



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 February 6-12, 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.

Specialty crops grower-shippers are increasingly voicing concern over rising petroleum prices. These costs affect the industry not only through high freight rates for transporting produce to markets, but also through dramatic price increases for fertilizers and plastic packaging. Prices for other materials, including cardboard and paper alternatives to plastic containers, have also increased as the ongoing pandemic has consumers leaning on e-commerce and home delivery of consumer goods, groceries, and meals. Truck drivers are also less willing to accept long haul routes when they have the alternative of providing deliveries to consumers within their local area.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase slightly. Trading was moderate early and slow later. Prices were slightly lower due to softening market caused by increased volumes from Chile. Current production is out of Jalisco with northern Sinaloa expected to begin packing by mid to late March. Movement of Chilean blueberries via boat through the various East Coast and West Coast ports of entry is expected to decrease as the season is past its peak and quality issues are developing. Trading on east coast ports of entry was fairly slow at lower prices. Trading of supplies entering the west coast ports was moderate at lower prices.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices on carton 24-36s slightly higher and others much higher. Quality is reported as variable. Movement of Mexican cucumber crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly active later with prices higher to much higher. Most present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments, and quality is reported as variable. Shipments of cucumbers via boat out of Central America into South Florida ports expected to decrease slightly and remain sporadic as vessel and container delays continue to affect movement. Trading was fairly slow with prices on fair quality lower and others generally unchanged. Trading picked up later in the week and the market strengthened due to short supplies expected for the next two weeks. A combination of market conditions and cool weather in growing areas have limited availability.

Green bell peppers movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona expected about the same. Trading on green was slow with prices generally unchanged. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active at much higher prices. Quality reported as variable, and most shipments are for colored bell peppers. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
- [Movement Report Details](#)
- [Generating Custom Reports](#)

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

and South Florida is expected to increase slightly. Trading was fairly slow at much lower prices. Demand light to fairly light as harvesting increases with the return of warmer weather.

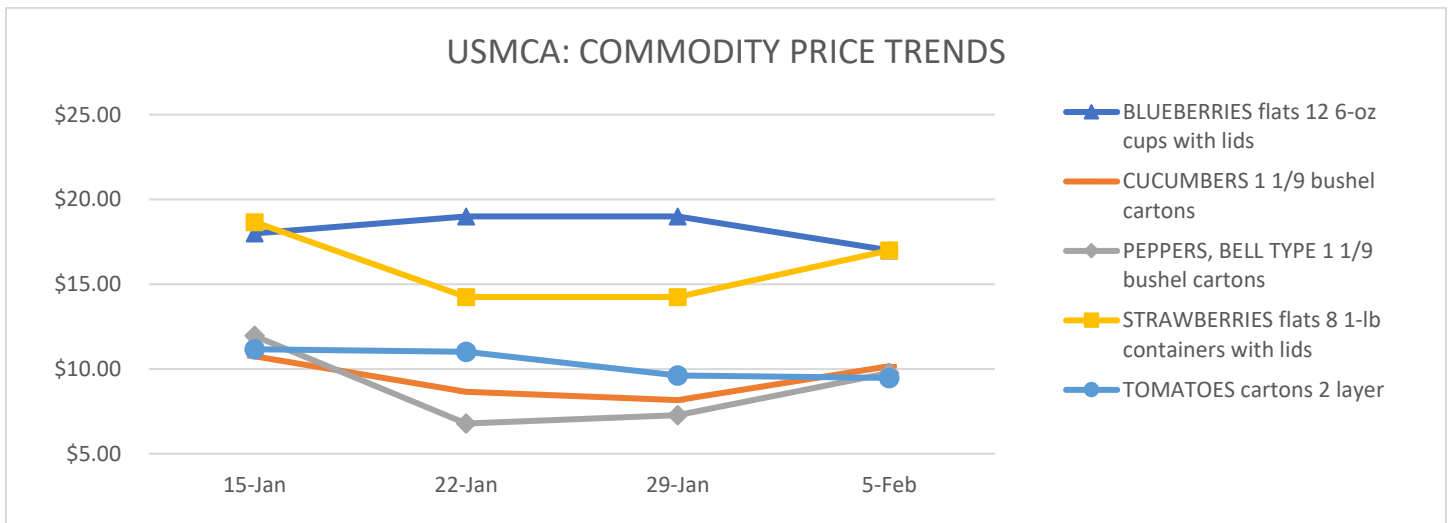
Mexico strawberry crossings through Texas movement is expected about the same. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices. Quality reported as variable. Strawberry movement out of Central Florida expected to increase slightly. Trading was very active with very good demand. Supplies increased in time for the Valentine's Day pull, with most orders shipped ahead of Thursday's deadline for reaching out of state retailers. Midweek rain and cooler temperatures limited some harvests and demand exceeded available supplies late in the week. By late in the week, there were too few organic berries available to establish a market. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected to increase. Trading fairly active on conventional and fairly slow on organic. Prices were slightly higher on conventional and generally unchanged on organic, with quality and condition reported as variable. Strawberries from Oxnard District California movement is expected about the same. Trading was active at slightly higher prices on conventional, and moderate with prices generally unchanged on organic. 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. Shippers expect demand to weaken late in the week as holiday promotions come to an end. Unusually heavy volumes out of some growing areas may be seen into March, while Easter demand will peak in early to mid-April this year.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices 4x5 size slightly higher and others higher. Quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow with prices on 6x7 size generally unchanged and others slightly higher. Midweek harvests were curtailed due to rain and wet fields but expected to increase into the weekend. Demand fairly light as cold weather elsewhere in the country slows sales. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices on 5x5s-5x6s slightly higher and others generally unchanged.

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

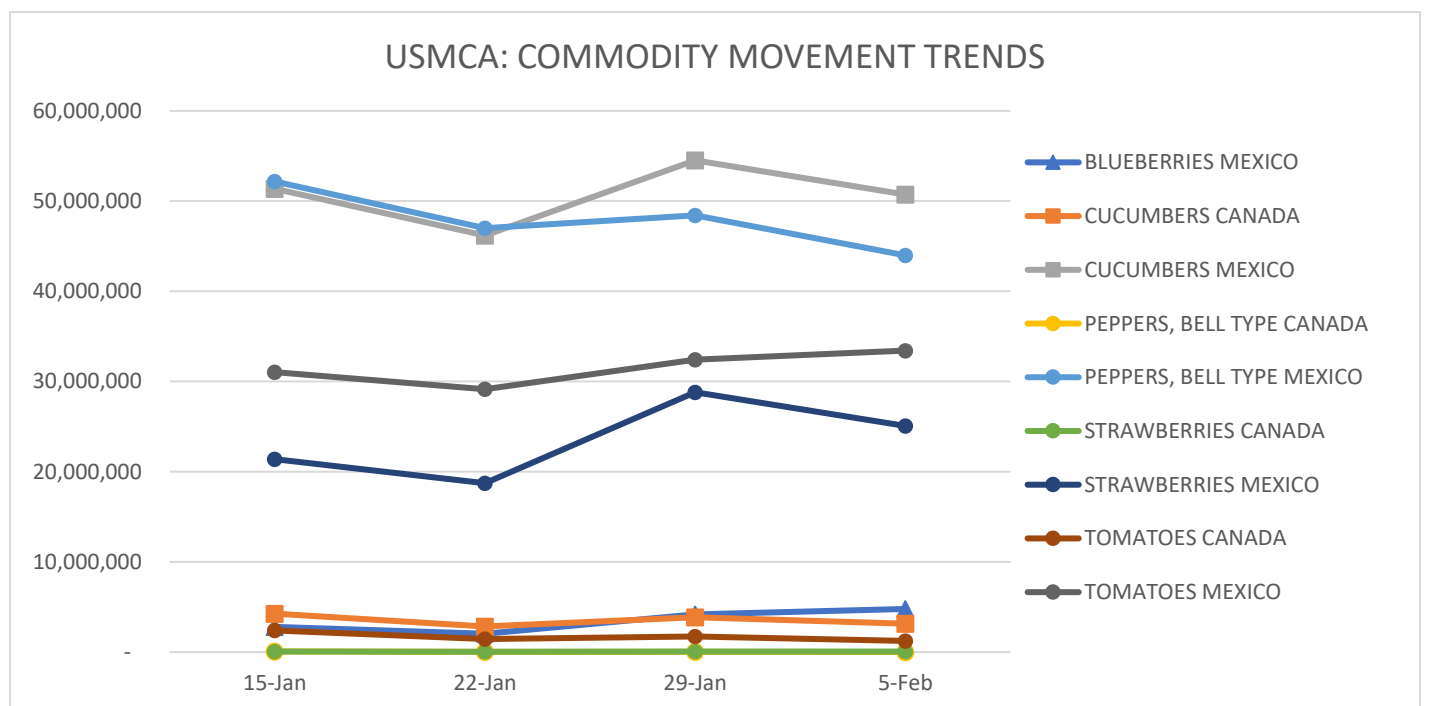
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan	5-Feb
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 17.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 10.75	\$ 8.65	\$ 8.17	\$ 10.16
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 11.95	\$ 6.78	\$ 7.28	\$ 9.77
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 18.67	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.25	\$ 17.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 11.16	\$ 11.02	\$ 9.62	\$ 9.48

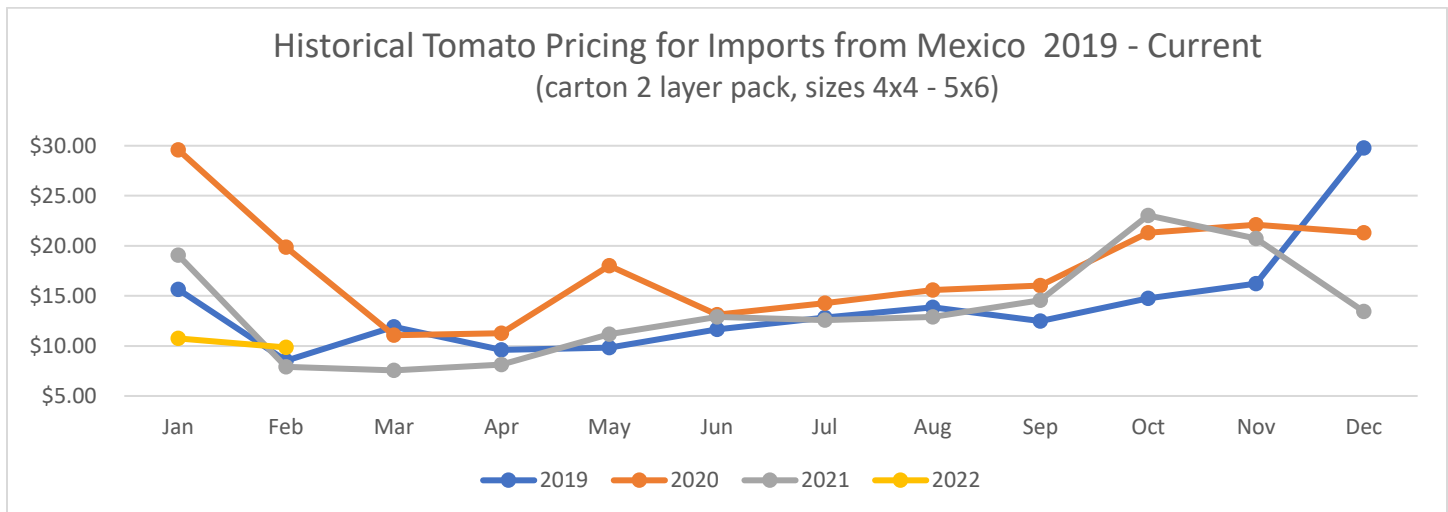


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan	5-Feb
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,811,588	2,037,747	4,172,849	4,786,043
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	4,264,810	2,845,247	3,880,677	3,146,359
	MEXICO	51,347,387	46,187,944	54,516,202	50,733,274
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	76,131	21,067	27,503	8,829
	MEXICO	52,172,871	47,012,691	48,435,526	43,981,880
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	58,008	40,386	65,374	52,740
	MEXICO	21,391,981	18,726,227	28,808,113	25,072,155
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,401,763	1,458,586	1,734,008	1,241,112
	MEXICO	31,031,991	29,145,884	32,426,465	33,427,329



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