



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

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Update for Week of April 4 - 10, 2021

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.

Transportation issues seem to be easing somewhat for both domestic grower-shippers and importers, with trucks slightly more available now that Easter is past and diesel fuel prices are trending downwards. Vessel delays into major US ports continue, but reported wait times are much shorter than they have been in the past few months as some of the worst of the congestion has cleared up. Trucks and truck drivers remain in tight supply, impacting prices in some locations. Many in the produce industry are hopeful that the increasing availability of vaccines will help business recover back to more normal levels as in-person dining and other foodservice venues are able to reopen at their regular capacities over the coming months.

Mexican asparagus crossing through Calexico, California and San Luis, Arizona movement is again expected to decrease slightly. Trading was fairly slow on conventional and moderate on organic with prices generally unchanged on both. Most shipments are still being booked at previously committed prices. Price reporting on asparagus out of Peru is expected to begin within the next week or two as more shippers increase imports throughout the month of April. Movement out of the central district of California is expected to increase, with trading fairly active on light supplies. Most shipments are currently being booked at previously committed prices. The Walla Walla district and lower Yakima Valley, Washington asparagus harvest is expected to begin the week of April 11 for local markets, with price reporting expected later in the month as additional growers begin harvest.

Movement of blueberries from Mexico crossing through Arizona, California and Texas is expected to increase. Trading was active at higher prices though quality remains variable. Movement out of central and north Florida is expected to continue to increase as harvesting increases. Trading was active with prices generally unchanged. Quality is generally very good. Movement of blueberries out of the south and central district of California is expected to continue seasonal increase, with current supplies insufficient to establish a market. Price reporting is expected to begin the week of April 25th. Quality is reported as variable.

The movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona is expected to decrease slightly. Demand is moderate to fairly good with prices about steady. Mexico crossings through Texas supplies continue to be light and in too few hands to establish a market, though demand has increased this week. Movement of bell peppers from central and south Florida is expected to slightly increase again this week. Demand was fairly good with prices about steady. Warmer weather in the forecast should help improve yields over the next week. Harvest of green bell peppers from the Coachella Valley, California is expected to increase seasonally, with current supplies in too few hands to establish a market. Quality is generally good and price reporting is expected to begin next week.

For more information on:

- [Shipping Point Report Details](#)
- [Movement Report Details](#)
- [Generating Custom Reports](#)

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

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

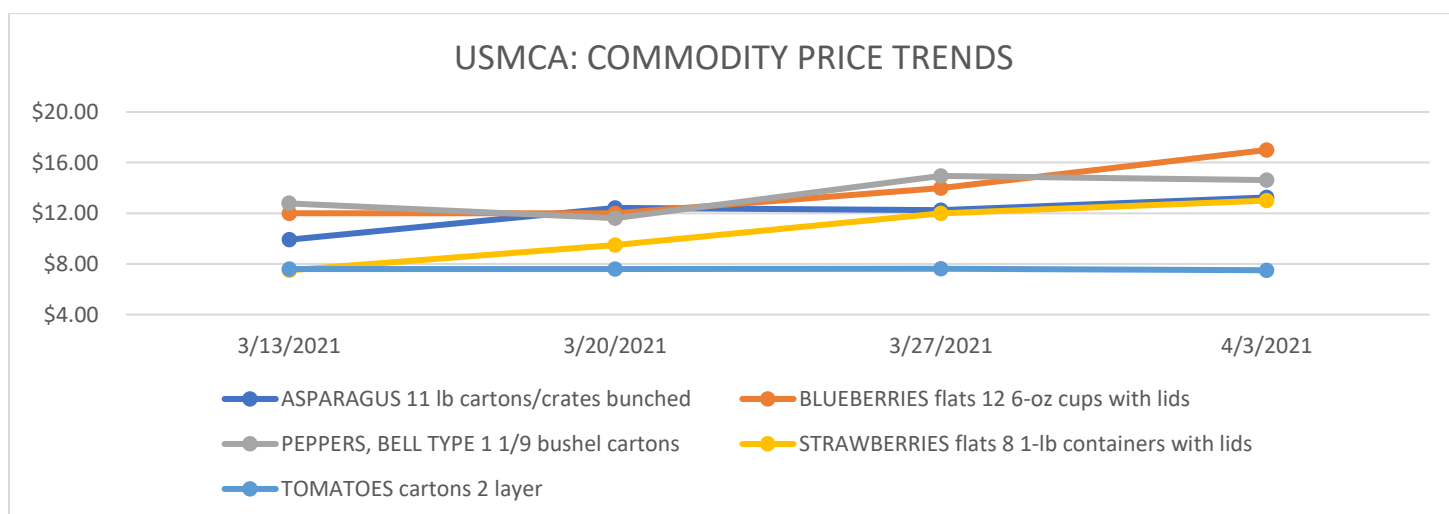
Movement of Mexican strawberries crossing through the Otay Mesa, California is expected to increase. Trading was moderate at slightly higher prices, with most present shipments from prior bookings or previous commitments. Quality and condition remain variable. Strawberries out of both the Oxnard district, California and Santa Maria, California movement is expected to increase. Trading on conventional berries was very active at higher prices, while organic trading was moderate with prices generally unchanged. Movement out of Salinas-Watsonville, California is expected to increase seasonally, with current supplies insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market. Price reporting is expected to begin mid-April. For all California berries, quality is variable with prices at wholesale slightly higher than Mexican strawberries. Supplies of Florida strawberries are insufficient and in too few hands to establish a market as cool weather early in the week brought an end to the last few growers still harvesting. Strawberries out of the southern coastal plains of eastern North Carolina have been delayed due to unfavorable growing conditions. Light movement is expected beginning this week and continuing to increase throughout the month, but current supplies are in too few hands to establish a market.

Movement of Mexico tomatoes crossing through Texas is expected about the same with moderate trading. Demand was moderate to fairly light, with prices slightly lower at or near legal minimums. Mexican tomato crossings through Nogales, Arizona movement is expected to decrease slightly with fairly heavy supplies and light to very light demand. All sizes are priced at legal minimums. Central and south Florida tomato movement is expected to decrease, with harvest volumes increasing in central Florida as south Florida decreases. Demand is fairly light to light through the week with fairly slow trading. Prices were about steady to slightly lower. For all tomato growing areas, continued low prices are seen as a result of light consumer demand combined with heavy available supplies even though quality is generally good.

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

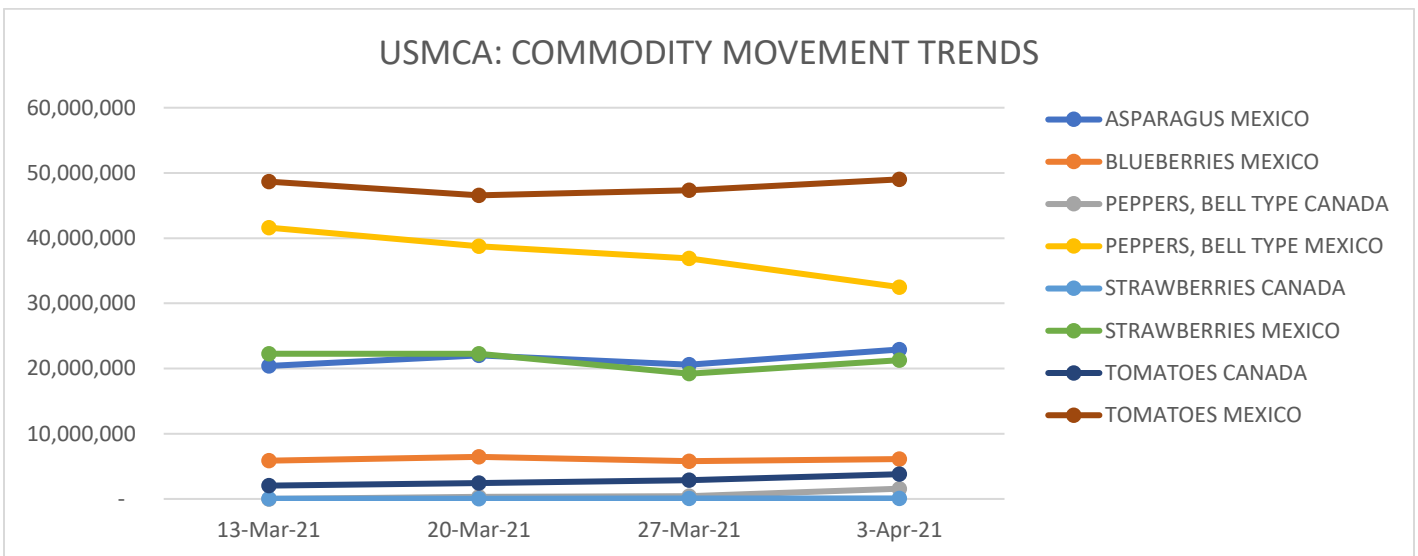
Four Week Price Trend in U.S. Dollars

Commodity	Package	3/13/2021	3/20/2021	3/27/2021	4/3/2021
ASPARAGUS	11 lb. cartons/crates bunched	\$ 9.92	\$ 12.42	\$ 12.25	\$ 13.25
BLUEBERRIES	flats 12 6-oz cups with lids	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 17.00
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	1 1/9-bushel cartons	\$ 12.78	\$ 11.62	\$ 14.95	\$ 14.62
STRAWBERRIES	flats 8 1-lb containers with lids	\$ 7.50	\$ 9.50	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00
TOMATOES	cartons 2 layer	\$ 7.60	\$ 7.60	\$ 7.62	\$ 7.50

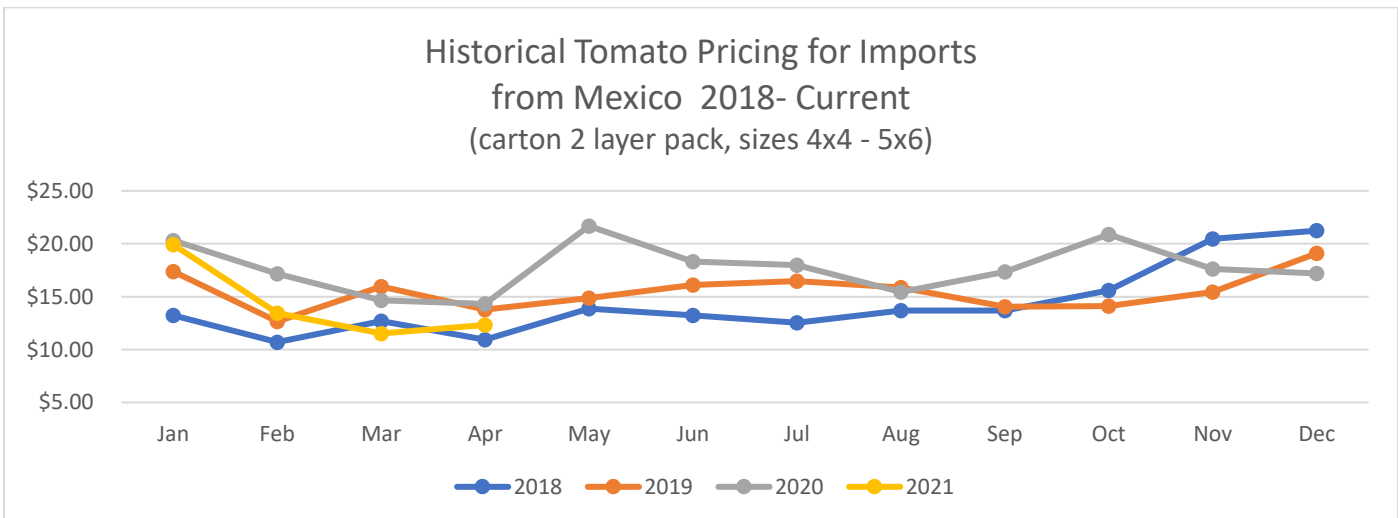


Four Week Movement in Pounds

COMMODITY	ORIGIN	13-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	27-Mar-21	3-Apr-21
ASPARAGUS	MEXICO	20,395,423	22,037,862	20,576,515	22,917,476
BLUEBERRIES	MEXICO	5,878,416	6,453,970	5,792,716	6,118,486
PEPPERS, BELL TYPE	CANADA	3,305	332,412	440,549	1,570,897
	MEXICO	41,607,925	38,750,126	36,861,920	32,488,350
STRAWBERRIES	CANADA	36,415	49,673	70,065	67,553
	MEXICO	22,269,548	22,250,058	19,205,460	21,292,640
TOMATOES	CANADA	2,042,933	2,427,627	2,870,373	3,793,038
	MEXICO	48,653,692	46,558,820	47,361,545	49,011,495



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 alliaceouse 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