



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 August 13-19, 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.

According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the national average diesel fuel price rose significantly this week. High fuel prices are of particular concern to the trucking industry upon which specialty crop producers rely to get their produce to market. Some of the increased transportation costs are absorbed by the producers themselves, who may receive less income for the same amount of product since it will cost more to ship. The remainder of the increase is generally passed on to consumers, in the form of price increases as well as package shrinkage. Although the price increase on any specific item remains "only" a few cents at a time, the overall impact is significant and may result in households having to cut back even further on discretionary spending.

Asparagus crossings from Mexico through Arizona, California and Texas movement is expected to remain about the same. Trading was very slow with prices representing very few spot market sales and generally unchanged. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched green jumbo 36.75-38.75, large mostly 32.75-34.75 and standard mostly 28.75-30.75. Prices represent very few spot market sales. A wide range in quality is reported and extra services included. Movement of asparagus from Peru imports through South Florida ports of entry is expected to remain about the same. Trading standard slow, small very slow, others moderate. Prices jumbo slightly lower, extra-large lower, others generally unchanged. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo mostly 40.75-41.95, extra-large mostly 36.75-40.85, large mostly 32.95-34.75, standard mostly 28.75-30.95 and small mostly 14.75-17.75. White large 32.75-34.75. Many sales of large size and larger product are prorated. Supplies of standard and small moderate, large and white light, and others very light due to the continuing effects of El Niño in the growing region. Supplies of standard heavy, small increasing, larger sizes short. Prices expected to remain high as harvest out of Mexico winds down. Quality and condition are reported as variable but generally good.

Movement of 2023 crop avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading 32-48s very active, others moderate. Prices 60s-84s lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32s and 36s insufficient to quote, 40s and 48s mostly 75.25-76.25, 60s mostly 46.25-48.25, 70s 23.25-25.25 and 84s mostly 18.25-20.25. Extra services included. Movement of avocados from Peru imports through Philadelphia and New York City area ports of entry is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate at slightly higher prices. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s supplies in too few hands to establish a market, 48s mostly 40.00. Supplies and demand remain very light, with very few spot market sales and many previous commitments as the season winds down. Avocado movement out of South District California is expected to decrease. Trading active with prices generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-48s mostly 76.25-78.25, 60s mostly 48.25-50.25, 70s 28.25-30.25 and 84s mostly 22.25-24.25. Extra services included.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices medium slightly lower, others generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 16.00-18.00, large 12.00-14.00, fair quality 12.00-14.00. Cartons 24s 7.00-8.00 and 36s 9.00. Quality variable. Movement of cucumbers

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from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate at higher prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 14.95-19.95, large mostly 17.95-18.95, fair quality mostly 14.95-15.95 and ordinary quality mostly 10.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments and quality is reported as variable. Cucumber movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate with prices unchanged and current supplies in few hands. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 13.00-15.00 and fair quality mostly 8.00. Quality generally good. Movement of cucumbers out of Western North Carolina is expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 14.00-14.35 and fair quality 7.00-8.35.

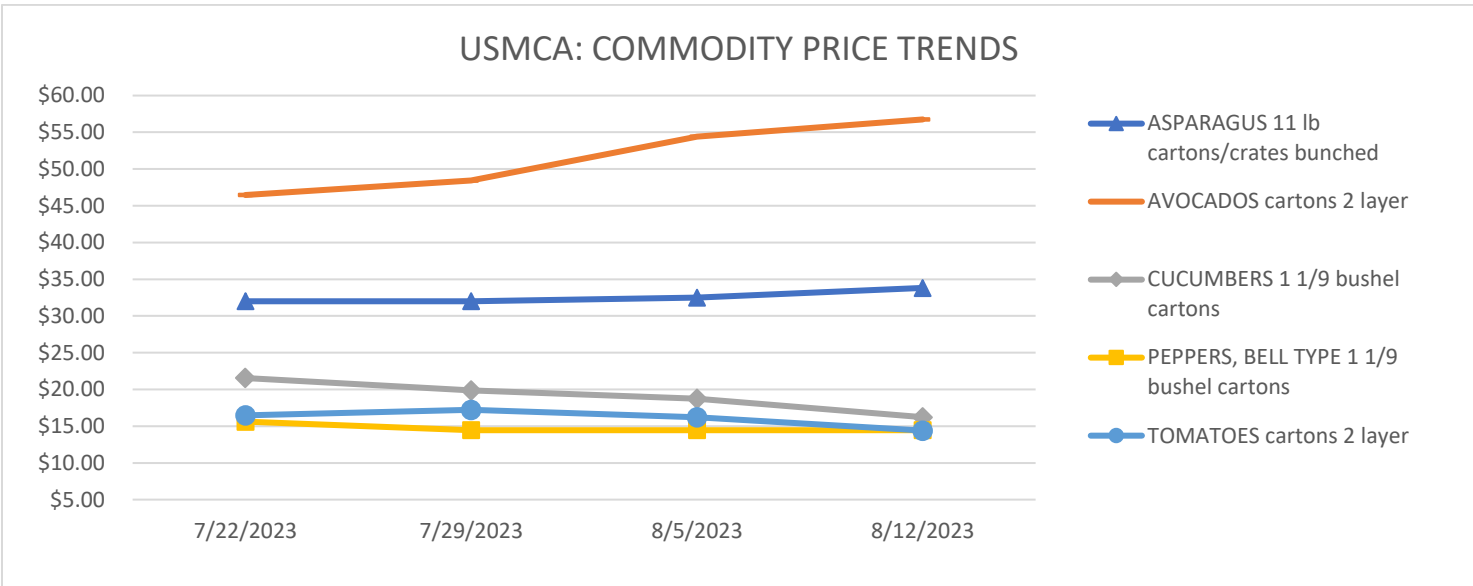
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly active for very light supplies in few hands. Current supplies of 1 1/9-bushel cartons insufficient to establish a market. Quality variable. Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected about the same. Very active at slightly lower prices on extra-large and slightly higher on others. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 21.95-22.95, large 19.95-20.95, and irregular sized fair quality 16.95. Supplies very light and in few hands. Quality is reported as generally good. Green bell peppers out of Western North Carolina movement are expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow at lower prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 10.00-11.00 and irregular sized fair quality 7.00-8.35.

Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading was active early and moderate later with prices generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo (fairly heavy supplies) 7.00-8.00, extra-large mostly 8.00, large and medium mostly 10.00. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and active later. Prices 4x4-4x5s generally unchanged, 5x5s slightly higher, and others higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 14.95, 5x5s mostly 14.95-15.95, 5x6s mostly 13.95-15.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-5x6 sizes mostly 16.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to remain about the same. Trading 5x6 size fairly active, others active at higher prices. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 12.00-13.99, 6x6 size mostly 15.00-16.00 and 6x7 size mostly 15.00-16.00. Harvest was curtailed due to rain and wet fields during the week and round tomato was in too few hands to establish a market for a period, with few growers reporting prices as they waited for crops to mature. Demand remained moderate to good. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and active later. Prices slightly higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-5x5s mostly 13.00-16.00. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active. Prices higher with moderate demand reported. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 10.00. Vine ripens jumbo and extra-large 9.00-10.00. Harvest was curtailed due to rain and wet fields during the week. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate with prices generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose vine ripens U.S. Combination or Better extra-large and large mostly 7.95-8.95. Extra services included.

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

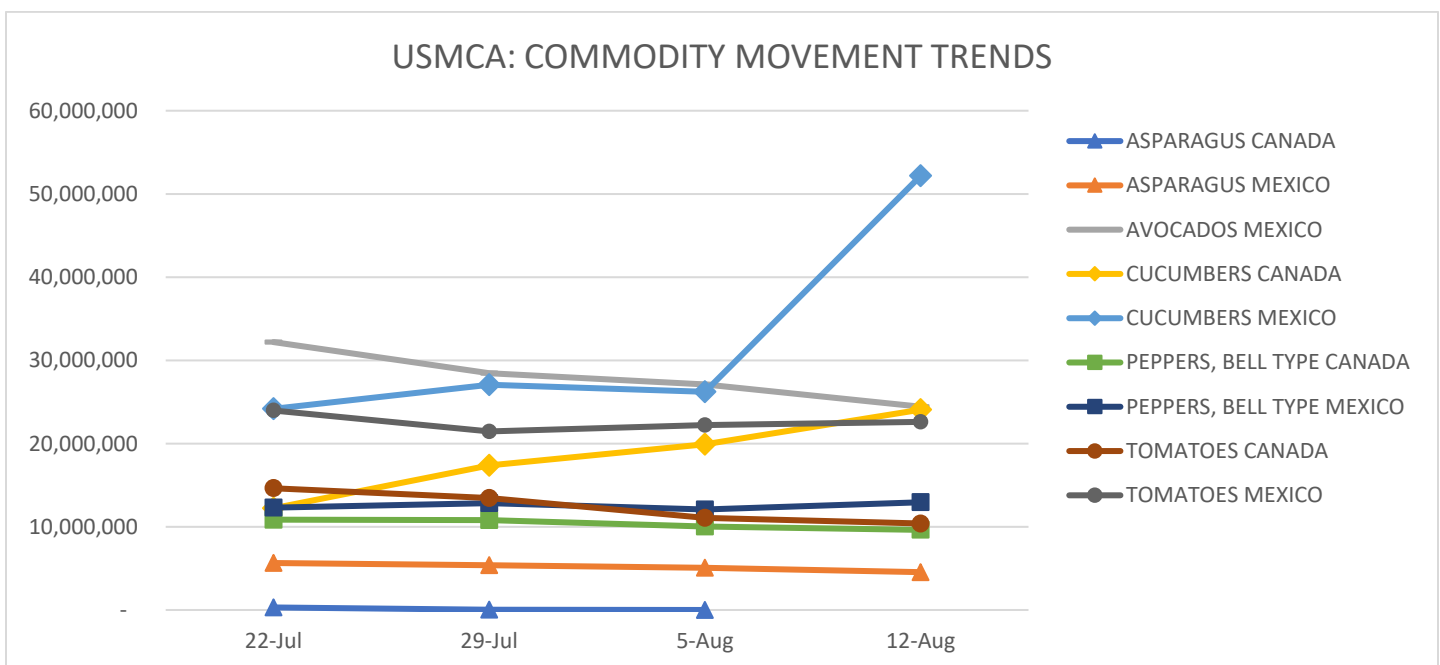
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	7/22/2023	7/29/2023	8/5/2023	8/12/2023
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 32.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 32.50	\$ 33.82
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 46.46	\$ 48.46	\$ 54.43	\$ 56.75
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 21.55	\$ 19.88	\$ 18.73	\$ 16.23
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 15.62	\$ 14.45	\$ 14.45	\$ 14.45
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 16.48	\$ 17.23	\$ 16.23	\$ 14.40

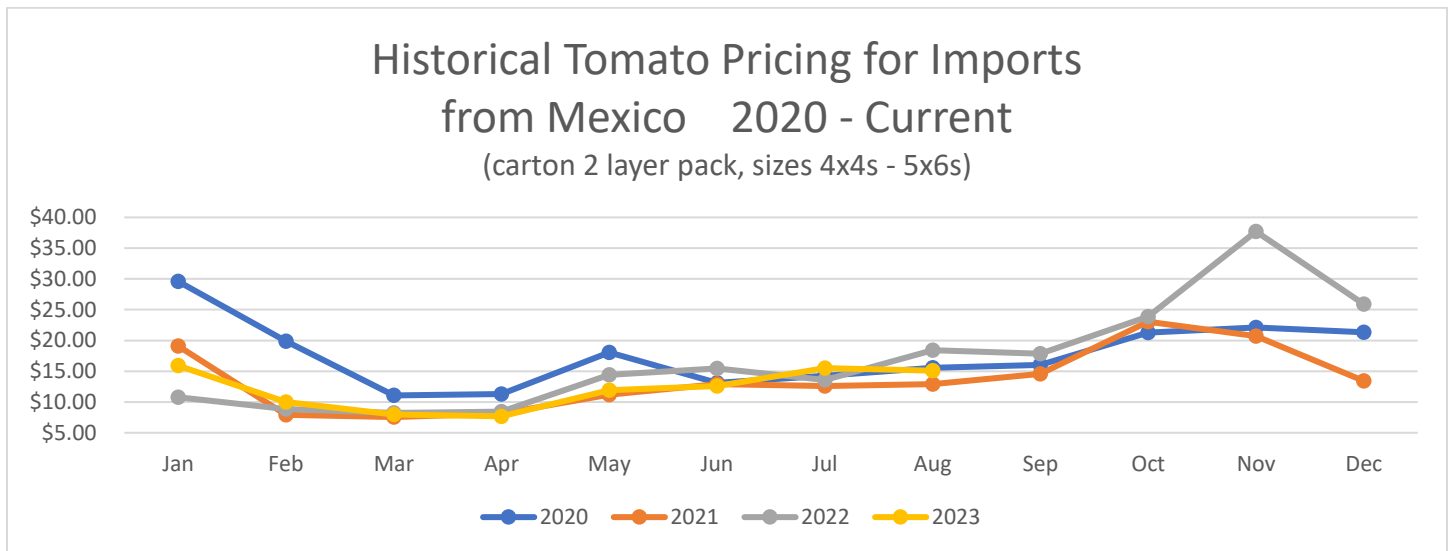


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	22-Jul	29-Jul	5-Aug	12-Aug
ASPARAGUS	CANADA	302,648	19,383	2	
	MEXICO	5,642,847	5,393,456	5,075,232	4,546,097
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	32,196,276	28,470,557	27,094,039	24,430,254
	CANADA	12,227,133	17,369,379	19,915,873	24,071,527
CUCUMBERS	MEXICO	24,176,812	27,048,982	26,232,299	52,177,506
	CANADA	10,853,548	10,792,260	10,021,510	9,626,733
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	MEXICO	12,293,723	12,852,388	12,079,100	12,944,123
	CANADA	14,627,398	13,436,091	11,077,167	10,395,631
TOMATOES	MEXICO	23,971,908	21,459,796	22,212,718	22,623,628



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