



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

Issued Weekly

Friday, September 30, 2022

## **Update for Week of September 25 – October 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.

This hurricane season has been somewhat quiet until now. Hurricane Ian has changed all that and made landfall around Ft. Myers, Florida, and the surrounding communities. According to local farmers and growers in Southwest and Central Florida, now, it is too early to tell how much crop damage has occurred. Growing areas will definitely be impacted, but how significant, is still to be determined. Heavy rains and strong winds were reported in the inland areas of the Florida Peninsula, where the agricultural belts are located. All eyes are on the state's signature crop which is citrus. Looking back to 2017, when Hurricane Irma hit the state, consumers saw the price of orange juice rise after growers lost up to 70% of their crops. It was a big deal when you consider that Florida makes up nearly 60% of the nation's total citrus acres. Transportation is being disrupted on I-4 and I-75 corridors and other state highways. Truck drivers were hesitant to come into Florida when it was not safe to do so. Facility closures are a possibility due to a range of issues such as power outages, worker availability, transportation disruptions like closed roads and bridges, and evacuations. Some companies gave their employees the rest of the week off, so they could work remotely and try and protect their homes from Hurricane Ian. More information to follow when crews can safely go into the fields and assess the damages. People that don't live in Florida, need to remember that with so much water everywhere alligators are always lurking underneath the water.

Peru imports of blueberries through Philadelphia and New York City area ports of entry are expected about the same. Trading remains moderate. Prices lower, later in the week generally unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large 22.00-26.00, 6 ounce large 12.00-15.00. Quality is being reported as good. Movement of blueberries through Oregon and Washington expected to decrease sharply as most shippers have finished the harvest. Supplies in too few hands to establish a market. Lighter shipments expected to continue through October 15<sup>th</sup>. Quality generally good. The last F.O.B. report was issued for the season. Peru imports of blueberries through Southern California ports of entry movement expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate, with prices lower. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large 22.00-26.00 and 6 ounce 12.00-16.00. Quality generally good. Blueberry crossings from Mexico through Arizona, California and Texas movement is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Quality is reported as variable. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Movement of avocados crossing from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices conventional 40-48s higher, others lower. Cartons 2-layer 32s mostly 30.25-32.25, 40-48s range between 26.25-28.25. Peruvian imports of avocados through Philadelphia and New York City ports of entry are expected to decrease as the season continues to wind down sharply. Most major shippers are finished for the season. Very light movement expected for the next 5-7 days. Supplies in too few hands to establish a market. The last F.O.B. report was issued September 28, 2022.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active, late very active. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 30.95, large mostly 28.95 and cartons 36s mostly 16.95. Quality variable. Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading active with prices slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium

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mostly 26.95-28.95, large mostly 22.95-24.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is variable. Cucumber movement out of Michigan is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies in too few hands to establish a market. The last F.O.B. report has been issued. Movement of cucumber in Central and South Florida are expected to begin with light shipments and increase weekly as the season gets fully underway. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report within 7-10 days. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally, but remain light until the week of October 9<sup>th</sup>, when additional shippers are expected to begin. Quality is being reported as generally good. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>. Movement of cucumber from Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Currently, no F.O.B. report is being issued. Cucumber movement out of South Georgia is expected to increase. Trading is moderate. Prices on medium slightly lower, others unchanged. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 18.35-18.85 and cartons 24s 8.35-8.85. Quality generally good.

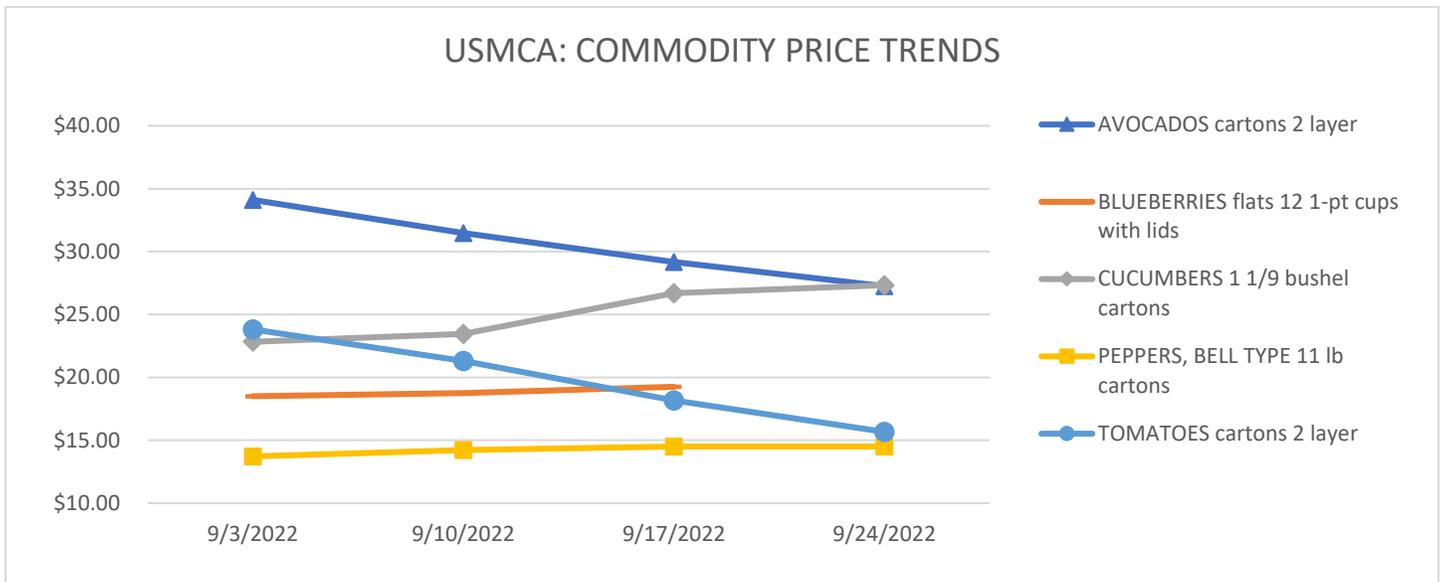
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active at slightly lower prices. Prices slightly lower. Later in week, prices were up slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large mostly 15.95-16.95 and large mostly 14.95. Quality is generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Michigan is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies in too few hands to establish a market. A last F.O.B. report has been issued. Western North Carolina green bell pepper movement is expected to remain about the same. Trading remains moderate with prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large 14.00-16.00 and large 12.00-14.00.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading remains moderate with prices lower. Later in the week demand got fairly active. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 10.95-12.95 and 5x5s mostly 9.95-10.95. Quality generally good. Central District California movement of tomatoes is expected to remain about the same. Trading early moderate, late fairly slow. Prices medium much lower, others slightly lower. Quality is being reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to increase slightly. Trading moderate with prices lower. Later in the week, demand got active, and prices are higher. Some of this is due to the unknowns of Hurricane Ian. Some of the growing areas in Southwest Florida are expected to be affected and/or possibly damaged due to heavy rain and high winds. Supplies are fairly light. Quality is being reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to increase slightly. Trading is moderate with prices generally unchanged. Some tomato growers are expected to finish for the season within 14 days. Supplies are very light. Later in the week, demand got active, and prices are higher. Some of this is due to the unknowns of Hurricane Ian. Some of the growing areas in Southwest Florida are expected to be affected and/or possibly damaged due to heavy rain and high winds. Quality generally unchanged. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 4x4-4x5s slightly lower, others generally unchanged. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4-5x6s mostly 16.95. Quality variable. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate with prices lower. Extra services included.

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

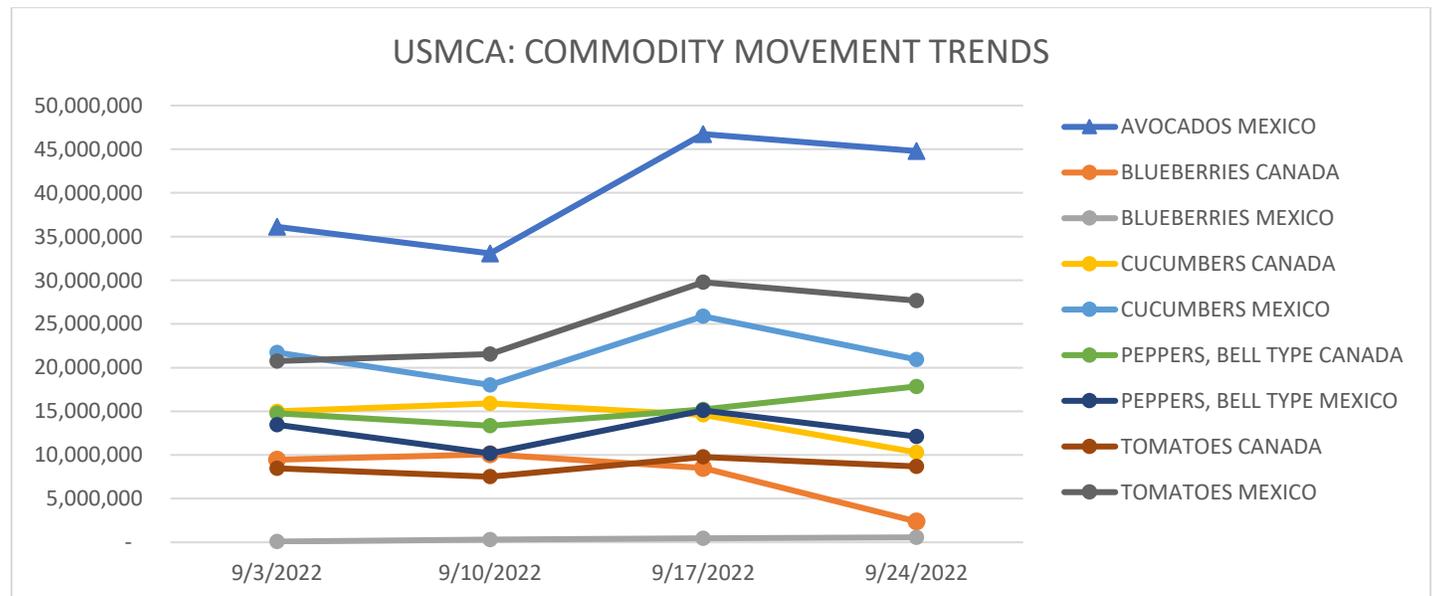
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	9/3/2022	9/10/2022	9/17/2022	9/24/2022
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 34.11	\$ 31.46	\$ 29.18	\$ 27.25
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 1-pt cups with lids	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.75	\$ 19.25	
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 22.83	\$ 23.45	\$ 26.70	\$ 27.33
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 13.71	\$ 14.21	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 23.81	\$ 21.31	\$ 18.16	\$ 15.66

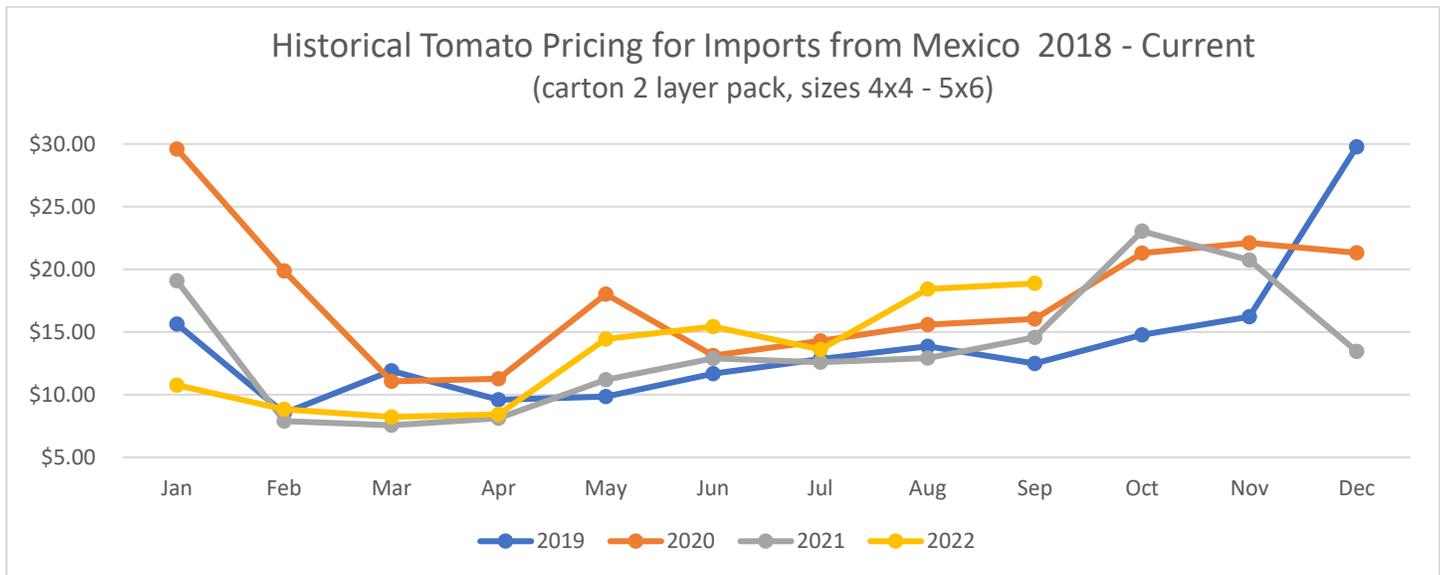


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	9/3/2022	9/10/2022	9/17/2022	9/24/2022
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	36,133,008	33,074,835	46,734,536	44,774,088
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	9,457,591	10,072,864	8,516,650	2,386,732
	MEXICO	84,494	310,791	438,974	564,014
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	14,973,106	15,900,632	14,602,747	10,297,853
	MEXICO	21,714,802	18,010,065	25,877,025	20,915,202
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	14,784,948	13,339,957	15,209,287	17,843,415
	MEXICO	13,467,868	10,174,472	15,098,449	12,115,306
TOMATOES	CANADA	8,466,941	7,507,848	9,767,981	8,681,327
	MEXICO	20,751,607	21,551,299	29,770,496	27,650,003



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