



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

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Update for Week of February 7-13, 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.

Winter weather across the northern United State limited demand for produce shipments this week. Even commodities traditionally associated with Valentine's Day celebrations saw lower prices this week, despite light supplies on some. Domestic shipments continue to be affected by high truck rates, with the average cost of diesel fuel up this week by over 6 cents per gallon. Labor and logistics issues at U.S. ports, along with loading and shipping delays in the countries of origin, mean that imported commodities continue to face backlogs and risk condition issues once they arrive in U.S. markets.

Asparagus shipments from Peru should continue to decrease as most growers will finish harvest for the season this week or next. Trading is slow with some supplies in too few hands to establish a market, but overall prices were much lower with many sales booked at prices to be established later. Mexican asparagus harvest continues to increase with perfect growing conditions leading to very active harvesting and heavy inventories on hand. Demand is light due to cold weather in the northern U.S. leading to lower prices, and some shipments are being booked open with prices to be established later. Most asparagus packers have switched to retailer-preferred 28-lb cartons in response to limited demand.

Chilean blueberry arrivals are expected to continue to decrease to both east and west coast ports. Trading was active at lower prices with a wide range in quality reported. Mexican blueberry movement is expected to remain about the same, but with active trading and higher prices on all packs. Quality of blueberries in the U.S. markets remained variable.

Bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona are expected to remain about the same, with trading fairly slow at much lower prices. Heavy supplies are expected to continue to drive prices lower into next week. Currently, light volumes of bell peppers are entering from Mexico through Texas, but with the supplies in too few hands to establish a market. The f.o.b. report on that market has ended for the season. Price indications from industry sources show a lowering trend throughout the week. Central and south Florida supplies are expected to slightly increase, but demand remains fairly light. Prices were lower early in the week and about steady later.

Crossings of Mexican strawberries through both Texas and the Otay Mesa, California are expected to remain about the same with trading active and prices generally unchanged. Some harvests were again curtailed by rain and wet fields. Movement out of the Oxnard district, California is expected to increase with active trading and prices generally unchanged. For both Mexican and California strawberries, most shipments are for prior bookings or previous commitments, while quality and condition remain variable. Florida strawberry movement increased through the week. Weekend rains temporarily curtailed harvests but were followed by the largest picking day of the year on Monday as growers attempted to make up for the delay. Demand continues to exceed available supplies, with current supplies still

For more information on:

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

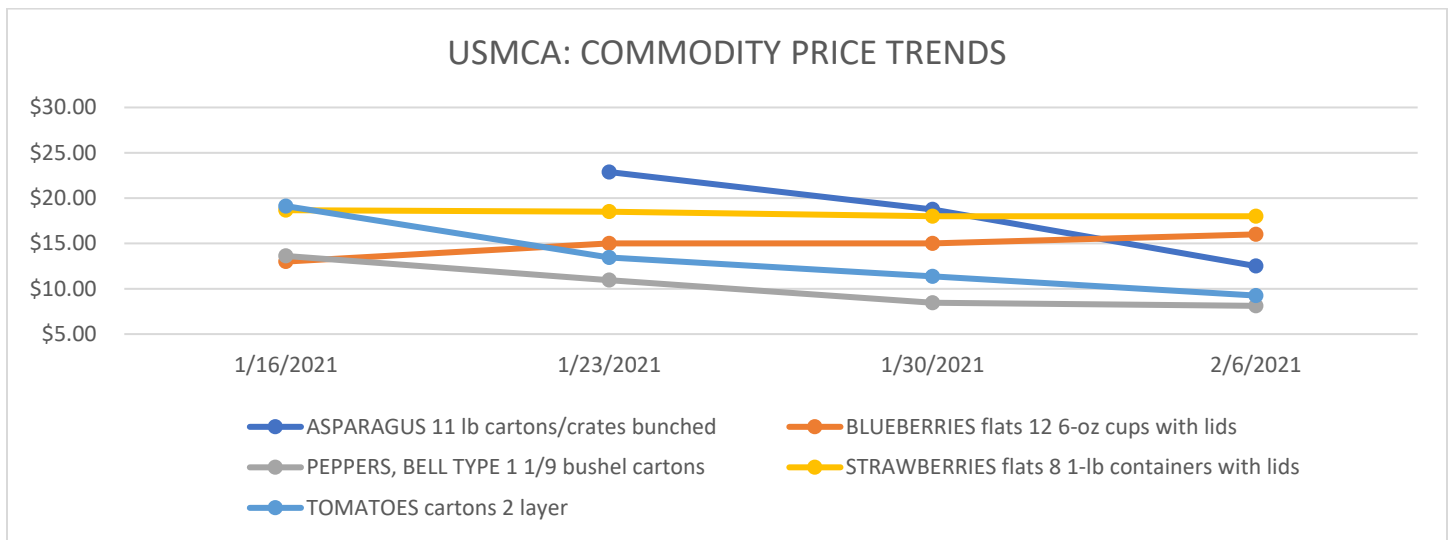
going to cover previous commitments. Spot market prices are unchanged to slightly lower, with higher than normal prices predicted for after the Valentine’s Day holiday where a significant market decline is often seen.

Mexican tomato supplies through both Texas and Nogales, Arizona are expected about the same with fairly slow trading. Spot market prices from both districts continue at or near minimums for most sizes, with fairly heavy supplies and light demand. Movement of Florida tomatoes is expected to decrease slightly as some growers face a harvest gap due to previous weather conditions. Winter weather in other parts of the country is contributing to fairly light demand and limiting shipments. Prices were about steady to slightly lower. Truck rates remain high and with tight supplies, largely due to competition from other commodities, such as flowers, prior to the holiday.

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

Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

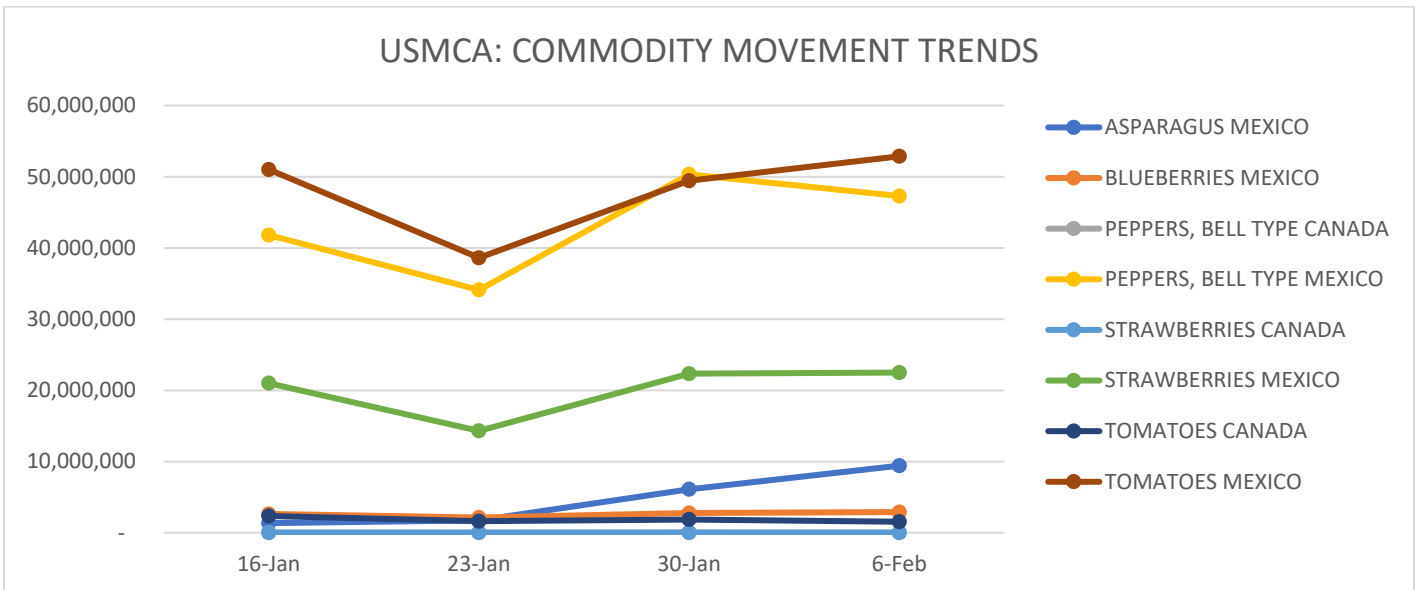
Commodity	Package	1/16/2021	1/23/2021	1/30/2021	2/6/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched		\$ 22.88	\$ 18.75	\$ 12.50
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 13.62	\$ 10.95	\$ 8.45	\$ 8.12
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 18.67	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 19.12	\$ 13.45	\$ 11.37	\$ 9.25



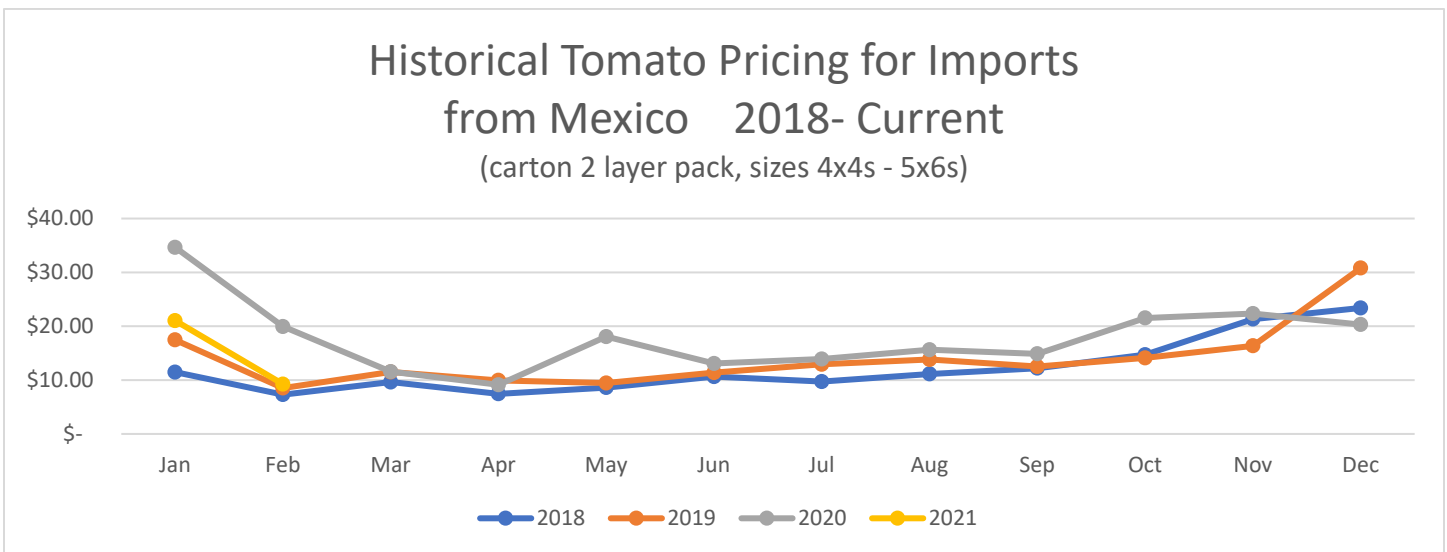
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	1,356,081	1,741,750	6,115,287	9,423,616
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,639,639	2,144,317	2,778,565	2,912,573
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	4,353	19,139	29,062	8,437
	MEXICO	41,806,704	34,104,541	50,327,781	47,284,375
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	28,423	27,555	29,079	32,707
	MEXICO	21,009,292	14,311,617	22,347,201	22,501,562
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,356,921	1,625,225	1,861,045	1,551,639

MEXICO	51,014,292	38,618,613	49,443,204	52,873,336
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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