



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 20-26, 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.

Seasonal changes have led to a shift in the commodities of interest for this report. Blueberries, strawberries, tomatoes, and green bell peppers of both domestic and imported origins remain widely available and reported, while asparagus will replace cucumbers ahead of the Easter pull and in anticipation of the start of the Peru season. This list will be revisited regularly in order to maintain an accurate representation of the current trade situation affecting shippers of perishable commodities in North America.

Movement of Mexican asparagus crossings through Calexico California and San Luis Arizona expected to remain about the same. Trading was active at higher prices. Supplies very light for spot market sales, and organic supplies in too few hands to establish a market. Production much lighter than normal due to dramatic temperature shifts and high winds over the past two months. Peru asparagus is expected to hit the market by late March, ahead of Easter pull for holiday promotions.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow early and moderate later at slightly lower prices. Quality and condition are both reported as variable, but Mexican blueberries continue to show stronger demand than Chilean which are showing consistently compromised quality. 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 impacting marketing decisions. Trading on both coasts was with prices unchanged. A very wide range in quality is reported.

Green bell peppers movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona expected about the same. Trading on green was fairly active at much higher prices. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading active early and moderate later at 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 increase slightly. Trading moderate at much higher prices early in the week and about steady to slightly lower later. Demand moderate with quality reported as generally good.

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.](#)

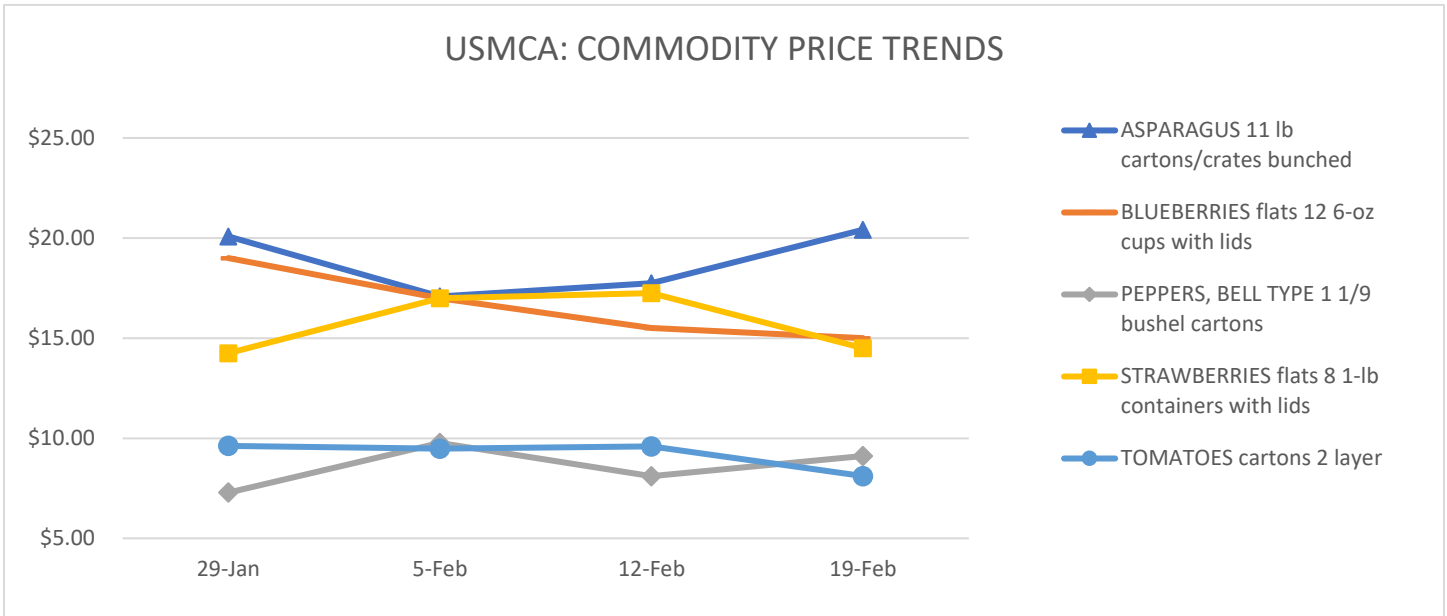
Strawberry movement out of Central Florida expected to increase slightly. Trading fairly slow with prices on conventional much lower than last week firming to about steady towards the end of the week. Organic prices were about steady improving to slightly higher by midweek. Supplies increased due to warm weather over the weekend but fell by midweek leading to slightly improved demand. Mexico strawberry crossings through Texas movement is expected to decrease. Trading was moderate early and very slow later at lower prices. Quality and condition reported as variable, with few sales booked open with prices to be established later. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected to increase. Trading was slow at slightly lower prices. Quality and condition reported as variable. Rain is in the forecast for Baja California, and with growers harvesting heavily ahead of the impending weather. Strawberries from Oxnard District California movement is expected to increase. Trading was slow with prices on conventional lower and organics slightly lower. Quality reported as variable. Heavy winds were forecast early in the week with growers harvesting heavily ahead of possible damages. Movement of strawberries out of Santa Maria California expected about the same. The first F.O.B. price reports have been issued. Trading was slow with quality and condition reported as variable. Frost potential in growing areas early in the week led to early harvests. With increasing volumes from most growing areas combined with cold weather in consumption areas, marketers are being proactive to keep product moving even at lower prices.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow to slow. Prices generally unchanged, with quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow on 5x6 size, others moderate. Prices lower as demand continues fairly light to moderate. Cold weather in consumption areas in the Midwest and Northeast continue to limit sales demand. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate early and slow later. Prices on 2-layers slightly lower to lower and cartons loose generally unchanged. Demand moderate with prices continuing to be limited by competition with low Roma pricing. Quality reported as generally good.

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

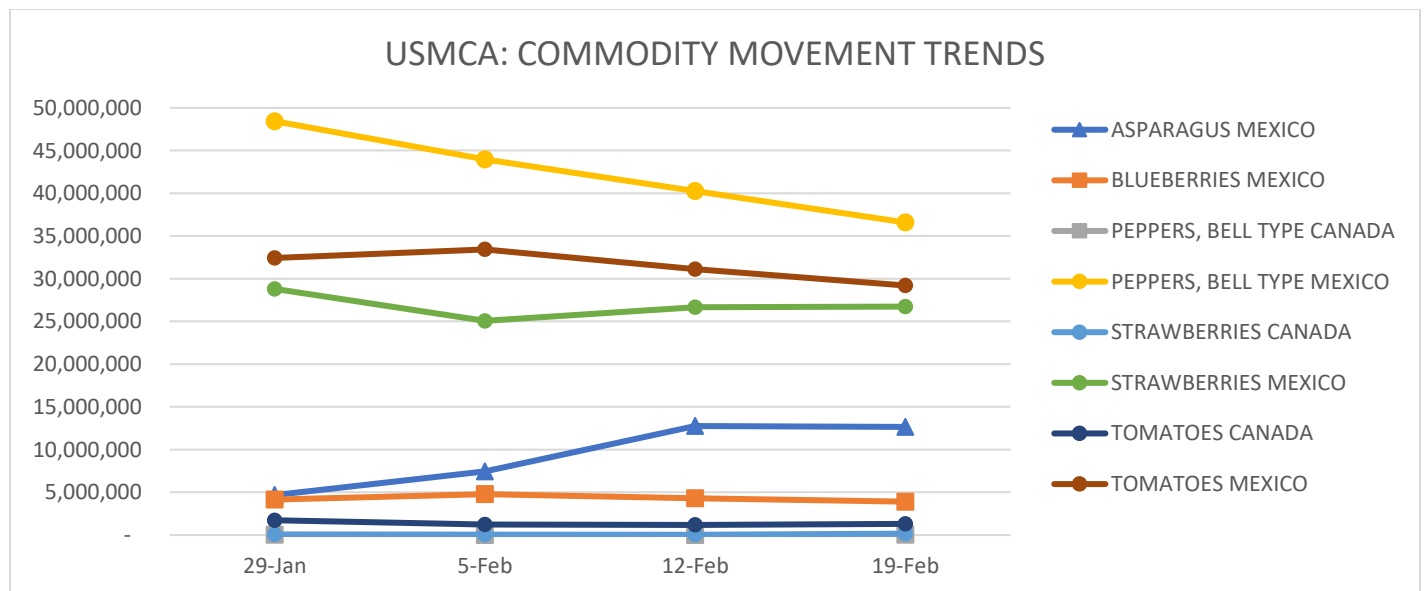
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	29-Jan	5-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 20.08	\$ 17.08	\$ 17.75	\$ 20.42
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 19.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 7.28	\$ 9.77	\$ 8.10	\$ 9.12
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 14.25	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.25	\$ 14.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 9.62	\$ 9.48	\$ 9.60	\$ 8.11

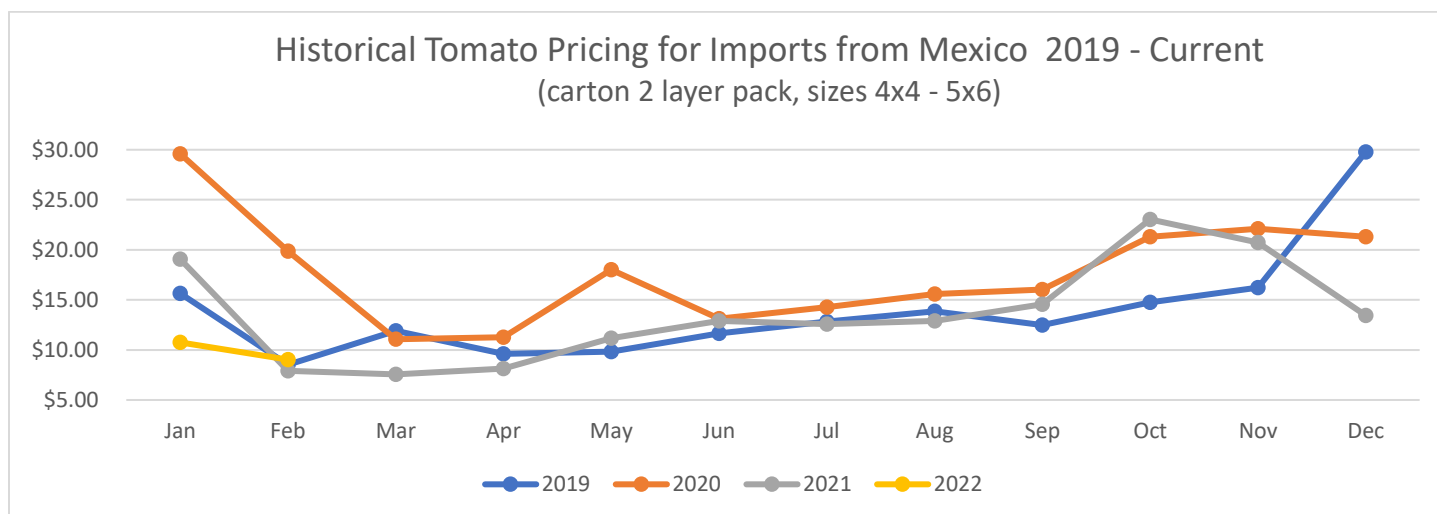


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	29-Jan	5-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	4,683,651	7,450,080	12,759,914	12,662,638
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	4,172,849	4,786,043	4,304,263	3,913,136
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	27,503	8,829	16,219	20,626
	MEXICO	48,435,526	43,981,880	40,247,156	36,584,463
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	65,374	52,740	56,306	168,232
	MEXICO	28,808,113	25,072,155	26,682,137	26,741,699
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,734,008	1,241,112	1,185,907	1,303,995
	MEXICO	32,426,465	33,427,329	31,131,174	29,209,310



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