



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 15 - 21, 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.

Produce exports out of Guatemala are being limited by political unrest. The Guatemalan fresh produce supply chain is experiencing logistical delays due to protests and demonstrations in the country. As a result, of the blocked roads and protests, many Guatemalan fresh fruits and vegetables exports are experiencing major logistics challenges and delays. These road blockades have created a domino effect in some areas, leading to fuel shortages and traffic backups in certain regions. According to the Guatemalan Produce Trade Association (GPTA), another downstream effect of the political unrest, is that the regional chaos has, "forced many maritime and trucking companies in Guatemala to reconsider and restructure operational strategies until they can secure measures that can be implemented to protect the Guatemalan people and the lives of those operating transits and logistics." Since the protests began on October 2nd, they have been mostly peaceful, but lately they have turned violent. U.S. consumers rely on fresh fruits and vegetables grown in Guatemala, in 2022 alone, the U.S. imported over 6 billion pounds of fruits and over 305 million pounds of vegetables from the country, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Mexico crossings of asparagus 2023 crop through Arizona, California and Texas are expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched green large mostly 30.75 and standard mostly 28.75. Extra services included. Wide range in quality. Peru imports of asparagus 2023 crop through South Florida ports of entry is expected to increase slightly. Trading moderate. Prices white generally unchanged, others higher. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo mostly 30.75-32.75, extra-large and large mostly 29.75-32.75, standard mostly 27.75-29.75 and small mostly 22.00-24.00. White large 25.75-28.50. Supplies are moderate and prices about steady. Most shippers are reporting larger size profile. Movement data is reporting arrivals are mostly by boat and some via air. Higher prices are due to shorter supplies and/or higher costs. 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 slow, late moderate. Prices 48s higher, 70s generally unchanged, others slightly higher. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s mostly 44.25-45.25, 48s mostly 36.25-38.25, 60s mostly 30.25-32.25, 70s mostly 22.25 and 84s mostly 18.25-19.25. Some harvest curtailed by rain and wet conditions. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active. Prices large higher and medium slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 24.95-26.95, fair quality mostly 16.95-18.95 and ordinary quality mostly 12.95-13.95. Harvest curtailed by heavy rains and muddy fields from Hurricane Lidia October 10th through the 16th. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 16.95-18.95, fair quality 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality 7.95-8.95. Cartons 36s 8.95-9.95. Quality variable. Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 20.95-22.95, fair quality 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality 8.95-10.95. Cartons 24s 8.95-9.95 and 36s 12.95-13.95. Quality generally good. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected with very light volume. 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. Trading moderate. Prices higher. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 20.35-20.85 and fair quality 12.35-12.85. Cartons 24s 10.35-10.85. Quality generally good. Cucumber movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies are insufficient to establish a market. The last

For more information on:

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F.O.B. report was issued this week. Cucumber movement out of Michigan 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. The last F.O.B. report has been issued.

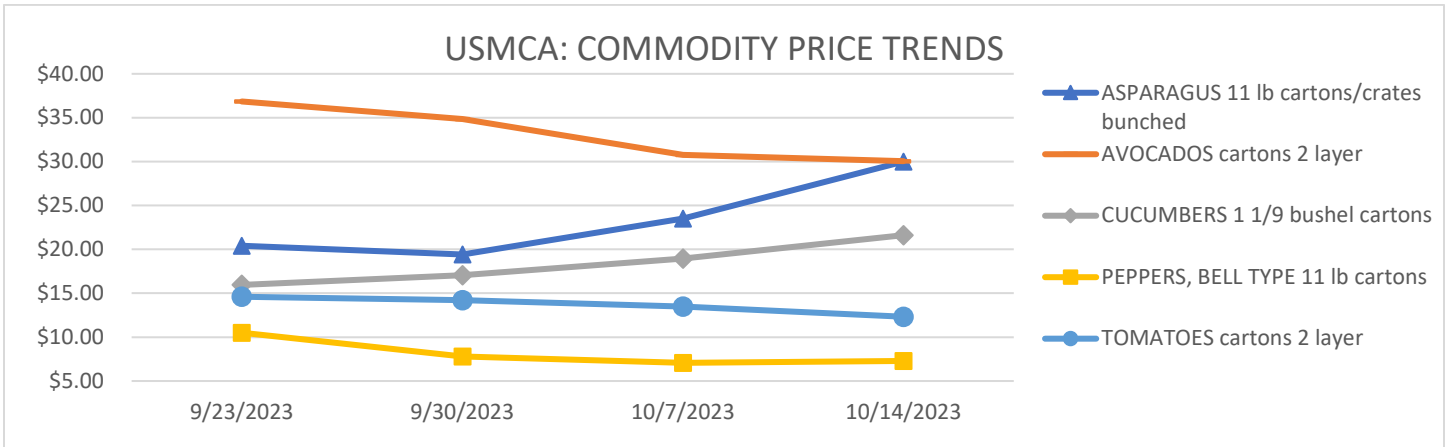
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly active. Prices much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 17.95-18.95, extra-large mostly 19.95-20.95, large mostly 16.95-17.95, medium mostly 15.95-16.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 14.95-15.95. Supplies fairly light. Prices are expected to keep rising this week. Quality generally good. Green bell peppers out of South District California is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. The first trends report was issued this week. Quality is expected to be generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of November 5th. Quality is expected to be generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement is expected to begin harvest the week of October 22nd. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 29th. Quality expected to be generally good. Green bell peppers out of Michigan movement is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies in too few hands to establish a market. Lighter shipments are expected to continue through the end of the week. A last F.O.B. report is expected to be issued within the period. Green bell peppers out of Western North Carolina movement is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Sporadic shipments are expected for the next 3-5 days. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week.

Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices medium generally unchanged, others slightly higher. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo and extra-large 8.00-10.95, large 8.00-9.95 and medium mostly 7.00-8.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 4x4-4x5s generally unchanged, others slightly lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 12.95-13.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 10.95-11.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 12.95-13.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 10.95-11.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to decrease sharply as most growers are finishing this week. Trading fairly slow. Prices lower. Prices reported are for Friday, October 13th. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size mostly 13.00-14.00, 6x6 size mostly 14.00 and 6x7 size mostly 10.00-12.00. Supplies remain very light due to harvest curtailed because of cooler than normal temperatures. The season is expected to finish within 5-7 days. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease sharply as most growers are finishing this week. Trading fairly slow. Prices mature greens generally unchanged, others slightly higher. 25-pound carton loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 size 10.00-12.00. Vine ripens jumbo, extra-large and large 10.00. The season is expected to finish within 5-7 days. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-5x6s mostly 10.95-12.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Florida West District is expected to increase as more growers start the season. Trading fairly slow. Prices 6x7 size generally unchanged, others lower. Prices reported are for Friday, October 15th. 25-pound carton loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better 5x6 and 6x6 sizes mostly 12.00, 6x7 size mostly 8.00. Supplies remain very light due to harvest curtailed because of cooler than normal temperatures. Supplies are expected to increase later in the week as warmer weather is in the forecast. Demand was moderate later in the week. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida harvest is expected to start within 14 days with very light supplies. Cool nights have delayed crop maturity in Central Florida. Expect sufficient number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report within 21 days. Quality is expected to be generally good. Tomato movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Lighter shipments are expected to continue for the next 3-5 days. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week.

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

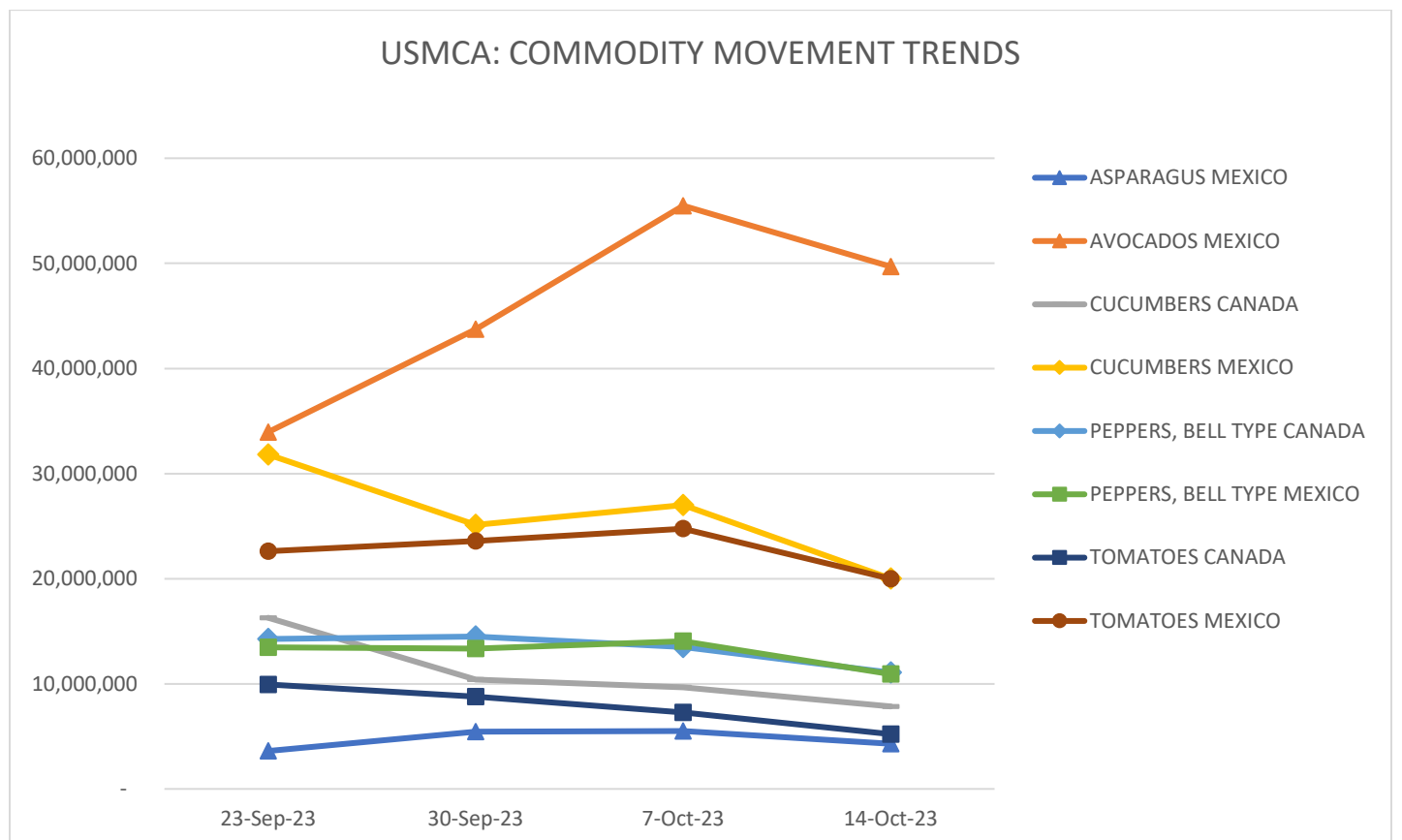
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	9/23/2023	9/30/2023	10/7/2023	10/14/2023
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 20.42	\$ 19.42	\$ 23.50	\$ 30.00
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 36.85	\$ 34.85	\$ 30.75	\$ 30.05
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 15.95	\$ 17.08	\$ 18.95	\$ 21.62
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 10.50	\$ 7.79	\$ 7.07	\$ 7.29
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 14.60	\$ 14.23	\$ 13.48	\$ 12.33

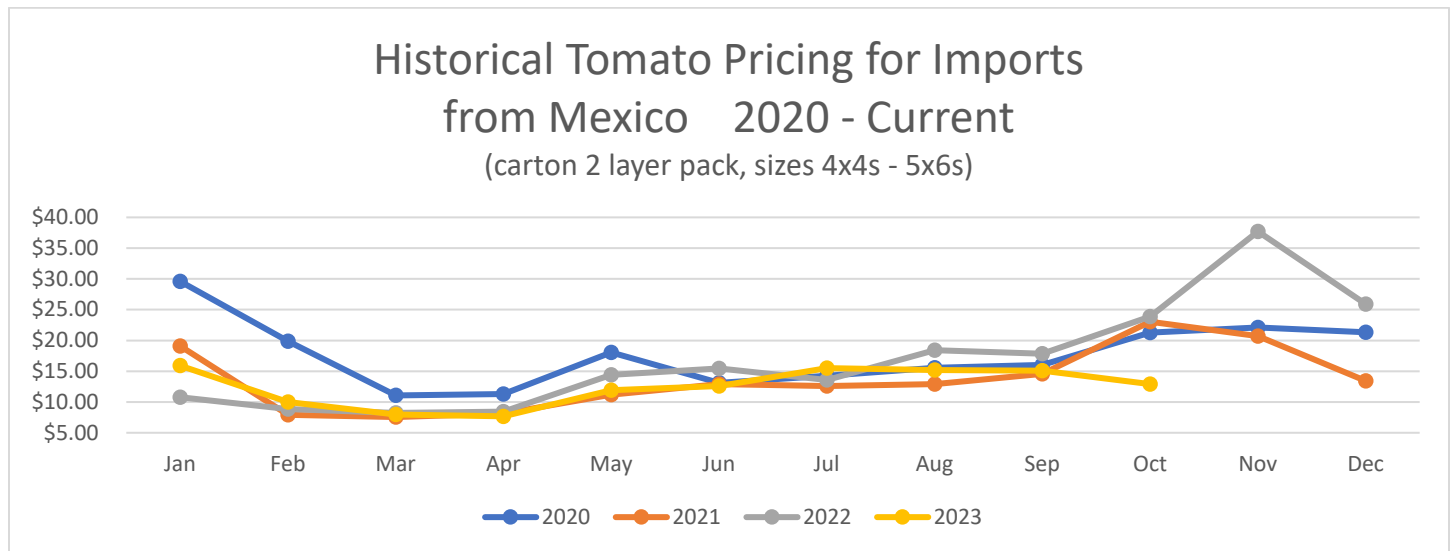


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	23-Sep-23	30-Sep-23	7-Oct-23	14-Oct-23
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	3,610,554	5,444,247	5,509,277	4,296,768
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	33,947,287	43,743,880	55,484,064	49,686,479
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	16,284,857	10,391,613	9,677,725	7,848,522
	MEXICO	31,812,336	25,115,493	27,012,240	20,005,816
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	14,271,335	14,496,881	13,487,880	11,070,252
	MEXICO	13,457,597	13,359,146	14,050,313	10,919,992
TOMATOES	CANADA	9,938,112	8,769,884	7,265,642	5,211,959
	MEXICO	22,607,540	23,590,881	24,753,089	19,989,019



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