



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 27 - April 2, 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.

Truck availability remained mostly adequate, and truck rates were mostly stable, even as fuel prices increased again this week in response to uncertainty on global markets. Grower-shippers hoping for a strong ad pull for Easter have mostly been disappointed so far with chains hesitant to commit to large orders. Though the pandemic is in a vastly improved situation compared to the past two years at this time, consumer shopping patterns remain difficult to predict. In addition, new highly contagious variants continue to be identified, driving returns to masking and social distancing in areas where restrictions had been lifted.

Movement of Mexican asparagus crossings through Calexico, California, and San Luis Arizona, expected about the same. Trading was slow at lower prices early in the week trending slightly higher later. A few growers have discontinued harvest which is typical for this time of year. Others continue in hopes of late Easter orders. Supplies of standard size are plentiful but large is harder to find. Movement of Peru asparagus is expected to increase slightly as more shippers resume importing, but to remain very light. Trading moderate on very light supplies, and no F.O.B. report is currently being issued. The first F.O.B. report is expected the week of either April 10 or April 17. Quality is reported as variable but generally good. Many shippers expect to handle mainly Mexico product through the Easter holidays, as very little Peruvian asparagus is currently arriving, and this week's vessel is delayed to next Tuesday at the earliest.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas are expected about the same. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices. Quality is reported as variable. Many present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement of blueberries out of Central and North Florida is expected to increase as harvesting increases. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Quality is reported as good.

Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona expected to decrease slightly. Trading on green was moderate at slightly higher prices early flattening out by midweek. Demand for green continues to weaken in response to increasing volumes, with prices expected to trend downwards by the end of the week. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active to active 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 was active with prices generally unchanged. Demand was good throughout the week as available supplies remain light to very light. Quality reported as generally good. Harvest of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley

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.](#)

California is expected to begin the week of April 10, with the first F.O.B. report expected the week of April 17th. Quality is so far projected to be generally good.

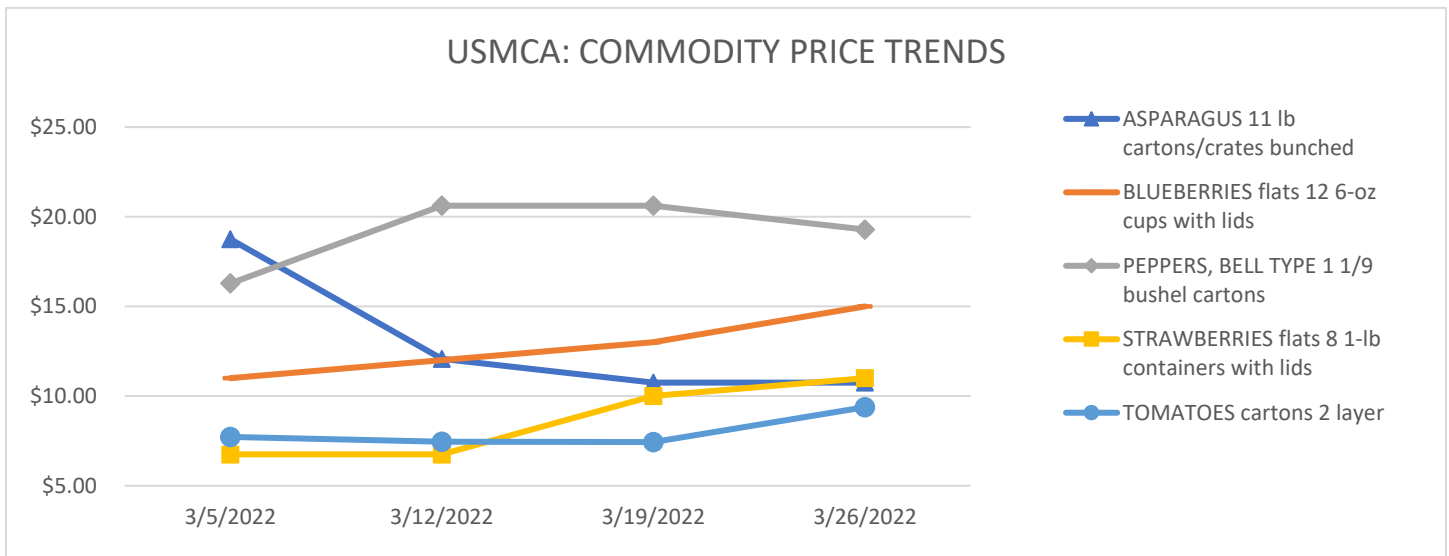
Strawberry movement from the Oxnard District, California is expected about the same. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices. Many present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable. Rain early in the week curtailed some harvests but quality was not affected, and supplies remain adequate. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected about the same. Trading moderate at slightly higher prices. Quality and condition are reported as variable. Strawberry movement out of Central Florida expected to decrease as more shippers finish the season. Trading was slow at lower prices early in the week trending higher late in the week due to limited availability on the spot market. Demand was light early in the week increasing to moderate later as rain in California increased marketing opportunities for Florida shippers. Quality is reported as generally good, with supplies very light by the end of the week. Movement of strawberries out of Santa Maria California expected to increase. The expected rain early in the week limited some harvests. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices. Quality and condition reported as variable with some berries being diverted to freezers or processors. Many present shipments are from prior bookings and previous commitments. Movement of strawberries from Salinas-Watsonville California growing areas expected to increase. Current supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market, with the first F.O.B. report expected the week of April 15. Quality is reported as variable. Strawberry shippers from all growing areas continue to prepare promotions for the Easter holiday and associated ad pull. The first report for strawberries out of Eastern North Carolina has been issued. Very light production is possible in the Coastal Plains region by the end of the week, although low temperatures and rainy overcast weather have delayed production somewhat. Grower estimates from the Piedmont region are predicting movement to begin by the week of April 23. No F.O.B. report is currently being issued.

Movement of Mexico tomatoes crossing through Texas are expected about the same. Trading was moderate early improving to fairly active later. Prices much higher, with quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Trading active at higher prices, with quality reported as generally good. Demand was fairly good to good throughout the week, with prices stabilizing to about steady later in the week. Harvest volumes out of South Florida expected to begin to wind down within the next 3 weeks. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early and moderate later. Prices were higher, with demand continuing slightly stronger on larger sizes than on smaller. Quality reported as generally good.

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

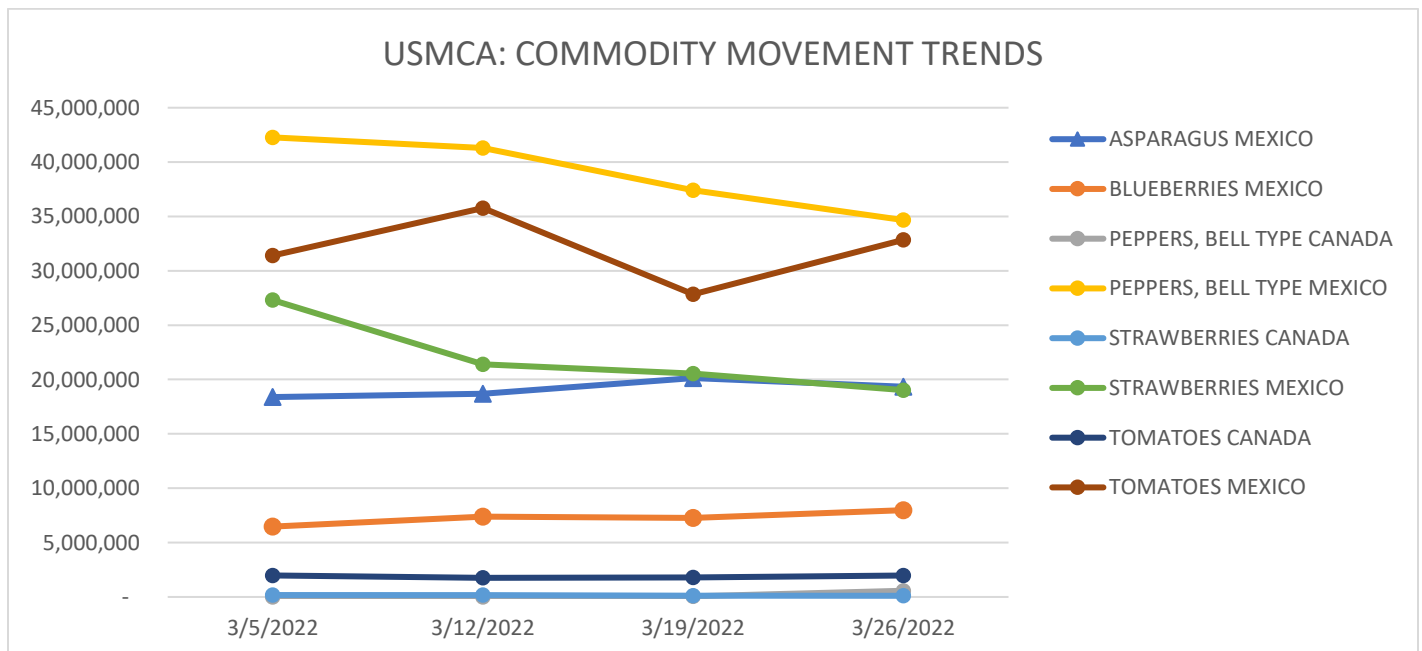
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	3/5/2022	3/12/2022	3/19/2022	3/26/2022
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 18.75	\$ 12.08	\$ 10.75	\$ 10.75
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 11.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.28	\$ 20.62	\$ 20.62	\$ 19.28
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 6.75	\$ 6.75	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.72	\$ 7.45	\$ 7.44	\$ 9.38

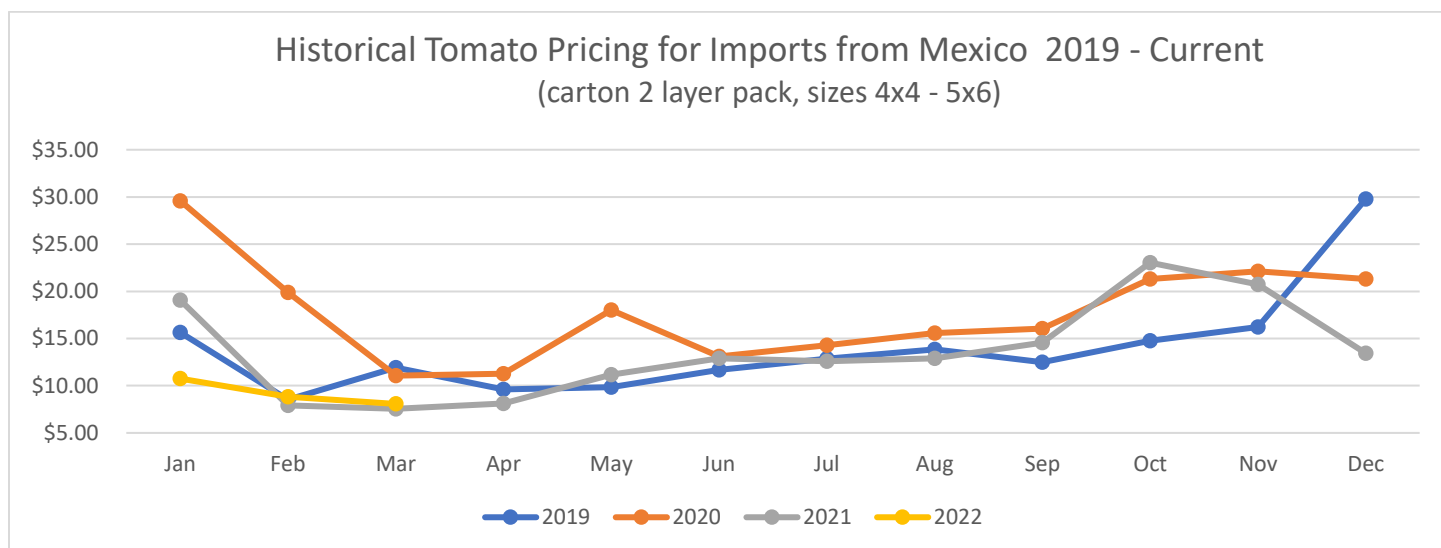


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	3/5/2022	3/12/2022	3/19/2022	3/26/2022
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	18,385,299	18,696,706	20,131,008	19,331,931
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	6,472,762	7,376,159	7,269,153	7,979,904
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	11,851	7,281	59,823	569,947
	MEXICO	42,271,839	41,285,935	37,408,087	34,665,815
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	165,974	169,048	115,920	106,309
	MEXICO	27,302,160	21,396,598	20,532,296	19,022,610
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,975,992	1,757,134	1,782,404	1,961,208
	MEXICO	31,403,958	35,770,172	27,839,213	32,842,207



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