



Impending Canada rail shutdown disrupts US supply chains

Description

A disagreement between Canada's major national rail companies and their workers might lead to a lockout starting Thursday morning. This could affect important supply chains in North America. Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) are planning to lock out almost 9,300 employees if no deal is reached by 00:01 EST (04:01 GMT).

Approximately 75% of Canada's exports go to the US, mostly by rail. If this dispute continues, shipments of various goods like grains, beans, potash, coal, and timber could be disrupted. Talks have stalled due to issues like shift schedules, fatigue provisions, and wages.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has encouraged both sides to keep negotiating, as many workers, farmers, and businesses are relying on a resolution. The potential impact of this disruption has been highlighted by industry and trade organizations, with warnings of damaging Canada's trading reputation. Although calls have been made for government intervention, so far, Ottawa has not stepped in.

If an agreement is not reached soon, it could lead to significant consequences for Canadian businesses and families, as well as affect the US economy. Negotiations are ongoing, but there is concern about the potential fallout of a prolonged dispute on both sides of the border.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Disagreement** /ˌdɪs.ə'ɡriː.mənt/ (noun): A difference of opinion or conflict in views.
2. **Lockout** /'lɒk.aʊt/ (noun): An action taken by an employer to prevent workers from entering the workplace often during a labor dispute.
3. **Disruption** /dɪs'rʌpʃən/ (noun): An interruption in the normal course or continuation of an activity.
4. **Negotiation** /nɪˌɡoʊ.ʃi'eɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The process of reaching an agreement through discussion.
5. **Consequences** /'kɒnsɪkwənsɪz/ (noun): The result or effect of an action typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant.
6. **Intervention** /ˌɪntər'veɪʃən/ (noun): The action of becoming involved in a situation to alter the outcome.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Which national rail companies in Canada are involved in the potential lockout?
Option: Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC)
Option: Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe
Option: CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern
Option: Amtrak and Via Rail Canada

2. How many employees are at risk of being locked out?
Option: 9,300
Option: 5,000
Option: 12,500
Option: 7,800

3. What percentage of Canada's exports go to the US mostly by rail?
Option: 75%
Option: 50%
Option: 90%
Option: 65%

4. What are some of the goods that could be disrupted if the lockout occurs?
Option: Grains beans potash coal and timber
Option: Electronics and clothing
Option: Medical supplies and machinery
Option: Automobiles and petroleum products

5. Who has encouraged both sides to keep negotiating in the rail company dispute?
Option: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Option: US President Donald Trump
Option: Canadian Labor Union Leaders
Option: Transportation Minister of Canada

6. What potential consequences could a prolonged dispute have?
Option: Significant impact on Canadian businesses and families as well as the US economy
Option: No impact on the economy
Option: Short-term minor disruptions in rail shipment
Option: Increase in job opportunities in the rail industry



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) 2. 9,300 3. 75%
4. Grains beans potash coal and timber 5. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau 6. Significant impact on Canadian businesses and families as well as the US economy

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is a situation where two or more parties have opposing views or ideas?
Option: Negotiation
Option: Intervention
Option: Disagreement
Option: Directive
2. What are the results or effects of a particular action or situation?
Option: Endanger
Option: Decreased
Option: Consequences
Option: Surging
3. Which term describes feeling annoyed or discouraged because things are not going as desired?
Option: Frustrated
Option: Recalled
Option: Symptoms
Option: Acknowledged
4. What is a sudden occurrence of something harmful or unwanted such as disease or violence?
Option: Individuals
Option: Salmonella
Option: Outbreak
Option: Cooperate
5. What is the act of getting involved in a situation to alter or change its course?
Option: Surging
Option: Intervention
Option: Directive
Option: Decreased



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6. Which term means to work together with others towards a common goal or objective?
- Option: Inspection
 - Option: Disengage
 - Option: Cooperate
 - Option: Endangered
7. What is the act of expressing disapproval or judgment towards someone or something?
- Option: Acknowledge
 - Option: Criticism
 - Option: Recalled
 - Option: Spike
8. Which term means strong healthy and vigorous?
- Option: Propelled
 - Option: Anticipated
 - Option: Robust
 - Option: Upswing
9. What does it mean to accept or admit the existence or truth of something?
- Option: Acknowledged
 - Option: Cooperate
 - Option: Inspection
 - Option: Disengage
10. Which term describes a sudden and large increase or rise in something such as numbers or intensity?
- Option: Surging
 - Option: Recalled
 - Option: Decreased
 - Option: Outbreak

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. A _____ is the exclusion of employees from the workplace until certain terms are agreed upon.
12. The recent changes in policies have _____ the overall productivity of the team.
13. _____ can lead to discomfort and safety issues in public spaces.
14. The company _____ the faulty products due to safety concerns.



15. Fever cough and fatigue are common _____ of the flu.
16. As _____ we must take responsibility for our actions and choices.
17. The new technology _____ the company to the forefront of the industry.
18. The team _____ a successful outcome after months of preparation.
19. The manager issued a clear _____ on how to handle customer complaints.
20. Reckless driving can _____ the lives of pedestrians and other motorists.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The unexpected power outage caused a _____ in the production schedule.
22. Before purchasing the house the potential buyers wanted to inspect it thoroughly.
23. The company issued a new _____ outlining the updated dress code policy.
24. The passengers boarded the plane and took their seats in the _____.
25. Leaving toxic chemicals unsecured can _____ the health of those living nearby.
26. The two companies decided to _____ on a joint marketing campaign.
27. The new policy sparked a debate among the employees.
28. The demand for the product is suddenly exceeding all expectations.
29. Regular exercise and a balanced diet contribute to a _____ immune system.
30. There was a sudden _____ in the number of visitors to the website after the new feature was launched.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Disagreement 2. Consequences 3. Frustrated 4. Outbreak 5. Intervention 6. Cooperate 7. Criticism 8. Robust 9. Acknowledge 10. Surging

Gap-Fill: 11. Lockout 12. Decreased 13. Overcrowding 14. Recalled 15. Symptoms 16. Individuals 17. Propelled 18. Anticipated 19. Directive 20. Endanger

Matching sentence: 1. Disruption 2. Inspect 3. Directive 4. Fuselage 5. Endanger 6. Cooperate 7. Controversial 8. Surging



9. Robust 10. Spike

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL3

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