



# Specialty Crops Market News Division U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update

Agricultural Marketing Service

Issued Weekly

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## **Update for Week of September 24 - 30, 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.

As inflation continues to show signs of cooling off, some food items are still a little higher than the average consumer would like. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, food expenditures are up nearly 13% in 2022. Overall, the report said expenditures increased faster than income in 2022. Average annual income before taxes rose 7.5% in 2022, while expenditures increased by 9%. The increase was also driven by food-away-from home (restaurant) spending, up 20.1%, accompanied by an increase in food-at-home spending (grocery), up 8.4%. The average consumer spent \$406 on fresh fruit in 2022, up 7.4% from \$378 in 2021, according to the report. For fresh vegetables, average expenditures in 2022 were \$352, 7.3% above \$328 in 2021.

Mexico crossings of asparagus 2023 crop through Arizona, California and Texas are expected to remain about the same. Trading slow. Prices lower. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched green jumbo 21.75-22.75, large mostly 16.75-18.75 and standard mostly 14.75-18.75. Extra services included. Wide range in quality. Peru imports of asparagus 2023 crop through South Florida ports of entry are expected to decrease slightly due to market conditions. Trading white moderate, jumbo and large fairly slow, others slow. Prices white slightly higher, standard and small slightly lower, others lower. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo mostly 27.75-29.75, extra-large mostly 25.75-27.75, large mostly 24.75-26.75, standard mostly 22.75-24.75 and small mostly 14.75-16.75. White large 27.75-28.75. Supplies fairly light. Sizing profile reported mostly on standard, but larger sizes have increased in volume for most shippers. Arrivals mostly by boat with some via air. Few spot market sales due to the market being very high for so long, retail prices are high and slow to change their pricing and competing areas are aggressively low in price. Some shippers have reported two days in a row with no spot market sales but there are shipper-to-shipper sales reported. Market is expected to become more stable by the third week of October. Quality and condition are reported as variable but generally good.

Movement of avocado 2023 crop crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 60-84s higher, others lower. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s mostly 56.25-58.25, 48s mostly 42.25-44.25, 60s mostly 33.25-35.25, 70s 24.25-25.25 and 84s mostly 19.25-20.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early fairly slow, late fairly active. Prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 15.95-17.95, large mostly 16.95-17.95, fair quality mostly 12.95-13.95 and ordinary quality mostly 8.95-9.95. 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 medium generally unchanged, others slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 16.95 and fair quality 14.95-16.95. Cartons 36s mostly 8.95. 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 10.00-13.00. Supplies fairly light and in few hands. Quality generally good. Movement of cucumber out of Western North Carolina is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices medium slightly higher, fair quality slightly lower. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 17.00-18.00 and fair quality

For more information on:

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10.00-12.00. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to begin with very light shipments. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for first F.O.B. report within 10-14 days. Quality is expected to be generally good. Movement of cucumber out of Georgia is expected to increase as harvest gets fully underway. Trading moderate. Prices waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 14.35-16.85 and fair quality 8.35-10.85. Cartons 24s 5.35-8.85. The first F.O.B. report has been issued. Cucumber movement out of Michigan is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies are in too few hands to establish a market. Sporadic shipments are expected to continue through the end of the week. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week.

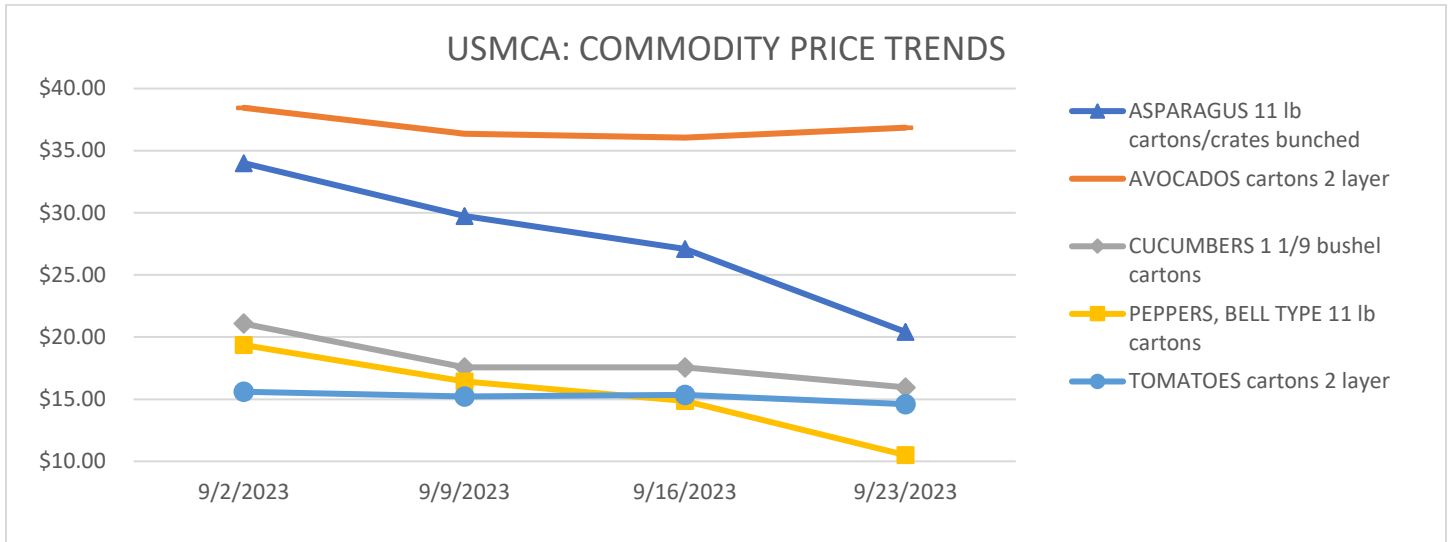
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 13.95-14.95, extra-large mostly 15.95-16.95, large mostly 13.95, medium mostly 12.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 11.95-12.95. The season is expected to finish in about 2-3 weeks. Volumes remain steady. Many sales are at lower price points. Quality generally good. Green bell peppers out of Michigan movement are expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active. 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 moderate. Prices slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 12.00-14.00, large 11.00-12.00 and irregular sized fair quality 10.00-12.00.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. 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 generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices higher. 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. Few growers in Tennessee are not harvesting tomatoes for one day during week. Demand decreased to fairly light, and prices were lower later in the week. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading jumbo and extra-large active, others active at slightly lower prices. Prices jumbo and extra-large slightly higher, others slightly lower. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo and extra-large mostly 12.00-15.00, large and medium mostly 17.00. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading 5x6s active, others active at lower prices. Prices 5x6s generally unchanged, others lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-5x5s mostly 12.00-14.00 and 5x6s mostly 14.00-16.00. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices higher. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 16.00-17.00. Vine ripers jumbo, extra-large, large and medium 13.00-14.00. Demand decreased to fairly light, and prices were lower later in the week. Extra services included. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices vine ripers slightly higher, mature greens generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens type 5x6 size 16.00-16.95 and 6x6-6x7 sizes mostly 18.00-18.95. 25-pound cartons loose vine ripers U.S. Combination or Better jumbo, extra-large and large 10.95-11.95. Extra services included. Tomato movement out of Florida West District is expected to begin within 10 days. Expect sufficient number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report within 14 days. Quality is expected to be generally good.

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

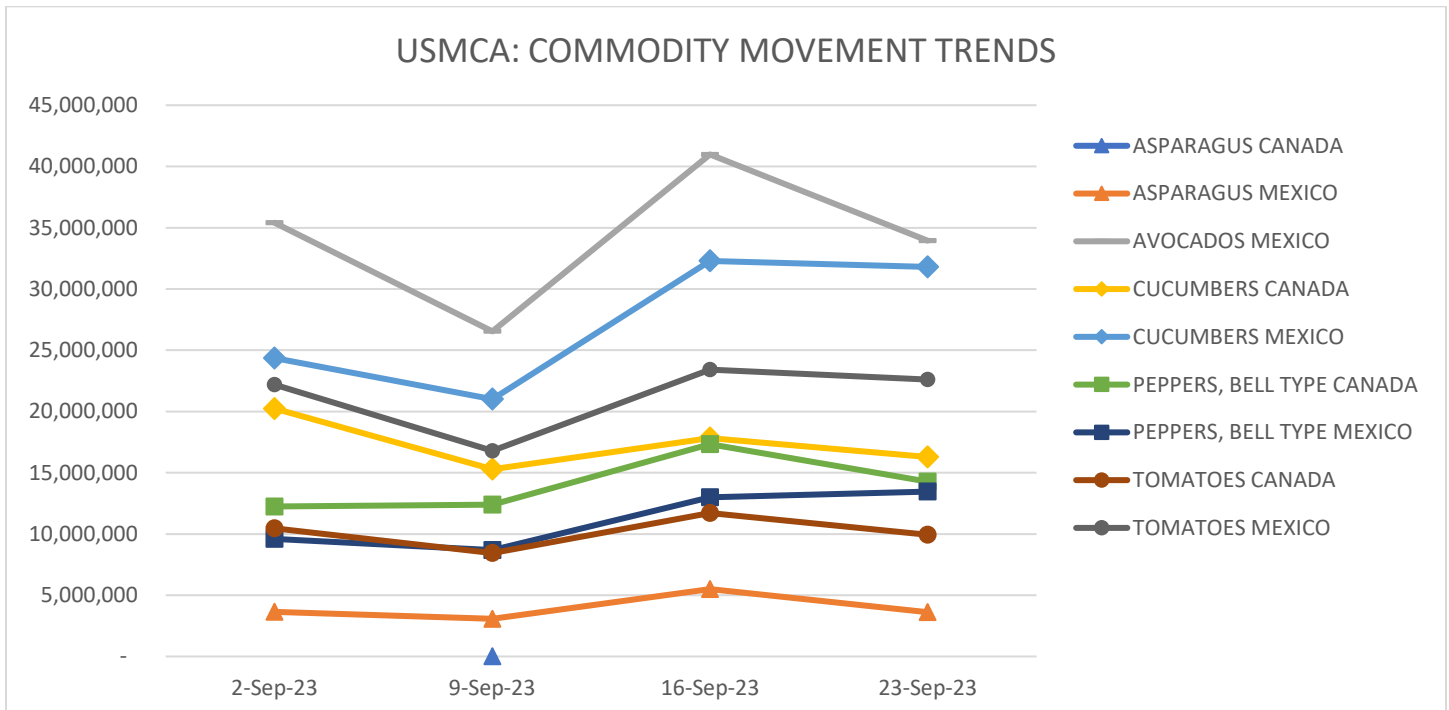
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	9/2/2023	9/9/2023	9/16/2023	9/23/2023
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 34.00	\$ 29.75	\$ 27.08	\$ 20.42
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 38.45	\$ 36.35	\$ 36.05	\$ 36.85
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 21.08	\$ 17.58	\$ 17.58	\$ 15.95
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb cartons	\$ 19.36	\$ 16.43	\$ 14.86	\$ 10.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 15.60	\$ 15.22	\$ 15.35	\$ 14.60

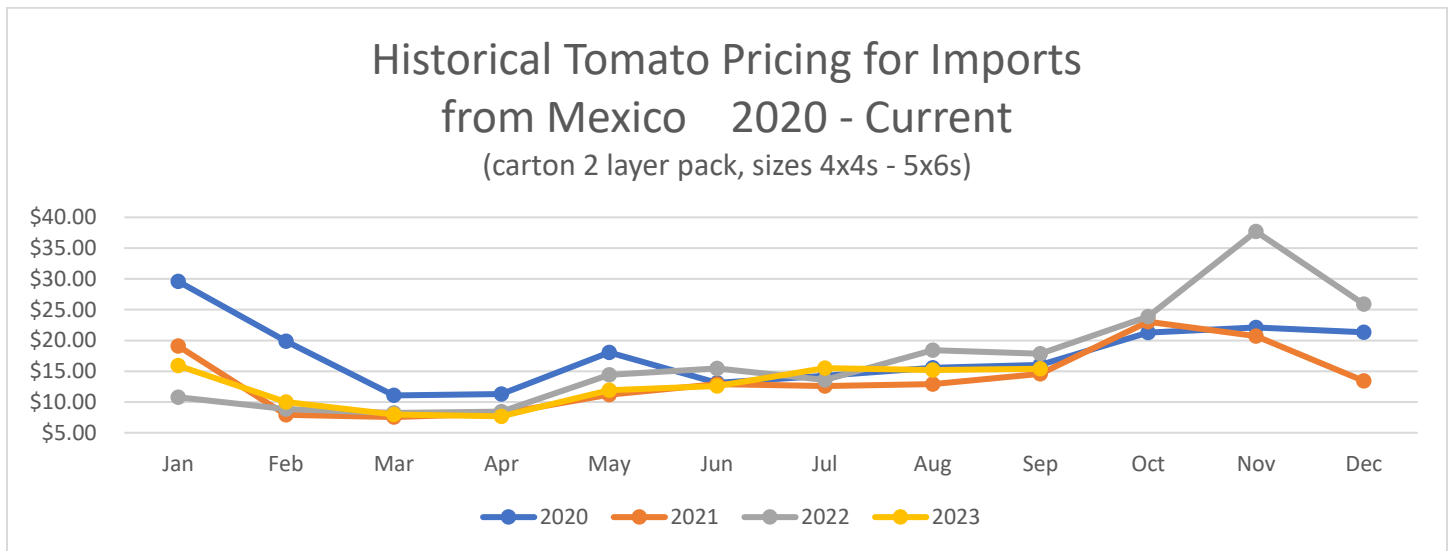


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	2-Sep-23	9-Sep-23	16-Sep-23	23-Sep-23
ASPARAGUS	CANADA				2
	MEXICO	3,629,068	3,074,563	5,496,932	3,610,554
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	35,397,900	26,539,775	40,980,020	33,947,287
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	20,236,526	15,284,633	17,821,192	16,284,857
	MEXICO	24,357,463	21,003,594	32,285,701	31,812,336
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	12,244,375	12,386,650	17,328,481	14,271,335
	MEXICO	9,599,604	8,683,524	12,988,651	13,457,597
TOMATOES	CANADA	10,455,429	8,440,251	11,706,442	9,938,112
	MEXICO	22,192,704	16,791,292	23,415,359	22,607,540



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