



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

Issued Weekly

Friday, April 7, 2023

## **Update for Week of April 2-8, 2023**

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.

Even though consumers are still worried about inflation, the power of produce prevails. On one hand you have shoppers saying that price is important, but when it comes to convenience, they are willing to pay. Saving money is important for consumers but in many cases, convenience usually wins. Big box stores and local grocery stores are making it easier for shoppers to shop for fresh produce without going to the grocery store. With online sales increasing and locally grown produce becoming more available, it is a win-win for both big and small retailers. Personalized service such as delivering your fresh produce to your home, is growing in popularity with Americans as we become busier. More and more grocery stores are offering their customers value-added produce such as pre-cut and washed, as well as packaged salads. Retailers are also taking advantage of technology by promoting their products with eye-catching ads and special promotions like sale of the day or week. In an ever-changing world, the produce industry is evolving and adapting to consumers changing eating needs.

Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading active with prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 34.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 18.00. Many present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality generally good. Movement of blueberries from Central and North Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading very active. Prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large 41.00-42.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids large mostly 23.00. Harvesting is being slowed due to cooler weather in the growing areas. Quality generally good. Blueberries out of South Georgia movement is expected to increase seasonally as the season gets fully underway. Supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued within the period.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 48s and 70s lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-40s mostly 28.25-30.25, 48s mostly 29.25-30.25, 60s mostly 30.25-32.25, 70s mostly 27.25-28.25 and 84s mostly 20.25. Extra services included. Avocado movement out of South District California are light as the season gets fully underway. Prices are unofficial from industry sources. Prices cartons 2-layer Hass 60s 35.25-36.75 and 84s mostly 27.25-30.75. The first F.O.B. report is expected the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early slow, late moderate. Prices medium higher, large slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 9.95-11.95, large mostly

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7.95-8.95, fair quality mostly 8.95 and ordinary quality mostly 6.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early slow, late moderate. Prices medium higher, 36s slightly higher, large lower and 24s slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 9.95-10.95, large mostly 5.95-6.95, fair quality mostly 8.00-8.95. Cartons 24s 3.95-4.95 and 36s 5.95-6.95. Quality variable. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected about the same. Trading active. Prices higher. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 14.35 and fair quality mostly 8.35. Cartons 24s mostly 6.35. Demand remains good, prices on medium are higher and about steady on all others. Includes palletizing and pre-cooling. Quality generally good.

Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 14.95-16.95, extra-large mostly 14.95, large mostly 12.95-14.95, medium mostly 8.95-10.95 and irregular size fair quality 9.95-10.95. Quality generally good.

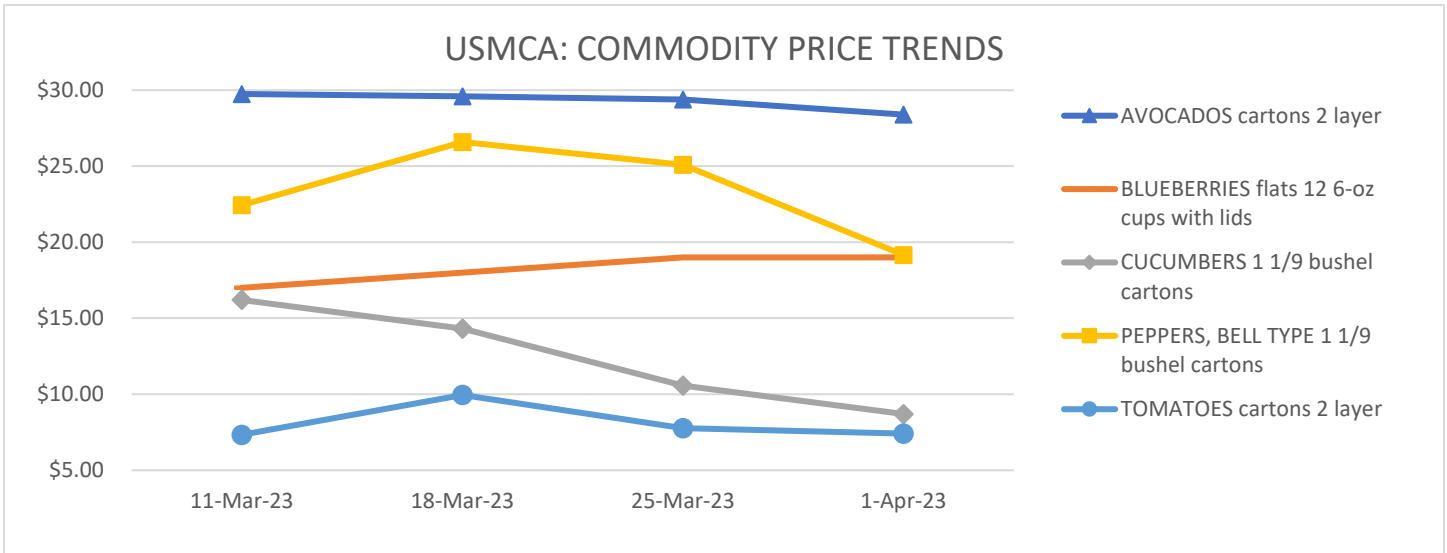
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 17.95-19.95, large mostly 12.95-14.95 and medium mostly 9.95-10.95. Quality variable. Green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida movement expected to remain about the same. Trading jumbo fairly active, others fairly active at slightly lower prices. Prices jumbo generally unchanged, others slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 16.35, large mostly 14.35 and irregular size fair quality mostly 12.35-14.35. Demand remains fairly good, and prices were slightly higher early in the week, but about steady later in the week. Quality generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement expected to begin the week of April 16<sup>th</sup> as harvest gets underway. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Quality is expected to be generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early fairly slow. Prices generally unchanged. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4-5x6s mostly 7.40 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-5x6 sizes mostly 8.30. Quality generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early slow, late moderate. Prices slightly lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4s mostly 7.37, 4x5s mostly 7.39, 5x5s mostly 7.13 and 5x6s mostly 6.64. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to decrease. Trading slow with prices lower. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85% U.S. number one or better 5x6-6x6 sizes mostly 6.95-7.95 and 6x7 size mostly 5.95-7.95. Supplies are increasing due to warmer weather in the growing areas. As more growers get fully underway, this trend is expected to continue. Demand remains slow and prices are lower. Extra services include. Quality generally good.

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

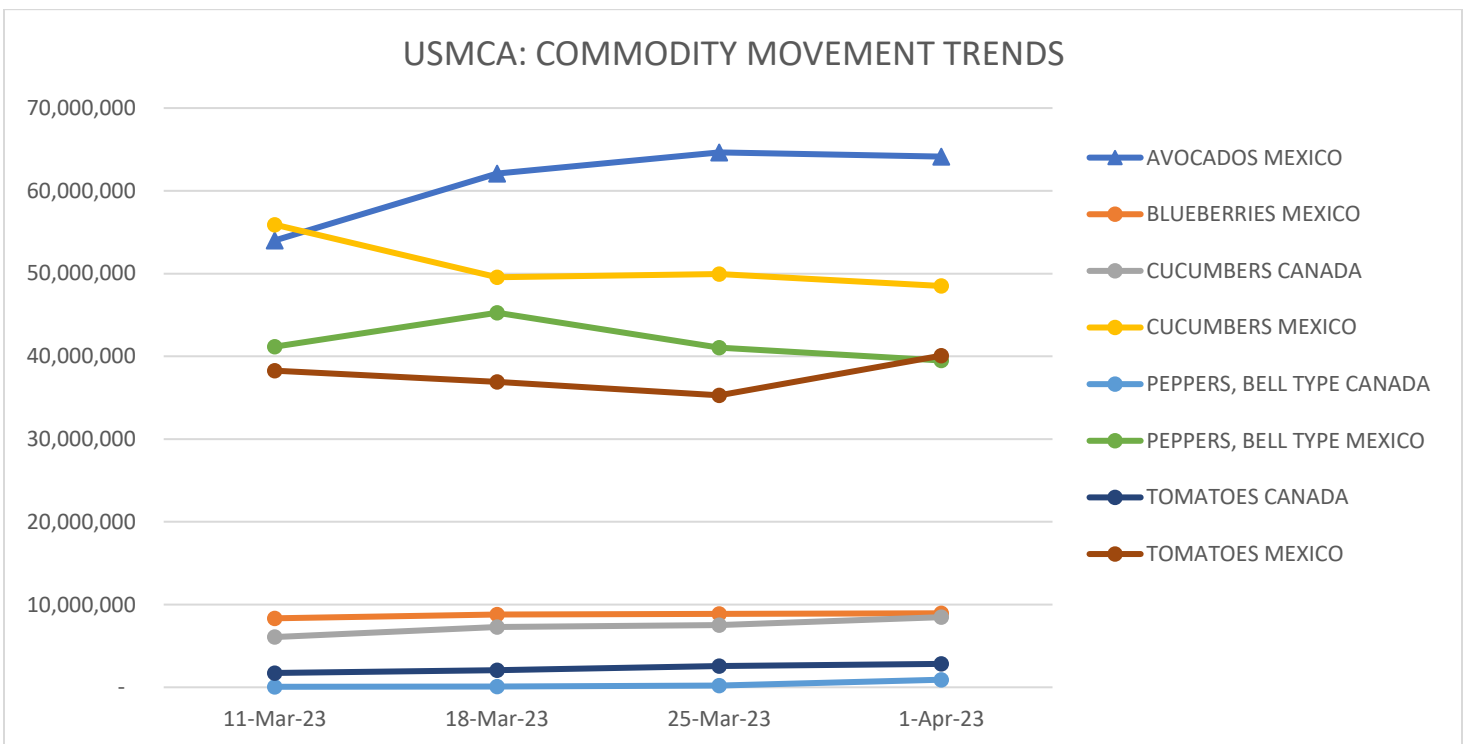
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	11-Mar-23	18-Mar-23	25-Mar-23	1-Apr-23
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 29.75	\$ 29.61	\$ 29.39	\$ 28.39
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 17.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.20	\$ 14.33	\$ 10.58	\$ 8.70
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 22.45	\$ 26.59	\$ 25.09	\$ 19.16
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.34	\$ 9.95	\$ 7.76	\$ 7.41

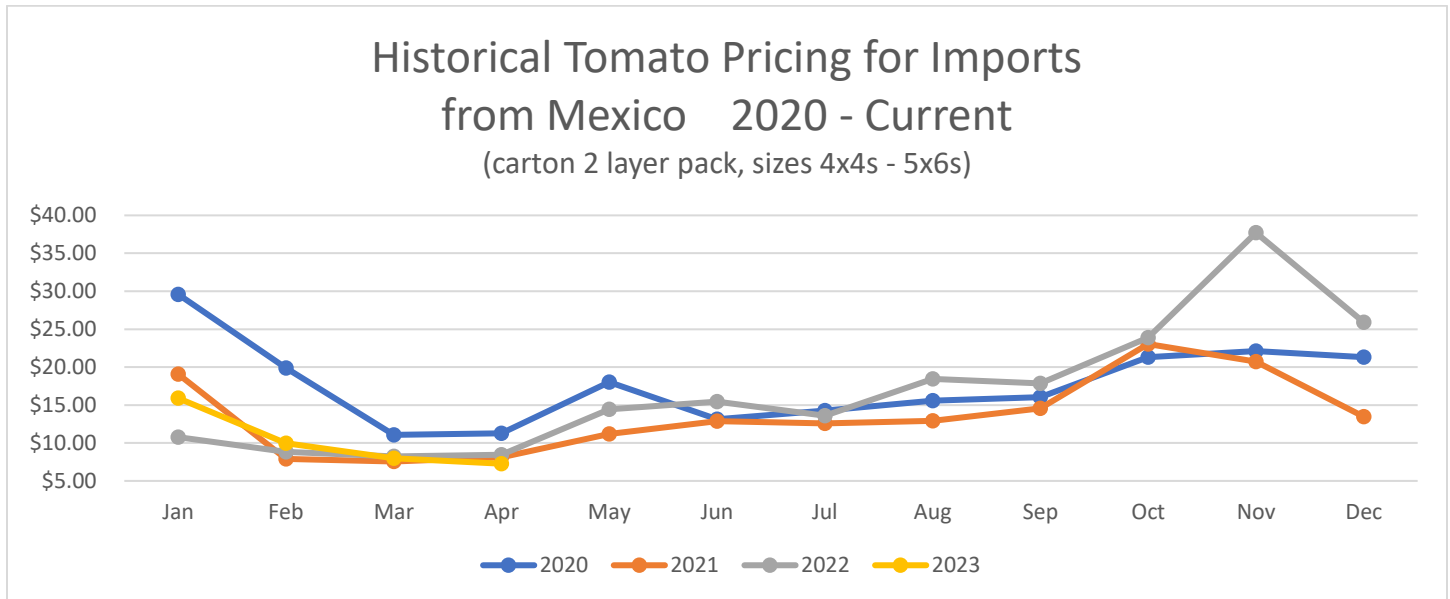


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	11-Mar-23	18-Mar-23	25-Mar-23	1-Apr-23
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	54,003,471	62,089,712	64,642,935	64,121,883
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	8,338,446	8,804,840	8,883,171	8,944,400
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	6,072,919	7,281,921	7,518,585	8,477,327
	MEXICO	55,912,203	49,569,550	49,941,938	48,499,082
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	62,658	112,407	220,464	918,698
	MEXICO	41,149,127	45,268,764	41,034,023	39,497,410
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,734,584	2,082,303	2,552,321	2,829,652
	MEXICO	38,256,770	36,929,337	35,285,473	40,081,277



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