



# 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 October 9 - 15, 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.

As Hurricane Ian went across Florida, it destroyed an estimated 4 million acres of farmland in several counties, according to Florida's Department of Agriculture. It trampled fields of vegetables, fruits, tropicals and of course the state's signature crop, citrus. According to a local farmer, that lost several acres of tomatoes, he explains the loss this way, "A million dollars in tomatoes is about 10 planted acres". Financially, it is going to hit the small or family-owned farms the hardest, because of limited resources. According to Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services statistics, prior to Hurricane Ian, the initial forecast for the growing season showed overall citrus production down by 31.8%. The new forecast would represent the smallest orange crop since 24.9 million boxes were filled in the 1931-1932 season. Just two decades ago, Florida growers produced enough oranges to fill more than 200 million boxes. This could not have come at a worse time, because the industry was already dealing with a deadly citrus-greening disease for years. The issues attributed with this disease is smaller-size fruit and fewer oranges per tree. A preliminary damage assessment estimate report is expected in the near future.

Asparagus crossings from Mexico through Arizona, California and Texas 2022 are expected to decrease. Trading active with higher prices. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched large mostly 19.75-20.75 and standard 18.75-19.75. Peruvian imports of asparagus through South Florida ports of entry 2022 are expected to remain about the same this week and increase slightly next week. Trading remains moderate. Prices small much higher, standard slightly higher, jumbo lower, others slightly lower. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo mostly 20.75-23.50, extra-large mostly 19.75-21.50 and large mostly 18.75-19.75. Supplies standard fairly heavy, large fairly light, others moderate. Quality and condition variable but generally good. The market is showing more interest between shippers and retail accounts as well. Supplies are shorter than expected, due to a major storm that came through about 4 weeks ago.

Movement of avocados from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices conventional 40-48s generally unchanged, others lower. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32s mostly 28.25-30.25, 36s mostly 27.25-29.25, 40-48s range between 27.25-30.25. Extra services included.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading early slow, late active. Prices medium slightly higher, large much higher, 36s generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 18.95-20.95, large mostly 20.95-24.95 and cartons 36s mostly 10.95-11.95. Quality variable. Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading early active, late moderate. Prices are lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 22.95-24.95, large mostly 18.95-20.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is variable. Movement of cucumbers in Central and South Florida are expected to continue with light shipments due to Hurricane Ian. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report within 14-21 days. Hurricane Ian destroyed many cucumbers that were almost ready for harvest. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase

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seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices 24s and 36s slightly lower, others slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 20.95, large mostly 18.95 and cartons 36s mostly 9.95-10.95. Quality variable. Cucumber movement out of South Georgia is expected about the same. Trading is moderate with prices much higher. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 20.35-22.85 and cartons 24s 8.35-10.85. Some medium size cucumbers are as high as 24.00. Quality generally good. Movement of cucumber from Western North Carolina is expected to continue to decrease as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies insufficient to establish a market. The last F.O.B. report has been issued.

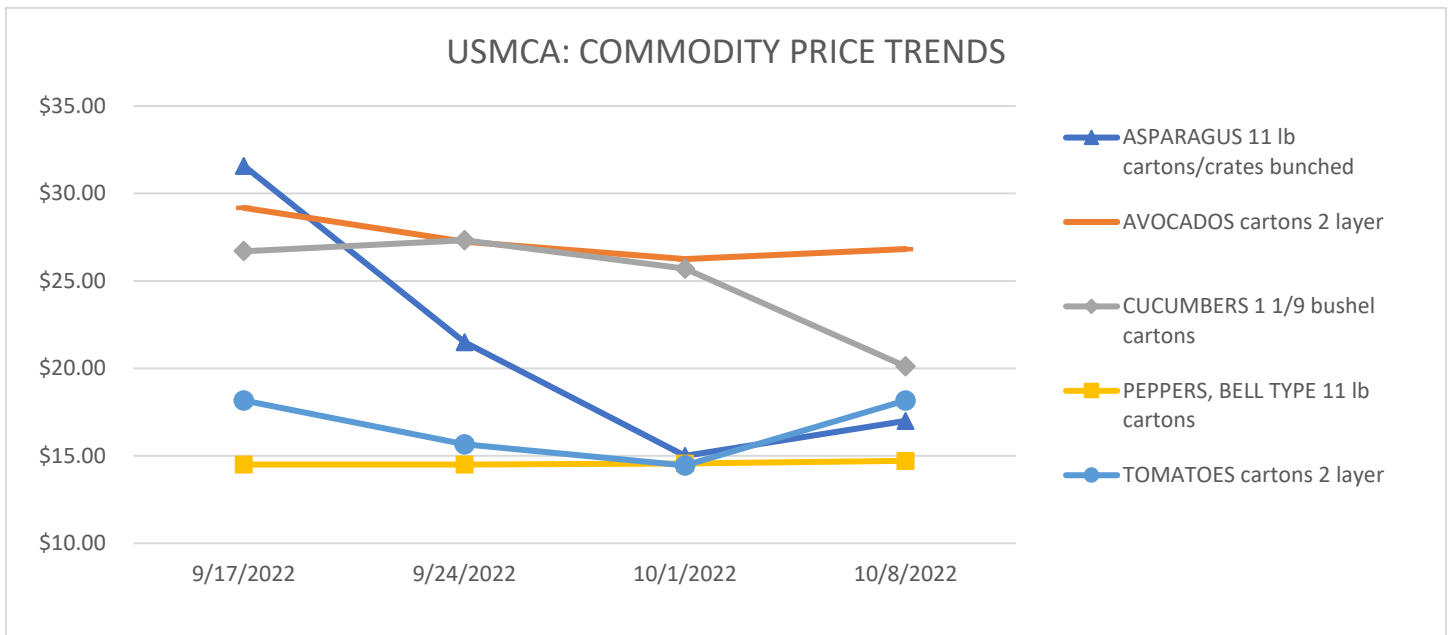
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active with prices slightly higher. Later in the week, demand got active and prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large mostly 17.95-20.95 and large mostly 18.45-18.95. Quality is generally good. Western North Carolina green bell pepper movement is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies insufficient to establish a market. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week. Movement of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California harvest is expected to begin the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Quality is expected to be generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of South Georgia 2022 CROP shipments is expected to increase seasonally. Trading fairly active. Prices for a first report. 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates green jumbo mostly 20.35-20.85, extra-large 18.35-18.85 and large 16.35-16.85. Prices are expected to go up higher. Quality generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active with prices higher. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 20.95-22.95 and 5x5s mostly 19.95-20.95. Quality generally good. Central District California movement of tomatoes is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading active. Prices much higher. Quality is generally good. Movement of tomatoes out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to decrease as most growers are expected to finish the season within 7-10 days. Trading very active with higher prices. Later in the week, demand remained very active with steady prices. Quality is being reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease as most growers are expected to finish the season within 7-10 days. Trading very active with higher prices. Later in the week, demand remained very active with higher prices. Harvest curtailed on Thursday due to heavy rain. Quality generally unchanged. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading early fairly active, late active. Prices much higher. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 22.95-24.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 20.95-22.95. Supplies light. Quality variable. Tomato movement out of Florida West District is expected to increase as more shippers begin the season. Trading very active. Prices 5x6-6x6 and 6x7 size 25.00-26.95. Later in the week, demand remained very good, due to light supplies. Quality generally good. Extra services included. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies insufficient to establish a market. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week.

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

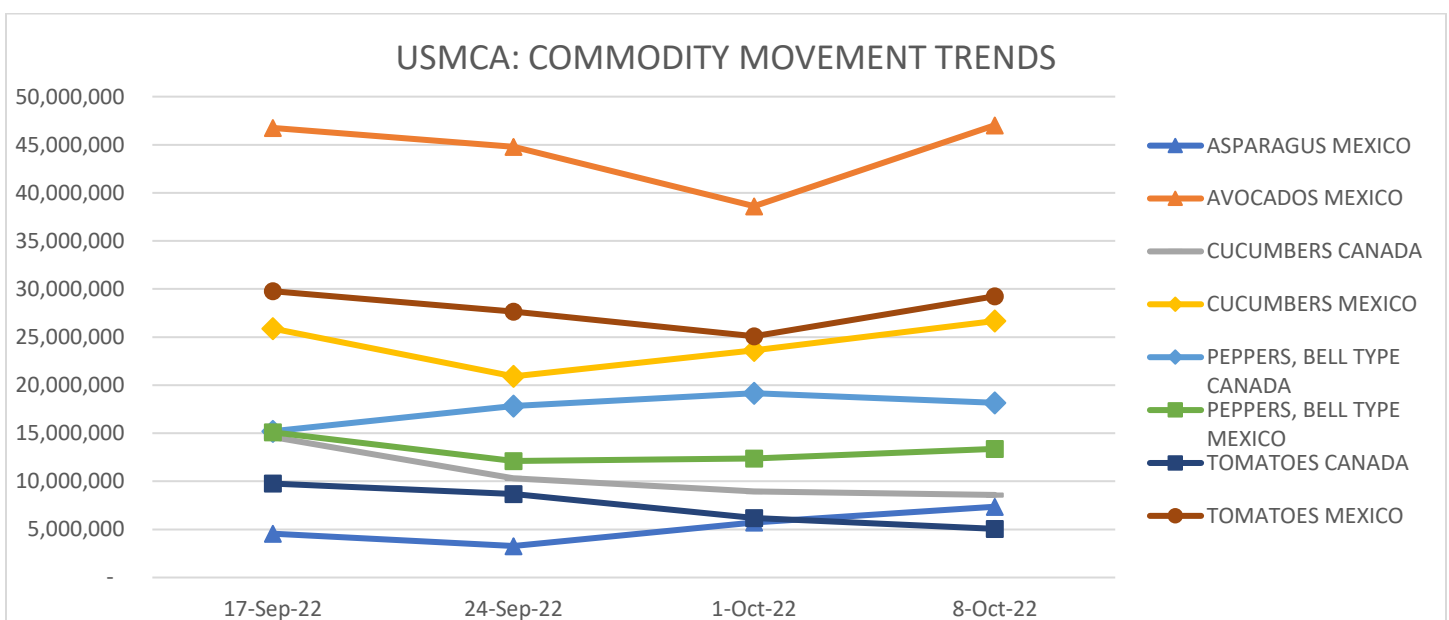
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	9/17/2022	9/24/2022	10/1/2022	10/8/2022
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 31.58	\$ 21.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 17.00
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 29.18	\$ 27.25	\$ 26.25	\$ 26.82
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 26.70	\$ 27.33	\$ 25.70	\$ 20.12
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.57	\$ 14.71
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 18.16	\$ 15.66	\$ 14.45	\$ 18.16

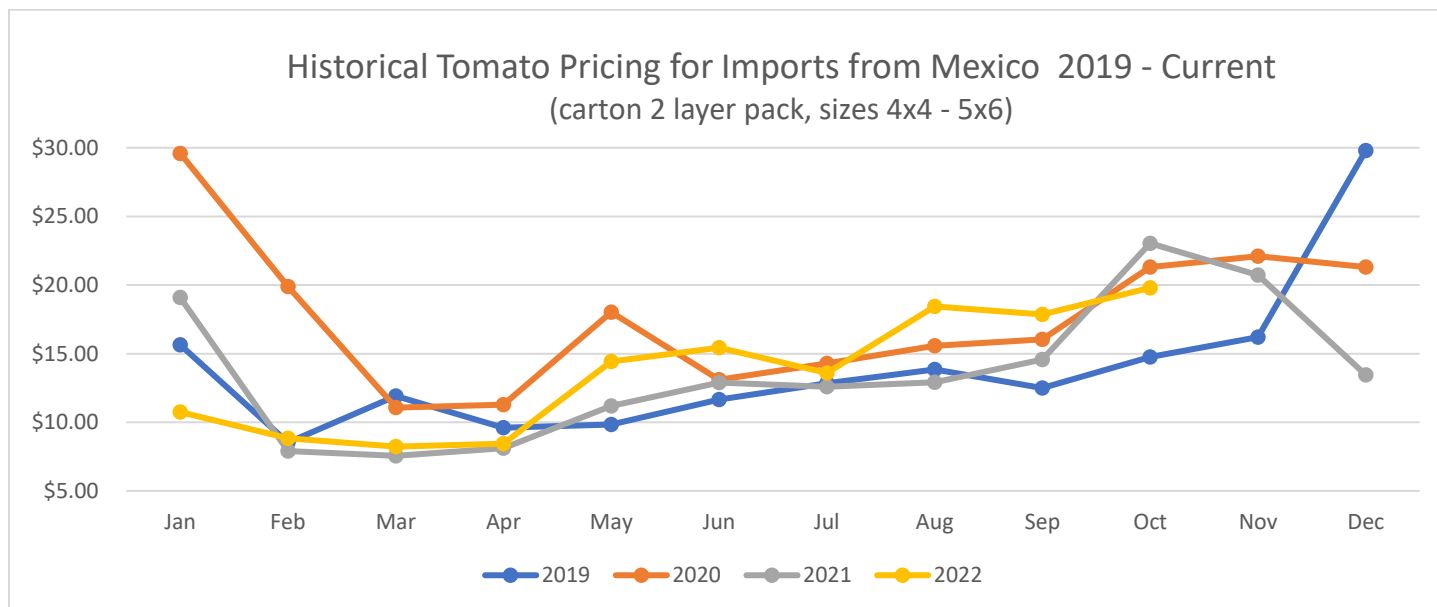


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	17-Sep-22	24-Sep-22	1-Oct-22	8-Oct-22
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	4,549,141	3,275,803	5,708,420	7,359,952
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	46,734,536	44,774,088	38,611,832	47,027,288
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	14,602,747	10,297,853	8,964,684	8,587,225
	MEXICO	25,877,025	20,915,202	23,627,351	26,672,959
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	15,209,287	17,843,415	19,161,202	18,156,482
	MEXICO	15,098,449	12,115,306	12,391,494	13,380,876
TOMATOES	CANADA	9,767,981	8,681,327	6,195,174	5,058,042
	MEXICO	29,770,496	27,650,003	25,086,242	29,252,519



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