



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

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Update for Week of May 9-15, 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.

Fuel prices stole headlines this week, spurred by the shutdown of the Colonial pipeline in response to online hackers. Although the pipeline, which serves much of the East coast, is now back online, full recovery is expected to take up to several weeks in some areas. Currently from 50-70% of gas stations are out of fuel in the states of North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, Florida, and the District of Columbia. Consumer panic buying has largely driven these shortages for gasoline, once news of the pipeline shutdown was widespread. Diesel fuel for shipping was less impacted, although it travels through the same pipelines, as diesel did not see the buying rush by consumers. Still, grower-shippers and transportation firms can expect to see lingering effects of the fuel shortage in the coming weeks, as it will further impact the already high truck rates, which will likely trend even higher.

Asparagus crossings from Mexico have transitioned to the Constitution and Baja growing regions, crossing through Texas, as most shippers in the Caborca growing region have finished for the season. Some shipments are being booked at previously committed prices while other prices are holding steady at prices from the previous growing region. Movement of Peru asparagus is expected to increase slightly this week although there are reports this week's vessel is delayed and will not arrive until as late as Saturday for unloading. Some buyers of the Peruvian asparagus are turning instead to domestic product as it is more available. Movement of asparagus from Walla Walla District and Lower Yakima Valley Washington is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly slow later in the week at lower prices. Movement from Central District California is expected to remain the same as supplies remain light. Most shipments are being booked at previously committed prices. Trading is fairly active with prices generally unchanged.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to decrease with moderate demand on most sizes at slightly higher prices. Demand on 48s is fairly good with active trading. Movement from the South District California is expected to increase. Trading on 48s and organics was fairly active, with others moderate. Prices on 48s and 79s was higher, with others generally unchanged.

For cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona, movement is expected to decrease slightly. Volumes have increased but quality is diminishing seasonally. The end of the season combined with all-time high truck rates saw shippers experiencing difficulty finding buyers for their product as well as trucks for their orders. Trading was fairly early in the week and slow later. Prices were much lower and expected to continue dropping. Movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Early trading was moderate and slow late, with prices much lower as demand continued to decrease. Most movement was for contracts or previous commitments. Movement of cucumbers from Central and South Florida is expected to slightly decrease. Prices were generally unchanged with moderate demand. The Florida spring vegetable season is expected to finish up for most shippers within the next 2 to 3

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.](#)

weeks. Movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies remain in too few hands to establish a market and prices are expected to be reported by the end of the week, just as the season in Nogales comes to an end. Light harvest of cucumbers from South Georgia has begun, with movement expected to increase as more shippers begin. Quality is reported as generally good.

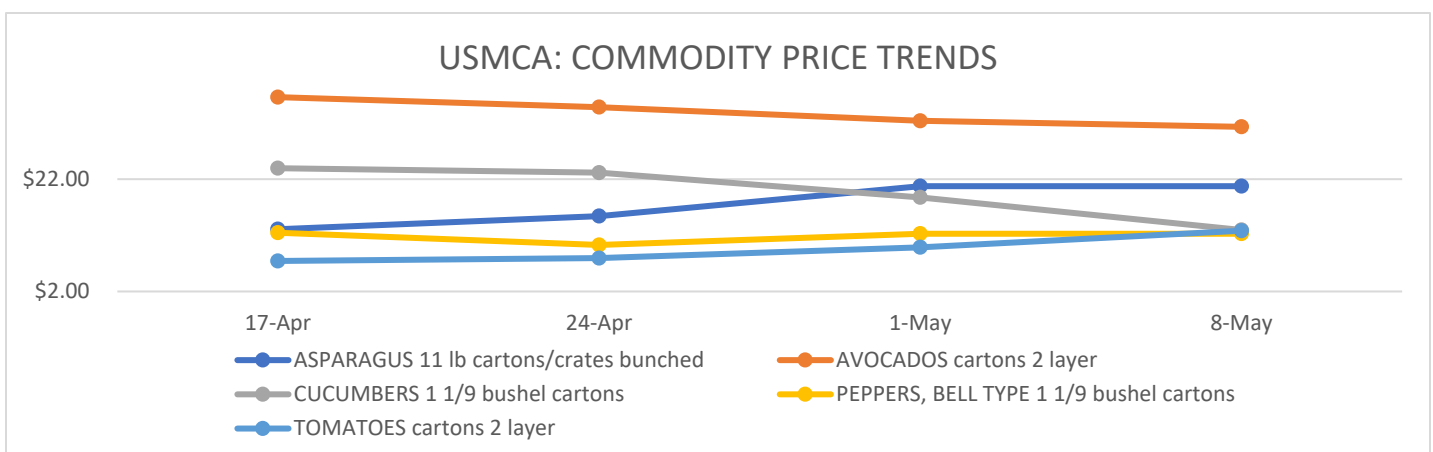
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. The growing season should be coming to an end in the next two weeks in Nogales, having lasted longer than usual this year. Movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was active and prices higher. Supplies are in too few hands to establish a market, but demand is fairly good for what product remains available. Green bell peppers from Central and South Florida movement is again expected to decrease slightly. Trading was moderate with good demand and higher prices. Supplies are light especially on jumbo and extra-large. Movement from Coachella Valley California is expected to continue seasonal increase. Trading early in the week was very active and late moderate with prices generally unchanged. Volumes have peaked for the season, and demand remains fairly good.

Tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Texas movement is expected about the same with moderate trading early in the week and fairly active later. Prices were mixed – some sales at much higher prices were balanced by many sales at lower prices, with supplies of 2-layer 4x5 and 5x5s insufficient to establish a market. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was very active early and late moderate. Prices on large sizes were generally unchanged while others were lower. Prices and movement are being strongly impacted by high truck rates. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to slightly increase with very good demand at higher prices reported early in the week, dropping to fairly light demand and lower prices late in the week. Tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa movement is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies remain insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. The first price report is expected the week of May 23.

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

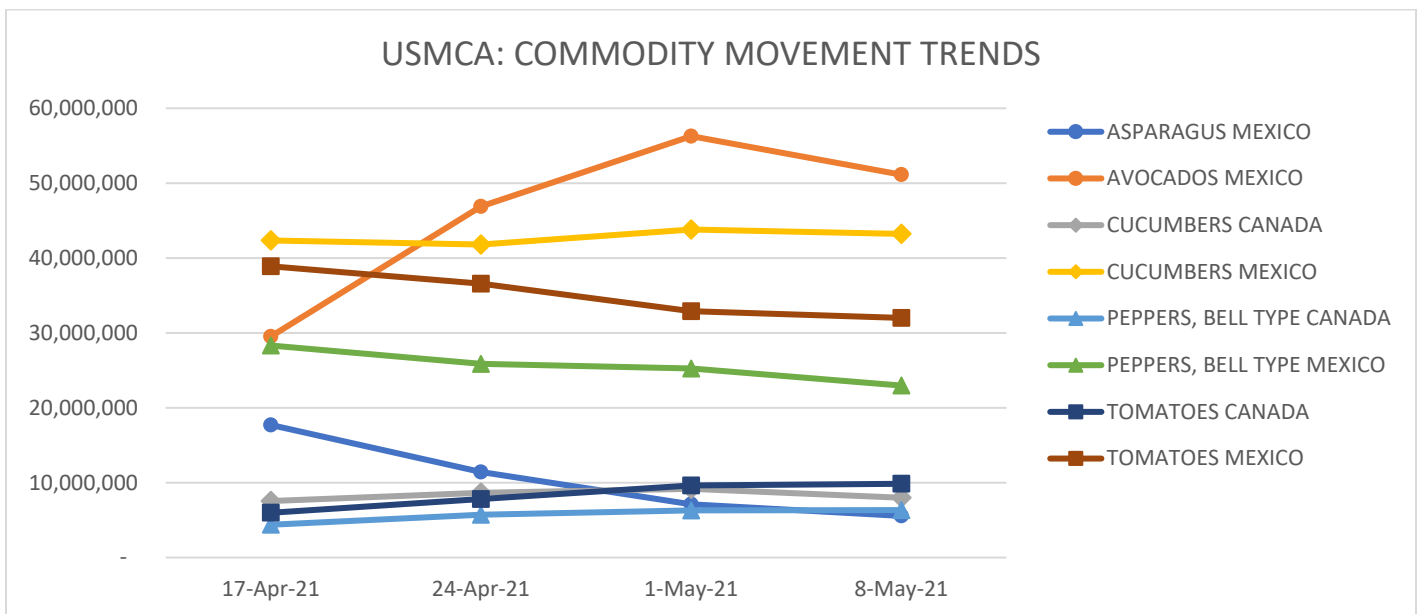
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	17-Apr	24-Apr	1-May	8-May
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 13.08	\$ 15.42	\$ 20.75	\$ 20.75
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 36.61	\$ 34.82	\$ 32.39	\$ 31.32
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 23.95	\$ 23.15	\$ 18.75	\$ 12.95
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 12.46	\$ 10.28	\$ 12.28	\$ 12.28
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.43	\$ 7.94	\$ 9.86	\$ 12.82

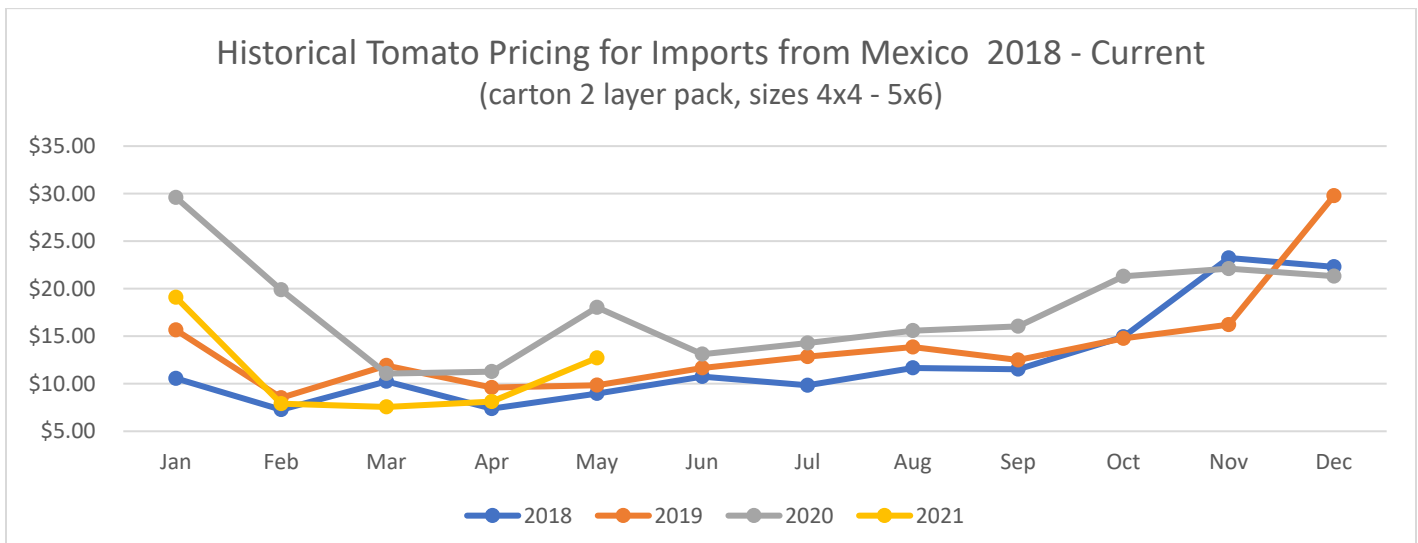


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	17-Apr-21	24-Apr-21	1-May-21	8-May-21
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	17,707,403	11,424,705	7,112,895	5,557,829
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	29,520,309	46,897,526	56,279,748	51,135,851
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	7,546,880	8,652,845	9,175,126	7,985,976
	MEXICO	42,353,711	41,806,647	43,810,028	43,232,534
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	4,379,684	5,714,538	6,291,549	6,337,798
	MEXICO	28,317,877	25,862,190	25,245,925	22,967,003
TOMATOES	CANADA	5,978,600	7,811,632	9,624,662	9,847,586
	MEXICO	38,899,060	36,571,463	32,892,257	32,003,944



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 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