



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

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Update for Week of December 12-18, 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 produce industry's preparation for the upcoming holidays is in full swing with increased demand for fresh fruits and vegetables expected at all market levels. Although the public may be more hesitant to dine in restaurants due to the continuing emergence of new variants of the virus, retail purchases are expected to pick up the difference in sales volumes as in-home gatherings of family and friends resume this year. Harvests of many commodities are being stepped up ahead of the expected pause late next week for employees in fields and packing houses to have a few extra days off. Further tightening of truck availability is expected due to many long-haul drivers prioritizing time with their families during the holidays over accepting loads for cross-country routes, despite continuing high freight rates and other incentives. The tight supply of short haul drivers at the harbors and ports is still impacting movement from the vessels and into the supply chain.

Mexican avocado crossings through Texas are expected to decrease slightly. Trading was fairly active on 60s and moderate on others with higher prices leading to lower demand. Grower-shippers attempting to harvest as much as possible ahead of the holidays, but supplies remain tight. A wide range in prices is reported as some fruit was picked early in the past few weeks.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected about the same. Trading was moderate at higher prices. Quality is reported as variable. The first report has been issued for Chilean imports of blueberries via boat through both various East Coast and West Coast ports of entry. Movement is expected to increase as harvesting increases in Chile, with current supplies in too few hands to establish a market for both coasts. Movement of Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through the Philadelphia and New York City areas via boat is expected to decrease as the season is past peak. Trading was fairly active at higher prices on conventional pints, while organics prices were lower and trading slow. Peruvian imports arriving through Southern California ports movement via boat is expected to decrease as the season is past peak. Trading on conventionally grown berries was fairly active but organic was very slow with prices unchanged on both. A wide range in quality and condition is being reported this late in the season.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase. Trading was fairly slow for regular cucumbers, with supplies remaining heavy. Prices were lower as movement and F.O.B. prices continue to be

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

impacted by a slight shortage of trucks and high freight rates. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was slow early and moderate later. Prices were higher on medium and lower on large, with quality reported as variable. Cucumbers out of Central and South Florida movement is expected about the same. Prices were mixed throughout the week. Trading was moderate as warm weather has been increasing supplies faster than demand can keep up. Movement of cucumbers via boat out of Central America into South Florida ports expected to remain very light and sporadic as more shippers begin this week or next. No F.O.B. price report is currently being issued as supplies out of Honduras are insufficient to quote, though quality is reported as generally good.

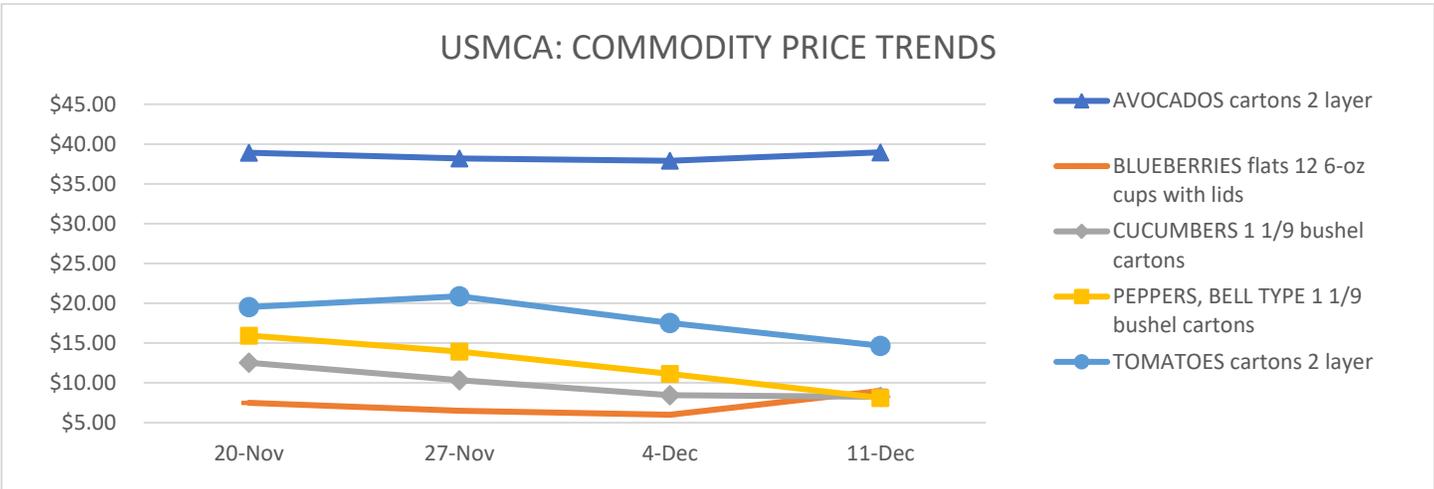
Movement of Mexico crossings of green bell peppers through Nogales, Arizona, is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was slow with prices lower. Demand light with heavy supplies on generally good quality peppers. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida is expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow at lower prices. Demand was fairly light as warmer weather has increased supplies. Next week's shipments expected to be light as many drivers will take time off for the holidays. Movement of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley, California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate early and active later at higher prices. Quality is reported as generally good, with limited supplies of green bell peppers available. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active to fairly active with prices generally much higher. Demand good though quality is reported as variable, and most shipments are for colored bell peppers.

Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices lower early in the week and about steady later. Demand fairly light to moderate as supplies have increased due to warm weather in growing areas. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and slow later. Prices much lower with quality reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly slow later at much lower prices. Demand remained fairly light with most shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. 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 by the end of the week. Quality is reported as generally good.

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

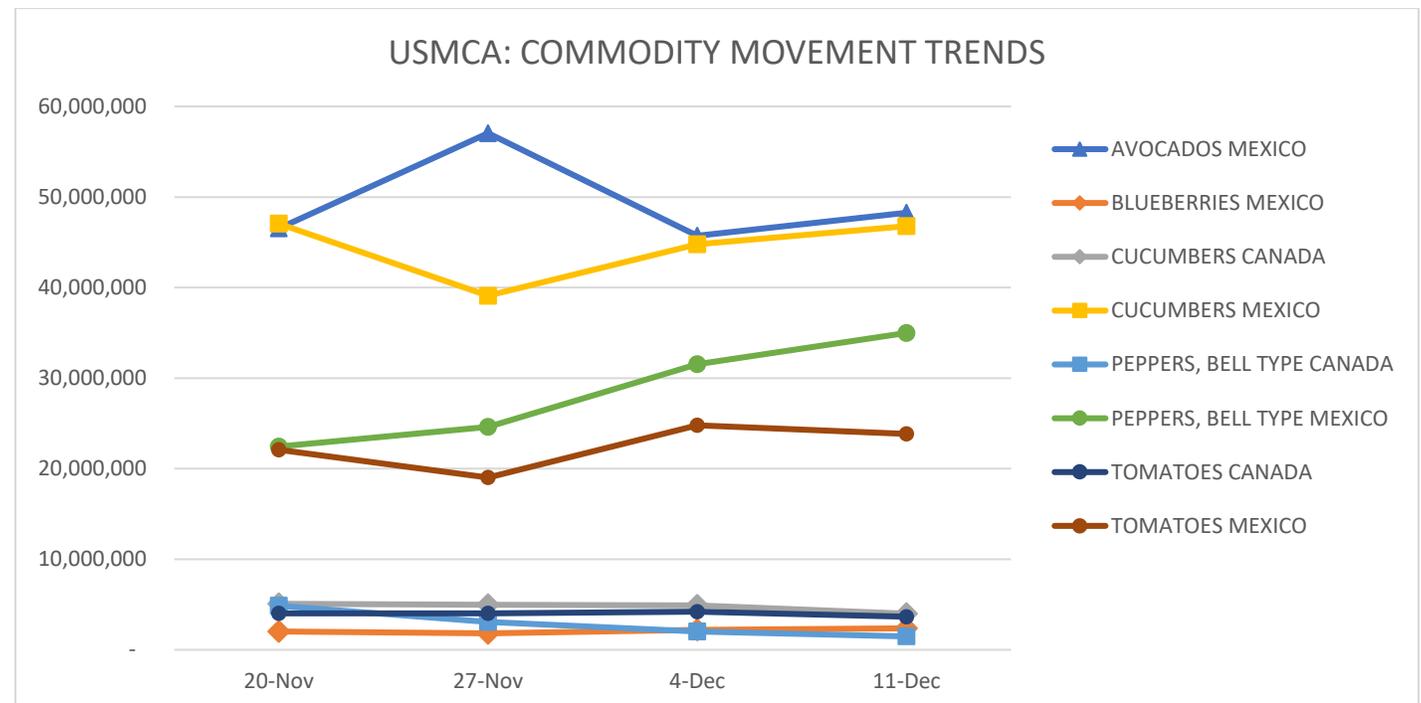
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	20-Nov	27-Nov	4-Dec	11-Dec
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 38.89	\$ 38.18	\$ 37.89	\$ 38.96
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 7.50	\$ 6.50	\$ 6.00	\$ 9.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 12.53	\$ 10.35	\$ 8.45	\$ 8.25
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 15.95	\$ 13.95	\$ 11.12	\$ 8.12
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 19.52	\$ 20.88	\$ 17.52	\$ 14.66

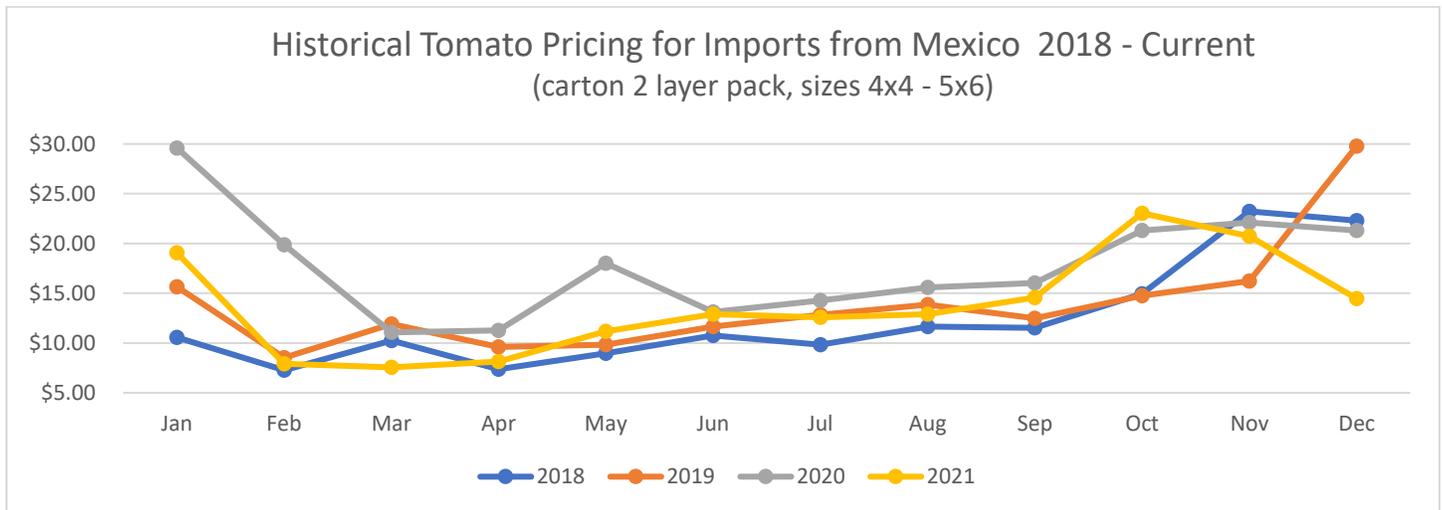


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	20-Nov	27-Nov	4-Dec	11-Dec
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	46,527,723	57,047,772	45,723,991	48,245,088
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,013,524	1,817,285	2,204,936	2,370,677
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	5,077,046	4,981,601	4,913,519	3,987,877
	MEXICO	47,052,357	39,101,482	44,790,819	46,788,108
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	4,858,718	3,092,078	2,038,515	1,476,449
	MEXICO	22,447,502	24,601,334	31,544,614	34,988,712
TOMATOES	CANADA	4,025,870	4,015,767	4,211,101	3,652,795
	MEXICO	22,095,717	19,021,106	24,788,509	23,851,043



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