



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

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Update for Week of February 14-20, 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.

Extreme weather across much of the Midwest and Northeastern U.S. is curbing consumer demand for many produce items. Road closures and power outages across Texas, temperatures far below zero across the Midwest, and snow cover across much of the country are all contributing to shipping delays and increased truck shortages as drivers choose not to attempt deliveries in such conditions. Cold weather reaching as far south as Florida has delayed or curtailed many harvests, while the post-Valentine's decrease in demand means prices on many commodities are trending lower. Transportation and labor issues continue at ports on both coasts with no end in sight. Condition of some product in the marketplace is impacted by the delays in transit and handling.

Peru asparagus shipments are generally done for the season and the last f.o.b. price report has been issued with supplies in too few hands to establish a market on green and very light on white. Reporting of the Peru market is expected to resume in April. Trading on Mexico asparagus is slow as retailers are delaying orders due to widespread winter weather conditions, with truck availability to the East coast and Midwest difficult to find. Prices are trending lower due to light demand and some shipments were booked open with prices to be established later.

Chilean blueberry arrivals of fruit from the 2020 crop are expected to decrease to both east and west coast ports. Trading is moderate with prices generally unchanged. Mexican blueberry movement is expected to remain about the same with active trading. Prices were slightly higher again this week while quality remains variable.

Bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona are expected to remain about the same with fairly slow trading, at much lower prices. Supplies remain heavy and demand is light due to winter weather across much of the U.S. Central and south Florida Bell pepper movement is expected to remain about the same at lower prices. Trading slow as market demand is light in reaction to the severe weather combined with the difficulties finding available trucks.

Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through Texas is expected to decrease from the impact of unseasonable winter storms in the area, limiting both harvesting and transportation. Trading was active at slightly lower prices. Strawberries from Mexico crossing through the Otay Mesa, California are expected to increase with active trading with prices generally unchanged. Movement out of the Oxnard district, California is expected to increase with active trading and slightly higher prices. Quality of the fruit out of the area has improved as the bulk of damaged blooms from last month's windstorms have been harvested. For both Mexican and California strawberries, most shipments are for prior bookings or previous commitments and quality and condition remain variable. Movement out of the Santa Maria district, California has begun and is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies are currently insufficient to establish a market, but the first f.o.b. price report is expected within 2 weeks. Florida strawberry demand continues to exceed available supplies with prices about steady to slightly lower. Cool weather and some rain are expected to slightly reduce

For more information on:

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

For assistance please contact: jeff.main@usda.gov

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

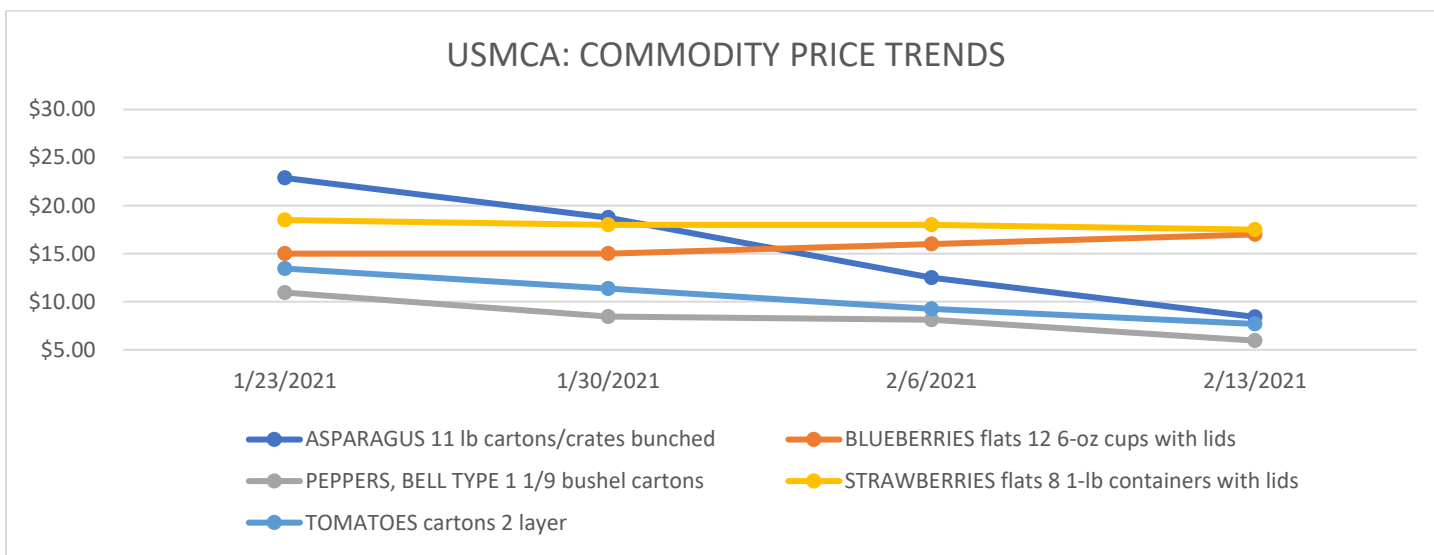
the supply of strawberries later this week. Many shippers anticipate lower demand and slightly lower prices on strawberries for the next two weeks with the end of the demand for Valentine’s Day.

Mexican tomato crossings through both Texas and Nogales, Arizona are expected to remain about the same, with trading slow to very slow. Supplies are heavy and demand remains light. Prices trended slightly lower and are still at or near minimums on some sizes. Florida tomato movement is expected to remain about the same with fairly slow trading and lower prices. Reports that extremely cold weather in the Northeast and Midwest along with lower truck rates led to some truck drivers refusing to accept shipments. Severe winter weather and road conditions are also causing shipping delays into the Midwest.

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	1/23/2021	1/30/2021	2/6/2021	2/13/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 22.88	\$ 18.75	\$ 12.50	\$ 8.42
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 10.95	\$ 8.45	\$ 8.12	\$ 5.95
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 17.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 13.45	\$ 11.37	\$ 9.25	\$ 7.69



Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	23-Jan	30-Jan	6-Feb	13-Feb
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	1,741,750	6,115,287	9,423,616	15,725,390
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,144,317	2,778,565	2,912,573	3,679,944
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	19,139	29,062	8,437	3,316
	MEXICO	34,104,541	50,327,781	47,284,375	43,217,258
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	27,555	29,079	32,707	29,027
	MEXICO	14,311,617	22,347,201	22,501,562	20,003,464
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,625,225	1,861,045	1,551,639	1,537,596
	MEXICO	38,618,613	49,443,204	52,873,336	47,674,457

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