



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 March 12-18, 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.

Extreme weather continued to affect the produce industry this week, with growing regions in California, Mexico and elsewhere once again experiencing flooding and unseasonably cold temperatures. The Northeast was not immune either, as a late-season Nor'easter has dumped up to two feet of snow in certain areas. Inclement weather limits production in a variety of ways, including delaying maturity, curtailing harvests leading to potential waste of mature fruit and vegetables, and limiting transportation to and from production areas to distribution centers. Consumers will see the downstream effects of all these factors in the form of higher prices and limited selections at the supermarket.

Movement of blueberries through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to increase. Trading was active early and fairly active later at slightly higher prices. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids mostly 32.00-34.00. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids mostly 18.00. Shippers expect seasonal increases ahead for crossing volumes as production increases. Many present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of blueberries from Central and North Florida is expected to increase as harvesting increases. Trading is active for very light supplies. Current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market, with the first F.O.B. report expected within the period. Chile imports of blueberries through various east coast ports of entry movement expected to decrease slightly as the season winds down. Trading active for light supplies with prices unchanged. Flats 12 1-pint cups with lids large mostly 26.00-28.00. Quality is reported as variable.

Movement of avocados crossing from Mexico through Texas is expected to decrease slightly. Trading on 32s-48s was fairly good, others very good. Prices on conventional 40-48s and organic 60s generally unchanged, others higher. Cartons 2-layer Hass 32-48s mostly 33.25-34.25, 60s mostly 28.25-29.25, 70s mostly 26.24-27.25 and 84s mostly 19.25-20.25. Extra services included.

Cucumber movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate with prices lower to much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 12.95-14.95, large and fair quality both 10.95-12.95, cartons 24s 5.95-7.95 and 36s 6.95-7.95. Prices and demand decreasing due to increased supplies. Quality is reported as variable. Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading moderate. Prices medium slightly lower, large slightly higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 16.95-17.95, large mostly 16.95-17.95, fair quality 13.95-14.95 and ordinary quality mostly 10.95-11.95. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable. Cucumber movement out of Central and South Florida is

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expected to increase as more shippers begin the season. Trading moderate at much lower prices. Demand moderate to fairly light due to increasing supplies. Prices waxed 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium mostly 12.35, fair quality mostly 7.35-8.35 and cartons 24s mostly 5.35. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of cucumber imports from Central America through South Florida ports of entry is expected to decrease as some shippers finish for the season. Trading moderate with prices lower to much lower. Prices medium and cartons 24s lower, others much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons medium 14.00, fair quality mostly 10.00 and ordinary quality 8.00. Supplies from Honduras are light and, in few hands, with a delayed vessel early in the week. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Quality is reported as variable but generally good.

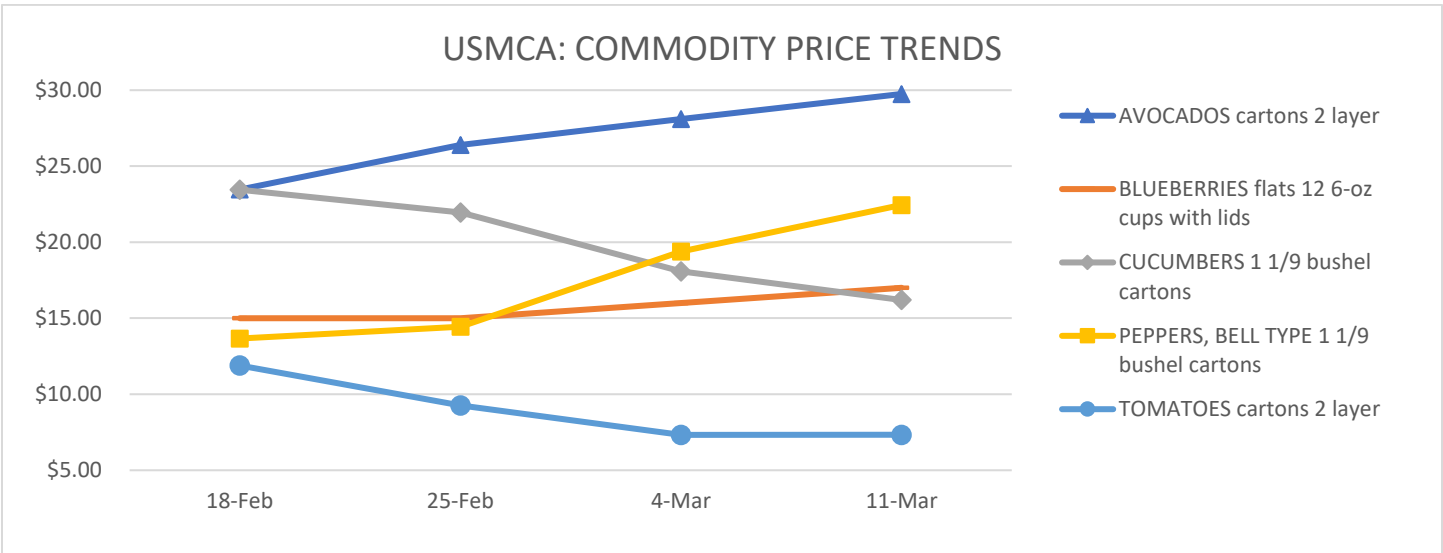
Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading moderate at much higher prices. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large mostly 26.95-28.95, large mostly 26.95, medium mostly 20.95-22.95 and extra-large fair quality 18.95-20.95. Trading active with production and supplies light due to unseasonable cool weather in growing areas driving prices higher. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading fairly active at higher prices. Prices 1 1/9-bushel cartons green extra-large mostly 28.95-30.95, large mostly 26.95-28.95, medium mostly 18.95-19.95. Quality is reported as variable. Green bell peppers out of Central and South Florida movement are expected to decrease slightly. Trading active with prices jumbo and extra-large generally unchanged, others higher. 1 1/9-bushel cartons green jumbo and extra-large 24.35, large mostly 22.35 and irregular size fair quality mostly 20.35. Demand good to moderate for light available supplies. Quality is reported as generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading was slow early and moderate later. Prices higher, with vine ripens cartons 2-layer 4x4s-4x5s mostly 8.95 and 5x5-5x6s mostly 9.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Tomato movement out of Central and South Florida expected to remain about the same. Warm weather over the past 3 weeks has increased production, but supplies remain fairly light and are expected to be helped by rain early this week. Trading and demand on fairly light supplies of 5x6 size moderate with prices generally unchanged, others fairly slow at lower prices and fairly light demand. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85% U.S. number one or better 5x6 sz 12.95, 6x6 sz 10.95-12.95, 6x7 size 8.95. Quality is reported as generally good. Movement of tomatoes from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early was fairly slow, improving to active later. Prices much higher. Cartons 2-layer vine ripens 4x4s,4x5s,5x5s and 5x6s mostly 10.95. Tomato crossings or shipments are expected about the same. Quality is reported as variable to generally good.

The following table provides a four-week price trend of the highest traded commodities this week.

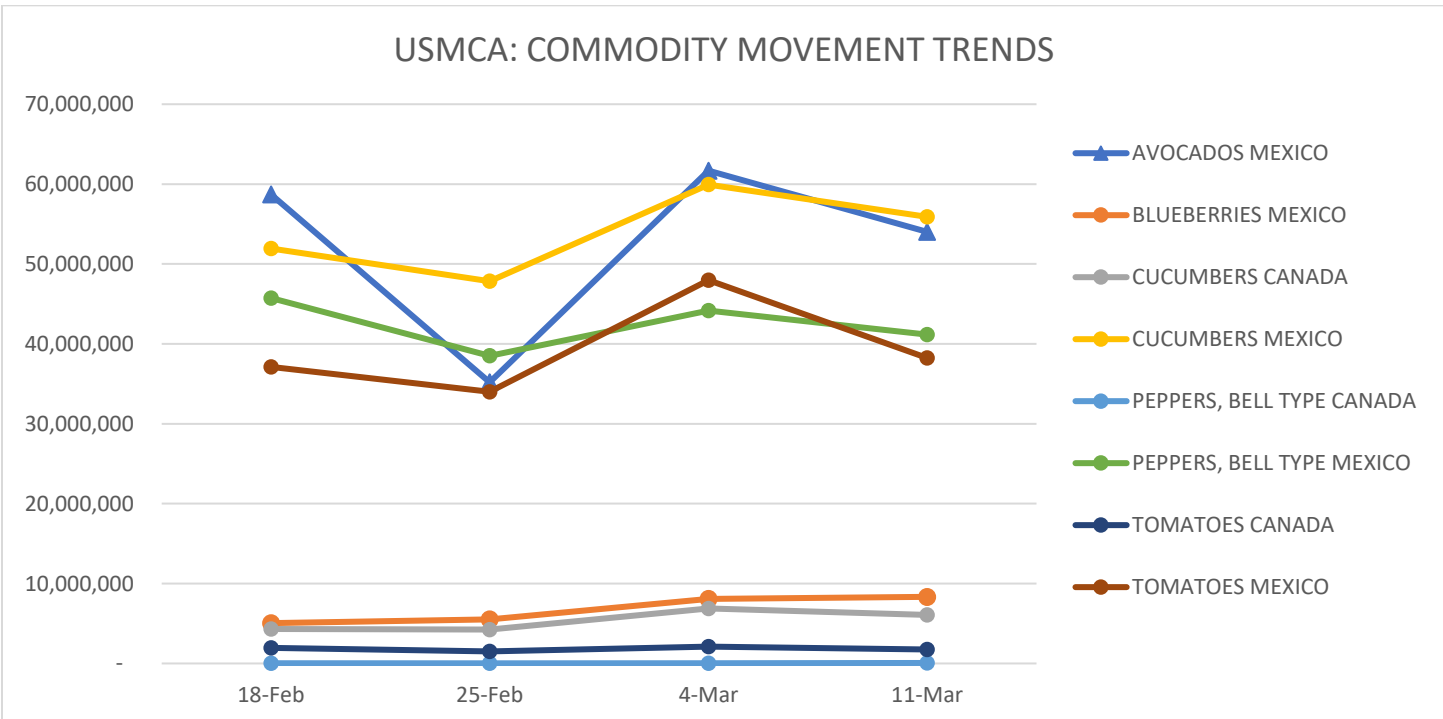
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	18-Feb	25-Feb	4-Mar	11-Mar
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 23.46	\$ 26.39	\$ 28.11	\$ 29.75
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.00
CUCUMBERS	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 23.45	\$ 21.95	\$ 18.08	\$ 16.20
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 13.66	\$ 14.45	\$ 19.38	\$ 22.45
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 11.89	\$ 9.27	\$ 7.34	\$ 7.34

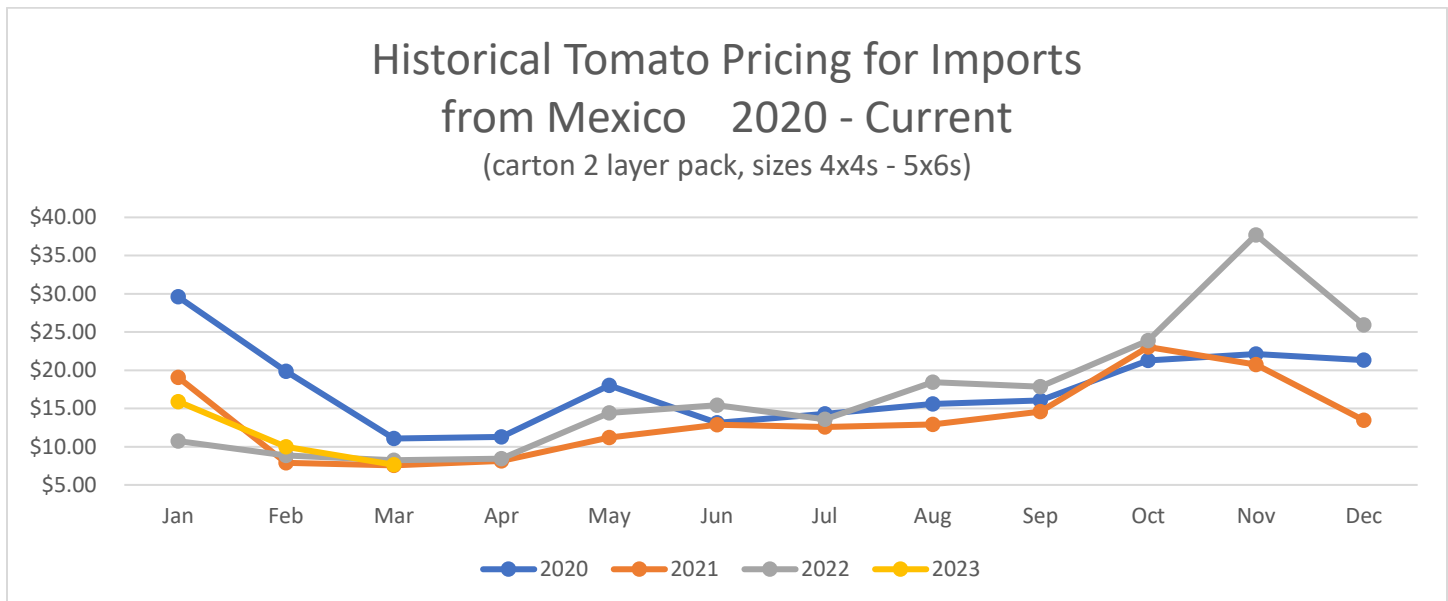


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	18-Feb	25-Feb	4-Mar	11-Mar
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	58,720,829	35,195,104	61,682,288	54,003,471
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	5,049,685	5,499,594	8,081,450	8,338,446
CUCUMBERS	CANADA	4,327,794	4,244,980	6,884,574	6,072,919
	MEXICO	51,925,889	47,844,355	59,934,896	55,912,203
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	37,662	17,837	19,961	62,658
	MEXICO	45,736,682	38,506,011	44,150,217	41,149,127
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,946,820	1,509,368	2,107,952	1,734,584
	MEXICO	37,109,436	34,007,655	47,972,832	38,256,770



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 alliaceus 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