



# 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 23-29, 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.

May will be here soon, and for the trucking industry that means the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's annual International Roadcheck, scheduled for May 16-18 this year. International Roadcheck is the largest targeted enforcement program on commercial motor vehicles in the world, with nearly 15 trucks and motorcoaches inspected, on average, every minute across North America during a 72-hour period. With the bulk of fresh fruit and vegetable crossings between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada being transported by truck, safety is paramount in importance, and drivers will want to make sure their equipment is in good shape to pass these inspections and avoid any delays.

Movement of blueberries out of South Georgia is expected to increase as the season is now fully underway. Trading was moderate at lower prices. Prices flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 20.00-25.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids 14.00-18.00. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to remain about the same. Early trading was active, becoming fairly slow later. Prices were lower as markets continue to weaken in part due to increasing competition from Georgia. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 24.00-26.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 14.00-16.00. Quality is reported as variable. Movement of blueberries from Central and North Florida is expected to decrease as the season is now past peak. Trading fairly slow at lower prices. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 24.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids large 14.00-15.00. Quality is reported as mostly good. Blueberry movement out of South and Central District California is expected to increase seasonally as harvest has begun from the southern San Joaquin Valley. Harvest further north in the Central Valley is expected to begin closer to mid-May. Current 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 12<sup>th</sup>. Quality so far is reported as variable.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected remain about the same. Trading was moderate with prices on 48s and 70-84s lower, conventional 60s higher, and others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-48s mostly 28.25-30.25, 60s mostly 31.25-32.25, 70s mostly 26.25-28.25 and 84s mostly 18.25-20.25. Extra services included. Avocado movement out of South District California is expected to increase seasonally. With good supplies out of both growing areas, the pipeline is well stocked ahead of Cinco de Mayo. Trading was moderate at lower prices. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-40s mostly 34.25-36.25, 48s 36.25-38.25, 60s 34.25-36.25, 70s 29.25-30.25 and 84s mostly 20.25-22.25. Shippers from both growing areas report active contract business while the spot market is about average.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Early trading was fairly active and moderate later. Prices lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 10.95-12.95, large mostly 10.95, fair quality mostly 8.95-10.95. Cartons 24s 4.95-6.95 and 36s 6.95-9.95. Quality is reported as variable. Movement of

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cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly active early slowing to moderate later. Prices medium lower, large much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 12.95-13.95, large mostly 10.95-11.95, fair quality mostly 9.95-10.95 and ordinary quality mostly 7.95. Supplies fairly light. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading on waxed medium fairly active at slightly higher prices, others moderate with prices generally unchanged. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 16.35 and fair quality mostly 7.35-8.35. Cartons 24s mostly 5.00-5.35. Demand was moderate to light even as rain or wet fields curtailed some harvest in many areas of the state throughout the week, with more forecast in the coming days. Includes palletizing and pre-cooling. Quality is reported as generally good.

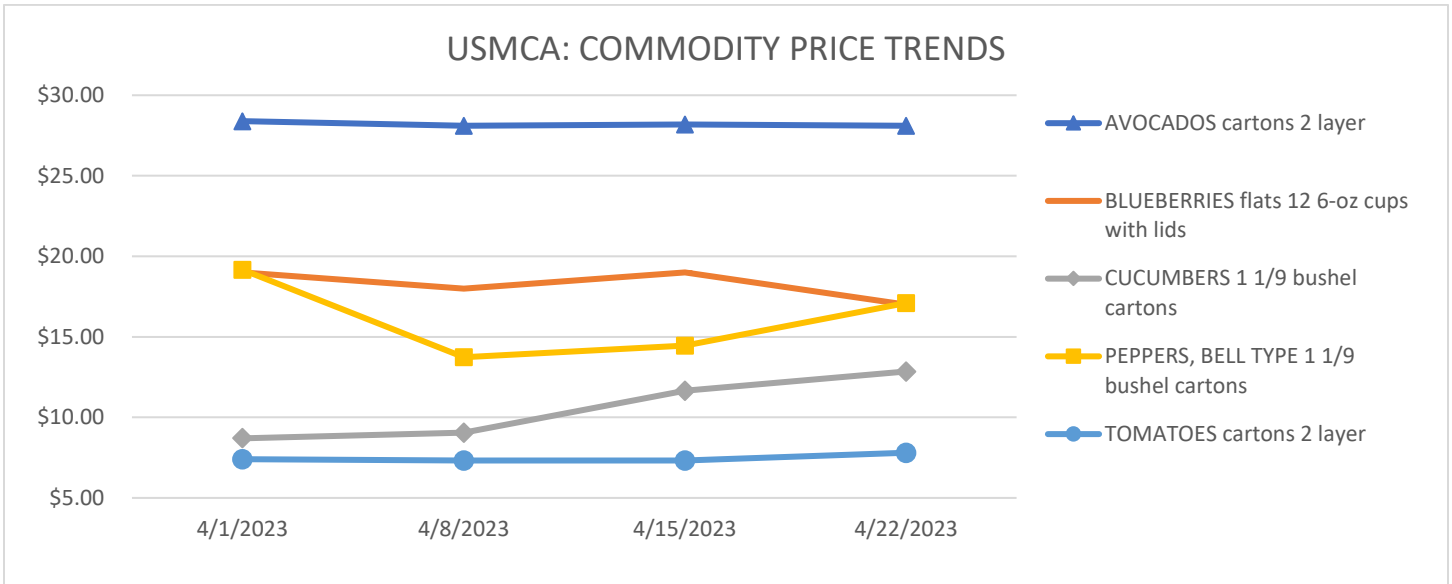
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate for light available supplies. Prices place pack slightly lower, others generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 18.95, large 14.95-16.95, medium fair quality 8.95-10.95 Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active with prices 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 is reported as variable. Green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida movement expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate at lower prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 14.35-16.35, extra-large mostly 16.35, large mostly 14.35 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 12.35. Demand was moderate at best, and some harvests were curtailed through the week due to rain and wet fields in growing areas, with hail reported in some areas and more rain in the forecast ahead. Quality is reported as generally good. Coachella Valley California green bell pepper harvest is now expected to begin the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> with the first F.O.B. report expected to be issued the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Quality is expected to be generally good.

Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to continue to increase. Trading was moderate at higher prices. Prices reported are for April 21, 2023. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85% U.S. number one or better 5x6 size 9.95-10.00, 6x6-6x7 sizes 10.95-11.00. Demand remains moderate, but volume is increasing in Central Florida. Lighter volumes will continue in South Florida for the duration of the season. Some growers received rain overnight, but harvest continued as normal. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices 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 is reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading on 4x4-4x5s active at higher prices, others fairly slow with prices generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 7.95-8.95, 5x5s mostly 7.13-7.95 and 5x6s mostly 6.64-7.10. Quality is reported as generally good.

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

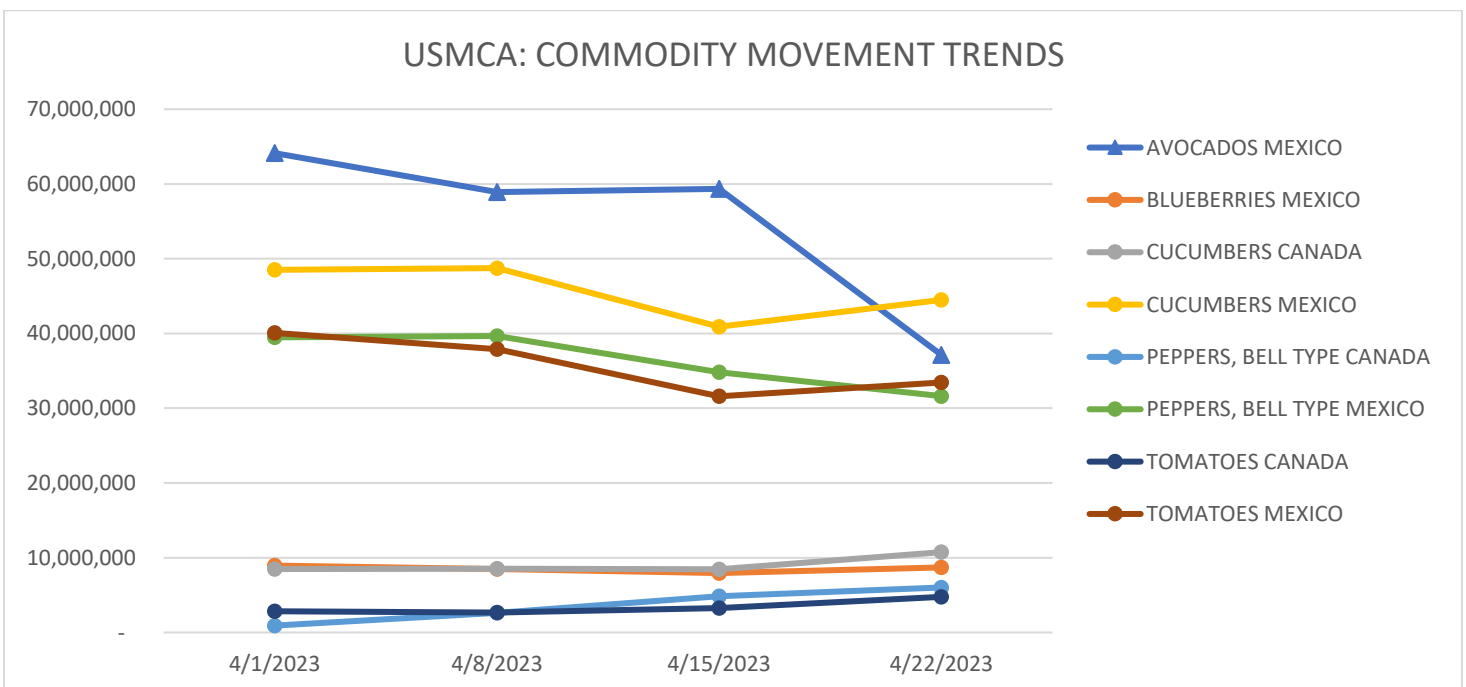
**Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars**

Commodity	Package	4/1/2023	4/8/2023	4/15/2023	4/22/2023
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 28.39	\$ 28.11	\$ 28.18	\$ 28.11
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 19.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 17.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 8.70	\$ 9.05	\$ 11.65	\$ 12.85
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 19.16	\$ 13.74	\$ 14.45	\$ 17.09
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.41	\$ 7.32	\$ 7.32	\$ 7.81

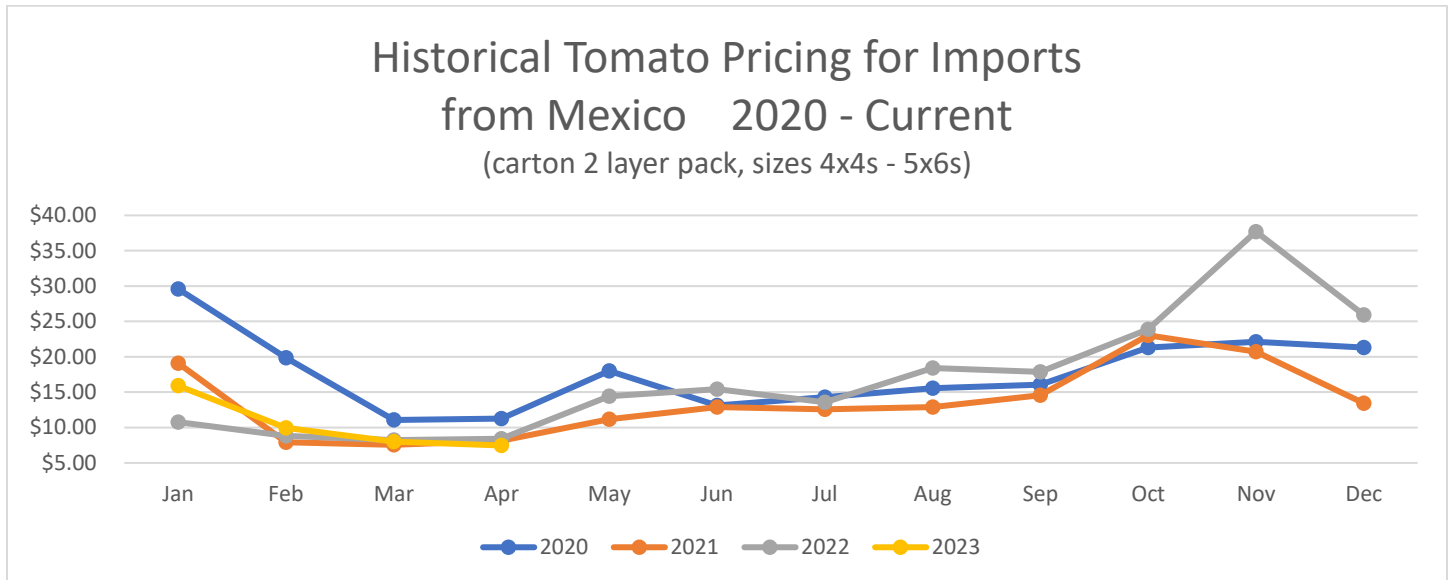


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	4/1/2023	4/8/2023	4/15/2023	4/22/2023
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	64,121,883	58,904,806	59,338,734	37,131,566
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	8,944,400	8,505,592	7,947,087	8,701,177
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	8,477,327	8,528,998	8,455,754	10,742,710
	MEXICO	48,499,082	48,746,286	40,904,141	44,481,175
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	918,698	2,631,790	4,829,136	6,019,814
	MEXICO	39,497,410	39,657,824	34,805,305	31,617,567
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,829,652	2,665,331	3,267,828	4,763,426
	MEXICO	40,081,277	37,876,961	31,592,292	33,433,088



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