

Russian E-Commerce Giant Ozon's Couriers Strike Over Low Wages

St. Petersburg deliveries were suspended for two days.

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Couriers say they have been underpaid for three months. ozon.ru

Couriers at one of Russia's biggest online retailers Ozon staged a strike in St. Petersburg against low wages on Saturday and Sunday, disrupting deliveries in the country's second-biggest city, the Fontanka news website <u>reported</u>.

Ozon, which pioneered the Russian e-commerce sector in 1998 and is often referred to as Russia's Amazon, <u>holds</u> around 10% of the country's e-commerce market. The company has recently started to ramp up its efforts to grow its business, <u>raising</u> a \$155 million loan to build up its logistics and warehousing system and eyeing an IPO in two years.

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Ozon's couriers say that they have been underpaid for three months after the online retailer overhauled its payment system over the summer.

Around 200 Ozon couriers joined the strike, Fontanka <u>reported</u> Sunday, adding that the workers have also formed a trade union to try to fulfill their list of demands.

The outlet reported that Ozon customers had their deliveries suspended for two days.

The work stoppage affected "only St. Petersburg; deliveries are working as normal in other cities," an Ozon spokesperson <u>told</u> the state-run TASS news agency.

The couriers agreed to return to work on Monday after Ozon's management vowed to meet some of their demands, a St. Petersburg-based labor union representative told the MBKh Media news outlet. But they said they will strike again if money doesn't appear in their accounts by Monday evening.

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