

# Borrer Ports

## SPEAKERS

John Herath, Erin Borrer

**John Herath** 00:00

A strike by dock workers across the East and Gulf Coast will impose a significant economic impact on the U.S. meat and livestock industries, according to U.S. Meat Export Federation Vice President for Economic Analysis Erin Borrer.

**Erin Borrer** 00:11

These East Coast and Gulf ports have accounted directly for nearly \$3 billion worth of U.S. red meat exports in the first seven months of the year. And so that equates to roughly \$100 million or more worth of red meat exports per week going out of these ports. And as we learned from the COVID shipping issues, when there is one disruption in the shipping or in the supply chain, there are ripple or domino effects. And so we really need to think about the impacts indirectly on all U.S. red meat exports, which were valued at over \$11 billion in the first seven months of the year.

**John Herath** 00:52

It comes at a time of year when shipments would normally be increasing.

**Erin Borrer** 00:56

Our production and exports kind of accelerate, typically in the fourth quarter, and especially with our seasonal increase in pork production and exports, we're really looking at the need to be able to handle and accommodate more, including ahead of year end holidays. And of course, we're exporting record large share of our production for pork, and we're up over around 30% of pork production going to export when we include variety meats, and for beef about 14% of that beef and variety meats being exported, and again, necessary for the profitability of our industries.

**John Herath** 01:32

The shutdown will impact many smaller businesses serving specific markets.

**Erin Borrer** 01:36

Our customers in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, Central America, and then Colombia and the South American countries - much of that is off of the Gulf and East Coasts. And for beef in particular, we're reliant on Houston for variety meat exports, including the livers that go to Egypt. Those are heavily out of Houston.

**John Herath** 01:59

For more, please visit [USMEF.org](https://usmef.org). For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.