ROB'S CRYSTAL BALL

AN ESSENTIAL OILS MARKET UPDATE

FALL 2024

BREAKING NEWS: EAST COAST PORT STRIKE

The union representing striking dockworkers are at a standoff with port operators over wage increases and a ban on automation.

The existing contract between the International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance expired at 12:01 on October 1st. Dockworkers at ports from Maine to Texas went on strike when their demands were not met. These ports control about three-fifths of the country's container shipments and have left shippers scrambling to find alternatives.

The most likely scenario is that the longshoreman will be successful in getting a significant raise and drop their demand for a ban on the automation of cranes, gates, and container-moving trucks. It is challenging for any group to lobby against the utilization of technology.

Our recommendation to customers is that they wait two weeks before considering alternate means of shipment such as expensive air transportation or what will surely be very high shipping rates to divert shipments to west coast ports.

Currently, everyone is in the position of a waiting game.

The strike could potentially affect up to 36 ports (Reuters)

● - East Coast Port