



# 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 27- September 2, 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 Atlantic hurricane season is now underway, and the ninth storm of the year is right on schedule. However, the peak of the hurricane season is still a couple of weeks away. A rare tropical storm named Hilary, hit California this month making it the first tropical storm in 84 years. Californians are not used to hurricanes or tropical storms of this magnitude. The latest hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, Idalia pummeled the West coast of Florida and made landfall on Wednesday morning in the Big Bend area as a Category 3 hurricane. "Right now, the biggest hazards are storm surge," according to Robbie Berg, a senior hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. "We're expecting a surge as much as 8 to 12 feet above normal tide levels in portions of the Big Bend area of Florida." Flooding, wind damage, power outages and debris are major concerns in the storm's aftermath. Idalia also affected southern portions of Georgia and the Carolinas with hurricane and tropical storm conditions.

Blueberries out of Michigan movement is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly active. Prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 26.00-28.00. Quality variable. Movement of blueberries from Oregon and Washington is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading active. Prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids medium-large mostly 26.00-28.00, 6-ounce cups with lids medium-large mostly 16.00-18.00. Cartons 8 18-ounce containers with lids medium-large mostly 26.00-28.00. Prices include palletizing and cooling. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Movement of blueberries from British Columbia Canada crossings through Northwest Washington is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading active. Prices 12 6-ounce cups generally unchanged, others higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids Canada One medium-large mostly 24.00-26.00, flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids medium-large mostly 16.00-18.00. Cartons 8 18-ounce containers with lids medium-large mostly 26.00-28.00. Prices include palletizing and cooling.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to increase. Trading slow. Prices 70-84s generally unchanged, others lower. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s mostly 69.25-71.25, 48s mostly 55.25-58.25, 60s mostly 34.25-36.25, 70s 20.25-22.25 and 84s mostly 16.25-18.25. Extra services included. Avocado movement out of South District California is expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow. Prices lower. Cartons 2-layer Hass 48s mostly 62.25-65.25, 60s mostly 42.25-44.25, 70s 24.25-26.25 and 84s mostly 17.25-19.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active. Prices slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 23.95-25.95, large mostly 22.95-23.95, fair quality mostly 19.95-20.95 and ordinary quality mostly 16.95-17.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 18.95, large 16.95-19.95 and fair quality 16.95. Cartons 36s mostly 10.95. Supplies light. Quality variable. Cucumber movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly active. Prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 18.00-20.00 and fair quality 10.00-18.00. Supplies fairly light and in few hands. Quality mostly good. Cucumber movement out of Michigan is

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expected to remain about the same. Trading active. Prices slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 20.35-20.85 and fair quality 12.35-14.85. Cartons 24s 10.35-10.85. Movement of cucumber out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading medium active, fair quality fairly active. Prices medium much higher, fair quality higher. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 20.00-20.35 and fair quality 12.00-13.35.

Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected about the same. Trading active at slightly lower prices. Prices slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 18.95-19.95, large 16.95-18.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 14.95-16.95. Supplies light and in few hands. Demand is good but at lower prices. The season is expected to finish in the coming weeks. Quality generally good. Green bell peppers out of Michigan movement are expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel crates green jumbo and extra-large 10.00 and medium irregular size fair quality mostly 7.00. Green bell peppers out of Western North Carolina movement are expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices fair quality slightly lower, others slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 10.85-12.35, extra-large mostly 12.35-12.85 and irregular sized fair quality 8.35-10.85. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Sporadic crossings are expected through the end of the week. This is the last F.O.B. report for the season. Quality variable.

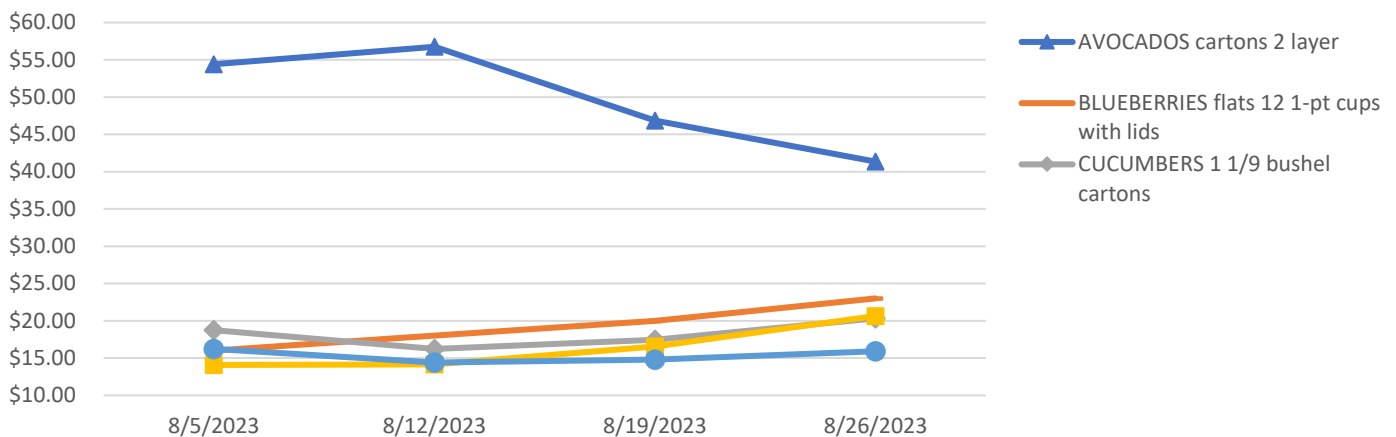
Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading 4x4-4x5s and 5x6s fairly active, 5x5s fairly active at slightly lower prices, others moderate. Prices 4x4-4x5 sizes and 5x5s slightly lower, 5x6 size lower, others slightly higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-4x5s mostly 16.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 14.95-15.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 15.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 13.95-14.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading early moderate, late active. Prices medium much higher, others higher. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo and extra-large 10.00-10.95, large and medium 14.00-14.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to increase slightly. Trading 5x6 size moderate, others active. Prices 5x6 size lower, others higher. Prices reported are for August 25<sup>th</sup>. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 12.95-14.95 and 6x6-6x7 sizes 18.00-18.95. Most of Tennessee's harvest curtailed due to rain and wet fields during the week. Demand on 5x6 size moderate, while others are fairly good. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices slightly lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-5x5s 14.00-16.00. Supplies light. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to remain about the same. Trading large active, others moderate. Prices large higher, others generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 9.00. Vine ripers jumbo and extra-large 8.00-10.00, large 12.00. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose vine ripers U.S. Combination or Better jumbo and extra-large 9.95, large 8.95-9.95. 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	8/5/2023	8/12/2023	8/19/2023	8/26/2023
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 54.43	\$ 56.75	\$ 46.85	\$ 41.35
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 1-pt cups with lids	\$ 16.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 23.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 18.73	\$ 16.23	\$ 17.46	\$ 20.33
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb cartons	\$ 14.07	\$ 14.14	\$ 16.57	\$ 20.64
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 16.23	\$ 14.40	\$ 14.79	\$ 15.91

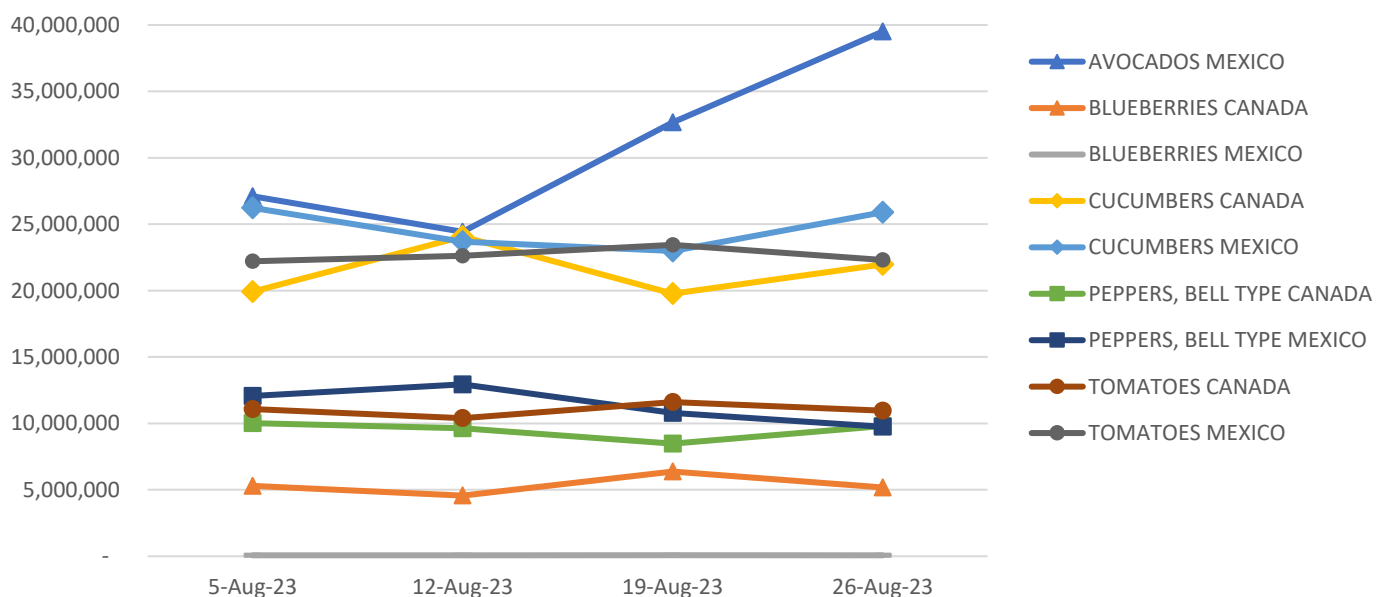
## USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



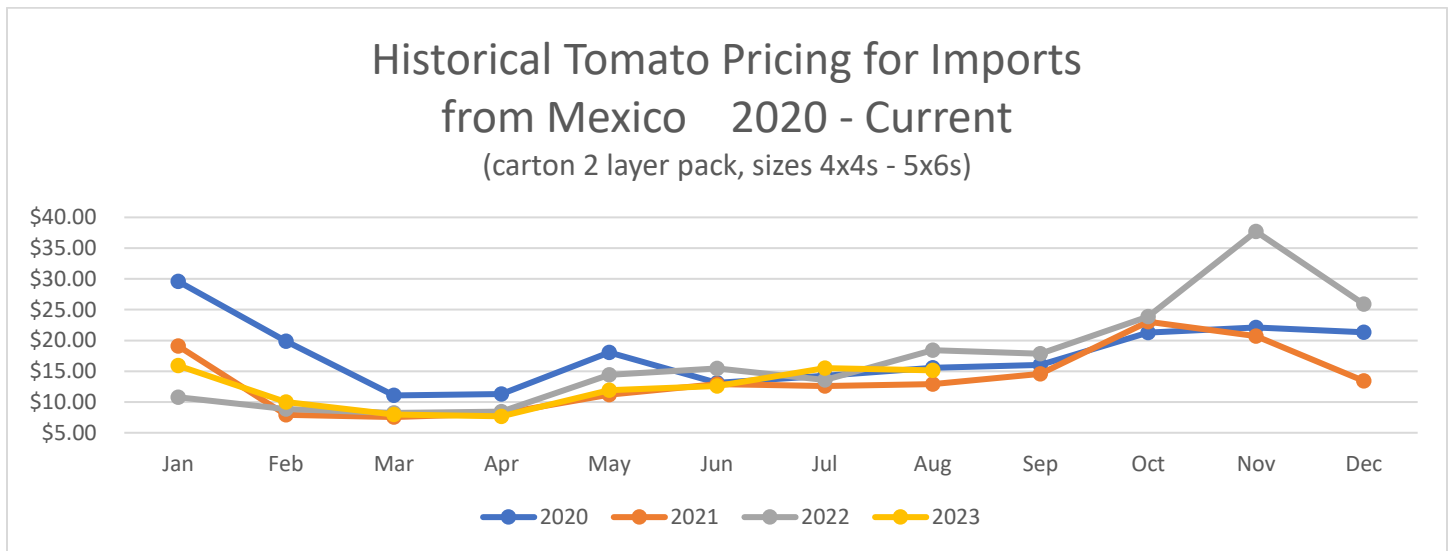
## Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	5-Aug-23	12-Aug-23	19-Aug-23	26-Aug-23
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	27,094,039	24,430,254	32,675,897	39,508,631
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	5,291,342	4,566,695	6,377,284	5,184,390
	MEXICO	74,265	69,977	78,567	72,758
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	19,915,873	24,071,527	19,772,447	21,978,824
	MEXICO	26,232,299	23,688,663	22,986,829	25,902,716
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	10,021,510	9,626,733	8,480,583	9,812,679
	MEXICO	12,079,100	12,944,123	10,782,927	9,749,277
TOMATOES	CANADA	11,077,167	10,395,631	11,607,775	10,959,268
	MEXICO	22,212,718	22,623,628	23,447,837	22,303,575

## USMCA: COMMODITY MOVEMENT TRENDS



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 alliacious 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