



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 September 17 - 23, 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.

Seasonal changes have led to a shift in the commodities of interest for this report. Asparagus has replaced blueberries, as the number of growing areas for shipping asparagus continues to grow while demand for blueberries is traditionally light in the fall. This list will be revisited regularly to maintain an accurate representation of the current trade situation affecting shippers of perishable commodities in North America.

Mexico crossings of asparagus through Arizona, California, and Texas movement is expected to remain about the same. Trading was slow at lower prices. 11-pound carton/crates bunched green large mostly 20.75, standard mostly 18.75. A wide range in quality is reported. Asparagus from Peru imports through South Florida ports of entry movement is expected to remain about the same. Trading on jumbo, large, and small moderate and others slow. Prices on jumbo, extra-large and standard lower, others slightly lower. 11-lb cartons bunched green jumbo mostly 30.75-32.75, extra-large mostly 29.75-32.75, large mostly 28.75-30.75, standard mostly 24.75-26.75, small mostly 16.75-17.75. Supplies fairly light, with most arrivals by boat but the share of air shipments increasing. Downward price pressure from competing growing areas is expected to continue, with a shorter season than usual also expected due to the effects of El Niño.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly slow early and moderate later. Prices 40s and organic 60s lower, others higher. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s mostly 63.25-64.25, 48s mostly 44.25-45.25, 60s mostly 33.25-34.25, 70s 23.25-24.25 and 84s mostly 17.25-18.25. Extra services included. After light shipments over a holiday weekend in Mexico, the beginning of the week saw extreme civil unrest in protest against police corruption. Road blockades prevented movement of both shipments and workers. The issues were resolved by midweek and normal volume of harvest was able to resume.

Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow with prices medium lower, large slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 12.95-14.95, large mostly 13.95-15.95, fair quality mostly 9.95-10.95 and ordinary quality mostly 6.95-7.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and moderate later. Prices lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 16.95, large 16.95-18.95, and fair quality 14.95-16.95. Cartons 36s 8.95-10.95. Quality is reported as variable. Cucumber movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to continue seasonal decline. Trading fairly active at lower prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 13.00-14.00 and fair quality 8.00-9.00. Supplies fairly light and in few hands. Quality is reported as generally good. Cucumber movement out of Michigan is expected to decline as the

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season nears its end. Trading moderate with prices unchanged. 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 fairly slow at lower prices. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 16.00-18.00 and fair quality 10.00-11.00. Very light shipments have begun out of Central and South Florida. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report to be issued within 10-14 days.

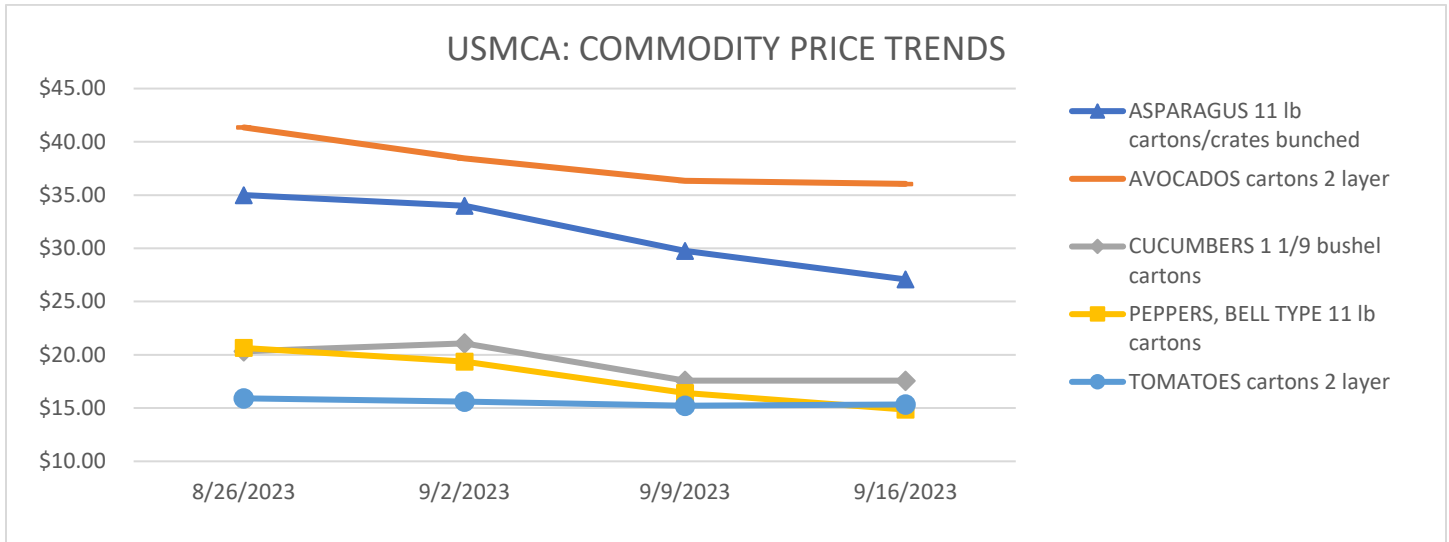
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices slightly higher. Supplies are very light and in few hands. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 14.95-15.95, extra-large mostly 16.95-18.95, large mostly 14.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 12.95-14.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Green bell peppers out of Michigan movement are expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active with prices unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel crates green jumbo and extra-large 14.00 and medium irregular size fair quality mostly 10.00. Green bell peppers out of Western North Carolina movement are expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active at higher prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 14.00, irregular sized fair quality 12.00.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 2-layer slightly higher, loose higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-4x5s mostly 13.95-15.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 14.95-15.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 14.95-15.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 15.95-16.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading active with prices large and medium slightly higher, others generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo and extra-large mostly 12.00-12.95, large and medium 17.00-17.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to decrease slightly. Trading moderate at higher prices. Prices reported are for September 8th. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 18.00-18.95 and 6x6-6x7 sizes 20.00-20.95. Demand moderate to good. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was moderate with prices large slightly lower, others higher. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 14.00. Vine ripers jumbo mostly 12.00, extra-large 12.00-13.00, and large 12.00-14.00. Demand was moderate through the week. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading active at lower prices. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4 and 5x6s supplies light and prices mostly 14.00-16.00, 4x5s and 5x5s mostly 14.00-15.00. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active at higher prices. 25-pound cartons loose vine ripers U.S. Combination or Better jumbo and extra-large mostly 9.95-11.95, large 12.95-13.95, mature green type 5x6 size 16.00-16.95, 6x6 and 6x7 size 18.00-18.95. Extra services included. The first report has been issues for tomatoes out of Florida West District, with light harvest expected to start within 14 days. Sufficient number of shippers for first F.O.B. price report to be issued expected within 21 days.

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

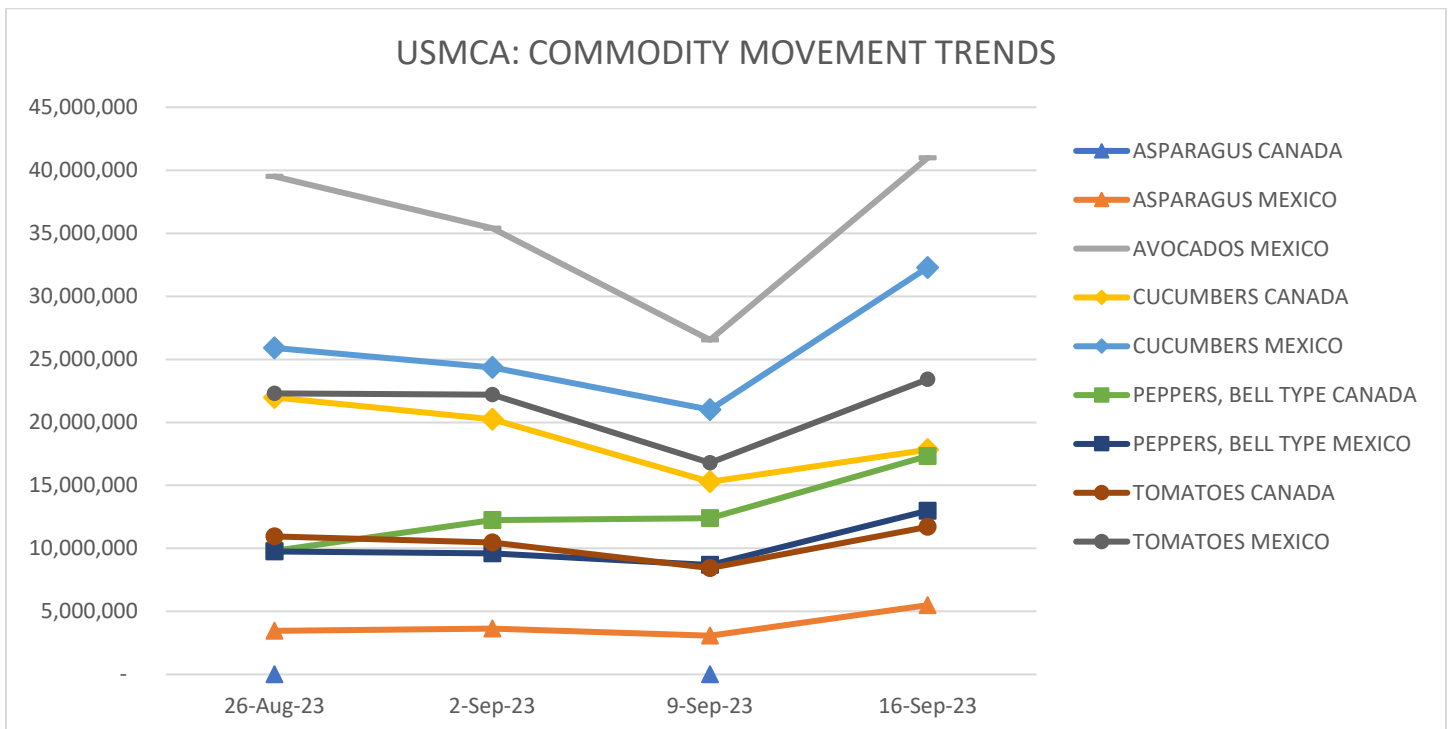
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	8/26/2023	9/2/2023	9/9/2023	9/16/2023
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 35.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 29.75	\$ 27.08
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 41.35	\$ 38.45	\$ 36.35	\$ 36.05
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 20.33	\$ 21.08	\$ 17.58	\$ 17.58
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb cartons	\$ 20.64	\$ 19.36	\$ 16.43	\$ 14.86
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 15.91	\$ 15.60	\$ 15.22	\$ 15.35

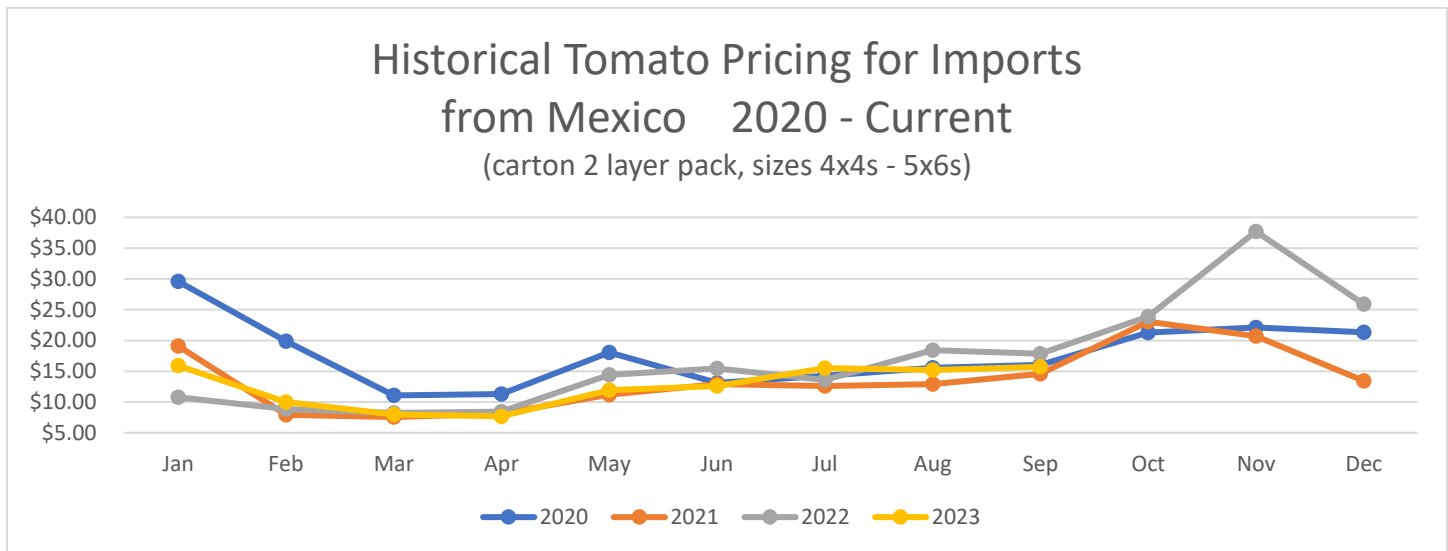


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	26-Aug-23	2-Sep-23	9-Sep-23	16-Sep-23
ASPARAGUS	CANADA		2		2
	MEXICO	3,472,661	3,629,068	3,074,563	5,496,932
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	39,508,631	35,397,900	26,539,775	40,980,020
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	21,978,824	20,236,526	15,284,633	17,821,192
	MEXICO	25,902,716	24,357,463	21,003,594	32,285,701
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	9,812,679	12,244,375	12,386,650	17,328,481
	MEXICO	9,749,277	9,599,604	8,683,524	12,988,651
TOMATOES	CANADA	10,959,268	10,455,429	8,440,251	11,706,442
	MEXICO	22,303,575	22,192,704	16,791,292	23,415,359



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