



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

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## Update for Week of January 24-30, 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.

Shipping issues and weather conditions continue to impact arrivals and domestic harvest volumes. Lack of available skilled labor means some US ports are facing unloading backlogs of weeks or more, with an increasing number of empty containers piling up. Wet fields, cold temperatures, wind, and other weather effects have affected maturity of certain commodities and led to decreased supplies. Food service demand remains light, but additional restaurant openings are expected to improve uptake at the wholesale markets across the country.

The Peru asparagus harvest is expected to decrease seasonally, with fairly slow trading and lower prices this week. Shipping delays at both Peru and US ports remain a concern. Mexico asparagus movement is expected to increase seasonally, with projected availability until mid-April likely despite some production slowdowns due to wet weather and cooler temperatures. Moderate trading at lower prices due to heavy supplies in US markets early in the week was followed by lighter demand at higher prices by the end of the week after harvests were temporarily limited by rain.

Chilean blueberry arrivals are expected to decrease to both east and west coast ports. Trading remains fairly active with prices slightly higher to higher. Mexican blueberry movement is expected to remain about the same with active trading. Prices were slightly higher this week on pints and unchanged on other packs while quality continues to be variable.

Bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona are expected to remain about the same with moderate demand. Trading is moderate at much lower prices, as already heavy supplies continue to increase. Crossing volumes of green Bell peppers from Mexico through Texas are in too few hands to establish a market and reporting has ended for the season. Central and south Florida supplies are expected to slightly increase, but this may change due to cooler weather which is expected to curtail early morning harvests in coming days. Moderate to fairly good demand kept prices mostly steady, with some sizes slightly higher or lower. Some shippers are finishing the fall crop and will have a production gap until early March. The effects of a slight shortage of truck availability continue to be felt on prices and movement out of the region.

Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through both Texas and the Otay Mesa, California is expected to remain about the same with moderate trading and prices generally unchanged on both. Some harvests were curtailed by rain and wet fields. Movement out of the Oxnard district, California is expected about the same with fairly active trading and prices generally unchanged as growers continue to assess damages from last week's windstorm. For both Mexican and California strawberries, most shipments are for prior bookings or previous commitments and quality and condition remain variable. Florida strawberry movement was expected to slightly increase as warmer weather has increased current supplies, but cooler weather may be returning the next few days to again reduce harvests. Demand remains

For more information on:

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

For assistance please contact: [jeff.main@usda.gov](mailto:jeff.main@usda.gov)

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

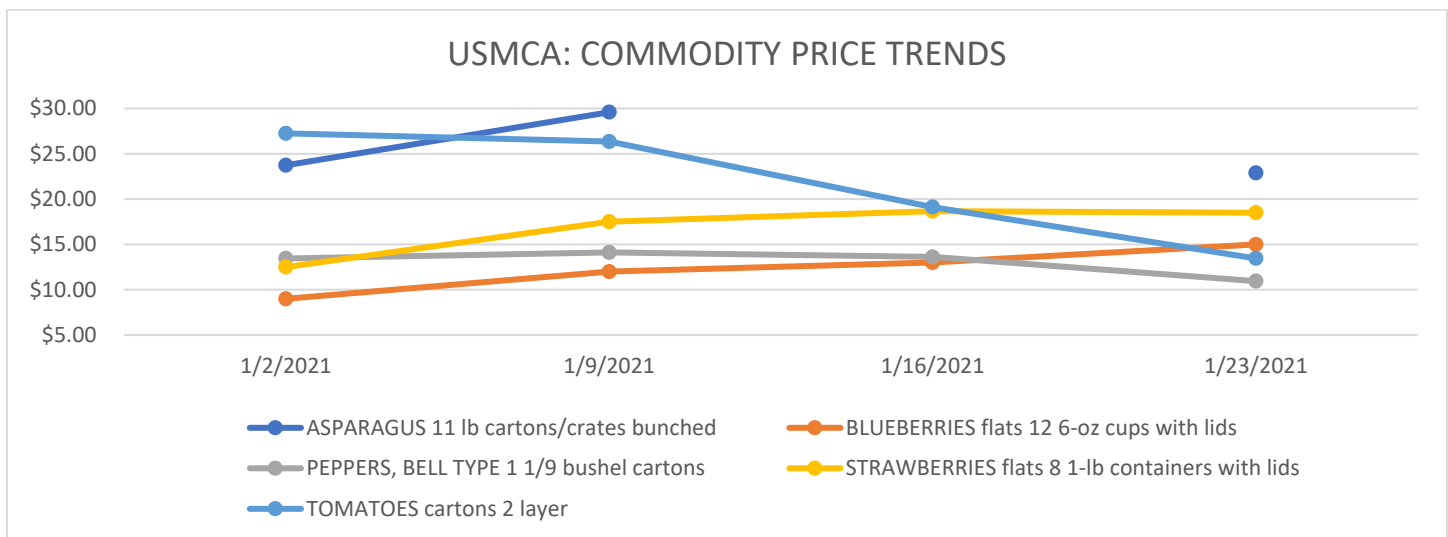
very good at lower prices, at times exceeding availability. Current supplies are still going to cover previous commitments.

Mexican tomato supplies remain very light with slow to moderate trading. Movement on tomatoes crossing through Texas is expected to remain about the same, while crossings through Nogales should continue to increase seasonally. Spot market prices from both districts continue to decrease, with smaller tomatoes higher in price than larger. Movement of Florida tomatoes is expected to decrease slightly due to maturity delays from earlier cold weather, with more expected in the next few days. Some growers are anticipating a delay of around 10 days. Demand is fairly light and prices slightly lower. Truck availability remains an issue, with shortages expected until after Valentine’s Day.

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

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

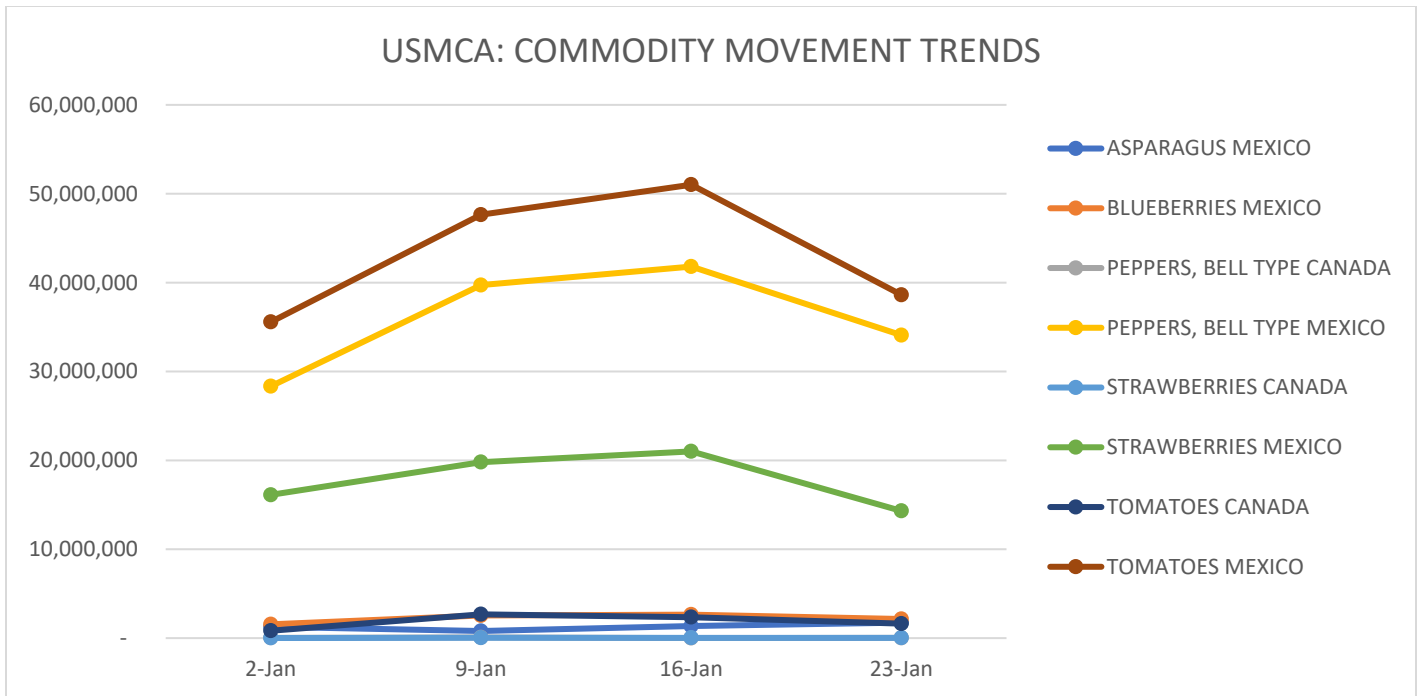
Commodity	Package	1/2/2021	1/9/2021	1/16/2021	1/23/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 23.73	\$ 29.58		\$ 22.88
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 9.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 13.45	\$ 14.12	\$ 13.62	\$ 10.95
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 12.50	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.67	\$ 18.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 27.25	\$ 26.35	\$ 19.12	\$ 13.45



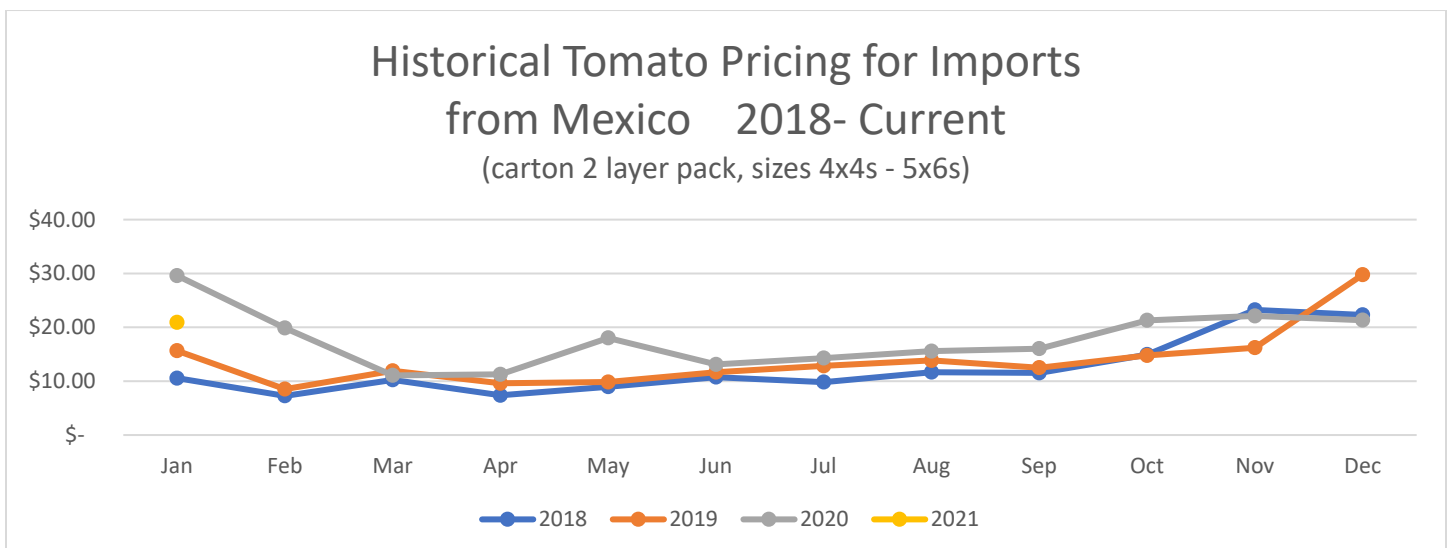
**Four Week Movement in Pounds**

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	1,272,130	799,836	1,356,081	1,741,750
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	1,553,113	2,540,155	2,639,639	2,144,317
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	35,249	76,671	4,353	19,139
	MEXICO	28,335,510	39,718,091	41,806,704	34,082,211
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	11,960	38,990	28,423	27,555
	MEXICO	16,121,411	19,801,076	21,009,292	14,311,617

TOMATOES	CANADA	828,925	2,674,901	2,356,921	1,625,225
	MEXICO	35,568,726	47,637,539	51,014,292	38,618,613



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 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