



# 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 14-20, 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.

**Chaparral Bridge, Tijuana Mexico Opening Delayed:** On April 12, 2024, Salvador Rivera (on BorderReport.com) reported that the reopening of the Chaparral Bridge, Tijuana Mexico is delayed an additional three months as a wide crack on the bridge revealed it was in danger of collapsing. The Chaparral Bridge is a key link for drivers heading to and from the San Ysidro, California Port of Entry and is a primary cause for increased traffic congestion and up to three-hour delays. The bridge was expected to be ready in January, however, additional structural damage was found, requiring even more repairs.

**Asparagus** growers continue their transition from Caborca to the Obregon, Constitution regions. Demand is still light as there is adequate supply and not much retail demand this week. The ten-day weather forecast for Obregon is clear to partly cloudy skies with an average high of 87 and a low of 64. The last F.O.B. reports for Calexico, California and San Luis, Arizona crossings are expected this week. The first F.O.B. report for Mexico crossings through Arizona/California/Texas will begin around April 25. Movement from Mexico crossings through Calexico, California and Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading Fairly Slow. Prices Lower. 11-pound cartons/crates bunched jumbo mostly 18.75- 20.75, large mostly 13.75-14.75, standard mostly 11.75-12.75. Extra services included. Movement of very light container volume from Peru imports arriving through Ports of South Florida began and is expected to increase along with air shipments over the next two weeks. Trading is slow. Unofficial prices from trade sources of Peru 11-pound cartons bunched Green large are mostly 22.75-23.75, standard are mostly 20.00- 20.75. Supplies are very light. Quality and condition are generally good. Harvest of Walla Walla district and Lower Yakima Valley, Washington began the week of April 7 and is expected to increase as more growers start to harvest. Current supplies are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Quality is generally good. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued by April 26.

**Avocado** prices are better, and demand is good. However, heavy supplies of older fruit with high oil content continues to pressure the overall market, especially on the smaller sizes 70s and 84s. Shippers are concerned that growers are increasing harvest, lightening the upswing in demand. Movement is expected to remain about the same. Trading is fairly slow. Prices of organic 60-70s is higher due to limited supplies, conventional 32-70s are lower, others are generally unchanged. Cartons of 2-layers Hass 32s are mostly 44.25-46.25, 36s are mostly 43.25-45.25, 40s are mostly 43.25-45.25, 48s are mostly 43.25- 44.25, 60s are mostly 43.25-44.25, 70s are mostly 36.28-38.25, 84s are mostly 28.25-30.25; organic 48s are mostly 52.25-54.25, 60s are mostly 50.25- 52.25, 70s are mostly 43.25-45.25. Extra services are included. Movement from South District, California is expected to increase seasonally. Trading is fairly slow. Prices of conventional 40-48s, 70s and organic are generally unchanged, others are lower. Cartons of 2-layers Hass 32-60s are mostly 46.25-48.25, 70s are mostly 40.25-42.25, 84s are mostly 30.25-32.25; organic 48s are mostly 55.25-57.25. Extra services are included.

**Green Bell Pepper** movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease seasonally. Trading is moderate. Prices lower. 1 1/9-bushel cartons jumbo and extra-large are mostly 12.95-14.95, large are 10.95-12.95, medium are mostly 8.95, irregular size fair quality are mostly 5.95-7.95. Quality and condition are variable. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to slightly increase. Trading is fairly active. Prices are generally

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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. Harvest in Imperial and Coachella Valleys, California is expected to begin the week of April 14. Quality is expected to be generally good. The first F.O.B. report is expected to be issued the week of April 21.

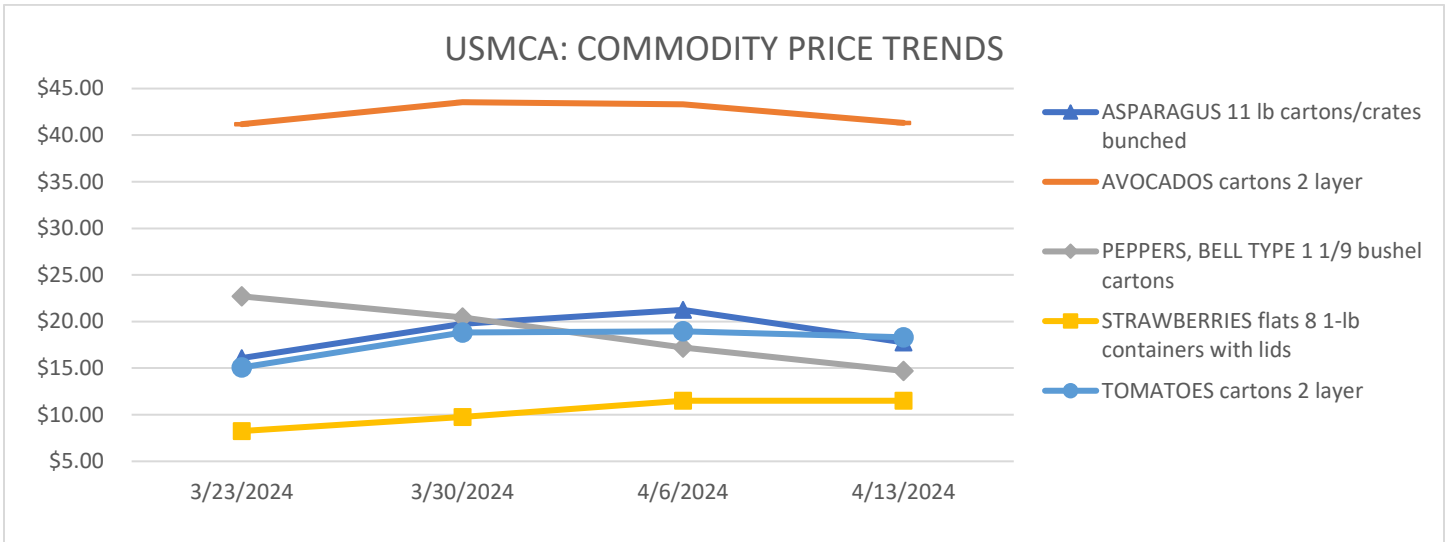
**Strawberry** crossings from Mexico and movement from Central and Southern California are steady. Shipments from Salinas-Watsonville, California increased slightly. On April 12-13, rain poured over the Santa Maria and Salinas-Watsonville growing areas, while Oxnard weather conditions were good. As a result, quality and condition of berries are varied. Movement from Oxnard, California is expected about the same. Trading early was active, late is moderate. Prices are generally unchanged. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are mostly 14.00; organic large-extra large are mostly 20.00-22.00. Quality is generally good. Most present shipments are from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Movement from Santa Maria, California is expected about the same. Trading early was active, late is moderate. 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 is expected to increase seasonally. Trading early was active, late is moderate. Prices are lower. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra large are 12.00-14.00; 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 early was moderate, late is slow. Prices are generally unchanged. Flats 8 1-pound containers with lids large-extra-large are mostly 12.00; organic large extra-large (wide range in price) are 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 about the same. Trading early was fairly active, late is active. Prices are slightly higher. Flats 8 1-pint containers with lids medium-large are mostly 19.00-19.50. Quality is generally good.

**Tomato** markets continue to see strong demand, especially the better-quality fruit. Most shippers are preparing for increased demand to supply Cinco de Mayo retail and food service orders. Movement from Mexico crossings through Texas is expected to be about the same. Trading early was moderate, late is active. Prices of 2-layer are slightly higher, loose 5x5-5x6 sizes are slightly higher, 4x4-4x5 sizes are generally unchanged. Vine Ripes cartons 2-layer 4x4-4x5s are mostly 19.95-20.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 17.95-18.95; 25-pound cartons loose 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 20.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are mostly 19.95-20.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Central and South Florida is expected to slightly decrease. Trading is moderate. Prices of 6x7 size are lower, others are generally unchanged. Extra services are included. 25-pound cartons loose Mature Greens 85 percent U.S. One or better 5x6-6x6 are 24.95-26.95, 6x7 size are 24.95. Quality is generally good. Movement from Mexico crossings through Nogales, Arizona is expected about the same. Trading early was moderate, late is fairly active. Prices of 5x5-5x6s are generally unchanged, others are slightly higher. Cartons 25-pound cartons loose Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5 sizes are mostly 22.95, 5x5-5x6 sizes are mostly 20.95; 2-layer Vine Ripes 4x4-4x5s are mostly 20.95, 5x5-5x6s are mostly 18.95. Quality is generally good.

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

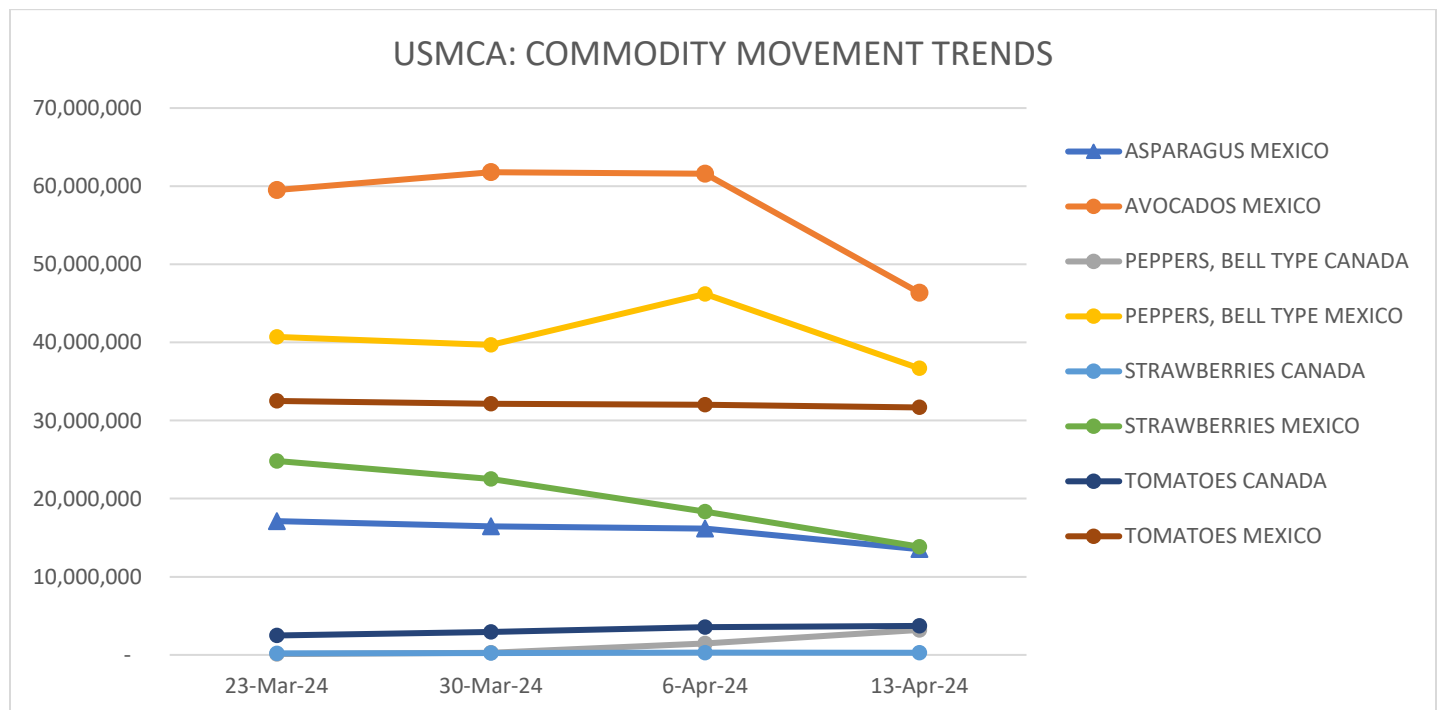
**Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars**

Commodity	Package	3/23/2024	3/30/2024	4/6/2024	4/13/2024
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 16.08	\$ 19.75	\$ 21.25	\$ 17.75
AVOCADOS	cartons 2 layer	\$ 41.18	\$ 43.54	\$ 43.32	\$ 41.32
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 22.70	\$ 20.45	\$ 17.20	\$ 14.70
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 8.25	\$ 9.75	\$ 11.50	\$ 11.50
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 15.08	\$ 18.83	\$ 18.95	\$ 18.33

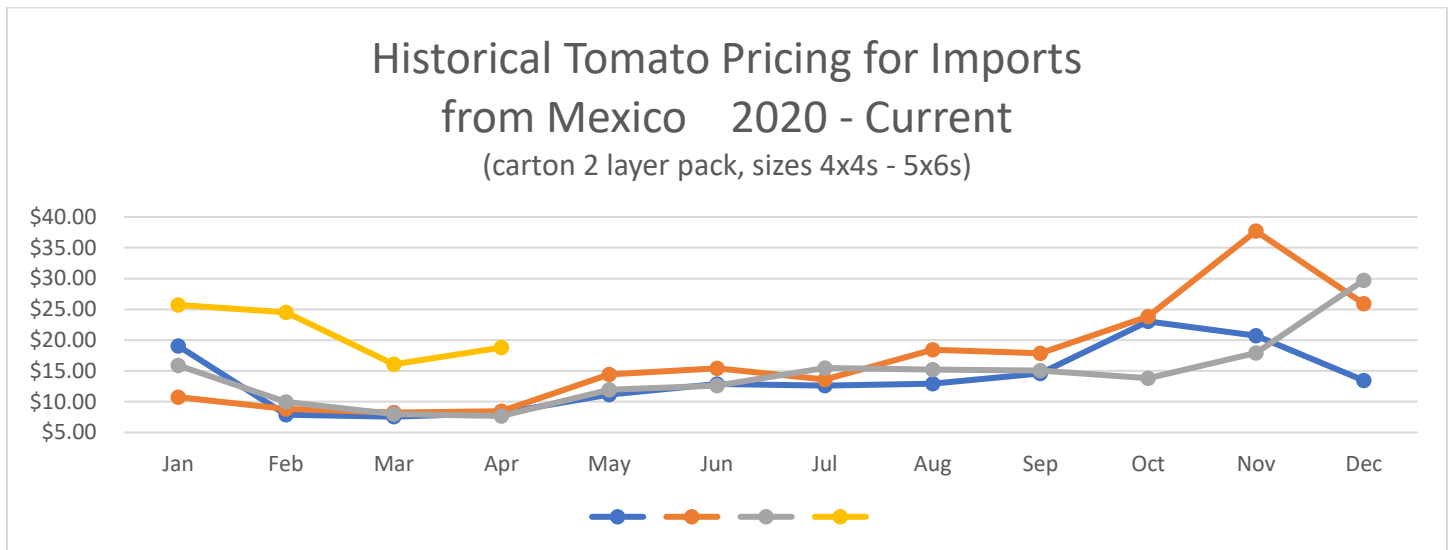


### Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	23-Mar-24	30-Mar-24	6-Apr-24	13-Apr-24
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	17,125,960	16,464,322	16,169,678	13,530,112
AVOCADOS	MEXICO	59,509,454	61,789,606	61,585,737	46,360,033
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	98,688	292,385	1,450,449	3,196,334
	MEXICO	40,699,704	39,668,099	46,201,283	36,677,278
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	201,246	233,330	295,567	265,331
	MEXICO	24,827,230	22,526,026	18,356,365	13,851,449
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,488,046	2,954,627	3,539,848	3,709,339
	MEXICO	32,507,842	32,159,800	32,019,897	31,676,789



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