



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 February 19-25, 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.

The California strawberry industry tallied up the storm damages caused by multiple atmospheric river storms from December 31, 2022, to January 25, 2023. From Ventura County in the south to Santa Cruz County in the north, the onslaught of rain, wind and flooding caused an estimated \$200 million in potential damages to California's strawberry farms. These losses include crop, property and equipment damage. Even though these are all preliminary estimates, farmers are encouraged to report any future damages attributed to the storms. The majority of these strawberry farms are family owned and the economic impact can be significant. In terms of acres lost, an estimated 350 acres were lost to erosion, and another 1,490 acres had major flooding issues. Rick Tomlinson, the president of the California Strawberry Commission, expressed his gratitude to the farm workers who came back to work and helped with the recovery efforts. For the majority of the 31,852 strawberry acres in California that experienced minimal damage, the rain was a welcome change from the drought.

Peru imports of blueberries through Philadelphia and New York City area ports of entry are expected to decrease as most growers are finished for the season. Trading moderate for light supplies. Prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 24.00-26.00. Quality variable. Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to increase. Trading early moderate, late fairly active. Prices generally unchanged. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 14.00-16.00. Many present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality generally good. Chile imports of blueberries through various east coast ports of entry movement expected to decrease as some growers have finished for the season. Trading moderate with prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 22.00-24.00. A few loads shipped open to terminal markets. Wide range in quality.

Movement of avocado crossing from Mexico through Texas is expected to decrease. Trading 32-48s active, others moderate. Prices higher. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-36s mostly 28.25-31.25, 40s mostly 28.25, 48s mostly 28.25-31.25, 60s mostly 22.25-24.25, 70s mostly 21.25-22.25 and 84s mostly 18.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading medium moderate, large active at slightly lower prices. Prices slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 20.95-22.95, large mostly 22.95-24.95, fair quality 16.95-17.95 and ordinary quality mostly 13.95-14.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is

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expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 20.95-22.95, large mostly 20.95-22.95, fair quality mostly 18.95-20.95, cartons 24s 7.95-8.95 and 36s 10.95-12.95. Growers and shippers anticipate supplies to remain steady. Quality variable. Movement of cucumber from Central America imports through South Florida ports of entry is expected about the same this week and expected to decrease slightly next week. Trading active. Prices slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 24.00-26.00, fair quality mostly 20.00 and ordinary quality mostly 16.00-18.00. Supplies fairly light. Shipping delays are helping maintain higher prices. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Demand is about steady but moving slower towards the end of the week. The market is very interesting from one day to the next due to its volatility. Quality generally good.

Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early moderate, late fairly active. Prices generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 16.95, large mostly 14.95, medium mostly 10.95 and irregular size fair quality 10.95. Customers are showing more interest in irregular size fairly quality prices. Growers and shippers anticipate supplies to remain steady. Quality generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices extra-large slightly lower, large and medium slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 13.95-14.95, large mostly 11.95-12.95 and medium mostly 8.95-9.95. Quality variable. Green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida movement are expected to slightly increase. Trading moderate, with slightly lower prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 14.35-16.35, large mostly 12.35 and irregular size fair quality mostly 10.35-12.35. Demand improved later in the week and prices were slightly higher. Quality generally good.

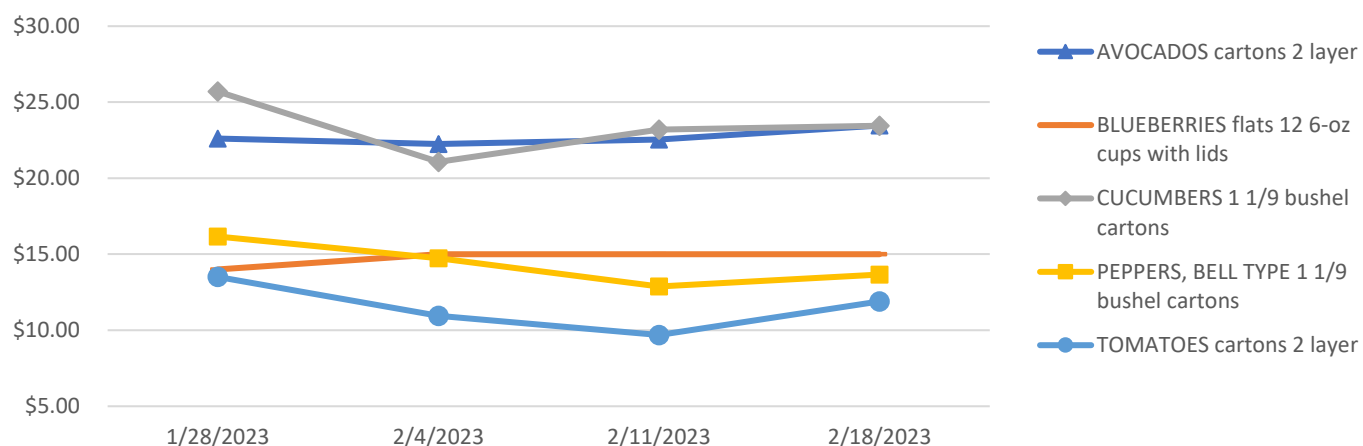
Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices 5x5s lower, others generally unchanged. Vine ripers cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 7.95-8.95, 5x5s mostly 9.95-10.95 and 5x6s mostly 10.95-11.95. Quality generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early active, late moderate. Prices much lower. Cartons 2-layer vine ripers 4x4-5x5s 7.95-9.95 and 5x6s 8.95-10.95. Demand remains active but prices are slightly lower. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices higher. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85% U.S. number one or better 5x6-6x7 size mostly 14.95-15.00. Demand remains about the same, but prices are higher. Shippers are reporting that the prices may not hold due to increased volumes and anticipating lower prices coming out of Mexico. Growers expect to harvest more supplies this weekend due to warmer weather. 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	1/28/2023	2/4/2023	2/11/2023	2/18/2023
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 22.61	\$ 22.25	\$ 22.54	\$ 23.46
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 14.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 25.70	\$ 21.08	\$ 23.20	\$ 23.45
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.16	\$ 14.74	\$ 12.88	\$ 13.66
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 13.51	\$ 10.94	\$ 9.69	\$ 11.89

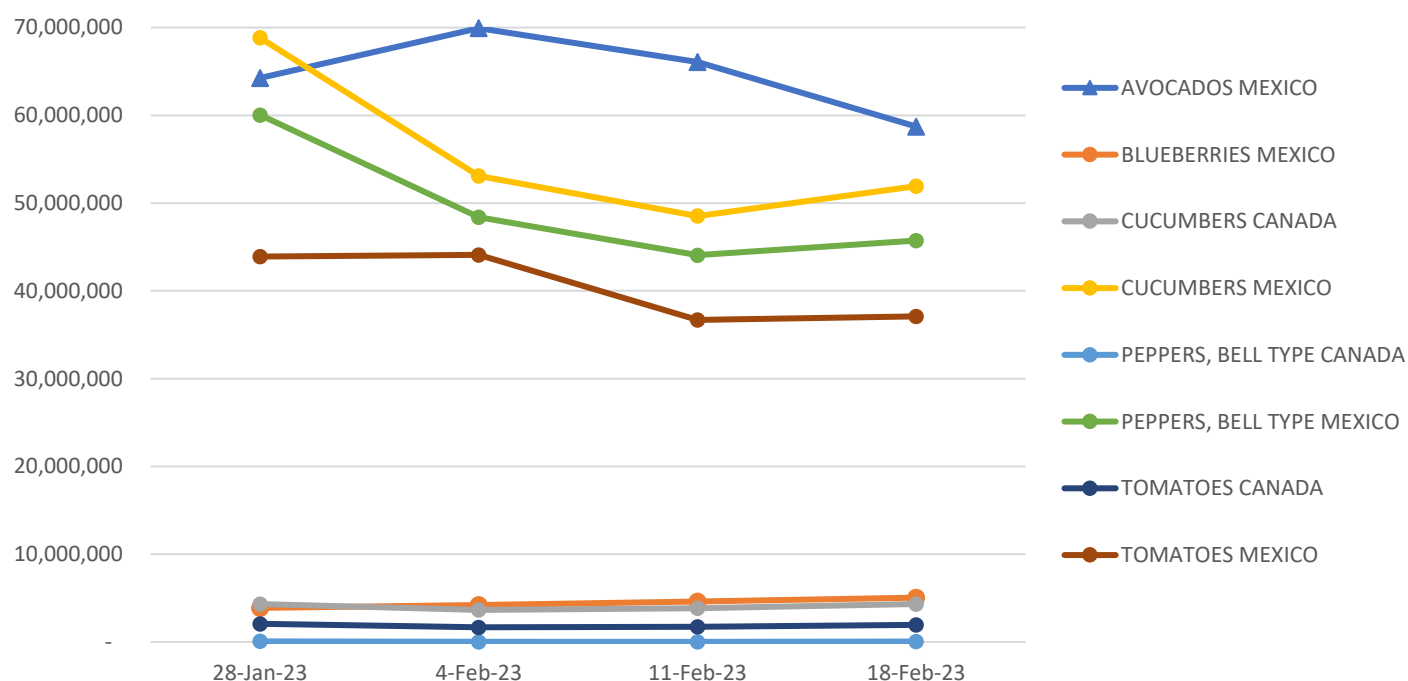
USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



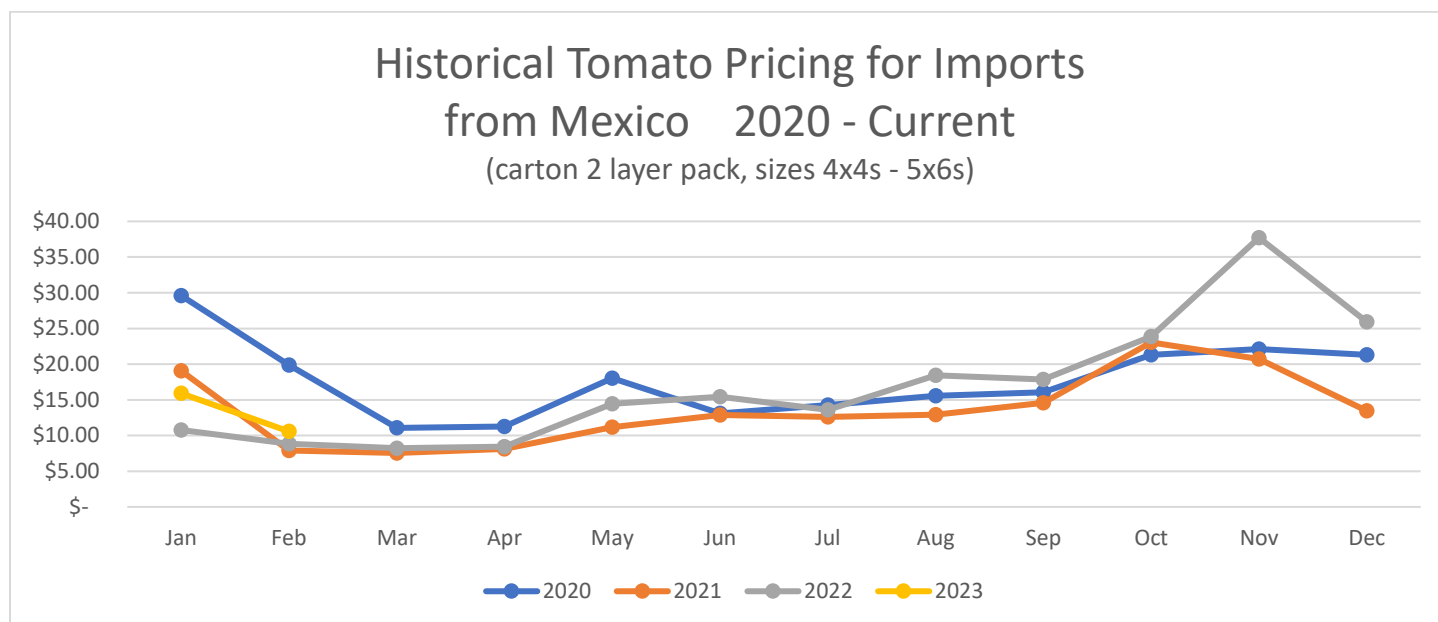
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	28-Jan-23	4-Feb-23	11-Feb-23	18-Feb-23
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	64,247,759	69,926,039	66,086,915	58,720,829
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	3,885,227	4,192,876	4,612,384	5,049,685
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	4,312,423	3,655,161	3,840,496	4,327,794
	MEXICO	68,833,709	53,089,714	48,524,783	51,925,889
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	72,803	25,780	26,515	37,662
	MEXICO	60,043,251	48,409,418	44,075,084	45,736,682
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,073,219	1,676,381	1,728,822	1,946,820
	MEXICO	43,908,895	44,106,191	36,693,620	37,109,436

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