



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

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Update for Week of May 30 – June 5, 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 heat of summer comes with its own challenges for grower-shippers, as many specialty crops grow best under warm, rather than hot, weather. As such, growing regions face constant transitions such as the ones underway right now, where one area will be finishing up just as harvest begins in another. In any year, this calls for planning and calculations to ensure the proper labor, equipment, transportation, and packaging are available in the right place at the right time. With the complications of last year's pandemic and the supply chain and labor shortages, these regular difficulties have been multiplied. High truck rates and a tight supply of trucks continue to be seen nationwide.

Asparagus crossings from Mexico movement is expected to decrease slightly, with demand and prices generally unchanged to slightly higher on newer product out of the Central Mexico region. Peru asparagus remains oversupplied with aging product due to earlier vessel delays, with movement expected to decrease slightly this week as ports are skipped to readjust schedules in an attempt to get back on track. Trading is slow at slightly higher prices on large sizes and lower on others with quality and condition by container reported as variable, by air generally good. Movement of asparagus from the Walla Walla District and Lower Yakima Valley Washington is expected to decrease with most shippers expected to finish within the next two weeks due to unusually warm weather. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged and many present shipments from previous commitments or prior bookings. Movement from Michigan is expected to increase as more growers start shipping. Trading was moderate at lower prices.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to decrease slightly with moderate trading and demand. Shippers report unconfirmed disturbances south of the border that may be negatively affecting crossing numbers, with speculation ranging from municipal strikes to roadblocks. Prices were higher on conventional and fairly light supplies remain adequate for the time being despite the potential reductions in availability. Movement from the South District California is expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged and demand improving to fairly good as speculation about news from Mexico helped improve demand for the remaining California crop.

Cucumber crossings from Mexico through Texas movement is expected about the same. Demand increased throughout the week with trading early slow and late active and prices much higher. Most available cucumbers are still reserved for contracts or previous commitments. Movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease sharply as temperatures in the growing areas rise and supplies decrease. Trading was moderate, with prices much higher and expected to continue as long as the quality is good. Movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was moderate and prices were higher, with prices ~~expected~~ to rise higher as fewer growing areas compete with product and as more of the country re-opens. Movement of cucumbers from

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.](#)

Central and South Florida is in too few hands to establish a market and the last price report for the season was issued last week. Movement from South Georgia is expected to remain about the same, with trading moderate with prices unchanged on carton 24s and lower on other sizes. Quality is reported as generally good. Eastern North Carolina producers estimate harvest to begin within the next 7-10 days.

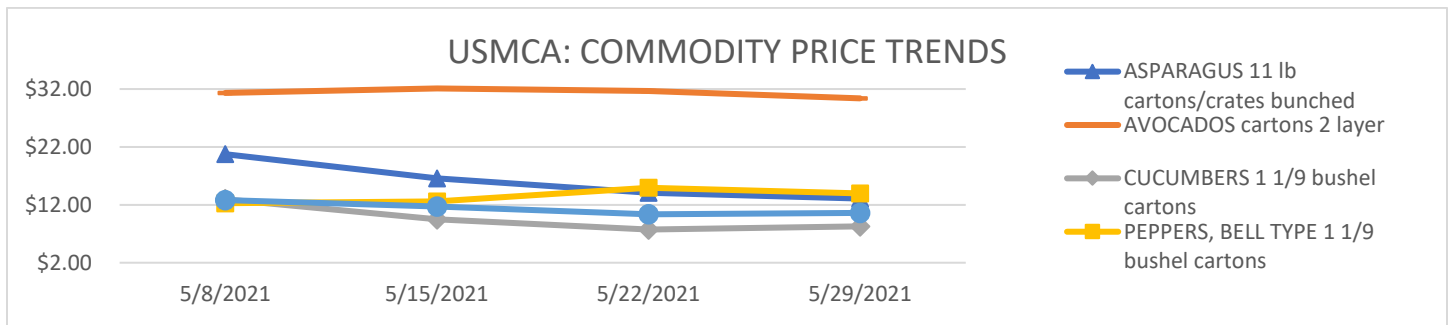
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Supplies continue to be light and in too few hands to quote, but demand is fairly good at slightly lower price points. Movement of green bell peppers from Central and South Florida is expected to decrease as more shippers finish the season. Trading and demand were moderate early in the week with very light supplies which finished the week in too few hands to establish a market as the last FOB price report for the region was issued this week. Movement from Coachella Valley California is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was active early and moderate late with prices irregular size generally unchanged and others much lower. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices lower to much lower as both volume and quality decline. The last FOB price report for the region was issued this week. South Georgia bell pepper movement is expected to increase, with moderate trading at lower prices. High truck rates continue to affect prices.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same with early trading slow and moderate later. Prices on most sizes were generally unchanged with supplies of some sizes in too few hands to establish a market. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was moderate early and active later with prices much higher. Round tomatoes are in high demand and with volume getting lighter as the season comes to an end, prices can be expected to continue to increase. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was active on light supplies with prices expected to continue to trend higher. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to decrease as most growers have finished packing and supplies continue to decrease. Trading was fairly slow with fairly light demand at lower prices. Central District California light harvest has begun with more shippers expected to begin the week of June 6. The first FOB price report is expected to be issued the week of June 13. Florida West and South Carolina District light harvest has begun, and the first FOB price report has been issued. Demand is moderate for the light supplies, with volumes increasing as more growers start the season.

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

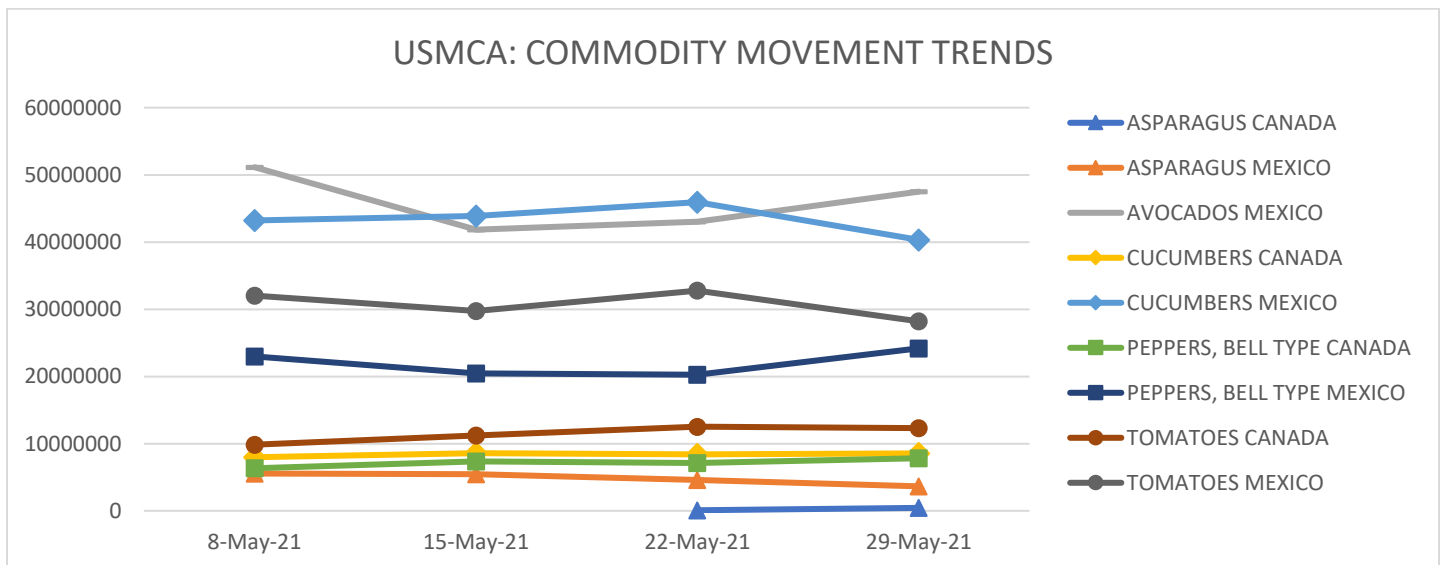
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	5/8/2021	5/15/2021	5/22/2021	5/29/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 20.75	\$ 16.58	\$ 14.08	\$ 13.08
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 31.32	\$ 32.11	\$ 31.68	\$ 30.39
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 12.95	\$ 9.52	\$ 7.74	\$ 8.31
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 12.28	\$ 12.62	\$ 14.95	\$ 13.95
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 12.82	\$ 11.74	\$ 10.37	\$ 10.60



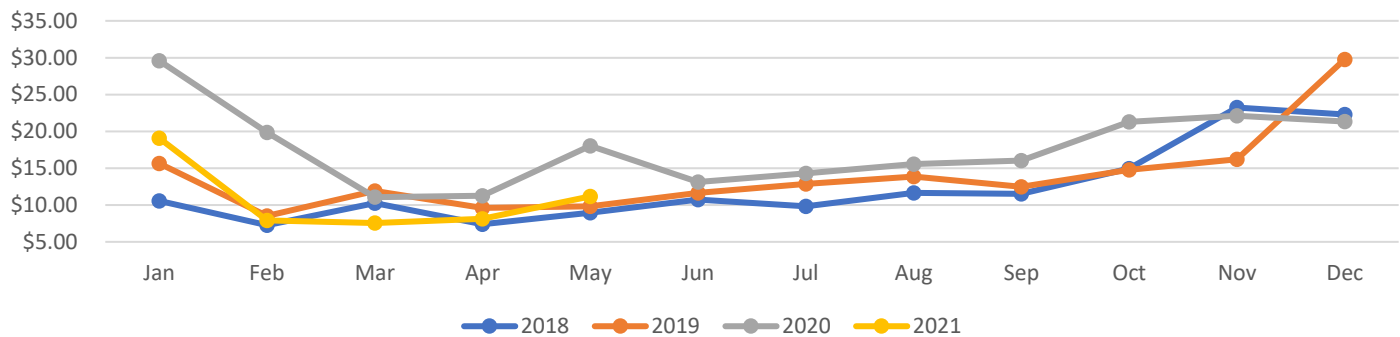
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	8-May-21	15-May-21	22-May-21	29-May-21
ASPARAGUS	CANADA			93,212	444,469
	MEXICO	5,557,829	5,457,317	4,593,557	3,649,979
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	51,135,851	41,844,862	43,032,573	47,507,507
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	7,985,976	8,584,477	8,418,714	8,560,115
	MEXICO	43,232,534	43,860,091	45,932,547	40,321,707
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	6,337,798	7,366,344	7,132,318	7,831,186
	MEXICO	22,967,003	20,454,472	20,258,494	24,183,754
TOMATOES	CANADA	9,847,586	11,238,707	12,527,448	12,303,779
	MEXICO	32,003,944	29,733,151	32,768,767	28,199,577



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.

Historical Tomato Pricing for Imports from Mexico 2018 - Current
(carton 2 layer pack, sizes 4x4 - 5x6)



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