



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

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## **Update for Week of January 31-February 6, 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.

Unloading backlogs at ports on both US coasts continue to delay arrivals of offshore produce. Border crossings from Mexico face fewer transportation issues and are in many cases filling the availability gap. Domestic growing areas, especially in Florida, are experiencing cold weather which is impacting harvests and product quality. Additionally, the severe winter weather in the northeast was delaying deliveries and the return of trucks to the area, creating some spot shortages of transportation. The expected bump in demand as more foodservice venues reopen has not yet materialized, since many businesses are taking a cautious approach towards buying as restrictions are relaxed.

Shipments of Peru asparagus continue to decrease and should drop sharply next week as the harvest season winds down for most growers. Trading remained moderate as port delays continued to limit supplies. Mexico supplies are expected to continue to increase seasonally, with continuing good weather creating perfect growing conditions. Trading was moderate on conventional asparagus but very active on organic at lower prices. Demand decreased due to inclement weather in the northern US which limited produce sales.

Blueberry movement out of Chile is expected to continue to decrease to both east and west coast US ports due to a combination of very heavy rains in the growing areas and COVID-related delays for shipments and arrivals. With light supplies, trading was active at higher prices this week with a wide range in quality. Mexican blueberry crossings volumes are expected to remain about the same. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged to slightly lower and with variable quality.

Supplies of bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona are expected to increase seasonally. Trading was active to moderate at slightly lower prices, with light demand for heavy supplies of generally good quality. Mexican bell peppers crossing through Texas are in few hands, with very light supplies at much lower prices and of variable quality. Movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to continue to decrease slightly as some shippers face a gap in production, due mostly to weather issues. Harvest was running heavy to smaller peppers, while jumbo and extra-large supplies are fairly light, with prices trending lower for all sizes.

Mexican strawberry supplies crossing through both Texas and the Otay Mesa, California are again expected to remain about the same with prices generally unchanged on both. Trading was active as shipments were mostly to fulfill prior bookings and previous commitments. Some harvests were once again curtailed by rain and wet fields, and quality remains variable. Movement out of the Oxnard district, California is expected to increase with active trading and higher prices, with most shipments also from prior bookings or previous commitments. Demand for Florida strawberries still exceeds supplies for both conventional and organic berries. Cool temperatures and possible overnight freezing temperatures will continue to delay crop maturity. Prices are expected to go higher due to reduced yields.

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)

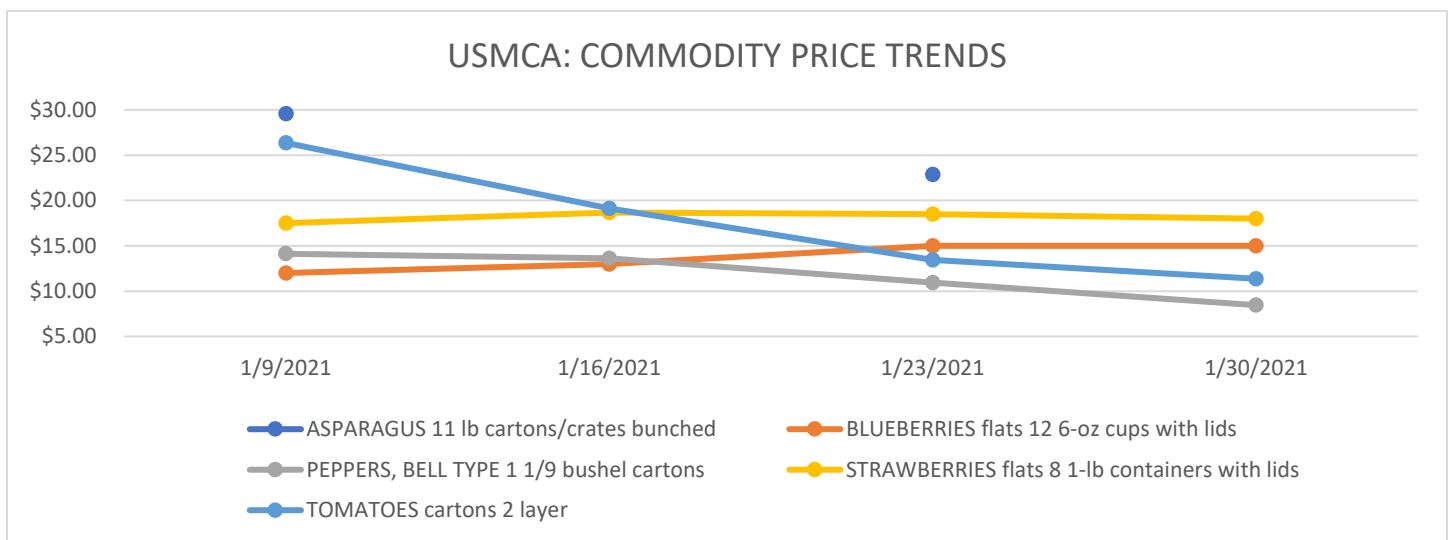
[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

Movement of Mexican tomatoes through both Texas and Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading was moderate to slow, with prices lower to much lower and some reaching minimums. Florida tomato supplies are expected to decrease slightly due to light harvests from cold weather in growing areas. Prices were about steady to lower. Lowered demand due to inclement weather in the northern US led to fewer orders and a delay in deliveries. Florida is also seeing a continued truck shortage caused by shipping competition for Valentine's flowers and other commodities, with severe weather in the northeast delaying the return of some trucks to the region.

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

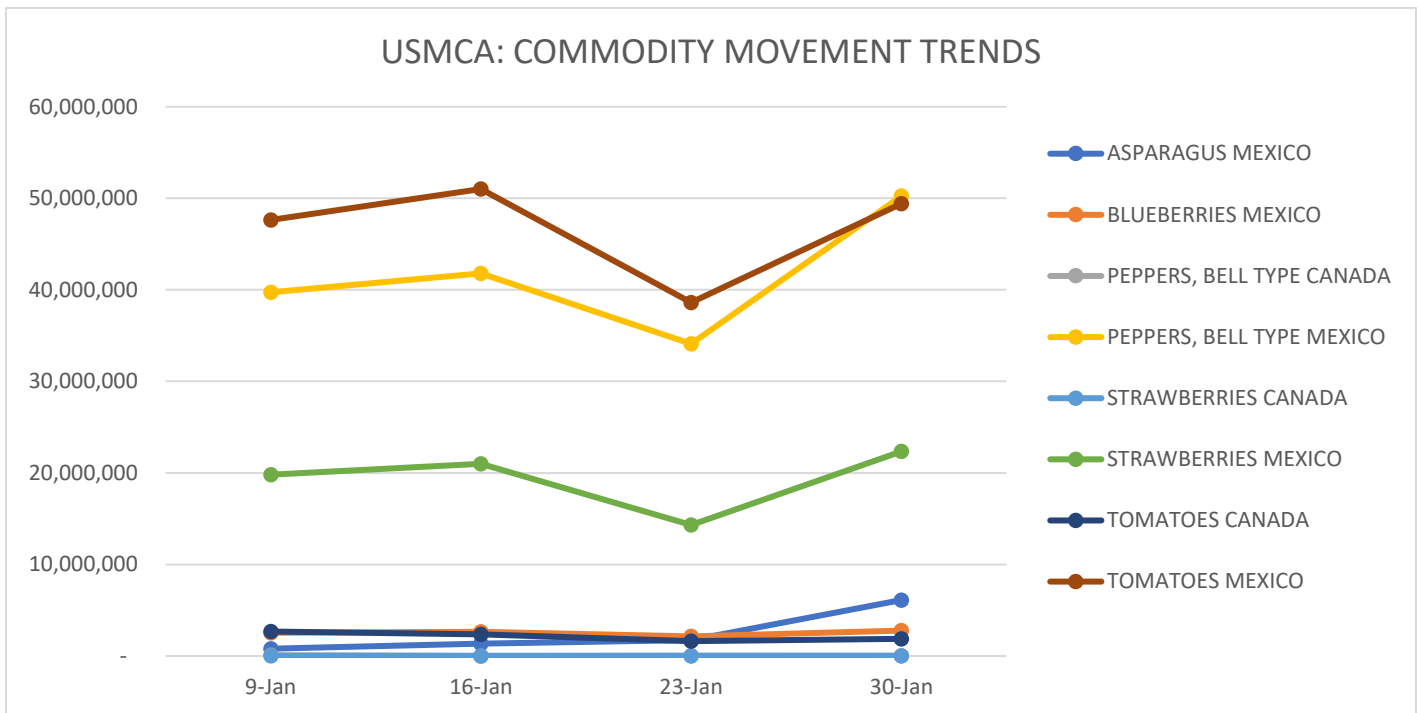
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	1/9/2021	1/16/2021	1/23/2021	1/30/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 29.58		\$ 22.88	
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 14.12	\$ 13.62	\$ 10.95	\$ 8.45
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.67	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 26.35	\$ 19.12	\$ 13.45	\$ 11.37

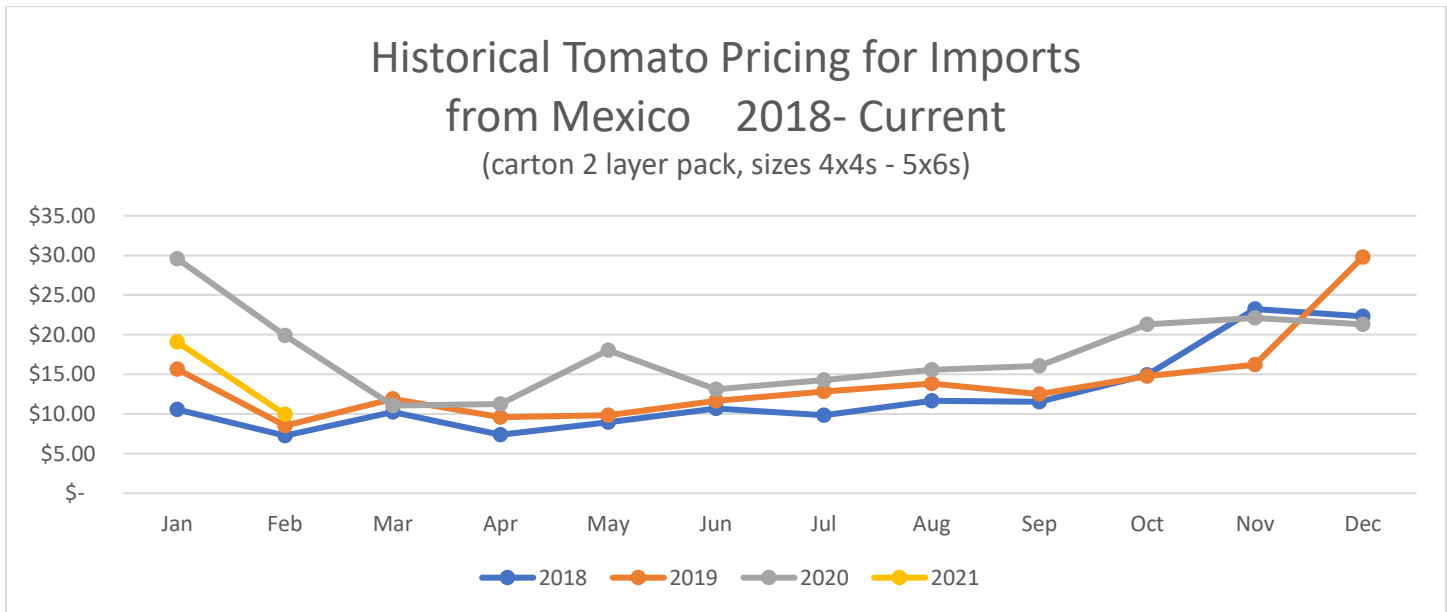


#### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	799,836	1,356,081	1,741,750	6,115,287
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,540,155	2,639,639	2,144,317	2,778,565
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	76,671	4,353	19,139	29,062
	MEXICO	39,718,091	41,806,704	34,104,541	50,243,250
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	38,990	28,423	27,555	29,079
	MEXICO	19,801,076	21,009,292	14,311,617	22,347,201
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,674,901	2,356,921	1,625,225	1,861,045
	MEXICO	47,637,539	51,014,292	38,618,613	49,431,562



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 alliacious 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