



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 April 3 - 9, 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.

Grower-shippers continue to face increasing costs for packing materials and fuel as well as labor and production costs. Some invoices now include line-items to account for the expense of palletizing, delivery surcharges, and other expenses. These costs are being passed on to consumers, as the USDA Economic Research Service's Food Prices Outlook, released each March, predicts further increases of 4.5-5% for 2022 after last year's 9% increase in grocery prices overall. However, the category of fresh fruits and vegetables is forecast to see a slightly lower increase, of 3-4%, in 2022.

Movement of Mexican asparagus crossings through Calexico, California, and San Luis Arizona, expected about the same. Trading was moderate with prices on organic lower and others higher. Spot market demand fairly light though contract business remains strong. Harvest out of the Caborca region is winding down with shippers hoping next week brings additional business for Easter promotions. Movement of Peru asparagus is expected to increase slightly as more shippers increase imports this week and next, but to remain very light through next week. 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, when both volumes and numbers of shippers are sufficient to issue a report. Quality is reported as variable but generally good.

Mexican blueberry crossings through Arizona, California, and Texas are expected to increase. 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 remain about the same. Trading was fairly active at lower prices. Quality is reported as good. The first report has been issued for blueberries out of South and Central District California. Movement is expected to increase seasonally, with current supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. The first F.O.B. report is expected the week of April 24th. Quality and condition are currently reported as variable.

Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona expected about the same. Trading on light supplies of green very active at higher prices. Demand for green improved this week as volume has gone down, with large sizes moving better than smaller. Current quality is reported as generally good but expected to decrease in the coming weeks as the season nears its end. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was fairly slow with prices generally unchanged. Quality reported as variable, and

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.](#)

most shipments are for colored bell peppers. Movement of green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Demand exceeded very light supplies with prices on fair quality generally unchanged and others higher. Prices trended higher throughout the week with supplies insufficient to establish a market early in the week and demand remaining very strong all week. Quality reported as generally good. Harvest of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley 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.

Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected to increase. Trading moderate early improving to fairly active later. Prices were higher with quality and condition reported as variable. Strawberry movement from the Oxnard District, California is expected to increase. Trading was moderate early and active later at higher prices. Many present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable. Supplies of strawberries out of Central Florida are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. The final F.O.B. report has been issued as volume has dropped to very light levels. Movement of strawberries out of Santa Maria California expected to increase. Trading was moderate early and active later at higher prices. Quality and condition reported as variable with most present shipments from prior bookings or 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 10. Quality is reported as variable. Strawberry movement out of Eastern North Carolina expected to increase seasonally in the Coastal Plains region. The first F.O.B. report has been issued and trading was active. Movement from the Piedmont region expected to begin by the week of April 23.

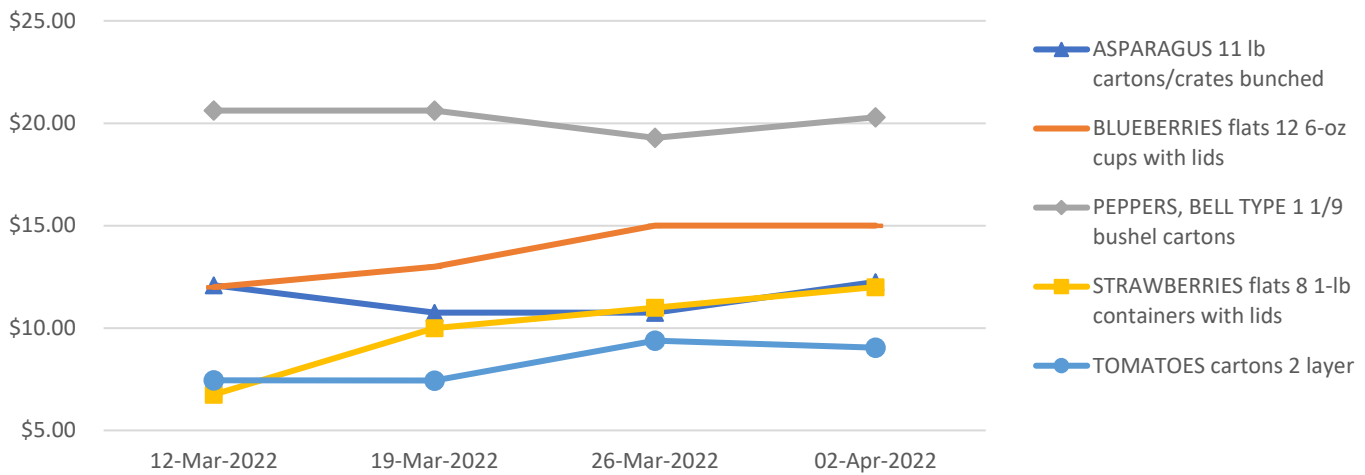
Movement of Mexico tomatoes crossing through Texas are expected about the same. Trading was fairly active early but fairly slow later. Prices lower, with quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Trading active at higher prices, with quality reported as generally good. Light harvest out of Central Florida is expected to start within the next two weeks. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease slightly. Trading was moderate early and slow later. Prices were much lower as volumes are much higher than last week. Demand continues 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	12-Mar-2022	19-Mar-2022	26-Mar-2022	02-Apr-2022
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 12.08	\$ 10.75	\$ 10.75	\$ 12.25
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 20.62	\$ 20.62	\$ 19.28	\$ 20.28
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 6.75	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 12.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.45	\$ 7.44	\$ 9.38	\$ 9.04

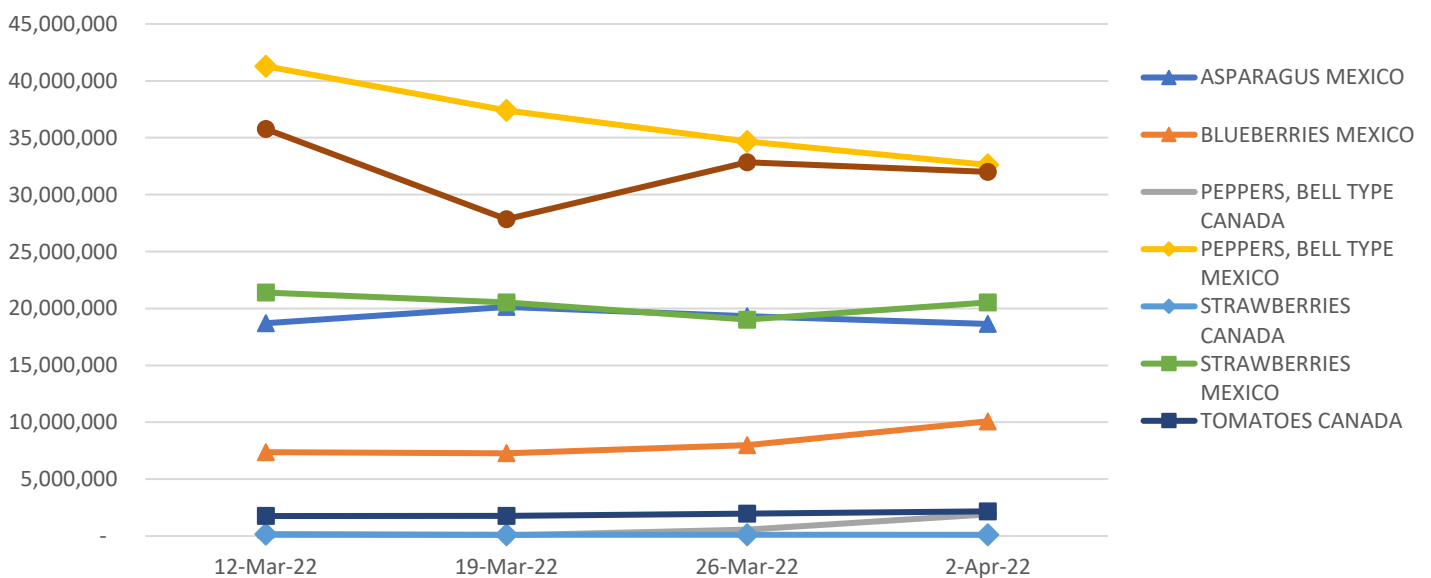
USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



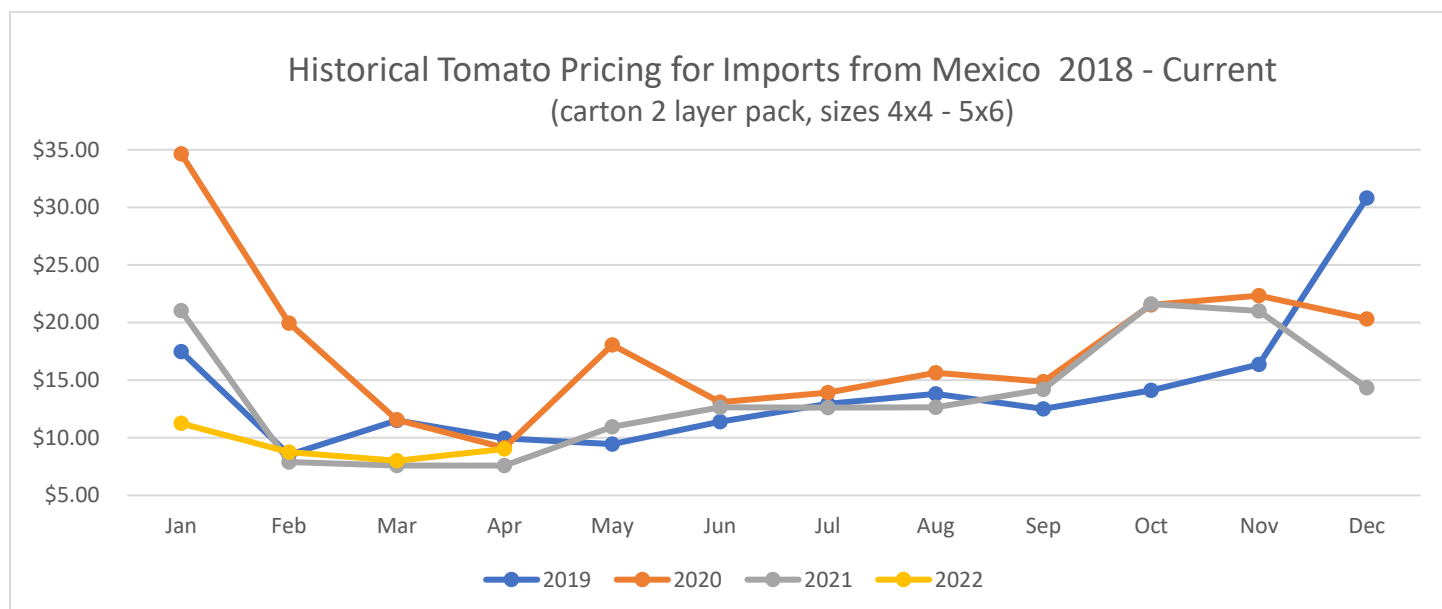
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	12-Mar-22	19-Mar-22	26-Mar-22	2-Apr-22
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	18,696,706	20,131,008	19,331,931	18,636,621
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	7,376,159	7,269,153	7,979,904	10,080,081
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	7,281	59,823	569,947	1,903,582
	MEXICO	41,285,935	37,408,087	34,665,815	32,611,743
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	169,048	115,920	106,309	104,702
	MEXICO	21,396,598	20,532,296	19,022,610	20,527,496
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,757,134	1,782,404	1,961,208	2,171,011
	MEXICO	35,770,172	27,839,213	32,842,207	31,997,492

USMCA: COMMODITY MOVEMENT TRENDS



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