



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 10 - 16, 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.

U.S.-Mexico border crossings in Texas were the focus of attention this week after a decision by Texas Governor Abbott to increase required inspections in response to the upcoming expiration of Title 42, which had temporarily allowed the federal government to turn back asylum seekers at the border in response to the Covid-19 emergency. Long delays caused by the implementation of these secondary inspections by the Texas Department of Public Safety led to trucker protests and a blockade of the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge. Transporters of fresh produce were especially concerned by extended wait times impacting the condition of their cargoes. By Wednesday afternoon, the blockade ended after an agreement was reached for Mexican officials to conduct their own inspections for commercial traffic.

Movement of Mexican asparagus crossings through Calexico, California, and San Luis Arizona, expected to decrease. Trading was slow on organic and moderate on others. Prices on 28 lb cartons/crates higher and others generally unchanged. Shipping for the Easter pull largely wrapped up by early in the week and a few shippers have finished for the season. Movement of Peru asparagus through South Florida ports of entry is expected to increase slightly as more shippers increase imports this week and next, but to remain very light through the beginning of 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 about the same. Trading was moderate at slightly lower 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 moderate at lower prices. Quality is reported as good. Movement of blueberries out of South and Central District California 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 by April 29th. Quality and condition are currently reported as variable. The first report has been issued for blueberries out of South Georgia. Movement expected to gradually increase as harvesting increases. Current supplies extremely light and in too few hands to establish a market, and no F.O.B. report is currently being issued.

Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona expected about the same. Trading on light supplies of green fairly active. Prices extra-large were slightly higher, medium higher, and others generally unchanged. 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 to decrease due to

For more information on:

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

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

increased inspections causing delays at the point of entry. Trading was moderate early and active later as supplies tightened up. Prices were much lower. 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 at much higher prices. Demand remained moderate to good throughout the week although prices trended slightly lower late in the week. Quality reported as generally good. Harvest of green bell peppers out of Coachella Valley California has begun and the first F.O.B. report is expected the week of April 17th. Quality is reported as generally good.

Strawberry movement from the Oxnard District, California is expected about the same. Trading was active early and moderate later at slightly lower prices. Many present shipments are from prior bookings or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable, due in part to unusually warm temperatures. Movement of strawberries out of Santa Maria California expected to increase. Trading was active early and moderate later at slightly lower prices. Many present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Unusually warm temperatures have contributed to quality and condition issues, but cooler weather and rain in the forecast for the coming weekend is expected to tighten supplies. Mexico strawberry crossings through the Otay Mesa movement expected about the same. Trading moderate on conventional and fairly slow on organic. Prices were generally unchanged with quality and condition reported as variable. Production out of Baja California could decline in the next few weeks. 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 by the end of the week. Quality is reported as variable. Rain in the forecast for the coming weekend could temporarily curtail harvests on top of the expected gap over the Easter holiday. Production to date for all California growing areas is higher than this time last season. Demand is reported as lighter, possibly as a result of inflation hitting price-conscious consumers. Strawberry movement out of Eastern North Carolina expected to continue to increase seasonally in the Coastal Plains region. Trading fairly active with prices generally unchanged. Movement from the Piedmont region expected to begin by the week of April 23.

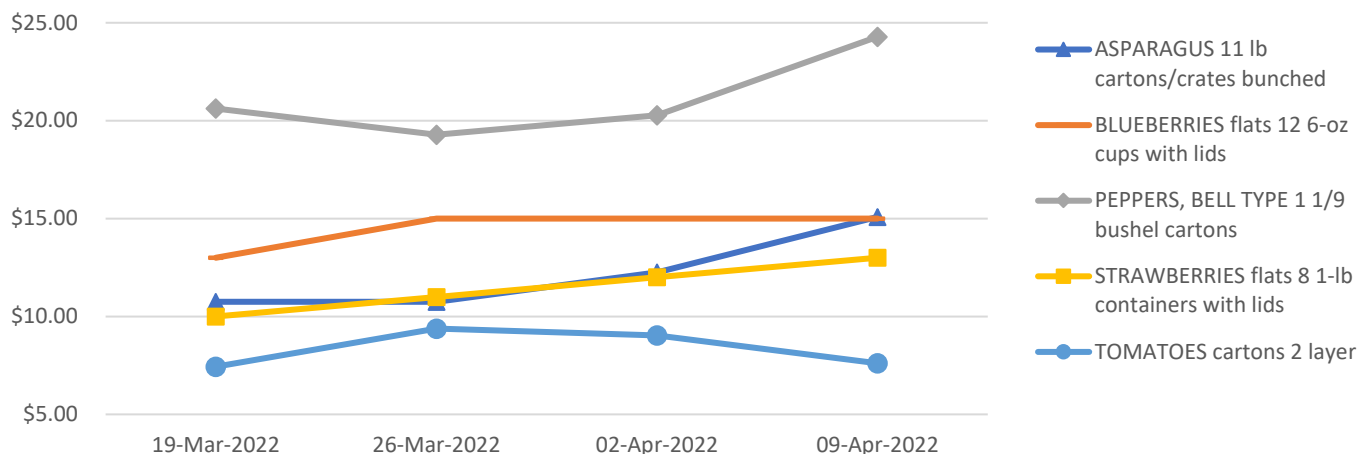
Movement of Mexico tomatoes crossing through Texas are expected to decrease as crossings are limited due to increased inspections causing delays at the point of entry. Trading was fairly slow to slow. Prices slightly lower, with quality reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow at higher prices, with quality reported as generally good. Supplies continue to decrease out of South Florida and increase from Central Florida. Fairly light demand all week and expected to continue through the weekend. Movement of Mexican tomatoes crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading was slow with prices generally unchanged. 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	19-Mar-2022	26-Mar-2022	02-Apr-2022	09-Apr-2022
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 10.75	\$ 10.75	\$ 12.25	\$ 15.08
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 20.62	\$ 19.28	\$ 20.28	\$ 24.28
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.44	\$ 9.38	\$ 9.04	\$ 7.61

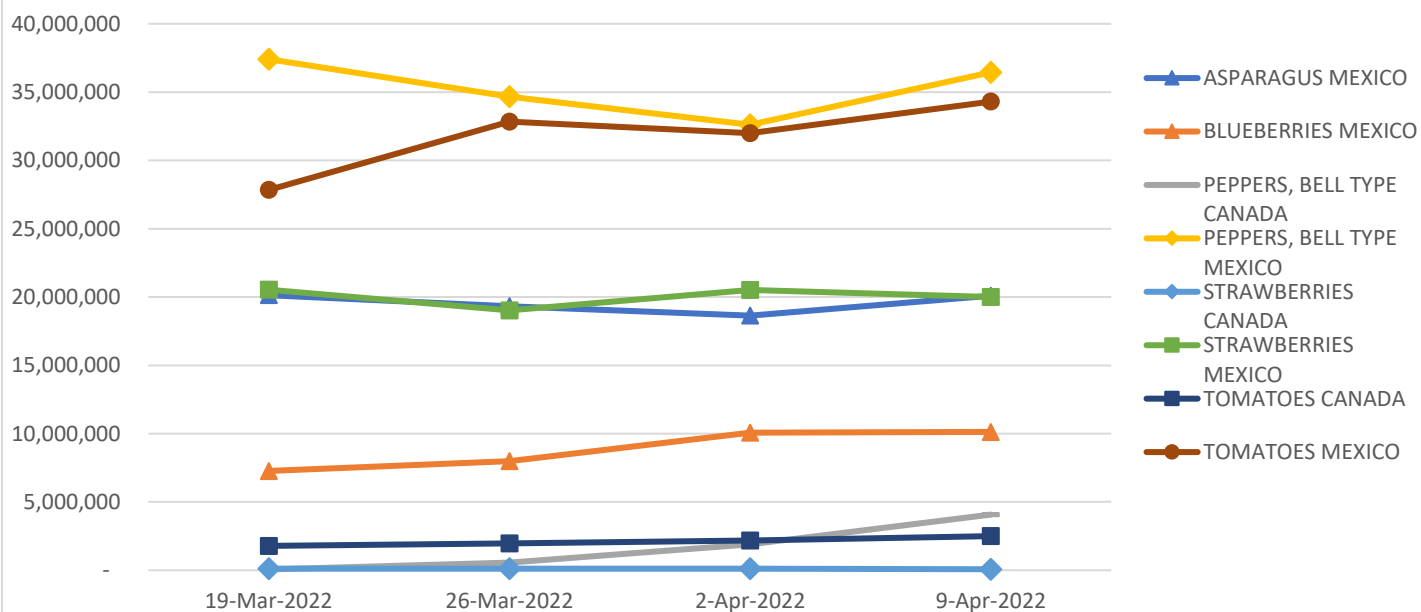
USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



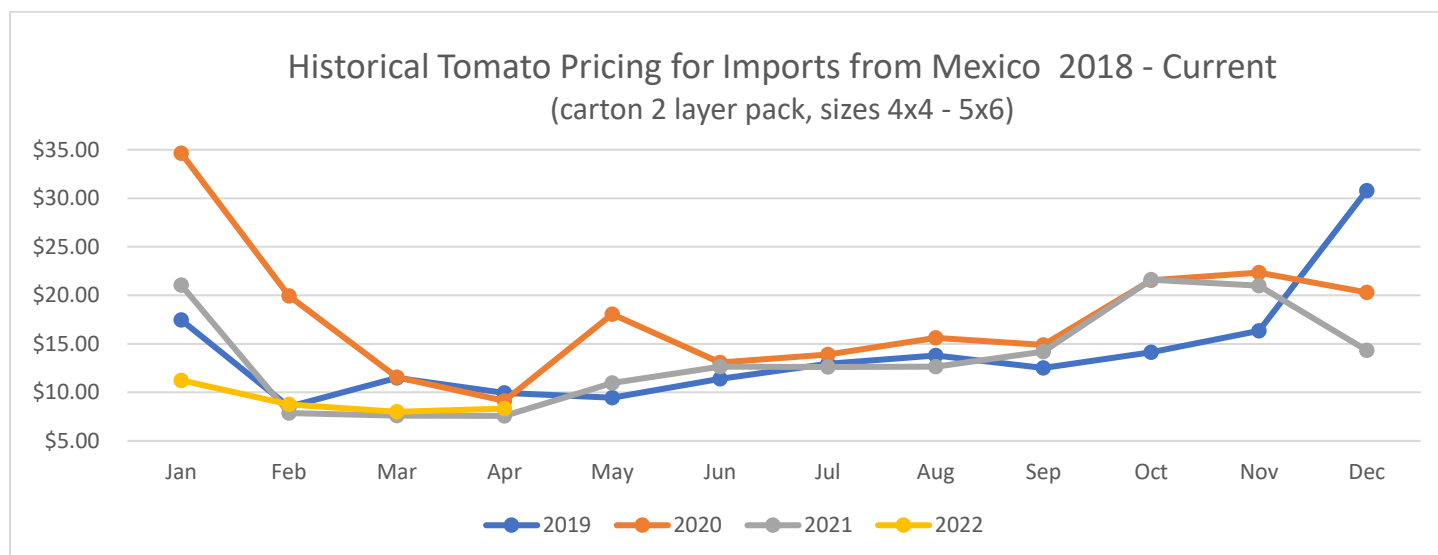
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	19-Mar-2022	26-Mar-2022	2-Apr-2022	9-Apr-2022
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	20,131,008	19,331,931	18,636,621	20,090,689
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	7,269,153	7,979,904	10,080,081	10,125,981
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	59,823	569,947	1,903,582	4,073,360
	MEXICO	37,408,087	34,665,815	32,611,743	36,450,864
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	115,920	106,309	104,702	71,157
	MEXICO	20,532,296	19,022,610	20,527,496	20,010,748
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,782,404	1,961,208	2,171,011	2,495,778
	MEXICO	27,839,213	32,842,207	31,997,492	34,303,996

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 alliacious 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