



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 April 9-15, 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.

As winter weather in North America and the constant rains in California come to an end, the effects are still being felt around the produce markets. Cooler weather helped the desert deal continue for a couple of more weeks longer beyond its traditional timetable. On the other hand, cooler weather combined with a rainy winter in California, delayed crops across the growing regions in the Golden State. This will inevitably create gaps across the vegetable markets in the coming weeks. This usually causes supplies shortages, sizing issues, low yields and even light weight product. According to Denny Donovan, a sales manager in the produce industry from Santa Maria, California, noted that on Monday, April 10th, a 12-size cauliflower on his sales sheet listed for around \$70 per carton, "two weeks ago, you couldn't give it away, now it is hard to find. This is going to make for an interesting produce season. In the past, you could look ahead two, three or even four weeks and make a pretty good guess of what was coming. Not this year, I have no idea, this is a new experience for most people in the produce industry".

Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading active with prices slightly higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 34.00-36.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 18.00-20.00. 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 fairly active at lower prices. Prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 35.00-38.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids large mostly 18.00. Some harvest delayed or curtailed due to rain and cooler temperatures. Quality generally good. Blueberry movement out of South Georgia 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. Some harvest delayed or curtailed due to rain and cooler temperatures. Blueberry movement out of South and Central District California is expected to begin harvest by April 28th. Supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of May 7th. Quality expected to be variable.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to decrease slightly. Trading 60-70s fairly active, others moderate. Prices 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 is expected to increase seasonally. Trading is moderate. Prices 70-84s lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-48s mostly 36.25-38.25, 60s 35.25-36.75, 70s 30.25-32.25 and 84s mostly 22.25-24.75.

For more information on:

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[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 9.95-11.95, large mostly 7.95-8.95, fair quality mostly 8.95 and ordinary quality mostly 6.95. Supplies fairly light. 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 moderate, late fairly active. Prices much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 14.95, large mostly 10.95, fair quality mostly 12.95. Cartons 24s 5.95-8.95 and 36s 7.95-9.95. Demand remains fairly good with about steady pricing. Quality variable. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading medium fairly active, others moderate. Prices medium slightly higher, others generally unchanged. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 14.35-16.35 and fair quality mostly 8.35. Cartons 24s mostly 6.35. Demand is mostly moderate with medium and fair quality slightly higher, and cartons 24s prices are lower. Includes palletizing and pre-cooling. Quality generally good.

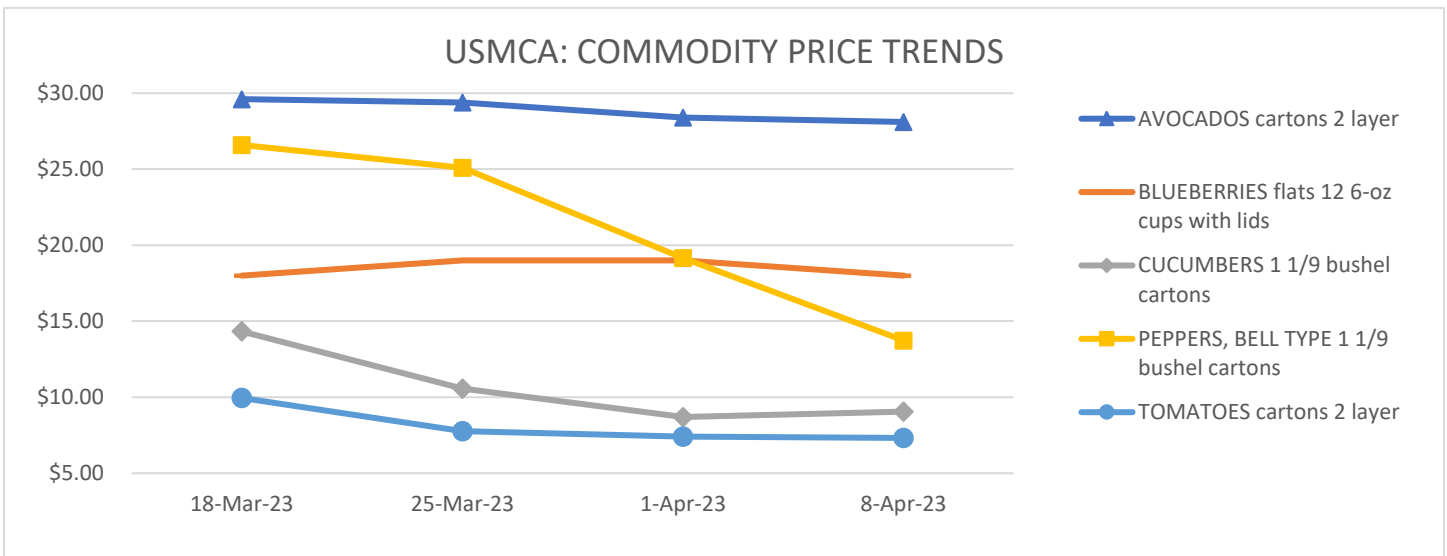
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices jumbo and extra-large slightly lower, large and medium much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 14.95, large mostly 10.95, medium mostly 6.95-8.95 and irregular size fair quality 8.95-9.95. Demand was fairly good later in the week, even though available supplies were light. 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 fairly active. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 16.35, large mostly 14.35 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 12.35. Overall demand remains fairly good with prices slightly higher on all sizes. Some harvest curtailed due to rain and wet fields. Quality generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement expected to begin the week of April 16th when harvest gets underway. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of April 23rd. Quality is expected to be generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early fairly slow, late slow. Prices generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 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 moderate. Prices slightly higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4s mostly 7.37-7.50, 4x5s mostly 7.39-7.50, 5x5s mostly 7.13-7.50 and 5x6s mostly 6.64-6.95. Market prices have plummeted to the minimum threshold. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading slow. Prices 6x7 size lower, others generally unchanged. 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 5.95-6.95. Demand remains moderate and prices are about steady. Prices were slightly higher by the end of the week. Some harvest curtailed due to rain and wet fields. Some growers have started harvest in Central Florida. Extra services include. Quality generally good.

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

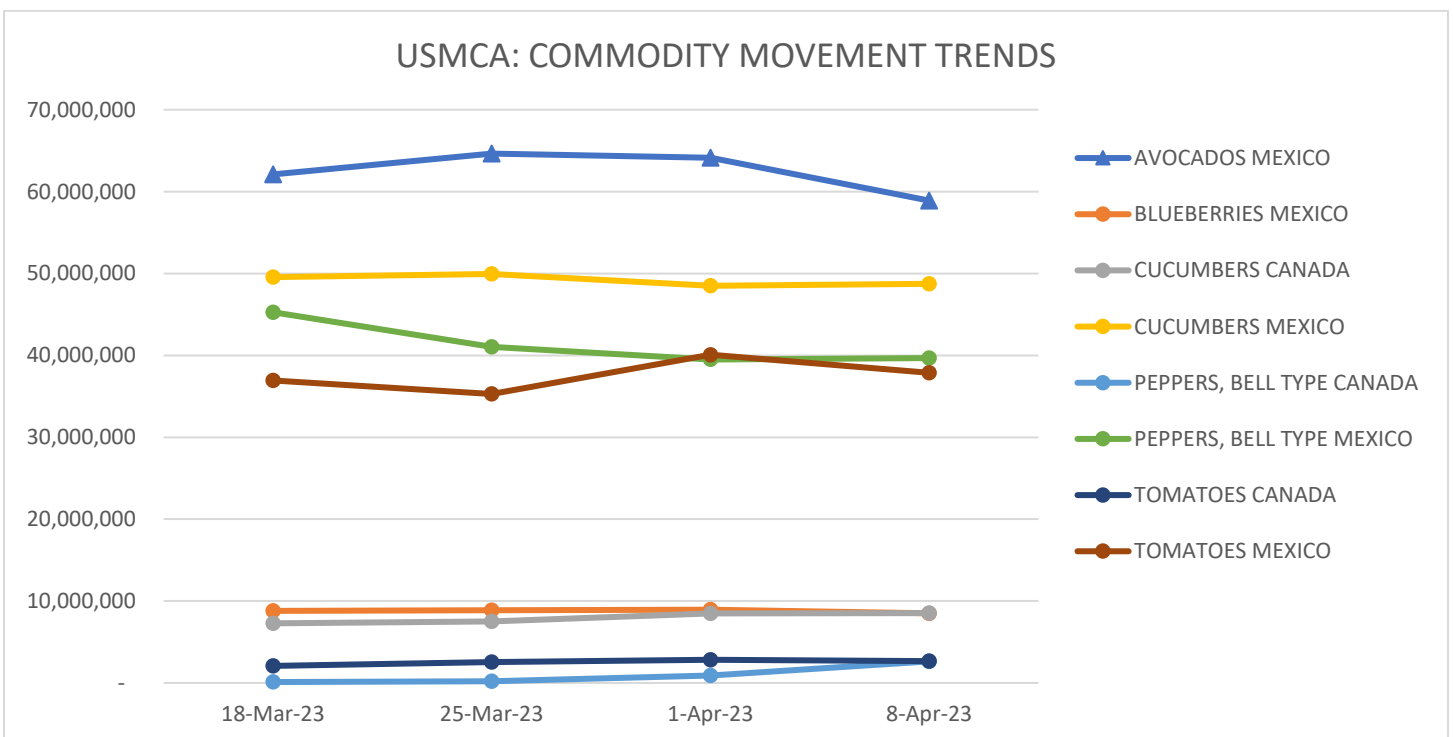
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	18-Mar-23	25-Mar-23	1-Apr-23	8-Apr-23
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 29.61	\$ 29.39	\$ 28.39	\$ 28.11
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 18.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 14.33	\$ 10.58	\$ 8.70	\$ 9.05
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 26.59	\$ 25.09	\$ 19.16	\$ 13.74
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 9.95	\$ 7.76	\$ 7.41	\$ 7.32

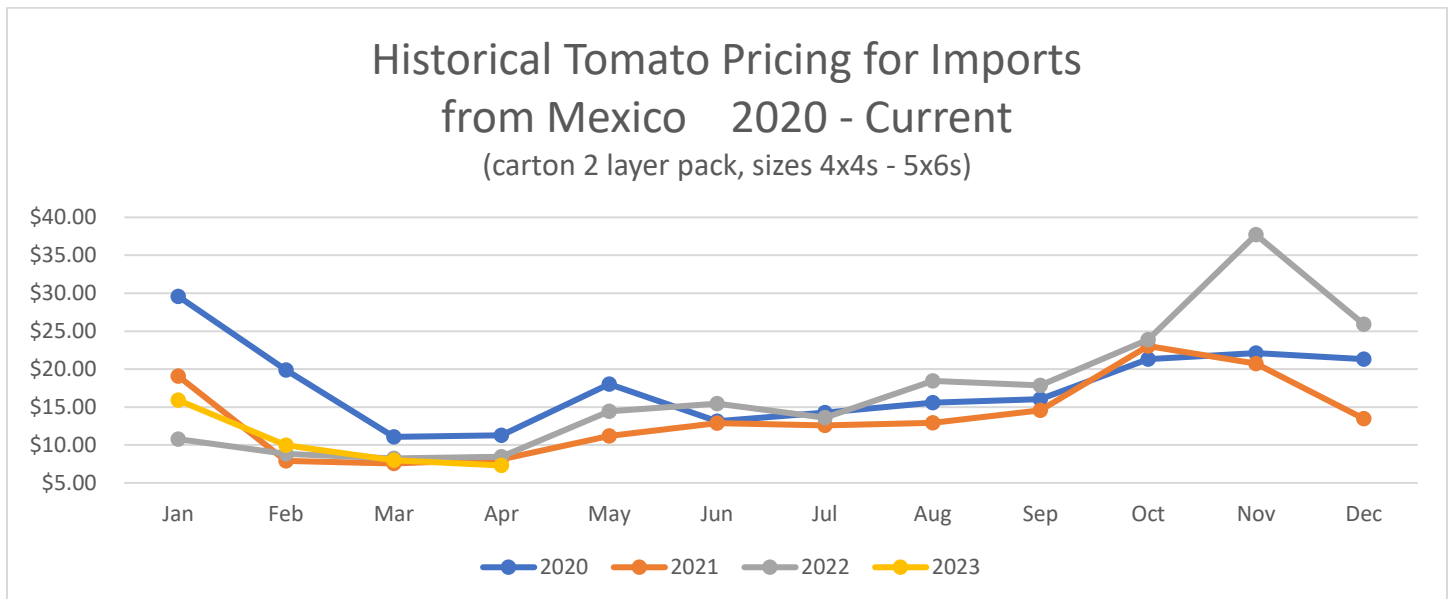


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	18-Mar-23	25-Mar-23	1-Apr-23	8-Apr-23
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	62,089,712	64,642,935	64,121,883	58,904,806
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	8,804,840	8,883,171	8,944,400	8,505,592
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	7,281,921	7,518,585	8,477,327	8,528,998
	MEXICO	49,569,550	49,941,938	48,499,082	48,746,286
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	112,407	220,464	918,698	2,631,790
	MEXICO	45,268,764	41,034,023	39,497,410	39,657,824
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,082,303	2,552,321	2,829,652	2,665,331
	MEXICO	36,929,337	35,285,473	40,081,277	37,876,961



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