



# Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly

a quarterly publication of the Agricultural Marketing Service

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# NATIONAL SUMMARY

## Quarterly Overview

### Fruit and Vegetable Shipments

USDA reported fourth-quarter 2023 U.S. truck shipments of fresh produce were 9.06 million tons—3 percent lower than the previous quarter, but 2 percent higher than fourth quarter 2022.

Also, in fourth quarter 2023, shipments from Mexico were 2.66 million tons, which was higher than from any other reported origin. Shipments from Mexico accounted for 29 percent of the total reported shipments of fresh fruit and vegetables. Shipments from the next five top regions by volume were as follows: California, 2.19 million tons (24 percent of the total); Pacific Northwest (PNW), 1.87 million tons (21 percent of the total); Canada, 520,000 tons (6 percent of the total); Arizona, 409,000 tons (5 percent of the total); and finally, Florida, 291,000 tons (3 percent of the total).

These top five commodities accounted for 40 percent of reported truck movements in fourth quarter 2023:

- ▶ Potatoes (13 percent)
- ▶ Apples (10 percent)
- ▶ Dry Onions (6 percent)
- ▶ Oranges (4 percent)
- ▶ Tomatoes (4 percent)

### Truck Rates

The table below provides a snapshot of quarterly truck rates for U.S. produce shipments over four mileage categories—1-500; 501-1,500; 1,501-2,500; and 2,501+ miles. Please note the U.S. average truck rates provided below were calculated using weighted regional rates and volumes.

### Diesel Fuel

During fourth quarter 2023, the U.S. diesel fuel price averaged \$4.24 per gallon—down 1 percent from the previous quarter and down 16 percent from the same quarter in 2022.

### Average U.S. Truck Rates for Selected Routes Between 501 and 1,500 Miles (\$/Mile)

	0-500 miles	501-1,500 miles	1,501-2,500 miles	2,501+ miles
<b>Q4 2022</b>	6.82	3.03	2.81	1.39
<b>Q1 2023</b>	6.59	2.84	2.47	1.60
<b>Q2 2023</b>	6.32	2.82	2.33	1.47
<b>Q3 2023</b>	6.74	2.65	2.52	1.35
<b>Q4 2023</b>	5.74	2.68	2.63	1.40
<b>Q4 Change from Previous Quarter</b>	-15%	1%	4%	3%
<b>Q4 Change from Same Quarter Last Year</b>	-16%	-12%	-6%	< 1%

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

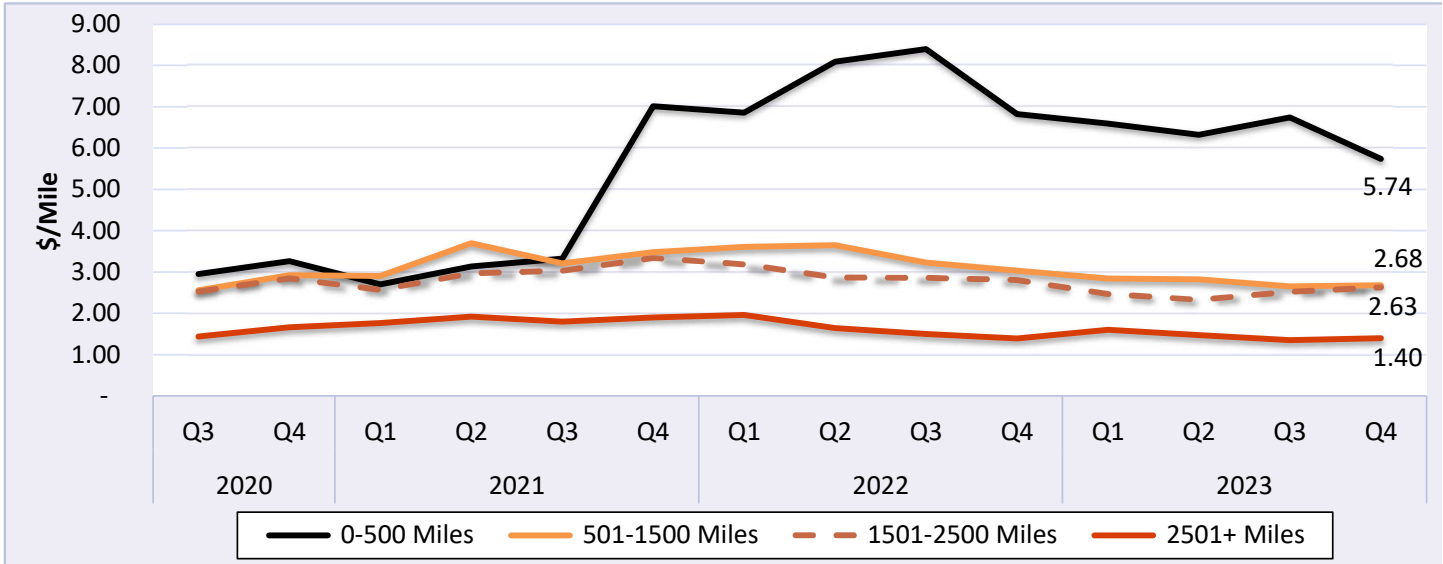
Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rate, weighted by commodity and origin volume.



## U.S. Truck Rates

Figure 1: Average Truck Rates for Selected Routes (\$/Mile)



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rates, weighted by commodity and origin volume.

Table 1: Average U.S. Truck Rates for Selected Routes Between 501 and 1,500 Miles (\$/Mile)

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2023	2.84	2.82	2.65	2.68
2022	3.61	3.65	3.23	3.03
2021	2.90	3.70	3.21	3.48
2020	2.56	2.51	2.56	2.92
2019	2.59	2.60	2.47	2.52
2018	2.82	2.99	2.74	2.84
2017	1.86	2.41	2.33	2.57
2016	2.22	2.37	2.49	2.06
2015	2.47	2.63	2.59	2.36
2014	2.32	2.67	2.64	2.49
2013	2.24	2.60	2.62	2.27
2012	2.10	2.54	2.45	2.29
2011	2.02	2.60	2.77	2.26

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rate, weighted by commodity and origin volume.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Table 2: Quarterly Rates for Key Origins by Month; 501-1,500 miles (\$/Mile)**

U.S. Origin	4th Quarter, 2023			3rd Quarter, 2023		
	October	November	December	July	August	September
Arizona	3.13	3.12	2.59	3.75	3.7	3.52
California	2.83	2.91	2.62	3.38	3.30	3.19
Florida	1.97	1.95	2.27	n/a	n/a	n/a
Great Lakes	4.16	3.99	4.03	4.30	4.21	4.11
Mexico-Arizona	2.40	2.52	2.48	3.03	2.53	2.33
Mexico-Texas	2.78	2.89	2.71	2.79	2.80	2.83
New York	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.44	3.44	3.18
Other	2.96	2.95	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.99
PNW	2.61	2.98	3.31	2.50	2.53	2.63

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Note: "n/a" indicates rates not available.

## Truck Rates for Selected Routes

**Table 3: Origin-Destination Truck Rates for Selected Routes, 4th Quarter 2023 (\$/Mile)**

U.S. Origin	Atlanta	Baltimore	Boston	Chicago	Dallas	Los Angeles	Miami	New York	Philadelphia	Seattle
Arizona	2.82	2.54	2.37	2.68	3.23	7.79	2.78	2.60	2.36	2.70
California	2.88	2.54	2.44	2.52	2.73	10.92	2.75	2.63	2.59	2.49
Florida	2.77	2.06	2.06	1.69	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.17	2.12	n/a
Great Lakes	4.04	4.26	4.02	5.16	3.58	n/a	3.52	4.30	3.89	n/a
Mexico-Arizona	2.38	2.46	2.53	2.23	2.77	2.17	2.68	2.62	2.66	n/a
Mexico-Texas	3.12	2.53	2.30	2.47	3.52	2.01	2.71	2.63	2.59	n/a
New York	3.50	n/a	15.59	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.86	15.00	9.35	n/a
Other	3.13	3.20	2.90	2.91	3.05	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PNW	2.98	3.01	2.82	2.90	2.94	2.94	2.85	3.07	2.99	7.97
Southeast	n/a	n/a	11.55	n/a	n/a	0.62	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Note: "n/a" indicates rates not available.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

### Quarter 4, 2023

**Table 4: Origin-Destination Truck Rates for Selected Routes, 4th Quarter 2023 (\$/Truck)**

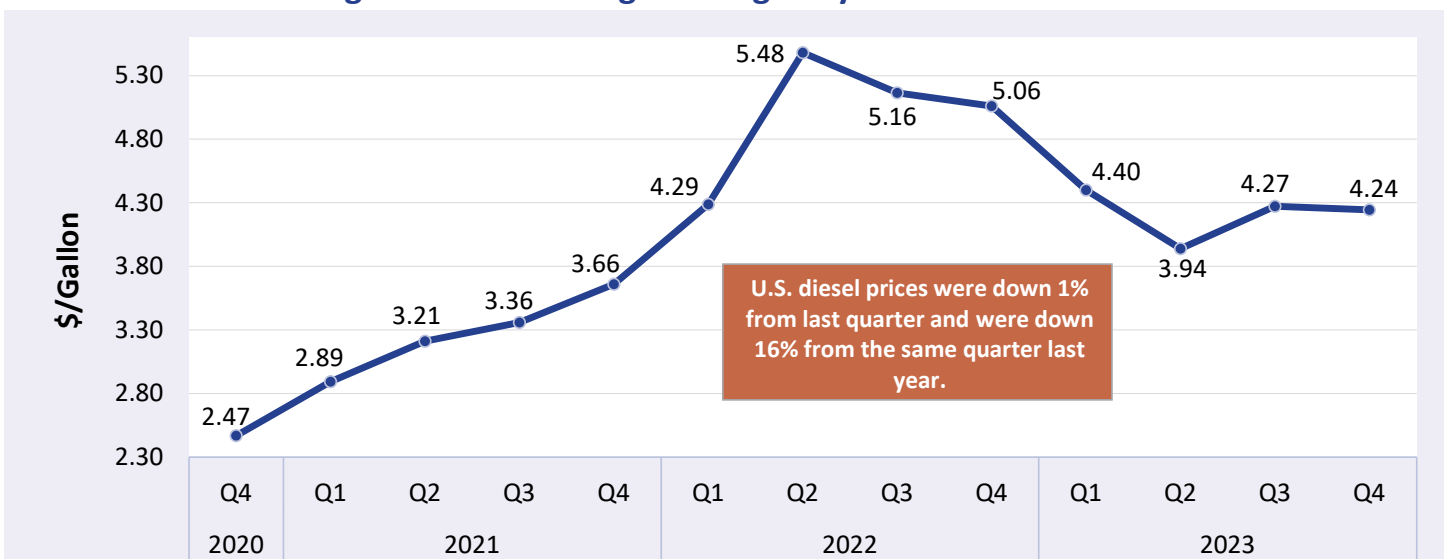
U.S. Origin	Atlanta	Baltimore	Boston	Chicago	Dallas	Los Angeles	Miami	New York	Philadelphia	Seattle
Arizona	5,919	6,608	6,877	5,450	4,196	1,169	7,223	7,008	6,260	3,504
California	6,436	6,904	7,415	5,300	4,013	1,221	7,652	7,482	7,252	3,240
Florida	1,013	2,052	2,868	1,763	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,553	2,317	n/a
Great Lakes	4,389	4,000	5,150	1,904	3,898	n/a	6,188	5,038	5,442	n/a
Mexico-Arizona	4,292	5,792	6,822	4,017	2,713	1,213	6,108	6,538	6,378	n/a
Mexico-Texas	3,588	4,531	5,067	3,531	1,762	3,215	4,154	5,254	4,912	n/a
New York	3,500	n/a	2,650	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,150	2,250	2,150	n/a
Other	2,898	5,725	5,297	2,150	2,225	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PNW	6,874	7,359	7,735	5,147	5,365	2,918	8,445	7,822	7,497	1,115
Southeast	n/a	n/a	8,550	n/a	n/a	1,600	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
 Note: "n/a" indicates rates not available.

## U.S. Diesel Fuel Prices

The diesel fuel price provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant component underlying truck rates.

**Figure 2: U.S. Average On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.



# AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Table 5: Average Diesel Fuel Prices (All Types)**

Region	4th Quarter 2023 Price \$/Gallon	Change From Last Quarter	Change From Last Year
East Coast	4.22	-1%	-19%
California	5.70	4%	-5%
New England	4.48	3%	-20%
Central Atlantic	4.53	2%	-20%
Lower Atlantic	4.09	-3%	-18%
Gulf Coast	3.90	-2%	-16%
Midwest	4.18	0%	-17%
Rocky Mountain	4.35	-1%	-16%
West Coast Except California	4.64	-1%	-12%
U.S.	4.24	-1%	-16%

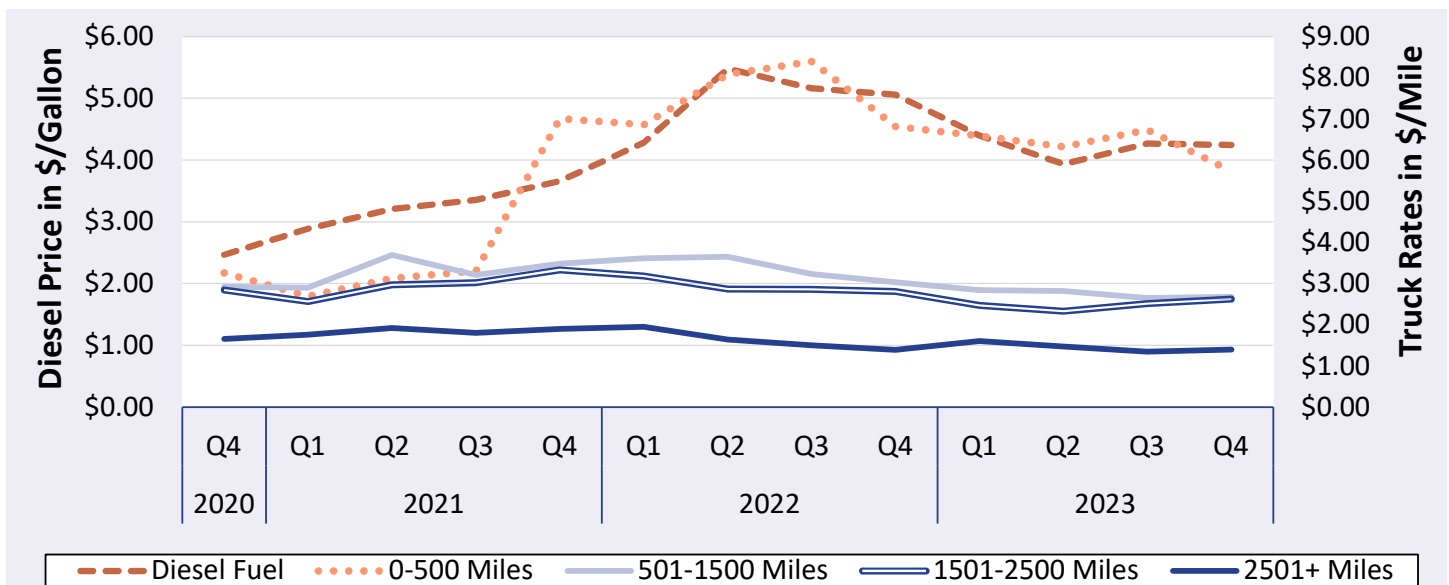
Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

## Relationship Between Diesel Fuel and Truck Rates

The diesel fuel price provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant expense for fruit and vegetable movements.

**Figure 3: U.S. Average On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices and Truck Rates**



Sources: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data and Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.

Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rates, weighted by origin volume.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

### Quarter 4, 2023

**Table 6: Average Diesel Fuel Prices and Truck Rates**

Year	Quarter	Diesel Fuel (\$/gallon)	Truck Rates (\$/mile) 501-1500 miles	% Change From			
				Last Quarter		Last Year	
				Diesel	Truck	Diesel	Truck
<b>2020</b>	Q4	2.47	2.92	2%	14%	-19%	16%
<b>2021</b>	Q1	2.89	2.90	17%	-1%	> -1%	14%
	Q2	3.21	3.70	11%	27%	32%	47%
	Q3	3.36	3.21	5%	-13%	38%	25%
	Q4	3.66	3.48	9%	8%	48%	19%
<b>2022</b>	Q1	4.29	3.61	17%	4%	48%	24%
	Q2	5.48	3.65	28%	1%	71%	-1%
	Q3	5.16	3.23	-6%	-12%	54%	1%
	Q4	5.06	3.03	-2%	-6%	38%	-13%
<b>2023</b>	Q1	4.40	2.84	-13%	-6%	3%	-21%
	Q2	3.94	2.82	-10%	-1%	-28%	-23%
	Q3	4.27	2.65	8%	-6%	-17%	-18%
	Q4	4.24	2.68	-1%	1%	-16%	-12%

Sources: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data and Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.



# AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

## Quarterly Truck Availability

**Table 7: U.S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Truck Availability**

Truck availability legend														
1=Surplus	2=Slight surplus	3=Adequate	4=Slight shortage				5=Shortage							
California, Central, And Western Arizona	Commodities	10/3	10/10	10/17	10/24	10/31	11/7	11/14	11/21	11/28	12/5	12/12	12/19	12/26
<b>Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central And Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico And San Luis</b>	Anise, Artichokes, Beets, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Endive, Escarole, Kale Greens, Boston Lettuce, Green Leaf Lettuce, Iceberg Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Parsley, Green Peas, Radishes, Spinach	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4
<b>Kern District California</b>	Carrots, Grapes	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4
<b>Northern California Including San Joaquin Valley</b>	Pears	3	3	3	3	3	3	3						
<b>Oxnard District California</b>	Artichokes, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Celery, Cilantro, Kale Greens, Parsley, Radishes, Spinach	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4
<b>Salinas-Watsonville California</b>	Artichokes, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Celery, Leeks, Iceberg Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Parsley, Anise, Beets, Bok Choy, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Escarole, Boston Lettuce, Green Leaf Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Green Peas, Radishes, Spinach	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4
<b>San Joaquin Valley California</b>	Persimmons, Pomegranates, Grapes, Plums, Peaches	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Santa Maria California</b>	Broccoli, Cauliflower, Celery, Kale Greens, Iceberg Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Parsley, Anise, Beets, Bok Choy, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Endive, Escarole, Boston Lettuce, Green Leaf Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Green Peas, Radishes, Spinach	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4
<b>South And Central District California</b>	Grapefruit, Lemons, Oranges	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Florida</b>	Commodities	10/3	10/10	10/17	10/24	10/31	11/7	11/14	11/21	11/28	12/5	12/12	12/19	12/26
<b>Central And South Florida</b>	Green Beans, Cabbage, Celery, Sweet Corn, Cucumbers, Endive, Escarole, Okra, Bell Peppers, Other Peppers, Radishes, Squash, Tomatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Grape Tomatoes, Plum Tomatoes						3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5
<b>West District Florida</b>	Tomatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Grape Tomatoes, Plum Tomatoes			3	3	3	3	3	3	3				

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Note: Empty cells were not reported. District and availabilities data come from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate reports:

[https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field\\_slug\\_id\\_value=2375](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field_slug_id_value=2375).





## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Table 7, continued: U.S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Truck Availability**

Truck availability legend														
1=Surplus	2=Slight surplus	3=Adequate	4=Slight shortage	5=Shortage										
Great Lakes (MI & WI)	Commodities													
Central Wisconsin	Dry Onions, Potatoes													
	10/3	10/10	10/17	10/24	10/31	11/7	11/14	11/21	11/28	12/5	12/12	12/19	12/26	
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
U.S.-Mexico border	Commodities													
Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central And Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico And San Luis	Anise, Artichokes, Beets, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Endive, Escarole, Kale Greens, Boston Lettuce, Green Leaf Lettuce, Iceberg Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Parsley, Green Peas, Radishes, Spinach													
	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4	
Nogales, Arizona	Green Beans, Cantaloupe, Sweet Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Grapefruit, Honeydews, Lemons, Bell Peppers, Mixed Peppers Mini Sweets, Other Peppers, Acorn Squash, Butternut Squash, Grey Squash, Kabocha Squash, Spaghetti Squash, Yellow Squash Straightneck, Zucchini Squash, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Grape Tomatoes, Plum Tomatoes, Watermelons, Mangos													
	3		3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	
South Texas	Asparagus, Broccoli, Carrots, Chayote, Cilantro, Cucumbers, Grapefruit, Limes, Mangos, Oranges, Papaya, Anaheim Peppers, Bell Peppers, Habanero Peppers, Jalapeno Peppers, Poblano Peppers, Serrano Peppers, Pineapples, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Grape Tomatoes, Plum Tomatoes, Watermelons													
	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	
Pacific Northwest (ID, OR, & WA)	Commodities													
Columbia Basin Washington	Dry Onions, Potatoes													
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	4	4	
Idaho And Malheur County, Oregon	Dry Onions													
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho	Potatoes													
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	
Yakima Valley And Wenatchee District, Washington	Apples, Pears, Blueberries, Peaches, Prunes													
	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

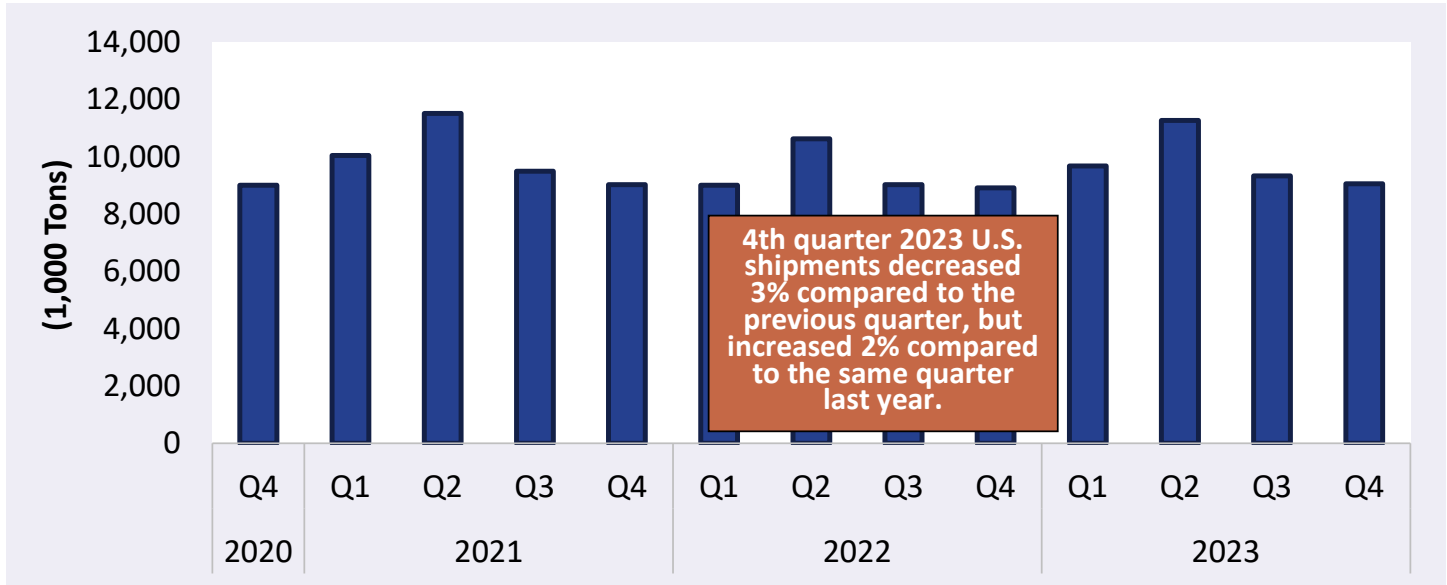
Note: Empty cells were not reported. District and availabilities data come from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate reports:

[https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field\\_slug\\_id\\_value=2375](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field_slug_id_value=2375).



## Reported U.S. Shipments

**Figure 4: Reported U.S. Fruit and Vegetable Shipments (1,000 Tons)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

**Table 8: Reported U.S. Fruit and Vegetable Shipments (1,000 Tons)**

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual
2023	9,685	11,274	9,337	9,060	39,356
2022	9,010	10,636	9,032	8,922	37,600
2021	10,051	11,520	9,498	9,034	40,103
2020	10,081	10,750	9,058	9,007	38,895
2019	9,381	10,246	8,687	8,714	37,028
2018	9,421	10,795	8,789	8,503	37,508
2017	8,072	9,642	8,479	8,267	34,459
2016	8,094	9,761	8,541	8,188	34,583
2015	8,118	9,630	8,324	7,771	33,842
2014	7,733	9,139	8,080	7,725	32,677
2013	7,451	8,972	7,762	7,527	31,712
2012	7,577	9,008	7,774	7,532	31,890
2011	7,007	8,981	7,887	7,988	31,863
2010	7,065	8,881	7,985	7,522	31,454
2009	7,158	8,728	7,990	7,270	31,147
2008	7,059	8,666	7,426	6,904	30,057
2007	6,959	8,585	7,475	7,099	30,118

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.



## Reported Shipments by Selected Commodities

**Table 9: Reported Top 10 Commodity Shipments (1,000 Tons)**

Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
				Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Potatoes	1,213	1,048	1,172	16%	3%
Apples	909	674	819	35%	11%
Onions Dry	583	575	529	2%	10%
Oranges	407	207	424	96%	-4%
Tomatoes	348	514	492	-32%	-29%
Avocados	323	478	641	-32%	-50%
Cucumbers	308	486	536	-37%	-43%
Lettuce, Iceberg	275	302	307	-9%	-10%
Grapes	265	396	354	-33%	-25%
Lettuce, Romaine	258	257	214	< 1%	20%

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

**Table 10: Reported Top 10 Regions (1,000 Tons)**

Origin	4th Quarter 2023 Volume	% Change from Last Quarter	% Change From Same Quarter Last Year
Mexico	2,658	22%	-6%
California	2,190	-29%	8%
PNW	1,874	27%	16%
Canada	520	-6%	-5%
Arizona	409	510%	1%
Florida	291	1,587%	13%
Great Lakes	278	-19%	-2%
Colorado	235	55%	-7%
New York	135	66%	3%
Southeast	113	-71%	-40%

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Note: Due to a lack of rate and availability data, Canada is excluded from the Regional Markets section of this report.



# REGIONAL MARKETS

## U.S. Mexico Border

### Volume

Total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from Mexico in fourth quarter 2023 were 2.66 million tons—6 percent lower than fourth quarter 2022 (year to year). The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from the U.S. Mexico border increased less than 1 percent year to year. Two of the top five commodities saw year-to-year volume increases in the fourth quarter, including seedless watermelons (up 10 percent) and avocados (up 1 percent). Shipments of cucumbers decreased 5 percent; shipments of tomatoes decreased 2 percent; and shipments of plum tomatoes decreased 1 percent.

### Rates

In fourth quarter 2023, truck rates for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles from Arizona-Mexico border crossings averaged \$2.47 per mile—down 6 percent quarter to quarter and down 16 percent year to year. Rates for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles from Texas-Mexico border crossings averaged \$2.79 per mile—flat quarter to quarter and down 9 percent year to year.

### Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices for border crossings from Arizona averaged \$4.64 per gallon—down 1 percent quarter to quarter and down 12 percent year to year. Diesel fuel prices for border crossings from Texas averaged \$3.90—down 2 percent quarter to quarter and down 16 percent year to year. Mexico crossings through Calexico and San Luis reported a slight surplus of trucks in October, and adequate truck availability in November and December. Mexico crossings through Nogales, AZ, reported adequate truck availability in October and November, and a slight shortage of trucks in December. Mexico crossings through South Texas reported a surplus of trucks throughout the quarter.

**Table 11: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from Mexico (1,000 tons)**

Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Share of Mexico-Total Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Avocados	320	12%	211	318	52%	1%
Cucumbers	217	8%	167	228	30%	-5%
Tomatoes, Plum Type	212	8%	208	215	2%	-1%
Watermelons, Seedless	200	8%	52	181	284%	10%
Tomatoes	173	6%	147	177	18%	-2%
<b>Top 5 Total</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>&lt; 1%</b>
<b>Mexico Total</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>-6%</b>

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Table 12: Top 5 Commodities Shipped to U.S. from Mexico by State of Entry (1,000 tons)**

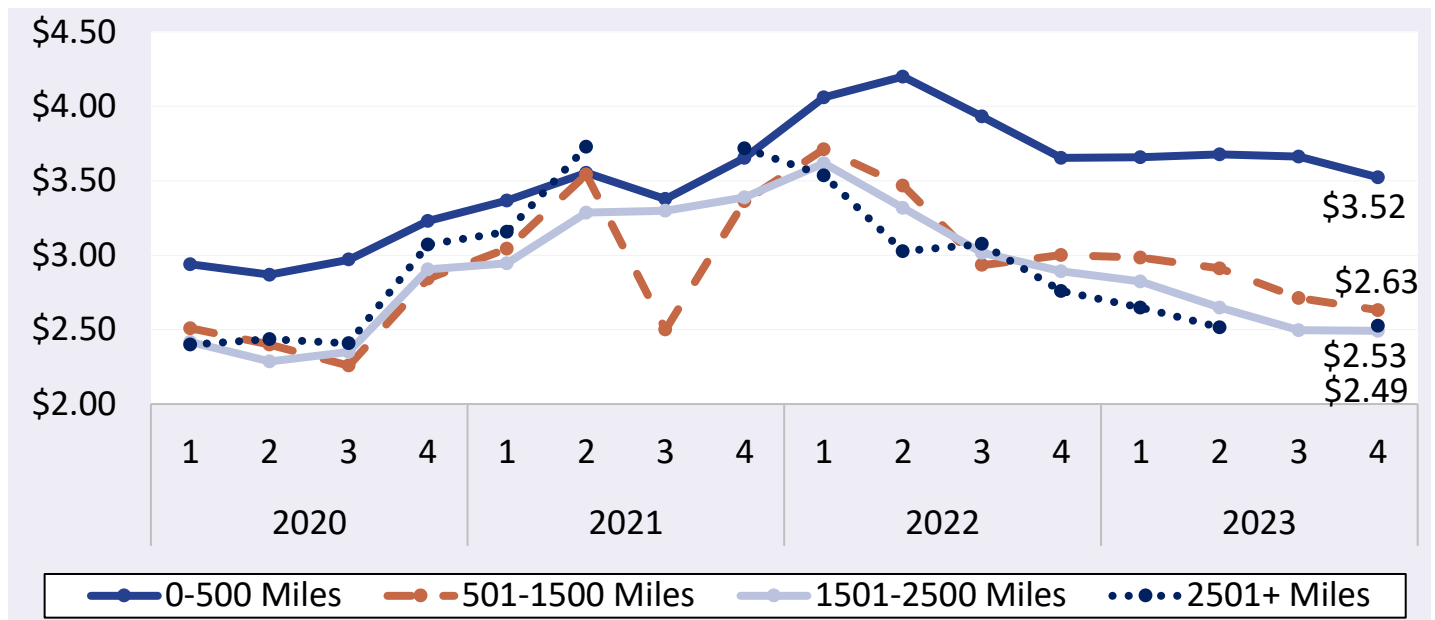
Texas		California		Arizona		New Mexico	
Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Commodity	4th Quarter 2023
Avocados	313	Tomatoes, Plum Type	77	Watermelons, Seedless	136	Peppers, Other	86
Limes	141	Onions Green	46	Cucumbers	120	Misc Tropical	< 1
Tomatoes, Plum Type	124	Misc Tropical	37	Squash	110	Cucumbers	< 1
Tomatoes	124	Cucumbers	28	Peppers, Bell Type	37	Raspberries	< 1
Cucumbers	69	Asparagus	27	Honeydews	35	Blackberries	< 1
<b>Mexico through TX Total</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>Mexico through CA Total</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>Mexico through AZ Total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>Mexico through NM Total</b>	<b>86</b>

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

**Figure 5: Truck Rates from U.S.-Mexico Border (\$/Mile by Distance Traveled)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

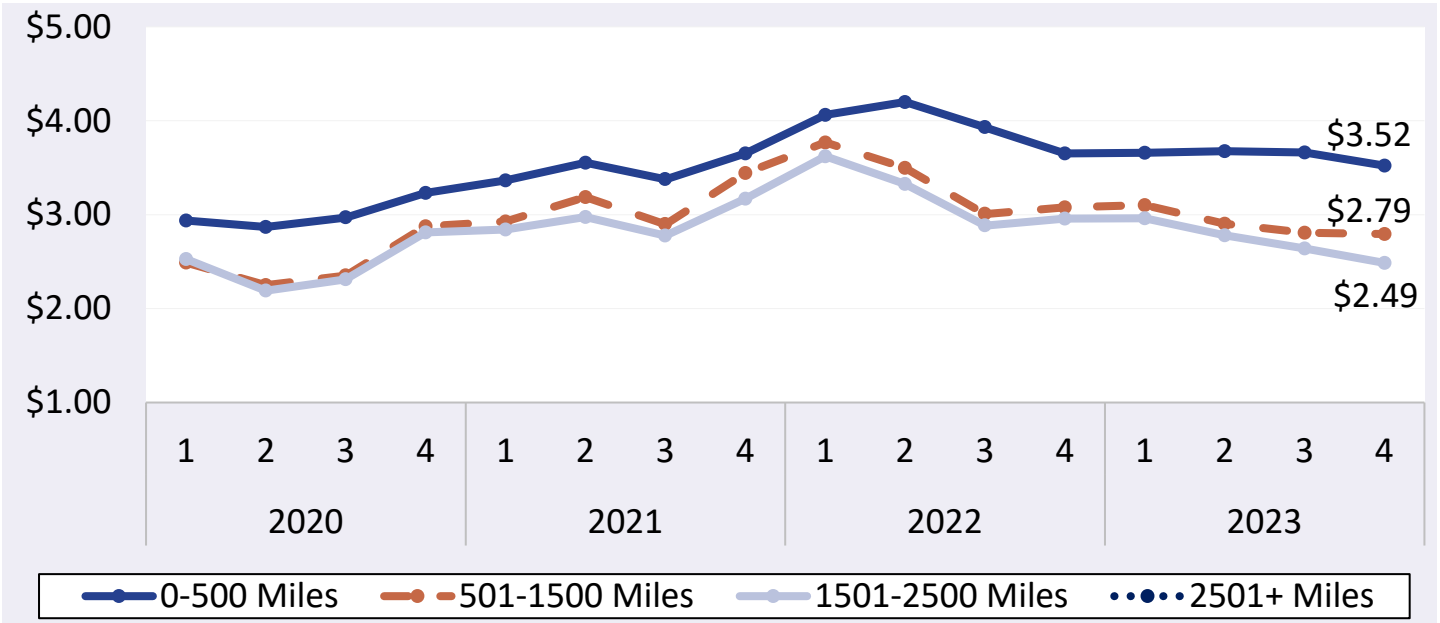
Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.



# AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

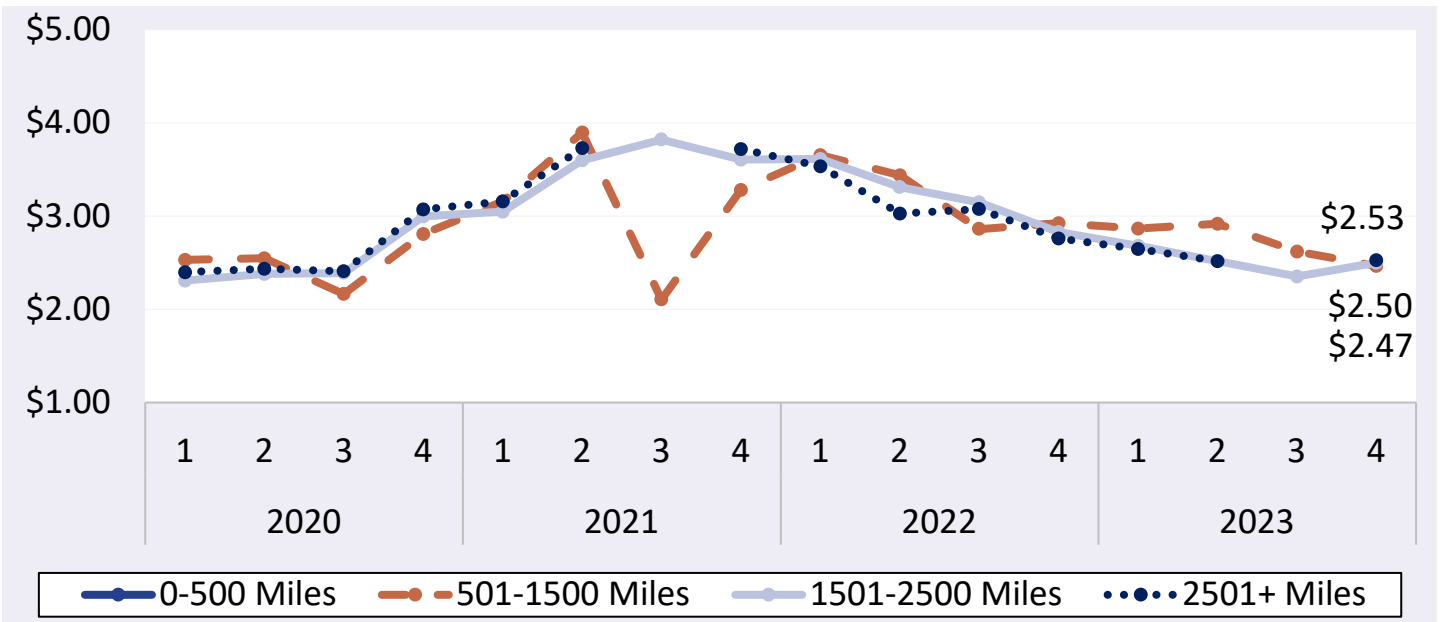
Quarter 4, 2023

**Figure 6: Texas Truck Rates from U.S.-Mexico Border (\$/Mile by Distance Traveled)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data. Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

**Figure 7: Arizona Truck Rates from U.S.-Mexico Border (\$/Mile by Distance Traveled)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data. Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.



# AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Table 13: Truck Overview from the U.S.-Mexico Border  
(Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)**

Region/Reporting District	October	November	December	4th Quarter
Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central And Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico And San Luis	2.4	2.73	3.35	2.83
Mexico Crossings Through Nogales, Arizona	2.63	2.5	3.5	2.88
Mexico Crossings Through South Texas	1.42	1	1.28	1.23
<b>Regional Average Availability</b>	2.15	2.08	2.71	2.31
<b>Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon), through Texas</b>	4.17	3.90	3.64	3.90
<b>Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon), through Arizona</b>	5.03	4.62	4.26	4.64

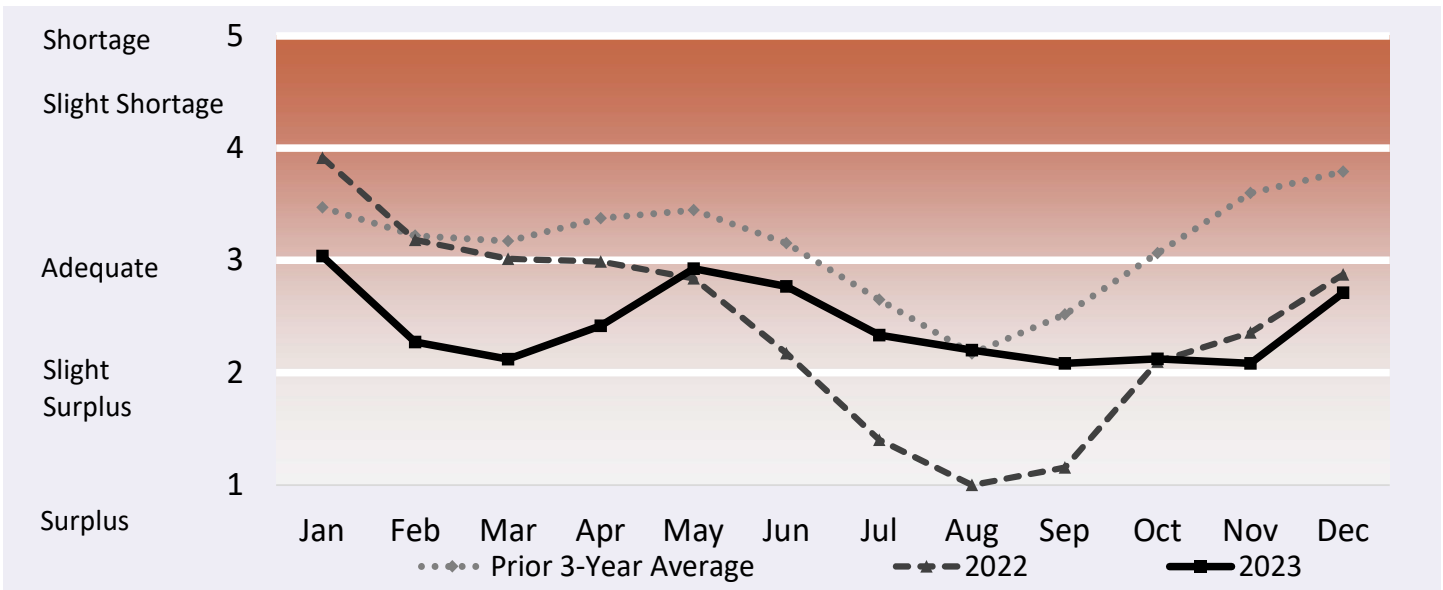
Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting.

**Figure 8: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings from the U.S-Mexico Border**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.



## California

### Volume

In fourth quarter 2023, USDA reported total shipments of fruit and vegetables from California were 2.19 million tons—up 8 percent from fourth quarter 2022. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from California decreased 9 percent year to year. Four of the top five commodities saw year-to-year volume decreases, including grapes (down 25 percent); clementines (down 14 percent); celery (down 5 percent); and oranges (down less than 1 percent). Shipments of lemons increased 5 percent.

### Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles was \$2.79 per mile—down 15 percent quarter to quarter and down 25 percent year to year.

### Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$5.70 per gallon—up 4 percent quarter to quarter, but down 5 percent year to year. The Kern, Oxnard, Salinas-Watsonville, and Santa Maria districts reported a slight surplus of trucks in October, an adequate availability of trucks in November, and a slight shortage of trucks in December. The Northern California district reported adequate truck availability in October and November, and did not report in December. The San Joaquin Valley and the South and Central districts reported adequate truck availability throughout the quarter.

**Table 14: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from California (1,000 tons)**

Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Share of California Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Oranges	359	16%	204	360	76%	> -1%
Grapes	265	12%	345	354	-23%	-25%
Lemons	226	10%	91	215	149%	5%
Celery	172	8%	129	181	33%	-5%
Clementines	171	8%	-	199	-	-14%
<b>Top 5 Total</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>California Total</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>8%</b>

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

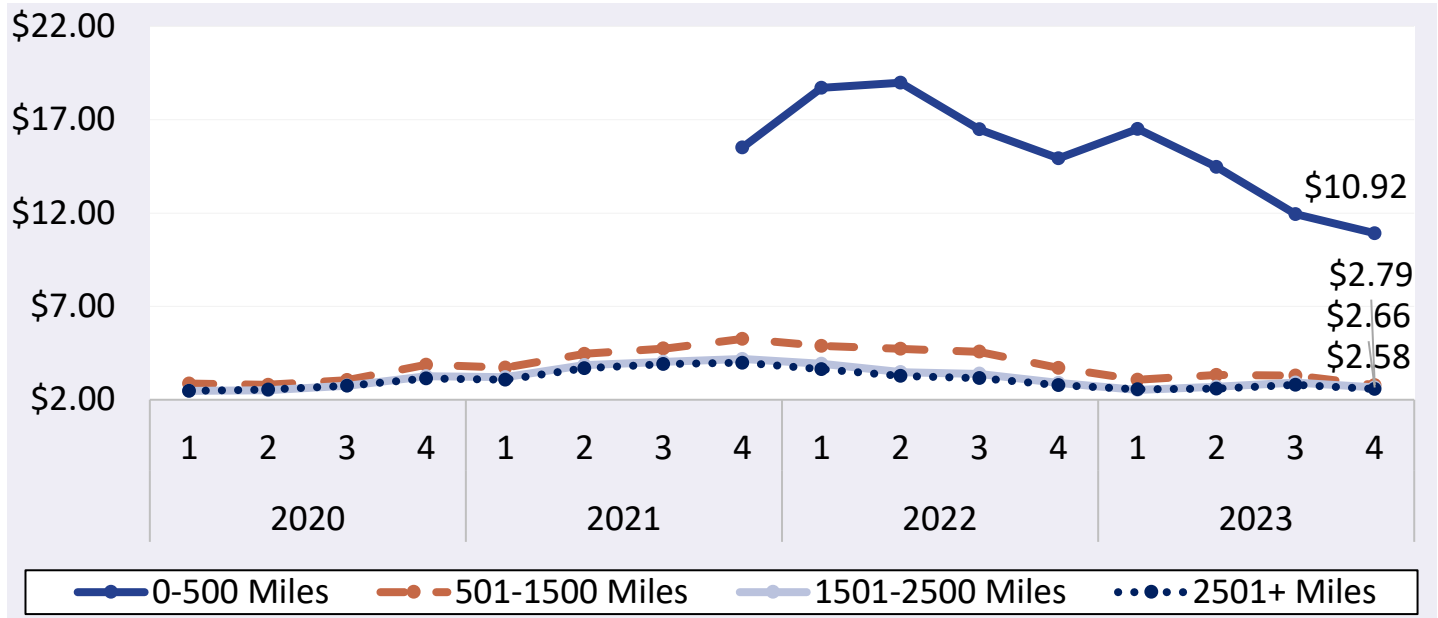




## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Figure 9: California Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

**Table 15: California Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)**

Region/Reporting District	October	November	December	4th Quarter
Kern District California	2.4	2.75	3.5	2.88
Northern California Including San Joaquin Valley	3	3	-	3
Oxnard District California	2.4	2.75	3.5	2.88
Salinas-Watsonville California	2.4	2.75	3.5	2.88
San Joaquin Valley California	3	3	3	3
Santa Maria California	2.4	2.75	3.5	2.88
South And Central District California	3	3	3	3
<b>Regional Average Availability</b>	2.66	2.86	3.33	2.95
<b>Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)</b>	6.09	5.68	5.32	5.70

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

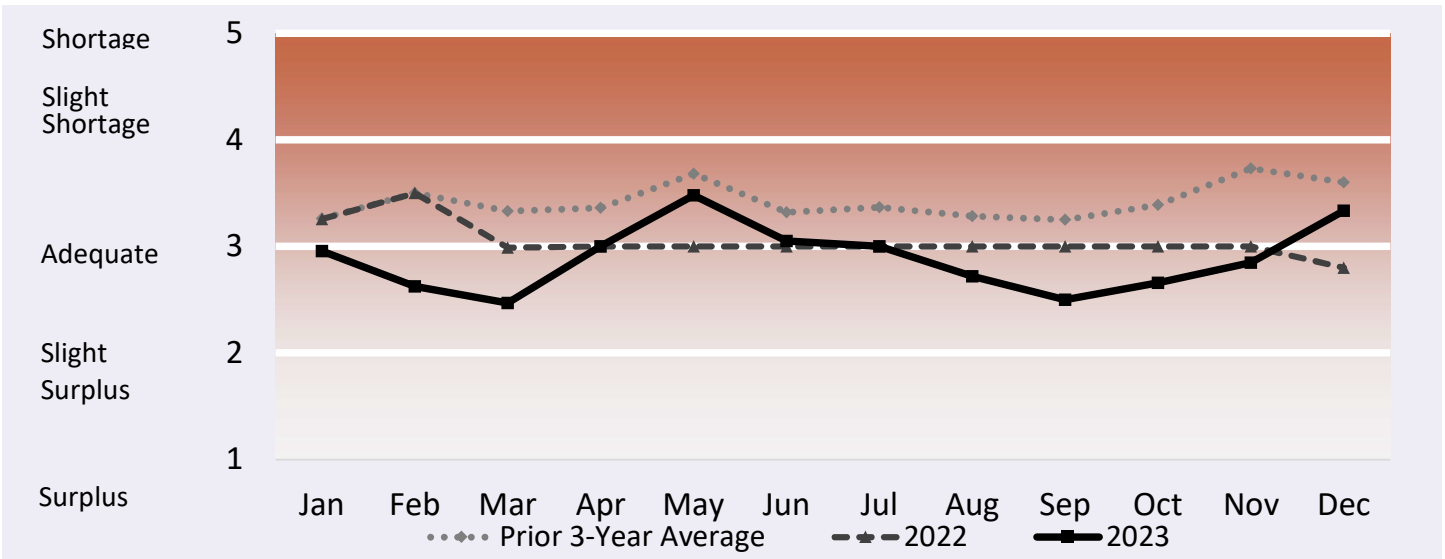
Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting.



Figure 10: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for California



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.



# AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

## PNW

### Volume

In fourth quarter 2023, total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from PNW were 1.87 million tons, up 16 percent year to year. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from PNW also increased 16 percent year to year. Three of the top five commodities saw year-to-year volume increases, including dry onions (up 21 percent); apples (up 18 percent); and potatoes (up 14 percent). Shipments of peaches decreased 81 percent, and shipments of pears decreased 2 percent.

### Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles was \$2.94 per mile—up 15 percent quarter to quarter, but flat year to year.

### Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$4.64 per gallon—down 1 percent quarter to quarter and down 12 percent year to year. The Columbia Basin district reported adequate truck availability in October, a slight shortage of trucks in November, and a shortage of trucks in December. The Idaho and Malheur County district reported adequate truck availability in October, and a slight shortage of trucks in November and December. The Twin Falls-Burley district reported adequate truck availability in October and December, and a slight shortage of trucks in November. The Yakima Valley and Wenatchee district reported a slight surplus of trucks in October and November, and adequate truck availability in December.

**Table 16: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from PNW (1,000 tons)**

Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Share of PNW Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
<b>Apples</b>	746	40%	581	630	28%	18%
<b>Potatoes</b>	499	27%	452	437	10%	14%
<b>Onions Dry</b>	466	25%	252	385	84%	21%
<b>Pears</b>	164	9%	49	167	238%	-2%
<b>Peaches</b>	< 1	< 1%	9	1	-98%	-81%
<b>Top 5 Total</b>	1,874	100%	1,342	1,620	40%	16%
<b>PNW Total</b>	1,874	100%	1,479	1,621	27%	16%

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator.

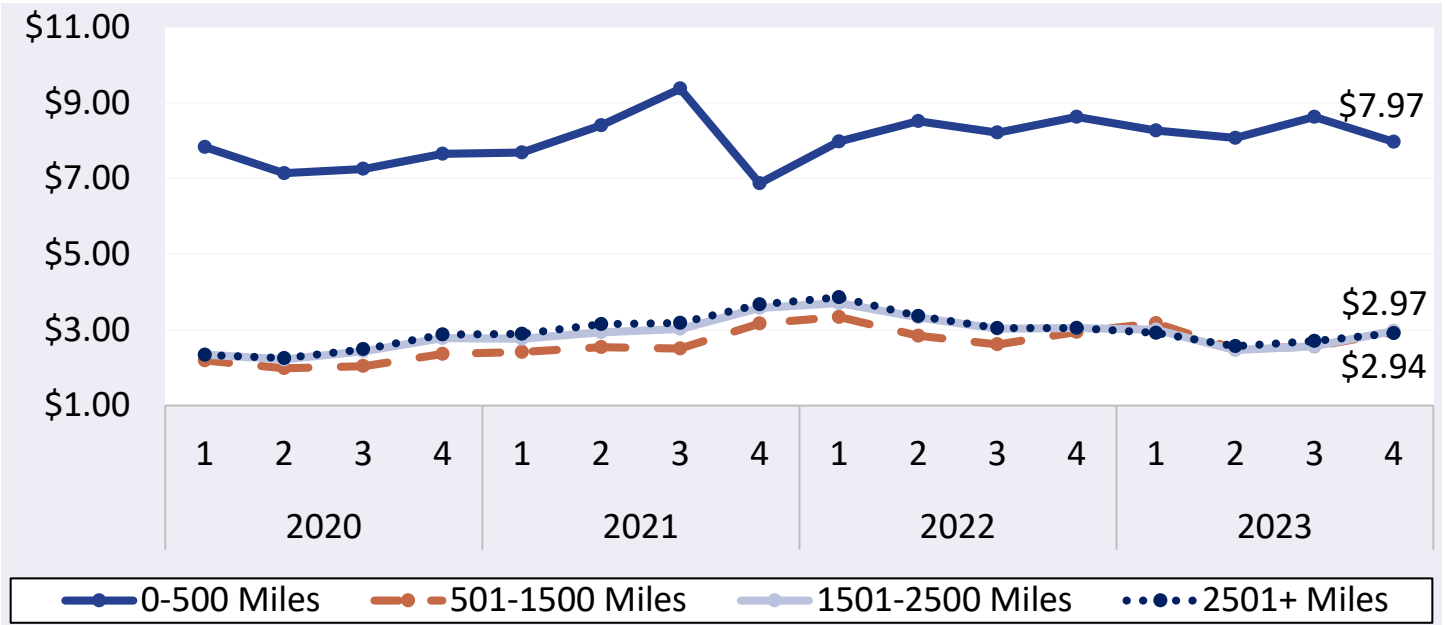
Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Figure 11: PNW Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

**Table 17: PNW Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)**

Region/Reporting District	October	November	December	4th Quarter
Columbia Basin Washington	3	3.77	4.5	3.76
Idaho And Malheur County, Oregon	3	3.5	4	3.5
Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho	3	3.5	3.25	3.25
Yakima Valley And Wenatchee District, Washington	2.2	2.25	2.5	2.32
<b>Regional Average Availability</b>	2.8	3.25	3.56	3.21
<b>Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)</b>	5.03	4.62	4.26	4.64

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

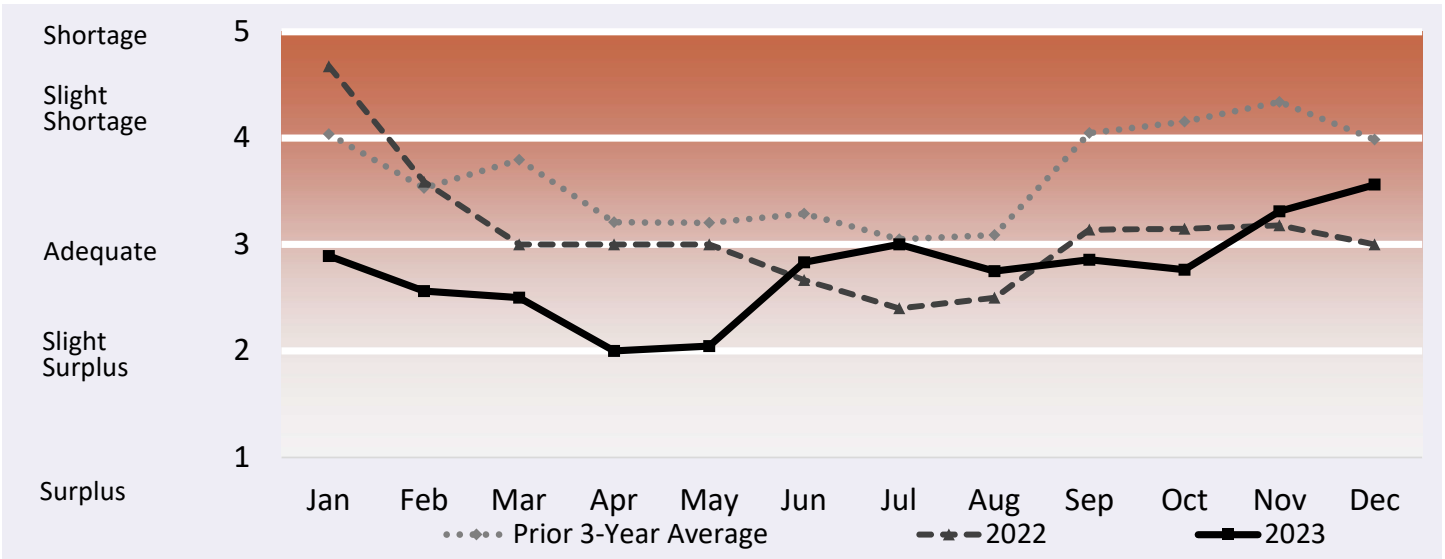
Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Figure 12: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for PNW**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data. Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.



## Arizona

### Volume

During fourth quarter 2023, total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from Arizona were 409,000 tons—up 1 percent from fourth quarter 2022. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from Arizona decreased 4 percent year to year. Two of the top five commodities saw year-to-year volume decreases in the fourth quarter, including processed lettuce (down 44 percent) and cantaloupe (down 8 percent). Shipments of broccoli increased 42 percent; shipments of iceberg lettuce increased 13 percent; and shipments of romaine lettuce increased 13 percent.

### Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles was \$2.96 per mile—down 19 percent quarter to quarter and down 10 percent year to year.

### Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$4.64 per gallon—down 1 percent quarter to quarter and down 12 percent year to year. The district that includes Imperial, CA, Coachella Valley, CA, and Central and Western AZ reported a slight surplus of trucks in October, and adequate truck availability in November and December.

**Table 18: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from Arizona (1,000 tons)**

Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Share of Arizona Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Lettuce, Iceberg	117	29%	-	103	-	13%
Lettuce, Romaine	112	27%	-	98	-	13%
Lettuce, Processed	56	14%	-	100	-	-44%
Cantaloupe	37	9%	27	40	36%	-8%
Broccoli	16	4%	-	12	-	42%
<b>Top 5 Total</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>1,131%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Arizona Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>510%</b>	<b>1%</b>

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator.

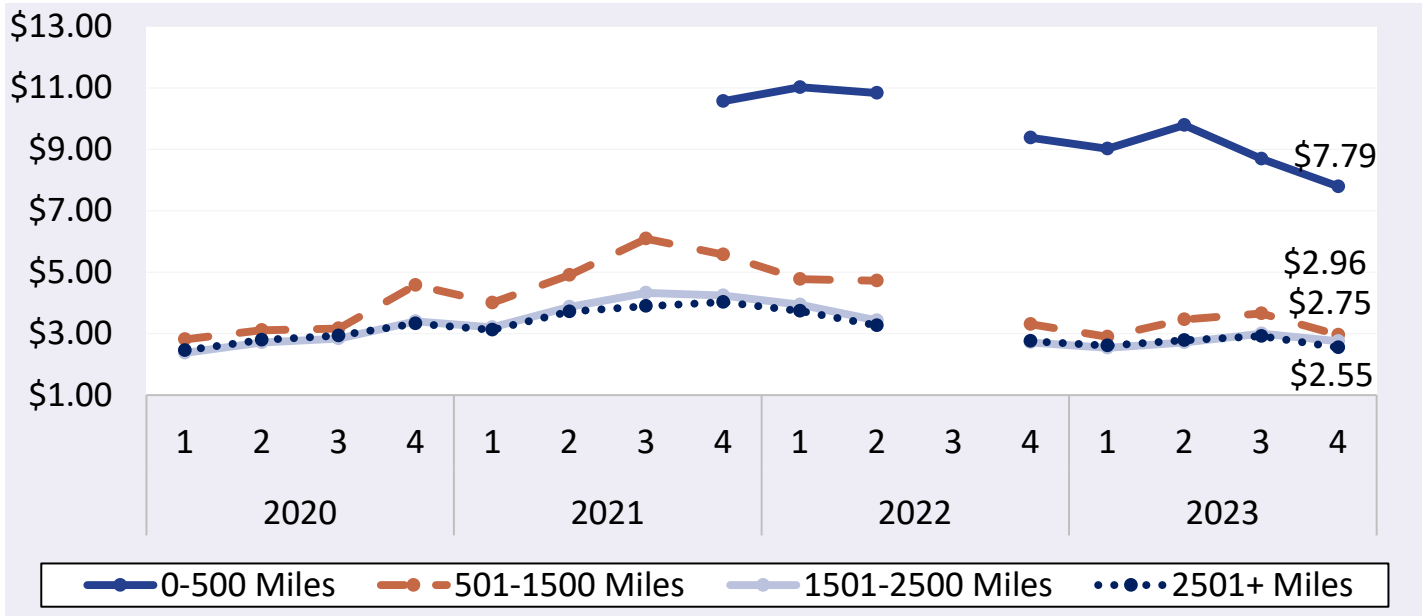
Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Figure 13: Arizona Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

**Table 19: Arizona Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)**

Region/Reporting District	October	November	December	4th Quarter
Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central And Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico And San Luis	2.4	2.73	3.35	2.83
<b>Regional Average Availability</b>	2.4	2.73	3.35	2.83
<b>Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)</b>	5.03	4.62	4.26	4.64

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

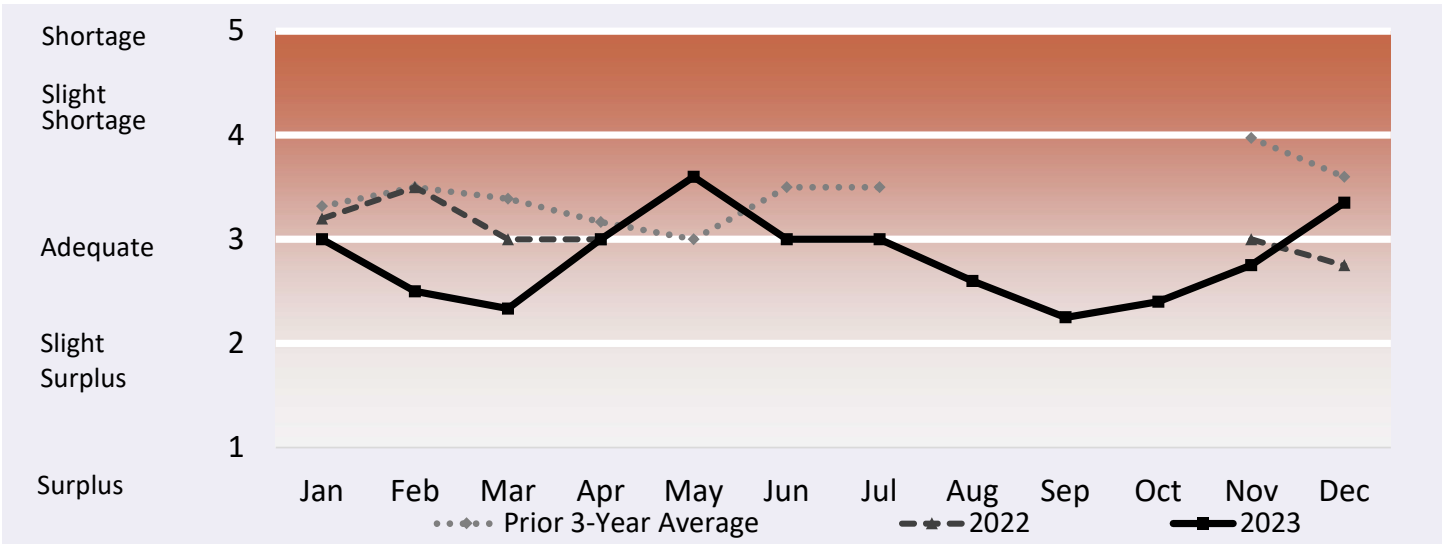
Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting.



# AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

## Quarter 4, 2023

**Figure 14: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for Arizona**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
 Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.





## Florida

### Volume

Total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from Florida in fourth quarter 2023 were 291,000 tons, up 13 percent year to year. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from Florida increased 24 percent year to year. All of the top five commodities saw year-to-year volume increases in the fourth quarter, including grapefruit (up 34 percent); tomatoes (up 33 percent); strawberries (up 18 percent); plum tomatoes (up 13 percent); and oranges (up 4 percent).

### Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles was \$2.05 per mile—down 1 percent year to year. Florida did not report truck rates for shipments between 501 and 1,500 miles for third quarter 2023, so a quarter-to-quarter comparison is unavailable.

### Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$4.09 per gallon—down 3 percent quarter to quarter and down 18 percent year to year. The Central and South Florida district did not report in October, reported adequate truck availability in November, and a slight shortage of trucks in December. The West district reported adequate truck availability in October and November, and did not report in December.

**Table 20: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from Florida (1,000 tons)**

Commodity	4th Quarter 2023	Share of Florida Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Tomatoes	88	30%	2	66	4,352%	33%
Tomatoes, Plum Type	29	10%	< 1	26	-	13%
Grapefruit	29	10%	-	22	-	34%
Oranges	24	8%	1	23	-	4%
Strawberries	20	7%	-	17	-	18%
<b>Top 5 Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>7,324%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Florida Total</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>1,587%</b>	<b>13%</b>

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator.

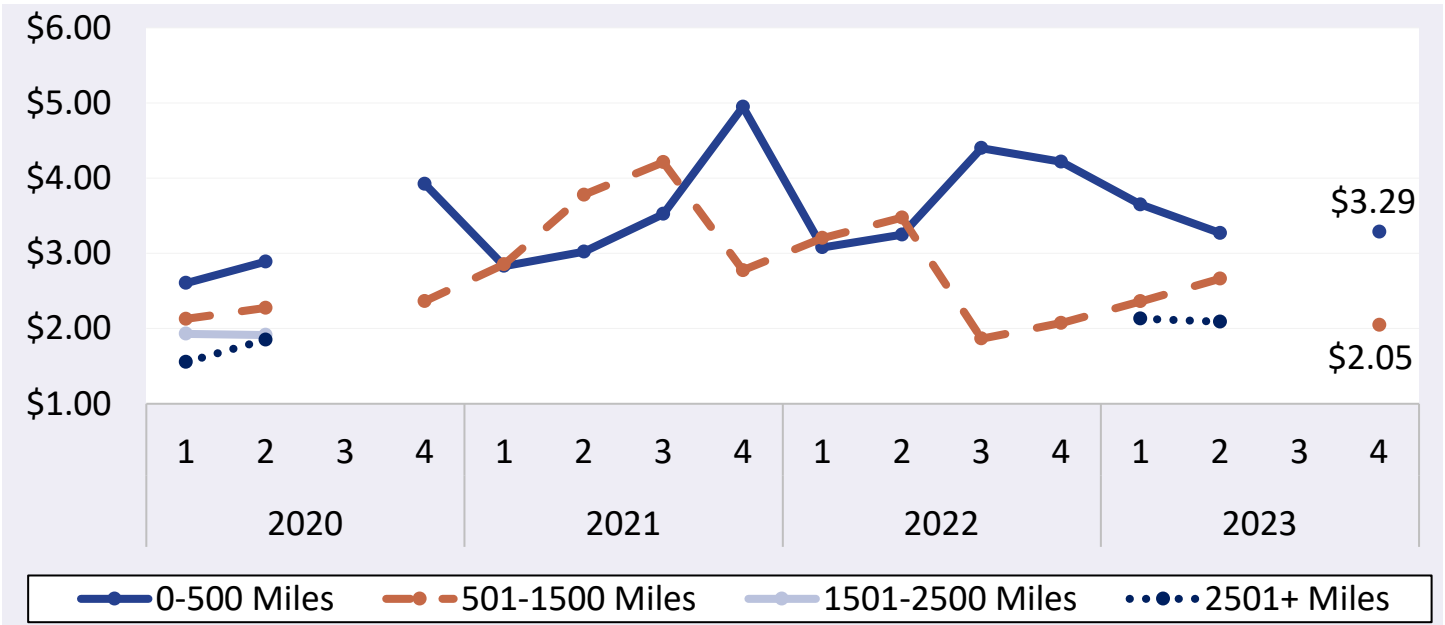
Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.



## AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 4, 2023

**Figure 15: Florida Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.  
Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

**Table 21: Florida Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)**

Region/Reporting District	October	November	December	4th Quarter
<b>Central And South Florida</b>	-	2.83	3.63	3.23
<b>West District Florida</b>	3	3	-	3
<b>Regional Average Availability</b>	3	2.92	3.63	3.18
<b>Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)</b>	4.32	4.05	3.89	4.09

Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

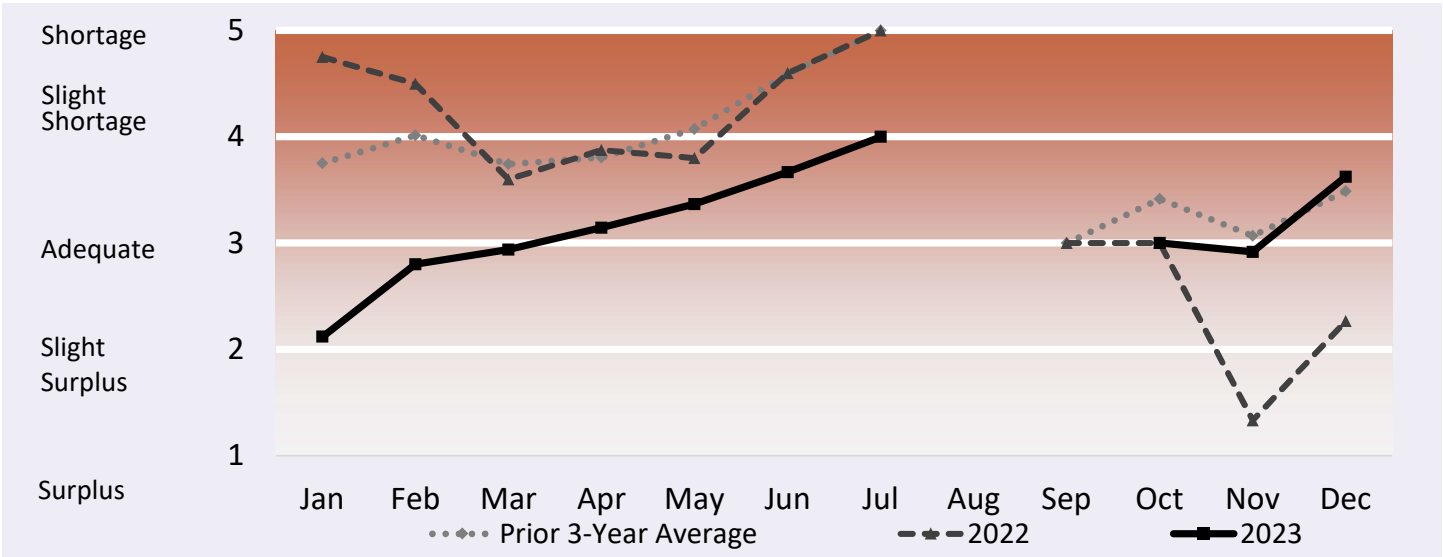
Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting.



**Figure 16: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for Florida**



Source: AMS Transportation Services Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data. Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Terms and References

### Data Reporting and Publication Window

The publication date of each Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly (AgRTQ) depends on the timing of data reporting. Reporting of truck shipments in some regions can be delayed 2-3 months past their respective quarter. We publish the AgRTQ one month after that lag in order to capture a more complete picture of truck shipments during the quarter.

### Data Sources

This information is compiled from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate Report by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Specialty Crops Program, Market News Division. The website is:

<https://www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-home>.

### Regional Markets

For the regional markets, some States are grouped into producing regions. The Pacific Northwest region includes Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The Great Lakes region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The Southeast region includes North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

### Shipment Volumes

Truck shipments for all commodities and origins are not available. Those obtainable are reported, but should not be interpreted as representing complete movements of a commodity. Truck shipments from all States are collected at shipping points and include both interstate and intrastate movements. They are obtained from various sources, including Federal marketing orders, administrative committees, Federal State Inspection Service, and shippers. Volume amounts are represented in 10,000 pound units, or 1,000 10-lb packages but are converted to 1,000 tons for this report. Mexican border crossings through Arizona and Texas data is obtained from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border and Protection (CBP) through USDA, AMS, Market News.

### Rates

This information is compiled from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate Report. Rates quoted represent open (spot) market rates that shippers or receivers pay depending on basis of sale, per load, including truck brokers fees for shipments in truck load volume to a single destination. Extra charges for delivery to terminal markets, multipickup and multidrop shipments are not included unless otherwise stated. Rates are based on the most usual loads in 48-53 foot trailers from the origin shipping area to the destination receiving city. In areas where rates are based on package rates, per load rates were derived by multiplying the package rate by the number of packages in the most usual load in a 48-53 foot trailer. Slightly cheaper rates will be reported during Quarters 2 and 3 as about 50 percent of onion shipments from California are hauled on open flatbed trailers. During Quarter 3, less than 20 percent of onions hauled from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon are on open flatbeds.

### Regional Rates

Rate data for 10 destination markets are used to calculate average origin regional rates.

### National Rates

The national rates reflect the average of the regional rates, separated by mileage category and weighted by volume between origin and destination.



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For assistance with accessibility issues related to this document, please e-mail [SharonC.Williams@usda.gov](mailto:SharonC.Williams@usda.gov).

### Related Websites

USDA's Agricultural Transportation Open Data Platform

<https://agtransport.usda.gov/>

Specialty Crops Program

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/specialty-crops-program>

Specialty Crops Truck Rate Report

[https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field\\_slug\\_id\\_value=2375](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field_slug_id_value=2375)

Specialty Crops Movement Reporting

<https://www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-report-config-step1?type=movement>

Economic Research Service Vegetable and Pulses

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/vegetables-pulses/>

Economic Research Service Fruit and Tree Nuts

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/fruit-tree-nuts.aspx>

National Agricultural Statistics Service, Crops

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_Subject/index.php?sector=CROPS](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/index.php?sector=CROPS)

Refrigerated Truck Quarterly Datasets

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/transportation-analysis/agricultural-refrigerated-truck-quarterly-datasets>

Protecting Perishable Foods During Transport by Truck and Rail

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/HS/HS132800.pdf>

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