



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 25-March 2, 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.

A cluster of wildfires that started on Monday, February 26 and continues to move through the panhandle of Texas, made it difficult for truckers to travel. Authorities asked truckers to avoid Interstate 40 near Amarillo due to excessive smoke and limited visibility and to allow emergency vehicle access. The Smokehouse Creek Fire has engulfed over 850,000 acres, near Canadian, Texas, and is only 3% contained as of February 28, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Smokehouse Creek Fire is part of the approximately 15 wildfires currently active in Texas.

Asparagus movement from Mexico crossings through Calexico, California and Arizona is expected to increase due to optimal weather conditions and greater yields. Trading is very slow. Prices are lower. 28-pound cartons/crates bunched large is mostly 16.75, standard is mostly 16.75; 11 pound cartons/crates bunched jumbo mostly is 8.75-10.75, large is mostly 9.75-10.75, standard is mostly 9.75-10.75; organic large is mostly 13.75-14.75, standard is mostly 13.75-14.75.

Avocado production continues to outpace demand. Coolers remain full as the lack of sales is beginning to affect condition of older product. Shippers advised growers to consider not harvesting some fields due to heavy unsold volumes. Shipper's project wide range in prices, according to freshness and quality. Peak production is expected to be on or around March 10. Movement is expected to decrease slightly. Trading continues to be moderate. Organic prices are higher, however, conventional 32-60s are lower, other sizes are generally unchanged. Cartons 2 layers Hass 32s is mostly 43.25-45.25, 36s is mostly 40.25-42.25, 40s is mostly 39.25-41.25, 48s is mostly 39.25-40.25, 60s is mostly 30.25-32.25, 70s is mostly 22.25-23.25, 84s is mostly 17.25- 18.25; organic 48s is mostly 48.25-50.25, 60s is mostly 39.25-41.25, 70s is mostly 29.25-30.25.

Green Bell Pepper movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading is moderate. Prices are slightly lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons Green jumbo and extra-large are mostly 18.95, large is mostly 16.95, medium is mostly 12.95-13.95, Place Pack extra-large is mostly 20.95, large is mostly 18.95, irregular size fair quality 10.95-12.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Trading is moderate. Prices are much Lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons Green jumbo is mostly 20.35, extra-large is mostly 18.35, large is mostly 16.35, irregular sized fair quality is mostly 14.35. Quality generally good.

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.](#)

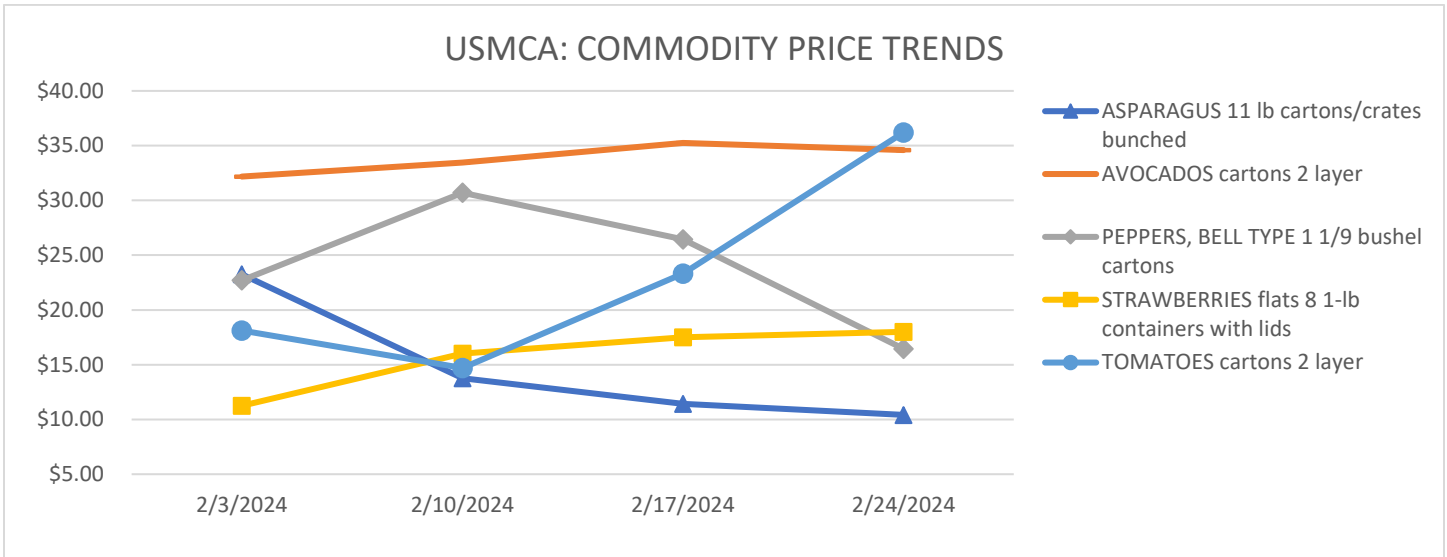
Strawberry movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Supplies are very light as most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Trading early was very active, late moderate. Prices are slightly lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids medium is mostly 16.00. Quality and condition are variable. Movement from Central Florida is expected to increase. Trading of conventional is active. Prices of conventional are lower. Price includes palletizing and precooling. Flats 8 1-lb. containers with lids large-extra large is mostly 14.00-14.90. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa, California is expected about the same. Available supplies are light as most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Trading is active at lower prices. Prices are lower. Prices flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large is 16.00-18.00, organic large is 24.00-28.00. Quality and condition are variable. California strawberry production continue to be affected by cooler temperatures. Spot market availability is very limited as most present shipments are reserved for prior bookings and/or previous commitments. However, harvest has stabilized. Movement in Oxnard is expected to remain about the same. Trading is active at slightly lower prices. Prices are slightly lower. Prices flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large is mostly 18.00; organic large-extra large is 30.00-34.00. Quality and condition are variable. Movement in Santa Maria is expected to increase seasonally. Available are supplies light as most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Trading is active. Prices flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large is mostly 16.00-18.00. Quality and condition variable.

Tomatoes and cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas are still in strong demand, but expected to cool off next week as movement is expected to increase. Tomato trading is active. Prices are slightly higher. Vine Ripes cartons 2 layer 4x4-4x5s are mostly 34.95-36.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 32.95-34.95; 25 pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 34.95-36.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are mostly 32.95-34.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading 6x7 size is Moderate, others are very active. Prices are generally unchanged. Prices 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85 percent U.S. One or better. 5x6 and 6x6 sizes are 34.95-35.00 and 6x7 sizes are 24.95-25.00. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease slightly. Trading early is very active, late moderate. Prices are slightly lower. Cartons 2-layer Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5s are mostly 36.95-38.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 34.95-36.95. Quality is generally good.

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

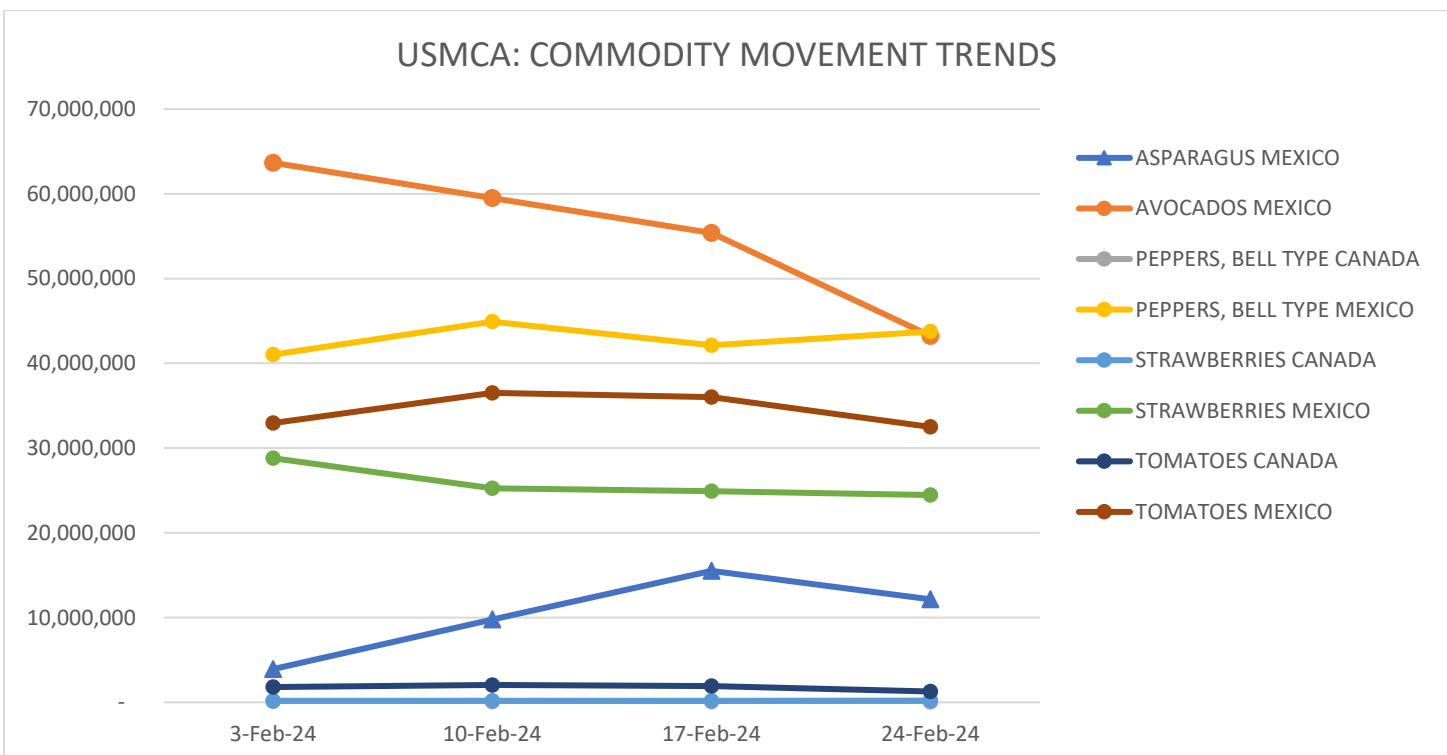
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	2/3/2024	2/10/2024	2/17/2024	2/24/2024
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 23.25	\$ 13.75	\$ 11.42	\$ 10.42
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 32.18	\$ 33.46	\$ 35.25	\$ 34.61
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 22.70	\$ 30.70	\$ 26.45	\$ 16.45
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 11.25	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 18.12	\$ 14.70	\$ 23.33	\$ 36.20

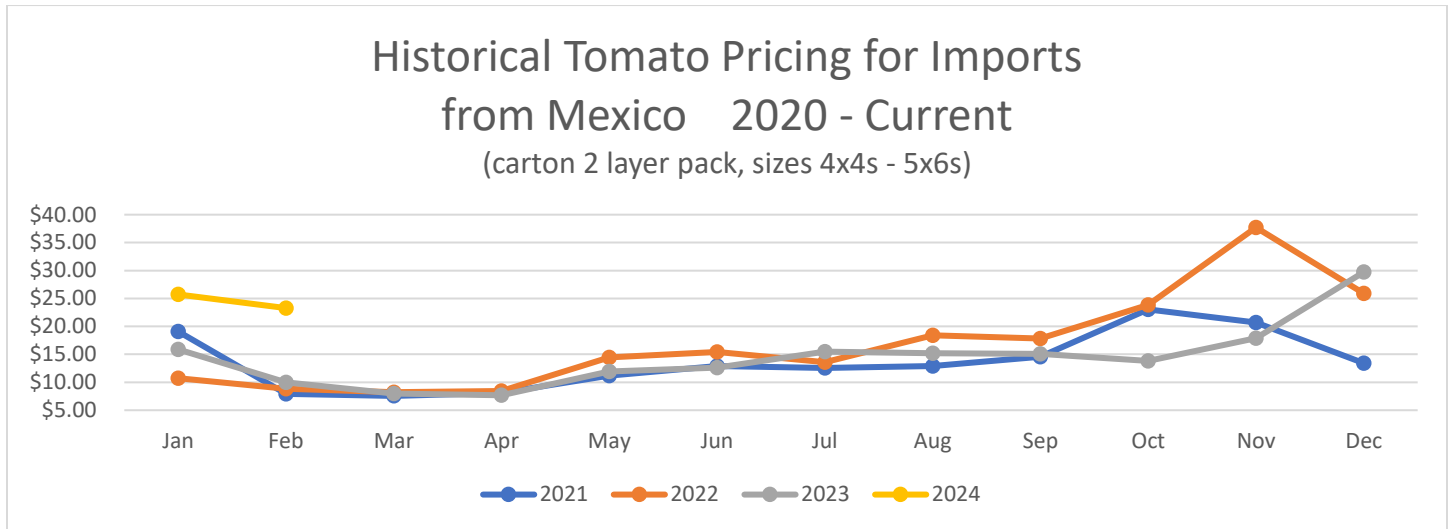


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	3-Feb-24	10-Feb-24	17-Feb-24	24-Feb-24
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	3,918,997	9,760,974	15,509,061	12,134,296
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	63,662,105	59,485,625	55,389,983	43,238,331
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	86,568	79,538	59,472	28,933
	MEXICO	41,028,439	44,914,647	42,113,964	43,749,437
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	193,681	194,826	176,758	199,264
	MEXICO	28,803,127	25,264,883	24,909,937	24,456,585
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,810,421	2,046,856	1,908,970	1,276,311
	MEXICO	32,966,993	36,511,062	35,995,359	32,492,940



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