



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 16-22, 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.

The Cinco de Mayo celebration is becoming an incredible marketing opportunity for fresh produce sellers and growers. This annual tradition is growing in popularity in the United States, and it is the perfect time to boost sales and to promote fresh fruits and vegetables. Cinco de Mayo has become one of the most important dates on the calendar for marketing fresh produce in the U.S. The produce trade and retailers use this date to push sales of these commodities. Consumers will purchase produce products for their dishes, such as salsa, pico de gallo, tomato, chile, bell pepper, onion and cilantro, among others. Also, lettuce and limes are essential in making good, tasty burritos and tacos in preparation for high consumer demand. Even though avocados are still the main attraction, retailers place these products near avocados, so that consumers do not forget them and can easily buy them. The commercialization and growing popularity of this holiday is creating an attractive opportunity for marketing fresh produce. Cinco de Mayo is a great opportunity to sell more produce, but it also requires a well-thought-out strategy.

Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to decrease slightly. Trading early is active, late moderate. Prices lower. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 28.00-30.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 16.00-18.00. Production in Mexico continues to move further North. Prices are expected to fall, as production in Florida and California is expected to increase seasonally. Quality variable. Movement of blueberries from Central and North Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active. Prices lower. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 28.00-34.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids large 17.00-18.00. Quality generally good. Blueberries out of South Georgia movement is expected to increase as the season gets fully underway. Trading fairly active. Prices flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 24.00-26.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids 16.00-20.00. Quality generally good. Blueberries out of South and Central District California movement is expected to increase seasonally from coastal areas. Harvest in the San Joaquin Valley is expected to begin 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 by May 12th. Quality expected to be variable.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to decrease slightly. Trading 60s 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 moderate. Prices 60s generally unchanged, others higher. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-48s mostly 37.25-39.25, 60s 35.25-36.75, 70s 31.25-32.25 and 84s mostly 23.25-25.75.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly active. Prices much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 14.95, large mostly 14.95-15.95, fair quality mostly 10.95-11.95 and

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ordinary quality mostly 7.95-8.95. 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 fairly active, late moderate. Prices medium generally unchanged, large higher, others lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 14.95, large mostly 12.95, fair quality mostly 10.95-12.95. 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 fairly active at slightly lower prices. Prices slightly lower. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 14.35 and fair quality mostly 7.35-8.35. Cartons 24s mostly 5.00-5.35. Demand remains fairly active, and prices were higher later in the week. Includes palletizing and pre-cooling. Quality generally good.

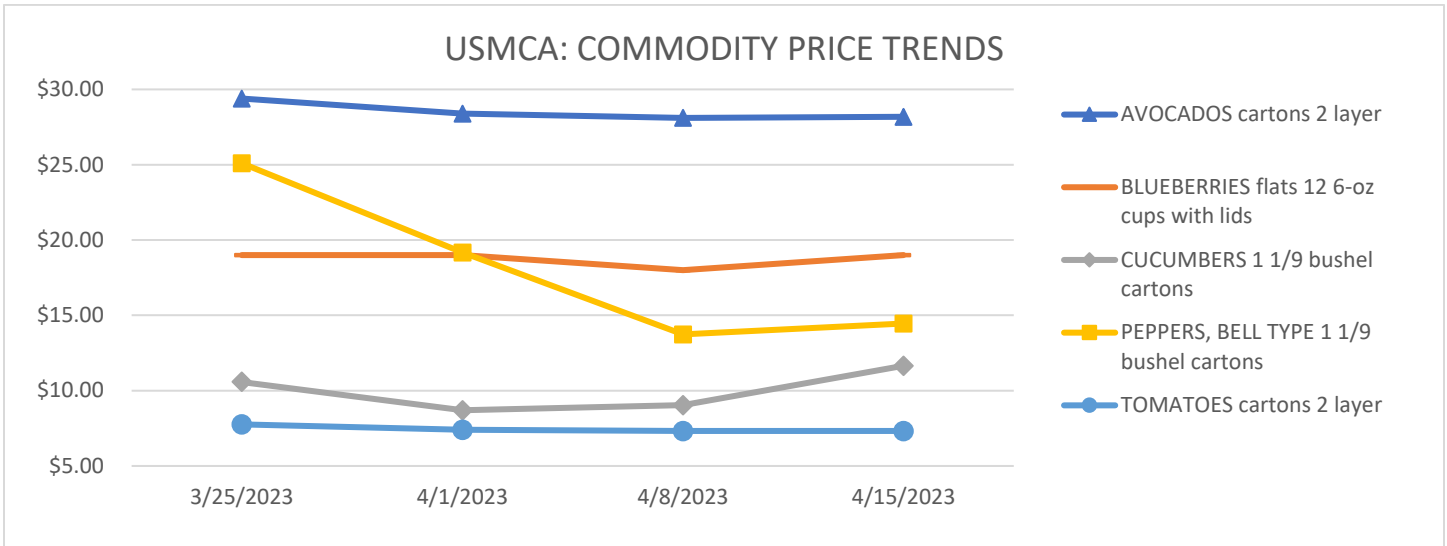
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 18.95, large 14.95-16.95, medium 10.95-12.95 and irregular size fair quality 8.95-12.95. Quality generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active. Prices extra-large and large much higher, medium generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 22.95-24.95, large mostly 18.95-19.95 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 higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 18.35, large mostly 16.35 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 14.35. Supplies are fairly light to light. Demand remains fairly active, and prices were slightly higher during the week. 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 moderate. Prices 4x4-4x5s higher, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 7.95-8.95, 5x5-5x6s 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 7.37-7.95, 4x5s mostly 7.39-7.95, 5x5s mostly 7.13-7.95 and 5x6s mostly 6.64-7.10. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Trading moderate. Prices slightly higher. Prices reported are for April 14, 2023. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85% U.S. number one or better 5x6-6x7 sizes mostly 7.95. Shippers are expecting for prices to remain steady the rest of the week. Demand remains moderate, but volume is increasing in Central Florida. Lighter volumes will continue in South Florida for the duration of the season. Early in the week harvest was curtailed due to rain and wet fields. Extra services included. Quality generally good.

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

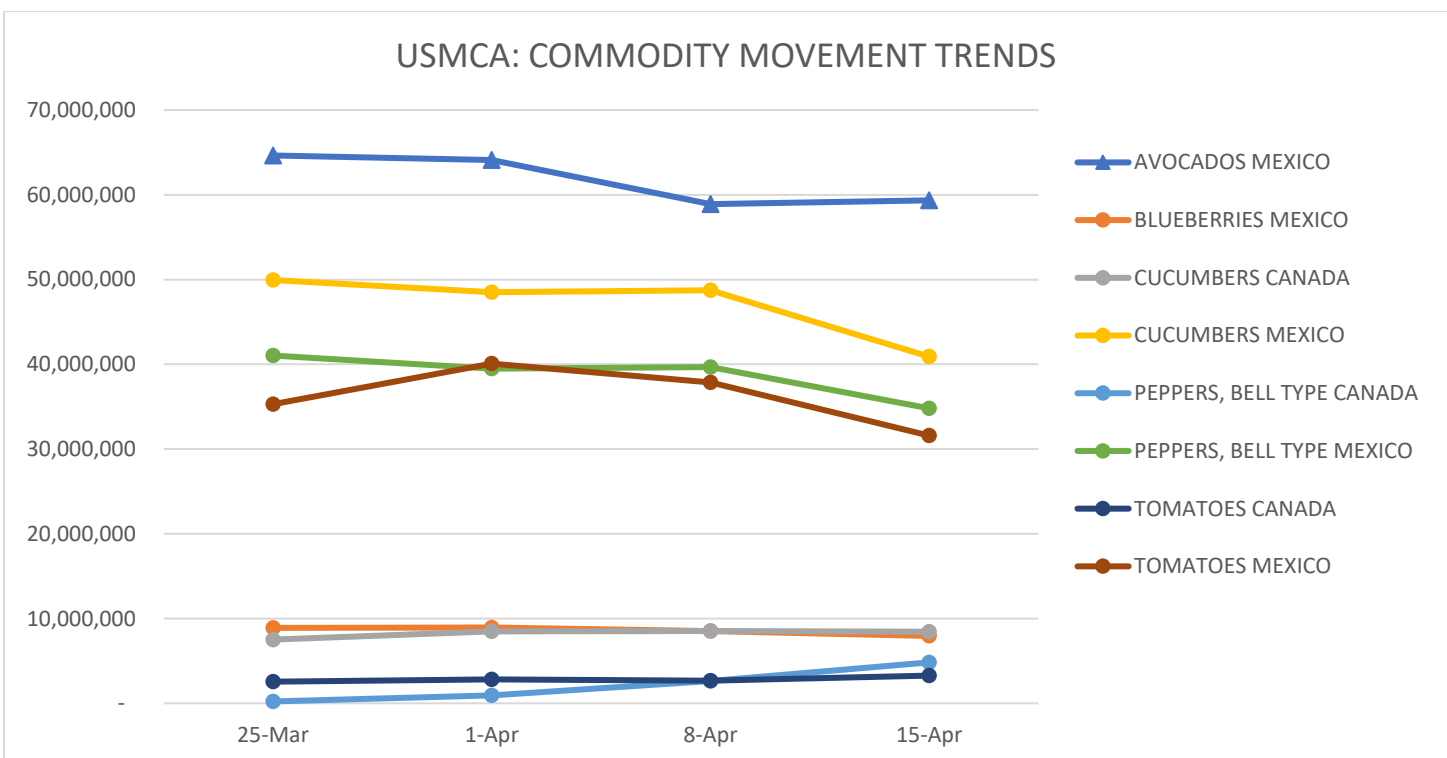
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	3/25/2023	4/1/2023	4/8/2023	4/15/2023
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 29.39	\$ 28.39	\$ 28.11	\$ 28.18
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 10.58	\$ 8.70	\$ 9.05	\$ 11.65
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 25.09	\$ 19.16	\$ 13.74	\$ 14.45
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.76	\$ 7.41	\$ 7.32	\$ 7.32

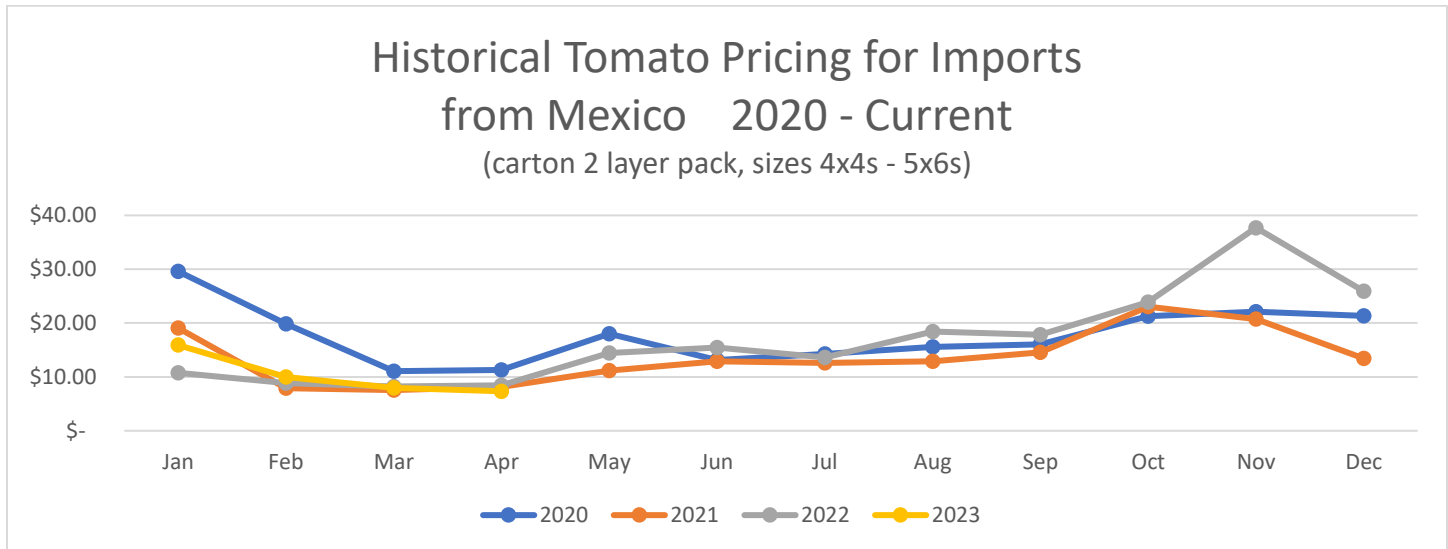


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	25-Mar	1-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	64,642,935	64,121,883	58,904,806	59,338,734
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	8,883,171	8,944,400	8,505,592	7,947,087
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	7,518,585	8,477,327	8,528,998	8,455,754
	MEXICO	49,941,938	48,499,082	48,746,286	40,904,141
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	220,464	918,698	2,631,790	4,829,136
	MEXICO	41,034,023	39,497,410	39,657,824	34,805,305
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,552,321	2,829,652	2,665,331	3,267,828
	MEXICO	35,285,473	40,081,277	37,876,961	31,592,292



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