



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

Volume I – Number 21

Issued Weekly

Friday, May 21, 2021

Update for Week of May 16-22, 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.

Although the main rush of panic-buying by consumers has passed, fuel prices continue to rise nationwide after the hacking incident affecting a main East Coast pipeline earlier this month. Multiple grower-shippers report the rising cost of transportation as a major factor in determining whether it is profitable to continue harvesting their crops when the commodity price is low, or towards the end of the season when quality becomes variable. With truck rates already at all-time highs and farm labor increasingly difficult to find, this has just added one additional layer of worry to an already stressed, yet vital, industry tasked with feeding the population.

Asparagus crossing from Mexico movement is expected to remain about the same, with trading fairly slow on plentiful supplies due to availability from many growing areas at this time. Prices were generally unchanged with fairly light to moderate demand. Vessel delays continue to affect movement of Peru asparagus, which is otherwise expected to remain about the same. Trading is slow and prices much lower as some buyers cancel orders in favor of domestic product, in no small part due to issues with aging and uncertainty about arrival times due to the delays. This week shippers are setting up their contracts for Memorial Day promotions. Movement of asparagus from Walla Walla District and Lower Yakima Valley Washington is expected about the same. Trading was fairly light to moderate on lighter supplies. A wide range in prices was reported, with high truck rates continuing to influence loads to the Midwest and East Coast. Movement from Central District California is expected to decrease as most shippers have finished for the season. Supplies are in too few hands to establish a market and the last report has been issued.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to decrease slightly with moderate trading and demand as shippers report last week's push for higher prices failed to materialize. Conventional 48s and organics are about steady but other sizes trended lower this week. Movement from the South District California is expected to increase. Trading and demand were both moderate with prices mixed. Rain curtailed some harvests early in the week and decreased overall season estimates.

Cucumber crossings from Mexico through Nogales, Arizona are expected to decrease as quality is diminishing and low prices, competition with other growing areas, and difficulty finding trucks are making many shippers consider ending the season as soon as next week. Movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was slow, with prices lower on most sizes and much lower on large as demand continued to decrease. Most movement was once again for contracts or previous commitments. Movement of cucumbers from Central and South Florida is expected to decrease. Prices were generally unchanged with moderate to fairly good demand most of the week. Movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was moderate and quality is generally good as the first price reporting begins. Movement and prices are being impacted by high truck rates especially to East

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.](#)

Coast markets, as well as by competition from low-priced product from nearby Nogales. Movement from South Georgia is expected to increase, with trading moderate at slightly lower to steady prices.

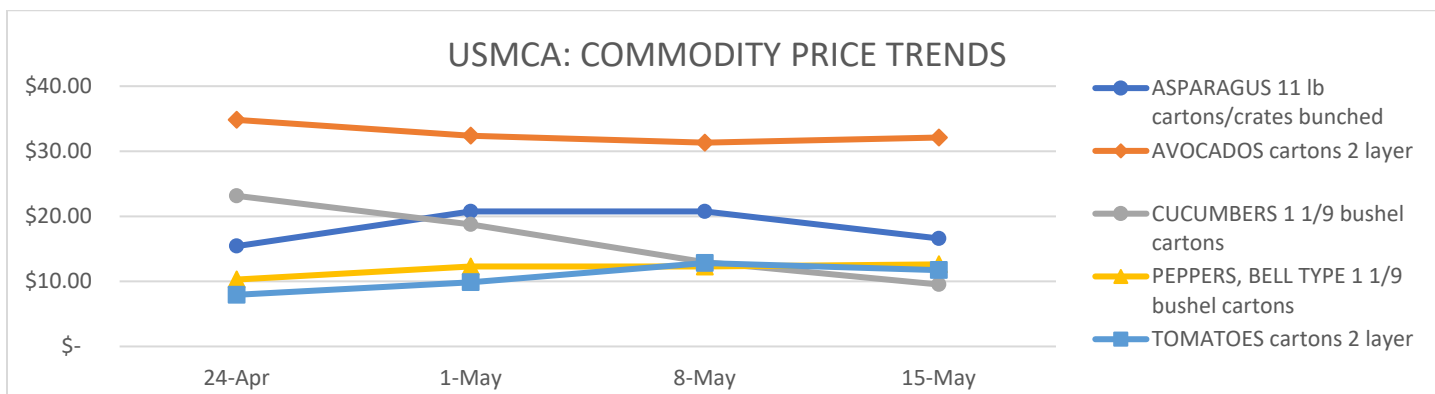
Movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Supplies of green bell peppers continue to be light and in few hands, but demand is fairly good. Trading was active and prices higher on what product is available. Movement of green bell peppers from Central and South Florida is again expected to decrease slightly. Trading was active with good demand and prices generally unchanged to slightly higher. Supplies are light to very light as some of the major shippers have finished for the season, with prices expected to increase over the weekend. Movement from Coachella Valley California is expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices jumbo generally unchanged and others higher. Volumes have peaked for the season, and demand remains good despite high freight rates. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was fairly active at higher prices. The growing season is expected to come to an end within the next two weeks. Movement and prices continue to be impacted by high truck rates and low truck availability. South Georgia bell pepper harvest has begun for local markets with price reporting expected to begin soon. Good initial quality is reported at high prices on large sizes.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same with active trading early in the week and moderate later. Prices were higher on 4x4-4x5s and lower on others, with decreasing demand throughout the week on all sizes. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to continue to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate. Prices on large sizes were much lower while others were lower. Prices and movement are being strongly impacted by high truck rates. Most shippers anticipate finishing the season within two to three weeks. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to decrease with fairly light demand, fairly slow trading, and prices about steady to lower throughout the week. Some growers expect to transition to West Florida within the next two weeks. Volume of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa 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. Quality is reported as generally good. Central District California harvest is expected to begin the week of May 30 with light volume and most shippers expected to begin the week of June 6. Quality is expected to be generally good.

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

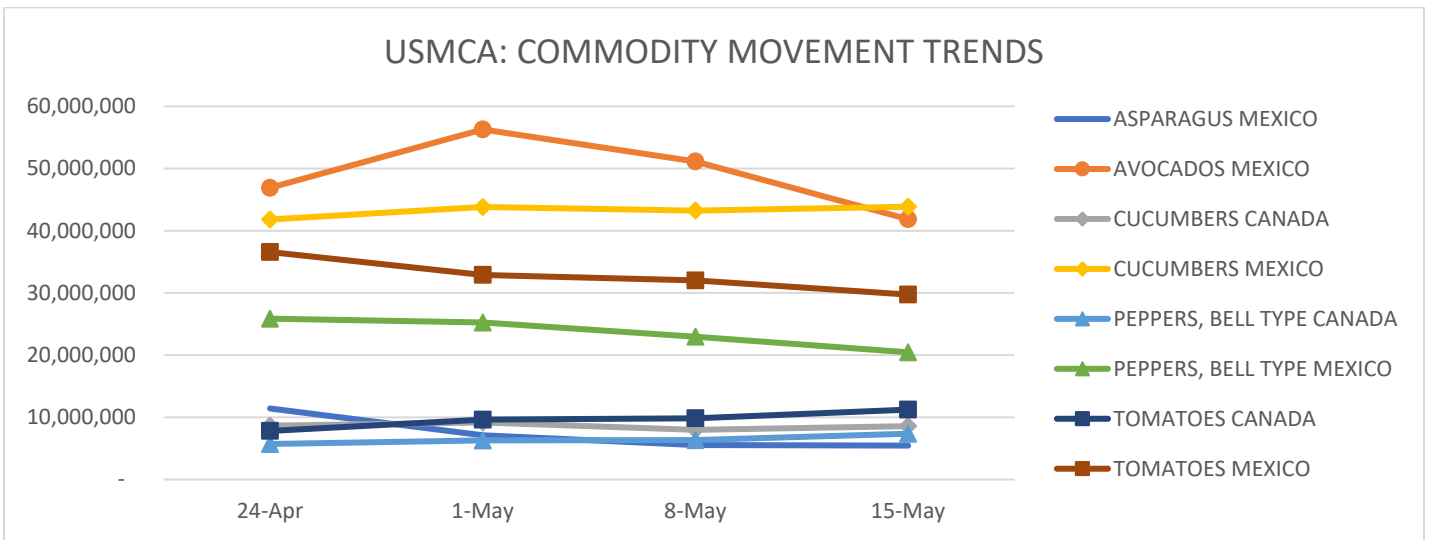
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

| Commodity | Package | 24-Apr | 1-May | 8-May | 15-May |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ASPARAGUS | 11 lb. cartons/crates bunched | \$ 15.42 | \$ 20.75 | \$ 20.75 | \$ 16.58 |
| AVOCADOS | cartons 2 layer | \$ 34.82 | \$ 32.39 | \$ 31.32 | \$ 32.11 |
| CUCUMBERS | 1 1/9-bushel cartons | \$ 23.15 | \$ 18.75 | \$ 12.95 | \$ 9.52 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | 1 1/9-bushel cartons | \$ 10.28 | \$ 12.28 | \$ 12.28 | \$ 12.62 |
| TOMATOES | cartons 2 layer | \$ 7.94 | \$ 9.86 | \$ 12.82 | \$ 11.74 |

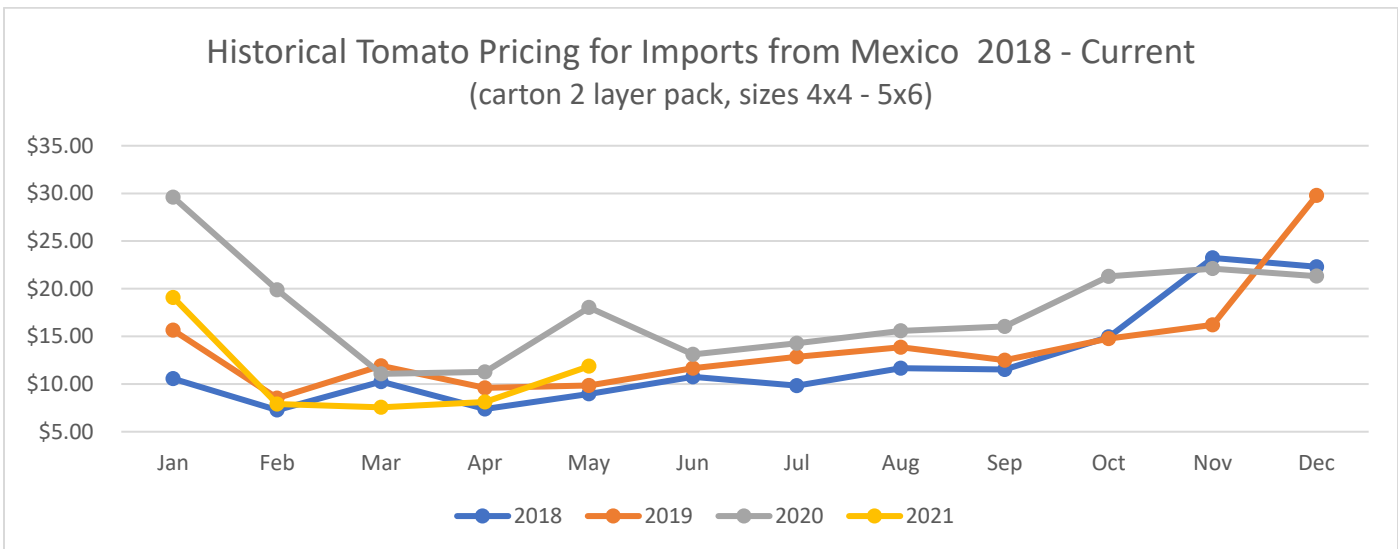


Four Week Movement in Pounds

| COMMODITY | ORIGIN | 24-Apr | 1-May | 8-May | 15-May |
|--------------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ASPARAGUS | MEXICO | 11,424,705 | 7,112,895 | 5,557,829 | 5,457,317 |
| AVOCADOS | MEXICO | 46,897,526 | 56,279,748 | 51,135,851 | 41,844,862 |
| CUCUMBERS | CANADA | 8,652,845 | 9,175,126 | 7,985,976 | 8,584,477 |
| | MEXICO | 41,806,647 | 43,810,028 | 43,232,534 | 43,860,091 |
| PEPPERS, BELL TYPE | CANADA | 5,714,538 | 6,291,549 | 6,337,798 | 7,366,344 |
| | MEXICO | 25,862,190 | 25,245,925 | 22,967,003 | 20,454,472 |
| TOMATOES | CANADA | 7,811,632 | 9,624,662 | 9,847,586 | 11,238,707 |
| | MEXICO | 36,571,463 | 32,892,257 | 32,003,944 | 29,733,151 |



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