



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 24-30, 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.

Collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge: The collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland, after a vessel collision in the early morning of March 26, is expected to severely impact the Port of Baltimore. The bridge collapse shut down the main channel into the Chesapeake Bay, leading into the Port of Baltimore, a major route in the agricultural supply chain. Agri-Pulse reporter Philip Brasher reports the Port of Baltimore is the largest importing port for large farming equipment and the sixth largest port of fertilizer in the US, receiving 351,000 metric tons in 2023. The impact is expected to severely reduce the fertilizer supplies needed to refill spring supplies and fill summer demand. The ports of Virginia, New York/New Jersey and Philadelphia are expected to assist rerouted cargo traffic, and help minimize the impact, until the Port of Baltimore reopens, which is currently too early to determine.

Asparagus demand from Mexico crossings through Calexico, California and Arizona continues to improve as volume is expected to decrease as growers and shippers shut down operations for Easter holy week. Some shipments sold at previously committed prices as the Easter retail pull comes to an end. Most open spot market sales are between shippers to fill contracts and commitments. Prices increased due to less volume. The ten-day weather forecast is predicting perfect growing conditions with lows in the 47–58-degree range and highs 67-83-degrees. Trading for jumbo is fairly light, others are moderate. Prices for jumbo is generally unchanged, others are higher. 28-pound cartons/crates bunched large are mostly 41.75-42.75, standard are mostly 41.75-42.75; 11 pound cartons/crates bunched jumbo are 14.75-16.75, large are mostly 18.75-20.75, standard are mostly 18.75-20.75; organic large are mostly 20.75-24.75, standard are mostly 20.75-24.75. Extra services are included.

Avocado movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to decrease as shippers close for Easter holy Week, March 27-31, 2024. Trading for 60s, 70s, and 84s is very active, others fairly active. Prices are higher. Cartons 2 layers Hass 32s are mostly 47.25-48.25, 36s are mostly 46.25-48.25, 40s are mostly 45.25-48.25, 48s are mostly 45.25-46.25, 60s are mostly 47.25-50.25, 70s are mostly 36.25-39.25, 84s are mostly 28.25-30.25; organic 48s are mostly 50.25-52.25, 60s are mostly 48.25-50.25, 70s are mostly 38.25-40.25. Extra services are included. Harvest of avocados from South District California began. Marketable supplies are expected to become available the week of April 7.

Green bell peppers harvest in Mexico, crossing through Nogales, is expected to stop during Easter holy week. Operations are expected to resume Monday, April 1. Trading is moderate. Prices are lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large are mostly 22.95-24.95, large are mostly 20.95-22.95, medium are mostly 14.95; Place Pack extra-large are 26.95-28.95, large are mostly 24.95; irregular size fair quality are mostly 12.95-14.95. Quality and condition are variable. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to increase slightly. Trading is moderate. Prices of large are generally unchanged, others are slightly lower. Price includes palletizing and precooling. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large are mostly 16.35, large are mostly 14.35, irregular sized fair quality are mostly 10.35-12.35. Quality is generally good.

For more information on:

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For assistance please contact: jeff.main@usda.gov

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

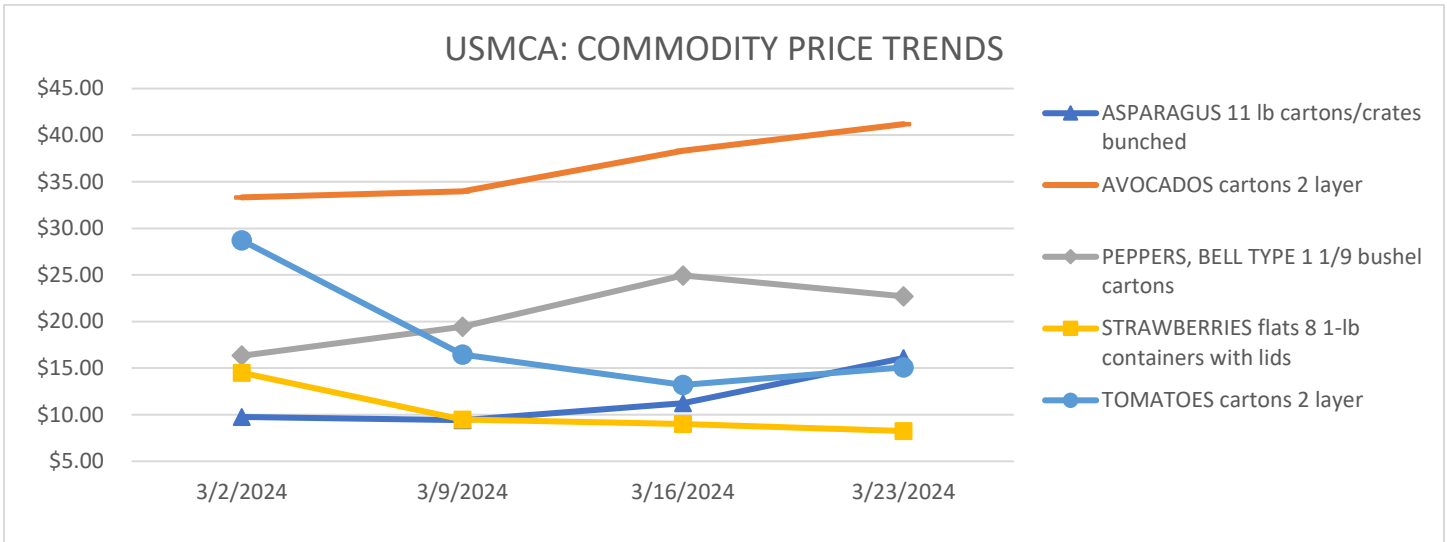
Strawberry crossings from Mexico along with domestic shipments from California have stabilized. Weather conditions have improved throughout southern California, facilitating production. However, rain is expected to hit the growing areas March 29-31. With steady volumes circulating in the market, California sale prices are steady, with slightly lower prices on Mexico product due to varied quality and conditions. Strawberry demand is steady going into Easter weekend. Movement in Oxnard District California is expected about the same. Trading is 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 are mostly 14.00-16.00. Quality is generally good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement in Santa Maria California is expected to increase. Trading early was moderate, late is slow. Prices are slightly lower. flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 9.00-12.00; organic large-extra large are mostly 14.00-16.00. Quality is generally good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement from Salinas-Watsonville California is expected to increase seasonally. Current supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market, however quality is generally good. The first price report is expected to be issued the week of March 31. Movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa California is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate, late is slow. Prices are generally unchanged. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 7.00-8.00; organic large-extra large (wide range in prices) are anywhere from 8.00-14.00. Quality is variable. Some sales booked open with prices to be established later. Movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate, late is slow. Prices are generally unchanged. 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. Central Florida strawberry supplies continued to decrease, leaving to very little available for new sales. Prices are much higher due to lack of product. About half of the strawberry shippers are finished for the season, with only previous commitments and contract to fill. Most growers are expected to finish picking by Easter. Trading is slow at much higher prices. Prices includes palletizing and precooling. Flats 8 1-lb. containers with lids medium-large mostly 10.00-12.00. Quality generally good. Eastern North Carolina production is expected in the Coastal Plains region by the week ending March 28. Growers in the Piedmont region estimate movement to begin the week of April 7.

Tomato demand from Mexico crossing through Texas continues to be a hot market as prices increased from last week. Movement is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate, late is fairly active. Prices are much higher. Vine Ripes cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s are mostly 17.95-18.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 16.95-18.95; 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 18.95-20.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are mostly 18.95-19.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to increase. Trading is active at lower prices. Extra services are included. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85 percent U.S. One or better 5x6 size are 14.95, 6x6 size are 20.95, 6x7 size are 20.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico Crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease slightly. Trading early was moderate, late is fairly active. Prices are higher. Cartons 25-pound cartons loose Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 17.95-18.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are 16.95-18.95; 2-layer Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5s are mostly 16.95-18.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 16.95-17.95. Quality is generally good.

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

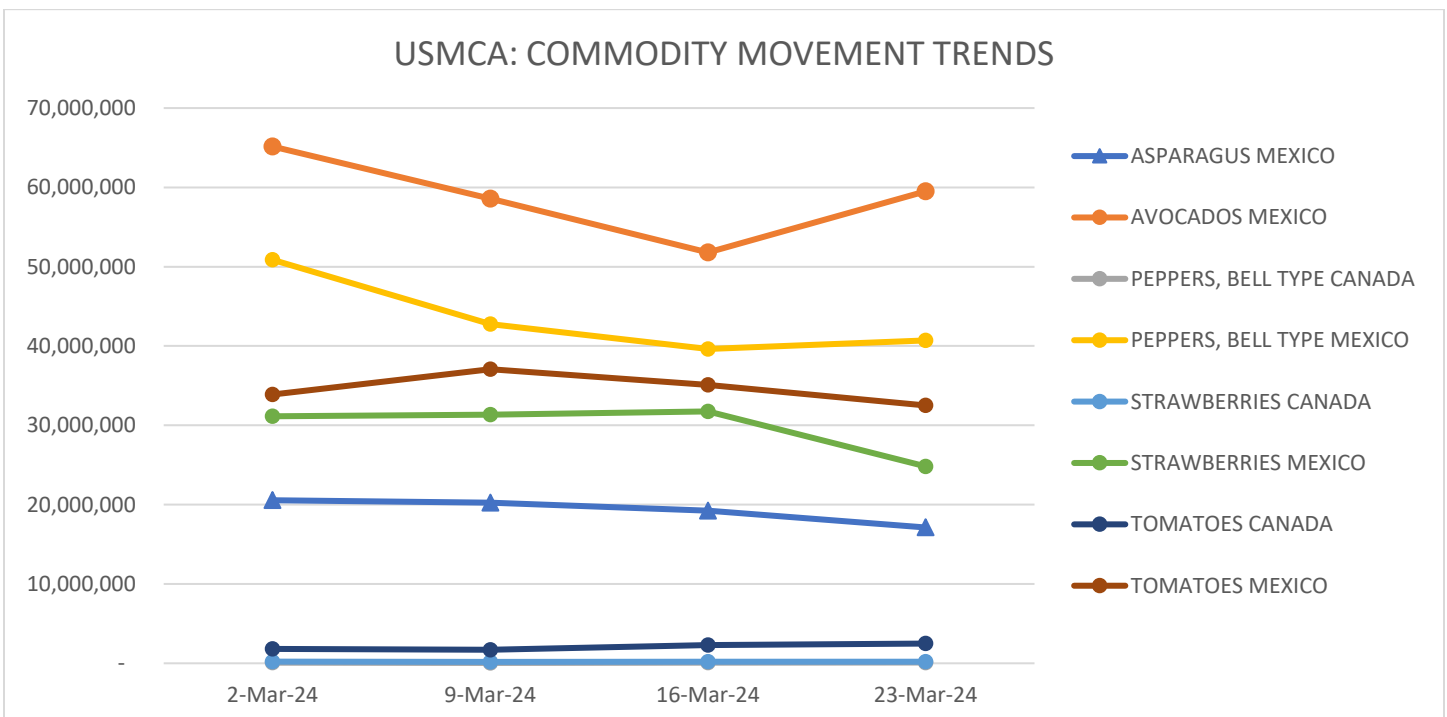
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	3/2/2024	3/9/2024	3/16/2024	3/23/2024
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 9.75	\$ 9.42	\$ 11.25	\$ 16.08
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 33.32	\$ 33.96	\$ 38.32	\$ 41.18
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 16.33	\$ 19.45	\$ 24.95	\$ 22.70
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 14.50	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.00	\$ 8.25
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 28.70	\$ 16.45	\$ 13.20	\$ 15.08

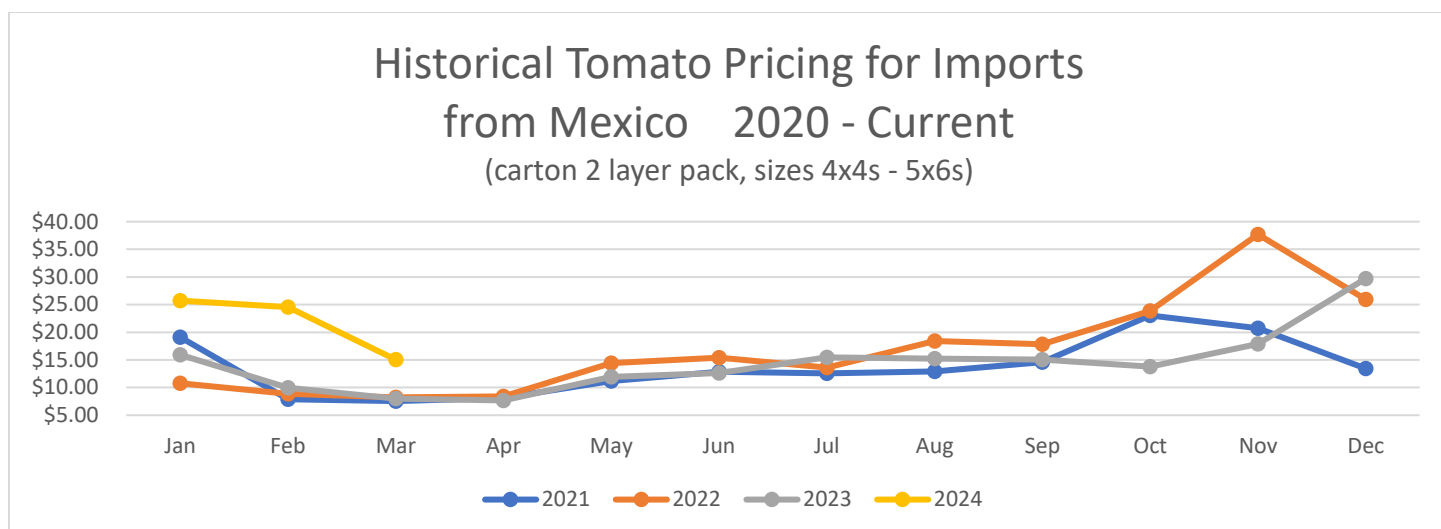


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	2-Mar-24	9-Mar-24	16-Mar-24	23-Mar-24
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	20,555,663	20,237,647	19,237,533	17,125,960
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	65,155,075	58,582,974	51,796,620	59,509,454
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	93,264	45,335	78,586	98,688
	MEXICO	50,871,544	42,763,783	39,628,433	40,699,704
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	214,107	178,735	185,090	201,246
	MEXICO	31,142,269	31,332,049	31,756,712	24,827,230
TOMATOES	CANADA	1,799,186	1,708,010	2,285,358	2,488,046
	MEXICO	33,871,658	37,075,040	35,108,965	32,507,842



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