



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

Issued Weekly

Friday, March 10, 2023

Update for Week of March 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.

This season, unpredictable weather conditions have played a significant role in the growing regions of Mexico and some parts of California. Reports from the West Coast, suggest that inclement weather is one of the biggest factors affecting commodities in California such as lettuce, broccoli and celery. Mexican asparagus and chayote are some of the crops that were affected by rain, cold weather and in some instances, even freezing temperatures. Mexican import volumes are behind normal levels. Cold and wet weather usually stunts the growth in fruits and vegetables causing delays in harvesting. This creates product shortages and causes uncertainty in the marketplace. Growers and shippers are forecasting markets to remain volatile for the next few weeks. Production and volumes are expected to improve by mid-March when warmer weather arrives. One of the only constants in farming, is that mother nature will throw curveballs each year in the form of weather.

Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to increase. Trading early fairly active, late active. Prices slightly higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 30.00-32.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 16.00-18.00. Mexican blueberries are experiencing better demand as the South American deal continues to taper off. 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 active for fairly light supplies. Prices higher. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 26.00-28.00. Quality variable. Peru imports of blueberries through Philadelphia and New York City area ports of entry are expected to decrease sharply as most shippers are finished for the season. Supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Remaining supplies are light. The last F.O.B report was issued this week. Quality variable. Movement of blueberries from Central and North Florida is expected to increase seasonally. Trading is active for very light supplies. Supplies are in too few hands to establish a market. Expect the first F.O.B. report within the period.

Movement of avocados crossing from Mexico through Texas is expected to decrease. Trading active. Prices on 84s generally unchanged, others higher. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-36s mostly 32.25-34.25, 40-48s mostly 33.25-34.25, 60s mostly 26.25-27.25, 70s mostly 23.24-24.25 and 84s mostly 18.25. Extra services included.

Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices medium slightly lower, others lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 16.95-18.95, large mostly 14.95-16.95, fair quality 12.95-13.95 and ordinary quality mostly 9.95-10.95. Demand is moderate at best and prices are lower due to heavier volumes. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality variable. Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early moderate, late

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.](#)

slow. Prices medium generally unchanged, others lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 18.95, large 16.95-18.95, fair quality mostly 16.95, cartons 24s 6.95-8.95 and 36s 8.95-10.95. Prices have decreased slightly this week as volume increases. Quality variable. Movement of cucumber imports from Central America through South Florida ports of entry is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading fairly slow. Prices medium and cartons 24s lower, others much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 16.00-18.00, large 8.00-10.00, fair quality mostly 12.00 and ordinary quality 8.00-10.00. Supplies are fairly light and in few hands. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality generally good. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is expected to increase as more shippers begin the season. Trading moderate. Prices waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 16.35-18.35, fair quality mostly 12.35 and cartons 24s mostly 10.35. Prices are slightly higher on cartons 24s and slightly lower on medium later in the week. Demand remains fairly light, and prices are expected lower by week's end. Quality generally good.

Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading active. Prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 20.95-22.95, large mostly 18.95-20.95, medium mostly 16.95-18.95 and irregular size fair quality 16.95-18.95. Prices are much higher this week, when compared to the previous week. Production and supplies are light due to unseasonably cooler weather in the growing areas. Quality generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly active. Prices higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 24.95-26.95, large mostly 21.95-22.95 and medium mostly 16.95-17.95. Demand remains active, and prices were higher by the end of the week. Quality variable. Green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida movement are expected to increase slightly. Trading active. Prices much higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 24.35, large mostly 20.35-22.35 and irregular size fair quality mostly 18.35-20.35. Quality generally good.

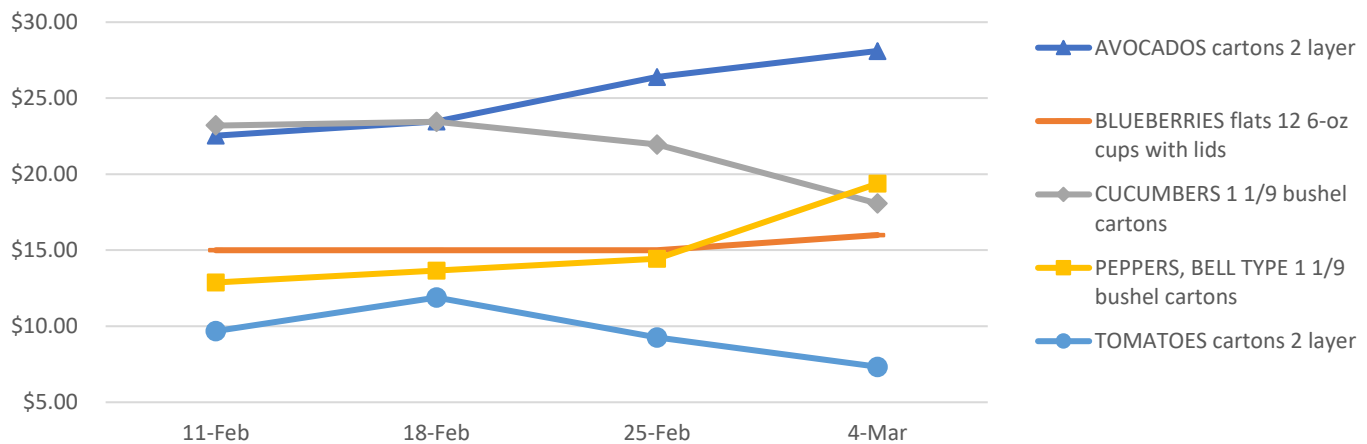
Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading slow. Prices generally unchanged. Vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4s mostly 7.37, 4x5s mostly 7.39 and 5x5-5x6s mostly 7.13. Tomatoes are still at the minimum price threshold this week, with a few occasional higher. This trend is expected to continue as demand is not getting any stronger. Quality generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early slow, late fairly slow. Prices generally unchanged. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4s mostly 7.37-7.95, 4x5s mostly 7.39-7.95, 5x5s mostly 7.13-7.95 and 5x6s 6.65-6.95. Prices have decreased and some have hit the minimum threshold. Tomato crossings or shipments are expected about the same. Quality generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida expected to decrease. Trading fairly slow. Prices for March 3rd are generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85% U.S. number one or better 5x6-6x6 sizes 14.95-15.00 and 6x7 size 10.95-11.00. Production on 5x6 sizes supplies is light but heavier on 6x6-6x7 sizes. This is due to warmer weather in the growing areas, this trend is expected to continue. Demand remains fairly light, and prices are about steady. 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	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	4-Mar
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 22.54	\$ 23.46	\$ 26.39	\$ 28.11
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 23.20	\$ 23.45	\$ 21.95	\$ 18.08
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 12.88	\$ 13.66	\$ 14.45	\$ 19.38
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 9.69	\$ 11.89	\$ 9.27	\$ 7.34

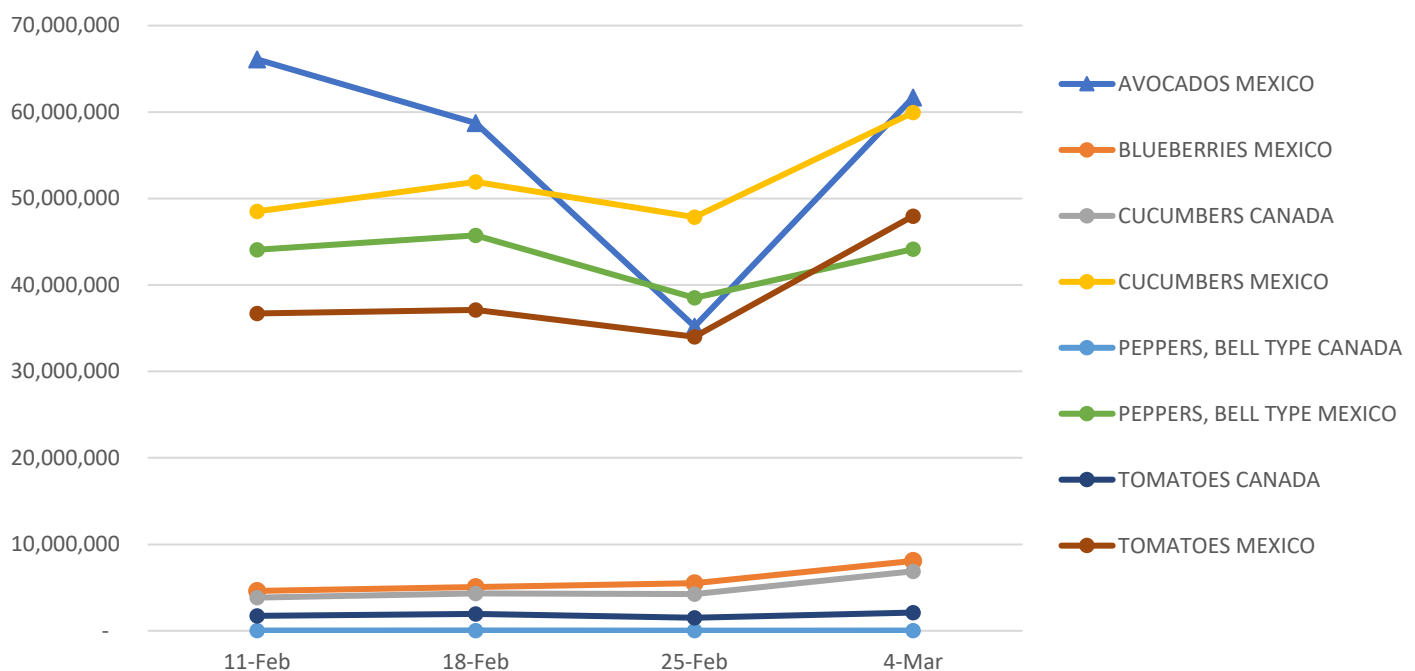
USMCA: COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



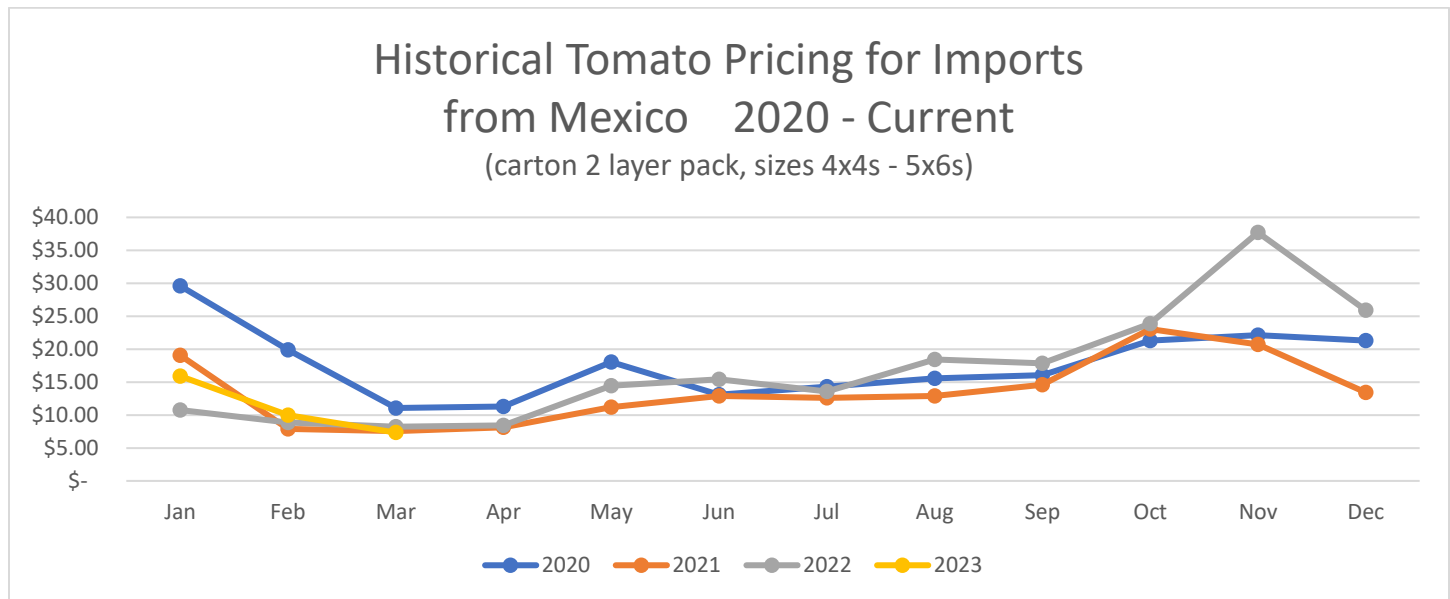
Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	4-Mar
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	66,086,915	58,720,829	35,195,104	61,682,288
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	4,612,384	5,049,685	5,499,594	8,081,450
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	3,840,496	4,327,794	4,244,980	6,884,574
	MEXICO	48,524,783	51,925,889	47,844,355	59,934,896
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	26,515	37,662	17,837	19,961
	MEXICO	44,075,084	45,736,682	38,506,011	44,150,217
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,728,822	1,946,820	1,509,368	2,107,952
	MEXICO	36,693,620	37,109,436	34,007,655	47,972,832

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