



Striking autoworkers won a 25% pay increase by 2028, including 11% upon ratification, in negotiations.

# How UAW fared following strike

Union says it 'won things no one thought possible'

The Associated Press

The United Auto Workers won at least partial victories on many of the key demands that led to the six-week strike against Ford, General Motors and Jeep maker Stellantis.

The union has given some details of the deals, including a detailed explanation of the agreement it reached with Ford. The agreement is expected to become the model for later settlements with GM and Stellantis. Rank-and-file UAW members must ratify each contract before it takes effect.

"We won things no one thought possible," UAW president Shawn Fain said when he announced the tentative agreement last week.

Here are the key terms of the agreements, as detailed by the union:

## Pay

The tentative agreements call

for 25% increases in pay by April 2028, raising top pay to about \$42 an hour, according to the union. That starts with an 11% boost upon ratification, three annual raises of 3% each, and a final increase of 5%. The UAW said restoration of cost-of-living increases, which were suspended in 2009, could boost the total increases to more than 30%.

## Bonuses

The deals include \$5,000 ratification bonuses.

## Temporary workers

The union said Ford's temporary workers will get pay raises totaling 150% over the life of the deal, and workers at certain facilities will also get outsized raises. The temporary workers will also get the ratification bonuses and will get profit-sharing starting next year, officials said.

## Benefits

The companies did not agree to bring back traditional defined-benefit pension plans or retiree health care for workers hired since 2007. But they agreed to increase 401(k) contributions to about 9.5%.

## Shorter workweek

The UAW asked for a shorter workweek — 40 hours of pay for 32 hours of work. It did not get that concession.

## Worker tiers

The union said Ford and GM agreed to end most divisive wage tiers, a system under which new hires were put on a less attractive pay scale.

## Climbing the ladder

The agreement shortens the time it will take workers to reach top scale, to three years. It took eight years under the contract that expired in September.

## Right to strike

The union said it won the right to strike against any of the three companies over plant closures. Automakers had rejected the proposal at the start of talks.

## Union organizing

The agreements with Ford, GM and Stellantis could give the UAW a boost as it seeks to represent workers at nonunion plants in the United States that are operated by foreign carmakers and Tesla, as well as future plants that will make EV batteries.

# JetBlue-DOJ fight will test industry

The Associated Press

The Biden administration's fight against consolidation in the airline industry is being tested Tuesday as lawyers for JetBlue Airways and the Justice Department squared off in court.

The administration is suing to block JetBlue's proposed \$3.8 billion acquisition of Spirit Airlines. The trial in federal district court in Boston could reshape the market for low-cost airlines — Spirit is by far the nation's biggest budget carrier, and it will disappear if JetBlue wins the case.

As the trial began with opening statements from lawyers for sides, shares of JetBlue were suffering their worst one-day drop in more than three years after the airline reported a wider loss than expected in the third quarter and predicted another surprisingly large loss for the fourth quarter.

Executives declined to take questions about the Spirit deal. CEO Robin Hayes said it would be inappropriate while the matter was being debated in court.

The Justice Department is fresh off victory in a previous lawsuit that killed a partnership between JetBlue and American Airlines.

JetBlue isn't exactly the sort of behemoth that comes to mind when imagining a defendant in an antitrust case. It is the sixth-largest U.S. airline by revenue, and it is trying to buy the seventh-biggest. If it swallows Spirit, JetBlue will leapfrog Alaska Airlines but still control



Biden Administration is fighting JetBlue's attempt to buy Spirit.

less than 10% of the U.S. air-travel market. It would remain far smaller than American, United, Delta or Southwest.

But if JetBlue gets its way, it will grow its fleet about 70%, repaint Spirit's yellow planes and make them less cramped inside.

The New York carrier argues that it needs Spirit to bulk up and compete better against the bigger airlines. JetBlue touts itself as "one of the most disruptive and innovative companies in the history of the airline industry," and says it can bring down fares if it can go head-to-head against the Big Four on more routes.

The Justice Department argues, however, that Spirit is the disruptive force that needs to be protected.

Spirit, which is based in Miramar, Florida, is known as an "ultra-low-cost carrier," the name given to airlines that tout rock-bottom fares but make up for it by charging high fees for things like checking a bag or carrying one on board. Spirit even charges for soft drinks.

# NO RECALLS IN U.S. PROBES OF JEEP SUVs

DETROIT — U.S. auto safety regulators have closed two investigations into problems with Jeep SUVs without seeking recalls.

In July 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened a probe into more than 1,600 complaints of the electronic parking brakes activating inadvertently on 2014 to 2016 Jeep Cherokee small SUVs.

But the agency found that in most cases the brakes came on when the vehicles weren't moving, and a small number hap-

pened when the SUVs were moving at low speeds.

In September 2019 the agency began investigating complaints of frame weld problems on 2018 and 2019 Jeep Wrangler SUVs. The agency said at the time more than 3,500 owners complained about weld problems or steering issues including a shimmy or wobble. No crashes or injuries were reported.

The agency said Stellantis has addressed steering concerns with a 2018 recall as well as design changes and other repairs.

— AP