



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

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## Update for Week of January 17-23, 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.

Supplies remain light on many commodities, including those expected to be in demand for upcoming Valentine's Day retail ad commitments. There were few spot market sales reported as most shipments are from prior bookings or previously committed prices on these items. Various growing areas are showing the effects of cold weather and winds, which have damaged or delayed harvests. Warming weather is expected to increase production in the Florida growing areas. Shipping delays due to a variety of reasons continue to limit availability of produce from offshore.

Asparagus shipments out of Peru are expected to decrease slightly due to continued delays in shipboard product arrivals. Prices are lower despite rising air freight and increasing demand for the upcoming Valentine's Day retail commitments. Some product that has been delayed from shipping was diverted to processors. Mexico production is increasing seasonally, and FOB price reporting has resumed. Supplies are currently adequate but may be affected by an expected cold front in the growing region later this week.

Mexican blueberry movement is expected to remain about the same. Prices were higher again this week with active trading, while quality continues to be variable. Arrivals of blueberries from Chile are increasing in ports on both coasts at higher prices with fairly active trading. Peru blueberry arrivals have finished for the season.

Bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales are expected to remain about the same with moderate demand and lower prices, as supplies are generally heavy. Crossing volumes through Texas also remain about the same with fairly active trading and slightly lower prices, although supplies are in too few hands to establish a market. Central and south Florida supplies are expected to increase, with fairly good to moderate demand and prices steady to slightly lower. A slight shortage of truck availability may affect prices and movement out of the region in the short term.

Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through Texas is expected about the same with very active trading. Crossings through the Otay Mesa port of entry are expected to increase with very active trading as well. Prices on strawberries for both entry points are generally unchanged. Most shipments from Mexico were priced based on prior booking or previous commitments. Movement out of the Oxnard district was expected to increase, but strong winds early in the week have caused damages to plants and growing structures that could diminish supplies through Valentine's Day. Roads were also blocked, limiting harvest. Immediate berry losses may be as high as 50%, and blooms damaged by the wind could result in misshapen berries and more losses over then next month. These losses will continue to bolster demand for berries from Mexico and Florida. Florida strawberry demand again exceeds supply with prices steady. Movement is expected to increase, as several days of warmer weather has resulted in a slight increase of supplies with additional warm weather expected in the short term.

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
- [Movement Report Details](#)
- [Generating Custom Reports](#)

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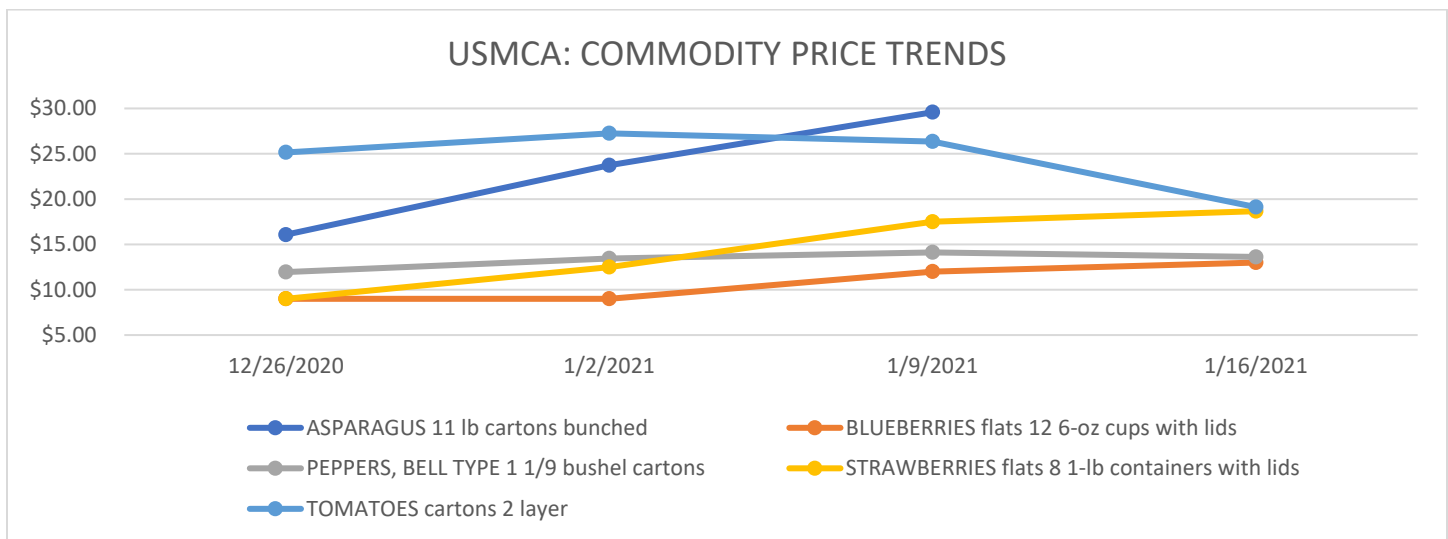
[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

Supplies of tomatoes out of Mexico remain very light with moderate demand and slow trading. Movement on crossings through Texas should remain about the same, while crossings through Nogales are expected to increase seasonally. Both districts continue to show much lower prices on the spot market and most shipments priced from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of Florida tomatoes is expected to decrease slightly due to maturity delays from earlier cold weather. Demand is fairly light and prices lower. Warmer weather is expected to improve growing conditions in the short term.

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	12/26/2020	1/2/2021	1/9/2021	1/16/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons bunched	\$ 16.08	\$ 23.73	\$ 29.58	
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 11.95	\$ 13.45	\$ 14.12	\$ 13.62
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 9.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.67
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 25.15	\$ 27.25	\$ 26.35	\$ 19.12



**Four Week Movement in Pounds**

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	26-Dec	2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	929,402	1,272,130	799,836	1,356,081
BLUEBERRIES	CANADA			-	
	MEXICO	1,711,215	1,553,113	2,540,155	2,639,639
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	135,810	35,249	76,671	4,353
	MEXICO	26,023,793	28,335,510	39,718,091	41,806,704
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	19,201	11,960	38,990	28,423
	MEXICO	14,129,559	16,121,411	19,801,076	21,009,292
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,555,291	828,925	2,674,901	2,356,921
	MEXICO	32,987,291	35,568,726	47,637,539	51,014,292



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 and 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