



# Specialty Crops Market News Division U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update

Agricultural Marketing Service

Issued Weekly

Friday, February 10, 2023

## **Update for Week of February 5-11, 2023**

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.

As Valentine's Day approaches, strawberries increase in popularity each year. In the U.S., most of the strawberries, an estimated 80-90%, come from California annually, followed by Florida with an estimated 8%. Other states like New York, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington also contribute with smaller volumes. With the development of newer varieties, strawberry season has expanded in both California and Florida. California produces strawberries year-round with peak harvest spanning from early spring until fall. May, being the National Strawberry Month, is also the month when strawberry volumes explode in the marketplace. Good quality and volumes are normally expected for Mother's Day and the Fourth of July holiday. Although chocolate and strawberries have been around for a long time, a woman in Chicago named Lorraine Lorusso combined the two in the 1960's, making it a tradition for Valentine's Day, according to Chocolate.org. This sweet tie-in also helps generate revenue for farmers and shippers during this time of year, when produce revenues are generally slow.

Peru imports of blueberries through Philadelphia and New York City area ports of entry movement expected to decrease as most growers are finished for the season. Trading moderate with prices unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large 20.00-24.00. Quality variable. Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to increase slightly. Trading early fairly active, late moderate. Prices slightly higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 24.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 14.00-16.00. Quality generally good. Chile imports of blueberries through various east coast ports of entry movement expected to decrease as several growers have finished for the season. Trading moderate with prices unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large 16.00-20.00. Some loads shipped open to terminal markets. Wide range in quality.

Movement of avocado crossings from Mexico through Texas is expected to decrease. Trading fairly active. Prices 32-48s higher, others lower. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-40s mostly 22.25-24.25, 48s mostly 24.25, 60s mostly 21.25-23.25 and 70s mostly 19.25-21.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early moderate, late fairly active. Prices medium slightly higher, large higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 22.95-24.95, large mostly 23.95-25.95, fair quality 19.95-20.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices medium and large slightly higher, cartons 36s generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium and large mostly 20.95-22.95, fair quality mostly 18.95 and cartons 36s 10.95-12.95. A slight decrease with medium-size cucumber volumes is expected in the next 5-7 days due to cooler weather affecting production. Growers and shippers

For more information on:

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are anticipating an increase in crossings/shipments when warmer weather arrives. Quality generally good. Movement of cucumber from Central America imports through South Florida ports of entry is expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices medium much lower, fair quality lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 20.00, fair quality mostly 18.00 and cartons 24s 8.00-10.00. Supplies moderate. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality generally good.

Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early slow, late moderate. Prices lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 14.95, large mostly 12.95, medium mostly 10.95 and irregular size fair quality 9.95-10.95. Trading remained fairly slow during the week with prices about steady. Customers are more interested in fair quality product, rather than number one product. Supplies are expected to remain steady until warmer weather facilitates production. Quality generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices extra-large slightly higher, large and medium slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 15.95-16.95, large mostly 10.95-12.95 and medium mostly 7.95-8.95. Quality variable. Green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida movement are expected to increase slightly. Trading active at slightly lower prices. Prices slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 16.35, large mostly 14.35 and irregular size fair quality mostly 12.35. Demand was fairly light later in week with slightly lower prices on all sizes except for irregular size fair quality. Quality generally good.

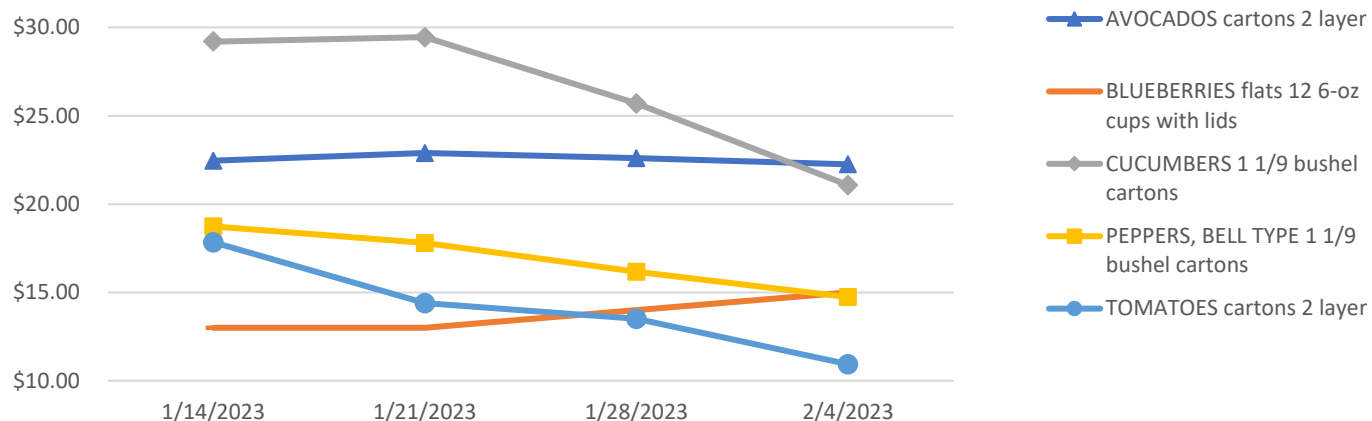
Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading 5x5-5x6s moderate, others slow. Prices slightly lower. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 7.40-7.95 and 5x5-5x6s mostly 10.95-11.95. Movement is expected to decrease slightly. Quality generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase seasonally. Trading moderate. Prices 4x4-4x5s slightly lower, others much lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4-4x5s 7.40-7.95, 5x5s 8.95-9.95 and 5x6s 10.95-12.95. Demand remains moderate with some tomato prices at the minimum level and other sizes slightly higher. Tomatoes crossings/shipments are expected to increase when warmer weather arrives. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow. Prices generally unchanged. Prices reported are for Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85% U.S. number one 5x6 size 18.95-19.00, 6x6 size 16.95-19.00 and 6x7 size 14.95-15.00. Tomato supplies are steadily increasing as warmer weather helps with crop maturity. Florida growers are feeling the cheaper prices being quoted from Mexico. They are starting to make some moves to move product. Demand decreased to light later in the week with prices slightly lower. Quality 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	1/14/2023	1/21/2023	1/28/2023	2/4/2023
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 22.46	\$ 22.89	\$ 22.61	\$ 22.25
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 15.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 29.20	\$ 29.45	\$ 25.70	\$ 21.08
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 18.74	\$ 17.81	\$ 16.16	\$ 14.74
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 17.84	\$ 14.39	\$ 13.51	\$ 10.94

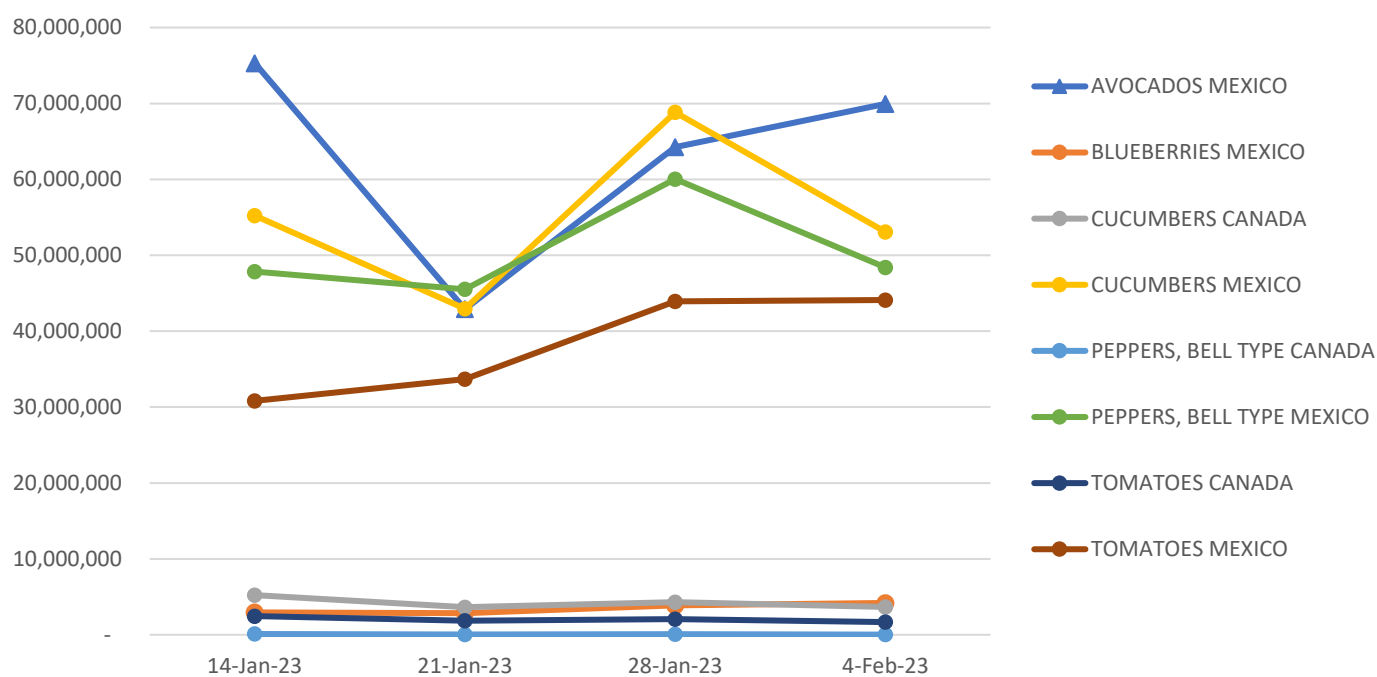
## USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



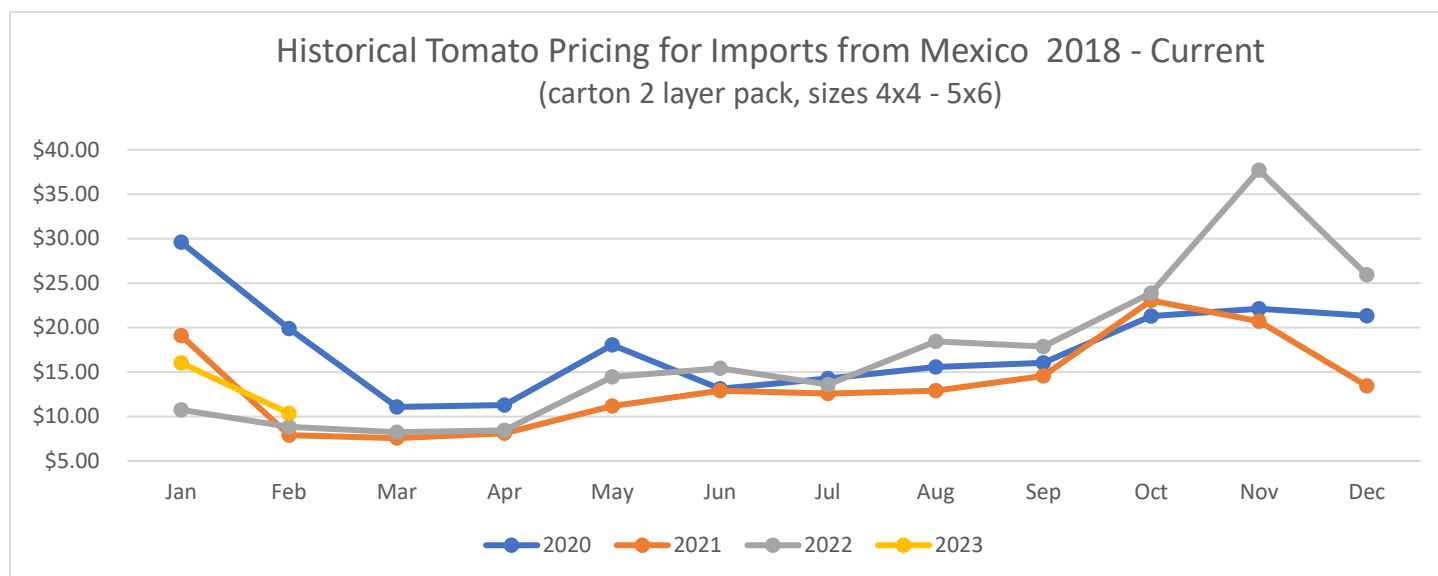
## Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	14-Jan-23	21-Jan-23	28-Jan-23	4-Feb-23
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	75,314,720	42,903,578	64,247,759	69,926,039
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	2,950,173	2,846,660	3,885,227	4,192,876
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	5,225,496	3,640,622	4,312,423	3,655,161
	MEXICO	55,240,198	42,960,461	68,833,709	53,089,714
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	106,825	42,351	72,803	25,780
	MEXICO	47,835,133	45,514,197	60,043,251	48,409,418
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,465,086	1,845,915	2,073,219	1,676,381
	MEXICO	30,820,445	33,689,382	43,908,895	44,106,191

## 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