



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 December 26, 2021 – January 1, 2022

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.

With the majority of growing areas in the country reporting truck shortages, truck rates rose by more than \$2000 per load for some routes this week. Many carriers, along with docks, warehouses, packing plants, and the rest of the supply chain, continue to operate short on employees due to increasing rates of infection. Some drivers accepted loads for Monday and Tuesday but plan to take the rest of the week off to enjoy the New Year holiday at home. Demand for many produce commodities remains light as consumers have yet to get back into normal routines after the holidays. However, New Year's resolutions to get in shape and eat healthier traditionally lead to an increase in produce sales just after the first of the year.

Mexican avocado crossings through Texas are expected to decrease slightly. Trading was fairly active at higher prices. Availability on larger sizes is light. Demand has fallen after the holiday due to high prices and increasing freight rates. Shippers report increased difficulty in finding trucks.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices on pints slightly higher and others generally unchanged. Quality and condition reported as variable. Movement of Chilean imports of blueberries via boat through both various East Coast and West Coast ports of entry is expected to increase as harvesting increases in Chile, with current supplies in too few hands to establish a market for both coasts. The first F.O.B. price report is expected within the next week. Movement of Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through both the Philadelphia and New York City areas and through Southern California ports via boat is expected to decrease as the season nears its end. Trading was active for fairly light supplies. Prices were higher, and quality is reported as generally good for this late in the season.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow with prices on 36s generally unchanged, others lower. Movement and F.O.B. prices continue to be impacted by the truck shortage and by high freight rates. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and slow later. Prices generally unchanged, with quality reported as variable.

Cucumbers out of Central and South Florida movement is expected about the same early and decrease later in the week as drivers reject loads in favor of remaining close to home. The truck shortage is severely impacting shippers' ability to fulfill orders, as in-house research at one company estimates only one driver is available for every 46 loads of produce

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.](#)

waiting to be shipped. Trading was fairly slow with prices medium generally unchanged, others lower. Movement of cucumbers via boat out of Central America into South Florida ports expected to increase slightly but remain light and sporadic due to competition from competing areas' production lasting longer than usual this year. Import movement is being curtailed as a result. Trading was very slow and 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.

Green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement expected to decrease slightly. Trading was very slow at lower prices. Demand light with heavy supplies on generally good quality green bell peppers. Movement and prices continue to be impacted by the truck shortage and high freight rates. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase slightly after cooler temperatures slowed crop maturity over the weekend and beginning of the week. Trading was moderate at much higher prices. Demand improved slightly over last week though limited truck availability and soaring truck rates continue to impact movement and pricing. Movement of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley, California is expected to decrease sharply as the season comes to an end. Trading was active early and slow later at much lower prices. Quality is reported as variable and available supplies of green bell peppers are limited. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and slow later at much lower prices. Quality reported as variable. Most shipments are for colored bell peppers.

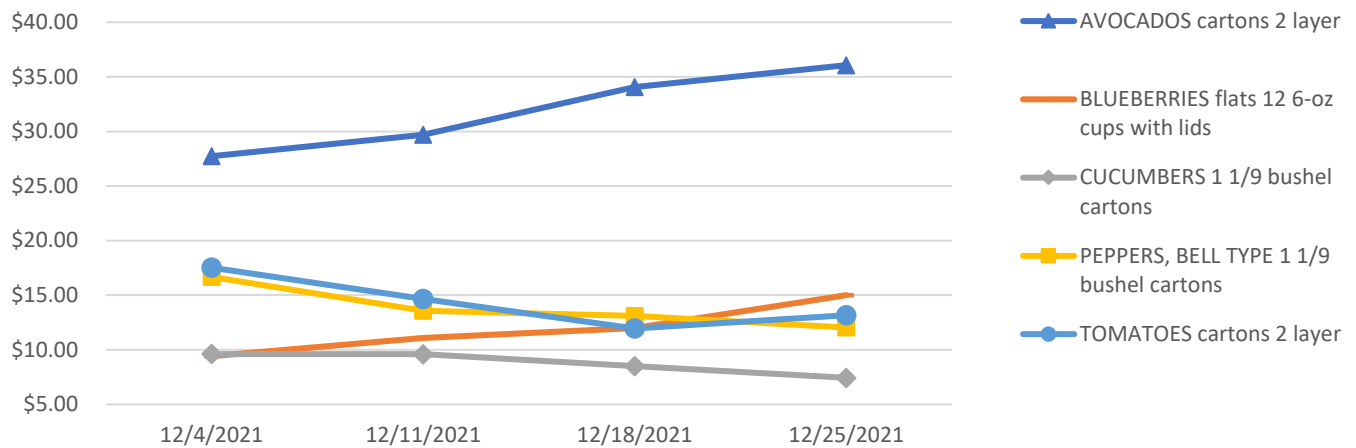
Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected about the same. Trading slow with prices on 5x6 size slightly higher and others generally unchanged. Demand increased slightly this week as cool temperatures affected maturity leading to light harvests much of the week. Truck availability is not expected to improve until after the first of the year. Trucking shortages are leading to rapidly increasing rates out of the growing area. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and slow later. Prices generally unchanged with quality reported as generally good. High truck rates continue to affect movement and F.O.B. prices. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales Arizona expected to increase seasonally. Trading active for light supplies and the first F.O.B. price report has been issued. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as generally good, with movement and prices impacted by the truck shortage and high freight rates. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through the Otay Mesa is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies are in too few hands to establish a market and the last report has been issued. Light crossings are expected to continue through the next week.

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	12/4/2021	12/11/2021	12/18/2021	12/25/2021
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 27.73	\$ 29.70	\$ 34.07	\$ 36.07
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 9.42	\$ 11.08	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 9.60	\$ 9.60	\$ 8.52	\$ 7.43
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.67	\$ 13.57	\$ 13.10	\$ 12.04
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 17.52	\$ 14.66	\$ 11.95	\$ 13.18

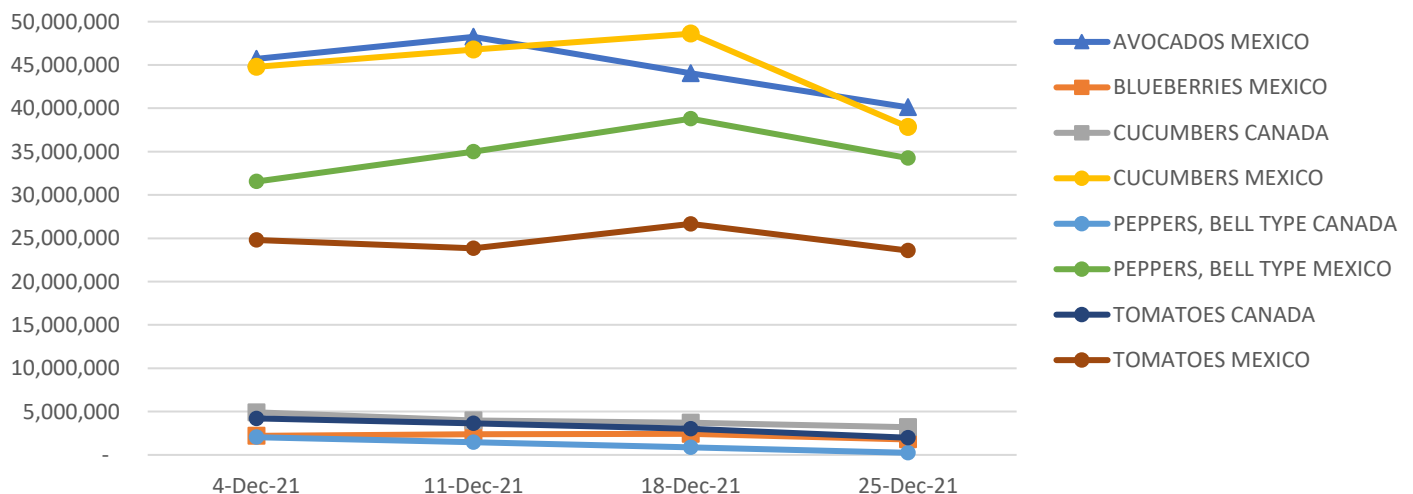
USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



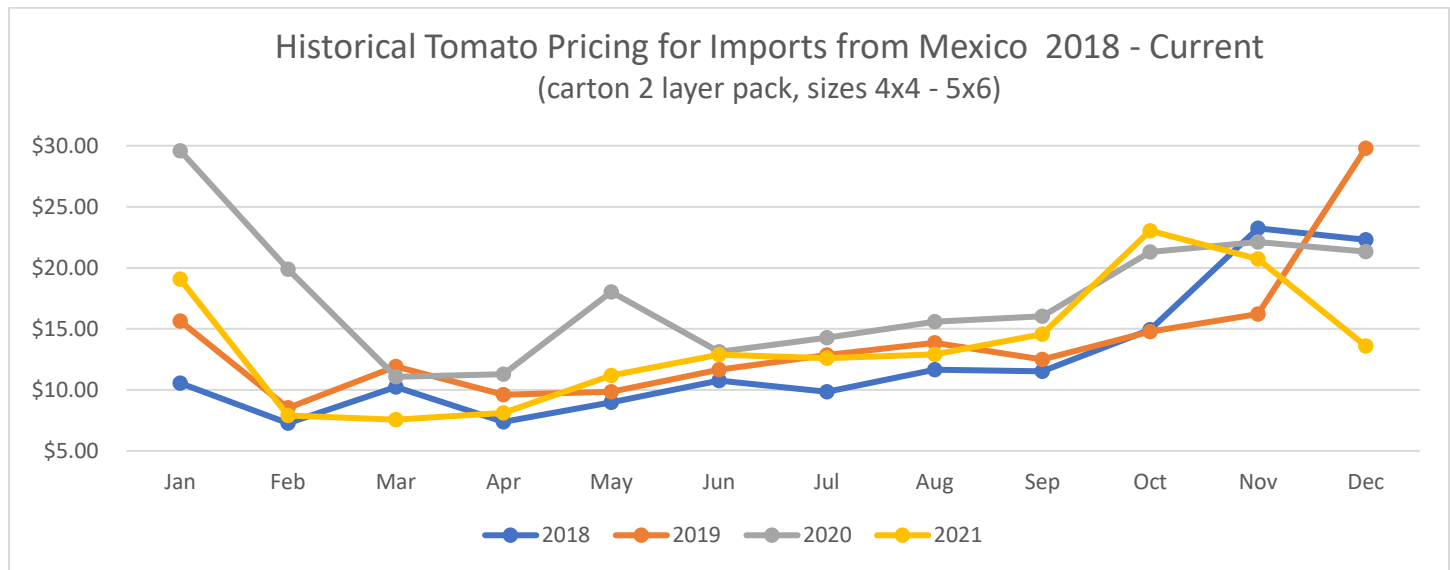
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	4-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21	25-Dec-21
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	45,723,991	48,245,088	44,060,916	40,110,624
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,204,936	2,370,677	2,429,987	1,779,474
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	4,913,519	3,987,877	3,728,495	3,195,855
	MEXICO	44,790,819	46,788,108	48,609,186	37,847,149
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	2,038,515	1,476,449	869,069	240,861
	MEXICO	31,544,614	34,988,712	38,798,269	34,253,175
TOMATOES	CANADA	4,211,101	3,652,795	2,999,425	1,980,534
	MEXICO	24,788,509	23,851,043	26,660,870	23,583,985

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 alliacious 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