



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

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Update for Week of September 12-18, 2021

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.

Transportation delays continue to adversely impact the national and global supply distribution chains, both at the ports of entry and at points of distribution. Although no major weather events disrupted shipping within the US this week, reported truck availability dropped and the national average price for diesel fuel is again on the rise. Domestic shippers are finding more limited demand at the high prices they must charge to cover shipping costs for their product. Shipments entering the country through both ports and border crossings face additional challenges. Staffing issues at border crossings are leading to extended wait times before entry is allowed, during which refrigeration units must be kept running continuously to avoid condition issues. A combination of too many empty containers at seaports, lack of available labor, and limited transportation availability are extending backlogs for ships waiting to berth at major US ports, leading to lack of product on markets along with deterioration of the produce if it is held too long.

Mexican avocado crossings through Texas movement expected to increase seasonally. Trading on large fruit (40s-48s) remained fairly active, with other sizes moderate. Prices were higher, keeping demand down despite fairly light supplies. Smaller than average fruits and low dry matter percentages in the Flora Loca crop have led many shippers to wait for the Aventajada crop. Avocados from the South District of California movement is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices on most sizes generally unchanged, aside from 48s which were slightly higher. Supplies are light as the final weeks of harvest are here. High prices are keeping demand moderate.

Blueberry movement from British Columbia Canada crossing through Northwest Washington is expected to decrease seasonally, with the final shipments expected this weekend. Trading was moderate early and fairly active later at slightly higher prices. Quality is reported as variable, with some shippers reporting arrival rejections. Movement of blueberries from Oregon and Washington is expected to decrease seasonally. Early trading was moderate and very active later at slightly higher prices as tight supplies of offshore berries have helped strengthen the domestic market. A large portion of current movement is coming out of controlled atmosphere storage. Quality remains generally good. Michigan blueberry movement is expected to decrease sharply as the season is quickly coming to a close. The remaining supplies are too few hands to establish a market and the last report has been issued. Mexican blueberries crossing through Arizona, California, and Texas movement is expected to increase seasonally, with current supplies in too few hands to establish a market. Quality is reported as variable, and the first F.O.B. price report is expected to be issued the week of October 3. Delays through the Nogales, MX crossing are delaying some shipments and blueberries remain in short supply at some US wholesale markets. Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through both the Philadelphia and New York City areas and through Southern California movement via boat is expected to increase. Trading was very active at higher prices.

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.](#)

Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas are expected about the same, with active trading on light supplies. Prices were higher and demand remains good. Quality remains variable and most supplies are reserved for contracts or previous commitments. Mexican cucumber crossings through Otay Mesa movement expected to decrease slightly. Trading on very light supplies was very active at higher prices. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments and demand exceeds supply with very few spot market sales. Movement out of Western and Central New York is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged, though no FOB price report is currently being issued. Movement out of Michigan is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was active at higher prices. Cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies remain in too few hands to establish a market, with the first F.O.B. price report expected by the first week of October. Current quality is reported as variable. Cucumbers out of Central and South Florida remain in too few hands to establish a market. Light shipments are expected to begin late this week, with the first F.O.B. report of the season expected to be issued by the end of the month.

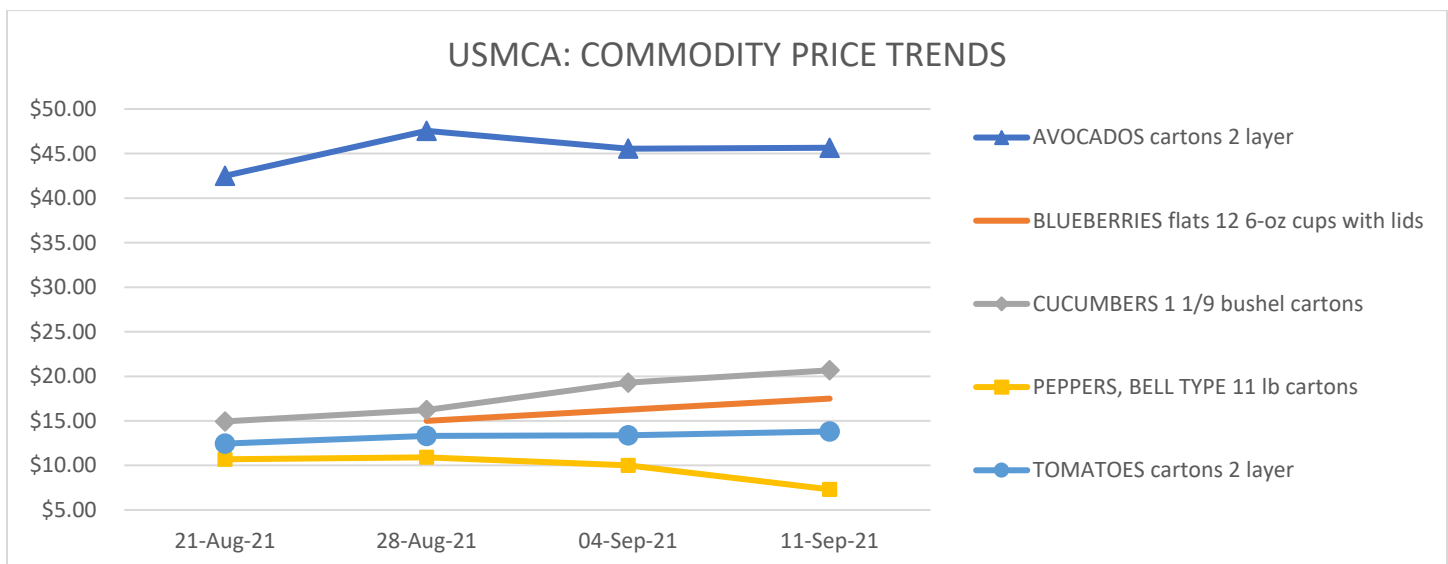
Movement of green bell peppers out of the San Joaquin Valley, California is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly active later with prices on extra-large slightly higher, others generally unchanged. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was slow with prices generally unchanged. Most available supplies of peppers remain reserved for contracts or previous commitments, though industry sources indicate supplies of all sizes of choice green bell peppers continue to increase. Movement of Michigan bell peppers is expected to remain about the same. Trading was fairly active at higher prices. Movement out of South District California is expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Supplies remain in too few hands to establish a market and no F.O.B. price report is currently being issued. Movement out of Western North Carolina expected remain about the same. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices.

Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was active with at higher prices. Demand is good and steady movement is expected through the week. Most present shipments are still from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas is expected about the same with trading fairly active at slightly higher prices. Demand was fairly good for all sizes and packages. Most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore is expected to remain about the same with prices generally unchanged to higher. Demand for 6x7s is moderate due to plentiful supplies, with other sizes facing light supplies and more active trading in response. Movement of tomatoes out of Alabama is expected about the same. Trading was active on all sizes aside from 6x7 size mature greens and medium vine ripe tomatoes. Prices were lower on those two sizes, but higher on all others in response to higher demand for light supplies of larger tomatoes. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was fairly slow early but active later, with prices slightly higher. Most of the current shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments, with few tomatoes available for open market sales. Tomato movement out of Michigan is expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices.

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

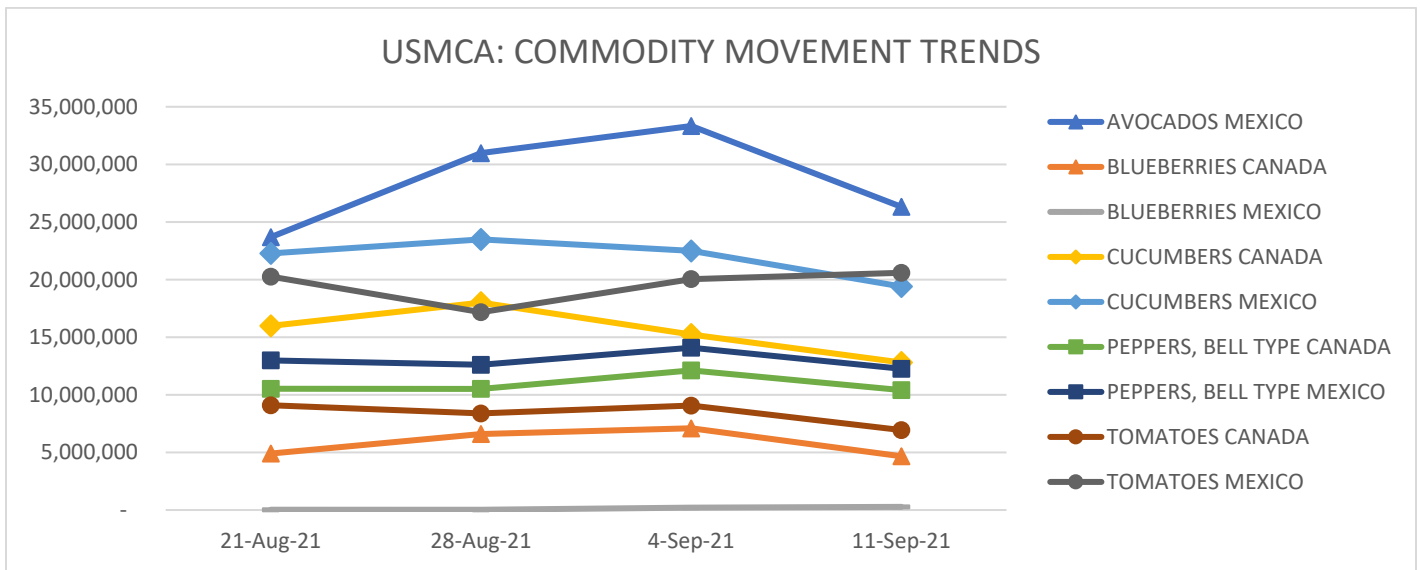
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 42.50	\$ 47.55	\$ 45.55	\$ 45.65
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids		\$ 15.00	\$ 16.25	\$ 17.50
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 14.94	\$ 16.22	\$ 19.29	\$ 20.68
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	11 lb. cartons	\$ 10.69	\$ 10.91	\$ 10.00	\$ 7.31
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 12.45	\$ 13.31	\$ 13.38	\$ 13.81

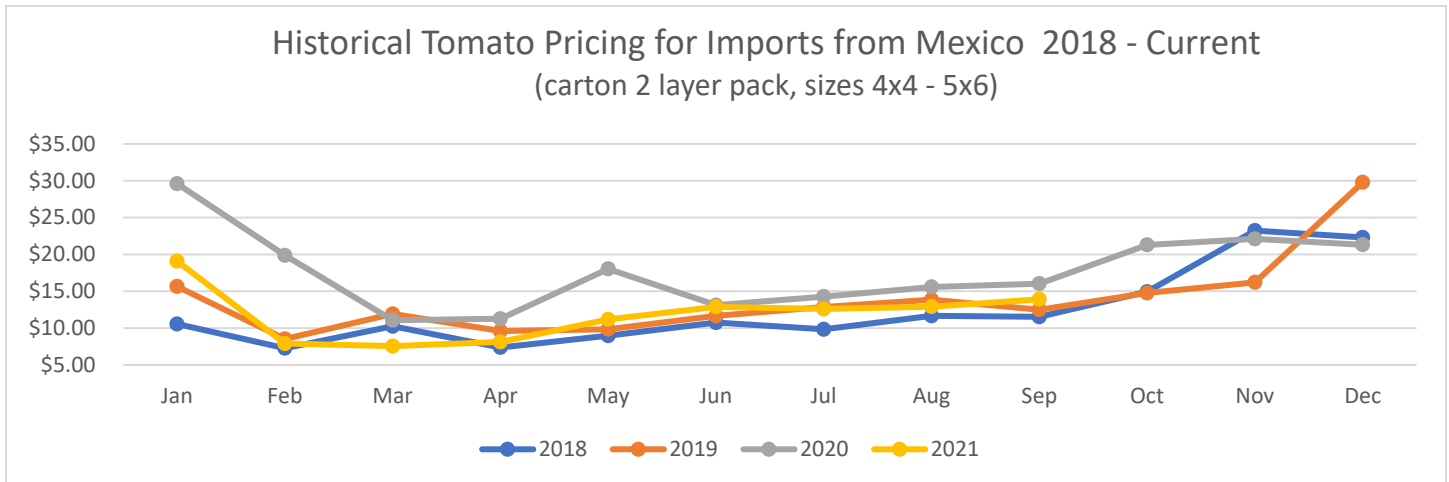


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	4-Sep-21	11-Sep-21
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	23,686,535	30,977,387	33,330,782	26,320,048
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA	4,901,000	6,599,501	7,094,142	4,664,637
	MEXICO	25,107	22,869	200,984	273,970
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	15,983,889	18,003,447	15,233,513	12,803,445
	MEXICO	22,275,760	23,488,561	22,493,648	19,399,261
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	10,521,779	10,514,756	12,119,067	10,407,522
	MEXICO	12,983,714	12,604,736	14,087,627	12,258,412
TOMATOES	CANADA	9,092,485	8,382,775	9,062,102	6,939,170
	MEXICO	20,253,531	17,168,645	20,043,467	20,589,854



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 alliaceouse 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