



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

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Update for Week of March 21-27, 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 continuing increases in fuel costs and associated trucking shortages continue to affect both domestic grower-shippers as well as importers. The high costs combined with low demand mean that in many cases movement numbers are down, especially as the harvest season on certain commodities draws to a close. Commodities are also being affected by weather, as temperatures either too hot or too cold can cause gaps in production, but nothing like the extreme weather experienced last month across so much of the U.S. Delays at ports continue and are almost expected by now, although still a source of much stress for importers and customers alike.

Mexican asparagus crossing through Calexico, California and San Luis, Arizona movement is expected to remain about the same. Trading is fairly slow on conventional at higher prices and moderate on organic with prices generally unchanged. Most shipments are being booked at previously committed prices. The new harvest of Peru asparagus has begun with moderate trading on the first shipments, which are in too few hands to establish a market. Movement is expected to increase as more shippers begin harvest by the end of April.

Blueberries from Mexico crossing through Arizona, California and Texas movement is expected to increase with very slow trading early and moderate late. Prices were generally unchanged while quality remains variable. Reporting has ended for the season for Chilean blueberries. Harvest of blueberries out of central and north Florida is expected to increase as temperatures increase after a harvesting gap due to earlier cool weather. Trading was active on light supplies at higher prices. Quality is good.

Green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected about the same with active trading and much higher prices; with prices expected to continue increasing more. Supplies continue to be fairly light and demand is good. Mexico crossings through Texas supplies continue to be light and in too few hands to establish a market. Demand continues to increase with indications of higher prices in response. Movement of bell peppers from central and south Florida is expected to slightly increase as demand is moderate to fairly active. Prices were about steady. Harvest of green bell peppers from the Coachella Valley, California is expected to begin the week of April 4.

Movement of central district Florida strawberries is expected to continue to decrease as more shippers finish the season. Quality is dropping as the normal end of the season approaches, and high temperatures forecast late in the week will cause bruising on berries as they are handled and shipped. Demand and trading remain moderate with higher prices early in the week, and about steady later. Organic supplies remain very light. Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through Texas is expected to continue to decrease seasonally, with trading very slow to moderate and prices higher. Mexico crossings through the Otay Mesa, California are expected to increase, with trading moderate on

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.](#)

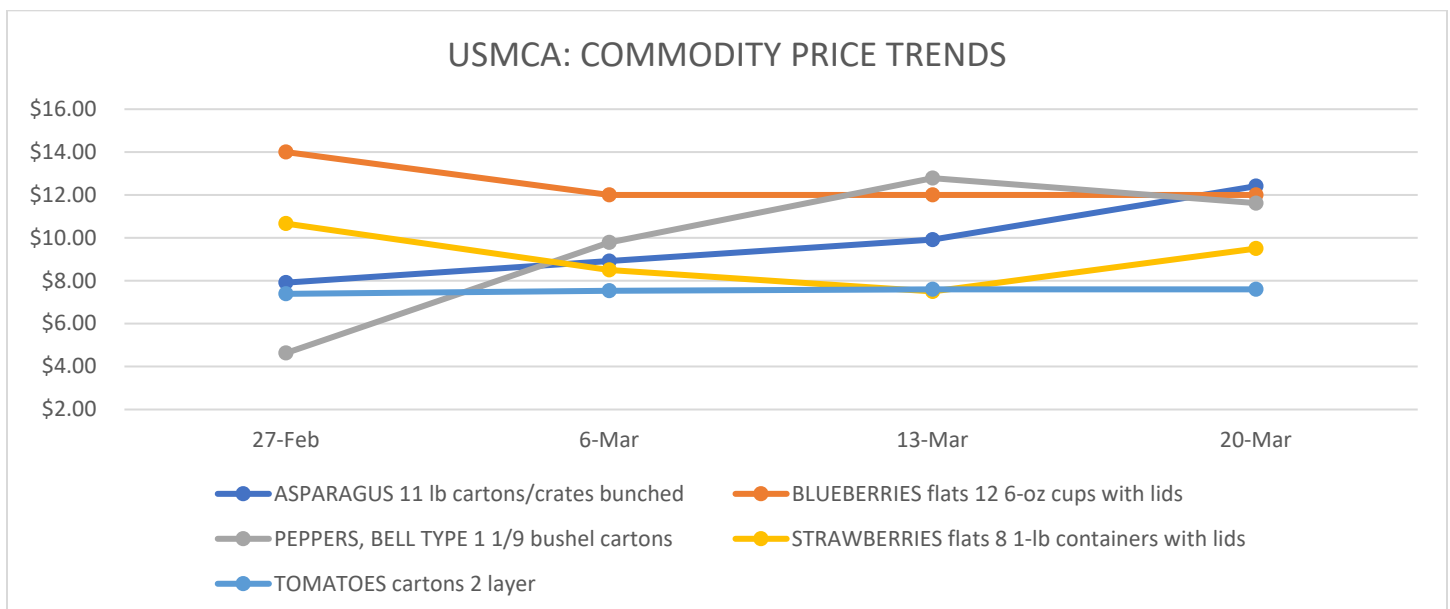
conventional berries and slow on organics. Prices were higher on conventional and generally unchanged for organic. Movement of strawberries from the Oxnard district of California is expected to increase slightly with active trading and higher prices on conventional. Trading on organic strawberries was fairly slow and prices were generally unchanged. Santa Maria, California strawberry movement is expected about the same with active trading at higher prices on conventional berries. Organic fruit had fairly slow trading with generally unchanged prices. 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 and demand. Some increase in the movement of smaller sizes was seen this week. Prices remain generally unchanged at or near minimums. Mexican tomato crossings through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected about the same with fairly heavy supplies and light demand on most sizes. Only 5x6s and 5x6 size tomatoes have fairly light supplies and fairly good demand at slightly higher prices. Prices on all other sizes remain at legal minimums. Central and south Florida tomato movement is expected to decrease. Demand remained fairly light through the week with fairly active trading. Prices were lower to about steady as the trucking shortage, with a tight supply of drivers and higher fuel costs, continue to affect shippers.

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

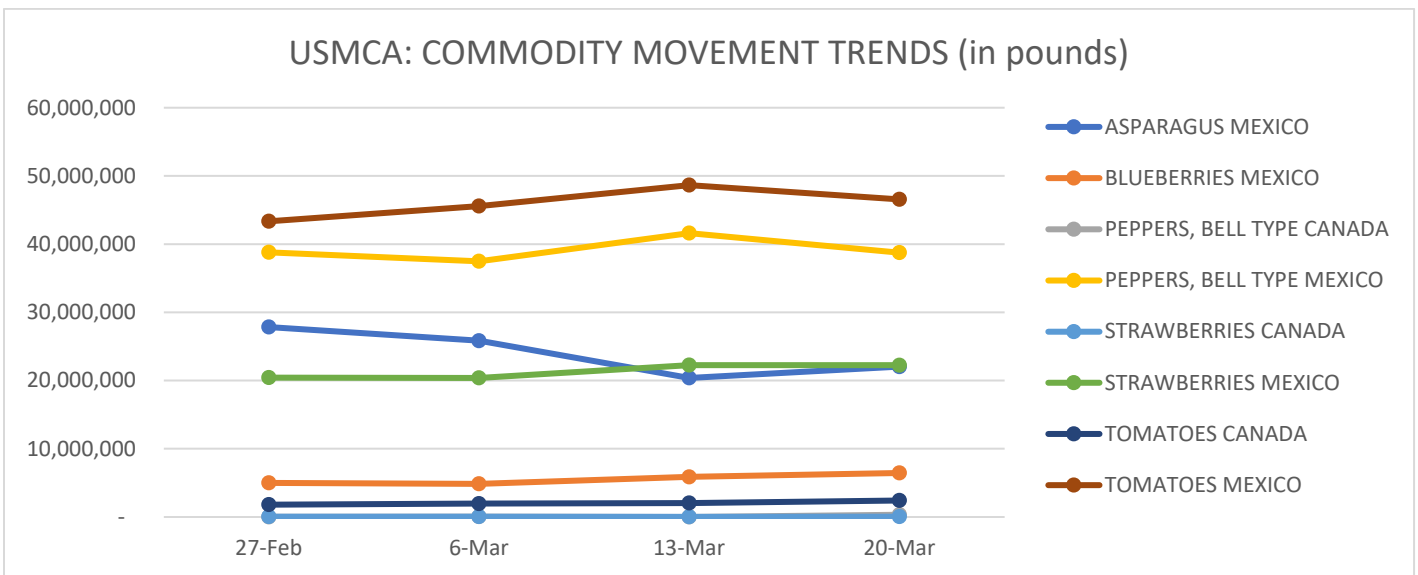
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	27-Feb	6-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 7.92	\$ 8.92	\$ 9.92	\$ 12.42
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 14.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 4.63	\$ 9.78	\$ 12.78	\$ 11.62
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 10.67	\$ 8.50	\$ 7.50	\$ 9.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.39	\$ 7.53	\$ 7.60	\$ 7.60

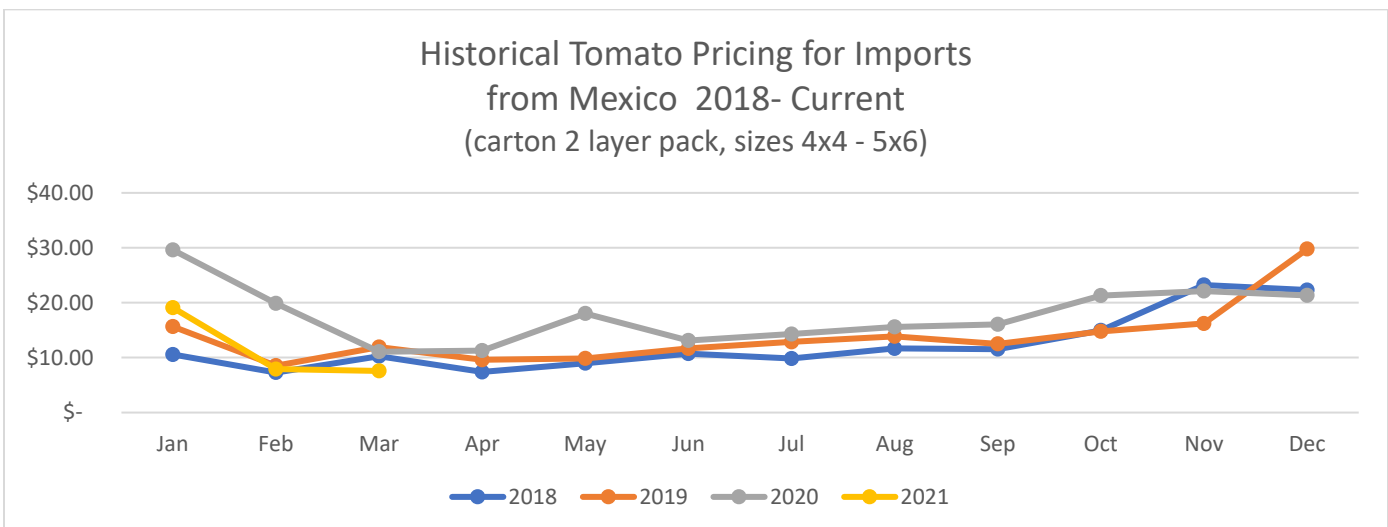


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	27-Feb	6-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	27,858,081	25,842,998	20,395,423	22,037,862
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	4,990,623	4,853,605	5,878,416	6,453,970
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	13,711	47,905	3,305	332,412
	MEXICO	38,803,146	37,486,789	41,607,925	38,750,126
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	40,692	49,608	36,415	49,673
	MEXICO	20,435,384	20,389,642	22,269,548	22,250,058
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,802,942	1,956,808	2,042,933	2,427,627
	MEXICO	43,355,126	45,574,278	48,653,692	46,558,820



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