



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 February 11-17, 2024

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.

Seasonal changes have led to a shift in the commodities of interest for this report. Asparagus and strawberries replaced cucumbers and blueberries, as the interest in shipping asparagus and strawberries continues to grow while demand for cucumbers and blueberries is steady in the winter. This list will be revisited regularly to maintain an accurate representation of the current trade situation affecting shippers of perishable commodities in North America.

Asparagus growing conditions have been optimal, increasing the supply of Asparagus in the Caborca region. Prices have fallen in response to full coolers packed with 11 pound cartons/crates. Some shippers switched to the 28 pound cartons to absorb the additional supplies. Not much change is expected through the holiday weekend. Shippers expect additional retail advertisement the week of February 18, which should help move the increased supplies. Jumbo size has been the problem as most of these are sold for export and export business is very slow this time of year. Movement through California and Arizona is expected to remain about the same. Trading early was slow, late fairly slow. Prices are lower. 11 pound cartons/crates bunched large 11.75- 14.75, standard mostly 10.75-11.75; ORGANIC large mostly 17.75-18.75, standard mostly 17.75-18.75. Movement of Peru Imports through South Florida are expected to decrease. Supplies are very light and in few hands. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/ or previous commitments. Trading White is moderate. Prices are lower. From Peru. 11 lb cartons bunched Green supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market, White large 30.75-36.75. Quality and condition and variable. Most shippers have received their final containers for the season as they transition to supplies from competing areas.

Avocado movement through Texas is expected to decrease. Trading is fairly active. Prices are higher. Cartons 2 layers Hass 32s mostly 44.25-46.25, 36s mostly 40.25-43.25, 40s mostly 40.25-42.25, 48s mostly 40.25-41.25, 60s mostly 31.25-33.25, 70s mostly 23.25-24.25, 84s mostly 18.25-19.25. ORGANIC 48s mostly 45.25-47.25, 60s mostly 38.25-40.25, 70s mostly 29.25-31.25. Caribbean Import movement through South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading is moderate. Prices are unchanged. From the Dominican Republic, various Greenskin varieties. Cartons 2 layer 14-18s no offerings, 20-24s mostly 24.00-25.00, 24s 22.00--24.00. Quality and condition good.

Strawberry supply outlook remains uncertain with rain forecasted for the weekend ahead, not only in California and Baja California but also Florida. Spot market supplies remain limited with most strawberries committed to advance sales. Western strawberry markets have risen but limited from going much higher due to quality and condition issues from recent rains. Some California shippers say the effects from recent rains have resulted in a crop disaster. Santa Maria

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strawberry shippers expect new crop production to increase and reach promotable levels by early March, barring inclement weather. Some shippers also note that rains routinely fortify the soil strawberries are planted in, which could translate into greater yields ahead. Other say that the rains have diluted nutrients provided by plants by irrigation drip tapes. Movement through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was active, late fairly active. Prices are generally unchanged. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids medium mostly 16.00. Quality and condition are variable. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement through California is expected about the same. Supplies insufficient to establish a market as harvest is limited by recent rains. Quality and condition are variable. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments.

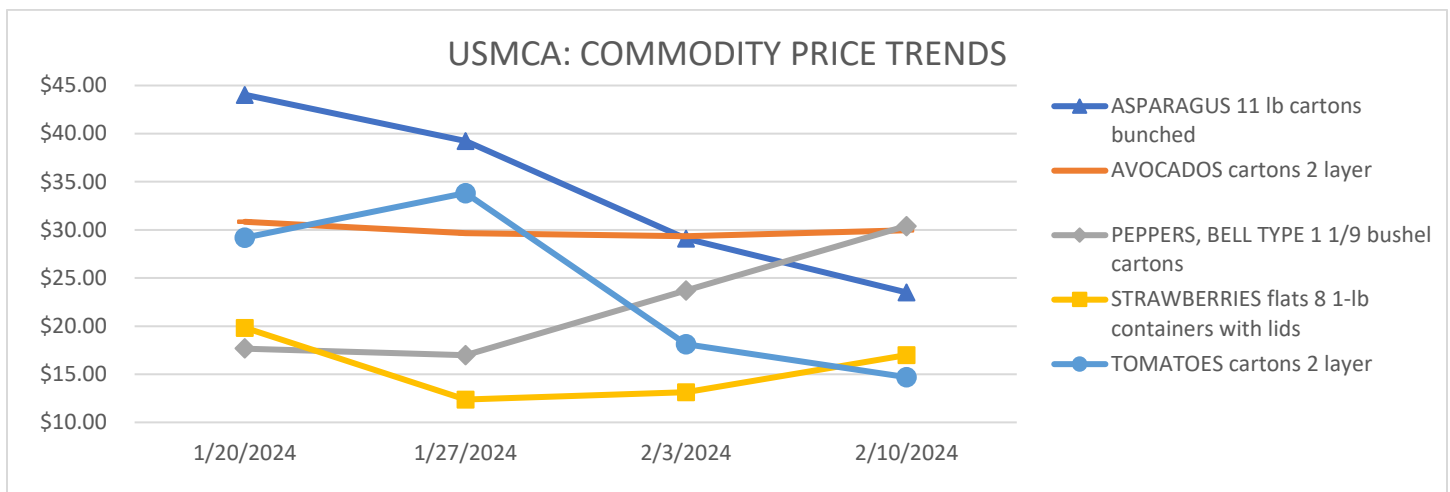
Green Bell pepper supplies are tight with available supplies difficult to find. Most customers are looking to purchase irregular Size, fair Quality to save a few dollars. Movement through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate, late active. Prices 15 pound Red much higher, 11 pound Red slightly higher, other colors higher. 1 1/9 bushel cartons (wide range in prices) Green jumbo and extra large 30.95-34.95, large 30.95-32.95, medium 26.95-30.95; irregular size fair quality Green 24.95-26.95, Red 24.95-28.95, Yellow 24.95-26.95. 15 pound cartons Red jumbo and extra large (wide range in prices) 14.95-18.95, large 12.95-16.95. GREENHOUSE 11 pound cartons (wide range in prices) Red extra large and large 16.95-20.95, medium 16.95-18.95; Yellow extra large, large and medium 20.95-24.95, Orange extra large 20.95-24.95, large 20.95-22.95, medium 18.95-20.95. Quality generally good. Movement through Texas is expected about the same. Trading is fairly active. Prices are slightly higher. GREENHOUSE 11 pound cartons Red jumbo and extra large mostly 24.00-26.00, large mostly 20.00-22.00; Yellow and Orange jumbo and extra large mostly 23.00-25.00. Quality variable. Movement in Central and South Florida is expected to slightly increase. Trading is moderate. Prices are higher. Prices included palletizing and precooling. 1 1/9 bushel cartons Green jumbo mostly 32.34-34.35, extra-large mostly 32.35, large mostly 28.35, irregular sized fair quality mostly 26.35. Quality generally good.

Tomatoes movement is expected to increase as warmer temperatures are expected next week. Available supplies are limited in the F.O.B. markets. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate, late very active. Prices are much higher. Cartons 2-layer Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5s and 5x5-5x6s mostly 20.95. Quality generally good. Movement through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was fairly slow, late fairly active. Prices 4x4-4x5 sizes higher, others much higher. Vine Ripes cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s mostly 14.95-16.95, 5x5-5x6s mostly 16.95-18.95; 25 pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes mostly 16.95-18.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes mostly 18.95-19.95. Quality generally good. Movement in Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading 6X7 size is moderate, others are fairly active at lower prices. Prices are lower. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85 percent U.S. One or better. 5x6, 6x6 sizes 26.95-27.00.00, 6x7 sizes 14.95-15.00. Quality generally good.

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

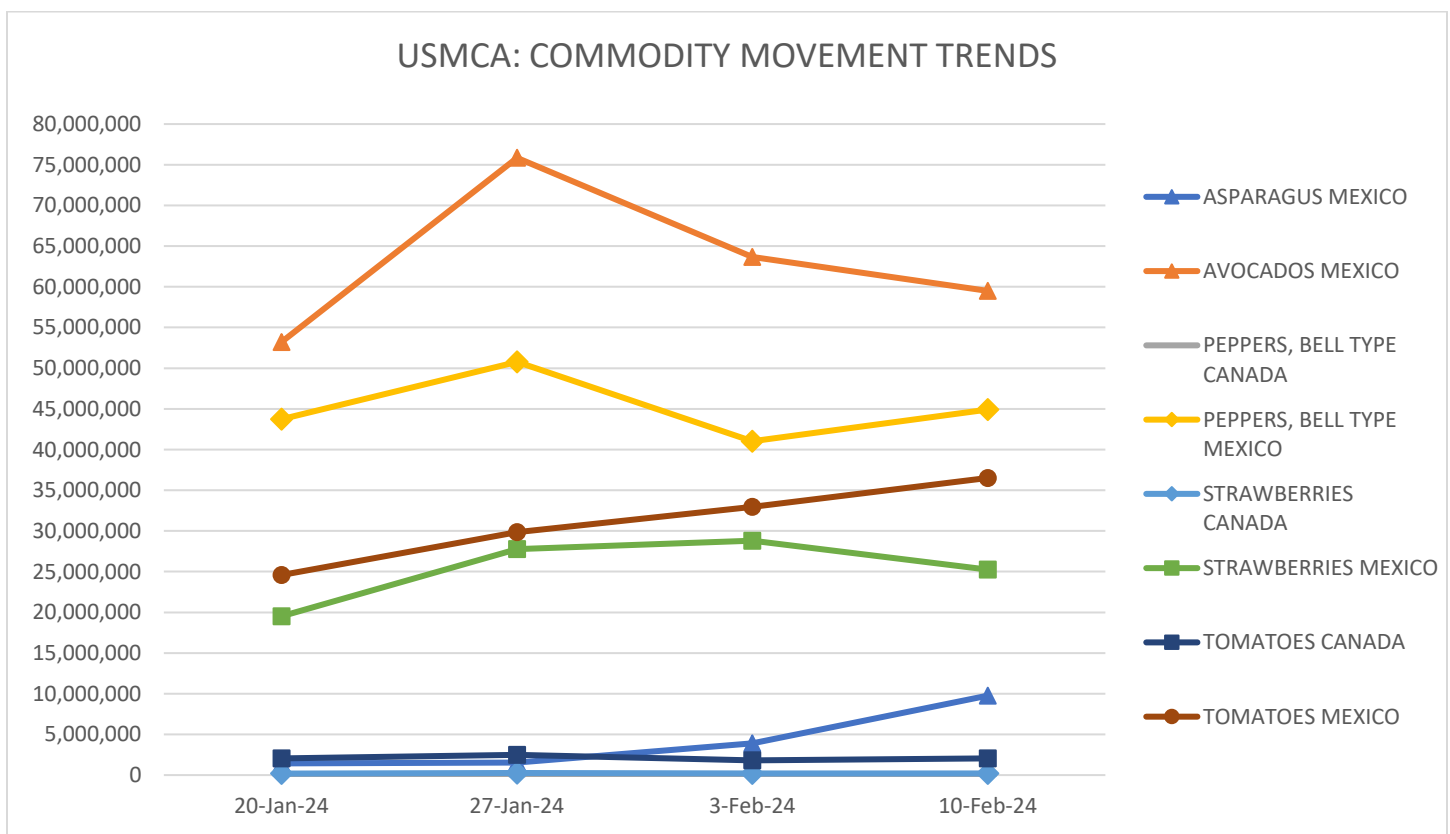
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	1/20/2024	1/27/2024	2/3/2024	2/10/2024
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons bunched	\$ 44.04	\$ 39.23	\$ 29.09	\$ 23.50
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 30.84	\$ 29.66	\$ 29.34	\$ 29.96
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 17.66	\$ 16.98	\$ 23.69	\$ 30.41
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 19.83	\$ 12.38	\$ 13.13	\$ 17.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 29.20	\$ 33.83	\$ 18.12	\$ 14.70

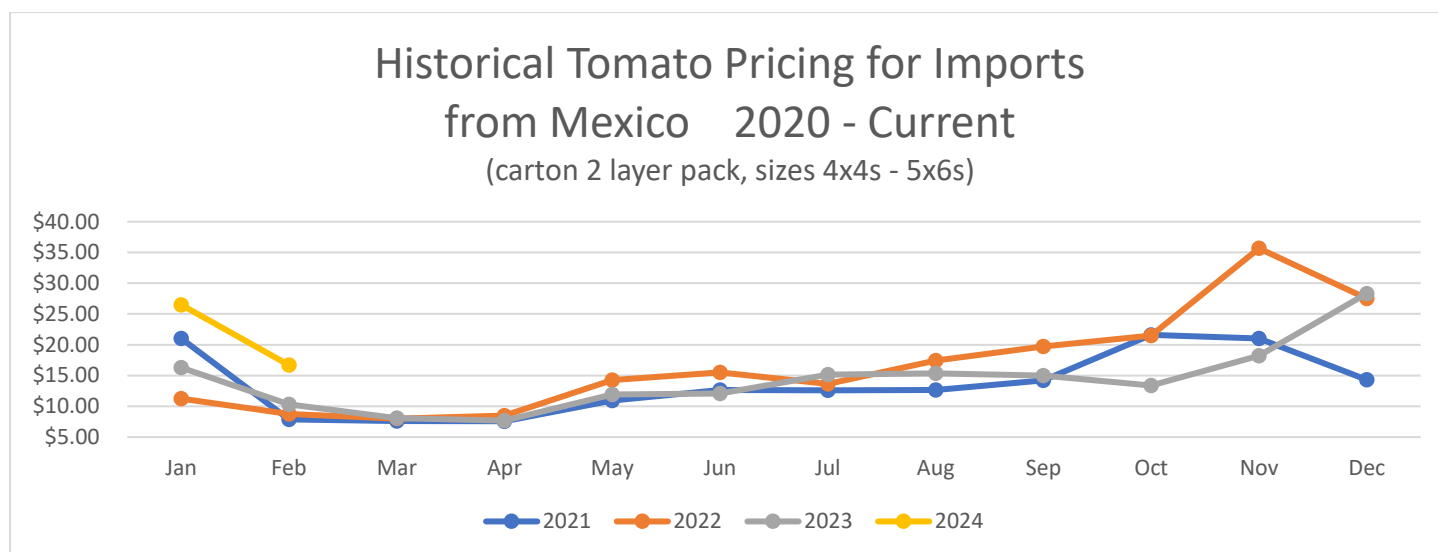


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	20-Jan-24	27-Jan-24	3-Feb-24	10-Feb-24
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	1,437,449	1,551,958	3,918,997	9,760,974
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	53,218,274	75,842,798	63,662,105	59,485,625
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	103,053	64,657	86,568	79,538
	MEXICO	43,739,125	50,774,200	41,028,439	44,914,647
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	189,093	259,310	193,681	194,826
	MEXICO	19,518,261	27,779,348	28,803,127	25,264,883
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,037,655	2,487,785	1,810,421	2,046,856
	MEXICO	24,582,713	29,845,297	32,966,993	36,511,062



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