



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

Volume II – Number 11

Issued Weekly

Friday, March 19, 2021

Update for Week of March 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.

Transportation and weather issues continue to affect availability of produce commodities nationwide, while a cautious approach to restaurant and foodservice reopening in some areas is delaying the hoped-for increase in demand on those items. Many independently owned restaurants have gone out of business for good, while other foodservice businesses have had to restructure their operating plans and offerings to stay open. Truck rates remain high as diesel prices continue to increase.

Movement of Mexican asparagus is expected to decrease as the season winds down. Trading was fairly slow at higher prices on conventional product, while organic trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Some hail damage has been reported in the Caborca growing region which may limit supplies.

Blueberries from Mexico crossing through Arizona, California and Texas movement is expected to increase although trading remains very slow and prices are generally unchanged. Quality remains variable. Reporting of blueberries out of Central and North Florida has begun and movement is expected to increase as harvest increases. Trading is very active, and quality is very good. Supplies of good condition Chilean blueberries through both east and west coast ports are insufficient to quote and reporting has ended for the season.

Movement of bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected about the same with moderate trading and slightly lower prices. Mexico crossings through Texas supplies continue to be in too few hands to establish a market, although supplies seem to be increasing slightly. Demand continues to increase with unofficial prices reported slightly higher in response. Quality is variable for all Mexican bell peppers. Movement of bell peppers from central and south Florida is expected to slightly increase. Trading was fairly active with fairly good demand and slightly higher prices early in the week before becoming steady. Quality out of Florida is generally good.

Movement of Florida central district strawberries is expected to continue to decrease slightly. Light demand early in the week on conventional berries improved to fairly good by midweek, leading to slightly higher prices. Above normal temperatures are expected to continue for several days, causing some bruising and quality issues especially evident when fruit is shipped for long distances. There were too few new sales of organic strawberries to establish a market. Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through Texas is expected to continue to decrease seasonally, with trading very slow and prices generally unchanged. Mexico crossings through the Otay Mesa, California are expected to increase, with trading slow and prices generally unchanged. Many sales of Mexican strawberries are being booked open with prices to be established later. Movement of strawberries from the Oxnard district of California is expected to decrease with slow to fairly slow trading. Santa Maria, California strawberry movement is expected to decrease with very slow to

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
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For assistance please contact: jeff.main@usda.gov

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

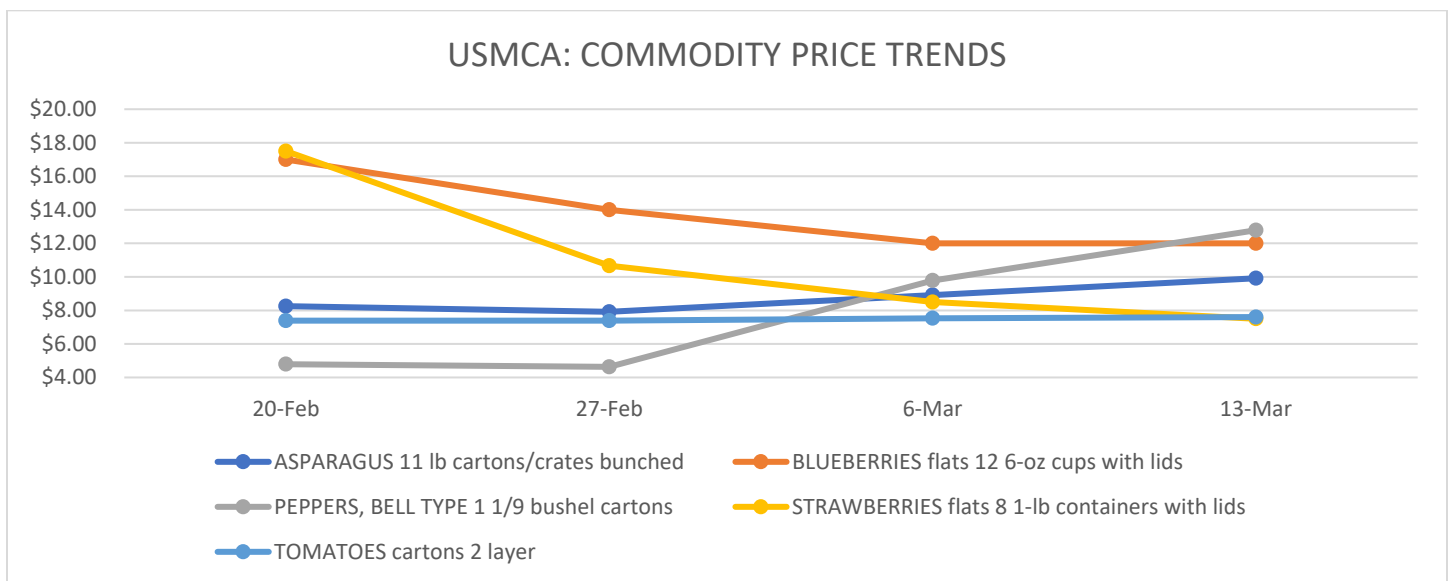
slow trading. Prices for all California strawberries increased early in the week due to inclement weather in growing areas but are expected to go down as supplies improve. For all Mexico and California strawberries, quality and condition remain variable.

Movement of Mexico tomatoes crossing through Texas is expected about the same with moderate trading. Prices remain generally unchanged at or near minimums although demand has increased slightly. 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 fairly light supplies and moderate trading. Prices are generally unchanged at or near legal minimums for all other sizes. Central and south Florida tomato movement is expected to about the same with fairly active trading and prices higher early in the week then about steady later. Supplies are light, helping increase demand, and shippers continue to face limited truck availability at higher rates.

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

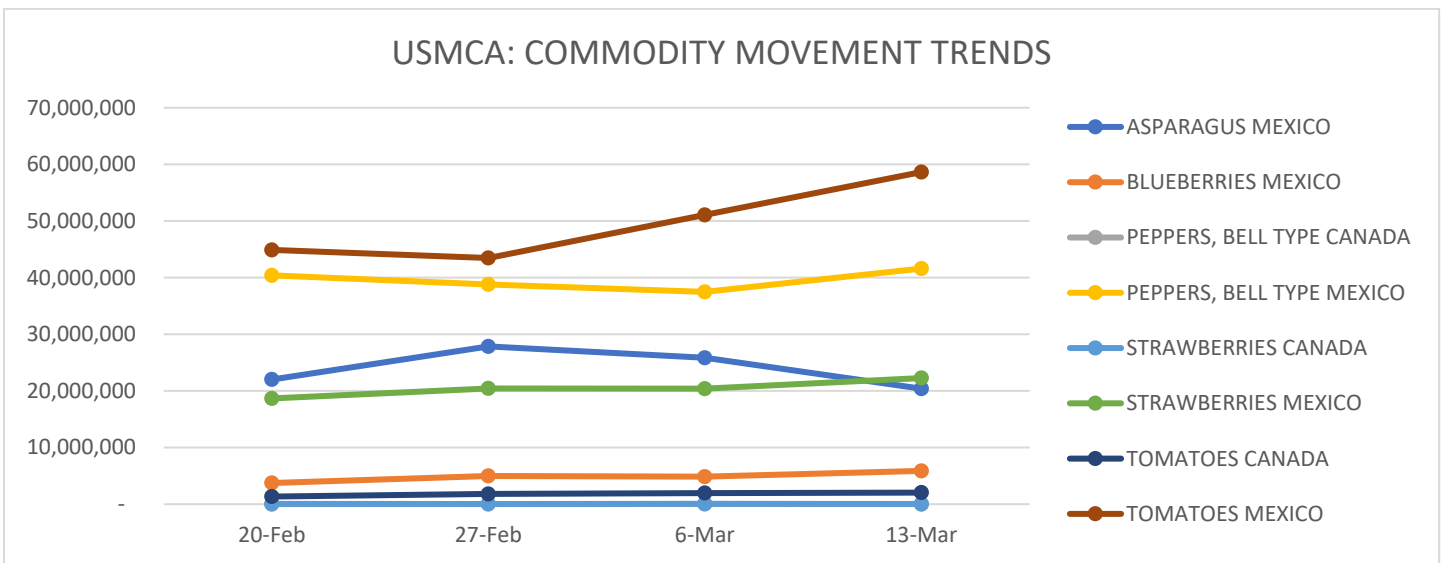
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar	13-Mar
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 8.25	\$ 7.92	\$ 8.92	\$ 9.92
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 17.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 4.79	\$ 4.63	\$ 9.78	\$ 12.78
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 17.50	\$ 10.67	\$ 8.50	\$ 7.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.39	\$ 7.39	\$ 7.53	\$ 7.60

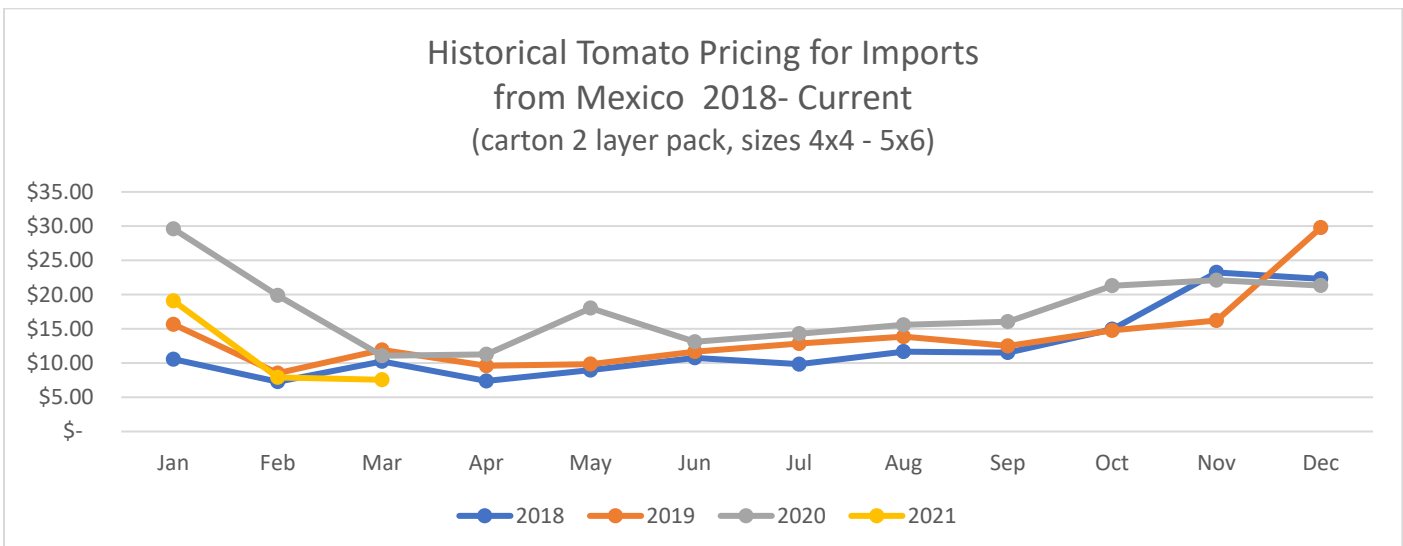


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	20-Feb	27-Feb	6-Mar	13-Mar
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	22,018,332	27,858,081	25,842,998	20,395,423
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	3,738,097	4,990,623	4,853,605	5,878,416
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	5,024	13,711	47,905	3,305
	MEXICO	40,398,807	38,803,146	37,486,789	41,607,925
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	50,708	40,692	49,608	36,415
	MEXICO	18,676,812	20,435,384	20,389,642	22,269,548
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,346,728	1,802,942	1,956,808	2,042,933
	MEXICO	44,892,953	43,469,095	51,073,895	58,642,371



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