



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 27 – March 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.

The situation for both domestic and import produce shippers saw several areas of improvement recently. Truck rates reported to USDA Market News have been on a slow but steady downward trend for several weeks now, and reported truck availability has improved to adequate in almost all growing regions. However, increasing uncertainty and dramatically rising fuel prices due to the Russia/Ukraine conflict may reverse those trends. And even as West Coast port backlogs fade from media headlines, East Coast ports are now reporting record traffic, along with increased wait times for berths and container pickup.

Movement of Mexican asparagus crossings through Calexico, California and San Luis, Arizona expected to increase slightly. Trading was moderate with prices on small generally unchanged and others lower. Supplies improved throughout the week though organic supplies remained in too few hands to establish a market until late in the week. Production increasing as warmer weather returns to growing areas in the Caborca region.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase. Trading was moderate early and slow later at lower prices. Quality is reported as variable, and while demand for Mexican berries remains stronger than for South America, buyers are wary about all fruit at this time. Many sales are from previous commitments. The first report has been issued for blueberries out of Central and North Florida. Movement is expected to increase as harvesting increases. Current shipments are very light, and some fruit is being stored awaiting more favorable market conditions. Movement of Chilean blueberries via boat through the various East Coast and West Coast ports of entry is expected to decrease as the season comes to an end. Trading on both coasts was very slow at lower prices. 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 active with fairly good demand. Prices were much higher. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate 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 about the same. Trading active at much higher prices. Demand increased from good to very good throughout the week in response to lower supplies out of competing growing areas. 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.](#)

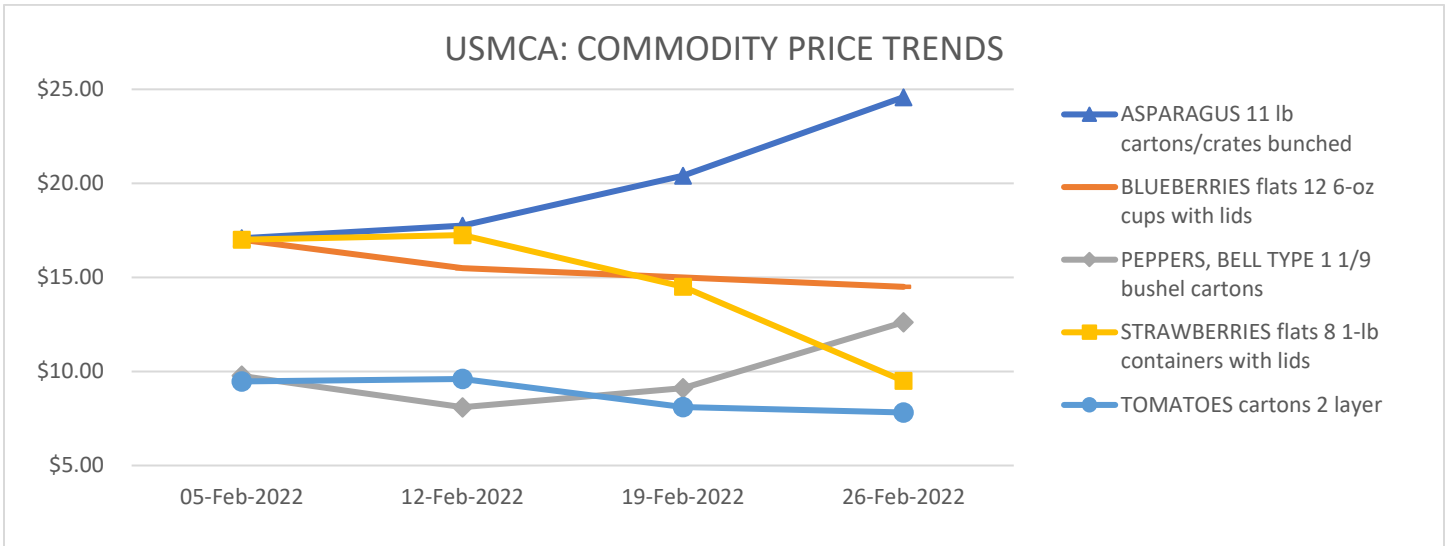
Strawberry movement out of Central Florida expected about the same. Trading was slow with prices on conventional much lower as heavy supplies and light demand continued through the week. Organic prices were lower as well, with too few new sales to establish a market later in the week. Low prices on berries from competing growing areas and increasing supplies continued to negatively affect prices. Mexico strawberry crossings through Texas movement is expected to decrease. Trading was very slow 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 about the same. Trading was slow to very slow at 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. Some shippers have begun diverting product to processing as heavy volumes drive continued low prices. Strawberries from Oxnard District California movement is expected about the same. Trading was slow to very slow at lower prices. Supplies of organic in too few hands to establish a market. Quality reported as variable. Heavy winds and cool temperatures may again be in the forecast this weekend, while last week's strong winds may result in scarred and misshapen berries. Movement of strawberries out of Santa Maria California expected about the same. Trading was slow to very slow at lower prices. Quality and condition reported as variable. Damages from last week's frosts may be limited to bloom drops leading to production gaps by mid- to late-March. Cool temperatures are again in the forecast for the coming weekend after a warm week. Some California berries are also being diverted to processing as spot market prices are barely above what processors are paying.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected to decrease slightly. Trading was slow early and fairly slow later. 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 moderate on 6x6 size, others fairly slow. Prices about steady to lower as demand continues fairly light to moderate. Supplies are expected to increase as warmer weather approaches growing areas. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading was slow with prices generally unchanged and close to legal minimums on all sizes. Demand very slow but quality reported as generally good.

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

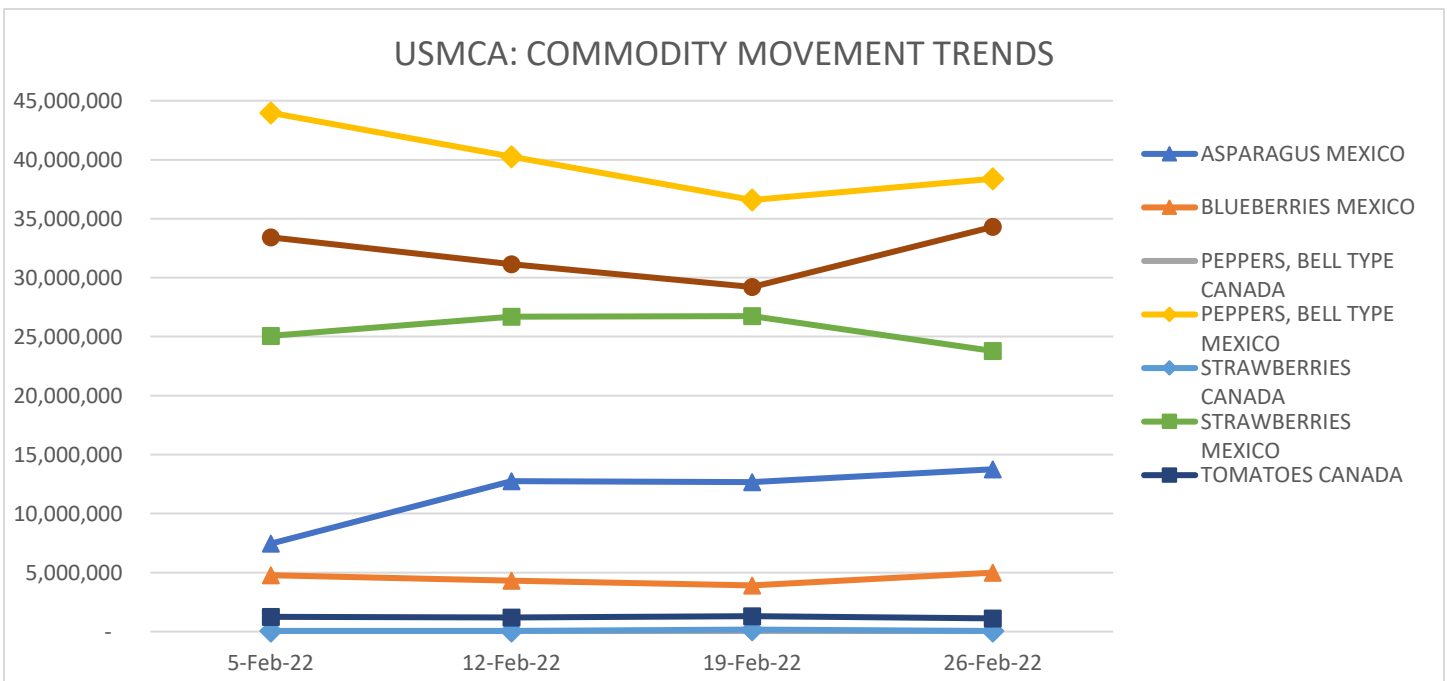
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	05-Feb-2022	12-Feb-2022	19-Feb-2022	26-Feb-2022
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 17.08	\$ 17.75	\$ 20.42	\$ 24.58
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 17.00	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.50
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 9.77	\$ 8.10	\$ 9.12	\$ 12.62
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.25	\$ 14.50	\$ 9.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 9.48	\$ 9.60	\$ 8.11	\$ 7.82

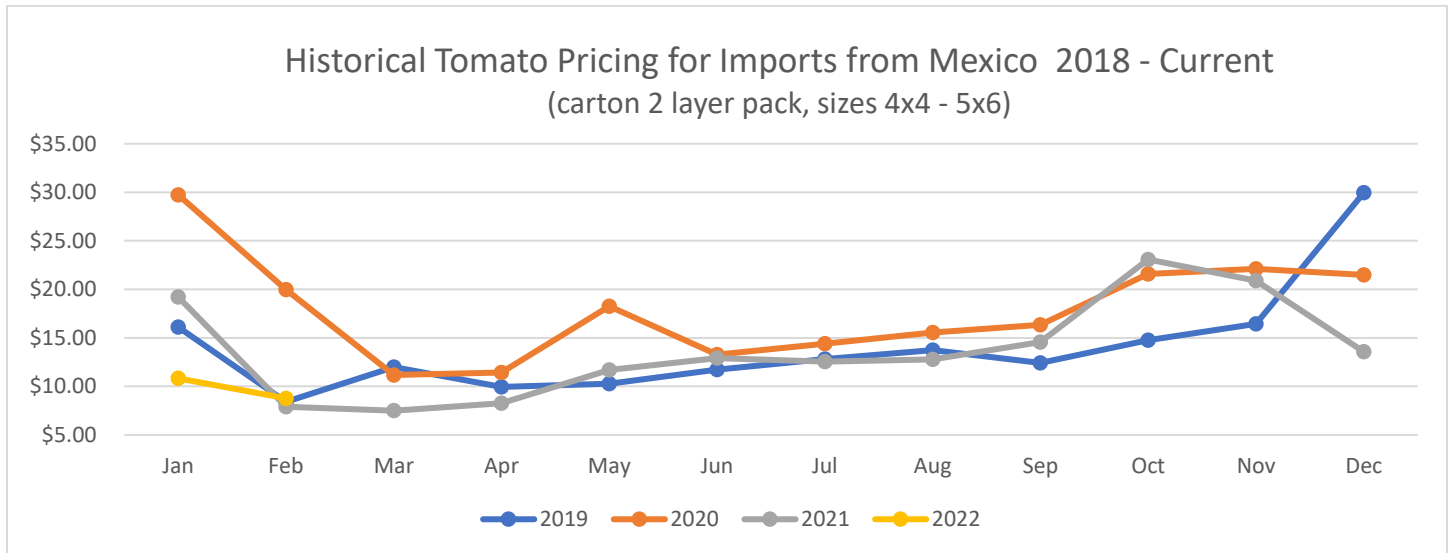


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	5-Feb-22	12-Feb-22	19-Feb-22	26-Feb-22
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	7,450,080	12,759,914	12,662,638	13,757,780
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	4,786,043	4,304,263	3,913,136	4,994,730
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	8,829	16,219	20,626	7,906
	MEXICO	43,981,880	40,247,156	36,584,463	38,391,649
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	52,740	56,306	168,232	50,750
	MEXICO	25,072,155	26,682,137	26,741,699	23,786,401
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,241,112	1,185,907	1,303,995	1,118,536
	MEXICO	33,427,329	31,131,174	29,209,310	34,305,636



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