



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

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Update for Week of February 28-March 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.

This week was a time for growers and shippers across the country to catch up from the delays and losses of the past several weeks. With the passing of extreme weather in many parts of the nation, a more normal flow has been established in the industry. Demand remains low for many commodities as consumers follow the new trend of sticking close to home and purchasing longer-lasting staples. Diesel prices continue to rise, and while truck supplies are no longer extremely limited or unavailable due to road closures, high truck rates and lack of driver availability remain a concern in most areas.

Mexican asparagus movement is expected to remain about the same at lower prices. Trading remains slow as there are few open market sales, with some of the present shipments being booked open with prices to be established later and few shipments are being booked at previously committed prices. Shipping delays from the previous two weeks are clearing up, but supplies remain heavy and demand is light.

Movement of Chilean blueberries is expected to continue to decrease as the season nears its end. Trading to both east and west coast ports is fairly slow with fairly light supplies. Prices to east coast ports are slightly lower, while prices at west coast ports are lower. A very wide range in quality and condition is reported, with condition impacted in part by the unloading delays at U.S. ports. Movement of Mexican blueberries crossing through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to increase, although at lower prices. Quality remains variable and trading is moderate to very slow.

Bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected about the same with fairly active trading. Supplies are much lighter which has helped increase demand, leading to much higher prices. Mexico crossings through Texas are in too few hands to establish a market. Demand has increased slightly as truck availability has improved and all Texas-based companies are operational again with electricity restored. Prices are still low and truck rates continue to decrease from the region after peak prices were seen during and immediately following the weather emergency. Movement of bell peppers from central and south Florida is expected to slightly increase as demand and trading have improved to moderate with prices trending higher.

Movement of central district Florida strawberries is expected to decrease slightly as the harvest has passed its peak of last week. Ideal growing conditions have led to heavy supplies of conventional berries and much lower prices, with generally good quality. Demand is fairly light for conventional berries and good for organic berries. Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through Texas is again expected to decrease, with trading slow to very slow and prices lower. Mexico crossings through the Otay Mesa, California are expected to increase, with trading fairly to very slow and prices lower. Most present shipments of Mexican strawberries are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments.

For more information on:

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

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

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

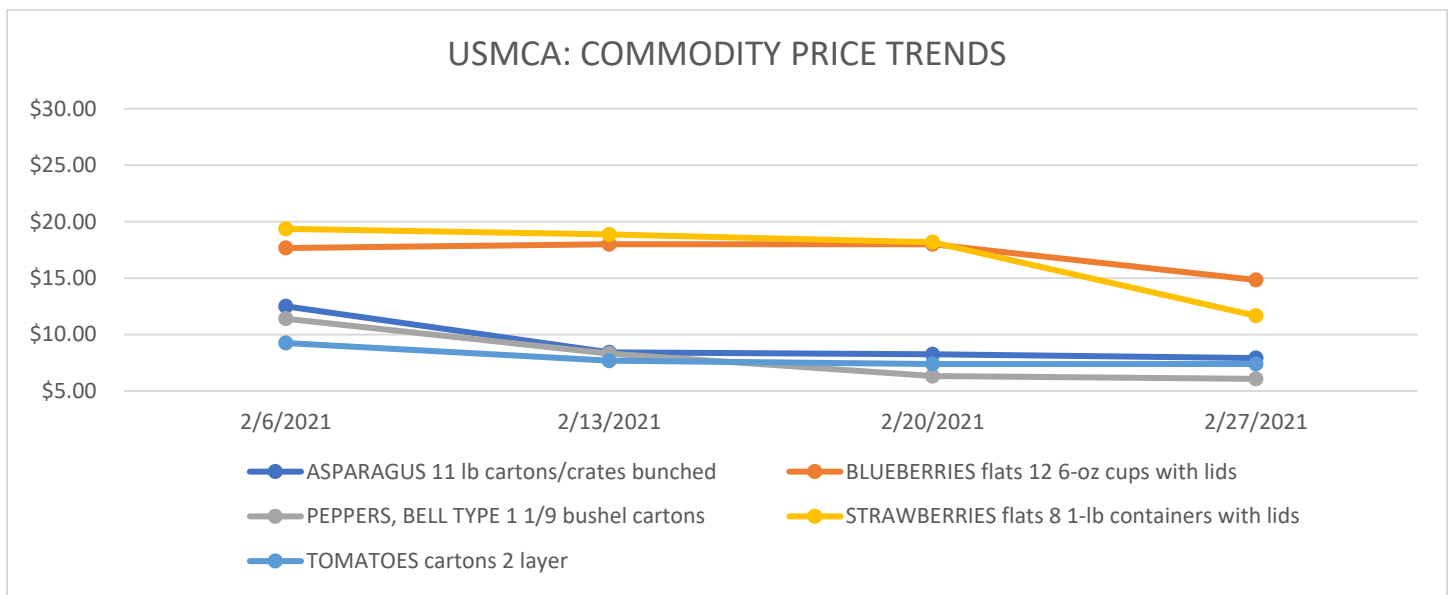
Movement of strawberries from the Oxnard district of California is expected to increase at lower prices with slow trading. Santa Maria, California strawberry movement is also expected to increase with very slow trading. For all Mexico and California strawberries, quality and condition remain variable.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas is expected about the same with fairly slow trading and prices generally unchanged. Demand is fairly light, and prices continue at or near minimums, which has led to some older and unsold product being dumped to make room in coolers. Trucks are more available this week at lower rates to transport product. Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement are expected about the same with heavy supplies and slow to fairly slow trading. Prices on almost all sizes remain at legal minimums and very few sales are reported. Central and south Florida tomato movement is expected to slightly increase as demand has increased leading up to the weekend. Truck rates remain high, but prices are about steady to slightly higher.

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	2/6/2021	2/13/2021	2/20/2021	2/27/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 12.50	\$ 8.42	\$ 8.25	\$ 7.92
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 17.67	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 14.83
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9 bushel cartons	\$ 11.40	\$ 8.32	\$ 6.32	\$ 6.08
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 19.36	\$ 18.86	\$ 18.18	\$ 11.66
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 9.25	\$ 7.69	\$ 7.39	\$ 7.39

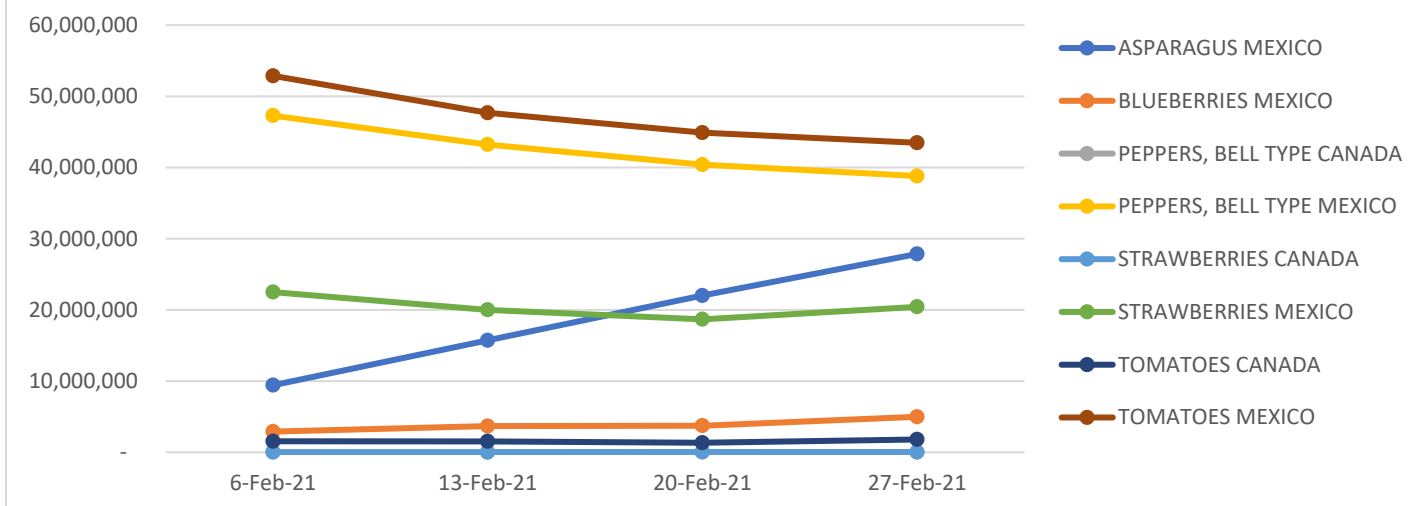


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	6-Feb-21	13-Feb-21	20-Feb-21	27-Feb-21
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	9,423,616	15,725,390	22,018,332	27,858,081
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,912,573	3,679,944	3,738,097	4,990,623
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	8,437	3,316	5,024	13,711
	MEXICO	47,284,375	43,217,258	40,398,807	38,803,146
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	32,707	29,027	50,708	40,692
	MEXICO	22,501,562	20,003,464	18,676,812	20,435,384

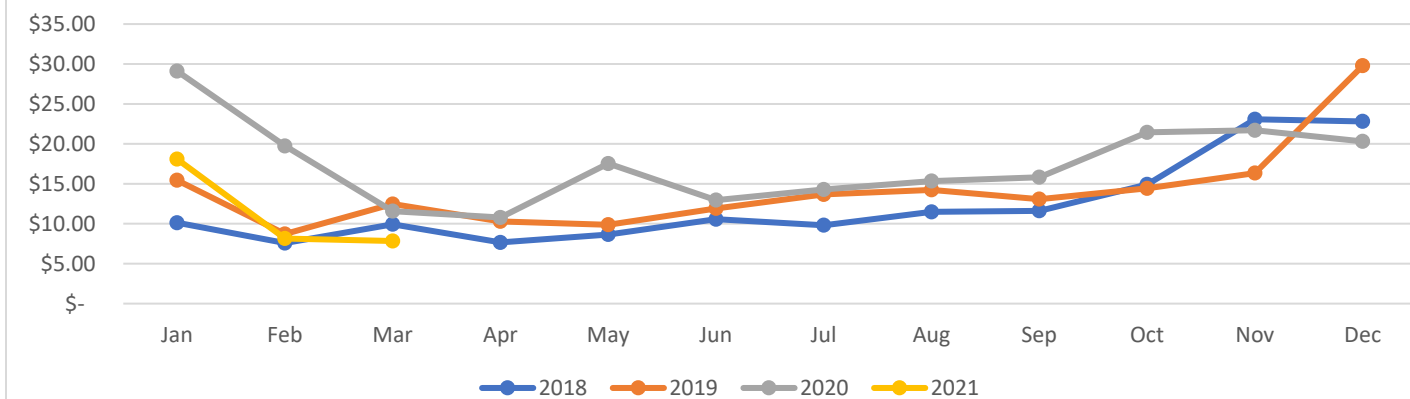
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,551,639	1,537,596	1,346,728	1,802,942
	MEXICO	52,873,336	47,674,457	44,892,953	43,469,095

USMCA: COMMODITY MOVEMENT TRENDS



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.

Historical Tomato Pricing for Imports from Mexico 2018- Current (carton 2 layer pack, sizes 4x4s - 5x6s)



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, 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