

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 01, 2024

**Report Number:** CA2024-0053

**Report Name:** Port of Montreal Labor Strike

**Country:** Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Biofuels, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products

**Prepared By:** Erin Danielson

**Approved By:** Tyler Babcock

**Report Highlights:**

As of October 31, at 11 A.M., the Longshoremen’s Union, CUPE Local 375, is on unlimited labor strike action at the Port of Montreal’s two Termont terminals (two of the four container terminals at the Port). Bulk grain handling activities remain unaffected by the current and proposed strike actions as they are protected under the Canada Labour Code. Post expects a slowdown of exports of containerized agri-food and commodities (lentils, pork, soybeans). Food and fresh produce (e.g. fruits, wine, processed food and drinks) will be directly impacted.

This GAIN report was prepared with input provided from the economics team at U.S. Embassy Ottawa, industry contacts, and from press releases of the affected stakeholder unions and associations.

As of October 31, at 11 A.M., the Port of Montréal Longshoremen's Union, CUPE Local 375 are on strike at the Port of Montreal's two Termont terminals (two of the four container terminals at the Port).

In addition, the strike at the Port of Montreal affecting overtime work, which commenced on October 10, 2024, at 7:00 A.M. will continue.

After more than one year of contract negotiations, the Port of Montreal Longshoremen's Union, which is the union representing nearly 1,200 longshore workers at Canada's second biggest port, voted in favor of strike action at the Port of Montreal.

The targeted work stoppage at the Termont container terminals will impact two of the four container terminals at the Port of Montreal, terminals Maisonneuve and Viau. The work stoppage at the two terminals will further exacerbate delays for container cargo at the port, which is the result of Union members striking against overtime work as of October 10.

Post expects a slowdown of exports of containerized agri-food and commodities (lentils, pork, soybeans). Food and fresh produce (e.g. fruits, wine, processed food and drinks) will be directly impacted and imported shipments into the Port of Montreal should plan accordingly.

Canadian National (CN) rail has announced that it will suspend all capacity at their inland terminals for exports destined for Termont and Viau terminals until further notice.

As of October 29, the impact of the job action on overtime has led to containers dwell time increasing above the benchmark for the first 9 months of 2024. The slowdown of operations is mostly impacting cargo moving by rail which typically serves Ontario, Western Canada and the U.S. Midwest. The impact, so far, is less pronounced for cargo moving by truck destined for the local market.

Bulk grain handling activities remain unaffected by the current and proposed strike actions as they are protected under the *Canada Labour Code*.

The Port of Montreal is a major hub for grain handling and every year millions of tons of grain pass through the Port of Montreal via two facilities: a containerized grain facility operated by DG CanEst Transit Inc., and a large bulk grain elevator operated by Viterra. Together, they ship corn, soybeans, winter wheat, undenatured ethanol, pulses, and special crops produced in Ontario and Quebec. October and November are peak agricultural export months for both infrastructures.

About 60 percent of CanEst's volume is soybeans. About 6,000 containers of soybeans leave from CanEst, mainly for Asia, traditionally to China, and more recently to Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. About 800,000 tonnes of soybeans are handled annually, in bulk or in containers. In addition, each year [500,000 MT of pulses and special crops](#) move by cargo container from the CanEst terminal in October and November.

The Viterra terminal ships bulk corn, wheat, and other grains and has a storage capacity of 262,000 metric tons (MT).

Post will continue to monitor the strike situation and export interruptions.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.