



# 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 January 7-13, 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.

Global shipping rates are poised to jump, potentially as soon as next week, as ocean carriers seek to avoid the Red Sea amid attacks from rebel groups targeting vessels in the region. Longer freight times around Africa are already disrupting and delaying product deliveries, with rerouted vessels reported to be carrying goods ranging from Spring clothing, footwear, home goods, electronics, patio furniture and pool supplies. The delays are also causing cancellations as vessels are not in place for scheduled return sailings. Industry sources from the National Retail Federation cautioned that freight rates could spike to highs not seen since early 2022, when the Suez Canal route and the Panama Canal route were both facing restrictions.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to increase slightly. Trading was moderate early shifting to fairly active on 60s-84s but fairly slow on others later. Prices conventional 60s higher, conventional 36s and 40s and organic 48s lower, others generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32s mostly 46.25-48.25, 36s mostly 43.25-45.25, 40s mostly 36.25-38.25, 48s mostly 36.25-37.25, 60s mostly 31.25-31.25, 70s mostly 22.25-23.25 and 84s mostly 17.25-18.25. Extra services included.

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 generally 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. The first report has been issued for blueberries from Chile through ports of entry Miami, Philadelphia, and New York area. Movement is expected to increase. Trading fairly active, with the first F.O.B. price report expected within the week. Movement of blueberries from Mexico crossings through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to increase. Trading moderate with prices on pints slightly higher, 6-ounce cups generally unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 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 cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Early trading fairly slow improving to moderate later on light supplies. Prices 24s and 36s higher, others much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 22.95-24.95, large 20.95-22.95, fair quality mostly 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality mostly 9.95-12.95. Cartons 24s mostly 8.95-10.95 and 36s mostly 9.95-12.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading slow early but fairly active later. Prices medium higher, large much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 18.95-20.95, large 20.95-22.95, fair quality

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mostly 14.95-16.95 and ordinary quality mostly 10.95-12.95. Quality is reported as variable with most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. 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. Available supplies currently very light and in few hands, with the first F.O.B. price report expected within the week. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is in too few hands to establish a market and the last report has been issued until volume increases in the spring. Very light shipments expected to continue for up to a week.

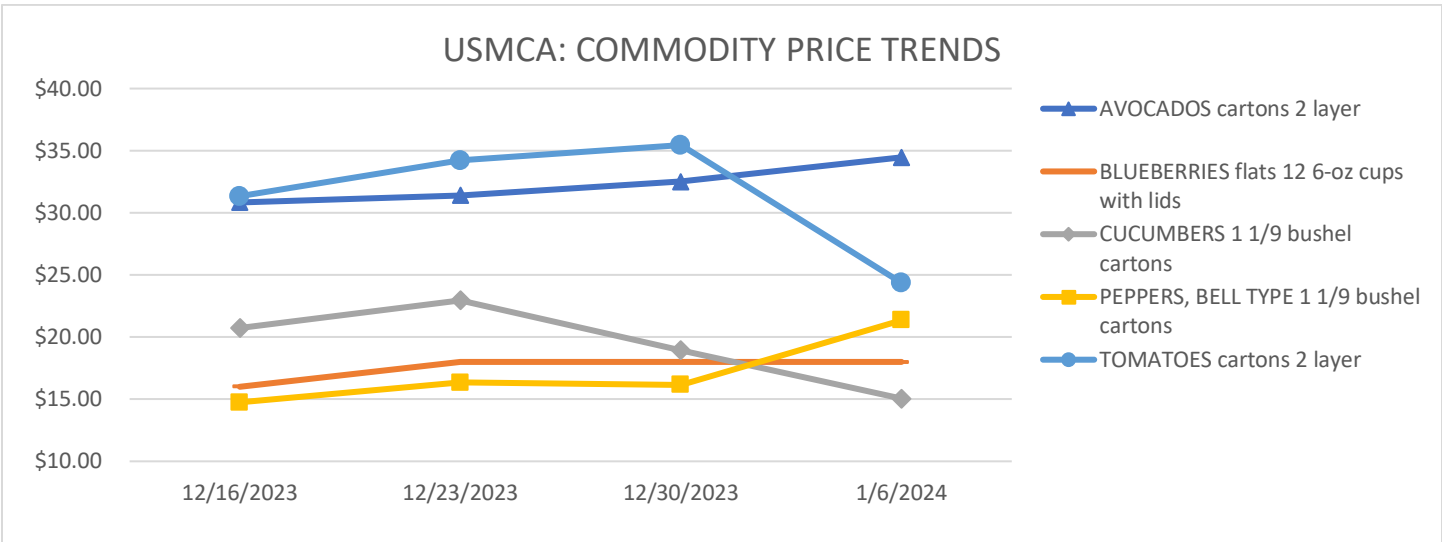
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading very active at much higher prices. Prices 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large mostly 22.95-24.95, large mostly 22.95-26.95, medium mostly 20.95-24.95, small 16.95-18.95, irregular size fair quality mostly 20.95-22.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida expected to remain about the same. Trading demand exceeded supplies early in the week due to adverse weather conditions delaying crop maturity, but supplies were back to normal levels by midweek despite rain and wet fields again curtailing some harvest early in the week. Prices fair quality much higher, others generally unchanged on light to very light supplies. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 24.35, large mostly 22.35, and irregular sized fair quality mostly 22.35. Includes palletizing and precooling. Quality is reported as generally good. Green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California movement expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly active at much higher prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large 22.95-24.95, large mostly 19.95-20.95 and irregular sized fair quality mostly 18.95-19.95. Quality is reported as generally good.

Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly slow later with prices generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose 5x6 and 6x6 sizes mostly 24.95, 6x7 size mostly 20.95. Demand fairly light, with some harvests curtailed due to inclement weather throughout the week. Extra services included. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate at much lower prices. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s mostly 18.95-20.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 16.95-17.95 and 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 20.95-22.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes 18.95. 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. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s 18.95-20.95, 5x5-5x6s 16.95-18.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly slow early and moderate later at much lower prices. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-5x6s 20.95-22.95, 5x5-5x6s 18.95-20.95. Quality is reported as generally good.

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

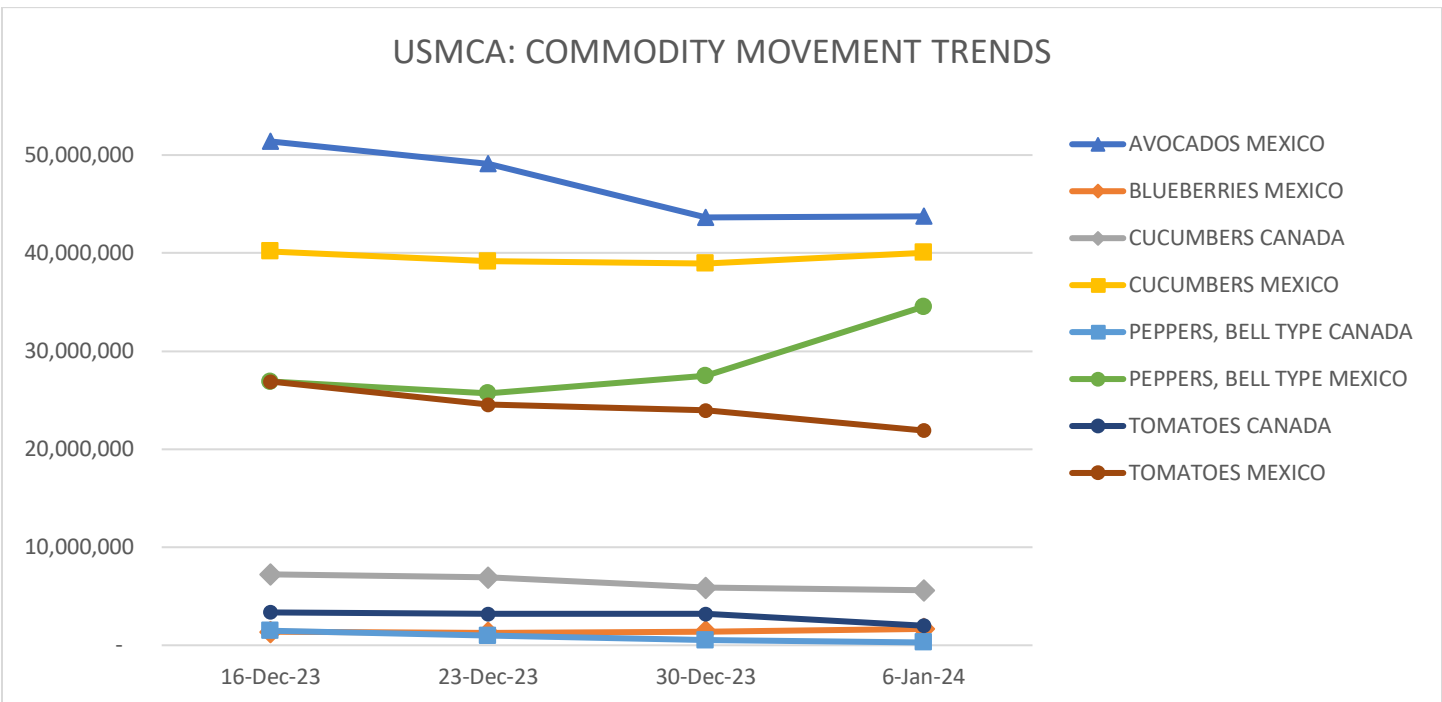
**Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars**

Commodity	Package	12/16/2023	12/23/2023	12/30/2023	1/6/2024
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 30.83	\$ 31.42	\$ 32.50	\$ 34.46
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 16.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 20.75	\$ 22.95	\$ 18.95	\$ 15.05
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 14.75	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.15	\$ 21.35
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 31.33	\$ 34.20	\$ 35.45	\$ 24.37

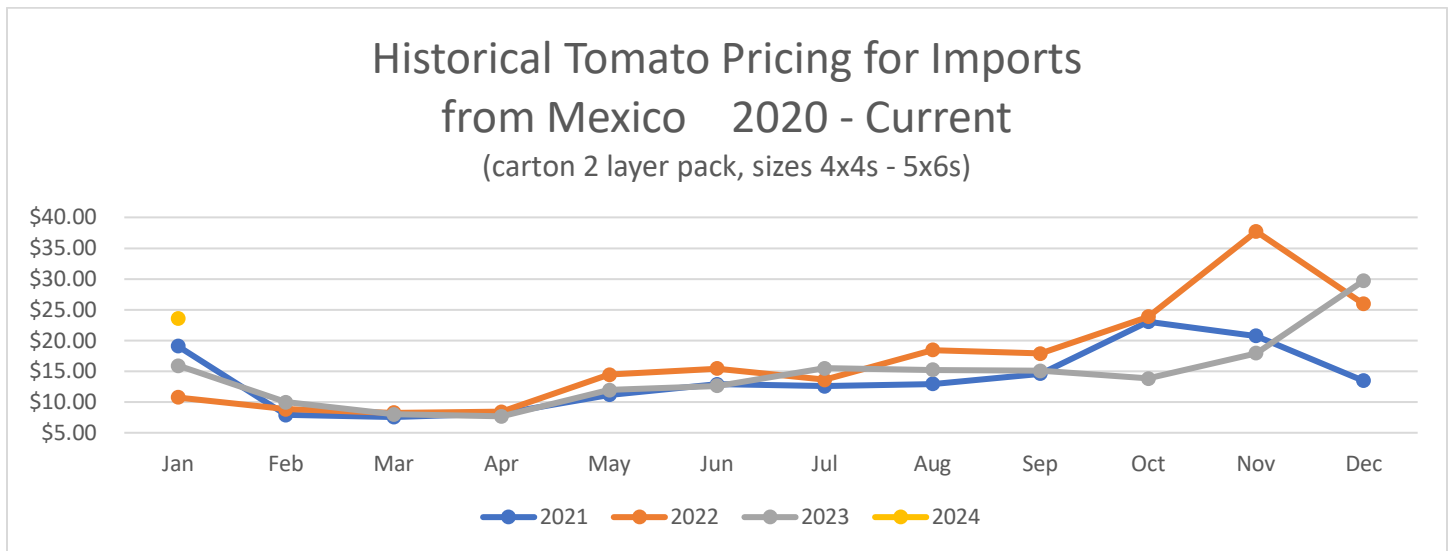


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	16-Dec-23	23-Dec-23	30-Dec-23	6-Jan-24
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	51,389,521	49,122,349	43,639,052	43,759,931
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	1,364,036	1,261,125	1,402,066	1,668,955
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	7,234,340	6,905,377	5,873,965	5,614,524
	MEXICO	40,162,763	39,163,781	38,937,094	40,042,173
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	1,483,248	976,666	522,362	285,735
	MEXICO	26,886,085	25,695,019	27,480,852	34,541,477
TOMATOES	CANADA	3,350,598	3,189,039	3,199,473	1,994,738
	MEXICO	26,903,692	24,532,035	23,965,289	21,902,871



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