



Quarter 1, January-March 2026
Published May 2026

www.ams.usda.gov/services/transportation-analysis/agrtq/
<https://agtransport.usda.gov/>



Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly

a quarterly publication of the Agricultural Marketing Service

CONTENTS

National Summary.....	2	Quarterly Truck Availability.....	8	Arizona	19
Quarterly Overview	2	Reported U.S. Shipments	10	California.....	22
U.S. Truck Rates	3	Reported Shipments by Select		Florida	25
Truck Rates for Select Routes.....	4	Commodities.....	11	Additional Information	28
U.S. Diesel Fuel Prices	5	Regional Markets.....	12	Terms and References.....	28
Relationship Between Diesel Fuel and		U.S. Mexico Border	12	Contact Us.....	29
Truck Rates.....	6	PNW	16		



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Quarterly Overview

Fruit and Vegetable Shipments

USDA reported first quarter 2026 U.S. truck shipments of fresh produce were 7.76 million tons—up 1 percent from the previous quarter and down 10 percent from first quarter 2025.

Also, in first quarter 2026, shipments from Mexico were 3.49 million tons—a higher volume than from any other reported origin. Shipments from Mexico accounted for 45 percent of the total reported shipments of fresh fruit and vegetables. Shipments from the next four top regions by volume were as follows: Pacific Northwest (PNW), 1.63 million tons (21 percent of the total); Arizona, 635,000 (8 percent of the total); California, 470,000 tons (6 percent of the total); and finally, Florida, 447,000 tons (6 percent of the total).

These top five commodities accounted for 42 percent of reported truck movements in first quarter 2026:

- Potatoes (15 percent)
- Apples (9 percent)
- Dry onions (8 percent)
- Avocados (6 percent)
- Cucumbers (5 percent)

Truck Rates

The table below provides a snapshot of quarterly truck rates for U.S. produce shipments over four mileage categories—1-500; 501-1,500; 1,501-2,500; and 2,501+ miles. Please note the average U.S. truck rates provided below were calculated using weighted regional rates and volumes.

Diesel Fuel

During first quarter 2025, the U.S. diesel fuel price averaged \$4.06 per gallon—up 9 percent from the previous quarter and down 12 percent from the same quarter in 2025.

Average U.S. Truck Rates for Select Routes (\$/Mile)

	0-500 miles	501-1,500 miles	1,501-2,500 miles	2,501+ miles
Q1 2025	2.92	2.30	2.41	1.50
Q2 2025	1.90	2.60	2.26	1.36
Q3 2025	1.76	2.24	2.27	1.29
Q4 2025	2.62	2.23	2.25	1.39
Q1 2026	2.76	2.56	2.49	1.50
Q1 Change from Previous Quarter	5%	15%	11%	8%
Q1 Change from Same Quarter Last Year	-5%	11%	3%	< 1%

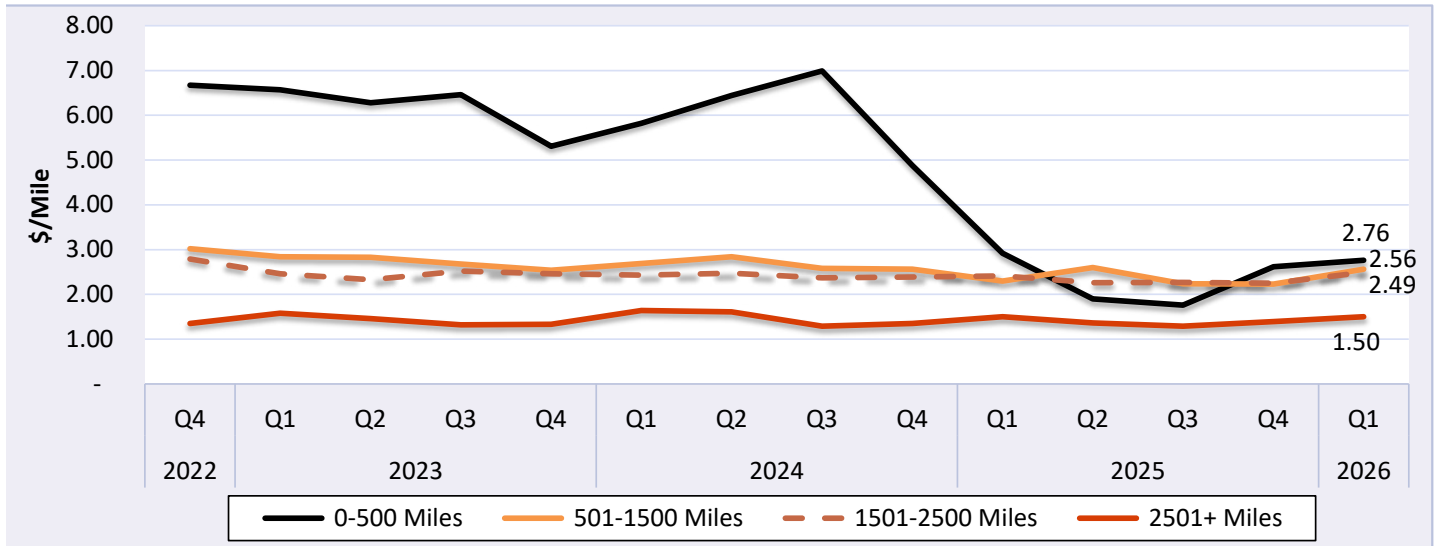
Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rate, weighted by commodity and origin volume. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



U.S. Truck Rates

Figure 1: Average Truck Rates for Select Routes (\$/Mile)



Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rates, weighted by commodity and origin volume. Starting in 2025 Q1, 0-500 mile rates from regions in California to Los Angeles have not been reported, which significantly lowered the national average.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Table 1: Average U.S. Truck Rates for Select Routes Between 501 and 1,500 Miles (\$/Mile)

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2026	2.56			
2025	2.30	2.60	2.24	2.23
2024	2.69	2.84	2.58	2.56
2023	2.84	2.83	2.68	2.54
2022	3.62	3.68	3.23	3.02
2021	2.92	3.56	3.22	3.48
2020	2.57	2.53	2.58	2.94
2019	2.60	2.62	2.48	2.55
2018	2.84	3.01	2.76	2.85
2017	1.85	2.43	2.47	2.57
2016	2.23	2.38	2.44	2.06
2015	2.47	2.66	2.54	2.37
2014	2.21	2.70	2.67	2.50

Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rate, weighted by commodity and origin volume. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Table 2: Quarterly Rates for Key Origins by Month; 501-1,500 miles (\$/Mile)

U.S. Origin	1st Quarter, 2026			4th Quarter, 2025		
	January	February	March	October	November	December
California	3.57	3.33	3.24	3.12	3.28	3.25
Florida	2.17	3.31	2.57	1.85	2.00	2.15
Mexico-Arizona	3.48	3.16	3.56	2.96	2.80	3.14
Mexico-Texas	3.67	3.33	4.00	2.17	2.86	3.42
New York	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18
Other	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
PNW	2.15	1.73	1.72	1.69	2.28	2.21

Note: "n/a" indicates rates not available.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Truck Rates for Select Routes

Table 3: Origin-Destination Truck Rates for Select Routes, 1st Quarter 2026 (\$/Mile)

U.S. Origin	Atlanta	Baltimore	Boston	Chicago	Dallas	Los Angeles	Miami	New York	Philadelphia	Seattle
Arizona	n/a	3.22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.14	n/a
California	3.19	3.10	n/a	n/a	3.38	n/a	3.36	n/a	3.04	n/a
Florida	2.64	2.94	2.75	1.90	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.95	2.87	n/a
Mexico-Arizona	3.12	3.42	3.41	2.93	3.36	3.46	n/a	3.44	3.46	n/a
Mexico-Texas	4.09	3.70	3.59	3.29	4.69	2.79	3.61	3.78	3.75	n/a
New York	3.50	n/a	15.59	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.86	15.67	9.35	n/a
Other	2.95	3.20	2.90	n/a	3.05	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PNW	2.82	2.93	2.89	2.42	2.69	1.86	2.82	3.00	2.90	7.50

Note: "n/a" indicates rates not available.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Table 4: Origin-Destination Truck Rates for Select Routes, 1st Quarter 2026 (\$/Truck)

U.S. Origin	Atlanta	Baltimore	Boston	Chicago	Dallas	Los Angeles	Miami	New York	Philadelphia	Seattle
Arizona	n/a	8,385	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,312	n/a
California	6,708	8,265	8,708	5,233	4,392	n/a	8,725	8,258	8,281	3,438
Florida	1,347	2,908	3,828	2,335	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,455	3,131	n/a
Mexico-Arizona	5,615	8,035	9,196	5,269	3,296	1,938	n/a	8,592	8,308	n/a
Mexico-Texas	4,708	6,627	7,892	4,708	2,346	4,465	5,531	7,554	7,119	n/a
New York	3,500	n/a	2,650	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,150	2,350	2,150	n/a
Other	4,250	5,725	6,225	n/a	2,225	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PNW	7,192	7,769	8,538	4,846	5,519	2,319	9,104	8,262	7,838	1,050

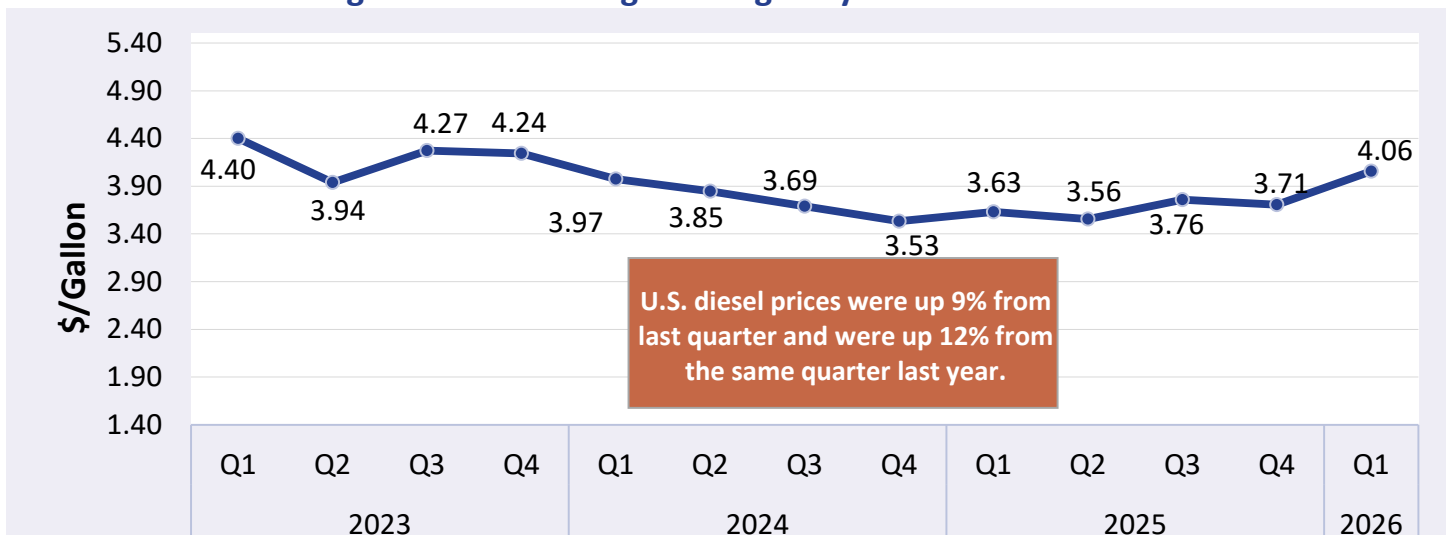
Note: "n/a" indicates rates not available.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

U.S. Diesel Fuel Prices

The diesel fuel price provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant component underlying truck rates.

Figure 2: U.S. Average On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices



Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Table 5: Average Diesel Fuel Prices (All Types)

Region	1st Quarter 2026 Price \$/Gallon	Change From Last Quarter	Change From Last Year
East Coast	4.14	10%	11%
California	5.28	8%	10%
New England	4.49	12%	13%
Central Atlantic	4.35	11%	11%
Lower Atlantic	4.03	10%	10%
Gulf Coast	3.77	13%	13%
Midwest	3.97	8%	12%
Rocky Mountain	3.83	6%	11%
West Coast Except California	4.35	8%	14%
U.S.	4.06	9%	12%

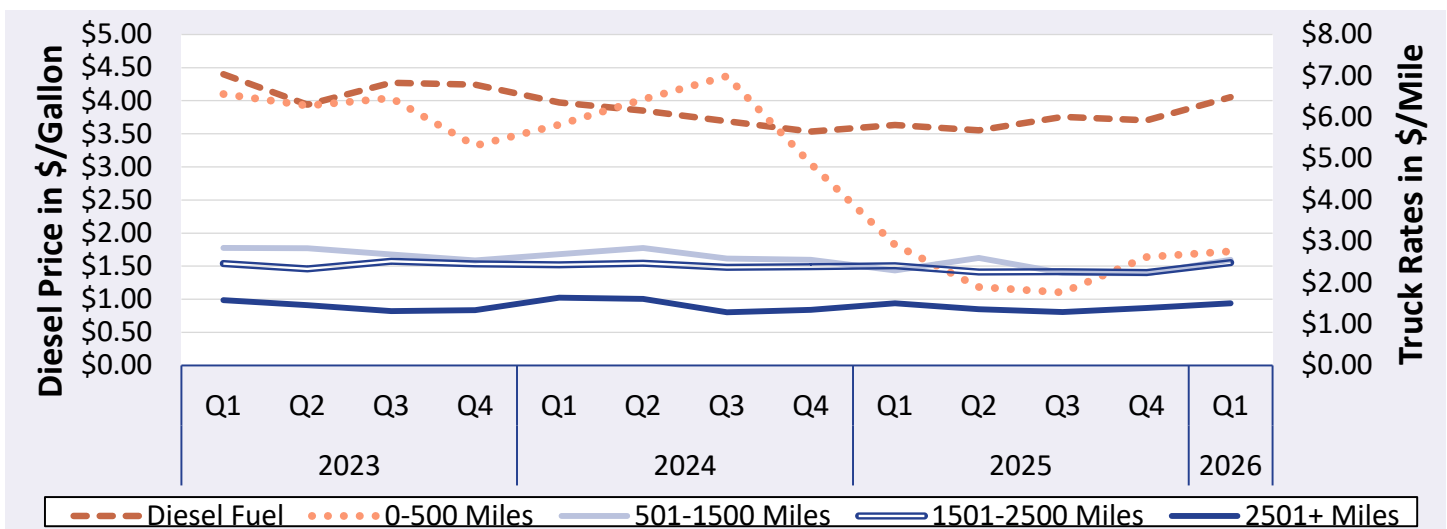
Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.

Relationship Between Diesel Fuel and Truck Rates

The diesel fuel price provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant expense for fruit and vegetable movements.

Figure 3: U.S. Average On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices and Truck Rates



Note: The rates for 8 long-haul fruit and vegetable truck corridors are included in the national rates, weighted by origin volume. See note in Figure 1 on the recent decline in 0-500 mile rates.

Sources: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data and Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Table 6: Average Diesel Fuel Prices and Truck Rates

Year	Quarter	Diesel Fuel (\$/gallon)	Truck Rates (\$/mile) 501-1500 miles	% Change From			
				Last Quarter		Last Year	
				Diesel	Truck	Diesel	Truck
2026	Q1	4.06	2.56	9%	15%	12%	11%
2025	Q4	3.71	2.23	-1%	-1%	5%	-13%
	Q3	3.76	2.24	6%	-14%	2%	-13%
	Q2	3.56	2.60	-2%	13%	-8%	-8%
	Q1	3.63	2.30	3%	-10%	-9%	-15%
2024	Q4	3.53	2.56	-4%	-1%	-17%	1%
	Q3	3.69	2.58	-4%	-9%	-14%	-4%
	Q2	3.85	2.84	-3%	5%	-2%	< 1%
	Q1	3.97	2.69	-6%	6%	-10%	-5%
2023	Q4	4.24	2.54	-1%	-5%	-16%	-16%
	Q3	4.27	2.68	8%	-5%	-17%	-17%
	Q2	3.94	2.83	-10%	> -1%	-28%	-23%
	Q1	4.40	2.84	-13%	-6%	3%	-22%

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data and Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Quarterly Truck Availability

Table 7: U.S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Truck Availability

Truck availability legend														
1=Surplus	2=Slight surplus	3=Adequate	4=Slight shortage	5=Shortage										
California, Central, And Western Arizona	Commodities	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central and Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico and San Luis	Anise, Artichokes, Beets, Blackberries, Blueberries, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Kale Greens, Green Leaf Lettuce, Iceberg Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Parsley, Raspberries, Spinach, Leeks, Radishes	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
Kern District California	Carrots, Grapes	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
Oxnard District California	Celery, Cilantro, Kale Greens, Parsley, Strawberries	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
Santa Maria California	Broccoli, Cauliflower, Celery, Green Leaf Lettuce, Iceberg Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Strawberries, Cilantro	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
South and Central District California	Anise, Artichokes, Avocados, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cilantro, Grapefruit, Kale Greens, Lemons, Green Leaf Lettuce, Iceberg Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Radishes, Spinach, Celery, Blackberries, Blood Orange, Endive, Escarole, Oranges, Parsley, Raspberries, Tangelos, Leeks	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	4
Florida	Commodities	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
Central and South Florida	Round Green Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Celery, Sweet Corn, Endive, Escarole, Other Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Okra, Bell Peppers, Other Peppers, Radishes, Yellow Squash Crookneck/ Straightneck, Zucchini Squash, Strawberries, Tomatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Grape Tomatoes, Plum Tomatoes	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	3	4	4	4	4

Note: Empty cells were not reported. District and availabilities data come from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate reports:

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field_slug_id_value=2375.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Table 7, continued: U.S. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Truck Availability

Truck availability legend														
1=Surplus		2=Slight surplus		3=Adequate		4=Slight shortage				5=Shortage				
U.S.-Mexico border	Commodities	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central and Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico and San Luis	Anise, Artichokes, Beets, Blackberries, Blueberries, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Cabbage, Cilantro, Kale Greens, Green Leaf Lettuce, Iceberg Lettuce, Red Leaf Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Parsley, Raspberries, Spinach, Leeks, Radishes	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
Nogales, Arizona	Round Green Beans, Sweet Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydews, Bell Peppers, Acorn Squash, Butternut Squash, Grey Squash, Kabocha Squash, Spaghetti Squash, Yellow Squash Straightneck, Zucchini Squash, Tomatoes, Grape Tomatoes, Plum Tomatoes, Watermelons	5	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4
South Texas	Asparagus, Broccoli, Carrots, Chayote, Cilantro, Cucumbers, Grapefruit, Limes, Oranges, Papaya, Anaheim Peppers, Bell Peppers, Habanero Peppers, Jalapeno Peppers, Poblano Peppers, Serrano Peppers, Pineapples, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Grape Tomatoes, Plum Tomatoes, Watermelons	5	4	4	5	5	2	3	4	3	4	4	4	4
Pacific Northwest (ID, OR, & WA)	Commodities	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
Yakima Valley and Wenatchee District, Washington	Apples, Pears	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4

Note: Empty cells were not reported. District and availabilities data come from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate reports:

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field_slug_id_value=2375.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

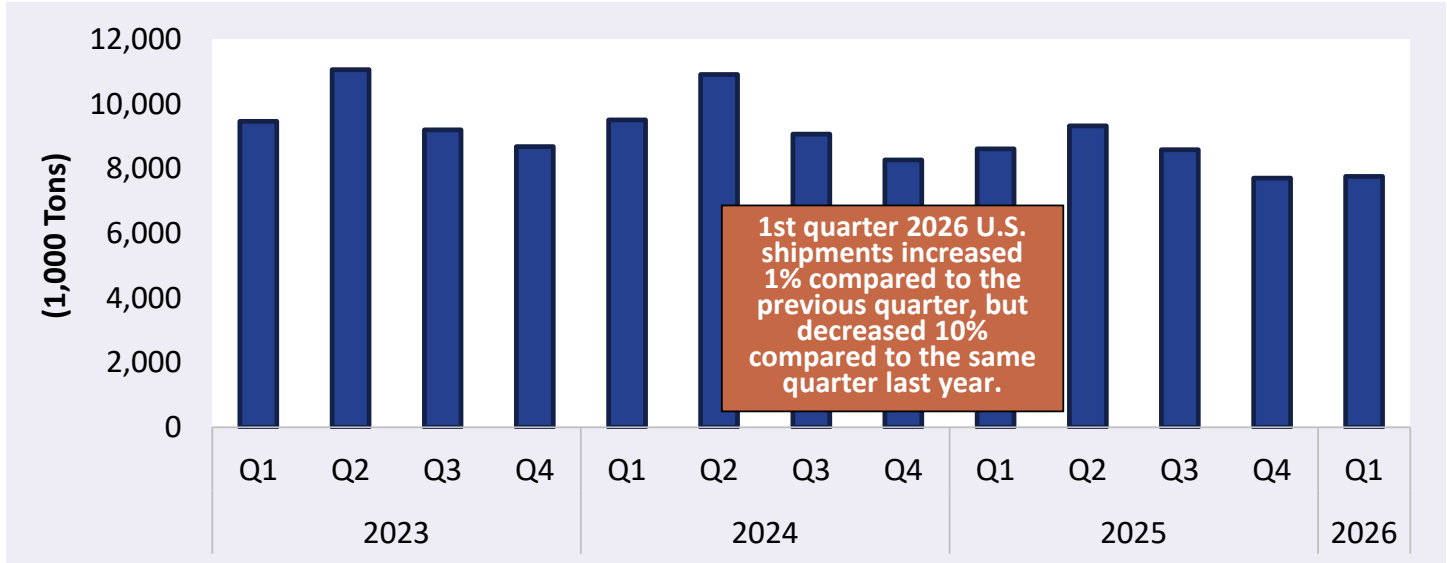


AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Reported U.S. Shipments

Figure 4: Reported U.S. Fruit and Vegetable Shipments (1,000 Tons)



Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data. Starting in Q1 2025, California citrus volumes have not been reported.

Table 8: Reported U.S. Fruit and Vegetable Shipments (1,000 Tons)

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual
2026	7,761				
2025	8,620	9,328	8,594	7,708	34,250
2024	9,517	10,921	9,071	8,278	37,788
2023	9,473	11,067	9,204	8,684	38,429
2022	8,751	10,404	8,891	8,678	36,724
2021	9,742	11,265	9,334	8,749	39,091
2020	9,749	10,502	8,872	8,677	37,799
2019	9,027	9,983	8,483	8,329	35,822
2018	9,019	10,463	8,581	8,139	36,202
2017	7,706	9,369	8,279	7,873	33,228
2016	7,745	9,562	8,329	7,777	33,413
2015	7,664	9,267	7,994	7,392	32,317
2014	7,300	8,859	7,827	7,249	31,236
2013	6,948	8,821	7,718	7,051	30,537
2012	7,071	8,792	7,703	7,230	30,797
2011	6,474	8,809	7,582	7,076	29,942
2010	6,532	8,739	7,845	7,070	30,187

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Starting in Q1 2025, California citrus volumes have not been reported.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Reported Shipments by Select Commodities

Table 9: Reported Top 10 Commodity Shipments (1,000 Tons)

Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
				Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Potatoes	1,150	1,197	1,136	-4%	1%
Apples	673	716	679	-6%	-1%
Onions, Dry	626	585	621	7%	1%
Avocados	427	369	333	16%	28%
Cucumbers	368	316	372	16%	-1%
Strawberries	363	208	376	74%	-3%
Peppers, Bell Type	316	255	357	24%	-11%
Tomatoes, Plum Type	299	279	359	7%	-17%
Lettuce, Romaine	281	238	285	18%	-1%
Tomatoes	270	280	327	-4%	-18%

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Starting in Q1 2025, California citrus volumes have not been reported.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Table 10: Reported Top 10 Regions (1,000 Tons)

Origin	1st Quarter 2026 Volume	% Change from Last Quarter	% Change From Same Quarter Last Year
Mexico	3494	30%	-1%
PNW	1628	-7%	3%
Arizona	635	61%	-51%
California	470	-58%	1%
Florida	447	78%	-30%
Canada	343	-44%	-3%
Colorado	212	3%	-4%
Great Lakes	190	-19%	3%
New York	81	-14%	4%
Texas	80	45%	-18%

Note: The Regional Markets section of this report excludes Canada, because it lacks rate and availability data. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator. Starting in Q1 2025, California citrus volumes have not been reported.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



REGIONAL MARKETS

U.S. Mexico Border

Volume

Total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from Mexico in first quarter 2026 were 3.49 million tons, down 1 percent year to year. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from the U.S.-Mexico border increased 2 percent year to year. Four of the top five commodities showed year-to-year decreases: shipments of cucumbers were down less than 1 percent; limes, down 5 percent; bell peppers, down 5 percent; and plum tomatoes, down 17 percent. Shipments of avocados were up 35 percent.

Rates

In first quarter 2025, truck rates for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles from Arizona-Mexico border crossings averaged \$3.41 per mile—up 15 percent from fourth quarter 2025 (quarter to quarter) and up 18 percent year to year. Rates for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles from Texas-Mexico border crossings averaged \$3.69 per mile—up 19 percent quarter to quarter and up 31 percent year to year.

Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices for border crossings from Arizona averaged \$4.35 per gallon—up 8 percent quarter to quarter and up 14 percent year to year. Diesel fuel prices for border crossings from Texas averaged \$3.77—up 13 percent quarter to quarter and up 13 percent year to year. Mexico crossings through Calexico and San Luis reported a slight shortage in January, shortage in February, and adequate availability in March. Mexico crossings through Nogales, AZ, reported a slight shortage in January, adequate truck availability in February, and a slight shortage in March. Mexico crossings through South Texas reported a shortage in January, adequate availability in February, and a slight shortage in March.

Table 11: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from Mexico (1,000 tons)

Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Share of Mexico Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Avocados	415	12%	357	308	16%	35%
Cucumbers	301	9%	223	302	35%	> -1%
Peppers, Bell Type	271	8%	134	285	102%	-5%
Tomatoes, Plum Type	258	7%	219	309	18%	-17%
Limes	160	5%	201	168	-20%	-5%
Top 5 Total	1,405	40%	1,135	1,373	24%	2%
Mexico Total	3,494	100%	2,678	3,514	30%	-1%

Note: Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

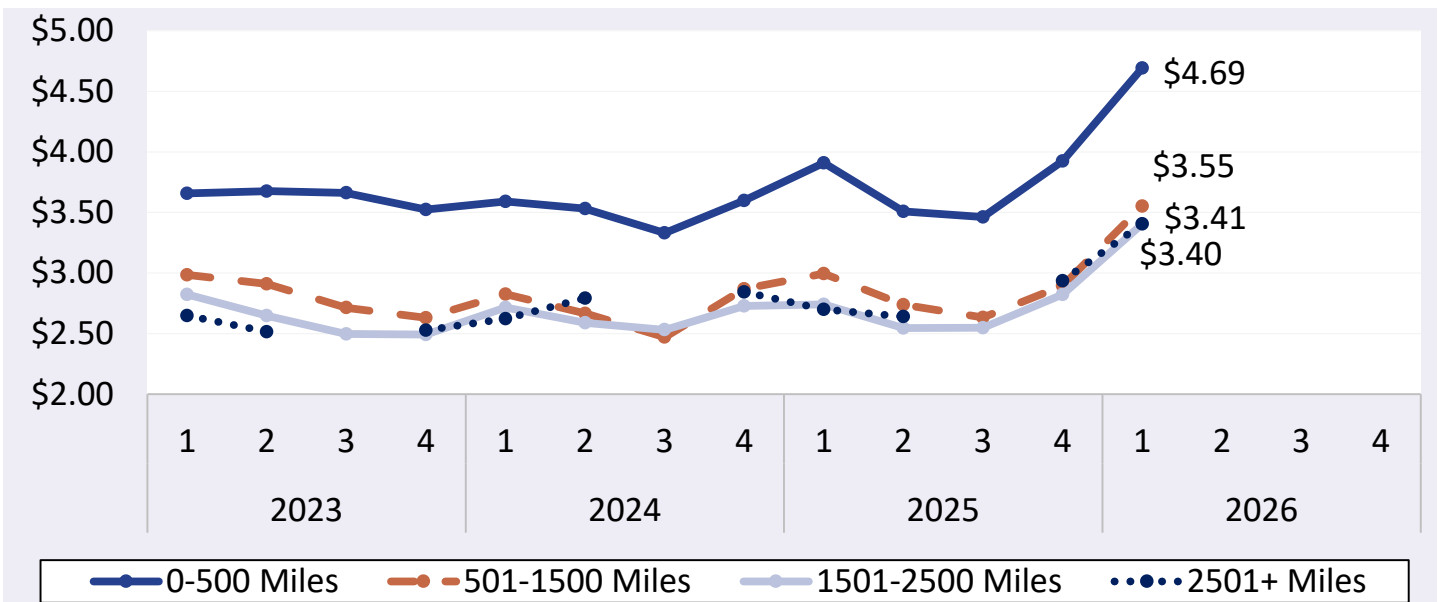
Quarter 1, 2026

Table 12: Top 5 Commodities Shipped to U.S. from Mexico by State of Entry (1,000 tons)

Texas		California		Arizona		New Mexico	
Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Commodity	1st Quarter 2026
Avocados	409	Strawberries	64	Cucumbers	191	Peppers, Other	6
Limes	140	Onions, Green	42	Peppers, Bell Type	153	Peppers, Anaheim	5
Tomatoes, Plum Type	118	Asparagus	37	Tomatoes, Plum Type	127	Peppers, Jalapeno	3
Peppers, Bell Type	115	Brussels Sprouts	24	Watermelons	66	Pecans	< 1
Cucumbers	98	Papaya	20	Tomatoes	65	Bananas	< 1
Mexico through TX Total	1,965	Mexico through CA Total	493	Mexico through AZ Total	1,021	Mexico through NM Total	15

Note: Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Figure 5: Truck Rates from U.S.-Mexico Border (\$/Mile by Distance Traveled)



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

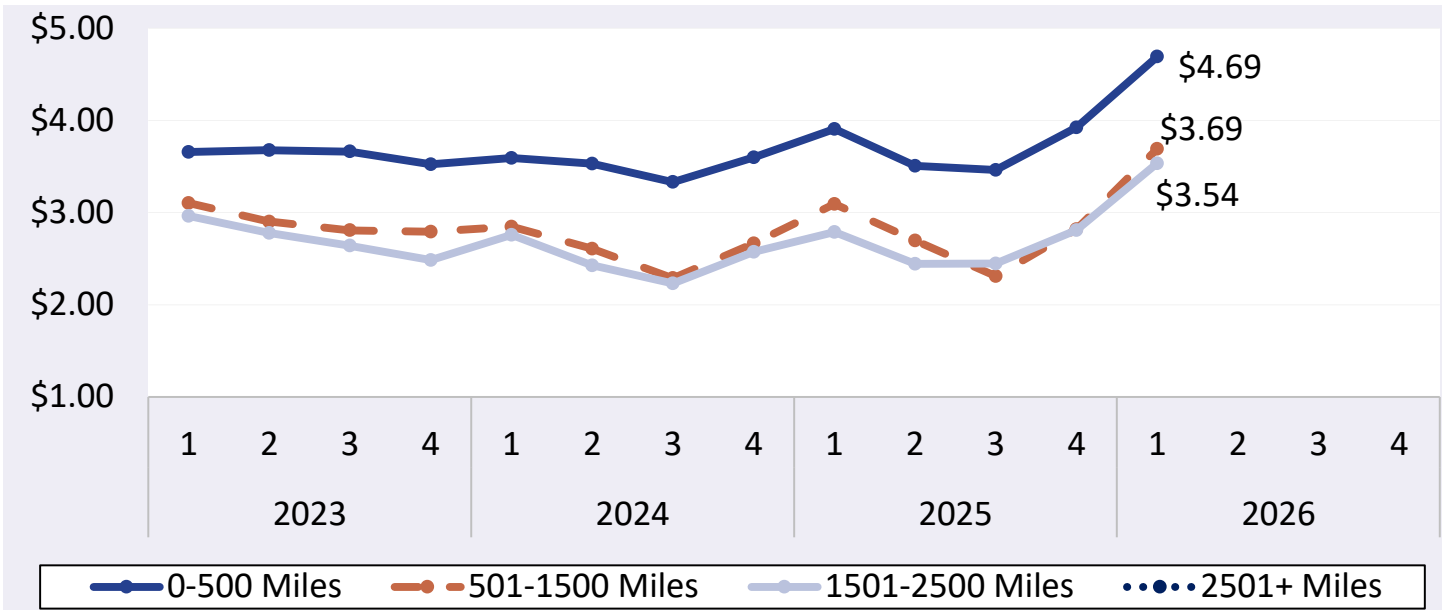
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

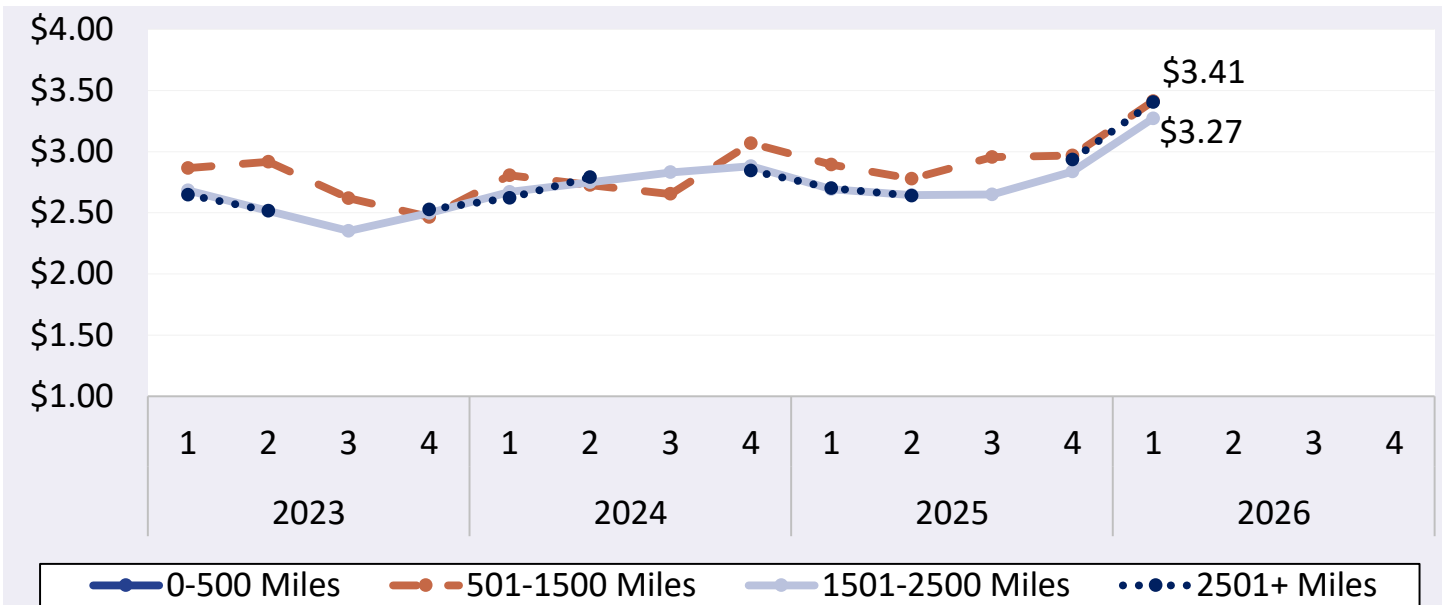
Figure 6: Texas Truck Rates from U.S.-Mexico Border (\$/Mile by Distance Traveled)



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Figure 7: Arizona Truck Rates from U.S.-Mexico Border (\$/Mile by Distance Traveled)



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

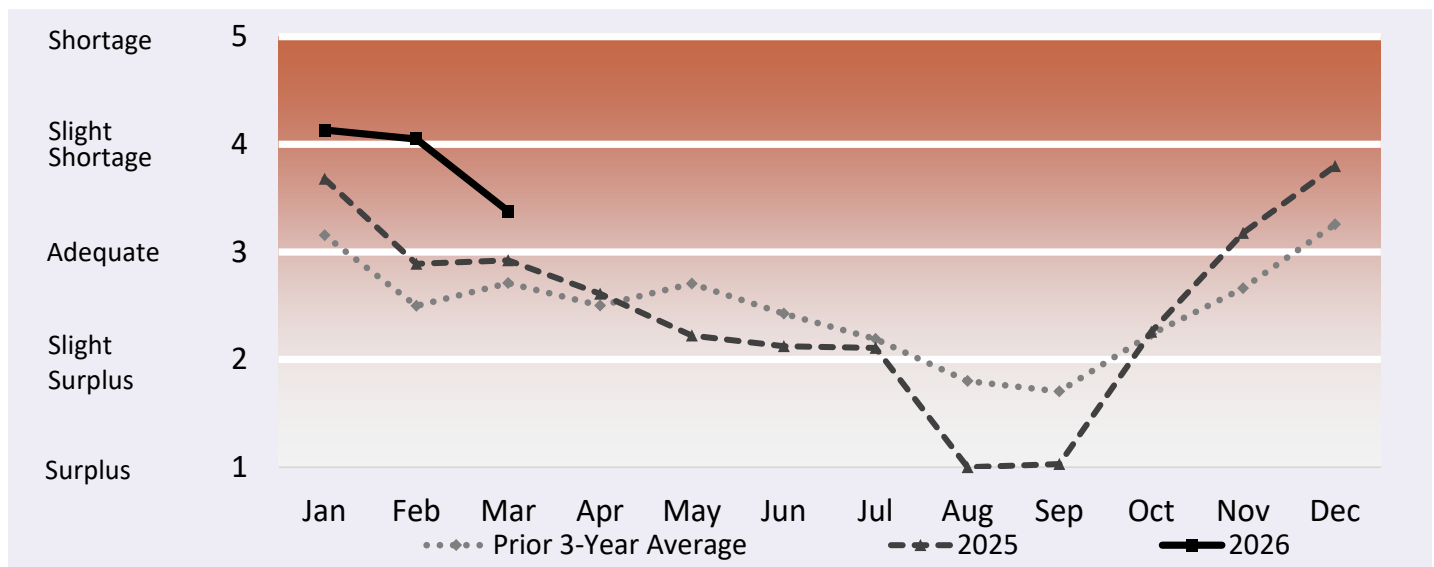
Table 13: Truck Overview from the U.S.-Mexico Border
(Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)

Region/Reporting District	January	February	March	1st Quarter
Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central and Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico and San Luis	4	4.75	3.2	3.98
Mexico Crossings Through Nogales, Arizona	4.03	3.25	3.53	3.60
Mexico Crossings Through South Texas	4.5	3.44	3.71	3.89
Regional Average Availability	4.18	3.81	3.48	3.82
Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon), through Texas	3.23	3.41	4.66	3.77
Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon), through Arizona	3.77	3.99	5.29	4.35

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Figure 8: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings from the U.S-Mexico Border



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

PNW

Volume

In first quarter 2026, total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) were 1.63 million tons, up 3 percent year to year. The summed volume of the top four commodities shipped from the PNW also increased 3 percent year to year. Two of the top four commodities saw year-to-year volume increases, including potatoes, up 6 percent, and pears, up 30 percent. Shipments of apples decreased less than 1 percent, and dry onions decreased 1 percent.

Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles was \$1.86 per mile—down 34 percent quarter to quarter and down 10 percent year to year.

Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$4.35 per gallon—up 8 percent quarter to quarter and up 14 percent year to year. The Yakima Valley and Wenatchee district reported adequate availability throughout the quarter.

Table 14: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from PNW (1,000 tons)

Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Share of PNW Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Apples	544	33%	565	544	-4%	> -1%
Potatoes	538	33%	567	509	-5%	6%
Onions, Dry	435	27%	471	439	-8%	-1%
Pears	111	7%	147	85	-25%	30%
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top 5 Total	1,628	100%	1,750	1,577	-7%	3%
PNW Total	1,628	100%	1,750	1,577	-7%	3%

Note: Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

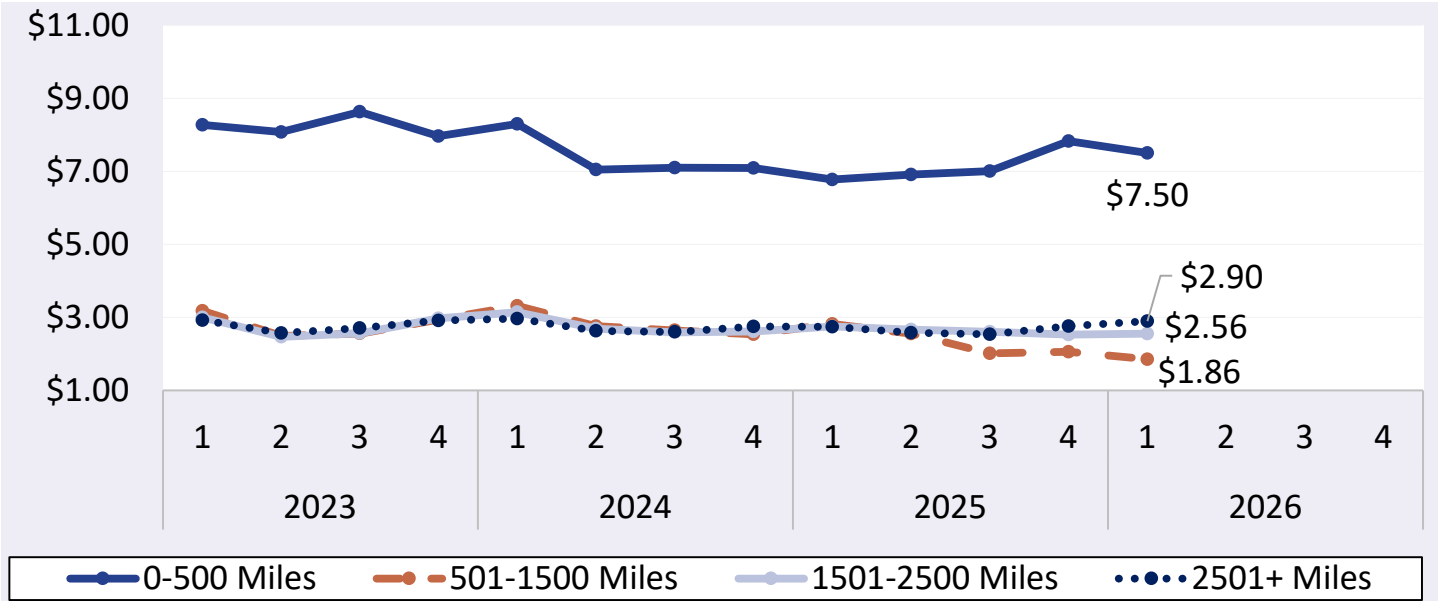
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 9: PNW Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Table 15: PNW Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)

Region/Reporting District	January	February	March	1st Quarter
Yakima Valley and Wenatchee District, Washington	3	3	3.4	3.13
Regional Average Availability	3	3	3.4	3.13
Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)	3.77	3.99	5.29	4.35

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

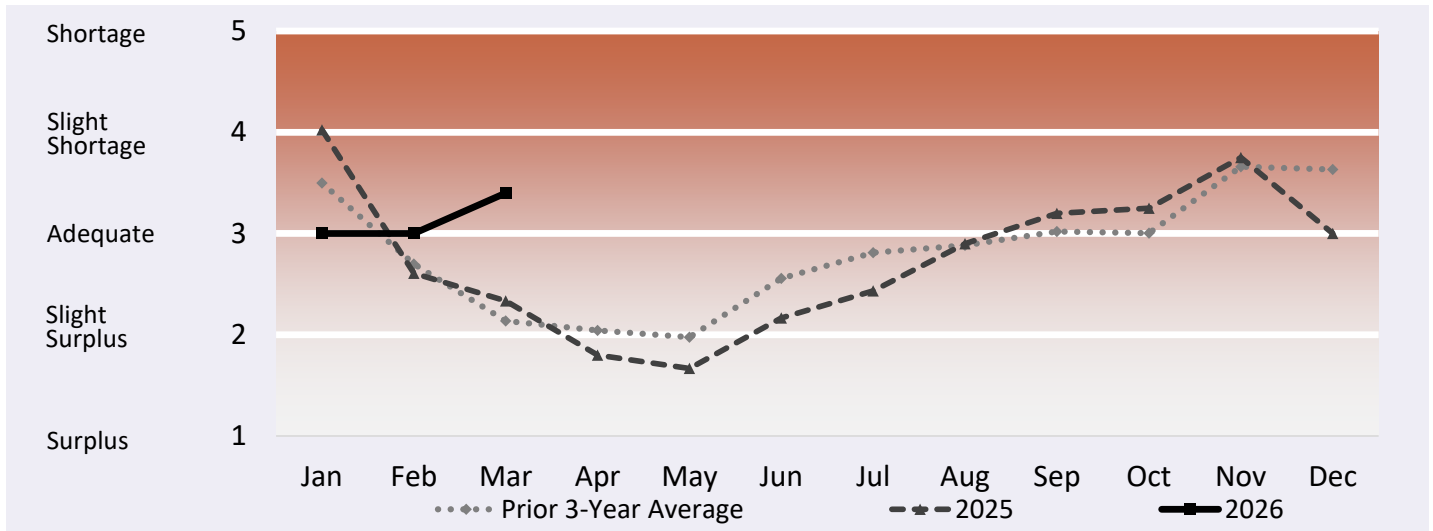
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 10: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for PNW



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Arizona

Volume

During first quarter 2026, total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from Arizona were 635,000 tons—down 51 percent year to year. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from Arizona decreased 55 percent year to year. Four of the top five commodities saw year-to-year volume decreases in the first quarter: romaine lettuce, down 3 percent; iceberg lettuce, down 12 percent; cauliflower, down 26 percent; and processed lettuce, down 90 percent. Shipments of celery were up 29 percent.

Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments over 2,500 miles was \$3.18 per mile—up 14 percent year to year and up 6 percent quarter to quarter.

Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$4.35 per gallon—up 8 percent quarter to quarter and up 14 percent year to year. The Mexico crossings through Calexico and San Luis reported a slight shortage of trucks in January, a shortage in February, and adequate availability in March.

Table 16: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from Arizona (1,000 tons)

Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Share of Arizona Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Lettuce, Romaine	182	29%	123	188	48%	-3%
Lettuce, Iceberg	158	25%	109	179	45%	-12%
Celery	85	13%	6	66	1,247%	29%
Lettuce, Processed	69	11%	44	694	56%	-90%
Cauliflower	27	4%	14	37	102%	-26%
Top 5 Total	521	82%	296	1,164	76%	-55%
Arizona Total	635	100%	394	1,284	61%	-51%

Note: Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

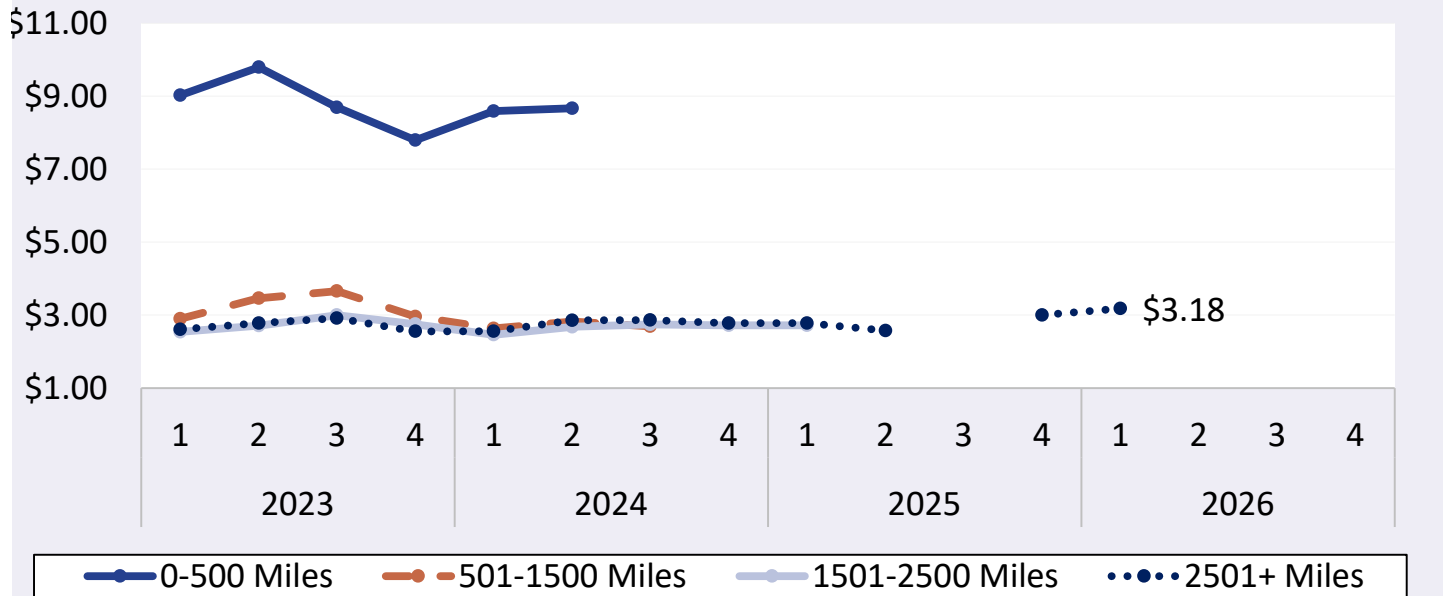
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 11: Arizona Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Table 17: Arizona Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)

Region/Reporting District	January	February	March	1st Quarter
Imperial, Coachella Valleys Ca, Central and Western Az, Mexico Crossings Through Calexico and San Luis	4	4.75	3.2	3.98
Regional Average Availability	4	4.75	3.2	3.98
Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)	3.77	3.99	5.29	4.35

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

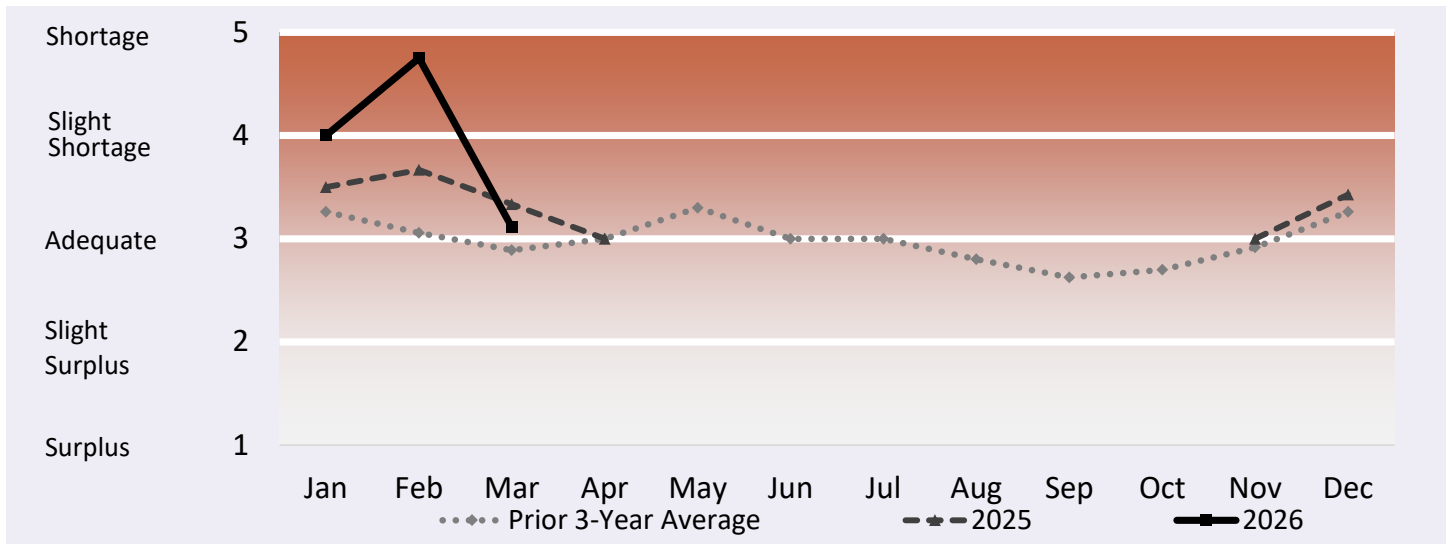
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 12: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for Arizona



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

California

Volume

Total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from California in first quarter 2026 were 470,000 tons, up 1 percent year to year. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from California increased 6 percent year to year. Three of the top five commodities showed year-to-year increases: shipments of romaine lettuce were up 4 percent; iceberg lettuce, up 27 percent; and strawberries, up 67 percent. Shipments of potatoes and celery decreased 2 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles was \$3.38 per mile—up 19 percent quarter to quarter and up 5 percent year to year.

Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$5.28 per gallon—up 8 percent quarter to quarter and up 10 percent year to year. The Kern, Oxnard, and Santa Maria districts reported a slight shortage of trucks in January, a shortage in February, and adequate availability in March. The South and Central District reported adequate truck availability throughout the quarter.

Table 18: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from California (1,000 tons)

Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Share of California Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Strawberries	123	26%	111	73	11%	67%
Lettuce, Romaine	54	12%	90	52	-40%	4%
Lettuce, Iceberg	53	11%	95	42	-44%	27%
Celery	46	10%	153	91	-70%	-49%
Potatoes	40	9%	35	41	16%	-2%
Top 5 Total	316	67%	484	299	-35%	6%
California Total	470	100%	1,112	465	-58%	1%

Note: Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

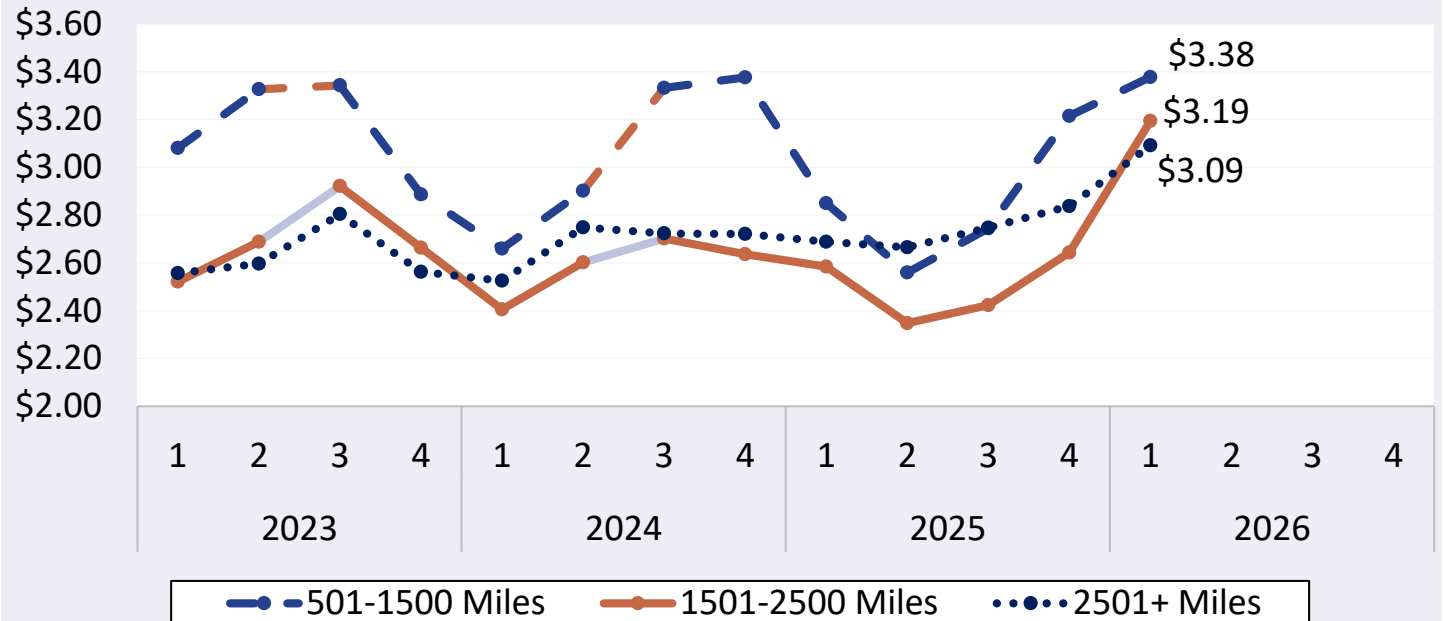
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 13: California Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region. Starting in 2025 Q1, 0-500 mile rates from regions in California to Los Angeles have not been reported.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Table 19: California Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)

Region/Reporting District	January	February	March	1st Quarter
Kern District California	4	4.75	3.2	3.98
Oxnard District California	4	4.75	3.2	3.98
Santa Maria California	4	4.75	3.2	3.98
South and Central District California	3.11	3	3.53	3.21
Regional Average Availability	3.78	4.31	3.28	3.79
Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)	4.66	4.87	6.32	5.28

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

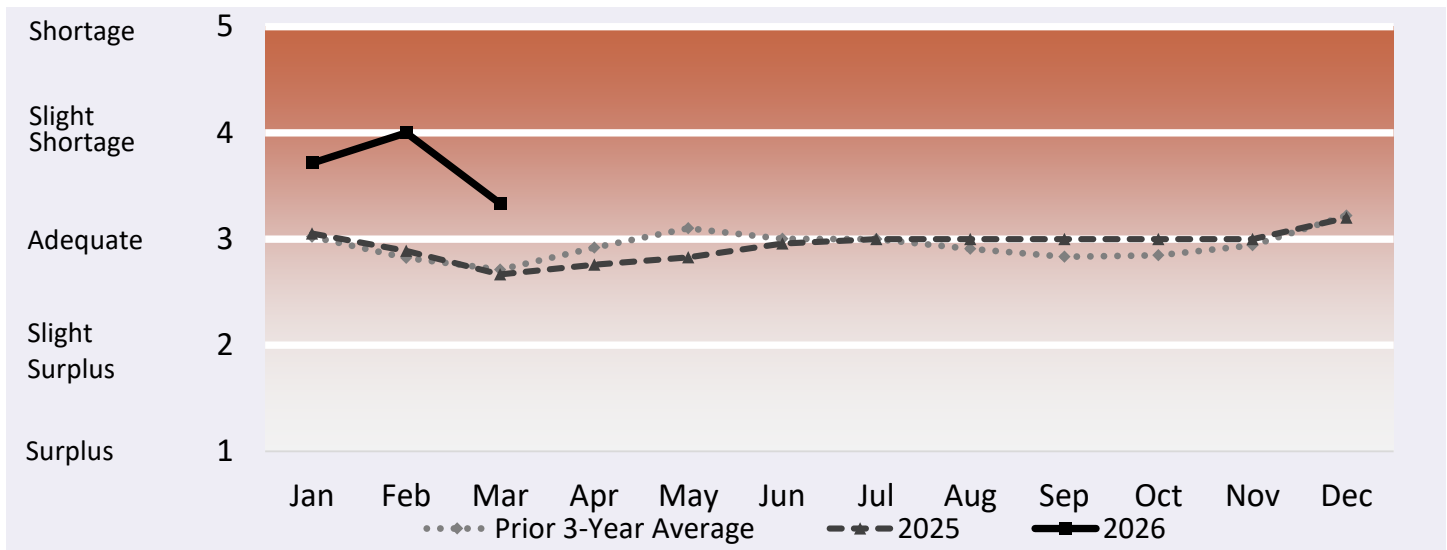
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 14: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for California



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Florida

Volume

During first quarter 2026, total reported shipments of fruit and vegetables from Florida were 447,000 tons—down 30 percent year to year. The summed volume of the top five commodities shipped from Florida decreased 19 percent year to year. All top five commodities saw year-to-year volume decreases in the fourth quarter, including potatoes, down 4 percent; tomatoes, down 7 percent; cabbage, down 18 percent; plum tomatoes, down 24 percent; and strawberries, down 33 percent.

Rates

The quarterly average truck rate for shipments between 501 miles and 1,500 miles was \$2.68 per mile—up 33 percent quarter and up 10 percent year to year.

Truck Overview

Diesel fuel prices averaged \$4.03 per gallon—up 10 percent quarter to quarter and up 10 percent year to year. The Central and South Florida district reported a slight shortage in truck availability throughout the quarter.

Table 20: Reported Top Five Commodities Shipped from Florida (1,000 tons)

Commodity	1st Quarter 2026	Share of Florida Total	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Current Quarter as % change from:	
					Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
Tomatoes	93	21%	68	100	36%	-7%
Strawberries	80	18%	38	119	112%	-33%
Cabbage	63	14%	9	76	609%	-18%
Tomatoes, Plum Type	34	8%	37	45	-8%	-24%
Potatoes	31	7%	-	33	-	-4%
Top 5 Total	302	67%	152	373	98%	-19%
Florida Total	447	100%	251	641	78%	-30%

Note: Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter or a percentage change with an at- or near-zero denominator. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding.

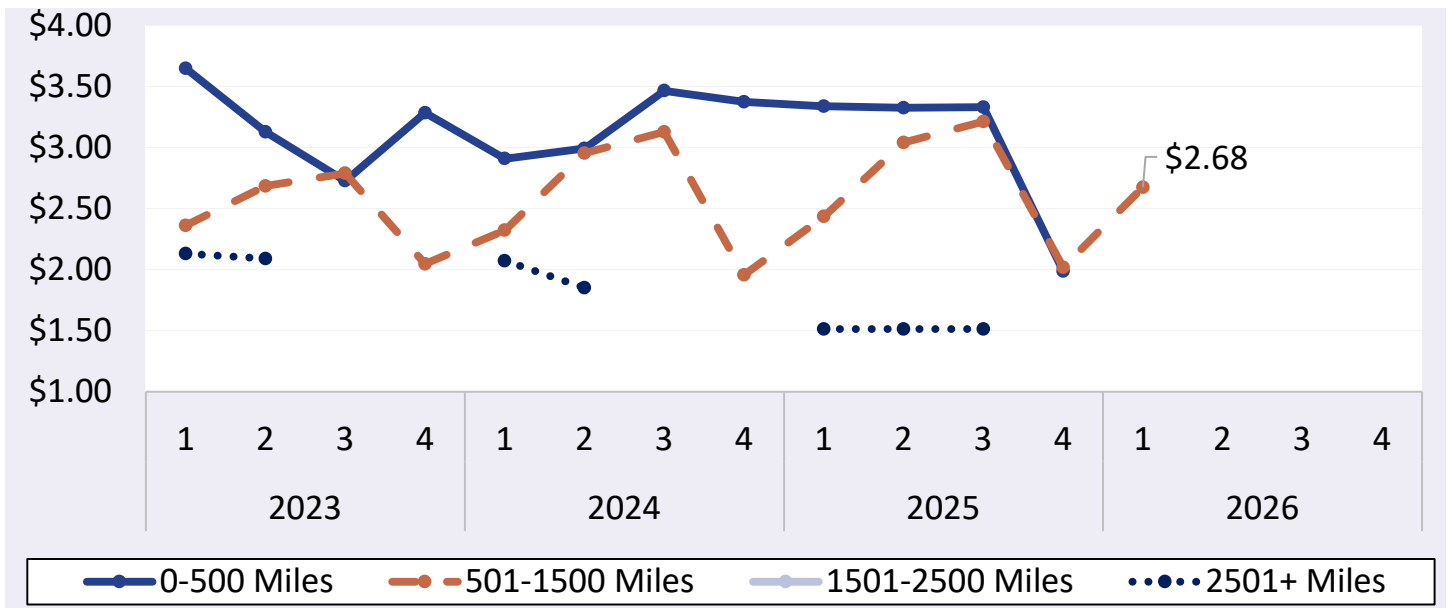
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 15: Florida Truck Rates (\$/Mile by Distance Travelled)



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.

Table 21: Florida Truck Overview (Availability Rating: 1=Surplus to 5=Shortage)

Region/Reporting District	January	February	March	1st Quarter
Central and South Florida	3.92	4.38	3.53	3.94
Regional Average Availability	3.92	4.38	3.53	3.94
Diesel Fuel Price (\$/gallon)	3.53	3.64	4.91	4.03

Note: AMS Specialty Crops Program defines regions by commodity, which may overlap in truck availability reporting. Table values may not conform exactly due to rounding. Any "-" in the table indicates no reported shipments during the quarter.

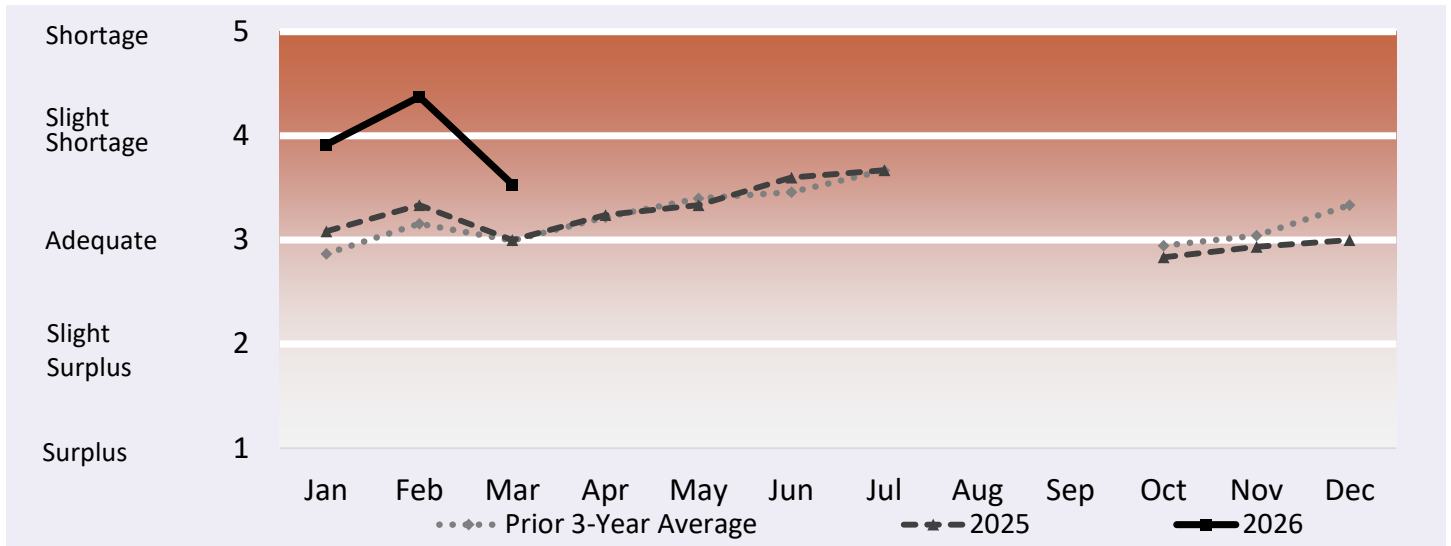
Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



AGRICULTURAL REFRIGERATED TRUCK QUARTERLY

Quarter 1, 2026

Figure 16: Refrigerated Truck Availability Monthly Ratings for Florida



Note: Any gaps in the chart lines are the result of quarters with no reported data for the region.

Source: AMS Transportation Economics Division analysis of AMS Specialty Crops Program Market News data.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Terms and References

Data Reporting and Publication Window

The publication date of each Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly (AgRTQ) depends on the timing of data reporting. Reporting of truck shipments in some regions can be delayed 2-3 months past their respective quarter. We publish the AgRTQ one month after that lag in order to capture a more complete picture of truck shipments during the quarter.

Data Sources

This information is compiled from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate Report by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Specialty Crops Program, Market News Division. The website is:

<https://www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-home>.

Regional Markets

For the regional markets, some States are grouped into producing regions. The Pacific Northwest region includes Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The Great Lakes region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The Southeast region includes North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Shipment Volumes

Truck shipments for all commodities and origins are not available. Those obtainable are reported, but should not be interpreted as representing complete movements of a commodity. Truck shipments from all States are collected at shipping points and include both interstate and intrastate movements. They are obtained from various sources, including Federal marketing orders, administrative committees, Federal State Inspection Service, and shippers. Volume amounts are represented in 10,000 pound units, or 1,000 10-lb packages but are converted to 1,000 tons for this report. Mexican border crossings through Arizona and Texas data is obtained from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border and Protection (CBP) through USDA, AMS, Market News.

Rates

This information is compiled from the weekly Specialty Crops Truck Rate Report. Rates quoted represent open (spot) market rates that shippers or receivers pay depending on basis of sale, per load, including truck brokers fees for shipments in truck load volume to a single destination. Extra charges for delivery to terminal markets, multipickup and multidrop shipments are not included unless otherwise stated. Rates are based on the most usual loads in 48-53 foot trailers from the origin shipping area to the destination receiving city. In areas where rates are based on package rates, per load rates were derived by multiplying the package rate by the number of packages in the most usual load in a 48-53 foot trailer. Slightly cheaper rates will be reported during Quarters 2 and 3 as about 50 percent of onion shipments from California are hauled on open flatbed trailers. During Quarter 3, less than 20 percent of onions hauled from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon are on open flatbeds.

Regional Rates

Rate data for 10 destination markets are used to calculate average origin regional rates.

National Rates

The national rates reflect the average of the regional rates, separated by mileage category and weighted by volume between origin and destination.



Contact Us

Authors

Kranti Mulik, Analyst

Kranti.Mulik@usda.gov, 202.756.2577

Peter Caffarelli, Analyst

PeterA.Caffarelli@usda.gov, 202.690.3244

Jesse Gastelle, Analyst

Jesse.Gastelle@usda.gov, 202.690.1144

Francine Vigliotti, Specialty Crops Program and Market News Division Data

francine.vigliotti@usda.gov, 202.720.9938

Please sign up by entering your email address at the following link and selecting your preference to receive Transportation Research and Analysis:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDAAMS_177

For assistance with accessibility issues related to this document, please e-mail SharonC.Williams@usda.gov.

Related Websites

USDA's Agricultural Transportation Open Data Platform

<https://agtransport.usda.gov/>

Specialty Crops Program

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/specialty-crops-program>

Specialty Crops Truck Rate Report

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports?field_slug_id_value=2375

Specialty Crops Movement Reporting

<https://www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-report-config-step1?type=movement>

Economic Research Service Vegetable and Pulses

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/vegetables-and-pulses/>

Economic Research Service Fruit and Tree Nuts

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/fruit-and-tree-nuts/>

National Agricultural Statistics Service, Crops

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/index.php?sector=CROPS

Refrigerated Truck Quarterly Datasets

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/transportation-analysis/agricultural-refrigerated-truck-quarterly-datasets>

Protecting Perishable Foods During Transport by Truck and Rail

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/HS/HS132800.pdf>

Preferred Citation

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. *Agricultural Refrigerated Truck Quarterly Report*. May 2026 Web. <<https://dx.doi.org/10.9752/TS051.05-2026>>

Photo Credit

Burt Barnes

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

www.ams.usda.gov/services/transportation-analysis/agrtq