



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

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Update for Week of June 13-19, 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.

As vaccination rates rise and more and more aspects of life return to normal, the wide-spread shortage of labor and workers becomes increasingly apparent. The lack of help and lack of interested applicants for jobs is especially visible in fast food or drive-through service restaurants. Traditional dine-in restaurants are facing a similar labor situation, often limiting their capacity even when the regulations have been lifted in many cases. Now that customers are willing to venture outside the house for entertainment and something to eat aside from delivery or their own cooking, many are finding their favorite fast food or fast-casual chains understaffed or even with dine-in options closed – due, now, not to COVID restrictions, but to lack of workers. While many levels of the foodservice industry and the retail sector face similar labor shortages, staff shortages in dining establishments will likely be one of the most noticeable features of the labor situation to the average consumer.

Asparagus crossings from Mexico are expected to decrease with moderate trading at higher prices. Production decreased temporarily as growers switch from the Constitution growing region to the Central Mexico region resulting in tightened supplies, with a delay in some fields being harvested. Movement of Peruvian asparagus is expected to increase slightly with moderate trading and prices much higher as shippers look ahead to the July 4 holiday. With domestic competition decreasing and shipping delays finally being sorted out, customers are reported to be returning to Peruvian product. Movement of asparagus from the Walla Walla District and Lower Yakima Valley Washington is expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market, with the last price report issued and light shipments expected to continue through July 3. Movement from Michigan is expected to decrease seasonally. The remaining supplies are in too few hands to establish a market.

Movement of avocados from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected to increase slightly. Prices trended slightly lower on large sizes of conventional and steady on organic and small fruit, with fairly light demand. Movement from the South District California is expected to decrease slightly. Trading remained fairly active with prices generally unchanged to lower on some sizes. Demand decreased from fairly good to moderate through the week. Peruvian avocados have begun to arrive on US markets and are affecting the balance of supply and demand between the California and Mexican markets.

Cucumber crossings from Mexico through Texas are expected about the same, with trading early active and late moderate at lower prices. Quality is reported as variable as the season progresses. Movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same with moderate trading and demand. Prices were slightly higher despite quality and condition becoming variable; the majority of shippers are finishing up for the season within the next

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.](#)

week. Movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was fairly active at slightly lower prices. Demand was moderate as competition from other growing areas is still affecting movement out of the region. Movement from South Georgia is expected to remain about the same, with trading moderate and prices lower. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement out of Eastern North Carolina is expected to remain about the same. Trading was moderate and the first F.O.B. price reports have been issued. Cucumbers from Central and South Florida are in too few hands to establish a market and the last F.O.B. price reports of the season have been issued.

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 lower price points, with quality reported as variable. Price reporting of green bell peppers from the Coachella Valley, California has finished for the season as supplies are in too few hands to establish a market. Lighter shipments are expected to continue through June 19th. South Georgia bell pepper movement is expected to increase, with trading slow at lower prices. High truck rates continue to negatively affect prices and unsold product is reported to be filling coolers as shippers struggle to find drivers and trucks to move their goods. Movement out of the San Joaquin Valley, California is expected to increase seasonally. Trading fairly slow early and moderate later with prices much lower on generally good quality product. Light movement out of Eastern North Carolina is expected in the next 7-10 days as more shippers begin harvest.

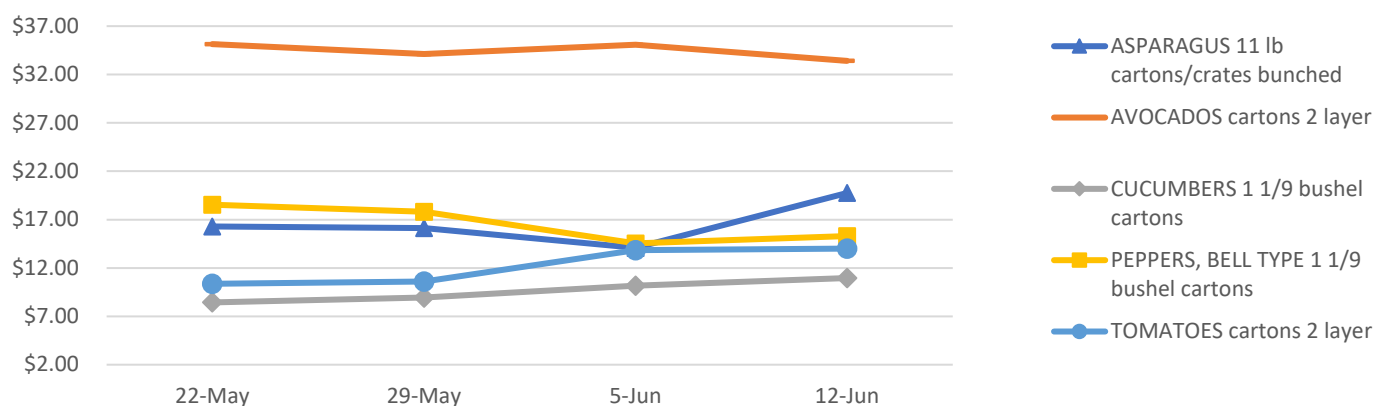
Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same with early trading moderate and active later. Prices were slightly higher with good demand and quality generally good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading was active early and moderate later at lower prices. Most shippers are finished for the season, with light crossings expected to continue through the week of June 26. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa is expected to continue to increase seasonally. Trading was active early, moderate later at lower prices on all except 5x6s, which were slightly higher. Central District California movement is expected to increase seasonally, with the first F.O.B. price reports issued this week. More shippers are expected to begin harvest over the weekend. Florida West and South Carolina District movement is expected to increase. Trading and demand were active to very active, with prices generally unchanged. Both labor and truck shortages, along with high truck rates, continue to hamper packing, loading and movement. Hot weather is also causing harvest to end by midafternoon some days. Price reports for tomatoes from both the San Joaquin Valley, California and Arkansas are expected soon as volumes increase in both growing areas.

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	22-May	29-May	5-Jun	12-Jun
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 16.30	\$ 16.13	\$ 14.08	\$ 19.75
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 35.14	\$ 34.11	\$ 35.07	\$ 33.41
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 8.44	\$ 8.94	\$ 10.16	\$ 10.96
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 18.54	\$ 17.82	\$ 14.55	\$ 15.31
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 10.37	\$ 10.60	\$ 13.85	\$ 14.00

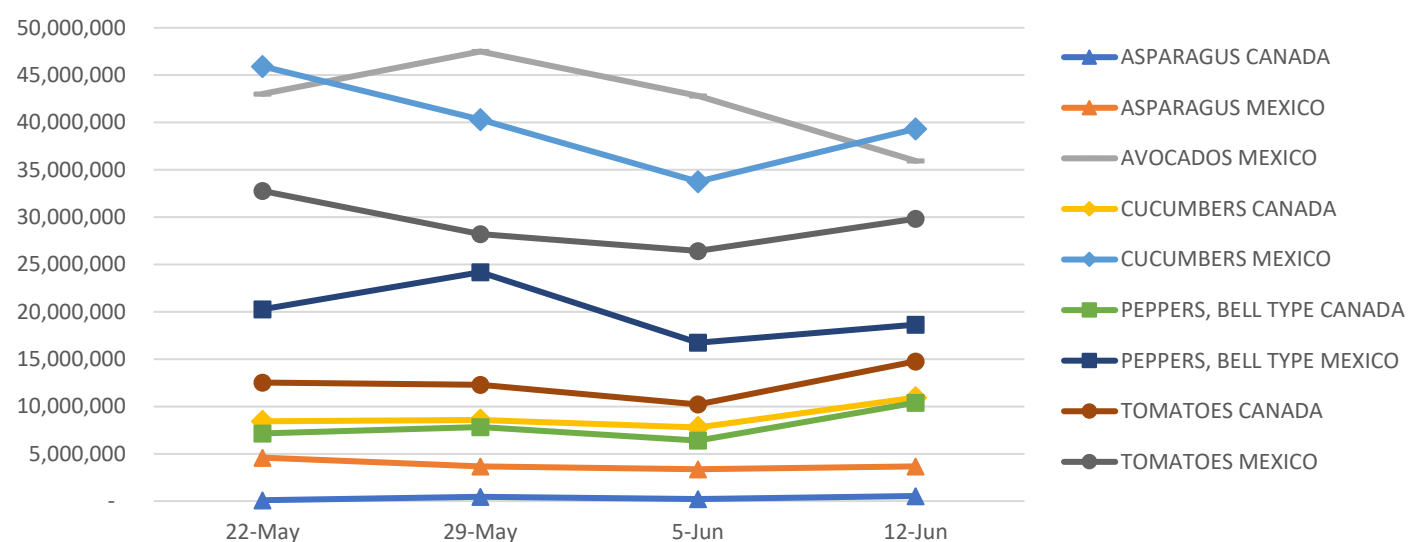
USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



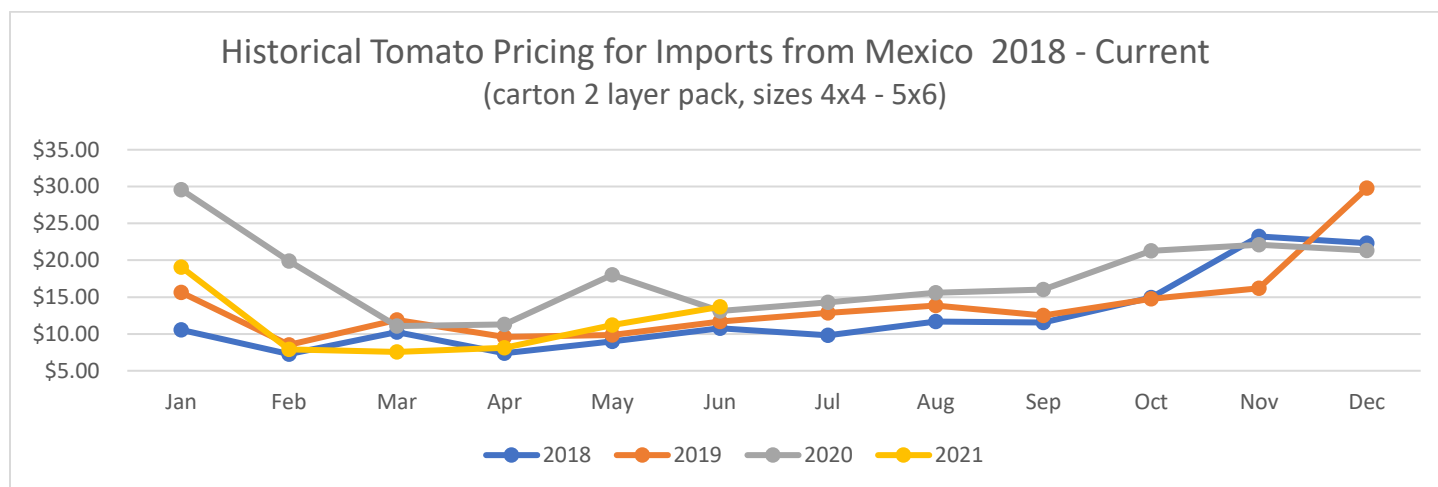
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	22-May	29-May	5-Jun	12-Jun
ASPARAGUS	CANADA	93,212	444,469	216,645	537,658
	MEXICO	4,593,557	3,649,979	3,366,667	3,666,487
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	43,032,573	47,507,507	42,824,393	35,942,068
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	8,418,714	8,560,115	7,779,743	10,938,018
	MEXICO	45,932,547	40,321,707	33,752,876	39,326,785
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	7,132,318	7,831,186	6,394,111	10,399,788
	MEXICO	20,258,494	24,183,754	16,734,618	18,644,801
TOMATOES	CANADA	12,527,448	12,303,779	10,211,733	14,766,760
	MEXICO	32,768,767	28,199,577	26,430,690	29,834,924

USMCA: COMMODITY MOVEMENT TRENDS



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