



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 October 1 - 7, 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.

After 10 straight weeks of increases, the national average for diesel fuel prices saw a minor dip towards the end of September. The final week of September 2023, features the first minor decrease in national average retail diesel fuel prices in weeks, hitting \$4.59 per gallon as of September 25th, 2023, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). While the national average prices saw just under a 5-cent drop over last week, overall diesel fuel prices are still down 30 cents per gallon when compared to the previous year. The average diesel prices across the country as of September 25th, by region, are as follows: East Coast \$4.53, Midwest \$4.44, Gulf Coast \$4.28, Rocky Mountain \$4.80 and West Coast \$5.69, according to the Work Truck's website. Gasoline fuel prices also saw a small decrease in the month of September. The national average for gasoline was \$3.84 at the end of September, this price represents a 4-cent drop when compared to the previous week. Overall, gasoline fuel prices are higher than last year, however prices have yet to drop down to the lows we saw in January of this year.

Mexico crossings of asparagus 2023 crop through Arizona, California and Texas are expected to remain about the same. Trading early slow, late fairly active. Prices jumbo lower, others slightly lower. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched green large mostly 20.75-22.75 and standard mostly 18.75. Extra services included. Wide range in quality. Peru imports of asparagus 2023 crop through South Florida ports of entry is expected to remain about the same. Trading white, jumbo and large moderate, others slow. Prices jumbo lower, others slightly lower. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo and extra-large mostly 24.75-26.75, large mostly 23.75-25.85, standard mostly 20.75-22.85 and small mostly 14.75-16.00. White large 27.75-28.50. Supplies moderate. Sizing profile reported remains mostly on standard, but larger sizes have increased in volume for most shippers. Arrivals mostly by boat with some via air. Mexican product is heavily promoted, even though the pipeline is filled with lower priced product. Some shippers can hold inventory up to 10 days before it needs to be shipped. Fumigated product needs to be moving more swiftly through distribution channels. Quality and condition are reported as variable but generally good.

Movement of avocado 2023 crop crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to increase. Trading early moderate, late fairly slow. Prices lower. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s mostly 48.25-50.25, 48s mostly 36.25-38.25, 60s mostly 30.25-32.25, 70s mostly 22.25-24.25 and 84s mostly 18.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly active. Prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 18.95-20.95, fair quality mostly 14.95-15.95 and ordinary quality mostly 10.95-11.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease. Trading moderate. Prices slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 16.95-18.95, fair quality 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality

For more information on:

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7.95-8.95. Cartons 36s 8.95-9.95. Quality variable. Cucumber movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly active. Prices unchanged. 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 sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies are insufficient and 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. 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 days. Quality is expected to be generally good. Movement of cucumber out of Georgia is expected to increase seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices medium slightly higher, others lower. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 16.35-16.85 and fair quality 8.35-8.85. Cartons 24s 5.35-5.85. Prices remain about steady. Quality generally good. 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. Lighter shipments are expected to continue through the end of the week. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week.

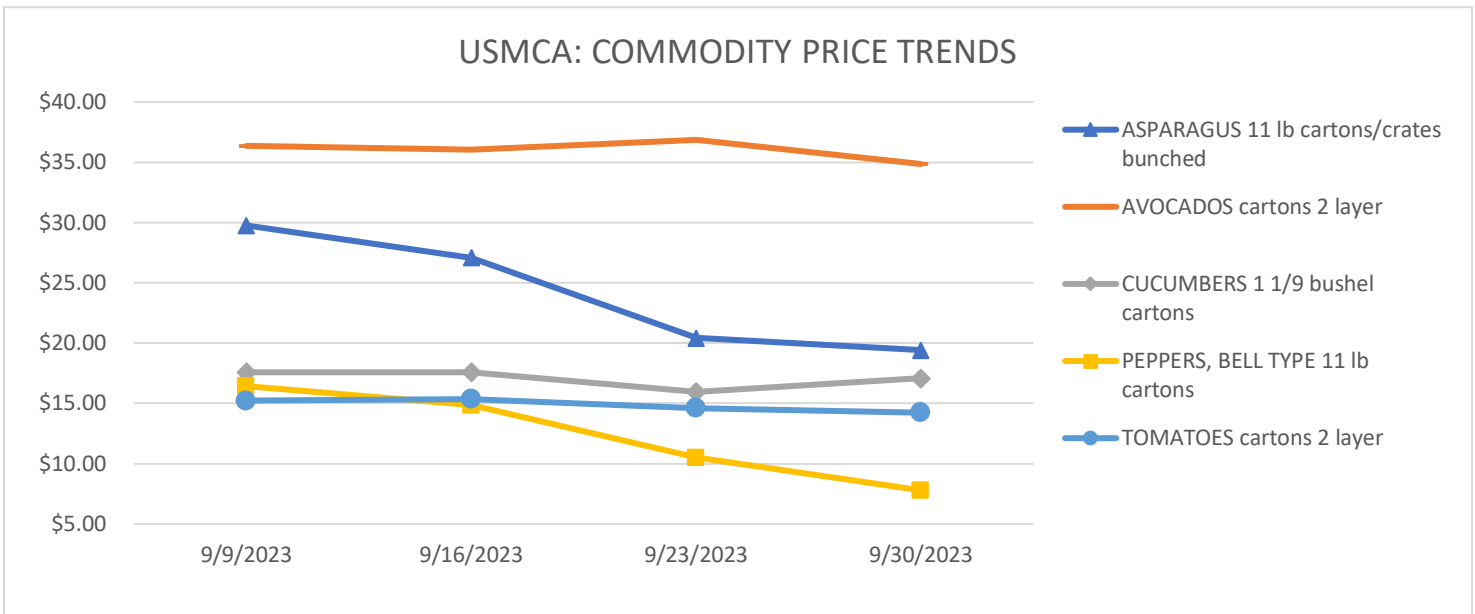
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 14.45-14.95, extra-large mostly 15.95-16.95, large mostly 13.95-14.95, medium mostly 11.95-12.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 10.95-12.95. Supplies light, but volume is consistent. The season is expected to continue for another two weeks. 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 slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel crates green jumbo and extra-large 16.00 and medium irregular size fair quality 10.00-12.00. Green bell peppers out of Western North Carolina movement are expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active. Prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large 14.00-16.45 and irregular sized fair quality 10.00-12.35. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement are expected to begin harvest the week of October 15th. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 22nd. Quality expected to be generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices slightly lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-4x5s mostly 12.95-13.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 13.95-14.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 13.95-14.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 14.95-15.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading early active, late moderate. Prices lower. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo and extra-large mostly 10.00-12.00, large and medium mostly 14.00. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow. Prices 6x6 size higher, others lower. Prices reported are for Friday, September 29th. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size and 6x7 size mostly 16.00, 6x6 size mostly 18.00. Demand is moderate and prices are about steady. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading early active, late moderate. Prices 5x6s lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-5x6s mostly 12.00-14.00. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease seasonally as some growers are expected to finish this week. Trading fairly slow. Prices lower. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size mostly 13.00. Vine ripers jumbo and extra-large 11.00-12.00 and large mostly 12.00. Demand is moderate and prices are about steady. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow. Prices vine ripers generally unchanged, mature greens lower. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens type 5x6 size 13.95-14.00, 6x6 size mostly 12.95-14.00 and 6x7 size mostly 11.95-14.00. 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 with light harvest within 5 days. Expect sufficient number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report within 7 days. Quality is expected to be generally good.

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

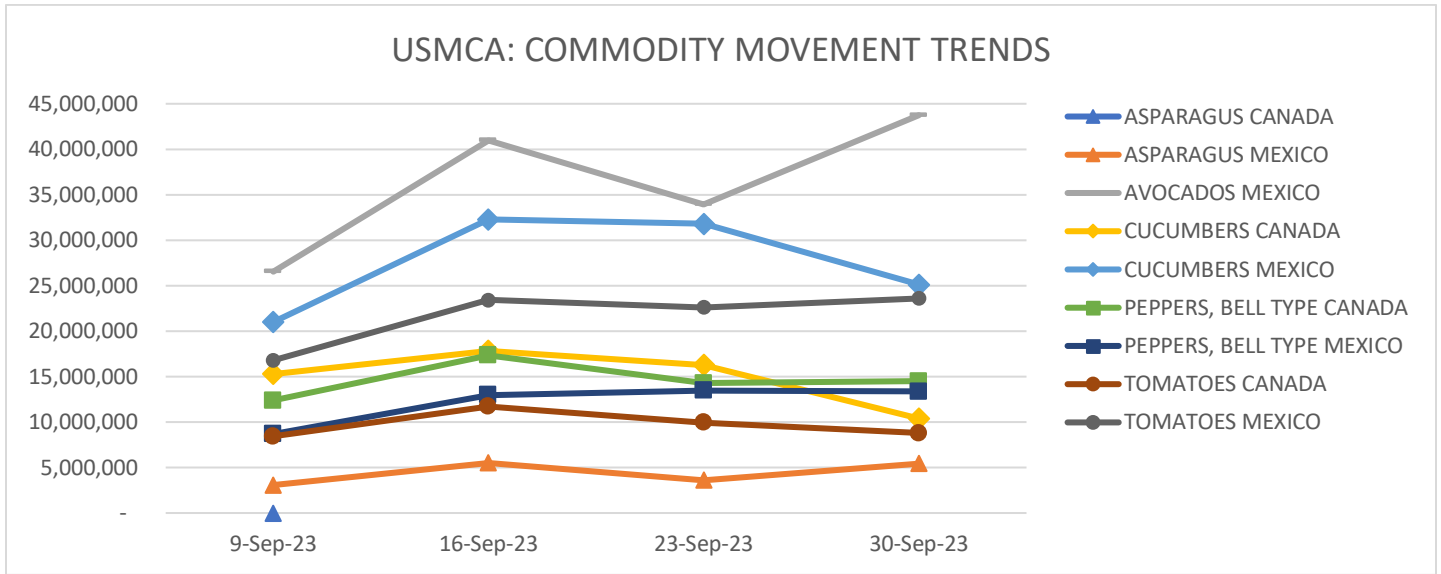
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

| Commodity | Package | 9/9/2023 | 9/16/2023 | 9/23/2023 | 9/30/2023 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ASPARAGUS | 11 lb. cartons/crates bunched | \$ 29.75 | \$ 27.08 | \$ 20.42 | \$ 19.42 |
| AVOCADOS | cartons 2 layer | \$ 36.35 | \$ 36.05 | \$ 36.85 | \$ 34.85 |
| CUCUMBERS | 1 1/9-bushel cartons | \$ 17.58 | \$ 17.58 | \$ 15.95 | \$ 17.08 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | 11 lb. cartons | \$ 16.43 | \$ 14.86 | \$ 10.50 | \$ 7.79 |
| TOMATOES | cartons 2 layer | \$ 15.22 | \$ 15.35 | \$ 14.60 | \$ 14.23 |

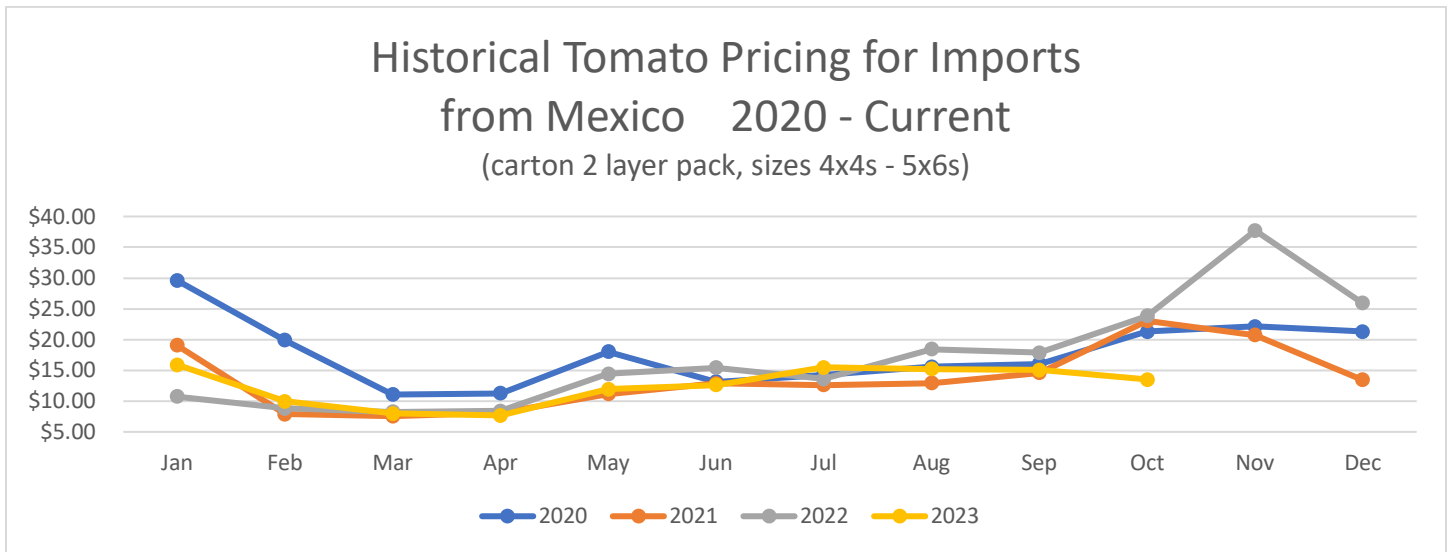


Four Week Movement in Pounds

| COMMODITY | ORIGIN | 9-Sep-23 | 16-Sep-23 | 23-Sep-23 | 30-Sep-23 |
|--------------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ASPARAGUS | CANADA | 2 | | | |
| | MEXICO | 3,074,563 | 5,496,932 | 3,610,554 | 5,444,247 |
| AVOCADOS | MEXICO | 26,539,775 | 40,980,020 | 33,947,287 | 43,743,880 |
| CUCUMBERS | CANADA | 15,284,633 | 17,821,192 | 16,284,857 | 10,391,613 |
| | MEXICO | 21,003,594 | 32,285,701 | 31,812,336 | 25,115,493 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | CANADA | 12,386,650 | 17,328,481 | 14,271,335 | 14,496,881 |
| | MEXICO | 8,683,524 | 12,988,651 | 13,457,597 | 13,359,146 |
| TOMATOES | CANADA | 8,440,251 | 11,706,442 | 9,938,112 | 8,769,884 |
| | MEXICO | 16,791,292 | 23,415,359 | 22,607,540 | 23,590,881 |



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