

Boeing Machinists Sign New Deal; End Strike

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Associated Press

SEATTLE — Machinists at Boeing Co. approved a new labor contract on Thursday, ending a four-week strike that shut down the company's commercial airplane assembly plants.

About 80 percent of those voting accepted the three-year pact, said Mark Blondin, president of Machinists District Lodge 751. Approval cleared the way for workers to return to their jobs as early as Thursday night.

The average Machinist represented by the contract is 49 years old and makes about \$59,000 a year. The strike by about 18,400 Machinists began Sept. 2. Under the new contract, workers will see no changes to current health care premiums. Pension payouts will increase by nearly 17 percent, to \$70 per month for every year worked.

Instead of any general wage increase, the revised offer gives Machinists in the Seattle area, Gresham, Ore. and Wichita, Kan., cash payouts of about \$11,000 over the three years. Boeing dropped a plan to offer *incentive* payments based on whether the company meets or exceeds financial targets.

Analysts hadn't expected the strike to immediately push customers to dump Boeing in favor of rival Airbus SAS. But many said it was still important for Boeing to get workers back on the job quickly. Boeing saw a sharp downturn in commercial airplane business following the 2001 terrorist attacks and was forced to lay off thousands of employees, but business has improved in recent months.

1. Express the number of those voting that accepted the three-year pact in the form of a decimal as well as a fraction. Which conversion do you feel is most effectively utilized throughout this passage? Explain.
2. Create 15 *different* numbers which would give you the mean of the Machinists' age represented by the contract.
3. If one has worked for Boeing since September 30, 1971 approximately what would his/her monthly pension payout be increased to?
4. In paragraph form, explain your views towards an employee strike; specifically, during a time in which job cuts are taking place excessively.
5. Monthly, what would a cash payout in the Seattle area, Gresham, Ore. and Wichita, Kan. come out to be?
6. In paragraph form, explain three legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.
7. Using contextual clues, explain the meaning of the italicized word *incentive* above.
8. In the passage above, explain at least three ways using the "**Reading Across The Curriculum**" poster simplifies understanding of the material.