



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

Agricultural Marketing Service

Issued Weekly

Friday, March 22, 2024

Update for Week March 17-23, 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.

Zero-emission electric battery-operated trucks operate in California. With a focus on carbon footprint reduction and eliminated diesel fuel costs, Truckersnews.com reports, a California trucking company added 12 zero-emission electric Class 8 tractors trucks to its fleet. The battery-operated trucks will travel from Riverside County, California with deliveries throughout southern California. The trucks can travel roughly 230 miles on a single charge. The trucks are quiet, smooth, and agile, making them ideal for local pickup and deliveries, as well as reducing carbon footprints and supporting sustainability efforts.

Asparagus supplies will begin to decrease as the Caborca, Mexico growing region winds down. Prices have risen for spot market sales as most contract business is well established. Shippers are better able to clear cooler floors with heavy retail advertisements featuring affordable asparagus. Movement from Mexico crossings through Calexico, California, and Arizona is expected to remain about the same. Trading early was very slow, late moderate. Prices are higher. 28-pound cartons/crates bunched large are mostly 28.75-29.75, standard are mostly 28.75-29.75; 11-pound cartons/crates bunched jumbo are 12.75-14.75, large are mostly 14.75, standard are mostly 14.75; organic large are 12.75-16.75, standard are 12.75-16.75. Extra services are included.

Avocado supplies continue to peak on larger size fruit, while 60s,70s and 84s are still in very short supply. Demand exceeds supply for smaller sizes which are used to fill Easter retail adds. Prices remain strong going into the last week of the Easter pull. Avocados are popular with plenty of retail sales opportunities. Movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading 60, 70s and 84s are very active, others are moderate. Prices are higher. Cartons 2 layers Hass 32s are mostly 45.25-47.25, 36s are mostly 44.25-46.25, 40s are mostly 44.25-46.25, 48s are mostly 45.25-46.25, 60s are mostly 42.25, 70s are mostly 30.25-32.25, 84s are mostly 25.25-27.25; organic 48s are mostly 50.25-52.25, 60s are mostly 40.25-42.25, 70s are mostly 30.25-32.25. Extra services are included.

Green Bell Pepper movement from Mexico crossing though Nogales, Arizona is expected to remain about the same. Trading is moderate. Prices medium slightly lower, others generally unchanged. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large are mostly 26.95-28.95, large are mostly 24.95, medium are mostly 14.95-16.95; Place Pack extra-large are mostly 28.95, large are mostly 26.95; irregular size fair quality are mostly 14.95-16.95. Quality is variable. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to remain about the same. Trading is fairly slow. Prices are lower. Prices include

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palletizing and precooling. 1 1/9 bushel cartons jumbo are mostly 18.35, extra-large are mostly 18.35, large are mostly 14.35, irregular sized fair quality are mostly 12.35. Quality is generally good.

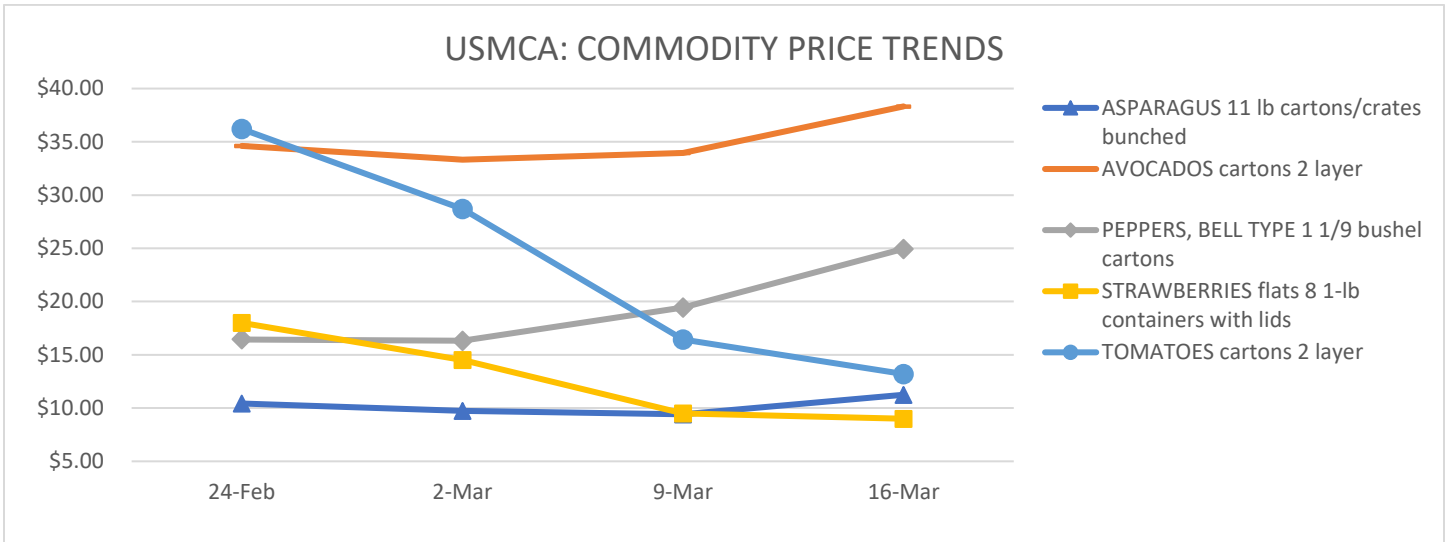
Strawberry movement from Central Florida is expected to decrease slightly as the season begins to wind down and is expected to be complete in early April. Trading was slow. Prices are much higher as most sales were based on previous commitments and/or prior bookings. Prices include palletizing and precooling. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids medium-large are mostly 8.00-10.00. Quality generally good. Strawberry crossings from Mexico is steady as domestic shipments from California increased significantly in the last seven days. Weather conditions improved in Oxnard, Santa Maria, and southern California, facilitating increased harvest. With increased volume circulating in the open market, prices are lower, especially on fruit from Baja California due to quality issues. Current demand is fairly light, however, shippers/growers are anticipating an increased demand prior to Easter. California growers expect larger, steady yields in the next two weeks. Movement from Oxnard is expected to increase slightly. Trading is moderate. Prices are lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 8.00-10.00; organic large-extra large are mostly 10.00-15.00. Quality is generally good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was slow, late moderate. Prices are lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids medium are mostly 8.00. Quality is variable. Many sales shipped open with prices to be established later. Movement from Mexico crossing through Otay Mesa, California is expected about the same. Trading early was slow, late moderate. Prices are generally unchanged. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 8.00-10.00; organic large-extra large (wide range in prices) are 8.00-14.00. Quality is variable. Some sales booked open with prices to be established later. Movement from Santa Maria, California is expected to increase seasonally. Trading is moderate. Prices are higher. flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 10.00-12.00; organic large-extra large (wide range in prices) are mostly 12.00-16.00. Quality is generally good. Most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Eastern North Carolina production is expected to begin in the Coastal Plains region by the week ending March 22. Producers in the Piedmont region estimate movement to begin the week ending April 19. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week March 24.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossing through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was slow, late moderate. Prices 2 layer 4x4-4x5s and loose 5x5-5x6 sizes are higher, others are slightly higher. Vine Ripes cartons 2 layer 4x4-4x5s are mostly 12.95-13.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 12.95-14.95; 25 pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 13.95-14.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are mostly 13.95-15.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading is moderate. Prices are higher. Cartons 25-pound cartons loose Vine Ripes 4x4-5x6 sizes are mostly 15.95-16.95; 2-layer Vine Ripes 4x4-5x6s are mostly 14.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to decrease. Trading is fairly slow. Prices are Lower. Extra services are included. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85 percent U.S. One or better 5x6 size are 16.95- 17.00, 6x6 size are 20.95-21.00, 6x7 sizes are 20.95-21.00. Quality is generally good.

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

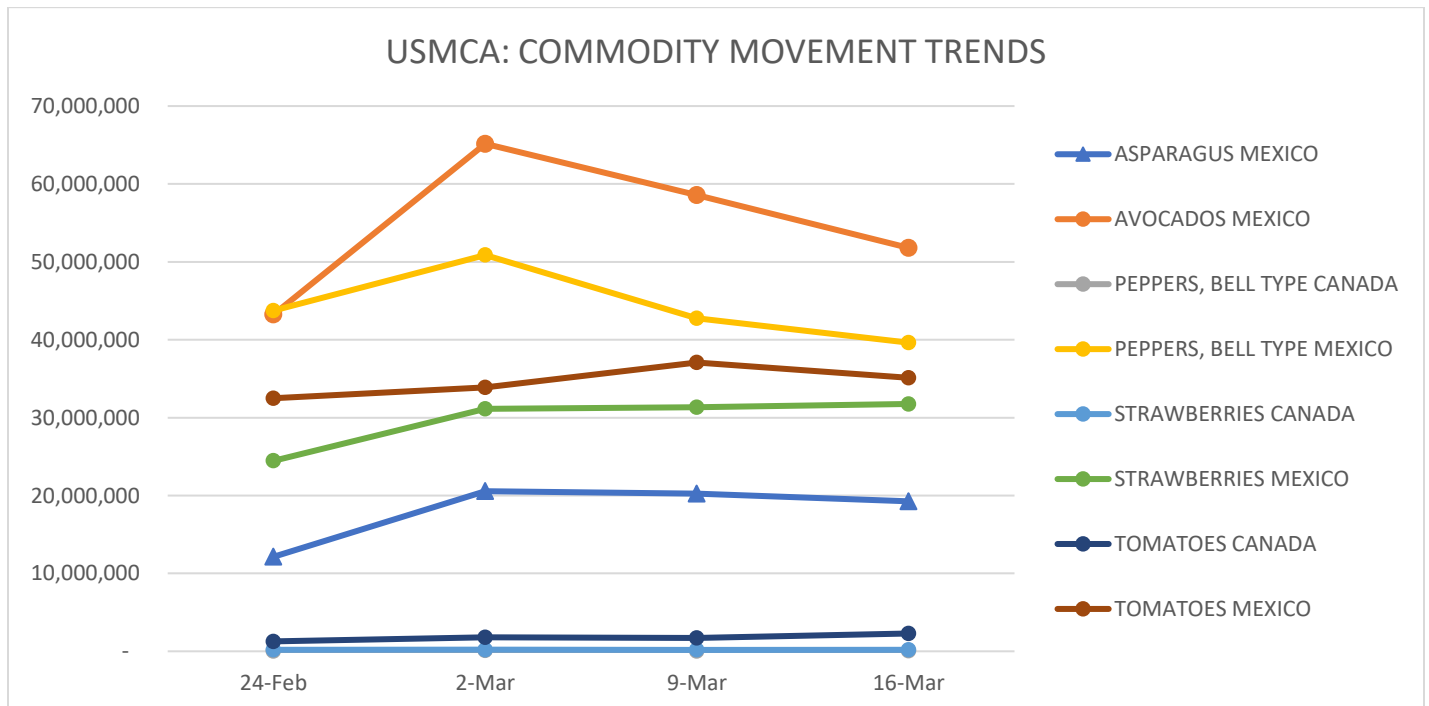
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	24-Feb-24	2-Mar-24	9-Mar-24	16-Mar-24
ASPARAGUS	11 lb cartons/crates bunched	\$ 10.42	\$ 9.75	\$ 9.42	\$ 11.25
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 34.61	\$ 33.32	\$ 33.96	\$ 38.32
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.45	\$ 16.33	\$ 19.45	\$ 24.95
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 18.00	\$ 14.50	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 36.20	\$ 28.70	\$ 16.45	\$ 13.20

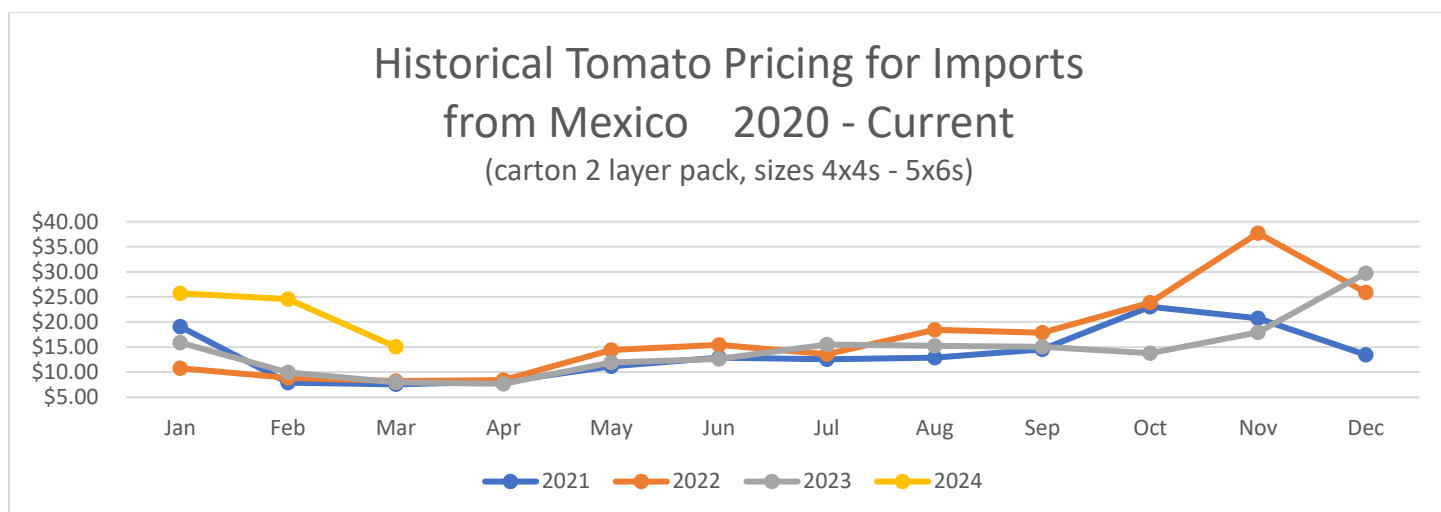


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	24-Feb-24	2-Mar-24	9-Mar-24	16-Mar-24
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	12,134,296	20,555,663	20,237,647	19,237,533
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	43,238,331	65,155,075	58,582,974	51,796,620
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	28,933	93,264	45,335	78,586
	MEXICO	43,749,437	50,871,544	42,763,783	39,628,433
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	199,264	214,107	178,735	185,090
	MEXICO	24,456,585	31,142,269	31,332,049	31,756,712
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,276,311	1,799,186	1,708,010	2,285,358
	MEXICO	32,492,940	33,871,658	37,075,040	35,108,965



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