



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 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.

Early forecasts from the American Automobile Association (AAA) projected a record-breaking year for holiday travel, with as many as 115.2 million Americans expected to travel 50 miles or more from home over the 10-day holiday travel period. This would mark a 2.2% increase over last year, and the second-highest total since 2019, the highest year since AAA began tracking these numbers in 2000. Although the holiday season is the busiest time of year for airports, the vast majority – nearly 104 million people – are expected to drive to their holiday destinations this year. Despite the cost, it seems more people are investing in travel experiences and the chance to make memories with loved ones even as consumer prices on other goods and services continue to strain pocketbooks.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to decrease slightly. Trading fairly slow early improving to moderate later with prices 36s, 48s-84s higher, organic 70s slightly lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 36s mostly 48.25-50.25, 40s mostly 38.25-40.25, 48s mostly 37.25-38.25, 60s mostly 28.25-29.25, 70s mostly 21.25-22.25 and 84s mostly 17.25-18.25. Extra services included.

Movement of blueberries from Mexico crossings through Arizona, California and Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices generally unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 26.00-28.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 18.00. Quality is reported as variable, with many present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. 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 cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and moderate later. Prices slightly lower to lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 18.95-20.95, large mostly 16.95-20.95, fair quality mostly 18.95-20.95 and ordinary quality mostly 8.95-11.95. Cartons 24s mostly 9.95-10.95 and 36s mostly 11.95-12.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Early trading fairly active but fairly slow later at lower prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 20.95-22.95, fair quality mostly 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality mostly 12.95-13.95. 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 decrease slightly. There were too few new sales to establish a market as supplies are very light and in few hands. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons, fair quality, cartons

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24s all no price reports issued due to insufficient supplies. Quality is reported as generally good for what few supplies remain. Movement cucumbers from Central America (Honduras) arriving via boat through South Florida ports of entry is expected to increase as more shippers begin. Trading active. No F.O.B. report is currently being issued, but quality and condition are reported as generally good. Supplies currently very light and in few hands, with the first F.O.B. price report expected within the next 7-10 days.

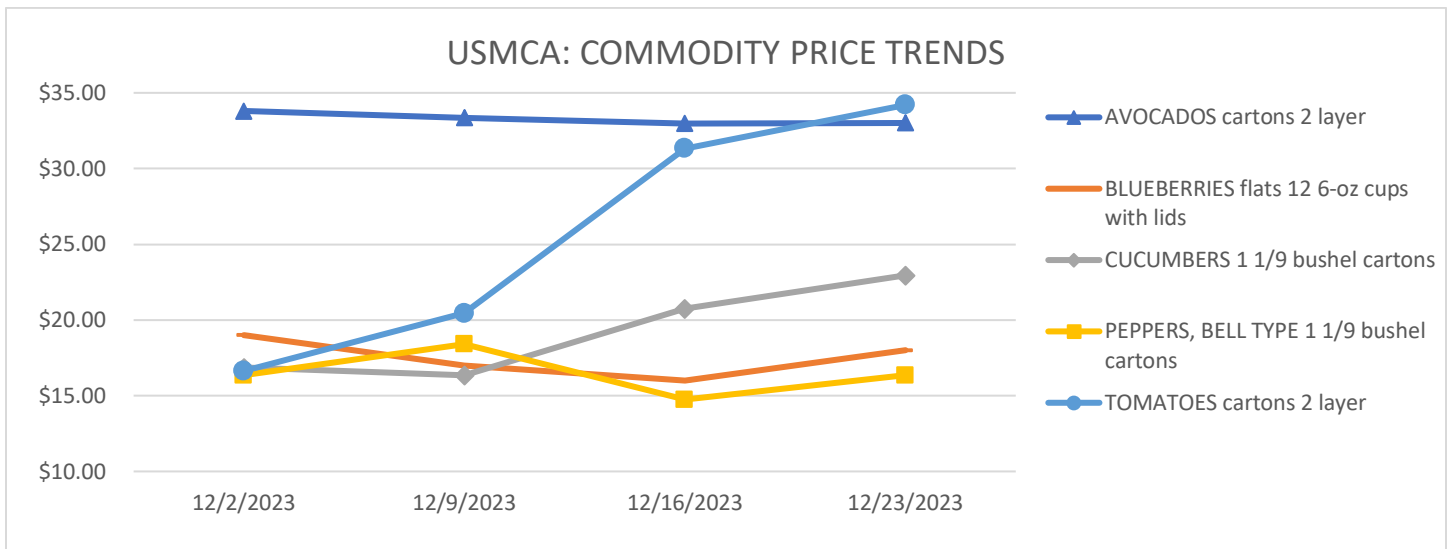
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading moderate with prices on green jumbo and extra-large slightly higher, others generally unchanged. Prices 1 1/9 bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large mostly 18.95-22.95, large mostly 14.95-16.95, medium mostly 12.95-14.95, small 8.95-10.95, irregular size fair quality mostly 12.95-14.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida expected to remain about the same. Trading very active at slightly higher prices. Supplies very light. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 18.35, large mostly 16.35, and irregular sized fair quality mostly 14.35. Includes palletizing and precooling. Quality is reported as generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement expected to decrease seasonally. Trading of green slow with prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large 14.95-16.95, large mostly 12.95-14.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 9.95-10.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Trading very active early and moderate later with prices 5x6 size generally unchanged, others higher. 25-pound cartons loose 5x6 size mostly 27.95, 6x6 size mostly 25.95, and 6x7 size mostly 20.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Supplies remain light as some early morning harvests were curtailed due to cool weather. Demand moderate to fairly light throughout the week. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good, but a wide range in quality and condition is reported to be available at lower prices.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active early and moderate later with prices cartons loose slightly lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 36.95-38.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 24.95-26.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 34.95-36.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 22.95-24.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate, and the first F.O.B. price report has been issued. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s 38.95-40.95, 5x5-5x6s 34.95-36.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-5x6s 38.95-42.94, 5x5-5x6s 36.95-38.95. Quality is reported as generally good.

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

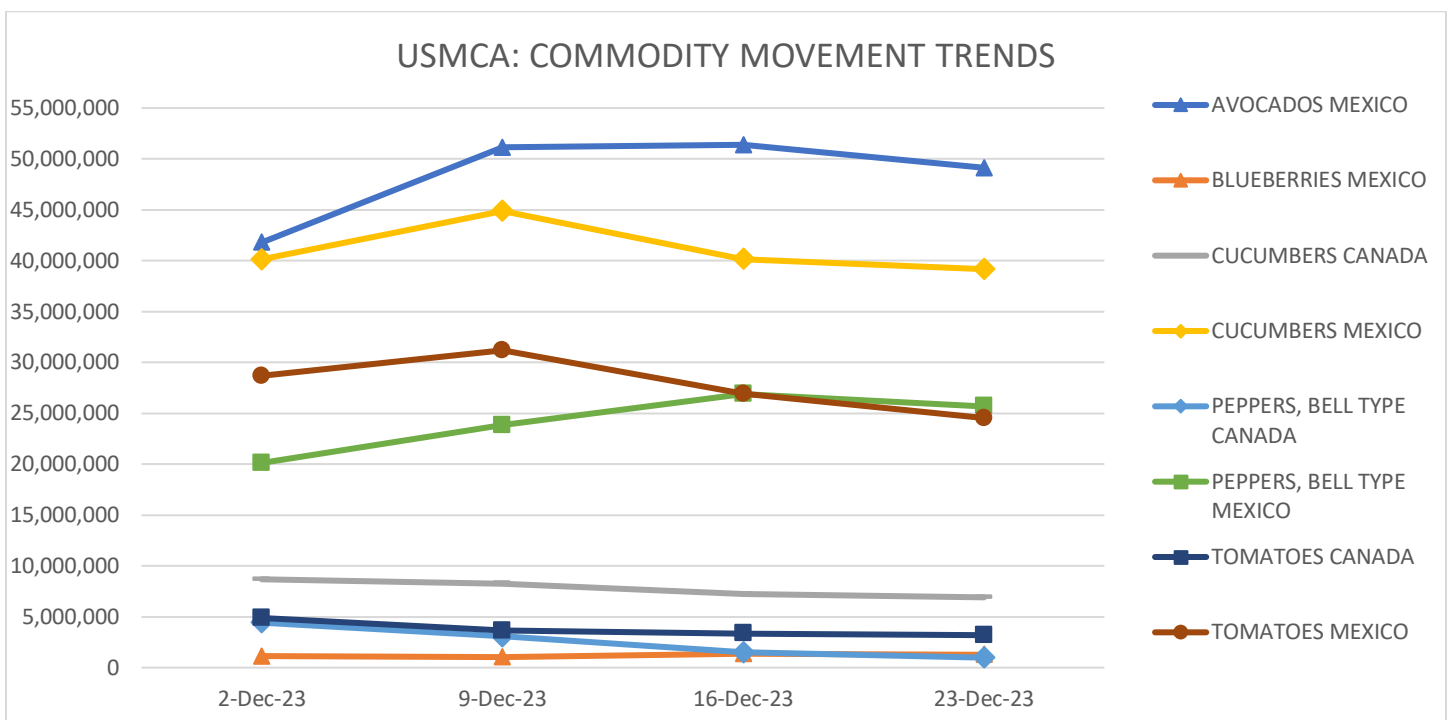
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	12/2/2023	12/9/2023	12/16/2023	12/23/2023
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 33.81	\$ 33.36	\$ 32.97	\$ 33.03
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 19.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 18.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.85	\$ 16.35	\$ 20.75	\$ 22.95
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.35	\$ 18.40	\$ 14.75	\$ 16.35
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 16.64	\$ 20.45	\$ 31.33	\$ 34.20

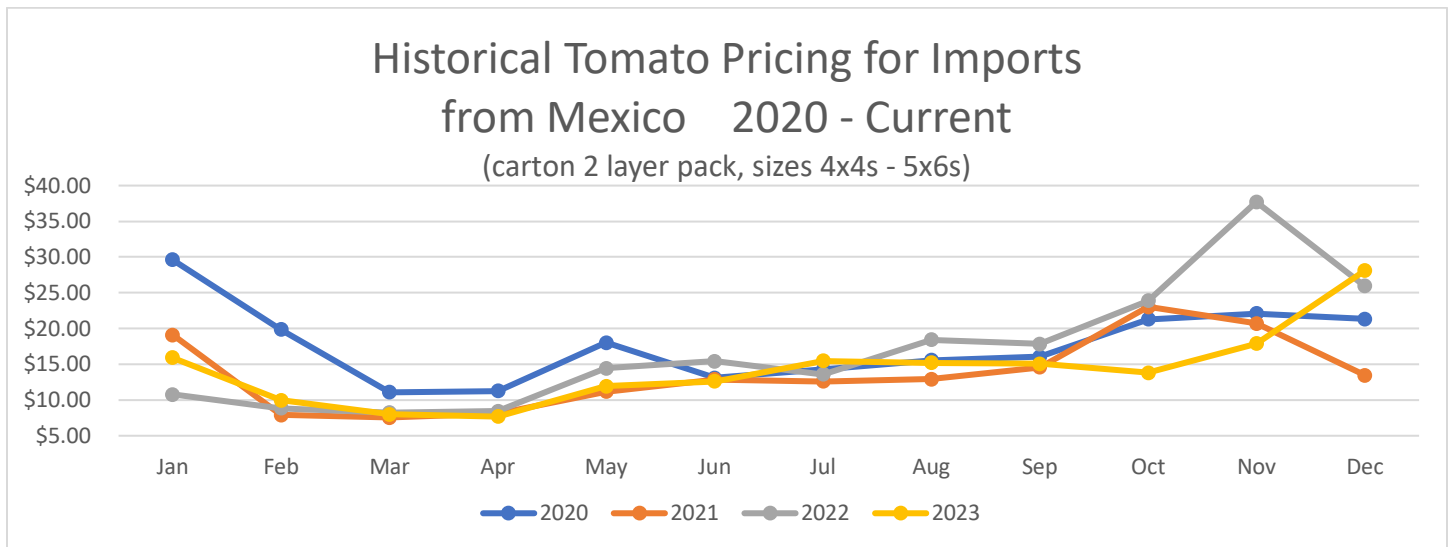


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	2-Dec-23	9-Dec-23	16-Dec-23	23-Dec-23
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	41,792,607	51,123,997	51,389,521	49,122,349
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	1,119,915	1,031,986	1,364,036	1,261,125
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	8,680,223	8,258,905	7,234,340	6,905,377
	MEXICO	40,123,121	44,876,288	40,162,763	39,163,781
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	4,414,849	3,080,890	1,483,248	976,666
	MEXICO	20,120,072	23,827,346	26,886,085	25,695,019
TOMATOES	CANADA	4,876,629	3,627,811	3,350,598	3,189,039
	MEXICO	28,663,849	31,187,626	26,903,692	24,532,035



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