



# 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 March 3-9, 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.

\$95 billion was added to freight costs in 2023 due to bottlenecks across the country. TruckersNews.com identified the Top Ten Bottlenecks across the U.S., with New Jersey into New York listed as the most difficult drive, and the George Washington Bridge listed as the number one bottleneck in the country. Chicago placed 2 and 3, followed by Houston ranked 4 and 8, Atlanta taking three spots 5, 6 and 9, Los Angeles listed 7, and Nashville taking the 10 spot. This list measures the level of truck-involved congestion at over 325 locations across the continental U.S.

Asparagus growing conditions are optimal through the next 10 days with 70–80-degree highs, and lows between 40-50 degrees. The next two weeks are peak production time for the region. Supplies are heavy and demand very light. Growers are disking fields in an attempt clear cooler space of older product and balance harvest with sales. Movement from Mexico crossings through Calexico, California and San Luis, Arizona and Arizona is expected to remain about the same. Trading is very slow. Prices are lower. 28-pound cartons/crates bunched large are mostly 11.75-12.75, standard are mostly 10.75; 11 pound cartons/crates bunched jumbo are mostly 8.75, large are mostly 8.75, standard are mostly 8.75; Organic large are mostly 12.75, standard are mostly 12.75-14.75.

Avocado growers incurred higher production costs, increasing sale prices to the U.S. Harvesting is in full swing with overall heavy supplies, however, 70s and 80s are in short supply. Movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to decrease slightly. Trading is moderate. Prices of conventional 32s-60s are lower, 84s are slightly higher due to short supplies, other prices are generally unchanged. Cartons 2 layers Hass 32s are mostly 42.25-44.25, 36s are mostly 39.25-40.25, 40s are mostly 37.25-39.25, 48s are mostly 36.25-38.25, 60s are mostly 29.25-31.25, 70s are mostly 22.25-23.25, 84s are mostly 17.25- 19.25. Organic 48s are mostly 48.25-50.25, 60s are mostly 39.25-41.25, 70s are mostly 29.25-30.25.

Bell Pepper movement from Mexico Crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase slightly. Trading is moderate. Prices are slightly higher. 1 1/9 bushel cartons Green jumbo and extra large are mostly 18.95-20.95, large are 16.95-18.95, medium are mostly 12.95-14.95; Place Pack extra large are mostly 20.95, large are mostly 18.95, irregular size fair quality are mostly 10.95-12.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to slightly increase. Trading is fairly slow. Prices of fair quality are lower, others are generally unchanged. Price includes palletizing and precooling. 1 1/9 bushel cartons Green jumbo are mostly 20.35, extra-large are mostly 18.35, large are mostly 16.35, irregular sized fair quality are mostly 12.35. Quality is generally good.

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
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For assistance please contact: [jeff.main@usda.gov](mailto:jeff.main@usda.gov)

[Custom Average Tool \(CAT\) Graphing tool and aggregated data source.](#)

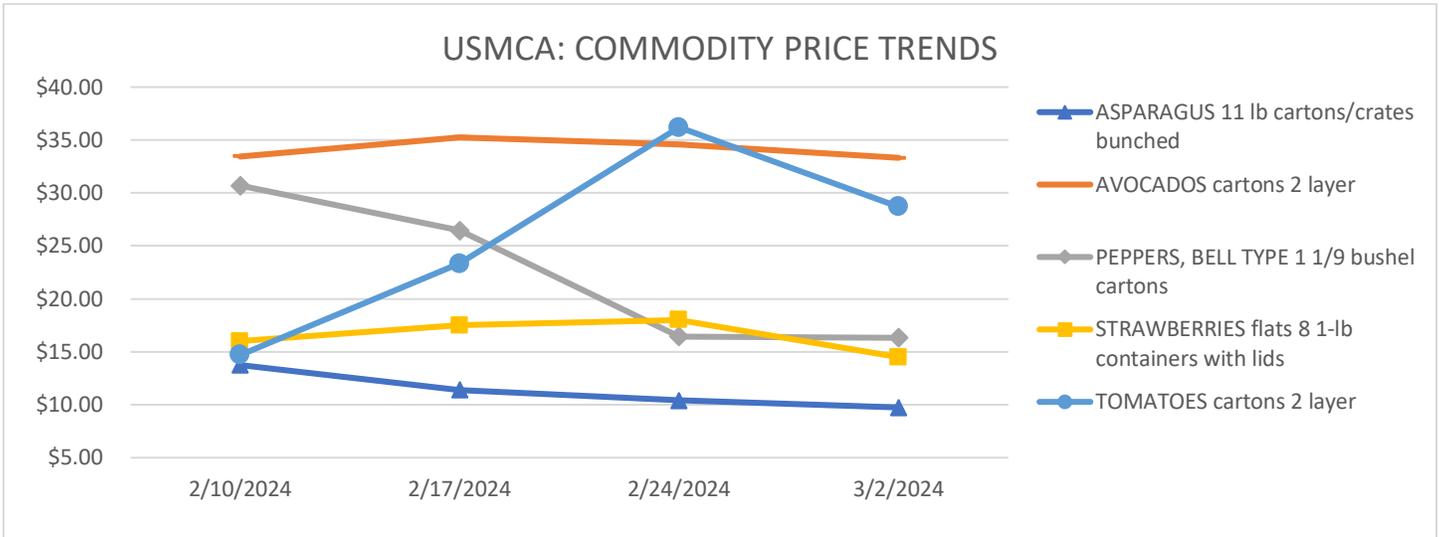
Strawberry supplies from Central Florida are heavy with light demand and much lower prices. The equivalent of tens of thousands of flats were sent to processors or discarded, but the supply of fresh berries is still overwhelming the market. Movement is expected to decrease in about two weeks. Trading is slow. Prices are much lower. Price includes palletizing and precooling. Flats 8 1-lb containers with lids large are mostly 8.00-9.00. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico crossings though Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate, late slow. Prices are much lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids medium are mostly 10.00; Organic medium mostly 18.00-20.00. Quality and condition are variable. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa California is expected about the same. Supplies are light. Trading early was active, late slow. Prices are lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large mostly 10.00-12.00; Organic large-extra large are mostly 18.00-22.00. Quality and condition are variable. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Weather conditions in California improved, however, field conditions are still wet and muddy. Production increased between March 1-4, however available supplies are still light and reserved for prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Growers expect production to increase within the next two weeks, to meet retail demand during the Easter season. Prices in California have decreased due to pressure of lower prices from competing areas. Movement from Oxnard District California is expected about the same. Supplies are very light. Trading early was active, late slow. Prices are much lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 10.00-12.00; Organic large-extra large are mostly 18.00-20.00. Quality and condition are variable. Movement from Santa Maria, California is expected to increase seasonally. Supplies are light. Trading early was active, late slow. Prices are much lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 10.00-12.00; Organic large-extra large are mostly 18.00-20.00. Quality and condition are variable.

Tomato demand from Mexico crossings through Texas fell due to heavier supplies. Movement is expected about the same. Trading early was active, late fairly slow. Prices are much lower. Vine Ripes cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s are mostly 18.95-20.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 22.95-24.95; 25 pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 20.95-22.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are mostly 22.95-24.95. Quality is generally good. Movement in Central and South Florida is expected to decrease. Trading for 5x6 size is moderate, others are fairly active. Prices for 6x7 size is higher, others are generally unchanged. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85 percent U.S. One or better 5x6 and 6x6 sizes are 34.95-35.00.00, 6x7 size is 27.95-28.00. Quality generally good. Movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease slightly. Trading early was moderate, late is fairly slow. Prices are much lower. Cartons 2-layer Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5s are mostly 16.95-18.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 18.95-20.95. Quality generally good.

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

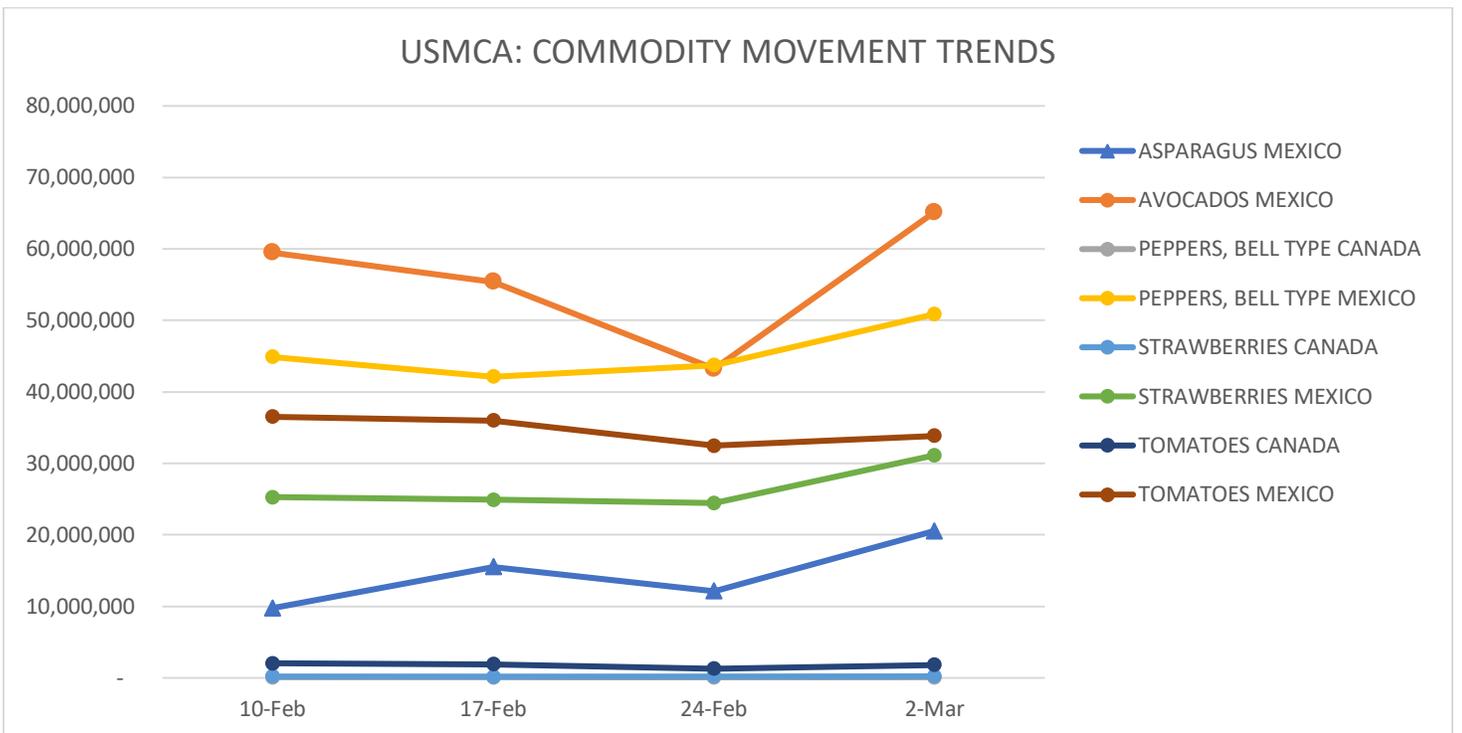
**Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars**

Commodity	Package	2/10/2024	2/17/2024	2/24/2024	3/2/2024
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 13.75	\$ 11.42	\$ 10.42	\$ 9.75
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 33.46	\$ 35.25	\$ 34.61	\$ 33.32
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 30.70	\$ 26.45	\$ 16.45	\$ 16.33
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.00	\$ 14.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 14.70	\$ 23.33	\$ 36.20	\$ 28.70

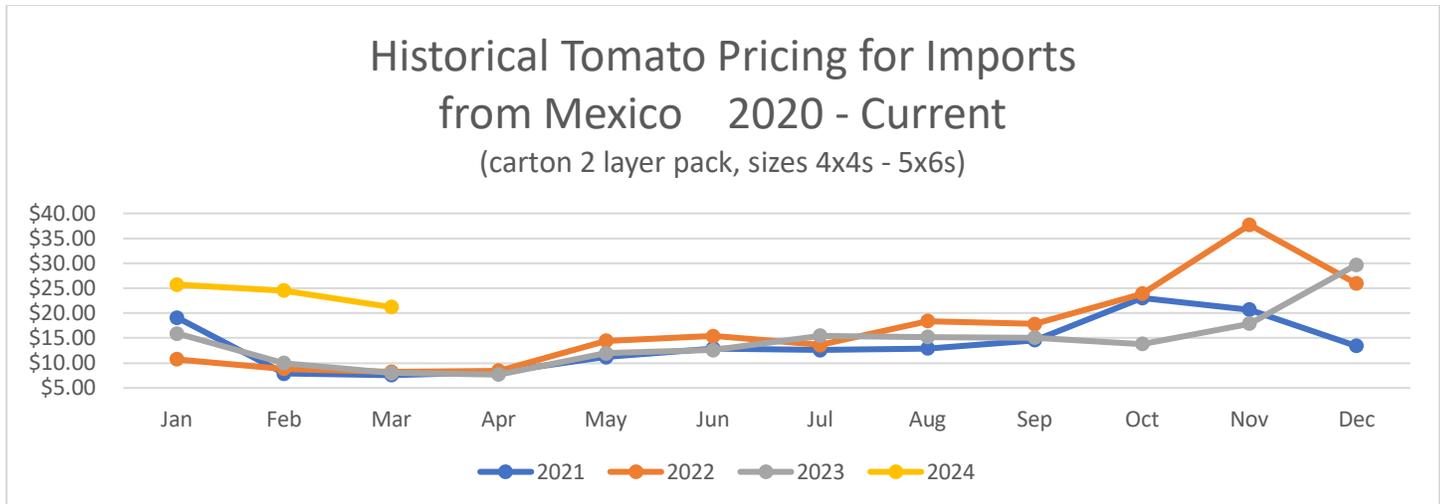


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	10-Feb-24	17-Feb-24	24-Feb-24	2-Mar-24
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	9,760,974	15,509,061	12,134,296	20,555,663
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	59,485,625	55,389,983	43,238,331	65,155,075
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	79,538	59,472	28,933	93,264
	MEXICO	44,914,647	42,113,964	43,749,437	50,871,544
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	194,826	176,758	199,264	214,107
	MEXICO	25,264,883	24,909,937	24,456,585	31,142,269
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,046,856	1,908,970	1,276,311	1,799,186
	MEXICO	36,511,062	35,995,359	32,492,940	33,871,658



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