14.81	\$ 11.67	\$ 11.04
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb cartons	\$ 15.21	\$ 15.54	\$ 15.00	\$ 13.57
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 25.95	\$ 25.24	\$ 23.74	\$ 19.88

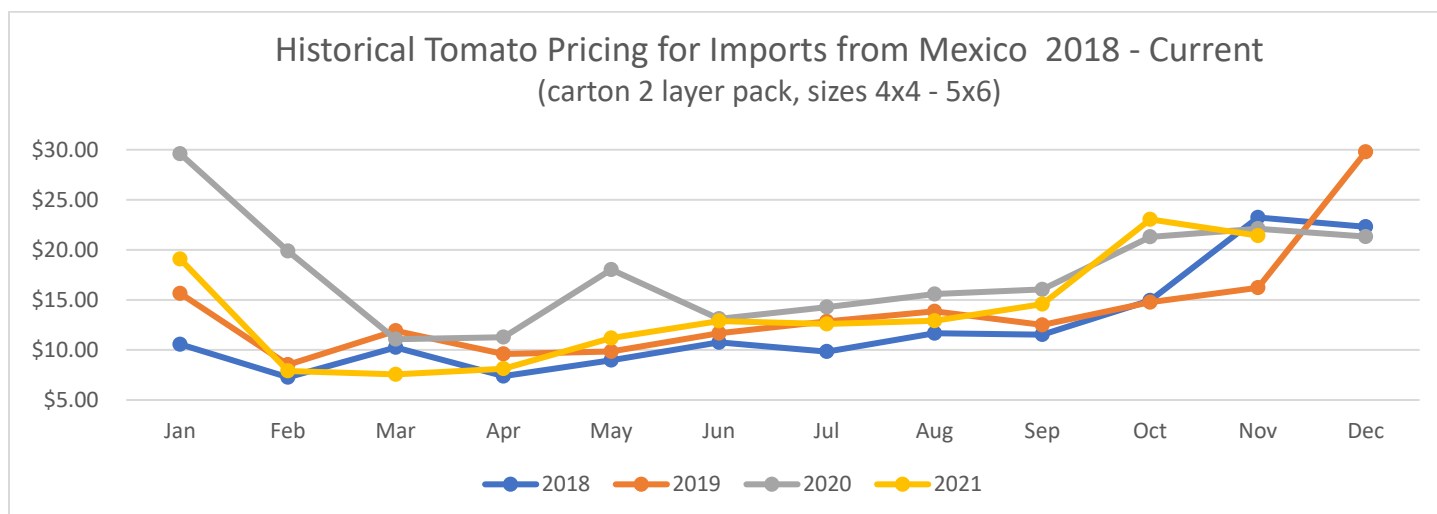


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	23-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	13-Nov
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	43,245,796	46,937,051	57,250,136	35,521,103
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	40,414	41,193	79,032	
	MEXICO	2,078,284	1,984,262	2,193,634	2,545,161
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	8,473,464	7,065,500	5,970,802	4,623,810
	MEXICO	38,921,499	40,187,380	38,166,393	37,928,987
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	8,514,368	7,523,058	6,368,075	5,444,245
	MEXICO	17,869,631	13,920,850	16,793,520	16,298,725
TOMATOES	CANADA	5,045,225	4,332,133	3,785,611	3,304,578
	MEXICO	30,688,197	24,733,871	29,801,894	22,882,559



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