



# 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 28 - December 4, 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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Last week's holiday traffic was the first return to travel for many Americans, as they were able to resume family celebrations and gatherings in stark contrast to the previous year. The roads were filled as well with the long-haul drivers who have been working throughout the pandemic to keep stores and restaurants supplied for the holidays. Low unemployment in almost every sector of the workforce means that many drivers, foodservice workers, and others in the food supply chain who took on other lines of work during the initial shutdowns are unlikely to return to the sector without serious financial incentives. Help wanted signs abound going into the holiday season, with sign-on bonuses and even pricey electronics being offered to new employees who complete orientation. Media reports state that there are 11 million jobs open nationwide, including some 80,000 truck drivers. The problems with backups and delays at the major ports have improved due to the various remedial measures taken and improved flow through the ports. However, a shortage of local and nearby truck drivers has been a limiting factor for the sector. Movement and sales slowed as normal after the Thanksgiving holiday period but are expected to pick again shortly for the Christmas season.

Mexican avocado crossings through Texas are expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly slow with prices mixed throughout the week. A wide range in prices is reported as shippers express concern about the maturity of fruit being shipped. With larger sizes hard to find, packers are said to be picking fruit that is not meant to be harvested for several months, putting Spring availability in question as well.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase. Trading was very slow at lower prices. Quality is reported as variable, and some sales are being booked open with prices to be established later. The volume of 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 on conventionally grown berries was moderate, and organic very slow 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 moderate with prices generally unchanged. The increasing availability of Mexican berries is reducing demand for held-over Peruvian fruit.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease. Trading was fairly slow for heavy supplies, leading to slightly lower prices. Demand is fairly light to moderate at best and buyers are purchasing

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only what they need. Movement and F.O.B prices continue to be impacted by a slight shortage of trucks and high freight rates. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected about the same, with trading moderate on light available supplied. Demand has decreased at lower prices as growers compete with heavy volumes out of Nogales. Cucumbers out of Central and South Florida movement is expected to decrease. Trading was fairly slow with prices on waxed cucumbers and fair quality generally unchanged, others lower. Movement of cucumbers via boat out of Central America into South Florida ports expected to remain very light and sporadic until mid-December when more shippers will begin. No F.O.B. price report is currently being issued as supplies out of Honduras are insufficient to quote.

Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active at slightly lower prices. Demand moderate and quality is reported as variable. Movement of Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona, is expected to increase seasonally. Trading and demand were both moderate. Prices slightly lower to lower and expected to drop further as volumes increase. Movement of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley, California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices slightly lower. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase, though cool weather over the last week has delayed production somewhat past previous estimates. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged to slightly lower due to fairly light demand. South Georgia green bell pepper movement is expected to decrease seasonally as shippers are finishing up for the season. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Shipments this week were very light as cold weather over the past week has mostly brought an end to harvests in Georgia.

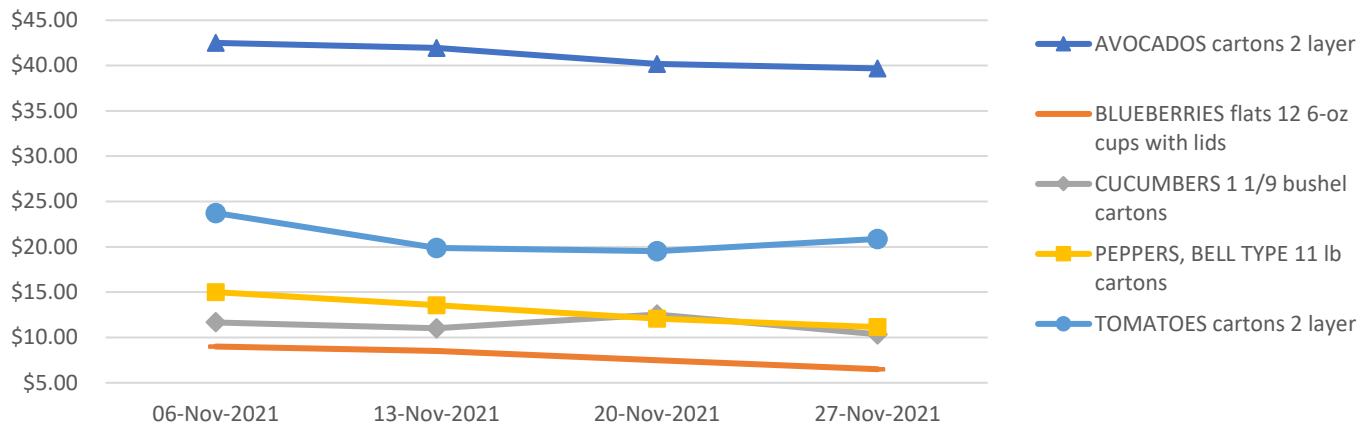
Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to decrease as cool weather over the last week has decreased available supplies. Trading and demand on 5x6 size fairly light with others moderate. Prices lower and expected to decrease even further due to light demand. Yields over last week were heavy and some shippers have supplies built up ready to ship. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected to decrease slightly. Trading was active early and moderate later. Prices on 5x5 sizes were slightly lower, with others lower. Demand is moderate though buyers are buying slightly less than previous weeks despite the lower prices. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales Arizona expected to increase seasonally. Current supplies in too few hands to establish a market, with most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. The first F.O.B. report is expected the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>, later than previously estimated. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was active early and moderate later at lower prices. Demand was moderate as some buyers seem to be waiting for prices to drop further before purchasing. 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	06-Nov-2021	13-Nov-2021	20-Nov-2021	27-Nov-2021
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 42.50	\$ 41.94	\$ 40.19	\$ 39.69
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 9.00	\$ 8.50	\$ 7.50	\$ 6.50
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 11.67	\$ 11.04	\$ 12.53	\$ 10.35
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 15.00	\$ 13.57	\$ 12.07	\$ 11.14
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 23.74	\$ 19.88	\$ 19.52	\$ 20.88

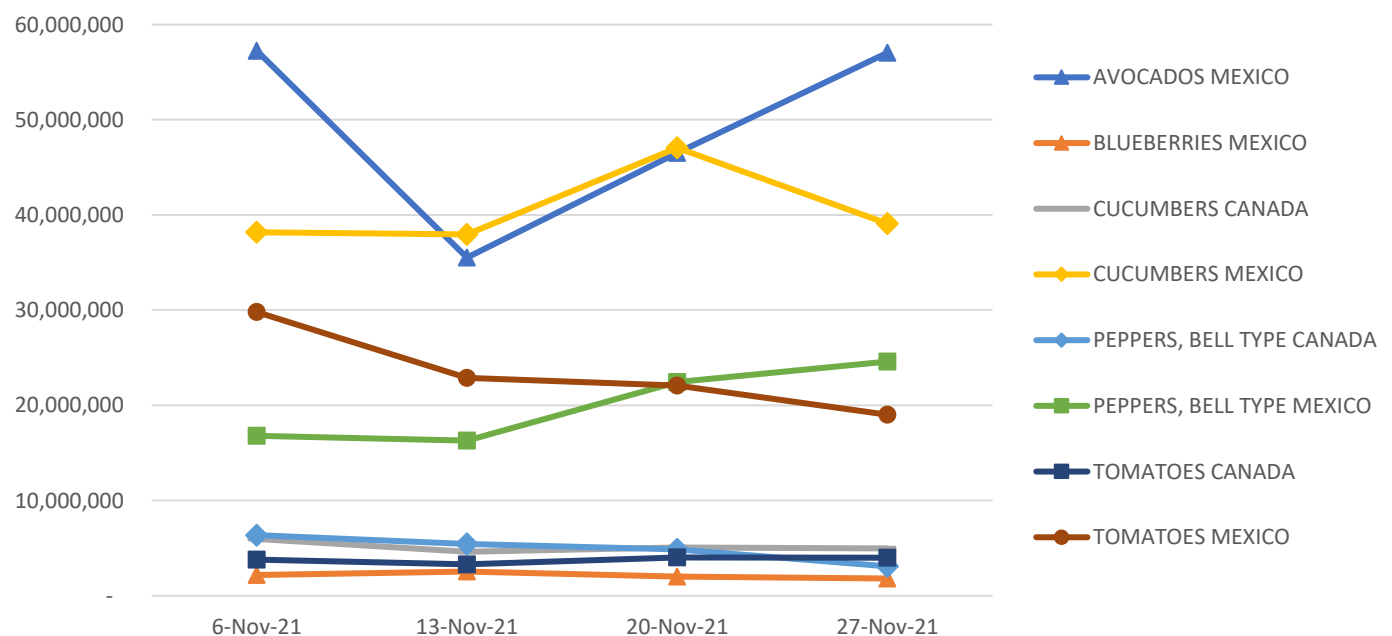
## USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



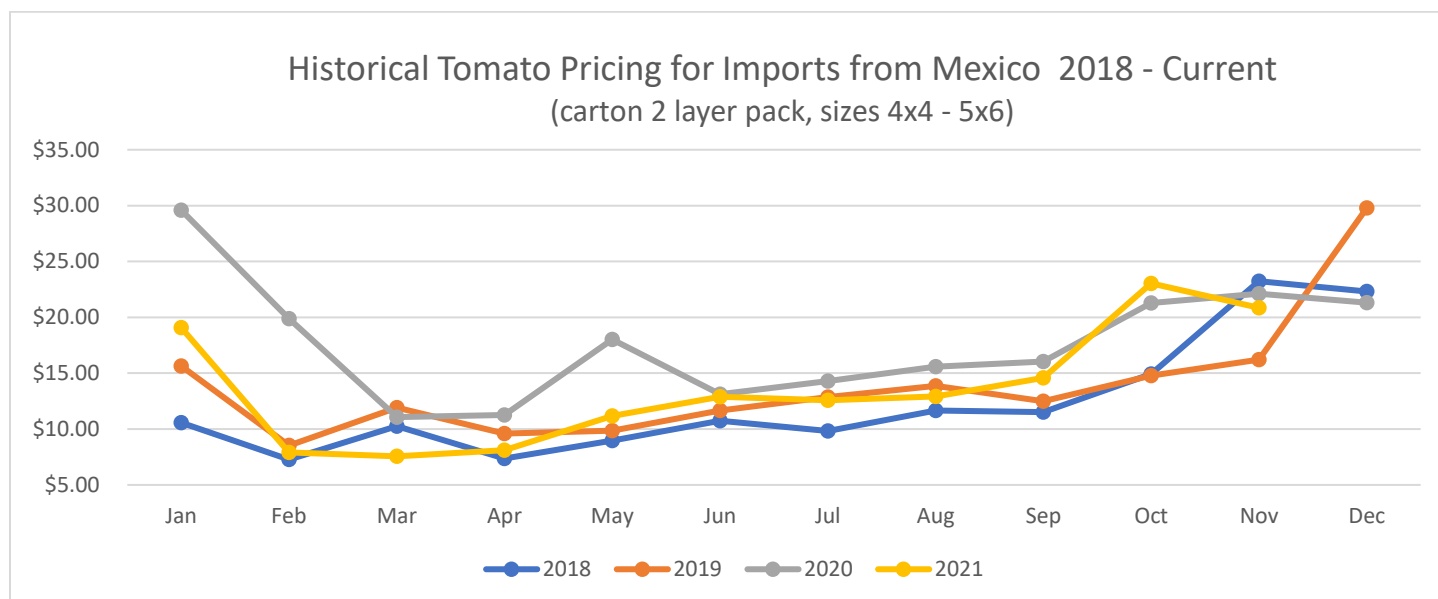
## Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	6-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	57,250,136	35,521,103	46,527,723	57,047,772
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,193,634	2,545,161	2,013,524	1,817,285
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	5,970,802	4,623,810	5,077,046	4,981,601
	MEXICO	38,166,393	37,957,921	47,052,357	39,101,482
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	6,368,075	5,444,245	4,858,718	3,092,078
	MEXICO	16,793,520	16,298,725	22,447,502	24,601,334
TOMATOES	CANADA	3,785,611	3,304,578	4,025,870	4,015,767
	MEXICO	29,801,894	22,882,559	22,095,717	19,021,106

## USMCA: COMMODITY MOVEMENT TRENDS



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