



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

Volume I – Number 30

Issued Weekly

Friday, July 23, 2021

## Update for Week of July 18 - 24, 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.

Just as widely available vaccinations were starting to allow a return to a somewhat normal way of life, health officials in many localities are encouraging renewed precautions as the highly contagious Delta variant of the virus has become the dominant strain. The nation's most populous county, Los Angeles, has called for a return of masking in all indoor public settings, and others are sure to follow suit before long. These developments are proving another blow to the already strained foodservice industry which continues to struggle with lack of employees at all levels, high truck and fuel rates, limited raw materials for shipping and packing, and nearly every other stumbling block imaginable over the course of the past year and a half. Between 10 and 17% of all restaurants nationwide have permanently closed for business, and others continue to struggle with all the challenges the industry has faced throughout the course of the pandemic.

Asparagus crossings from Mexico movement is expected to remain about the same, with trading very slow at lower prices. Ample supplies with little demand are driving the downward trend for pricing, while the shelf life out of Central Mexico growing regions is shorter than that for other areas and shippers need to keep it moving. Peruvian asparagus movement is expected to decrease slightly this week. Prices are much lower though product was purchased at higher prices that the current market is yielding. Trading was slow as the summer months show limited demand for cooking vegetables.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to increase slightly with the availability of new 2021 crop fruit. The majority of crossings are still old crop but with the availability of the new fruit, prices have begun to shift lower. Full harvest is expected within the next week to 10 days. Demand continues to exceed available supplies for many sizes for the time being. For Peruvian imports arriving through the ports of Miami, Philadelphia, and New York, movement is expected to remain about the same, with fairly slow trading and prices generally unchanged. Movement from the South District California is expected to decrease seasonally. Demand remains strong with prices steady as the season winds down. Trading was fairly active through the week even as more Mexican fruit became available on the market.

Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa cucumber movement is expected to increase. Trading was moderate at lower prices due to increasing volume. As long as temperatures remain high in growing areas, volumes are expected to continue to increase. Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas are expected about the same, with active trading and prices trending higher. Demand remained good this week with most available cucumbers reserved for contracts or previous commitments and most available cucumbers either super select or large sized, of variable quality. Movement out of Michigan is expected to increase as more growers start harvesting. Trading was moderate at lower prices with quality reported as good. Movement out of Western North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading was

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

moderate and prices generally unchanged. The first report has been issued out of Western and central New York with movement expected to increase as harvesting increases. No F.O.B. report is currently being issued.

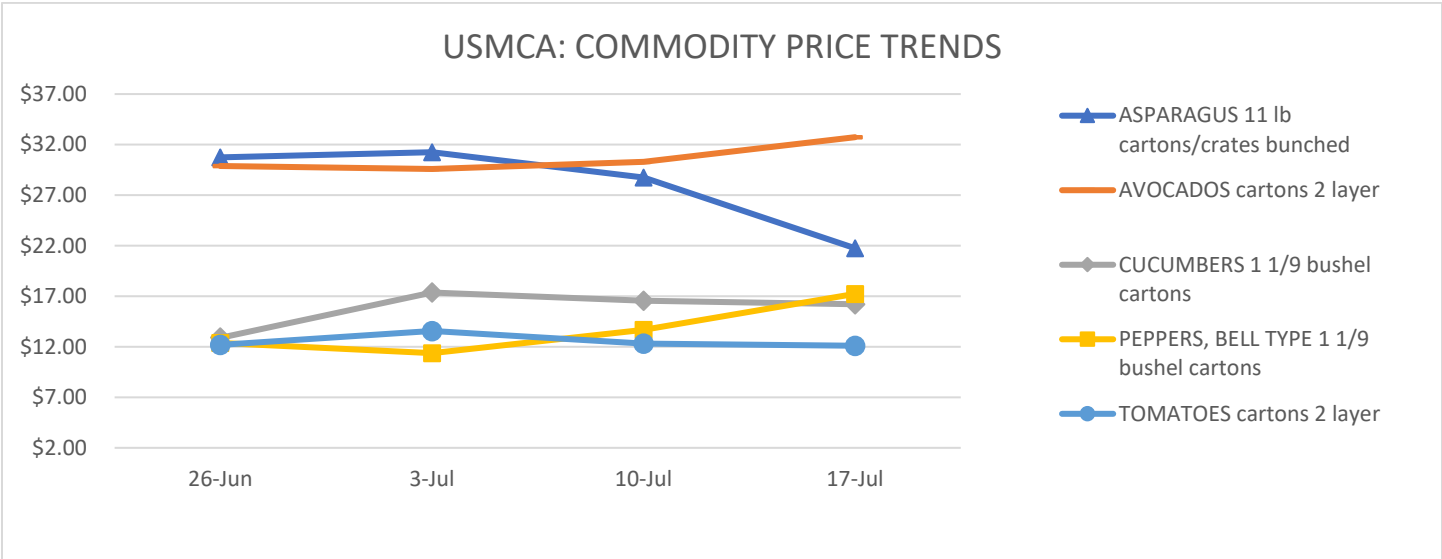
Movement of green bell peppers out of the San Joaquin Valley, California is expected to decrease sharply. Prices were much higher with fairly good demand for generally good quality product. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was active and moderate later. Supplies of green bell peppers continue to be light and in too few hands to quote, but demand continues strong for what product is available. Movement of green bell peppers out of Eastern North Carolina is expected about the same. Trading was moderate at slightly lower prices. Some harvest was curtailed due to rain and wet fields. Movement out of Western North Carolina expected continue to increase seasonally. Trading was moderate and the first F.O.B. price reports have been issued. The first report for Michigan bell peppers has been issued with F.O.B. price reports expected by the end of the week. Movement is expected to increase now that initial harvests are underway. Movement out of South District California is expected to increase seasonally. No F.O.B price report has been issued yet due to supplies in too few hands to establish a market.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas is expected about the same with moderate trading and demand on all sizes and packs with prices generally unchanged. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Tomato movement out of Central District California is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate and active later at higher prices. Demand has increased although truck shortages and high freight rates continue to impact the market. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and active later at slightly higher to higher prices. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of tomatoes out of Alabama is expected to increase although harvests through much of the week were curtailed due to wet fields and rain. Light shipments led to lighter volumes than expected though demand remained good at higher prices. Supplies out of Southeastern Arkansas are in too few hands to establish a market and the last report has been issued. Light shipments are expected to continue for a few more days. Movement is expected to increase out of Eastern Tennessee and Virginia Eastern Shore, despite rain and wet fields curtailing harvests early in the week. Demand is very good, and prices are higher for light supplies. More growers are expected to begin harvest by the end of next week. Light movement is currently underway out of Western North Carolina with more expected over the next week. Currently no F.O.B. price report is being issued.

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

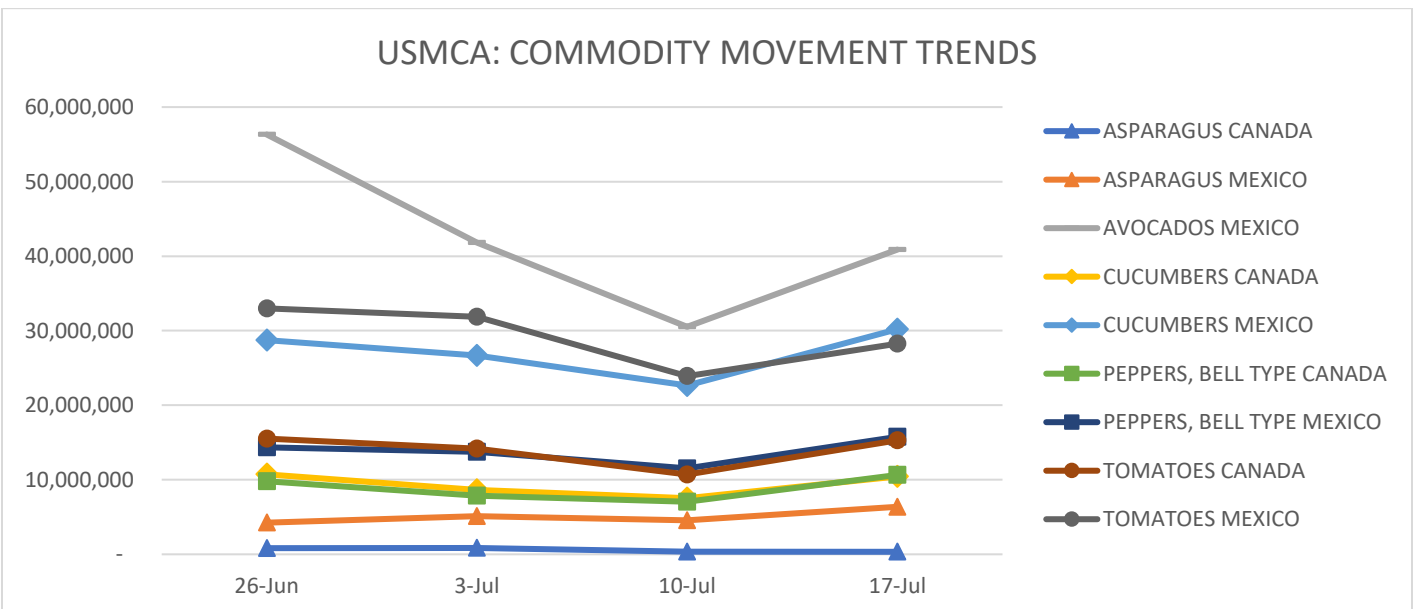
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

| Commodity          | Package                      | 26-Jun   | 3-Jul    | 10-Jul   | 17-Jul   |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ASPARAGUS          | 11 lb cartons/crates bunched | \$ 30.75 | \$ 31.25 | \$ 28.75 | \$ 21.75 |
| AVOCADOS           | cartons 2 layer              | \$ 29.90 | \$ 29.59 | \$ 30.31 | \$ 32.74 |
| CUCUMBERS          | 1 1/9 bushel cartons         | \$ 12.89 | \$ 17.37 | \$ 16.56 | \$ 16.20 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | 1 1/9 bushel cartons         | \$ 12.38 | \$ 11.37 | \$ 13.68 | \$ 17.23 |
| TOMATOES           | cartons 2 layer              | \$ 12.18 | \$ 13.56 | \$ 12.30 | \$ 12.10 |

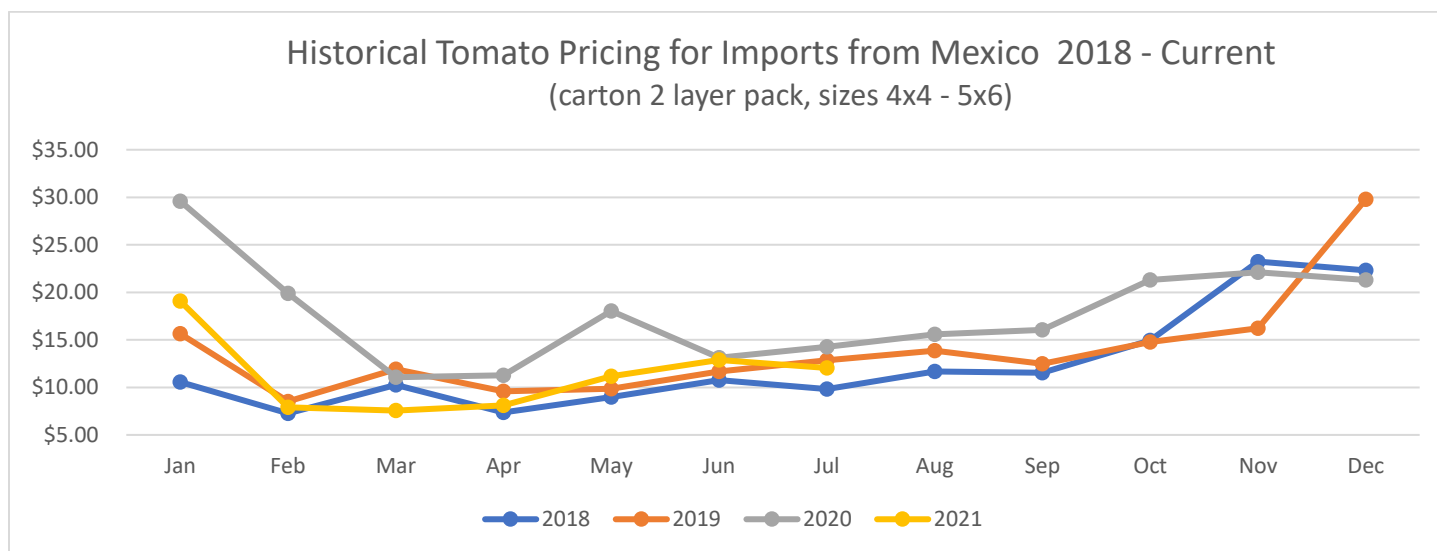


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

| COMMODITY          | ORIGIN | 26-Jun     | 3-Jul      | 10-Jul     | 17-Jul     |
|--------------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ASPARAGUS          | CANADA | 824,007    | 849,864    | 351,993    | 336,434    |
|                    | MEXICO | 4,247,576  | 5,137,850  | 4,559,822  | 6,376,221  |
| AVOCADOS           | MEXICO | 56,322,205 | 41,842,670 | 30,523,125 | 40,888,287 |
|                    | CANADA | 10,726,031 | 8,652,808  | 7,530,024  | 10,441,018 |
| CUCUMBERS          | MEXICO | 28,750,167 | 26,678,373 | 22,651,295 | 30,198,071 |
|                    | CANADA | 9,804,407  | 7,859,123  | 7,053,598  | 10,651,757 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | MEXICO | 14,346,656 | 13,766,396 | 11,532,339 | 15,760,635 |
|                    | CANADA | 15,521,791 | 14,167,676 | 10,707,159 | 15,313,899 |
| TOMATOES           | MEXICO | 32,993,125 | 31,868,059 | 23,905,386 | 28,243,225 |
|                    | CANADA | 15,521,791 | 14,167,676 | 10,707,159 | 15,313,899 |



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