



Specialty Crops Market News Division U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update

Agricultural Marketing Service

Issued Weekly

Friday, January 5, 2024

Update for Week of December 31, 2023 – January 6, 2024

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.

Data from the Energy Information Administration shows that lower diesel prices provided U.S. transportation companies a small measure of relief in 2023 compared to the previous year. The national average price ended the year 14.5% lower than at the beginning of 2023, and throughout the year the weekly average price was below the \$4/gallon mark at least 15 times. Compared to 2022, when prices regularly topped \$5/gallon, the lower prices were embraced by the trucking industry with open arms at a time when many other costs have continued to increase. The decrease in diesel cost is also surprising some experts in light of the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, as such events are generally expected to increase price volatility globally.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate with prices conventional 60-70s higher, 36s and 48s lower, others generally unchanged. Demand should be picking up in the coming weeks ahead of the Super Bowl. Cartons 2-layer Hass 36s mostly 46.25-48.25, 40s mostly 38.25-40.25, 48s mostly 36.25-37.25, 60s mostly 30.25-31.25, 70s mostly 22.25-23.25 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 on pints slightly higher, 6-ounce cups generally unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 28.00-30.00. 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 6-ounce cups higher, pints unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large 26.00-32.00, flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids large 18.00-23.00. Quality is reported as good.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same Early trading moderate but fairly slow later with prices lower to much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 16.95-18.95, large 14.95-16.95, fair quality mostly 12.95-14.95 and ordinary quality mostly 8.95-10.95. Cartons 24s mostly 6.95-8.95 and 36s mostly 8.95-9.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of cucumber from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow to slow at lower prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 16.95-18.95, large 15.95-16.95, fair quality mostly 12.95-14.95 and ordinary quality mostly 7.95-8.95. Quality is reported as variable

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.](#)

with most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was very active on very light supplies. Waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 20.35-22.35, fair quality mostly 16.35-20.35, cartons 24s mostly 8.00-9.00. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement cucumbers from Central America (Honduras) arriving via boat through South Florida ports of entry is expected to increase as more shippers begin and production increases. 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 week.

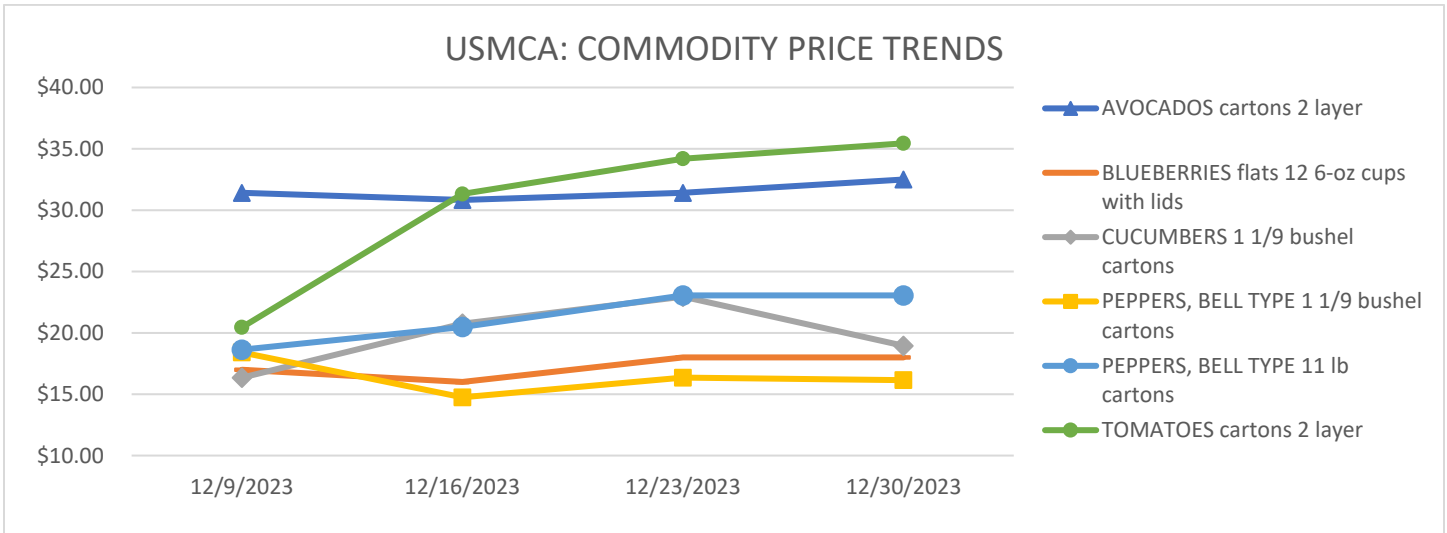
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading moderate at higher prices. Prices 1 1/9 bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large mostly 20.95-22.95, large mostly 18.95-20.95, medium mostly 16.95-18.95, small 10.95-12.95, irregular size fair quality mostly 16.95-18.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida expected to increase slightly. Trading demand exceeds current supplies as adverse weather conditions are delaying crop maturity. Prices much higher on light to very light supplies. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 24.35, large mostly 20.35-22.35, and irregular sized fair quality mostly 20.35. Includes palletizing and precooling. Quality is reported as generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate at much higher prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large 16.95-17.95, large mostly 14.95-15.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 10.95-12.95. Quality is reported as generally good.

Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices 6x7 size generally unchanged, others slightly lower. 25-pound cartons loose 5x6 and 6x6 sizes mostly 24.95, 6x7 size mostly 20.95. Some harvests were curtailed due to rain and cool weather. Demand fairly light. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate later with prices 4x4-4x5s much lower, 5x6s generally unchanged, others lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 28.95-30.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 20.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 30.95-32.95, 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 at much lower prices. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s 26.95-28.95, 5x5-5x6s 24.95-26.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading moderate early and fairly slow later on very light available supplies. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-5x6s 28.95-30.95, 5x5-5x6s 25.95-28.95. Quality is reported as generally good.

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

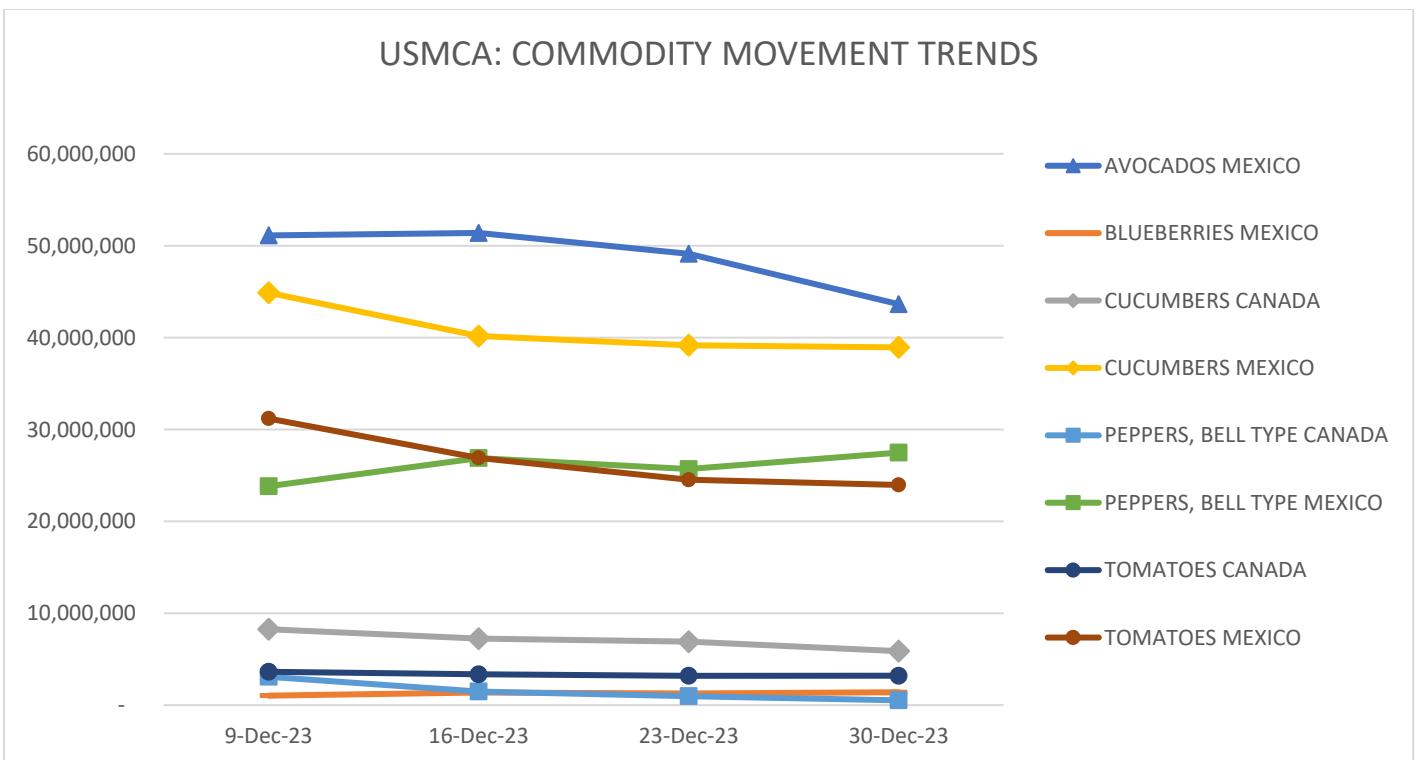
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	12/9/2023	12/16/2023	12/23/2023	12/30/2023
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 31.42	\$ 30.83	\$ 31.42	\$ 32.50
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 17.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.35	\$ 20.75	\$ 22.95	\$ 18.95
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 18.40	\$ 14.75	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.15
	11 lb cartons	\$ 18.63	\$ 20.48	\$ 23.05	\$ 23.05
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 20.45	\$ 31.33	\$ 34.20	\$ 35.45

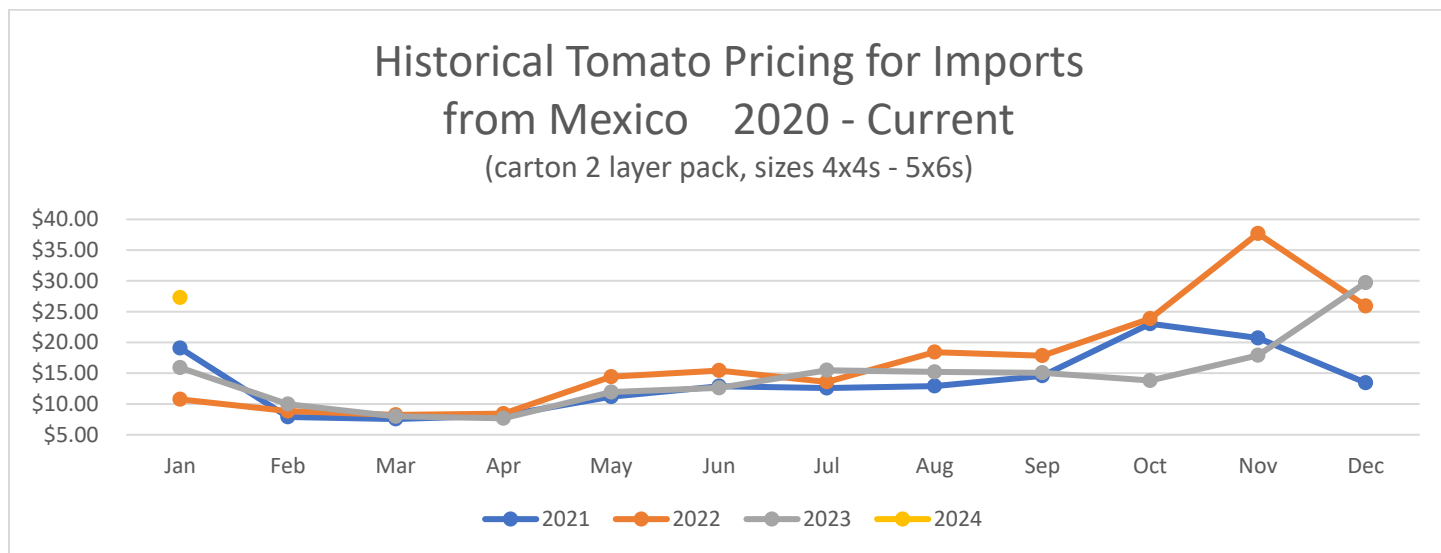


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	9-Dec-23	16-Dec-23	23-Dec-23	30-Dec-23
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	51,123,997	51,389,521	49,122,349	43,639,052
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	1,031,986	1,364,036	1,261,125	1,402,066
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	8,258,905	7,234,340	6,905,377	5,873,965
	MEXICO	44,876,288	40,162,763	39,163,781	38,937,094
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	3,080,890	1,483,248	976,666	522,362
	MEXICO	23,827,346	26,886,085	25,695,019	27,480,852
TOMATOES	CANADA	3,627,811	3,350,598	3,189,039	3,199,473
	MEXICO	31,187,626	26,903,692	24,532,035	23,965,289



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