



# 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 16-22, 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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Shipping port backlogs continue to be a key factor in supply chain challenges nationwide. West coast ports remain an ongoing problem, with over 90 ships awaiting berthing spots at the Port of Los Angeles. The average waiting time for a vessel within 40 nautical miles of the Port of Los Angeles is 3.5 days. Business hours have increased to a 24/7 operation at the port resulting in significant decreases in container dwell times at the port since October. Additionally, high truck rates, a shortage of truck drivers and winter weather continue to plague the produce industry as well as other sectors. Consumers are seeing the impact when they do their grocery shopping, with higher prices and limited supplies of some products. Retail establishments like restaurants, who were seeing business levels starting to improve, have seen a significant decline in the last few weeks with the impact of the Omicron variant.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase. Trading was very active due to limited competition from Chilean fruit. Prices on 6-ounce cups is higher and pints unchanged. 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. Trading on east coast ports of entry is moderate, and the first F.O.B price report was issued this week. Supplies entering the west coast ports are still in too few hands to establish market. Chilean blueberries are still delayed at the west coast ports, especially the Port of Los Angeles. 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 about the same. Trading on pickles and Persian type was active and others moderate. Prices on pickles, Persian and long seedless was higher and others much lower. 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 about the same. Trading was active early and moderate later. Prices were generally unchanged, and quality is reported as variable. Movement of cucumbers via boat out of Central America into South Florida ports expected to

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

remain about the same yet sporadic as movement is hampered by vessel and container delays. Trading was moderate and prices generally unchanged. Quality is reported as generally good.

Green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement expected to increase. Trading was active early and slower late in the week. Supplies are heavy and prices on green are much lower and others lower. Some sales of greenhouse red, orange and yellow shipped open with price to be established later. Movement of Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and slow late with prices much lower. 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 fairly slow and prices lower. Supplies were light as cooler temperatures have hampered production and are expected to remain so for a few more days.

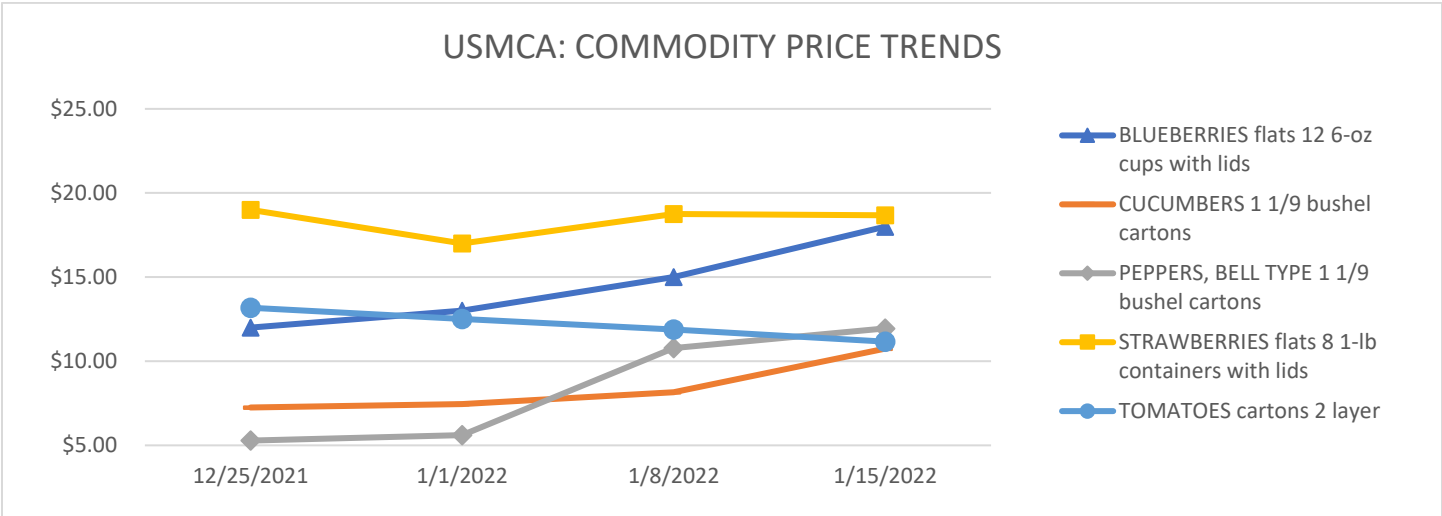
Strawberry movement out of Central Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading and demand exceed available supplies. Prices are generally unchanged. There have been too few sales on organic strawberries for several days resulting in no F.O.B prices being reported. Mexico strawberry crossings through Texas movement is expected to increase slightly. Trading was active early and slow later in the week. Prices were lower and quality is reported as variable. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected to increase. Trading active early and slow later in the week, resulting in lower prices. Many present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments and quality and condition are reported as variable. Strawberries from Oxnard District California movement is expected to increase. Trading was active early and slow late in the week, resulting in lower prices. Quality and condition are variable. Shippers have reported weaker demand for strawberries from California and Mexico, citing slower of movement of higher priced berries at retail and cold weather for consumers through much of the Midwest and Northeast. Shippers are expecting higher demand for strawberries for the Valentine's Day holiday; however prices may not increase as much as previously anticipated.

Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Trading active on 5x6 size and fairly active on others. Prices were higher. Demand for larger size tomatoes remains stronger than smaller sizes. Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected to increase slightly. Trading was fairly active early and moderate late. Prices were generally unchanged. Quality reported as generally good. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales Arizona is expected to increase slightly. Trading was moderate with prices on 5x5s-5x6s slightly lower, 4x5s and 4x5s generally unchanged. 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.

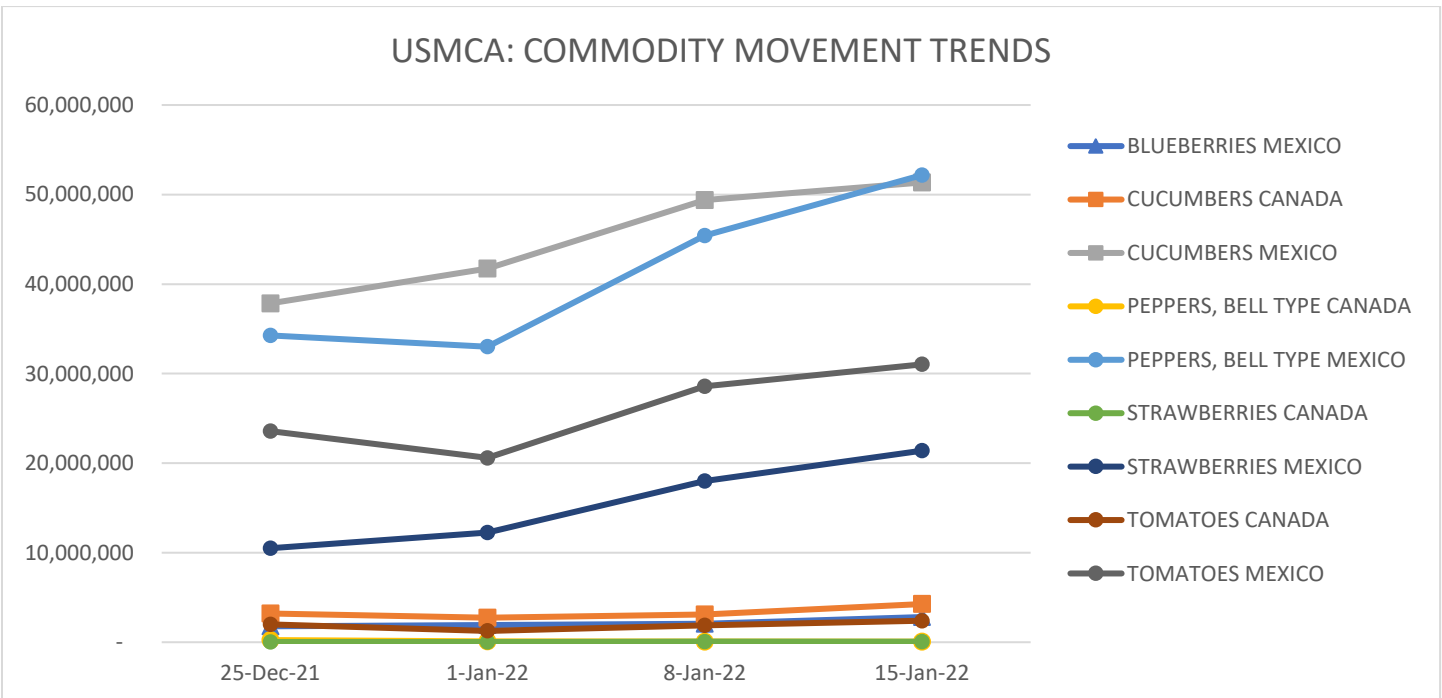
**Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars**

Commodity	Package	12/25/2021	1/1/2022	1/8/2022	1/15/2022
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 18.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 7.25	\$ 7.45	\$ 8.15	\$ 10.75
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 5.28	\$ 5.62	\$ 10.78	\$ 11.95
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 19.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 18.75	\$ 18.67
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 13.18	\$ 12.52	\$ 11.88	\$ 11.16

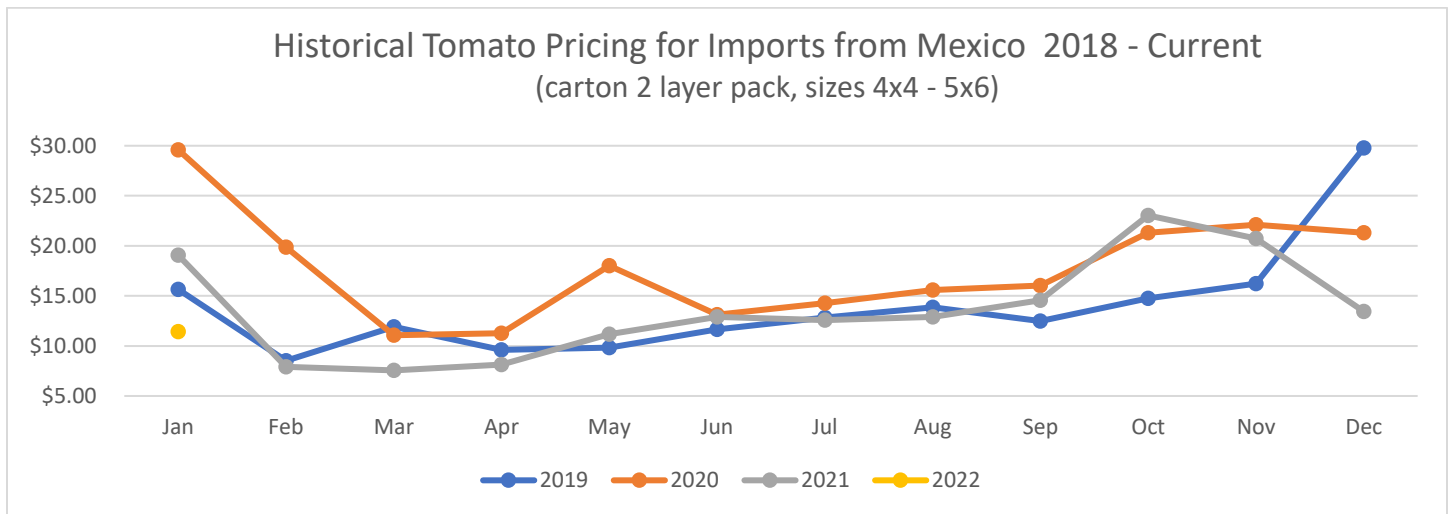


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	25-Dec-21	1-Jan-22	8-Jan-22	15-Jan-22
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	1,779,474	1,928,496	2,077,958	2,811,588
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	3,195,855	2,739,967	3,106,025	4,264,810
	MEXICO	37,847,149	41,716,279	49,379,672	51,347,387
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	240,861	86,686	71,806	76,131
	MEXICO	34,253,175	33,004,877	45,413,904	52,172,871
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	42,491	25,016	72,560	58,008
	MEXICO	10,497,939	12,248,627	18,016,727	21,391,981
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,980,534	1,259,504	1,881,023	2,401,763
	MEXICO	23,583,985	20,592,607	28,584,888	31,031,991



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