



# 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 March 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.

Dramatically increasing energy prices made headlines this week, as the conflict in Ukraine continues to drive global oil prices up. Domestically, drivers are seeing prices for gasoline and diesel reach levels not experienced in over a decade, with corresponding increases in truck rates already being reported. Calls for increasing domestic production in the short term and expanding use of alternative energy sources and electric cars in the longer term are widespread. Worldwide tensions remain high as it remains to be seen if the conflict will escalate further or expand to neighboring countries, which have been generous in offering aid and accepting refugees on a scale not seen in Europe since WWII.

Movement of Mexican asparagus crossings through Calexico, California and San Luis Arizona, expected to increase slightly. Trading was slow at lower prices. Supplies are now adequate with light demand expected to improve gradually as Easter promotions begin next week. Warm weather continues in the Caborca growing region.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas movement expected to increase. Trading was slow at slightly lower prices. Quality is reported as variable, with heavy volumes of Chilean arrivals continuing to limit demand. Some movement has also begun out of coastal California, especially of organic blueberries, most of which are reserved for contract sales. Movement of blueberries out of Central and North Florida is expected to increase as harvesting increases. Current shipments remain light, with some fruit is being stored awaiting more favorable market conditions. Quality is reported as very good. 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 estimated to be in its final two to three weeks, though imports may continue past that time frame due to supply chain delays. Trading on both coasts was very slow with prices barely steady. Quality is reported as mostly fair to poor.

Green bell peppers movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona expected about the same. Trading on green was fairly active with good demand increasing daily. Prices were much higher as volumes have decreased and availability for the spot market is limited. Prices are expected to continue to rise next week. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was moderate early and fairly slow later at much lower 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.

For more information on:

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

For assistance please contact: [jeff.main@usda.gov](mailto:jeff.main@usda.gov)

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

Trading was very active at much higher prices. Demand was good to very good throughout the week as available supplies are light. Quality reported as generally good.

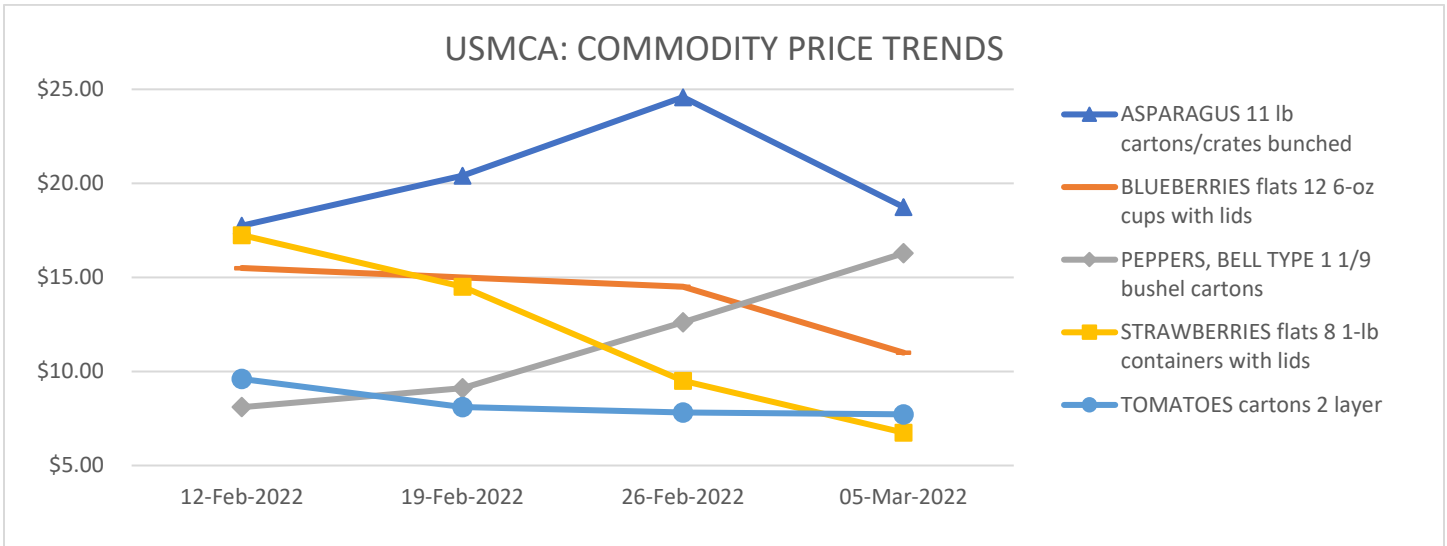
Strawberry movement out of Central Florida expected to decrease slightly. Trading was very slow at lower prices which began to trend higher towards the end of the week. Demand was very light as nationwide supplies remain heavy. Some shippers predict production to begin seasonal decline over the coming weekend, and some acreage is being abandoned near the end of harvest to reduce supplies. Quality is reported as generally good. Mexico strawberry crossings through Texas movement is expected to decrease. Trading was very slow with prices generally unchanged. Quality and condition reported as variable, with many sales booked open with prices to be established later and some berries being diverted to freezers or processors. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected about the same. Trading was very slow at lower prices. Quality and condition are reported as variable. A few sales booked open with price to be established later. Strawberries from Oxnard District California movement is expected to increase. Trading was very slow at lower prices. Demand remains low. Quality reported as variable, with a few sales booked open with prices to be established later. Movement of strawberries out of Santa Maria California expected to increase. Trading was very slow at lower prices. Quality and condition reported as variable, with some berries being diverted to freezers or processors. A few sales booked open with prices to be established later or sold on consignment. Bloom drops from recent frosts could lead to production gaps by mid- to late-March, clearing supply lines ahead of Easter promotions. Demand out of all regions remains low due to heavy volumes, high freight rates, and general economic uncertainty.

Movement of Mexico tomato crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow early and moderate later. Prices generally unchanged, with quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase slightly. Trading moderate on 5x6 size at higher prices, with others trading fairly slowly at lower prices which leveled out later in the week. Demand continues fairly light on all sizes except 5x6s, which are moderate. Rising fuel prices are negatively impacting demand and sales volumes. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease. Trading was slow with prices lower and at or close to legal minimums on all sizes. Demand very slow with very few sales as shippers face competition from low prices on Roma tomatoes. Quality reported as generally good.

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

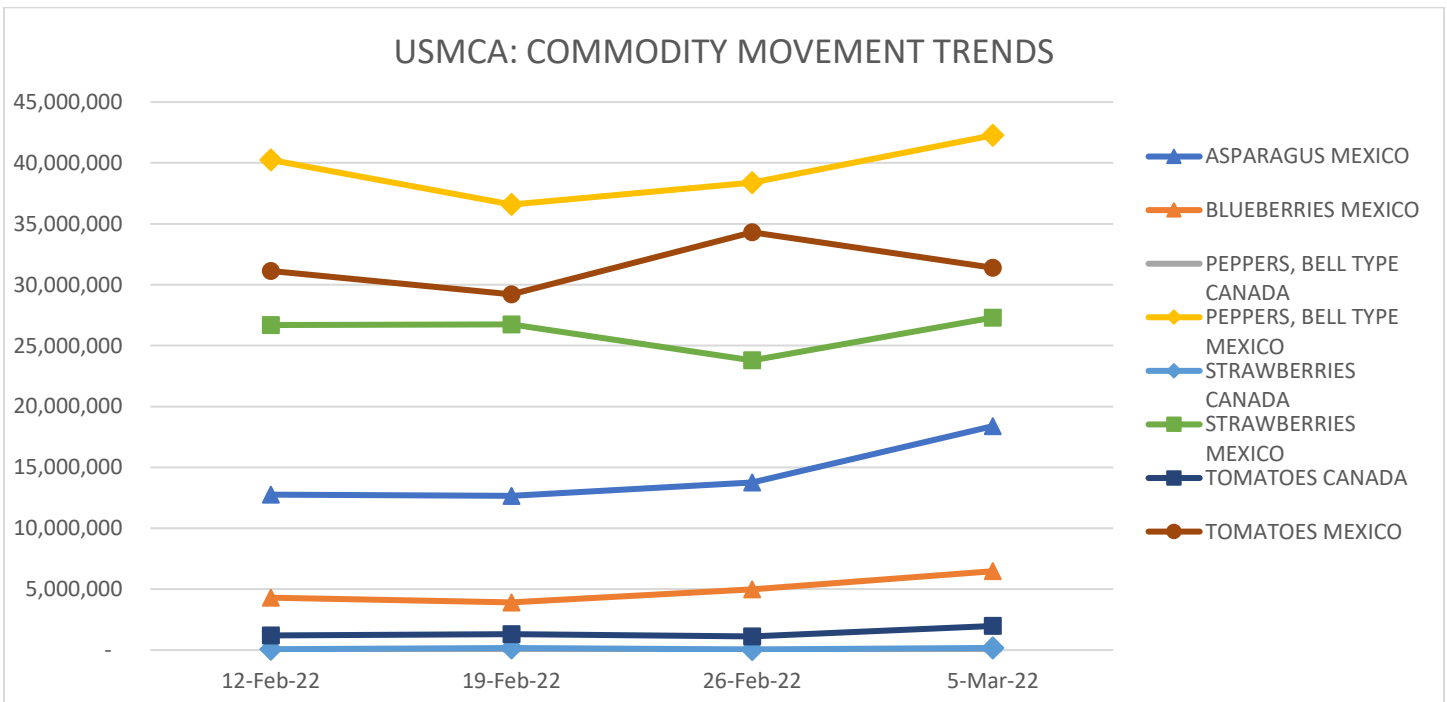
#### Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	12-Feb-2022	19-Feb-2022	26-Feb-2022	05-Mar-2022
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 17.75	\$ 20.42	\$ 24.58	\$ 18.75
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.50	\$ 11.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 8.10	\$ 9.12	\$ 12.62	\$ 16.28
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 17.25	\$ 14.50	\$ 9.50	\$ 6.75
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 9.60	\$ 8.11	\$ 7.82	\$ 7.72

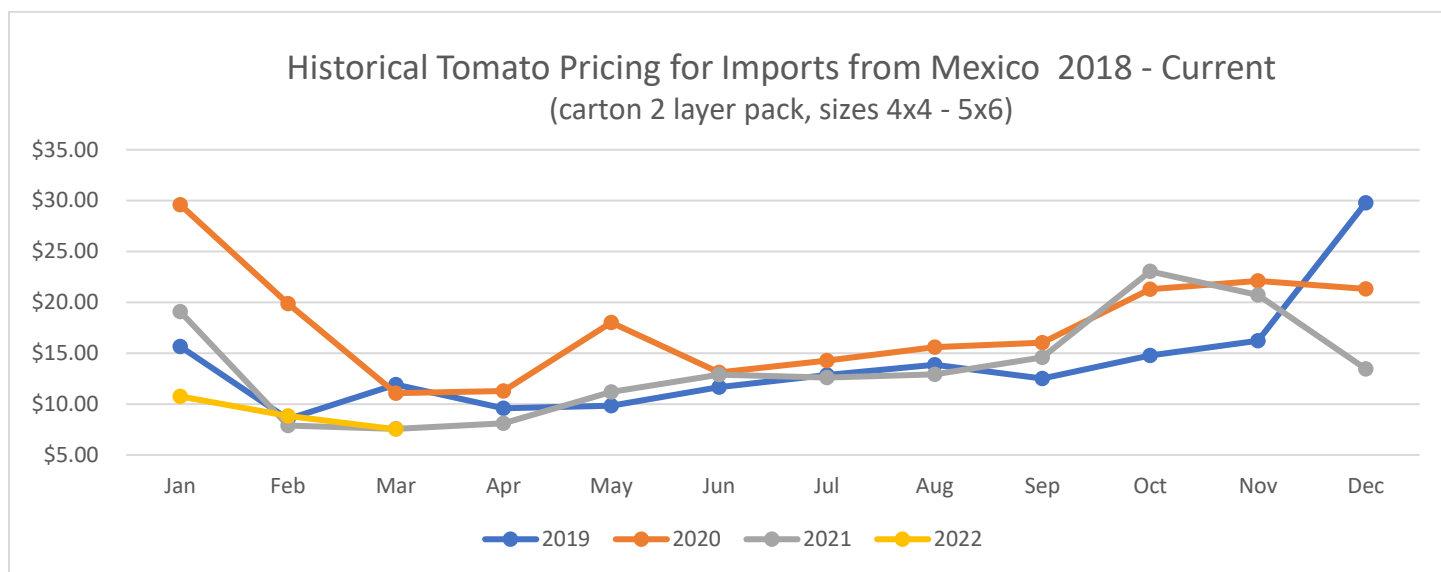


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	12-Feb-22	19-Feb-22	26-Feb-22	5-Mar-22
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	12,759,914	12,662,638	13,757,780	18,385,299
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	4,304,263	3,913,136	4,994,730	6,472,762
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	16,219	20,626	7,906	11,851
	MEXICO	40,247,156	36,584,463	38,391,649	42,271,839
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	56,306	168,232	50,750	165,974
	MEXICO	26,682,137	26,741,699	23,786,401	27,302,160
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,185,907	1,303,995	1,118,536	1,975,992
	MEXICO	31,131,174	29,209,310	34,305,636	31,403,958



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