



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

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Update for Week of March 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.

The increasing rate of restaurants reopening and increasing business expected at other foodservice venues across the country is giving grower-shippers hope that demand on certain commodities will increase in the coming weeks, driving prices higher. The arrival of Spring, along with the Easter and St. Patrick's Day holidays, also correspond with the one-year anniversary of shutdowns in most parts of the U.S. Truck rates remain high and many areas again reported shortages this week, and diesel prices continue to rise. Price increases were expected in the wholesale and retail sectors as transportation costs continue to rise.

Mexican asparagus movement is expected to remain about the same as supplies continue to exceed demand for conventional product, while trading remains slow. Some present shipments continue to be booked open with prices to be established later. Prices are seen as firming up some as more volume goes to export sales and as more restaurants reopen. Organic asparagus is seeing increased demand at higher prices as the season is winding down and supplies are tightening up.

Blueberries movement is expected to increase from Mexico crossings through Arizona, California and Texas, with very slow trading and prices unchanged. Quality remains variable. Movement of Chilean blueberries through both east and west coast ports is expected to decrease as the season nears its end. Trading was fairly slow at lower prices, with fairly light supplies on both coasts. A very wide range in quality and condition are seen, largely due to unloading delays at U.S. ports. The initial harvest of early variety blueberries out of central and north Florida has begun with price and shipment data expected available next week.

Bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected about the same with active trading and much higher prices again this week. Supplies continue light and demand is increasing as more foodservice establishments slowly reopen. Mexico crossings through Texas supplies continue to be in too few hands to establish a market. Demand continues to increase with unofficial prices reported higher in response. Movement of bell peppers from central and south Florida is expected to slightly increase, with demand and trading moderate at higher prices.

Movement of central district Florida strawberries is expected to decrease slightly. Light demand on conventional berries has led to some fields being abandoned to decrease supplies. Prices were lower early in the week but were higher closer to the weekend. There were too few new sales of organic strawberries to establish a market. Quality of Florida strawberries is generally good. Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through Texas is expected to continue to decrease seasonally, with trading very slow and prices lower. Mexico crossings through the Otay Mesa, California are expected to increase, with trading slow to very slow and prices lower. Many sales of Mexican strawberries are being

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.](#)

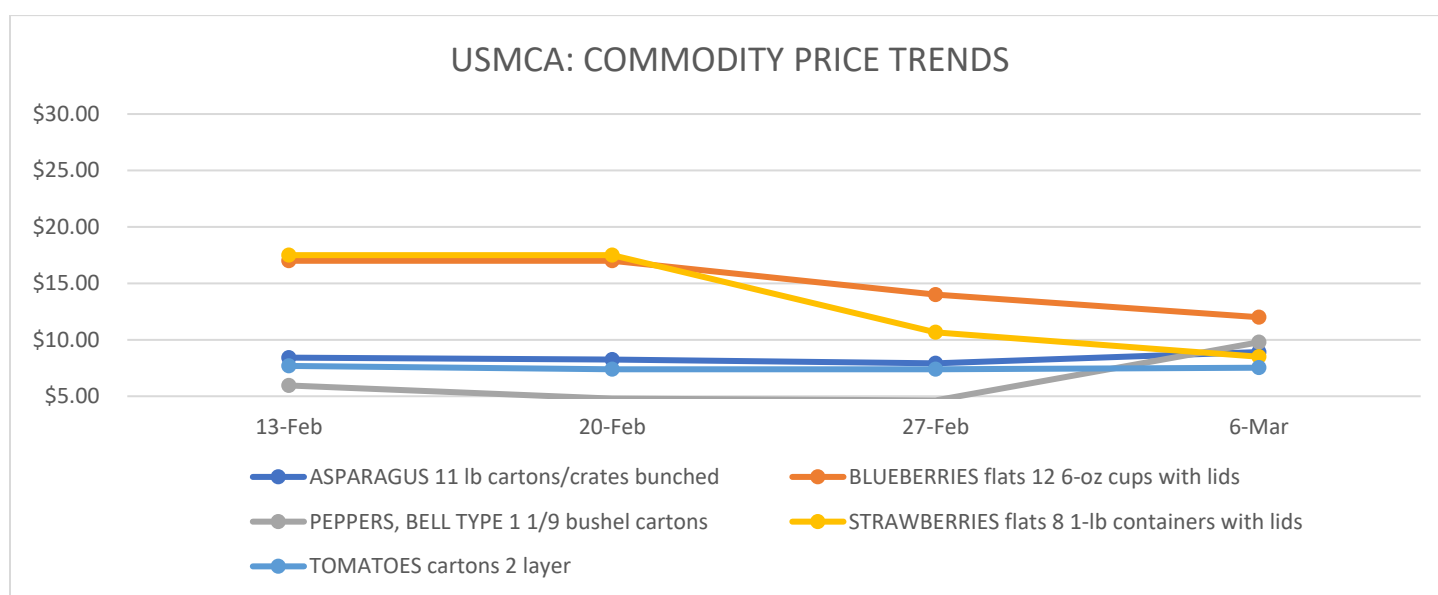
booked open with prices to be established later. Movement of strawberries from both the Oxnard and Santa Maria districts of California was expected to increase, but a winter storm bringing rain and low temperatures to growing areas may instead cause berries to be short over the next few days with higher prices as a result. For all Mexico and California strawberries, quality and condition remain variable.

Movement of Mexico tomatoes crossing through Texas is expected about the same with fairly slow to moderate trading. Prices remain generally unchanged at or near minimums with fairly light demand. Mexican tomato crossings through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected about the same with heavy supplies and light demand on most sizes. Only 5x6s and 5x6 size tomatoes have light supplies and good demand along with higher prices. Prices on all other sizes remain at legal minimums. Demand is expected to increase in the coming weeks with more states reopening foodservice venues and restaurants. Central and south Florida tomato movement is expected to slightly increase with moderate demand improving to good throughout the week. Higher prices are expected as shippers are impacted by trucking shortages and high rates.

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

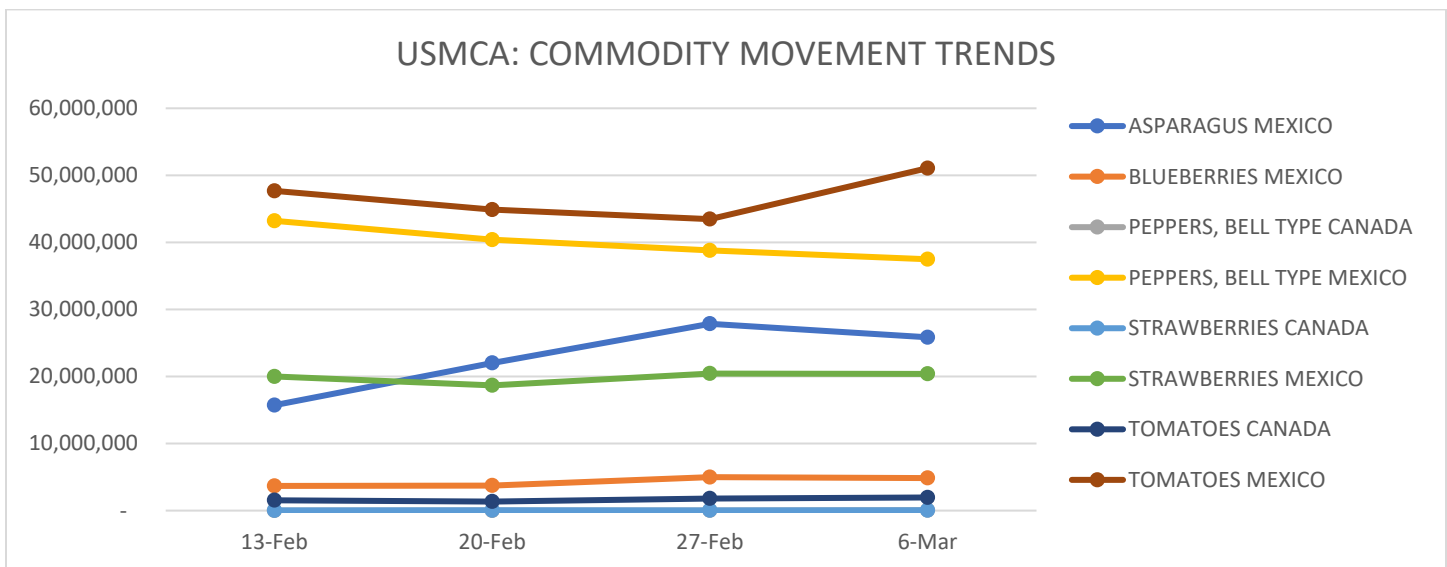
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	2/13/2021	2/20/2021	2/27/2021	3/6/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$8.42	\$8.25	\$7.92	\$8.92
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$14.00	\$12.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$5.95	\$4.79	\$4.63	\$9.78
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$10.67	\$8.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$7.69	\$7.39	\$7.39	\$7.53

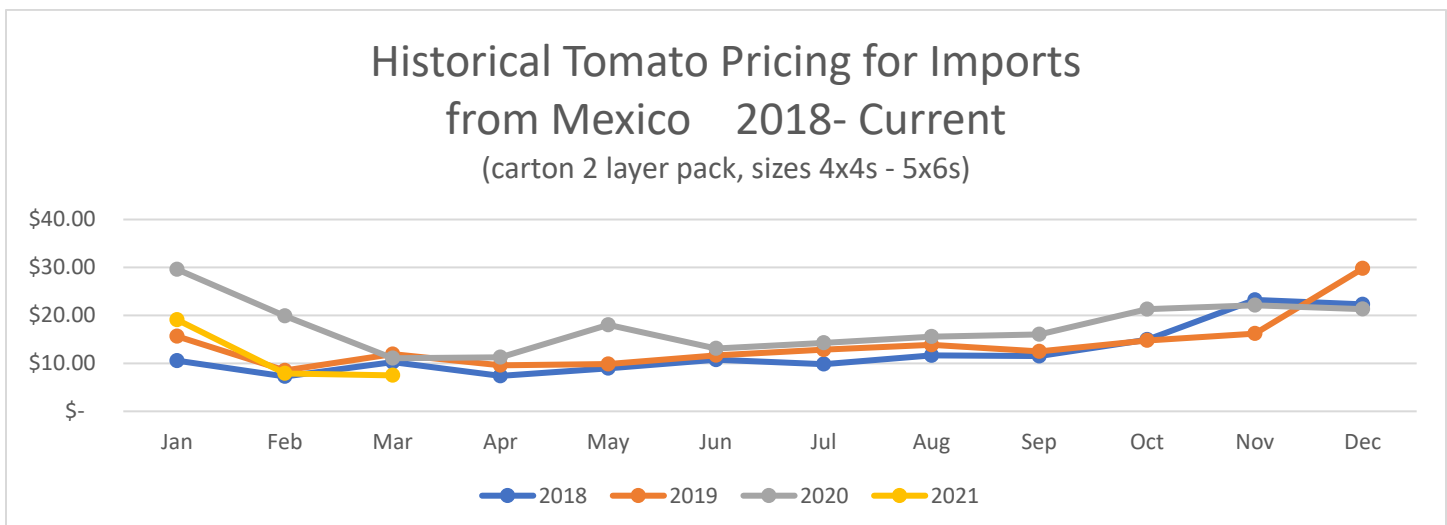


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	15,725,390	22,018,332	27,858,081	25,842,998
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	3,679,944	3,738,097	4,990,623	4,853,605
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	3,316	5,024	13,711	47,905
	MEXICO	43,217,258	40,398,807	38,803,146	37,486,789
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	29,027	50,708	40,692	49,608
	MEXICO	20,003,464	18,676,812	20,435,384	20,389,642
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,537,596	1,346,728	1,802,942	1,956,808
	MEXICO	47,674,457	44,892,953	43,469,095	51,073,895



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, 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