

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** /,drs.ə'gri:.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** /dɪsˈrʌpʃən/ (noun): An interruption in the normal course or continuation of an activity.
- 4. **Negotiation** /nɪ,qoʊ.[iˈeɪ.[ən/ (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'vɛnʃən/ (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%

NEWS.COM 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? ESL-NE

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



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	
3. 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	į
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 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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