



# 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 September 11 - 17, 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.

This week's potential rail strike seems to have been averted, or at least delayed, after talks brokered by President Biden's administration have led labor unions to reach tentative agreements with the railroads. However, the situation remains a strong example of the importance of rail transportation as a vital part of the supply chain network. Roughly 40% of the nation's long-distance trade moves via rail, and a shutdown of the system would trigger retail product shortages and widespread manufacturing problems. A railway work stoppage is estimated to cost up to \$2 billion a day, and would undoubtedly contribute to food costs, already high due to inflation, rising even further.

Peru imports of blueberries through various East Coast ports of entry are expected to increase. Trading active though prices are currently unavailable to report. Movement of blueberries through Oregon and Washington is expected to continue to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate on varieties including Calypso, Last Call, Elliot, and Aurora. Prices generally unchanged, with quality reported as generally good. Movement of blueberries from British Columbia Canada crossing through Northwest Washington is expected to decrease seasonally as more growers finish the harvest. Trading moderate at slightly higher prices for varieties including Calypso, Elliot, and Aurora. Peru imports of blueberries through various West Coast ports of entry are expected to increase. Supplies light and prices are currently unavailable though trading is reported as active. Blueberry crossings from Mexico through Arizona, California and Texas are expected to increase. Current supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Quality is reported as variable. The first F.O.B. report is now expected to be issued the week of October 2nd.

Movement of avocado crossing from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow, with prices 36s, 84s and organic lower and others generally unchanged. Peruvian imports of avocados through Philadelphia and New York City ports of entry are expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow with prices lower. Demand reported moderate for light supplies, with prices remaining steady through the week.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected to increase slightly. Trading early fairly active, later active on light supplies. Prices medium higher, large slightly higher, others generally unchanged. Quality is reported as generally good. Harvest curtailed early in the week due to heavy rain and strong winds from

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Hurricane Kay. Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to increase slightly. Trading is active at higher prices. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable, and harvests were curtailed early in the week due to heavy rain and strong winds from Hurricane Kay. Cucumber movement out of Michigan is expected to continue seasonal decline as some growers have finished for the season. Trading moderate at slightly lower prices. Movement of cucumber from Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Currently, no F.O.B. report is being issued. Central and South Florida movement is expected to begin light shipments within the next week. Sufficient volume and number of shippers are expected for the first F.O.B. report by the week of October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected to remain about the same. Trading active with prices jumbo much higher and others higher. Quality is reported as generally good, and demand is good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Michigan is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active at slightly higher prices. Western North Carolina green bell pepper movement is expected to remain about the same. Trading is moderate with prices higher.

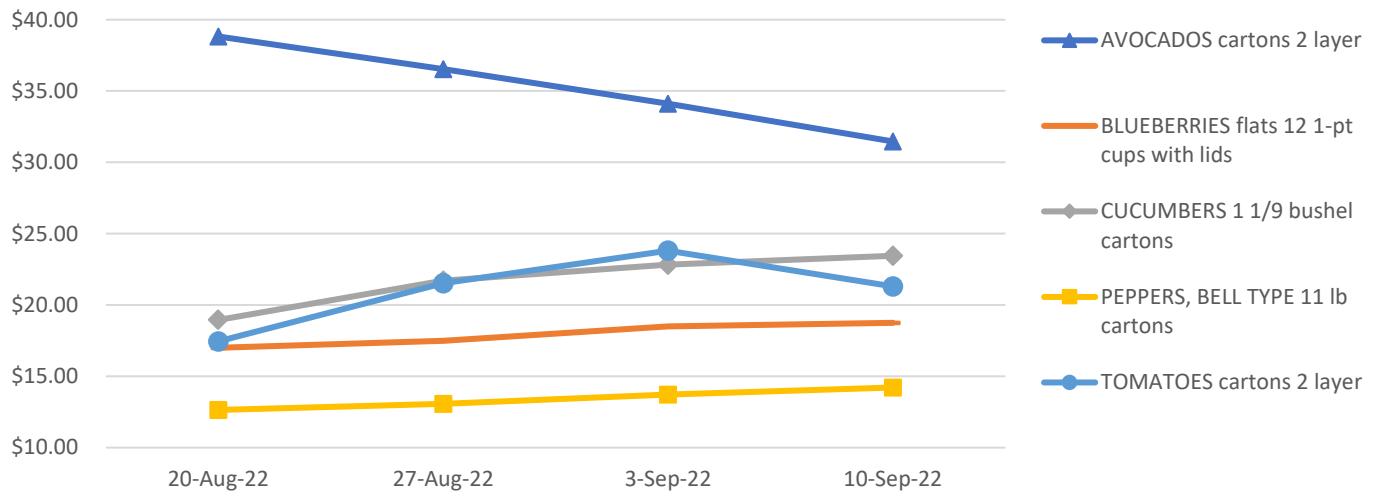
Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to increase slightly. Trading was active early and moderate later with prices on 4x4-4x5s lower and others much lower. Quality is reported as generally good, with harvest curtailed early in the week due to heavy rain and strong winds from Hurricane Kay. Central District California movement of tomatoes is expected to remain about the same. Trading early fairly active, late moderate. Prices slightly lower and quality is reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow with prices generally unchanged trending lower by midweek. Demand fairly light to light with quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease slightly. Trading fairly slow at lower prices. Some harvest was curtailed early in the week due to wet fields. Demand fairly light as supplies are expected to decrease through the end of the month. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected to remain about the same. Trading active early and moderate later with prices slightly lower. Quality generally good. Harvest curtailed early in the week due to heavy rain and strong winds from Hurricane Kay. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading is moderate with lower prices.

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-Aug-22	27-Aug-22	3-Sep-22	10-Sep-22
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 38.82	\$ 36.54	\$ 34.11	\$ 31.46
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 1-pt cups with lids	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.75
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 18.95	\$ 21.70	\$ 22.83	\$ 23.45
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 12.64	\$ 13.07	\$ 13.71	\$ 14.21
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 17.45	\$ 21.52	\$ 23.81	\$ 21.31

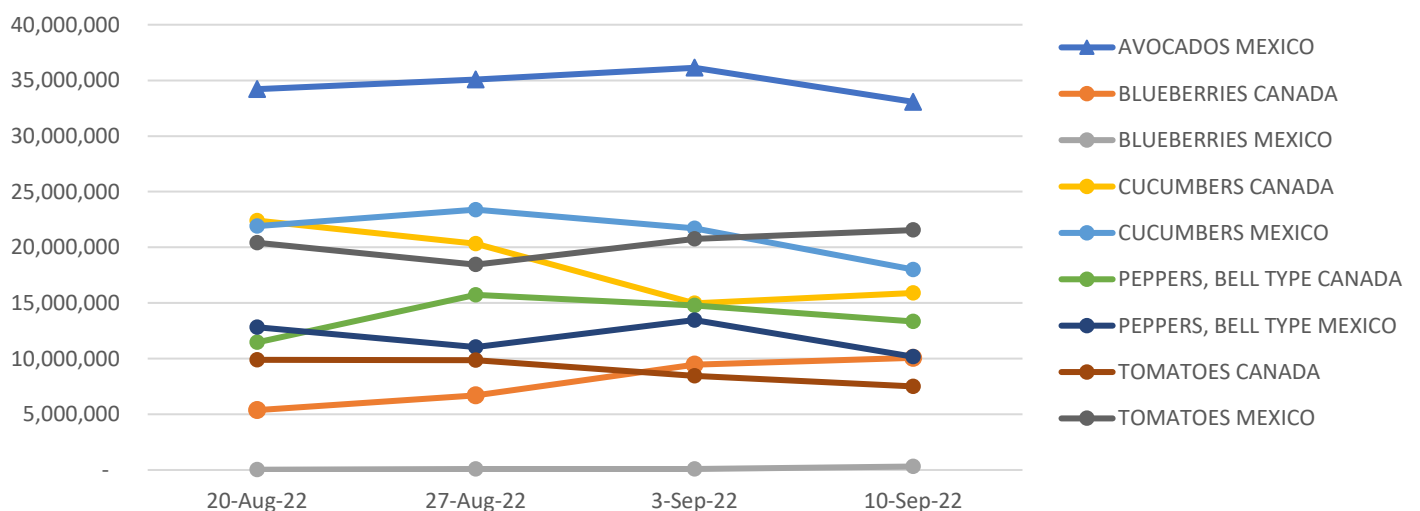
## USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



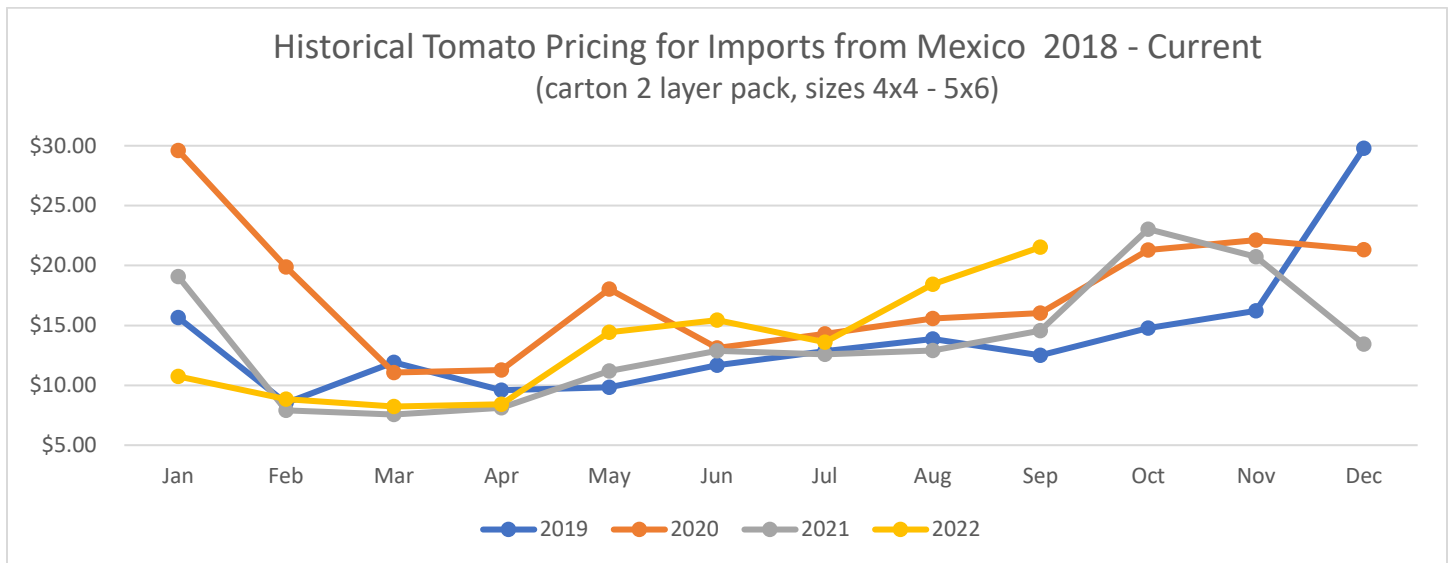
## Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	20-Aug-22	27-Aug-22	3-Sep-22	10-Sep-22
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	34,204,693	35,069,778	36,133,008	33,074,835
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	5,375,848	6,687,349	9,457,591	10,072,864
	MEXICO	24,159	78,671	84,494	310,791
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	22,406,709	20,312,894	14,973,106	15,900,632
	MEXICO	21,918,247	23,388,635	21,714,802	18,010,065
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	11,459,442	15,732,294	14,784,948	13,339,957
	MEXICO	12,834,017	11,042,814	13,467,868	10,174,472
TOMATOES	CANADA	9,895,593	9,871,324	8,466,941	7,507,848
	MEXICO	20,425,979	18,446,591	20,751,607	21,551,299

## 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