



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 April 7-13, 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.

Over the last five years, U.S. vegetable production declined over 3% as Mexico exports increased by almost 40%.

According to Cindy van Rijswijk, Rabobank Global Strategist for the fruit, vegetables, and floriculture sectors, and for farm inputs, in the article *Turbulent Times for the Global Vegetable Sector* (published by Rabobank) April 10, 2024, over the last five years, the vegetable sector faced Covid-19, extreme weather events, skyrocketing costs for growers, challenging logistics, and the U.S. vegetable production declining over 3% from 2017-2022. In that same time frame, Mexico's total fresh vegetable exports increased by almost 40%, delivering commodities such as asparagus, cucumbers, tomatoes, and bell peppers to the world's largest importer for fresh vegetables, the neighboring United States.

Asparagus demand is light, and prices are lower this week. Most shippers transferred back to packing only the 11-pound cartons/crates bunched. Some growers let the fields fern out in the Caborca growing region as the weather is getting warmer and production transitions to the constitution growing region, around April 22. Movement from Mexico crossings through Calexico, California and Arizona is expected to decrease. Trading is fairly slow. Prices are lower. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched jumbo are mostly 20.75- 22.75, large are mostly 18.75, standard are mostly 18.75; organic large are 21.75-22.75, standard are 21.75-22.75. Extra services are included. Movement of very light container volume from Peru arriving through South Florida ports of entry began and is expected to increase along with air shipments over the next two weeks. Current supplies are insufficient to establish a market. Quality and condition are generally good.

Avocado supplies are heavy and expected to remain steady. Fresh arrivals combined, with older fruit is causing a two-tiered price structure. Deals are made to move older fruit and fruit with high dry-matter content. Low demand on fresh arrivals caused prices to weaken. Movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to remain about the same. Trading is fairly slow. Prices are lower. Cartons of 2-layers Hass 32s are mostly 45.25-46.25, 36s are mostly 44.25-45.25, 40s are mostly 44.25-45.25, 48s are mostly 44.25-45.25, 60s are mostly 46.25, 70s are mostly 38.25, 84s are mostly 28.25-30.25; organic 48s are mostly 52.25-54.25, 60s are mostly 49.25-51.25, 70s are mostly 40.25-42.25. Extra services are included. Movement from South District California is expected to increase seasonally. Trading is fairly slow. Cartons of 2-layers Hass 32s are 48.25-50.25, 36s are mostly 48.25-50.25, 40s are mostly 46.25-48.25, 48s are mostly 46.25-48.25, 60s are mostly 48.25-50.25, 70s are mostly 40.25-42.25, 84s are mostly 32.25-34.25; organic 48s are mostly 55.25-57.25. Extra services are included.

For more information on:

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

Green bell pepper movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales is expected to increase slightly. Trading is fairly slow. Prices are much lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large are mostly 16.95-18.95, large are mostly 12.95-14.95, medium are mostly 8.95-9.95, irregular size fair quality are mostly 6.95- 8.95. Quality and condition are variable. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to slightly increase. Trading is active. Prices are generally unchanged. Prices include 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 12.35. Quality is generally good.

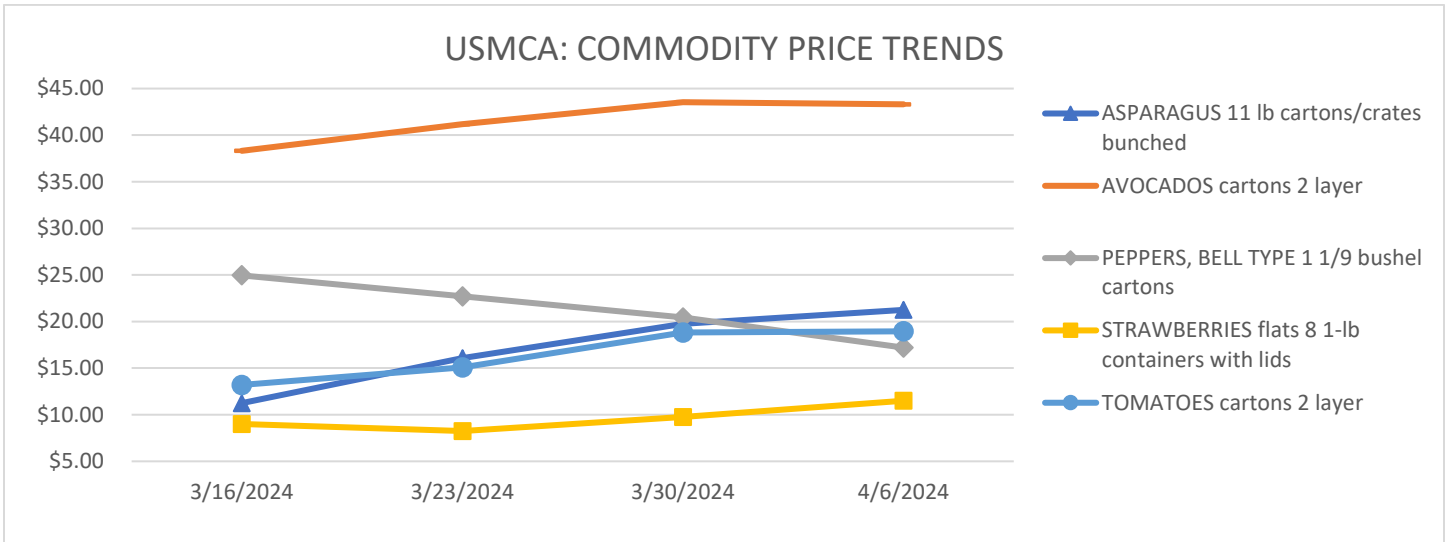
Strawberry crossings from Mexico are steady as domestic shipments from California continue to increase slightly. Weather conditions improved throughout California, increasing harvest especially in the Salinas-Watsonville growing area. With a healthy supply circulating, prices are steady in California and slightly lower from Mexico, due to quality issues. Movement from Oxnard, California is expected about the same. Trading is active. Prices are slightly higher. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 14.00; organic large-extra large are mostly 20.00. Quality is generally good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement from Santa Maria, California is expected to remain about the same. Trading is active. Prices are slightly higher. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 14.00; organic large-extra large are mostly 20.00. Quality is generally good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement from Salinas-Watsonville, California is expected to increase. Trading is active. Prices of flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are 14.00-16.00; organic large-extra large are mostly 20.00-22.00. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico crossings through Otay Mesa, 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 12.00; organic large-extra-large have a wide range in price at 16.00-20.00. Quality is variable. Movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading is moderate. Prices are generally unchanged. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids medium are mostly 10.00-12.00. Quality is variable. Movement from Eastern North Carolina is expected to increase seasonally. Trading is fairly active at slightly lower prices. Prices are slightly lower. Flats 8 1-pint containers with lids medium-large are mostly 18.50-19.00. Quality is generally good.

Tomato movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected about the same. Trading early was fairly active, late is moderate. Prices are slightly lower. Vine Ripes cartons 2-layer 4x4-5x6s are mostly 17.95-18.95; 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 19.95-21.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are mostly 18.95-19.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to increase slightly. Trading is moderate. Prices 5x5 size are slightly lower, 5x5-5x6s are slightly higher, others are generally unchanged. Cartons 25-pound cartons loose Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5 and 5x6 sizes are mostly 18.95-20.95, 5x5 size are 18.95; 2-layer Vine Ripes 4x4-5x6s mostly are 18.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to slightly decrease. Trading is active. Prices are generally unchanged. Extra services are included. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85 percent U.S. One or better. 5x6, 6x6 and 6x7 sizes are 24.95-26.95. Quality is generally good.

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

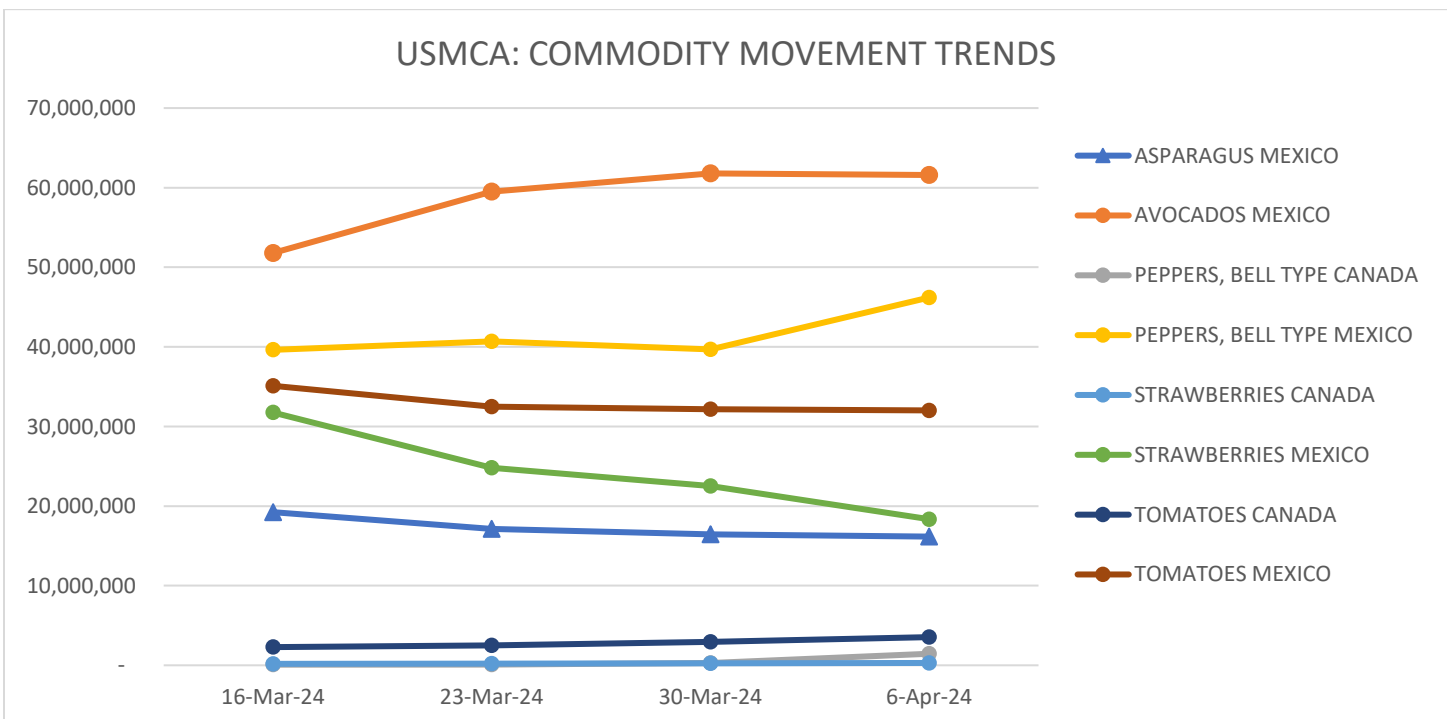
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	3/16/2024	3/23/2024	3/30/2024	4/6/2024
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 11.25	\$ 16.08	\$ 19.75	\$ 21.25
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 38.32	\$ 41.18	\$ 43.54	\$ 43.32
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 24.95	\$ 22.70	\$ 20.45	\$ 17.20
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 9.00	\$ 8.25	\$ 9.75	\$ 11.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 13.20	\$ 15.08	\$ 18.83	\$ 18.95

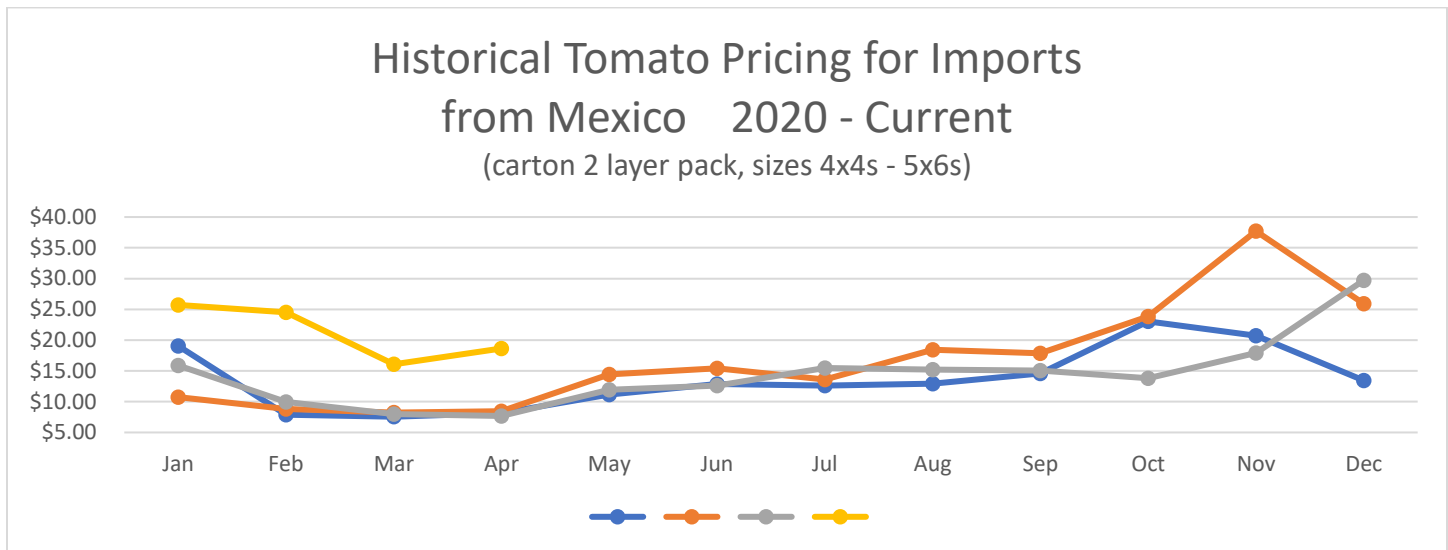


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	16-Mar-24	23-Mar-24	30-Mar-24	6-Apr-24
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	19,237,533	17,125,960	16,464,322	16,169,678
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	51,796,620	59,509,454	61,789,606	61,585,737
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	78,586	98,688	292,385	1,450,449
	MEXICO	39,628,433	40,699,704	39,668,099	46,201,283
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	185,090	201,246	233,330	295,567
	MEXICO	31,756,712	24,827,230	22,526,026	18,356,365
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,285,358	2,488,046	2,954,627	3,539,848
	MEXICO	35,108,965	32,507,842	32,159,800	32,019,897



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