



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 December 10-16, 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.

Ocean freight rates are an important component to pricing on imported goods. According to data from Freightos.com, shipping rates for a 40-foot container from Asia to the U.S. West Coast have dropped by over 80% since April 2022, while rates to the East Coast have fallen by nearly 2/3. Many rates are once again at pre-pandemic levels. More importantly, the congestion at key ports has significantly eased, eliminating the weeks or months-long delays which some shippers had experienced starting in late 2020 and lasting through mid-2022 and which resulted in major condition issues for highly perishable specialty crops stuck onboard in some cases. One key driver behind these declines is likely to be a reduction in consumer spending over the past two years, resulting in less demand for ocean freight.

Movement of blueberries from Peru imports through Miami, Philadelphia, and New York ports of entry via boat expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate with prices unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large 26.00-32.00, flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids large 16.00-20.00. Quality is reported as good. Movement of blueberries from Mexico crossings through Arizona, California and Texas is expected about the same. Trading was slow at slightly lower prices. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 24.00-26.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 16.00. Quality is reported as variable, with many present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly slow with demand expected to pick up in the next month due to holiday demand followed by the Super Bowl. Prices 36s, 48s, and 70s-84s were lower with others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 36s mostly 46.25-48.25, 40s mostly 38.25-40.25, 48s mostly 34.25-36.25, 60s mostly 25.25-26.25, 70s mostly 20.25-21.25 and 84s mostly 16.25-17.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate, with prices 24s and 36s generally unchanged, others slightly to much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 18.95-20.95, large mostly 18.95, fair quality mostly 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality mostly 6.95-9.95. Cartons 24s mostly 5.95-7.95 and 36s mostly 8.95-10.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate early increasing to fairly active later at higher prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 20.95-22.95, large mostly 18.95-20.95, fair quality mostly 12.95-

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
- [Movement Report Details](#)
- [Generating Custom Reports](#)

For assistance please contact: jeff.main@usda.gov

[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

14.95 and ordinary quality mostly 10.95-12.95. Quality is reported as variable with most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading active at higher prices. Supply remained fairly light to light through the week with rain in the forecast late in the week expected to delay production and harvests. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 20.35, fair quality mostly 14.35. Cartons 24s mostly 7.00-8.00. Includes palletizing and precooling.

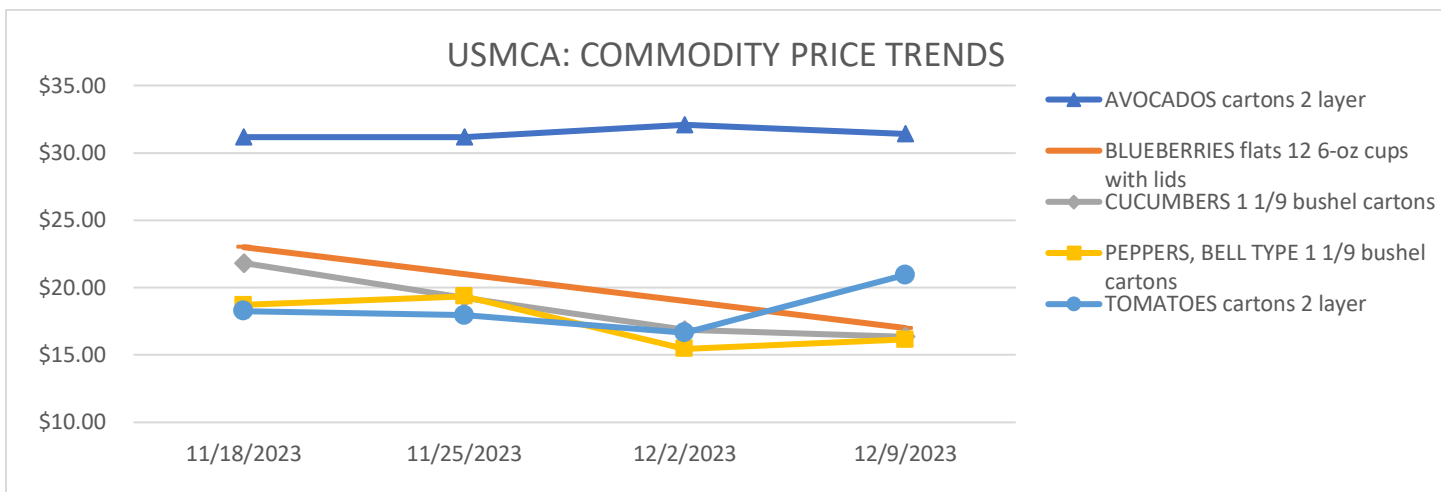
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading green slow with prices generally unchanged. Prices 1 1/9 bushel cartons jumbo, extra-large and large mostly 12.95-14.95, medium mostly 10.95-12.95, small 8.95, irregular size fair quality mostly 12.95-14.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida expected to increase slightly. Trading fairly slow with prices extra-large and large slightly higher, others slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 12.00-14.35, large mostly 10.00-12.35, and irregular sized fair quality mostly 10.00. Demand remained fairly light, and supplies have exceeded demand for the past week. Cooler temperatures are expected to limit maturity and harvest, but most shippers have fairly large supplies on hand in coolers. Includes palletizing and precooling. Quality is reported as generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading of green fairly slow at lower prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large 16.95-18.95, large mostly 14.95-16.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 10.95-12.95. Quality is reported as generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly active early and active later at much higher prices. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 26.95-28.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 20.95-22.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 27.95-28.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 22.95-24.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected decrease slightly with some harvests curtailed due to cool weather through the week. Trading was fairly slow early improving to active later. Prices 6x7 size slightly higher, others much higher. 25-pound cartons loose 5x6 size mostly 20.95, 6x6 size mostly 16.95, and 6x7 size mostly 12.95. Demand continues to be good to very good on fairly light to light supplies for all sizes. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Current supplies in too few hands to establish a market. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of December 10. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate early improving to active later at much higher prices. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4s-5x6s mostly 30.95. Quality is reported as generally good.

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

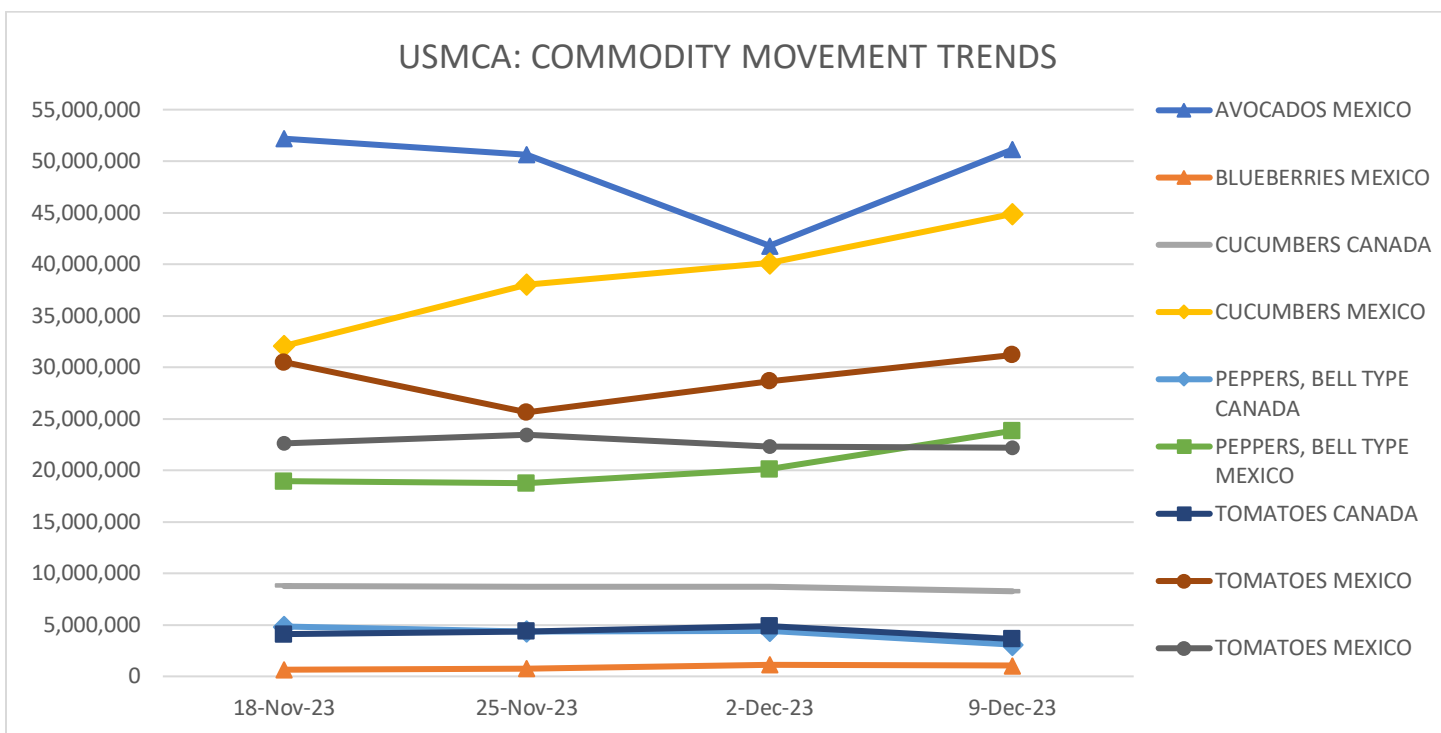
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

| COMM | PACKAGE | 11/18/2023 | 11/25/2023 | 12/2/2023 | 12/9/2023 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| AVOCADOS | cartons 2 layer | \$ 31.17 | \$ 31.17 | \$ 32.08 | \$ 31.42 |
| BLUEBERRIES | flats 12 6-oz cups with lids | \$ 23.00 | \$ 21.00 | \$ 19.00 | \$ 17.00 |
| CUCUMBERS | 1 1/9-bushel cartons | \$ 21.83 | \$ 19.25 | \$ 16.85 | \$ 16.35 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | 1 1/9-bushel cartons | \$ 18.70 | \$ 19.35 | \$ 15.45 | \$ 16.15 |
| TOMATOES | cartons 2 layer | \$ 18.25 | \$ 17.95 | \$ 16.65 | \$ 20.95 |

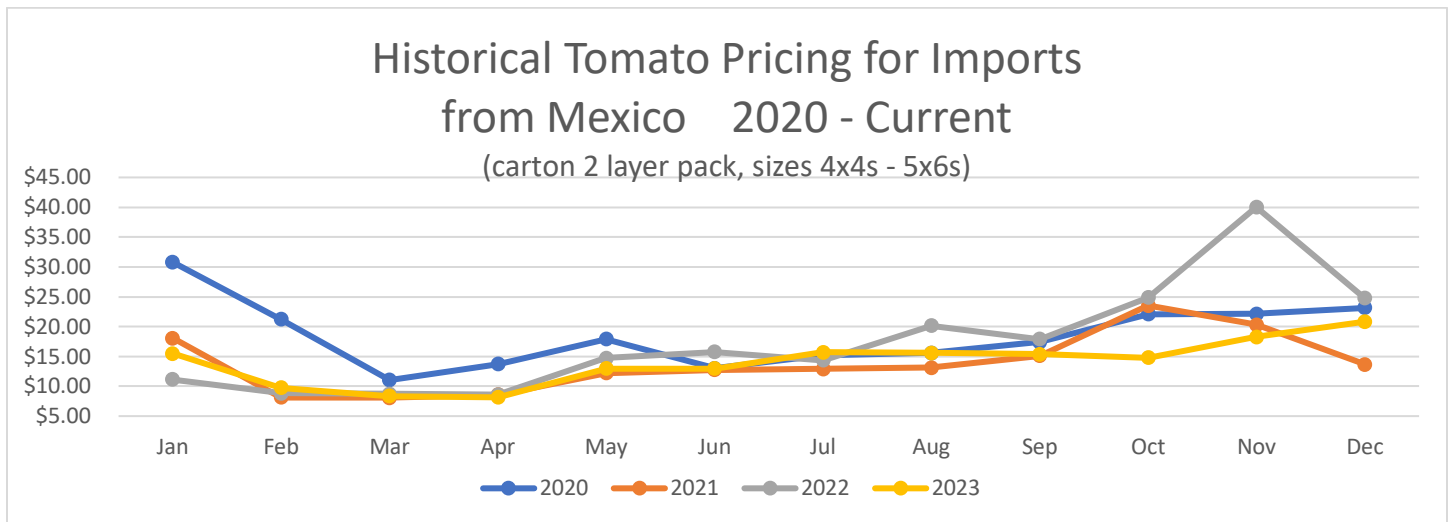


Four Week Movement in Pounds

| COMMODITY | ORIGIN | 18-Nov-23 | 25-Nov-23 | 2-Dec-23 | 9-Dec-23 |
|--------------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| AVOCADOS | MEXICO | 52,181,114 | 50,639,858 | 41,792,607 | 51,123,997 |
| BLUEBERRIES | MEXICO | 646,561 | 759,728 | 1,119,915 | 1,031,986 |
| CUCUMBERS | CANADA | 8,766,652 | 8,685,451 | 8,680,223 | 8,258,905 |
| | MEXICO | 32,067,827 | 38,015,959 | 40,123,121 | 44,876,288 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | CANADA | 4,839,586 | 4,353,282 | 4,414,849 | 3,080,890 |
| | MEXICO | 18,928,121 | 18,747,936 | 20,120,072 | 23,827,346 |
| TOMATOES | CANADA | 4,093,928 | 4,352,670 | 4,876,629 | 3,627,811 |
| | MEXICO | 30,483,125 | 25,625,815 | 28,663,849 | 31,187,626 |
| | MEXICO | 22,623,628 | 23,447,837 | 22,303,575 | 22,192,704 |



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