

## Southwest Airlines Reaches Tentative Labor Agreement with Transport Workers Union



Southwest Airlines (LUV.N) announced on Thursday that it has reached a tentative agreement with the Transport Workers Union (TWU) local unit, TWU 555, representing nearly 18,000 operations, provisioning, ramp, and cargo agents. While the company did not disclose specific details of the agreement, it revealed that TWU 555 will directly communicate the terms to its members.

### Contract Development and Cabin Crew Negotiations

Amid ongoing contract discussions, Southwest Airlines is also engaging with its cabin crew members. In January, the cabin crew approved a strike mandate after rejecting a tentative contract. The airline is working towards a resolution in these negotiations but has not provided specific information on the progress.

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### Industry-Wide Labor Strife

Over the past two years, various unions in the aviation industry, including pilots, flight attendants, and maintenance workers, have been advocating for higher wages, improved scheduling, and additional benefits. This comes in the context of a tight labor market, where employees are pushing for better working conditions.

Last month, Southwest pilots successfully approved a new labor contract, marking a significant milestone. The approved contract is set to provide pilots with an approximately 50% raise over five years. However, these substantial pilot contracts have triggered concerns about escalating operating costs for major airlines, creating a ripple effect throughout the industry. The success of pilot negotiations has emboldened other employee groups to seek similar gains.

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### Recent Contract Ratifications

Southwest Airlines has been actively working on labor negotiations, and since October 2022, the airline has successfully ratified contracts with nine different worker groups. These agreements signify progress in the airline's efforts to address the concerns and demands of its diverse workforce.

As the aviation industry navigates the challenges posed by labor negotiations, Southwest's recent developments underscore the broader trend of increased employee activism and demands for improved working conditions across the sector. The ongoing negotiations with various unions highlight the delicate balance airlines must strike to meet the needs of their workforce while maintaining operational efficiency in an evolving industry landscape.

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