



# 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 22 - 28, 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.

It seems that unpredictable weather has affected the produce industry harder this year than last year. Cost of inputs, commodity pricing volatility and weather unpredictability, limit the fresh produce sector as a vital industry for feeding a growing global population sustainably, according to a ProducePay survey that explored business stability for produce stakeholders in the United States and Latin America. Highlights from the survey include, commodity pricing volatility, business stability, business impact, worsening challenges, concerns about the future and produce waste. When it comes to produce waste, about 60% of respondents estimate that greater than 10% of their produce is wasted, degraded or damaged due to supply chain inefficiencies. One example of unpredictable weather was the affect that it had in California, regarding the table grapes industry. When Hurricane Hillary damaged nearly 25 million boxes of California table grapes, companies took proactive steps to find solutions and bridge supply gaps by looking for supplies elsewhere. Countries like Peru and Chile were able to fill in the gaps left by Hurricane Hillary.

Mexico crossings of asparagus 2023 crop through Arizona, California and Texas are expected to remain about the same. Trading standard fairly slow, large moderate. Prices large generally unchanged, standard lower. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched green large mostly 30.75 and standard mostly 22.75. 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 moderate, green fairly slow. Prices white slightly higher, green slightly lower. 11-pound cartons bunched green jumbo and extra-large mostly 28.75-30.75, large mostly 28.75-31.75, standard mostly 26.75-28.75 and small mostly 20.75-24.75. White large 27.75-28.50. Supplies moderate. Most shippers are reporting larger size profile. Movement data is reporting arrivals are mostly by boat and some via air. Shippers are reporting that the market is sloppy with hardly any spot business. Prices are lower mainly due to extra product on hand caused by a vessel delay. Some order cancellations were reported on Friday and Saturday. Quality and condition are reported as variable but generally good.

Movement of avocado 2023 crop crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 48s slightly higher, 70s and 84s slightly lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 40s mostly 44.25-45.25, 48s mostly 38.25-40.25, 60s mostly 30.25-32.25, 70s mostly 20.25-22.25 and 84s mostly 16.25-18.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 16.95-18.00, large mostly 16.95-18.95, fair quality 14.95-16.00 and ordinary quality 6.95-8.95. Cartons 24s mostly 6.95-7.95 and 36s mostly 8.95. Quality generally good. Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early active, late moderate. Prices much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 15.95-16.95, large mostly 16.95-18.95, fair quality mostly 10.95-12.95 and ordinary quality mostly 7.95-8.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase seasonally as more shippers begin the season. Cool temperatures last week and reduced fall plantings this year are contributing to a slow start for any volume of waxed cucumbers. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for first F.O.B. report within the week. Quality expected to be generally good. Movement of cucumber out of Georgia is expected to increase. Trading moderate. Prices unchanged. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons/crates medium 20.35-20.85 and fair quality 12.35-12.85. Cartons 24s 8.35. Quality generally good. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies in too few hands to establish a

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market. Light and sporadic crossings expected to continue through November 4<sup>th</sup>. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week.

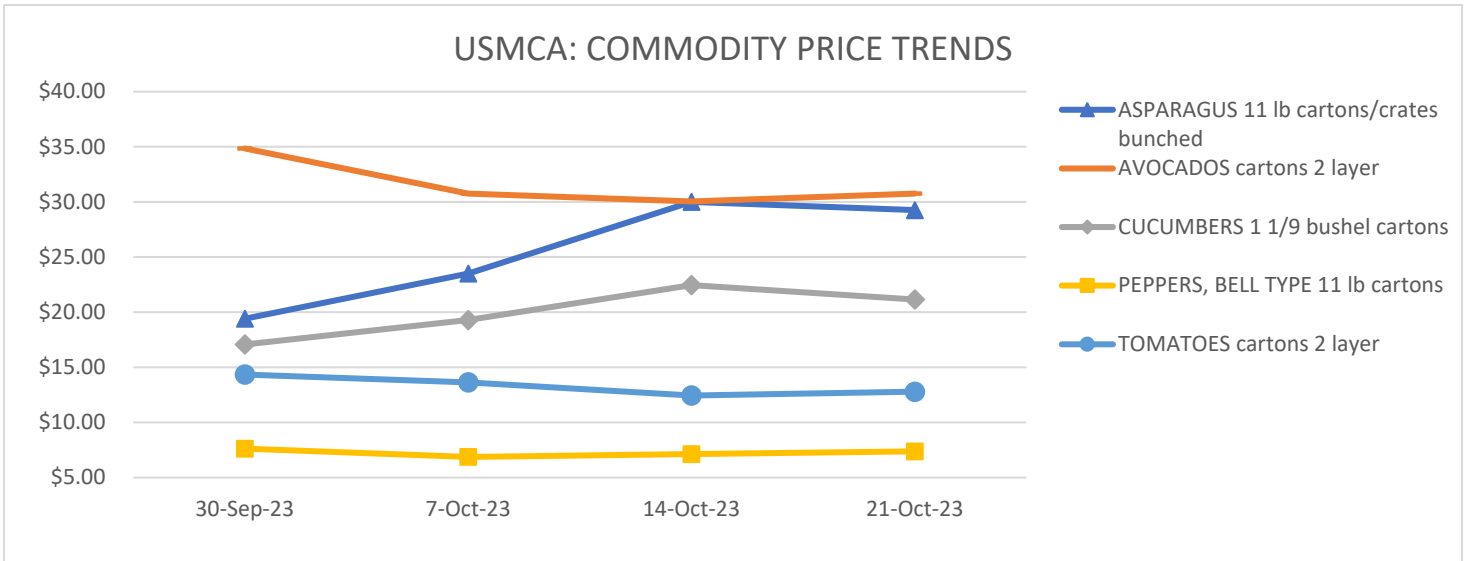
Movement of green bell peppers out of San Joaquin Valley California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly active. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo mostly 17.95-18.95, extra-large mostly 19.95-20.95, large mostly 16.95-17.95, medium mostly 15.95-16.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 14.95-15.95. Supplies fairly light. Demand remains good and prices are about steady. The season is coming to an end within the next two weeks. 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 F.O.B. report will be issued within the period. 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Quality generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement is expected to begin harvest the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of October 29<sup>th</sup>. Quality expected to be generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida are expected to begin within 7-10 days with light shipments. Expect sufficient volume and number of shippers for first F.O.B. report with 7-10 days. Green bell peppers out of Michigan 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 to continue through the end of the week. The last F.O.B. report was issued this week.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early moderate, late fairly active. Prices higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-4x5s mostly 14.95-15.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 12.95-13.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 15.95-16.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 12.95-13.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices jumbo generally unchanged, medium slightly lower, others lower. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens jumbo 8.00-10.95, extra-large mostly 8.00-8.95, large mostly 7.00-8.95 and medium 6.00-8.95. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to decrease sharply as most growers are finished for the season. Trading fairly active. Prices higher. Prices reported are for Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. 25-pound cartons loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better Mature Greens 5x6 and 6x6 sizes 14.95-15.00, 6x7 size 12.95-13.00. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies in too few hands to establish a market. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of November 12<sup>th</sup>. Quality generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading early moderate, late active. Prices 4x4-4x5s higher, 5x5-5x6s slightly higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-4x5s mostly 14.95-15.00 and 5x5-5x6s mostly 12.95-13.95. Supplies fairly light. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Florida West District is expected to increase. Trading 6x7 size moderate, others fairly active. Prices higher. 25-pound carton loose, 85 percent U.S. One or Better 5x6 size 14.95-17.00, 6x6 size 14.00-14.95, 6x7 size mostly 8.00-10.95. The next 14 days will be the peak of harvest for the fall season. Prices are higher on 5x6 size and others are about steady. Extra services included. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida harvest is expected to start within 10 days with very light supplies. Expect sufficient number of shippers for the first F.O.B. report within 14 days. Supplies remain very light and sporadic for the next 10 days. Quality is expected to be generally good. Tomato movement out of Alabama is expected to decrease sharply as most growers are finished for the season. Supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Lighter shipments are expected through the end of the week. 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.

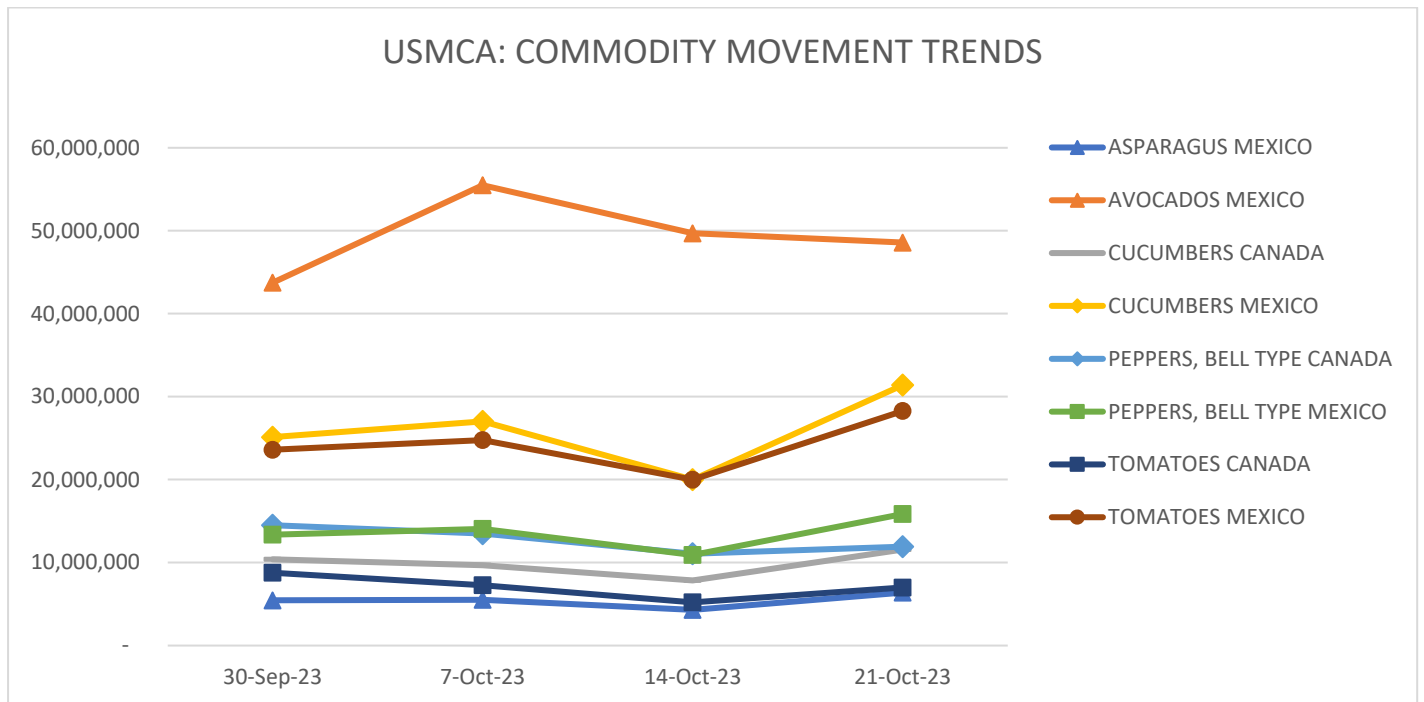
**Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars**

COMM	PACKAGE	30-Sep-23	7-Oct-23	14-Oct-23	21-Oct-23
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 19.42	\$ 23.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 29.25
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 34.85	\$ 30.75	\$ 30.05	\$ 30.75
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 17.08	\$ 19.28	\$ 22.45	\$ 21.15
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb cartons	\$ 7.63	\$ 6.88	\$ 7.13	\$ 7.38
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 14.35	\$ 13.63	\$ 12.45	\$ 12.78

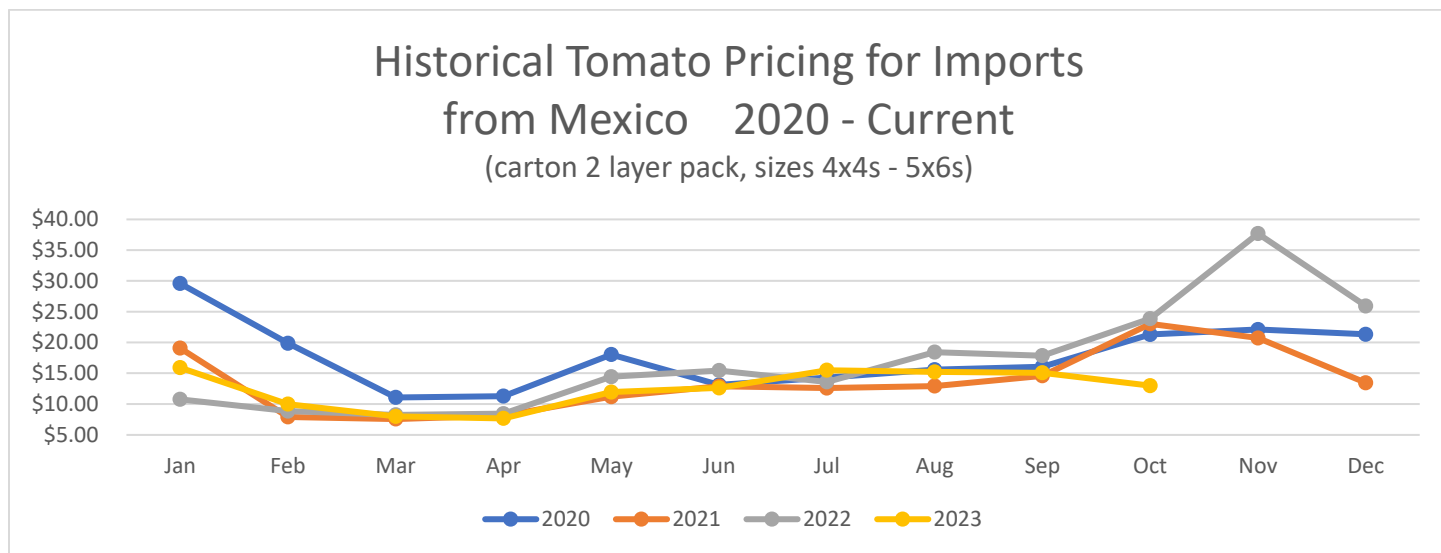


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	30-Sep-23	7-Oct-23	14-Oct-23	21-Oct-23
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	5,444,247	5,509,277	4,296,768	6,382,444
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	43,743,880	55,484,064	49,686,479	48,563,962
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	10,391,613	9,677,725	7,848,522	11,567,018
	MEXICO	25,115,493	27,012,240	20,005,816	31,389,283
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	14,496,881	13,487,880	11,070,252	11,914,811
	MEXICO	13,359,146	14,050,313	10,919,992	15,856,939
TOMATOES	CANADA	8,769,884	7,265,642	5,211,959	6,984,744
	MEXICO	23,590,881	24,753,089	19,989,019	28,281,245



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