



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

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## **Update for Week of January 9-15, 2022**

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.

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Supply chain woes are making headlines once again this week. The continuing high truck rates and the lack of available drivers, along with winter weather, consumer stockpiling, and the spike in virus rates caused by the Omicron variant, are all being cited as contributing factors in empty store shelves being seen across the country. In addition, port backlogs are at an all-time high, with a record 105 ships reported to be awaiting berthing spots for unloading at Southern California ports and a total of 146 ships waiting outside all major U.S. ports. Long-term infrastructure plans for deepening additional ports and shipping lanes to better accommodate today's larger container ships will do little to alleviate the immediate problem.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase. Trading was active to very active at higher prices, due to limited competition from Chilean fruit. Quality and condition of Mexican berries is reported as variable. Movement of Chilean imports of blueberries via boat through both various East Coast and West Coast ports of entry is expected to increase as harvesting increases in Chile, with current supplies in too few hands to establish a market for both coasts. The F.O.B. price report is not yet being issued, well past the usual start date for this report. Overall fewer Chilean blueberries are making their way to US markets than usual. There are reports that shipments are being delayed by labor shortages in Chile and held up in inspections, as well as diverted to other countries. Movement of Peruvian imports of blueberries arriving through both the Philadelphia and New York City areas and through Southern California ports via boat is expected to decrease as the season nears its end. Trading was active for light supplies, with prices unchanged. Quality is reported as generally good for this late in the season.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase. Trading was fairly active at much higher prices. Supplies remain fairly heavy with moderate demand as buyers continue purchase only what is needed to fill orders. Shippers remain optimistic that demand will improve next week, as most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments at lower prices. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected to increase slightly. Trading was moderate early and active later with demand improving to moderate. Prices were much higher, though quality is reported as variable. Movement of cucumbers via boat out of Central America into South Florida ports expected to increase slightly but remain light and sporadic as movement is hampered

For more information on:

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[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

by vessel and container delays. Trading was slow and no F.O.B. price report is currently being issued as supplies out of Honduras are insufficient to quote, though quality is reported as generally good.

Green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement expected to increase. Trading was very active at much higher prices. Demand moderate overall but better on green bell peppers compared to other colors due to lower volumes. Movement and prices continue to be impacted by the truck shortage and high freight rates, with most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices much lower though demand remains fairly good. Quality reported as variable. Most shipments are for colored bell peppers. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida is about the same. Trading was very active at much higher prices. Demand was very good though available trucks remain hard to find.

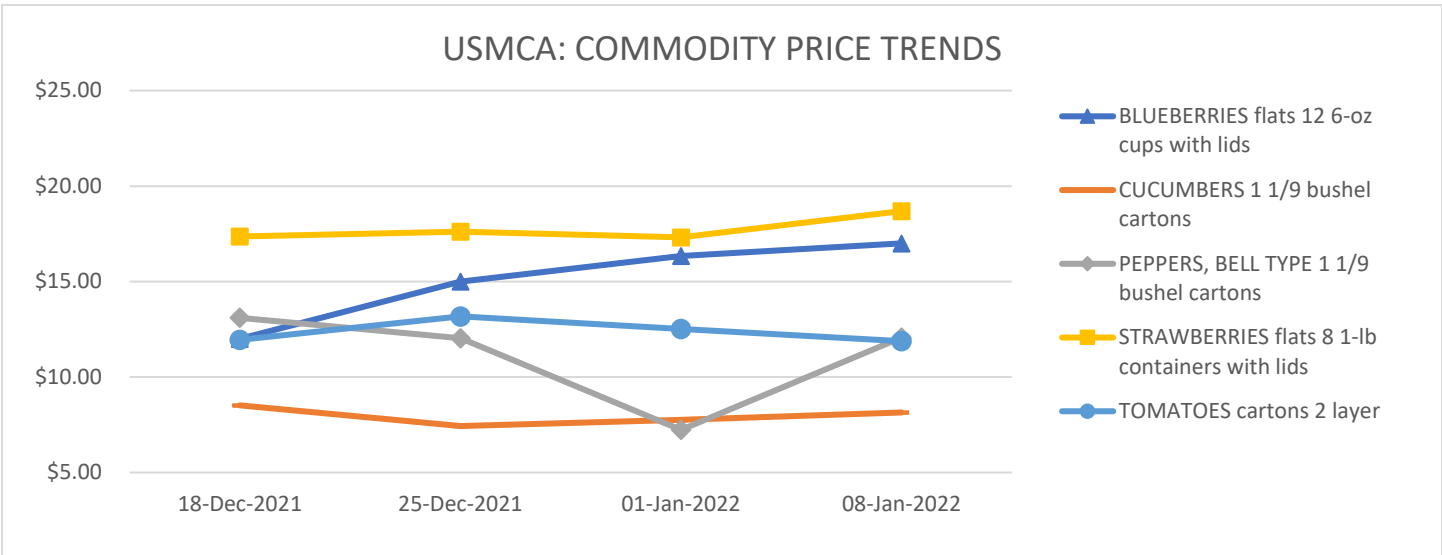
Strawberry movement out of Central Florida is expected to increase slightly. Trading and demand exceed available supplies, though warmer temperatures over the weekend have increased supplies by about 25%. Cooler temperatures midweek are expected to decrease supplies again by the weekend. Prices slightly higher as a result. Mexico strawberry crossings through Texas movement is expected to increase. Trading was active at higher prices, though quality is reported as variable. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected to increase. Trading active, though available supplies are in too few hands to establish a market and quality and condition are reported as variable. Strawberries from Oxnard District California movement is expected to increase. Trading was active at higher prices. Quality and condition are variable, and some berries are being diverted to processing or freezers. Demand for all west coast berries eased slightly due to increasing volumes from improved weather. Berry prices have been hit especially hard by inflation, and these rising prices along with cold winter weather across much of the country could curb consumption numbers. Shippers are looking ahead to the Valentine's Day holiday, which traditionally brings high demand for strawberries.

Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase in South Florida. Trading active on 5x6 size and fairly active on others. Prices were higher. Supplies lighter on larger sizes leading to stronger demand for those sizes and fairly light demand on smaller sizes. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected to increase slightly. Trading was fairly active, with prices on 5x5s generally unchanged and others slightly lower. Quality reported as generally good. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading was moderate with prices on 4x4s-4x5s much lower, 5x5s lower, and 5x6s generally unchanged. Supplies heavy on larger sizes and fairly light on smaller tomatoes. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments, though high truck rates and limited availability continue to affect movement and F.O.B. prices.

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

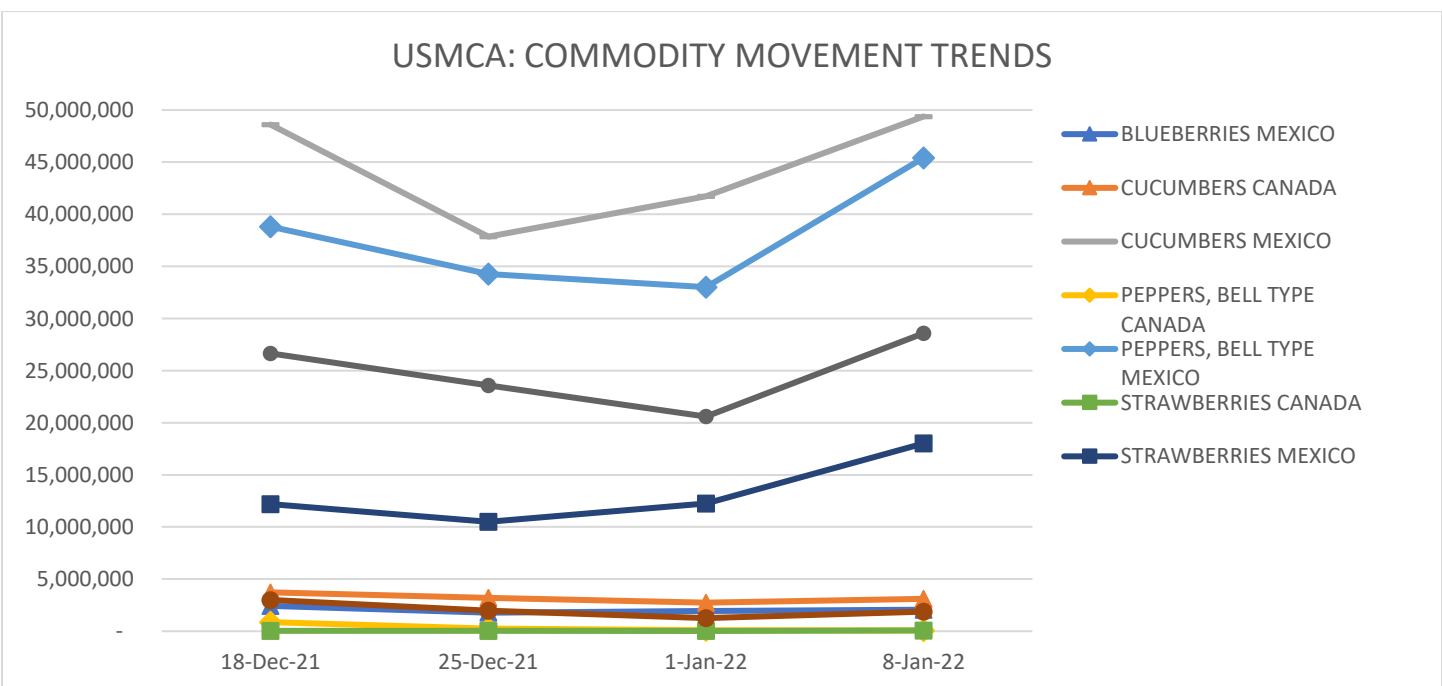
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	18-Dec-2021	25-Dec-2021	01-Jan-2022	08-Jan-2022
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.33	\$ 17.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 8.52	\$ 7.43	\$ 7.77	\$ 8.15
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 13.10	\$ 12.04	\$ 7.23	\$ 12.07
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 17.36	\$ 17.61	\$ 17.32	\$ 18.69
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 11.95	\$ 13.18	\$ 12.52	\$ 11.88

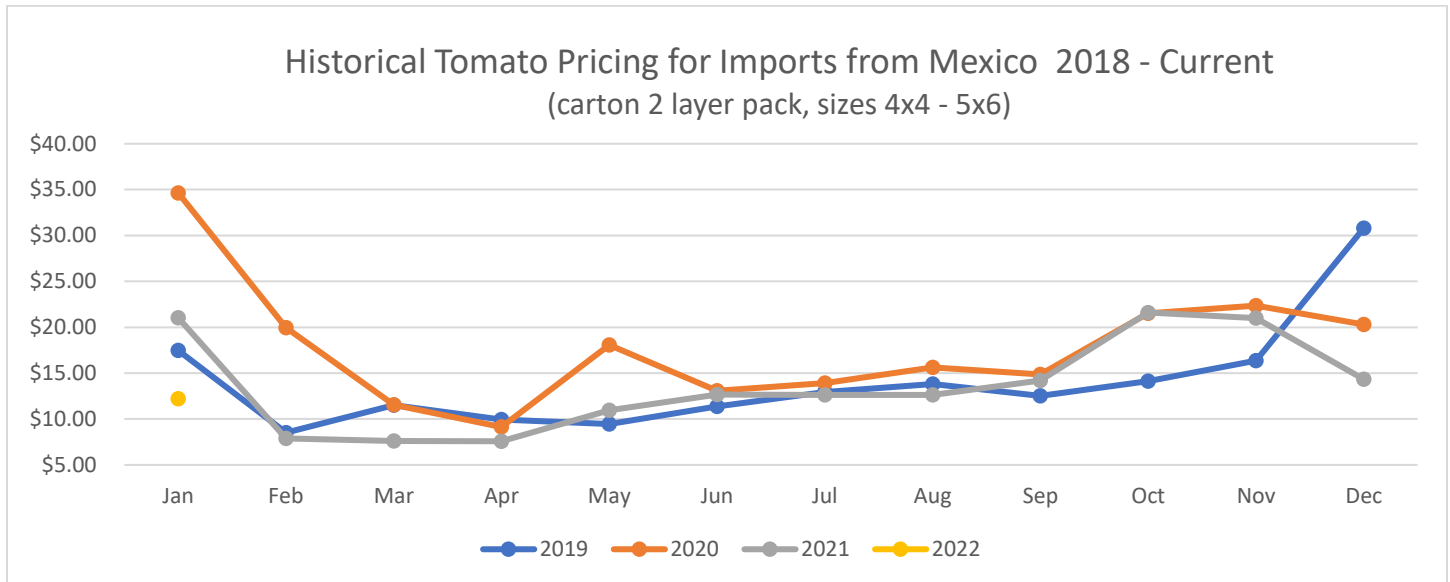


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	18-Dec-21	25-Dec-21	1-Jan-22	8-Jan-22
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,429,987	1,779,474	1,928,496	2,077,958
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	3,728,495	3,195,855	2,739,967	3,106,025
	MEXICO	48,609,186	37,847,149	41,716,279	49,379,672
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	869,069	240,861	86,686	71,806
	MEXICO	38,798,269	34,253,175	33,004,877	45,413,904
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	44,641	42,491	25,016	72,560
	MEXICO	12,194,804	10,497,939	12,248,627	18,016,727
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,999,425	1,980,534	1,259,504	1,881,023
	MEXICO	26,660,870	23,583,985	20,592,607	28,584,888



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