



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 16 - 22, 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.

A possible national railroad strike is back in the headlines with a 12:01 a.m. Friday deadline to agree on new tentative work terms. Major freight railroad operators have already warned that they are preparing for a possible strike and halting some services, creating network slowdowns. In the meantime, Labor Secretary Marty Walsh is continuing to lead discussions between railroads and union representatives. According to the Association of American Railroads, the railroad strike could cost the U.S. economy an estimated 2 billion dollars a day. This looming strike could disrupt the U.S. supply chain and drive transportation costs even higher. The responsibility would fall on the trucking industry, and this industry is already struggling to attract and retain drivers. The association estimated that it would take around 467,000 long-haul trucks, daily, to haul what the railroads do. "There simply aren't enough trucks or truck drivers to handle that kind of volume". Shipments of coal, chemicals, grain, auto parts and automobiles rely heavily on rail shipments. If the strike does happen, the big question will be for how long?

Asparagus crossings from Mexico through Arizona, California and Texas 2022 CROP are expected to increase. Trading active. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched spot market sales insufficient supplies to quote. F.O.B. pricing is expected to resume on or around October 20th or later. Prices from last week large mostly 19.75-20.75 and standard 18.75-19.75. Peruvian imports of asparagus through South Florida ports of entry 2022 CROP are expected to remain about the same this week but increase slightly next week. Trading jumbo and extra-large active, others fairly active. Prices small slightly higher, others higher. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo mostly 25.95-26.75, extra-large mostly 22.75-24.75 and large mostly 21.95-23.75. Supplies jumbo and extra-large light, others fairly light. Quality and condition variable but generally good. Asparagus market remains good in demand due to shorter than expected supplies from Mexico.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow. Prices 60s and 70s lower, others generally unchanged. 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 crossings through Otay Mesa, California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading active. Prices medium much higher, others higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 24.95-26.95 and cartons 36s mostly 12.95-14.95. Quality variable. Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading early moderate, late fairly active. Prices large higher, others generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 22.95-24.95, large mostly 20.95-22.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is variable. Movement of cucumber in Central and South Florida are expected to increase slowly. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report at the end of October. Hurricane Ian destroyed many cucumbers that were ready for harvest. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading early moderate, late active. Prices medium slightly higher, others much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 24.95, large mostly 26.95-28.95 and

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cartons 36s mostly 12.95-14.95. Quality variable. Cucumber movement out of South Georgia is expected to decrease as cooler temperatures are affecting volume this period. Trading is fairly active with prices higher. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 28.35-30.85 and cartons 24s 14.35-18.85. Medium cucumbers are holding steady at 28.95. Quality generally good.

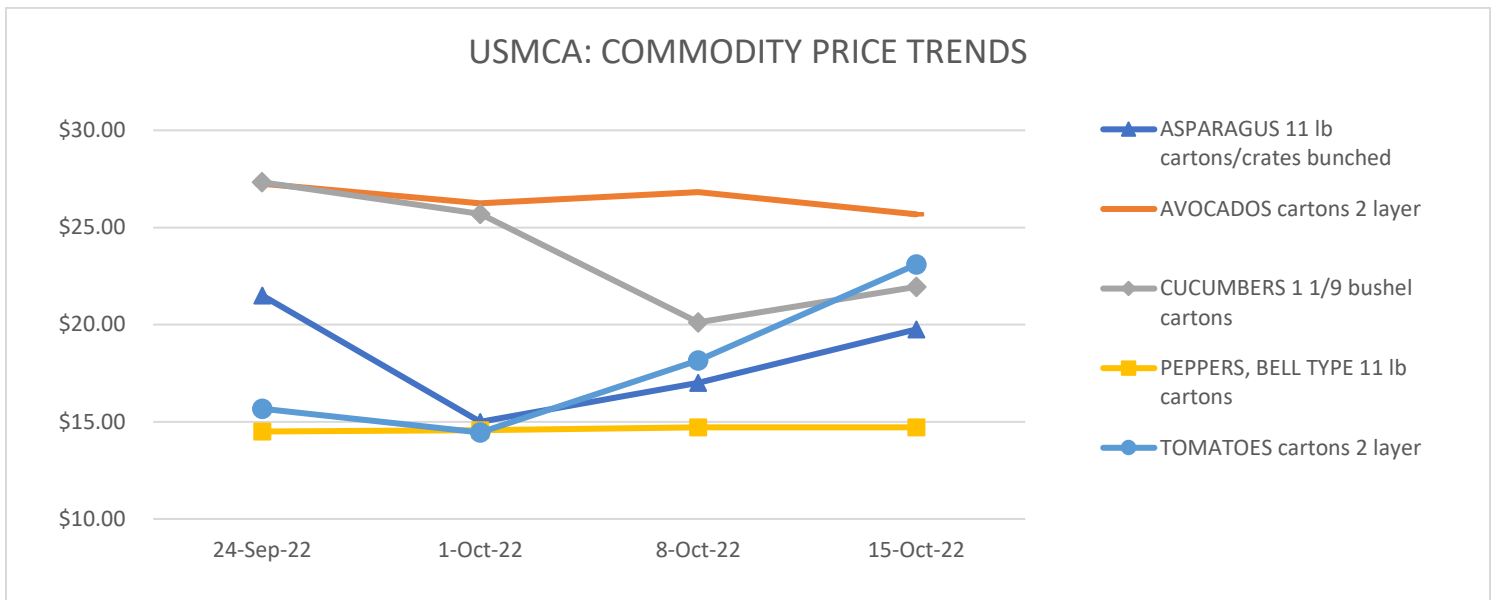
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected to remain about the same. Trading early fairly active, late active. Prices much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large mostly 20.95-23.95 and large mostly 22.45-22.95. Quality is generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California harvest is expected to begin the week of October 16th. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 23rd. Quality is expected to be generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of South Georgia 2022 CROP shipments is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active with prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates green jumbo mostly 22.35-22.85, extra-large 20.35-20.85 and large 18.35-18.85. Cooler temperatures affecting volume this week. Prices remain steady throughout the week. Quality generally good. Green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida movement are expected to begin with light shipments within 10-14 days. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for first F.O.B. report within 14-17 days. A first trends report was issued this week.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active with prices higher. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 24.95-26.95 and 5x5s mostly 22.95-24.95. Quality generally good. Central District California movement of tomatoes is expected to decrease sharply. Trading early active, late fairly active. Prices generally unchanged. Available supplies very light and in few hands. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is being reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to remain about the same as some growers finish for the season. Trading is very active. Prices generally unchanged. Prices are expected to remain higher than usual. Cold weather is expected for the next few days which will end the harvest season. Quality is being reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease as most growers have finished for the season. Trading very active with prices generally unchanged. Prices are expected to remain higher than usual. Cold weather is expected for the next few days which will end the harvest season. Quality generally unchanged. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading active. Prices 4x4-4x5s slightly higher, others higher. Vine ripe, cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 24.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 22.95-24.95. 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 size 25.00-26.95 and 6x7 size mostly 16.00-18.00. Morning harvest curtailed due to cooler weather. Light supplies are expected to continue in Florida for the season through December. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and West Florida is expected to increase as more growers start the season. Light to very light harvest has begun and expected to continue due to Hurricane Ian's crop damage. Most growers are trying to salvage as much as they can. Harvest curtailed due to weather conditions.

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

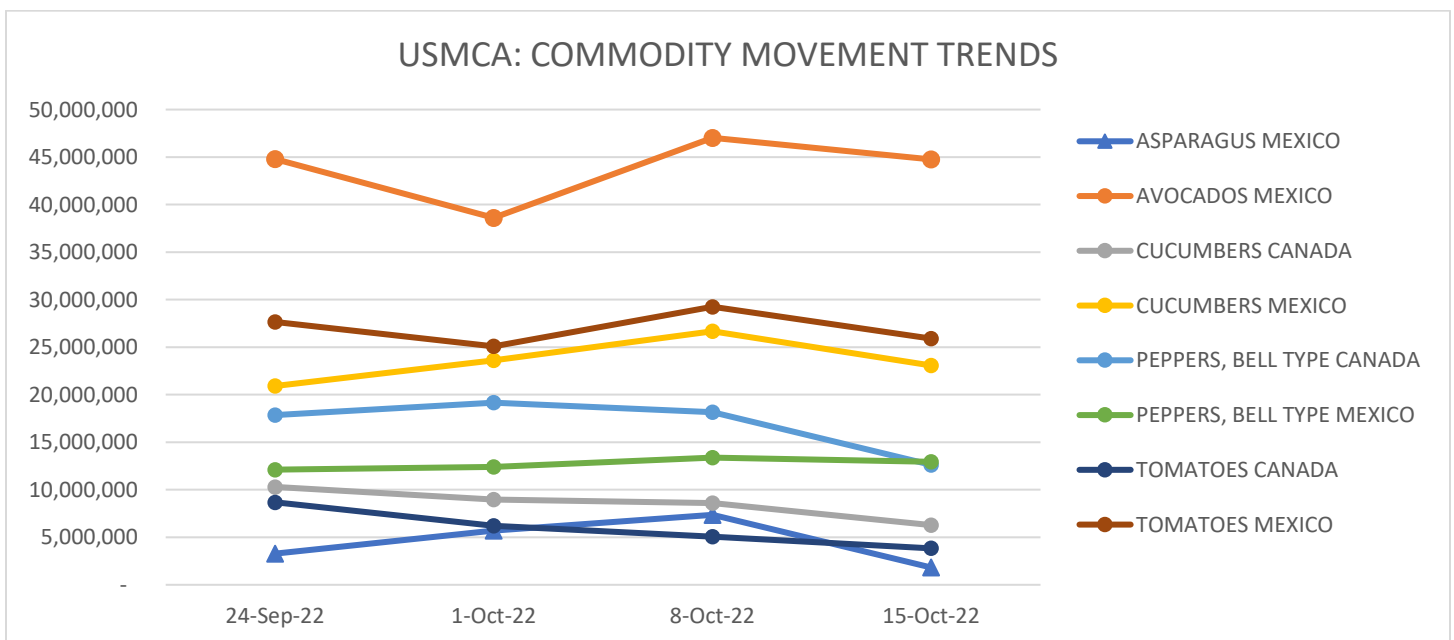
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	24-Sep-22	1-Oct-22	8-Oct-22	15-Oct-22
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 21.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 19.75
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 27.25	\$ 26.25	\$ 26.82	\$ 25.68
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 27.33	\$ 25.70	\$ 20.12	\$ 21.95
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.57	\$ 14.71	\$ 14.71
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 15.66	\$ 14.45	\$ 18.16	\$ 23.09

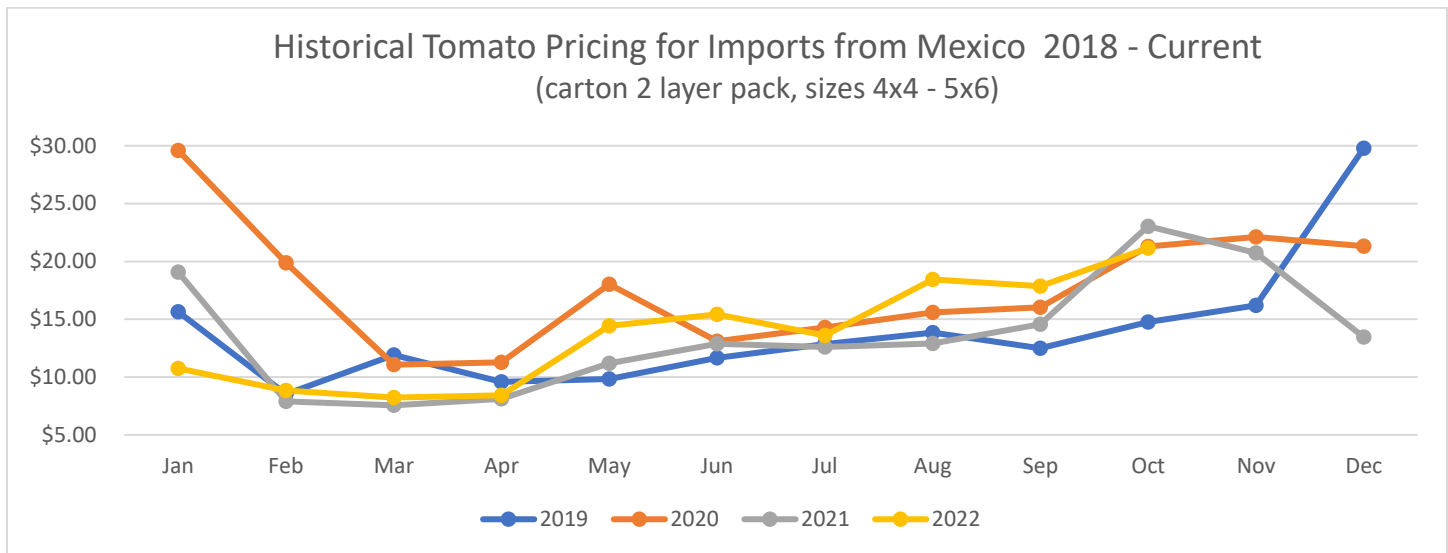


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	24-Sep-22	1-Oct-22	8-Oct-22	15-Oct-22
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	3,275,803	5,708,420	7,359,952	1,819,541
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	44,774,088	38,611,832	47,027,289	44,759,439
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	10,297,853	8,964,684	8,587,225	6,281,436
	MEXICO	20,915,202	23,627,351	26,672,959	23,063,859
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	17,843,415	19,161,202	18,156,482	12,619,982
	MEXICO	12,115,306	12,391,494	13,380,876	12,940,944
TOMATOES	CANADA	8,681,327	6,195,174	5,058,042	3,833,911
	MEXICO	27,650,003	25,086,242	29,252,519	25,915,909



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 alliaceeous 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