



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 30-February 5, 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.

Consumers are again seeing grocery store shelves bare of certain items or increased shipping times for online orders as the global supply chain issues continue. Despite this, year-end reports show that ocean carriers recorded record profits in 2021- an estimated \$150 billion, or a nine-fold annual increase, according to a Bloomberg article. Although fuel, container, labor, and other costs continued to climb throughout the year, it is clear the pace of freight increases far outstripped those expenses. For the average U.S. shopper, inflation and rising prices could lead to increasing food insecurity. Industry sources report a slight easing of transportation rates for certain shipping areas, resulting in expectations that prices will begin to reflect that reduction in cost. Several winter weather events and below normal temperatures impacted multiple regions, which slowed movement of product into the major metropolitan regions and delayed the maturity of crops in the southern growing regions of the US.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase. Trading was active early and moderate later. Market for Mexican berries is declining as competition from Chilean fruit increases gradually. Prices lower with quality and condition reported as variable. Movement of Chilean blueberries via boat through the 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 prices there are barely steady. Supplies entering the west coast ports remain fairly light with trading barely steady. Overall movement of Chilean blueberries remains lower than previous seasons, with some Chilean exporters reported to be shipping more product to Europe and Asia to avoid competing with Peruvian berries in the U.S.

Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments, and quality is reported as variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices on carton 24-36s generally unchanged, others much higher. Supplies remain heavy on all except large and super sizes, which is reflected in the pricing. All sizes are moving steadily, with quality still reported as variable. Shipments of cucumbers via boat out of Central America into South Florida ports expected to remain about the same as movement remains sporadic and hampered by vessel and container delays. Trading was fairly slow with prices on carton 24s much lower and others slightly lower. Quality is reported as generally good.

Green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona movement expected to decrease slightly. Trading active at much higher prices. Demand good as decreasing volumes have led to less availability on the spot market. With competing growing regions curtailing harvests due to weather, prices are expected to continue to increase as availability further decreases. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same.

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.](#)

Trading was very slow early but active later at much higher prices. Quality reported as variable, and most shipments are for colored bell peppers. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida is expected to decrease. Trading was moderate with prices on fair quality generally unchanged, others slightly higher. Delays in crop maturity caused by cold weather continue to limit available supplies. Crop damage and losses are still being assessed in areas where temperatures were below freezing over the weekend. Winter weather and poor road conditions across much of the rest of the country is leading to lowered demand.

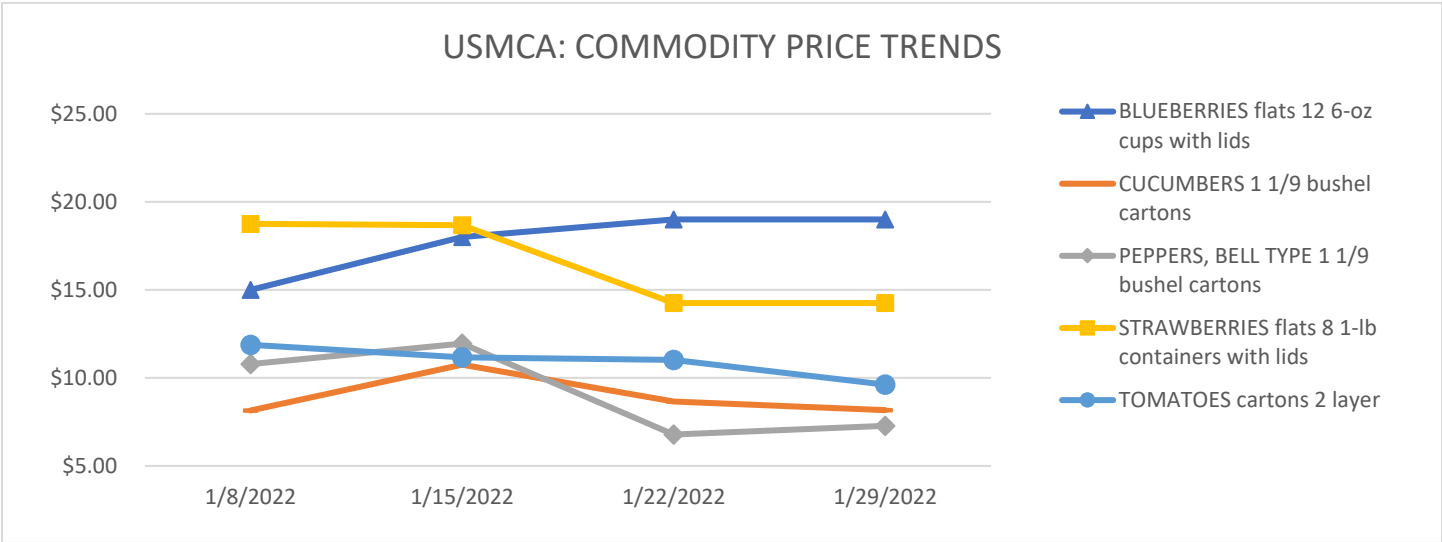
Mexico strawberry crossings through Texas movement is expected to increase. Trading was slow early and moderate later at higher prices. Quality reported as variable. Strawberry movement out of Central Florida expected to remain about the same early before increasing later in the week. Trading light to fairly light as crop maturity was delayed by cold temperatures over the weekend and demand exceeded available supplies early in the week and there were too few sales to establish a market. Availability improved on conventional somewhat by midweek as warmer temperatures helped maturity in areas which did not experience a freeze. Quality issues could become a concern as some fields were sprayed with water to prevent freezing, and other growers harvested aggressively ahead of the cold weather. Demand very good ahead of the Valentine's Day holiday as most crops are committed for holiday ads. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Olay Mesa movement expected to increase. Trading was slow early and moderate later. Prices higher, with quality and condition reported as variable. Strawberries from Oxnard District California movement is expected to increase slightly. Trading was slow early and moderate later at higher prices. Quality and condition are reported as variable. Movement of strawberries out of Santa Maria California expected to increase. Current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market and the first F.O.B. report is expected the week of February 18. Demand for California and Mexico berries remains strong while Florida supplies are light.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices 2 layer much lower and loose slightly lower. Quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow on 6x7 size at lower prices and moderate on others at slightly higher prices. Freezing temperatures curtailed harvests early in the week and hampered crop maturity. Early reports show crop losses at a minimum, and warm weather should allow harvests to proceed next week. Demand fairly good with rising truck rates ahead of the Valentine's Day holiday anticipated to affect shipments. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and moderate later. Prices on 5x5s-5x6s lower, others generally unchanged. Demand remains moderate but the market continues to be influenced by low prices on Roma tomatoes.

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

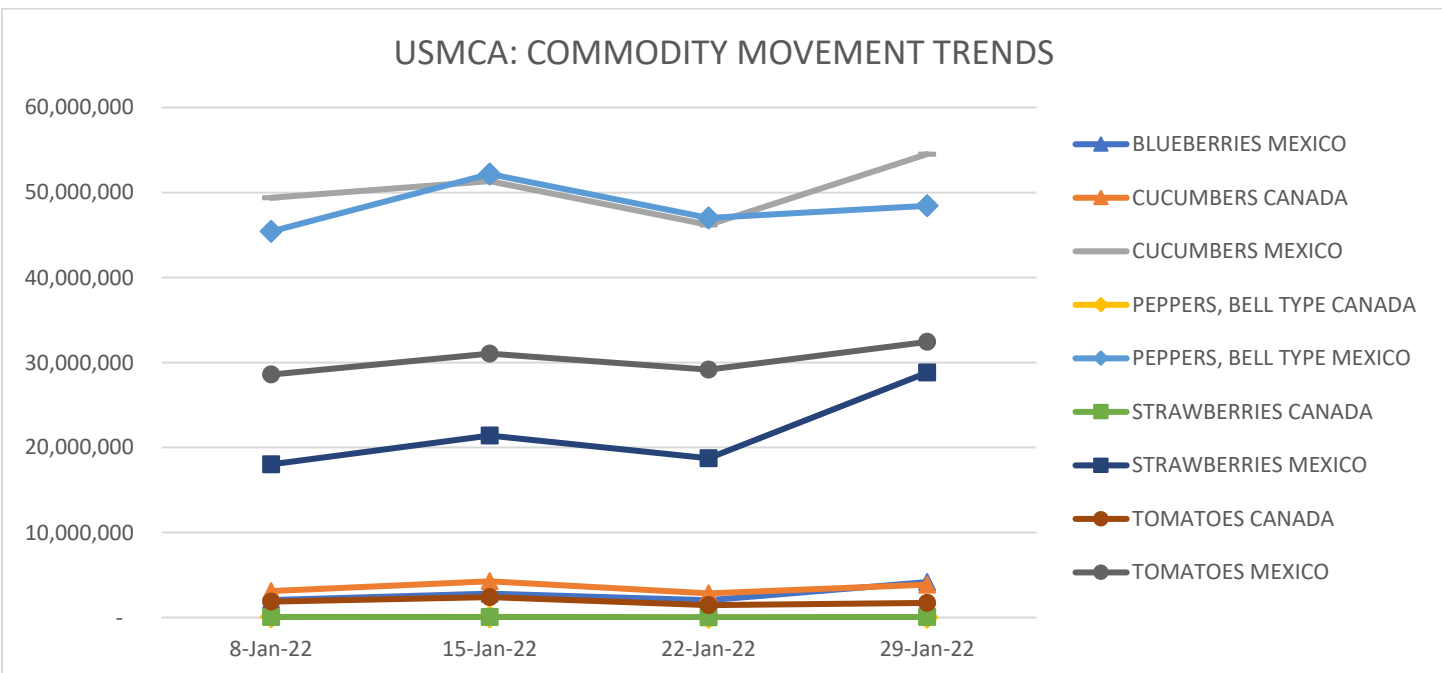
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	1/8/2022	1/15/2022	1/22/2022	1/29/2022
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 15.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 8.15	\$ 10.75	\$ 8.65	\$ 8.17
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 10.78	\$ 11.95	\$ 6.78	\$ 7.28
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 18.75	\$ 18.67	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.25
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 11.88	\$ 11.16	\$ 11.02	\$ 9.62

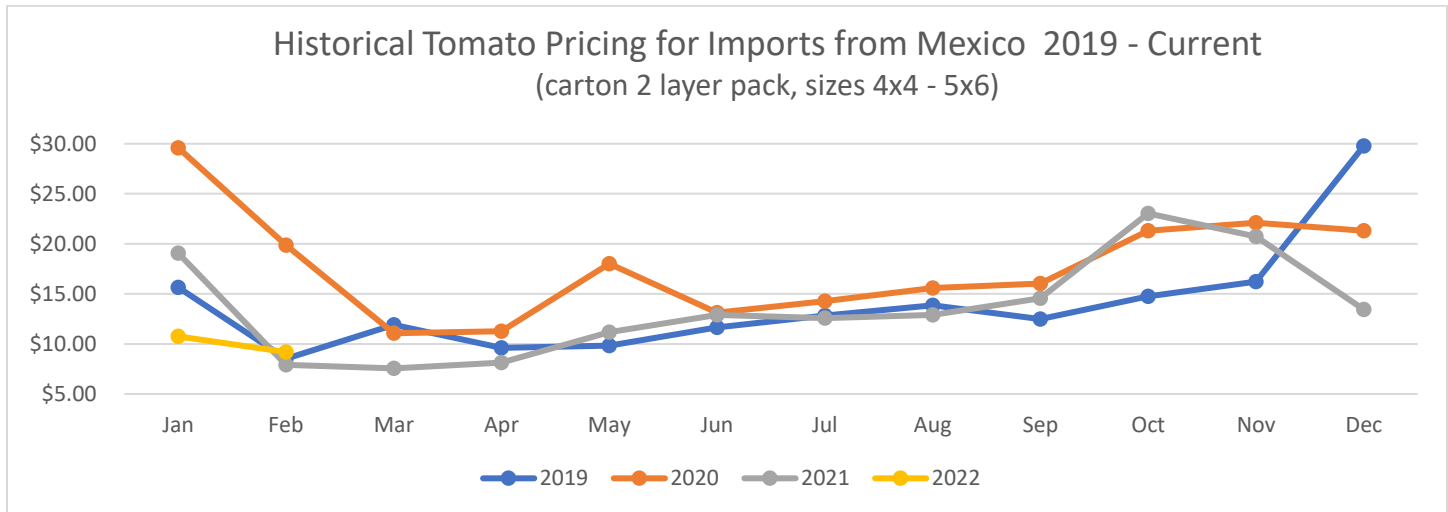


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	8-Jan-22	15-Jan-22	22-Jan-22	29-Jan-22
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,077,958	2,811,588	2,037,747	4,172,849
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	3,106,025	4,264,810	2,845,247	3,880,677
	MEXICO	49,379,672	51,347,387	46,187,944	54,516,202
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	71,806	76,131	21,067	27,503
	MEXICO	45,413,904	52,172,871	47,012,691	48,435,526
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	72,560	58,008	40,386	65,374
	MEXICO	18,016,727	21,391,981	18,726,227	28,808,113
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,881,023	2,401,763	1,458,586	1,734,008
	MEXICO	28,584,888	31,031,991	29,145,884	32,426,465



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